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SOUTH AMERICA :: CHILE

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Introduction :: CHILE

## Background:

Prior to the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century, the Inca ruled northern Chile while the indigenous Mapuche inhabited central and southern Chile. Although Chile declared its independence in 1810, decisive victory over the Spanish was not achieved until 1818. In the War of the Pacific (1879-83), Chile defeated Peru and Bolivia and won its present northern regions. It was not until the 1880s that the Mapuche Indians were completely subjugated. After a series of elected governments, the three-year-old Marxist government of Salvador ALLENDE was overthrown in 1973 by a military coup led by Augusto PINOCHET, who ruled until a freely elected president was installed in 1990. Sound economic policies, maintained consistently since the 1980s, have contributed to steady growth, reduced poverty rates by over half, and have helped secure the country's commitment to democratic and representative government. Chile has increasingly assumed regional and international leadership roles befitting its status as a stable, democratic nation.

Geography :: CHILE

## Location:

Southern South America, bordering the South Pacific Ocean, between Argentina and Peru

## Geographic coordinates:

30 00 S, 71 00 W

## Map references:

South America

## Area:

total: 756,102 sq km  
country comparison to the world: 38  
land: 743,812 sq km  
water: 12,290 sq km  
note: includes Easter Island (Isla de Pascua) and Isla Sala y Gomez

## Area - comparative:

slightly smaller than twice the size of Montana

## Land boundaries:

total: 6,339 km  
border countries: Argentina 5,308 km, Bolivia 860 km, Peru 171 km

## Coastline:

6,435 km

## Maritime claims:

territorial sea: 12 nm  
contiguous zone: 24 nm  
exclusive economic zone: 200 nm  
continental shelf: 200/350 nm

## Climate:

temperate; desert in north; Mediterranean in central region; cool and damp in south

## Terrain:

low coastal mountains; fertile central valley; rugged Andes in east

## Elevation extremes:

lowest point: Pacific Ocean 0 m  
highest point: Nevado Ojos del Salado 6,880 m

## Natural resources:

copper, timber, iron ore, nitrates, precious metals, molybdenum, hydropower

## Land use:

arable land: 2.62%  
permanent crops: 0.43%  
other: 96.95% (2005)

## Irrigated land:

19,000 sq km (2003)

## Total renewable water resources:

922 cu km (2000)

## Freshwater withdrawal (domestic/industrial/agricultural):

total: 12.55 cu km/yr (11%/25%/64%)  
per capita: 770 cu m/yr (2000)

## Natural hazards:

severe earthquakes; active volcanism; tsunamis  
volcanism: significant volcanic activity due to more than three-dozen active volcanoes along the Andes Mountains; Lascar (elev. 5,592 m), which last erupted in 2007, is the most active volcano in the northern Chilean Andes; Llaima (elev. 3,125 m) in central Chile, which last erupted in 2009, is another of the country's most active; Chaiten's 2008 eruption forced major evacuations; other notable historically active volcanoes include Cerro Hudson, Copahue, Guallatiri, Llullaillaco,

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Nevados de Chillan, Puyehue, San Pedro, and Villarrica

**Environment - current issues:**

widespread deforestation and mining threaten natural resources; air pollution from industrial and vehicle emissions; water pollution from raw sewage

**Environment - international agreements:**

party to: Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, Antarctic Seals, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands, Whaling  
signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements

**Geography - note:**

the longest north-south trending country in the world, extending across 38 degrees of latitude; strategic location relative to sea lanes between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans (Strait of Magellan, Beagle Channel, Drake Passage); Atacama Desert - the driest desert in the world - spreads across the northern part of the country; the crater lake of Ojos del Salado is the world's highest lake (at 6,390 m)

People :: CHILE

**Nationality:**

noun: Chilean(s)  
adjective: Chilean

**Ethnic groups:**

white and white-Amerindian 95.4%, Mapuche 4%, other indigenous groups 0.6% (2002 census)

**Languages:**

Spanish (official), Mapudungun, German, English

**Religions:**

Roman Catholic 70%, Evangelical 15.1%, Jehovah's Witnesses 1.1%, other Christian 1%, other 4.6%, none 8.3% (2002 census)

**Population:**

17,067,369 (July 2012 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 62

**Age structure:**

0-14 years: 21.4% (1,860,839 male/ female 1,784,269)  
15-64 years: 69.2% (5,860,877 male/ female 5,953,630)  
65 years and over: 9.4% (669,559 male/ female 938,195) (2012 est.)

