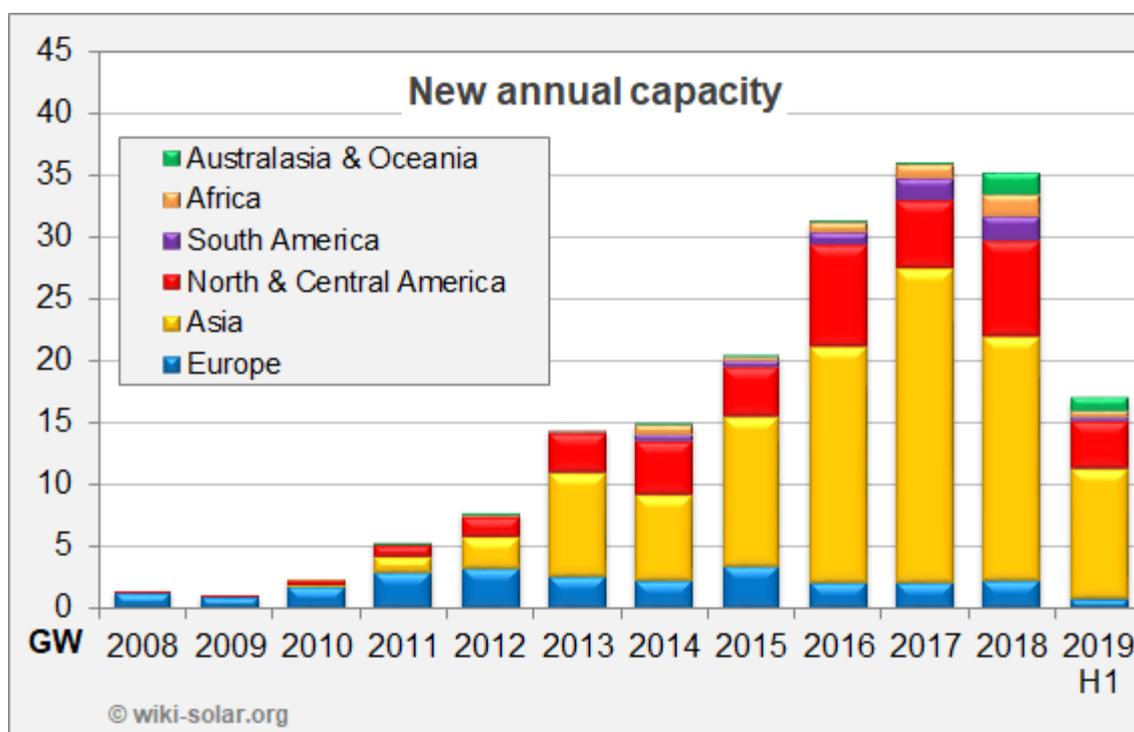


Rampant growth in new markets can't mitigate decline in top nations Utility-scale solar in 1st half 2019

New installations of utility-scale solar generation slowed in the first half of 2019, despite explosive growth in new entrant markets, led by Vietnam. The country leapt into the top-10, commissioning some 3½ GW of new capacity before its 30th June tariff deadline.

This exceeded the new capacity installed in the same period by China, USA or India – the traditional top-3. Indeed, the slowdown in those markets, since the 2016-17 boom, means that capacity growth is likely to decline in 2019, as it did marginally in 2018. Other leading countries UK, Germany and France also remain a long way short of the peaks they enjoyed under the feed-in tariffs.

New utility-scale solar capacity installed by year and continent



Vietnam was not alone in helping to mitigate the decline, as shown in the table below. The United Arab Emirates jumped up the table by commissioning the world's largest single solar power plant at Sweihan. Mexico is becoming a leading market as it continues to build out the pipeline of projects tendered in recent years. Egypt is bringing online the Benban Solar Park and will have risen back into the top-20 by the end of the 2019. South American markets Argentina, Brazil and Chile should also achieve significant capacity increases in the second half.

Spain is leading the European countries in developing unsubsidised solar power stations, and should be climbing back up the table, which it led back in 2006. Australia is progressively overcoming connection problems to work through its impressive project pipeline.



Continued/-

Top 20 countries by cumulative installed capacity at end June 2019

Rank	Country	Cumulative to mid-2019		Added in 2019 H1		
		Plants	GW	Plants	GW	Rank
1	China	1,444	62.359	41	2.879	2
2	United States	1,526	33.743	100	2.219	3
3	India	850	24.973	28	2.066	4
4	United Kingdom	889	6.652	1	0.004	24
5	Germany	639	5.520	14	0.147	14
6	Japan	281	4.835	5	0.081	18
7	Spain	232	4.484	3	0.335	9
8	Mexico	37	3.394	15	1.465	5
9	Vietnam	36	3.384	36	3.384	1
10	France	364	3.359	18	0.138	15
11	Australia	64	3.192	15	1.084	7
12	Chile	96	2.809	7	0.154	12
13	Brazil	32	2.162	4	0.125	16
14	South Africa	42	2.151	1	0.100	17
15	Philippines	64	1.904	2	0.199	10
16	Canada	136	1.813	1	0.044	19
17	United Arab Emirates	5	1.776	1	1.238	6
18	Italy	168	1.514	2	0.039	20
19	Thailand	112	1.236	0	0.000	25
20	Russia	79	1.083	6	0.191	11

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The figures also show that the rate of new installations did fall slightly in 2018. This had been predicted this time last year, but provisional figures seemed to show a match for the 2017 outcome. However, these initial figures proved over-optimistic as several projects scheduled for late 2018, did not in fact connect in that year.

It should be noted that these figures are compiled solely from Wiki-Solar's database of projects of 4-MW_{AC} and above, that had been commissioned by mid-2019.

T E X T E N D S

Notes for editors:

- [1] This release on the UK utility-scale solar market is available here: http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/190904_Utility-scale_solar_2019H1.pdf
- [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's database covers over 10,000 utility-scale solar projects, of which about three-quarters are operational, and the remainder are in construction or development. These figures are based solely on capacity that was operational in mid-2019.

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