

Groundwater Use in Georgia

Overview¹

Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 1,230
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state..... 27.70%

Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) 243
Percentage of total groundwater..... 19.80%
Percentage of total public supply 21.70%

Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) 115
Percentage of total groundwater..... 9.35%
Percentage of total individual household supply 100%

Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) 636
Percentage of total groundwater..... 51.70%
Percentage of total irrigation..... 75.80%

Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) 6.3
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.51%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 7.96%

Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) 206
Percentage of total groundwater..... 16.80%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied 42.30%

Mining

Groundwater (mgd) 19.3
Percentage of total groundwater..... 1.57%
Percentage of total mining..... 69.70%

Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) 2.92
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.24%
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 0.16%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

¹ US Geological Survey, November 2014 report on 2010 water use.

² US Census Bureau 2013 American Housing Survey.

³ US Census Bureau 2013 American Community Survey.

⁴ US Geological Survey, November 2014 report on 2010 water use.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ US EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2014.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

Groundwater's Role in Georgia'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. Georgia 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 2.74³ persons per household. The U.S. Census stopped asking citizens their source of water supply following the 1990 Census. The USGS estimates the population of self-supplied water supply users in Georgia to be 1,530,000⁴.
- 1,550 community water systems use groundwater for 1,650,000 people⁵
- 179 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 63,000 people⁶
- 447 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 73,300 people⁷
- 10,700 irrigation wells used serving 3,030 farms and 964,000 acres⁸



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

Georgia's Groundwater Industry Employment

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

Georgia'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

- 176 firms employ an estimated 879 people¹⁰
- Annual estimated sales of \$279 million

Georgia's Scientists and Engineers Employment

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

Environmental Consulting¹¹

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.

- 675 firms employ an estimated 2,340 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$360 million

Remediation¹²

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

- 150 firms employ an estimated 1,710 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$316 million

Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers

- Many more dedicated individuals



⁹ InfoUSA, SIC 1781, March 2015.

¹⁰ Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.

¹¹ Barnes Reports: Environmental Consulting Services Industry (NAICS 54162); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.

¹² Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.