

# Groundwater Use in Maryland

## Overview<sup>1</sup>

### Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 295  
Percentage of total freshwater\* supply for state..... 23.98%

### Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 93.9  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 31.83%  
Percentage of total public supply ..... 12.52%

### Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) .....114.0  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 38.64%  
Percentage of total individual household supply ..... 100%

### Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 48.3  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 16.37%  
Percentage of total irrigation..... 75.35%

### Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 11.8  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 4.00%  
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 73.84%

### Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 10.8  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 3.66%  
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied ..... 21.86%

### Mining

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 13.7  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 4.64%  
Percentage of total mining..... 81.55%

### Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 2.30  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.78%  
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 1.05%

(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 Maryland'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. Maryland 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 2.68<sup>3</sup> persons per household. The USGS estimates the population of self-supplied water supply users in Maryland to be 1,420,000, all of which use groundwater.<sup>4</sup>
- 396 community water systems use groundwater for 959,000 people<sup>5</sup>
- 539 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 149,000 people<sup>6</sup>
- 2,260 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 331,400 people<sup>7</sup>
- 1,520 irrigation wells used serving 600 farms and 78,700 acres<sup>8</sup>



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# Maryland's Groundwater Industry Employment

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

## Maryland'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>

- 44 firms employ an estimated 355 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$75.7 million

## Maryland'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.

- 621 firms employ an estimated 2,737 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$537.5 million

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

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

- 120 firms employ an estimated 1,970 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$509.8 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.