

Welcome to Solar Weekly Insight, presenting the most important developments in the global solar industry, ranging from significant industry trends, policies, research, and new technologies to markets and pricing.

This week's edition focuses on solar module prices, PV LCOE, and new solar industry milestones.

### **PV price index: ASP for solar modules decreased by 12.4 % in 2014**

Last year, the average selling prices for PV panels across all regions of origin fell by 12.4 %.



Prices for PV modules from South East Asia/Taiwan fell by 15.1%.

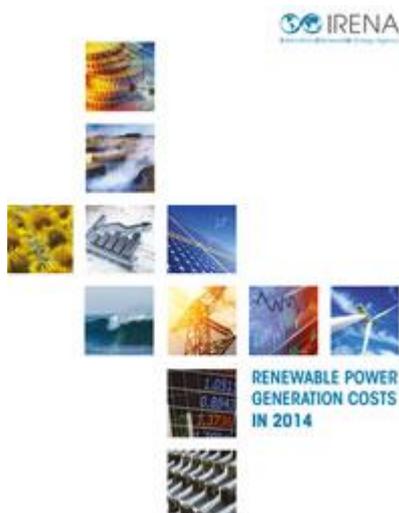
German modules have been sold at a 14.5% lower price.

Japanese and Korean panel prices decreased by 11.4%, and Chinese module prices fell 8.6%.

### **IRENA report: Solar PV is leading the renewable power cost decline; Utility-scale LCOE plummet to USD 0.08/kWh**

The cost of generating power from renewable energy sources has reached parity or dropped below the cost of fossil fuels for many technologies in many parts of the world, according to a new report published by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

Solar photovoltaic (PV) is leading the cost decline, with solar PV module costs falling 75 per cent since the end of 2009 and the cost of electricity from utility-scale solar PV falling 50 per cent since 2010.



Solar PV module prices have dropped 75% since 2009 and continue to decrease, according to the report. Residential solar PV systems are now as much as 70% cheaper than in 2008.

#### **Utility-scale PV projects are delivering electricity for USD 0.08/kWh without financial support**

Utility-scale PV cost in China, North America and South America has fallen within the range of fossil fuel-fired electricity.

Between 2010 and 2014 the total installed costs of utility-scale solar PV plants fell by as much as 65 per cent. The most competitive utility-scale solar PV projects are delivering electricity for USD 0.08/kWh without financial support, and lower prices are possible with low financing costs. Their cost range in China, North America and South America has fallen within the range of fossil fuel-fired electricity. Solar power prices are dropping rapidly in the Middle East, with a recent tender in Dubai, UAE, falling to 0.06USD/kWh. [More](#)

Download the full report at: [www.irena.org/publications](http://www.irena.org/publications)

### First Solar reaches new milestone with 10 GW of PV capacity installed globally

First Solar, Inc. (Tempe, Arizona, US) on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 announced that it has achieved 10 gigawatts (GW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity installed world-wide, making it the first thin film PV module manufacturer in the world to achieve this milestone.



With enough modules installed worldwide to circle the planet three-and-a-half times, First Solar's 10 GW of installed capacity produces an estimated 14,000 gigawatt hours (GWh) of solar power a year. [More](#)

*Picture left: The 550 MW solar PV plant Topaz in the U.S. is equipped with First Solar's thin-film modules*

### U.S. Solar industry creates more than 31,000 jobs in 2014

The Solar Foundation (TSF) on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 released its fifth annual "National Solar Jobs Census", that found that the U.S. solar industry employed 173,807 Americans in 2014, a figure that includes the addition of more than 31,000 solar jobs over the previous year, representing 21.8 percent growth in solar industry employment since November 2013.



*The full National Solar Jobs Census report provides state-by-state jobs numbers, including a more detailed analysis of the Arizona, California, Georgia, Maryland, New York and Texas solar markets*

Solar employment grew nearly 20 times faster than the national average employment growth rate of 1.1 percent in the same period.

The solar installation sector is already larger than well-established sectors of fossil fuel generation, such as coal mining (93,185 jobs). The solar installation sector added nearly 50% more jobs in 2014 than the total created by both the oil and gas pipeline construction industry (10,529), and the crude petroleum and natural gas extraction industry (8,688).

Solar employers are also optimistic about 2015, expecting to add another 36,000 jobs over the coming year. [More](#)

Download the report at: <http://TheSolarFoundation.org>

## New solar report “Renewable Energy and Chilean Mines”: A Market Overview

For a relatively new and untested renewable energy market, Chile has a remarkable number of strengths. The country has incredibly attractive solar resources, according to Joel Link, vice president of development and global head of mining development for SolarReserve.



Large renewable-energy projects for major mining companies are demonstrating that alternative energy can be a very viable option.

And renewable energy advocates - perhaps for the first time in history - are now able to boast that solar and wind might be able to deliver cost savings.

“Mines are interested in having lower operation and maintenance costs and decreasing the costs related to energy,” says Daniel Rosende, managing director of SMA South America SpA (SMA Solar Technology AG subsidiary in Chile.

[Complete report](#)

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