European electricity market summary Q1 2026

January to March

Generation and contribution by fuel type

Renewables: 384.9TWh **Fossil fuels:** 230.2TWh **Nuclear:** 174.3TWh

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Contents

Quarterly Review of European Electricity Market Q1 2026

A summary of the key points of this quarter is given below:

- Summary: Q1 2026 saw the following key trends:
- Gas reached the highest prices seen since January 2023 in response to conflict around the strait of Hormuz
- Cold weather caused demand to spike across much of Europe
- Highest renewable generation on record, driving the highest total generation seen since 2022
- Negative prices are off a strong start, and are expected to continue to set new records, throughout the rest of the year in most countries
- A North Sea offshore wind pact was signed among 10 countries, targeting buildout of a further 100GW of generation capacity

These trends highlight how the interplay between weather and global geopolitics determine electricity prices against a backdrop of growing renewable generation and electrification.

- Conflict around the strait of Hormuz threatens to have long-lasting impact on gas prices: approximately 20% of global supply of LNG transits through the strait, with Qatar being the primary producer. This flow was disrupted with the commencement of “Operation Epic Fury” on February 28th when the United States and Israel began to strike Iran from the air. In response to this, Iran struck numerous assets across the gulf with drones and ballistic missiles, denying access through the strait. The impact was immediately felt in global gas markets, with the TTF gas price rising from 31.53/MWh at the start of the conflict to 53.93/MWh by March 3rd, reaching a peak of 61.39/MWh on March 19th.

Prices have started to reduce somewhat since the announcement of the two week pause on April 8th, but remain well above those seen before the outbreak of the conflict. Doubts remain as to whether the ceasefire will hold and how quickly production would be able to resume even if the strait was to remain open. The crucial Ras Laffen export hub in Qatar was damaged in March and will take several months to repair.

- Highest renewable generation on record thanks to strong hydro, a recovery in wind generation and ongoing growth in solar: total renewable generation across the quarter totalled 384.9TWh. The biggest contributor to the overall figure was wind, with 173.7TWh across the quarter, a 22% rise on Q1 2025. This quarter saw the second highest wind output on record, beaten only by Q1 2024, which had 175.6TWh. Hydro totalled 128.6TWh, 8% above Q1 2025 but 6% below Q1 2024. This represents a recovery from Q3 2025, during which low levels of rainfall caused hydro output to slump to 97.1TWh. By contrast, this winter has seen unusually high levels of rainfall, allowing for a replenishment of reservoirs and for hydro output to return to more usual levels. Solar outturn continued its steady climb, with capacity growth causing the quarterly generation total of 52.6TWh to be the highest solar outturn for any Q1 on record, 15% above the same period last year, and 128% above the same period in 2019. Despite being the highest quarterly total on record, the proportion of generation that came from renewables remained at 48.8%, below the equivalent percentage seen in previous quarters.

- Cold weather raises demand to the highest level seen since 2022: with Central and Eastern Europe most impacted. January saw temperatures 1-4°C colder than average, driving up total demand across the quarter to 829.3TWh, an increase of 1.4% and 1.5% versus the same period in 2025 and 2024 respectively.

- Negative prices surge in Iberia, while falling back in the Nordics versus this time last year: Spain saw 397 hours with negative prices across Q1 2026, which represents a large jump against the same period in 2025 (48), and not far off the total number across 2025 (555). The Iberian peninsula was not affected by the cold weather that drove up demand across much of Europe, with Spanish demand unchanged from Q1 2025, which combined with strong solar outturn to cause prices to go negative frequently during hours of the day with high solar production. Spanish prices reached as low as -58.6MWh between 12:00-12:45 on February 21st, when solar outturn totalled 15.6GW, and demand was 24.6GW. Most other countries saw similar totals, but one region that saw fewer instances of negative prices across Q1 was the Nordics, with Denmark, Sweden and Finland all seeing less instances of negative prices and much higher prices generally across the quarter. The biggest driver behind this was weather, with Denmark, Finland and Sweden all seeing demand rise by 5%, 11% and 11% respectively,

- A North Sea offshore wind pact could drive 100GW of extra capacity: after ten countries met to negotiate the agreement in Hamburg. Together they agreed an aim of 100GW of additional offshore wind, nearly three times the current installed capacity. The assets would be shared between countries, via hybrid interconnectors and offshore price zones. Despite their ambition, questions remain about the regulation and feasibility of such a large buildout of capacity, but it does send a clear message as to government commitment to further offshore wind projects. This commitment stands in contrast to the other side of the Atlantic, where wind projects are facing hostility from the American government. In March one developer was paid 1 billion USD to walk away from two offshore wind projects off the Eastern Seaboard.

