

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

What environmental challenges does the US face? What are the country's major energy sources?

2020 was the second-warmest year on record. →

Last year, there were 22 natural disasters that cost over \$1 billion each, six more than any year recorded. →

2020 was the second-worst year for wildfires on recent record, with over 10 million acres burned. →

US energy production fell by 5% in 2020. →

Energy consumption per person fell 7.6% in 2020, the greatest decrease in recorded data. →

Fossil fuels account for 79% of US energy consumption. The share of energy consumption from nuclear and renewable sources has doubled since 1980 to 21% in 2020. →

In 2019, the US became a net exporter of energy for the first time since 1952. →

The US emits fewer greenhouse gases per person than in 1990, but still emits 20 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per person. →

Energy-related carbon dioxide emissions were 11% lower in 2020 than 2019, partly due to pandemic travel restrictions. →

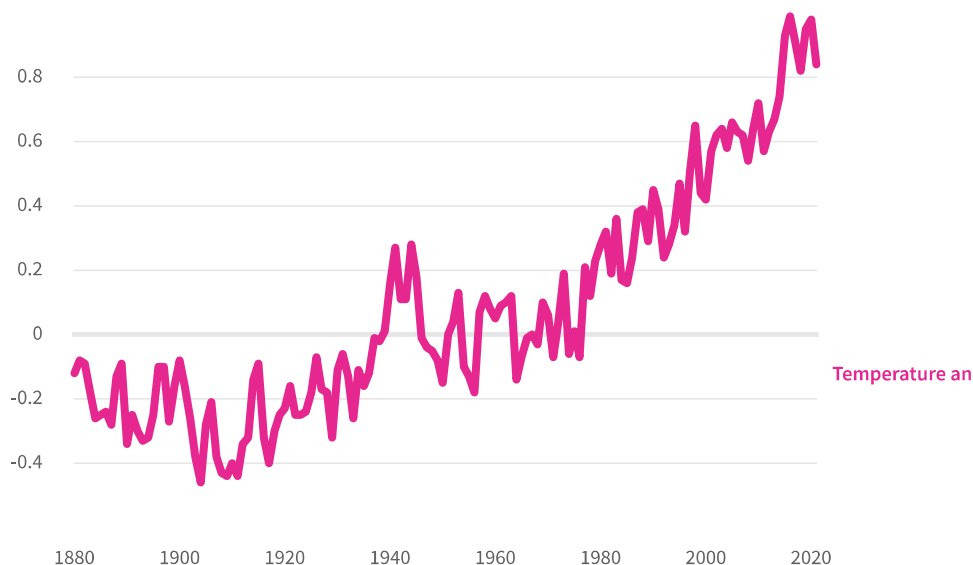
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2020 was the second-warmest year on record.

In 2020, the average global temperature was 0.98 °C (1.76 °F) above the 20th century average. It was also 0.02 °C (0.04 °F) below 2016, the warmest year on record.

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GLOBAL TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE FROM 20TH CENTURY AVERAGE (°C)



Source: [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#).

Footnotes: The global temperature anomaly measures the differ... [see more](#) ▾

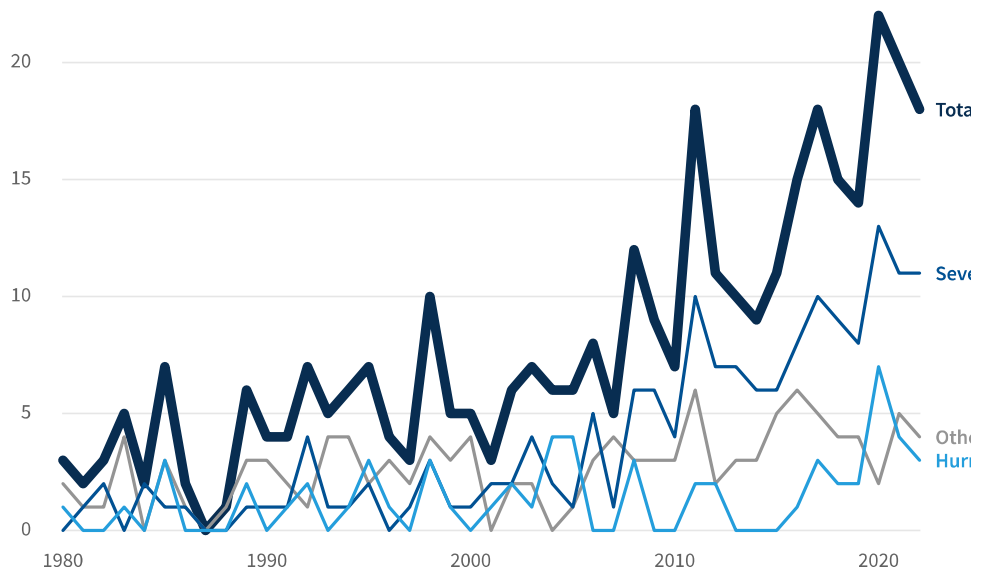
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Last year, there were 22 natural disasters that cost over \$1 billion each, six more than any year recorded.

