

Forsa survey 2019

“Majority of Germans expect higher gas demand”*

An analysis of public opinion regarding natural gas-based energy supply and natural gas production in Germany

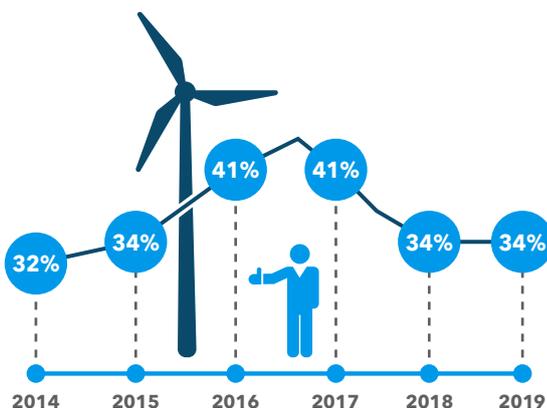
On behalf of “Zukunft Erdgas”, forsa Politik- und Sozialforschung GmbH has examined how male and female citizens in Germany perceive the possibility of a successful energy transition. The survey looked at people’s priorities regarding the supply of energy, as well as which preferences they have for different alternative energy sources. Also, the attitude of the population towards natural gas production and the importance of gaseous energy sources in the future was analysed.

German citizens slightly more skeptical about success of energy transition

34% of the German population believes that the energy transition, the way it is currently planned, can succeed without any problems. Significantly more respondents (63%), however, fear that supply shortages, disturbances and black-outs, may be possible throughout the transition.

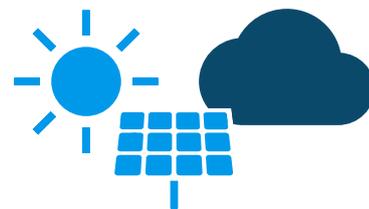
Supporters of The Greens, the SPD and the left-wing party were more likely to believe in the unobstructed success of the energy transition.

Opinions regarding the success of the energy transition in the last few years



Percentage distribution of the opinion “Yes, the energy transition will succeed as planned.”

Will the energy transition be successful?



34%

YES, the energy transition will succeed as planned

63%

NO, there might be shortages, disturbances and black-outs

Note

The difference between the percentage sum (97%) and 100% is due to the possibility of answering “I do not know” in regard to this particular question.

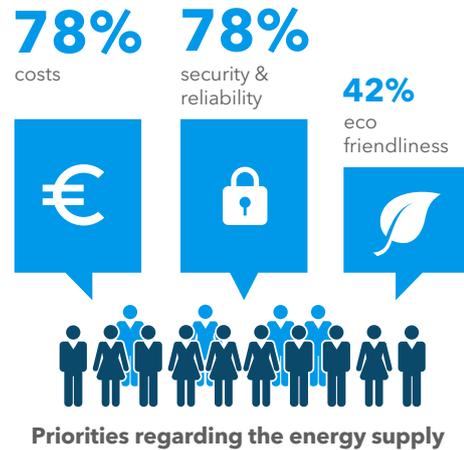
Between spring 2016 and 2017 the share of those who believed in the unobstructed success of the energy transition has slightly risen in comparison to the previous years of 2014 and 2015. Of course, this share might have declined to some extent due to the growing number of trouble spots in the world, which may have unsettled many people.

*forsa Politik- und Sozialforschung GmbH surveyed a total of 1,007 male and female citizens from the age of 14. The survey was conducted between 9 and 11 December, using the online panel forsa.omninet. The findings are presented in the subsequent report. The survey results can be applied to the online population from the age of 14 in Germany as a whole with the potential error tolerance applicable for all random samplings (in this case: +/- 3 percentage points).

Security of supply and affordability still hold the highest priority

As seen in the results of previous surveys the affordability of power and energy is of high importance for the German citizens (78%). A secure and reliable energy supply at all times is also a most important aspect of the supply to the same number of interviewees (78%).

However, still only a minority of the citizens (42%) regard ecologically beneficial energy production as a most important factor. Primarily supporters of the left-wing party and The Greens think of eco friendliness as a crucial aspect.

