
Table of Contents

The observed exchange rate is the average exchange rate at which transactions were actually carried out in the Formal Exchange Market on a particular day, as certified by the Central Bank of Chile on the next banking day.

Prior to September 3, 1999, the Central Bank of Chile was authorized to buy or sell dollars in the Formal Exchange Market to maintain the observed exchange rate within a specified range above or below the reference exchange rate. On September 3, 1999, the Central Bank of Chile eliminated the exchange band. As a result, the Central Bank of Chile may buy and sell foreign exchange in the Formal Exchange Market in order to maintain the observed exchange rate at a level the Central Bank of Chile determines.

Purchases and sales of foreign exchange may be effected outside the Formal Exchange Market through the Informal Exchange Market, (*Mercado Cambiario Informal*) established by the Central Bank in 1990. There are no limits on the extent to which the rate of exchange in the Informal Exchange Market can fluctuate above or below the observed exchange rate.

Although our results of operations have not been significantly affected by fluctuations in the exchange rates between the peso and the U.S. dollar because our functional currency is the U.S. dollar, we are exposed to foreign exchange losses and gains due to exchange rate fluctuations. Even though the majority of our revenues are denominated in or pegged to the U.S. dollar, the Chilean government's economic policies affecting foreign exchange and future fluctuations in the value of the peso against the U.S. dollar could adversely affect our results of operations and an investor's return on an investment in ADSs.

Chilean Taxation

The following discussion relates to Chilean income tax laws presently in force, including Ruling No. 324 of January 29, 1990 of the Chilean Internal Revenue Service and other applicable regulations and rulings in effect on the date of this prospectus, all of which are subject to change. The discussion summarizes the principal Chilean income tax consequences of an investment in the ADSs or common shares by a person who is neither domiciled in, nor a resident of, Chile or by a legal entity that is not organized under the laws of Chile and does not have a permanent establishment located in Chile (such an individual or entity is referred to herein as a Foreign Holder). For purposes of Chilean tax law, an individual holder is a resident of Chile if such person has resided in Chile for more than six consecutive months in one calendar year or for a total of six months, whether consecutive or not, in two consecutive tax years. The discussion is not intended as tax advice to any particular investor, which can be rendered only in light of that investor's particular tax situation. PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR TAX ADVISERS ABOUT THE CHILEAN TAX CONSEQUENCES TO THEM OF THE PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF ADSs OR SHARES.

Under Chilean law, provisions contained in statutes such as tax rates applicable to foreign investors, the computation of taxable income for Chilean purposes and the manner in which Chilean taxes are imposed and collected may only be amended by another statute. In addition, the Chilean tax authorities enact rulings and regulations of either general or specific application and interpret the provisions of Chilean tax law. Chilean tax may not be assessed retroactively against taxpayers who act in good faith relying on such rulings, regulations and interpretations, but Chilean tax authorities may change these rulings, regulations and interpretations prospectively. There is no income tax treaty in force between Chile and the United States.

Cash Dividends and Other Distributions.

Cash dividends we pay with respect to the ADSs or common shares held by a Foreign Holder will be subject to a 35% Chilean withholding tax, which we withhold and pay over to the Chilean tax authorities and which we refer to as the Withholding Tax. A credit against the Withholding Tax is available based on the level of corporate income tax we actually pay on the income to be distributed (referred to herein as the First Category Tax); however, this credit does not reduce the Withholding Tax on a one-for-one basis because it also increases the base on which the Withholding Tax is imposed. If we register net income but taxable losses, no credit against the Withholding Tax

Table of Contents

will be available. In addition, if we distribute less than all of our distributable income, the credit for First Category Tax we pay is proportionately reduced. Presently, the First Category Tax rate is 17%. In general, the example below illustrates the effective Chilean Withholding Tax burden on a cash dividend received by a Foreign Holder, assuming a Withholding Tax rate of 35%, an effective First Category Tax rate of 17% the actual payment of such First Category Tax at that 17% rate and a distribution of 30% of the consolidated net income of the Company after payment of the First Category Tax:

