

Groundwater Use in Illinois

Overview¹

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.

¹ US Geological Survey, Estimated use of water in the United States in 2015, published 2018.

² US Census Bureau 2013 American Housing Survey.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ US Geological Survey, Estimated use of water 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 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 3,990,000² households served by residential wells, with an average of 2.63³ 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.⁴
- 1,146 community water systems use groundwater for 3,188,000 people⁵
- 424 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 120,000 people⁶
- 3,031 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 323,000 people⁷
- 5,250 irrigation wells used serving 1,480 farms and 527,000 acres⁸



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



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.