The 2010s averaged twelve such disasters per year and the 2000s averaged six such disasters per year.

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BILLION DOLLAR DISASTERS

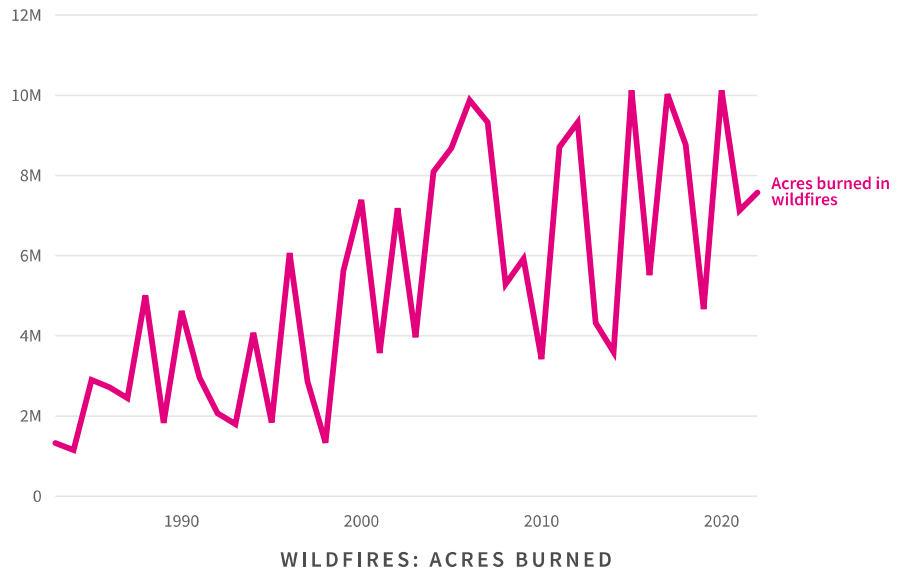


Source: [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#).

Footnotes: One billion dollar disasters were determined by in... [see more](#) ▾

2020 was the second-worst year for wildfires on recent record, with over 10 million acres burned.

Wildfires burned an average of 7 million acres per year in the 2010s, more than twice the annual average in the 1990s. Final data on 2020 wildfires will be released in March 2021.



Sources: **National Interagency Fire Center.** [see more](#)

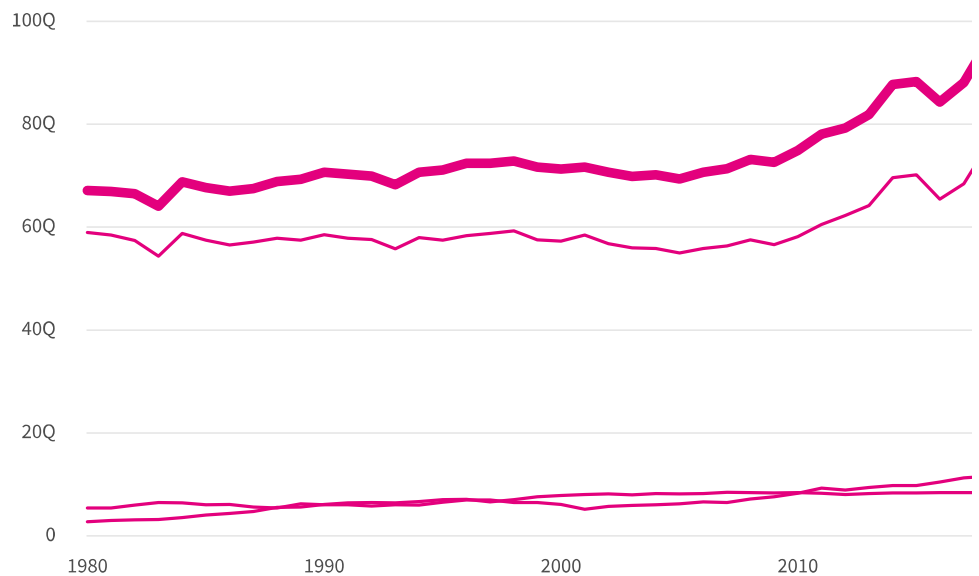
Footnotes: Prior to 1983, sources of these figures are not kn... [see more](#)

US energy production fell by 5% in 2020.

