



Table 1. Ground-water withdrawals and percentage of use, 1987–90

Ground-water withdrawals in thousands of acre-feet and percentage of use									
	Municipal		Industrial		Irrigation		Drainage		Total ground-water withdrawals, in thousands of acre-feet
Year	Acre-foot	Per-cent-age	Acre-foot	Per-cent-age	Acre-foot	Per-cent-age	Acre-foot	Per-cent-age	
1987	372	12.6	264	9.0	2,105	71.4	205	7.0	2,946
1988	389	11.9	294	9.0	2,377	72.4	219	6.7	3,279
1989	409	11.4	260	7.2	2,650	73.5	284	7.9	3,603
1990	388	11.4	277	8.1	2,493	73.0	255	7.5	3,413

**Table 2.** Estimated annual ground-water withdrawal by area, in thousands of acre-feet

[illegible]

DECLARATION OF SYMBOLS		1970		1971		1972		1973		1974		1975		1976		1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982		1983		1984		1985		1986		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025		2026		2027		2028		2029		2030		2031		2032		2033		2034		2035		2036		2037		2038		2039		2040		2041		2042		2043		2044		2045		2046		2047		2048		2049		2050		2051		2052		2053		2054		2055		2056		2057		2058		2059		2060		2061		2062		2063		2064		2065		2066		2067		2068		2069		2070		2071		2072		2073		2074		2075		2076		2077		2078		2079		2080		2081		2082		2083		2084		2085		2086		2087		2088		2089		2090		2091		2092		2093		2094		2095		2096		2097		2098		2099		2100		2101		2102		2103		2104		2105		2106		2107		2108		2109		2110		2111		2112		2113		2114		2115		2116		2117		2118		2119		2120		2121		2122		2123		2124		2125		2126		2127		2128		2129		2130		2131		2132		2133		2134		2135		2136		2137		2138		2139		2140		2141		2142		2143		2144		2145		2146		2147		2148		2149		2150		2151		2152		2153		2154		2155		2156		2157		2158		2159		2160		2161		2162		2163		2164		2165		2166		2167		2168		2169		2170		2171		2172		2173		2174		2175		2176		2177		2178		2179		2180		2181		2182		2183		2184		2185		2186		2187		2188		2189		2190		2191		2192		2193		2194		2195		2196		2197		2198		2199		2200		2201		2202		2203		2204		2205		2206		2207		2208		2209		2210		2211		2212		2213		2214		2215		2216		2217		2218		2219		2220		2221		2222		2223		2224		2225		2226		2227		2228		2229		2230		2231		2232		2233		2234		2235		2236		2237		2238		2239		2240		2241		2242		2243		2244		2245		2246		2247		2248		2249		2250		2251		2252		2253		2254		2255		2256		2257		2258		2259		2260		2261		2262		2263		2264		2265		2266		2267		2268		2269		2270		2271		2272		2273		2274		2275		2276		2277		2278		2279		2280		2281		2282	
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## INTRODUCTION

Arizona is an arid State in which economic development is influenced largely by the location of adequate water supplies. Water demand is met by pumping ground water from aquifers or by conveying surface water through a system of reservoirs and canals. Data on the nature and extent of the aquifers, quantity and quality of available ground water, and the effect of aquifer development are necessary for proper management of this valuable resource.

Since 1939, the U.S. Geological Survey has conducted ground-water studies in cooperation with the State of Arizona. The primary purposes of these studies are to define the quantity, chemistry, and areal distribution of the ground-water resources of Arizona and to monitor the effects of large-scale withdrawals of ground water. The results of these studies are presented in publications of the U.S. Geological Survey and the Arizona Department of Water Resources, technical journals, and other publications. The basic hydrologic data are in computer storage and are available to the public.

The U.S. Geological Survey and the Arizona Department of Water Resources collect and compile water-level and annual ground-water withdrawal data for most of the ground-water areas in Arizona. This report summarizes these data for calendar years 1987 through 1990.

## AVAILABILITY AND WITHDRAWAL OF GROUND WATER

The availability of adequate and potable water supplies influences the development of cities and croplands. Surface water is available along the Gila River, Verde River, and Salt River Valleys, and along the lower Colorado River; however, the quantity is not sufficient to meet demands. For many years, more than half of Arizona's water supply has been withdrawn from ground-water reservoirs. The principal use of the ground water is for irrigation of crops, although municipal and industrial use is increasing steadily.

Annual ground-water withdrawals during the 1980's were much less than those during the 1950's through the 1970's. The total ground-water withdrawals in Arizona were 2.9, 3.3, 3.6, and 3.4 million acre-ft for 1987, 1988, 1989, and 1990, respectively (fig. 1). The average annual ground-water

withdrawal for 1980-89 was 3.7 million acre-ft, which was the lowest average annual withdrawal for any decade since the 1940's. Since 1947, annual ground-water withdrawals in Arizona were at the lowest rate in 1983 and at the second lowest rate in 1987.