**Median age:**

total: 32.8 years  
male: 31.6 years  
female: 34.1 years (2012 est.)

**Population growth rate:**

0.884% (2012 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 129

**Birth rate:**

14.28 births/1,000 population (2012 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 141

**Death rate:**

5.79 deaths/1,000 population (July 2012 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 171

**Net migration rate:**

0.35 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2012 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 67

**Urbanization:**

urban population: 89% of total population (2010)  
rate of urbanization: 1.1% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)

**Major cities - population:**

SANTIAGO (capital) 5.883 million; Valparaiso 865,000 (2009)

**Sex ratio:**

at birth: 1.04 male(s)/female  
under 15 years: 1.04 male(s)/female  
15-64 years: 0.98 male(s)/female  
65 years and over: 0.71 male(s)/female  
total population: 0.97 male(s)/female (2011 est.)

**Maternal mortality rate:**

25 deaths/100,000 live births (2010)  
country comparison to the world: 131

**Infant mortality rate:**

total: 7.36 deaths/1,000 live births  
country comparison to the world: 161  
male: 7.84 deaths/1,000 live births  
female: 6.85 deaths/1,000 live births (2012 est.)

**Life expectancy at birth:**

total population: 78.1 years  
country comparison to the world: 54  
male: 75.08 years  
female: 81.25 years (2012 est.)

**Total fertility rate:**

1.87 children born/woman (2012 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 147

**Health expenditures:**

8.2% of GDP (2009)  
country comparison to the world: 62

**Physicians density:**

1.09 physicians/1,000 population (2003)

**Hospital bed density:**

2.1 beds/1,000 population (2009)

**HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:**

0.4% (2009 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 76

**HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:**

40,000 (2009 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 61

**HIV/AIDS - deaths:**

NA

**Obesity - adult prevalence rate:**

21.9% (2003)  
country comparison to the world: 19

**Children under the age of 5 years underweight:**

0.5% (2008)  
country comparison to the world: 120

**Education expenditures:**

4% of GDP (2008)  
country comparison to the world: 104

**Literacy:**

definition: age 15 and over can read and write  
total population: 95.7%  
male: 95.8%  
female: 95.6% (2002 census)

**School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):**

total: 15 years  
male: 15 years  
female: 15 years (2008)

**Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:**

total: 22.6%  
country comparison to the world: 40  
male: 21.5%  
female: 24.4% (2009)

Government :: CHILE

**Country name:**

conventional long form: Republic of Chile  
conventional short form: Chile  
local long form: Republica de Chile  
local short form: Chile

**Government type:**

republic

**Capital:**

name: Santiago  
geographic coordinates: 33 27 S, 70 40 W  
time difference: UTC-4 (1 hour ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)  
daylight saving time: +1hr, begins third Sunday in August; ends second Sunday in May; note - the end of DST was delayed until 8 May 2011 due to the ongoing energy crisis  
note: Valparaiso is the seat of the national legislature

**Administrative divisions:**

15 regions (regiones, singular - region): Aisen del General Carlos Ibanez del Campo, Antofagasta, Araucania, Arica y Parinacota, Atacama, Biobio, Coquimbo, Libertador General Bernardo O'Higgins, Los Lagos, Los Rios, Magallanes y de la Antartica Chilena, Maule, Region Metropolitana (Santiago), Tarapaca, Valparaiso  
note: the US does not recognize claims to Antarctica

**Independence:**

18 September 1810 (from Spain)

**Constitution:**

11 September 1980, effective 11 March 1981; amended several times

**Legal system:**

civil law system influenced by several West European civil legal systems; judicial review of legislative acts in the Supreme Court

**International law organization participation:**

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; accepts ICCt jurisdiction

**Suffrage:**

18 years of age; universal and compulsory

**Executive branch:**

chief of state: President Sebastian PINERA Echenique (since 11 March 2010); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government  
head of government: President Sebastian PINERA Echenique (since 11 March 2010)  
cabinet: Cabinet appointed by the president  
(For more information visit the [World Leaders website](#))  
elections: president elected by popular vote for a single four-year term; election last held on 13 December 2009 with runoff election held on 17 January 2010 (next to be held in December 2013)  
election results: Sebastian PINERA Echenique elected president; percent of vote - Sebastian PINERA Echenique 51.6%; Eduardo FREI 48.4%

