CHEMICAL & MINING CO OF CHILE INC
Form 20-F
May 18, 2015

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 20-F

¨ REGISTRATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR (g) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

x ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014

OR

¨ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

¨ SHELL COMPANY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 23 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of event requiring this shell company report_____

For the transition period from _____to_____

Commission file number 33-65728

SOCIEDAD QUIMICA Y MINERA DE CHILE S.A.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

CHEMICAL AND MINING COMPANY OF CHILE INC.

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

CHILE

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

El Trovador 4285, 6th Floor, Santiago, Chile +56 2 2425-2000

(Address of principal executive offices)

Gerardo Illanes +56 2 2425-2485 gerardo.illanes@sqm.com El Trovador 4285, 6th Floor, Santiago, Chile
(Name, Telephone, E-mail and/or Facsimile Number and Address of Company Contact Person)

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act.

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Series B shares, in the form of American Depositary Shares each representing one Series B share	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act.

NONE

Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act.

NONE

Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the annual report.

Series A shares 142,819,552
Series B shares 120,376,972

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in rule 405 of the Securities Act: x YES ¨ NO

If this report is an annual or transition report, indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange act of 1934: ¨ YES x NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. x YES ¨ NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). ¨ YES ¨ NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non accelerated filer. See definition of “accelerated filer and large accelerated filer” in rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

x Large accelerated filer ¨ Accelerated filer ¨ Non- accelerated filer

Indicate by check mark which basis of accounting the registrant has used to prepare the financial statements included in this filing:

¨ U.S. GAAP TInternational Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ¨ Other

If “Other” has been checked in response to the previous question, indicate by check mark which financial statement item the registrant has elected to follow.

Indicate by check mark which financial statement item the registrant has elected to follow. ¨ Item 17 x Item 18

If this is an annual report, indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act): ¨ YES x NO

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PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION

In this Annual Report on Form 20-F, except as otherwise provided or unless the context requires otherwise, all references to "**we**," "**us**," "**Company**" or "**SQM**" are to Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A., an open stock corporation (*sociedad anónima abierta*) organized under the laws of the Republic of Chile, and its consolidated subsidiaries.

All references to "**$**," "**US$**," "**U.S. dollars,**" "**USD**" and "**dollars**" are to United States dollars, references to "**pesos,**" "**CLP**" and "**Ch$**" are to Chilean pesos, references to ThUS$ are to thousands of United States dollars, references to ThCh$ are to thousands of Chilean pesos and references to "**UF**" are to *Unidades de Fomento*. The UF is an inflation-indexed, peso-denominated unit that is linked to, and adjusted daily to reflect changes in, the previous month's Chilean consumer price index. As of December 31, 2014, UF 1.00 was equivalent to US$40.59 and Ch$24,627.10 according to the Chilean Central Bank (*Banco Central de Chile*). As of May 11, 2015, UF 1.00 was equivalent to US$40.88 and Ch$24,808.81.

The Republic of Chile is governed by a democratic government, organized in fourteen regions plus the Metropolitan Region (surrounding and including Santiago, the capital of Chile). Our production operations are concentrated in northern Chile, specifically in the Tarapacá Region and in the Antofagasta Region.

Our fiscal year ends on December 31. As December 31 is a public holiday in Chile, certain financial information is reflected as of December 30, 2014.

We use the metric system of weights and measures in calculating our operating and other data. The United States equivalent units of the most common metric units used by us are as shown below:

1 kilometer equals approximately 0.6214 miles

1 meter equals approximately 3.2808 feet

1 centimeter equals approximately 0.3937 inches

1 hectare equals approximately 2.4710 acres

1 metric ton ("MT") equals 1,000 kilograms or approximately 2,205 pounds.

We are not aware of any independent, authoritative source of information regarding sizes, growth rates or market shares for most of our markets. Accordingly, the market size, market growth rate and market share estimates contained herein have been developed by us using internal and external sources and reflect our best current estimates. These estimates have not been confirmed by independent sources.

Percentages and certain amounts contained herein have been rounded for ease of presentation. Any discrepancies in any figure between totals and the sums of the amounts presented are due to rounding.

GLOSSARY

"**assay values**" Chemical result or mineral component amount contained by the sample.

"**average global metallurgical recoveries**" Percentage that measures the metallurgical treatment effectiveness based on the quantitative relationship between the initial product contained in the mine-extracted material and the final product produced in the plant.

"**average mining exploitation factor**" Index or ratio that measures the mineral exploitation effectiveness, based on the quantitative relationship between (in-situ mineral minus exploitation losses) / in-situ mineral.

"**CAGR**" Compound annual growth rate, the year over year growth rate of an investment over a specified period of time.

"**cash and cash equivalents**" The International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) defines cash and cash equivalents as short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

"**Controller Group**"* A person or company or group of persons or companies that according to Chilean law, have executed a joint performance agreement, that have a direct or indirect share in a company's ownership and have the power to influence the decisions of the company's management.

"**Corfo**" Production Development Corporation (*Corporación de Fomento de la Producción*), formed in 1939, a national organization in charge of promoting Chile's manufacturing productivity and commercial development.

"**cut-off grade**" The minimal assay value or chemical amount of some mineral component above which exploitation is economical.

"**dilution**" Loss of mineral grade because of contamination with barren material (or waste) incorporated in some exploited ore mineral.

"**exploitation losses**" Amounts of ore mineral that have not been extracted in accordance with exploitation designs.

"**fertigation**" The process by which plant nutrients are applied to the ground using an irrigation system.

"**geostatistical analysis**" Statistical tools applied to mining planning, geology and geochemical data that allow estimation of averages, grades and quantities of mineral resources and reserves.

"**heap leaching**" A process whereby minerals are leached from a heap, or pad, of ROM (run of mine) ore by leaching solutions percolating down through the heap and collected from a sloping, impermeable liner below the pad.

"**horizontal layering**" Rock mass (stratiform seam) with generally uniform thickness that conform to the sedimentary fields (mineralized and horizontal rock in these cases).

"**hypothetical resources**" Mineral resources that have limited geochemical reconnaissance, based mainly on geological data and samples assay values spaced between 500–1000 meters.

"**Indicated Mineral Resource**" See "Resources—Indicated Mineral Resource."

"**Inferred Mineral Resource**" See "Resources—Inferred Mineral Resource."

"**industrial crops**" Refers to crops that require processing after harvest in order to be ready for consumption or sale. Tobacco, tea and seed crops are examples of industrial crops.

"**Kriging Method"** A technique used to estimate ore reserves, in which the spatial distribution of continuous geophysical variables is estimated using control points where values are known.

"LIBOR" London Inter Bank Offered Rate.

"**limited reconnaissance**" Low or limited level of geological knowledge.

"**Measured Mineral Resource**" See "Resources—Measured Mineral Resource."

"**metallurgical treatment**" A set of chemical and physical processes applied to the caliche ore and to the salar brines to extract their useful minerals (or metals).

"**ore depth**" Depth of the mineral that may be economically exploited.

"**ore type**" Main mineral having economic value contained in the caliche ore (sodium nitrate or iodine).

"**ore**" A mineral or rock from which a substance having economic value may be extracted.

"**Probable Mineral Reserve**" See "Reserves—Probable Mineral Reserve."

"**Proven Mineral Reserve**" See "Reserves—Proven Mineral Reserve."

"**Reserves—Probable Mineral Reserve**"** The economically mineable part of an Indicated Mineral Resource and, in some circumstances, Measured Mineral Resource. The calculation of the reserves includes diluting of materials and

allowances for losses which may occur when the material is mined. Appropriate assessments, which may include feasibility studies, have been carried out and include consideration of and modification by realistically assumed mining, metallurgical, economic, marketing, legal, environmental, social and governmental factors. These assessments demonstrate at the time of reporting that extraction is reasonably justified. A Probable Mineral Reserve has a lower level of confidence than a Proved Mineral Reserve.

"**Reserves—Proven Mineral Reserve**" ** The economically mineable part of a Measured Mineral Resource. The calculation of the reserves includes diluting materials and allowances for losses which may occur when the material is mined. Appropriate assessments, which may include feasibility studies, have been carried out and include consideration of and modification by realistically assumed mining, metallurgical, economic, marketing, legal, environmental, social and governmental factors. These assessments demonstrate at the time of reporting that extraction is reasonably justified.

"**Resources—Indicated Mineral Resource**" ** The part of a Mineral Resource for which tonnage, densities, shape, physical characteristics, grade and mineral content can be estimated with a reasonable level of confidence. The calculation is based on detailed exploration, sampling and testing information gathered through appropriate sampling techniques from locations such as outcrops, trenches and exploratory drill holes. The locations are too widely or inappropriately spaced to confirm geological continuity and/or grade continuity but are spaced closely enough for continuity to be assumed. An Indicated Mineral Resource has a lower level of confidence than that applying to a Measured Mineral Resource, but has a higher level of confidence than that applying to an Inferred Mineral Resource.

A deposit may be classified as an Indicated Mineral Resource when the nature, quality, amount and distribution of data are such as to allow the Competent Person, as that term is defined under Chilean Law Number 20,235, determining the Mineral Resource to confidently interpret the geological framework and to assume continuity of mineralization. Confidence in the estimate is sufficient to allow the appropriate application of technical and economic parameters and to enable an evaluation of economic viability.

"**Resources—Inferred Mineral Resource**" ** The part of a Mineral Resource for which tonnage, grade and mineral content can be estimated with a low level of confidence, by inferring them on the basis of geological evidence and assumed but not verified geological and/or grade continuity. The estimate is based on information gathered through appropriate techniques from locations such as outcrops, trenches, pits, workings and drill holes, and this information is of limited or uncertain quality and/or reliability. An Inferred Mineral Resource has a lower level of confidence than that applying to an Indicated Mineral Resource.

"**Resources—Measured Mineral Resource**" ** The part of a Mineral Resource for which tonnage, densities, shape, physical characteristics, grade and mineral content can be estimated with a high level of confidence. The estimate is based on detailed exploration, sampling and testing information gathered through appropriate sampling techniques from locations such as outcrops, trenches and exploratory drill holes. The locations are spaced closely enough to confirm geological and/or grade continuity.

A deposit may be classified as a Measured Mineral Resource when the nature, quality, amount and distribution of data are such as to leave no reasonable doubt, in the opinion of the Competent Person, as that term is defined under Chilean Law Number 20,235, determining the Mineral Resource, that the tonnage and grade of the deposit can be estimated within close limits and that any variation from the estimate would not significantly affect potential economic viability. This category requires a high level of confidence in, and understanding of, the geology and controls of the mineral deposit. Confidence in the estimate is sufficient to allow the appropriate application of technical and economic parameters and to enable an evaluation of economic viability.

"**Resources—Mineral Resource**" ** A concentration or occurrence of natural, solid, inorganic or fossilized organic material in or on the Earth's crust in such form or quantity and of such grade or quality that it has reasonable prospects for economically viable extraction. The location, quantity, grade, geological characteristics and continuity of a mineral

resource are known, estimated or interpreted from specific geological, metallurgical and technological evidence.

"**solar salts**" A mixture of 60% sodium nitrate and 40% potassium nitrate used in the storage of thermo-energy.

"**vat leaching**" A process whereby minerals are extracted from crushed ore by placing the ore in large vats containing leaching solutions.

"**waste**" Rock or mineral which is not economical for metallurgical treatment.

"**Weighted average age**" The sum of the product of the age of each fixed asset at a given facility and its current gross book value as of December 31, 2014 divided by the total gross book value of the Company's fixed assets at such facility as of December 31, 2014.

* The definition of a Controller Group that has been provided is the one that applies to the Company. Chilean law provides for a broader definition of a Controller Group.

** The definitions we use for resources and reserves are based on those provided by the "*Instituto de Ingenieros de Minas de Chile*" (Chilean Institute of Mining Engineers).

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Form 20-F contains statements that are or may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are not based on historical facts and reflect our expectations for future events and results. Words such as “believe,” “expect,” “predict,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “estimate,” “sho “may,” “likely,” “could” or similar expressions may identify forward-looking information. These statements appear throughout this Form 20-F and include statements regarding the intent, belief or current expectations of the Company and its management, including but not limited to any statements concerning:

- trends affecting the prices and volumes of the products we sell;
- level of reserves, quality of the ore and brines, and production levels and yields;
- our capital investment program and development of new products;
- the future impact of competition; and
- regulatory changes.

Such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from those described in such forward-looking statements included in this Form 20-F, including, without limitation, the information under Item 4. Information on the Company, Item Number 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects and Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially include, but are not limited to:

- volatility of global prices for our products;
- political, economic and demographic developments in certain emerging market countries, where we conduct a large portion of our business;
- changes in production capacities;
- the nature and extent of future competition in our principal markets;
- our ability to implement our capital expenditures program, including our ability to obtain financing when required;
- changes in raw material and energy prices;
- currency and interest rate fluctuations;
- risks relating to the estimation of our reserves;
- changes in quality standards or technology applications;
- adverse legal, regulatory or labor disputes or proceedings;
- changes in governmental regulations; and
- additional factors discussed below under Item 3. Key Information—Risk Factors.

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PART I

ITEM 1. IDENTITY OF DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND ADVISERS

Not Applicable.

ITEM 2. OFFER STATISTICS AND EXPECTED TIMETABLE

Not Applicable.

ITEM 3. KEY INFORMATION

3.A. Selected Financial Data

The following table presents selected financial data as of December 31, 2014 and the previous four years. The selected financial data should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and notes thereto, “Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects” and other financial information included herein.

Since January 1, 2010, the Company’s Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards as published by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

(in millions of U.S. dollars)[1]	As of and for the year ended December 31, 2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Statement of income:					
Revenues	2,014.2	2,203.1	2,429.2	2,145.3	1,830.4
Cost of sales	(1,431.2)	(1,481.7)	(1,400.6)	(1,290.5)	(1,204.4)
Gross profit	**583.0**	**721.5**	**1,028.6**	**854.8**	**626.0**
Other income	24.1	96.7	12.7	47.7	6.5
Administrative expenses	(96.5)	(105.2)	(106.4)	(91.8)	(78.8)
Other expenses[2]	(64.3)	(49.4)	(34.6)	(63.0)	(36.2)
Other gains (losses)	4.4	(11.4)	0.7	5.8	(7.0)
Finance income	16.1	12.7	29.1	23.2	12.9
Finance expenses	(63.4)	(58.6)	(54.1)	(39.3)	(35.0)
Equity income of associates and joint ventures accounted for using the equity method	18.1	18.8	24.4	21.8	10.7
Foreign currency exchange differences	(16.5)	(12.0)	(26.8)	(25.3)	(5.8)
Income before income tax expense[2]	**405.0**	**613.1**	**873.5**	**733.8**	**493.3**

(in millions of U.S. dollars)[1]	As of and for the year ended December 31, 2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Income tax expense [3]	(160.7)	(138.5)	(216.1)	(179.7)	(106.0)
Profit for the year [2][3]	244.3	474.6	657.4	554.1	387.3
Profit attributable to:					
Controlling interests [2][3]	236.9	467.1	649.2	545.8	382.1
Non-controlling interests	7.4	7.5	8.2	8.4	5.1
Profit for the year [2][3]	244.3	474.6	657.4	554.1	387.3
Basic earnings per share[4]	0.90	1.77	2.47	2.07	1.45
Basic earnings per ADS[5][6]	0.90	1.77	2.47	2.07	1.45
Dividends per share[6][7][8]	1.42	1.04	1.25	1.04	0.66
Dividends per ADS[7][8]	1.42	1.04	1.25	1.04	0.66
Weighted average[4][5] shares outstanding (000s)	263,197	263,197	263,197	263,197	263,197

(1) Except shares outstanding, dividend and net earnings per share and net earnings per ADS.

(2) The 2014 figure includes provisions of approximately US$7 million corresponding to payments made in 2015 to the Chilean Internal Revenue Service (*Servicio de Impuestos Internos* or "SII") for expenses that may not have qualified as tax expenses under the Chilean tax code. Such payments were made after March 3, 2015, the date on which the Company filed its statutory consolidated financial statements filed with the Chilean Superintendence of Securities and Insurance (*Superintendencia de Valores y Seguros* or "SVS"). Therefore, this amount was not reflected in these statutory consolidated financial statements. For more information, see "Item 3D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to our Business—We could be subject to numerous risks as a result of ongoing investigations by the Chilean Internal Revenue Service and the Chilean Public Prosecutor in relation to certain payments of invoices made by SQM between the tax years 2009 and 2014."

(3) In accordance with IAS 12, the effects generated by the change in the income tax rate approved by Law No. 20.780 on income and deferred taxes have been applied to the income statement. For purposes of the Company's statutory consolidated financial statements filed with the SVS, in accordance with the instructions issued by the SVS in its circular 856 of October 17, 2014, the effects generated by the change in the income tax rate were accounted for as retained earnings. The amount charged to equity was US$52.3 million, thereby giving rise to a difference of US$52.3 million in profit for the year and income tax expense as presented in the Company's Audited Consolidated Financial Statements and as presented in its statutory consolidated financial statements filed with the SVS. Subsequent amendments will be recognized in profit or loss for the period in the Company's statutory consolidated financial statements in accordance with IAS 12.

(4) The Company has not conducted any type of transaction that would give rise to a potential dilutive effect on its earnings per share. The total number of outstanding shares as of each period end is the same as the weighted average shares outstanding.

(5) The calculation of earnings per ADSs and dividends per ADS is based on the ratio of 1:1.

(6) Dividends per share are calculated based on 263,196,524 shares for the periods ended December 31, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010.

(7) Dividends are paid from net income as determined in accordance with SVS regulations. See "Item 8.A. Dividend Policy." For dividends in Ch$, see "Item 8.A. Dividend Policy—Dividends."

(8) Dividend amount paid per calendar year to shareholders of the Company. See “Item 8.A. Dividend Policy.”

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	As of and for the year ended December 31,				
(in millions of U.S. dollars)	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Balance Sheet Data:					
Total assets	4,663.7	4,767.6	4,416.4	3,871.6	3,372.8
Total liabilities	2,371.1	2,335.4	2,229.0	2,007.2	1,702.0

	As of and for the year ended December 31,				
(in millions of U.S. dollars)	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Total equity	2,292.5	2,432.2	2,187.4	1,864.4	1,670.8
Equity attributable to controlling interests	2,232.6	2,376.6	2,132.8	1,812.8	1,622.8
Equity attributable to non-controlling interest	59.9	55.6	54.7	51.5	48.0
Capital stock	477.4	477.4	477.4	477.4	477.4

EXCHANGE RATES

Chile has two currency markets, the Formal Exchange Market (*Mercado Cambiario Formal*) in which we conduct our transactions, and the Informal Exchange Market (*Mercado Cambiario Informal*). The Formal Exchange Market comprises banks and other entities authorized by the Chilean Central Bank. The Informal Exchange Market comprises entities that are not expressly authorized to operate in the Formal Exchange Market, such as certain foreign exchange houses and travel agencies, among others. The Chilean Central Bank is empowered to determine that certain purchases and sales of foreign currencies be carried out on the Formal Exchange Market.

Both the Formal Exchange Market and the Informal Exchange Market are driven by free market forces. Current regulations require that the Chilean Central Bank be informed of certain transactions and that these transactions be effected through the Formal Exchange Market.

The Observed Exchange Rate (*dólar observado*), which is reported by the Chilean Central Bank and published daily in the Chilean newspapers, is computed by taking the weighted average of the previous business day's transactions on the Formal Exchange Market. The Chilean Central Bank has the power to intervene by buying or selling foreign currency on the Formal Exchange Market to attempt to maintain the Observed Exchange Rate within a desired range. During the past few years the Chilean Central Bank has intervened to attempt to maintain the Observed Exchange Rate within a certain range only under special circumstances. Although the Chilean Central Bank is not required to purchase or sell U.S. dollars at any specific exchange rate, it generally uses spot rates for its transactions. Other banks generally carry out authorized transactions at spot rates as well.

The Informal Exchange Market reflects transactions carried out at an informal exchange rate (the "Informal Exchange Rate"). There are no limits imposed on the extent to which the Informal Exchange Rate can fluctuate above or below the Observed Exchange Rate. In recent years, the variations between the Observed Exchange Rate and the Informal Exchange Rate have not been significant.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York does not report a noon buying rate for Chilean pesos.

The U.S. dollar is our functional currency. However, unless otherwise indicated, any amounts translated into U.S. dollars from Chilean pesos were translated using the Observed Exchange Rate for December 31, 2014, which was Ch$606.75 per US$1.00. As of May 11, 2015 the Observed Exchange Rate was US$1.00 per Ch$606.92.

Observed Exchange Rate[(1)]

Ch$ per US$

Year	**Low [(1)]**	**High [(1)]**	**Average [(1)(2)]**	**Year/Month End [(3)]**
2010	468.01	549.17	510.22	468.01
2011	455.91	533.74	483.57	519.20
2012	469.65	519.69	486.59	479.96
2013	466.50	533.95	495.18	524.61
2014	527.53	621.41	570.34	606.75

Last six months	**Low [(1)]**	**High [(1)]**	**Average [(1)(2)]**	**Year/Month End [(3)]**
2014				
November	580.62	605.46	593.91	605.46
December	606.75	621.41	612.98	606.75
2015				
January	612.47	632/03	622.11	632.03
February	616.86	632.19	622.95	618.76
March	617.38	642.18	628.86	626.58
April	606.39	621.10	614.00	611.28
May (through May 11, 2015)	605.77	614.48	609.75	606.92

Source: Central Bank of Chile

(1) Reflects high and low rates on a day-to-day basis, for each period reported.

(2) The monthly average rate is calculated on a day-to-day basis for each month reported. The yearly average rate is calculated on a month-to-month basis for each year reported.

(3) Based on transactions observed during the last day of the period.

3.B. Capitalization and Indebtedness

Not applicable.

3.C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds

Not applicable.

3.D. Risk Factors

Our operations are subject to certain risk factors that may affect SQM's business, financial condition, cash flows, or results of operations. In addition to other information contained in this Annual Report on Form 20-F, you should carefully consider the risks described below. These risks are not the only ones we face. Additional risks not currently known to us or that are known but we currently believe are not significant may also affect our business operations. Our business, financial condition, cash flows or results of operations could be materially affected by any of these risks.

Risks Relating to our Business

We could be subject to numerous risks as a result of ongoing investigations by the Chilean Internal Revenue Service and the Chilean Public Prosecutor in relation to certain payments made by SQM between the tax years 2009 and 2014

The SII has been conducting tax investigations related to the payment of invoices by companies, including SQM, for services that may not have been properly supported. The Chilean Public Prosecutor (*Ministerio Público*) has been conducting related inquiries to determine whether such payments may be linked with alleged violations of political contribution laws involving a variety of Chilean companies, including SQM, and government officials.

On February 26, 2015, SQM's Board of Directors resolved to establish an ad-hoc committee of the Board of Directors (the "ad-hoc Committee") authorized to conduct an internal investigation relating to the issues referred to in the above paragraph and to retain such independent external advice as it deemed appropriate. The original members of the ad-hoc Committee were José María Eyzaguirre B., Juan Antonio Guzmán M. and Wolf von Appen B.

The ad-hoc Committee has engaged its own lawyers from Chile and the United States and forensic accountants from the United States to assist as it proceeds with its internal review.

On March 12, 2015, José María Eyzaguirre B. resigned from the ad-hoc Committee and his position was subsequently filled by Hernán Büchi B.

On March 16, 2015, the Board of Directors decided to terminate the employment contract of the Company's former CEO, Patricio Contesse G. This followed his failure to cooperate with the ad-hoc Committee's investigation.

On March 17, 2015, three members of the Board of Directors resigned, all of whom had been nominated by Potash Corp., one of SQM's two principal shareholder groups. Potash Corp. issued a press release stating that the directors resigned because of their concern that they could not ensure that the Company was conducting an appropriate investigation and collaborating effectively with the Public Prosecutor.

On March 20, 2015, the Company identified to the SII approximately US$11 million in payments of invoices that may not have been properly supported by services rendered and therefore may not qualify as tax expenses under the Chilean tax code. These payments originated from the office of the former CEO during the six-year tax period from 2009 to 2014. The statute of limitations under Chilean law for tax claims is up to six years, during which period the former CEO had an annual discretionary budget covering the Company and its subsidiaries of approximately US$6 million.

On March 23, 2015, the SII, based on the Income Tax Law (*Ley de Impuesto a La Renta*) filed a criminal claim against the Company's former CEO and current CEO and CFO in their capacities as the Company's tax representatives relating to the US$11 million in payments referred to above. This and subsequent related claims filed by the SII are subject to review by the Public Prosecutor in order to determine whether to pursue charges against any of the parties in their personal capacities.

On March 30, 2015, the Company submitted amendments to its tax returns for the 2009 to 2014 tax years and has paid taxes and interest relating to such amended returns totaling approximately US$7 million. The aggregate amount was

approximately evenly distributed over the six-year period, but as the amounts were inconsequential in each individual year, the Company recorded a provision for the aggregate amount in the “other expenses” line-item of the income statement for the year ended December 31, 2014.

On March 31, 2015, the SVS filed an administrative claim against five current or former members of the Board of Directors, alleging that they did not release information in a timely manner relating to the payments that are subject to the tax claim referred to above.

On April 24, 2015, the Company announced that it had identified up to an additional US$2 million in payments by its subsidiaries during the same six-year tax period that were authorized by the former CEO and that also may have been insufficiently supported. On the same date, new members were elected to the Board of Directors at the Annual General Shareholders’ Meeting, including three new members that were nominated by Potash Corp., and the ad-hoc Committee was subsequently reconstituted by Board of Directors members Robert A. Kirkpatrick, Wolf von Appen B. and Edward J. Waitzer.

On April 30, 2015, the Public Prosecutor, after reviewing the claims filed by the SII, informed the Company’s former CEO that it was formally investigating allegations that he approved the payment of the invoices that were not properly supported by services rendered and in connection therewith made intentionally false or incomplete declarations or used fraudulent procedures designed to conceal or disguise the true amount of transactions or to circumvent taxes. If, as a result of the formal investigation, the former CEO is charged and finally adjudicated responsible, the Company may also be subject to the payment of a fine by the Chilean Criminal Court (*Octavo Tribunal de Juicio Oral en lo Penal de Santiago*) totaling 50% to 300% of the tax paid. The Company estimates that no provision is needed at this stage.

On May 11, 2015, the SII filed an additional criminal claim against the former CEO and the current CEO and CFO in their capacities as the Company's tax representatives alleging violations of the Chilean Inheritance and Donations Law (*Ley sobre Impuesto a Las Herencias, Asignaciones y Donaciones*). The claim states that the Company paid two invoices in 2009 and 2010 totaling approximately US$175,000 that are alleged to have been improperly supported. The claim states that these payments should have been classified as donations, and appropriate taxes should have been paid. These payments were accounted for in the amended tax returns filed with the SII on March 30, 2015. This claim is subject to review by the Public Prosecutor in order to determine whether to pursue charges against any of the parties in their personal capacities.

Class action complaints have been filed in the United States against the Company, our former CEO and current CEO and CFO, alleging violations of U.S. securities laws based on the failure to timely disclose matters related to the subject matter of the various Chilean investigations.

The investigation and the inquiries by the Chilean regulatory authorities have not been completed. We cannot predict the outcome or the duration of these investigations. We could be subject to civil, criminal or regulatory proceedings in Chile and we could be subject to civil, criminal or regulatory proceedings outside of Chile, including for violation of U.S. securities or anti-corruption laws. We have been in communications with our regulators in Chile and the United States. Responding to our regulator's inquiries and any future civil, criminal or regulatory inquiries or proceedings could divert our management's attention from day-to-day operations. Additionally, expenses that may arise from responding to such inquiries or proceedings, our review of responsive materials, any related litigation or other associated activities may be significant. Current and former employees, officers and directors may seek indemnification, advancement or reimbursement of expenses from us, including attorneys' fees, with respect to the current inquiry or future proceedings related to this matter. We may be required to pay material damages or penalties or have other remedies imposed upon us. If, as a result of further investigations, it is determined that our financial statements were materially incorrect, we could be required to restate financial information for prior reporting periods. The occurrence of any of the foregoing could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, cash flows, results of operations and the prices of our securities. However, the Company's management, based on its understanding of the investigation to date, does not believe there will be any additional material impact to the Company's business, financial condition, cash flows or results of operations.

For more information, see "Item 8.A. Legal Proceedings."

Arbitration proceedings under the Lease Agreement for the Salar de Atacama, if determined adversely to us, would materially adversely affect our business and operations

Our subsidiary SQM Salar holds exclusive and temporary exploitation rights to mineral resources in 81,920 hectares in the Salar de Atacama pursuant to a 1993 lease agreement between SQM Salar and Corporación de Fomento de la Producción ("Corfo"), a Chilean government entity (the "Lease Agreement"). The mining exploitation concessions related

to such rights are owned by Corfo and leased to SQM Salar in exchange for quarterly lease payments to Corfo based on specified percentages associated to the value of the products resulting from the minerals extracted from such concessions. For the year ended December 31, 2014, revenue related to products originating from the Salar de Atacama represented 39% of our consolidated revenues, which corresponded to revenues from our potassium product line and our lithium and derivatives product line for the period. All of our products originating from the Salar de Atacama are derived from our extraction operations under the Lease Agreement.

In May 2014, Corfo initiated an arbitration proceeding against SQM Salar alleging (i) SQM Salar had incorrectly applied the formulas to determine lease payments resulting in an underpayment to Corfo of at least US$8.9 million for 2009 through 2013 and (ii) SQM Salar had not complied with its obligation to protect the mining rights of Corfo by failing to place markers to delineate property lines. Based on the alleged breaches of the Lease Agreement, Corfo sought (i) at least US$8.9 million plus any other amount that may be due in respect of periods after 2013, (ii) early termination of the Lease Agreement, (iii) lease payments that would have been paid through 2030 as compensation for the early termination of the Lease Agreement and (iv) punitive damages (*daño moral*) equal to 30% of the contractual damages awarded. SQM Salar contested the claim, asserting that both parties have applied formulas for the calculation and payment of lease payments for more than 20 years without conflict, in accordance with the terms of the Lease Agreement and their mutual understanding of the agreements by the parties during the term of the Lease Agreement. SQM Salar also asserted that the alleged breaches would be technical breaches and that Corfo may terminate the Lease Agreement solely for a material breach. SQM Salar in consultation with external counsel believes that it is likely it will prevail in the arbitration proceeding. However, an adverse ruling awarding damages sought by Corfo or permitting early termination of the Lease Agreement would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, cash flows and results of operations. We cannot assure you that Corfo will not use this arbitration proceeding to seek to renegotiate the terms of the Lease Agreement in a manner that is not favorable to SQM Salar. Although the parties are currently discussing potential resolutions, we cannot assure you such discussions will be successful or that Corfo will not take other actions in the future in relation to the Lease Agreement that are contrary to our interests.

