

KEY FACTS

Official name: República de Chile
(Republic of Chile)

Head of State: President Sebastián Piñera Echenique (from 11 Mar 2010)

Head of government: President Sebastián Piñera (from 11 Mar 2010)

Ruling party: Coalition led by Coalición por el Cambio (CC) (Coalition for Change) (alliance of five parties) (from 2010)

Area: 756,626 square km

Population: 17.40 million (2012)*
(16,572,475; 31 August 2012, census preliminary result)

Capital: Santiago

Official language: Spanish

Currency: Chilean peso (CH\$) = 100 centavos

Exchange rate: CH\$515.10 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$15,410 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 5.47% (2012)*

GDP: US\$268.18 billion (2012)*

Labour force: 8.20 million (2012)*

Unemployment: 6.45% (2012)*

Inflation: 3.01% (2012)*

Balance of trade: US\$3.42 billion (2012)*

* estimated figure

Chile



It mattered little whether the protesters hailed from the leafy streets of Las Condes, or from Santiago's poorer barrios. If street protests are an indicator of political vitality, then Chile would rank highly. Whether the same could be said in respect of political integrity and maturity was uncertain. As Santiago's street protests continued into 2013, the frontrunner in the presidential elections (due to be held in November 2013) was ex-President Michelle Bachelet the Social democrat politician who had served – with some distinction – as president from 2006 to 2010, the first woman to hold the office. After leaving office – the Chilean constitution prevented her from seeking a

second successive term – Ms Bachelet had headed up the newly created United Nations organisation UN Women, resigning in March 2013 to run for a possible second term as president.

Resignation blues

Resigning, for one reason or another, has become almost fashionable. In May 2013, the right wing candidate Pablo Longueira – Ms Bachelet's principal opponent – resigned for health reasons. It transpired that Mr Longueira had been suffering from depression. The right-wing politician – who had once served as economy minister under the outgoing President Sebastian Piñera – was himself a replacement for

mining minister Laurence Golborne who had also resigned from the campaign in April 2013, following allegations of misleading parliament in his declaration of interests and his involvement in a number of financial scandals. Mr Golborne had been seen as the right-wing's best bet for winning the presidency, but he was still a long shot. His biggest claim to fame was that, as mining minister, he had overseen the rescue of 33 trapped miners in 2010.

In April 2013 education minister Harald Beyer did not even need to resign—he was formally dismissed and barred from holding public office for five years following accusations of professional negligence. In December 2012 Chile's justice minister, Teodoro Ribera, had also resigned, amid allegations of links to a former director of Chile's national accreditation committee (Comisión Nacional de Acreditación) (CAN), which had illegally authorised some universities to operate. Mr Ribera, who in 2011 replaced Felipe Bulnes when he moved to the education ministry, had previously been rector of Chile's Autonomous University. Mr Ribera denied the allegations, but his scalp was something of a coup for the street protestors. His resignation was the latest in a series of criminal investigations that had resulted in the jailing of a dean suspected of money laundering and a former government official accused of selling university accreditations. The student protestors had accused Chile's private universities of operating dubious scams that cheated both students and taxpayers. The allegations coincided with a lively debate on the future of Chilean education in general. On the defensive, President Piñera had claimed that a proposed tax overhaul would raise US\$700 million to fund changes to Chile's education system. Still unhappy, the protesting students countered that the proposed plan fell short of fulfilling the reforms that they had long been demanding. Government estimates put at 30,000 the number of university and high school students that had joined the major protest march. The student leaders put their numbers at more than 50,000. The students want to return the government to the centre of Chile's largely privatised education system, while Piñera's government has instead sought to lower lending costs and otherwise make private education more accessible to working classes.

The economy

In its 2012 survey of the Chilean economy, the Paris-based Organisation for

Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) noted that Chile's strong recovery had lost some momentum as the world economy slowed, copper prices weakened and consumer confidence faltered. Given the considerable uncertainties regarding the health of the world economy, more supportive macro-economic policies might—in the view of the OECD—be needed in the short run. In the longer run, reducing poverty and inequality was a key challenge. Both remained high by OECD standards, notwithstanding impressive progress. Redistributive transfers and progressive taxes were very limited. Better education and job opportunities for the poor would enable more Chileans to contribute to a more dynamic and productive economy and thus to higher welfare. In the view of the OECD, the following measures would help Chile overcome the challenging situation of the world economy in the short run and attain stronger growth and a more inclusive society in the longer run:

- Supportive macro policies in the short-run. Given the uncertain global environment monetary policy should remain on hold for now. A slow pace for consolidation is appropriate at the moment, but once the external environment improves the government should return to a structural fiscal balance to rebuild buffers against shocks.

- A strengthened fiscal rule and higher tax revenues to finance long-term spending increases. Chile's structural fiscal balance target had led to low debt and large

assets in the sovereign wealth funds. The government planned to create an independent fiscal council, which could validate the correct application of the rule and assess the target chosen by the government as well as changes in the methodology applied. This shift should strengthen Chile's fiscal framework. There was also strong demand for higher quality education and social services in Chile, which were likely to increase as the country developed. The government already planned significant spending increases on such programmes, which would need to be financed on a sustainable basis. Higher environmental taxes would be a particularly efficient source of revenue. A reduction of regressive tax loopholes and of still-pervasive income taxes evasion would also make the tax system more progressive.

- Higher cash transfers for the poor combined with support for recipients to find employment were envisaged by the government through the 2012 *Ingreso Ético Familiar* (Ethical Family Income) programme. The government planned to target the bulk of the transfers to families living in extreme poverty. The OECD recommended that over time it should consider opening all new transfers to a wider range of participants, for example through a more gradual benefit withdrawal. This would also enhance work incentives for beneficiaries and limit fraud. To assess whether transfers should increase over time the government should evaluate the impact of higher cash transfers on recipients' work incentives, employment

KEY INDICATORS

Chile

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	16.80	*16.98	*17.19	*17.40	*17.40
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	169.60	161.80	216.10	248.40	268.18
GDP per capita	US\$	10,124	9,525	12,571	14,278	15,410
GDP real growth	%	3.0	-0.9	6.1	5.9	5.5
Inflation	%	8.7	1.7	1.4	3.3	3.0
Unemployment	%	7.8	9.8	8.3	7.3	6.5
Industrial output	% change	0.7	-4.5	1.5	—	—
Agricultural output	% change	2.1	-2.7	-2.5	—	—
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	66,455.0	53,735.0	71,028.0	20,034.0	78,277.0
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	57,610.0	39,754.0	55,174.0	15,679.0	74,855.0
Balance of trade	US\$m	8,846.0	13,982.0	15,855.0	4,355.0	3,422.0
Current account	US\$m	-5,800.0	3,519.0	3,224.0	-3,284.0	*-9,497.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	23,072.4	25,283.5	27,816.3	34,846.2	41,636.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	22,848.6	23,849.3	26,317.8	33,108.2	39,733.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	522.46	560.86	510.25	473.76	477.69

* estimated figure

opportunities and capacity to invest in their human capital.

- Better access to quality housing along with measures to reduce residential segregation and enhance mobility could improve access for the poor to higher-quality education, social services and jobs. Better targeting of housing subsidies would be essential to free resources for those truly in need. At the same time the government should rethink subsidies, which are currently directed exclusively at home ownership. Means-tested rental cash allowances coupled with more balanced tenant-landlord regulations would strengthen the rental market, thus enhancing residential mobility and potentially reducing segregation. Other measures that would contribute to lowering segregation and inequality include: better enforcement of social housing quotas, more investment in infrastructure and social services in poorer neighbourhoods and development of unused land in urban areas.

