

Groundwater Use in Wisconsin

Overview¹

Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 772
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state..... 13.4%

Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) 265
Percentage of total groundwater..... 34.3%
Percentage of total public supply 55.3%

Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) 76.4
Percentage of total groundwater..... 9.90%
Percentage of total individual household supply 100%

Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) 287
Percentage of total groundwater..... 37.2%
Percentage of total irrigation..... 62.4%

Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) 92.5
Percentage of total groundwater..... 12.0%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 75.4%

Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) 46.8
Percentage of total groundwater..... 6.06%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied 12.3%

Mining

Groundwater (mgd) 0.42
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.05%
Percentage of total mining..... 1.43%

Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) 3.21
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.42%
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 0.08%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

Groundwater's Role in Wisconsin's Economic Vitality

- Approximately 340,000 known residential wells statewide.²
- 997 community water systems use groundwater for 2,249,200 people³
- 943 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 201,400 people⁴
- 9,629 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 739,800 people⁵
- 5,170 irrigation wells used serving 1,850 farms and 429,000 acres⁶

¹ US Geological Survey, Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2015, released 2018.
² Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Well Construction Reports
³ US EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2019.
⁴ *Ibid.*
⁵ *Ibid.*
⁶ Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.



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Wisconsin's Groundwater Industry Employment

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

Wisconsin'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.⁷

- 166 firms employ an estimated 814 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$306.2 million

Wisconsin's Scientists and Engineers Employment

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

Environmental Consulting⁸

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.

- 331 firms employ an estimated 830 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$148.6 million

Remediation⁹

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

- 108 firms employ an estimated 889 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$236.9 million

Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers

- Many more dedicated individuals



⁷ InfoUSA, SIC 1781, June 2019.

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

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