European Power Market Outlook – Q2 2026

- Geopolitical uncertainty is set to continue regardless of whether the ceasefire holds: gas prices did fall somewhat in response to the two-week pause in fighting, however there are already signs that the ceasefire will not hold, with America and Israel claiming that Lebanon was not included in the agreement and Iran stating that they will only allow passage through the strait if Israel withdraws from its northern neighbour. Even if the strait were to be open to passage, many questions remain; will a toll be charged on goods? And will production facilities be able to resume in a timely manner? The extent of the damage will take time to work its way through the global economy. Gas prices will remain elevated versus pre-war levels for some time to come. Europe is currently comfortable given the lower demand outside of winter, but stocks will have to be replenished before the coming winter against a backdrop of heightened competition with Asia.

- Weather will determine if further renewable records are broken, but continued solar growth is likely: high renewable output will continue to depend on weather, but records are likely to continue being broken, particularly for solar. Solar outturn for Q1 was high given the lack of daylight at this time of year, this shows that the capacity of solar across Europe continues to grow and will likely deliver huge volumes of electricity in the summer, which can be expected to exceed last year's record breaking solar generation figures. Wind and hydro are less certain, with wind capacity growing more slowly and hydro depending more on rainfall patterns, which can be volatile.

- Negative price records will continue to be broken: given the high solar outturn for Q1 2026, it would be surprising if this trend were not to continue into the next quarter, with longer days allowing the increased installed capacity to break all-time records.

Demand is set to decline given the warmer temperatures, but heatwaves could stress the system: with 2026 being termed a “Super El Niño” year by observers. Should heatwaves come to pass in late Q2 this could create a lot of stress on the system at a time in which stocks of gas are low and expensive to replenish.

Questions about the offshore wind pact remain, but more clarity should start to arrive over the next months: rules will have to be agreed between leaders as to how the offshore bidding zones will operate, so that it is clear how generated electricity is distributed between partners, while preparations must be made to ensure the necessary manufacturing capacity is available, given recent difficulties faced by offshore wind developers.

- Summary: Q2 2026 is expected to be characterised by:

- Periods of massive surplus renewable generation, resulting in negative prices
- Commercial curtailment of renewables and nuclear modulation during solar peak and high wind periods in nights and weekends.
- Lack of flexibility in balancing markets as a result of low power prices and the unavailability of flexibility into delivery, as curtailment removes flex from the market at the day-ahead stage
- Relatively high evening peak prices, driven by gas prices as renewables drop after olar peak
- Cross-Border capacity restrictions in function of security of supply and transmission capability, with France at the centre.

Together, these dynamics paint a complex picture: one in which record-low prices and record-high evening peaks may co-exist, underscoring the structural challenges facing Europe’s transition-era electricity system.

