

Facing a downturn? Not utility-scale solar!

Utility-scale solar energy has shrugged off any economic headwinds to record a strong first half, according to today's figures from Wiki-Solar. Global installed capacity rose to over 240 GW_{AC}, with 24 GW of new installations – more than half of 2019's record full-year total.

The USA led the charge, while Spain and Japan are reasserting their prominence. Both have now overtaken the UK, toppling it from the #4 spot it had enjoyed since 2016. Australia, Mexico and Germany all threaten to do so too before the end of the year, according to Wiki-Solar's Philip Wolfe.

Rank	Country	Cumulative to date		Change since end 2018		Rank
		Plants	GWac	Plants	GWac	
1	China	1,853	77.571	134	12.324	2
2	United States	1,811	45.912	403	15.152	1
3	India	1,033	34.214	132	10.369	3
4	Spain	284	7.248	40	3.243	6
5	Japan	363	6.864	39	1.327	11
6	United Kingdom	882	6.695	9	0.146	
7	Germany	761	6.218	128	0.788	15
8	Mexico	53	5.790	30	3.903	5
9	Australia	86	5.122	37	2.797	7
10	Vietnam	79	4.634	75	4.490	4
11	France	507	4.566	166	1.364	9
12	Brazil	43	3.006	14	1.023	14
13	Chile	109	2.945	26	0.609	
14	South Africa	47	2.502	6	0.451	
15	United Arab Emirates	6	2.076	2	1.538	8
16	Canada	140	1.953	5	0.186	
17	Italy	190	1.832	7	0.218	
18	Philippines	63	1.813	3	0.224	
19	Ukraine	35	1.766	13	1.236	12
20	Egypt	33	1.643	25	1.362	10
21	Thailand	127	1.447	1	0.004	
22	Russia	97	1.363	26	0.499	
23	Argentina	29	1.327	25	1.175	13
24	Turkey	141	1.215	10	0.099	

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Top countries with > 1 GW_{AC} installed utility-scale solar

The USA has reasserted itself as the fastest growing market, adding over 8 GW_{AC}, more than last year's total. Now that solar plants have established themselves as the low cost energy option; Texas, Florida and South Carolina each added more than 1 GW_{AC} of new capacity with California and Arizona not far behind.

TEXT ENDS

Notes for editors:

- [1] This release on the utility-scale solar market is available here:
http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/200716_Half_year_figures-All_change_near_the_top.pdf



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- [2] Wiki-Solar defines 'utility-scale solar' as more than 4 MW_{AC} (~ 1,500 households in Europe) see: <http://wiki-solar.org/data/glossary/utility-scale.html>.
- [3] '*Solar Photovoltaic Projects in the mainstream power market*' was [published](#) in 2012.
- [4] Wiki-Solar is the leading authority on utility-scale solar with a database covering over 13,000 utility-scale solar projects, of which about three-quarters are operational. All figures are based on the AC export rating of operational plants. Projects under development are excluded until they have been commissioned.

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