Groundwater Use in Illinois

Overview

Total
Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline) ............................................ 870
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state ....................... 8.29%

Public Supply
Groundwater (mgd) ................................................................. 367
Percentage of total groundwater.............................................. 42.18%
Percentage of total public supply ........................................... 24.80%

Individual Household
Groundwater (mgd) ................................................................. 92.1
Percentage of total groundwater.............................................. 10.59%
Percentage of total individual household supply ...................... 100%

Irrigation
Groundwater (mgd) ................................................................. 219
Percentage of total groundwater.............................................. 25.17%
Percentage of total irrigation ................................................ 93.59%

Livestock/Aquaculture
Groundwater (mgd) ................................................................. 41.4
Percentage of total groundwater.............................................. 4.76%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture ....................... 88.27%

Industrial, Self-Supplied
Groundwater (mgd) ................................................................. 132
Percentage of total groundwater.............................................. 15.17%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied ....................... 30.63%

Mining
Groundwater (mgd) ................................................................. 14.6
Percentage of total groundwater.............................................. 1.68%
Percentage of total mining ................................................... 26.55%

Thermoelectric
Groundwater (mgd) ................................................................. 4.21
Percentage of total groundwater.............................................. 0.48%
Percentage of total thermoelectric ................................. 0.05%

(mgd = million gallons per day)
*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

Groundwater’s Role in Illinois’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. Illinois is found in the Midwest, along with these other states: Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri. The last American Housing Survey Census indicates this region had 3,990,000 households served by residential wells, with an average of 2.63 persons per household. The USGS estimates the population of self-supplied water supply users in Illinois to be 1,150,000, all of which are groundwater supplied.

• 1,146 community water systems use groundwater for 3,188,000 people
• 424 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 120,000 people
• 3,031 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 323,000 people
• 5,250 irrigation wells used serving 1,480 farms and 527,000 acres

2 US Census Bureau 2013 American Housing Survey.
3 Ibid.
6 Ibid.
7 Ibid.
8 Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.
Illinois’s Groundwater Industry Employment

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

Illinois’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

- 116 firms employ an estimated 941 people
- Annual estimated sales of $314.9 million

Illinois’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.

- 810 firms employ an estimated 2,720 people
- Annual estimated sales of $529.9 million

Remediation11
NAICS 56291: Establishments include those engaged in remediation and cleanup of contaminated buildings, mine sites, soil, or groundwater.

- 180 firms employ an estimated 2,058 people
- Annual estimated sales of $503.9 million

Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers
- Many more dedicated individuals

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9 InfoUSA, SIC 1781, June 2019.