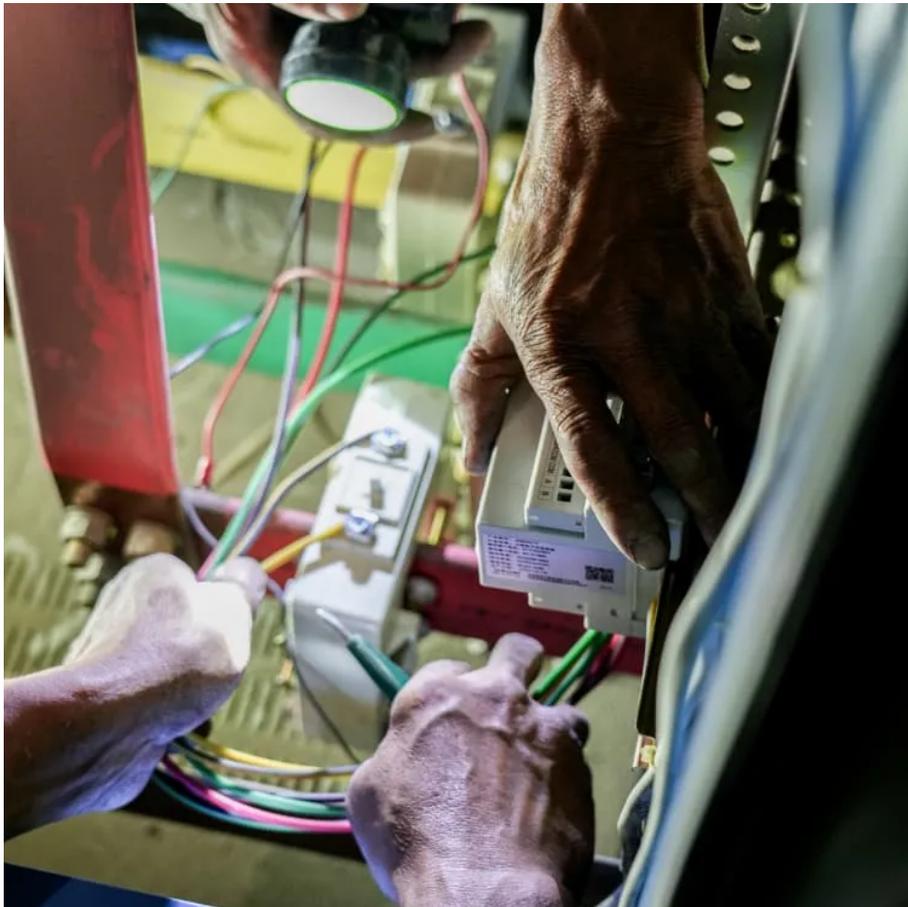


North Africa PV module exports





Overview

Does Africa Import solar panels from China?

This report presents Ember's analysis of Africa's imports of solar panels from China. The Chinese solar panel export data gives valuable insights because it includes imports up to June 2025, at a monthly granularity, and for every country in the world. The data can be found in Ember's China Solar Export Explorer.

Do African countries need a manufacturing base for solar PV?

The production of solar PV cells, modules, and other components requires advanced manufacturing processes, skilled labor, and well-developed infrastructure. Unfortunately, many African countries lack the necessary industrial base to support solar PV manufacturing.

How many solar panels are imported outside of South Africa?

Over the last two years, the imports of solar panels outside of South Africa have nearly tripled from 3,734 MW to 11,248 MW. The rise happened across Africa. 20 countries set a new record for the imports of solar panels in the 12 months to June 2025. 25 countries imported at least 100 MW, up from 15 countries 12 months before.

Does Africa have a solar PV market?

Silicon, a key input for the production of c-Si solar PV cells, is also found in Africa, albeit in smaller quantities compared to global leaders like China. Nonetheless, Africa's mineral wealth represents a significant opportunity for the continent to leverage its natural resources to become a player in the global solar PV market.



North Africa PV module exports



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How can Africa leverage its natural resource endowments, trade, and latent productive capabilities for solar PV manufacturing, and what are the opportunities for regional integration and strategy?

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