The IMF

In July 2013, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded its assessment of the Chilean economy, noting that after growing strongly over the past three years, there now appeared to be a deceleration. Chile had recovered rapidly from the global financial crisis and the February 2010 earthquake and in 2012 its growth levels were surprising, powered by strong private domestic demand – in particular investment in mining. Gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed in the first quarter of 2013 to 4.1 per cent (year-on-year) from 5.7 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2012. Credit growth had been on a declining trend although in late 2012 it was still quite strong. The labour market remained tight, with the unemployment rate at a historically low level.

The current account, which had shifted from a surplus in 2010 to a deficit in 2011, deteriorated further in 2012 and in early 2013. Imports remained robust, underpinned by resilient domestic demand, while exports suffered from the weakening of still high copper prices and lower demand in the euro-zone. The current account deficit was financed for the most part by foreign direct investment (FDI) (of which about half went to the mining sector). Both gross capital inflows, in particular FDI, and outflows increased significantly in 2012, but net inflows declined as a result of increased portfolio outflows by Chilean pension funds.

Inflation had been low and declining as a result of the peso appreciation in 2011,

an increase in labour productivity and falling energy prices. There was also a downward trend in at least one component of the consumer price index, but this did not seem to materially change the inflation picture. Inflation expectations remained anchored at the official target of three per cent. The central bank had left the policy rate at 5 per cent, a broadly neutral rate, since January 2012.

The government recorded a small fiscal surplus in 2012. The structural deficit improved to 0.5 per cent of GDP, beating the authorities' 1 per cent target two years ahead of time. The 2013 budget continued to target a deficit of 1 per cent. In the view of the IMF, Chile's macro-financial risks were contained. Despite strong domestic demand, capital inflows and ample liquidity, there were no clear signs of generalised asset or credit bubbles. The banking system was sound - banks were well-capitalised and both liquid and non-performing loans were low and fully provisioned. That said, there had been a marked increase in average loan-to-value ratios in mortgages since late 2011 and some mid-sized banks were expanding fast, with a relatively high reliance on wholesale funding.

GDP is expected to grow by 4.6 per cent in 2013, broadly in line with potential growth. The current account deficit is expected to widen further in 2013 amid lower copper prices. Inflation is expected to move towards three per cent in the second half of 2013 and the first half of 2014. The IMF views Chile's near-term challenge to be to secure a soft landing in the context of the widening current account deficit, swelling capital inflows and the uncertain outlook for copper. Boosting productivity growth is also a key medium-term challenge.

Risk assessment

Politics	Good
Economy	Good
Regional stability	Good

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

Inca rule barely touched Chile, with Aymara and Atacameno farmers and herders pre-dating the Incas. Chango Indians fished along the coastal areas while Diaguitas farmed the interior of Coquimbo. Beyond the central valley, Araucanian or Mapuche Indians resisted Inca aggression.

1535 Indigenous Araucaria people successfully resisted the first Spanish invasion of Chile.

1540 Santiago was founded by Pedro de Valdivia, who began the Spanish conquest of Chile.

1553 Araucarias captured and executed Valdivia.

1553–58 Indigenous people staged an uprising against Spanish colonialism; however most of the country was eventually subdued, although the Mapuche managed to hold onto their remaining territory for almost three centuries.

1578 Sir Francis Drake, an English adventurer, led a raid on the port of Valparaíso, which was repulsed by the Spanish armies.

1700 For most of the eighteenth century it was ruled by a small oligarchy of landowners.

1759 Chile began reforms under the auspices of the Bourbon monarchs, who succeeded the Habsburg dynasty in Spain.

1788 Irish-born Ambrosio O'Higgins y Ballenary began his tenure as governor of Chile. He outlawed slavery and forced labour, strengthened production and administration and bolstered the power of the military. Chile was granted more autonomy than most other Latin American colonies.

1807 Napoleon Bonaparte's invasion of Spain fuelled the independence movement in Chile.

1810 Independence leader Bernardo O'Higgins Riquelme, son of Ambrosio O'Higgins, led a revolt against José Miguel Carrera Verdugo, the Chilean leader who had brought more autonomy to the country.

1814 Spanish troops re-conquered Chile.

1818 Bernado O'Higgins joined forces with José de San Martín in Argentina and led successful battles against the Spanish that resulted in Chile's independence from Spain. Bernado O'Higgins became Chile's first post-independence leader.

1823 O'Higgins was forced to resign. Civil war between liberal federalists and conservative centralists ensued, lasting for seven years.

1830 The Conservatives won the civil war.

1851–61 President Manuel Montt liberalised the constitution, reducing the power of landowners and the Roman Catholic Church.

1879–84 Chile's victory in the War of the Pacific against Peru and Bolivia increased its territory by one-third.

1880s–90s The pacification of the Araucarias led to increased European immigration. Mining of nitrates and copper began.

1891 A civil war over a constitutional dispute between the president and congress led to a congressional victory, with the role of the president reduced to a figurehead.

1925 A new constitution saw the disestablishment of the church.

1927 General Carlos Ibáñez del Campo seized power in a military coup and established a dictatorship.

1938–46 A Popular Front coalition was formed by communists, socialists and radicals.

1948–58 The Communist Party was banned.

1952 Carlos Ibáñez was elected president, promising to strengthen law and order.

1964 Eduardo Frei Montalva was elected president, pledging to introduce limited social reform.

1970 Salvador Allende Gossens was elected president and imposed an extensive programme of nationalisation.

1973 The government failed to win a congressional majority in the elections as opposition to its policies mounted and the country faced ever-increasing economic problems. Food shortages followed high inflation and fighting broke out between pro- and anti-government activists. Backed by the CIA, the armed forces intervened. President Allende died during the military takeover.

1974 General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte became president, remaining in power for 16 years.

1988 Chilean voters rejected Pinochet's bid to extend his power until 1997.

1989 The Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia (Concertación) (Coalition of Pro-Democracy Parties) was formed to contest the general elections. Patricio Aylwin (Concertación) defeated both Pinochet's protégé and a right-wing independent candidate in the presidential election.

1990 The Concertación won the general elections with 49.3 per cent of the vote in the Chamber of Deputies and 50.5 per cent in the Senate.

1993 Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle won the presidential election. He began reducing the military's influence in government.

1998 Pinochet retired from the army and was made senator-for-life. He was arrested in the UK on a warrant issued by a Spanish magistrate on murder charges related to his 'caravan of death' in the 1970s.

2000 Ricardo Lagos Escobar (Concertación) won the elections and became Chile's first socialist president since 1973. The UK government declared Pinochet unfit for extradition to Spain and the former dictator was returned to Chile. A Chilean judge subsequently charged Pinochet with kidnap.

2001 Chile's appeal court ruled that Pinochet was mentally unfit to stand trial on human rights violation charges. The

ruling centre-left Concertación held on to its majority in Congress.

2002 All charges against Pinochet were dropped after the Supreme Court upheld a verdict finding him mentally unfit to stand trial for human rights crimes. Pinochet resigned from his post as a life-long senator.