The Company's taxable income	100.00
First Category Tax (17% of Ch\$100)	(17)
Net distributable income	83.00
Dividend distributed (30% of net distributable income)	24.9
Withholding Tax (35% of the sum of Ch\$24.9 dividend plus Ch\$5.1 First Category Tax paid)	(10.5)
Credit for 30% of First Category Tax	5.1
Net tax withheld	(5.4)
Net dividend received	19.5
Effective dividend withholding rate	21.69%

In general, the effective dividend Withholding Tax rate, after giving effect to the credit for the First Category Tax, can be calculated using the following formula:

$$\frac{(\text{Withholding Tax rate}) - (\text{First Category Tax effective rate})}{1 - (\text{First Category Tax effective rate})}$$

Under Chilean income tax law, dividends generally are assumed to have been paid out of our oldest retained profits for purposes of determining the level of First Category Tax that we paid. The effective rate of Withholding Tax to be imposed on dividends we pay will vary depending upon the amount of First Category Tax we paid on the earnings to which the dividends are attributed. The effective withholding tax rate for dividends attributed to earnings from 1991 until 2001, for which the First Category Tax rate was 15%, will be 23.5%. For 2002, the First Category Tax rate was 16.0%, which results in an effective rate of 22.62%. In 2003, the First Category Tax rate was 16.5%, which results in an effective rate of 22.16%, and from 2004 onwards, the First Category Tax rate is 17%, which results in an effective rate of Withholding Tax of 21.69%.

For dividends attributable to our profits during years when the First Category Tax was 10% (before 1991), the effective rate will be 27.8%. However, whether the First Category Tax is 10%, 15%, 16%, 16.5% or 17%, the effective overall combined tax rate imposed on our distributed profits will be 35%. In the event that profits from previous years are not sufficient to cover a particular dividend, and the dividend is attributable to the current year, we will generally withhold tax from the dividend at the full 35% rate. If the withholding is determined to be excessive taking into account First Category Tax, holders may file for a refund.

Dividend distributions made in property would be subject to the same Chilean tax rules as cash dividends based on the fair market value of such property. Stock dividends and the distribution of preemptive rights are not subject to Chilean taxation.

Capital Gains

Gain from the sale or other disposition by a Foreign Holder of ADRs evidencing ADSs outside Chile will not be subject to Chilean taxation. The deposit and withdrawal of common shares in exchange for ADRs will not be subject to any Chilean taxes.

Gain recognized on a sale or exchange of common shares (as distinguished from sales or exchanges of ADRs evidencing ADSs representing such common shares) may be subject to both the First Category Tax and the Withholding Tax (the former being creditable against the latter) if:

- the Foreign Holder has held the common shares for less than one year since exchanging ADSs for the Shares;

Table of Contents

- the Foreign Holder acquired and disposed of the common shares in the ordinary course of its business or as a habitual trader of shares; or
- the Foreign Holder and the purchaser of the common shares are “related parties” within the meaning of Article 17, Number 8, of the Chilean Income Tax Law.

In all other cases, gain on the disposition of common shares will be subject only to a capital gains tax which is assessed at the same rate as the First Category Tax (currently imposed at a rate of 17%). Gain recognized in the transfer of common shares that have a high presence in the stock exchange, however, is not subject to capital gains tax in Chile, provided that the common shares are transferred in a local stock exchange, in other authorized stock exchanges or within the process of a public tender of common shares governed by the Securities Market Law. The common shares must also have been acquired either in a stock exchange, within the process of a public tender of common shares governed by the Securities Market Law, in an initial public offer of common shares resulting from the formation of a corporation or a capital increase of the same, or in an exchange of convertible bonds. Shares are considered to have a high presence in the stock exchange when they:

- are registered in the Securities Registry;
- are registered in a Chilean Stock exchange; and
- have an adjusted presence equal to or above 25%.

To calculate the adjusted presence of a particular share, the aforementioned regulation first requires a determination of the number of days in which the operations regarding the stock exceeded, in Chilean pesos, the equivalent of 200 Unidades de Fomento (approximately US\$5,400 as of March 31, 2004) within the previous 180 business days of the stock market. That number must then be divided by 180, multiplied by 100, and expressed in a percentage value. This tax regime does not apply if the transaction involves an amount of shares that would allow the acquirer to take control of the publicly traded corporation, in which case the ordinary tax regime referred to in the previous paragraph will apply, unless the transfer is part of a tender offer governed by the Securities Market Law or the transfer is done on a Chilean stock exchange, without substantially exceeding the market price.

