

# Groundwater Use in Nebraska

## Overview<sup>1</sup>

### Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 5,810  
Percentage of total freshwater\* supply for state..... 61.2%

### Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 218  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 3.8%  
Percentage of total public supply ..... 79.3%

### Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 19.0  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.33%  
Percentage of total individual household supply ..... 100%

### Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 5,420  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 93.3%  
Percentage of total irrigation..... 89.0%

### Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) .....100.2  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 1.72%  
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 73.4%

### Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 42.0  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.72%  
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied ..... 94.8%

### Mining

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 0.06  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.00%  
Percentage of total mining..... 0.63%

### Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 16.8  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.29%  
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 0.58%

(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 in 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, Water Well Standards 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.

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

- Approximately 35,100 known residential wells statewide.<sup>2</sup>
- 576 community water systems use groundwater for 647,800 people<sup>3</sup>
- 143 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 48,000 people<sup>4</sup>
- 553 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 38,300 people<sup>5</sup>
- 77,200 irrigation wells used serving 14,900 farms and 7,670,000 acres<sup>6</sup>



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# Nebraska's Groundwater Industry Employment

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

## Nebraska'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>

- 77 firms employ an estimated 467 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$122.1 million

## Nebraska'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.

- 86 firms employ an estimated 228 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$41.8 million

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

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

- 29 firms employ an estimated 225 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$53.3 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.