2004 The right to divorce became law. Chile's court lifted Pinochet's immunity from prosecution, opening the way to possible trials of the octogenarian general on charges of human rights abuses during his 17-year rule.

2006 Michelle Bachelet (Partido Socialista de Chile (PS) (Socialist Party of Chile)) took office as Chile's first female president, after she won 53.5 per cent in the presidential election runoff; Sebastián Piñera, a moderate conservative won 46.5 per cent of the votes. Augusto Pinochet, former Head of State (1973–90), died. The controversy surrounding his rule denied him a state funeral. All senate membership became by direct election, replacing the system of appointments.

2007 Bolivia, Brazil and Chile agreed to build a South American highway to link the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, running from Santos in Brazil, through Bolivia, to Arica and Iquique in Chile, at an estimated cost of US\$600 million.

2008 Chile recalled its ambassador from Peru, after Peru had asked the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to make a ruling over the disputed maritime border between them. The sea is a rich fishing ground. The Chaitén volcano in Patagonia erupted.

2009 Chile agreed with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to implement international tax information exchange standards. In elections for the Chamber of Deputies, the Coalición por el Cambio (CC) (Coalition for Change) (alliance of five parties) won 43.44 per cent of the vote (58 seats out of 120), the ruling Concertación-Juntos Podemos won 44.36 per cent (57). In the Senate, where 18 seats were up for election (out of a total of 38), CC won nine seats, Concertación-Juntos Podemos nine, while Chile Limpio lost its only seat.

2010 Following two rounds of presidential elections, Miguel Juan Sebastián Piñera Echenique (Sebastián Piñera) (CC) won the run-off, with 51.6 per cent of the vote. A massive earthquake of 8.8 magnitude struck offshore near Chile's second city, Concepción. Over 800 people were killed and many buildings were destroyed. The Brazilian airline TAM Linhas Aéreas and the Chilean airline LAN agreed to merge to form the region's largest carrier, with 115 destinations in 23 countries. The

company became the Latam Airlines Group, although individual airline brand names remain in use.

2011 In March the new 3,400km, US\$1.3 billion, Carretera Interoceánica (Intercoastal Highway), was opened from Brazil's Atlantic coast to Peru's Pacific seaboard, bisecting the Amazon forest and crossing the Andes Mountains into Chile. In March, Bolivia threatened to lodge a complaint against Chile in the ICJ for return of land won during the 1879–83 War of the Pacific. Since Chile annexed land from Peru and Bolivia following the war, Bolivia has been land-locked. Despite several attempts to resolve the issue, including the offer of free access to ports designated specifically for Bolivian trade, a peace deal has remained out of reach. Miners working for the world's largest copper mining company, Codelco, began a strike in July, protesting plans to restructure the industry. President Piñera reshuffled his cabinet, in an effort to boost his popularity rating, which had fallen to 30 per cent. He also reassured miners that there were no plans to nationalise Codelco. On 21 December, parliament changed the voting system and dropped compulsory and automatic enrolment to a wholly voluntary voting system.

2012 On 11 September, following an exhumation in 2011 and at the end of an investigation, an appeal court upheld an earlier court's conclusion that president Salvador Allende had committed suicide and had not been shot by forces of General Pinochet during a coup d'état in 1973. A census was undertaken on 31 August; the preliminary result was 16,572,475 people.

2013 Despite winning the primary elections, on 17 July conservative presidential candidate, Pablo Longueira, withdrew from the election campaign. He was said by his son to be suffering from depression. Polls suggest that former left wing president Michelle Bachelet is favourite to win the 17 November election. Labour minister Evelyn Matthei replaced Mr Longueira as presidential candidate for the conservative alliance. On 7 August the government announced it had been advised to annul the 2012 census since it had failed to count as many as a million people. A 24 hour strike in Chile's largest copper mine, the Escondida mine, was held on 14 August.

Political structure

Constitution

The constitution dates from 1980, when it was accepted by two-thirds of voters in a plebiscite organised by the military government. Following a further plebiscite in 1989, 54 reforms passed into law. They

included increasing the number of directly elected members in the Senate, abolishing Article 8 (which outlawed Marxist groups) and balancing the number of civilian and military representatives on the powerful Council of National Security. Further changes to the constitution require a two-thirds majority in both houses of the Congreso Nacional (National Congress).

Form of state

Presidential democratic republic

The executive

Executive power is held by the president and cabinet. The president is head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. Elected for a fixed term of six years, the president cannot be re-elected for the following period. The relationship between the executive and the armed forces is enshrined in the constitution. The president should take note of discussions within the Council of National Security. This consists of eight members, four military and four civilian. The four military members are the heads of the army, navy, air force and police. The four civilian members are the president of the republic, president of the Senate, president of the Supreme Court and the comptroller general of the republic. According to the constitution, the Council of National Security provides a forum within which it is possible to present, at the highest level, the military's opinion. The armed forces see the council as having the function of letting civilian governments know of potential conflicts between military and civilian interests, thereby acting to prevent future military intervention in government.

National legislature

The bicameral Congreso Nacional (National Congress), is composed of the Cámara de Diputados (Chamber of Deputies) (lower house) with 120 deputies directly elected in 60 two-member electoral districts, serving for four-year terms. The Senado de la República (Senate) (upper house) has 38 directly elected members, serving for eight-year terms; around one-third of the membership is elected every four years.

Laws can originate in either of the chambers or be proposed by the president.

Legal system

The main tribunals of the independent judiciary system are the Supreme Court, 16 regional courts of appeal and the lower courts. The Supreme Court consists of 16 members appointed for life by the president from a list of five names proposed by the Supreme Court as vacancies arise.

Members of the courts of appeal are appointed in the same way as those of the Supreme Court. Judges in lower courts are appointed in a similar manner, but

from lists submitted by the court of appeal of the district in which the vacancies arise.

Last elections

13 December 2009 (parliamentary and presidential); 17 January 2010 (presidential run-off)

Results: Parliamentary: (Chamber of Deputies) Coalición por el Cambio (CC) (Coalition for Change) (alliance of five parties) 43.44 per cent (58 seats out of 120), Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia (Concertación) (Coalition of Pro-Democracy Parties)-Juntos Podemos (alliance of eight political parties) 44.36 per cent (57), Por un Chile Limpio (Chile Limpio) (For a Fair Chile) 5.4 per cent (three) independents 2.2 per cent (two); turnout was 87.7 per cent. Senate (18 seats elected, out of 38 total):

Concertación-Juntos Podemos 43.3 per cent (nine seats), CC 45.1 per cent (nine) (Chile Limpio lost its only seat).

Presidential (first round): Sebastián Piñera Echenique (Coalición por el Cambio (CC)) (Coalition for Change) led by Renovación Nacional (RN) (National Renewal) won 44.03 per cent of the vote, Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle (Concertación-PDC) 29.62 per cent, Marco Enríquez-Ominami Gumucio (independent) 20.12 per cent, Jorge Arrate Mac-Niven (Partido Comunista-Poder Democrático Social (PC- Podemos)) (Communist Party-Social Democratic Power) 6.21 per cent; turnout was 88 per cent. Run-off: Piñera won 51.6 per cent of the vote, Frei won 48.39 per cent.

Next elections

2013 (presidential, national congress and senate (half the membership)

Political parties

Ruling party

Coalition led by Coalición por el Cambio (CC) (Coalition for Change) (alliance of five parties) (from 2010)

Main opposition party

Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia (Concertación) (Coalition of Pro-Democracy Parties)

Population

17.40 million (2012)* (16,572,475; 31 August 2012, census preliminary result) About 29 per cent of the population is under 15 years of age.

