

Field	Value
Meta title	HVAC Statistics 2026: Jobs, Heat Pumps, and Home Energy
Meta description	We've compiled over 80 real HVAC statistics about technician salaries, job growth, heat pump and air conditioner shipments and heating and cooling your home.
Slug	hvac-statistics



HVAC Statistics: 80+ Verified Figures on Jobs, Heat Pumps, and Home Energy (2026)

There are [440,900](#) HVAC technician jobs in the U.S. and [88%](#) of U.S. homes use air conditioning, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Two numbers are easy to misread. Electric heating is not the same as heating with a heat pump, and an equipment shipment is not the same as a home installation.

This page focuses on the HVAC workforce, how American homes are heated and cooled, equipment shipments, energy consumption, and savings from efficiency. All figures link to the federal agency or trade association that released them.

HVAC Industry Statistics

Top picks across workforce, homes, equipment, and efficiency



Workforce

JOBS, PAY AND OUTLOOK



440,900

HVAC technician jobs



\$61,010

Median annual pay



\$29.33

Median hourly pay



Projected job growth:

11%

over the next decade

HVAC technicians

11%

All occupations

3%



Average annual
job openings:

40,600



Homes

HOUSEHOLD HEATING AND COOLING



88%

of households
use air conditioning



42%

of households
heat mainly
with electricity



13%

use a heat pump
as their main
heating



52%

of home energy use
goes to heating
and cooling



Equipment

SHIPMENTS AND YEAR-OVER-YEAR CHANGE



Central AC + heat
pumps shipped last year:

7,749,529

↓ Down 20.0%



Heat pumps
shipped last year:

3,644,596

↓ Down 11.6%



Central air conditioners
shipped last year:

4,104,933

↓ Down 26.2%



Gas furnaces
shipped last year:

3,247,426

↑ Up 4.1%



Efficiency

SAVINGS AND PROPER INSTALLATION



Heat pump heating electricity savings:

up to 75%

Compared with electric resistance heat



Improper installation can
reduce efficiency by

up to 30%



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; U.S. Energy Information Administration; AHRI; U.S. Department of Energy; ENERGY STAR.

Top Picks

Workforce

- HVAC technician jobs: [440,900](#)
- Median annual pay: [\\$61,010](#), or [\\$29.33](#) an hour
- Projected job growth: [11%](#) over the next decade vs [3%](#) for all occupations
- Job openings each year: about [40,600](#)

Homes

- Households using air conditioning: [88%](#)
- Households heating mainly with electricity: [42%](#)
- Households with a heat pump as main heating: [13%](#)
- Home energy used for heating and cooling: [52%](#)

Equipment

- Central AC and heat pumps shipped last year: [7,749,529](#), down [20.0%](#)
- Heat pumps shipped last year: [3,644,596](#), down [11.6%](#)
- Central air conditioners shipped last year: [4,104,933](#), down [26.2%](#)
- Gas furnaces shipped last year: [3,247,426](#), up [4.1%](#)

Efficiency

- Heat pump savings on heating electricity: up to [75%](#) vs electric resistance heat
- Efficiency lost to improper installation: up to [30%](#)

How Many HVAC Technicians Are There in the U.S.?

There are [440,900](#) jobs for HVAC technicians in the U.S., according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with a median annual wage of [\\$61,010](#).

Here are some more pay stats:

- Median hourly wage: [\\$29.33](#)
- Lowest paid 10% of technicians: under [\\$40,050](#) a year
- Highest paid 10% of technicians: over [\\$95,210](#) a year
- Median for installation, maintenance, and repair jobs: [\\$59,620](#)
- Median for all U.S. occupations: [\\$50,980](#)

According to BLS, this occupation falls under “heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers”. Most people refer to this occupation as HVAC technicians.

The agency reports wages from its annual survey of employers. Self-employed technicians are not included.

HVAC technicians out-earn both the typical U.S. worker and the wider repair trades.

