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Renewable energy in the EU in 2018

Share of renewable energy in the EU up to 18.0%

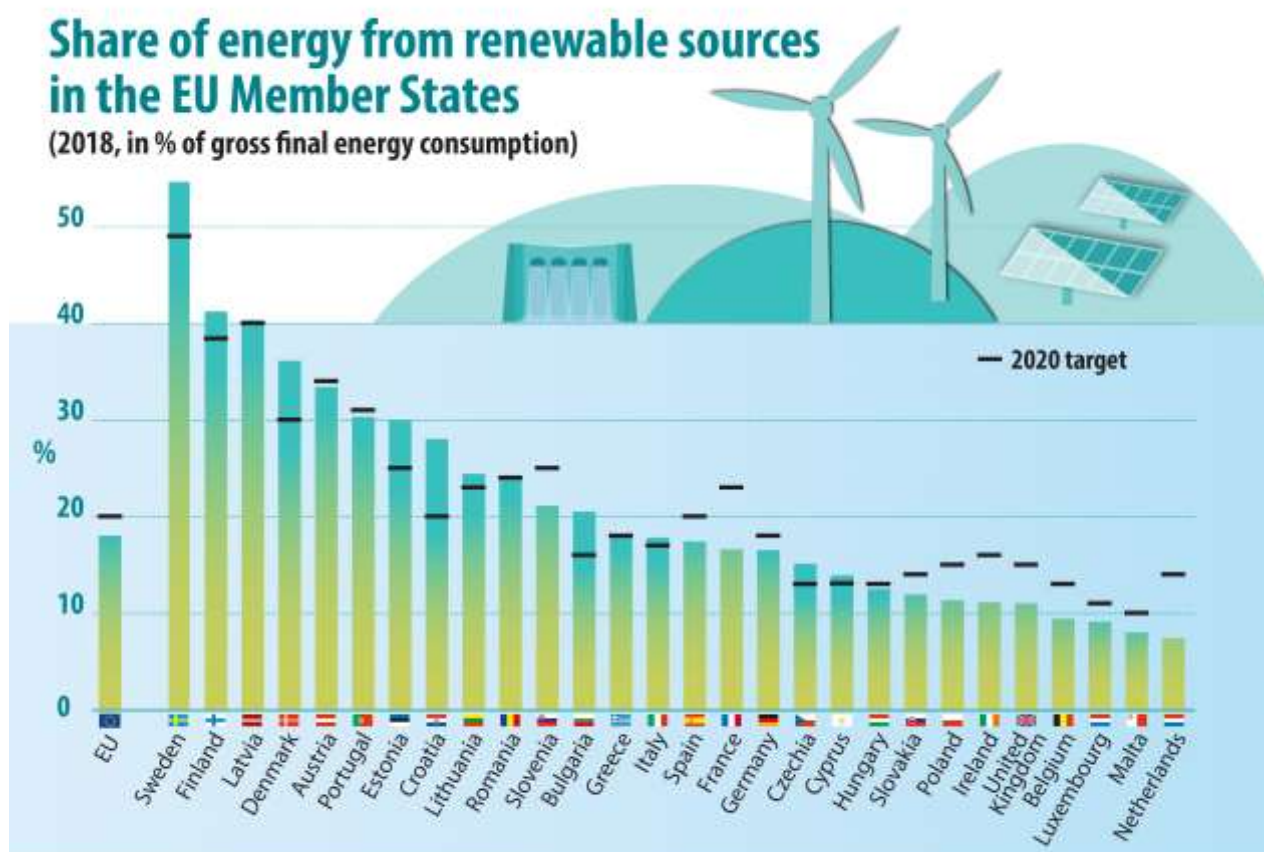
Twelve Member States have reached a share equal to or above their 2020 target

In 2018, the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption reached 18.0% in the **European Union (EU)**, up from 17.5% in 2017 and more than double the share in 2004 (8.5%), the first year for which the data are available. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

The increase in the share of renewables is essential to reach the EU climate and energy goals. The EU's target is to reach 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020 and at least 32% by 2030.

Among the 28 EU Member States, 12 Member States have already reached a share equal to or above their national 2020 binding targets: **Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Cyprus, Finland and Sweden**.

Four Member States are close to meet their targets (i.e. less than 1 percentage point (pp) away), nine are between 1 and 4 pp away, while three are 4 or more pp away from their targets.



Sweden had by far the highest share, lowest share in the Netherlands

In 2018, the share of renewable sources in gross final energy consumption increased in 21 of the 28 Member States compared with 2017, while remaining stable in one Member State and decreasing in six. Since 2004, it has significantly grown in all Member States.

Sweden had by far the highest share in 2018 with more than half (54.6%) of its energy coming from renewable sources, ahead of **Finland** (41.2%), **Latvia** (40.3%), **Denmark** (36.1%) and **Austria** (33.4%).

At the opposite end of the scale, the lowest proportion of renewables was registered in the **Netherlands** (7.4%). Low shares, less than ten percent, were also recorded in **Malta** (8.0%), **Luxembourg** (9.1%) and **Belgium** (9.4%).

The Netherlands and France: furthest away from their goals

Each EU Member State has its own Europe 2020 target. The national targets take into account the Member States' different starting points, renewable energy potential and economic performance.

