

Groundwater Use in Minnesota

Overview¹

Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 776
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state..... 24.0%

Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) 336
Percentage of total groundwater..... 43.3%
Percentage of total public supply 65.2%

Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) 82.2
Percentage of total groundwater..... 10.6%
Percentage of total individual household supply 100%

Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) 242
Percentage of total groundwater..... 31.2%
Percentage of total irrigation..... 87.7%

Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) 60.6
Percentage of total groundwater..... 7.8%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 80.4%

Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) 49.0
Percentage of total groundwater..... 6.3%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied 18.9%

Mining

Groundwater (mgd) 3.63
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.47%
Percentage of total mining..... 39.46%

Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) 1.77
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.23%
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 0.09%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

Groundwater's Role in Minnesota's Economic Vitality

- Approximately 465,000 private wells statewide.²
- The USGS estimates the population of self-supplied water supply users in Minnesota to be 1,180,000 with 100% of their water supply from groundwater.³
- 926 community water systems use groundwater for 2,996,400 people⁴
- 496 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 66,600 people⁵
- 5,304 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 515,900 people⁶
- 5,390 irrigation wells used serving 1,890 farms and 467,000 acres⁷

¹ US Geological Survey, Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2015, released 2018.

² Minnesota Department of Health, 2019.

³ US Geological Survey, Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2015, released 2018.

⁴ US EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2019.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.



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Minnesota's Groundwater Industry Employment

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

Minnesota'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.⁸

- 146 firms employ an estimated 878 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$319 million

Minnesota's Scientists and Engineers Employment

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

Environmental Consulting⁹

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.

- 344 firms employ an estimated 1,699 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$302 million

Remediation¹⁰

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

- 88 firms employ an estimated 1,056 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$322.7 million

Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers

- Many more dedicated individuals



⁸ InfoUSA, SIC 1781, June 2019.

⁹ Barnes Reports: Environmental Consulting Services Industry (NAICS 54162); C. Barnes & Co., 2019.

¹⁰ Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2019.