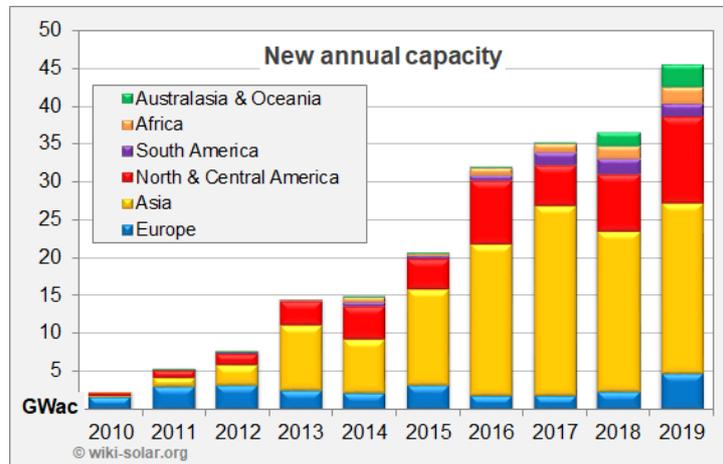


Utility-scale solar sets new record

Large scale solar returned to growth in 2019, reaching cumulative installed capacity over 220-GW_{AC}. Progress seemed to be tailing off in 2017-18, according to figures from Wiki-Solar, until last year set yet another new record at over 45-GW_{AC}.



Annual new utility-scale solar capacity by continent

“The acceleration is largely thanks to emerging markets”, says Wiki-Solar founder, Philip Wolfe. “The top-3 of China, USA and India remain far ahead but, with China slowing, the chasing ‘peloton’ is changing.”

Rank	Country	Cumulative to date		Change since end 2018		
		Plants	GWac	Plants	GWac	Rank
1	China	1,685	68.913	94	7.853	2
2	United States	1,724	40.999	298	9.638	1
3	India	961	30.227	76	6.803	3
4	United Kingdom	879	6.649	6	0.099	
5	Japan	326	6.074	24	0.878	11
6	Germany	724	6.012	91	0.587	14
7	Spain	253	5.871	17	1.905	7
8	Australia	90	5.420	41	3.265	5
9	Mexico	47	5.088	24	3.201	6
10	France	508	4.580	167	1.378	8
11	Vietnam	38	3.423	38	3.423	4
12	Chile	104	3.026	21	0.690	13
13	Brazil	40	2.903	11	0.823	12
14	South Africa	45	2.341	4	0.290	
15	Philippines	64	1.954	3	0.299	
16	Canada	140	1.953	5	0.186	
17	United Arab Emirates	5	1.776	1	1.238	10
18	Italy	181	1.692	6	0.133	
19	Egypt	31	1.607	23	1.326	9
20	Russia	96	1.346	23	0.454	16
21	Thailand	118	1.274	1	0.004	
22	Turkey	117	1.054	-4	-0.321	
23	Ukraine	28	1.024	6	0.494	15

Top countries with over 1-GW of cumulative installed utility-scale solar capacity



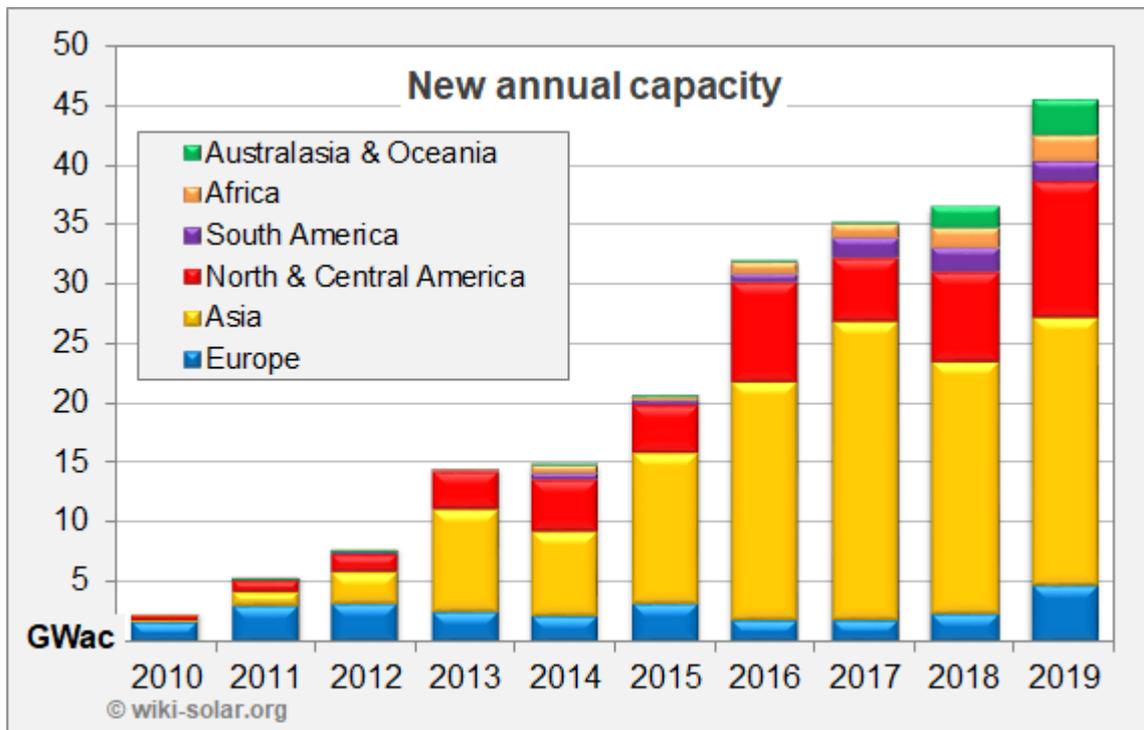
Japan has leap-frogged Germany into fifth place. Last year’s highest climber was Vietnam – up 38 places to 11th in the table of cumulative installed capacity – thanks to 3.4 GW of new installations, making it the world #4 for 2019. More change is expected in 2020 with the UK likely to drop several places, as Spain and Australia also accelerate. South and Central America looks increasingly prominent with Mexico, Brazil, Chile and Argentina leading the charge.

Other climbers to watch, says Wolfe, are Middle Eastern countries; led by the UAE, where the world-beating Sweihen plant was completed last year, and Egypt’s Benban Solar Park. While in Europe, the Netherlands is expected to pass the 1-GW milestone this year.

TEXT ENDS

Notes for editors:

- [1] This release on the utility-scale solar market is available here:
http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/200317_Utility-Solar_another_record_year_as_total_tops_220GW.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 is the leading authority on utility-scale solar with a database covering some 12,000 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.
- [5] Graphic at full size:



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