



Country Analysis Brief: Algeria

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Overview

Table 1. Algeria's energy overview, 2023

	Coal	Natural gas	Petroleum and other	Nuclear	Hydro	Renewables and other	Total
Primary energy consumption (quads)	0.0	2.0	0.9	0.0		0.0	2.9
Primary energy consumption (percentage)	0%	69%	31%	0%		0%	100%
Primary energy production (quads)	0.0	3.9	2.9	0.0		0.0	6.8
Primary energy production (percentage)	0%	58%	42%	0%		0%	100%
Electricity generation (terawatthours)	0.0	95.0	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.9	97.2
Electricity generation (percentage)	0%	98%	0%	0%	1%	1%	100%

Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, International Energy Statistics database

Note: EIA aggregates hydroelectricity and renewables as *renewables and other* for primary energy production and consumption. For electricity generation, *Hydro* includes hydroelectric pumped storage. Quads=quadrillion British thermal units

- Algeria is the second-largest total liquid fuels producer and the largest natural gas producer in Africa, based on EIA's estimated 2024 production levels. Algeria has been a member of OPEC since 1969, about 10 years after the country first began producing crude oil. Algeria is also a participant in the OPEC+ agreement.¹
- Algeria imports very little energy because its domestic consumption is met by domestic oil and natural gas production, which is heavily subsidized. Natural gas and oil account for almost all of Algeria's total primary energy consumption.

Figure 1. Map of Algeria (May 2025)



Source: U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, [CIA World Factbook—Algeria](#)

Hydrocarbon Exploration

- In October 2024, the Algerian government launched a licensing round for six onshore exploration blocks located in the Berkine and Illizi basins (located in eastern Algeria near the Libyan border); the Reggane, Gourara Timimoun, and Ahnet Gourara basins (located in central Algeria); and the Hassi R'Mel Hub (located in central Algeria about 340 miles south of Algiers). The licensing round is part of the government's initiative to boost upstream exploration and development, with four additional licensing rounds to be scheduled annually until 2028.²

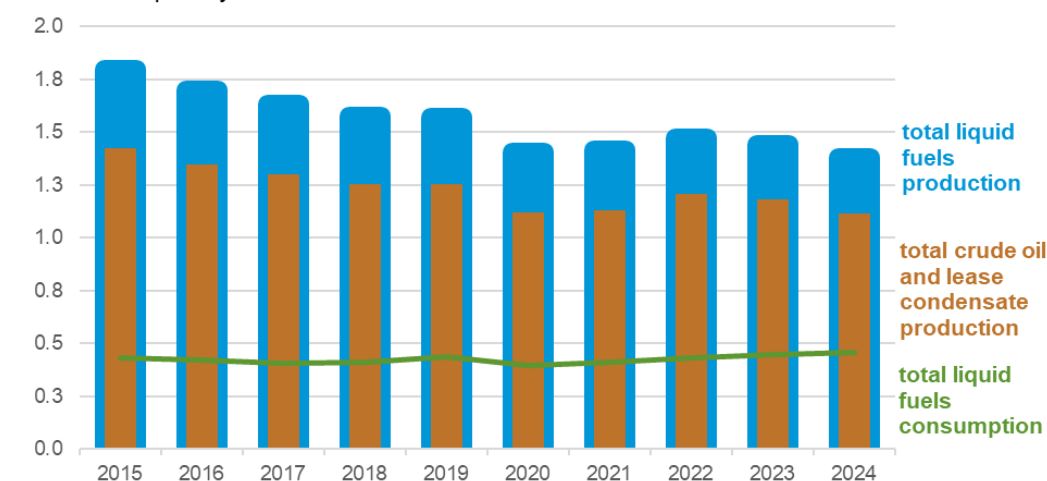
Petroleum and Other Liquids

- Algeria's oil fields produce high-quality, light, sweet crude oil with a very low sulfur content. The country's main crude oil grade is the Sahara blend (API gravity of 43.2° and sulfur content of 0.10%), which is produced at fields in the Hassi Messaoud region.³
- Algeria's total liquid fuels production has steadily declined over the past decade. In 2023, total liquid fuels production was about 1.4 million barrels per day (b/d), down from 1.7 million b/d in 2014. Most of Algeria's total liquid fuels production is made up of crude oil and lease condensate. The downward trend in total liquid fuels production is the result of a lack of

significant new oil discoveries and declining output from its maturing fields, which require enhanced oil recovery techniques to maintain production levels. Although natural gas production has increased in the past decade, it has been increasingly exported rather than reinjected to support liquid fuels production (Figure 2).⁴

Figure 2. Total annual liquid fuels production and consumption in Algeria, 2015–2024

million barrels per day



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, International Energy Statistics database
Note: 2024 consumption data are EIA estimates.

