

# Groundwater Use in Maine

## Overview<sup>1</sup>

### Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 84.8  
Percentage of total freshwater\* supply for state..... 22.0%

### Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 27.5  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 32.4%  
Percentage of total public supply ..... 32.4%

### Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 31.6  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 37.3%  
Percentage of total individual household supply ..... 100%

### Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 5.06  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 5.97%  
Percentage of total irrigation..... 26.8%

### Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 12.4  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 14.6%  
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 22.1%

### Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 5.83  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 6.88%  
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied ..... 3.20%

### Mining

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 1.45  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 1.71%  
Percentage of total mining..... 22.9%

### Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 0.92  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 1.08%  
Percentage of total thermoelectric.....17.34%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

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

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

- Approximately 112,000 known residential wells statewide.<sup>2</sup>
- 325 community water systems use groundwater for 222,000 people<sup>3</sup>
- 385 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 63,500 people<sup>4</sup>
- 1,178 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 190,500 people<sup>5</sup>
- 649 irrigation wells used serving 540 farms and 11,300 acres<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> US Geological Survey, June 2018 report on 2015 water use.

<sup>2</sup> Maine Department of Health and Humans Services, Division of Environmental Health Drinking Water Program

<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.



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# Maine's Groundwater Industry Employment

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

## Maine'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>

- 40 firms employ an estimated 313 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$78.3 million

## Maine'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.

- 199 firms employ an estimated 410 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$71.1 million

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

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

- 44 firms employ an estimated 399 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$95.3 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.