

## Record-breaking natural gas demand for power generation

- Deliveries of gas for the electricity sector yesterday reached the highest summer figure since 2010
- This record is mainly due to the effects of high temperatures, greater use of natural gas compared to coal, and low hydroelectricity production
- July demand grows by 45% compared to the same month last year owing to the sharp increase in demand for power generation
- Total demand for natural gas in Spain for the year to date grows by than 12.6%

**Madrid, 24 July 2019.** Yesterday, 23 July, demand for natural gas for power generation reached 578 GWh, the highest summer figure since 2010. This record was the result of the high temperatures recorded owing to the heat wave affecting Spain, resulting in greater use of air conditioning systems.

July demand in Spain has grown by 45% compared to the same month last year driven by a sharp increase in demand for power generation. This highlights the coordination existing between the electricity and gas systems to guarantee supply, in the context of energy transition, and the major role played by natural gas as a back-up resource for renewable energies at times of record demand.

The increase in demand for natural gas for power generation is the result of greater use of natural gas over coal to fill the energy gap, in a context of more competitive prices for natural gas, and of low hydroelectricity generation.

Demand for natural gas for the year to date has grown by 12.6% compared to the same period of 2018, mainly the consequence of gas consumption for power generation, which has grown by close to 84%. The increase in the use of gas in Spain is also influenced by the strong performance in industrial demand, which has been recording sustained growth of 3-4%.

The State Meteorological Agency forecasts a spike in temperatures for the rest of the week, meaning that these new records could well be broken.

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