**Legislative branch:**

bicameral National Congress or Congreso Nacional consists of the Senate or Senado (38 seats; members elected by popular vote to serve eight-year terms; one-half elected every four years) and the Chamber of Deputies or Camara de Diputados (120 seats; members are elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms)  
elections: Senate - last held on 13 December 2009 (next to be held in December 2013); Chamber of Deputies - last held on 13 December 2009 (next to be held in December 2013)  
election results: Senate - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - CPD 9 (PDC 4, PPD 3, PS 2), APC 9 (RN 6, UDI 3); Chamber of Deputies - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - APC 58 (UDI 37, RN 18, other 3), CPD 57 (PDC 19, PPD 18, PS 11, PRSD 5, PC 3, other 1), PRI 3, independent 2; note - as of 1 February 2012, the composition of the entire legislature is as follows: Senate - seats by party - CPD 19 (PDC 9, PPD 4, PS 5, PRSD 1), APC 16 (RN 8, UDI 8), independent 2, MAS 1; Chamber of Deputies - seats by party - APC 57 (UDI 39, RN 18), CPD 53 (PDC 19, PPD 18, PS 11, PRSD 5), independent 5, PC 3, PRI 2

**Judicial branch:**

Supreme Court or Corte Suprema (judges are appointed by the president and ratified by the Senate from lists of candidates provided by the court itself; the president of the Supreme Court is elected every three years by the 20-member court); Constitutional Tribunal (eight-members - two each from the Senate, Chamber of Deputies, Supreme Court, and National Security Council - review the constitutionality of laws approved by Congress)

**Political parties and leaders:**

Broad Social Movement or MAS; Clean Chile Vote Happy or CLVF (including Broad Social Movement, Country Force, and Independent Regionalist Party or PRI); Coalition for Change or CC (also known as the Alliance for Chile (Alianza) or APC) (including National Renewal or RN [Carlos LARRAIN Pena], Independent Democratic Union or UDI [Juan Antonio COLOMA Correa], and Chile First [Vlado MIROSEVIC]); Coalition of Parties for Democracy (Concertacion) or CPD (including Christian Democratic Party or PDC [Ignacio WALKER], Party for Democracy or PPD [Carolina TOHA Morales], Radical Social Democratic Party or PRSD [Jose Antonio GOMEZ

Urrutia), and Socialist Party or PS (Osvaldo ANDRADE); Partido Ecologista del Sur; Together We Can Do More (including Communist Party or PC [Guillermo TEILLIER del Valle], and Humanist Party or PH [Danilo MONTEVERDE])

#### Political pressure groups and leaders:

Roman Catholic Church, particularly conservative groups such as Opus Dei; United Labor Central or CUT includes trade unionists from the country's five largest labor confederations  
other: revitalized university student federations at all major universities

#### International organization participation:

APEC, BIS, BRICS, CAN (associate), CD, CELAC, FAO, G-15, G-77, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC, LAES, LAIA, Mercosur (associate), MIGA, MINUSTAH, NAM, OAS, OECD (Enhanced Engagement, OPANAL, OPCW, PCA, SICA (observer), UN, UNASUR, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNFICYP, UNHCR, UNIDO, Union Latina, UNMOGIP, UNTSO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

#### Diplomatic representation in the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador Felipe BULNES  
chancery: 1732 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036  
telephone: [1] (202) 785-1746  
FAX: [1] (202) 887-5579  
consulate(s) general: Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, San Juan (Puerto Rico)

#### Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador Alejandro D. WOLFF  
embassy: Avenida Andres Bello 2800, Las Condes, Santiago  
mailing address: APO AA 34033  
telephone: [56] (2) 330-3000  
FAX: [56] (2) 330-3710, 330-3160

#### Flag description:

two equal horizontal bands of white (top) and red; a blue square the same height as the white band at the hoist-side end of the white band; the square bears a white five-pointed star in the center representing a guide to progress and honor; blue symbolizes the sky, white is for the snow-covered Andes, and red represents the blood spilled to achieve independence  
note: design was influenced by the US flag

#### National symbol(s):

huemul (mountain deer); Andean condor

#### National anthem:

name: "Himno Nacional de Chile" (National Anthem of Chile)

lyrics/music: Eusebio LILLO Robles and Bernardo DE VERA y Pintado/Ramon CARNICER y Battle

note: music adopted 1828, original lyrics adopted 1818, adapted lyrics adopted 1847; under Augusto PINOCHET's military rule, a verse glorifying the army was added; however, as a protest, some citizens refused to sing this verse; it was removed when democracy was restored in 1990