Refining

- Sonatrach, Algeria's state-owned oil company, solely owns and operates Algeria's refineries, which were mostly built between the 1960s and the 1980s. The Adrar refinery and the condensate splitter at the Skikda refinery were built in 2007 and 2009, respectively.⁵ A number of proposals were made in 2012 to construct new refineries and to expand existing ones, but progress was delayed for years. According to the *Middle East Economic Survey*, the Algerian government awarded an engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract to Técnicas Reunidas and Samsung Engineering in January 2020 for one of three proposed refineries, the Hassi Messaoud refinery. Construction of the refinery reportedly began in February 2025 and is scheduled to come online in 2027. Proposals to construct the other two refineries, the Biskra and Tiaret refineries, have reportedly stalled and are unlikely to come online (Table 2).⁶

Table 2. Refineries in Algeria

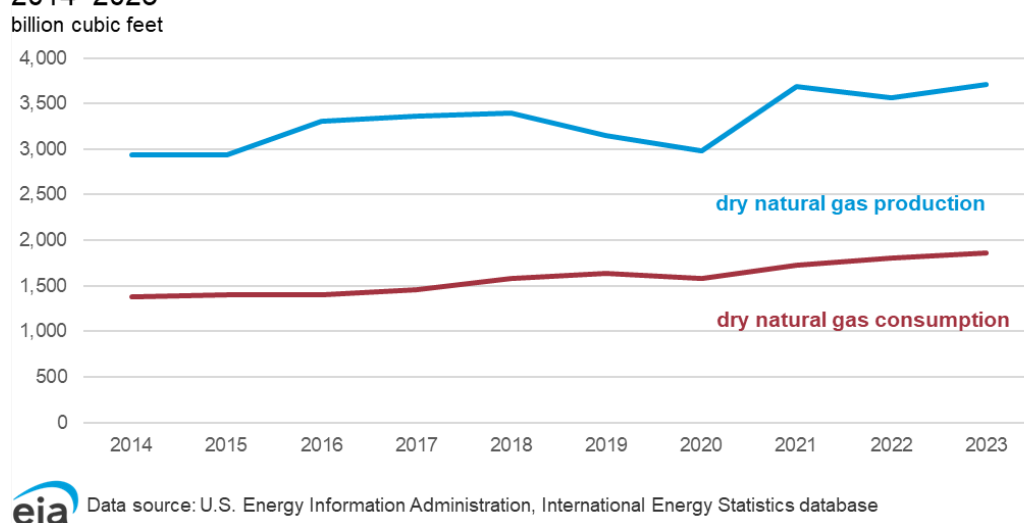
Refinery name	Ownership/Operator	Status	Nameplate capacity (barrels per day)
Adrar	JV between China National Petroleum Company and Sonatrach	Operating	13,000
Algiers (Sidi Rezine)	Sonatrach	Operating	77,000
Arzew	Sonatrach	Operating	81,000
Hassi Messaoud	Sonatrach	Operating	23,000
Skikda I	Sonatrach	Operating	355,000
Skikda II (natural gas condensate splitter)	Sonatrach	Operating	122,000
Total			671,000

Data source: *Middle East Economic Survey*, January 2020

Natural Gas

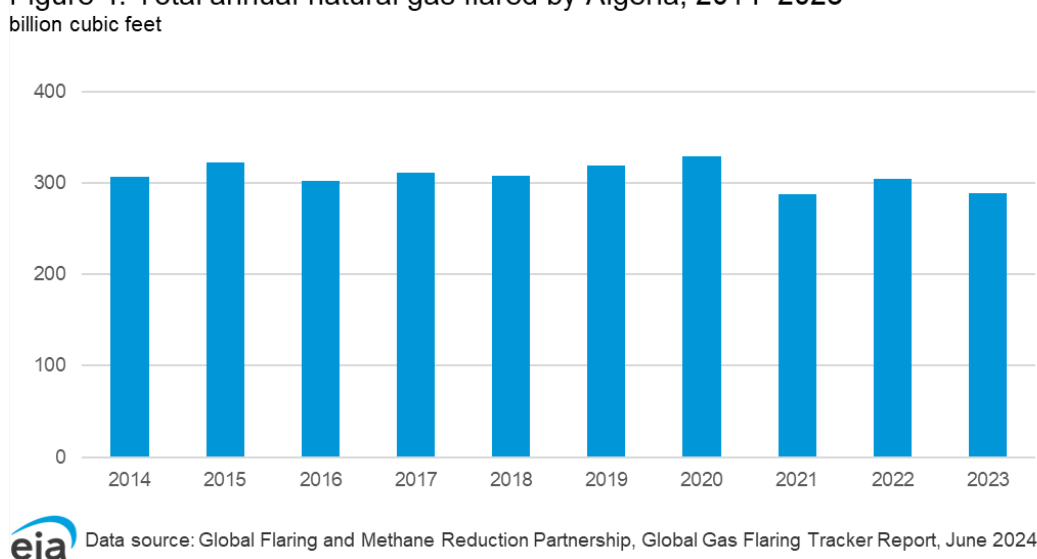
- Natural gas produced in Algeria primarily comes from its largest field, the Hassi R'Mel field, as well as other maturing legacy natural gas fields that have been producing for decades. Dry natural gas production in Algeria averaged about 3.3 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) between 2014 and 2023, and dry natural gas consumption averaged 1.6 Tcf over the same time period. In 2020, both natural gas production and consumption fell as the COVID-19 pandemic limited mobility and economic activity in the country. Natural gas production returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2021 as COVID-19 restrictions eased, reaching a record high of 3.7 Tcf in 2023. The increase was further supported by upstream investments that brought online a number of new project startups and expansions, especially at Hassi R'Mel. Moreover, a reduced need for natural gas reinjection in oil fields, as a result of lower crude oil production, freed up more natural gas for domestic use and export. The disruption to natural gas trade between Russia and Europe after the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022 led European governments to seek alternative sources of natural gas, like Algeria. The increased natural gas demand in Europe, which is Algeria's primary export market by volume, gave Algeria incentive to increase natural gas production for commercial export (Figure 3).⁷

