



Salt 101

What is Salt?

- Salt, known as the compound sodium chloride (NaCl), is one of the most abundant minerals on Earth.
- Worldwide land deposits are vast, and the oceans provide a nearly unlimited amount of salt.
- Salt can be obtained by three primary methods in North America:
 - Underground deposits formed from ancient seabeds
 - Solar evaporation of saltwater
 - Mechanical evaporation of saltwater

What is Salt Used For?

- Salt is essential for life. Humans and animals cannot survive without consuming it in their diets.
- Humans have been using salt for various uses since ancient civilizations in Egypt and China around 6000 BCE.
- Salt has many uses in our everyday lives. Much more than a food enhancer and preserver, salt is used to keep our roads and sidewalks safe, and it is an essential element in the livestock, water softening, pharmaceutical, and chemical industries.

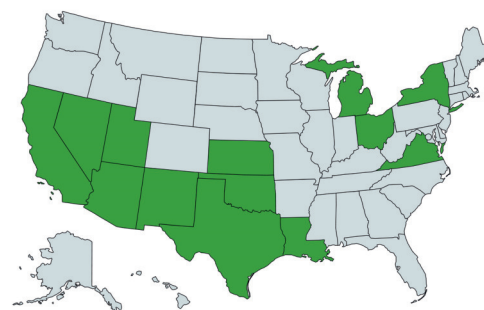
In most applications, there are no other economic substitutions for salt. It is used most extensively in the following end uses:

- 42% - highway and general deicing
- 39% - chemical industry
- 9% - distributors
- 4% - food processing
- 3% - agriculture
- 2% - general industry
- 1% - water treatment

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Salt Industry Production and Jobs in the United States in 2022*

- Approximately 4,000 direct employees
- 64 salt plants in 16 states
- Value of salt sold: \$2.5 billion
- Salt consumption: 59 million tons
- U.S. production: 42 million tons (14% of current global production)
- The U.S. is the world's third largest producer trailing China (64 million tons) and India (45 million tons).
- U.S. imports: slightly less than 18 million tons, (29% of U.S. salt consumption)
 - Top 4 import countries: Chile (29%), Canada (28%), Mexico (13%) and Egypt (11%)



Top salt producing states in 2022

*Source: U.S. Geological Survey