

Groundwater Use in Delaware

Overview¹

Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 170
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state..... 31.8%

Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) 45.8
Percentage of total groundwater..... 26.9%
Percentage of total public supply 53.0%

Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) 14.5
Percentage of total groundwater..... 8.53%
Percentage of total individual household supply 100%

Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) 95.4
Percentage of total groundwater..... 56.1%
Percentage of total irrigation..... 84.4%

Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) 3.32
Percentage of total groundwater..... 1.95%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 100%

Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) 10.7
Percentage of total groundwater..... 6.29%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied 3.54%

Mining

Groundwater (mgd) 0.34
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.2%
Percentage of total mining..... 52.3%

Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) 0.13
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.08%
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 0.90%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

¹ US Geological Survey, Estimated Water Use in the United States in 2015, published in 2018.

² Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Water Supply and Well Permitting Section

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.

Groundwater's Role in Delaware's Economic Vitality

- Approximately 75,400 known residential wells statewide.²
- 210 community water systems use groundwater for 452,300 people³
- 93 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 24,000 people⁴
- 193 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 48,400 people⁵
- 1,560 irrigation wells used serving 344 farms and 109,000 acres⁶



Address 601 Dempsey Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081-8978 U.S.A.
Phone 800 551.7379 • 614 898.7791 **Fax** 614 898.7786
Email ngwa@ngwa.org **Websites** NGWA.org and WellOwner.org

Delaware's Groundwater Industry Employment

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

Delaware'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

- 8 firms employ an estimated 25 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$12.8 million

Delaware'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.

- 120 firms employ an estimated 442 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$87.9 million

Remediation⁹

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

- 25 firms employ an estimated 221 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$53.4 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.