



Belgium exported more electricity than it imported in 2019

BRUSSELS – As it does every year, Elia, Belgium's electricity transmission system operator, has collected the available information concerning the energy mix generated in Belgium based on the units connected to its grid. These figures highlight the major trends for 2019. The main developments over the past year were a steady increase in (mainly offshore) renewable power generation, better availability of nuclear generating facilities and an increase in electricity exports. Many records were broken again this year.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2019

Progress in renewable power generation was driven by rising offshore production

Renewable generation (offshore/onshore wind and solar power only) increased by 17% in absolute terms compared to 2018 (11.52 TWh in 2019 as against 9.82 TWh in 2018). The relatively high amount of solar energy generated in the summer and higher wind generation during the winter constituted the lion's share of renewable energy. A new record was set in December 2019, when renewables accounted for 16% of the month's energy load. This level of generation, 1.17 TWh in absolute terms, was the highest ever recorded in Belgium. Offshore and onshore generation records were also broken in December 2019, with 616 GWh generated by offshore wind (previous record: 517 GWh in October 2019) and 499 GWh by onshore wind (previous record: 460 GWh in March 2019).

Nuclear facilities became more available

In 2019, 48.8% of the power generated in Belgium came from nuclear plants. This figure was in line with the total for 2017 (50%). Nuclear plants generated far more power in 2019 than in 2018 (31.2%), a year marked by the significant unavailability of several reactors, especially during the last few months of the year.

Electricity exports overtook imports

Belgium exported more electricity in 2019 than it imported. This is a turnaround compared to 2018, when the country imported significant quantities of electricity. This reversal turned Belgium from an overall net importer in 2018 (17.5 TWh imported/20% of the energy mix) into an overall net exporter in 2019 (1.8 TWh exported/2.1% of the energy mix).



For more information, please contact:

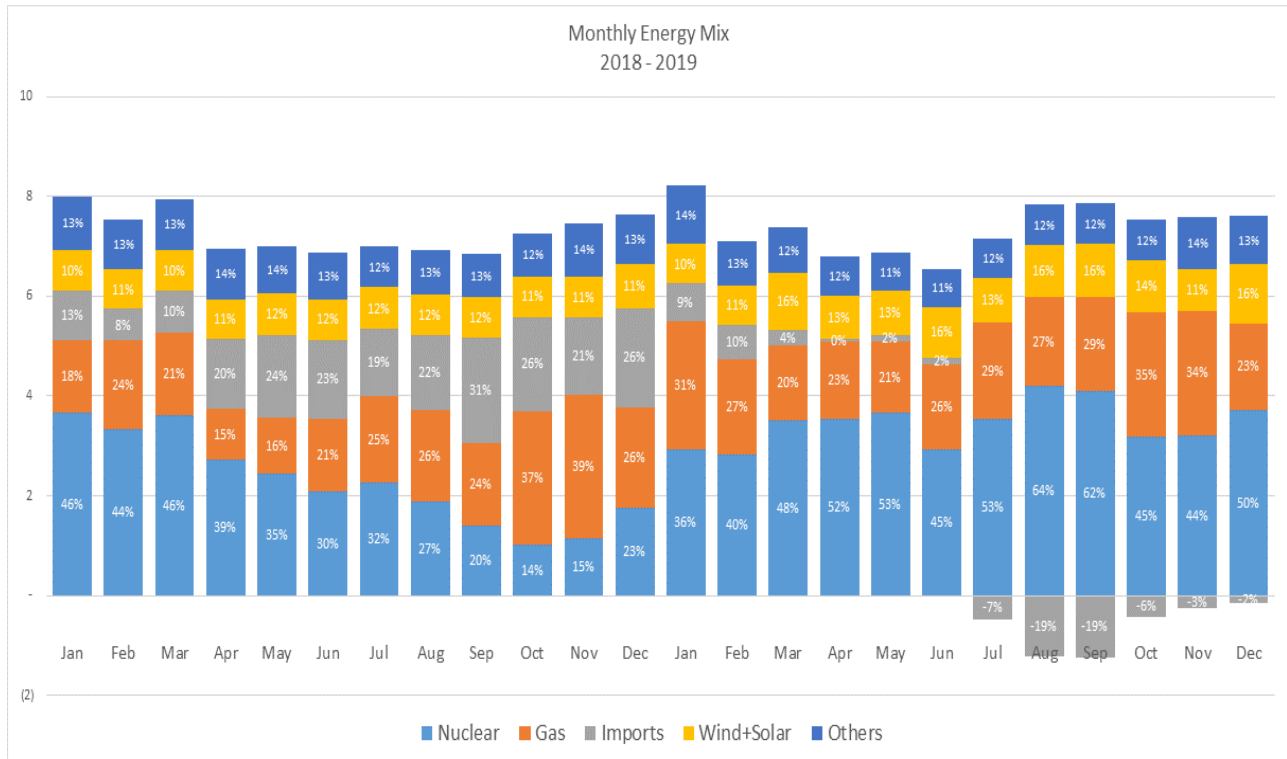
Media Jean Fassiaux (FR) | **M** +32 474 468782 | jean.fassiaux@elia.be

