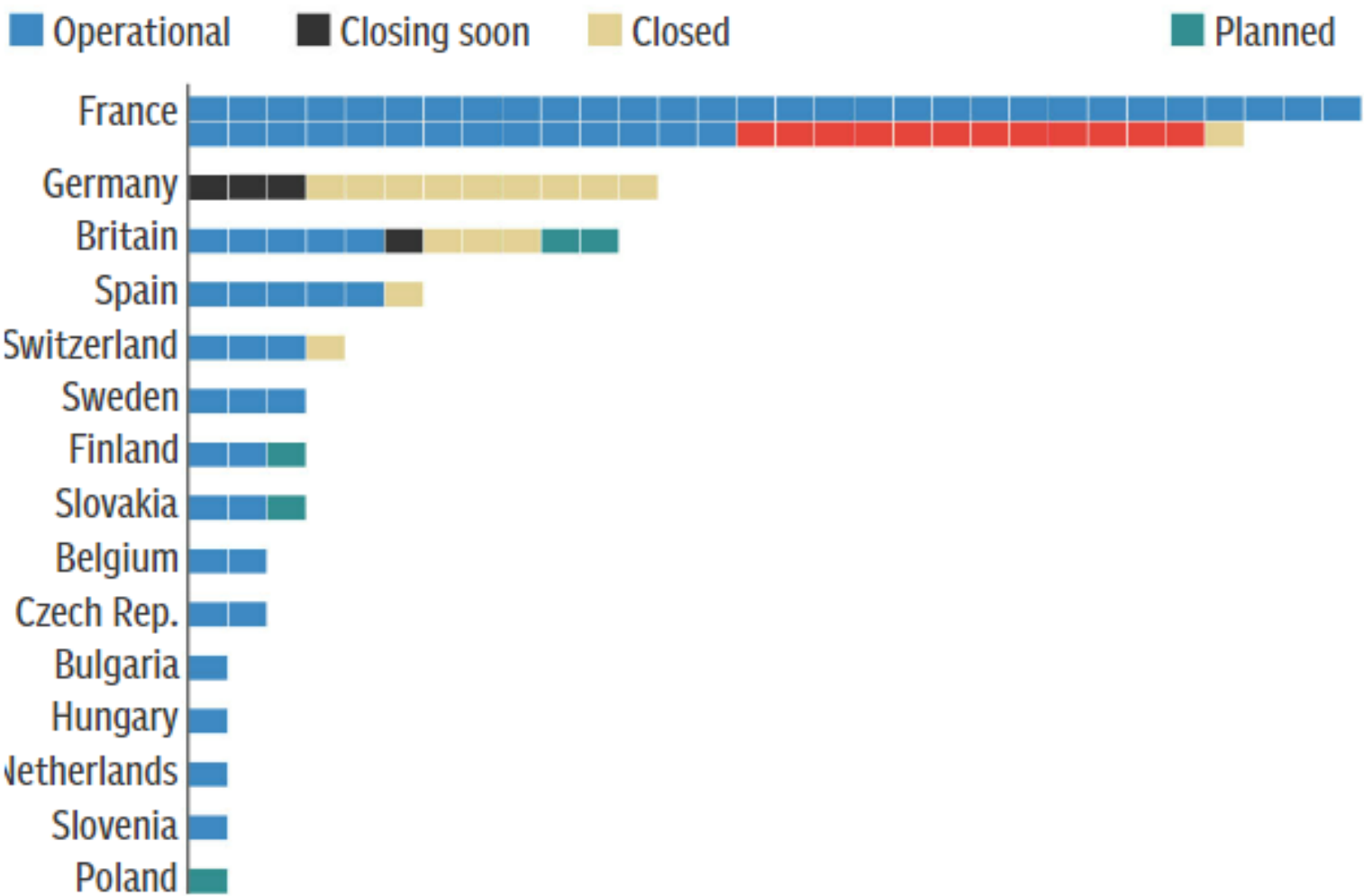


France has the most reactors in Europe

But one fifth of its nuclear power stations are currently shut



Comment on the graph

SOURCE: THE ECONOMIST, GLOBAL POWER PLANT DATABASE, OUR WORLD IN DATA

What The Graph 24: teacher notes

Notes/comments

- This comes from a Daily Telegraph article about energy supply.
- It seems odd to double-stack the France graph. In reality the bar for France should disappear off to the right.
- The key doesn't tell us what red stands for. (In the article it says that some are closed for emergency checks – presumably it's those ones.)
- Why have they included the beige 'closed' ones. Very many more reactors have been decommissioned in the past, but those aren't mentioned here.
- The colour for the 'planned' reactors is very similar to the 'operational' ones. Is it obvious that Finland and Slovakia each have 2 that are operational and 1 that is planned?
- According to Wikipedia (see the next slide), Belgium has six active reactors (in two sites). They are shown as having 2 in the graph. Also in Wikipedia: France "has 56 operable reactors" across 18 sites.
- France's figure in the graph shows the number of reactors (as per the title), whereas Belgium's figure is the number of plants. That's misleading (and happens for most of the other countries too).
- Nuclear reactors are not all the same size. Some produce more than twice the amount of energy as others. Would it be better to show the amount of electricity each country produces via nuclear plants?
- The rest of the headline is accurate: 12 red and 1 beige reactors are shut out of a total of 57, which is 21.1%. It seems fair to describe this as "one fifth".

Sources:

- <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2022/09/27/britain-should-have-nuclear-reactor-fleet-rival-france/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_power_reactors_in_Europe
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_power_in_France

Belgium [edit]

Main article: Nuclear power in Belgium

Main article: Nuclear power in Belgium

Name ↕	Unit No. ↕	Reactor		Status ↕	Net capacity (MW) ↕	Construction start ↕	Commercial operation ↕	Closure ↕
		Type ↕	Model ↕					
SCK•CEN	1	PWR	Westinghouse (WH) BR-3	Decommissioned	10	1 November 1957	10 October 1962	30 June 1987
Doel	1	PWR	WH 2 loops	Operational	445	1 July 1969	15 February 1975	(2025)
	2	PWR	WH 2 loops	Operational	445	1 September 1971	1 December 1975	(2025)
	3	PWR	Framatome 3 loops	Shut down	1006	1 January 1975	1 October 1982	23 September 2022 ^[4]
	4	PWR	Belgian firms plus WH 3 loops	Operational	1039	1 December 1978	1 July 1985	(2035) ^[5]
Tihange	1	PWR	Framatome 3 loops	Operational	962	1 June 1970	1 October 1975	(2025)
	2	PWR	Framatome 3 loops	Operational	1008	1 April 1976	1 June 1983	(2023)
	3	PWR	Belgian firms plus WH 3 loops	Operational	1046	1 November 1978	1 September 1985	(2035)