

# Solar Energy Facts: Q3 2011

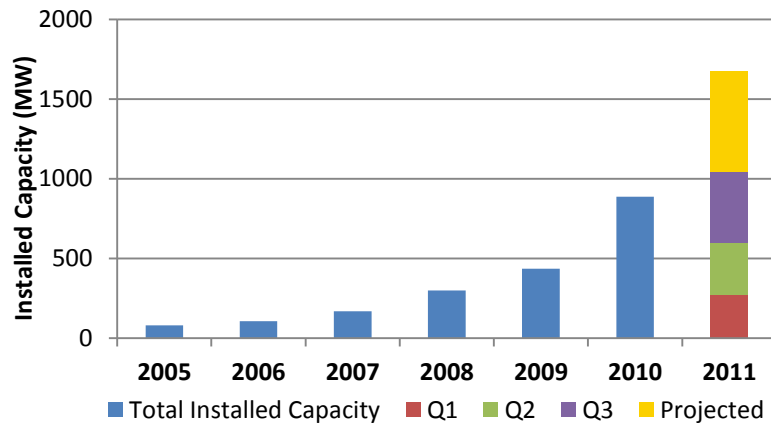
## Third Quarter Posts Record Solar Demand

The U.S. solar energy industry achieved a new record for installations and growth in the third quarter of 2011. Photovoltaic (PV) demand grew 140 percent over the same quarter last year and 39 percent over last quarter. Overall, the U.S. solar industry installed 449 MW in the third quarter of 2011, surpassing the previous record set in the fourth quarter of 2010 and more than all capacity installed in 2009.<sup>1</sup>

### U.S. Solar Industry Continues Strong Growth

- The U.S. now has over 3,650 MW of installed solar electric capacity, enough to power 730,000 homes.
- The utility PV market installed over 200 MW in the third quarter of 2011, which is a 325 percent increase over utility installations in the previous quarter.
- The residential PV market grew 21 percent over the second quarter of 2011 to reach nearly 75 MW of installations in the third quarter.
- Much of this growth is due to the Section 1603 Treasury program, which expired on Dec. 31, 2011. An extension is necessary to keep the solar industry growing and creating jobs in the U.S.

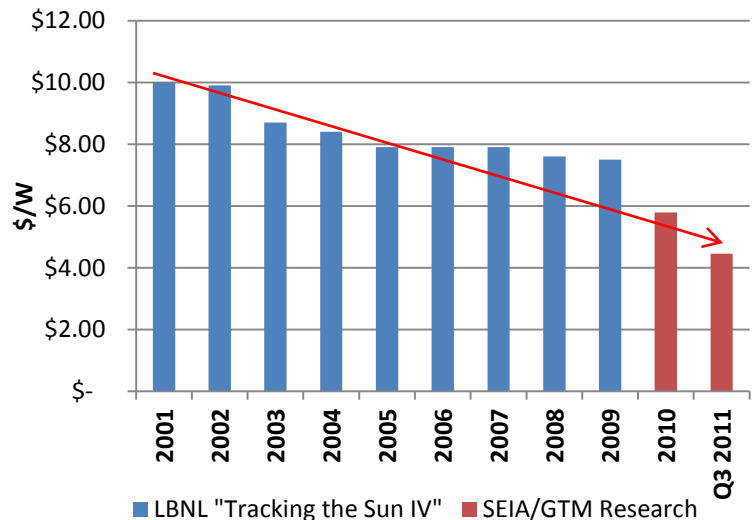
**New U.S. PV Installations**



### Solar Energy Continues To Become More Affordable

- The average cost of a completed PV system dropped by 14.4 percent in the third quarter of 2011 compared to the previous quarter.
- Since the beginning of 2010, the average cost of a PV system has dropped by 30 percent.
- The average price of a solar panel declined by 16 percent in the third quarter of 2011 compared to the previous quarter.
- While these price drops are beneficial for the end user, the sharp fall in prices, driven in part by a global oversupply, has put a serious strain on solar manufacturers worldwide.

