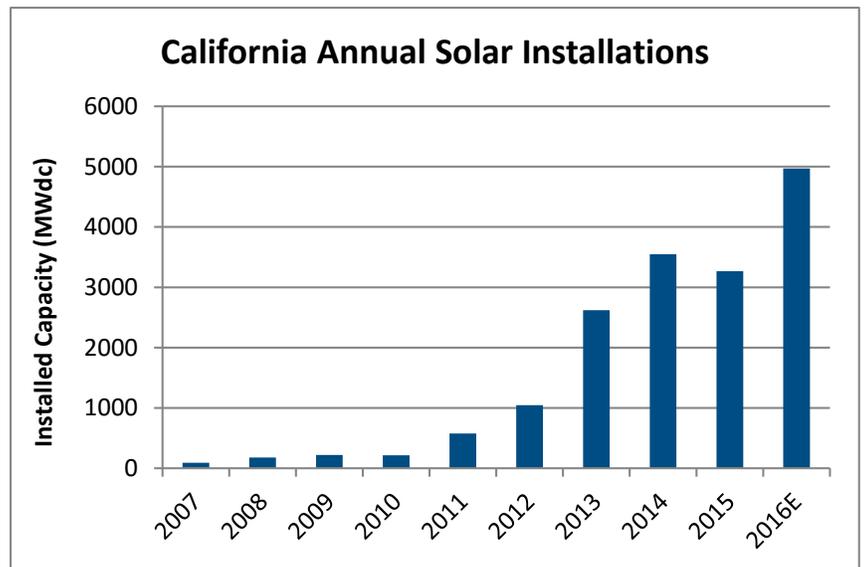


# Solar Spotlight: California

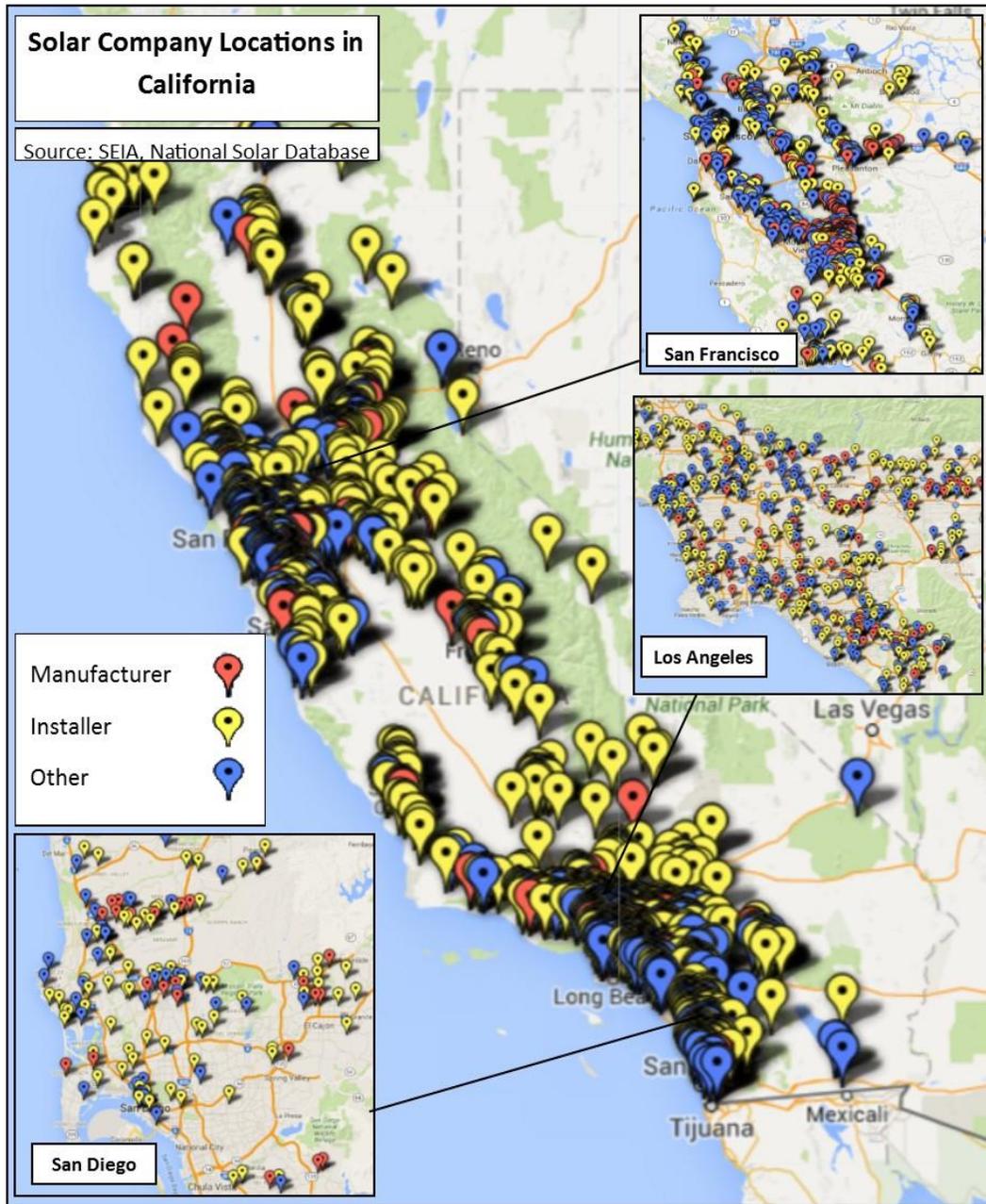
## At a glance

- There are currently more than **2,387 solar companies**<sup>1</sup> at work throughout the value chain in California, **employing 75,598 people**<sup>2</sup>. These companies provide a wide variety of solar products and services ranging from solar system installations to the manufacturing of components used in photovoltaic (PV) panels. These companies can be broken down across the following categories: 392 manufacturers, 85 manufacturing facilities, 1043 contractor/installers, 148 project developers, 149 distributors and 655 engaged in other solar activities including financing, engineering and legal support.
- In 2015, California **installed 3,266 MW of solar electric capacity**, ranking it first nationally.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2015, **\$7.268 billion** was invested on solar installations in California.
- The **15,049 MW of solar energy currently installed** in California ranks the state first in the country in installed solar capacity. Of this capacity, **3,268 MW** are residential, **2,326 MW** are commercial, **8,199 MW** are utility-scale and **1,256 MW** are from concentrating solar power. There is enough solar energy installed in the state to power 3,772,000 homes.
- Over the next 5 years, California is expected to install **20,487 MW** of solar electric capacity, ranking the state first over that time span. This amount is **more than 2 times the amount of solar installed over the last 5 years**.
- Installed solar PV system **prices in the U.S. have dropped steadily**- by 12% from last year and 66% from 2010.