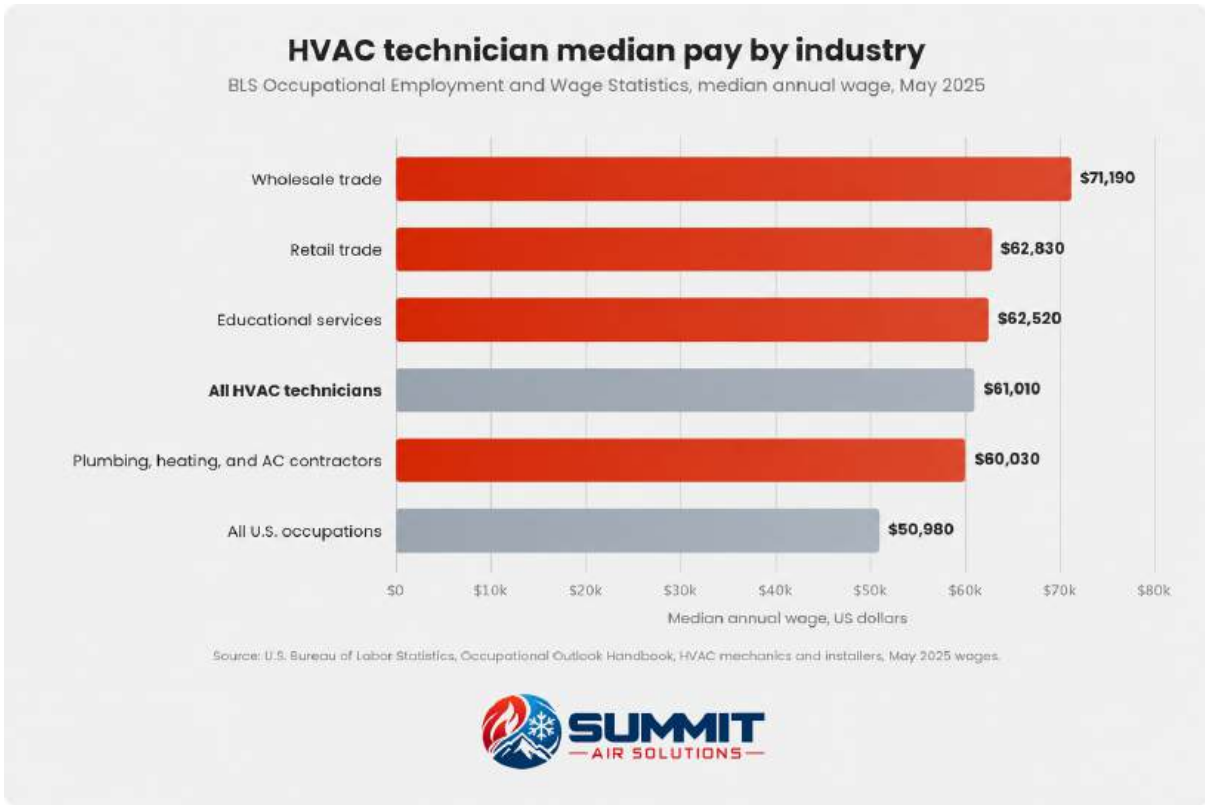
Which Industries Pay HVAC Technicians the Most?

HVAC techs earn a median wage of [\\$71,190](#) in wholesale trade, the highest of the four industries the BLS reviewed below.

Here is the full breakdown:

Industry	Median annual wage	Source (date)
Wholesale trade	\$71,190	BLS OEWS (May 2025)
Retail trade	\$62,830	BLS OEWS (May 2025)
Educational services (state, local, and private)	\$62,520	BLS OEWS (May 2025)
Plumbing, heating, and air-conditioning contractors	\$60,030	BLS OEWS (May 2025)

Of the four, contractors employ the most technicians but pay the lowest median annual wage.



Where Do HVAC Technicians Work?

Plumbing, heating, and air-conditioning contractors employ [68%](#) of HVAC technicians, according to BLS.

The largest employers:

Employer	Share of HVAC technician jobs	Source (date)
Plumbing, heating, and air-conditioning contractors	68%	BLS (2025)
Self-employed workers	6%	BLS (2025)
Wholesale trade	3%	BLS (2025)
Educational services	3%	BLS (2025)
Retail trade	3%	BLS (2025)

Approximately two thirds of technicians are employed by a contractor instead of a wholesaler, retailer or school.

How Fast Are HVAC Jobs Growing?

