

Groundwater Use in Nebraska

Overview¹

Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 4,710
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state..... 58.6%

Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) 234
Percentage of total groundwater..... 4.97%
Percentage of total public supply 79.1%

Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) 44.0
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.93%
Percentage of total individual household supply 100%

Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) 4300
Percentage of total groundwater..... 91.3%
Percentage of total irrigation..... 76.0%

Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) 99.1
Percentage of total groundwater..... 2.10%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 49.0%

Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) 28.8
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.61%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied 92.6%

Mining

Groundwater (mgd) 0.09
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.00%
Percentage of total mining..... 1.02%

Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) 5.25
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.11%
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 0.29%

(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 Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, Water Well Standards Program

³ US EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2014.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

Groundwater's Role in Nebraska's Economic Vitality

- Approximately 35,100 known residential wells statewide.²
- 566 community water systems use groundwater for 640,000 people³
- 148 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 53,900 people⁴
- 509 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 34,100 people⁵
- 77,200 irrigation wells used serving 14,900 farms and 7,670,000 acres⁶



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Nebraska's Groundwater Industry Employment

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

Nebraska'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

- 82 firms employ an estimated 365 people⁸
- Annual estimated sales of \$83 million

Nebraska's Scientists and Engineers Employment

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

Environmental Consulting⁹

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.

- 82 firms employ an estimated 279 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$41.8 million

Remediation¹⁰

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

- 23 firms employ an estimated 351 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$54.6 million

Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers

- Many more dedicated individuals



⁷ InfoUSA, SIC 1781, March 2015.

⁸ Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.

⁹ Barnes Reports: Environmental Consulting Services Industry (NAICS 54162); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.

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