

# SOLAR ENERGY FACTS: 2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

## SOLAR INDUSTRY BREAKS 20 GW BARRIER; GROWS 34% OVER 2013

The U.S. Solar Industry achieved another record year in 2014, growing by 34% over 2013 to install nearly 7,000 MW of solar electric capacity. Within the photovoltaic (PV) sector, over 6,200 MW of capacity was installed, led by the residential and utility segments, which grew by 51% and 38%, respectively. The concentrating solar power segment enjoyed its largest year ever with 767 MW of capacity installed. Together, the solar industry installed 32% of all new electricity generating capacity in the U.S.- second only to natural gas. This growth is expected to continue, with an additional 20,000 MW of solar capacity projected over the next 2 years.<sup>1</sup>

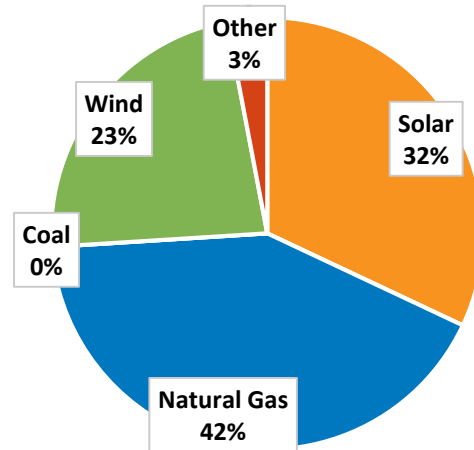
### Installations Continue To Boom

- There are now over 20,000 MW of cumulative solar electric capacity operating in the U.S., enough to power more than 4 million average American homes.
- With over 195,000 installations in 2014, nearly 645,000 U.S. homes and businesses have now gone solar. In 2014, a new solar project was installed every 2.5 minutes.
- Growth in 2014 was led by the utility-scale segment, which grew by 38% over 2013 to reach nearly 4 GW, and the residential segment, which crossed the 1 GW barrier for the first time while growing 51% over 2013.

