INTRODUCTION

The *Electricity Profiles 2014* provides detailed information on production, trade and consumption of electricity, on net installed capacity and thermal power plant inputs and efficiency for 228 countries and areas on an internationally comparable basis, for the years 2009-2014. It is published by the United Nations Statistics Division with the aim of providing an overall picture of the electricity sector of such countries and areas.

This is the third issue of *Electricity Profiles* as a stand-alone publication, whereas until the 2011 edition it was part of the series *Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles*. The series was split in two and in addition to the *Electricity Profiles* a sister publication, the *Energy Balances*, is released.

This split followed the incorporation of the standards brought about by the *International Recommendations for Energy Statistics*[1] (IRES). IRES, in its draft form, was endorsed in 2011 by the United Nations Statistical Commission. Previously, energy statistics published by the Statistics Division followed the format described in detail in the technical report entitled *Concepts and Methods in Energy Statistics, with Special Reference to Energy Accounts and Balances*[2] and also discussed in the publication *Energy Statistics: A Manual for Developing Countries*.[3]

Electricity production and electric installed capacity are disaggregated by source, as coming from Combustible fuels, Hydro, Nuclear and Other sources; and by type of producer, whether from main activity producers or autoproducers. The latter is given implicitly as the difference between Total production/capacity and Main activity production/capacity.

Thermal power plant inputs are listed by energy product, together with the total output, which are used together to calculate the overall efficiency of electricity production from combustible fuels (displayed at the bottom). Up to ten main products (by input contribution in the latest year available) are displayed and then listed alphabetically, with the remaining ones, if any, aggregated in the category Others.

More detailed disaggregation of electricity capacity and production is published in the *Energy Statistics Yearbook,* where wind and solar are identified separately as electricity sources rather than in the category Other.

The information contained in this publication is also available in electronic format.[4] Requests for information should be directed to United Nations Publications at: order@un.org.

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Enquiries, comments and suggestions for improving this publication are welcome and should be addressed to: energy_stat@un.org.

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[1] Available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/ires
[2] Statistical Papers, Series F, No. 29 (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.82.XVII.13).
[3] Statistical Papers, Series F, No. 56 (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.91.XVII.10).
[4] For details, see http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/EProfiles