

Press release

Grupo Red Eléctrica

According to data from the '2019 Spanish Electricity System Preliminary Report'

The Region of Aragón was the region in Spain that incorporated the most renewable generation capacity in 2019

- During 2019, the installed power capacity of renewable sources increased 49.1% with the commissioning of 1,787 'green' megawatts.
- 54% of the generation mix in Aragón was renewable and registered an all-time high in the contribution from wind and solar photovoltaic.
- Last year was also characterised by a decrease of 50.6% in coal-fired generation.

Madrid, 12 March 2020

Aragón was the Region that incorporated the most renewable generation capacity during the past year. Specifically, 1,022 megawatts (MW) of new windfarms and 765 MW of solar photovoltaic facilities were connected to the grid, in total 1,787 new MWs of clean energy. This figure, which represents 27.3% of all the new renewable generation capacity installed in Spain in 2019 (6,539 MW), corroborates the leading role played by the Region in advancing towards the energy transition, according to the data included in the '2019 Spanish Electricity System Preliminary Report' published by Red Eléctrica de España.

With regard to the Region of Aragón, 2019 has represented a 24.4% increase in installed power capacity, especially noteworthy was solar photovoltaic which multiplied by a factor of 5.5 compared to the previous year and closed the year at 934 MW, which represents an increase of 452.9%. The installed wind power capacity increased 48.7% to 3,118 MW. These figures represent an annual all-time high in installed renewable power capacity as well as in wind and solar photovoltaic. Installed renewable power capacity (5,429 MW) increased in 2019 by 49.1% in Aragón and at year end represented 59.6% of the Region's total installed capacity, surpassing its non-green technologies. The total installed power capacity in Aragón totals 9,102 MW, 8.3% of the national total. By technology, wind (34.3% of all installed power capacity in Aragón) is followed by combined cycle (1,870 MW, 20.5% of the total), hydro (1,334 MW, 14.7%), coal (1,056 MW, 11.6%) and solar photovoltaic (934 MW, 10.3%).

The demand for electricity (10,753 gigawatt-hours, GWh) and generation (15,347 GWh) increased in 2019 by 0.5% and 1% respectively in the Region, noteworthy considering that national demand actually dropped. In 2019, the Region had a generation mix that was primarily based on renewables (54%). 54.7% of the electricity was generated from technologies that do not emit CO_2 emissions. Wind power was the leading technology in the mix (with 34.9% of all generation), followed by cogeneration (19.8%), hydro (16.6%) and combined cycle (13.6%). 2019 closed with an all-time high regarding the share of wind power (34.9%) and solar photovoltaic (2.1%) in the generation mix of the Region of Aragón.

Also, in this period there was a 50.6% decrease in coal-fired generation and a fall of 34.4% in hydroelectricity due mainly to 2019 being a drier year than 2018. These decreases were offset by a significant increase in generation from combined cycle (which multiplied its contribution by a factor of 35, representing an increase of 3,379%) and by wind (with an increase of 23.4% compared to 2018).

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The national electricity system, increasingly 'greener'

At national level, unequivocal progress is also being made on the road towards the energy transition. In 2019, the increase in installed renewable power capacity meant that for the first time ever these technologies already account for 50% of the country's total generation capacity (110 GW in total). As a whole, the complete set of generating facilities in Spain has grown by 5.9%. Combined cycle continues to be the leader in installed power capacity (23.8% of the total) but it is closely followed by two renewable sources: wind (23.3%) and hydro (15.5%).

Specifically, this past year 6,539 'green' MWs were commissioned, which has meant an increase of 13.4% in renewable generation capacity compared to 2018. The set of renewable generating facilities closed 2019 with an overall installed power capacity of 55,195 MW, of which 47% correspond to wind, 16% photovoltaic and 37% belong to other 'green' technologies.

This firm backing for clean energy sources has meant that, of the 260,713 GWh of electricity generated nationwide in Spain in 2019, 37.5% was produced using these technologies. Wind power generation was 9.3% higher than in 2018, occupying third place in the mix with a share of 20.8% after nuclear power (21.4%) and combined cycle (21.2%). Also noteworthy is the decline in the share of coal whose production fell by 66% in 2019 - the lowest level since records began.

Consequently, the CO2 emissions associated with electricity generation have experienced a notable reduction compared to 2018 (23% less), totalling 49.6 million tonnes, the lowest figure in the history of the Spanish electricity system.

For its part, electricity demand nationwide closed 2019 at 264,550 GWh, slightly lower than in 2018 (1.6% less). After factoring in the influence of seasonal patterns and working days, the decrease stands at 2.5% compared to the previous year.