Figure 3. Total dry annual natural gas production and consumption in Algeria, 2014–2023



- According to the latest estimates by the World Bank Group’s Global Flaring and Methane Reduction Partnership, Algeria flared approximately 289 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas in 2023, making it the sixth-highest flaring country by volume (Figure 4).⁸

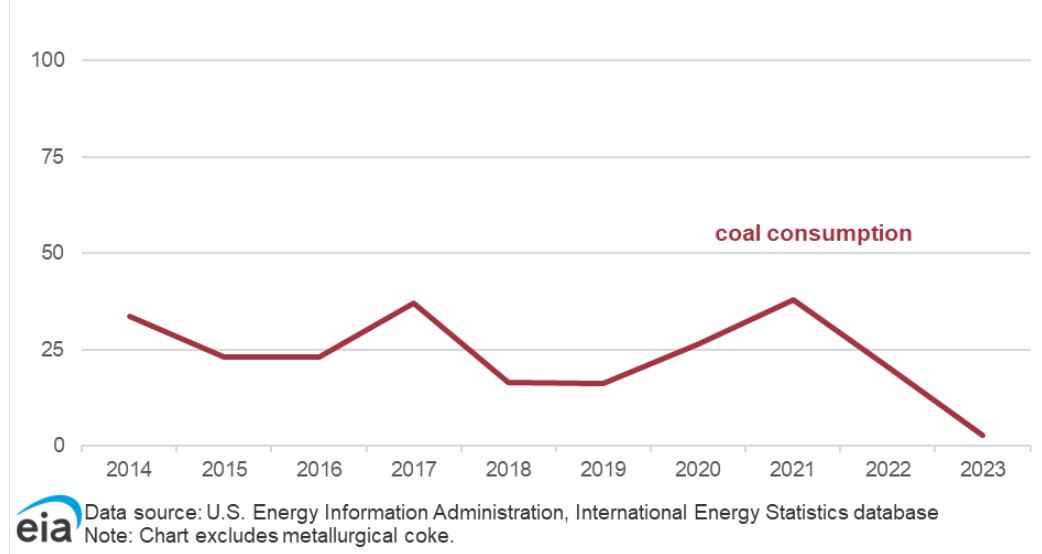
Figure 4. Total annual natural gas flared by Algeria, 2014–2023



Coal

- Algeria does not produce any coal and consumes very small amounts of coal, averaging 24,000 short tons per year from 2014 to 2023 (Figure 5).⁹

Figure 5. Total coal consumption in Algeria, 2014–2023
thousand short tons



Electricity

- In 2023, Algeria's electricity net consumption was about 86 gigawatthours (GWh), which is about a 61% increase from electricity net consumption a decade earlier. Algeria also had installed electricity generation capacity of 22.6 gigawatts (GW) and generated 96.3 GWh of electricity. Nearly all (97%) of Algeria's installed generation capacity is fossil fueled. The remaining capacity is hydroelectricity or other renewable sources. Algeria's installed capacity grew by about 42% over the past decade. Additions of natural gas-fired or combined-cycle natural gas turbine power plants, which generate electricity more efficiently relative to Algeria's older power plants, propelled most of this growth (Figure 6 and Figure 7).¹⁰

Figure 6. Algeria's electricity generation capacity by fuel type, 2014–2023
gigawatts