Our market reputation, commercial dealings or the price of our securities could be adversely affected by the negative outcome of certain proceedings against certain recent members of our Board and certain other named defendants

On September 10, 2013, the SVS issued a press release disclosing it had instituted certain administrative proceedings (the "Cascading Companies Proceedings") against (i) Mr. Julio Ponce Lerou (who was the Chairman of the Board and a director of the Company until April 24, 2015), (ii) Mr. Patricio Contesse Fica, who was a director of the Company until April 24, 2015 and is the son of Mr. Patricio Contesse González (who was the Company's CEO until March 16, 2015), and (iii) other named defendants. The Company has been informed that Mr. Ponce and related persons beneficially owned 29.94% of SQM's total shares as of December 31, 2014. See "Item 6.E. Share Ownership." The SVS alleged breaches of Chilean corporate and securities laws in connection with acts performed by entities with direct or indirect share ownership interests in SQM (the "Cascading Companies"). The allegations made in connection with the Cascading Companies Proceedings do not relate to any acts or omissions of the Company or any of its directors, officers or employees in their capacities as such.

In connection with the Cascading Companies Proceedings, the SVS alleged the existence of a scheme involving the named defendants whereby, through a number of transactions occurring between 2009 and 2011, the Cascading Companies allegedly sold securities of various companies, including securities of SQM, at below-market prices to companies related to Mr. Ponce and other named defendants. These companies allegedly subsequently sold such securities after a lapse of time, in most cases back to the Cascading Companies, at prices higher than the purchase price. The SVS alleged violation by the defendants of a number of Chilean corporate and securities laws in furtherance of the alleged scheme.

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On January 31, 2014, the SVS added a number of Chilean financial institutions and asset managers, and certain of their controlling persons, executives or other principals, as named defendants to the Cascading Companies Proceedings. On September 2, 2014, the SVS issued a decision imposing an aggregate fine against all of the defendants of UF 4,0110,000 (approximately US$162.8 million as of December 31, 2014), including a fine against Mr. Ponce of UF 1,700,000 (approximately US$69.0 million as of December 31, 2014) and a fine against Mr. Contesse Fica of UF 60,000 (approximately US$2.4 million as of December 31, 2014). The defendants are currently challenging the SVS administrative decision before a Chilean Civil Court.

The High Complexity Crimes Unit (*Unidad de Delitos de Alta Complejidad*) of the Metropolitan District Central Northern Attorney's Office (*Fiscalía Metropolitana Centro Norte*) is also investigating various criminal complaints filed against various parties to the Cascading Companies Proceedings. In addition, the SII announced an investigation of the transactions alleged to have occurred in the Cascading Companies Proceedings in order to determine whether the individuals or companies involved violated Chilean tax laws or filed false returns for the purpose of evading taxes.

If, for any reason, the Company is unable to differentiate itself from the named defendants, such failure could have a material adverse effect on the Company's market reputation and commercial dealings. Furthermore, we cannot assure you that a non-appealable ruling in connection with the current Cascading Companies Proceedings or the investigations of the High Complexity Crimes Unit or the SII that is adverse to Mr. Ponce or Mr. Contesse Fica will not have a material adverse effect on our market reputation, commercial dealings and the price of our securities, or that the Cascading Companies will not sell shares of the Company or vote to increase the dividends we pay to our shareholders.

We recently identified a material weakness in our internal controls over payments directed by the office of the former Chief Executive Officer

Our management assessed the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014. The assessment was based on criteria established in the framework "Internal Controls — Integrated Framework (2013)" issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management has determined that the Company did not maintain effective control over payments directed by the office of the former CEO. Based on the assessment, our management has concluded that as of December 31, 2014, the Company's internal control over financial reporting was not effective. See "Item 15. Controls and Procedures—Disclosure Control and Procedures."

Although we have initiated steps to remediate the identified material weakness and enhance our internal controls, any failure to implement and maintain such measures or difficulties encountered in their implementation could (i) result in a material misstatement in our financial reporting or financial statements that would not be prevented or detected, (ii) cause us to fail to meet our reporting obligations under applicable securities laws or (iii) cause investors to lose confidence in our financial reporting or financial statements, the occurrence of any of which could materially and

adversely affect our business, financial condition, cash flows, results of operations and the prices of our securities.

Volatility of world fertilizer and chemical prices and changes in production capacities could affect our business, financial condition and results of operations

The prices of our products are determined principally by world prices, which, in some cases, have been subject to substantial volatility in recent years. World fertilizer and chemical prices vary depending upon the relationship between supply and demand at any given time. Supply and demand dynamics for our products are tied to a certain extent to global economic cycles, and have been impacted by circumstances related to such cycles. Furthermore, the supply of certain fertilizers or chemical products, including certain products that we provide, varies principally depending on the production of the major producers, (including us) and their respective business strategies.

Since 2008, world prices of potassium-based fertilizers (including some of our specialty plant nutrients and potassium chloride) have fluctuated as a result of the broader global economic and financial conditions. Although prices of potassium-based fertilizers stabilized in 2009 after the conclusion of important contract negotiations between major producers and buyers, during the second half of 2013, potassium prices declined as a result of an unexpected announcement made by the Russian company OAO Uralkali ("Uralkali") that it was terminating its participation in Belarus Potash Corporation ("BPC"). As a result of the termination of Uralkali's participation in BPC, there was increased price competition in the market. In addition, during the first half of 2014, we observed lower pricing of contracts between Chinese purchasers and major potash producers, which increased volatility in the price of fertilizers. The average price for our potassium chloride and potassium sulfate business line was approximately 11% lower in 2014 compared to 2013. We cannot assure you that potassium-based fertilizer prices and sales volumes will not decline in the future.

Iodine prices followed an upward trend beginning at the end of 2008 and continuing through 2012, reaching an average price of approximately US$53 per kilogram in 2012, over 40% higher than average prices in 2011. During 2013, even though iodine demand reached record highs, demand growth softened, and supply increased, causing a decline in iodine prices. The average price of iodine seen by SQM was approximately US$38 per kilogram in 2014, approximately 23% less than average prices seen by the Company in 2013. We cannot assure you that iodine prices or sales volumes will not continue to decline in the future.

As a result of events in global markets during 2009, demand for lithium carbonate declined, causing a decrease in lithium prices and sales volumes. In September 2009, we announced a 20% reduction in lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide prices as a means of stimulating demand. As a result, in 2010 we observed demand recovery in the lithium carbonate market, which continued in 2011 and 2012. In 2013, we continued to see strong market growth, driven mostly by an increase in demand related to battery use. Nevertheless, demand growth was accompanied by an increase in supply from existing competitors. In 2014, prices remained at similar levels averaging US$5,235 per metric ton in 2014 for this business line, which was 4% lower compared to 2013. We cannot assure you that lithium prices and sales volumes will not decline in the future.

We expect that prices for the products we manufacture will continue to be influenced, among other things, by worldwide supply and demand and the business strategies of major producers. Some of the major producers (including us) have increased or have the ability to increase production. As a result, the prices of our products may be subject to substantial volatility. High volatility or a substantial decline in the prices or sales volumes of one or more of our products could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our sales to emerging markets and expansion strategy expose us to risks related to economic conditions and trends in those countries

We sell our products in more than 110 countries around the world. In 2014, approximately 46% of our sales were made in emerging market countries: 18% in Central and South America (excluding Chile); 7% in Africa and the Middle East; 11% in Chile and 10% in Asia and Oceania (excluding Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and Singapore). We expect to expand our sales in these and other emerging markets in the future. In addition, we may carry out acquisitions or joint ventures in jurisdictions in which we currently do not operate, relating to any of our businesses or to new businesses in which we believe we may have sustainable competitive advantages. The results of our operations and our prospects in other countries in which we establish operations will depend, in part, on the general level of political stability and economic activity and policies in those countries. Future developments in the political systems or economies of these countries or the implementation of future governmental policies in those countries, including the imposition of withholding and other taxes, restrictions on the payment of dividends or repatriation of capital, the imposition of import duties or other restrictions, the imposition of new environmental regulations or price controls or changes in relevant laws or regulations, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations in those countries.

Our inventory levels may increase because of the global economic slowdown

In general, world economic conditions can affect our inventory levels. At the end of 2014, our inventory levels were relatively high compared to prior years. Higher inventories carry a financial risk due to increased need for cash to fund working capital and could imply increased risk of loss of product. We cannot assure you that inventory levels will not continue to remain high or increase further in the future. These factors could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our level of and exposure to unrecoverable accounts receivable may significantly increase

Potentially negative effects of adverse global economic conditions on the financial condition of our customers may include the extension of the payment terms of our accounts receivable and may increase our exposure to bad debt. While we have implemented certain safeguards, such as using credit insurance, letters of credit and prepayment for a portion of sales, to minimize this risk, the increase in our accounts receivable coupled with the financial condition of customers may result in losses that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

New production of iodine or lithium carbonate from current or new competitors in the markets in which we operate could adversely affect prices

In recent years, new and existing competitors have increased the supply of iodine and lithium carbonate, which has affected prices for both products. Further production increases could negatively impact prices. There is limited information on the status of new iodine or lithium carbonate production capacity expansion projects being developed by current and potential competitors and, as such, we cannot make accurate projections regarding the capacities of possible new entrants into the market and the dates on which they could become operational. If these potential projects are completed in the short term, they could adversely affect market prices and our market share, which, in turn, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We have a capital expenditure program that is subject to significant risks and uncertainties

Our business is capital intensive. Specifically, the exploration and exploitation of reserves, mining and processing costs, the maintenance of machinery and equipment and compliance with applicable laws and regulations require substantial capital expenditures. We must continue to invest capital to maintain or to increase our exploitation levels and the amount of finished products we produce.

In addition, we require environmental permits for our new projects. Obtaining permits in certain cases may cause significant delays in the execution and implementation of new projects and, consequently, may require us to reassess the related risks and economic incentives. We cannot assure you that we will be able to maintain our production levels or generate sufficient cash flow, or that we will have access to sufficient investments, loans or other financing alternatives, to continue our activities at or above present levels, or that we will be able to implement our projects or receive the necessary permits required for them in time. Any or all of these factors may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

High raw materials and energy prices could increase our production costs and cost of sales, and energy may become unavailable at any price

We rely on certain raw materials and various energy sources (diesel, electricity, liquefied natural gas, fuel oil and others) to manufacture our products. Purchases of energy and raw materials we do not produce constitute an important part of our cost of sales, approximately 15% in 2014. In addition, we may not be able to obtain energy at any price if supplies are curtailed or otherwise become unavailable. To the extent we are unable to pass on increases in the prices of energy and raw materials to our customers or we are unable to obtain energy, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

Our reserves estimates could be subject to significant changes

Our caliche ore mining reserves estimates are prepared by our own geologists and were most recently validated in January 2015 by Mrs. Marta Aguilera and Mr. Orlando Rojas. Mrs. Aguilera is a geologist with over 20 years of experience in the field. She is currently employed by SQM as Manager of Geology and Mining Development. Mrs. Aguilera is a Competent Person (*Persona Competente*), as that term is defined under Chilean Law No. 20,235, known as the Law that Regulates the Position of Competent Person and Creates the Qualifying Committee for Competencies in Mining Resources and Reserves (*Ley que Regula la Figura de las Personas Competentes y Crea la Comisión Calificadora de Competencias de Recursos y Reservas Mineras* or "Competent Person Law"), and she is registered under No. 163 in the Public Registry of Competent Persons in Mining Resources and Reserves in accordance with such law and related regulations. Mr. Orlando Rojas is a civil mining engineer and independent consultant. He is Partner and Chief Executive Officer of the company EMI-Ingenieros y Consultores S.A., whose offices are located at Renato Sánchez No. 3357, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile. He is a member of the Institute of Mining Engineers and is registered under No. 118 in the Public Registry of Competent Persons in Mining Resources and Reserves in accordance with the Competent Person Law and related regulations. He has worked as a mining engineer for 35 years since graduating from university, including more than 30 years working on estimates for reserves and resources.

Our Salar de Atacama brine mining reserve estimates are prepared by our own geologists and were most recently validated in March 2015 by Mr. Álvaro Henríquez and Mr. Orlando Rojas. Mr. Henríquez is a geologist with more than 10 years of experience in the field of hydrogeology. He is currently employed by SQM as Superintendent of Geology, in the Salar Hydrogeology department. He is a Competent Person and is registered under No. 226 in the Public Registry of Competent Persons in Mining Resources and Reserves, in accordance with the Competent Person Law and related regulations. As a hydrogeologist, he has evaluated multiple brine-based projects and has experience evaluating resources and reserves.

Estimation methods involve numerous uncertainties as to the quantity and quality of the reserves, and reserve estimates could change upwards or downwards. In addition, our reserve estimates are not subject to review by external geologists or an external auditing firm. A downward change in the quantity and/or quality of our reserves could affect

future volumes and costs of production and therefore have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Quality standards in markets in which we sell our products could become stricter over time

In the markets in which we do business, customers may impose quality standards on our products and/or governments may enact stricter regulations for the distribution and/or use of our products. As a result, if we cannot meet such new standards or regulations, we may not be able to sell our products. In addition, our cost of production may increase in order to meet any such newly imposed or enacted standards. Failure to sell our products in one or more markets or to important customers could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Chemical and physical properties of our products could adversely affect their commercialization

Since our products are derived from natural resources, they contain inorganic impurities that may not meet certain customer or government standards. As a result, we may not be able to sell our products if we cannot meet such requirements. In addition, our cost of production may increase in order to meet such standards. Failure to meet such standards could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations if we are unable to sell our products in one or more markets or to important customers in such markets.

Our business is subject to many operating and other risks for which we may not be fully covered under our insurance policies

Our facilities and business operations in Chile and abroad are insured against losses, damage or other risks by insurance policies that are standard for the industry and that would reasonably be expected to be sufficient by prudent and experienced persons engaged in businesses similar to ours.

We may be subject to certain events that may not be covered under our insurance policies, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Additionally, as a result of recent major earthquakes in Chile and other natural disasters worldwide, conditions in the insurance market have changed and may continue to change in the future, and as a result, we may face higher premiums and reduced coverage, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Changes in technology or other developments could result in preferences for substitute products

Our products, particularly iodine, lithium, and their derivatives, are preferred raw materials for certain industrial applications, such as rechargeable batteries and LCDs. Changes in technology, the development of substitute raw materials or other developments could adversely affect demand for these and other products which we produce. In addition, other alternatives to our products may become more economically attractive as global commodity prices shift. Any of these events could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We are exposed to labor strikes and labor liabilities that could impact our production levels and costs

Over 96% of our employees are employed in Chile, of which approximately 68% were represented by 25 labor unions as of December 31, 2014. As in previous years, during 2014 we renegotiated collective labor contracts with individual unions one year before the expiration of such contracts. As of December 31, 2014, we had concluded negotiations with 21 labor unions, which represent 91.9% of our total unionized workers, signing new agreements with each for the next three years. In January of 2015, we concluded negotiations with two additional unions, covering a total of 99.7% of our unionized workers. In order to finalize the current collective bargaining cycle, we need to conduct negotiations with the remaining two unions.

We are exposed to labor strikes and illegal work stoppages that could impact our production levels. If a strike or illegal work stoppage occurs and continues for a sustained period of time, we could be faced with increased costs and even disruption in our product flow that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Chilean Law No. 20,123, known as the Subcontracting Law, provides that when a serious workplace accident occurs, a company must halt work at the site where the accident took place until authorities from either the National Geology and Mining Service (*Servicio Nacional de Geología y Minería* or "Sernageomin"), the Labor Board (*Dirección del Trabajo* or "Labor Board"), or the National Health Service (*Servicio Nacional de Salud*), inspect the site and prescribe the measures such company must take to minimize the risk of similar accidents taking place in the future. Work may not be resumed until such company has taken the prescribed measures, and the period of time before work may be resumed may last for a number of hours, days, or longer. The effects of this law could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

On December 29, 2014, the Government of Chile sent the Chilean Congress a bill introducing modifications to the Labor Code in relation to collective rights. The objective of such bill is to modernize the Chilean labor relations system, giving more power to union organizations. This bill could undergo modifications after being discussed by the parliament during the year 2015. Therefore, we are not able to predict the potential effects of such bill on the Company.

Lawsuits and arbitrations could adversely impact us

We are party to a range of lawsuits and arbitrations involving different matters as described in Note 19.1 of our Consolidated Financial Statements and Item 8.A. Legal Proceedings. Although we intend to defend our positions vigorously, our defense of these actions may not be successful. Judgments or settlements in these lawsuits may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, our strategy of being a world leader includes entering into commercial and production alliances, joint ventures and acquisitions to improve our global competitive position. As these operations increase in complexity and are carried out in different jurisdictions, we might be subject to legal proceedings that, if settled against us, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In 2009, the Chilean labor code (*Código del Trabajo* or "Labor Code") established new procedures for labor matters which include oral trials conducted by specialized judges. The information available indicates that the majority of these oral trials have found in favor of the employee. These new procedures have increased the probability of adverse judgments in labor lawsuits which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We have operations in multiple jurisdictions with differing regulatory, tax and other regimes

We operate in multiple jurisdictions with complex regulatory environments that are subject to different interpretations by companies and respective governmental authorities. These jurisdictions may have different tax codes,

environmental regulations, labor codes and legal framework, which adds complexity to our compliance with these regulations. Any failure to comply with such regulations could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Environmental laws and regulations could expose us to higher costs, liabilities, claims and failure to meet current and future production targets

Our operations in Chile are subject to national and local regulations relating to environmental protection. In accordance with such regulations, we are required to conduct environmental impact studies or statements before we conduct any new projects or activities or significant modifications of existing projects that could impact the environment or the health of people in the surrounding areas. We are also required to obtain an environmental license for certain projects and activities. The Environmental Evaluation Service (*Servicio de Evaluación Ambiental* or "Environmental Evaluation Service") evaluates environmental impact studies submitted for its approval. The public, government agencies or local authorities may review and challenge projects that may adversely affect the environment, either before these projects are executed or once they are operating, if they fail to comply with applicable regulations. In order to ensure compliance with environmental regulations, Chilean authorities may impose fines up to approximately US$9 million per infraction, revoke environmental permits or temporarily or permanently close facilities, among other enforcement measures.

Chilean environmental regulations have become increasingly stringent in recent years, both with respect to the approval of new projects and in connection with the implementation and development of projects already approved, and we believe that this trend is likely to continue. Given public interest in environmental enforcement matters, these regulations or their application may also be subject to political considerations that are beyond our control.

We regularly monitor the impact of our operations on the environment and on the health of people in the surrounding areas and have, from time to time, made modifications to our facilities to minimize any adverse impact. Future developments in the creation or implementation of environmental requirements or their interpretation could result in substantially increased capital, operation or compliance costs or otherwise adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The success of our current investments at the Salar de Atacama and Nueva Victoria is dependent on the behavior of the ecosystem variables being monitored over time. If the behavior of these variables in future years does not meet environmental requirements, our operation may be subject to important restrictions by the authorities on the maximum allowable amounts of brine and water extraction.

Our future development depends on our ability to sustain future production levels, which requires additional investments and the submission of the corresponding environmental impact studies or statements. If we fail to obtain approval or required environmental licenses, our ability to maintain production at specified levels will be seriously impaired, thus having a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, our worldwide operations are subject to international and other local environmental regulations. Since environmental laws and regulations in the different jurisdictions in which we operate may change, we cannot guarantee that future environmental laws, or changes to existing environmental laws, will not materially adversely impact our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our water supply could be affected by geological changes or climate change

Our access to water may be impacted by changes in geology, climate change or other natural factors, such as wells drying up or reductions in the amount of water available in the wells or rivers from which we obtain water, that we cannot control. Any such change may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Any loss of key personnel may materially and adversely affect our business

Our success depends in large part on the skills, experience and efforts of our senior management team and other key personnel. The loss of the services of key members of our senior management or employees with critical skills could have a negative effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. If we are not able to attract or retain highly skilled, talented and qualified senior managers or other key personnel, our ability to fully implement our business objectives may be materially and adversely affected.

Risks Relating to Financial Markets

Currency fluctuations may have a negative effect on our financial performance

We transact a significant portion of our business in U.S. dollars, and the U.S. dollar is the currency of the primary economic environment in which we operate. In addition, the U.S. dollar is our functional currency for financial statement reporting purposes. A significant portion of our costs, however, is related to the Chilean peso. Therefore, an increase or decrease in the exchange rate between the Chilean peso and the U.S. dollar would affect our costs of production. The Chilean peso has been subject to large devaluations and revaluations in the past and may be subject to significant fluctuations in the future. As of December 31, 2014, the Chilean peso exchange rate was Ch$606.75 per U.S. dollar, while as of December 31, 2013, the Chilean peso exchange rate was Ch$524.61 per U.S. dollar. The Chilean peso therefore depreciated against the U.S. dollar by 16% in 2014. As of April 28, 2015, the Observed Exchange Rate was Ch$611.08 per U.S. dollar.

As an international company operating in several other countries, we also transact business and have assets and liabilities in other non-U.S. dollar currencies, such as, among others, the euro, the South African rand, the Mexican peso, the Chinese yuan, the Thai baht and the Brazilian real. As a result, fluctuations in the exchange rates of such foreign currencies to the U.S. dollar may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Interest rate fluctuations may have a material impact on our financial performance

We have outstanding short and long-term debt that bears interest based on the London Interbank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”), plus a spread. Since we are currently hedging only a portion of these liabilities into fixed rates, we are exposed to interest rate risk relating to LIBOR fluctuations. As of December 31, 2014, approximately 14% our financial debt had LIBOR-based pricing that was not hedged into fixed rates. A relative increase in the rate could materially impact our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Risks Relating to Chile

As we are a company based in Chile, we are exposed to Chilean political risks

Our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects could be affected by changes in policies of the Chilean government, other political developments in or affecting Chile, legal changes in the standards or administrative practices of Chilean authorities or the interpretation of such standards and practices, over which we have no control.

Changes in regulations regarding, or any revocation or suspension of our concessions could negatively affect our business

Any changes to regulations to which we are subject or adverse changes to our concession rights, or a revocation or suspension of our concessions, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Changes in mining or port concessions could affect our operating costs

We conduct our mining operations, including brine extraction, under exploitation and exploration concessions granted in accordance with provisions of the Chilean constitution and related laws and statutes. Our exploitation concessions essentially grant a perpetual right (with the exception of the Salar de Atacama rights, which have been leased to us until 2030) to conduct mining operations in the areas covered by the concessions, provided that we pay annual concession fees. Our exploration concessions permit us to explore for mineral resources on the land covered thereby for a specified period of time and to subsequently request a corresponding exploitation concession. Our subsidiary SQM Salar, as leaseholder, holds exclusive and temporary rights over the mineral resources in an area covering approximately 140,000 hectares of land in the Salar de Atacama in northern Chile, of which SQM Salar is entitled to exploit the mineral resources of 81,920 hectares. These rights are owned by Corfo and leased to SQM Salar pursuant to the Lease Agreement between Corfo and SQM Salar. Corfo may not unilaterally modify the Lease Agreement, and the rights to exploit the mineral substances cannot be transferred. The Lease Agreement establishes that SQM Salar is responsible for making quarterly lease payments to Corfo, maintaining Corfo's rights over the mining exploitation concessions, and making annual payments to the Chilean government for such concession rights. The Lease Agreement expires on December 31, 2030. Furthermore, under the regulations of the Chilean Nuclear and Energy Commission (*Comisión Chilena de Energía Nuclear* or "CCHEN"), we are limited to 180,100 tons of total lithium (958,672 tons of lithium carbonate equivalent) extraction in the aggregate for all periods. We are over halfway through the term of the Lease Agreement and have extracted approximately half of the total accumulated extraction limit of lithium. However, there can be no assurance that we will not reach the lithium extraction limit prior to the term of the lease agreement. In addition, we cannot assure you that Corfo will not take other actions in the future in respect of the Lease Agreement that are contrary to our interests. See "-Risk Relating to our Business-Arbitration proceedings under the Lease Agreement for the Salar de Atacama, if determined adversely to us, would materially adversely affect our business and operations."

We also operate port facilities at Tocopilla, Chile for the shipment of products and the delivery of raw materials pursuant to maritime concessions, which have been granted under applicable Chilean laws and are normally renewable on application, provided that such facilities are used as authorized and annual concession fees are paid.

Any significant changes to any of these concessions could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Changes in water rights laws and other regulations could affect our operating costs

We hold water rights that are key to our operations. These rights were obtained from the Chilean Water Authority (*Dirección General de Aguas*) for supply of water from rivers and wells near our production facilities, which we believe are sufficient to meet current operating requirements. However, the Chilean water rights code (*Código de Aguas* or the "Water Code") is subject to changes, which could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial

condition and results of operations. For example, an amendment published on June 16, 2005 modified the Water Code, allowing, under certain conditions, the granting of permanent water rights of up to two liters per second for each well built prior to June 30, 2004, in the areas where we conduct our mining operations, without considering the availability of water, or how the new rights may affect holders of existing rights. Therefore, the amount of water we can effectively extract based on our existing rights could be reduced if these additional rights are exercised. In addition, we must pay annual fees to maintain water rights that have been granted to us and that we are not exercising. These and potential future changes to the Water Code or other relevant regulations could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The Chilean government could levy additional taxes on corporations operating in Chile

In 2005, the Chilean Congress approved Law No. 20,026 known as the Law to Establish a Specific Tax on Mining Activity" (*Ley que Establece un Impuesto Específico a la Actividad Minera* or the "Royalty Law"), establishing a royalty tax to be applied to mining activities developed in Chile.

Following the earthquake and tsunami in February 2010, the Chilean government raised the corporate income tax rate in order to pay for reconstruction. Such legislation increased the general corporate tax rate from its historic rate of 17.0% to 20.0% for the income accrued in 2011, which was declared and paid in 2012. On September 27, 2012, Law No. 20,630 introduced new amendments to existing tax legislation. Among the amendments introduced, the corporate income tax was maintained at 20% beginning in the 2013 calendar year.

On September 29, 2014, Law No. 20,780 was published (the "Tax Reform"), introducing significant changes to the Chilean taxation system and strengthening the powers of the SII to control and prevent tax avoidance. The Tax Reform contemplates, among other matters, changes to the corporate tax regime to create two tax regimes. Starting on January 1, 2017, Chilean companies will be able to opt between two tax regimes: (i) the partially integrated shareholder tax regime (*sistema parcialmente integrado*) or (ii) the attributed income shareholder taxation regime (*sistema de renta atribuida*). In both regimes, the corporate tax rate will be increased to 21% in 2014, 22.5% in 2015 and 24% by 2016. On or after January 1, 2017, and depending on the tax regime chosen by the company, tax rates may be increased to a maximum rate of 25% in 2017 for the attributed income shareholder taxation regime or to a rate of 25.5% in 2017 and subsequently to a maximum rate of 27% in 2018 for the partially integrated shareholder tax regime.

As an open stock corporation, the default regime that applies to us is the partially integrated regime, unless at a future shareholders' meeting our shareholders agree to opt for the attributed income shareholder taxation regime. Under the partially integrated shareholder taxation regime, shareholders bear the tax on dividends, when paid, but will be permitted to credit against such shareholder taxes only a portion of the Chilean corporate tax paid by us on our earnings, unless the shareholder is resident in a country with a tax treaty with Chile, in which case 100% of the Chilean corporate tax paid by us may be credited against such shareholder taxes. As a result, foreign shareholders resident in a non-treaty jurisdiction (such as the United States) will be subject to a higher effective tax rate than residents of treaty jurisdictions. Under the attributed-income shareholder taxation regime, shareholders bear the Chilean tax on our accrued earnings (whether or not dividends have been distributed), but may credit the full amount of the Chilean corporate tax we pay on such earnings against such shareholder taxes.

The Tax Reform tax increase prompted a US$52.3 million increase in our deferred tax liabilities as of December 31, 2014. In accordance with IAS 12, the effects generated by the change in the income tax rate approved by Law No. 20.780 on income and deferred taxes have been applied to the income statement. For purposes of the Company's statutory consolidated financial statements filed with the SVS, in accordance with the instructions issued by the SVS in its circular 856 of October 17, 2014, the effects generated by the change in the income tax rate were accounted for as retained earnings. The amount charged to equity was US$52.3 million, thereby giving rise to a difference of US$52.3 million in profit for the year and income tax expense as presented in the Company's Audited Consolidated Financial Statements and as presented in its statutory consolidated financial statements filed with the SVS.

Given the difference in accounting treatments between IFRS and the instructions of the SVS, we will continue to analyze the effects of the Tax Reform on our financial statements and reporting obligations, and we cannot be sure of how our future financial statements will reflect these changes.

In addition, the Tax Reform may have other material adverse effects on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Likewise, we cannot assure you that the manner in which the Royalty Law or the corporate tax rate are interpreted and applied will not change in the future. The Chilean government may decide to levy additional taxes on mining companies or other corporations in Chile. Such changes could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Ratification of the International Labor Organization's Convention 169 concerning indigenous and tribal peoples might affect our development plans

Chile, a member of the International Labor Organization ("ILO"), has ratified the ILO's Convention 169 (the "Indigenous Rights Convention") concerning indigenous and tribal people. The Indigenous Rights Convention established several rights for indigenous people and communities. Among other rights, the Indigenous Rights Convention states that (i) indigenous groups should be notified and consulted prior to the development of any project on land deemed indigenous, although veto rights are not mentioned and (ii) indigenous groups have, to the extent possible, a stake in benefits resulting from the exploitation of natural resources in indigenous land. The extent of these benefits has not been defined by the Chilean government. To the extent that the new rights outlined in the Indigenous Rights Convention become laws or regulations in Chile, they could affect the development of our investment projects in lands that have been defined as indigenous, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Chile is located in a seismically active region

Chile is prone to earthquakes because it is located along major fault lines. The most recent major earthquake in Chile occurred offshore in April 2014 and had a magnitude of 8.2 on the Richter scale. This earthquake followed another one in February 2010, which caused substantial damage to some areas of the country. Chile has also experienced volcanic activity. A major earthquake or a volcanic eruption could have significant negative consequences for our operations and for the general infrastructure, such as roads, rail, and access to goods, in Chile. Although we maintain industry standard insurance policies that include earthquake coverage, we cannot assure you that a future seismic or volcanic event will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Risks Relating to our Shares and to our ADSs

The price of our ADSs and the U.S. dollar value of any dividends will be affected by fluctuations in the U.S. dollar/Chilean peso exchange rate

Chilean trading in the shares underlying our ADSs is conducted in Chilean pesos. The depositary will receive cash distributions that we make with respect to the shares in Chilean pesos. The depositary will convert such Chilean pesos to U.S. dollars at the then prevailing exchange rate to make dividend and other distribution payments in respect of ADSs. If the value of the Chilean peso falls relative to the U.S. dollar, the value of the ADSs and any distributions to be received from the depositary will decrease.

Developments in other emerging markets could materially affect the value of our ADSs

The Chilean financial and securities markets are, to varying degrees, influenced by economic and market conditions in other emerging market countries or regions of the world. Although economic conditions are different in each country or region, investor reaction to developments in one country or region can have significant effects on the securities of issuers in other countries and regions, including Chile and Latin America. Events in other parts of the world may have a material effect on Chilean financial and securities markets and on the value of our ADSs.

The volatility and low liquidity of the Chilean securities markets could affect the ability of our shareholders to sell our ADSs

The Chilean securities markets are substantially smaller, less liquid and more volatile than the major securities markets in the United States. The volatility and low liquidity of the Chilean markets could increase the price volatility of our ADSs and may impair the ability of a holder to sell our ADSs into the Chilean market in the amount and at the price and time he wishes to do so.

