

France is Europe's biggest net electricity exporter

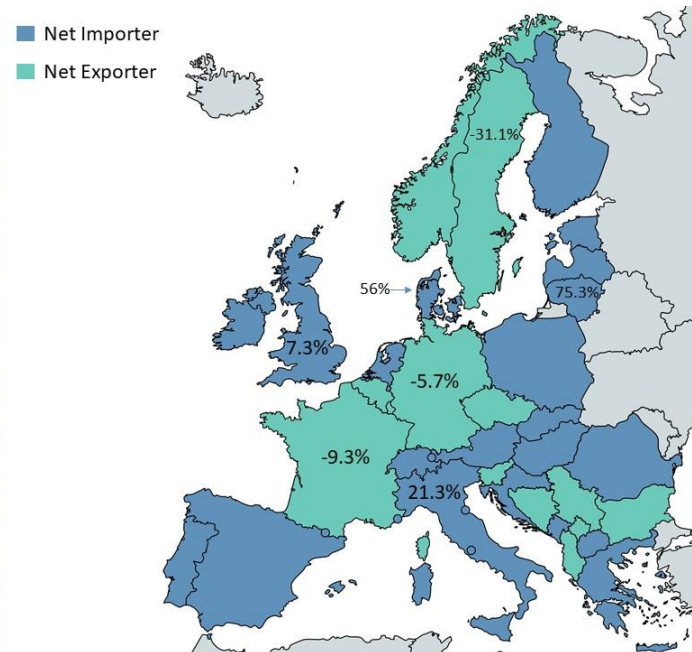
December 2019

France was Europe's biggest exporter of power in the first eleven months of the year, while Italy imported the largest volume of electricity.

These are the headline statistics from a new report on the European interconnector market from energy data analyst EnAppSys.

The research showed that France had total net exports of 39.4 TWh during the period from January 1 to November 30, 2019, with most of the power flowing to Italy (13.3 TWh) and Germany (11 TWh). The high net export level was attributed to large volumes of nuclear generation in France, with the low marginal costs associated with this type of power source making it attractive for the whole European market.

Countries	TWh			% Demand		
	Imports	Exports	Net Value	Imports	Exports	Net Value
Albania	0.54	-0.34	0.2			
Austria	7.58	-2.11	5.5	13.5%	-3.8%	9.7%
Bosnia	0.36	-2.78	-2.4	0.5%	-3.6%	-3.2%
Belgium	3.03	-4.67	-1.6	27.8%	-42.8%	-15.0%
Bulgaria	0.20	-3.99	-3.8	0.6%	-12.0%	-11.4%
Croatia	4.70	-0.65	4.1	28.7%	-4.0%	24.7%
CZ	0.50	-8.95	-8.4	0.8%	-14.8%	-14.0%
Denmark	8.51	-0.83	7.7	62.1%	-6.1%	56.0%
Estonia	1.91	-0.27	1.6	25.8%	-3.7%	22.2%
Finland	17.65	-0.01	17.6	23.1%	0.0%	23.1%
France	2.02	-41.45	-39.4	0.5%	-9.8%	-9.3%
GB	20.11	-0.42	19.7	7.5%	-0.2%	7.3%
Germany	4.31	-29.67	-25.4	1.0%	-6.6%	-5.7%
Greece	6.47	-0.20	6.3	13.8%	-0.4%	13.4%
Hungary	13.07	0.00	13.1	32.8%	0.0%	32.8%
I-SEM	2.03	-1.18	0.9	6.9%	-4.0%	2.9%
Italy	36.68	-0.04	36.6	21.3%	0.0%	21.3%
Latvia	1.27	-0.57	0.7	19.3%	-8.6%	10.7%
Lithuania	8.08	-0.24	7.8	77.7%	-2.3%	75.3%
Macedonia	1.10	-0.44	0.7	22.4%	-8.9%	13.5%
Montenegro	1.94	-0.13	1.8	51.1%	-3.3%	47.7%
NL	5.39	-4.07	1.3	6.1%	-4.6%	1.5%
Norway	3.05	-6.95	-3.9	2.7%	-6.1%	-3.4%
Poland	9.66	-0.20	9.5	6.2%	-0.1%	6.1%
Portugal	6.73	-2.55	4.2	14.7%	-5.6%	9.1%
Romania	2.62	-1.86	0.8	5.9%	-4.2%	1.7%
Serbia	1.69	-1.73	0	5.9%	-6.1%	-0.1%
Slovakia	2.07	-0.42	1.6	7.9%	-1.6%	6.3%
Slovenia	0.65	-3.20	-2.6	5.5%	-26.9%	-21.4%
Spain	8.18	-2.39	5.8	3.6%	-1.0%	2.5%
Sweden	0.07	-22.27	-22.2	0.1%	-31.2%	-31.1%
Switzerland	5.10	-5.27	-0.2	9.2%	-9.5%	-0.3%



Germany was Europe's second largest net exporter as well as France's second largest net importer during the period, with net outward flows of 25.4 TWh. Most of Germany's exports went to Poland (8.6 TWh), which is keen to reduce its heavy reliance on coal-fired power and source cleaner sources of energy from outside of the country.

However, when net exports as a percentage of demand was taken into consideration, the figures for France and Germany were relatively low (9.3% and 5.7% respectively). Sweden (31.1%) and Slovenia (21.4%) had the biggest net exports as a proportion of demand during the period, even though in the latter's case the net outflow volume was relatively low (2.6 TWh).

Next to providing a pan-European energy data platform, flexible configurable screens and automated data feeds, EnAppSys offers consultancy services and incredibly detailed market insights for companies in the energy industry.

Italy was the biggest importer of electricity during the first eleven months of 2019, sourcing 36.6 TWh from outside of the country. Most of its energy came from Switzerland (17.6 TWh), which is still growing its renewables output whilst continuing to rely on nuclear as its primary source of power.

Europe's second biggest net importer was Great Britain 19.7 TWh, which before 2004 was a net exporter of power for more than 25 years.

Lithuania saw the biggest net inflows as a proportion of demand (75.3%), while net imports accounted for more than one half of demand (56.0%) in Denmark.

Key energy and climate change policies in Europe have increased the importance of the interconnector market in recent years. To achieve emissions reduction targets, the European Council has called on EU countries to ensure that interconnection makes up at least 10% of their installed electricity production capacity by 2020.

Jean-Paul Harreman, director of EnAppSys BV, said: "There's no doubt that interconnectors are becoming increasingly vital to Europe's electricity market. By using an interconnector, a country that generates more energy than required for its own use can sell its surplus energy to neighboring markets. At the same time, markets purchasing electricity also profit due to lower purchasing costs relative to production costs within their own market.

"Overall, the use of interconnectors may improve the efficiency of Europe's electricity system. This increased efficiency has a range of additional benefits. Interconnectors increase security of supply, since additional capacity is available from neighboring countries, the risk of electricity blackouts subsides.



"They also contribute to the creation of an efficient integrated renewables system in Europe; if a market generates surplus energy due to renewables, it can be transferred to another country which also reduces demand for new power plants. In addition, interconnectors can generate better prices for the European end user by making use of complementarities that exist across European countries."

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