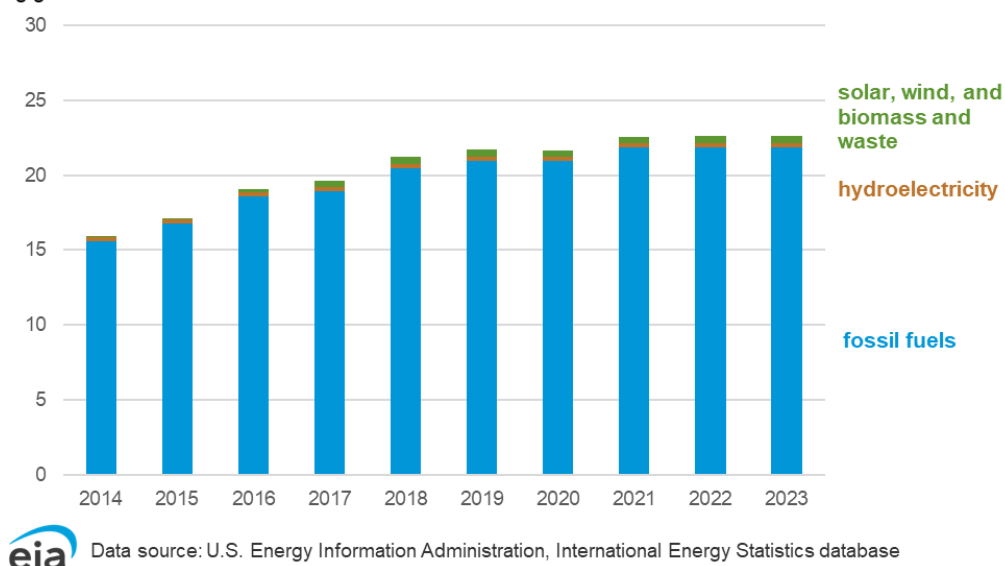
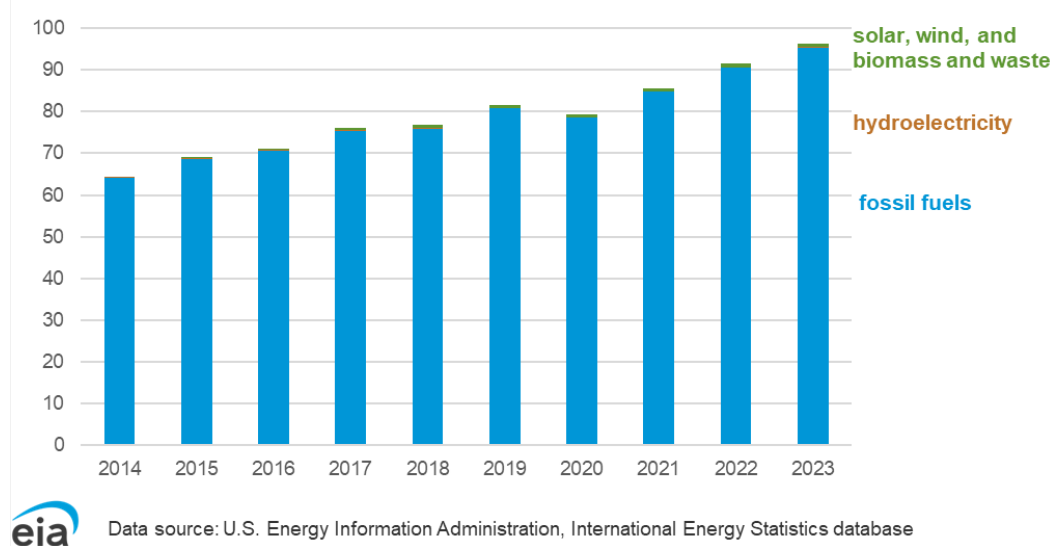


Figure 7. Algeria's net electricity generation by fuel type, 2014–2023
gigawatthours



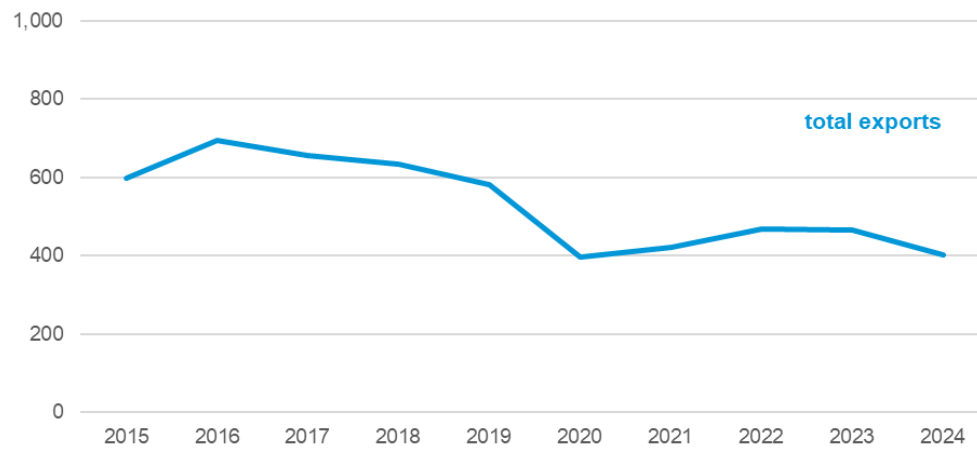
- Algeria has renewable energy potential along its relatively long coastline on the Mediterranean Sea, which is suitable for wind, while desert regions offer significant solar power potential. Algeria has 13 hydropower plants, mainly located in the northern parts of the country, where rainfall is relatively plentiful. Although the share of renewable energy in the generation mix remains limited, renewable generation capacity, particularly solar, has increased by nearly 1 GW from 2014 to 2023.¹¹
- The Algerian government is accelerating development of renewable energy as part of its 2020 Five-Year Development Plan to diversify its energy mix and prioritize more hydrocarbon resources for export. In addition to setting renewable energy targets at 15 GW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2035, the government also established a new ministry and national renewable energy company to oversee and implement the plan and to implement regulatory reforms to promote investment in renewable energy projects.¹²
- To achieve its renewable energy targets, the government has sought to attract foreign investment in renewable energy projects and has made progress in recent years. For example, in March 2024, Turkish firm Özgün İnşaat began constructing the Hassi Delaa solar power plant in Laghouat, which will add about 362 megawatts (MW) of capacity when completed in late 2025 or early 2026. In September 2024, a consortium of China International Water & Electric Corporation and China Nuclear Industry Huaxing Construction began constructing five solar power projects with a combined capacity of 780 MW.¹³