Ground-water withdrawals can be classified into four different uses: municipal, industrial, agricultural, and drainage. The distribution of ground-water withdrawals by each use is shown in figure 2 and in table 1. Municipal use includes water provided by public water suppliers and self-supplied water for domestic and commercial purposes. The main industrial water users include electric-power producers, mines, and other industries. Water for agriculture use is primarily for irrigating crops and to a much lesser extent for livestock. Some ground water is withdrawn to drain agricultural lands with shallow water levels in the Yuma (YUM) and Gila River from Texas Hill to Dome (GTD) ground-water areas.

The annual and accumulated ground-water withdrawals are shown by ground-water area in table 2 and in figure 3. Potential well production, depth to water in selected wells in the spring of 1990, and the change in water level in selected wells from 1985 to 1990 are shown in the large map on sheet 2. The withdrawal of ground water and the effects of withdrawals on the ground-water reservoirs in each of the three water provinces (small map, sheet 2) are discussed separately in the following sections.

### Basin and Range Lowlands Province

The Basin and Range lowlands province is the most developed of the three water provinces, and more than 94 percent of Arizona's ground-water withdrawals occurred in this province from 1987 to 1990. The province is characterized by rugged mountain ranges separated by broad elongated basins filled with alluvial deposits. The ground-water reservoirs are mainly the alluvial deposits in the basins; however, small supplies of water can be obtained locally from the crystalline and sedimentary rocks in the mountains that bound the basins. In the Basin and Range lowlands province 2.8, 3.1, 3.4, and 3.2 million acre-ft of ground water were withdrawn in 1987, 1988, 1989, and 1990, respectively. About 214 million acre-ft of ground water has

been withdrawn from the ground-water reservoirs in the province since pumping began.

The largest rates of ground-water withdrawal in Arizona occur in the Salt River Valley and lower Santa Cruz basin. Ground-water withdrawals in the lower Santa Cruz basin decreased through the 1980's, and the withdrawals for 1990 were the lowest since 1940. The average annual ground-water withdrawal for Salt River Valley from 1980 to 1989 is 1.013 million acre-ft, which is the lowest average annual withdrawal for any decade since the 1930's. Ground-water withdrawals in these two basins have been influenced during the 1980's, in part, by an above-normal surface-water supply from the Gila River and by the inception of the Central Arizona Project (figures 4 and 5).

In 1985, the Central Arizona Project began diverting water from the Colorado River to mitigate the ground-water overdraft in some of the basins in the Basin and Range lowlands province. The most notable example of this is in the Marquahala basin, which began receiving water from the Central Arizona Project in 1985. From 1985 to 1990, ground-water withdrawals in the Marquahala basin decreased from 59,000 to 2,000 acre-ft, and water levels rose as much as 70 ft.

The hydrographs of water levels in selected wells on sheet 2 represent conditions in several ground-water areas in the Basin and Range lowlands province. In general, most water levels declined significantly from the 1950's through the 1970's when the highest ground-water withdrawal occurred. In recent years, however, because of decreased ground-water withdrawal, the rate of water-level declines has been reduced, and in some areas water levels are rising.

### Central Highlands Province

The Central highlands province is a transition zone between the Basin and Range lowlands province and the Plateau uplands province and is the smallest of the three water provinces. Ground water is obtained from thick alluvial deposits in a few areas; from layered sandstone, limestone, and conglomerate in some areas; from alluvial deposits along major stream channels; and locally from fractured crystalline and sedimentary rocks. Only a few thousand acres

of land are under cultivation. Ground-water withdrawals in this province were 71,000, 76,000, 92,000, and 87,000 acre-ft for 1987, 1988, 1989, and 1990, respectively. Annual ground-water withdrawals in this province are generally increasing and reached an all time high of 92,000 acre-ft in 1989.

## Plateau Uplands Province

In the Plateau uplands province, ground-water development is small compared with development in the Basin and Range lowlands province. The area is underlain by layers of sandstone, siltstone, and limestone that are overlain locally by volcanic rocks and thin deposits of alluvium. Most of the ground water is pumped from layered sandstone that yields ground water from confined or unconfined aquifers and from thin deposits of alluvium along the major streams. The use of ground water is limited largely to scattered farms and homesteads; industrial and utility sites; and population centers, such as Flagstaff, Holbrook, and the White Mountains recreation area. Ground-water withdrawals in this province were 87,000, 96,000, 112,000, and 106,000 acre-ft for 1987, 1988, 1989, and 1990, respectively. Annual ground-water withdrawals in this province generally have been increasing and reached an all-time high of 112,000 acre-ft in 1989. Although a few feet of decline has occurred in localized areas, no regional pattern of rise or decline in water levels is discernible.

## CONVERSION FACTORS

Multiply	By	To obtain
foot (ft)	0.3048	meter
gallon per minute (gal/min)	0.06309	liter per second
acre-foot (acre-ft)	0.001233	cubic hectometer
acre-foot (volume of water 1 ft deep covering an area of 1 acre)	0.32585	million gallons

VERTICAL DATUM

*Sea level:* In this report, "sea level" refers to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929—A geodetic datum derived from a general adjustment of the first-order level nets of the United States and Canada, formerly called "Sea Level Datum of 1929."