Last census: 31 August 2012:

16,572,475 (preliminary result)

Population density: 20 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 89 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 1.3 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Ethnic make-up

Mixed European and indigenous peoples (mestizos) account for approximately 75 per cent of the population, with a further 23 per cent of European descent and 2

per cent Indians, mainly Mapuches, in the south.

Religions

Approximately 85 per cent Roman Catholic, 10 per cent Protestant, with small minorities of Jews, Muslims and other religions.

Education

The investment in education amounts to 4.0 per cent of GDP. This figure has doubled since the early 1990s. Chile has achieved gender parity in both primary and secondary education and has extended the school year by around 15 per cent.

Education is free and compulsory for the first eight years, beginning at the age of five or six.

All other education institutions charge fees, either partly or in full. The subsidies system applies equally to municipal and private education but has been directed mostly to basic education. The role of the ministry of education is now limited to licensing private education and carrying out school inspections.

Over 80 per cent of children complete secondary education, which begins at the age of 13 or 14 years and is divided into a humanities/science programme or a technical/vocational programme. Higher education consists of universities, professional and technical institutes.

Literacy rate: 96 per cent adult rate; 99 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

Compulsory years: Five or six to 13 or 14 (eight years in total)

Enrolment rate: 103 per cent boys, 100 per cent girls, total primary school enrolment of the relevant age group (including repetition rates), (World Bank).

Pupils per teacher: 30 in primary schools

Health

Healthcare is distributed between the ministry of health and social security institutions as well as private funds and the public sector. Health and social security have increasingly come into the hands of pension fund administration companies (AFPs). Since 1999, over a quarter of Chileans had taken out private health insurance. The state is responsible for the financing of health promotion, protection and prevention through the National Health Fund. The decentralised national health service is able to provide healthcare at different levels. The most basic care is in the hands of regional health authorities, responsible for preventive medical services which are part of the health promotion and protection programmes.

Care for pregnant women, children under six and members of indigent and low

income families is free. More specialised medical consultation and care is given at hospitals and maternity units. For patients who voluntarily choose the state system, a contribution of 25 to 30 per cent of the cost is required (depending on income). People under any social security scheme are entitled to preventive medical services (periodical health examinations) and in the case of illness, are granted full-paid sick leave. Occupational accidents or disease are covered by a special fund.

HIV/Aids

In 2009 there were an estimated 40,000 adults living with HIV.

HIV prevalence: 0.4 per cent aged 15–49 in 2009 (Unicef 2012)

Life expectancy: 79 years, 2009 (Unicef 2012)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 1.9 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef 2012)

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 9 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

Welfare

The statutory age of retirement is 65 years for men and 60 years for women. The system requires 13 per cent of a worker's wage to be deducted and accumulated in one of seven independently managed mutual-fund companies selected by the worker, with a small part of the contribution going towards disability insurance. Neither employers nor the government contribute to the individual accounts. The contributions remain under the workers' control, if they change jobs, and are deferred from any tax.

However, critics of the Chilean pension model argue that given the country's poverty rate, some workers would never be able to save enough toward retirement. Besides, 42 per cent of the workforce, in the informal economy, are not covered by any pension system, according to government statistics. Although they can make voluntary contributions to the system, most workers' incomes are very low. Hence, the government guarantees a minimum pension to anyone who has worked as a regular employee for 20 years.

Monetary subsidies apply to those outside any social security scheme include a special family allowance for both pregnant women and children under 15, in extreme poverty, and a special pension allowance for people over 65, or the handicapped without economic resources.

The system allows up to 20 per cent foreign investment in pension funds and it is likely to push that limit to 35 per cent with new legislation.

Main cities

Santiago (capital, estimated population 5.3 million in 2012), Puente Alto

(886,132), Antofagasta (369,855), San Bernardo (325,241), Viña del Mar (285,513), Valparaíso (267,213), Temuco (257,819), Iquique (245,299), Talca (236,774).

Languages spoken

English is the main second language.

Official language/s

Spanish

Media

Press

Dailies: In Spanish, national newspapers include the state-owned *La Nación* (www.lanacion.cl) and privately owned *El Mercurio* (<http://diario.elmercurio.com>) a long established publication *La Tercera* (www.latercera.cl) is its rival. Tabloids include *Las Últimas Noticias* (www.lun.com) and *La Cuarta* (www.lacuarta.cl), which is written in Chilean vernacular. *La Segunda* (www.lasegunda.com) is an evening newspaper.

In Spanish, regional newspapers include from Santiago *La Hora* (www.lahora.cl) and *Publimetro* (www.publimetro.cl), which are free newspapers. From Los Angeles *La Tribuna* (www.diariolatribuna.cl), from Punta Arenas *La Prensa Austral* (www.laprensaaustral.cl), and from Antofagasta *La Estrella del Norte* (www.estrellanorte.cl). *Prensa Al Día* (www.prensaldia.cl) carries a compilation of daily reported news. In English, the *Santiago Times*

(www.tcgnews.com/santiagotimes) provides news and general information about Chile and Santiago.

Weeklies: Some daily newspapers have weekend edition and there are many magazines for all tastes and ages. Fortnightly publications include, in Spanish, *La Firme* (www.lafirme.cl), a analytical political magazine, *The Clinic* (www.theclinic.cl), a satirical magazine and *Ercilla* (www.ercilla.cl) for general information. Women's magazines include *Cosas* (<http://www.cosas.cl>) and *Vanidades* (www.vanidades.cl); *Conozca Más* (www.conozcamas.cl) for men and *Condorito* (www.condorito.com) is a humourous publication.

In German *Condor* (<http://www.condor.cl>), is a general news weekly.

Business: In Spanish, dailies include *Estrategia* (www.estrategia.cl) and *Diarío Financiero* (www.diariofinanciero.cl), is an influential newspaper. Monthlylies include

América Economía (www.americaeconomia.com), was the first business magazine published, *Datos Sue* (www.datossur.cl) and *Estrategia* (www.capital.cl). *Punto Final* (www.puntofinal.cl) for fortnightly general business news. For Latin American news, *Business News Americas*

(www.bnAmericas.com) with an English daily on-line digest.

Broadcasting

The Ministerio de Transportes y Telecommunicaciones (www.mtt.cl) has overall authority for broadcasting. The geography of Chile has resulted in more nationwide coverage of radio than TV signals.

Radio: There are over 300 radio stations, most of which are private, local and commercial. Several national networks include the private, *Radio Cooperativa* (www.cooperativa.cl) with news based programmes, *Radio Agricultura* (www.radioagricultura.cl), *Bío Bío La Radio* (www.radiobiobio.cl) and *Radio Infinita* (www.infinita.cl). Local stations in Santiago include *Radio Tiempo* (<http://www.fmtiempo.cl>), *Radio Oasis* (www.radiooasis.cl) and *Radio Integral* (www.radiointegral.cl).

Television: The national public, commercial broadcaster is *Televisión Nacional de Chile* (TVN) (www.tvn.cl). There are several other private TV networks, including *Chilevisión* (www.chilevision.cl), *Megavision* (www.megavision.cl), *Red TV* (www.redtv.cl) and *Canal 13* (www.canal13.cl).

