

SOLAR ENERGY FACTS: Q2 2015

SOLAR LEADING THE WAY WITH 40% OF ALL 2015 ELECTRIC CAPACITY

The U.S. solar industry continued on its record-breaking trajectory with 1,393 MW of installed solar capacity in Q2 2015, making this the largest Q2 ever. As has been the case over the last 18 months, the residential and utility-scale markets led the way, installing 473 MW and 729 MW, respectively. Through the first half of the year, the solar industry has supplied 40% of all new 2015 electric generating capacity – more than any other energy technology. With more than 5,000 MW of installed solar capacity projected over the second half of 2015, the U.S. solar industry is expected to reach nearly 8,000 MW for the year, and 28,000 MW in total.¹

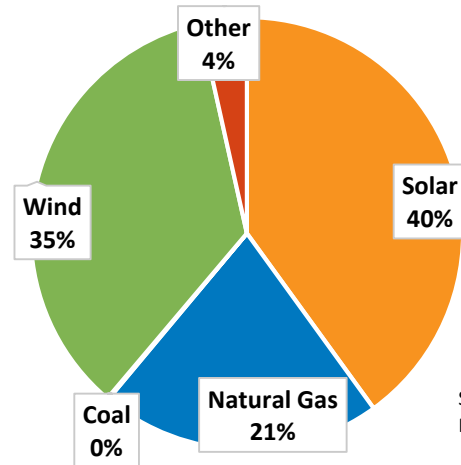
Installations Continue To Boom

- There are now over 22,700 MW of cumulative solar electric capacity operating in the U.S., enough to power more than 4.6 million American homes.
- With over 135,000 installations in the first half of 2015, nearly 784,000 U.S. homes and businesses have now gone solar. Through the first 6 months of 2015, a new solar project was installed every two minutes.
- Growth in Q2 was led by the utility-scale sector, which posted its largest quarter of the year at 729 MW. The residential sector grew 70% over last year to install 473 MW, and will likely surpass its 2014 total in Q3.

Solar More Affordable Than Ever

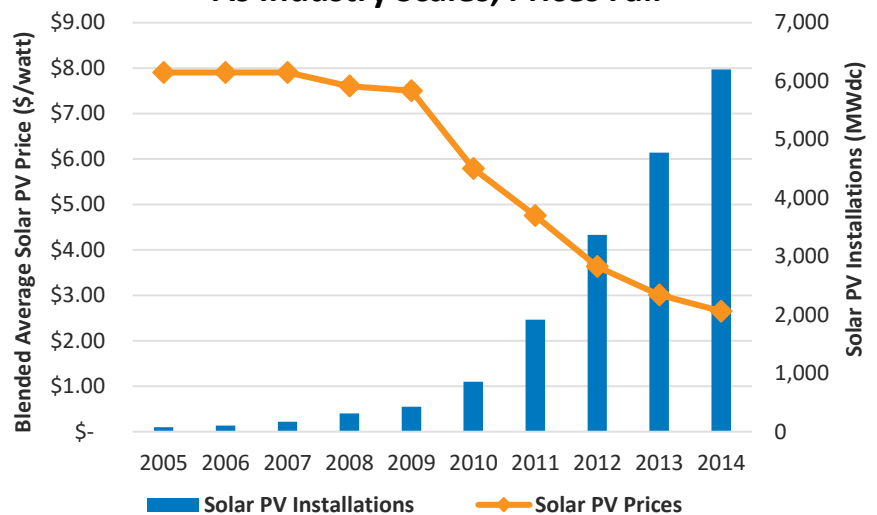
- Since the implementation of the ITC in 2006, the cost to install solar has dropped by more than 73%
- While residential costs have dropped by 45% since 2010, utility-scale costs have dropped more significantly, with recent contracts at prices below \$0.05/kWh.