Our share price may react negatively to future acquisitions and investments

As world leaders in our core businesses, part of our strategy is to look for opportunities that will allow us to consolidate and strengthen our competitive position in jurisdictions in which we currently do not operate. Pursuant to this strategy, we may carry out acquisitions or joint ventures relating to any of our businesses or to new businesses in which we believe we may have sustainable competitive advantages. Depending on our capital structure at the time of such acquisitions or joint ventures, we may need to raise significant debt and/or equity which will affect our financial condition and future cash flows. Any change in our financial condition could affect our results of operations, negatively impacting our share price.

You may be unable to enforce rights under U.S. Securities Laws

Because we are a Chilean company subject to Chilean law, the rights of our shareholders may differ from the rights of shareholders in companies incorporated in the United States, and you may not be able to enforce or may have difficulty enforcing rights currently in effect under U.S. Federal or State securities laws.

Our Company is an open stock corporation incorporated under the laws of the Republic of Chile. Most of our directors and officers reside outside the United States, principally in Chile. All or a substantial portion of the assets of these persons are located outside the United States. As a result, if any of our shareholders, including holders of our ADSs, were to bring a lawsuit against our officers or directors in the United States, it may be difficult for them to effect service of legal process within the United States upon these persons. Likewise, it may be difficult for them to enforce judgments obtained in United States courts based upon the civil liability provisions of the federal securities laws in the United States against them in the United States.

In addition, there is no treaty between the United States and Chile providing for the reciprocal enforcement of foreign judgments. However, Chilean courts have enforced judgments rendered in the United States, provided that the Chilean court finds that the United States court respected basic principles of due process and public policy. Nevertheless, there is doubt as to whether an action could be brought successfully in Chile in the first instance on the basis of liability based solely upon the civil liability provisions of the United States federal securities laws.

As preemptive rights may be unavailable for our ADS holders, they have the risk of their holdings being diluted if we issue new stock

Chilean laws require companies to offer their shareholders preemptive rights whenever issuing new shares of capital stock so shareholders can maintain their existing ownership percentage in a company. If we increase our capital by issuing new shares, a holder may subscribe for up to the number of shares that would prevent dilution of the holder’s ownership interest.

If we issue preemptive rights, United States holders of ADSs would not be able to exercise their rights unless a registration statement under the Securities Act were effective with respect to such rights and the shares issuable upon exercise of such rights or an exemption from registration were available. We cannot assure holders of ADSs that we will file a registration statement or that an exemption from registration will be available. We may, in our absolute discretion, decide not to prepare and file such a registration statement. If our holders were unable to exercise their preemptive rights because we did not file a registration statement, the depositary bank would attempt to sell their rights and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to them, after deducting the depositary’s fees and expenses. If the depositary could not sell the rights, they would expire and holders of ADSs would not realize any value from them. In

either case, ADS holders' equity interest in us would be diluted in proportion to the increase in our capital stock.

If we were classified as a Passive Foreign Investment Company there could be adverse consequences for U.S. investors

We believe that we were not classified as a Passive Foreign Investment Company ("PFIC") for 2014. Characterization as a PFIC could result in adverse U.S. tax consequences to you if you are a U.S. investor in our shares or ADSs. For example, if we (or any of our subsidiaries) are a PFIC, our U.S. investors may become subject to increased tax liabilities under U.S. tax laws and regulations and will become subject to burdensome reporting requirements. The determination of whether or not we (or any of our subsidiaries or portfolio companies) are a PFIC is made on an annual basis and will depend on the composition of our (or their) income and assets from time to time. See "Item 10.E. Taxation—United States Tax Considerations."

Changes in Chilean tax regulations could have adverse consequences for U.S. investors

Currently cash dividends paid by us to foreign shareholders are subject to a 35% Chilean withholding tax. If we have paid corporate income tax (the "First Category Tax") on the income from which the dividend is paid, a credit for the First Category Tax effectively reduces the rate of Withholding Tax. Changes in Chilean tax regulations could have adverse consequences for U.S. investors. See "Item 3. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Chile—The Chilean Government Could Levy Additional Taxes on Corporations Operating in Chile" and "Item 10. Taxation—Chilean Tax Considerations."

ITEM 4. INFORMATION ON THE COMPANY

4.A. History and Development of the Company

Historical Background

Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A. is an open stock corporation organized under the laws of the Republic of Chile. We were constituted by public deed issued on June 17, 1968 by the Notary Public of Santiago, Mr. Sergio Rodríguez Garcés. Our existence was approved by Decree No. 1,164 of June 22, 1968 of the Ministry of Finance, and we were registered on June 29, 1968 in the Registry of Commerce of Santiago, on page 4,537 No. 1,992. Our headquarters is located at El Trovador 4285, Fl. 6, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile. Our telephone number is +56 2 2425-2000. Our U.S. representative is SQM NA located at 2727 Paces Ferry Road, Building Two, Suite 1425, Atlanta, GA 30339. The phone number is +1 (770) 916-9407.

Commercial exploitation of the caliche ore deposits in northern Chile began in the 1830s, when sodium nitrate was extracted from the ore for use in the manufacturing of explosives and fertilizers. By the end of the nineteenth century, nitrate production had become the leading industry in Chile and the country was the world's leading supplier of nitrates. The accelerated commercial development of synthetic nitrates in the 1920s and the global economic depression in the 1930s caused a serious contraction of the Chilean nitrate business, which did not recover significantly until shortly before the Second World War. After the war, the widespread commercial production of synthetic nitrates resulted in a further contraction of the natural nitrate industry in Chile, which continued to operate at depressed levels into the 1960s.

We were formed in 1968 through a joint venture between Compañía Salitrera Anglo Lautaro S.A. ("Anglo Lautaro") and Corfo. Three years after our formation, in 1971, Anglo Lautaro sold all of its shares to Corfo, and we were wholly owned by the Chilean Government until 1983. In 1983, Corfo began a process of privatization by selling our shares to the public and subsequently listing such shares on the Santiago Stock Exchange. By 1988, all of our shares were publicly owned. Our Series B ADSs have traded on the NYSE under the ticker symbol "SQM" since 1993. We accessed international capital markets again for the issuance of additional ADSs in 1995 and 1999. On December 21, 2006, two groups of shareholders, the "Pampa Group" (which includes the company Sociedad de Inversiones Pampa Calichera S.A. and its related companies, Inversiones Global Mining Chile Limitada and Potasios de Chile S.A.) and Kowa Group (which includes the companies Kowa Company Ltd., Inversiones La Esperanza (Chile) Limitada, Kochi S.A and La Esperanza Delaware Corporation) signed a joint agreement and became the controlling group of SQM.

Since our inception, we have produced nitrates and iodine, which are obtained from the caliche ore deposits in northern Chile. In 1985, we began to use heap leaching processes to extract nitrates and iodine, and in 1986 we started to produce potassium nitrate at our Coya Sur facility. Between 1994 and 1999, we invested approximately US$300 million in the development of the Salar de Atacama project in northern Chile, which enabled us to produce potassium chloride, lithium carbonate, potassium sulfate and boric acid.

From 2000 through 2004, we principally consolidated the investments carried out in the preceding five years. We focused on reducing costs and improving efficiencies throughout the organization. In addition, in 2001, we signed a commercial distribution agreement with the Norwegian company Yara International ASA, in order to take advantage of cost synergies in the Specialty Plant Nutrition business line.

Starting in 2005, we began strengthening our leadership position in our core businesses through a combination of capital expenditures and advantageous acquisitions and divestitures. Our acquisitions have included the Kemira Emirates Fertiliser Company ("Kefco") in Dubai in 2005 and the iodine business of Royal DSM N.V. ("DSM") in 2006. We also entered into a number of joint ventures, including a joint venture with Migao Corporation ("Migao"), signed in 2008, for the production of potassium nitrate, and SQM VITAS, our joint venture with the French Roullier Group. Pursuant to the latter joint venture, in 2010, we launched a new line of soluble phosphate products, and in 2012 we built new plants for the production of water-soluble fertilizers in Brazil (Candeias), Peru and South Africa (Durban). We have also sold: (i) Fertilizantes Olmeca, our former Mexican subsidiary, in 2006, (ii) our stake in Impronta S.R.L., our former Italian subsidiary, in 2007 and (iii) our former butyllithium plant located in Houston, Texas, in 2008. These sales allowed us to concentrate our efforts on our core products.

The capital expenditure program has allowed us to add new products to our product line and increase the production capacity of our existing products. In 2005, we started production of lithium hydroxide at a plant in the Salar del Carmen, near the city of Antofagasta in the north of Chile. In 2007, we completed the construction of a new prilling and granulating plant. In 2011, we completed expansions of our lithium carbonate capacity, achieving 48,000 metric tons per year. Since 2010, we have continued to expand our production capacity of potassium products in our operations in the Salar de Atacama. In 2011, we completed the construction of a new potassium nitrate facility in Coya Sur, increasing our overall production capacity of potassium nitrate by 300,000 metric tons per year. In 2013, we completed expansions in the production capacity of our iodine plants in Nueva Victoria. Our capital expenditure program also includes exploration for metallic minerals. Our exploration efforts have led to discoveries that in some cases may result in sales of the discovery and the generation of royalty income in the future. Within this context, in 2013 we sold our royalty rights to the Antucoya mining project to Antofagasta Minerals. In 2013 we also opened a trading office in Thailand.

In 2014, we invested in the development of new extraction sectors and production increases in both nitrates and iodine at Nueva Victoria, reaching an approximate production capacity of 6,500 metric tons per year of iodine at the facility. We also issued a bond in the international capital markets for US$250 million, primarily to refinance existing indebtedness.

Capital Expenditure Program

We regularly review different opportunities to improve our production methods, reduce costs, increase production capacity of existing products and develop new products and markets. Additionally, significant capital expenditures are required every year in order to sustain our production capacity. We are focused on developing new products in response to identified customer demand, as well as new products that can be derived as part of our existing production or other products that could fit our long-term development strategy. Our capital expenditures during the past five years were mainly related to the organic growth and sustainability of our business, including the construction of new facilities and the renovation of plants and equipment. These investments were carried out with internal financing through our capital expenditure program for investments in Chile.

Our capital expenditures for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 were as follows:

(in millions of U.S. dollars)	2014	2013	2012
Capital Expenditures	112.1	386.5	450.0

During 2014, we had total capital expenditures of US$112.1 million, primarily related to:

- development of new extraction sectors and production increases for both nitrates and iodine at Nueva Victoria;
- investments aimed at maintaining and improving the quality of finished nitrate products;
- exploration and construction of wells to sustain long-term production at the Salar de Atacama;
- consolidation of our corporate enterprise resource planning into SAP and
- maintenance across all production units in order to ensure fulfillment of production targets.

During 2013, we had total capital expenditures of US$386.5 million, primarily related to:

- improvement of nitrate-based products at Coya Sur;
- investment relating to increasing production capacity of potassium-based products at the Salar de Atacama;
- ongoing investment relating to increasing production capacity and efficiency in our nitrate and iodine facilities;
- optimization of our potassium chloride facility at the Salar de Atacama;
- projects to increase the efficiency of our human resources and logistics departments and
- various projects designed to maintain production capacity, increase yields, and reduce costs.

During 2012, we had total capital expenditures of US$450.0 million, primarily related to:

- projects to increase capacity and efficiencies at nitrate and iodine facilities in the Tarapacá region;
- continued investments related to increasing production capacity of potassium-based products at the Salar de Atacama, including several projects related to production of finished products and
- various projects designed to maintain production capacity, increase yields and reduce costs.

The Board of Directors has approved a capital expenditures plan for 2015 of US$182 million primarily focused on the maintenance of our production facilities. Our 2015 capital investment program will not require any external financing; however, we reserve the right to access capital markets in order to optimize our financial position.

4.B. Business Overview

The Company

We believe that we are the world's largest producer of potassium nitrate and iodine chemicals. We also produce specialty plant nutrients, iodine and its derivatives, lithium and its derivatives, potassium chloride, potassium sulfate and certain industrial chemicals (including industrial nitrates and solar salts). Our products are sold in over 110 countries through our worldwide distribution network, with 89% of our sales in 2014 derived from countries outside Chile.

Our products are mainly derived from mineral deposits found in northern Chile. We mine and process caliche ore and brine deposits. The caliche ore in northern Chile contains the only known nitrate and iodine deposits in the world and is the world's largest commercially exploited source of natural nitrates. The brine deposits of the Salar de Atacama, a salt-encrusted depression in the Atacama Desert in northern Chile, contain high concentrations of lithium and potassium as well as significant concentrations of sulfate and boron.

From our caliche ore deposits, we produce a wide range of nitrate-based products used for specialty plant nutrients and industrial applications, as well as iodine and iodine derivatives. At the Salar de Atacama, we extract brines rich in potassium, lithium, sulfate and boron in order to produce potassium chloride, potassium sulfate, lithium solutions, boric acid and bischofite (magnesium chloride). We produce lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide at our plant near the city of Antofagasta, Chile, from the solutions brought from the Salar de Atacama. We market all of these products through an established worldwide distribution network.

Our products are divided into six categories: specialty plant nutrients; iodine and its derivatives; lithium and its derivatives; potassium chloride and potassium sulfate; industrial chemicals; and other commodity fertilizers. Specialty plant nutrients are premium fertilizers that enable farmers to improve yields and the quality of certain crops. Iodine and its derivatives are mainly used in the X-ray contrast media and biocides industries and in the production of polarizing film, which is an important component in LCD screens. Lithium and its derivatives are mainly used in batteries, greases and frits for production of ceramics. Potassium chloride is a commodity fertilizer that is produced and sold by us worldwide. In addition, we complement our portfolio of plant nutrients through the buying and selling of other commodity fertilizers for use mainly in Chile. Potassium sulfate is a specialty fertilizer used primarily in crops such as vegetables, fruits and industrial crops. Industrial chemicals have a wide range of applications in certain chemical processes such as the manufacturing of glass, explosives and ceramics, and, more recently, industrial nitrates are being used in concentrated solar power plants as a means for energy storage. In addition, we complement our portfolio of plant nutrients through the buying and selling of other commodity fertilizers for use mainly in Chile.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, we had revenues of US$2,014.2 million, gross profit of US$583.0 million and profit attributable to controlling interests of US$236.9 million. Our worldwide market capitalization as of December 31, 2014 was approximately US$6.3 billion.

Specialty Plant Nutrition: We produce four main types of specialty plant nutrients: potassium nitrate, sodium nitrate, sodium potassium nitrate and specialty blends. Furthermore, we sell other specialty fertilizers including trading of third party products. All of these specialty plant nutrients are used in either solid or liquid form mainly on high value crops such as vegetables, fruits and flowers. They are widely used in crops that employ modern agricultural techniques such as hydroponics, greenhousing, fertigation (where fertilizer is dissolved in water prior to irrigation) and foliar application. According to the type of use or application our products are primarily marketed under the following brands: Ultrasol™ (fertigation), Qrop™ (open field application), Speedfol™ (foliar application) and Allganic™ (organic farming). Specialty plant nutrients have certain advantages over commodity fertilizers, such as rapid and effective absorption (without requiring nitrification), superior water solubility, increased soil pH (which reduces soil acidity) and low chloride content. One of the most important products in this business line is potassium nitrate, which

is available in crystalline and prill form, allowing for multiple application methods. Crystalline potassium nitrate products are ideal for application by fertigation and foliar sprays, and potassium nitrate prills are suitable for soil applications.

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The needs of more sophisticated customers are causing the industry to provide solutions rather than individual products. The advantages of our products, plus customized specialty blends that meet specific needs along with the agronomic service provided, allow us to create plant nutrition solutions that add value to crops through higher yields and better quality production. Because our products are derived from natural nitrate compounds or natural potassium brines, they have certain advantages over synthetically produced fertilizers, including the presence of certain beneficial trace elements, which makes them more attractive to customers who prefer products of natural origin. As a result, specialty plant nutrients are sold at a premium price compared to commodity fertilizers.

Iodine and its Derivatives: We believe that we are the world's leading producer of iodine and iodine derivatives, which are used in a wide range of medical, pharmaceutical, agricultural and industrial applications, including x-ray contrast media, polarizing films for LCD, antiseptics, biocides and disinfectants, in the synthesis of pharmaceuticals, herbicides, electronics, pigments and dye components. We market iodine using the brand QIodine™.

Lithium and its Derivatives: We are a leading producer of lithium carbonate, which is used in a variety of applications, including electrochemical materials for batteries, frits for the ceramic and enamel industries, heat-resistant glass (ceramic glass), air conditioning chemicals, continuous casting powder for steel extrusion, primary aluminum smelting process, pharmaceuticals and lithium derivatives. We are also a leading supplier of lithium hydroxide, which is primarily used as an input for the lubricating greases industry and for certain cathodes for batteries. We market lithium using the following brands: QLithiumCarbonate™, QLithiumHydroxide™ and QLubelith™.

Potassium: We produce potassium chloride and potassium sulfate from brines extracted from the Salar de Atacama. Potassium chloride is a commodity fertilizer used to fertilize a variety of crops including corn, rice, sugar, soybean and wheat. Potassium sulfate is a specialty fertilizer used mainly in crops such as vegetables, fruits and industrial crops. We market potassium chloride using the brand Qrop™.

Industrial Chemicals: We produce four industrial chemicals: sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate, boric acid and potassium chloride. Sodium nitrate is used primarily in the production of glass, explosives, charcoal briquettes and metal treatment. Potassium nitrate is used in the manufacturing of specialty glass, and it is also an important raw material for the production of frits for the ceramics and enamel industries. Solar salts, a combination of potassium nitrate and sodium nitrate, are used as a thermal storage medium in concentrated solar power plants. Boric acid is used in the manufacture of frits for the ceramics and enamel industries, LCDs, glass and fiberglass. Potassium chloride is a basic chemical used to produce potassium hydroxide, and it is also used as an additive in oil drilling as well as in food processing, among other uses. We market our industrial chemicals using the following brands: QSodiumNitrate™, QPotassiumNitrate™, QPotassiumChloride™, QBoricAcid™ and Ultrasol™.

Other Products and Services: We also sell other fertilizers and blends, some of which we do not produce. We are the only company that produces and distributes the three main potassium sources: potassium nitrate, potassium sulfate and potassium chloride.

The following table shows the percentage breakdown of our revenues for 2014, 2013 and 2012 according to our product lines:

	2014		**2013**		**2012**	
Specialty Plant Nutrition	35	%	31	%	28	%
Iodine and Derivatives	17	%	21	%	24	%
Lithium and Derivatives	10	%	9	%	9	%
Potassium	29	%	28	%	25	%
Industrial Chemicals	5	%	7	%	10	%
Other	4	%	4	%	4	%
Total	**100**	**%**	**100**	**%**	**100**	**%**

Business Strategy

Our general business strategy is to:

- maintain leadership in specialty plant nutrients, iodine, lithium and industrial nitrates, in terms of production capacity, competitive pricing and the development of new products;
- maintain our competitiveness through the continued increase in the efficiency of our production processes and cost reduction;
- evaluate and execute acquisitions, joint ventures or commercial alliances which have concrete synergies with our current core businesses or provide sustainable competitive advantages and
- maintain a solid, conservative financial position and investment grade ratings for our debt securities.

We have identified market demand in each of our major product lines, both within our existing customer base and in new markets, for existing products and for additional products that can be produced from our natural resources. In order to take advantage of these opportunities, we have developed specific strategies for each of our product lines.

Specialty Plant Nutrition

Our strategy in our specialty plant nutrition business is to: (i) continue expanding our sales of natural nitrates by continuing to leverage the advantages of our specialty products over commodity-type fertilizers; (ii) selectively expand by increasing our sales of higher margin specialty plant nutrients based on potassium and natural nitrates, particularly soluble potassium nitrate and NPK blends; (iii) pursue investment opportunities in complementary businesses to enhance our product portfolio, increase production, reduce costs, and add value to and improve the marketing of our products; (iv) develop new specialty nutrient blends produced in our mixing plants that are strategically located in or near our principal markets in order to meet specific customer needs; (v) focus primarily on the markets for plant nutrients in soluble and foliar applications in order to establish a leadership position; (vi) further develop our global distribution and marketing system directly and through strategic alliances with other producers and global or local distributors; (vii) reduce our production costs through improved processes and higher labor productivity so as to compete more effectively and (viii) supply a product with consistent quality according to the requirements of our customers.

Iodine and its Derivatives

Our strategy in our iodine business is to: (i) increase or at least maintain our market share in the iodine market in order to optimize the use of our available production capacity; (ii) encourage demand growth and promote new iodine uses; (iii) participate in iodine recycling projects through the Ajay-SQM Group (“ASG”); (iv) reduce our production costs through improved processes and higher productivity in order to compete more effectively and (v) supply a product with consistent quality according to the requirements of our customers.

Lithium and its Derivatives

Our strategy in our lithium business is to: (i) strategically allocate our lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide sales; (ii) encourage demand growth and promote new lithium uses; (iii) selectively pursue opportunities in the lithium derivatives business by creating new lithium compounds; (iv) reduce our production costs through improved processes and higher productivity in order to compete more effectively and (v) supply a product with consistent quality according to the requirements of our customers.

Potassium

Our strategy in our potassium business is to: (i) offer a portfolio of potassium products, including potassium sulfate, potassium chloride and other fertilizers, to our traditional markets; (ii) create flexibility to offer crystalized (standard) or granular (compacted) form products according to market requirements; (iii) focus on markets where we have logistical advantages and synergies with our specialty plant nutrition business and (iv) supply a product with consistent quality according to the requirements of our customers.

Industrial Chemicals

Our strategy in our industrial chemical business is to: (i) maintain our leadership position in the industrial nitrates market as well as increase our supply of potassium chloride in markets where we have natural advantages; (ii) encourage demand growth in different applications; (iii) become a long-term, reliable supplier for the thermal storage industry; (iv) reduce our production costs through improved processes and higher productivity in order to compete more effectively and (v) supply a product with consistent quality according to the requirements of our customers.

New Business Ventures

From time to time we evaluate opportunities to expand in our current core businesses or within new businesses in which we believe we may have sustainable competitive advantages, both within and outside Chile, and we expect to continue to do so in the future.

We are continuously exploring the possibility of acquiring controlling interests in companies that have mining properties in our core business areas and are in early stages of development. Consistent with our business strategy, we will continue to evaluate acquisitions, joint ventures and alliances in our core businesses and, depending on all facts and circumstances, may seek to acquire controlling stakes or other interests related to our core businesses both inside and outside of Chile, including other emerging markets.

In addition, we are actively conducting exploration for metallic minerals in the mining properties we own, through the generation of prospects and the progressive exploration of such prospects. If such minerals are found, we may decide to exploit, sell or enter into an association to extract these resources. We have already identified several areas in which we are conducting more targeted exploration, which may lead us to carry out further studies in order to finally decide how to proceed with any prospect or prospects of interest. We have flexibility in determining which strategy we consider appropriate, depending on the characteristics of each prospect. We may also decide not to move forward with any potential metallic prospects discovered from our exploration operations. Between 2011 and 2014 exploration expenses have averaged US$8.5 million per year, while for 2015 expenses are not expected to exceed US$5 million as a result of a new strategy to optimize our exploration plan.

In parallel to our own exploration operations, as of March 2015, we had 12 option agreements in effect with third parties and mining companies related to metallic mineral exploration. In all these agreements, we retain the rights over the caliche ore, which contains nitrates, iodine and potassium, among others. We continue to develop our program of exploration alliances with third parties through option contracts, in particular through minority participation and maintaining royalties on sales if the prospect is exploited. These alliances have enabled us to finance the metallic exploration efforts carried out by SQM. Our current plan is to achieve and maintain closer to one million hectares under exploration alliances and maintain exploration investment of approximately US$20 million per year by our current and future partners in these exploration alliances.

Main Business Lines

Specialty Plant Nutrition

We believe we are the world's largest producer of potassium nitrate. We estimate that our sales accounted for approximately 46% of global potassium nitrate sales by volume in 2014. This estimate does not include potassium nitrate produced and sold locally in China, only net imports/exports. During 2014, the potassium nitrate market grew around 10% (considering only agricultural use of potassium nitrate, and excluding sales by Chinese producers to the domestic Chinese market), with global sales exceeding one million metric tons. This was due in part to the substitution of potassium nitrate for potassium sulfate and also to the more competitive pricing between these chloride-free sources of potassium. We also produce the following specialty plant nutrients: sodium nitrate, sodium potassium nitrate and specialty blends (containing various combinations of nitrogen, phosphate and potassium and generally known as "NPK blends").

These specialty plant nutrients have specific characteristics that increase productivity and enhance quality when used on certain crops and soils. Our specialty plant nutrients have significant advantages for certain applications over commodity fertilizers based on nitrogen and potassium, such as urea and potassium chloride.

In particular, our specialty plant nutrients:

- are fully water soluble, allowing their use in hydroponics, fertigation, foliar applications and other advanced agricultural techniques;
- improve the water use efficiency of crops and help conserve water;
- are chloride-free, which prevents chloride toxicity in certain crops associated with high levels of chlorine in plant nutrients;
- provide nitrogen in nitric form, thereby allowing crops to absorb nutrients faster than they absorb urea or ammonium-based fertilizers;
- do not release hydrogen after application, thereby avoiding increased soil acidity;
- possess trace elements, which promote disease resistance in plants and
- are more attractive to customers who prefer products of natural origin.

In 2014, our specialty plant nutrients sales increased to US$708.0 million, representing 35% of our total sales for that year and a 3.0% increase from US$687.5 million specialty plant nutrients sales in 2013. This increase was a result of higher sales volumes, which increased 3.6% in 2014.

Specialty Plant Nutrition: Market

The target market for our specialty plant nutrients includes producers of high-value crops such as vegetables, fruits, industrial crops, flowers, cotton and others. Furthermore, we sell specialty plant nutrients to producers of chloride-sensitive crops. Since 1990, the international market for specialty plant nutrients has grown at a faster rate than the international market for commodity-type fertilizers. This is mostly due to: (i) the application of new agricultural technologies such as fertigation and hydroponics, and the increasing use of greenhouses; (ii) the increase in the cost of land and the scarcity of water, which has forced farmers to improve their yields and reduce water use; and (iii) the increase in demand for higher quality crops, such as fruits and vegetables.

Over the last 10 years, the compound annual growth rate for vegetable production per capita was 3.0% while the compound annual growth rate for the world population was only 1.5%.

Worldwide scarcity of water and arable land drives the development of new agricultural techniques to maximize the use of these resources. Irrigation has grown at an average annual rate of 1.5% during the last 20 years (a pace equal with population growth). However, micro-irrigation has grown at 10% per year over the same period. Microirrigation systems, which include drip-irrigation and micro-sprinklers, are the most efficient forms of technical irrigation. These applications require fully water-soluble plant nutrients. Our nitrate-based specialty plant nutrients provide nitrogen in nitric form, which helps crops absorb these nutrients faster than they absorb urea- or ammonium-based fertilizers, facilitating a more efficient application of nutrients to the plant and thereby increasing the crop's yield and improving its quality.

Asia is the region with the lowest ratio (micro-irrigation/total irrigated hectares) in the world, reaching around 3%. This represents a high potential for this technology, which is reflected in the high growth rates in recent years. For example, the growth rate of hectares under micro-irrigation in China is estimated to have exceeded 6% in 2014.

The market for potassium nitrate in China is 385,000 to 400,000 metric tons, of which approximately 150,000 is related to the tobacco industry and 75,000 to 80,000 is related to the horticulture business. Of the total, between 40,000 and 50,000 metric tons are imports.

Specialty Plant Nutrition: Our Products

Potassium nitrate, sodium potassium nitrate and specialty blends are higher margin products derived from, or consisting of, sodium nitrate, and they are all produced in crystallized or prilled form. Specialty blends are produced using our own specialty plant nutrients and other components at blending plants operated by us or our affiliates and related companies in Chile, the United States, Mexico, United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Turkey, China, India, Thailand, Brazil and Peru.

The following table shows our sales volumes of and revenues from specialty plant nutrients for 2014, 2013 and 2012:

	2014	**2013**	**2012**
Sales Volume *(Th. MT)*			
Sodium nitrate	15.8	26.2	24.4
Potassium nitrate and sodium potassium nitrate	531.6	512.6	469.3
Specialty blends[(1)]	228.0	208.1	197.5
Other specialty plant nutrients[(2)]	102.5	100.8	89.0
Total Revenues *(in US$ millions)*	708.0	687.5	675.3

(1) Includes Yara's products sold pursuant to our commercial agreement.
(2) Includes trading of other specialty fertilizers.

Depending on the systems used to apply specialty nutrients, fertilizers can be classified as specialty field fertilizers or water-soluble fertilizers.

Specialty field fertilizers are applied directly to the soil, manually or in a mechanized fashion. Their high solubility levels, lack of harmful chlorine and absence of acidic reactions make them particularly advantageous for tobacco, potatoes, coffee, cotton and a wide range of fruits and vegetables.

Water-soluble fertilizers are specialty nutrients that are delivered to the crops using modern irrigation systems. As these systems feature refined technology, the products used in them must be highly soluble, rich in nutrients, free of impurities and insoluble substances, and with a low salinity index. The leading nutrient in this segment is potassium nitrate, whose optimal balance of nitric nitrogen and chlorine-free potassium (the two macronutrients most needed by plants) make it an indispensable source of nutrition for crops that use modern irrigation systems.

In addition, potassium nitrate is widely known to be a vital component in foliar feeding applications, where usage is recommended in order to stave off nutritional deficiencies before the first symptoms appear, correct any deficiencies that arise and prevent physiological stress. This nutrient also helps promote a suitable balance between fruit production and/or growth, and plant development, particularly in crops with physiological disorders.

Foliar feeding with potassium nitrate can have beneficial effects:

- when soil chemistry limits nutrient solubility and availability (pH, organic matter, type and percentage of clay);
- when nutrient absorption through the roots is limited as a result of conditions that hamper root growth (temperature, moisture, oxygen and loss of soil structure);
- when the plant's local internal demand may surpass real internal nutrient redistribution capacity, leaving the demand unsatisfied;
- when nutrient mobility is limited, when plants flower before the leaf growth phase, imposing limiting factors on xylem nutrient transport; and
- to promote rapid recovery from leaf stress caused by climatic conditions, soil conditions and irrigation management.

In addition to these products, SQM has consolidated a product portfolio of over 200 specialty fertilizer blends, including top brands such as Ultrasol™, for fertigation; Qrop™, for application to the soil; Speedfol™, for foliar feeding; and Allganic™, for organic crops.

Specialty Plant Nutrition: Marketing and Customers

In 2014, we sold our specialty plant nutrients in over 85 countries. During the same year, sales of our specialty plant nutrients were as per the table below. No single customer represented more than 10% of our specialty plant nutrient sales during 2014, and we estimate that our 10 largest customers accounted in the aggregate for approximately 34% of sales during that period. No supplier accounted for more than 10% of the costs of sales for this business line.