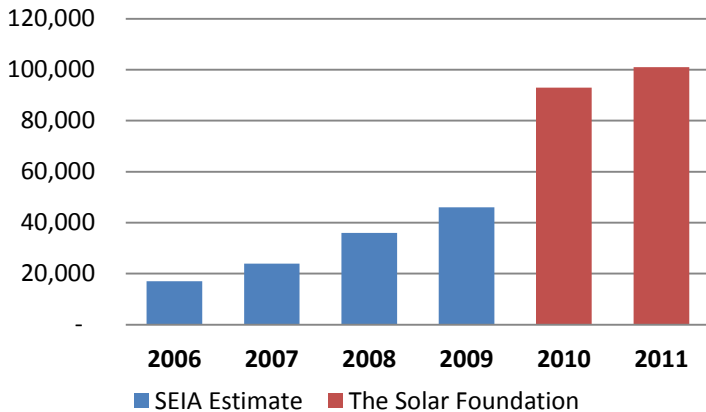
**Average Installed Price of PV**



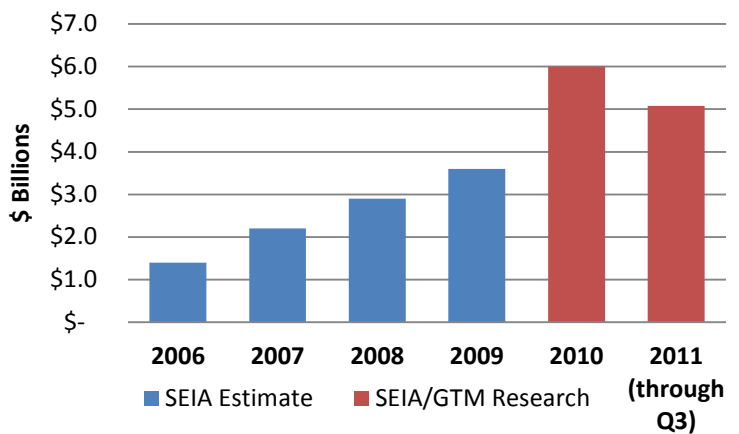
## Solar Energy Is an Economic Engine

As the solar industry grows, so does its impact on the economy. As of August 2011, there were over 100,000<sup>ii</sup> solar workers in the U.S., more than double the estimated employment in 2009. These workers are employed at over 5,600 businesses in every state, many of which are small companies. The increasing value of solar installations has injected life into the U.S. economy as well. In 2010, solar installations were valued at \$6 billion, compared to \$3.6 billion in 2009. This growth has continued into 2011, as projected solar installation values for the year are above \$7 billion.

### U.S. Solar Workforce

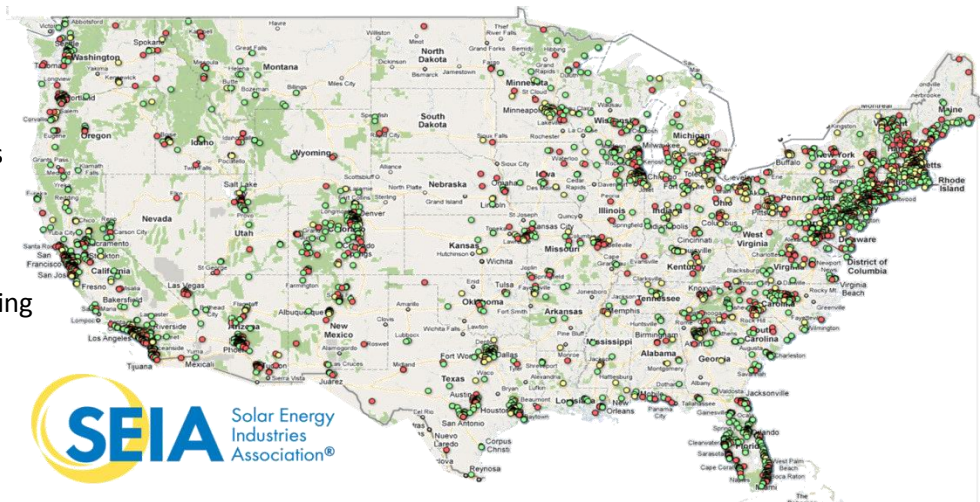


### Value of Solar Installations



### U.S. Solar Business Locations

- 5600+ Solar Companies
- 6500+ Solar Company Locations
- 600+ Solar Manufacturing Supply Chain Facilities



Green = contractor/installer Yellow = manufacturer (not necessarily a factory) Red = other

### About the Solar Energy Industries Association®

Established in 1974, the Solar Energy Industries Association is the national trade association of the U.S. solar energy industry. Through advocacy and education, SEIA® and its 1,100 member companies are building a strong solar industry to power America. As the voice of the industry, SEIA works to make solar a mainstream and significant energy source by expanding markets, removing market barriers, strengthening the industry and educating the public on the benefits of solar energy.

For more information, please visit [www.seia.org](http://www.seia.org).



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<sup>i</sup> All data from SEIA/GTM Research “U.S. Solar Market Insight: Q3 2011” unless otherwise noted.

<sup>ii</sup> The Solar Foundation “National Solar Jobs Census 2011”