Energy Trade

- According to the latest estimates by EIA and Global Trade Tracker, Algeria exported an average of 532,000 b/d of crude oil between 2015 and 2024. Crude oil exports declined about 196,000 b/d over the 10-year period as a result of Algeria's declining crude oil production. In 2024, Algeria exported about 402,000 b/d of crude oil and condensate; Europe received most of those exports by volume (295,000 b/d) for the year. Countries in Asia Pacific imported about 72,000 b/d of Algeria's crude oil and condensate. South Korea (33,000 b/d) and India (24,000 b/d) were the highest and second-highest regional importers from Algeria, respectively (Figure 8 and Figure 9).¹⁴

Figure 8. Algeria's total annual exports of crude oil and condensate, 2015–2024

thousand barrels per day

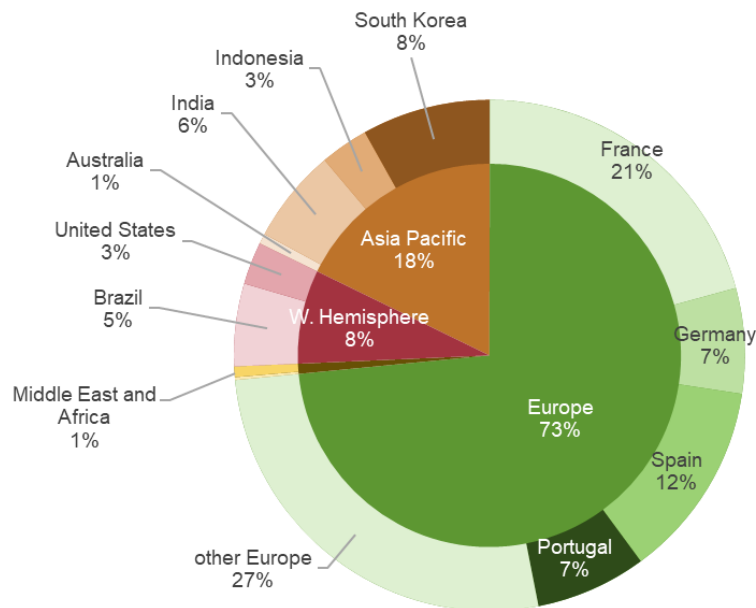


Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, International Energy Statistics database, Global Trade Tracker

Note: U.S. EIA estimates are from 2014 to 2018; subsequent annual estimates are from Global Trade Tracker.



Figure 9. Algeria's crude oil and condensate exports by destination, 2024



Data source: Global Trade Tracker

Note: Percentages may not add up due to rounding.



- Algeria trades petroleum products through its maritime ports, although its import volumes are relatively small compared with its export volumes. According to seaborne trade flow estimates by Vortexa, Algeria exported an average of 563,000 b/d of petroleum products between 2020 and 2024. Nearly all of Algeria's petroleum product exports over this period (96%) were fuel oil, liquefied petroleum gas, and naphtha. Algeria imported an average of about 32,000 b/d of

petroleum products during the same period, primarily bitumen and biodiesel (Figure 10 and Figure 11).¹⁵

