

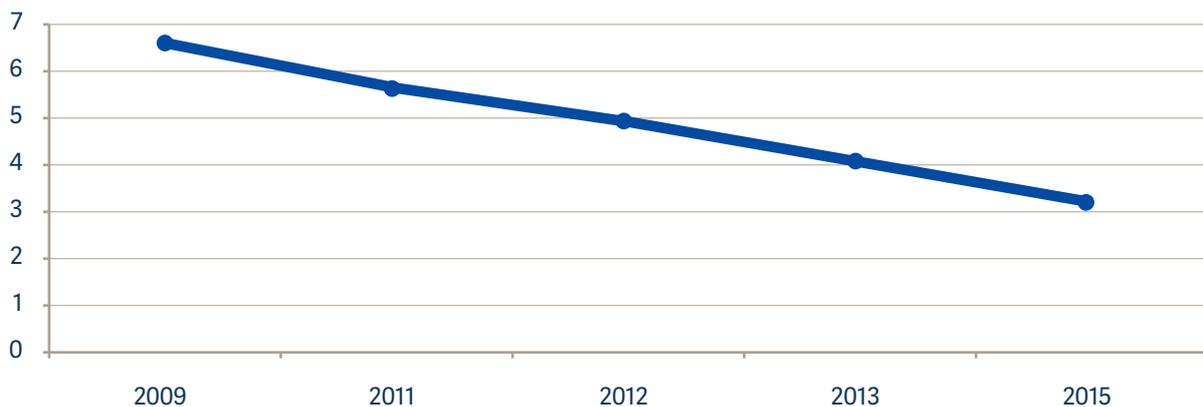
What impact has Germany's Energiewende on infrastructure and labour market?

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.

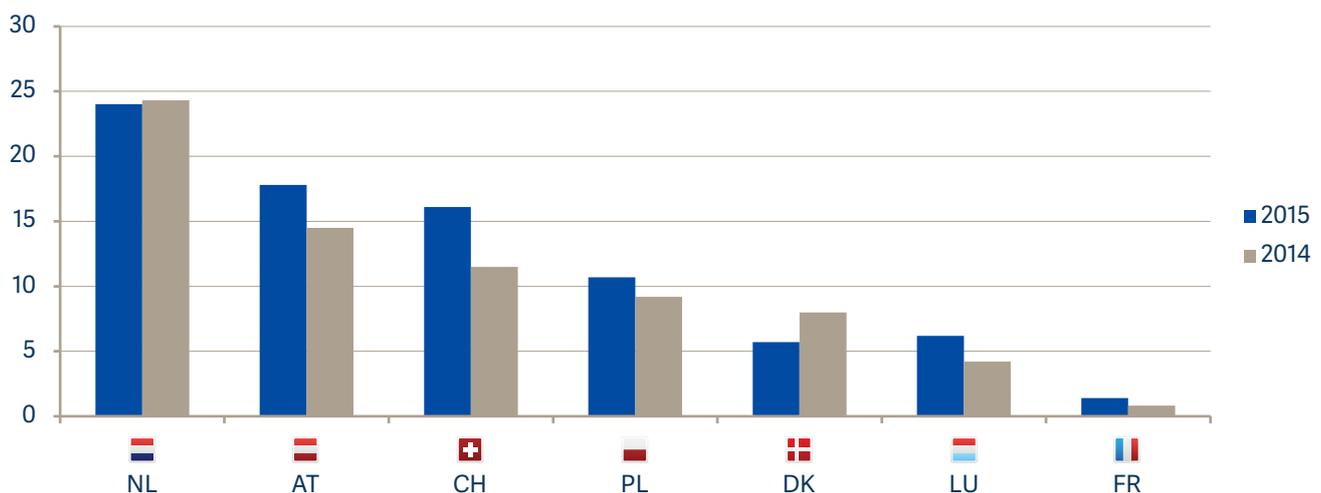
Spot electricity prices

Spot electricity prices
(in Cent/kWh)



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.

