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# Chapter 1

## 49

### 1.1 49.guide

Texified version of data for Chile.

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Chile

### 1.2 49.guide/Chile

Chile  
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Geography (Chile)  
 People (Chile)  
 Government (Chile)  
 Government (Chile 2. usage)  
 Economy (Chile)  
 Economy (Chile 2. usage)  
 Communications (Chile)  
 Defense Forces (Chile)

### 1.3 49.guide/Geography (Chile)

Geography (Chile)

=====

Location:

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

Map references:

South America, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

756,950 km<sup>2</sup>

land area:

748,800 km<sup>2</sup>

comparative area:

slightly smaller than twice the size of Montana

note:

includes Isla de Pascua (Easter Island) and Isla Sala y Gomez

Land boundaries:

total 6,171 km, Argentina 5,150 km, Bolivia 861 km, Peru 160 km

Coastline: 6,435 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

continental shelf:

200 nm

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

short section of the southern boundary with Argentina is indefinite; ↔

Bolivia

has wanted a sovereign corridor to the South Pacific Ocean since the ↔

Atacama

area was lost to Chile in 1884; dispute with Bolivia over Rio Lauca water rights; territorial claim in Antarctica (Chilean Antarctic Territory) partially overlaps Argentine and British claims

Climate:

temperate; desert in north; cool and damp in south

Terrain:

low coastal mountains; fertile central valley; rugged Andes in east  
 Natural resources:  
 copper, timber, iron ore, nitrates, precious metals, molybdenum  
 Land use:  
 arable land:  
 7%  
 permanent crops:  
 0%  
 meadows and pastures:  
 16%  
 forest and woodland:  
 21%  
 other:  
 56%  
 Irrigated land:  
 12,650 km<sup>2</sup> (1989 est.)  
 Environment:  
 subject to severe earthquakes, active volcanism, tsunami; Atacama Desert ←  
 one  
 of world's driest regions; desertification  
 Note:  
 strategic location relative to sea lanes between Atlantic and Pacific ←  
 Oceans  
 (Strait of Magellan, Beagle Channel, Drake Passage)

## 1.4 49.guide/People (Chile)

People (Chile)

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Population:  
 13,739,759 (July 1993 est.)  
 Population growth rate:  
 1.54% (1993 est.)  
 Birth rate:  
 20.9 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Death rate:  
 5.55 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Net migration rate:  
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Infant mortality rate:  
 15.9 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
 Life expectancy at birth:  
 total population:  
 74.15 years  
 male:  
 71.16 years  
 female:  
 77.29 years (1993 est.)  
 Total fertility rate:  
 2.51 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
 Nationality:  
 noun:

Chilean(s)  
 adjective:  
 Chilean  
 Ethnic divisions:  
 European and European-Indian 95%, Indian 3%, other 2%  
 Religions:  
 Roman Catholic 89%, Protestant 11%, Jewish  
 Languages:  
 Spanish  
 Literacy:  
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)  
 total population:  
 93%  
 male:  
 94%  
 female:  
 93%  
 Labor force:  
 4.728 million  
 by occupation:  
 services 38.3% (includes government 12%), industry and commerce 33.8%,  
 agriculture, forestry, and fishing 19.2%, mining 2.3%, construction 6.4%  
 (1990)

## 1.5 49.guide/Government (Chile)

Government (Chile)

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Names:  
 conventional long form:  
 Republic of Chile  
 conventional short form:  
 Chile  
 local long form:  
 Republica de Chile  
 local short form:  
 Chile  
 Digraph:  
 CI  
 Type:  
 republic  
 Capital:  
 Santiago  
 Administrative divisions:  
 13 regions (regiones, singular - region); Aisen del General Carlos Ibanez  
 del Campo, Antofagasta, Araucania, Atacama, Bio-Bio, Coquimbo, Libertador  
 General Bernardo O'Higgins, Los Lagos, Magallanes y de la Antartica Chilena ↔  
 Maule, Region Metropolitana, 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 30 July 1989

Legal system:  
based on Code of 1857 derived from Spanish law and subsequent codes influenced by French and Austrian law; judicial review of legislative acts in the Supreme Court; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

National holiday:  
Independence Day, 18 September (1810)

Political parties and leaders:  
Concertation of Parties for Democracy consists mainly of four parties: PDC, PPD, PR, PS; Christian Democratic Party (PDC), Eduardo FREI Ruiz-Tagle; Party for Democracy (PPD), Sergio BITAR; Radical Party (PR), Carlos ← GONZALEZ Marquez; Socialist Party (PS), German CORREA; Independent Democratic Union (UDI), Jovino NOVOA; National Renovation (RN), Andree ALLAMAND; Center-Center Union (UCC), Francisco Juner ERRAZURIZ; Communist Party of Chile (PCCh), Volodia TEITELBOIM; Allende Leftist Democratic Movement (MIDA), Mario PALESTRO

Other political or pressure groups:  
revitalized university student federations at all major universities dominated by opposition political groups; labor - United Labor Central (CUT ← ) includes trade unionists from the country's five largest labor confederations; Roman Catholic Church

Suffrage:  
18 years of age; universal and compulsory

Elections:  
Chamber of Deputies:  
last held 14 December 1989 (next to be held December 1993); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (120 total) Concertation of Parties ← for Democracy 71 (PDC 38, PPD 17, PR 5, other 11), RN 29, UDI 11, right-wing independents 9

President:  
last held 14 December 1989 (next to be held December 1993); results - Patricio AYLWIN (PDC) 55.2%, Hernan BUCHI 29.4%, other 15.4%

## 1.6 49.guide/Government (Chile 2. usage)

Government (Chile 2. usage)