Capital gains obtained in the sale of shares that are publicly traded and have a high presence in a stock exchange are also exempt from capital gains tax in Chile when the sale is made by “foreign institutional investors” such as mutual funds and pension funds, provided that the sale is made in a stock exchange or in accordance with the provisions of the Securities Market Law, or in any other form authorized by the SVS. To qualify as a foreign institutional investor, an entity must be formed outside of Chile, not have a domicile in Chile, and must be at least one of the following:

- an investment fund that offers its common shares or quotas publicly in a country with investment grade public debt, according to a classification performed by an international risk classification entity registered with the SVS;
- an investment fund registered with a regulatory agency or authority from a country with investment grade public debt, according to a classification performed by an international risk classification entity registered with the SVS, provided that its investments in Chile constitute less than 30% of the share value of the fund, including deeds issued abroad representing Chilean securities, such as ADRs of Chilean companies;
- an investment fund whose investments in Chile represent less than 30% of the share value of the fund, including deeds issued abroad representing Chilean securities, such as ADRs of Chilean companies, provided that not more than 10% of the share value of the fund is directly or indirectly owned by Chilean residents;
- a pension fund that is formed exclusively by natural persons that receive pensions out of an accumulated capital in the fund;
- a Foreign Capital Investment Fund, as defined in Law No. 18,657; or

Table of Contents

- any other foreign institutional investor that complies with the requirements set forth in general regulations for each category of investor or prior information from the SVS and the Chilean tax authority, the *Servicio de Impuestos Internos*, or the SII.

The foreign institutional investor must not directly or indirectly participate in the control of the corporations issuing the shares it invests in, nor possess or participate in 10% or more of the capital or the profits of such corporations.

Another requirement for the exemption is that the foreign institutional investor must execute a written contract with a bank or a stock broker incorporated in Chile. In this contract, the bank or stock broker must undertake to execute purchase and sale orders, verify the applicability of the tax exemption and inform the SII of the investors it works with and the transactions it performs. Finally, the foreign institutional investor must register with the SII by means of a sworn statement issued by such bank or stock broker.

The tax basis of common shares received in exchange for ADRs will be the acquisition value of the common shares on the date of exchange. The valuation procedure set forth in the deposit agreement, which values common shares which are being exchanged at the highest price at which they trade on the Santiago Stock Exchange on the date of the exchange, will determine the acquisition value for this purpose. Consequently, the surrender of ADRs for common shares and the immediate sale of the common shares for the value established under the Deposit Agreement will not generate a capital gain subject to taxation in Chile.

The exercise of preemptive rights relating to the common shares will not be subject to Chilean taxation. Any gain on the sale of preemptive rights relating to the common shares will be subject to both the First Category Tax and the Withholding Tax (the former being creditable against the latter).

Other Chilean Taxes

There are no Chilean inheritance, gift or succession taxes applicable to the ownership, transfer or disposition of ADSs by a Foreign Holder, but such taxes generally will apply to the transfer at death or by gift of the common shares by a Foreign Holder. There are no Chilean stamp, issue, registration or similar taxes or duties payable by Foreign Holders of ADSs or common shares.

Withholding Tax Certificates

Upon request, we will provide to Foreign Holders appropriate documentation evidencing the payment of the Chilean Withholding Tax (net of the applicable First Category Tax).

United States Federal Income Tax Considerations

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations that are likely to be relevant to the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common shares and ADSs by a beneficial owner that is a citizen or resident of the United States or a U.S. domestic corporation or that otherwise will be subject to U.S. federal income taxation on a net income basis in respect of such common shares or ADSs. In this prospectus, we refer to these owners of common shares and ADSs as U.S. Holders. This summary is not a comprehensive discussion of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to your decision to purchase ADSs or common shares. In particular, this discussion is directed only to U.S. Holders that will hold ADSs or common shares as capital assets and it does not address any special United States tax consequences that may be applicable to U.S. Holders that are subject to special treatment under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, commonly referred to as the Code, such as dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities electing to mark to market, financial institutions, life insurance companies, tax exempt entities, holders of 10 percent or more of our voting common shares, persons holding common shares or ADSs as part of a hedging or conversion transaction or a straddle or persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar. Prospective purchasers are advised to satisfy themselves as to the overall U.S. federal, state and local tax consequences of their ownership of ADRs and the underlying common shares by consulting their own tax advisors.

