

BP Energy Outlook

Country and regional insights – China

We project that by 2035 China becomes the world's largest energy importer, overtaking Europe, as import dependence rises from 15% in 2014 to 23%.

Fast facts

1. By 2035 China is expected to account for 25% of global energy consumption.
2. China overtakes the US and becomes the world's largest liquids consumer in 2032.
3. China's coal consumption grows by 0.2% p.a. over the Outlook compared to 12% p.a. over previous 20 years.

+48%

Growth in China's energy consumption

25%

Share of global energy consumption in 2035

+40%

Growth in China's energy production

20%

Share of global energy production in 2035

- Energy production rises by 40% while consumption grows by 48%.
- China's share in global energy demand rises from 23% in 2014 to 25% in 2035, while its growth contributes 32% to the world's net increase.
- China's energy mix continues to evolve with coal's dominance declining from 66% in 2014 to 47% in 2035 and natural gas more than doubling to 11%; oil's share is unchanged at around 19%.
- Demand for all fossil fuels expands with oil (+63%), gas (+193%) and coal (+5%) accounting for 53% of demand growth. Renewables in power (+593%), nuclear (+827%) and hydro (+43%) also grow fast.
- Coal demand peaks in 2027 and then declines by 0.3% p.a. from 2028 to 2035. Industry remains the largest part of final energy consumption, but sees the slowest growth (+31%), causing its share of demand to drop from 51% to 46%.
- Energy consumed in transport grows by 93%. Oil remains the dominant fuel, but its market share drops from 91% to 86% in 2035.
- Energy production as a share of consumption drops from 82% in 2014 to 80% by 2035, making the country the world's largest net importer of energy.
- Nuclear increases by 12% p.a. from 2014 to 2035, and China accounts for 31% of global nuclear generation.
- Fossil fuels production continues to rise with increases in gas (+136%) and coal (+10%) more than offsetting declines in oil (-5%).
- By 2035 China is the second largest shale gas producer, after the US, growing to over 13Bcf/d by 2035.
- Oil import dependence rises from 59% in 2014 to 76% in 2035 - higher than the US at its peak in 2005. Gas dependence rises from just under 30% to 42% in 2035.
- With the economy expanding by 174% from 2014 to 2035, China's energy intensity declines by 46%.
- China's CO₂ emissions increase by 22% and account for 28% of the global total in 2035.