

Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2005

Trends in estimated water use in the United States, 1950–2005.

[Data for 2000 and earlier from Hutson and others (2004). 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 1985–2005; percentage change is calculated from unrounded numbers. Geographic extent: 1950, 48 States and District of Columbia, and Hawaii; 1955, 48 States and District of Columbia; 1960 and 1975–2005, 50 States and District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands; 1965–1970, 50 States and District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; —, not available]

	Year												Percent change 2000–2005
	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	
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	+5
Total withdrawals	180	240	270	310	370	420	¹ 430	¹ 397	¹ 404	¹ 399	¹ 413	410	–1
Public supply	14	17	21	24	27	29	¹ 33	¹ 36.4	¹ 38.8	40.2	43.2	44.2	+2
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	¹ 3.58	3.83	+7
Livestock	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.23	2.25	2.28	² 2.38	2.14	–10
Irrigation	89	110	110	120	130	140	150	¹ 135	¹ 134	¹ 130	¹ 139	128	–8
Thermoelectric power	40	72	100	130	170	200	210	187	¹ 194	190	195	201	+3
Other													
Self-supplied industrial	37	39	38	46	47	45	45	¹ 25.9	22.6	22.4	19.7	18.2	–8
Mining	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	3.44	4.93	3.72	² 4.50	4.02	–11
Commercial	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	1.23	2.39	2.89	⁽⁴⁾	⁽⁴⁾	—
Aquaculture	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	2.24	⁵ 2.25	⁵ 3.22	⁵ 5.77	8.78	+52
Source of water													
Ground													
Fresh	34	47	50	60	68	82	83	¹ 73.4	¹ 79.6	76.4	¹ 84.3	79.6	–5
Saline	⁽⁴⁾	.6	.4	.5	1.0	1.0	.93	¹ .66	1.22	1.11	¹ 2.67	3.02	+13
Surface													
Fresh	140	180	190	210	250	260	¹ 280	¹ 263	¹ 255	¹ 261	¹ 265	270	+2
Saline	10	18	31	43	53	69	71	59.6	68.2	59.7	61.0	58.0	–5

¹ Revised data values.

² Partial totals from 2000 have been expanded to include all States.

³ Included in self-supplied industrial.

⁴ Data not available.

⁵ In 1990 and 1995, some aquaculture use was included in the commercial category.

Source: Kenny, J.F., Barber, N.L., Hutson, S.S., Linsey, K.S., Lovelace, J.K., and Maupin, M.A., 2009, Estimated use of water in the United States in 2005: U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1344, 52 p.