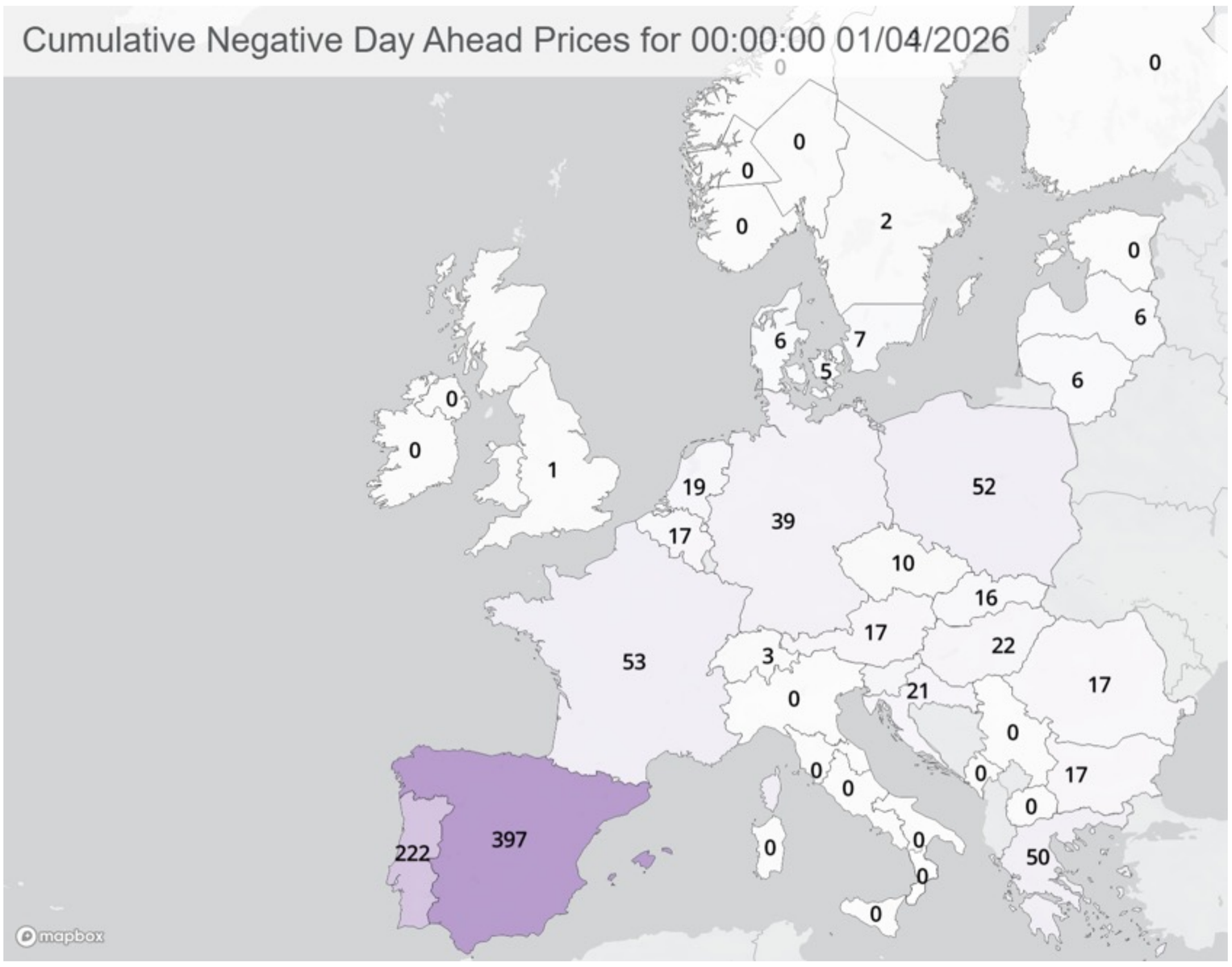

Figure 1: Cumulative negative day-ahead prices across Europe for Q1 2026

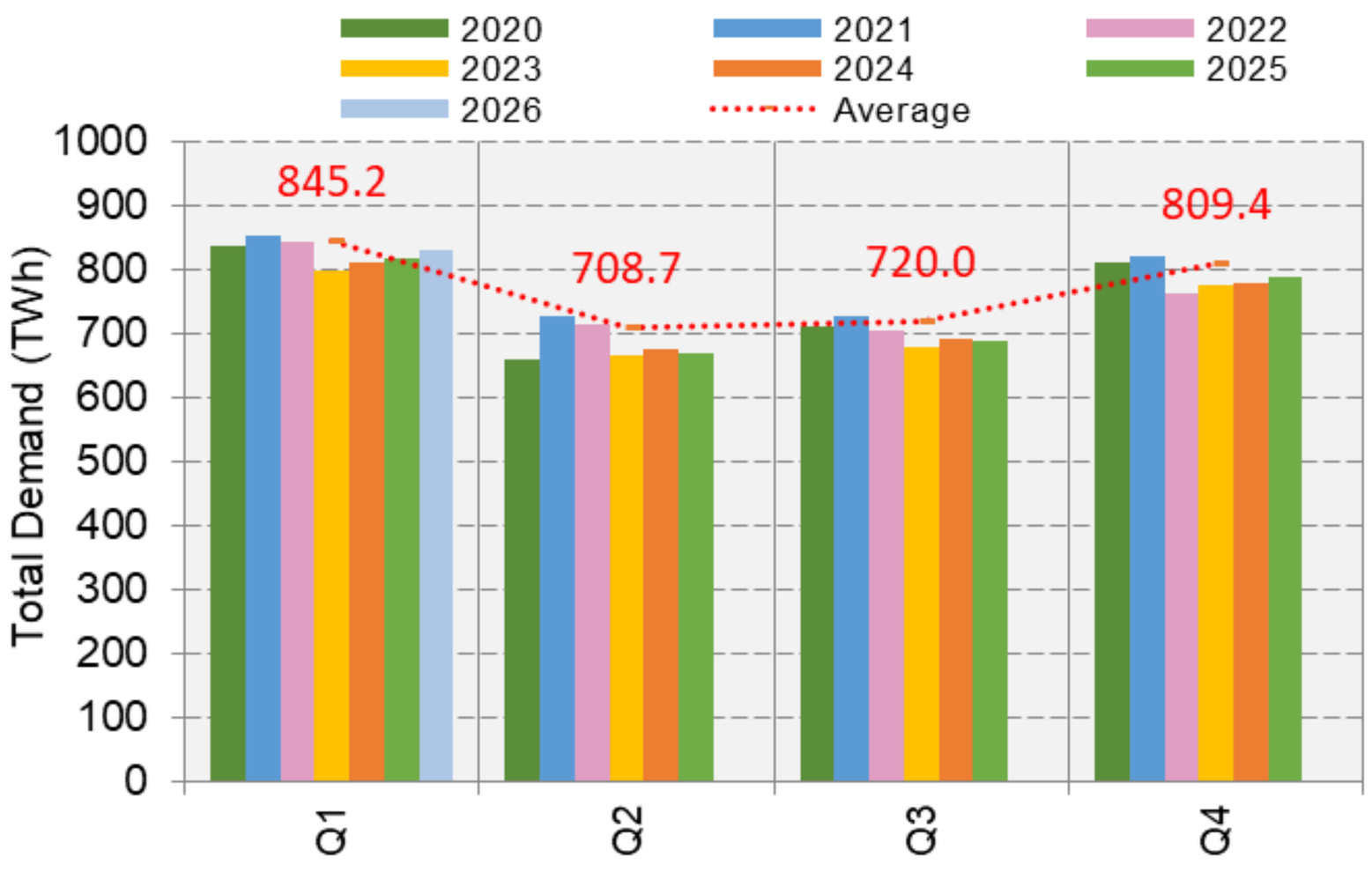

Figure 2: Total European Demand Per Quarter

Figure 3: TTF gas prices 2025-present (EUR/MWh)

Day-ahead price trends

Table 1 below shows key statistics on pricing in the quarter and all previous quarters since 2019. The EPEX day-ahead prices shown are averages across the quarter.

