

# Türkiye



**Most business executives (81%) in Türkiye are calling for a shift to renewable electricity by 2035 in a bid to increase the country's competitiveness and break its reliance on volatile fossil fuel imports.**

Almost all business executives polled (98%) want Türkiye to call time on the use of fossil fuels for electricity generation, with over half (55%) keen to see a renewables-based power system by 2030. This marks a dramatic departure from the current electricity mix, which relies heavily on coal (36.6%) and fossil gas (21.2%), with a small (but growing) portion (16%) from wind and solar.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the climate benefits of a rapid transition, phasing out fossil fuels in favour of renewables is viewed by senior executives as a means of improving energy security (60%) and avoiding stranded assets (63%). These anticipated outcomes derive from the ability that a renewables-based power system would give Türkiye to reduce its reliance on foreign energy imports. Almost all of Türkiye's gas is imported, for instance.<sup>2</sup> While imports of coal for electricity are

comparatively lower (20-30%),<sup>3</sup> a concerning majority (73%) of this non-domestic supply comes from Russia.<sup>4</sup> Reducing this external dependency helps explain why around three-fifths (61%) of business leaders are in favour of a direct transition to renewables in a post-coal era, thereby omitting any need for gas as an interim measure. Similarly, it informs why 89% of business leaders who want the government to prioritise new investment in renewables support phasing out coal from electricity generation by 2035.

Scaling up renewables-generated electricity would enhance Türkiye's economic competitiveness (61%) and economic growth (62%), according to most senior executives. Solar is a particularly notable example of untapped potential.<sup>5</sup> Türkiye is richly endowed with sunshine, yet solar's

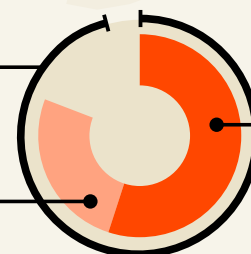
**Do you think your government should transition away from fossil fuels to a renewables-based electricity system?**

**NET: Yes**

**98%**

Yes, within  
10 years  
**26%**

Yes, within  
5 years  
**55%**



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iea.org/countries/turkiye/electricity>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.osw.waw.pl/en/publikacje/analyses/2024-10-01/strength-lng-gas-market-Turkiye#:~:text=Despite%20efforts%20to%20diversify%20its,in%20the%20European%20energy%20market.>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/Turkiye-track-become-europes-top-coal-burner-2024-2024-01-30/#:~:text=Turkiye's%20total%20coal%20imports%20held,and%20wind%20continues%20to%20climb.>

<sup>4</sup> <https://ember-energy.org/latest-insights/turkiye-electricity-review-2024/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/Turkiye-aims-quadruple-wind-solar-energy-capacity-by-2035-2024-10-21/>

current contribution to the grid (6%) is roughly half that of a country like Italy (11.6%) that has similar climatic conditions.<sup>6</sup> Even so, recent growth in solar and wind power helped Türkiye avoid US\$15 billion in gas imports between 2022 and 2024.<sup>7</sup> The prospect of more cheap, reliable renewables-based electricity would be of particular benefit to Türkiye's important and growing manufacturing base, which has been a big driver in the near-tripling of the country's electricity demand over the last 25 years.<sup>8</sup> Greater reliance on renewables would also improve the environmental credentials of manufactured products and other goods. This would help Turkish firms avoid surcharges when exporting to Europe under the soon-to-be-introduced European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), as well as open up new potential markets.<sup>9</sup>

## Electricity policy

For the almost three-quarters (74%) of company executives that expect the majority of their electricity to be derived from renewable sources by 2035, Türkiye's current policy for renewables' scale-up looks inadequate. At present, the government has committed to a target of renewables providing 47% of total electricity generation by 2030.<sup>10</sup> Not only is this low, but the transition pathway suggested in its last National Climate Plan will cause electricity-related emissions to keep increasing until

2038.<sup>11</sup> This trajectory contrasts strongly with the majority preference (98%) among those polled for a rapid phase-out of fossil fuels. A sizable minority (39%) point the finger at the strong lobbying influence of fossil fuel companies as a barrier to the country transitioning away from fossil fuels. Added to this is the belief expressed by two-fifths (40%) of business leaders that Türkiye's economic dependence on fossil fuels for jobs is delaying the country's transition. A revised transition plan that aligns with a renewables-based power system by 2035—as per the wish of most (81%) corporate executives—would help build confidence in Türkiye's economic resilience in a transition scenario.

## Business 'asks'

Despite positive signals in support of energy efficiency and reduced power-sector emissions, Türkiye has so far refrained from making a firm commitment on the phase-out of coal.<sup>12</sup> Doing so would bring government policy in line with the dominant view of business executives. As a G20 member and OECD participant, a stronger position on coal phase-out would also improve the country's international reputation. Türkiye's ranking as first in the list of Europe's largest users of coal-fired electricity in early 2024 undermines the country's climate credentials.<sup>13</sup> So too does the more-than-doubling (up 212%) of its coal-fired electricity generation since 2000.<sup>14</sup> The poor performance of Türkiye's aging coal-fired

6 <https://www.iea.org/countries/italy/electricity>

7 <https://ember-energy.org/latest-insights/turkiye-surpasses-2025-solar-target-as-capacity-doubles-in-2-5-years/#:~:text=If%20this%20electricity%20had%20been,set%20in%20the%20earlier%20NEP.>

8 <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1370805/Türkiye-final-electricity-consumption/>

9 The CBAM is expected to come into force in 2026. [https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/news/carbon-border-adjustment-mechanism-cbam#:~:text=The%20EU's%20Carbon%20Border%20Adjustment%20Mechanism%20\(CBAM\)%20is%20expected%20to,iron%20%2F%20steel](https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/news/carbon-border-adjustment-mechanism-cbam#:~:text=The%20EU's%20Carbon%20Border%20Adjustment%20Mechanism%20(CBAM)%20is%20expected%20to,iron%20%2F%20steel)

10 <https://ember-energy.org/data/2030-global-renewable-target-tracker/>

11 <https://web.archive.org/web/20221206043037/https://www.reuters.com/business/cop/turkey-boosts-greenhouse-gas-emission-reduction-target-2030-2022-11-15/>

12 Türkiye was a notable absentee from the signatories to the commitment at COP28 in 2023 to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030. <https://web.archive.org/web/20250416143436/https://yesilgazete.org/cop28-turkeys-refusal-to-sign-the-renewable-energy-commitment-is-related-to-its-insistence-on-coal/>

13 <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/turkey-track-become-europes-top-coal-burner-2024-01-30/#:~:text=Turkey's%20total%20coal%20imports%20held,and%20wind%20continues%20to%20climb.>

14 <https://bloombergcoalcountdown.com/countries/TR#>

power plants, coupled with the low energy potential of its domestic lignite reserves, add additional arguments for a clear exit commitment from the government.<sup>15</sup> A final factor is the cost of Europe's carbon tax, which could see Türkiye's coal-fired power plants incur a total loss of US\$45 billion over the course of their license period.<sup>16</sup> This would lead to hiked electricity prices not only for Turkish businesses, but also for everyday consumers and householders.

**Top benefits to your country  
for transitioning away from  
fossil fuels**  
(% who chose the following)



<sup>15</sup> <https://ember-energy.org/latest-insights/domestic-coal-is-far-from-providing-a-baseload-in-turkiye/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://sefia.org/en/publications/financing-the-coal-phase-out-the-case-of-turkiye/>