Figure 10. Algeria's total annual petroleum product seaborne exports, 2020–2024

thousand barrels per day

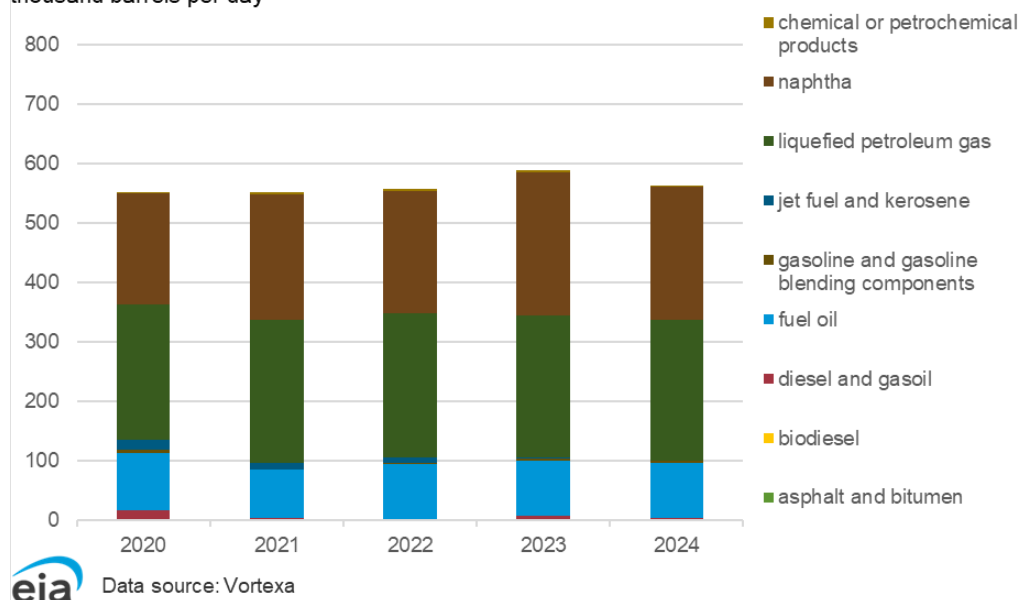
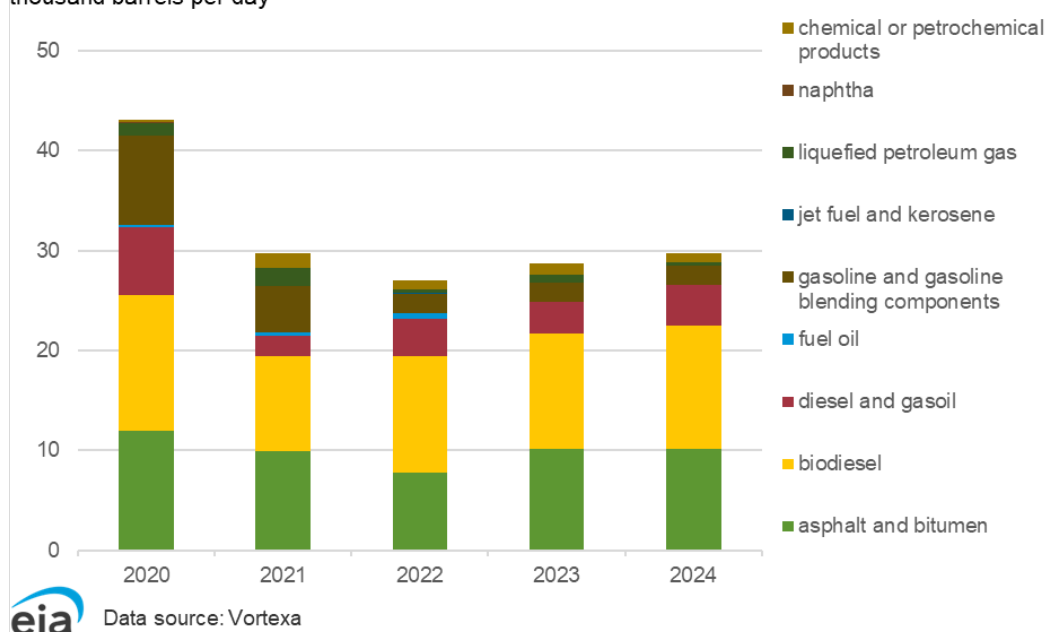


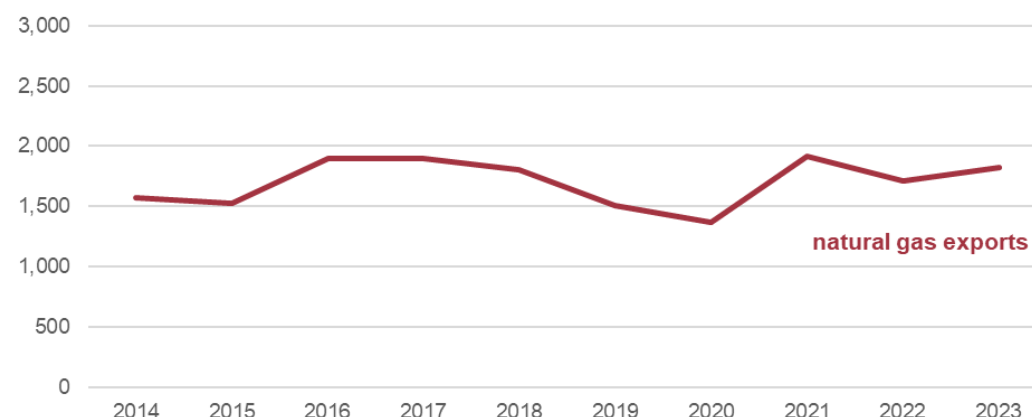
Figure 11. Algeria's total annual petroleum product seaborne imports, 2020–2024

thousand barrels per day



- Algeria exports natural gas that is not used for domestically. Algeria exported an average of about 1.7 Tcf of natural gas between 2014 and 2023 (Figure 12).¹⁶

Figure 12. Algeria's total annual natural gas exports, 2014–2023
billion cubic feet



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, International Energy Statistics database