Sales Breakdown	**2014**	**2013**	**2012**
North America	30 %	27 %	27 %
Europe	21 %	20 %	17 %
Central and South America	31 %	32 %	38 %
Asia and Others	18 %	21 %	18 %

We sell our specialty plant nutrition products outside Chile mainly through our own worldwide network of representative offices and through our distribution affiliates.

We maintain stocks of our specialty plant nutrients in the main markets of the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa in order to facilitate prompt deliveries to customers. In addition, we sell specialty plant nutrients directly to some of our large customers. Sales are made pursuant to spot purchase orders and short-term contracts.

In connection with our marketing efforts, we provide technical and agronomical assistance and support to some of our customers. By working closely with our customers, we are able to identify new, higher-value-added products and markets. Our specialty plant nutrients are used on a wide variety of crops, particularly value-added crops, where the use of our products enables our customers to increase yield and command a premium price.

In 2013, we launched the global Speedfol™ Crop SP project in order to promote a range of crop-specific, predominantly potassium nitrate-based, locally-produced, water-soluble NPK formulations for foliar spray applications. The Speedfol™ Crop SP project has a duration of five years and targets a variety of crops such as cereals grains, citrus, mango, cotton, soybean and coffee, in countries such as Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa and the United States of America. Scientifically proven benefits of Speedfol™ Crop SP applications include increased yields, better quality (such as larger-sized fruits) and reduced crop losses (such as less premature fruit drop and lower lodging incidence in cereals).

Our customers are located in both the northern and southern hemispheres. Consequently, we do not believe there are any seasonal or cyclical factors that can materially affect the sales of our specialty plant nutrients.

Specialty Plant Nutrition: Joint Ventures and Agreements

Consistent with our business strategy, from time to time we evaluate opportunities to expand in our current core businesses, including our specialty plant nutrition business, or within new businesses in which we believe we may have sustainable competitive advantages. We evaluate potential acquisitions, joint ventures and alliances with companies both within and outside of Chile, including in other emerging markets.

In May 2008, we signed a commitment letter for a joint venture with Migao Corporation ("Migao") for the production and distribution of specialty plant nutrients in China. Through the joint venture, we constructed a potassium nitrate plant with a production capacity of 40,000 metric tons per year. The plant began operating in January 2011, and has allowed us to increase our presence in China, which is one of the most important and fastest growing markets for the fertilizer industry.

In May 2009, our subsidiary Soquimich European Holdings entered into an agreement with Coromandel Fertilizers Ltd. to create a joint venture for the production and distribution of water soluble fertilizers in India. The agreement established a 50⁄50 contribution to the joint venture. As part of the agreement, a new 15,000 metric ton facility was constructed in the city of Kakinada to produce water soluble NPK grade fertilizers. This new facility began operating in January 2012.

In December 2009, we signed an agreement with the French Roullier Group to form the joint venture SQM Vitas. This agreement joins two of the largest companies in the businesses of specialty plant nutrition, specialty animal nutrition and professional hygiene. Peru, Brazil and South Africa are the main focus markets of this joint venture, and Dubai is the main productive unit. As part of the agreement, our phosphate plant located in Dubai became part of this joint venture.

In 2012, SQM Vitas started the construction of new plants in Brazil (Candeias), Peru and South Africa (Durban) for the production of water soluble fertilizers containing different relative amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, and at times, smaller amounts of other chemicals. The Candeias Industrial Complex plant in Brazil began operating in March 2012 and has a production capacity of 25,000 metric tons per year.

Between 2010 and 2012, we continued to expand our production capacity of potassium products in our operations in the Salar de Atacama. In 2011, we completed the construction of a new potassium nitrate facility in Coya Sur, increasing our overall production capacity of potassium nitrate by 300,000 metric tons.

In 2013, the operations of SQM Vitas in Spain began with a water soluble NPK fertilizer plant that has a production capacity of 15,000 metric tons per year.

During 2013, the marketing activities of our joint ventures integrated in SQM (Beijing). This change aims to enhance the efficiency of distribution channels for fertilizer products by consolidating marketing into a unified brand and management team, thus reducing costs. In addition, our strategy in this segment is to increase production of water soluble fertilizers and extend our technologies and their applications in order to increase popularity and expand the use of these products.

On March 8, 2013, SQM VITAS acquired the Controlled Release Fertilizer ("CRF") Technology and Plantacote® business and brand name from AGLUKON. Plantacote® is highly efficient in nutrient utilization and is environmentally friendly due to prevention of leaching, volatilization and fixation of nutrients in the soils as well as the degradation of the coating by microorganisms after complete nutrient release. The unique coating technology and quality standards make Plantacote® very reliable for growing high-quality plants. This new global facility will produce both premium and standard CRFs under the Plantacote® brand name in order to supply worldwide customers that are active in horticulture, agriculture, turf, growing media and consumer markets. Due to this acquisition, SQM VITAS will be able to further expand its current product portfolio of specialty plant nutrition solutions for the benefit of its customers.

In December 2014, an asset transfer agreement was signed between Plantacote BV and Plantacote NV (a new company that is 99.99% owned by Doctor Tarsa, which is a company that was created in 2000 in which SQM holds a 50% stake). As a result of this agreement, the business and Plantacote® brand were transferred to the new company Plantacote NV, but with no changes to the business or the CRF project. SQM continues to hold a 50% ownership stake in the company.

Specialty Plant Nutrition: Fertilizer Sales in Chile

We market specialty plant nutrients in Chile through our subsidiary Soquimich Comercial S.A. (SQMC).

SQMC is currently one of the main players in the Chilean market, offering a wide range of products developed specifically for the crops grown in the country. As specialty plant nutrients have differentiating qualities with respect to traditional fertilizers, they play a key role in this market.

SQMC sells local products as well as products imported from different countries around the world, including China, Mexico and Venezuela.

All contracts and agreements between Soquimich Comercial S.A. and its foreign suppliers of fertilizers generally contain standard and customary commercial terms and conditions. SQMC has been able to obtain adequate supplies of these products with good pricing conditions.

Soquimich Comercial S.A.'s sales of fertilizers represented approximately 30% of total fertilizer sales in Chile during 2014. Soquimich Comercial S.A.'s consolidated revenues were approximately US$214 million and US$230 million in 2014 and 2013, respectively.

Specialty Plant Nutrition: Competition

We believe we are the world's largest producer of sodium and potassium nitrate for agricultural use. Our sodium nitrate products compete indirectly with specialty and commodity-type substitutes, which may be used by some customers instead of sodium nitrate depending on the type of soil and crop to which the product will be applied. Such substitute products include calcium nitrate, ammonium nitrate and calcium ammonium nitrate.

In the potassium nitrate market our largest competitor is Haifa Chemicals Ltd. ("Haifa"), in Israel, which is a subsidiary of Trans Resources International Inc. We estimate that sales of potassium nitrate by Haifa accounted for approximately 31% of total world sales during 2014 (excluding sales by Chinese producers to the domestic Chinese market), compared to our share of the market which accounted for approximately 46% of global potassium nitrate sales by volume for the period.

ACF, another Chilean producer, mainly oriented to iodine production, has produced potassium nitrate from caliche ore and potassium chloride since 2005. Kemapco, a Jordanian producer owned by Arab Potash, produces potassium nitrate in a plant located close to the Port of Aqaba, Jordan. In addition, there are several potassium nitrate producers in China, the largest of which are Yuantong (Qinghai Salt Lake 75.5% and Wentong 24.5%) and Migao. Most of the Chinese production is consumed by the Chinese domestic market.

The principal means of competition in the sale of potassium nitrate are product quality, customer service, location, logistics, agronomic expertise and price.

In Chile, our products mainly compete with imported fertilizer blends that use calcium ammonium nitrate or potassium magnesium sulfate. Our specialty plant nutrients also compete indirectly with lower-priced synthetic commodity-type fertilizers such as ammonia and urea, which are produced by many producers in a highly price-competitive market. Our products compete on the basis of advantages that make them more suitable for certain applications as described above.

Iodine and its Derivatives

We believe we are the world's largest producer of iodine. In 2014, our revenues from iodine and iodine derivatives amounted to US$335.4 million, representing 17% of our total revenues in that year. We estimate that our sales accounted for approximately 26% of world iodine sales by volume in 2014.

Iodine: Market

Iodine and iodine derivatives are used in a wide range of medical, agricultural and industrial applications as well as in human and animal nutrition products. Iodine and iodine derivatives are used as raw materials or catalysts in the formulation of products such as X-ray contrast media, biocides, antiseptics and disinfectants, pharmaceutical intermediates, polarizing films for LCDs, chemicals, herbicides, organic compounds and pigments. Iodine is also added in the form of potassium iodate or potassium iodide to edible salt to prevent iodine deficiency disorders.

X-ray contrast media is the leading application of iodine, accounting for 22% of demand. Iodine's high atomic number and density make it ideally suited for this application, as its presence in the body can help to increase contrast between tissues, organs, and blood vessels with similar X-ray densities. Other applications include pharmaceuticals, which account for 13% of demand; iodophors and povidone-iodine, 12%; LCD screens, 12%; animal nutrition, 8%; fluoride derivatives, 7%; biocides, 5%; nylon, 4% and human nutrition, 3%.

We have seen consistent growth in the iodine market over the last ten years, with the exception of 2009, which was affected by the global financial crisis, with demand being led by uses related to X-ray contrast media and pharmaceuticals. During 2014, iodine demand grew moderately compared to 2013 as a result of inertia following the high prices observed in the industry from 2011 to 2013. However, the lower prices observed during 2014 have continued, which could have a positive effect on demand growth in 2015. We estimate that the global market size in

2014 was approximately 31,600 metric tons, with around 56% of supply coming from Chilean producers, including us.

Iodine: Our Products

We produce iodine in our Nueva Victoria plant, near Iquique, and our Pedro de Valdivia plant, close to María Elena. We have a total production capacity of approximately 13,300 metric tons per year of iodine, including the Iris plant, which is located next to the Nueva Victoria plant.

Through ASG, we produce organic and inorganic iodine derivatives. ASG was established in the mid-1990s and has production plants in the United States, Chile and France. ASG is the world's leading inorganic and organic iodine derivatives producer.

Consistent with our business strategy, we are constantly working on the development of new applications for our iodine-based products, pursuing a continuing expansion of our businesses and maintaining our market leadership.

We manufacture our iodine and iodine derivatives in accordance with international quality standards and have qualified our iodine facilities and production processes under the ISO-9001:2008 program, providing third party certification of the quality management system and international quality control standards that we have implemented.

The following table shows our total sales and revenues from iodine and iodine derivatives for 2014, 2013 and 2012:

	2014	**2013**	**2012**
Sales Volume *(Th. MT)*			
Iodine and derivatives	8.8	9.3	11.0
Revenues *(in US$ millions)*	335.4	461.0	578.1

Our sales revenues decreased from US$461.0 million in 2013 to US$335.4 million in 2014. This decrease was primarily attributable to the decrease in iodine prices during 2014. Average iodine prices were more than 20% lower in 2014 when compared to 2013.

Iodine: Marketing and Customers

In 2014, we sold our iodine products to approximately 260 customers in over 60 countries, and most of our sales were exports: 31% was sold to customers in North America, 35% to customers in Europe, 4% to customers in Central and South America, and 30% to customers in Asia and other regions. Only two customers accounted for more than 10% of our iodine sales in 2014. Together, these two customers accounted for approximately 31% of sales, and we estimate that our ten largest customers accounted in the aggregate for approximately 61% of sales. No supplier accounted for more than 10% of the cost of sales of this business line.

The following table shows the geographical breakdown of our sales for 2014, 2013 and 2012:

Sales Breakdown	2014	2013	2012
North America	31 %	35 %	36 %
Europe	35 %	36 %	30 %
Central & South America	4 %	4 %	3 %
Asia and Others	30 %	25 %	31 %

We sell iodine through our own worldwide network of representative offices and through our sales, support and distribution affiliates. We maintain inventories of iodine at our facilities throughout the world to facilitate prompt delivery to customers. Iodine sales are made pursuant to spot purchase orders or within the framework of supply agreements. Supply agreements generally specify annual minimum and maximum purchase commitments, and prices

are adjusted periodically, according to prevailing market prices.

Iodine: Competition

The world's main iodine producers are based in Chile, Japan and the United States. Iodine is also produced in Russia, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Indonesia and China.

Iodine is produced in Chile using a unique mineral known as caliche ore, whereas in Japan, the United States, Russia, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Indonesia, producers extract iodine from underground brines that are mainly obtained together with the extraction of natural gas and petroleum. In China, iodine is extracted from seaweed.

Six Chilean companies accounted for approximately 56% of total global sales of iodine in 2014, including SQM, with approximately 26%, and five other producers, accounting for the remaining 30%. The other Chilean producers are: Atacama Chemical S.A. (Cosayach), controlled by the Chilean holding Inverraz S.A.; ACF Minera S.A. owned by the Chilean family De Urruticoechea; Algorta Norte S.A., a joint venture between ACF Minera S.A. and Toyota Tsusho; SCM Bullmine and RB Energy (a Canadian company previously known as Sirocco Mining Inc. or as Atacama Minerals).

We estimate that eight Japanese iodine producers accounted for approximately 31% of global iodine sales in 2014, including recycled iodine.

We estimate that iodine producers in the United States (one of which is owned by Ise Chemicals Ltd., a Japanese company) accounted for 5% of world iodine sales in 2014.

Iodine recycling is a growing trend worldwide. Several Japanese producers have recycling facilities where they recover iodine and iodine derivatives from iodine waste streams. Iodine recycling, mainly related to LCD consumption, has increased over the past few years and currently represents approximately 17% of world iodine sales. It is estimated that approximately 74% of total world iodine recycling was done by Japanese iodine producers.

We, through ASG or alone, are also actively participating in the iodine recycling business using iodinated side-streams from a variety of chemical processes in Europe and the United States.

The prices of iodine and iodine derivative products are determined by market conditions. World iodine prices vary depending upon, among other things, the relationship between supply and demand at any given time. Iodine supply varies primarily as a result of the production levels of the iodine producers (including us) and their respective business strategies. Our annual average iodine sales prices decreased to approximately US$38 per kilogram in 2014, as a result of supply growth outpacing demand growth.

Demand for iodine varies depending upon overall levels of economic activity and the level of demand in the medical, pharmaceutical, industrial and other sectors that are the main users of iodine and iodine-derivative products. Certain substitutes for iodine are available for certain applications, such as antiseptics and disinfectants, which could represent a cost-effective alternative to iodine depending on prevailing prices.

The main factors of competition in the sale of iodine and iodine derivative products are reliability, price, quality, customer service and the price and availability of substitutes. We believe we have competitive advantages compared

to other producers due to the size and quality of our mining reserves and the available production capacity. We believe our iodine is competitive with that produced by other manufacturers in certain advanced industrial processes. We also believe we benefit competitively from the long-term relationships we have established with our largest customers.

Lithium and its Derivatives

We believe we are one of the world's largest producers of lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide. In 2014, our revenues from lithium sales amounted to US$206.8 million, representing 10% of our total revenues. We estimate that our sales accounted for approximately 27% of the sale of global lithium chemicals sales by volume.

Lithium: Market

Lithium is mainly marketed as lithium carbonate. The next most traded compound is lithium hydroxide. Both of these compounds are used to produce the cathodes for rechargeable batteries, taking advantage of lithium's extreme electrochemical potential and low density. Batteries are the leading application for lithium, accounting for 46% of total demand. Lithium carbonate is also used in applications such as ceramic and enamel frits (5% of demand), heat resistant glass (ceramic glass) (5% of demand), air conditioning chemicals (4% of demand), continuous casting powder for steel extrusion (2% of demand), primary aluminum smelting process (1% of demand), and others, including the synthesis of pharmaceuticals and lithium derivatives.

Lithium hydroxide is primarily used as a raw material in the lubricating grease industry (11% of demand), as well as in the dyes and the battery industries.

Lithium's main properties, which facilitate its use in this range of applications, are:

- it is the lightest solid element at room temperature;
- it has a low coefficient of thermal expansion;
- it has high electrochemical potential and low density and
- it is the solid with the highest specific heat capacity.

During 2014, lithium chemicals demand increased by approximately 9%, reaching approximately 142,000 metric tons, with close to 50% supplied by Chilean producers. We expect applications related to energy storage to continue driving demand in the coming years.

Lithium: Our Products

We produce lithium carbonate at our Salar del Carmen facilities, near Antofagasta, Chile, from solutions with high concentrations of lithium, in the form of lithium chloride, coming from the potassium chloride production at the Salar de Atacama. The annual production capacity of our lithium carbonate plant is 48,000 metric tons per year. We believe that the technologies we use, together with the high concentrations of lithium and unique characteristics of the Salar de Atacama, such as high evaporation rate and concentration of other minerals, allow us to be one of the lowest cost producers worldwide.

We also produce lithium hydroxide at our facilities at the Salar del Carmen, next to the lithium carbonate operation. The lithium hydroxide facility has a production capacity of 6,000 metric tons per year and is one of the largest plants in the world.

The following table shows our total sales and revenues from lithium carbonate and its derivatives for 2014, 2013 and 2012:

	2014	**2013**	**2012**
Sales Volume *(Th. MT)*			
Lithium and derivatives	39.5	36.1	45.7
Revenues *(in US$ millions)*	206.8	196.5	222.2

Our revenues in 2014 were US$206.8 million, a 5.3% increase from US$196.5 million in 2013, due to higher sales volumes supported by strong demand growth.

Lithium: Marketing and Customers

In 2014, we sold our lithium products to over 220 customers in around 50 countries. Only one customer accounted for more than 10% of our lithium sales in 2014, accounting for approximately 11% of lithium sales. We estimate that our 10 largest customers accounted in aggregate for approximately 58% of sales. Only one supplier accounted for over 10% of the cost of sales of this business line, accounting for approximately 13% of the cost of sales.

The following table shows the geographical breakdown of our sales for 2014, 2013 and 2012:

Sales Breakdown	2014	2013	2012
North America	11 %	12 %	10 %
Europe	22 %	25 %	22 %
Central & South America	1 %	2 %	2 %
Asia and Others	66 %	62 %	66 %

We sell lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide through our own worldwide network of representative offices and through our sales, support and distribution affiliates. We maintain inventories of these products at our facilities throughout the world to facilitate prompt delivery to customers. Sales of lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide are made pursuant to spot purchase orders or within the framework of supply agreements. Supply agreements generally specify annual minimum and maximum purchase commitments, and prices are adjusted periodically, according to prevailing market prices.

Lithium: Competition

Our main competitors in the lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide businesses are Rockwood Lithium ("Rockwood"), which was recently acquired by Albemarle and which, according to our estimates, has a market share of approximately 22%, and FMC Corporation ("FMC"), which has an estimated market share of approximately 12%. In addition, a number of Chinese producers together accounted for approximately 37% of the world market in 2014, by volume. Rockwood produces lithium carbonate at its operations in Chile and in Nevada, United States. Its production of downstream lithium products is mostly performed in the United States, Germany and Taiwan. Rockwood and Tianqi are 49%/51% partners in Talison Lithium Pty Ltd., an Australian company that produces lithium mineral concentrate in Western Australia. Tianqi is in the process of purchasing Galaxy, an Australian company that has a lithium carbonate plant in China. FMC has production facilities in Argentina through Minera del Altiplano S.A., where it produces lithium chloride and lithium carbonate. Production of its downstream lithium products is mostly performed in the United States and the United Kingdom.

We believe that lithium production will increase in the near future, balancing the expected growth in demand. Recently, Orocobre began operating in Argentina, and a number of new projects to develop lithium deposits have been announced recently. Some of these projects are already under advanced development and others could materialize in the medium term.

Potassium

We produce potassium chloride and potassium sulfate by extracting brines from the Salar de Atacama that are rich in potassium chloride and other salts.

Since 2009, our end product capacity has increased to over 2 million metric tons per year, granting us improved flexibility and market coverage.

In 2014, our potassium chloride and potassium sulfate revenues amounted to US$584.3 million, representing 29% of our total revenues and a 3.6% decrease compared to 2013.

Potassium is one of the three macronutrients that a plant needs to develop. Although potassium does not form part of a plant’s structure, it is essential to the development of its basic functions. Potassium chloride is the most commonly used potassium-based fertilizer. It is used to fertilize crops that can tolerate relatively high levels of chloride, and to fertilize crops that are grown under conditions with sufficient rainfall or irrigation practices that prevent chloride from accumulating to excess levels in the rooting systems of the plant.

Some benefits that may be obtained through the use of potassium are:

- increased yield and quality;
- increased production of proteins;

- increased photosynthesis;
- intensified transport and storage of assimilates;
- prolonged and more intense assimilation period;
- improved water efficiency;
- regulated opening and closure of stomata and
- synthesis of lycopene.

Potassium chloride is also an important component for our specialty plant nutrition product line, where it is used as a raw material to produce potassium nitrate.

Potassium: Market

During the last decade, the potassium chloride market has experienced rapid growth due to several key factors such as a growing world population, higher demand for protein-based diets and less arable land. All of these factors have contributed to growing demand for fertilizers and, in particular, potassium chloride, as efforts are being made to maximize crop yields and use resources more efficiently. For the last 10 years, the compound annual growth for the global potassium chloride market was approximately 2.3%.

According to the most recent studies prepared by the International Fertilizer Industry Association from 2010 to 2011, cereals received 10.3 MT K2O, (i.e., 37.4% of world K consumption, with a low contribution of wheat (6.2%) compared to rice (12.6%) and maize (14.9%)). In contrast, oilseeds represented 19.8% of the total (5.4 MT K2O), with more than four fifths being applied to soybean (9.0%) and oil palm (7.2%) together. K fertilizer use on fibre crops and roots and tubers was modest (2.8 and 3.8%, respectively) compared to sugar crops (7.7%) and fruits and vegetables (16.6%). The remaining 11.8% were applied to other crops.

Demand in the potassium chloride market increased in 2014. We estimate that demand reached between 61 and 62 million metric tons for potassium chloride during 2014, an increase of approximately 15% as compared to 2013, with record levels of shipments from the producers Uralkali, in Russia, and Belaruskali, in Belarus. Demand was affected by the economic uncertainty from the previous year, as some customers pushed their purchases back from the second half of 2013 to 2014. We do not expect to see demand growth in 2015.

Average prices in the potassium market decreased significantly during 2013 and the first quarter of 2014 due to unusual events. Uralkali, a leading company in the potash market, abandoned the business arrangement that it held with BPC and generated market uncertainty which affected the commodity’s price levels. Beginning in the second quarter of 2014, the price slowly began to recover, but prices did not return to the levels prevailing prior to these events.

Potassium: Our Products

Potassium chloride differs from our specialty plant nutrition products because it is a commodity fertilizer and contains chloride. We offer potassium chloride in two grades: standard and compacted. Potassium sulfate is considered a specialty fertilizer and we offer three grades: standard, compacted and soluble.

The following table shows our sales volumes of and revenues from potassium chloride and potassium sulfate for 2014, 2013 and 2012:

	2014	**2013**	**2012**
Sales Volume *(Th. MT)*			
Potassium chloride & potassium sulfate	1,556.2	1,434.9	1,209.5
Revenues *(in US$ millions)*	584.3	606.3	605.1

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Potassium: Marketing and Customers

In 2014, we sold potassium chloride and potassium sulfate in over 60 countries. No single customer accounted for more than 11% of our sales of potassium chloride and potassium sulfate in 2014, and we estimate that our 10 largest customers accounted in the aggregate for approximately 47% of such sales. One supplier accounted for 12% of the cost of sales for the business line and was the only supplier representing more than 10% of the cost of sales of this business line.

The following table shows the geographical breakdown of our sales for 2014, 2013 and 2012:

Sales Breakdown	**2014**	**2013**	**2012**
North America	23 %	17 %	15 %
Europe	13 %	16 %	21 %
Central & South America	45 %	44 %	47 %
Asia and Others	19 %	23 %	17 %

Potassium: Competition

We estimate that we accounted for less than 3% of global sales of potassium chloride in 2014. Our main competitors are Uralkali, PCS, Belaruskali and Mosaic. We estimate that in 2014, Uralkali accounted for approximately 18% of global sales, PCS around 15%, Mosaic around 14%, and Belaruskali approximately 13% of global sales.

In the potassium sulfate market, we have several competitors, of which the most important are K+S KALI GmbH (Germany), Tessenderlo Chemie (Belgium) and Great Salt Lake Minerals Corp. (United States). We estimate that these three producers account for approximately 30% of the worldwide production of potassium sulfate. SQM accounts for less than 2% of global production.

Industrial Chemicals

In addition to producing sodium and potassium nitrate for agricultural applications, we produce different grades of these products for industrial applications. The different grades differ mainly in their chemical purity. We enjoy certain operational flexibility when producing industrial nitrates, because they are produced from the same process as their equivalent agricultural grades, needing only an additional step of purification. We may, with certain constraints, shift production from one grade to the other depending on market conditions. This flexibility allows us to maximize yields and to reduce commercial risk.

In addition to producing industrial nitrates, we produce and market other industrial chemicals such as industrial-grade potassium chloride and boric acid, a by-product of the production of potassium sulfate.

In 2014, our revenues from industrial chemicals were US$101.9 million, representing approximately 5% of our total revenues for that year.

Industrial Chemicals: Market

Industrial sodium and potassium nitrates are used in a wide range of industrial applications, including the production of glass, ceramics, explosives, charcoal briquettes, metal treatments and various chemical processes.

In addition, this product line has also experienced growth from the use of industrial nitrates as thermal storage in concentrated solar power plants (commonly known as "CSP"). Solar salts for this specific application contain a blend of 60% sodium nitrate and 40% potassium nitrate by weight ratio used as a storage and heat transfer medium. Unlike traditional photovoltaic plants, these new plants use a "battery" or tank that contains molten nitrate salts, which store energy as heat. The salts are kept hot during the day, and release the solar energy that they have captured during the night, allowing the plant to operate even during hours of darkness. Another difference with the photovoltaic technology is that CSP plants are of large scale and only take a few years between the development stage and the commercial operation date. Their development is mainly driven by implementation of renewable programs deployed by different governments worldwide, along with demand for electricity generation. This market fluctuates according to these factors and is based on long-term agreements. In 2014 and 2015, the supply of solar salts has been lower than the previous years because of the delay of some large projects. However, demand is recovering and we have closed agreements for some deliveries in 2015, with larger volumes in 2016 and 2017.

Industrial-grade potassium chloride is a basic chemical used to produce potassium hydroxide, and is used as an additive in oil drilling as well as in food processing, among other applications.

Boric acid is primarily used as raw material in the manufacturing of glass, fiberglass, ceramic and enamel frits and LCD flat panel displays.

Industrial Chemicals: Our Products

The following table shows our sales volumes of industrial chemicals and total revenues for 2014, 2013 and 2012:

	2014	**2013**	**2012**
Sales Volume *(Th. MT)*			
Industrial nitrates	124.7	173.5	277.7
Boric Acid	0.8	2.0	1.8
Revenues *(in US$ millions)*	101.9	154.0	245.2

Sales of industrial chemicals decreased from US$154.0 million in 2013 to US$101.9 million in 2014, primarily as a result of a decrease in sales volumes of solar salts.

Industrial Chemicals: Marketing and Customers

We sold our industrial nitrate products in over 70 countries in 2014, with 32% percent of our sales of industrial chemicals to customers in North America, 37% to customers in Europe, 14% to customers in Central and South America and 17% to customers in Asia and other regions. One customer accounted for more than 10% of our sales of industrial chemicals in 2014, accounting for approximately 19%, and we estimate that our 10 largest customers accounted in the aggregate for approximately 49% of such sales. No supplier accounted for more than 10% of the cost of sales of this business line.

The following table shows the geographical breakdown of our sales for 2014, 2013 and 2012:

Sales Breakdown	2014	2013	2012
North America	32 %	45 %	49 %
Europe	37 %	34 %	35 %
Central & South America	14 %	12 %	10 %
Asia and Others	17 %	9 %	6 %

We sell our industrial chemical products mainly through our own worldwide network of representative offices and through our sales and distribution affiliates. We maintain inventories of our different grades of sodium nitrate and potassium nitrate products at our facilities in Europe, North America, South Africa, Asia and South America to achieve prompt deliveries to customers. Our Research and Development department, together with our foreign affiliates, provides technical support to our customers and continuously works with them to develop new products or applications for our products.

Industrial Chemicals: Competition

We believe we are the world's largest producer of industrial sodium and potassium nitrate. In the case of industrial sodium nitrate, we estimate that our sales represented close to 45% of world demand in 2014 (excluding internal demand for China and India, for which we believe reliable estimates are not available). Our competitors are mainly based in Europe and Asia, producing sodium nitrate as a by-product of other production processes. In refined grade sodium nitrate, BASF AG, a German corporation and several producers in China and Eastern Europe are highly competitive in the European and Asian markets. Our industrial sodium nitrate products also compete indirectly with substitute chemicals, including sodium carbonate, sodium sulfate, calcium nitrate and ammonium nitrate, which may be used in certain applications instead of sodium nitrate and are available from a large number of producers worldwide.

Our main competitor in the industrial potassium nitrate business is Haifa, which we estimate had a market share of 23%. We estimate that our market share was approximately 25% for 2014.

Producers compete in the market for industrial sodium and potassium nitrate based on reliability, product quality, price and customer service. We believe that we are a low cost producer of both products and are able to produce high quality products.

In the potassium chloride and boric acid markets, we are a relatively small producer, mainly supplying regional needs.

Other Products

A large part of our other revenue is related to fertilizer trading, usually commodities. These fertilizers are traded in large volumes worldwide. We have developed a trade, supply and inventory management business that allows us to respond quickly and effectively to the changing fertilizer market in which we operate and profit on these trades.

Production Process

Our integrated production process can be classified according to our natural resources:

- caliche ore deposits, which contain nitrates, iodine and potassium; and
- brines from the Salar de Atacama, which contain potassium, lithium, sulfate, boron and magnesium.

Caliche Ore Deposits

Caliche ore deposits are located in northern Chile. During 2014, we operated two surface mines in this region: Pedro de Valdivia and Nueva Victoria. Operations at the Pampa Blanca site and the El Toco surface mine (which is part of the María Elena site) were temporarily suspended in an effort to optimize our production facilities with lower production costs.

Caliche ore is found under a layer of barren overburden in seams with variable thickness from 20 centimeters to five meters, and with the overburden varying in thickness between 50 centimeters and 1.5 meters.

Before proper mining begins, the exploration stage is carried out, including complete geological reconnaissance, sampling and drilling caliche ore to determine the quality and characteristics of each deposit. Drill-hole samples are properly identified and tested at our chemical laboratories. With the exploration information on a closed grid pattern of drill holes, the ore evaluation stage provides information for mine planning purposes. Mine planning is done on a long-term basis (10 years), medium-term basis (three years) and short-term basis (one year). Once all of this information has been compiled, detailed planning for the exploitation of the mine takes place.

The mining process generally begins with bulldozers first ripping and removing the overburden in the mining area. This process is followed by production drilling and blasting to break the caliche seams. Front-end loaders load the ore onto off-road trucks, which take it to be processed.

At the Pedro de Valdivia mine, trucks deliver the ore to stockpiles next to rail loading stations. The stockpiled ore is later loaded onto railcars that take the mineral to the processing facilities, where it is crushed and leached in vats in order to produce concentrated solutions containing nitrate and iodine.

