

# Groundwater Use in North Carolina

## Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline).....	694
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state.....	6.25%

## Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) .....	194
Percentage of total groundwater.....	28.0%
Percentage of total public supply .....	20.2%

## Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) .....	231
Percentage of total groundwater.....	33.3%
Percentage of total individual household supply .....	100%

## Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) .....	88.3
Percentage of total groundwater.....	12.7%
Percentage of total irrigation.....	24.1%

## Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) .....	68.4
Percentage of total groundwater.....	9.86%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture.....	4.44%

## Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) .....	83.8
Percentage of total groundwater.....	12.1%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied .....	30.9%

## Mining

Groundwater (mgd) .....	27.8
Percentage of total groundwater.....	4.01%
Percentage of total mining.....	85.3%

## Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) .....	0.37
Percentage of total groundwater.....	0.05%
Percentage of total thermoelectric.....	0.00%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

## Groundwater's Role in North Carolina's Economic Vitality

- Few states can accurately or confidently determine how many residential wells are in place. For each region, the American Housing Survey by the U.S. Census provides regional data. The South region includes the states of Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky. The last American Housing Survey indicates this region had 4,360,000<sup>1</sup> households served by residential wells, with an average of 2.55<sup>2</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 North Carolina to be 3,300,000<sup>3</sup>.
- 1,590 community water systems use groundwater for 1,540,000 people<sup>4</sup>.
- 363 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 94,300 people<sup>4</sup>.
- 3,430 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 308,000 people<sup>4</sup>.
- 2,310 irrigation wells are in use serving 1,290 farms and 38,400 acres<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau 2013 American Housing Survey.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau 2013 American Community Survey.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Geological Survey, November 2014 report on 2010 water use.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

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