The Great Salt Lake's chemistry includes 15 natural salts. On any given day, nearly 4.5 billion tons of different lake salts are in solution. In an average year, 2,2 million additional tons of dissolved minerals flow into the lake – the equivalent of 70,000 railroad boxcars.

The Lake's salinity is the result of the minerals in the water entering the basin. The water is constantly evaporating, but minerals remain trapped.

Salinity levels include:

Gilbert Bay is at 8-13%, in a generally downward trend from since 1995.

Gunnison Bay (the North Arm) remains fairly stable at 27-28%.

Bear River and Farmington Bays usually fluctuate between 3 and 6% due to causeway constrictions.

Six mining companies extract minerals from the Lake. Combined, they extract nearly two million tons of chemicals per year. To get the chemicals out of the lake, water is removed from diked ponds by evaporation. On a hot summer's day, evaporation occurs at the rate of 200 tons of water per minute from over 85,000 acres of diked ponds.

The Lake contains 32 mineable minerals. The most profitable include:

Mineral	**Use**
Potassium Sulfate	Fertilizers.
Common Salts	Cattle feed, food processing, water softeners, highway salt.
Magnesium Chloride	Road de-icing and dust suppression and in industrial processes.
Magnesium Metal	Lightweight structural metal alloys, flares, pharmaceuticals,
Chloride Gas	Bleaches, water treatment
Sodium Sulfate	Paper production, glass, ceramics, detergents
Calcium Sulfate or gypsum	Plasters, wallboard, fertilizers.

Oil extraction has been minimal with none occurring now.

Information Courtesy of FRIENDS of the Great Salt Lake