



Press Release EurObserv'ER

RENEWABLE ENERGY SHARE IN THE EU: 18.0% in 2018

“*The state of renewable energies in Europe*” 19th edition released

Free Download: <https://www.eurobserv-er.org/19th-annual-overview-barometer>

Paris, March 2020

Key data for the European Union (EU) in 2018

18.0%	RES share in total EU gross final energy consumption in 2018 (17.5% in 2017)
32.1%	RES-E share in total EU generation in 2018 (30.7% in 2017)
1 051.5 TWh	Renewable Electricity generation in the EU in 2018 (973.2 TWh in 2017)
1.51 million	Jobs in the European renewable energy industry in 2018 (1.44 million in 2017)
€ 158.9 bn.	Turnover generated by renewable energy sources in EU-28 in 2018 (€ 154.7 bn. in 2017)
€ 31.5 bn.	Investment in new renewable energy capacity in the EU in 2018 (€ 27 bn in 2017)
€ 110.4 bn.	Avoided expenses in fossil fuels in the EU-28 in and 2018 (€ 89 bn in 2017)
351.3 Mtoe	Substituted fossil fuels during 2018 (329.9 Mtoe in 2017)

The state of renewable energies in Europe features dedicated chapters on

Energy indicators (installed renewable capacity and energy production), Socio-economic indicators (jobs and turnover), Investment indicators, Renewable energy costs, prices and cost competitiveness, Avoided fossil fuel use and avoided costs, Indicators on innovation and competitiveness, and International Trade.

Key findings: 2020 renewable energy trajectory is well underway

The gross final energy consumption (GFEC) in 2018 in the EU-28 was 18% representing a 0.5 point growth over 2017. Overall, another surge is expected for 2019 and 2020 which should enable the EU-28 to achieve its goal of 20%. With the 1 000 TWh threshold being passed, almost one in every three TWh of electricity in the EU-28 is renewably sourced. In contrast, the development in renewable heat and cooling stagnated at 19.7% (+0.2 point against 2017).

Renewable energy related employment grows to 1.51 million full time jobs

Based on the methodology developed by EurObserv'ER, we have found that an overall, around 1.51 million persons were directly or indirectly employed in the European Union renewable energy sector in 2018. This represents a gross growth of 67 000 jobs (+4.6%) from 2017 levels. EurObserv'ER found that 20 out of 28 Member States either increased or maintained their number of RE jobs. The corresponding renewable energy related industry turnover in EU-28 member states in 2018 amounted to around €158.9 bn, representing a gross growth of around €4.2 bn against 2017 (+2.7%). 18 out of 28 EU member states either increased or maintained their industrial turnover. According to EurObserv'ER estimate, solid biomass (360 600 jobs, 24% of the total EU) retained its title as the largest sector in terms of



renewable energy induced employment, ahead of wind power (325 300 jobs, 22%), and biofuels (248 200 jobs, 16%).

Links and free downloads

- **REPORT:** “The State of Renewable Energies in Europe”, 19th edition, <https://www.eurobserv-er.org/19th-annual-overview-barometer>
- **EurObserv’ER DATABASE:** <https://www.eurobserv-er.org/online-database>
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The topic of the next Barometer will be: **WIND ENERGY (March 2020)**



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About EurObserv’ER

Since 1999, EurObserv’ER regularly publishes market reports (Barometers) containing energy data reflecting dynamics in renewable sources of energy in 10 sectors (solar PV, wind, hydropower, geothermal energy, biogas, solid biomass, biofuels, heat pumps, small hydro, renewable waste) within the EU-28 and worldwide.

Note for editors

Suggested report citation: EurObserv’ER 2020: “State of renewable energies in Europe”, 19th edition, <https://www.eurobserv-er.org/19th-annual-overview-barometer/>. We appreciate receiving a short reference when EurObserv’ER data is used in an article, report, news, or website. Please send an e-mail to diane.lescot@energies-renouvelables.org.

Disclaimer

This barometer was prepared by Observ’ER in the scope of the EurObserv’ER project, which groups together Observ’ER (FR), TNO Energy Transition (NL), the Renewables Academy (RENAC, DE), Frankfurt School of Finance and Management (DE), Fraunhofer-ISI (DE) and Statistics Netherlands (CBS, NL). The information and views set out in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study. Neither the Commission nor any person acting on the Commission’s behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.