

DATA DISPATCH

## **For 1st time, renewables in April supplied more US generation than coal**

Thursday, June 27, 2019 2:08 PM ET

By Krizka Danielle Del Rosario *Market Intelligence*

U.S. generation running on renewable sources increased in April while coal-fired generation continued to decline in the same period, putting monthly renewable output above coal-fired power production for the first time on record.

Overall utility-scale generation net of hydroelectric pumped storage fell 2.3% year over year in April to 295.2 million MWh, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's latest "Electric Power Monthly" released June 26. Spring is a season of low demand for electricity, prompting many natural gas, coal and nuclear power plants to throttle back production to perform maintenance, the EIA noted in the report.

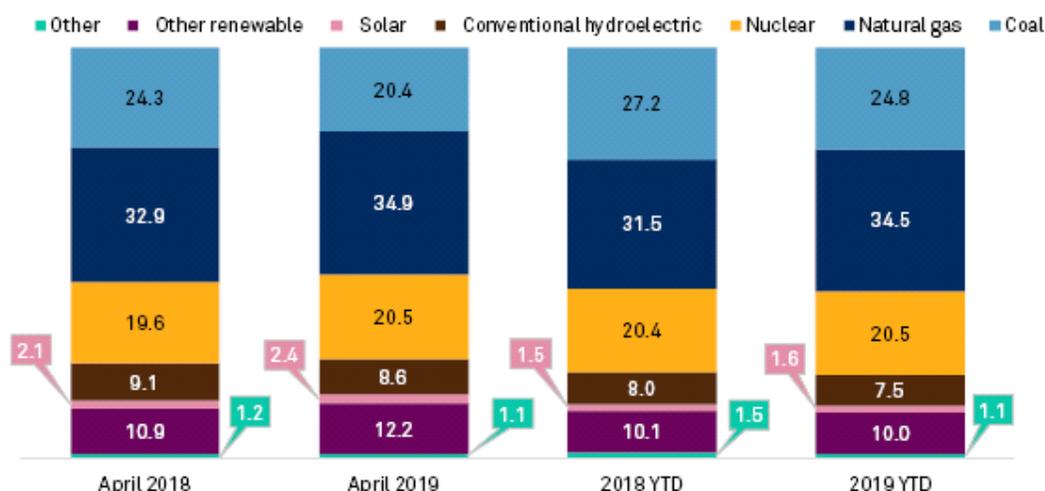
Gas-fired generation in April was up 3.5% on the year to 102.9 million MWh, accounting for 34.9% of the U.S. generation fuel mix. Coal-fired generation declined 18.1% year over year to 60.1 million MWh to account for 20.4% of the nation's electricity.

Renewables output climbed for the first time in 2019 and was up 2.8% year over year to 68.5 million MWh as generation from solar and other renewable resources increased. Conventional hydroelectric generation declined 7.5% to 25.4 million MWh.

Year-to-date through April, utility-scale generation declined 1.1% year over year to 1.29 billion MWh, with coal supplying 24.8% of the nation's power and natural gas supplying 34.5%. So far, renewable generation has supplied 19.2% of the nation's power, compared with 19.5% a year earlier.

Over the same period, coal-fired generation declined 9.9% year over year to 319.6 million MWh, while gas-fired generation climbed 8.4% to 444.9 million MWh. Renewable generation declined 2.9% to 247.5 million MWh.

### US generation fuel mix (%)



### US generation by fuel type (million MWh)

	April 2019	YOY change	YOY change (%)	2019 YTD	YOY change	YOY change (%)
Coal	60.1	-13.3	-18.1	319.6	-35.3	-9.9
Natural gas	102.9	3.5	3.5	444.9	34.4	8.4
Nuclear	60.6	1.4	2.4	264.1	-1.5	-0.6
Conventional hydroelectric	25.4	-2.1	-7.5	97.4	-7.2	-6.9
Solar	6.9	0.7	11.2	20.5	1.6	8.2
Other renewable	36.1	3.2	9.8	129.6	-1.8	-1.4
Total renewable	68.5	1.9	2.8	247.5	-7.4	-2.9
Other	3.1	-0.4	-11.3	14.4	-4.6	-24.1
Hydroelectric pumped storage	-0.1			-1.2		
Utility-scale generation, net of pumped storage	295.2	-6.9	-2.3	1,290.5	-14.4	-1.1

As of Jun. 25, 2019.

"Other renewable" includes wood, black liquor, other wood waste, biogenic municipal solid waste, landfill gas, sludge waste, agriculture byproducts, other biomass, geothermal and wind.

"Other" includes petroleum liquids, petroleum coke, blast furnace gas, manufactured and waste gases derived from fossil fuels, non-biogenic municipal solid waste, batteries, hydrogen, purchased steam, sulfur, tire-derived fuel, and other miscellaneous energy sources.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Power-sector coal stockpiles increased by 10.8 million tons during the month, above the 10-year average build of 6.8 million tons. During the prior 10 years, April stockpile fluctuations versus the prior month have ranged from a build of 1.3 million tons to 12.7 million tons.

The EIA estimated that the April stockpile level of 108.0 million tons translates to 85 days of burn and 71 days of burn, respectively, for bituminous and subbituminous coal, 8.7% above and 11.3% below the five-year averages for the month.

### Coal stockpiles (thousand tons)

April 2019

By company type	Current	Δ prior month (%)	Δ YOY (%)	Δ 5-year avg. (%)	Δ 10-year avg. (%)
Utility	87,765	10.4	-19.0	-29.6	NA
IPP/Merchant	20,196	14.5	-2.7	-36.5	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>107,961</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>-16.4</b>	<b>-31.0</b>	<b>-36.7</b>

#### By coal rank

Bituminous	49,608	10.8	-2.7	-25.3	
Subbituminous	54,998	11.9	-26.5	-35.4	
Lignite	3,344	9.5	0.6	-32.1	

#### Days of burn by rank

Bituminous	85	-4.5	6.3	8.7	
Subbituminous	71	-4.1	-21.1	(11.3)	

As of Jun. 25, 2019.

NA = not available

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

*This article was published by S&P Global Market Intelligence and not by S&P Global Ratings, which is a separately managed division of S&P Global.*