- Algeria is among the top African liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporters and primarily exports its LNG to Europe. Algeria has two operational LNG terminals in Arzew and Skikda, which are owned and operated by Sonatrach. In February 2022, Sonatrach signed a contract with Sinopec to expand and upgrade the Skikda LNG terminal by increasing its storage capacity and modernizing its port facilities to accommodate larger vessels (Table 3).¹⁷

Table 3. Algeria's LNG terminals

Project Name	Location	Start date	Number of trains	Number of storage tanks	Storage capacity (million cubic feet)	Nominal liquefaction capacity (billion cubic feet per year)
Arzew GL1Z	Arzew	1978	6	3	11	379
Arzew GL2Z	Arzew	1981	6	3	11	394
Arzew GL3Z	Arzew	2014	1	2	11	226
Skikda GL1K	Skikda	2013	1	1	5	216
Total					38	1,215

Data source: GIIGNL 2024 Annual Report

- There are three major intercontinental pipelines currently operating in Algeria that export natural gas to Europe: the Enrico Mattei (Transmed) pipeline, the Medgaz pipeline, and the Maghreb-Europe (MEG) pipeline.¹⁸
- Two additional regional pipelines, the Gasdotto-Algeria Sardegna-Italia (GALSI) pipeline and the Trans-Saharan Gas pipeline (TSGP), have been proposed, but no final investment decision has been announced. In June 2022, the energy ministers from Niger, Nigeria, and Algeria signed a memorandum of understanding to set up a task force for the TSGP that aimed to update the existing feasibility study. If built, the TSGP could transport piped natural gas from Nigeria to

Algeria's Hassi R'Mel field, where natural gas could be transported to Europe via Algeria's intercontinental pipelines.¹⁹ Negotiations regarding the development of the GALSI pipeline project, which originally aimed to deliver natural gas to Italy, are in early stages (Table 4).²⁰

Table 4. Algeria's transcontinental natural gas pipelines

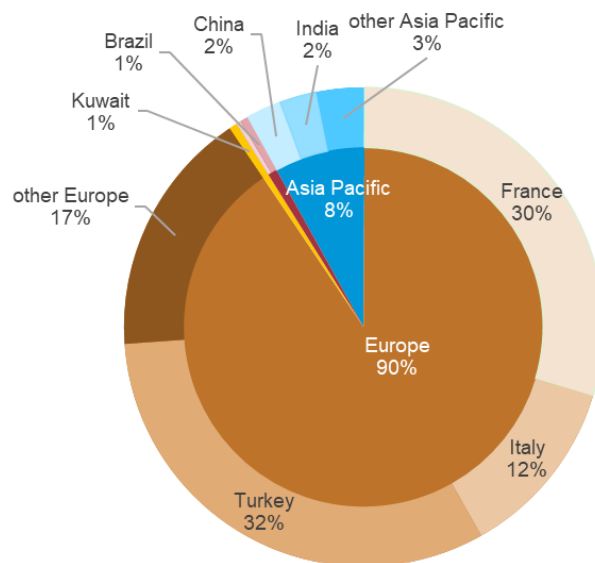
Pipeline name	Status	Ownership	Route	Start date	Length of pipeline (miles)	Pipeline capacity (billion cubic feet per year)
Enrico Mattei (TransMed) pipeline	operational	Sonatrach, Eni	Algeria to Italy via Tunisia	1983	1,547	1,183
Maghreb-Europe Gas pipeline (MEG)	operational ¹	Sonatrach, Naturgy, Enagas, Galp Energia	Algeria to Spain/Portugal via Morocco	1996	844	359
Medgaz pipeline	operational	Sonatrach, Naturgy, Blackrock	Algeria to Spain via the Mediterranean Sea	2011	473	378
Gasdot Algeria - Sardegna Italia (GALSI) pipeline	shelved	Sonatrach, Edison, Enel, Hera Group, Region of Sardinia	Algeria to Italy	unknown	538	283
Trans-Saharan Gas pipeline (TSGP)	proposed	Sonatrach, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, Niger Ministry of Petroleum, Energy, and Renewable Energies	Nigeria to Algeria via Niger	unknown	2,580	1,059

Data source: Hydrocarbons Technology, Global Energy Monitor, Medgaz company website

Note: Natural gas deliveries from Algeria to Morocco and Spain/Portugal via the MEG pipeline were suspended in October 2021. The pipeline resumed transportation of natural gas, but in the opposite direction, with Spain exporting natural gas to Morocco.