#### Economy - overview:

Chile has a market-oriented economy characterized by a high level of foreign trade and a reputation for strong financial institutions and sound policy that have given it the strongest sovereign bond rating in South America. Exports account for more than one-third of GDP, with commodities making up some three-quarters of total exports. Copper alone provides one-third of government revenue. During the early 1990s, Chile's reputation as a role model for economic reform was strengthened when the democratic government of Patricio AYLWIN - which took over from the military in 1990 - deepened the economic reform initiated by the military government. Since 1999, growth has averaged 4% per year. Chile deepened its longstanding commitment to trade liberalization with the signing of a free trade agreement with the US, which took effect on 1 January 2004. Chile claims to have more bilateral or regional trade agreements than any other country. It has 59 such agreements (not all of them full free trade agreements), including with the European Union, Mercosur, China, India, South Korea, and Mexico. Over the past seven years, foreign direct investment inflows have quadrupled to some \$15 billion in 2010, but foreign direct investment had dropped to about \$7 billion in 2009 in the face of diminished investment throughout the world. The Chilean government conducts a rule-based countercyclical fiscal policy, accumulating surpluses in sovereign wealth funds during periods of high copper prices and economic growth, and allowing deficit spending only during periods of low copper prices and growth. As of November 2011, those sovereign wealth funds - kept mostly outside the country and separate from Central Bank reserves - amounted to more than \$18 billion. Chile used this fund to finance fiscal stimulus packages during the 2009 economic downturn. In December 2009, the OECD invited Chile to become a full member, after a two year period of compliance with organization mandates, and in May 2010 Chile signed the OECD Convention, becoming the first South American country to join the OECD. The economy started to show signs of a rebound in the fourth quarter of 2009, and GDP grew 5.1% in 2010 and 6.5% in 2011. Chile achieved this growth despite the 8.9 magnitude earthquake that struck in February 2010, which was one of the top 10 strongest earthquakes on record. The earthquake and subsequent tsunamis it generated caused considerable damage near the epicenter, located about 70 miles from Concepcion - and about 200 miles southwest of Santiago.

#### GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$303.5 billion (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 43  
\$286.5 billion (2010 est.)  
\$269.9 billion (2009 est.)  
note: data are in 2011 US dollars

#### GDP (official exchange rate):

\$248.4 billion (2011 est.)

#### GDP - real growth rate:

5.9% (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 48  
6.1% (2010 est.)  
-0.9% (2009 est.)

#### GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$17,400 (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 70  
\$16,700 (2010 est.)  
\$15,900 (2009 est.)  
note: data are in 2011 US dollars

#### GDP - composition by sector:

agriculture: 5.1%  
industry: 41.8%  
services: 53.1% (2010 est.)

#### Labor force:

8,099 million (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 59

#### Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture: 13.2%  
industry: 23%  
services: 63.9% (2005)

#### Unemployment rate:

6.6% (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 75  
7.1% (2010 est.)

**Population below poverty line:**

15.1% (2009 est.)

**Household income or consumption by percentage share:**

lowest 10%: 1.5%  
highest 10%: 42.8% (2009 est.)

**Distribution of family income - Gini index:**

52.1 (2009)  
country comparison to the world: 15  
57.1 (2000)

**Investment (gross fixed):**

23.2% of GDP (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 56

**Budget:**

revenues: \$55.53 billion  
expenditures: \$51.82 billion (2011 est.)

**Taxes and other revenues:**

22.4% of GDP (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 142

**Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):**

1.5% of GDP (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 30

**Public debt:**

9.2% of GDP (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 132  
9.2% of GDP (2010 est.)

**Inflation rate (consumer prices):**

3.3% (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 70  
1.4% (2010 est.)

**Central bank discount rate:**

3.12% (31 December 2010 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 138  
0.5% (31 December 2009 est.)

**Commercial bank prime lending rate:**

9.03% (31 December 2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 158  
4.753% (31 December 2010 est.)

**Stock of narrow money:**

\$31.96 billion (31 December 2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 56  
\$34.39 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

**Stock of broad money:**

\$193.2 billion (31 December 2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 43  
\$160.3 billion (31 December 2009 est.)

