North Korea Energy Internet



Overview

In North Korea, how much electricity is generated per person? Electricity is often the most ''visible'' form of energy that we rely on day-to-day; it keeps our lights, TVs, computers and internet running.

Key Takeaways

North Korea has limited and unreliable electricity access for most citizens, and Internet use is tightly controlled, with most people restricted to a domestic network called Kwangmyong.

Energy Situation

Electricity access in North Korea is highly constrained, with only about 52–57% of the population having access as of recent years, and many households receiving power for as few as two hours per day. The country operates roughly 31 power plants with a total installed capacity of around 9. 2 gigawatts, but this falls far short of actual demand.

The energy mix is dominated by hydroelectric power, which accounts for approximately 76% of electricity generation, while coal and petroleum make up the remaining 24%. Seasonal fluctuations in hydropower output often exacerbate shortages, particularly during dry periods. Many households supplement grid electricity with small standalone solar panels, with estimates suggesting that by 2019, around 55% of households used solar energy.

North Korea also imports crude oil from China, refined domestically at facilities like the Ponghwa Chemical Factory.

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Internet Access

Internet access in North Korea is extremely restricted. The majority of citizens cannot access the global Internet; instead, they use a domestic intranet called Kwangmyong, which provides email, news, and educational resources within the country. Global Internet access is limited to government officials, select institutions, and foreigners, and is primarily routed through China Unicom or satellite links.

The main Internet service provider, Star Joint Venture Co., manages North Korea's IP address allocation and infrastructure. Some foreigners can access the Internet via 3G networks provided by Koryolink, but ordinary citizens require special authorization. Despite these restrictions, the IT sector is gradually growing, and some broadband infrastructure, including fiber optic links between major institutions, exists.

Interaction Between Energy and Internet

The limited and unreliable electricity supply directly affects Internet access and digital infrastructure. Frequent power outages and rationing mean that even institutions with Internet connectivity may experience interruptions. The reliance on hydropower and seasonal variability further constrains consistent online access, reinforcing the government's control over digital communication.

Summary

North Korea's energy and Internet landscape is characterized by scarce electricity, heavy reliance on hydropower, and tightly controlled digital access. While some households use solar panels to supplement power, most citizens experience limited electricity and are confined to the domestic Kwangmyong network, with global Internet access reserved for a small, authorized population.

Article Content

North Korea

In North Korea, how much electricity is generated per person? Electricity is often the most ''visible'' form of energy that we rely on day-to-day; it keeps our lights, TVs, computers and internet running.

Energy in North Korea

Energy in North Korea describes energy and electricity production, consumption and import in North Korea. Primary energy use in North Korea was 224 TWh and 9 TWh per million people in 2009. The country''s primary sources of power are hydro and coal after Kim Jong Il implemented plans that saw the construction of large hydroelectric power stations ac

Does North Korea Have Electricity? What Satellites Show

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Satellite images show North Korea''s lights at night — and what they reveal about electricity access, rationing, and daily life across the country.

North Korea''s Energy Sector

This report, “North Korea''s Energy Sector,” is a compilation of articles published on 38 North in 2023 that surveyed North Korea''s energy production facilities and infrastructure.

North Korea internet hit by a major outage

North Korea''s internet is experiencing a major outage on Saturday affecting all routes coming in and while the cause is yet unclear it may be internal rather than a cyber attack, said a U.K ...

The Bizarre Reality of Getting Online in North Korea | WIRED

For 25 million North Koreans, the internet is an impossibility. Only a few thousand privileged members of the hermit kingdom''s society can access the global internet, while even the

North Korea''s Energy Sector: Defining the Landscape

In this new series, 38 North will look at the current state of North Korea''s energy sector, including the country''s major hydro and fossil fuel power stations, the state''s push for local-scale

New report shows how digitally disconnected North Korea is from the ...

North Korea remains unconnected to the digital world. The latest Digital 2024 Global Reports showed that only fewer than 10,000 people in North Korea have access to the Internet. This

The Internet in North Korea: How Wi-Fi and Cyber Censorship Shape ...

Explore the internet in North Korea, where Wi-Fi is tightly controlled. Discover how censorship, propaganda, and cyberwarfare shape life under Kim Jong Un''s dictatorship.

A Closer Look at North Korea''s Internet

Web A Closer Look at North Korea''s Internet We studied internet traffic going in and out of North Korea and found DDoS attacks and recurring watering hole attacks against North Korean

Internet Access in North Korea. How North Korea''s

North Korea''s Kwangmyong intranet hosts up to 5,500 internal sites, isolated from the global Internet, which remains accessible only to a select elite.

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A look at North Korea''s limited Internet capabilities

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — An hours-long Internet outage Tuesday in one of the world''s least-wired countries was probably more inconvenient to foreigners than to North Korean residents, most of

The Hermit Kingdom Goes Online ... Information Technology, Internet

Introduction In popular perception North Korea is one of the most closed societies in the world and linking North Korea to information technology and the Internet seems to be contradictory. However,

North Korea: On the net in world''s most secretive nation

Navigating around the internet in North Korea is a unique experience - but a growing thirst for information could begin to open up the secretive nation.

Internet in North Korea

Yes, it is possible to get on the internet in North Korea and post that photo to IG, tag yourself in Pyongyang on Facebook or just send your family a

(PDF) North Korea''s Energy Sector

North Korea suffers from chronic energy shortages. Rolling blackouts are common, even in the nation''s capital, while some of the poorest citizens receive state

North Korea ''wiped off the internet'' for nine hours after mysterious ...

North Korea''s connection to the internet was severed for nearly nine hours Saturday morning, cutting the country off from the wider web, delaying official party news and disconnecting

How the Internet Works in North Korea

In North Korea, the internet operates quite differently than in most parts of the world. The so-called "Kwangmyong," meaning "bright," is a heavily controlled internet network used within the country.

Related Video Reference

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Additional source notes

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