2014 New Electric Capacity Installed



Source: SEIA/GTM Research and FERC

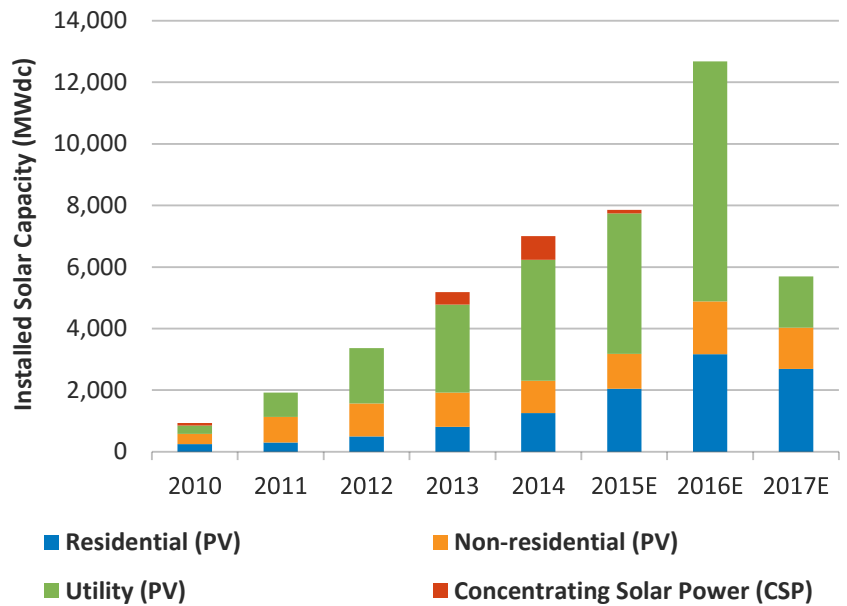
As Industry Scales, Prices Fall



Growth to Continue Through 2016

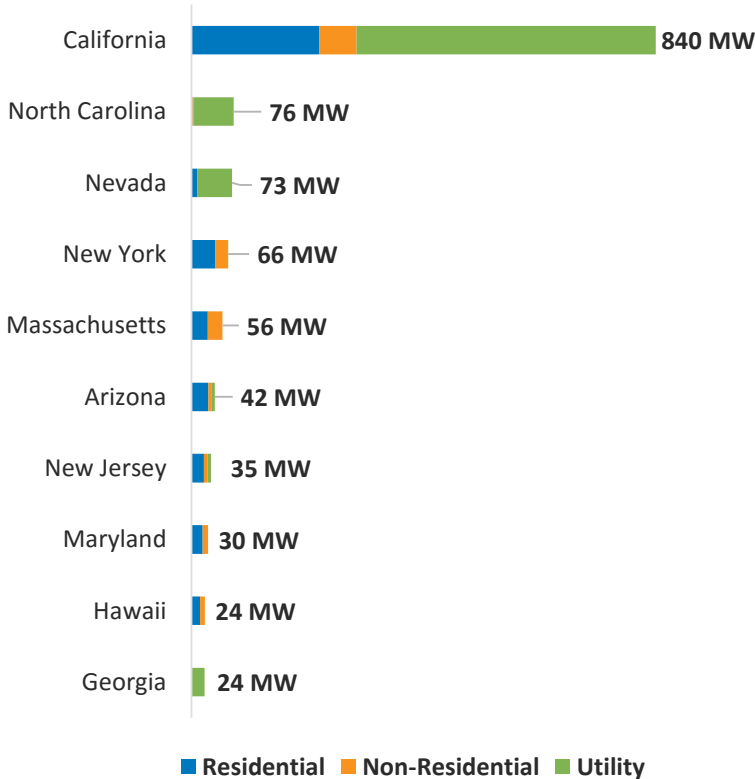
- Roughly 20,000 MW of solar capacity is forecasted to come online from 2015-16, doubling the country's existing solar capacity.
- Growth is expected to be broad based, with more than 16 states expected to top the 100 MW mark in 2016, up from 9 in 2014.
- However, without congressional action, the upcoming expiration and reduction of the Investment Tax Credit is expected to lead to a 55% decline in installed solar capacity in 2017.

