

# The NUMBERS on...U.S. SOLAR POWER

► Despite the Great Recession of 2009, the U.S. solar energy industry has continued to grow—both in new installations and employment. Total U.S. solar electric capacity climbed past 2,000 MW in 2009, enough to serve more than 350,000 homes.

► The United States came in fourth in solar capacity installed in 2009—behind Germany, Italy and Japan. The U.S. installed 481 MW and had cumulative capacity of 2108 MW at the end of the year.

► Solar industry revenues also surged despite the economy, climbing 36 percent in 2009.

► Another sign of continued optimism in solar energy: venture capitalists invested more in solar technologies than any other clean technology in 2009. In total, \$1.4 billion in venture capital flowed to solar companies in 2009.

► Solar provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) got off to a slow start but continue to ease the pressures of the credit crisis. As of early February 2010, more than 46 MW of solar capacity has been deployed with the help of grants in lieu of the investment tax credit.

► The solar energy industry is putting Americans back to work. While the recession has taken its toll on the solar industry, the many provisions of ARRA, have helped the industry maintain modest growth. Overall employment in the solar industry increased by 10,000 people from 2008 to 2009, to reach 46,000.

Source: Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)  
[www.seia.org](http://www.seia.org)



Photo: The largest PV installation in the U.S., the 14 MW solar power system at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.