Germany energy exports

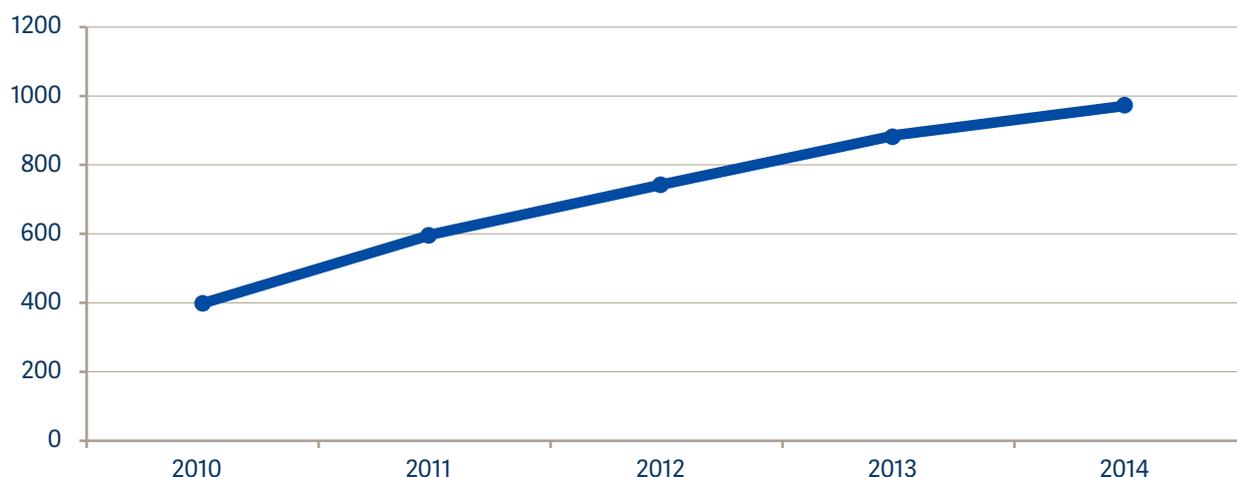


Energy flexibility and self-sufficiency

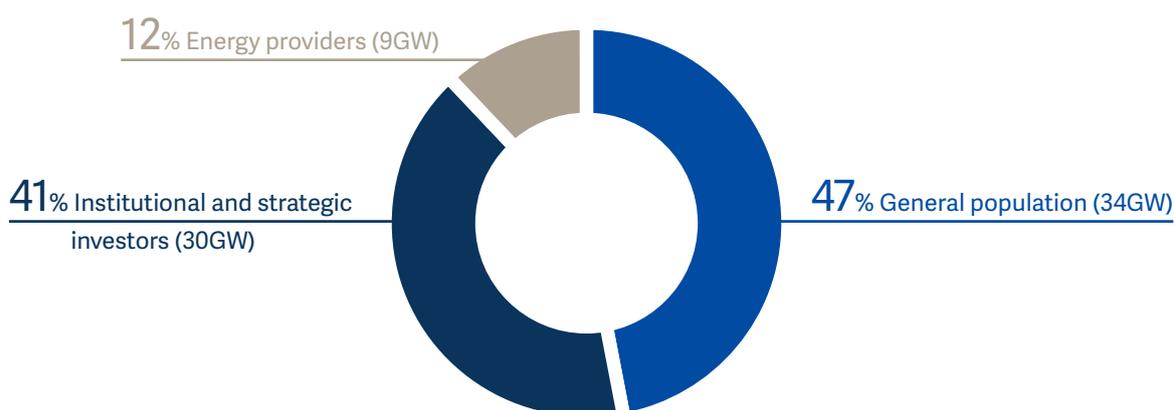
As more renewable power plants are constructed, mostly driven by individuals and civil energy cooperatives, a significant change to the energy market and its decentralisation are underway.

Number of energy cooperatives

Number of energy cooperatives



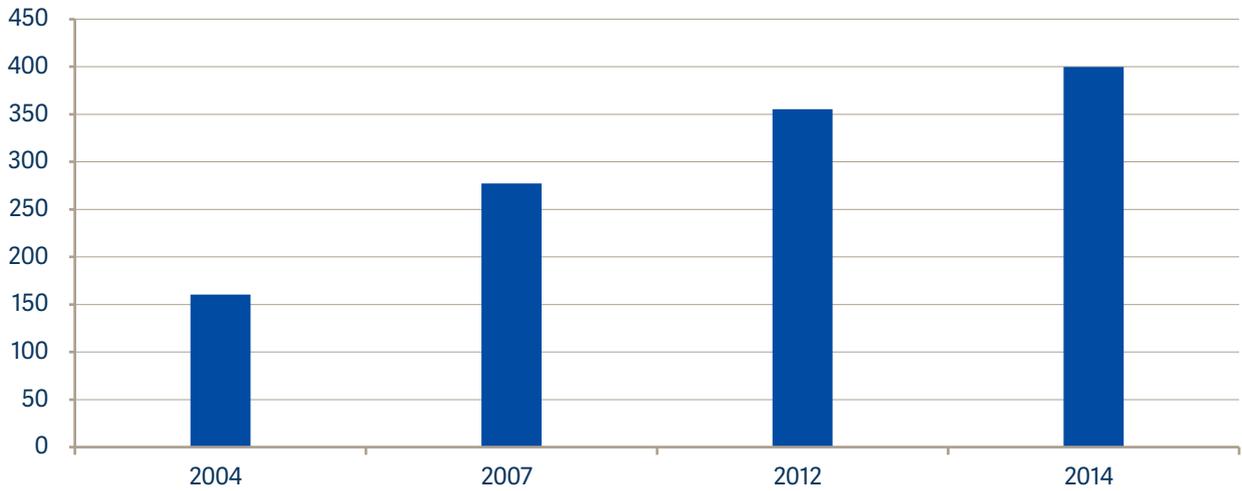
Share of power generation from renewable energy sources



Job creation

The Energiewende has created an emerging job market. In 2014, there were 355,400 people working in the renewable energy sector in Germany.

Jobs in renewables sector



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.



Wind
149,200



Biomass
63,900



Solar
25,100



Geothermal
17,200



Hydro
11,800



Research and administration
8,000