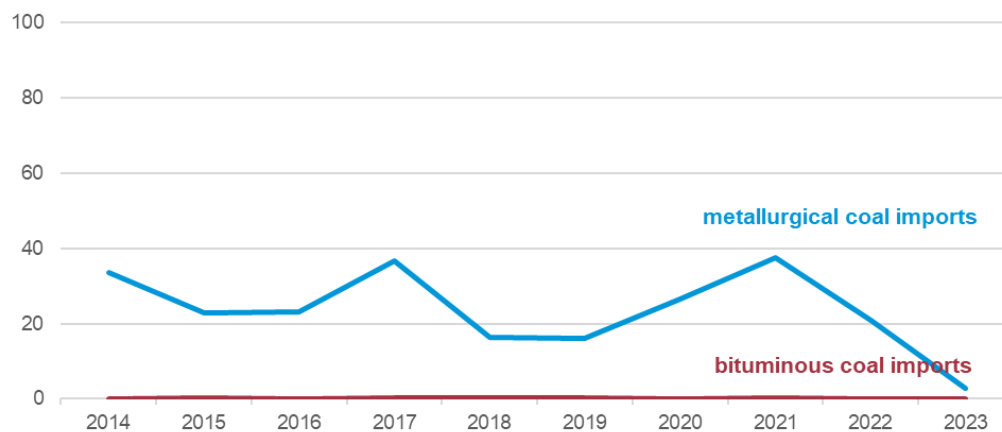
- According to the Energy Institute's 2024 *Statistical Review of World Energy*, Algeria exported about 1.9 Tcf of natural gas in 2023, most of which went to Europe. About 672 Bcf of natural gas was exported as LNG, and the remaining 1.2 Tcf was shipped via pipeline (Figure 13).²¹

Figure 13. Algeria's liquefied natural gas exports by destination, 2023



Data source: Energy Institute's 2024 Statistical Review of World Energy

- Algeria imports all the coal it consumes, nearly all of which was metallurgical coal. Algeria imports marginal amounts of bituminous coal (Figure 14).²²

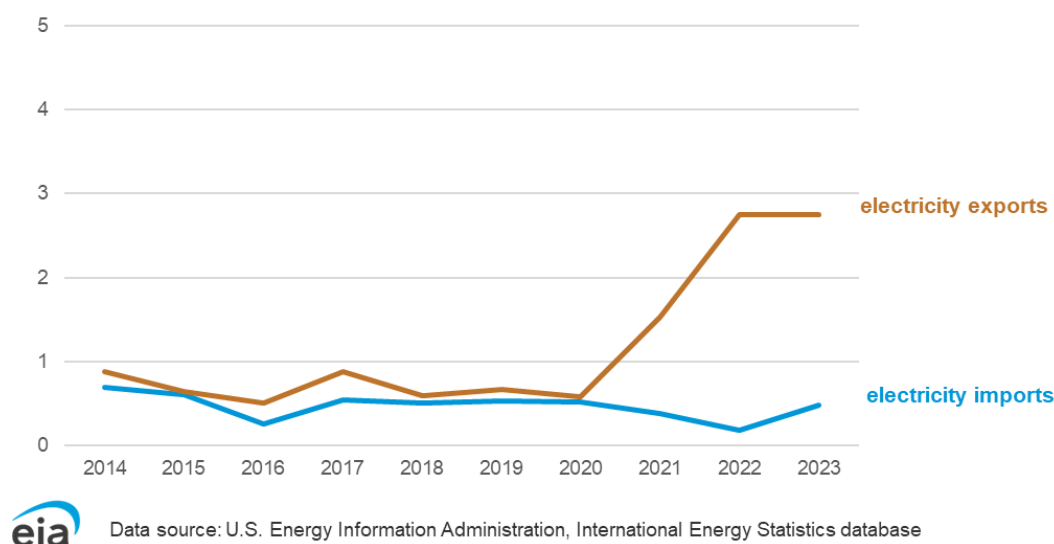
Figure 14. Algeria's total annual coal imports, 2014–2023
thousand short tons

Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, International Energy Statistics database

- Algeria participates in electricity trade as both an importer and exporter. Algeria imported an average of about 0.5 GWh and exported an average of about 1.2 GWh from 2014 to 2023. Algeria has enough electricity supply to meet its domestic consumption, given its substantial natural gas reserves and the predominant use of natural gas in power generation. Algeria's electricity exports are limited by its electric transmission capacity. Algeria has been exploring options to expand electricity trade, and in July 2024, state-owned Sonatrach and Sonelgaz

signed a memorandum of understanding with Eni to conduct a feasibility study for a submarine electricity interconnector that would enable Algeria to export electricity to Italy and other European markets (Figure 15).²³

Figure 15. Algeria's electricity imports and exports, 2014–2023
gigawatt-hours



¹ Sean Hill and Owen Comstock, “What is OPEC+ and how is it different from OPEC?” *Today in Energy*, U.S. Energy Information Administration, December 18, 2023. “Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, UAE, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Oman reaffirm commitment to market stability on current healthy oil market fundamentals and adjust production upwards,” press release, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, May 3, 2025.

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¹⁸ “Algeria will expand the capacity of the Medgaz pipeline to Spain by 1/3,” Enerdata, November 10, 2021. “TK-40 Extension,” Medgaz company website, accessed February 7, 2025. “Medgaz Gas Pipeline,” *Global Energy Monitor*,

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²² U.S. Energy Information Administration, [International Energy Statistics](#) database, accessed January 15, 2025.

²³ U.S. Energy Information Administration, [International Energy Statistics](#) database, accessed January 15, 2025.

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