

# Groundwater Use in Texas

## Overview<sup>1</sup>

### Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 6,170  
Percentage of total freshwater\* supply for state..... 32.6%

### Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 1,170  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 19.0%  
Percentage of total public supply ..... 40.5%

### Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 137  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 2.22%  
Percentage of total individual household supply ..... 100%

### Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 4,480  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 72.6%  
Percentage of total irrigation..... 81.6%

### Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 150  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 2.43%  
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 50.1%

### Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 99.8  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 1.62%  
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied ..... 30.9%

### Mining

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 116  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 1.88%  
Percentage of total mining..... 88.5%

### Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 37.7  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.61%  
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 0.39%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

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

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

<sup>2</sup> Texas Water Development Board, Submitted Driller's Reports Database; Texas Environmental Quality, Water Well Report Viewer

<sup>3</sup> US EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2019.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

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

- Approximately 152,000 known residential wells statewide.<sup>2</sup>
- 3,345 community water systems use groundwater for 5,303,600 people<sup>3</sup>
- 812 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 228,400 people<sup>4</sup>
- 1,401 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 257,000 people<sup>5</sup>
- 81,500 irrigation wells used serving 9,540 farms and 4,060,000 acres<sup>6</sup>



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# Texas's Groundwater Industry Employment

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

## Texas'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>7</sup>

- 622 firms employ an estimated 17,965 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$4,728 million

## Texas's Scientists and Engineers Employment

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

### Environmental Consulting<sup>8</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.

- 1,730 firms employ an estimated 7,300 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$1,393.2 million

### Remediation<sup>9</sup>

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

- 460 firms employ an estimated 7,726 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$2,209.9 million

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

- Many more dedicated individuals



<sup>7</sup> InfoUSA, SIC 1781, June 2019.

<sup>8</sup> Barnes Reports: Environmental Consulting Services Industry (NAICS 54162); C. Barnes & Co., 2019.

<sup>9</sup> Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2019.