## Notable Projects

- **Solar Star** was completed in 2015 by developer **SunPower**. This photovoltaic project has the capacity to generate **579 MW** of electricity-- enough to **power over 160,000 California homes**.<sup>4</sup>
- At **250 MW**, **Mojave Solar** is among the largest solar installations in California. Completed in 2016 by **Abengoa**, this concentrating solar power project has enough electric capacity to **power more than 61,000 homes**.<sup>5</sup>
- Several large retailers in California have gone solar, including **Campbell's Soup**, **Johnson & Johnson**, **Google** and **Toyota**. **Intel** has installed one of the largest corporate photovoltaic systems in the state with **6,454 kW** of solar capacity at their location in Folsom.<sup>6</sup>



<sup>1</sup> SEIA, National Solar Database, [www.seia.org/research-resources/national-solar-database](http://www.seia.org/research-resources/national-solar-database)

<sup>2</sup> The Solar Foundation, 2015 National and State Solar Jobs Census, [www.thesolarfoundation.org/solar-jobs-census/](http://www.thesolarfoundation.org/solar-jobs-census/)

<sup>3</sup> This and all other data in this section from SEIA/GTM Research *U.S. Solar Market Insight*

<sup>4</sup> SEIA, Major Solar Projects List, [www.seia.org/research-resources/major-solar-projects-list](http://www.seia.org/research-resources/major-solar-projects-list)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> SEIA, Solar Means Business, [www.seia.org/research-resources/solar-means-business-report](http://www.seia.org/research-resources/solar-means-business-report)

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