

1920s Job Profile: Oil Worker

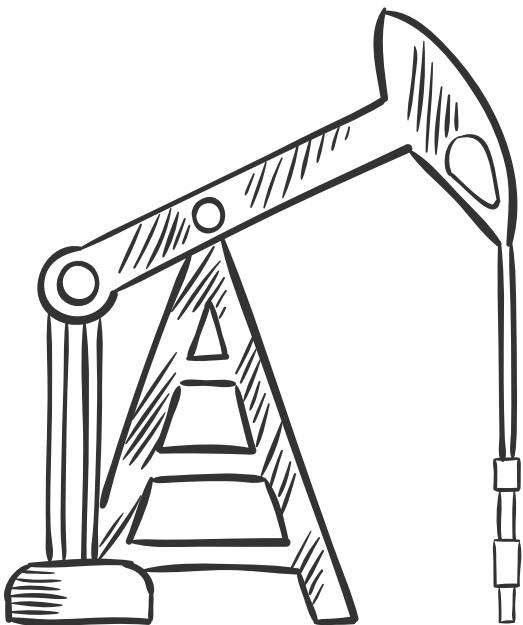
What is the oil industry? The oil industry takes petroleum out of the ground and processes it. In the 1920s, it was usually processed into fuel.

How do they do it? Big pumps pull oil out of the ground to be collected and taken to places called refineries. Refineries process the oil into different products using heat, machines, and chemicals.

Oil workers made all this happen. The process was dangerous and the products are very flammable. But it paid well and jobs became highly sought after. There were also lots of jobs outside of the oil wells and refineries. People who worked at rail yards and gas stations were important in the transport and sale of oil products.

By the end of the 1920s, oil was the most important industry in the area. The demand for oil continued to grow as machines and new technology needed fuel.

Salary and hours: You make \$4.10 per day and work on a drilling rig. While 8 hour days are becoming common in factories, you usually work 12 hours or longer out in the field.



Shell Oil Drillers by Truck, the Portal to Texas History