Yearly U.S. Solar Installations

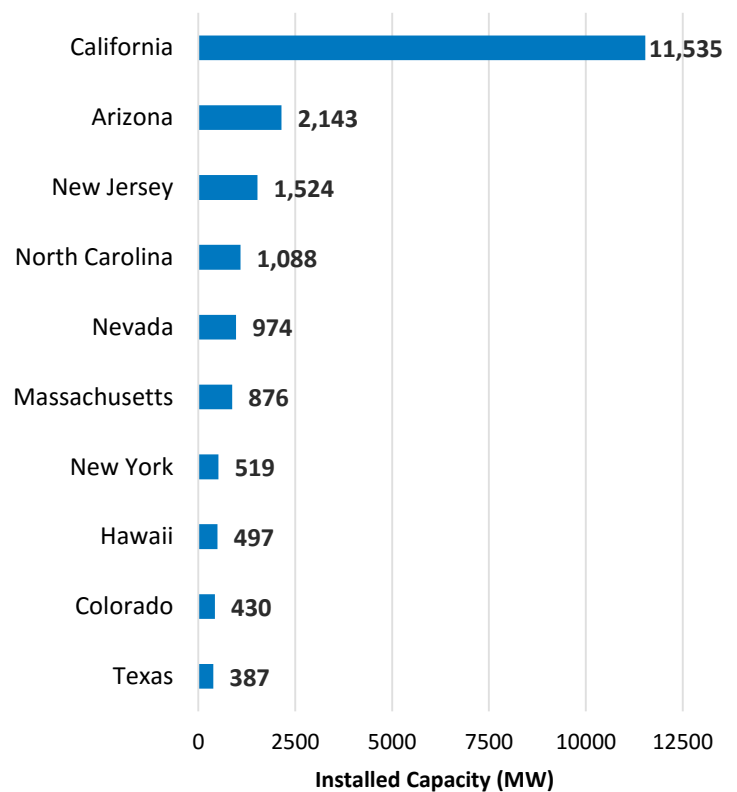


State Rankings

2015 Q2 Solar PV Installed Capacity



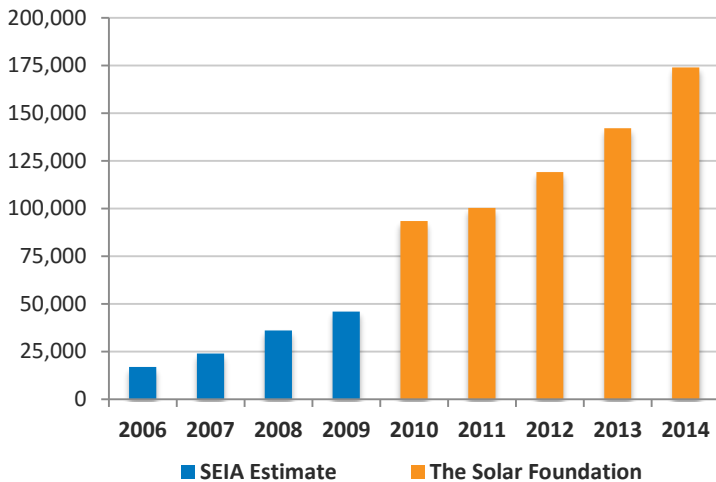
Cumulative Solar Electric Capacity



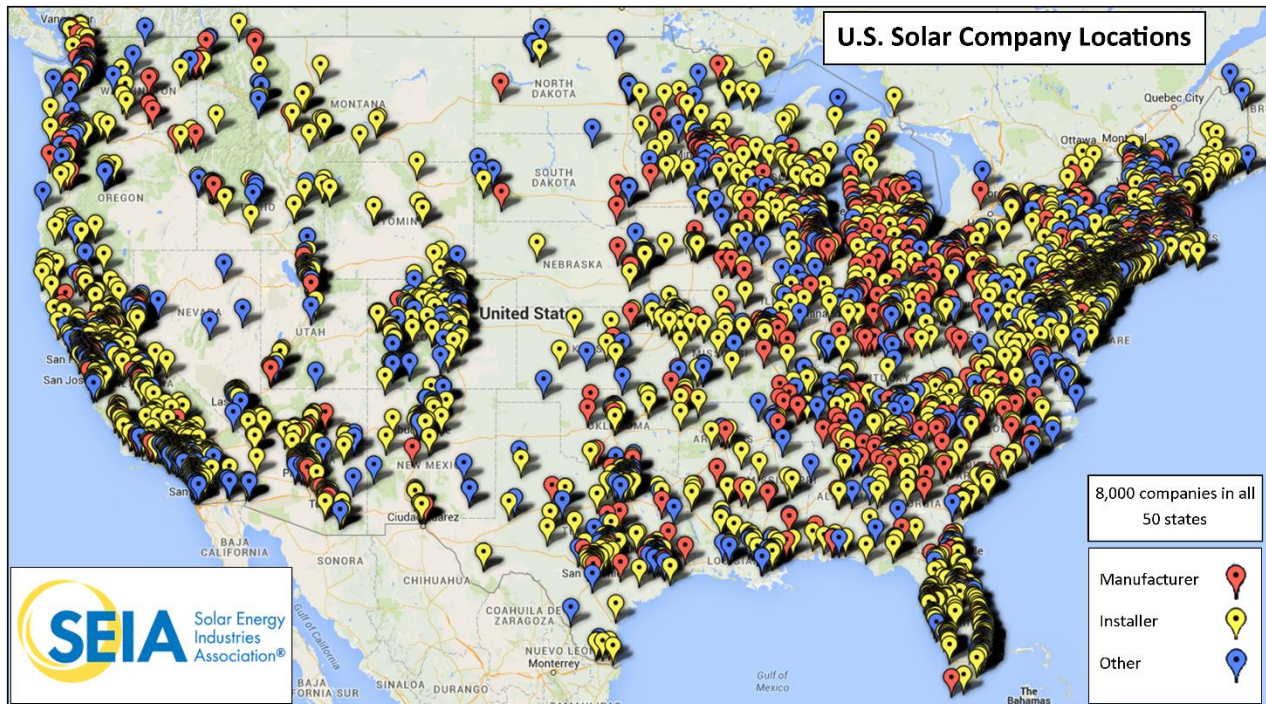
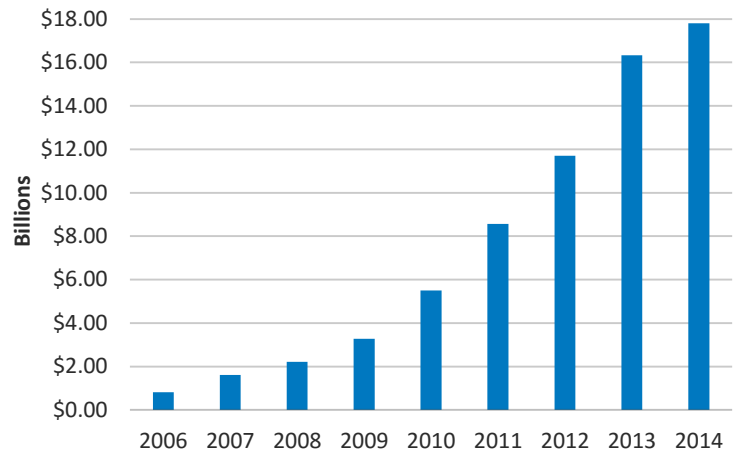
Solar Is an Economic Engine

As the solar industry grows, so does its benefit to the economy. There are now nearly 174,000 solar workers in the U.S., a 22% increase over 2013.² These workers are employed at over 8,000 businesses across all 50 states, ranging from large manufacturers to local rooftop installers. The growth of the solar industry has led to an investment of more than \$17.8 billion in to the U.S. economy in 2014, up 9% over 2013 despite falling prices.

U.S. Solar Workforce



Value of Yearly U.S. Solar Installations



¹All data from SEIA/GTM Research *U.S. Solar Market Insight 2014 Year in Review* unless otherwise noted

²The Solar Foundation "National Solar Jobs Census 2014"

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 1,000 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. www.seia.org