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New solar panels in China and Africa



Overview

According to a new analysis of China's solar panel exports data from energy think tank Ember, solar panel imports into the continent jumped 60% in the 12 months through June 2025, setting a record that could reshape electricity systems in many countries. Does Africa Import solar panels from China?

This report presents Ember's analysis of Africa's imports of solar panels from China. The Chinese solar panel export data gives valuable insights because it includes imports up to June 2025, at a monthly granularity, and for every country in the world. The data can be found in Ember's China Solar Export Explorer.

How many solar panels did Africa Import in 2025?

Africa's solar panel imports set a new record in the 12 months to June 2025, reaching 15,032 MW — a 60% increase on the 9,379 MW imported in the preceding 12 months. The last time imports surged was in 2023, when South Africa solar imports picked up as the power crisis hit its peak.

Are solar panels taking off in Africa?

The first evidence of a take-off in solar in Africa is now here: The last 12 months saw a big rise in Africa's solar panel imports. Imports from China rose 60% in the last 12 months to 15,032 MW. Over the last two years, the imports of solar panels outside of South Africa have nearly tripled from 3,734 MW to 11,248 MW.

Are solar panels going up in South Africa?

In the last two years, the imports of solar panels have tripled outside of South Africa. They rose from 3,734 MW in the 12 months to June 2023, to 11,248 MW in the 12 months to June 2025. The increase in imports is more than a single month spike. Monthly imports jumped to a record in December 2024, but have consistently elevated since.

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Africa holds vast solar potential, with 60% of the world's best solar resources, yet solar PV currently accounts for only 3% of the continent's electricity ...

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An international agency reports that the installation of renewable energy worldwide hit a record high last year, with 92.5% of all ...

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Africa's solar market is also stirring. The continent imported 60% more solar panels from China over the past year, though a lack of ...

Discover how Africa is transforming its energy landscape by harnessing solar power. Despite challenges, the continent's growing ...

Zimbabwean economist Brains Muchemwa said Africa has benefited immensely from China's booming green energy industry through the supply of affordable green energy ...

Africa's energy story is beginning to shift. For decades, the continent has struggled with unreliable grids, fuel shortages, and costly imports. But in May this year, a quiet revolution ...

Solar panel imports into Africa rose by a record 60 per cent in the 12 months to June 2025 according to a new analysis of China's solar panel exports, indicating a steady ...

On the streets of Kampala, Uganda's capital, the contours of Africa's shifting energy market are clear: stacks of Chinese-made solar panels line electronics shops - a scene

the ...

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The number of solar modules shipped from China to Africa increased by 60% in the 12 months to June 2025, according to new analysis from Ember. The think tank recorded ...

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Yingli Solar is one of the earliest companies in China to commit to the photovoltaic industry. It is an integrated photovoltaic smart ...

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This new momentum provides an excellent starting point for China to better align its overseas investment portfolio with Africa's growing renewable energy needs. The Chinese ...

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