	BE	DE	DK (Ave)	ES	FR	GB	IT (Ave)	NL	NO 1-2-5	NO 3-4	SE 3-4	SE 1-2
Q1 2019	48.6	40.9	43.0	55.0	47.2	59.3	59.3	48.6	48.0	46.1	46.7	46.0
Q2 2019	34.5	35.8	36.9	48.7	34.9	47.1	52.3	39.1	37.0	35.3	33.8	33.0
Q3 2019	35.0	37.4	38.0	46.2	35.5	42.7	52.9	37.9	33.2	34.7	36.6	35.3
Q4 2019	39.4	36.6	38.9	41.0	40.3	46.7	48.5	39.3	39.0	37.7	39.4	37.5
Q1 2020	30.1	26.6	21.2	34.9	29.4	38.0	40.4	30.5	15.1	15.4	19.5	15.6
Q2 2020	18.5	20.3	20.5	23.2	18.0	27.3	25.2	20.9	4.5	5.6	16.2	8.2
Q3 2020	36.5	36.1	33.9	37.5	39.0	40.2	43.9	35.3	4.8	5.7	29.1	18.6
Q4 2020	42.3	38.8	31.0	40.1	42.2	52.6	49.5	42.1	12.6	10.0	29.2	15.1
Q1 2021	51.0	49.6	49.1	45.2	53.0	72.5	58.8	50.6	46.8	35.5	47.6	37.5
Q2 2021	62.3	60.3	58.7	71.8	63.9	83.8	77.2	62.1	47.2	30.0	46.5	33.1
Q3 2021	97.3	97.1	96.0	117.8	96.6	150.3	126.2	101.5	77.8	45.1	80.8	54.8
Q4 2021	204.3	178.9	147.1	211.0	221.4	241.9	237.4	196.0	126.4	41.5	117.3	44.5
Q1 2022	208.0	184.6	152.6	229.4	232.2	240.1	246.0	207.5	151.4	20.1	105.6	24.8
Q2 2022	193.9	187.0	179.6	182.8	226.0	183.4	247.0	195.5	167.1	18.6	119.4	51.7
Q3 2022	372.3	375.8	347.9	146.3	429.7	344.9	461.6	365.4	309.7	22.4	188.8	49.0
Q4 2022	202.6	192.8	176.5	113.2	214.1	197.3	236.3	198.0	164.8	71.3	147.8	115.6
Q1 2023	127.4	115.8	103.1	96.4	130.4	144.5	152.9	121.4	107.8	47.4	82.5	53.4
Q2 2023	92.8	92.3	83.8	80.3	91.6	101.9	114.8	89.4	77.9	29.9	59.7	42.3
Q3 2023	87.1	90.8	78.7	96.5	85.7	90.8	113.2	87.1	30.8	16.1	34.1	20.5
Q4 2023	82.3	82.2	71.0	75.4	80.5	95.0	123.4	85.9	69.0	43.8	57.4	44.0
Q1 2024	67.2	67.7	64.9	44.9	63.0	75.4	91.1	68.7	65.8	46.4	58.3	48.2
Q2 2024	54.1	71.8	61.1	33.4	29.8	77.6	95.0	63.5	41.4	29.0	40.9	26.6
Q3 2024	62.2	76.0	68.7	78.8	51.1	80.8	121.8	73.3	24.5	15.6	24.1	11.5
Q4 2024	97.2	102.6	88.1	94.7	86.8	108.1	128.1	102.9	46.1	12.2	47.8	13.4
Q1 2025	110.1	111.9	98.8	85.3	99.9	125.0	136.6	110.9	61.5	15.2	63.3	15.2
Q2 2025	66.5	69.7	65.6	38.5	33.9	84.3	101.4	68.9	50.2	8.1	40.0	10.0
Q3 2025	72.0	82.8	77.9	66.6	49.2	83.5	110.7	79.9	49.8	6.1	49.2	16.5
Q4 2025	82.2	93.2	85.2	70.5	61.8	84.9	112.9	87.9	66.1	30.3	60.9	24.7
Q1 2026	95.8	102.2	103.2	41.9	71.0	103.2	128.3	100.0	106.4	74.6	91.3	66.2

Table 1: EPEX Day-Ahead Quarterly Average Prices (EUR/MWh)

Generation activity overview

	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026
TOTAL GENERATION BY FUEL (TWh)									
Biomass	23.5	22.2	21.7	24.8	24.1	21.5	22.2	25.6	25.9
Coal/Lignite	83.8	59.2	65.7	90.5	95.3	52.5	59.8	79.1	89.2
Gas	110.1	69.7	86.3	127.0	145.2	72.2	93.6	135.1	138.4
Hydro	136.7	127.4	103.5	117.8	119.5	101.5	97.1	112.6	128.6
Nuclear	175.1	147.1	163.6	174.8	176.0	137.5	153.8	169.9	174.3
Oil	2.8	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.4	1.7	2.0	1.7
Peat	1.1	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.8
Solar	38.3	91.3	94.0	35.3	45.9	104.9	109.1	41.8	52.6
Waste	3.7	3.6	4.3	4.6	4.7	3.8	3.5	4.1	4.0
Wind	175.6	111.3	104.7	158.3	141.9	107.0	108.9	170.6	173.7
FOSSIL FUELS	197.7	131.6	154.3	219.8	242.9	126.2	155.2	216.7	230.2
NUCLEAR	175.1	147.1	163.6	174.8	176.0	137.5	153.8	169.9	174.3
RENEWABLE (INCLUDES WASTE)	377.7	355.9	328.1	340.9	336.1	338.7	340.7	354.7	384.9
TOTAL	**750.5**	**634.6**	**646.0**	**735.5**	**755.0**	**602.4**	**649.8**	**741.3**	**789.4**
Fossil Fuel Percentage	26%	21%	24%	30%	32%	21%	24%	29%	29%
Clean Percentage	74%	79%	76%	70%	68%	79%	76%	71%	71%
Renewable Share of Clean Power	68%	71%	67%	66%	66%	71%	69%	68%	69%
SHARE OF GENERATION (%)									
Biomass	3.1%	3.5%	3.4%	3.4%	3.2%	3.6%	3.4%	3.4%	3.3%
Coal/Lignite	11.2%	9.3%	10.2%	12.3%	12.6%	8.7%	9.2%	10.7%	11.3%
Gas	14.7%	11.0%	13.4%	17.3%	19.2%	12.0%	14.4%	18.2%	17.5%
Hydro	18.2%	20.1%	16.0%	16.0%	15.8%	16.9%	14.9%	15.2%	16.3%
Nuclear	23.3%	23.2%	25.3%	23.8%	23.3%	22.8%	23.7%	22.9%	22.1%
Oil	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Peat	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Solar	5.1%	14.4%	14.5%	4.8%	6.1%	17.4%	16.8%	5.6%	6.7%
Waste	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%
Wind	23.4%	17.5%	16.2%	21.5%	18.8%	17.8%	16.8%	23.0%	22.0%
FOSSIL FUELS	26.2%	20.7%	23.9%	29.8%	32.1%	20.9%	23.9%	29.2%	29.1%
NUCLEAR	23.3%	23.2%	25.3%	23.8%	23.3%	22.8%	23.7%	22.9%	22.1%
RENEWABLE (INCLUDES WASTE)	50.3%	56.1%	50.8%	46.4%	44.5%	56.2%	52.4%	47.9%	48.8%

