



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

The Region of Cantabria increases its electricity production by 3.3% in 2019

- Cogeneration is the leading technology in the electricity generation mix in the Region, reaching almost 70%.
- Demand for electricity in Cantabria (4,186 GWh) decreased by 2% in 2019.

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The Region of Cantabria closed 2019 with a total electricity generation of 2,288 GWh - an increase of 3.3%. Primarily, the leading technologies in the Region's generation mix were cogeneration (69.2%), pumped storage (11.4%); and hydro (9.6%).

With regard to electricity demand, the downward trend experienced since 2018 has continued, and in 2019 it decreased by 2%, a figure higher than the 1.6% decrease registered nationwide, according to the data included in the '2019 Spanish Electricity System Preliminary Report' published by Red Eléctrica de España.

In the case of the Region of Cantabria, this trend has not occurred as 81.1% of its overall installed power capacity is non-renewable and the remaining 16.5% corresponds to renewable technologies.

In 2019, cogeneration increased its share in the Region's generation mix by around 15%, while pumped storage reduced its share by 10.7% and hydro by 31%. On the other hand, renewable sources such as wind power increased production by 9%. Despite this, the total share of renewables in its generation mix reached 17.8%, decreasing their contribution by more than 5 percentage points compared to 2018.

The electricity system in Cantabria

During 2019, cogeneration was the technology that produced the most electricity in Cantabria, representing 69.2% of the total generation; followed by pumped storage (11.4%), hydro (9.6%), other renewables (3.2%), wind (3.2%), renewable waste (1.7%), non-waste renewable (1.7%) and solar photovoltaic (0.1%).

On the other hand, the complete set of generating facilities in the Region of Cantabria has not experienced any variation, remaining at 815 megawatts (MW) of installed power capacity. Of this total, 361 MW correspond to pure pumped storage (44.2%); 296 MW to cogeneration (36.3%); 99 MW to hydro (12.1%); 35 MW to wind (4.3%); 13 MW correspond to other renewables (1.6%); 5 MW to renewable waste (0.6%); 5 MW to non-renewable waste (0.6%); and 2 MW to solar photovoltaic (0.3%). In this regard, 81.1% of the installed power capacity in the Region corresponds to non-renewable technologies and 18.9% corresponds to renewable sources. With regard to Spain as a whole, the installed power capacity in Cantabria represents 0.7% of the national total.



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.