Coal production fell by 24%, whereas solar and wind energy grew 22% and 14%, respectively. Overall, fossil fuel production was up 32% in 2020 compared to 1980, largely due to a 74% increase in natural gas production. Nuclear energy production increased 201% since 1980 and renewable production increased 116%. Combined, renewable and nuclear energy comprised 21% of energy production in 2020.



ENERGY PRODUCTION (BTU)



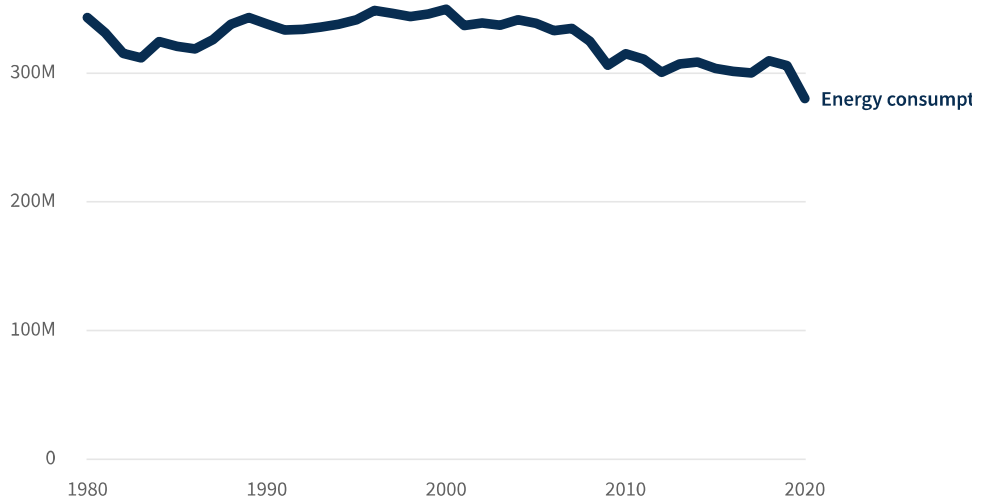
Source: [Energy Information Administration.](#)

Energy consumption per person fell 7.6% in 2020, the greatest decrease in recorded data.

Energy consumption related to transportation fell 15%, whereas consumption related to the commercial sector fell 7%.



ENERGY CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA (BTU)

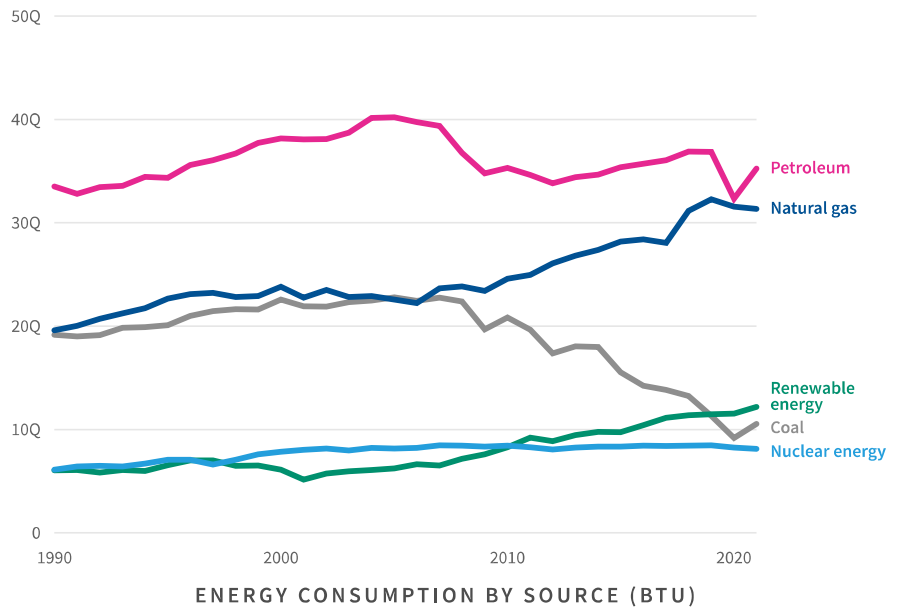


Source: Energy Information Administration.

Footnotes: As of February 2022, the full data set for 2021 ha... [see more](#) ▾

Fossil fuels account for 79% of US energy consumption. The share of energy consumption from nuclear and renewable sources has doubled since 1980 to 21% in 2020.

Coal provides a decreasing share of US energy. Natural gas, which produces half as much carbon dioxide per unit of energy as coal, is a growing fossil fuel energy source.