At the Nueva Victoria site, the run of mine ore is loaded in heaps and leached with water to produce concentrated solutions containing nitrate, iodine and potassium. These solutions are then sent to plants where iodine is extracted through both solvent-extraction and blow out processes. The remaining solutions are subsequently sent to solar evaporation ponds where the solutions are evaporated and rich nitrate salts are produced. These concentrated nitrate salts are then sent to Coya Sur where they are used to produce potassium nitrate.

Caliche Ore-Derived Products

Caliche ore-derived products are: sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate, sodium potassium nitrate, iodine, and iodine derivatives.

Sodium Nitrate

During 2014, sodium nitrate for both agricultural and industrial applications was produced at the Pedro de Valdivia facility and subsequently processed at the Coya Sur plants. At the Pedro de Valdivia facility, the caliche ore is crushed, creating two products: a coarse fraction and a fine fraction. The coarse fraction is processed using the Guggenheim method, which was originally patented in 1921 and is based on a closed-circuit method of leaching vats. This process uses heated brines to leach the crushed caliche in vats and selectively dissolve the contents. The concentrated solution is then cooled, producing sodium nitrate crystals, which can then be separated from the brine

using basket centrifuges. After the crystallization and separation processes, the nitrate crystals are sent to the processing plant, and the brine is pumped to the iodine facilities, where the iodide is separated in a solvent extraction plant. Finally, the brine is returned to the vat leaching process.

The fine fraction from the caliche crushing process is leached at ambient temperature with water, producing a solution that is pumped to a fines pond. After going through a separation process, the solution is pumped to the iodine facilities. After a solvent extraction process, the brine is pumped to solar evaporation ponds in Coya Sur, 15 km south of María Elena, for the concentration of nitrates.

Our total current crystallized sodium nitrate production capacity at the Pedro de Valdivia facility is approximately 500,000 metric tons per year. Crystallized sodium nitrate is an intermediate product that is subsequently processed further at the Coya Sur and María Elena production plants to produce sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate and sodium potassium nitrate in different chemical and physical qualities, including crystallized and prilled products. Finally, the products are transported by railway to our port facilities in Tocopilla for shipping to customers and distributors worldwide.

Potassium Nitrate

Potassium nitrate is produced at our Coya Sur facility using a production process developed by us. The brine leached using the fine fraction of the crushed caliche at Pedro de Valdivia and the brines produced by the heap leaching process at María Elena are pumped to Coya Sur's solar evaporation ponds for a nitrate concentration process. After the nitrate concentration process, the brine is pumped to a conversion plant where salts with lower potassium content, produced at Nueva Victoria or Coya Sur, are added. A chemical reaction begins, producing brine with dissolved potassium nitrate. This brine is pumped to a crystallization plant, which crystallizes the potassium nitrate by cooling it and separating it from the liquid by centrifuge.

Our current potassium nitrate production capacity at Coya Sur is approximately 1,000,000 metric tons per year. In March 2011, a new potassium nitrate production plant (NPT3) started operations. This plant has been gradually increasing its annual production, reaching approximately 283,000 tons in 2014. This new plant was designed to use raw material salts harvested at Nueva Victoria (nitrate salts) and the Salar de Atacama (potassium salts).

The potassium nitrate produced in crystallized or prilled form at Coya Sur has been certified by TÜV-Rheiland under the quality standard ISO 9001:2008. The potassium nitrate produced at Coya Sur is transported to Tocopilla for shipping and delivery to customers and distributors.

Sodium Potassium Nitrate

Sodium potassium nitrate is a mixture of approximately two parts sodium nitrate per one part potassium nitrate. We produce sodium potassium nitrate at our Coya Sur and María Elena prilling facilities using standard, non-patented production methods we have developed. Crystallized sodium nitrate is mixed with the crystallized potassium nitrate to make sodium potassium nitrate, which is then prilled. The prilled sodium potassium nitrate is transported to Tocopilla for bulk shipment to customers.

The production process for sodium potassium nitrate is basically the same as that for sodium nitrate and potassium nitrate. With certain production restraints and following market conditions, we may supply sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate or sodium potassium nitrate, either in prilled or crystallized form.

Iodine and Iodine Derivatives

During 2014, we produced iodine at our Pedro de Valdivia, María Elena, and Nueva Victoria facilities (including the Iris facility, which is part of the Nueva Victoria facility). At the María Elena and Nueva Victoria facilities, iodine is extracted from solutions produced by heap leaching caliche ore. At the Pedro de Valdivia facility, iodine is produced from the vat leaching of caliche ore. In August 2014, iodine production operations at the Iris plant were restarted after being temporarily suspended in October 2013.

As in the case of nitrates, the process of extracting iodine from the caliche ore is well established, but variations in the iodine and other chemical contents of the treated ore and other operating parameters require a high level of know-how to manage the process effectively and efficiently.

The solutions resulting from the leaching of caliche carry iodine in iodate form. Part of the iodate solution is reduced to iodide using sulfur dioxide, which is produced by burning sulfur. The resulting iodide is combined with the rest of the untreated iodate solution to release elemental iodine in low concentrations. The iodine is then extracted from the aqueous solutions and concentrated as iodide form using a solvent extraction and stripping plant in the Pedro de Valdivia and Nueva Victoria facilities and using a blow out plant in Iris. The concentrated iodide is oxidized to solid iodine, which is then refined through a smelting process and prilled. We have obtained patents in the United States and Chile (Chilean patent number 47,080) for our iodine prilling process.

Prilled iodine is tested for quality control purposes, using international standard procedures that we have implemented. It is then packed in 20 to 50 kilogram drums or 350 to 700 kilogram maxibags and transported by truck to Antofagasta, Mejillones, or Iquique for export. Our iodine and iodine derivatives production facilities have qualified under the ISO-9001:2008 program, providing third-party certification—by TÜV-Rheiland—of the quality management system. The last recertification process was approved in February 2011. Iodine from the Iris plant was certified under ISO-9001:2008 in April 2012.

Our total iodine production in 2014 was approximately 9,602 metric tons: approximately 5,987 metric tons from Nueva Victoria and Iris; 3,242 metric tons from Pedro de Valdivia; and 373 metric tons from María Elena. The Nueva Victoria facility is also used for recycling iodine from the potassium iodide contained in the LCD waste solutions imported mainly from Korea. Nueva Victoria is also equipped to toll iodine from iodide delivered from other SQM facilities. We have the flexibility to adjust our production according to market conditions. Our total current production capacity at our iodine production plants is approximately 13,300 metric tons per year.

We use a portion of the iodine we produce to manufacture inorganic iodine derivatives, which are intermediate products used for manufacturing agricultural and nutritional applications, at facilities located near Santiago, Chile. We also produce inorganic and organic iodine derivative products together with Ajay, which purchases iodine from us. In the past, we have primarily sold our iodine derivative products in South America, Africa and Asia, while Ajay and its affiliates have primarily sold their iodine derivative products in North America and Europe.

In September 2010, the National Commission for the Environment of Chile (*Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente* or "CONAMA"), currently known as the Environmental Evaluation Service, approved the environmental study of our Pampa Hermosa project in the Tarapacá Region of Chile. This approval allows us to increase the production capacity of our Nueva Victoria operations to 11,000 metric tons of iodine per year and to produce up to 1.2 million metric tons of nitrates, mine up to 33 million metric tons of caliche per year and use new water rights of up to 570.8 liters per second. In recent years, we have made investments in order to increase the water capacity in the Nueva Victoria operations from two water sources approved by the environmental study of Pampa Hermosa, expand the capacity of solar evaporation ponds, and implement new areas of mining and collection of solutions. Our current production capacity at Nueva Victoria is approximately 8,500 metric tons per year of iodine (including the Iris operations) and 700,000 metric tons per year of nitrates. Additional expansions may be done from time to time in the future, depending on market conditions.

In October 2013, the Environmental Evaluation Service approved the Pampa Blanca Environmental Impact Study, to increase our caliche ore extraction in the Antofagasta Region in order to increase production capacity of iodine by 10,000 tons and nitrates by 1.3 million tons. The project also requested permission to build a pipeline from the Pacific Ocean to the mining site. Operations at Pampa Blanca were temporarily suspended in March 2010.

Salar de Atacama Brine Deposits

The Salar de Atacama, located approximately 250 kilometers east of Antofagasta, is a salt-encrusted depression in the Atacama Desert, within which lies an underground deposit of brines contained in porous sodium chloride rock fed by an underground inflow from the Andes mountains. The brines are estimated to cover a surface of approximately 2,800 square kilometers and contain commercially exploitable deposits of potassium, lithium, sulfates and boron. Concentrations vary at different locations throughout the Salar de Atacama. Our production rights to the Salar de Atacama are pursuant to the Lease Agreement between SQM Salar and Corfo, which expires in 2030. The Lease Agreement permits the CCHEN to establish a total accumulated extraction limit of 180,100 tons of lithium (958,672 tons of lithium carbonate equivalent) in the aggregate for all periods.

Brines are pumped from depths of 1.5 to 60 meters below surface, through a field of wells that are located in areas of the Salar de Atacama that contain relatively high concentrations of potassium, lithium, sulfate, boron and other minerals.

Products Derived from the Salar de Atacama Brines

The products derived from the Salar de Atacama brines are: potassium chloride, potassium sulfate, lithium carbonate, lithium hydroxide, lithium chloride, boric acid and bischofite (magnesium chloride).

Potassium Chloride

We use potassium chloride in the production of potassium nitrate. Production of our own supplies of potassium chloride provides us with substantial raw material cost savings. We also sell potassium chloride to third parties, primarily as a commodity fertilizer.

In order to produce potassium chloride, brines from the Salar de Atacama are pumped to solar evaporation ponds. Evaporation of the brines results in a complex crystallized mixture of salts of potassium, sodium and magnesium. Waste sodium chloride salts are removed by precipitation. After further evaporation, the sodium and potassium salts are harvested and sent for treatment at one of the potassium chloride plants where potassium chloride is separated by a grinding, flotation, and filtering process. Potassium salts also containing magnesium are harvested and sent for treatment at one of the cold leach plants where magnesium is removed. Potassium chloride is transported approximately 300 kilometers to our Coya Sur facilities via a dedicated truck transport system, where it is used in the production of potassium nitrate. We sell potassium chloride produced at the Salar de Atacama in excess of our needs to third parties. All of our potassium-related plants in the Salar de Atacama currently have a production capacity in excess of up to 2.6 million metric tons per year. Actual production capacity depends on volume, metallurgical recovery rates and quality of the mining resources pumped from the Salar de Atacama.

The by-products of the potassium chloride production process are (i) brines remaining after removal of the potassium chloride, which are used to produce lithium carbonate as described below, with the excess amount being reinjected into the Salar de Atacama; (ii) sodium chloride, which is similar to the surface material of the Salar de Atacama and is deposited at sites near the production facility and (iii) other salts containing magnesium chloride.

Lithium Carbonate and Lithium Chloride

After the production of potassium chloride, a portion of the brines remaining is sent to additional solar concentration ponds adjacent to the potassium chloride production facility. Following further evaporation, the remaining concentrated solution of lithium chloride is transported by truck to a production facility located near Antofagasta, approximately 230 kilometers from the Salar de Atacama. At the production facility, the solution is purified and treated with sodium carbonate to produce lithium carbonate, which is dried and then, if necessary, compacted and finally packaged for shipment. A portion of this purified lithium chloride solution is packaged and shipped to customers. The production capacity of our lithium carbonate facility is approximately 48,000 metric tons per year. Future production will depend on the actual volumes and quality of the lithium solutions sent by the Salar de Atacama operations, as well as prevailing market conditions. Our future production is also subject to the extraction limit of 180,100 tons of lithium (958,672 tons of lithium carbonate equivalent) in the aggregate for all periods of the Lease Agreement mentioned above.

Our lithium carbonate production quality assurance program has been certified by TÜV-Rheiland under ISO 9001:2000 since 2005 and under ISO 9001:2008 since October 2009.

Lithium Hydroxide

Lithium carbonate is sold to customers, and we also use it as a raw material for our lithium hydroxide facility, which started operations at the end of 2005. This facility has a production capacity of 6,000 metric tons per year and is located in the Salar del Carmen, adjacent to our lithium carbonate operations. In the production process, lithium carbonate is reacted with a lime solution to produce lithium hydroxide brine and calcium carbonate salt, which is filtered and piled in reservoirs. The brine is evaporated in a multiple effect evaporator and crystallized to produce the lithium hydroxide, which is dried and packaged for shipment to customers.

Our lithium hydroxide production quality assurance program has been certified by TÜV-Rheiland under ISO 9001:2000 since 2007 and under ISO 9001:2008 since October 2009.

Potassium Sulfate and Boric Acid

Approximately 12 kilometers northeast of the potassium chloride facilities at the Salar de Atacama, we use the brines from the Salar de Atacama to produce potassium sulfate, potassium chloride (as a by-product of the potassium sulfate process) and boric acid. The plant is located in an area of the Salar de Atacama where high sulfate and potassium concentrations are found in the brines. Brines are pumped to pre-concentration solar evaporation ponds where waste sodium chloride salts are removed by precipitation. After further evaporation, the sulfate and potassium salts are harvested and sent for treatment at the potassium sulfate plant. Potassium sulfate is produced using flotation, concentration and reaction processes, after which it is crystallized, dried and packaged for shipment.

Production capacity for the potassium sulfate plant is approximately 340,000 metric tons per year, of which approximately 95,000 metric tons correspond to potassium chloride production as by product of the potassium sulfate process. This capacity is part of the total plant capacity of 2.6 million metric tons per year. In our dual plant complex we may switch, to some extent, between potassium chloride and potassium sulfate production. Part of the pond system in this area is also used to process potassium chloride brines extracted from the low sulfate concentration areas found in the salar.

The principal by-products of the production of potassium sulfate are: (i) non-commercial sodium chloride, which is deposited at sites near the production facility and (ii) remaining solutions, which are re-injected into the Salar de Atacama or returned to the evaporation ponds. The principal by-products of the boric acid production process are remaining solutions that are treated with sodium carbonate to neutralize acidity and then are reinjected into the Salar de Atacama.

Raw Materials

The main raw material that we require in the production of nitrate and iodine is caliche ore, which is obtained from our surface mines. The main raw material in the production of potassium chloride, lithium carbonate and potassium sulfate is the brine extracted from our operations at the Salar de Atacama.

Other important raw materials are sodium carbonate (used for lithium carbonate production and for the neutralization of iodine solutions), sulfur, sulfuric acid, kerosene, anti-caking and anti-dust agents, ammonium nitrate (used for the preparation of explosives in the mining operations), woven bags for packaging our final products, electricity acquired from electric utilities, and liquefied natural gas and fuel oil for heat generation. Our raw material costs (excluding caliche ore and salar brines and including energy) represented approximately 15% of our cost of sales in 2014.

We have several electricity supply agreements signed with major producers in Chile which are expected to cover our electricity needs until 2030. We have been connected to the northern power grid in Chile, which currently supplies electricity to most cities and industrial facilities in northern Chile, since April 2000.

For the supply of liquefied natural gas, in 2013 and 2014 we had a contract with Solgas. For 2015, we executed a supply contract with Endesa, primarily to serve our operations at the Salar del Carmen and Coya Sur.

We obtain ammonium nitrate, sulfur, sulfuric acid, kerosene and soda ash from several large suppliers, mainly in Chile and the United States, under long-term contracts or general agreements, some of which contain provisions for annual revisions of prices, quantities and deliveries. Diesel fuel is obtained under contracts that provide fuel at international market prices.

We believe that all of our contracts and agreements with third-party suppliers with respect to our main raw materials contain standard and customary commercial terms and conditions.

Water Supply

We hold water rights for the supply of surface and subterranean water near our production facilities. The main sources of water for our nitrate and iodine facilities at Pedro de Valdivia, María Elena and Coya Sur are the Loa and San Salvador rivers, which run near our production facilities. Water for our Nueva Victoria and Salar de Atacama facilities is obtained from wells near the production facilities. In addition, we buy water from third parties for our production processes at the Salar del Carmen lithium carbonate plant, and we also purchase potable water from local utility companies. We have not experienced significant difficulties obtaining the necessary water to conduct our operations.

Government Regulations

Regulations in Chile Generally

We are subject to the full range of government regulations and supervision generally applicable to companies engaged in business in Chile, including labor laws, social security laws, public health laws, consumer protection laws, tax laws, environmental laws, securities laws and anti-trust laws. These include regulations to ensure sanitary and safety conditions in manufacturing plants.

We conduct our mining operations pursuant to exploration concessions and exploitation concessions granted pursuant to applicable Chilean law. Exploitation concessions essentially grant a perpetual right (with the exception of the Salar de Atacama rights, which have been leased to us until 2030) to conduct mining operations in the areas covered by

such concessions, provided that annual concession fees are paid. Exploration concessions permit us to explore for mineral resources on the land covered thereby for a specified period of time, and to subsequently request a corresponding exploitation concession.

Under Law No. 16,319 that created the CCHEN, we have an obligation to the CCHEN regarding the exploitation and sale of lithium from the Salar de Atacama. Pursuant to such obligation, we are subject to annual quotas that limit the total tonnage of lithium authorized to be sold.

We also hold water rights obtained from the Chilean water regulatory authority for the supply of water from rivers or wells near our production facilities sufficient to meet our current operating requirements. See “Item 3. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Chile.” The Water Code is subject to changes, which could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations. For example, Law No. 20,017, published in 2005, modified the Chilean laws relating to water rights and established that, under certain conditions, permanent water rights of up to two liters per second for each well built prior to June 30, 2004, may be constituted in the areas where we conduct our mining operations. In constituting these new water rights, the law does not consider the availability of water, or how the new rights may affect holders of existing rights. Therefore, the amount of water we can effectively extract based on our existing rights could be reduced if these additional rights are exercised. These and other potential future changes to Chilean laws relating to water rights could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We operate port facilities at Tocopilla, Chile for the shipment of products and the delivery of raw materials pursuant to maritime concessions, which have been granted under applicable Chilean laws and are normally renewable on application, provided that such facilities are used as authorized and annual concession fees are paid.

In 2005, the Chilean Congress approved the Royalty Law, which established a royalty tax to be applied to mining activities developed in Chile. In 2010, modifications were made to the law and taxes were increased. In 2012, new modifications to the tax laws were enacted to set the corporate tax rate at 20% for companies like SQM.

On September 29, 2014, the Tax Reform was published, introducing significant changes to the Chilean taxation system and strengthening the powers of the SII to control and prevent tax avoidance. The Tax Reform contemplates, among other matters, changes to the corporate tax regime to create two tax regimes. Starting on January 1, 2017, Chilean companies will be able to opt between two tax regimes: (i) the partially integrated shareholder tax regime (*sistema parcialmente integrado*) or (ii) the attributed income shareholder taxation regime (*sistema de renta atribuida*). In both regimes, the corporate tax rate will be increased to 21% in 2014, 22.5% in 2015 and 24% by 2016. On or after January 1, 2017, and depending on the tax regime chosen by the company, tax rates may be increased to a maximum rate of 25% in 2017 for the attributed income shareholder taxation regime or to a rate of 25.5% in 2017 and subsequently to a maximum rate of 27% in 2018 for the partially integrated shareholder tax regime.

As an open stock corporation, the default regime that applies to us is the partially integrated regime, unless at a future shareholders' meeting our shareholders agree to opt for the attributed income shareholder taxation regime.

The Tax Reform tax increase prompted a US$52.3 million increase in our deferred tax liabilities as of December 31, 2014. In accordance with IAS 12, the effects generated by the change in the income tax rate approved by Law No. 20.780 on income and deferred taxes have been applied to the income statement. For purposes of the Company's statutory consolidated financial statements filed with the SVS, in accordance with the instructions issued by the SVS in its circular 856 of October 17, 2014, the effects generated by the change in the income tax rate were accounted for as retained earnings. The amount charged to equity was US$52.3 million, thereby giving rise to a difference of US$52.3 million in profit for the year and income tax expense as presented in the Company's Audited Consolidated Financial Statements and as presented in its statutory consolidated financial statements filed with the SVS.

Given the difference in accounting treatments between IFRS and the instructions of the SVS, we will continue to analyze the effects of the Tax Reform on our financial statements and reporting obligations, and we cannot be sure of how our future financial statements will reflect these changes.

The Chilean government may again decide to levy additional taxes on mining companies or other corporations in Chile, and such taxes could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of

operations.

In 2006, the Chilean Congress amended the Labor Code, and effective January 15, 2007, changes were made affecting companies that hire subcontractors to provide certain services. This new law, known as the Subcontracting Law (*Ley de Subcontratación*), further amends the Labor Accidents Law No. 16,744 to provide that when a serious accident in the workplace occurs, a company must halt work at the site where the accident took place until authorities from the Sernageomin, the Labor Board, or the National Health Service inspect the site and prescribe the measures such company must take to minimize the risk of similar accidents taking place in the future. Work may not be resumed until said company has taken the prescribed measures, and the period of time before work may be resumed may last for a number of hours, days, or longer. The effects of this law could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

On December 2, 2009, Law No. 20,393 went into effect, establishing criminal liability for legal entities, for the crimes of (a) asset laundering, (b) financing terrorism and (c) bribery. Such criminal liability applies to legal entities for the aforementioned crimes where such crimes are committed directly or indirectly in benefit of such legal entity, by the legal entity's owners, controllers, representatives or principal executives, to the extent to which the commission of the crime is a consequence of the legal entity's failure to fulfill its management and supervisory obligations. The law establishes that the company has fulfilled such obligations when it has adopted and implemented a prevention model for such crimes.

On January 1, 2010, Law No. 20,382 went into effect, introducing modifications to the Securities Law and Law No. 18,046 on Corporations (*Ley de Sociedades Anónimas* or the "Chilean Corporations Act"). The new law regulates corporate governance and, in general, seeks to improve such matters as the professionalization of senior management at corporations, the transparency of information, and the detection and resolution of possible conflicts of interest. The law establishes the requirement of at least one independent director for certain corporations, including SQM. Such director must be a member of the Directors' Committee, a position which, in turn, grants the director further supervisory powers. The independent director may be proposed by any shareholder with an ownership interest of 1% or more in a company and must satisfy a series of independence requirements with respect to the company and the company's competition, providers, customers and majority shareholders. The new law also defines the regulations regarding the information that companies must provide to the general public and to the SVS, as well as regulations relating to the use of inside information, the independence of external auditors, and procedures for the analysis of transactions with related parties.

In 2010, the Chilean Congress amended the Environmental Law to create the Ministry of Environment, the Environmental Evaluation Service and the Superintendence for the Environment (*Superintendencia del Medio Ambiente* or "Superintendence for the Environment"). These changes introduced important amendments to environmental regulations by setting up new agencies and introducing new provisions and procedures applicable to projects whose operations bear an impact on the environment. The new Ministry designs and implements environmental policies relating to environmental conservation, sustainable growth and the protection of Chile's renewable energy resources. In addition, the Ministry is responsible for enacting emission and quality standard regulations, as well as recovery and decontamination plans. The Environmental Evaluation Service plays an active role in the procedures of the Environmental Impact Evaluation System, pursuant to which projects are approved or rejected from an environmental standpoint. In procedures for obtaining an environmental license, any person, including legal entities and companies, will be allowed to file oppositions and comments. Summary procedures, such as Environmental Impact Statements, allow comments in support or opposition under certain circumstances. Technical reports from governmental agencies are considered to be final. The Superintendence for the Environment is an independent agency which coordinates with other governmental agencies in charge of supervision of suspended projects and projects requiring environmental approval. Likewise, it receives, investigates and rules on complaints concerning the infringement of environmental regulations and sanctions violators, delivers injunction orders and levies relevant fines. The Environmental Enforcement Superintendence had its powers suspended until the First Environmental Court was installed in Santiago on December 28, 2012.

There are currently no material legal or administrative proceedings pending against us except as discussed in Note 19.1 to our Consolidated Financial Statements, Item 8.A. Legal Proceedings and below under "Safety, Health and

Environmental Regulations in Chile." We believe we are in compliance in all material respects with all applicable statutory and administrative regulations with respect to our business.

Safety, Health and Environmental Regulations in Chile

Our operations in Chile are subject to both national and local regulations related to safety, health and environmental protection. In Chile, the main regulations on these matters that are applicable to SQM are the Mine Health and Safety Act of 1989 (*Reglamento de Seguridad Minera* or the "Mine Health and Safety Act"), the Health Code (*Código Sanitario*), the Health and Basic Conditions Act of 1999 (*Reglamento sobre Condiciones Sanitarias y Ambientales Básicas en los Lugares de Trabajo* or the "Health and Basic Conditions Act"), the Subcontracting Law and the Environmental Law of 1994, amended in 2010 (*Ley sobre Bases Generales del Medio Ambiente* or the "Environmental Law").

Health and safety at work are fundamental aspects in the management of mining operations, which is why SQM has made constant efforts to maintain good health and safety conditions for the people working at its mining sites and facilities. In addition to the role played by us in this important matter, the Chilean government has a regulatory role, enacting and enforcing regulations in order to protect and ensure the health and safety of workers. The Chilean government, acting through the Ministry of Health and the Sernageomin, performs health and safety inspections at the mining sites and oversees mining projects, among other tasks, and it has exclusive powers to enforce standards related to environmental conditions and the health and safety of the people performing activities related to mining.

The Mine Health and Safety Act protects workers and nearby communities against health and safety hazards, and it provides for enforcement of the law where compliance has not been achieved. SQM's Internal Mining Standards (*Reglamentos Internos Mineros*) establish our obligation to maintain a workplace where safety and health risks are managed appropriately. We must comply with the general provisions of the Health and Basic Conditions Act, our own internal standards and the provisions of the Mine Health and Safety Act. In the event of non-compliance, the Ministry of Health and particularly the Sernageomin are entitled to use their enforcement powers to ensure compliance with the law.

In November 2011, the Ministry of Mining enacted Law No. 20,551 that Regulates the Closure of Mining Sites and Facilities (*Ley que Regula el Cierre de Faenas e Instalaciones Mineras*). This new statute entered in force in November 2012 and required all mining sites to present or update their closure plans as of November 2014. SQM has fulfilled this requirement for all of its mining sites and facilities. The main requirements of the law are related to disclosures to the Sernageomin regarding decommissioning plans for each mining site and its facilities, along with the estimated cost to implement such plans. There is a requirement to provide a form of financial assurance to the Sernageomin to ensure compliance with the decommissioning plans. There are various types of financial assurance that satisfy the requirement. The mining site closure plans must be approved by the Sernageomin, and the corresponding financial assurances are subject to approval by the SVS.

The Environmental Law was subjected to several important modifications that entered into effect in January 2010, including the creation of the Ministry of the Environment, the Environmental Evaluation Service and the

Superintendence for the Environment. The Superintendence for the Environment began operations on December 28, 2012. The new and modified Environmental Law replaced the CONAMA with both the Ministry of the Environment, which is currently the governmental agency responsible for coordinating and supervising environmental issues and the Environmental Evaluation Service. Under the new Environmental Law, we will continue to be required to conduct environmental impact studies or statements of any future projects or activities (or their significant modifications) that may affect the environment. The Superintendence for the Environment is responsible for supervising environmental performance during the construction, operation and closure of the projects that have been evaluated for environmental purposes, and it is also responsible for enforcing compliance with prevention and atmospheric decontamination plans. The Environmental Law also promotes citizen participation in project evaluation and implementation, providing more opportunities for observations or objections to be made during the environmental evaluation process. Annually, the Superintendence for the Environment audits a sample of approved projects to verify compliance with the environmental permits, and it may pursue fines or sanctions if applicable, which can be challenged in the Environmental Court.

On August 10, 1993, the Ministry of Health published in the Official Gazette a resolution establishing that atmospheric particulate levels at our production facilities in María Elena and Pedro de Valdivia exceeded air quality standards, affecting the nearby towns. The high particulate matter levels came principally from dust produced during the processing of caliche ore, particularly the crushing of the ore before leaching. Residents of the town of Pedro de Valdivia were relocated to the town of María Elena, practically removing Pedro de Valdivia from the scope of the determination of the Ministry of Health. In 1998, authorities approved a plan to reduce the atmospheric particulate levels later modified by Decree No. 37/2004 in March 2004, which called for an 80% reduction of the emissions of atmospheric particulate material. This was achieved by 2008 through the implementation of a project that modified the milling and screening systems used in the processing of the caliche ore at the María Elena facilities. Due to international market conditions, this project suspended its operation in March 2010, and today the milling and screening systems used in the processing of the caliche ore at the María Elena facilities have been suspended. Air quality in the area has improved significantly, and therefore compliance of air quality standards is expected to be achieved. When the compliance with the Chilean air quality standard has been achieved for three consecutive years (2012 to 2014), the resolution of 1993 of the Ministry of Health may be reviewed.

On March 16, 2007, the Ministry of Health published in the Official Gazette a resolution establishing that atmospheric particulate levels exceeded air quality standards in the coastal town of Tocopilla, where we have our port operations. The high particulate matter levels are caused mainly by two thermoelectric power plants that use coal and fuel oil and are located next to our port operations. Our contribution to particulate matter emissions is very small (less than 0.20% of the total). However, the environmental authority included SQM's operations in the decontamination plan that it developed, and implementation of the plan began in October 2010. During 2008 and 2009, earlier than required, SQM implemented control measures for mitigating particulate matter emissions in its port operations according to the requirements of this plan. We do not expect any additional measures to be required of SQM following the implementation of the plan.

We continuously monitor the impact of our operations on the environment and on the health of our employees and other persons who may be affected by such operations. We have made modifications to our facilities in an effort to eliminate any adverse impacts. Also, over time, new environmental standards and regulations have been enacted, which have required minor adjustments or modifications of our operations for full compliance. We anticipate that additional laws and regulations will be enacted over time with respect to environmental matters. While we believe we will continue to be in compliance with all applicable environmental regulations of which we are now aware, there can be no assurance that future legislative or regulatory developments will not impose new restrictions on our operations. We are committed to both complying with all applicable environmental regulations and to continuously improving our environmental performance through our Environmental Management System ("EMS") and international certifications, such as the Responsible Conduct certification from the Chilean Industrial Chemicals Association, which applies to our operations at Nueva Victoria.

We have submitted and will continue to submit several environmental impact assessment studies related to our projects to the governmental authorities. We require the authorization of these submissions in order to maintain and to increase our production capacity.

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International Regulations

SQM employs its best efforts to ensure compliance with the complex regulatory environments in which it operates.

In October 2014, the European Food Safety Authority ("EFSA") released a scientific opinion on the risks to public health related to the presence of perchlorate in food, particularly fruits and vegetables. The scientific opinion concluded, among other things, that the use of natural fertilizers and perchlorate contaminated irrigation water may lead to substantial concentrations in food, particularly fruits and vegetables. The EFSA scientific opinion recommended that additional data gathering be undertaken to improve risk assessment. The review of the provisional limits established by the European Commission in July 2013 was carried out in March 2015, and new, lower provisional limits were established for perchlorate presence in fruits and vegetables. The fertilizers sold by SQM contain less than 0.01% of perchlorate, and agronomical perchlorate uptake studies performed on target crops have shown that the uptake rates are well within the above mentioned provisional limits. Therefore, we do not anticipate difficulties with compliance. The European Commission announced a program to monitor perchlorate content in food and drinking water that will last at least one year, and therefore, the limits are not expected to be reviewed or definitively established during the next 18 months.