There are many foreign and domestic channels available via satellite or cable.

National news agency: Agencia Chile Noticias

Economy

Chile is the world's leading supplier of copper at around 30 per cent of global production. Copper provides over 14 per cent of national GDP, while combined mining represents over 16 per cent. Industry and manufacturing in 2010 constituted 42.9 per cent of GDP, of which manufacturing was 11.5 per cent and the service sector contributed 53.9 per cent, of which financial services represented almost 16 per cent of GDP.

GDP growth in 2008 was 3.0 per cent as the global economic crisis weakened exports, particularly commodities. In 2009, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) deemed the banking system as 'well-capitalised' and the supervisory framework as strong, with a well-developed domestic capital market.

International trade had been at an all-time high in 2007, with Chile's trade balance at US\$23.6 billion. This fell sharply to US\$8.8 billion in 2008 as the economy fell progressively towards recession in 2009 with GDP growth of -0.9 per cent, in tandem with negative global growth. Inflation, which had remained fairly stable between 4.4–4.9 per cent (2006–07), jumped to 8.7 per cent in 2008, before falling back to 1.7 per cent in 2009 as domestic spending slumped.

Growth returned in 2010, reaching 6.1 per cent before dropping modestly to an estimated 5.9 per cent in 2011. A severe earthquake struck the central region, near the city of Concepción, in 2010, killing 708 people, causing US\$30 billion in damage to vital infrastructure and housing and disrupting energy production and copper mining. The necessary reconstruction led to an economic surge in GDP growth of 4.6 per cent in April alone.

Chile's reputation for sound economic management has created a level of international confidence envied by much of Latin America. At the heart of these policies lies the government's concentration on sound monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies. In 2010 the central bank tightened its annual monetary policy rate (MPR), raising it 50 base points to 1 per cent and reigning in its monetary stimulus measures.

High unemployment has been a persistent trend at around 7 per cent for much of the 2000s. As the economic crisis deepened year-on-year unemployment reached 9.9 per cent in May 2009; employment growth became negative, at around -1.0 per cent.

External trade

Chile is an associate member of Mercosur, a member of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and has a free trade agreement with the European Union (EU) as well as other individual countries in Asia. It is also an associate member of the Unión de Naciones Suramericanas (Unasur) (Union of South American Nations), modelled on the European Union (EU), which seeks to integrate with the Andean Community of Nations and Mercosur in a single market by 2014, when tariffs on non-sensitive products are to be abolished with the remainder eliminated by 2019. However political tensions within the region have hampered the ongoing process.

Chile is the world's largest source of copper.

Imports

Main imports include petroleum and petroleum products, natural gas, chemicals, electrical and telecommunications equipment, industrial machinery and vehicles.

Main sources: US (22 per cent of total in 2012), China (17.7 per cent), Argentina (7.5 per cent).

Exports

Major exports include copper, fruit and processed foods including wine and fish products, timber, paper and pulp.

Main destinations: China (23.2 per cent of total in 2012), US (11.7 per cent), Japan (11 per cent).

The contribution of the agricultural sector to the Chilean economy is significant, employing 15 per cent of the total workforce and generating 6 per cent of GDP. Approximately 8 per cent of the total land mass is cultivated. The country's soil is fertile and well irrigated, particularly in the central area and main river valleys. Dependence on imported foodstuffs has been reduced by improved wheat, sugar and vegetable oil production. Other important crops are oats, barley, rice, beans, lentils, maize and chickpeas. Important cash/export crops are maize, beans, asparagus, onions and garlic. The production and export of a variety of fruit have all recorded impressive figures, given Chile's favourable growing conditions and good soil, relatively cost-effective labour and protection from disease. Table grapes, citrus fruits, avocados, pears, nectarines, peaches, kiwis, plums and nuts have done well. Chilean wine is growing in importance as a value-added agricultural product and a highly important export.

Livestock farming is concentrated in the south of the country.

The Fishing industry in Chile is one of the economy's most important export industries. Chile is second only to Norway as a producer of fresh, frozen and prepared salmon, with annual exports totalling more than US\$800 million. The productivity of the fishing industry is largely attributable to the large number of salmon farms in the south of the country.

Fishing and fish processing have become a diversified industry. Pilchards have traditionally been the main species of fish landed (75 per cent), with jack mackerel second. Abalone is exported to Japan, algae to Taiwan, hake to Spain, fresh salmon to the US and canned pilchards to the UK. Such diversification has been fuelled by substantial and continued increases in investment.

The typical annual fish catch is 4.3million tonnes, including 3.6 million tonnes marine fish and 164,477 tonnes shellfish.

Chile has a significant amount of forested land, approximately 15.5 million hectares (ha), equating to 23 per cent of the total land area. In the period 1990–2000, deforestation accounted for a decrease of forest cover by an average of 0.13 per cent per annum or 20,000ha. Forestry is an important sector suitable for commercial exploitation.

Chile has abundant softwood plantations used for the manufacture of forest products. The forestry industry is primarily located in the south, stretching from the Seventh to the Tenth region, with the main concentration in the Eighth Region around Concepción. The three ports of the area (San Vicente, Lirquén and Talcahuano)

handle up to 95 per cent of all forestry exports.

The sawn wood sector is characterised by a wide variety of producers, ranging from small portable sawmills to large highly automated mills. The larger sawmills tend to specialise in *pinus radiata*. Sawnwood production is largely a seasonal industry, with the highest activity occurring between spring and autumn (September to April). In the global market, Chile is the third-largest exporter of woodchips while nearly 50 per cent of its sawn timber, panels and softwood pulp production are exported.

Japan is the single most important purchaser of Chilean wood cellulose. Paper production has a large domestic market. The government has promoted private sector investment in forestry with land tax exemptions, rebates and subsidies.

Industry and manufacturing

Chile's manufacturing sector employs approximately one quarter of the country's total workforce. The sector also contributes around a third of Chilean GDP. Financial conglomerates control a substantial section of denationalised industries, although small firms with less than 10 employees still dominate. Export-based industries include petrochemicals, pulp and paper, base metals, plastics, rubber and food processing (particularly fish and malted barley). Domestic market industries include textiles, footwear, cement, food processing, beverages and machinery.

Tourism

Chile has a rich variety of terrain, from glacier-fed fjords of Patagonia in the south to the fertile central coastal region in the western shadow of the Andes and the rocky, salt and sandy Atacama Desert which begins in the north and runs south, east of the Andes. There are five historic sites included on Unesco's World Heritage List (four on the mainland and one on Easter Island). According to official statistics, Santiago, the vineyards of the central valleys and the Chilean Antarctic are the most popular tourist destinations. Many cruise ships with Antarctic destinations begin their voyages from Punta Arenas.

Travel and tourism contributes around 3 per cent of GDP, while over 8 per cent of total employment (209,000 jobs) is engaged in the industry. Over 1.4 million visitors arrived from January– March 2010, a record for the height of the tourist season; in March alone, over 300,000 people visited, recording an increase of 49.6 per cent on the same period in 2009. Visitor revenues have increased from US\$1.9 billion in 2006 to an estimated US\$3 billion in 2011, which

matches the rise in capital investment over the same period, from US\$1.3 billion in 2006 to an estimated US\$3.8 billion in 2011.

Environment

Santiago suffers from a serious smog problem, which is at its worst May–September and is aggravated when the winter weather is interrupted by spells of milder temperatures.