Romania is 0.1 percentage point (pp) away from its national 2020 objective. **Hungary**, **Austria** and **Portugal** are less than 1 pp away and **Germany**, **Luxembourg** and **Malta** around 2 pp away from their 2020 targets.

At the opposite end of the scale, the **Netherlands** (6.6 pp), **France** (6.4 pp), **Ireland** (4.9 pp), the **United Kingdom** (4.0 pp) and **Slovenia** (3.9 pp) are the furthest away from their targets.

Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

In this News Release, data are also available for Norway, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Turkey and Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99).

Methods and definitions

Renewable energy sources cover solar thermal and photovoltaic energy, hydro (including tide, wave and ocean energy), wind, geothermal energy and all forms of biomass (including biological waste and liquid biofuels). The contribution of renewable energy from heat pumps is also covered for the Member States for which this information was reported. The renewable energy delivered to final consumers (industry, transport, households, services including public services, agriculture, forestry and fisheries) is the numerator of this indicator. The denominator, the gross final energy consumption of all energy sources, covers total energy delivered for energy purposes to final consumers as well as the transmission and distribution losses for electricity and heat. It should be noted that exports/imports of electricity are not considered as renewable energy. However, statistical transfers and other flexibility measures reported to Eurostat and complying with the requirements of Articles 6-11 of Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources are also considered in the presented data. Currently only Sweden with Norway, Luxembourg with Estonia and Luxembourg with Lithuania are using these flexibility measures.

The national shares of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption are calculated according to specific calculation provisions of Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and Commission Decision 2013/114/EU establishing the guidelines for Member States on calculating renewable energy from heat pumps from different heat pump technologies. Electricity production from hydro power and wind power is accounted according to normalisation rules of Annex II of Directive 2009/28/EC. For data as of 2011, only biofuels and bioliquids declared by countries as compliant with criteria of sustainability as defined in Articles 17 and 18 of Directive 2009/28/EC are accounted towards the share of energy from renewable sources. Adjustments of energy consumption in aviation are applied for all countries according to Article 5(6). More details on the calculation methodology applied by Eurostat can be found in the [SHARES tool manual](#).

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) on energy statistics.

Eurostat [database](#) on energy.

Eurostat "SHARES 2018 results" and information on the indicative trajectories are available in [SHARES dedicated section](#).

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on renewable energy statistics.

European Commission [website section](#) dedicated to renewable energy.

Eurostat Press Office

Ana-Maria MAROLA

Tel: +352-4301-33 444

eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

Production of data and methodology

Fernando DIAZ ALONSO

Tel: +352-4301-30 275

fernando.diaz-alonso@ec.europa.eu

 **Media requests:** eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu / Tel: 00352-4301-33 408

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Share of energy from renewable sources
(in % of gross final energy consumption)

	2004	2015	2016	2017	2018	2020 target
EU	8.5	16.7	17.0	17.5	18.0	20
Belgium	1.9	8.0	8.7	9.1	9.4	13
Bulgaria	9.2	18.3	18.8	18.7	20.5	16
Czechia	6.8	15.1	14.9	14.8	15.1	13
Denmark	14.8	30.9	32.0	35.0	36.1	30
Germany	6.2	14.9	14.9	15.5	16.5	18
Estonia	18.4	28.2	28.7	29.1	30.0	25
Ireland	2.4	9.1	9.3	10.6	11.1	16
Greece	7.2	15.7	15.4	17.0	18.0*	18
Spain	8.3	16.2	17.4	17.6	17.4	20
France	9.5	15.0	15.7	16.0	16.6	23
Croatia	23.4	29.0	28.3	27.3	28.0	20
Italy	6.3	17.5	17.4	18.3	17.8	17
Cyprus	3.1	9.9	9.9	10.5	13.9	13
Latvia	32.8	37.5	37.1	39.0	40.3	40
Lithuania	17.2	25.8	25.6	26.0	24.4	23
Luxembourg	0.9	5.0	5.4	6.3	9.1	11
Hungary	4.4	14.5	14.3	13.5	12.5	13
Malta	0.1	5.1	6.2	7.3	8.0	10
Netherlands	2.0	5.7	5.8	6.5	7.4	14
Austria	22.6	33.5	33.4	33.1	33.4	34
Poland	6.9	11.7	11.3	11.0	11.3	15
Portugal	19.2	30.5	30.9	30.6	30.3	31
Romania	16.8	24.8	25.0	24.5	23.9	24
Slovenia	16.1	21.9	21.3	21.1	21.1	25
Slovakia	6.4	12.9	12.0	11.5	11.9	14
Finland	29.3	39.3	39.0	40.9	41.2	38
Sweden	38.7	53.0	53.4	54.2	54.6	49
United Kingdom	0.9	8.3	9.0	9.7	11.0	15
Norway	58.5	69.1	70.2	71.6	72.8	67.5
Montenegro	:	43.1	41.6	39.7	38.8	33
North Macedonia	15.7	19.5	18.0	19.6	18.1	23
Albania	29.6	34.4	35.5	34.5	34.9	38
Serbia	12.7	22.0	21.1	20.3	20.3	27
Turkey	16.2	13.6	13.7	12.8	13.7	-
Kosovo**	20.5	18.5	24.5	23.1	24.9	25

: Data not available

- Not applicable

* Data estimated

** Kosovo, under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99

Source data: [nrg_ind_ren](#)