

# Groundwater Use in Louisiana

## Overview<sup>1</sup>

### Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 1,740  
Percentage of total freshwater\* supply for state..... 20.52%

### Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 354  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 20.34%  
Percentage of total public supply ..... 49.93%

### Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 39.3  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 2.26%  
Percentage of total individual household supply ..... 100%

### Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 720  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 41.38%  
Percentage of total irrigation..... 72.20%

### Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 340  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 19.54%  
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 68.57%

### Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 250  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 14.37%  
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied ..... 11.68%

### Mining

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 1.65  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.09%  
Percentage of total mining..... 26.44%

### Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 37.0  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 2.13%  
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 0.09%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

\*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

<sup>1</sup> US Geological Survey, June 2018 report on 2015 water use.

<sup>2</sup> US Census Bureau 2013 American Housing Survey.

<sup>3</sup> US Census Bureau 2013 American Community Survey.

<sup>4</sup> US Geological Survey, June 2018 report on 2015 water use.

<sup>5</sup> US EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2019.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

## Groundwater's Role in Louisiana's Economic Vitality

- Few states can accurately or confidentially determine how many residential wells are in place. For each region, the American Housing Survey by the U.S. Census provides regional data. Louisiana is found in the South, along with these other states: Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky. The last American Housing Survey Census indicates this region had 4,360,000<sup>2</sup> households served by residential wells, with an average of 2.6<sup>3</sup> persons per household. The USGS estimates the population of self-supplied water supply users in Louisiana to be 492,000, all of whom use groundwater.<sup>4</sup>
- 906 community water systems use groundwater for 3,164,000 people<sup>5</sup>
- 116 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 48,900 people<sup>6</sup>
- 225 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 49,000 people<sup>7</sup>
- 8,550 irrigation wells used serving 1,600 farms and 883,000 acres<sup>8</sup>



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# Louisiana's Groundwater Industry Employment

Men and women working to provide and protect Louisiana's groundwater resources for the benefit of people, business, and our environment.

## Louisiana's Contracting Employment

Drill and service water wells, install and service pumps, install and service point of use water treatment devices. This portion of the industry is characterized by small firms, many of which are multi-generation family-owned and operated.<sup>9</sup>

- 90 firms employ an estimated 883 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$155.0 million

## Louisiana's Scientists and Engineers Employment

Geologists, hydrogeologists, engineers, geochemists, geophysicists, microbiologists, regulators.

### Environmental Consulting<sup>10</sup>

NAICS 54162: Establishments primarily engaged in providing advice and assistance on environmental issues, such as the control of environmental contamination from pollutants, toxic substances, and hazardous materials.

- 553 firms employ an estimated 2,132 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$415.6 million

### Remediation<sup>11</sup>

NAICS 56291: Establishments include those engaged in remediation and cleanup of contaminated buildings, mine sites, soil, or groundwater.

- 132 firms employ an estimated 3,420 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$945.5 million

### Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers

- Many more dedicated individuals



<sup>9</sup> InfoUSA, SIC 1781, June 2019.

<sup>10</sup> Barnes Reports: Environmental Consulting Services Industry (NAICS 54162); C. Barnes & Co., 2019.

<sup>11</sup> Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2019.