

# Groundwater Use in Tennessee

## Overview<sup>1</sup>

### Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 470  
Percentage of total freshwater\* supply for state..... 6.10%

### Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 301  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 64.00%  
Percentage of total public supply ..... 32.80%

### Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 38.7  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 8.23%  
Percentage of total individual household supply ..... 100%

### Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 44.3  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 9.43%  
Percentage of total irrigation..... 61.60%

### Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 29.4  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 6.26%  
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 36.70%

### Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 47.6  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 10.10%  
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied ..... 6.13%

### Mining

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 6.89  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 1.47%  
Percentage of total mining..... 47.20%

### Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) ..... 1.78  
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.38%  
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 0.03%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

\*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

<sup>1</sup> US Geological Survey, November 2014 report on 2010 water use.

<sup>2</sup> US Census Bureau 2013 American Housing Survey.

<sup>3</sup> US Census Bureau 2013 American Community Survey.

<sup>4</sup> US Geological Survey, November 2014 report on 2010 water use.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> US EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2014.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

## Groundwater's Role in Tennessee'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. Tennessee 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 4,360,000<sup>2</sup> households served by residential wells, with an average of 2.55<sup>3</sup> 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 Tennessee to be 538,000<sup>4</sup>.
- 161 community water systems use groundwater for 1,430,000 people<sup>5</sup>
- 27 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 9,230 people<sup>6</sup>
- 319 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 51,500 people<sup>7</sup>
- 1,470 irrigation wells used serving 566 farms and 126,000 acres<sup>8</sup>



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# Tennessee's Groundwater Industry Employment

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

## Tennessee'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.<sup>9</sup>

- 80 firms employ an estimated 542 people<sup>10</sup>
- Annual estimated sales of \$146 million

## Tennessee's Scientists and Engineers Employment

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

### Environmental Consulting<sup>11</sup>

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.

- 457 firms employ an estimated 1,430 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$199 million

### Remediation<sup>12</sup>

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

- 155 firms employ an estimated 2,920 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$628 million

### Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers

- Many more dedicated individuals



<sup>9</sup> InfoUSA, SIC 1781, March 2015.

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

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

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