In September 2014, Regulation No. 98/2013 went into effect in the European Community, relating to the marketing and use of explosives precursors. The regulation includes the obligation to report to authorities any suspicious transactions of different products that may be used illegally in the production of explosives, including potassium nitrate and sodium nitrate produced by SQM. The regulation covers products for agricultural use and for industrial use indistinctly and does not establish ranges of concentration to which the standard applies. Therefore, the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the European Commission developed Implementation Guidelines, which contemplate the definition of ranges of concentration for fertilizer products, within a public-private Committee set up by the European Commission for this purpose. During 2015, we will improve the existing control procedures and carry out an awareness program for SQM Europe employees, as well as carrying out internal audit programs in order to appropriately handle inspections by the competent authorities, with a focus on Belgium and Spain.

SQM has complied with the implementation requirements for the new Hazard Communication Standard of the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA"), for the classification and updating of labels and safety data sheets before June 2015. In 2014 the employees of SQM North America were trained on this new standard.

Research and Development, Patents and Licenses

See "Item 5.C. Research and Development, Patents and Licenses."

4.C. Organizational Structure

All of our principal operating subsidiaries are essentially wholly-owned, except for Soquimich Comercial S.A., which is approximately 61% owned by us and whose shares are listed and traded on the Santiago Stock Exchange, and Ajay SQM Chile S.A., which is 51% owned by us. The following is a summary of our main subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014. For a list of all our consolidated subsidiaries, see Note 2.5 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Principal subsidiaries	Activity	Country of Incorporation	SQM Beneficial Ownership Interest (Direct/Indirect)
SQM Nitrates S.A.	Extracts and sells caliche ore to subsidiaries and affiliates of SQM	Chile	100 %
SQM Industrial S.A.	Produces and markets SQM's products directly and through other subsidiaries and affiliates of SQM	Chile	100 %
SQM Salar S.A.	Exploits the Salar de Atacama to produce and market SQM's products directly and through other subsidiaries and affiliates of SQM	Chile	100 %
SQM Potasios S.A.	Produces and markets SQM's products directly and through other subsidiaries and affiliates of SQM	Chile	100 %
Servicios Integrates de Transitos y Transferencias S.A. (SIT)	Owns and operates a rail transport system and also owns and operates the Tocopilla port facilities	Chile	100 %
Soquimich Comercial S.A.	Markets SQM's specialty plant nutrition products domestically and imports fertilizers for resale in Chile	Chile	61 %
Ajay-SQM Chile S.A.	Produces and markets SQM's iodine and iodine derivatives	Chile	51 %
Sales and distribution subsidiaries in the United States, Belgium, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, Mexico, South Africa, Spain, China, Thailand and other locations.	Market SQM's products throughout the world	Various	

4.D. Property, Plant and Equipment

We carry out our operations through the use of mining rights, production facilities and transportation and storage facilities. Discussion of our mining rights is organized below according to the geographic location of our mining operations. Our caliche ore mining interests are located throughout the valley of the Tarapacá and Antofagasta regions of northern Chile (in a part of the country known as "el Norte Grande"). From caliche ore, we produce products based on nitrates and iodine, and caliche also contains concentrations of potassium. Our mining interests in the brine deposits of the Salar de Atacama are found within the Atacama Desert, in the eastern region of el Norte Grande. From these brines, we produce products based on potassium, sulfate, lithium and boron.

The map below shows the location of our principal mining operations and the exploitation and exploration mining concessions that have been granted to us, as well as the mining properties that we lease from Corfo:

Mining Concessions

Mining Concessions for the Exploration and Exploitation of Caliche Ore Mining Resources

We hold our mining rights pursuant to mining concessions for exploration and exploitation of mining resources that have been granted pursuant to applicable law in Chile:

(1) "Mining Exploitation Concessions": entitle us to use the land in order to exploit the mineral resources contained therein on a perpetual basis, subject to annual payments to the Chilean government.

(2) "Mining Exploration Concessions": entitle us to use the land in order to explore for and verify the existence of mineral resources for a period of two years, at the expiration of which the concession may be extended one time only for two additional years, if the area covered by the concession is reduced by half. We may alternatively request an exploitation concession in respect of the area covered by the original exploration concession, which must be made within the timeframe established by the original exploration concession.

A Mining Exploration Concession is generally obtained for purposes of evaluating the mineral resources in a defined area. If the holder of the Mining Exploration Concession determines that the area does not contain commercially exploitable mineral resources, the Mining Exploration Concession is usually allowed to lapse. An application also can be made for a Mining Exploitation Concession without first having obtained a Mining Exploration Concession for the area involved.

As of December 31, 2014, the surface area covered by Mining Exploitation Concessions that have been granted in relation to the caliche resources of SQM S.A.'s mining sites corresponds to approximately 554,447 hectares. In addition, as of December 31, 2014, the surface area covered by Mining Exploration Concessions in relation to the caliche resources of SQM S.A.'s mining sites corresponds to approximately 9,900 hectares. We have not requested additional mining rights.

Mining Concessions for the Exploitation of Brines at the Salar de Atacama

As of December 31, 2014, SQM Salar held exclusive and temporary rights to exploit the mineral resources in an area covering approximately 140,000 hectares of land in the Salar de Atacama in northern Chile, of which SQM Salar S.A. is only entitled to exploit the mineral resources of 81,920 hectares. These rights are owned by Corfo and leased to SQM Salar pursuant to the Lease Agreement between Corfo and SQM Salar. Corfo cannot unilaterally modify the Lease Agreement, and the rights to exploit the resources cannot be transferred. The Lease Agreement establishes that SQM Salar is responsible for making quarterly lease payments to Corfo according to specified percentages of the value of production of minerals extracted from the Salar de Atacama brines, maintaining Corfo's rights over the mining exploitation concessions and making annual payments to the Chilean government for such concession rights. The Lease Agreement expires on December 31, 2030.

Under the terms of the Salar de Atacama project agreement between Corfo and SQM Salar, (the "Project Agreement"), Corfo has agreed that it will not permit any other person to explore, exploit or mine any mineral resources in the approximately 140,000 hectares area of the Salar de Atacama mentioned above. The Project Agreement expires on December 31, 2030.

SQM Salar holds an additional 254,026 hectares of constituted Mining Exploitation Concessions in areas near the Salar de Atacama, which correspond to mining reserves that have not been exploited. SQM Salar also holds Mining Exploitation Concessions that are in the process of being granted covering 78,530 hectares in areas near the Salar de Atacama.

In addition, as of December 31, 2014, SQM Salar held constituted Mining Exploration Concessions covering approximately 102,300 hectares and had applied for additional Mining Exploration Concessions covering approximately 46,800 hectares. Exploration rights are valid for a period of two years, after which we can (i) request a Mining Exploitation Concession for the land, (ii) request an extension of the Mining Exploration Concession for an additional two years (the extension only applies to a reduced surface area equal to 50% of the initial area) or (iii) allow the concession to expire.

According to the terms of the Lease Agreement, with respect to lithium production, the CCHEN has established a total accumulated extraction limit set at 180,100 tons of lithium (958,672 tons of lithium carbonate equivalent) in the aggregate for all periods while the Lease Agreement is in force. More than halfway through the term of the Lease Agreement, we have extracted approximately half of the total accumulated extraction limit of lithium.

Corfo has initiated arbitration proceedings in connection with the Lease Agreement. See “Item 8.A. Legal Proceedings.”

Concessions Generally

As of December 31, 2014, approximately 93% of SQM’s mining interests were held pursuant to Mining Exploitation Concessions and 7% pursuant to Mining Exploration Concessions. Of the Mining Exploitation Concessions, approximately 90% already have been granted pursuant to applicable Chilean law, and approximately 10% are in the process of being granted. Of the Mining Exploration Concessions, approximately 66% already have been granted pursuant to applicable Chilean law, and approximately 34% are in the process of being granted.

In 2014, we made payments of approximately US$8.2 million to the Chilean government for Mining Exploration and Exploitation Concessions, including the concessions we lease from Corfo. The US$8.2 million payments do not include quarterly payments we made directly to Corfo pursuant to the Lease Agreement, which were based on the percentages of the sales price of products produced using brines from the Salar de Atacama.

The following table shows the constituted Mining Exploitation and Exploration Concessions held by SQM S.A., including the mining properties we lease from Corfo, as of December 31, 2014:

	Exploitation Concessions		Exploration Concessions		Total	
Region of Chile	Total Number	Hectares	Total Number	Hectares	Total Number	Hectares

Region I	2,233	446,280	33	8,400	2,266	454,680
Region II	8,539	2,255,109	269	122,400	8,808	2,377,509
Region III and others	261	61,393	123	29,500	384	90,893
Total	11,033	2,762,782	425	160,300	11,458	2,923,082

The majority of the Mining Exploitation Concessions held by SQM were requested primarily for non-metallic mining purposes. However, a small percentage of our Mining Concessions were requested for metallic mining purposes. The annual payment to the Chilean government for this group of concessions is higher.

Geological studies over mining properties that were requested primarily for non-metallic mining purposes may show that the concession area is of interest for metallic mining purposes, in which case we must inform the Sernageomin, indicating that the type of substance contained by such Mining Concessions has changed, for purposes of the annual payment for these rights.

Caliche: Facilities and Reserves

Caliche: Facilities

Currently, our Nueva Victoria and Pedro de Valdivia mines are being exploited. Operations at the Pampa Blanca site were temporarily suspended in 2010, and operations at the María Elena site were temporarily suspended in October 2013.

María Elena

The María Elena mine and facilities, named El Toco, are located 220 kilometers northeast of Antofagasta and are accessible by highway. Until February 2010, caliche was used at this facility to produce nitrates and iodine through vat leaching. Subsequently, these facilities were equipped to produce nitrates and iodine through the use of heap leaching and solar evaporation ponds. Heap leaching operations at this site were temporarily suspended in October 2013. The main production facilities at this site include the operations center located at El Toco and the iodide plant located at María Elena. The area mined until operations were suspended is located approximately 14 kilometers north of the María Elena production facilities. Electricity and fuel oil are the primary sources of power for this operation.

Nueva Victoria

The Nueva Victoria mine and facilities are located 180 kilometers north of María Elena and are accessible by highway. Since 2007, the Nueva Victoria mine includes the mining properties Soronal, Mapocho and Iris. At this site, we use caliche to produce nitrates and iodine, through heap leaching and the use of solar evaporation ponds. The main production facilities at this site include the operation centers for the heap leaching process, the iodide and iodine plants at Nueva Victoria and Iris and the evaporation ponds at the Sur Viejo sector of the site. The areas currently being mined are located approximately 4 kilometers northeast of Nueva Victoria. Solar energy and electricity are the primary sources of power for this operation.

Pampa Blanca

The mining facilities at Pampa Blanca, which is located 100 kilometers northeast of Antofagasta, have been suspended since March 2010. At this site, we used caliche to produce nitrates and iodine through heap leaching and the use of solar evaporation ponds. The main production facilities at this site included the operation centers for the heap leaching system and the iodide plant. Electricity was the primary source of power for this operation.

Pedro de Valdivia

The mine and facilities that we operate in Pedro de Valdivia are located 170 kilometers northeast of Antofagasta and are accessible by highway. At this site, we use caliche to produce nitrates and iodine through vat and heap leaching and solar evaporation ponds. The main production facilities at this site include the crushing, vat leaching, fines processing, iodide and iodine plants. The areas currently being mined are located approximately 32 kilometers southeast of the Pedro de Valdivia production facilities. Electricity, natural gas and fuel oil are the primary sources of power for this operation.

Caliche: Reserves

Our in-house staff of geologists and mining engineers prepares our estimates of caliche ore reserves. The Proven and Probable Reserve figures presented below are estimates, and may be subject to modifications due to natural factors that affect the distribution of mineral grades, which would, in turn, modify the recovery of nitrate and iodine. Therefore, no assurance can be given that the indicated levels of recovery of nitrates and iodine will be realized.

We estimate ore reserves based on evaluations, performed by engineers and geologists, of assay values derived from sampling of drill-holes and other openings. Drill-holes have been made at different space intervals in order to recognize mining resources. Normally, we start with 400x400 meters and then we reduce spacing to 200x200 meters, 100x100 meters and 50x50 meters. The geological occurrence of caliche ore is unique and different from other metallic and non-metallic minerals. Caliche ore is found in large horizontal layers at depths ranging from one to four meters and has an overburden between zero and two meters. This horizontal layering is a natural geological condition and allows the Company to estimate the continuity of the caliche bed based on surface geological reconnaissance and analysis of samples and trenches. Mineral resources can be calculated using the information from the drill-hole sampling.

A Mineral Resource is a concentration or occurrence of natural, solid, inorganic or fossilized organic material in or on the Earth's crust in such form or quantity and of such grade or quality that it has reasonable prospects for economic extraction. The location, quantity, grade, geological characteristics and continuity of a mineral resource are known, estimated or interpreted from specific geological, metallurgical and technological evidence.

A Measured Resource is the part of a Mineral Resource for which tonnage, densities, shape, physical characteristics, grade and mineral content can be estimated with a high level of confidence. The estimate is based on detailed exploration, sampling and testing information gathered through appropriate sampling techniques from locations such as outcrops, trenches, and exploratory drill holes.

An Indicated Mineral Resource is the part of a Mineral Resource for which tonnage, densities, shape, physical characteristics, grade and mineral content can be estimated with a reasonable level of confidence. The estimate is based on detailed exploration, sampling and testing information gathered through appropriate sampling techniques from locations such as outcrops, trenches and exploratory drill holes.

According to our experience in caliche ore, the grid pattern drill-holes with spacing equal to or less than 100 meters produce data on the caliche resources that is sufficiently defined to consider them Measured Resources and then, adjusting for technical, economic and legal aspects, as Proven Reserves. These reserves are obtained using the Kriging Method and the application of operating parameters to obtain economically profitable reserves.

Similarly, the information obtained from detailed geologic work and samples taken from grid pattern drill-holes with spacing equal to or less than 200 meters can be used to determine Indicated Resources. By adjusting such Indicated Resources to account for technical, economic and legal factors, it is possible to calculate Probable Reserves. Probable Reserves are calculated by using a polygon-based methodology and have an uncertainty or margin of error greater than that of Proven Reserves. However, the degree of certainty of Probable Reserves is high enough to assume continuity between points of observation.

Proven Reserves are the economically mineable part of a Measured Resource. The calculation of the reserves includes the application of mining parameters including maximum overburden, minimum thickness of caliche ore, stripping ratio, cutoff grade and application of dilution factors to the grade values. Appropriate assessments, including pre-feasibility studies or feasibility studies, have been carried out and include consideration of metallurgical, economic, marketing, legal, environmental, social and governmental factors. These assessments demonstrate at the time of reporting that extraction is reasonably justified.

Probable Reserves are the economically mineable part of an Indicated Resource and in some cases a Measured Resource. The calculation of the reserves includes the application of mining parameters including maximum overburden, minimum thickness of caliche ore, stripping ratio, cutoff grade and application of dilution factors to the grade values. Appropriate assessments, including pre-feasibility studies, have been carried out or are in process and include consideration of metallurgical, economic, marketing, legal, environmental, social and governmental factors. These assessments demonstrate at the time of reporting that extraction is reasonably justified.

The estimates of Proven Reserves of caliche ore at each of our mines as of December 31, 2014 are set forth below. The Company holds 100% of the concession rights for each of these mines.

Mine	**Proven Reserves** [1] (millions of metric tons)	**Nitrate Average Grade** (percentage by weight)		**Iodine Average Grade** (parts per million)	**Cutoff Grade Average for Mine** [3]
Pedro de Valdivia	186.3	7.1	%	369	Nitrate 6.0 %
María Elena	98.3	7.1	%	434	Iodine 300 ppm
Pampa Blanca	54.7	5.7	%	538	Iodine 300 ppm
Nueva Victoria [4]	348.1	5.7	%	435	Iodine 300 ppm

In addition, the estimates of our Probable Reserves of caliche ore at each of our principal mines as of December 31, 2014, are as follows:

Mine	**Probable Reserves** [2] (millions of metric tons)	**Nitrate Average Grade** (percentage by weight)		**Iodine Average Grade** (parts per million)	**Cutoff Grade** [3]
Pedro de Valdivia [5]	264.6	7.8	%	438	Nitrate 6.0 %
María Elena	133.8	7.3	%	377	Iodine 300 ppm
Pampa Blanca	464.6	5.7	%	540	Iodine 300 ppm
Nueva Victoria [6]	1,093.7	5.6	%	420	Iodine 300 ppm

Notes on Reserves:

(1) The Proven Reserves set forth in the table above are shown before losses related to exploitation and mineral treatment. Proven Reserves are affected by mining exploitation methods, which result in differences between the estimated reserves that are available for exploitation in the mining plan and the recoverable material that is finally transferred to the leaching vats or heaps. The average mining exploitation factor for each of our different mines ranges between 80% and 90%, whereas the average global metallurgical recoveries of processes for nitrate and iodine contained in the recovered material vary between 55% and 65%.

(2) Probable Reserves can be expressed as Proven Reserves using a conversion factor, only for purposes of obtaining a projection to be used for long-term planning purposes. On average, this conversion factor is higher than 60%, depending on geological conditions and caliche ore continuity, which vary from mine to mine.

(3) The cutoff grades for the Proven and Probable Reserves vary according to the objectives of each mine. These amounts correspond to the averages of the different sectors.

(4) The 3.3% increase in the Proven Reserves at Nueva Victoria is the result of the recategorization of resources within the western sector of the mine from Indicated Resources to Measured Resources.

(5) The increase of 145.9 million tons in the Probable Reserves at Pedro de Valdivia is the result of the recategorization of resources within the Algorta section of the mine to Indicated Resources.

(6) The increase in the Probable Reserves at Nueva Victoria is the result of the recategorization of resources within the Soronal (692.1 million tons) and Pampa Orcoma (326.1 million tons) sectors of the mine to Indicated Resources.

The complete technical supporting documentation for the information set forth in the table above is contained in the report “Methodology, Procedure, and Classification of SQM’s Nitrate and Iodine Resources and Reserves for the Year 2014,” which was prepared by SQM geologist Vladimir Tejerina and other SQM engineering professionals and validated by Mrs. Marta Aguilera and Mr. Orlando Rojas.

Mrs. Marta Aguilera is a geologist with more than 20 years of experience in the field. She is currently employed by SQM as Manager of Exploration and Mining Development. Mrs. Aguilera is a Competent Person, as that term is defined under the Competent Person Law. She is registered under No. 163 in the Public Registry of Competent Persons in Mining Resources and Reserves in accordance with the Competent Person Law and related regulations. She has worked as a geologist with both metallic and non-metallic deposits, with vast experience in the latter.

Mr. Orlando Rojas is a civil mining engineer and independent consultant. He is Partner and Chief Executive Officer of the company EMI-Ingenieros y Consultores S.A., whose offices are located at Renato Sánchez No. 3357, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile. He is a member of the Institute of Mining Engineers and is registered under No. 118 in the Public Registry of Competent Persons in Mining Resources and Reserves in accordance with the Competent Person Law and related regulations. He has worked as a mining engineer for 35 years since graduating from university, including more than 30 years working on estimates for reserves and resources.

Copies of the certificates of qualified competency issued by the Chilean Mining Commission are attached hereto as Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2.

The proven and probable reserves shown above are the result of the evaluation of approximately 19.2% of the total caliche-related mining property of our Company. However, we have explored the areas in which we believe there is a higher potential of finding high-grade caliche ore minerals. The remaining 80.8% of this area has not been explored or has had limited reconnaissance, which is not sufficient to determine the sources of potential and hypothetical resources. The reserves shown in these tables are calculated based on properties that are not involved in any legal disputes between SQM and other parties.

Caliche ore is the key raw material used in the production of iodine, specialty plant nutrients and industrial chemicals. The following gross margins for the business lines specified were calculated on the same basis as cut off grades used to estimate our reserves. We expect costs to remain relatively stable in the near future.

	2014		2013		2012	
	Gross Margin	Price	Gross Margin	Price	Gross Margin	Price
Iodine and Derivatives	42%	US$38/kg	56%	US$50/kg	63%	US$53/kg
Specialty Plant Nutrition	21%	US$806/ton	22%	US$811/ton	32%	US$866/ton
Industrial Chemicals	40%	US$812/ton	28%	US$877/ton	34%	US$877/ton

We maintain an ongoing program of exploration and resource evaluation on the land surrounding the mines at Nueva Victoria, Pedro de Valdivia, María Elena, Pampa Blanca and other sites for which we have the appropriate concessions. In 2014, we continued a basic reconnaissance program on new mining properties including a geological mapping of the surface and spaced drill-hole campaign covering approximately 7,143 hectares. We did not carry out detailed explorations during 2014. For 2015 we have an exploration and recategorization program covering 1,609 hectares in Region I of Chile.

Brines from the Salar de Atacama: Facilities and Reserves

Salar de Atacama: Facilities

Salar de Atacama

Our facilities at the Salar de Atacama are located 208 kilometers to the east of the city of Antofagasta and 188 kilometers to the southeast of the city of María Elena. At this site we use brines extracted from the salar to produce potassium chloride, potassium sulfate, boric acid, magnesium chloride salts and lithium solutions, which are subsequently sent to our lithium carbonate plant at the Salar del Carmen for processing. The main production plants at this site include the potassium chloride flotation plants (MOP-H I and II), potassium sulfate flotation plant (SOP-H), boric acid plant (ABO), potassium chloride drying plant (MOP-S) potassium chloride compacting plant (MOP-G) potassium sulfate drying plant (SOP-S) and potassium sulfate compacting plant (SOP-G). Solar energy is the primary energy source used for the Salar de Atacama operations.

Salar de Atacama: Reserves

Our in-house staff of hydro-geologists and mining engineers prepares our estimates of potassium, sulfate, lithium and boron reserves at the Salar de Atacama. We have exploitation concessions covering an area of approximately 81,920 hectares, in which we have carried out geological exploitation, brine sampling and geostatistical analysis. We estimate that our proven and probable reserves as of December 31, 2014, based on economic restrictions, geological exploitation, brine sampling and geostatistical analysis up to a depth of 100 meters of our total exploitation concessions, and additionally, up to a depth of 300 meters over approximately 47% of the same total area, are as follows:

	Proven Reserves [1]	**Probable Reserves [1]**	**Total Reserves**
	(millions of metric tons)	*(millions of metric tons)*	*(millions of metric tons)*
Potassium (K+) [2]	50.2	21.8	72.0
Sulfate (SO4-2) [3]	40.1	19.1	59.2
Lithium (Li+) [4]	3.7	2.3	6.0
Boron (B3+) [5]	0.9	0.3	1.2

Notes on reserves:

(1) Metric tons of potassium, sulfate, lithium and boron considered in the proven and probable reserves are shown before losses from evaporation processes and metallurgical treatment. The recoveries of each ion depend on both brine composition and the process applied to produce the desired commercial products.

(2) Recoveries for potassium vary from 47% to 77%.

(3) Recoveries for sulfate vary from 27% to 45%.

(4) Recoveries for lithium vary from 28% to 40%.

(5) Recoveries for boron vary from 28% to 32%.

The information set forth in the table above was validated in March 2015 by Messrs. Álvaro Henríquez and Orlando Rojas using information that was prepared by geologists, SQM's engineers and external advisors.

Mr. Henríquez is a geologist with more than 10 years of experience in the field of hydrogeology. He is currently employed by SQM as Superintendent of Geology, in the Salar Hydrogeology department. He is a Competent Person and is registered under No. 226 in the Public Registry of Competent Persons in Mining Resources and Reserves, in accordance with the Competent Person Law. As a hydrogeologist, he has evaluated multiple brine-based projects and has experience evaluating resources and reserves.

Mr. Orlando Rojas is a civil mining engineer and independent consultant. He is Partner and Chief Executive Officer of the company EMI-Ingenieros y Consultores S.A., whose offices are located at Renato Sánchez No. 3357, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile. He is a member of the Institute of Mining Engineers and is registered under No. 118 in the Public Registry of Competent Persons in Mining Resources and Reserves in accordance with the Competent Person Law and related regulations. He has worked as a mining engineer for 35 years since graduating from university, including more than 30 years working on estimates for reserves and resources.

Copies of the certificate of qualified competency issued by the Chilean Mining Commission for Mr. Rojas and Mr. Henríquez are attached hereto as Exhibit 99.2 and 99.3.

A cutoff grade of 1% K is used in the calculation, considering a low margin scenario using only MOP-S as, and using diluted brine with higher levels of contaminants as, the raw material, with recovery yields of approximately 47%, which is on the lower end of the range. In this scenario, considering current market conditions and market conditions from recent years, the production cost of MOP production is still competitive.

The cutoff grade for lithium extraction is set at 0.05% Li. The cost of the process is competitive in the market despite a small cost increase due to the expansions in the evaporation area (to reach the required Li concentration) and to the use of additives to maintain the quality of the brine that is used to feed the plant.

The proven and probable reserves are based on production experience, drilling, brine sampling and geo-statistic reservoir modeling in order to estimate brine volumes and their composition. We calculate the volume of brine effectively drainable or exploitable in each evaluation unit. We consider chemical parameters to determine the process to be applied to the brines. Based on the chemical characteristics, the volume of brine and drainable porosity, we determine the number of metric tons for each of the chemical ions being evaluated.

Reserves are defined as those geographical blocks which belong to properly identified hydrogeological units with proven historical brine yield production, and a quality and piezometric brine monitoring network to control brine evolution over time. Reserve classification is finally achieved by using the geostatistical estimation error and the search volume, as an indicator between proven and probable reserves. This criterion applies to all hydrogeological units shallower than 100 meters deep.

For deeper (below 100 meters) and unexploited units, blocks within the first search volume were estimated and considered in the evaluation as probable reserves and indicated resources. Blocks within the second and third search volumes were classified as inferred resources until further exploration is performed. This exploration includes systematic packer testing, chemical brine sampling and long-term pilot production pumping tests.

This procedure is used to estimate potential restrictions on production yields, and the economic feasibility of producing such commercial products as potassium chloride, potassium sulfate, lithium carbonate and boric acid is determined on the basis of the evaluation.

Complementing the reserves information, SQM has an environmental impact assessment (RCA 226/06) which defines a maximum brine extraction per year until the end of the Lease Agreement (in the year 2030). Considering the maximum brine production rates, and including reinjection factors, we have performed several hydrogeological numeric simulations to estimate changes in the volume and quality of the brine during the life of the project. This procedure allows us to estimate an amount of 26.5 million metric tons of potassium out of our environmentally approved reserves, which is considered to be a fraction of the proven and probable reserves previously defined.

Brines from the Salar de Atacama are the key raw material used in the production of potassium chloride and potassium sulfate, and lithium and its derivatives. The following gross margins for the business lines specified were calculated on the same basis as cut off grades used to estimate our reserves. We expect costs to remain relatively stable in the near future.

	2014		2013		2012	
	Gross Margin	Price	Gross Margin	Price	Gross Margin	Price
Potassium Chloride and Potassium Sulfate	28%	US$375/ton	27%	US$423/ton	41%	US$500/ton
Lithium and Derivatives	42%	US$5.235/ton	49%	US$5.444/ton	50%	US$4.863/ton

Other Production Facilities

Coya Sur

The Coya Sur site is located approximately 15 kilometers south of María Elena, and production activities undertaken there are associated with the production of potassium nitrate and finished products. The main production plants at this site include four potassium nitrate plants with a total capacity of 1,000,000 metric tons per year. There are also five production lines for crystallized nitrates, with a total capacity of 1,200,000 metric tons per year, and a prilling plant with a capacity of 320,000 metric tons per year. The potassium nitrate produced at Coya Sur is an intermediate product that is used as a raw material for the production of finished products (crystallized nitrates and prilled nitrates). Therefore, the production capacities listed above are not independent of one another and cannot be added together to obtain an overall total capacity. Natural gas is the main source of energy for our Coya Sur operation.

Salar del Carmen

The Salar del Carmen site is located approximately 14 kilometers to the east of Antofagasta. The production plants at this facility include the lithium carbonate plant, with a production capacity of 48,000 metric tons per year, and the lithium hydroxide plant, with a production capacity of 6,000 metric tons per year. Electricity and natural gas are the main sources of energy for our Salar del Carmen operation.

The following table provides a summary of our production facilities as of December 31, 2014;

Facility	Type of Facility	**Approximate Size** (hectares) [1]	**Production Capacity** (thousands of metric tons/year)	**Weighted Average Age** (years) [2]	**Gross Book Value** (millions of US$) [2]
Coya Sur [3] [4]	Nitrates production	1,518	Potassium nitrate: 1,000 Crystallized nitrates: 1,200 Prilled nitrates: 320	7.4	463.1
		35,830		11.6	427.2

María Elena [5] [6]	Nitrates and iodine production		Nitrates: 250 Iodine: 1.6		
Nueva Victoria [5] [7]	Concentrated nitrate salts and iodine production	47,492	Iodine: 8.5	7.2	372.2
Pampa Blanca [5] [8]	Concentrated nitrate salts and iodide production	10,441	Nitrates: n/a Iodine: n/a	6.8	12.1
Pedro de Valdivia [3]	Nitrates and iodine production	253,880	Nitrates: 500 Iodine: 3.2	11.2	203.2
Salar de Atacama [3] [9]	Potassium chloride, potassium sulfate, lithium chloride, and boric acid production	35,911	Potassium chloride: 2,600 Potassium sulfate: 240 Boric acid: 15	10.6	1,444.1
Salar del Carmen, Antofagasta [3]	Lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide production	126	Lithium carbonate: 48 Lithium hydroxide: 6	11.2	170.5
Tocopilla [10]	Port facilities	22	-	11.1	155.2

(1) Approximate size considers both the production facilities and the mine for María Elena, Nueva Victoria, Pampa Blanca, Pedro de Valdivia and the Salar de Atacama. Mining areas are those authorized for exploitation by the environmental authority and/or Sernageomin.

(2) Weighted average age and gross book value correspond to production facilities, excluding the mine, for María Elena, Nueva Victoria, Pampa Blanca, Pedro de Valdivia and the Salar de Atacama.

(3) Includes production facilities and solar evaporation ponds.

(4) The potassium nitrate produced at Coya Sur is an intermediate product that is used as a raw material for the production of finished products (crystallized nitrates and prilled nitrates). Therefore, the production capacities listed above are not independent of one another and cannot be added together to obtain an overall total capacity.

(5) Includes production facilities, solar evaporation ponds and leaching heaps.

(6) Operations at the El Toco mine at María Elena were temporarily suspended in November 2013.

(7) Operations at the Iris plant were temporarily suspended in October 2013 and restarted in August 2014.

(8) Operations at Pampa Blanca were temporarily suspended in March 2010.

(9) Potassium chloride and potassium sulfate are produced in a dual plant, and the production capacity for each of these products depends on the production mix. Therefore, the production capacities for these two products are not independent of one another and cannot be added together to obtain an overall total capacity.