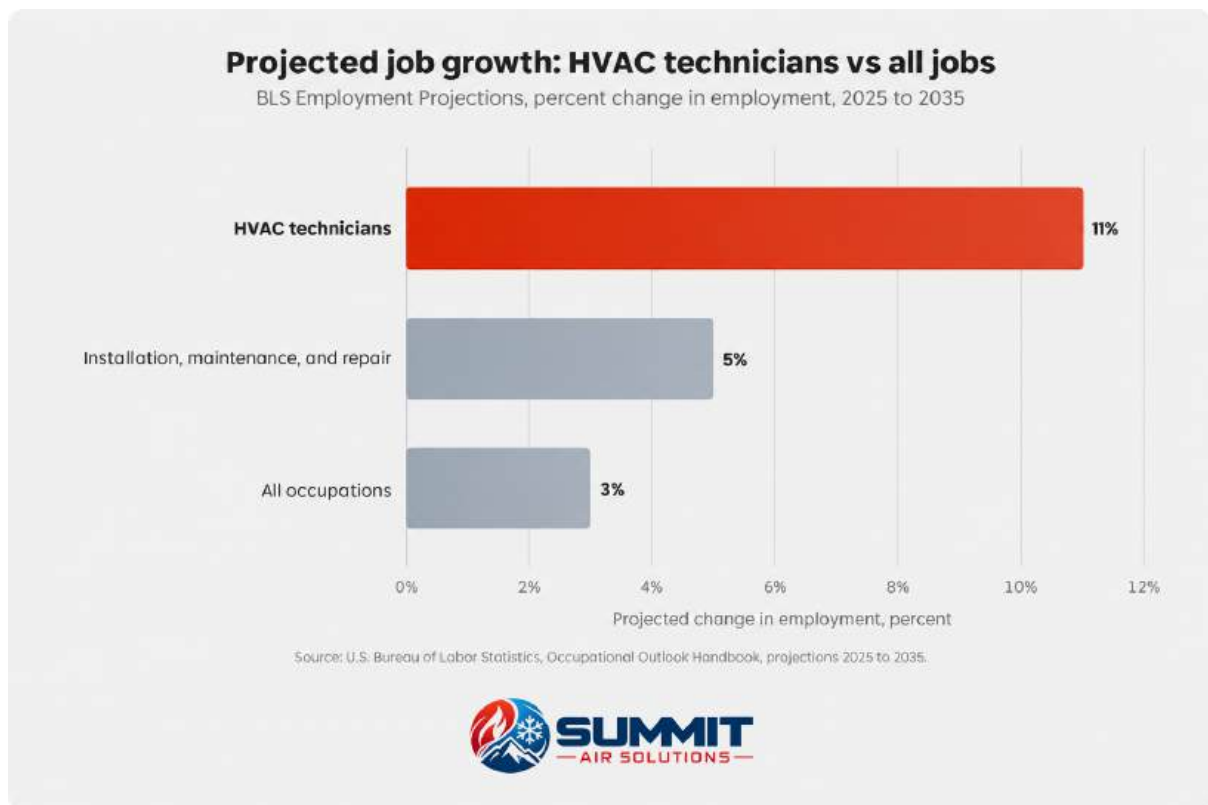
According to the BLS, HVAC technician jobs will see an [11%](#) increase in employment over the next ten years, compared to [3%](#) for all jobs.

The projection in four numbers:

- **Jobs projected at the end of the decade:** [489,100](#)
- **New jobs added over the decade:** [48,200](#)
- **Openings each year, including replacements:** about [40,600](#)
- **Growth for installation, maintenance, and repair jobs overall:** [5%](#)

A lot of these job openings will come from replacement demand (people retiring or switching careers), instead of new jobs. The BLS predicts commercial construction (including data centers) and residential building will fuel the demand.

BLS updated these forecasts late this summer in 2026. The growth rates and number of openings from the last cycle are still commonly used and are now out of date.



How Many U.S. Homes Have Air Conditioning?

EIA's Residential Energy Consumption Survey finds [88%](#) of U.S. households use air conditioning, and [two thirds](#) rely on central AC or a central heat pump.

What is being counted:

Measure	Figure	Source (date)
Households using any air conditioning	88%	EIA RECS (2020)
Households whose main AC is central AC or a central heat pump	Two-thirds	EIA RECS (2020)
Northeast households relying mainly on individual units (window, wall, mini-split, portable)	50%	EIA RECS (2020)

Measure	Figure	Source (date)
New owner-built single-family homes with AC	91%	Census, Characteristics of New Housing (2025)
New multifamily buildings with AC	99%	Census, Characteristics of New Housing (2025)

The percentage of any AC share answers whether a home has central air or not. Central-system share is what powers ducted replacement work.