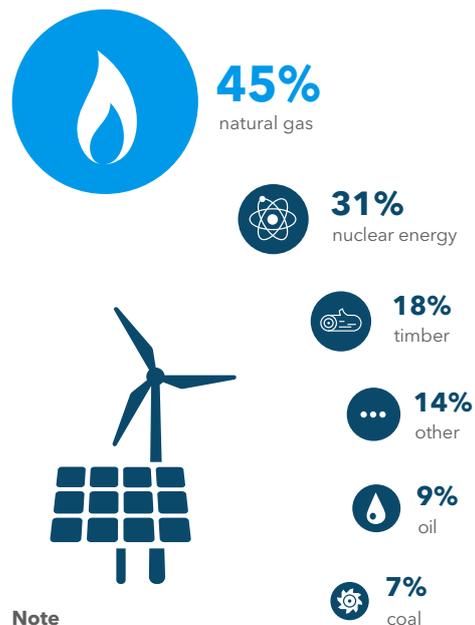


Natural gas as the preferred partner of renewable energy

In order to secure energy supply for households and companies, 45% of the German citizens share the opinion that natural gas should be used next to the renewables. 31% say that, judging from environmental, climate and cost aspects as well as security of supply aspects, nuclear energy would be the best complementation to renewable energy sources. 18% of the respondents prefer timber, 9% favour oil and 7% would like to see coal as the strongest partner of the renewables.

The decline in entries of most of the energy sources could be due to the problem of the attainment of the climate targets, which was also discussed in the coalition negotiations. Furthermore, the growing number of trouble spots across the world could contribute to this decline.

Preferences for conventional sources of energy supply



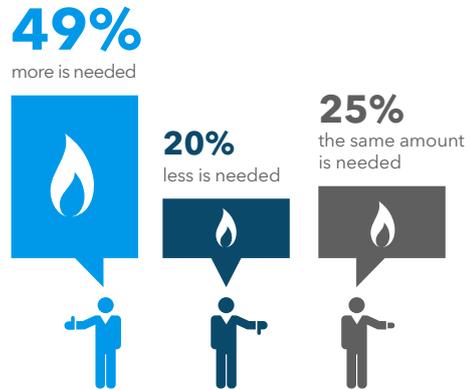
Note
The total percentage sum is higher than 100% because multiple answers were possible.

In 2019, citizens of the German Federal Republic still believe more natural gas is necessary to ensure energy supply

As seen in the results of previous surveys, about half of the German citizens (49%) at the end of 2019 believed that in the future more natural gas than today will be needed to secure energy supply within Germany.

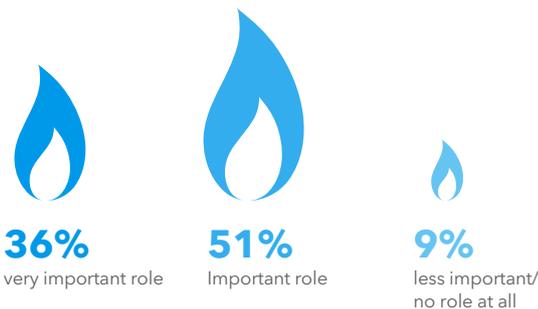
Only a respective minority believes that less natural gas (20%) or approximately the same amount as today will be needed (25%).

Opinions regarding the demand for natural gas



Note
The difference between the percentage sum (94%) and 100% is due to the possibility of answering "I do not know" in regard to this particular question.

Opinions regarding the future importance of gaseous energy sources



Note
The difference between the percentage sum (96%) and 100% is due to the possibility of answering "I do not know" in regard to this particular question.

The prevailing majority of German citizens surveyed believe that gaseous energy sources such as natural gas and, in the future, CO₂-neutral or CO₂-free gases such as hydrogen will play an important (51%) or even very important (36%) role in a secure and ecologically beneficial energy supply.

Only a minority (9%) believes that gaseous energy sources will play a less important role, if at all.