

According to data from the 'The Spanish Electricity System. Preliminary Report 2020'

Catalonia, the region with the greatest increase in hydroelectric generation in 2020

- The region increased its hydroelectric production by 47.7%, allowing renewables to increase their overall production by 15.6% compared to 2019.
- Generation from carbon-free technologies registered a share of 75.6% of the overall generation mix in Catalonia.
- Electricity demand in Catalonia fell by 6.7% compared to the previous year, registering 43,870 GWh at year-end. At the national level, this decrease stands at -5.6%.

Barcelona, 12 March 2021

Catalonia is the region that has experienced the greatest increase in hydroelectric generation in 2020. The region increased its hydroelectric production by 47.7%, making it the third most relevant technology in the generation mix after nuclear and combined cycle. Hydroelectric generation also enabled renewable energies as a whole to produce 15.6% more energy, reaching a share of almost 20% of the Catalan generation mix. This data is published in the 'Spanish Electricity System. Preliminary Report 2020', a publication prepared by Red Eléctrica de España (REE) that collates the main annual figures of the Spanish electricity system for 2020 and which REE presented today at an event held at the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.

For the Chairwoman of Red Eléctrica, Beatriz Corredor, "the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan sets ambitious, but also realistic and achievable goals to mitigate climate change by moving towards a new system in which renewable energies are the cornerstone. And along this road towards the energy transition, the electricity sector plays a key role due to its decarbonisation potential."

By the end of 2020, renewable energies already accounted for 30.3% of installed power capacity in the region. Last year, the green energies most present in the region continued to be hydro and wind. Solar photovoltaic registered a slight increase and closed the year with 278 MW in service in the region. In total, as at 31 December, the installed power capacity of Catalonia's power generation fleet stood at 11,855 MW, representing 10.7% of the national total.

For its part, Catalonia produced 32,453 GWh of carbon-free energy, raising the share of this type of energy to 75.6% in the overall generation mix in Catalonia, 7.2 percentage points above the figure for 2019.

According to the 'The Spanish Electricity System. Preliminary Report 2020', last year demand in Catalonia fell by 6.7% compared to the previous year, registering a total of 43,870 GWh. At national level, this fall was 1.1 percentage points lower, specifically -5.6%. Demand in Catalonia accounted for 17.6% of total electricity consumption in Spain in 2020.

2020, Spain's greenest year on record

Renewables produced 44% of the total energy generated in Spain last year, making 2020 the *greenest* year since national records began in 2007. In total, 110,450 GWh were generated from natural and inexhaustible resources such as wind, sun and water, which represents an increase of 12.8% compared to the data for 2019.



The report, which includes the key performance indicators regarding the electricity sector in Spain over the past year, highlights the record production of wind power, responsible for more than a fifth of the total annual generation, and solar photovoltaic, which recorded an increase of 65% compared to the values for 2019. These two renewable technologies were responsible for 21.9% and 6.1%, respectively, of the total annual electricity generation in Spain in 2020.

Achieving this increase in renewable production in Spain would not have been possible without the installation of new MWs of renewable power. At the end of 2020, Spain's complete power generation fleet had increased its renewable power capacity by 4,015 MW, with solar photovoltaic being the technology that has risen the most, with a growth of 29.5% compared to 2019, followed by wind power, which has grown by 5.3%, making it the leading technology nationwide.

In addition, during the past year, 3,950 MW of coal-fired power capacity were decommissioned in Spain, which contributed to the fact that as at 31 December 2020, the total installed renewable power capacity accounted for 53.8% of Spain's overall production capacity.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had direct consequences on electricity consumption, which in Spain fell to 249,819 GWh, a drop of 5.6% compared to 2019. After having factored in the influence of seasonal temperatures (+0.1%) and working patterns (-0.1%), electricity demand maintained the same variation as in gross terms, falling 5.6 % compared to the previous year.