Which Regions and Homes Use AC the Most?

The South leads, with [93%](#) of households using AC in EIA's survey.

By region:

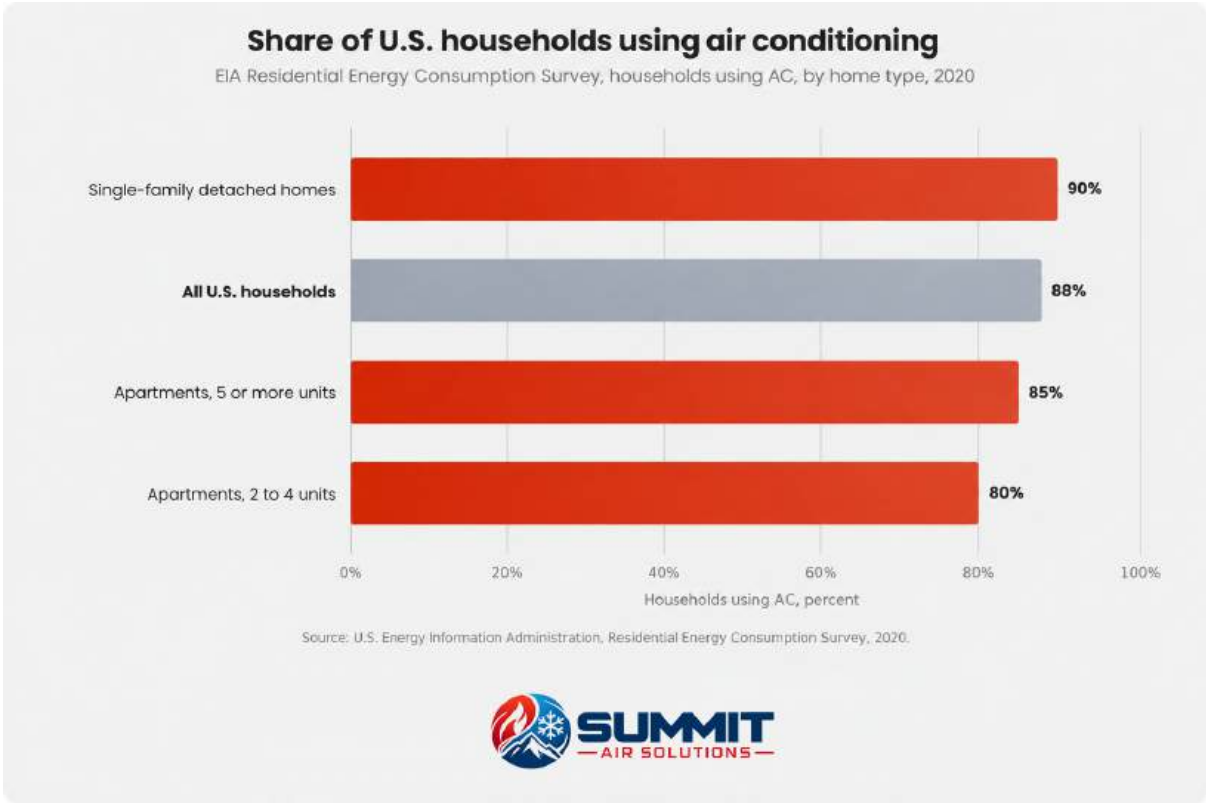
- **South:** [93%](#)
- **Midwest:** [92%](#)
- **West:** [73%](#)
- **Marine climate along the Pacific Coast:** [49%](#)

By home type and age:

- **Single-family detached homes:** [90%](#)
- **Apartments in buildings with 5 or more units:** [85%](#)
- **Apartments in buildings with 2 to 4 units:** [80%](#)
- **Homes built before 1950:** [83%](#)
- **Homes built 2010 to 2020:** [93%](#)

This pattern tracks climate; the lowest rate occurs in the mild Pacific marine region. EIA also found that households without AC are more likely to rent than own.

Cooling doesn't typically serve the entire home. For example, homes in New England heat an average of [1,616](#) square feet but only cool [912](#) square feet, the EIA's latest survey found.



What Do Americans Use to Heat Their Homes?

Natural gas is the main heating fuel in [47%](#) of U.S. households and electricity in [42%](#), according to Census survey data published by EIA.

