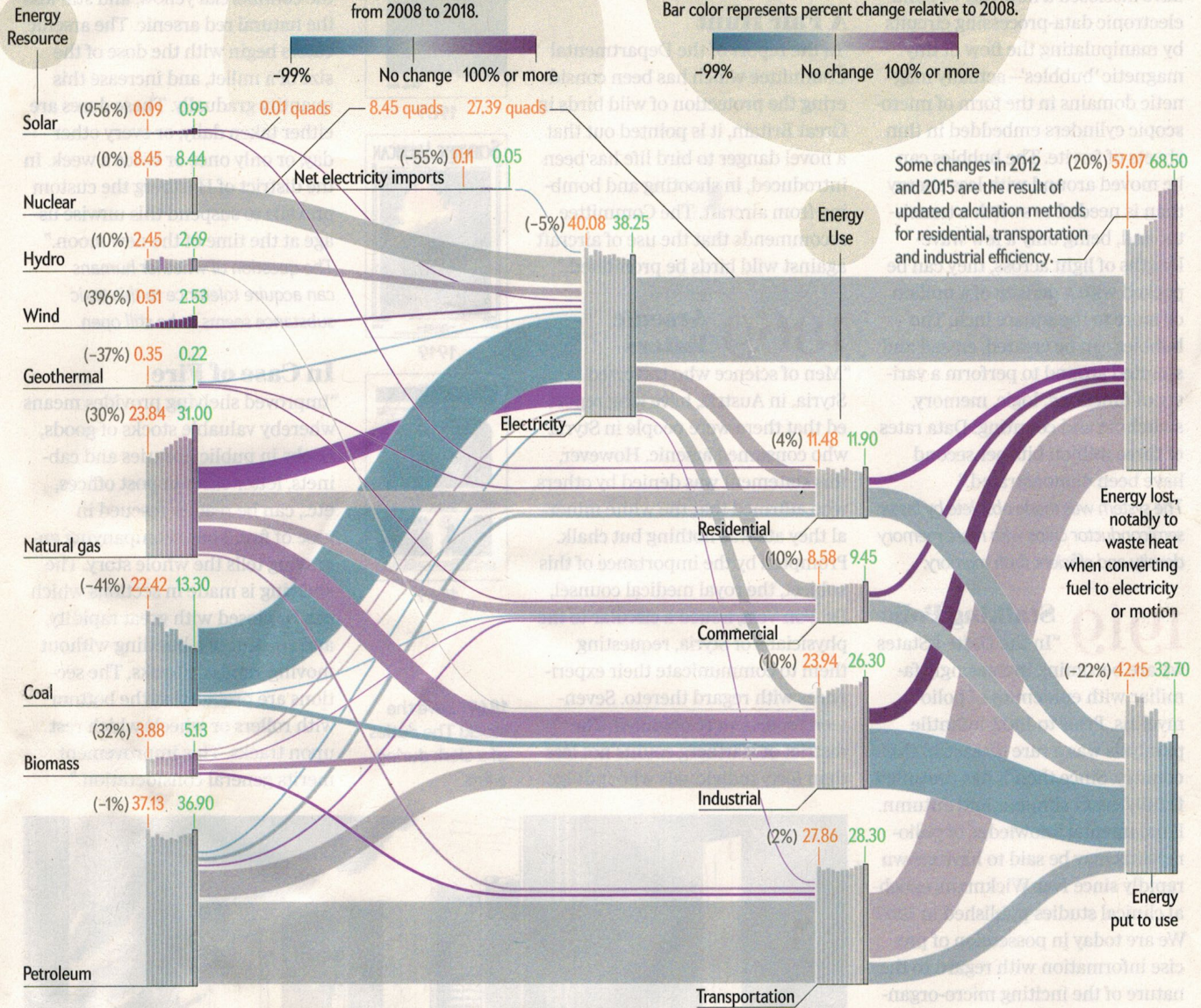


U.S. Energy Produced and Consumed (2008–2018)



Cleaning Up

Shifts in the U.S. power supply may be sharper than you think

It can be tricky to resolve different tales that are told about which U.S. energy sources are growing or fading. But now we have hard numbers. Annual flowcharts from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory show that over the past decade, wind power has increased 396 percent and solar power is up 956 percent. Of course, a very small share can rise by many percentage points and still be small, but that traditional narrative about

wind and solar is nearly over: together they now provide 3.48 quads (quadrillion BTU) of electricity—more than hydropower. The natural gas story is clearer, too: it has not surged “recently” but rather has grown steadily for 10 years, and this trend is the main cause of a continual decrease in coal consumption. If these trends persist, says A. J. Simon, Livermore’s energy group leader, “we can expect our energy economy to continue to get cleaner.”

SOURCE: LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY (data)