

Groundwater Use in Florida

Overview¹

Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 3,590
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state..... 63.09%

Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) 2,080
Percentage of total groundwater..... 57.94%
Percentage of total public supply 87.39%

Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) 177
Percentage of total groundwater..... 4.93%
Percentage of total individual household supply 100%

Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) 1,150
Percentage of total groundwater..... 32.03%
Percentage of total irrigation..... 46.94%

Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd)38.5
Percentage of total groundwater..... 1.07%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 93.67%

Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) 181
Percentage of total groundwater..... 5.04%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied 73.88%

Mining

Groundwater (mgd) 89.1
Percentage of total groundwater..... 2.48%
Percentage of total mining..... 68.54%

Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) 27.8
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.77%
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 6.41%

(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 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.

Groundwater's Role in Florida'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. Florida 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 4,360,000² households served by residential wells, with an average of 2.65³ persons per household. The USGS estimates the population of self-supplied water supply users in Florida to be 2,460,000 all supplied by groundwater.⁴
- 1,561 community water systems use groundwater for 15,657,800 people⁵
- 807 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 209,900 people⁶
- 2,916 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 239,800 people⁷
- 20,800 irrigation wells used serving 7,030 farms and 743,000 acres⁸



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Florida's Groundwater Industry Employment

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

Florida'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

- 321 firms employ an estimated 1,690 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$389.5 million

Florida's Scientists and Engineers Employment

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

Environmental Consulting¹⁰

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.

- 1,972 firms employ an estimated 5,876 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$1,091.1 million

Remediation¹¹

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

- 313 firms employ an estimated 2,341 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$578.6 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.