Groundwater Use in Georgia

Overview[1]

Total
Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline) 1,150
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state 35.06%

Public Supply
Groundwater (mgd) 231
Percentage of total groundwater 20.09%
Percentage of total public supply 21.59%

Individual Household
Groundwater (mgd) 104
Percentage of total groundwater 9.04%
Percentage of total individual household supply 100%

Irrigation
Groundwater (mgd) 564
Percentage of total groundwater 49.04%
Percentage of total irrigation 76.42%

Livestock/Aquaculture
Groundwater (mgd) 42.0
Percentage of total groundwater 3.65%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture 32.31%

Industrial, Self-Supplied
Groundwater (mgd) 193
Percentage of total groundwater 16.78%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied 40.63%

Mining
Groundwater (mgd) 15.9
Percentage of total groundwater 1.38%
Percentage of total mining 80.30%

Thermoelectric
Groundwater (mgd) 3.43
Percentage of total groundwater 0.30%
Percentage of total thermoelectric 0.46%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

Groundwater's Role in Georgia'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. Georgia 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[2] households served by residential wells, with an average of 2.74[3] persons per household. The USGS estimates the population of self-supplied water supply users in Georgia to be 1,510,000 all supplied by groundwater[4].

- 1,517 community water systems use groundwater for 1,738,900 people[5]
- 177 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 61,700 people[6]
- 477 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 88,800 people[7]
- 10,700 irrigation wells used serving 3,030 farms and 964,000 acres[8]

[1] US Geological Survey, Estimated Water Use in the United States in 2015, published 2018.
[2] US Census Bureau 2013 American Housing Survey.
[3] US Census Bureau 2013 American Community Survey.
[4] US Geological Survey, Estimated Water Use in the United States in 2015, published 2018.
[5] US EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2019.
[6] *Ibid.*
[7] *Ibid.*
[8] Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

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Georgia's Groundwater Industry Employment

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

Georgia'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.[9]

- 153 firms employ an estimated 783 people
- Annual estimated sales of $155.0 million

Georgia's Scientists and Engineers Employment

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

Environmental Consulting[10]

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.

- 723 firms employ an estimated 2,528 people
- Annual estimated sales of $482.5 million

Remediation[11]

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

- 154 firms employ an estimated 1,604 people
- Annual estimated sales of $452.8 million

Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers

- Many more dedicated individuals

[9] InfoUSA, SIC 1781, June 2019.
[10] Barnes Reports: Environmental Consulting Services Industry (NAICS 54162); C. Barnes & Co., 2019.
[11] Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2019.