Table 2: Quarterly Generation Summary

	Q1 2021	Q1 2022	Q1 2023	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
TOTAL GENERATION BY FUEL (TWh)						
Biomass	26.0	25.4	23.9	23.5	24.1	25.9
Coal/Lignite	116.6	128.2	112.3	83.8	95.3	89.2
Gas	145.2	149.1	124.2	110.1	145.2	138.4
Hydro	146.6	110.2	118.7	136.7	119.5	128.6
Nuclear	205.6	191.1	172.5	175.1	176.0	174.3
Oil	3.6	3.3	3.8	2.8	1.9	1.7
Peat	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.1	0.5	0.8
Solar	23.1	31.6	33.1	38.3	45.9	52.6
Waste	4.1	4.2	3.7	3.7	4.7	4.0
Wind	128.2	159.7	165.7	175.6	141.9	173.7
FOSSIL FUELS	266.9	282.1	241.3	197.7	242.9	230.2
NUCLEAR	205.6	191.1	172.5	175.1	176.0	174.3
RENEWABLE (INCLUDES WASTE)	328.0	331.1	345.2	377.7	336.1	384.9
TOTAL	**800.5**	**804.2**	**758.9**	**750.5**	**755.0**	**789.4**
Fossil Fuel Percentage	33%	35%	32%	26%	32%	29%
Clean Percentage	67%	65%	68%	74%	68%	71%
Renewable Share of Clean Power	61%	63%	67%	68%	66%	69%
CHANGE SINCE Q1 2019 (%)						
Biomass		-2%	-8%	-10%	-7%	0%
Coal/Lignite		10%	-4%	-28%	-18%	-23%
Gas		3%	-14%	-24%	0%	-5%
Hydro		-25%	-19%	-7%	-18%	-12%
Nuclear		-7%	-16%	-15%	-14%	-15%
Oil		-9%	4%	-23%	-49%	-53%
Peat		6%	-26%	-25%	-65%	-41%
Solar		37%	43%	66%	99%	128%
Waste		3%	-8%	-9%	15%	-2%
Wind		25%	29%	37%	11%	36%
FOSSIL FUELS		**6%**	**-10%**	**-26%**	**-9%**	**-14%**
NUCLEAR		**-7%**	**-16%**	**-15%**	**-14%**	**-15%**
RENEWABLE (INCLUDES WASTE)		**1%**	**5%**	**15%**	**2%**	**17%**

Table 3: Year-On-Year Comparison of Q1 Generation (TWh and %)

Notes on the report

The figures used in the report refer to data provided through ENTSO-E for the period from 2015 which have been aggregated by EnAppSys into a European total.

This data does sometimes suffer from outages or gaps in reporting, but it is considered generally complete. This report is based on the most recently available data as at quarter and year ends. National Grid data is used for GB demand.

Included Countries:		
Albania	Germany	Norway
Austria	Great Britain	Poland
Belgium	Greece	Portugal
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Hungary	Romania
Bulgaria	I-SEM	Serbia
Croatia	Italy	Slovakia
Czech Republic	Latvia	Slovenia
Denmark	Lithuania	Spain
Estonia	Montenegro	Sweden
Finland	Netherlands	Switzerland
France	North Macedonia	

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