Mining

The mining sector is of great importance to the Chilean economy, contributing 9 per cent to GDP and providing employment for 6 per cent of the workforce. It is the main export earner and a major focus of foreign investment in the country. Activity is concentrated in copper, of which Chile is the world's leading producer and holds around 30 per cent of the world's proven reserves. The state-owned copper enterprise, Corporación Nacional del Cobre de Chile (Codelco), holds 70 per cent of national reserves and administers the four largest mines: Chuquicamata, El Teniente, Andina and El Salvador. Copper is also extracted from the Escondida mine, the biggest proven deposit in the world.

The sector was hit by falling copper prices until 2003 when demand for copper was fuelled by Chinese expansion in particular and prices rose. Copper continued to rise at a rapid rate in 2005, in line with increased demand in the international market.

Mining of silver, gold (the El Indio mine ranks among the highest grade mines in the world), iron ore, manganese and lead is also undertaken. Other mining sub-sectors include natural nitrates, mercury, marble, coal, sulphur and limestone. Proven and probable reserves at the Fachinal mine in southern Chile (Coeur d'Alene Mines Corporation) are estimated at 317,915 ounces of gold and 14.6 million ounces of silver.

The country is a net importer of energy, with less than 10 per cent of its needs fulfilled by domestic hydrocarbon production. Domestic oil production, mainly from offshore fields at the Straits of Magellan and onshore at Tierra del Fuego and the southern mainland, provides less than 6 per cent of domestic consumption. Chile's oil reserves fell below 150 million barrels in 2008 and are no longer significant to its energy mix. Oil consumption was 314,000 barrels per day in 2010 which was imported either as refined products or crude oil to be process in the three oil refineries operated by the state-owned Empresa Nacional del Petróleo (ENAP), which controls the energy sector.

Chile has less than 97 billion cubic metres of proven natural gas reserves, with production limited to the urban markets of central Chile, particularly Santiago. However nationally, gas consumption has risen from 3.1 billion cubic metres (cum) in 2009 to 4.7 billion cum in 2010, despite a government push for conservation since consumption in 2004 was a record 8.7 billion cum.

Imported liquid natural gas (LNG) has increased, to become Chile primary source of energy. In 2010 LNG accounted for 3.07 billion cum, while piped natural gas from Argentina only amounted to 340 million cum.

There are two LNG terminals, one in Quintero on the central coast, the other in Mejillones in the north, centred on Chile's copperbelt.

Chile's coal resources come mainly from Lota/Coronel and the extreme south of Tierra del Fuego. All domestic coal production goes to power generation. Chile has total recoverable coal reserves of 1.3 million tonnes; production has fallen to around 40,000 tonnes a year.

Energy

Generation, transmission and distribution are entirely privately run entities. The sector is regulated by the Ministerio de Economía y Energía (MEE) (ministry of economy and energy) as a function of Comisión Nacional de Energía (CNE) (national energy commission).

Chile generated a total of 48.16 billion GWh of electricity in 2007, of which 60 per cent was generated by thermal and 40 per cent by hydroelectric power stations. Whenever possible hydropower is used as the lead source of energy but climatic conditions, particularly the lack of rainfall, have an impact on the need to use and ability to generate power. Demand for energy has almost doubled in the decade up to 2007, with a predicted year-on-year growth of 4.96 per cent for total electricity demand in 2008. Argentina withdrew its guaranteed supply of gas to Chile in 2004. In 2005 and 2007 supplies during August and May (winter months) were cut back by 60 per cent and 64 per cent respectively, with further restrictions in January 2008. The result was that more generation was forced on oil/coal fired power stations and Chile was forced to pay considerably higher energy costs. Renewable energy sources are only minor contributors to the remainder.

Financial markets

Stock exchange

Bolsa de Comercio de Santiago (Santiago Stock Exchange) (SSE)

Banking and insurance

Chile's banking and insurance sector was once an exclusive enclave of the economy where only the rich were able to access financial services. However, the 1990s saw an expansion of the banking sector throughout the country. Today Chile has one of Latin America's most developed and sophisticated banking sectors and Chilean banks have shown relative strength in a weak economic environment. The authorities do not allow new banks to enter the Chilean market, except via the purchase of an existing bank. Restrictions remain on the range of activities a bank can undertake, with pension fund management reserved for private pension fund companies.

Competitive pressures have increased with domestic banks facing increased competition from Spanish banks. Following Banco Santander Central Hispano's (BSCH) takeover of Banco Santiago and Santander Chile – two of Chile's largest banks – BSCH has a market share of just under 30 per cent.

Central bank

Banco Central de Chile

Main financial centre

Santiago

Time

GMT minus four hours (daylight saving, mid-October to mid-March, GMT minus three hours)

Geography

Chile occupies a thin strip of land, rarely more than 200km wide, which stretches 4,640km down the west coast of Latin America from north of the tropic of Capricorn to Cape Horn. Geography and climate range from hot deserts in the north to icy Andean peaks at almost 7,000 metres high in the east and thousands of rainswept islets in the south. Chile is bordered by the Pacific to the west, by Argentina to the east, by Bolivia in the north-east and Peru to the north. Several Pacific islands, including the Juan Fernandez archipelago and Easter Island, are Chilean.

There are three main geographical belts running from north to south – the Andes, the central valley, and the narrow coastal range. The Andes are characterised not only by their great height but also by being a broad mass, generally over 80km wide, and making a superb natural border with Argentina. West of the Andes, the central valley has a varied form. In the north, it is a high desert basin, characterised by inward drainage and near complete aridity. Further south it disappears, until re-emerging near Santiago. From Santiago to Puerto Montt, it constitutes the agricultural heart of Chile, until it disappears under the sea at Puerto Montt. The

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coastal range, significantly lower than the Andes and generally under 3,000 metres, forms a barrier between the populated central valley and the coast, except for certain gaps made by powerful rivers, as at Concepción in the south. Of the mainland area, 2.2 per cent is suitable for crops, 17.1 per cent for livestock and 10.8 per cent for forestry. The remaining 69.9 per cent is considered unproductive and is mostly covered by deserts or mountains.

Hemisphere

Southern

Climate

Generally hot and dry in north, Mediterranean in central region (cool nights) and wet and cold in the south. Temperatures in Santiago range from 10–33 degrees Celsius (C) in summer (December–March) and 2–20 degrees C in winter (June–September). The rainy season in the Santiago area is from May to September.

Dress codes

Relatively formal. A suit or a jacket and tie for men and skirts for women are usual for business.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all, with the exception of tourists travelling direct to Chile from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay, for whom national identity cards are sufficient. Entry will be permitted only with proof of return/onward passage and sufficient funds for stay.

Visa

Visas are not required by citizens of neighbouring countries or most EU states. For further details contact the local embassy. Business visas are not required by those citizens who do not need a tourist visa, all others, including those who do not normally require them but who are visiting on short-term contracts or receive fees from a local company, do need a visa.

On arrival a 'tourist card' is issued and must be returned when leaving.

Currency advice/regulations

No restrictions on import and export of foreign or domestic currency. International credit cards are widely accepted. Receipts for money changed on entry should be retained. Travellers cheques are readily acceptable in cities only.

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

None

Advisable precautions

Typhoid, polio, hepatitis A and tetanus vaccinations are useful.

