

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

Electricity generation increased in the Region of La Rioja by 7.9% in 2019

- Combined cycle (47.3%) and wind (37.8%) were the leading technologies in the generation of electricity in the Region.
- 49.3% of the generation mix in La Rioja came from renewable sources.
- Installed power capacity in the Region totals 1,409 megawatts and increased 0.8% compared to 2018 due to the new solar photovoltaic facilities.

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Electricity generation in La Rioja in 2019 was 2,582 GWh, representing an increase of 7.9% compared to 2018 figures, while demand (1,708 GWh) decreased slightly, 0.2% compared to the previous year. Combined cycle, with 47.3% of the total, and wind, with 37.8%, were the leading technologies used in the electricity production in the Region, with increases of 11.5% and 7.3% respectively compared to 2018, while hydro-electricity generation fell 9%. Generation from solar photovoltaic also increased by 7.1%. As a result, 49.3% of the generation mix in La Rioja came from renewable sources, although renewable production and generation technologies which do not emit CO₂ emissions decreased by 1.4 percentage points, according to data from the '2019 Spanish Electricity System Preliminary Report' published by Red Eléctrica de España.

According to the Report, in 2019 the installed power capacity in La Rioja grew by 0.8% and reached 1,409 MW, due to the increase in solar photovoltaic capacity that went from 86 to 97 MW, while the rest of the technologies remained at the same installed capacity levels. The complete set of generating facilities in La Rioja closed the year headed by combined cycle (785 MW), followed by wind (448 MW), solar photovoltaic (97 MW) and hydro (52 MW). 42.7% of the installed power capacity in La Rioja is of renewable origin, 1.9% more than in 2018.

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.