

SALT

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Domestic Production and Use: Domestic production of salt increased slightly in 2000, with total value estimated at \$1 billion. Thirty-one companies operated 69 plants in 15 States. The estimated percentage of salt sold or used, by type, was salt in brine, 51%; rock salt, 32%; vacuum pan, 9%; and solar salt, 8%.

The chemical industry consumed about 45% of total salt sales, with salt brine representing about 91% of the type of salt used for feedstock. Chlorine and caustic soda manufacture was the main consuming sector within the chemical industry. Salt for highway deicing accounted for 31% of U.S. demand. The remaining markets for salt, in declining order, were distributors, 8%; industrial, 6%; agricultural, 4%; food, 3%; primary water treatment, 2%; and other combined with exports, 1%.

Salient Statistics—United States:¹	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000^o
Production	42,200	41,400	41,200	44,900	45,300
Sold or used by producers	42,900	40,600	40,800	44,400	45,300
Imports for consumption	10,600	9,160	8,770	8,870	8,800
Exports	869	748	731	892	800
Consumption: Reported	52,800	49,500	44,200	50,000	53,300
Apparent	52,600	49,000	48,800	52,400	53,300
Price, average value of bulk, pellets and packaged salt, dollars per ton, f.o.b. mine and plant:					
Vacuum and open pan salt	120.54	119.61	114.93	112.49	111.00
Solar salt	39.97	38.81	37.56	52.02	38.00
Rock salt	22.14	20.50	21.90	22.55	21.00
Salt from brine	6.72	6.67	5.93	6.65	6.00
Stocks, producer, yearend ^{o 2}	1,400	800	400	500	0
Employment, mine and plant, number	4,150	4,150	4,150	4,100	4,200
Net import reliance ³ as a percent of apparent consumption	19	17	17	15	15

Recycling: None.

Import Sources (1996-99): Canada, 41%; Chile, 20%; Mexico, 16%; The Bahamas, 11%; and other, 12%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations
		<u>12/31/00</u>
Iodized salt	2501.00.0000	Free.

Depletion Allowance: 10% (Domestic and foreign).

Government Stockpile: None.

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Events, Trends, and Issues: After a 5-year scientific assessment, the Canadian Government released for public comments its findings that road salts (calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride, and sodium chloride) are toxic to the environment. A final decision had not been made by yearend, but if the assessment is adopted, the government would have 2 years to develop control measures and 18 months to implement them so that road salts would not be released to the environment. Opponents to this study were hopeful that the government will realize that sodium chloride is not a toxic substance and that there are no reasonable alternative deicing agents.

A U.S. salt company brought on-stream its new vacuum pan salt facility in Baytown, TX. The plant has an annual nameplate capacity of 725,000 tons. Another domestic vacuum pan salt-producer closed its plant in Hutchinson, KS, and increased capacity at its other facilities in Lyons, KS, and Hersey, MI.

The new rock salt mine at Hampton Corners, NY, that came on-stream in late 1999 expanded production to meet the anticipated demand for rock salt for the winter of 2000-01. After a few mild winters that affected salt sales, many weather forecasters were forecasting below-normal temperatures and a more severe winter that may help alleviate the buildup of salt inventories and increase rock salt sales.

New salt projects were being developed around the world, such as new solar salt plants in Venezuela and Vietnam. After years of planning and discussion, the proposed solar salt complex in San Ignacio Lagoon in Baja, Mexico, was canceled by the Government. Environmental groups were concerned that the new project would be detrimental to whales and other marine life, however, an environmental impact study showed otherwise.

Consumption of salt in 2001 is expected to be higher than that of 2000.

World Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Production		Reserves and reserve base ⁴
	1999	2000 ^e	
United States ¹	44,900	45,300	Large. Economic and subeconomic deposits of salt are substantial in principal salt-producing countries. The oceans comprise an inexhaustible supply of salt.
Australia	10,000	9,000	
Brazil	6,900	7,000	
Canada	12,500	12,500	
China	28,100	30,000	
France	7,000	7,100	
Germany	15,700	15,800	
India	14,500	14,500	
Italy	3,600	3,600	
Mexico	8,500	8,600	
Poland	4,000	4,000	
Russia	2,000	2,000	
Spain	3,200	3,500	
Ukraine	2,500	2,500	
United Kingdom	5,800	5,700	
Other countries	<u>39,800</u>	<u>38,900</u>	
World total (may be rounded)	209,000	210,000	

World Resources: World resources of salt are practically unlimited. Domestic resources of rock salt and salt from brine are in the Northeast, Central Western, and southern Gulf Coast States. Saline lakes and solar evaporation salt facilities are near populated regions in the Western United States. Almost every country in the world has salt deposits or solar evaporation operations of various sizes.

Substitutes: There are no economic substitutes or alternates for salt. Calcium chloride and calcium magnesium acetate, hydrochloric acid, and potassium chloride can be substituted for salt in deicing, certain chemical processes, and food flavoring, but at a higher cost.

^eEstimated.

¹Excludes Puerto Rico.

²Reported stock data are incomplete. For apparent consumption and net import reliance calculations, changes in annual stock totals are assumed to be the difference between salt produced and salt sold or used.

³Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

⁴See Appendix C for definitions.