

Water Facts & Figures

Part 1

Source: Economist special report "For Want of a Drink" (May 2010)

- Approx. 97.5% of the total water on Earth is **salt** water.
- Only 2.5% is not salty water, of which approx. 70% is frozen.
- Therefore, only **0.75%** of all water on Earth is available for all living things except sea life.
- The supply of water is **fixed** ... while the demand for clean, fresh water is ever-growing.
- Nine (9) countries account for 60% of all fresh water on Earth -- Brazil, Canada, China, Columbia, Congo, India, Indonesia, Russia and U.S.A.
- China & India together have more than 1/3 of the world's population, but less than 10% of the total fresh water available.
- Worldwide, agriculture (farming) accounts for 70% of total fresh water withdrawals, industry for 22%, and domestic use for only 8%.
- People living in countries chronically short of water stood at 500 million, 8% of the world's population at the turn of the 21st century, expected to rise to 4 billion or 45% by 2050.
- Water scarcity and the supply of clean, safe, accessible fresh water to a growing population are arguably the toughest challenges facing the world this century.



Water Facts & Figures

Part 2

Source: [WWE](#)

Some Interesting Numbers:

- **5 million:** The number of people, mostly children, who die each year from illnesses caused by poor-quality water supplies.
- **1.1 billion:** The number of people worldwide who lack an adequate and safe supply of water for their daily needs, approximately one in five.
- **5:** The minimum number of gallons (about 19 liters) of water needed to meet a person's daily needs, according to the World Health Organization.
- **2.2 million:** The number of people who die each year from diseases related to contaminated drinking water and poor sanitation.
- **50%:** The percentage of people in Africa who suffer from water-related diseases such as cholera and infant diarrhea.
- **20%:** The percentage of the world's freshwater supply that is in Canada, which recently banned bulk exports of water.
- **\$90 billion:** The estimated annual global investments in public water supplies.

Other Noteworthy Facts:

- Water supplies are falling while the demand is dramatically growing at an unsustainable rate. Over the next 20 years, the average supply of water worldwide per person is expected to drop by a third.
- One liter of wastewater pollutes about eight liters of freshwater.
- Water consumption has almost doubled in the last 50 years.
- People already use over half the world's accessible freshwater, and may use nearly three-quarters by 2025.
- Humans are already appropriating more than half of all accessible surface water runoff, and this may increase to 70% by 2025. The three largest water users in global terms are:
 - Agriculture, 67%
 - Industry, 19%
 - Municipal / residential, 9%.