Electric heat and heat pumps are not the same count:

Measure	Figure	Source (date)
Households heating mainly with natural gas	47%	EIA, from Census ACS (2024)
Households heating mainly with natural gas, earlier benchmark	49%	EIA, from Census ACS (2010)
Households heating mainly with electricity	42%	EIA, from Census ACS (2024)
Households using a heat pump as main heating equipment	13%	EIA RECS (2020)
New single-family homes fueled by electricity	56%	Census, Characteristics of New Housing (2025)
New single-family homes fueled by gas	42%	Census, Characteristics of New Housing (2025)

Electric heat covers heat pumps but also baseboard heaters and electric furnaces, so the electricity share overstates heat pump use. The heat pump figure also comes from an earlier, different survey.

Never quote the electricity share as the heat pump share; they measure different things.

Where Are New Homes Getting Heat Pumps?

Heat pumps are now standard equipment in new Southern homes. The Census Bureau reported [63%](#) of completed single-family homes in the South had one last year.

New construction by region and building type:

- **New Southern homes with a heat pump:** [63%](#)
- **New Southern homes with a forced air furnace:** [36%](#)
- **New homes sold in the Northeast heated with gas:** [91%](#)
- **New homes sold in the Northeast heated with electricity:** [8%](#)
- **New multifamily buildings with a heat pump:** [53%](#)

The single-family shares describe the [1,005,000](#) homes completed last year, not the existing housing stock.

System choice is still influenced by climate, as shown by the regional divide. If debating between [home heating and cooling systems](#), evaluate them based on how cold your winters are.

Are Heat Pumps Outselling Air Conditioners?

Central air conditioners outshipped heat pumps in 2025: AHRI statistics reveal [4,104,933](#) AC units shipped compared to [3,644,596](#) air-source heat pumps.

AHRI stands for Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute, which is the trade association of manufacturers.

U.S. shipments for the full year:

Equipment	2023	2024	2025
Central air conditioners	5,040,042	5,559,766	4,104,933
Air-source heat pumps	3,616,632	4,122,004	3,644,596
Central AC and heat pumps combined	8,656,674	9,681,770	7,749,529

AHRI's year-end update showed both categories declined last year after posting solid gains the year before.

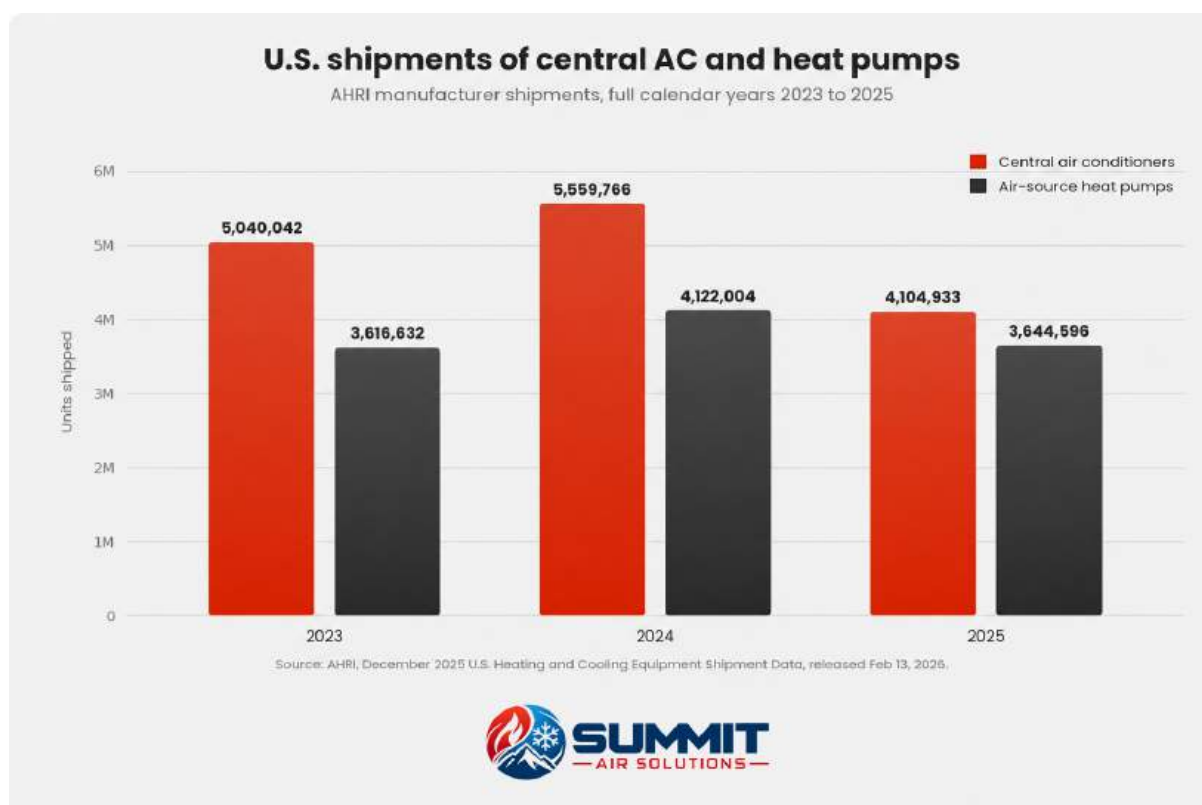
Last year's moves:

- **Central AC and heat pumps combined:** [7,749,529](#) units, down from [9,681,770](#)
- **Combined change:** down [20.0%](#)
- **Central air conditioners:** down [26.2%](#)
- **Air-source heat pumps:** down [11.6%](#)

Heat pump shipments fell less than half as steeply as air conditioner shipments.

AHRI defines a shipment as occurring when ownership of a unit changes hands, not when a system is installed into a residential home. Shipments include units sold to customers in the 50 states and D.C. that are either manufactured in the U.S. or imported.

AHRI members represent over [90%](#) of the HVAC equipment sold in North America. So the series follows the majority of the market, not all of it.



Do Heat Pumps Outsell Gas Furnaces?

Air-source heat pumps outshipped gas furnaces last year, [3,644,596](#) to [3,247,426](#), according to AHRI.

Gas warm air furnace shipments, full year:

- **2025:** [3,247,426](#)
- **2024:** [3,120,677](#)
- **2023:** [2,989,516](#)

Furnace shipments rose [4.1%](#) last year while heat pump shipments fell [11.6%](#).

The two aren't like for like. Heat pumps heat AND cool; gas furnaces only heat and usually are used with a central air conditioner.

How Much Energy Do Heating and Cooling Use?

Space heating and air conditioning take [52%](#) of the energy a U.S. household uses in a year, according to EIA.

How household energy splits:

End use	Share of annual home energy	Source (date)
Space heating and air conditioning	52%	EIA RECS (2020)
Water heating, lighting, and refrigeration	25%	EIA RECS (2020)
Everything else (TVs, cooking, laundry, electronics)	23%	EIA RECS (2020)

Heating and cooling use more energy than every other household need combined.

How Much Electricity Goes to Air Conditioning?

Air conditioning accounted for about [19%](#) of the electricity used in U.S. homes, or [254 billion kWh](#), according to EIA's most recent survey