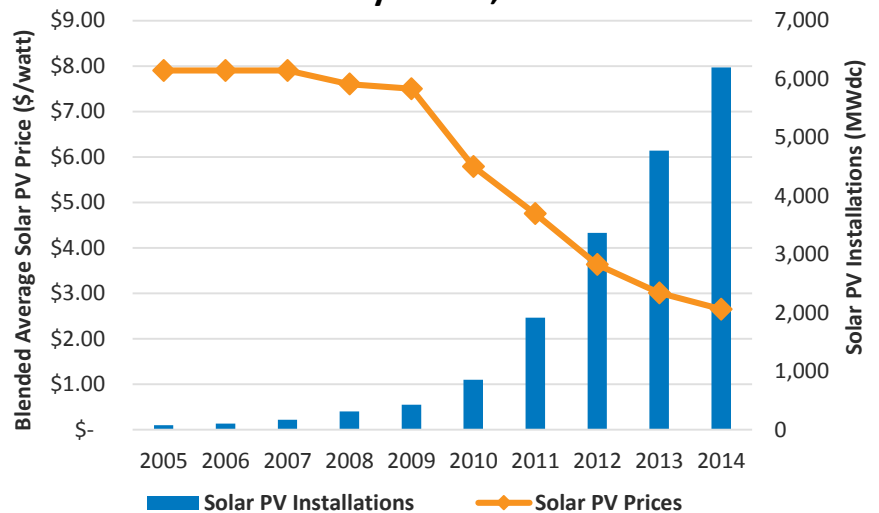
### Solar More Affordable Than Ever

- 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



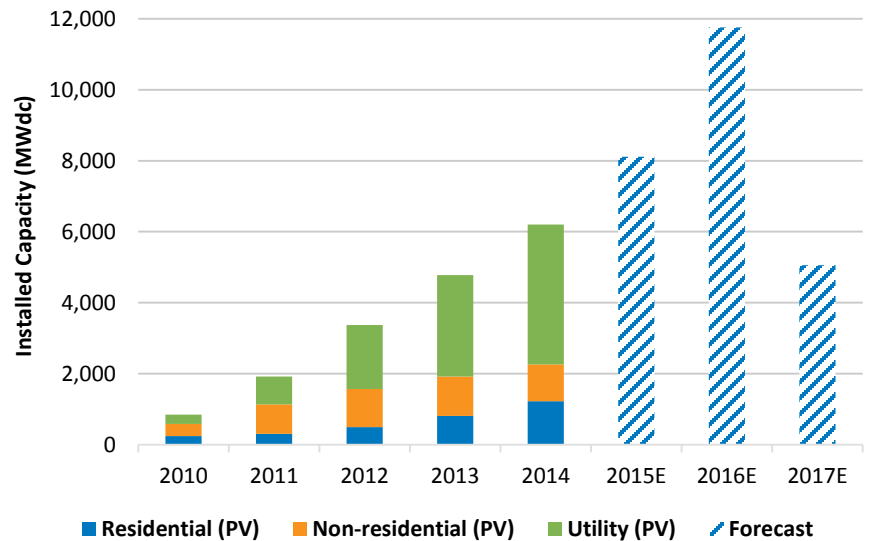
### As Industry Scales, Prices Fall



## Growth to Continue Through 2016

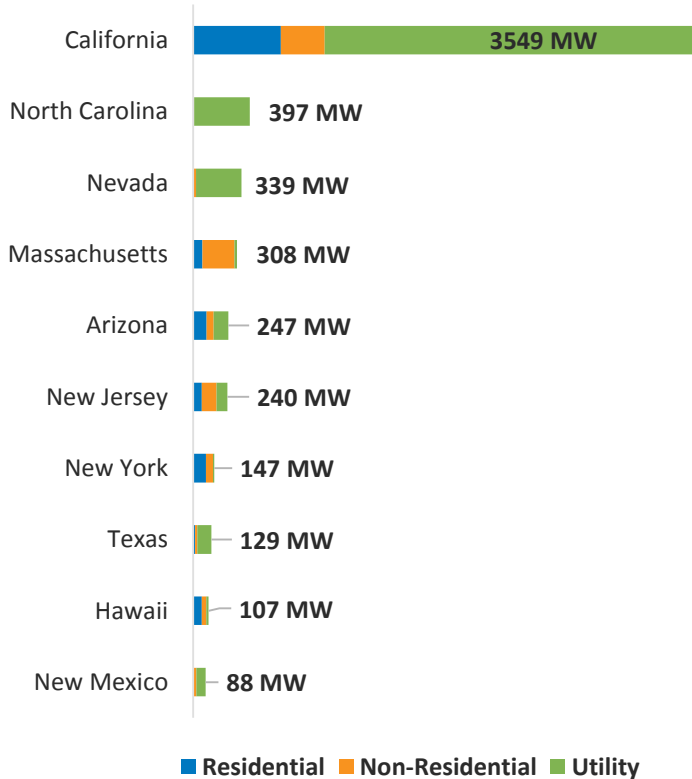
- Roughly 20,000 MW of solar capacity is forecasted to come online over the next two years, doubling the country's existing solar capacity.
- Growth is expected to be broad based, with more than 16 states expected to top the 100 MW mark in 2016, up from 9 in 2014.
- However, without congressional action, the upcoming expiration and reduction of the Investment Tax Credit is expected to lead to a 57% decline of installed solar capacity in 2017.