**Stock of domestic credit:**

\$175.2 billion (31 December 2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 41  
\$160.7 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

**Market value of publicly traded shares:**

\$270.3 billion (31 December 2011)  
country comparison to the world: 26  
\$341.6 billion (31 December 2010)  
\$209.5 billion (31 December 2009)

**Agriculture - products:**

grapes, apples, pears, onions, wheat, corn, oats, peaches, garlic, asparagus, beans; beef,  
poultry, wool; fish; timber

**Industries:**

copper, lithium, other minerals, foodstuffs, fish processing, iron and steel, wood and wood  
products, transport equipment, cement, textiles

**Industrial production growth rate:**

6.3% (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 51

**Current account balance:**

-\$3.231 billion (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 159  
\$3.802 billion (2010 est.)

**Exports:**

\$81.71 billion (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 48  
\$71.03 billion (2010 est.)

**Exports - commodities:**

copper, fruit, fish products, paper and pulp, chemicals, wine

**Exports - partners:**

China 22.4%, US 11.3%, Japan 11%, Brazil 5.5%, South Korea 5.4%, Netherlands 4.7% (2011)

**Imports:**

\$70.92 billion (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 45  
\$55.17 billion (2010 est.)

**Imports - commodities:**

petroleum and petroleum products, chemicals, electrical and telecommunications equipment,  
industrial machinery, vehicles, natural gas

**Imports - partners:**

US 20.9%, China 17.9%, Brazil 8.8%, Argentina 6.7%, Japan 4.2% (2011)

**Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:**

\$41.94 billion (31 December 2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 44  
\$27.83 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

**Debt - external:**

\$99.4 billion (31 December 2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 46  
\$86.35 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

**Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:**

\$154.3 billion (31 December 2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 26  
\$139.5 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

**Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:**

\$56.09 billion (31 December 2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 32  
\$49.84 billion (31 December 2010 est.)

**Exchange rates:**

Chilean pesos (CLP) per US dollar -  
483.67 (2011 est.)  
510.25 (2010 est.)  
560.86 (2009)  
509.02 (2008)  
526.25 (2007)

**Fiscal year:**

calendar year

**Energy :: CHILE**

**Electricity - production:**

59.75 billion kWh (2010 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 44

**Electricity - consumption:**

53.24 billion kWh (2009 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 44

**Electricity - exports:**

0 kWh (2010 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 177

**Electricity - imports:**

958 million kWh (2010 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 62

**Electricity - installed generating capacity:**

15.52 million kW (2009 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 44

**Electricity - from fossil fuels:**

64.4% of total installed capacity (2009 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 132

**Electricity - from nuclear fuels:**

0% of total installed capacity (2009 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 65

**Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:**

34.8% of total installed capacity (2009 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 59

**Electricity - from other renewable sources:**

0.7% of total installed capacity (2009 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 70

**Crude oil - production:**

6,000 bbl/day (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 86

**Crude oil - exports:**

0 bbl/day (2009 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 93

**Crude oil - imports:**

197,000 bbl/day (2009 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 34

**Crude oil - proved reserves:**

150 million bbl (1 January 2012 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 66

**Refined petroleum products - production:**

209,600 bbl/day (2008 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 53

**Refined petroleum products - consumption:**

321,700 bbl/day (2011 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 39

**Refined petroleum products - exports:**

27,290 bbl/day (2008 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 69

**Refined petroleum products - imports:**

165,900 bbl/day (2008 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 36

**Natural gas - production:**

1.779 billion cu m (2010 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 59

**Natural gas - consumption:**

5.318 billion cu m (2010 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 57

**Natural gas - exports:**

3.458 billion cu m (2010 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 39

**Natural gas - imports:**

0 cu m (2010 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 176

**Natural gas - proved reserves:**

97.97 billion cu m (1 January 2012 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 55

**Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:**

68.76 million Mt (2010 est.)  
country comparison to the world: 50

Communications :: CHILE

**Telephones - main lines in use:**

3.366 million (2011)  
country comparison to the world: 48

**Telephones - mobile cellular:**

22.4 million (2011)  
country comparison to the world: 42

**Telephone system:**

general assessment: privatization began in 1988; most advanced telecommunications infrastructure in South America; modern system based on extensive microwave radio relay facilities; domestic satellite system with 3 earth stations  
domestic: number of fixed-line connections have stagnated in recent years as mobile-cellular usage continues to increase, reaching 130 telephones per 100 persons  
international: country code - 56; landing points for the Pan American, South America-1, and South American Crossing/Latin America Nautilus submarine cables providing links to the US and to Central and South America; satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean) (2011)