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Senate:  
last held 14 December 1989 (next to be held December 1993); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (46 total, 38 elected) Concertation of Parties for Democracy 22 (PDC 13, PPD 5, PR 2, PSD 1, PRSD 1), RN 6, UDI 2, right-wing independents 8

Executive branch:  
president, Cabinet

Legislative branch:  
bicameral National Congress (Congreso Nacional) consisting of an upper ← house

or Senate (Senado) and a lower house or Chamber of Deputies (Camara de Diputados)

Judicial branch:  
 Supreme Court (Corte Suprema)

Leaders:  
 Chief of State and Head of Government:  
 President Patricio AYLWIN Azocar (since 11 March 1990)

Member of:  
 CCC, ECLAC, FAO, G-11, G-77, GATT, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD ←  
 IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ISO, ITU, LAES, LAIA, LORCS, OAS, OPANAL, PCA, RG, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNIKOM, UNMOGIP, UNTAC, UNTSO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in US:  
 chief of mission:  
 Ambassador Patricio SILVA Echenique  
 chancery:  
 1732 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036  
 telephone:  
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Flag:  
 two equal horizontal bands of white (top) and red; there is 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; design was based on the US flag

## 1.7 49.guide/Economy (Chile)

Economy (Chile)

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Overview:

The government of President AYLWIN, which took power in 1990, retained the economic policies of PINOCHET, although the share of spending for social welfare has risen steadily. In 1991 growth in GDP recovered to 6% (led by consumer spending) after only 2% growth in 1990. The pace accelerated in 1992 as the result of strong investment and export growth, and GDP rose 10.4%. Nonetheless, inflation fell further, to 12.7%, compared with 27.3% ←  
 in

1990 and 18.7% in 1991. The buoyant economy spurred a 25% growth in imports ←  
,  
and the trade surplus fell in 1992, although international reserves  
increased. Inflationary pressures are not expected to ease much in 1993, ←  
and  
economic growth is likely to approach 7%.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$34.7 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate: 10.4% (1992)

National product per capita:

\$2,550 (1992)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

12.7% (1992)

Unemployment rate:

4.9% (1992)

Budget:

revenues \$10.9 billion; expenditures \$10.9 billion, including capital  
expenditures of \$1.2 billion (1993)

Exports:

\$10 billion (f.o.b., 1992)

commodities:

copper 41%, other metals and minerals 8.7%, wood products 7.1%, fish and  
fishmeal 9.8%, fruits 8.4% (1991)

partners:

EC 32%, US 18%, Japan 18%, Brazil 5% (1991)

Imports:

\$9.2 billion (f.o.b., 1992)

commodities:

capital goods 25.2%, spare parts 24.8%, raw materials 15.4%, petroleum 10%,  
foodstuffs 5.7%

partners:

US 21%, EC 18%, Brazil 9%, Japan 8% (1991)

External debt:

\$16.9 billion (year end 1991)

Industrial production:

growth rate 14.56% (1992); accounts for 34% of GDP

Electricity:

5,769,000 kW capacity; 22,010 million kWh produced, 1,630 kWh per capita  
(1992)

Industries:

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

Agriculture:

accounts for about 9% of GDP (including fishing and forestry); major  
exporter of fruit, fish, and timber products; major crops - wheat, corn,  
grapes, beans, sugar beets, potatoes, deciduous fruit; livestock products -  
beef, poultry, wool; self-sufficient in most foods; 1991 fish catch of 6.6  
million metric tons; net agricultural importer

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$521 million; Western (non-US)  
countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$1.6 billion;  
Communist countries (1970-89), \$386 million

## 1.8 49.guide/Economy (Chile 2. usage)

Economy (Chile 2. usage)

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Currency:

1 Chilean peso (Ch\$) = 100 centavos

Exchange rates:

Chilean pesos (Ch\$) per US\$1 - 384.04 (January 1993), 362.59 (1992), 349.37 (1991), 305.06 (1990), 267.16 (1989), 245.05 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

## 1.9 49.guide/Communications (Chile)

Communications (Chile)

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Railroads:

7,766 km total; 3,974 km 1.676-meter gauge, 150 km 1.435-meter standard gauge, 3,642 km 1.000-meter gauge; 1,865 km 1.676-meter gauge and 80 km 1.000-meter gauge electrified

Highways:

79,025 km total; 9,913 km paved, 33,140 km gravel, 35,972 km improved and unimproved earth (1984)

Inland waterways:

725 km

Pipelines:

crude oil 755 km; petroleum products 785 km; natural gas 320 km

Ports:

Antofagasta, Iquique, Puerto Montt, Punta Arenas, Valparaiso, San Antonio, Talcahuano, Arica

Merchant marine:

31 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 445,330 GRT/756,018 DWT; includes 8 cargo, 1 refrigerated cargo, 3 roll-on/roll-off cargo, 2 oil tanker, 3 chemical tanker, 3 liquefied gas tanker, 3 combination ore/oil, 8 bulk; ←

note

- in addition, 1 naval tanker and 1 military transport are sometimes used commercially

Airports:

total:

396

usable:

351

with permanent-surface runways:

48

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

13

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

57

Telecommunications:

modern telephone system based on extensive microwave radio relay facilities ↔  
;  
768,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 159 AM, no FM, 131 TV, 11  
shortwave; satellite ground stations - 2 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT and 3  
domestic

## 1.10 49.guide/Defense Forces (Chile)

### Defense Forces (Chile)

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Branches:

Army of the Nation, National Navy (including Naval Air, Coast Guard, and  
Marines), Air Force of the Nation, Carabineros of Chile (National Police),  
Investigative Police

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 3.653 million; fit for military service 2,722,479; reach  
military age (19) annually 119,434 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures: exchange rate conversion - \$1 billion, 3.4% of GDP ↔  
(1991 est.)