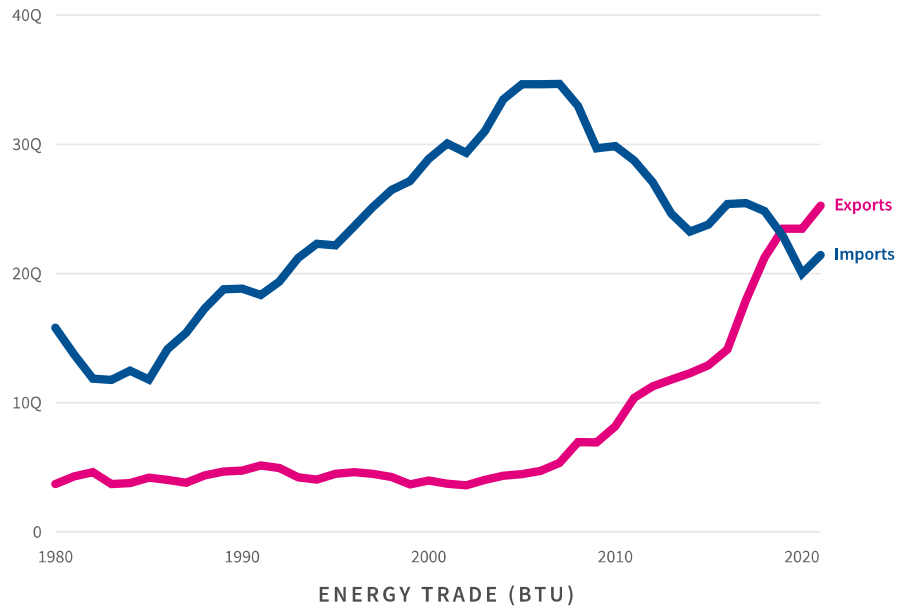


Sources: Energy Information Administration. [see more](#) ▾

In 2019, the US became a net exporter of energy for the first time since 1952.

Imported energy fell 42% from the high in 2006, while exports increased 396% over the same period.

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Sources: **Energy Information Administration.** [see more](#) ↓

The US emits fewer greenhouse gases per person than in 1990, but still emits 20 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per person.

Carbon dioxide is the largest source of US greenhouse gas, comprising 80% of 2019 emissions, followed by methane at 10%. In 2018, the US made up 15% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions and emitted more metric tons of carbon dioxide (5.3 billion metric tons) than any country other than China (10.8 billion metric tons).

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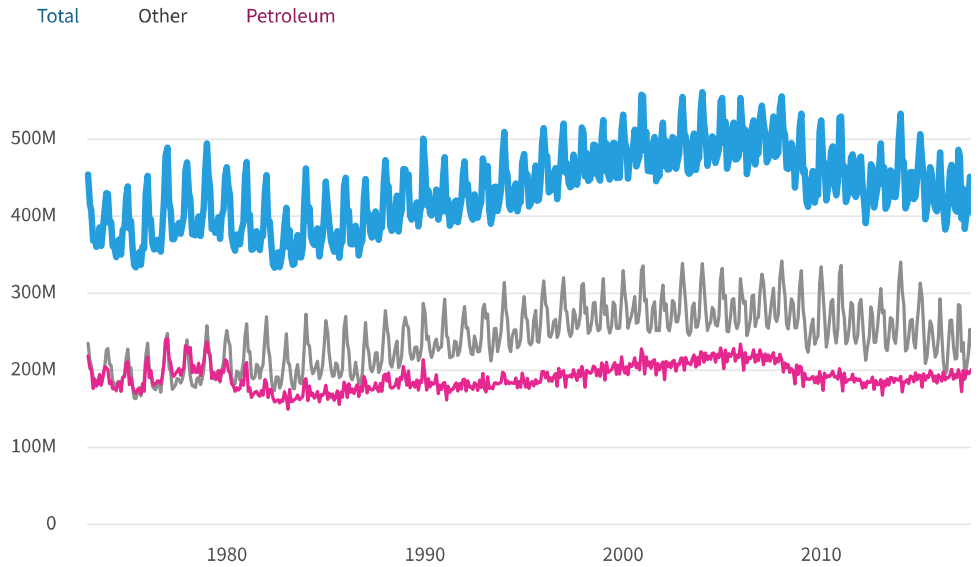
Energy-related carbon dioxide emissions were 11% lower in 2020 than 2019, partly due to pandemic travel restrictions.

A 13% drop in motor gasoline emissions and a 38% drop in jet fuel emissions was responsible for nearly half of CO2 reduction. For more on the environment, see [the State of the Earth](#).



Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Energy Consumption by Source (Metric Tons)

SELECT A LINE



Source: [Energy Information Administration](#).



USA FACTS

Our nation, in numbers

Government data from over 70 sources organized to show how the money flows, the impact, and who "the people" are.



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