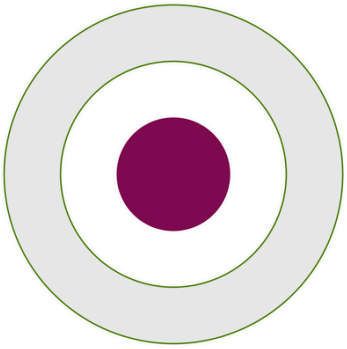
Geologic Map Demand and Value

Reference: Berg, R.C., and Faulds, J.E., eds., 2025, Economic Analysis of the Costs and Benefits of Geological Mapping in the United States of America from 1994 to 2019: Alexandria, Virginia, American Geosciences Institute, 184 p.

Image credit: Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geology and Land Survey

RETURN ON INVESTMENT: ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN GEOLOGIC MAP PRODUCTION

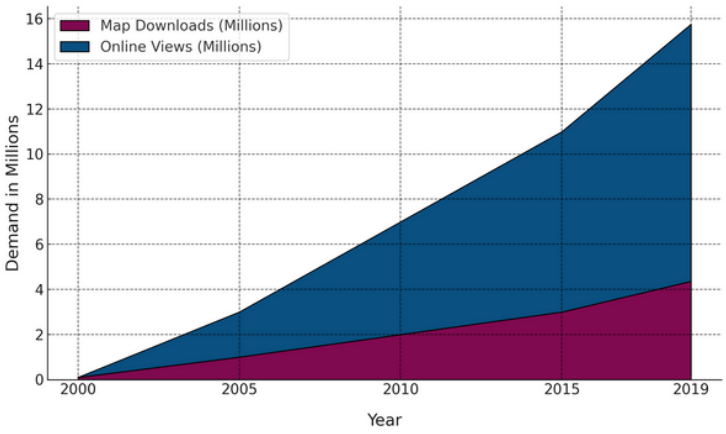


- Public Investment: **$1.99B**
- Minimum Economic Return: **$13.91B - $20.61B**
- Maximum Economic Return: **$45.69B - $70.15B**

This chart illustrates that the economic benefits of geologic mapping significantly outweigh the production costs, showcasing the value of continued or increased funding in geologic mapping as a high-return investment.

Source: Chapter 7

TRENDS IN GEOLOGIC MAP DEMAND (2000-2019)



This chart shows the growing demand for geologic maps, signaling the importance of investing in digital access to geologic maps.

Source: chapter 9

Survey: How do public and private entities value geologic maps?

Scale of 1-5

GROUNDWATER INDUSTRY **4.5**

OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES* **4.3**

OTHER STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES* **4.3**

UNIVERSITIES (RESEARCH AND EDUCATION) **4.3**

GEOTECHNICAL INDUSTRY **4.3**

METALS INDUSTRY **4.2**

CRITICAL MINERALS INDUSTRY **4.1**

SAND & GRAVEL AND STONE INDUSTRIES **4.1**

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY **4.1**

NATIONAL PARKS **4.0**

*Other Federal, State, and Local Agencies are those that are not geological surveys (e.g., planning commissions).

Purple for Government sectors

Blue for Non-Profit/Academic sectors

Green for Private sectors

High ratings (4.0 and above) across federal agencies, universities, the groundwater industry, and more, justify investments in geologic mapping. This supports varied sectors including education, industrial development, environmental preservation, and energy production.

Source: Chapter 10

Prepared by the American Geosciences Institute (AGI).