(10) The Tocopilla port facilities were originally constructed in 1961 and have been refurbished and expanded since that time.

Our railroad line between our production facilities and Tocopilla was originally constructed in 1890, but the rails, locomotives, and rolling stock have been replaced and refurbished as needed. We consider the condition of our principal plant and equipment to be good.

We own, directly or indirectly through subsidiaries, all of the facilities free of any material liens, pledges or encumbrances, and believe they are suitable and adequate for the business we conduct in them.

Extraction Yields

The following table shows certain operating data relating to each of our mines for 2014, 2013 and 2012:

(in thousands, unless otherwise stated)	2014	2013	2012
Pedro de Valdivia			
Metric tons of ore mined	11,401	11,571	12,027
Average grade nitrate (% by weight)	8.1	7.5	7.3
Iodine (parts per million (ppm))	418	415	406
Metric tons of crystallized nitrate produced	453	445	466
Metric tons of iodine produced	3.2	3.2	3.2
Maria Elena[(1)]			
Metric tons of ore mined	-	5,870	6,787
Average grade nitrate (% by weight)	-	6.6	6.2
Iodine (ppm)	-	484	454
Metric tons of crystallized nitrate produced	-	-	-
Metric tons of iodine produced	0.4	1.5	1.7
Coya Sur[(2)]			
Metric tons of crystallized nitrate produced	519	429	487
Pampa Blanca[(1)]			
Metric tons of ore mined	–	–	-
Iodine (ppm)	–	–	-
Metric tons of iodine produced	–	–	-
Nueva Victoria[(3)]			
Metric tons of ore mined	19,792	23,515	23,937
Iodine (ppm)	467	462	465
Metric tons of iodine produced	6.0	6.1	6.0
Salar de Atacama[(4)]			

Metric tons of lithium carbonate produced	30	33	41
Metric tons of potassium chloride and potassium sulfate and potassium salts produced	1,993	1,922	1,979

(1) Operations at the El Toco (María Elena) and Pampa Blanca mines were temporarily suspended in November 2013 and March 2010, respectively. During 2014, María Elena obtained production from caliche ore exploited in prior years.

(2) Includes production at Coya Sur from treatment of nitrates solutions from María Elena and fines from Pedro de Valdivia, nitrates from pile treatment at Nueva Victoria, and net production from NPT, or technical grade potassium nitrate, plants.

(3) Operations at the Iris iodine plant at Nueva Victoria were temporarily suspended in October 2013 and restarted in August 2014.

(4) Lithium carbonate is extracted at the Salar de Atacama and processed at our facilities at the Salar del Carmen. Potassium salts include synthetic sylvinite produced in the plant and other harvested potassium salts (natural sylvinite, carnalites and harvests from plant ponds) that are sent to Coya Sur for the production of crystallized nitrates.

Transportation and Storage Facilities

We own and operate railway lines and equipment, as well as port and storage facilities, for the transport and handling of finished products and consumable materials.

Our main center for production and storage of raw materials is the hub composed of the facilities in Coya Sur, Pedro de Valdivia and the Salar de Atacama. Other facilities include Nueva Victoria and the lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide finishing plants at the Salar del Carmen site. The Tocopilla port terminal ("Tocopilla Port Terminal"), which we own, is the main facility for storage and shipment of our products.

Nitrate raw materials are produced and initially stored at our Pedro de Valdivia mine, and subsequently transported by trucks to the plants described in the next paragraph, for further processing. Nitrate raw material is also produced at Nueva Victoria, from where it is transported by trucks to Coya Sur for further processing.

Nitrate finished products are produced at our facilities in Coya Sur and then transported by our rail system to Tocopilla Port Terminal, where they are stored and shipped, either bagged or in bulk. Potassium chloride is produced at our facilities in the Salar de Atacama and transported either to Tocopilla Port Terminal or Coya Sur by truck owned by a third-party dedicated contractor. Products transported to Coya Sur are used as a raw material for the production of potassium nitrate. Potassium sulfate and boric acid are both produced at our facilities in the Salar de Atacama and are then transported by trucks to the Tocopilla Port Terminal.

Lithium solutions, produced at our facilities in the Salar de Atacama, are transported to the lithium carbonate facility at the Salar del Carmen site, where finished lithium carbonate is produced. Part of the lithium carbonate is fed to the adjacent lithium hydroxide plant, where finished lithium hydroxide is produced. These two products are bagged and stored on the premises and are subsequently transported by truck to the Tocopilla Port Terminal or to the container terminals, mainly Antofagasta and Mejillones, for shipment on charter vessels or container vessels.

Iodine raw material, obtained from the same mines as the nitrates, is processed, packed in bags or drums, and stored exclusively in the facilities of Pedro de Valdivia and Nueva Victoria, and then shipped by truck to container terminals, mainly Antofagasta, Mejillones or Iquique, where they are subsequently shipped to different markets by container vessel or by truck to Santiago, where iodine derivatives are produced.

The facilities at Tocopilla Port Terminal are located approximately 186 kilometers north of Antofagasta and approximately 124 kilometers west of Pedro de Valdivia, 84 kilometers west of María Elena and Coya Sur and 372 kilometers west of the Salar de Atacama. Our subsidiary, Servicios Integrales de Tránsitos y Transferencias S.A. (SIT) operates the facilities under maritime concessions granted pursuant to applicable Chilean laws. The port also complies with ISPS (International Ship and Port Facility Security Code) regulation. The Tocopilla Port Terminal facilities include a railcar dumper to transfer bulk product into the conveyor belt system used to store and ship bulk product.

Storage facilities consist of a six silo system, with a total storage capacity of 55,000 metric tons, and an open storage area for approximately 250,000 metric tons. Additionally, to meet future storage needs, we will continue to make investments in accordance with the investment plan outlined by management. Products are also bagged at port facilities in Tocopilla, where the nominal bagging capacity is approximately 300,000 metric tons per year.

For transporting bulk product, the conveyor belt system extends over the coast line to deliver product directly inside bulk carrier hatches. Using this system, the loading capacity is 1,200 tons per hour. Bags are loaded to bulk vessels using barges that are loaded in the Tocopilla Port Terminal dock and unloaded by vessel cranes into the corresponding warehouses. Both bulk and bagged trucks are loaded in Tocopilla Port Terminal for transferring product directly to customers or for transport on container vessels shipping from other ports, mainly Antofagasta, Mejillones and Iquique.

Bulk carrier loading in the Tocopilla Port Terminal is mostly contracted to transfer product to our hubs around the world or for shipping to customers, which in some cases use their own contracted vessels for delivery. Trucking is provided by a mix of spot, contracted and customer-owned equipment.

Tocopilla processes related to the reception, handling, storage and shipment of bulk/packaged nitrates produced at Coya Sur are certified by the third party organization TÜV-Rheiland under the quality standard ISO 9001:2008.

Water Rights

We hold water rights for the supply of surface and subterranean water near our production facilities. The main sources of water for our nitrate and iodine facilities at Pedro de Valdivia, María Elena, and Coya Sur are the Loa and San

Salvador rivers, which run near our production facilities. Water for our Nueva Victoria and Salar de Atacama facilities is obtained from wells near the production facilities. In addition, we buy water from third parties for our production processes at the Salar del Carmen lithium carbonate plant, and we also purchase potable water from local utility companies. We have not experienced significant difficulties obtaining the necessary water to conduct our operations.

Computer System

In addition to the above-listed facilities, we operate a computer and information system linking our principal subsidiaries to our operating facilities throughout Chile via a local area network. The computer and information system is used mainly for accounting, monitoring of supplies and inventories, billing, quality control and research activities. The system's mainframe computer equipment is located at our offices in Santiago.

ITEM 4A. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

Not applicable.

ITEM 5. OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS

The information in this Item 5 should be read in conjunction with the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements and the notes thereto included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

Since January 1, 2010, the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards as published by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

Critical accounting policies are defined as those that are reflective of significant judgments and uncertainties, which would potentially result in materially different results under different assumptions and conditions.

We believe that our critical accounting policies applied in the preparation of our Audited Consolidated Financial Statements are limited to those described below. It should be noted that in many cases, IFRS specifically dictates the accounting treatment of a particular transaction, limiting management's judgment in their application. There are also areas in which management's judgment in selecting available alternatives would not produce materially different results.

Trade and Other Accounts Receivable

Trade and other accounts receivable relate to non-derivative financial assets with fixed payments that can be determined and are not quoted in any active market. These arise from sales operations involving products and/or services that we sell directly to our customers that are not within the following categories:

- those which we have the intention of selling immediately in the near future and which are held-for-sale;
- those designated at their initial recognition as available-for-sale; and
- those through which we do not intend to recover for reasons other than credit impairment and therefore must be classified as available-for-sale.

These assets are initially recognized at their fair value (which is equivalent to their face value, discounting implicit interest for installment sales) and subsequently at amortized cost according to the effective interest rate method less a provision for impairment loss. When the face value of the account receivable does not significantly differ from its fair value, it is recognized at face value. An allowance for impairment loss is established for trade accounts receivable when there is objective evidence that we will not be able to collect all the amounts owed to us according to the original terms of accounts receivable.

Implicit interest in installment sales is recognized as interest income when interest is accrued over the term of the sale.

Income tax

Corporate income tax for the year is determined as the aggregate of current taxes from all of the consolidated companies. Current taxes are calculated on the basis of the tax laws enacted or substantively enacted as of the date of our statements of financial position in the countries in which we and our subsidiaries operate and generate taxable income.

Deferred tax is recognized using the liability method on temporary differences arising between the tax basis for assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in our Audited Consolidated Financial Statements. Deferred income taxes are calculated using the tax rates expected to be applicable when the assets are realized or the liabilities are settled.

In conformity with current Chilean tax regulations, the provision for corporate income tax and taxes on mining activity is recognized on an accrual basis, presenting the net balances of accumulated monthly tax provisional payments for the fiscal period and credits associated with it. The balances of these accounts are presented in current income taxes recoverable or current taxes payable, as applicable.

Tax on companies and variations in deferred tax assets or liabilities that are not the result of business combinations are recorded in income statement accounts or net shareholders' equity accounts in our consolidated statements of financial position, depending on the origin of the gains or losses which have generated them.

At the year end, the carrying value of deferred tax assets has been reviewed and reduced for as long as possible for there to be no sufficient taxable income to allow the recovery of all or a portion of the deferred tax asset. Likewise, at the date of the statement of financial position, deferred tax assets not recognized are revalued and recognized as long as it has become possible that future taxable income will allow the recovery of the deferred tax asset.

With respect to deductible temporary differences associated with investments in subsidiaries, associated companies and interests in joint ventures, deferred tax assets are recognized solely provided that there is a possibility that the temporary differences will be reversed in the near future and that there will be taxable income with which they may be used.

The deferred income tax related to entries directly recognized in equity is recognized with an effect on equity and not with an effect on profit or loss.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset if there is a legally receivable right of offsetting tax assets against tax liabilities and the deferred tax is related to the same tax entity and authority.

Inventories

We state inventory at the lower of cost and net realizable value. The method used to determine the cost of inventory is weighted average cost. The cost of finished products and products-in-progress includes direct costs of materials and, as applicable, labor costs, indirect costs incurred to transform raw materials into finished products and general expenses incurred in carrying inventory to their current location and conditions.

The net realizable value represents the estimate of the sales price less all finishing estimated costs and costs that will be incurred in sales and distribution processes. Commercial discounts, rebates obtained and other similar entries are deducted in the determination of the cost. We conduct an evaluation of the net realizable value of inventory at the end of each year, recording a provision with a charge to income when circumstances warrant. When the circumstances that previously gave rise to the reserve cease to exist, or when there is clear evidence of an increase in the net realizable value due to a change in economic circumstances or prices of main raw materials, the estimate made previously is modified. The valuation of obsolete, impaired or slow-moving products relates to their estimated net realizable value.

Provisions on our inventory have been made based on a technical study which covers the different variables affecting products in stock (density, humidity, among others).

Raw materials, supplies and materials are recorded at the lower of acquisition cost or market value. Acquisition cost is calculated according to the annual average price method.

Obligations related to staff severance indemnities and pension commitments

Our obligations with respect to our employees are established in collective bargaining agreements and individual employment contracts. In the case of certain employees in the United States, our obligations are established through a pension plan, which was terminated in 2002.

These obligations are valued using an actuarial calculation that considers factors such as mortality rate, employee turnover, interest rates, retirement dates, effects related to increases in employees' salaries, as well as the effects on variations in services derived from variations in the inflation rate.

Actuarial losses and gains that may be generated by variations in previously defined obligations are directly recorded in profit or loss for the year.

Actuarial losses and gains originating from deviations deviations between the estimate and the actual behavior of actuarial hypotheses or in the reformulation of established actuarial hypotheses are recorded in equity.

The discount rate used for calculating obligations outside the United States was 6% for the periods ended as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

Our United States subsidiary, SQM North America Corp. has established pension plans for its retired employees that are calculated by measuring the projected benefit obligation in accordance with International Accounting Standards ("IAS") using a net salary progressive rate net of adjustments to inflation, mortality and turnover assumptions, deducting the resulting amounts at present value using a 5.0% interest rate for 2014 and 2013. The net balance of this obligation is presented in the line item called Provisions for Employee Benefits, Non-Current.

Mining development costs

Mine exploration costs and stripping costs to maintain production of mineral resources extracted from operating mines are considered variable production costs and are included in the cost of inventory produced during the period. Mine development costs at new mines, and major development costs at operating mines outside existing areas under extraction that are expected to benefit future production, are capitalized under "other long-term assets" and amortized using a units-of-production method over the associated proven and probable reserves. We determine our proven and probable reserves based on drilling, brine sampling and geostatistical reservoir modeling in order to estimate mineral volume and composition.

All other mine exploration costs, including expenses related to low grade mineral resources rendering reserves that are not economically exploitable, are charged to the statement of income in the period in which they are incurred.

Asset value impairment

We assess on an annual basis any impairment on the value of buildings, plant and equipment, intangible assets, goodwill and investments accounted for using the equity method of accounting in accordance with IAS 36 “Impairment of Assets.” Assets to which this method applies are:

- investments recognized using the equity method of accounting;
- property, plant and equipment;
- intangible assets; and
- goodwill.

Assets are reviewed for impairment as to the existence of any indication that the carrying value is lower than the recoverable amount. If such an indication exists, the asset recoverable amount is calculated in order to determine the extent of the impairment, if any. In the event that the asset does not generate any cash flows independent from other assets, we determine the recoverable amount of the cash generating unit to which this asset belongs according to the corresponding business segment (specialty plant nutrients, iodine and derivatives, lithium and derivatives, potassium, industrial chemicals and other products and services.)

We conduct impairment tests on intangible assets and goodwill with indefinite useful lives on an annual basis and every time there is indication of impairment. If the recoverable value of an asset is estimated at an amount lower than its carrying value, the latter decreases to its recoverable amount.

Financial derivatives and hedging transactions

Derivatives are recognized initially at fair value at the date in which the derivatives contract has been signed and subsequently they are valued at fair value at each period end. The method for recognizing the resulting loss or gain depends on whether the derivative has been designated as an accounting hedging instrument and if so, the type of hedging, which may be:

a. fair value hedge of assets and liabilities recognized (fair value hedges); or

b. hedging of a single risk associated with an asset or liability recognized or a highly possible foreseen transaction (cash flow hedge).

At the beginning of the transaction, we document the relationship between hedging instruments and those entries hedged, as well as their objectives for risk management purposes and the strategy to conduct different hedging operations.

We also document our evaluation both at the beginning and the end of each period of whether derivatives used in hedging transactions are highly effective to offset changes in the fair value or in cash flows of hedged entries.

The fair value of derivative instruments used for hedging purposes is shown in Note 9.3 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Non-hedge instruments are classified as current assets or liabilities, and the change in their fair value is recognized directly in profit or loss.

a. Fair value hedge

The change in the fair value of a derivative is recognized with a debit or credit to profit or loss, as applicable. The change in the fair value of the hedged entry attributable to hedged risk is recognized as part of the carrying value of the hedged entry and is also recognized with a debit or credit to profit or loss.

For fair value hedging related to items recorded at amortized cost, the adjustment of the fair value is amortized against income on the remaining years to its expiration. Any adjustment to the carrying value of a hedged financial instrument for which the effective rate is used is amortized with a debit or credit to profit or loss at its fair value attributable to the risk being covered.

If the hedged entry no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, the fair value not amortized is immediately recognized with a debit or credit to profit or loss.

b. Cash flow hedge

The effective portion of gains or losses from the hedging instrument is initially recognized as “other revenue” with a debit or credit to other comprehensive income whereas any ineffective portion is immediately recognized with a debit or credit to profit or loss, as applicable.

Amounts accumulated in equity are transferred to profit or loss when the hedged transaction affects income for the period, such as when the hedged interest income or expense is recognized when a forecasted sale occurs. When the hedged item is the cost of a non-financial asset or liability, amounts taken to equity are transferred to the initial carrying value of the non-financial asset or liability.

Should the expected firm transaction or commitment no longer be expected to occur, the amounts previously recognized as other comprehensive income are transferred to income. If a hedging instrument expires, is sold, finished, and exercised without any replacement, or if a rollover is performed or if its designation as hedging is revoked, the amounts previously recognized in equity are maintained in equity until the expected firm transaction or commitment occurs.

5.A. Operating Results

Introduction

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements. Certain calculations (including percentages) that appear herein have been rounded.

Our Consolidated Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with IFRS standards and prepared in U.S. dollars. The U.S. dollar is the primary currency in which we operate.

We operate as an independent corporation. Nonetheless we are a "controlled corporation," as that term is defined under Chilean law. See "Item 6.E. Share Ownership."

Overview of Our Results of Operations

We divide our operations into the following product lines:

- the production and sale of specialty plant nutrients;
- the production and sale of iodine and its derivatives;
- the production and sale of lithium and its derivatives;
- the production and sale of potassium, including potassium chloride and potassium sulfate;
- the production and sale of industrial chemicals, principally industrial nitrates and solar salts and
- the purchase and sale of other commodity fertilizers for use primarily in Chile.

We sell our products through three primary channels: our own sales offices, a network of distributors and, in the case of our fertilizer products, through Yara International ASA's (formerly Norsk Hydro ASA) ("Yara") distribution network in countries where its presence and commercial infrastructure are larger than ours. Similarly, in those markets where our presence is larger, both our specialty plant nutrients and Yara's are marketed through our offices.

Factors Affecting Our Results of Operations

Our results of operations substantially depend on:

- trends in demand for and supply of our products, including global economic conditions, which impact prices and sales volumes;
- efficient operations of our facilities, particularly as some of them run at production capacity;
- our ability to accomplish our capital expenditures program in a timely manner;
- the levels of our inventories;
- trends in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and Chilean peso, as a significant portion of the cost of sales is in Chilean pesos, and trends in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the euro, as a significant portion of our sales is denominated in euros; and
- energy, logistics, raw materials, labor and maintenance costs.

The following table shows our revenues (in millions of U.S. dollars) and the percentage accounted for by each of our product lines for each of the periods indicated:

	2014		**2013**		**2012**	
	US$	%	US$	%	US$	%
Specialty plant nutrition	708.0	35 %	687.5	31 %	675.3	28 %
Iodine and derivatives	335.4	17 %	461.0	21 %	578.1	24 %
Lithium and derivatives	206.8	10 %	196.5	9 %	222.2	9 %
Potassium	584.3	29 %	606.3	28 %	605.1	25 %
Industrial chemicals	101.9	5 %	154.0	7 %	245.2	10 %
Other products and services	77.7	4 %	97.9	4 %	103.2	4 %
Total	**2,014.2**	**100**	**2,203.1**	**100**	**2,429.2**	**100**

The following table shows certain financial information of the Company under IFRS (in millions of U.S. dollars) for each of the periods indicated, as a percentage of revenues:

	Year Ended December 31,					
	2014		**2013**		**2012**	
(in millions of U.S. dollars)	US$	%	US$	%	US$	%
Revenues	2,014.2	100.0	2,203.1	100.0	2,429.2	100.0
Cost of sales	(1,431.2)	71.1	(1,481.7)	67.3	(1,400.6)	57.7
Gross profit	**583.0**	**28.9**	**721.5**	**32.7**	**1,028.6**	**42.3**
Other income	24.1	1.2	96.7	4.4	12.7	0.5
Administrative expenses	(96.5)	4.8	(105.2)	4.8	(106.4)	4.4
Other expenses [1]	(64.3)	3.2	(49.4)	2.2	(34.6)	1.4
Other gains (losses)	4.4	0.2	(11.4)	0.5	0.7	—
Finance income	16.1	0.8	12.7	0.6	29.1	1.2
Finance expenses	(63.4)	3.1	(58.6)	2.6	(54.1)	2.2
Equity income of associates and joint ventures accounted for using the equity method	18.1	0.9	18.8	0.8	24.4	1.0
Foreign currency exchange differences	(16.5)	0.8	(12.0)	0.5	(26.8)	1.1
Income before income tax expense [1]	**405.0**	**20.1**	**613.1**	**27.8**	**873.5**	**36.0**
Income tax expense [2]	(160.7)	8.0	(138.5)	6.3	(216.1)	8.9
Profit attributable to:						
Controlling interests [1][2]	236.9	11.8	467.1	21.2	649.2	26.7
Non-controlling interests	7.4	0.4	7.5	0.3	8.2	0.3
Profit for the year [1][2]	**244.3**	**12.1**	**474.6**	**21.5**	**657.4**	**27.1**

(1) The 2014 figure includes provisions of approximately US$7 million corresponding to payments made in 2015 to the Chilean Internal Revenue Service (*Servicio de Impuestos Internos* or "SII") for expenses that may not have qualified as tax expenses under the Chilean tax code. Such payments were made after March 3, 2015, the date on which the Company filed its statutory consolidated financial statements filed with the SVS. Therefore, this amount was not reflected in these statutory consolidated financial statements. For more information, see "Item 3D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to our Business—We could be subject to numerous risks as a result of ongoing investigations by the Chilean Internal Revenue Service and the Chilean Public Prosecutor in relation to certain payments of invoices made by SQM between the tax years 2009 and 2014."

(2) In accordance with IAS 12, the effects generated by the change in the income tax rate approved by Law No. 20.780 on income and deferred taxes have been applied to the income statement. For purposes of the Company's statutory consolidated financial statements filed with the Chilean SVS, in accordance with the instructions issued by the SVS in its circular 856 of October 17, 2014, the effects generated by the change in the income tax rate were accounted for as retained earnings. The amount charged to equity was US$52.3 million, thereby giving rise to a difference of US$52.3 million in profit for the year and income tax expense as presented in the Company's Audited Consolidated Financial Statements and as presented in its statutory consolidated financial statements filed with the

SVS. Subsequent amendments will be recognized in profit or loss for the period in the Company's statutory consolidated financial statements in accordance with IAS 12.

Results of Operations – 2014 compared to 2013

Revenues

Revenues decreased 8.6% to US$2,014.2 million in 2014 from US$2,203.1 million in 2013.

The main factors causing the decrease in revenues and the variation in the different product lines are described below.

Specialty Plant Nutrition

Specialty plant nutrition revenues increased 3.0% to US$708.0 million in 2014 from US$687.5 million in 2013. Set forth below are sales volume data for the specified years by product category in this product line:

(in Th. MT)	2014	2013	% Change
Potassium nitrate and sodium potassium nitrate	531.6	512.6	4 %
Specialty blends	228.0	208.1	10 %
Other specialty plant nutrients (*)	102.5	100.8	2 %
Sodium nitrate	15.8	26.2	(40)%

* Includes trading of other specialty fertilizers.

Our sales volumes in the specialty plant nutrition business line increased 3.6% in 2014 compared to 2013. Revenues for our most important product in this business line, potassium nitrate, grew approximately 5%. In general, potassium nitrate prices are less volatile than other commodity fertilizers such as potassium chloride. Prices in the business line were largely flat in 2014 compared to 2013.

Iodine and Derivatives

Iodine and derivatives revenues decreased 27.2% to US$335.4 million in 2014 from US$461.0 million in 2013. Set forth below are sales volume data for the specified years:

(in Th. MT)	2014	2013	% Change
Iodine and its derivatives	8.8	9.3	(5)%

SQM was impacted by the overall lower prices in 2014, and our prices dropped approximately 23% in 2014 compared to 2013. We expect average prices will continue to decline throughout 2015. We believe we are the lowest-cost producer in Chile and as a result are well positioned to face this challenging environment.

Our sales volumes in the iodine and derivatives business line decreased approximately 5% in 2014 compared to 2013. In 2015, we expect that our sales volumes will increase as we work to regain market share.

Lithium and Derivatives

Lithium and derivatives revenues increased 5.3% to US$206.8 million in 2014 from US$196.5 million in 2013. Set forth below are sales volume data for the specified years:

(in Th. MT)	2014	2013	% Change
Lithium and derivatives	39.5	36.1	10 %

Prices in the lithium carbonate market fell slightly during 2014, which was reflected in the approximately 4% decline in average prices for this business line in 2014 compared to 2013. We expect existing competition will add new supply in 2015, but demand growth should exceed this new supply. Therefore, we expect average prices to increase in 2015.

Our sales volumes in the lithium business line increased nearly 10% in 2014 compared to 2013. We achieved particularly strong sales volumes in the fourth quarter, in which we reported the strongest quarterly sales volumes of 2014. We expect our sales volumes in 2015 to remain relatively stable compared to 2014, totaling just below 40,000 metric tons.

Potassium

Potassium revenues decreased 3.6% to US$584.3 million in 2014 from US$606.3 million in 2013. Set forth below are sales volume data for the specified years:

(in Th. MT)	2014	2013	% Change
Potassium chloride and potassium sulfate	1,556.2	1,434.9	8 %

The increase of approximately 8% in our sales volumes in 2014 compared to 2013 was offset by lower average prices in 2014. Although prices recovered gradually during the second half of 2014, on average for the full year, our sales prices were approximately 11% lower in 2014 compared to 2013.

In 2014, we continued to take advantage of our developed distribution network and distributed potassium chloride to customers all over the world. Our biggest market continued to be Brazil, which accounted for approximately one-third of our potassium chloride sales for the year.

Industrial Chemicals

Industrial chemicals revenues decreased 33.8% to US$101.9 million in 2014 from US$154.0 million in 2013. Set forth below are sales volume data for the specified years by product category:

(in Th. MT)	2014	2013	% Change
Industrial nitrates	124.7	173.5	(28)%
Boric acid	0.8	2.0	(62)%

Industrial chemical demand for traditional applications remained relatively stable compared to 2013. Solar salt sales volumes reached just over 22,000 metric tons in 2014, which was a significant decline compared to 2013.

SQM executed solar salt supply agreements for over 200,000 metric tons to be supplied to four new projects in Africa and Latin America between 2015 and 2017. The majority of these volumes are expected to be delivered in 2016 and 2017. We will continue to pursue new solar salt business in an effort to further increase sales volumes. Prospects in the solar salt market remain positive, and 2015 sales volumes in this business line are expected to be higher than 2014.

Other Products and Services

Revenues from other products and services, which relate primarily to sales of other commodity fertilizers and certain other products, decreased 20.6% to US$77.7 in 2014 from US$97.9 million in 2013.

Cost of Sales

Cost of sales decreased 3.4% to US$1,431.2 million in 2014, which represented 71% of revenues, from US$1,481.7 million in 2013, which represented 67% of revenues. This increase as a percentage of revenues was principally caused by lower prices in most of our products. Cost of sales includes, among other things, depreciation and amortization costs.

Gross Profit

Gross profit decreased 19.2% to US$583.0 million in 2014, which represented 28.9% of revenues, from US$721.5 million in 2013, which represented 32.7% of revenues. This decrease as a percentage of revenues was principally caused by lower average prices in 2014 compared to 2013 in our iodine, nitrates and lithium business lines.

Other Income

Other income descreased 75.1% to US$24.1 million in 2014, which represented 1.2% of revenues, from US$96.7 million in 2013, which represented 4.4% of revenues.

Administrative Expenses

Administrative expenses decreased 8.3% to US$96.5 million in 2014, which represented 4.8% of revenues, from US$105.2 million in 2013, which also represented 4.8% of revenues.

Other Expenses

Other expenses increased 30.2% to US$64.3 million in 2014, which represented 3.2% of revenues, from US$49.4 million in 2013, which represented 2.2% of revenues.

Other Gains (Losses)

Other gains (losses) increased to a gain of US$4.4 million in 2014, which represented 0.2% of revenues, from a loss of US$11.4 million in 2013, which represented 0.5% of revenues.

Finance Income

Finance income increased 26.8% to US$16.1 million in 2014, which represented 0.8% of revenues, from US$12.7 million in 2013, which represented 0.6% of revenues.

Finance Expenses

Finance expenses increased 8.2% to US$63.4 million in 2014, which represented 3.1% of revenues, from US$58.6 million in 2013, which represented 2.6% of revenues.

Equity Income of Associates and Joint Ventures Accounted for Using the Equity Method

Equity income of associates and joint ventures accounted for using the equity method decreased 3.7% to US$18.1 million in 2014, which represented 0.9% of revenues, from US$18.8 million in 2013, which represented 0.8% of revenues.

Foreign Currency Exchange Differences

Losses from foreign currency exchange differences increased 37.5% to US$16.5 million in 2014, which represented 0.8% of revenues, from US$12.0 million in 2013, which represented 0.5% of revenues. A significant portion of our costs is related to the Chilean peso as most of our operations occur in Chile. In addition, although most of our revenues are in U.S. dollars, we have revenues in other currencies, such as the euro and the South African rand, which depreciated during 2014. Because the U.S. dollar is our functional currency, we are subject to currency fluctuations. We aim to mitigate this impact through an active hedging program. During 2014, the Chilean peso depreciated 15.7% against the U.S. dollar.

Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense increased 16.0% to US$160.7 million in 2014 from US$138.5 million in 2013. The effective tax rate was 39.0% in 2014 compared to 22.6% in 2013. The increase was due to an increase of US$52.3 million in our deferred tax liabilities, as a result of the 2014 Chilean Tax Reform. See “Government Regulations–Regulations in Chile Generally.” Excluding this effect, income tax expense decreased 21.7%, to US$108.4 million in 2014, an effective rate of 26.3%. The difference between the statutory and effective tax rates was due primarily to royalty taxes on income.

Profit for the Year

Profit for the year decreased 48.5% to US$244.3 million in 2014 from US$474.6 million in 2013 primarily as a result of the foregoing factors and lower prices across multiple business lines compared to 2013.

Results of Operations – 2013 compared to 2012

Revenues

Revenues decreased 9.3% to US$2,203.1 million in 2013 from US$2,429.2 million in 2012. The main factors causing the increase in revenues and the variation in the different product lines are described below.

Specialty Plant Nutrition

Specialty plant nutrition revenues increased 1.8% to US$687.5 million in 2013 from US$675.3 million in 2012. Set forth below are sales volume data for the specified years by product category in this product line:

(in Th. MT)	2013	2012	% Change	
Potassium nitrate and sodium potassium nitrate	512.6	469.3	9	%
Specialty blends	208.1	197.5	5	%
Other specialty plant nutrients (*)	100.8	89.0	13	%
Sodium nitrate	26.2	24.4	7	%

* Includes trading of other specialty fertilizers.