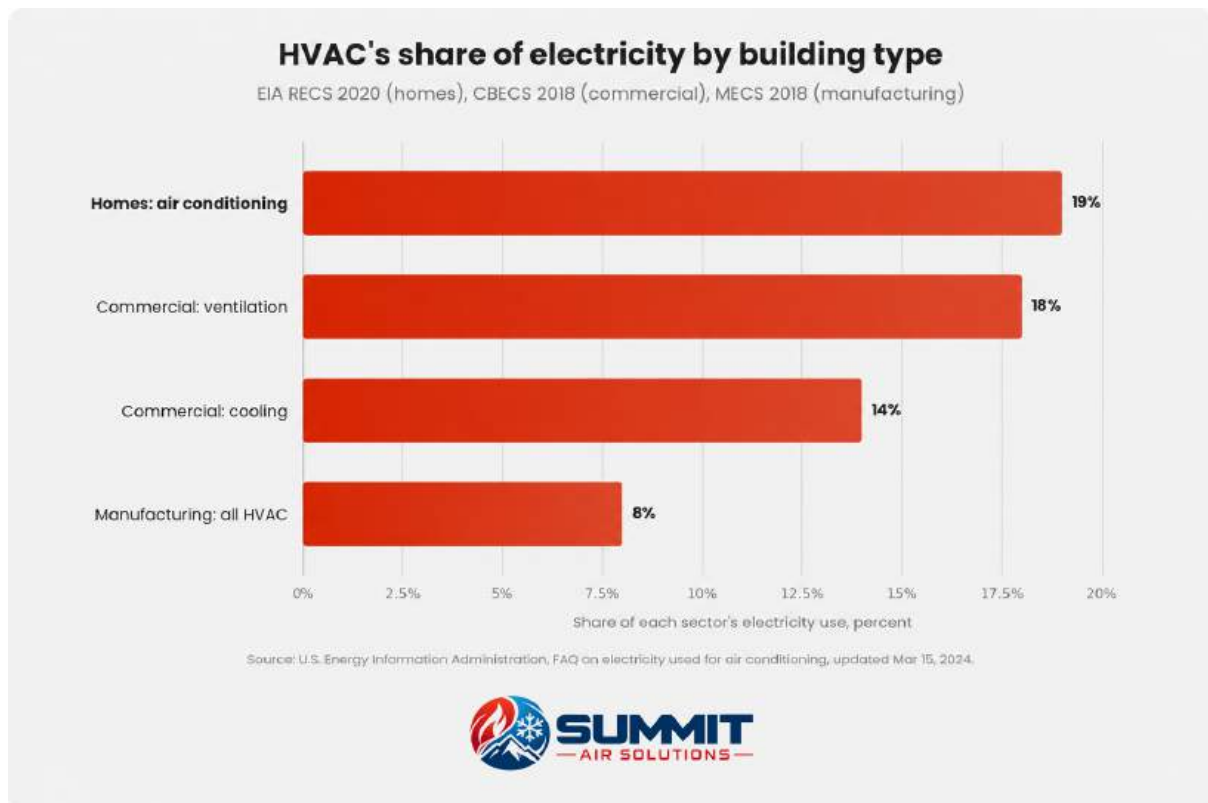
A kWh (kilowatt-hour) is the unit on a power bill. HVAC's electricity share in other buildings:

- **Commercial buildings, cooling:** [14%](#), or [170 billion kWh](#)
- **Commercial buildings, ventilation:** [18%](#), or [213 billion kWh](#)
- **Manufacturing plants, all HVAC:** [8%](#), or [76 billion kWh](#)

Many widely-read roundups report AC's share of residential electricity to be significantly less.

The EIA's survey-based estimate is considered the one to use.

EIA's residential and commercial surveys are not on the same cycle, so building types aren't captured during the same year.



How Much Can Efficient HVAC Save?

According to the Department of Energy, a modern air-source heat pump can reduce your electricity use for heating by up to 75 percent when compared with electric resistance heat.

Electric resistance heating consists of baseboard heaters and electric furnaces. Here are additional savings amounts listed by federal programs:

- **ENERGY STAR geothermal heat pumps:** [61%](#) less energy than a standard model
- **Sealing and insulating ducts:** up to [20%](#) better system efficiency
- **ENERGY STAR smart thermostat:** about [\\$100](#) a year in high-bill or often-empty homes

- **Replacing old equipment with ENERGY STAR models:** nearly [\\$140](#) off the annual energy bill
- **Improper installation:** up to [30%](#) of system efficiency lost

Each number represents a ceiling or an average, not a guarantee. Savings will vary by climate, previous system and quality of install.

ENERGY STAR recommends that equipment over [10 years](#) old be inspected by a contractor.

How Long Do Geothermal Heat Pumps Last?

According to the Department of Energy, geothermal systems can last up to [24 years](#) for indoor components and [50+ years](#) for the ground loop.

The ground loop refers to the underground pipe that exchanges heat with the ground. It is designed to last decades longer than the indoor components.

Conclusion

The HVAC picture is split in three. Employment growth is outstripping the economy. Cooling is nearly universal. Heating is shifting to electricity more slowly than the headlines suggest.

Sources

[U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook \(2026\)](#) · [EIA, Residential Energy Consumption Survey \(2020; 2024 highlights, 2026\)](#) · [EIA, Today in Energy: air conditioning \(2022\)](#) · [EIA, Today in Energy: residential heating \(2025\)](#) · [EIA, Energy use in homes \(2023\)](#) · [EIA, FAQ on air conditioning electricity \(2024\)](#) · [AHRI, December 2025 shipment data \(2026\)](#) · [U.S. Census Bureau, Characteristics of New Housing \(2026\)](#) · [U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Saver: heat pump systems](#) · [ENERGY STAR, Heat and Cool Efficiently](#)