## U.S. Solar Industry Forecast

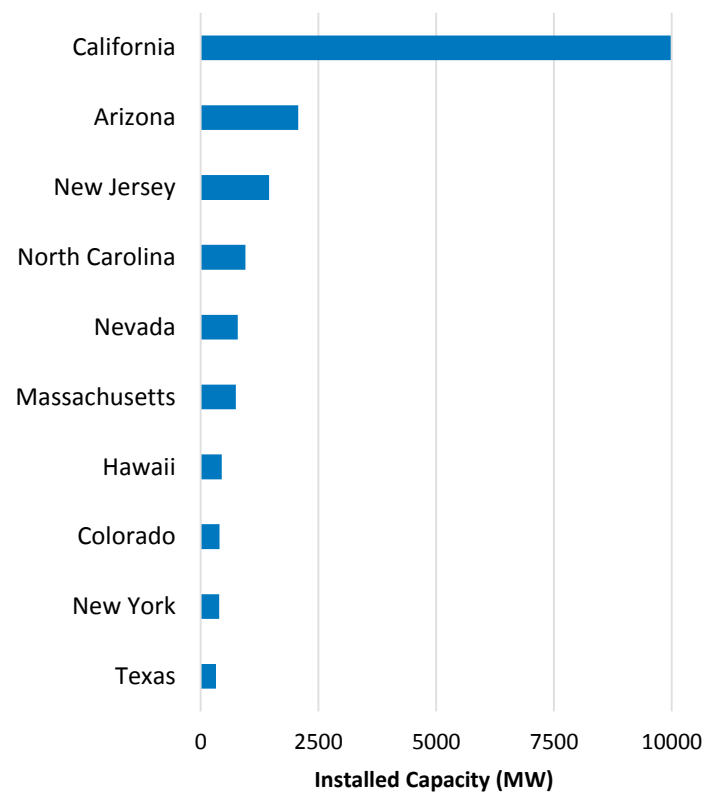


## State Rankings

### 2014 Solar PV Installed Capacity



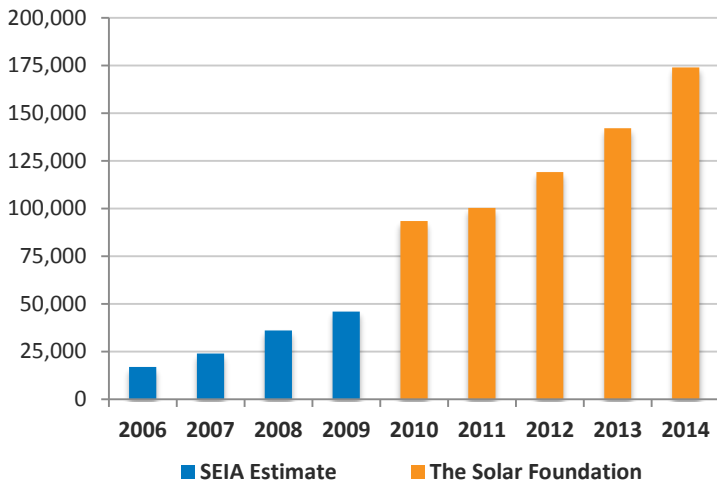
### Cumulative Solar Electric Capacity



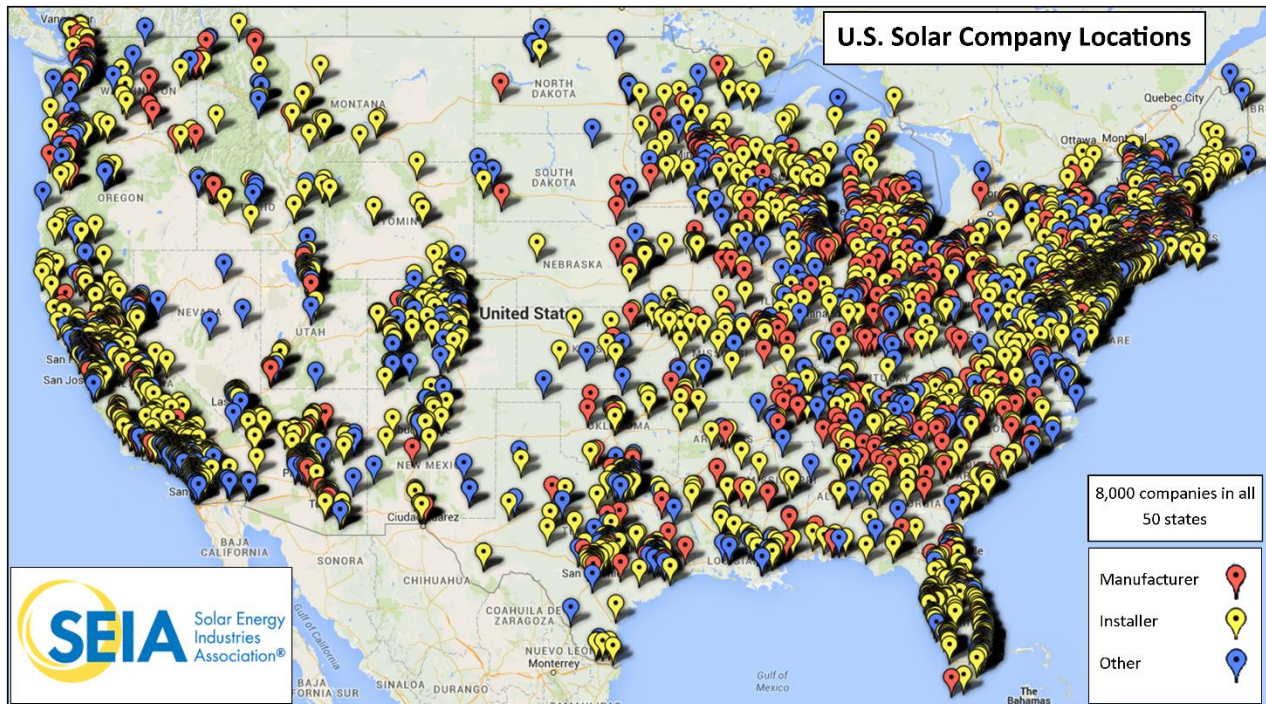
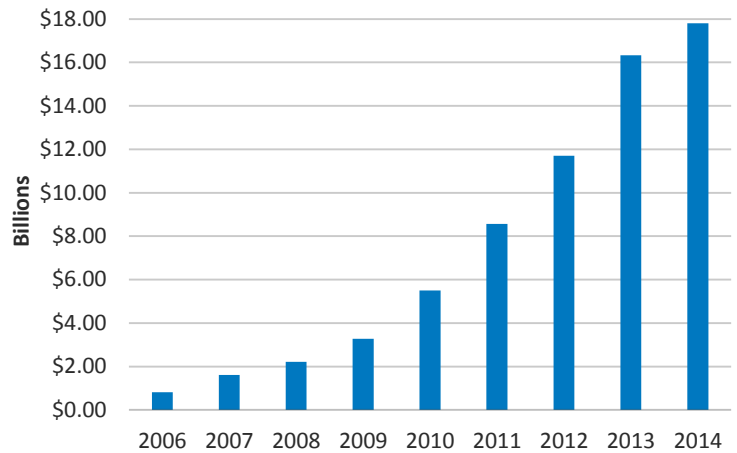
## Solar Is an Economic Engine

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.<sup>2</sup> 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



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

<sup>2</sup>The 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](http://www.seia.org)