Back-Pressure Turbine: Power vs Exhaust Pressure

Power of a back-pressure turbine at two exhaust pressures for the same inlet steam (IF97), and the power gained per bar lower exhaust pressure.

Method: Isentropic expansion with efficiency; IAPWS-IF97

Input parameters

Unit system: SI

Parameter	Value	Unit
Steam flow	100.00	t/h
Inlet pressure (absolute)	67.000	bar
Inlet temperature	495.00	°C
Exhaust pressure A (absolute)	2.5000	bar
Exhaust pressure B (absolute)	2.0000	bar
Isentropic efficiency	78.000	%
Gearbox and generator efficiency	96.000	%

Calculated results

Parameter	Value	Unit
Power at exhaust A	16.312	MW
Power at exhaust B	17.097	MW
Power difference B − A	785.89	kW
Power per bar of exhaust pressure	1,571.8	kW

Notes for this case

- Lower exhaust pressure gives power but less evaporator temperature difference in the process: balance the two.

Formula and method

$$P = \dot{m}\,\eta_s\,[h_1 - h(p_e, s_1)]\,\eta_g, \quad \Delta P = P_B - P_A, \quad \frac{\Delta P}{\Delta p} = \frac{P_B - P_A}{(p_{e,A} - p_{e,B})/1\ \text{bar}}$$

Variables

$\dot{m}$	Steam flow	kg/s
p_1	Inlet pressure (absolute)	Pa
T_1	Inlet temperature	K
$h_1\$, \$s_1$	inlet enthalpy and entropy (IF97)	J/kg, J/(kg·K)
$h(p_e, s_1)$	isentropic exhaust enthalpy	J/kg
$p_{e,A}$	Exhaust pressure A (absolute)	Pa
$p_{e,B}$	Exhaust pressure B (absolute)	Pa
η_s	Isentropic efficiency	-
η_g	Gearbox and generator efficiency	-
P_A	Power at exhaust A	W
P_B	Power at exhaust B	W
ΔP	Power difference B − A	W
$\Delta P/\Delta p$	Power per bar of exhaust pressure	W

Method and standards

Expansion from the inlet state to each exhaust pressure at the inlet entropy (IAPWS-IF97), scaled by the isentropic efficiency and

the gearbox and generator efficiency; the difference is expressed per bar of exhaust pressure. A note appears if an actual exhaust state is wet.

Assumptions and limits

- Constant efficiency.
- The inlet must be superheated (or supercritical) steam; an inlet below saturation is rejected.

References

- Isentropic expansion with efficiency; IAPWS-IF97

Report details

Report reference	FCC-9N7C-92DT (the same inputs always give the same reference)
Generated	17 November 2026, 19:36 UTC
Calculator	Back-Pressure Turbine: Power vs Exhaust Pressure
Method last reviewed	13 November 2026
Software release	FireCAD Calc, release of 17 November 2026
Release checks	2 reference cases of this calculator, computed independently, are checked on every release

Results are for engineering estimation. Verify critical designs against the referenced standards and your own data.

This calculator online

https://calc.firecad.com/boilers-power-plant/turbines-cycles/back-pressure-sensitivity

Open this case on calc.firecad.com →

Reopens the calculator with the inputs of this report.