

Water

Global demand for water has risen sharply over the last century. Total annual water withdrawal from agriculture, municipalities and industries rose from less than 580 km³ in 1900 to more than 3 900 km³ in 2010. Agriculture accounts for approximately 70 percent of total freshwater withdrawal in the world, mostly through irrigation. This has been crucial for gains in food production since irrigation reduces drought risk and encourages crop diversification, thus also enhancing rural incomes. While irrigated agriculture represents about 20 percent of the cultivated land, it contributes to 40 percent of global food production.

CHART 63: Countries with the lowest renewable water resources per capita

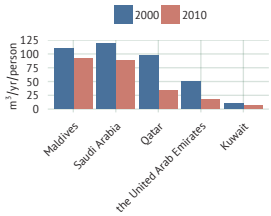


CHART 64: Freshwater withdrawal by industrial sector, share of total, highest 20 (1999 to 2013)



CHART 65: Freshwater withdrawal by agricultural sector, share of total, highest 20 (1999 to 2013)

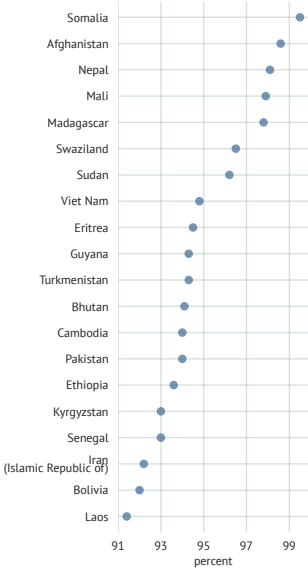


CHART 66: Countries with the highest renewable water resources per capita

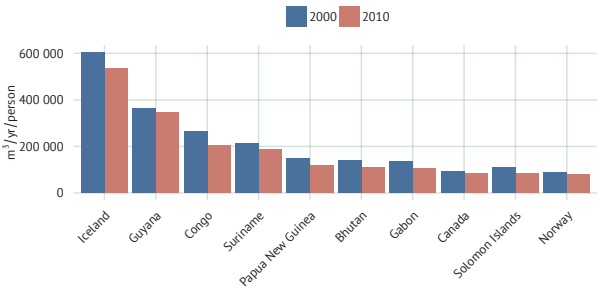


FIGURE 18: Freshwater resources withdrawn by agriculture (percent, 1999-2013*)

