

How salty is seawater?

The average amount of salt in seawater is 35,000 parts per million (ppm). That means for every million parts of water, there is 35,000 parts of salt.

Fill in the place value chart to compare these 2 numbers:

Salt: 35,000

Millions period			Thousands period			Hundreds period		
hundreds	tens	ones	hundreds	tens	ones	hundreds	tens	ones

Water: 1,000,000

Millions period			Thousands period			Hundreds period		
hundreds	tens	ones	hundreds	tens	ones	hundreds	tens	ones

The salt content of water may also be written in parts per thousand (ppt). If the Great Salt Lake is 50 ppt, write the salt content of each water body in the table above as ppt.

Water Body	Estimate of salt content	Parts per thousand (ppt)
Great Salt Lake, Utah	50,000 ppm	50 ppt
Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana	9,000 ppm	
Gulf of Mexico	30,000 ppm	
Atlantic Ocean	35,000 ppm	

Write the water bodies in order from the saltiest to the least salty:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
 4. _____

Use the following symbols to compare the values below: <, =, >

Salt in Atlantic Ocean _____ Salt in Great Salt Lake

Salt in Lake Pontchartrain _____ Salt in Gulf of Mexico

Salt in Atlantic Ocean _____ Salt in your drinking water

9,000 parts per million _____ 9 parts per thousand