Between 1987 and 2003 roughly twice as much water was used by industries than was used for what is classed as domestic purposes: on average 665 billion cubic metres per year. Just under a third of this water usage was recorded in the United States. Just under a thirtieth was used by all 19 territories of Southeastern Africa.

Central Africa, Southeastern Africa, Southern Asia, Northern Africa and Asia Pacific all have low per person industrial water use. These regions also are small on the map as the total volume of water used for industrial purposes is relatively low, because the industries that are in these regions together use relatively little water.