Terna Driving Energy

PRESS RELEASE

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HIGH TEMPERATURES DRIVE ELECTRICITY DEMAND: +16.5% COMPARED TO 2025, HIGHEST AUGUST VALUE EVER RECORDED

+20.4%

PHOTOVOLTAIC PRODUCTION

+1.1%

INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION IN AUGUST 2026

Rome, 21 September 2026 – Italy's electricity demand reached an all-time monthly high in August: 28.9 TWh, up 16.5% compared to the same month of 2025.

The result was driven by exceptionally high temperatures, which remained consistently higher than those recorded during the same period last year. At night the average temperatures were 5°C higher than in August 2025, leading to increased use of cooling systems.

In August, production from renewable sources amounted to 12 TWh and covered 41.4% of the national electricity needs. Photovoltaic generation reached 6.2 TWh (+20.4% compared to August 2025), mainly driven by the increase in installed capacity.

From January to August, compared to the same period of the previous year, demand grew by 10.4 TWh (+5%) and production from renewable sources increased by 1.2%. With an installed capacity of 88.1 GW, renewables covered 42.4% of national demand thanks mainly to the contribution of photovoltaic (+19.6%).

Regarding industrial electricity consumption, according to the IMCEI index developed by Terna, which analyses industrial electricity use among approximately 1,000 energy-intensive industrial enterprises, August consumption increased by 1.1% compared to the same month of the previous year. Between January and August 2026, the index rose by 3.7% compared to the same period of 2025.

These figures emerge from data published by Terna, the company that manages the Italian national transmission grid led by Pasqualino Monti.

High temperature in August impact electricity demand, increasing for the fourth consecutive month

The result was influenced both by the presence of one additional working day compared to last year (21 instead of 20) and by weather conditions. Average monthly temperatures were 2.6°C higher than in August 2025 and 3°C above the ten-year average. Minimum temperatures, exceptionally high at night, have also encouraged longer-term use of cooling systems and contributed to increased electricity consumption.

When adjusted for temperature and calendar effects, electricity demand increased by 5.9%.

Seasonally and calendar/temperature-adjusted electricity demand increased by 3.5% compared to July 2026. This marks the fourth consecutive month of growth, bringing the trend back to its highest levels of the past ten years.

Growth was recorded across the entire country: +13.2% in the North, +21.7% in the Centre and +18.2% in the South and islands.

Specifically, in Sicily record temperatures, 2.9°C higher on average than in August 2025, led to a 25% increase in demand; since the beginning of the year, regional growth has stood at +8% compared to the same period last year, with exceptional demand peaks surpassing previous records in 2023.

417 MW of new renewable capacity installed in August

Last month, domestic production covered 85.7% of electricity demand, while the remaining 14.3% was met through net imports.

Net domestic generation reached 25.2 TWh, 4 TWh more than in August 2025 (+14.6%). This growth was also covered through a higher import of energy (+25.2%) and by the increase in thermoelectric production to cover the high peaks in electricity demand recorded during the period.

According to Terna's data, renewable installed capacity increased by 417 MW in August, reaching a total of 4.6 GW since the start of the year. As of 31 August, total installed renewable capacity reached 88.1 GW, including 47.7 GW of solar and 14 GW of wind.

Overall, generation from renewable sources remained broadly stable compared to August 2025 (+0.4%). The result reflected strong growth in photovoltaic generation (+20.4%) offset by declines in wind (-24.2%), hydroelectric (-16%), geothermal (-3.4%) and bioenergy (-3.5%).

As for energy storage systems, Italy currently has 19.54 GWh of capacity and 8.1 GW of nominal power.

Services electricity consumption up in June

The IMSER (Monthly Services Index), published by Terna on the basis of electricity consumption data supplied by distribution operators (E-Distribuzione, UNARETI, A-Reti, Edyna, DUERETI and Deval), and released with a two-month lag remained stable compared to the same month of 2025 (+0.4%).

This was the highest value ever recorded for the month of June since the start of the observation period in 2019.

In the first six months of the year, the index increased 1% compared to the same period of 2025.

Data always available online

A detailed analysis of provisional 2025 and 2026 monthly electricity demand is available in the "Monthly Report on the Electricity System", available under the section "Electric System >> Publications >> Monthly Report" at Terna's website.

Real-time data on the operation of the national electricity system can also be found on the Terna app on all app stores:
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=it.terna.energia&hl=it
https://apps.apple.com/it/app/terna/id1458535498

Key Indicators

	August 2026	August 2025	Change
Electricity Demand	28.9 TWh	24.8 TWh	+16.5%
Renewable energy generation	12 TWh	11.9 TWh	+0.4%
New installed renewable capacity	417 MW	334 MW	+24.9%
	January - August 2026	**January - August 2025**	**Change**
New installed renewable capacity	+4.6 GW	+4 GW	13,6%

Source: August 2026 Monthly Report on the Electricity System.