Water precautions should be taken (avoid tap water) and eating unpeeled fruit or uncooked vegetables is not advised. Foreigners may get free primary health care

from the state-run health service's hospitals, but for more serious cases they are required to pay the costs. Travel health insurance is advised if not already covered by one's own national health insurance.

Hotels

Numerous luxury and first-class hotels as well as good hotels in lower price range. The Stars Classification System is used. Bookings may be made at the Sernatur information office at Pudahuel Airport. An 19 per cent hotel tax is added to bill, unless paid for with foreign currency. Service charge is usually included, but an extra 5–10 per cent tip is usual.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 21 May (Navy Day), 26 Jun (St Peter and St Paul Day), 15 Aug (Assumption Day), 18 Sep (Independence Day), 19 Sep (Army Day), 12 Oct (Columbus Day), 1 Nov (All Saints' Day), 8 Dec (Immaculate Conception), 25–26 Dec (Christmas).

Variable dates

Mar/Apr (Good Friday, Holy Saturday), May/Jun (Corpus Christi), first Mon in Sep (Reconciliation Day).

Working hours

Banking

Mon–Fri: 0900–1400.

Business

Mon–Fri: 0900–1800.

Business visits are best made outside the summer month of February when the great majority of people are on holiday.

Government

Mon–Fri: 0830–1730.

Shops

Mon–Sat: 0900–2000. Supermarkets and many shopping centres are open continuously until 2100, including Sundays and public holidays.

Telecommunications

Mobile/cell phones

GSM 1900 services exist throughout most of the country.

Electricity supply

220V AC, with two-pin plugs.

Social customs/useful tips

People are expected to be punctual for business appointments. However, for social appointments, being 30 or 40 minutes late is quite usual. Chileans are very hospitable and do not necessarily expect reciprocity. Entertaining at home is common practice and a small gift of thanks is acceptable.

In Latin American Spanish it is acceptable to address others in a familiar form *tu*, or in a polite form *usted*. The latter is more appropriate for business although the familiar form is often rapidly adopted. Chileans are quite easy about smoking habits,

but it is banned in cinemas, theatres, churches and public transport.

It is necessary to carry car documents when driving.

Security

Santiago is generally regarded as a safe city with low incidences of assault and mugging compared with other Latin American capitals. However, pickpocketing is common in the city centre and on buses.

Getting there

Air

National airline: LAN-Chile (Línea Aérea Nacional de Chile).

International airport/s: Santiago-Comodoro Arturo Merino Benítez (often known as 'Pudahuel') (SCL), 21km west of city; bar, restaurant, bank, post office, shops, tourist office, car hire. A bus service to the city runs 24 hours.

Other airport/s: Arica-Chacalluta (ARI), 18km from city; bar, restaurant, buffet, shops, car hire.

Airport tax: Departure tax: US\$18

Surface

Road: The road system is dominated by the 3,455km Pan-American Highway, which links the Peruvian frontier to Puerto Montt in the south. Between Santiago and Puerto Montt, the Pan-American follows the course of the central valley. A trans-Andean highway links Valparaíso with the Argentine city of Mendoza. This is frequently closed during winter due to snow, when more southerly and lower passes have to be used.

Rail: Five lines to neighbouring Argentina, Bolivia and Peru are operated by the government-owned Ferrocarriles del Estado.

Water: Empremer (Valparaíso) is the principal port with developed passenger routes mainly to Argentina. Chile has around 60 ports.

Getting about

National transport

Air: Línea Aérea del Cobre (Ladeco) provides most domestic services. Lanexpress operates frequent flights to major centres only. Air taxi services also operate. The south of the country relies heavily on air links and seats must be booked well in advance.

Road: There are 80,000km of good roads including the Pan-American Highway running north-south and qualified as first-class. It is only possible to reach Punta Arenas by land from Río Gallengos (Argentina).

Buses: Express coaches link main centres and are generally recommended (eg Santiago-Arica, typically one departure daily; Santiago-Valparaíso, approx hourly service).

Rail: A fast diesel-electric train service is available. The main line runs from Santiago to Puerto Montt (includes sleeper service, restaurant cars, air-conditioning, typical total journey time around 18 hours); Japanese-built train links between Santiago and Concepción (first-class service and a journey time around nine hours including bus service from Chillán to Concepción).

City transport

Taxis: From Santiago's Arturo Merino Benítez airport, there are metered taxis into town.

Taxis are cheap and widely available in main towns. An initial charge (*Bajada de Bandera*) is displayed on front windscreen. Large blue taxis do not have meters. Tipping is not customary. Radio taxis charge higher fares.

Within Santiago and Chile's main towns black and yellow taxis can be hailed but are scarce at rush hour. These taxis are mostly metered but for long journeys fares should be negotiated in advance. There are extra charges at night and on holidays.

Taxis operating from the airport require a special permit, and it is advised that visitors check a taxi's authenticity before boarding. The journey to central Santiago takes about 30 minutes. However, any taxi can go to the airport and the fare is often cheaper than from the airport.

Buses, trams & metro: Frequent inner city bus service. Shuttle service – mini-buses for several passengers – from airport to city centre.

Fast, frequent, clean and safe metro system in Santiago consisting of two main lines: line 1 San Pablo-Escuela Militar line; line 2 Lo Ovalle-Cal y Canto line which has 13 stations. Trains run 0700–2245.

Car hire

A national or international licence is accepted. Car hire can be arranged at the airport and in most major towns. A large deposit may be required. All car drivers require a 'Carnet de Passages et Douanes' issued by the Automobile Club. Traffic drives on the right.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international dialling code (IDD) for Chile is +56, followed by area code and subscriber's number:

Antofagasta 55 Linares 73

Arica	58	Punta Arenas	61
Chillán	42	Santiago	2
Concepción	41	Temuco	45
Coquimbo	51	Valparaíso	32
Iquique	57	Vina del Mar	32
La Serena	51		

Chambers of Commerce

American Chamber of Commerce in Chile, Avenida Kennedy 5735, Las Condes, Santiago (tel: 290-9700; fax: 212-0515; e-mail: amcham@amchamchile.cl).

British-Chilean Chamber of Commerce, Avenida Suecia 155-C, Providencia, Santiago (tel: 231-4366; fax: 231-8211; e-mail: cambrit@entelchile.net).

Antofagasta Cámara de Comercio, Servicios y Turismo, Latorre 2580, Antofagasta (tel: 225-175; fax: 55-222-053; e-mail: info@comercioantofagasta.cl).

Arica Cámara de Comercio, Industria, Servicios y Turismo, Rafael Sotomayor 252, Arica (tel: 224-643; fax: 253-718; e-mail: comercio@camaracomercioarica.cl).

Iquique Cámara de Comercio, Industria, Servicios y Turismo, San Martín 225, Iquique (tel: 412-942; fax: 414-090; e-mail: info@iquiquenegocios.cl).

Talca Cámara de Comercio, Servicios y Turismo, 2 Sur 1061, Talca (tel/fax: 233-569; e-mail: contact@camaradecomerciotalca.cl).

Temuco Cámara de Comercio, Servicios y Turismo, Vicuña Mackenna 396, Temuco (tel: 210-556; fax: 237-047; e-mail: camcotem@entelchile.cl).

Valparaíso Cámara Regional del Comercio y la Producción, Pasaje Ross 149, Valparaíso (tel: 253-065; fax: 212-770).

