

All-time high for electricity production

Navarra increases its installed wind power capacity by 9% and demand grows for the fifth consecutive year

- The demand for electricity increased 1.2% in 2019, maintaining the growth trend experienced since 2015
- Combined cycle, wind and cogeneration lead production in the Region, which grew by 44%.
- Renewable technologies increased 92 MW, reaching an all-time high of installed renewable power capacity.

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The Region of Navarra closed 2019 with an all-time high of electricity generation with 7,467 GWh, increasing its production by 44% compared to 2018. Primarily, the leading technologies in the Region's generation mix were combined cycle (40.8%), wind (with a 32.1% share) and cogeneration (12.2%). On the other hand, the complete set of generating facilities in this Region increased its overall installed power capacity by 3%, mainly due to the installation of 90 MW of wind energy capacity, which represents a growth of 9% in wind power, an all-time high in the Region.

Regarding electricity demand, the growth trend experienced since 2015 has continued. For the fifth consecutive year, electricity consumption increased. While the demand for electricity at national level decreased by 1.6%, in Navarra it grew 1.2%. Between 2015 (4,843 GWh) and 2019 (5,160 GWh), the increase in demand exceeds 6.5% in this Region, according to data included in the '2019 Spanish Electricity System Preliminary Report' published by Red Eléctrica de España.

In the Region of Navarra, 53.2% of the installed power capacity is renewable, compared to the overall figure of 46.8% for installed power capacity corresponding to combined cycle and cogeneration. In 2019, wind increased its share in the total generation mix by 2% and solar photovoltaic by 4.8% compared to 2018. Despite these increases, combined cycle has headed the important growth in electricity production, multiplying its share in the generation mix by a factor of 4.6. Thus, in 2019 the overall percentage of the share of renewables in the generation mix was significantly reduced, totalling 47%.

The electricity system in Navarra

During 2019, combined cycle was the technology that produced the most electricity in Navarra, representing 40.8% of the total generation; followed by wind (32.1%), cogeneration (12.2%), hydro (6.8%), solar photovoltaic (4.2%) and other renewables (3.9%).

Throughout the past year, the complete set of generating facilities in the Region of Navarra experienced an overall growth of 3% in its installed power capacity, reaching all-time highs for renewable wind energy capacity.



Specifically, wind power capacity increased 9% by adding 90 MW; other renewables grew 4%, adding 2 more MW to the system; and installed cogeneration capacity was reduced by 4.1% (6 MW less). The rest of the technologies have not experienced any variation in their installed power capacity, so the complete set of generating facilities closed 2019 with 53.2% of renewable sources (wind 1,085 MW, 37.2%; hydro 255 MW, 8.7%; solar photovoltaic 162 MW, 5.6%; other renewables 52 MW, 1.8%) and 46.8% of non-renewable technologies (1,222 MW combined cycle, 41.9% and cogeneration 142 MW, 4.9%).

With regard to Spain as a whole, the installed power capacity in Navarra represents 2.6% of the national total. Wind 4.2% and solar 1.4%.

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.