**Broadcast media:**

national and local terrestrial TV channels, coupled with extensive cable TV networks; the state-owned Television Nacional de Chile (TVN) network is self-financed through commercial advertising revenues and is not under direct government control; large number of privately-owned TV stations; about 250 radio stations (2007)

**Internet country code:**

.cl

**Internet hosts:**

1.854 million (2010)  
country comparison to the world: 39

**Internet users:**

7.009 million (2009)  
country comparison to the world: 39

Transportation :: CHILE

**Airports:**

476 (2012)  
country comparison to the world: 16

**Airports - with paved runways:**

total: 88  
over 3,047 m: 5  
2,438 to 3,047 m: 7  
1,524 to 2,437 m: 22  
914 to 1,523 m: 30  
under 914 m: 24 (2012)

**Airports - with unpaved runways:**

total: 388  
2,438 to 3,047 m: 5  
1,524 to 2,437 m: 11  
914 to 1,523 m: 54  
under 914 m: 318 (2012)

**Heliports:**

1 (2012)

**Pipelines:**

gas 3,064 km; liquid petroleum gas 517 km; oil 895 km; refined products 768 km (2010)

**Railways:**

total: 7,082 km  
country comparison to the world: 28  
broad gauge: 3,435 km 1.676-m gauge (850 km electrified)  
narrow gauge: 3,647 km 1.000-m gauge (2008)

**Roadways:**

total: 80,505 km  
country comparison to the world: 59  
paved: 16,745 km (includes 2,414 km of expressways)  
unpaved: 63,760 km (2004)

**Merchant marine:**

total: 42  
country comparison to the world: 74  
by type: bulk carrier 13, cargo 5, chemical tanker 7, container 2, liquefied gas 1, passenger 3, passenger/cargo 2, petroleum tanker 8, roll on/roll off 1  
foreign-owned: 1 (Norway 1)  
registered in other countries: 52 (Argentina 6, Brazil 1, Honduras 1, Isle of Man 9, Liberia 9, Panama 14, Peru 6, Singapore 6) (2010)

**Ports and terminals:**

Coronel, Huasco, Lirquen, Puerto Ventanas, San Antonio, San Vicente, Valparaiso

Military :: CHILE

**Military branches:**

Army of the Nation, Chilean Navy (Armada de Chile, includes Naval Aviation, Marine Corps, and Maritime Territory and Merchant Marine Directorate (Directemar)), Chilean Air Force (Fuerza Aerea de Chile, FACH), Carabineros Corps (Cuerpo de Carabineros) (2011)

**Military service age and obligation:**

18-45 years of age for voluntary male and female military service, although the right to compulsory recruitment is retained; service obligation - 12 months for Army, 22 months for Navy and Air Force (2008)

**Manpower available for military service:**

males age 16-49: 4,324,732  
females age 16-49: 4,251,954 (2010 est.)

**Manpower fit for military service:**

males age 16-49: 3,621,475  
females age 16-49: 3,561,099 (2010 est.)

**Manpower reaching militarily significant age annually:**

male: 141,500  
female: 135,709 (2010 est.)

**Military expenditures:**

2.7% of GDP (2006)  
country comparison to the world: 52

**Transnational Issues :: CHILE**

**Disputes - international:**

Chile and Peru rebuff Bolivia's reactivated claim to restore the Atacama corridor, ceded to Chile in 1884, but Chile has offered instead unrestricted but not sovereign maritime access through Chile to Bolivian natural gas; Chile rejects Peru's unilateral legislation to change its latitudinal maritime boundary with Chile to an equidistance line with a southwestern axis favoring Peru; in October 2007, Peru took its maritime complaint with Chile to the ICJ; territorial claim in Antarctica (Chilean Antarctic Territory) partially overlaps Argentine and British claims; the joint boundary commission, established by Chile and Argentina in 2001, has yet to map and demarcate the delimited boundary in the inhospitable Andean Southern Ice Field (Campo de Hielo Sur)

**Illicit drugs:**

transshipment country for cocaine destined for Europe and the region; some money laundering activity, especially through the Iquique Free Trade Zone; imported precursors passed on to Bolivia; domestic cocaine consumption is rising, making Chile a significant consumer of cocaine (2008)

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