Banking

Banco de A Edwards, Huérfanos 740, Santiago (tel: 388-3000; fax: 388-4100; e-mail: marketing@baenet.cl).

Banco de Chile, Ahumada 251, Santiago (tel: 637-1111; fax: 637-3434)

Banco de Crédito e Inversiones, Huérfanos 1134, Santiago (tel: 692-7000; fax: 699-0729; e-mail: consulta@bci.cl).

Banco del Estado de Chile, Avenida Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 1111, Santiago (tel: 670-7000; fax: 670-5478; e-mail: msoto9@bech.cl).

Central bank

Banco Central de Chile, PO Box 967, 1180 Agustinas, Santiago 8340454 (Tel: 670-2000; fax: 670-2099; e-mail: bcch@bcentral.cl).

Stock exchange

Bolsa de Comercio de Santiago (Santiago Stock Exchange) (SSE), www.bolsadesantiago.com

Bovalpo (Valparaíso Stock Exchange), www.bovalpo.com

Bolsa Electrónica de Chile (Santiago Electronic Stock Exchange), www.bolchile.cl

Travel information

LADECO (Línea Aérea del Cobre), Avenida Américo Vespucio 901, Santiago (tel: 661-3131; fax: 639-5757; e-mail: josecota@cmbchile.cl).

LAN-Chile (Línea Aérea Nacional de Chile), Avenida Américo Vespucio 901, Santiago (tel: 687-2525; fax: 687-2483; e-mail: sdelpino@lanchile.cl; internet: www.lan.com).

National tourist organisation offices

Servicio Nacional de Turismo (SERNATUR), (National Tourist Service) Avenida Providencia 1550, Santiago (tel: 236-1416; fax: 251-8469; internet: www.visit-chile.org; e-mail: sernatur@ctc-mundo.net or info@sernatur.cl).

Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture, Teatinos 40, Santiago (tel: 393-5000; fax: 672-5654; e-mail: xbarrera@minagri.gob.cl).

Ministry of Defence, Edificio Diego Portales, Villavicencio 364, Santiago (tel: 222-1202; fax: 634-5339; e-mail: dn@defensa.cl).

Ministry of Economy, Mining and Energy, Teatinos 120, Santiago (tel: 672-5522; fax: 672-6040; e-mail: conomia@minecon.cl).

Ministry of Education, Avenida Libertado Bernardo O'Higgins 1371, Santiago (tel: 390-4000; fax: 380-0317; e-mail: ineduc@chilnet.cl).

Ministry of the Government, Palacio de la Moneda, Santiago (tel: 671-4103; fax: 699-1657).

Ministry of Housing, Avenida Libertado Bernardo O'Higgins 924, Santiago (tel: 638-0801; fax: 633-3892; e-mail: martinez@minvu.cl).

Ministry of the Interior, Palacio de la Moneda, Santiago (tel: 690-4000; fax: 699-2165; e-mail: alopez@interior.gov.cl).

Ministry of Justice, Morandé 107, Santiago (tel: 696-8151; fax: 696-6952).

Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Huérfanos 1273, Santiago (tel: 695-5133; fax: 671-6539).

Ministry of Mining, Teatinos 120, Santiago (tel: 671-4373; fax: 698-9262; e-mail: chileminero@mixmail.com).

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Ministry of National Properties, Pdte. Juan Antonio Rios 6, Santiago (tel: 633-9305; fax: 633-6521; e-mail: aleonp@mbienes).

Ministry of Planning and Co-operation, Ahumada 48, Santiago (tel: 675-1400; fax: 672-1879; e-mail: misoto@mideplan.cl).

Ministry of the Presidency, Palacio de la Moneda, Santiago (tel: 690-4000; fax: 698-4656).

Ministry of Public Health, Enrique Mac-Iver 541, Santiago (tel: 639-4001; fax: 633-5875; e-mail: info@minsal.cl).

Ministry of Public Works, Morandé 59, Santiago (tel/fax: 361-2700; e-mail: mop.doh@chilnet.cl).

Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications, Amunategui 139 Santiago (tel: 672-6503; fax: 699-5138).

Ministry of Women's Affairs, Teatinos 950, Santiago (tel: 549-6100; fax: 549-6247; e-mail: sernam@entelchile.net).

Other useful addresses

Asociación de Exportadores de Manufacturas (ASEXMA Chile), Nueva Tajamar, Santiago (tel: 203-6699; fax: 203-6730; e-mail: asexma@asexmachile.cl).

Bolsa de Comercio de Santiago, La Bolsa 64, Santiago (Tel: 698-2001; fax: 697-2236; e-mail: fledermann@comercio.bolsantiago.cl).

British Embassy, Avenida el Bosque Norte 125, Piso 3, Las Condes, Santiago (tel:

231-3737; fax: 231-9771; e-mail: embsan@portal.cl).

Chilean Embassy (USA), 1732 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20036 (tel: 202-785-1746; fax: 202-887-557; e-mail: embassy@embassyofchile.org).

Comisión Chilena del Cobre (Cochilco), Agustinas 1161, Santiago (tel: 382-8100; fax: 382-8300; e-mail: cochilco@cochilco.cl).

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL) (Economic Commission for Latin America – ECLAC), United Nations Building, Avenida Dag Hammarskjold s/n, Santiago (tel: 210-2000; fax: 208-0252).

Comité de Inversiones Extranjeras, Teatinos 120, Santiago (tel: 698-4254; fax: 698-9476; e-mail: investimento@cinver.cl).

Corporación de Fomento de la Producción (CORFO) (Development Corporation), Moneda 921, Santiago (tel: 631-8692; fax: 631-8686; e-mail: drmetro@corfo.cl).

Corporación Nacional de Cobre (CODELCO), Huérfanos 1270, Santiago (tel: 690-3000; fax: 690-3059; e-mail: comunica@stgo.codelco.cl).

Empresa Nacional de Minería (ENAMI), Maclver 459, Santiago (tel: 664-7244; fax: 637-5436; e-mail: ghormaza@enami.cl).

Empresa Nacional de Petróleo (ENAP), Vitacura 2736, Santiago (tel: 280-3000; fax: 280-3199).

Instituto de Promoción de Exportaciones (ProChile), Avenida Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 1315, Santiago (tel: 565-9000; fax: 696-0639; e-mail: info@prochile.cl).

Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas (INE), Avenida Presidente Bulnes 418, Santiago (tel: 366-7777; fax: 671-2169; e-mail: inecodoc@terra.cl).

Sociedad de Formento Fabril (SOFOFA) (Chilean Federation of Industry), Avenida Andrés Bello 2777, Santiago (tel: 391-3100; fax: 391-3200; e-mail: sofofa@sofofa.cl).

US Embassy, Avenida Andrés Bello 2800, Santiago (tel: 232-2600; fax: 330-3710).

National news agency: Agencia Chile Noticias, Carlos Antúnez 1884, Office 104, Comuna de Providencia, Santiago (tel/fax: 223-0205; email: prensa@chilenoticias.cl; internet: www.chilenoticias.cl).

Internet sites

Chile Business Directory:
<http://www.chilnet.cl/>

Chile Trade Commission:
<http://www.prochile.cl>

Government of Chile:
<http://www.gobiernodechile.cl>

Latin Trade Online:
<http://www.latintrade.com>

Latin World: <http://www.latinworld.com>

Organisation of American States:
<http://www.oas.org>