Our sales volumes in the specialty plant nutrition business line in 2013 increased 8.6% compared to sales volumes in 2012. In general, potassium nitrate prices are less volatile than other commodity fertilizers such as potassium chloride; we saw prices in the business line decrease 6% during 2013 when compared to 2012.

Iodine and Derivatives

Revenues for iodine and derivatives decreased 20.3% to US$461.0 million in 2013 from US$578.1 million in 2012. Set forth below are sales volume data for the specified years:

(in Th. MT)	2013	2012	% Change	
Iodine and derivatives	9.3	11.0	(15	)%

Our sales volumes decreased approximately 15% in 2013 when compared to 2012. Average prices for 2013 were just under US$50/kg, almost 6% less than prices reported during 2012. These price decreases were in line with market conditions and our expectations.

Lithium and Derivatives

Revenues for lithium and its derivatives decreased 11.6% to US$196.5 in 2013 from US$222.2 million in 2012. Set forth below are sales volume data for the specified years:

(in Th. MT)	2012	2012	% Change
Lithium and its derivatives	36.1	45.7	(21)%

Our sales volumes in the lithium segment decreased approximately 21% in 2013, when compared to 2012. This resulted from increased supply from various competitors. We believe our market share totaled 27% in 2013. Prices remained strong in the lithium market, and our average price in the lithium business line was almost 12% higher in 2013 than prices seen in 2012.

Potassium

Potassium revenues increased 0.2% to US$606.3 million in 2013 from US$606.3 million in 2012. Set forth below are sales volume data for the specified years:

(in Th. MT)	2013	2012	% Change
Potassium chloride and potassium sulfate	1,434.9	1,209.5	19 %

Our potassium chloride and potassium sulfate sales volumes increased over 18% in 2013 compared to 2012, which was in line with our expectations. As mentioned above, pricing for the second half of 2013 remained volatile, and we were not immune to impacts. Our average price for the potassium chloride and potassium sulfate business line in 2013 was approximately 16% lower than average prices reported during 2012.

We continued to take advantage of our developed distribution network, and distributed potassium chloride to customers all over the world. Our biggest market continued to be Brazil, which, in 2013, accounted for approximately one third of our potassium chloride sales.

Industrial Chemicals

Industrial chemicals revenues decreased 37.2% to US$154.0 million in 2013 from US$245.2 million in 2012. Set forth below are sales volume data for the specified years by product category:

(in Th. MT)	2013	2012	% Change
Industrial nitrates	173.5	277.7	(38)%
Boric acid	2.0	1.8	(6)%

Average prices for industrial chemicals business line in 2013 remained virtually unchanged compared to 2012. As expected, volumes during 2013 decreased significantly compared to sales volumes reported during 2012. This is a direct result of a reduction in the sale of solar salts, products used for alternative energy sources. This decrease in sales volumes was particularly relevant during the second half of 2013 when sales volumes in solar salts were trivial.

Other Products and Services

Revenues from other products and services, primarily other commodity fertilizers and other products, decreased 5.1% to US$97.9 million in 2013 from US$103.2 million in 2012.

Cost of Sales

Cost of sales increased 5.0% to US$1,481.7 million in 2013, which represented 67% of revenues, from US$1,400.6 million in 2012, which represented 58% of revenues. This increase in the percentage of revenues was principally caused higher volumes and lower prices in most of our products. Cost of sales includes, among others, the costs of depreciation and amortization.

Gross Profit

Gross profit decreased 29.9% to US$721.5 million in 2013, which represented 32.7% of revenues, from US$1,028.6 million in 2012, which represented 42.3% of revenues. Gross margin was impacted by generally lower average prices in 2013 compared to 2012 in the fertilizer business lines.

Other Income

Other income increased 661.4% to US$96.7 million in 2013, which represented 4.4% of revenues, from US$12.7 million in 2012, which represented 0.5% of revenues.

Administrative Expenses

Administrative expenses decreased 1.1% to US$105.2 million in 2013, which represented 4.8% of revenues, from US$106.4 million in 2012, which represented 4.4% of revenue. The increase as a percentage of revenue was mostly caused by decreases in revenues and relatively stable expenses.

Other Expenses

Other expenses increased 42.6% to US$49.3 million in 2013, which represented 2.2% of revenues, from US$34.6 million in 2012, which represented 1.4% of revenues in 2012.

Other Gains (Losses)

Other gains (losses) decreased to a loss of US$11.3 million in 2013 from a gain of US$0.7 million in 2012.

Finance Income

Finance income decreased 43.6% to US$12.6 million in 2013, which represented 0.6% of revenues, from US$29.1 million in 2012, which represented 1.2% of revenues. Financial income decreased resulting from lower returns in financial investments such as money market and time deposits.

Finance Expenses

Finance expenses increased 8.3% to US$58.6 million in 2013, which represented 2.7% of revenues, from US$54.1 million in 2012, which represented 2.2% of revenues. The increase in finance expenses was due to a net increase in indebtedness during 2013.

Equity Income of Associates and Joint Ventures Accounted for Using the Equity Method

Equity income of associates and joint ventures accounted for using the equity method decreased 23.0% to US$18.8 million in 2013, which represented 0.8% of revenues, from US$24.4 million in 2012, which also represented 1.0% of revenues.

Foreign Currency Exchange Differences

Losses from foreign currency exchange differences decreased 44.9% to US$12.0 million in 2013, which represented 0.5% of revenues, from US$26.8 million in 2012, which represented 1.1% of revenues. A significant portion of our costs is related to the Chilean peso as most of our operations occur in Chile. Because the U.S. dollar is our functional currency, we are subject to currency fluctuations. We try to mitigate this impact through an active hedging program. During 2013, the Chilean peso depreciated by 9.3% against the U.S. dollar.

Income Tax Expense

Income taxes decreased to US$138.5 million in 2013 from US$216.1 million in 2012. The effective tax rate in 2013 was 22.5% compared with 24.7% in 2012. The difference between the statutory and effective tax rates is due primarily to royalty taxes on income.

Profit for the Year

Profit for the year decreased 27.8% to US$474.6 million in 2013 from US$657.4 million in 2012, as a result of the foregoing factors. Profit for the year was lower in 2013 resulting from lower prices across multiple business lines, and lower volumes in lithium, iodine and industrial chemicals when compared to 2012.

Impact of Foreign Exchange Rates

We transact a significant portion of our business in U.S. dollars, which is the currency of the primary economic environment in which we operate and is our financial currency for financial reporting purposes. A significant portion of our costs is related to the Chilean peso as most of our operations occur in Chile, and therefore an increase or decrease in the exchange rate between the Chilean peso and the U.S. dollar affects our costs of production. Additionally, as an international company operating in Chile and several other countries, we transact a portion of our business and have assets and liabilities in Chilean pesos and other non-U.S. dollar currencies, such as the Euro, the South African Rand and the Mexican peso. As a result, fluctuations in the exchange rate of such currencies to the U.S. dollar may affect our financial condition and results of operations. See Note 23 to the Financial Statements included in this Annual Report.

We monitor and attempt to balance our non-dollar assets and liabilities position, including through foreign exchange contracts and other hedging instruments, to minimize our exposure to foreign exchange rate risk. As of December 31, 2014, for hedging purposes we had open contracts to buy U.S. dollars and sell euros for approximately US$31.7 million (EUR 25.2 million) and sell South African rand for approximately US$25.3 million (ZAR 289 million), as well as forward exchange contracts to sell U.S. dollars and buy Chilean pesos for US$89.5 million (Ch$54,304 million). All of our UF and Chilean pesos bonds were hedged with cross-currency swaps to the U.S. dollar for approximately US$ 368 million as of December 31, 2014.

In addition, we had open forward exchange contracts to buy U.S. dollars and sell Chilean pesos for approximately US$274 million (Ch$166,229 million) to hedge our time deposits in Chilean pesos.

5.B. Liquidity and Capital Resources

As of December 31, 2014, we had US$1,008.0 million of cash and cash equivalents and time deposits. In addition, as of December 31, 2014, we had US$546.0 million of unused uncommitted working capital credit lines.

Shareholders' equity decreased to US$2,292.5 million as of December 31, 2014 from US$2,432.2 million as of December 31, 2013. Our ratio of total liabilities to total equity (including non-controlling interest) on a consolidated basis increased to 1.03 as of December 31, 2014 from 0.96 as of December 31, 2013.

We evaluate from time to time our cash requirements to fund capital expenditures, dividend payouts and increases in working capital, but we believe our working capital is sufficent for our present requirements. As debt requirements also depend on the level of accounts receivable and inventories, we cannot accurately determine the amount of debt we will require nor are our requirements typically seasonal.

The table below shows our cash flows for 2014, 2013 and 2012:

(in millions of U.S. dollars)	2014	2013	2012
Net cash from (used in):			
Net cash from operating activities	591.0	651.7	650.2
Net cash used in financing activities	(388.0)	(2.3)	(197.7)
Net cash used in investing activities	(311.4)	(487.4)	(562.9)
Effects of exchange rate fluctuations on cash and cash equivalents	(13.7)	(9.8)	(10.3)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(122.1)	152.3	(120.6)

We operate a capital-intensive business that requires significant investments in revenue-generating assets. Our past growth strategies have included purchasing production facilities and equipment and the improvement and expansion of existing facilities. Funds for capital expenditures and working capital requirements have been obtained from net cash from operating activities, borrowing under credit facilities and issuing debt securities.

The Board of Directors approved a capital expenditures plan for 2015 of US$182 million in connection with investments to be made in Chile. The 2015 capital investment program is primarily focused on the maintenance of our production facilities. Our 2015 capital investment program does not call for any external financing, however, we reserve the right to access capital markets in order to optimize our financial position. See “Item 4.A. History and Development of the Company–Capital Expenditure Program.”

Our other major use of funds is for dividend distributions. We paid dividends of US$373.8 million and US$273.6 million during 2014 and 2013, respectively. Our 2014 dividend policy, as approved by our shareholders, is to pay 50% of our profit as calculated in our financial statements filed with the SVS for each fiscal year in dividends. Under Chilean law, the minimum dividend payout is 30% of profit for each fiscal year.

Financing Activities

Our current ratio, defined as current assets divided by current liabilities, increased to 4.80 as of December 31, 2014 from 3.40 as of December 31, 2013. The following table shows key information about our outstanding long- and short-term debt as of December 31, 2014.

Debt Instrument[(1)(2)]	Interest Rate	Issue Date	Maturity Date	Amortization
Bilateral loan — US$20 million	0.41 %	Aug. 28, 2014	Feb. 25, 2015	Bullet

Bilateral loan — US$20 million	0.38	%	Nov. 17, 2014	May. 22, 2015	Bullet
Bilateral loan — US$20 million	0.59	%	Jun. 19, 2014	Jun. 10, 2015	Bullet
Bilateral loan — US$20 million	0.46	%	Aug. 26, 2014	Aug. 21, 2015	Bullet
Bilateral loan — US$20 million	0.59	%	Oct. 14, 2014	Sep. 2, 2015	Bullet
Bilateral loan — US$50 million	1.37	%	Oct. 19, 2012	Oct. 19, 2015	Bullet
6.125% Notes due 2016 — US$ 200 million	6.13	%	Apr. 15, 2006	Apr. 15, 2016	Bullet
Bilateral loan — US$40 million	2.34	%	Oct. 6, 2011	Oct. 6, 2016	Semiannual, beginning in 2014
Bilateral loan — US$40 million	0.97	%	Oct. 12, 2011	Oct. 12, 2016	Semiannual, beginning in 2014
Bilateral loan — US$40 million	1.94	%	Dec. 21, 2011	Dec. 21, 2016	Bullet
Series M Bond — UF 1.0 million	2.90	%	Feb. 1, 2012	Feb. 1, 2017	Bullet
Bilateral loan — US$140 million	2.33	%	Oct. 29, 2009	Sep. 13, 2017	Bullet
5.50% Notes due 2020 — US$ 250 million	5.50	%	Apr. 21, 2010	Apr. 21, 2020	Bullet
3.625% Notes due 2023 — US$ 300 million	3.63	%	Apr. 3, 2013	Apr. 3, 2023	Bullet
4.375% Notes due 2025 — US$ 250 million	4.38	%	Oct. 28, 2014	Jan. 28, 2025	Bullet
Series C Bond — UF 1.8 million	5.84	%	Dec. 1, 2005	Dec. 1, 2026	Semiannual, beginning in 2007
Series H Bond — UF 4 million	4.03	%	Jan. 5, 2009	Jan. 5, 2030	Semiannual, beginning in 2019
Series O Bond — UF 1.5 million	3.56	%	Feb. 1, 2012	Feb. 1, 2033	Bullet

(1) UF- denominated bonds are fully hedged to U.S. dollars with cross-currency swaps.

(2) Some floating rate bilateral loans are currently hedged to fixed rate loans using interest rate swaps.

As of December 31, 2014, we had total financial debt of US$1,748 million compared to US$1,815 million as of December 31, 2013. Taking into account the effects of financial derivatives, our total financial debt amounted to US$1,786 million as of December 31, 2014 and US$1,792 million as of December 31, 2013. Of the total debt as of December 31, 2014, US$211.4 million was short-term debt. All of our UF local bonds were hedged with cross-currency swaps to the U.S. dollar as of December 31, 2014.

As of December 31, 2014, all of our long-term debt, including the current portion, was denominated in U.S. dollars, and all our UF-denominated bonds were hedged with cross-currency swaps to the U.S. dollar.

The financial covenants related to our debt instruments include: (i) limitations on the ratio of total liabilities to equity (including non-controlling interest) on a consolidated basis, (ii) minimum net worth requirements, (iii) limitations on net financial debt to EBITDA, (iv) limitations on interest indebtedness of operating subsidiaries and (v) minimum production assets. We believe that the terms and conditions of our debt agreements are standard and customary and that we are in compliance in all material respects with such terms and conditions as of December 31, 2014.

The following table shows the maturities of our long-term debt by year as of December 31, 2014 (in millions of US dollars):

Maturity[(1)]	Amount
2015	196.1
2016	286.1
2017	186.7
2018	6.1
2019	13.5
2020 and thereafter	1,058.5
Total	1,746.9

(1) Only the principal amount has been included. For the UF-denominated local bonds, the amounts presented reflect the real U.S. dollar obligation as of December 31, 2014, not including the effects of the cross currency swaps that hedge these bonds to the U.S. dollar and which had, as of December 31, 2014, a market value of US$37 million in favor of SQM.

Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health Projects

We spent US$7.8 million on environmental, safety and health projects in 2014. We have budgeted approximately US$7.9 million in 2015 for environmental, safety and health projects. This amount forms part of the capital expenditure program discussed above.

5.C. Research and Development, Patents and Licenses, etc.

One of the main objectives of our research and development team is to develop new processes and products in order to maximize the returns obtained from the resources that we exploit. Our research is performed by four different units whose research topics include chemical process design, phase chemistry, chemical analysis methodologies and physical properties of finished products.

Our research and development policy emphasizes the following: (i) optimization of current processes in order to decrease costs and improve product quality through the implementation of new technology and (ii) development of higher-margin products from current products through vertical integration or different product specifications.

Our research and development activities have been instrumental in improving our production processes and developing new value-added products. As a result of research and development activities, new methods of extraction, crystallization and finishing products have been developed. Technological advances in recent years have enabled us to improve process efficiency for the nitrate, potassium and lithium operations, improve the physical quality of our prilled products and reduce dust emissions and caking by applying specially designed additives to our products handled in bulk. Our research and development efforts have also resulted in new, value-added markets for our products. One example is the use of sodium nitrate and potassium nitrate as thermal storage in solar power plants.

We have patented several production processes for nitrate, iodine and lithium products. These patents have been filed mainly in the United States, Chile and in other countries when necessary. The patents used in our production processes include Chilean patent No. 47,080 for iodine (production of spherical granules of chemicals that sublime), Japanese patent No. 4,889,848 for nitrates (granular fertilizers) and patent Numbers 41,838 from Chile, 5393-B and 5391-B from Bolivia, AR001918B1 and AR001916B1 from Argentina and 5,676,916 and 5,939,038 from the U.S. for lithium (removal of boron from brines).

For the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, we invested US$7.4 million, US$ 9.2 million and US$10.4 million, respectively, on research and development activities.

5.D. Trend Information

Our revenues decreased 8.6% to US$2,014.2 million in 2014 from US$2,203.1 million in 2013. Gross margin decreased 19.2% to US$583.0 million in 2014, which represented 28.9% of revenues, from US$721.5 million in 2013, which represented 32.7% of revenues. Profit attributable to controlling interests decreased 49.3% to US$236.9 million in 2014 from US$467.1 million in 2013.

Our sales volumes in the specialty plant nutrition business line increased 3.6% in 2014 compared to 2013, while prices were relatively flat. As a result, our revenues in this business line increased approximately 3.0%. Potassium nitrate is the most important product in this business line, and according to our estimates, worldwide demand growth for this product grew over 10% in 2014, led by demand in North America. We believe demand growth was also supported by the shortage in the potassium sulfate market during the year, as farms sought out alternative sources of chloride-free potassium. We expect demand for potassium nitrate to continue to grow around 5% in 2015. We believe we are prepared to meet the growing market demand in the future.

Our sales volumes in the iodine business line decreased 5.4% in 2014, and significant downward pressure on prices throughout the year led to a total decrease of just over 23% in average prices compared to 2013. Prices are expected to decline further in 2015. However, we believe we are the lowest cost producer in Chile and are therefore well positioned to face the challenging pricing environment. We expect that our sales volumes will increase as we work to regain some of our market share. According to our estimates, the worldwide iodine market grew approximately 3% during 2014. We believe that market demand reached approximately 31,600 metric tons, of which SQM had a market share of approximately 26%. Demand was led by growth in the x-ray contrast media and pharmaceutical industries. We expect worldwide demand to grow over 3% in 2015, in part related to lower prices.

Our sales volumes in the lithium business line increased 9.4% in 2014 compared to 2013, and we expect our sales volumes to remain relatively stable in 2015. According to our estimates, worldwide demand for lithium grew over 9% in 2014, driven primarily by growth of over 14% in the rechargeable battery market, and growth should continue in 2015. We expect other lithium producers to add some new supply in 2015, but we believe the demand growth will exceed the new supply, which should lead to an increase in average prices. We estimate that our market share for 2014 was approximately 27%.

Our sales volumes in the potassium business line increased 8.5% in 2014 compared to 2013. Although average prices for the business line were 11.1% lower year over year, prices did increase during the second half of 2014. Demand for potassium chloride was very strong in 2014, reaching an estimated total of over 60 million metric tons. We do not expect to see further market growth during 2015, and we expect our sales volumes in the potassium business line to be similar in 2015 to their 2014 level.

Our sales volumes in the industrial chemicals product line decreased 28.5% in 2014 compared to 2013, largely due to lower solar salt sales volumes. However, we remain confident in the long-term prospects in the solar thermal energy storage market. We have executed supply agreements of solar salts for over 200,000 metric tons to be supplied between 2015 and 2017. The majority of these sales volumes are expected to be delivered during 2016 and 2017. Demand for traditional applications of industrial chemicals remained relatively stable in 2014 compared to 2013.

5.E. Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We have not entered into any transactions with unconsolidated entities whereby we have financial guarantees, retained or contingent interests in transferred assets, derivative instruments or other contingent arrangements that would expose us to material continuing risks, contingent liabilities, or any other obligations arising out of a variable interest in an unconsolidated entity that provides financing, liquidity, market risk or credit risk support to us or that engages in leasing, hedging or research and development services with us.

5.F. Tabular Disclosure of Contractual Obligations

The following table shows our material expected obligations and commitments as of December 31, 2014:

	Total ThUS$	Less Than 1 year ThUS$	1 - 3 years ThUS$	3 - 5 Years ThUS$	More Than 5 years ThUS$
Long- and short-term debt [1]	1,787,397	213,172	472,376	12,176	1,089,673
Capital lease obligations	-	-	-	-	-
Operating leases	45,365	2,835	5,671	5,671	31,188
Purchase commitments [2]	15,966	15,966	-	-	-
Staff severance indemnities	30,952	-	-	-	30,952
Total contractual obligations and commitments	1,879,680	231,973	478,047	17,847	1,151,813

(1) Includes interest.

(2) The purchase commitments held by the Company are recognized as a liability when the services and goods are received by the Company.

5.G. Safe Harbor

The information contained in Items 5.E and 5.F contains statements that may constitute forward-looking statements. See “Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements” in this Annual Report, for safe harbor provisions.

ITEM 6. DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES

6.A. Directors and Senior Management

We are managed by our executive officers under the direction of our Board of Directors, which, in accordance with our by-laws, consists of eight directors, seven of whom are elected by holders of Series A common shares and one of whom is elected by holders of Series B common shares. The entire Board of Directors is regularly elected every three years at our Ordinary Shareholders’ Meeting. Cumulative voting is allowed for the election of directors. The Board of Directors may appoint replacements to fill any vacancies that occur during periods between elections. If a vacancy occurs, the entire Board must be elected or re-elected at the next regularly scheduled Ordinary Shareholders’ Meeting. Our Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the Board of Directors and holds office at the discretion of the Board. The Chief Executive Officer appoints our executive officers. There are regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors once a month. Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Chairman when requested by (i) the director elected by holders of the Series B common shares, (ii) any other director with the assent of the Chairman or (iii) an absolute majority of all directors. The Board has a Directors’ Committee and its regulations are discussed below.

The current Board of Directors was elected for a three-year term at the Annual Ordinary Shareholders’ Meeting that took place on April 24, 2015.

Our current directors are as follows:

Name	Position and relevant experience	Current position held since
Juan Antonio Guzmán M.	Chairman of the Board and Director. Mr. Guzmán is an Industrial and Chemical Engineer from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and has a Ph.D. from the Polytechnic of North London. He has professional experience in managing different organizations both in the public sector as a former Minister of Education and in the private sector, where he has been appointed to several executive positions as CEO and board member (Gener, CGE, Sonda, Soquimich, Indisa, Chilean Canadian Chamber of Commerce). In addition, he has been active in entrepreneurial activities including in the energy, mining, real estate and health sectors. He has been an SQM board member	April 2015

since 2013.

Name	Position and relevant experience	Current position held since
Edward J. Waitzer (1)	Vice Chairman of the Board and Director. Mr. Waitzer was Chair of Stikeman Elliott LLP, a leading Canadian law firm, from 1999 to 2006 and remains a senior partner whose practice focuses on complex business transactions. He also advises on a range of public policy and governance matters. He is a professor and the Jarislowsky Dimma Mooney Chair in Corporate Governance and is director of the Hennick Centre for Business and Law at Osgoode Hall and the Schulich School of Business at York University. Mr. Waitzer served from 1993 to 1996 as Chair of the Ontario Securities Commission and of the Technical Committee of the International Organization of Securities Commissions and as Vice-President of The Toronto Stock Exchange until 1981. He is Chair of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. He has written and spoken extensively on a variety of legal and public policy issues and serves or has served as director of a number of corporations, foundations, community organizations, editorial boards and advisory groups, including the Canadian Foundation for the Advancement of Investors Rights. He is currently the President of the Canada-Chile Business Council and spent 2003 to 2004 as an advisor to the SVS in Santiago, Chile. He earned his LL.B. in 1976 and his LL.M. in 1981 from the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto. Mr. Waitzer was called to the Ontario Bar in 1978 and admitted to the New York Bar in 1985.	April 2015
Joanne L. Boyes	Director. Ms Boyes, a Senior Director of Corporate Reporting, Finance and Compliance, has been with PotashCorp since 2004 and is responsible for external financial and integrated reporting, complex accounting, treasury activities and internal controls compliance. She is a regular management participant on PotashCorp's Audit Committee.	April 2015
Hernán Büchi B.	Director. Mr. Büchi is a Civil Engineer with a degree from the Universidad de Chile. He served as Vice Chairman of SQM's Board from January 2000 to April 2002. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Quinenco S.A. and S.A.C.I. Falabella, among others. He is also Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Universidad del Desarrollo.	April 1993

Name	Position and relevant experience	Current position held since
Robert A. Kirkpatrick	Director. Mr. Kirkpatrick, a Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Assistant Corporate Secretary of PotashCorp, has been with PotashCorp since 1994 and is responsible for securities regulatory compliance and advising on corporate finance and development matters. He is a regular management participant on PotashCorp's Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee.	April 2015
Hans Dieter Linneberg A. (2)	Director. Mr. Linneberg is an Economist from the Universidad de Chile. He also received a Ph.D. from the Université Catholique Louvain, in Belgium. Currently, he is the Executive Director of the Corporate Governance and Capital Markets Department at the Business School of the Universidad de Chile, where he is also a faculty member lecturing on corporate governance and international finance.	April 2015
Arnfinn F. Prugger	Director. Mr. Prugger, Vice President, Technical Services for PCS Potash, has been with the company for over 25 years and has a wide range of senior–level experience in mining and geophysics.	April 2015
Wolf von Appen B.	Director. Mr. Von Appen is an entrepreneur. He is currently a member of Centro de Estudios Publicos.	May 2005

Our current executive officers are as follows:

Name	Position and relevant experience	Current position held since
Patricio de Solminihac T. (3)	Chief Executive Officer. Mr. de Solminihac is an Industrial Engineer with a degree from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and holds a Master in Business Administration from the University of Chicago. He joined SQM in 1988 as Business Development Vice President. Currently he is a member of the Board of Directors of Melon S.A.	March 2015

Name	Position and relevant experience	Current position held since
Matías Astaburuaga S.	General Counsel and Senior Vice President. Mr. Astaburuaga is a lawyer with a degree from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. He joined SQM in 1989. Prior to joining SQM, he was Regional Counsel of The Coca Cola Export Corporation, Andean Region and Regional Counsel of American Life Insurance Company, Latin America Region.	February 1989
Ricardo Ramos R.	Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President of Business Development. Mr. Ramos is an Industrial Engineer with a degree from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. He joined SQM in 1989. Mr. Ramos is also a member of the Board of Directors of Soquimich Comercial S.A.	November 1994
Eugenio Ponce L.	Senior Commercial Vice President. Mr. Ponce is a Mechanical Engineer with a degree from the Universidad Católica de Valparaíso. In 1981, he joined SQM as a Sales Manager. He became Commercial Manager in 1982, Commercial and Operations Manager in 1988 and Chief Executive Officer of SQM Nitratos S.A. in 1991. Currently he is a member of the Board of Directors of Soquimich Comercial S.A. and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Pampa Calichera S.A.	March 1999
Carlos Díaz O.	Senior Vice President of Operations, Nitrates-Iodine. Mr. Díaz is an Industrial Civil Engineer with an engineering degree and an MBA from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. In 1996, he joined SQM as Planning Engineer in the Sales Division where he was promoted to Planning Manager in 1998. In 2002, he assumed the position of Deputy Financial Manager of the Commercial Offices and after four years took up the position of Logistics Manager.	October 2012

Name	Position and relevant experience	Current position held since
Pauline De Vidts S.	Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Sustainability. Mrs. De Vidts is an Industrial Engineer with a degree from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University. She joined SQM in 1996 to work in process development for the Salar de Atacama Operations, becoming Development Manager for these operations in 1998, and later Corporate R&D and Environmental Issues Vice President in 2001. Since 2005, she has overseen safety, health, environmental and community issues, and in 2011, she also began overseeing corporate communications and public affairs for SQM.	August 2013
Juan Carlos Barrera P. (4)	Senior Vice President Operations, Potassium and Lithium. Mr. Barrera is an Industrial Engineer with a degree from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and holds a Masters in Business Administration degree from Tulane University and a Masters in Business Administration degree from Universidad de Chile. He joined SQM in 1991 as an advisor in the Business Development area and has served in many positions since then. In 1995, he became Business Development Manager of SQM Nitratos S.A. In 1999, he became the Corporate Quality Manager, in 2000, Corporate Supply Chain Vice President and, in 2006, General Manager of Soquimich Comercial S.A.	January 2007
Daniel Jiménez Sch.	Senior Vice President of Exploration. Mr. Jiménez is an Industrial Engineer with a degree from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and holds a Masters in Business Administration degree from Old Dominion University. He joined SQM in 1991, holding several positions in the finance and sales areas at SQM's headquarters and foreign subsidiaries in USA and Belgium, countries he was based in for eight years. In 2002, he became VP Sales and Marketing Iodine, Lithium and Industrial Chemicals. In 2007, he became Senior VP of Human Resources and Corporate Services. In 2013 he became Senior VP of Exploration. Mr. Jiménez is also a member of the Board of Directors of Soquimich Comercial S.A.	August 2013

Name	Position and relevant experience	Current position held since
Macarena Briseño C.	Head of Risk Management and Compliance. Ms. Briseño is a Civil Engineer with a degree from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. She joined SQM in 1993 as a planning engineer, first in the sales department and then in the finance department. She became VP of Reporting in 2001 and Controller in 2003.	August 2013

(1) As of April 24, 2015, Mr. Waitzer beneficially owned 10,000 of SQM's shares.
(2) As of April 24, 2015, Mr. Linneberg beneficially owned 455 of SQM's shares.
(3) On March 16, 2015, Mr. Patricio de Solminihac T. was named as Chief Executive Officer of SQM.
(4) As of April 24, 2015, Mr. Barrera beneficially owned 224 of SQM's shares.

6.B. Compensation

During 2014, directors were paid a monthly fee, which was independent of attendance and the number of Board sessions. For the Chairman, the fee amounted to UF 300 per month. For the remaining seven directors, the fee amounted to UF 50 per month for the period between January and April, and UF 125 per month for the period between May and December. In addition, the directors received variable compensation (in Chilean pesos) based on a profit-sharing program approved by the shareholders. In 2014, the Chairman received the equivalent of 0.35% of 2013 profit and each of the remaining seven directors received the equivalent of 0.04% of 2013 profit.

In addition, during 2014, members of the Directors' Committee were paid UF 17 per month for the period between January and April and UF 75 per month for the period between May and December, regardless of the number of sessions held by the Directors' Committee. In addition, the members of the Directors' Committee received variable compensation (in Chilean pesos) based on a profit-sharing program approved by the shareholders. In 2014, members of the Directors' Committee each received an amount equal to 0.013% of 2013 profit. This remuneration is also independent from what the Committee members obtain as members of our Board of Directors.

At the Ordinary Shareholders' Meeting held on April 25, 2014, shareholders approved the creation of a Health, Safety and Environment Committee. Members of this committee were paid UF 30 per month, regardless of the number of sessions held.

During 2014, the compensation paid to each of our directors who served on the Board during the year was as follows (amounts in Chilean pesos):

Total (Ch$)

	SQM Board Meeting(Ch$)	SQM Directors' Committee (Ch$)	SQM Health, Safety and Environment Committee (Ch$)	SQMC Board Meeting (Ch$)	
Julio Ponce Lerou	994,050,636	—	—	86,438,001	1,080,488,637
Wayne R. Brownlee	131,599,461	—	5,075,089	—	136,674,550
Hernán Büchi Buc	132,761,291	49,068,490	—	—	181,829,781
Patricio Contesse Fica	129,245,311				