Oil and natural gas are driving the U.S. economy through a major energy boom and that boom is rippling through the economy of Maine, supporting business activity across the state. This finding grows out of a new American Petroleum Institute survey of domestic oil and natural gas vendors, which offers a glimpse into the job and business creation engine that is the current oil and natural gas industry. The survey shows that at least 11 businesses, located across Maine’s two congressional districts, are part of the larger oil and natural gas supply chain.

The survey’s snapshot of state-by-state activity reinforces the impressive level of industry success throughout the country that is documented in a recent PriceWaterhouseCoopers study conducted for the American Petroleum Institute. That study found that the oil and natural gas industry in Maine supports some 28,800 jobs, which is 3.6 percent of the state’s total employment. The amount of Maine labor income supported by the oil and natural gas industry comes to $1.15 billion annually. That’s 3.2 percent of the state’s total labor income.

Although Maine is not a top energy producer, these job and labor income figures demonstrate that the people of Maine enjoy significant benefits from energy development. The benefits show up in the state's salary statistics as well. Thus, while the average annual salary in Maine across all industries and sectors is $38,782, the average oil and gas industry salary (excluding gas stations) is higher—$45,861 annually. Overall the industry supports $2.4 billion of the Maine economy. That’s 4.2 percent of the state’s total economic activity.

Maine also benefits from the production of oil and natural gas from shales and so-called “tight formations,” energy development that uses the proven engineering technologies of hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” and horizontal drilling. Total jobs supported by these activities in Maine reached 2,769 in 2012.

1. American Petroleum Institute, “API Onshore Oil and Gas Vendor Identification Survey,” Washington, D.C., 2014. The survey was distributed to API members in January 2014 to collect information for the period October 2012 to September 2013. Included are companies that provide goods and services for onshore oil and natural gas development, whether as operators, contractors, service companies, suppliers, or vendors.
The job total is projected to climb to 4,571 in 2020 and to 5,007 in 2035. And Americans, including the people of Maine, get it. A telephone poll of 1,012 registered voters across the country, conducted on behalf of the American Petroleum Institute, found that 77 percent of Americans, regardless of party affiliation, support increased production of oil and natural gas resources located in the United States.


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