

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

Extremadura, the region with the highest installed solar photovoltaic power capacity in Spain

- Extremadura is home to almost a quarter of the Spain's installed solar photovoltaic power capacity, after being the region that commissioned the highest amount of solar photovoltaic power capacity in 2020, specifically 1,321 new MWs.
- Generation from carbon-free technologies reached 99.7% of the region's total production, the highest share in Spain.

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Extremadura installed a total of 1,321 new MWs of solar photovoltaic power capacity in 2020, reaching an installed capacity of 2,568 MW and is today the region with the highest number of solar photovoltaic generation facilities in the country. Specifically, it represents 22.2% of the total of this type of generation in Spain. 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."

Installed solar photovoltaic power capacity in Extremadura last year grew by 105.9%, making it the region with the greatest increase in its generation capacity. Thanks to this boost, solar photovoltaic became the leading technology in Extremadura's installed power capacity structure for the first time. With 32.9%, it surpassed hydro and nuclear (29.2% and 25.8%, respectively). Together, the three account for almost 90% of the region's generation capacity. In total, the region closed the year with 7,805 MW of installed power capacity, which represents 7.1% of the total installed capacity in Spain.

The report also highlights that in 2020, *green* energies in Extremadura made up 73.9% of Extremadura's power generation fleet. This is the highest share achieved by this region since records began. In fact, it is the third highest percentage in the country.

In terms of energy generated in 2020, Extremadura produced 21,294 GWh, which represents 8.5% of the total generated in Spain. This figure is 1.2% higher than that recorded in 2019. The contribution of solar photovoltaic energy is particularly relevant, which has almost doubled its production in 2020 compared to 2019 values. This figure has enabled photovoltaic to become the second largest source of generation in Extremadura, behind nuclear, which continues to be the leading technology in the generation mix, with 71.7% of the total. Solar thermal and hydro technology occupy the third and fourth positions with 8.3% and 6.7%, respectively.

During 2020, 28 % of production came from renewable sources. In total, *green* generation in the region increased by 27.8 % last year. For its part, generation from carbon-free technologies reached 99.7% of the generation mix.



This figure meant that Extremadura was the region with the highest share of carbon-free generation in its mix in 2020.

With regard to Extremadura's electricity demand, in 2020 it experienced a slight decrease of 0.1% compared to 2019, a long way from the figure recorded at national level, which closed the year with a decrease of 5.6%. Specifically, 4,960 GWh were consumed in Extremadura throughout the year, representing 2% of the total for Spain.

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.