Marleen Vanhecke (NDS) | **M** +32 486 490109 | marleen.vanhecke@elia.be

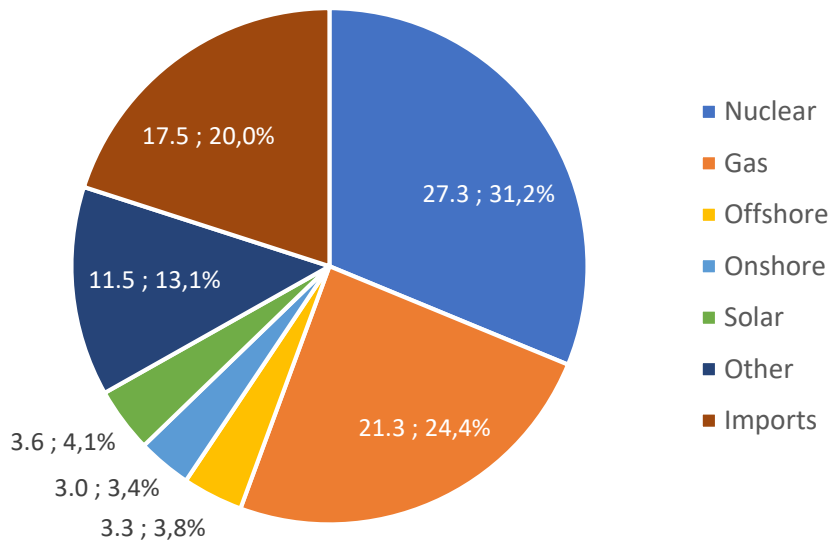
This export level should be viewed in its wider context, against the backdrop of an increasingly Europeanised market, and can be explained primarily by the good availability of Belgium's generating facilities (especially its nuclear power stations). The development of interconnections is also playing a role in the circulation of these electricity flows. Belgium had not been a net exporter of electricity for almost 10 years, the last time being in 2009 and 2010, when total net exports represented 2.8% and 0.2% respectively of Belgium's energy mix.

Slightly more power generated by gas-fired power stations

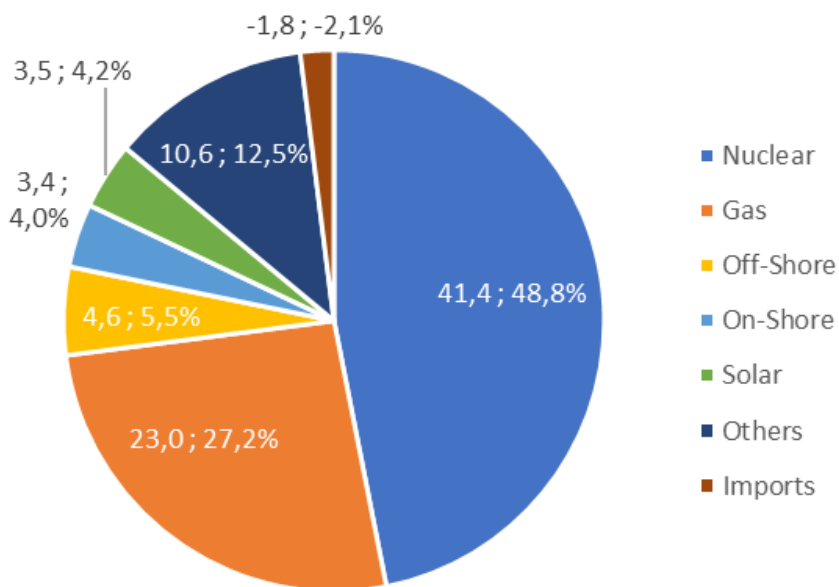
Over the year as a whole, gas-fired power stations generated slightly more energy than they had done in recent years. The main explanation for this could be the return to the market (since October 2018) of the Seraing (470 MW) and Vilvorde (255 MW) gas turbine power plants. In 2019, these two facilities generated a combined total of 2.58 TWh.



Energy mix 2018 [TWh; %]



Energy Mix 2019 [TWh;%]



About the Elia Group

One of Europe's top five players

The Elia Group is active in electricity transmission, ensuring that generation and consumption are balanced at all times. We supply 30 million end users with electricity and manage 18,990 km of high-voltage power lines via our subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and north-east Germany (50Hertz). As such, our Group is one of Europe's top five system operators. With a reliability level of 99.999%, we give society a robust power grid, which is important for socio-economic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition towards a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

Achieving the energy transition

By expanding international high-voltage connections and integrating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy, the Elia Group promotes both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of our society. At the same time, innovation is reshaping the Group's operational systems and we are developing new market products to enable the latest technologies and new market players to access our system. In this way, the Elia Group is making the energy transition happen.

In the interests of society

As a key player in the energy system, the Elia Group is committed to working in the interests of society.


We are constantly adapting our transmission grid to the rapidly changing energy mix, incorporating ever more renewable energy. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget and guarantee maximum safety. When we carry out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication with all affected parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to our sector and relevant authorities to help build the energy system of the future.

International openness

In addition to serving as a transmission system operator in Belgium and Germany, the Elia Group provides consultancy services to international customers via Elia Grid International (EGI). Elia is also a member of the Nemo Link consortium, which operates the first subsea electricity interconnector between Belgium and Great Britain. The Elia Group operates under the legal entity Elia System Operator, a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

For more information, visit eliagroup.eu.

Contact



Media Jean Fassiaux (FR) | M +32 474 468782 | jean.fassiaux@elia.be
Marleen Vanhecke (NDS) | M +32 486 490109 | marleen.vanhecke@elia.be

Elia Transmission Belgium

Boulevard de l'Empereur 20 | 1000 Brussels | Belgium