

Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2015
U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1441
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Trends in estimated water use in the United States, 1950–2015.

[Data for 1980 and earlier are from Kenny and others (2009). Water-use data are in billion gallons per day (thousand million gallons per day) and are rounded to two significant figures for 1950–80, and to three significant figures for 1985–2015; percent change is calculated from unrounded numbers. Values may not sum to totals because of independent rounding. Geographic extent: 1950, 48 States, District of Columbia, and Hawaii; 1955, 48 States and District of Columbia; 1960 and 1975–2015, 50 States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands; 1965–70, 50 States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico]

	Year														Percent change, 2010–15
	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	
Population, in millions	150.7	164.0	179.3	193.8	205.9	216.4	229.6	242.4	252.3	267.1	285.3	300.7	312.6	325.0	4
Total withdrawals	180	240	270	310	370	420	430	397	404	398	413	410 ^a	354 ^a	322	-9
Public supply	14	17	21	24	27	29	33	36.6	38.7	40.2	43.3	44.4 ^a	42.0	39.0	-7
Rural domestic and livestock															
Self-supplied domestic	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.8	3.4	3.32	3.39	3.39	3.58	3.73 ^a	3.53 ^a	3.26	-8
Livestock	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.23	2.25	2.28	2.37 ^a	2.15	2.00	2.00	0
Irrigation	89	110	110	120	130	140	150	135	134	130	139	127	116 ^a	118	2
Thermoelectric power	40	72	100	130	170	200	210	187	194	190	195	201	162 ^a	133	-18
Other															
Self-supplied industrial	37	39	38	46	47	45	45	25.8	22.4 ^a	21.6	19.5 ^a	18.1	16.2 ^a	14.8	-9
Mining	(b)	3.44	4.93	3.59	4.13 ^a	3.83	3.97 ^a	4.00	1						
Commercial	(b)	1.23	2.39	2.89	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)							
Aquaculture	(b)	2.24	2.24	3.27 ^a	5.79 ^a	8.83 ^a	8.96 ^a	7.55	-16						
Source of water															
Groundwater															
Fresh	34	47	50	60	68	82	83	73.4	79.4	76.4 ^a	84.3 ^a	78.9	75.9 ^a	82.3	8
Saline	(c)	0.6	0.4	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.93	0.66	1.30 ^a	1.11	2.47 ^a	1.51	2.22 ^a	2.34	5
Surface water															
Fresh	140	180	190	210	250	260	280	263	255 ^a	261	265	270	231 ^a	198	-14
Saline	10	18	31	43	53	69	71	59.6	68.7 ^a	59.7	61.0	59.8 ^a	45.0	38.6	-14

^aData revised from Maupin and others (2014) because of revisions to individual State data during interim years.

^bIncluded in self-supplied industrial.

^cData not available.