What impact has Germany’s Energiewende on infrastructure and labour market?

The sharp increase in the use of renewables like solar and wind has provided more flexibility to the German electricity market.

Energy-intensive industries have renewables to thank for the decline in wholesale prices. They are also benefitting from the economic impulse that has been stimulated by the large investments made in solar, wind etc.

Germany’s current energy exports are on the rise and because of the large supply of electricity from renewables the price is low. For example, more energy is exported by the Germans if they produce more from solar.
As more renewable power plants are constructed, mostly driven by individuals and civil energy cooperatives, a significant change to the energy market and its decentralisation are underway.

The Energiewende has created an emerging job market. In 2014, there were 355,400 people working in the renewable energy sector in Germany.
Between 1995 and 2012 the energy efficiency measures have created more than 400,000 new jobs, including jobs in the building sector and consulting services.

Within the sector, wind energy accounts for the most jobs, followed by biomass and solar.

**Jobs in renewables sector**

- **Wind**: 149,200
- **Biomass**: 63,900
- **Solar**: 25,100
- **Geothermal**: 17,200
- **Hydro**: 11,800
- **Research and administration**: 8,000

**Sources:** Bundesnetzagentur, Institute of Economic Structures Researches (GWS), statistica, Agora Energiewende, Agentur für Erneuerbare Energien, trend:research, Leuphana Universität, Lüneburg, BMUB, ENTSO-E