Table of Contents

The statements of United States tax laws set out below are based on the laws in force as of the date this prospectus was filed and may be subject to changes in United States law occurring after that date, including changes that may have retroactive effect.

ADRS

In general, if you are a U.S. Holder of ADRs evidencing our ADSs, you will be treated, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as the beneficial owner of the underlying common shares that are represented by those ADSs and evidenced by those ADRs.

Taxation of Dividends

If you are a U.S. Holder, distributions of cash or property (other than common stock, if any, distributed pro rata to all of our shareholders, including holders of ADSs) paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and our profits (as determined for United States federal income tax purposes) with respect to common shares or ADSs, including the net amount of the Chilean Withholding Tax withheld on the distribution (after taking into account the credit for the First Category Tax), will be includible in your gross income as ordinary income on the day on which you receive the dividends, in the case of common shares, or the date the depository receives the dividends, in the case of common shares represented by ADSs, and will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction allowed to corporations under the Code. If you are a U.S. Holder, dividends paid in pesos generally will be includible in your income in a U.S. dollar amount calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the day you receive the dividends, in the case of common shares, or the date the depository receives the dividends, in the case of common shares represented by ADSs. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the treatment of foreign currency gain or loss, if any, on any pesos received which are converted into U.S. dollars after they are received. To the extent that the amount of any distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a U.S. Holder's pro rata share of such excess amounts will be treated first as a nontaxable return of capital to the extent of such U.S. Holder's tax basis in the common shares or ADSs and, thereafter, as capital gain.

Subject to certain exceptions for short-term (60 days or less) and hedged positions, the U.S. dollar amount of dividends received by an individual prior to January 1, 2009 with respect to the ADSs will be subject to taxation at a maximum rate of 15% if the dividends are "qualified dividends". Dividends paid on the ADSs will be treated as qualified dividends if:

- the ADSs are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States; and
- we were not, in the year prior to the year in which the dividend was paid, and are not, in the year in which the dividend is paid, a passive foreign investment company (or PFIC), foreign personal holding company (or FPHC), or foreign investment company (or FIC).

In addition, the Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, is expected to issue certification procedures in 2004 whereby a non-U.S. corporation will have to certify as to the eligibility of its dividends for the reduced U.S. federal income tax rate. The ADSs are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, and will qualify as readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States so long as they are so listed. Moreover, based on our audited financial statements and relevant market and shareholder data, we believe that we were not treated as a PFIC, FPHC or FIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes with respect to our 2003 taxable year. In addition, based on our audited financial statements and our current expectations regarding the value and nature of our assets, the sources and nature of our income, and relevant market and shareholder data, we do not anticipate becoming a PFIC, FPHC or FIC for our 2004 taxable year. Therefore, this disclosure assumes that we are not a PFIC, FPHC or FIC. Based on existing guidance, it is not clear whether dividends received with respect to the common shares will be treated as qualified dividends, because the common shares are not themselves listed on a U.S. exchange. Holders should consult their own tax advisers regarding the availability of the reduced dividend tax rate in the light of their own particular circumstances.

Subject to generally applicable limitations and conditions under the Code, Chilean Withholding Tax withheld from dividends (after taking into account the credit for the First Category Tax, when it is available) will be

treated as a foreign income tax eligible for credit against a U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability. If the amount of Chilean Withholding Tax initially withheld from a dividend is determined to be excessive, however (as described above under "Taxation-Chilean Taxation-Dividends and Other Distributions), the excess tax will not be creditable. For purposes of calculating the foreign tax credit, dividends paid on the common shares will generally constitute foreign source "passive income" or, in the case of certain U.S. Holders, "financial services income". U.S. Holders are not allowed foreign tax credits for withholding taxes imposed in respect of certain short-term or hedged positions in securities or in respect of arrangements in which their expected economic profit is insubstantial. U.S. Holders should consult their own advisors concerning the implications of these rules in light of their particular circumstances.

U.S. Holders that receive distributions of additional common shares or rights to subscribe for common shares as part of a pro rata distribution to all our shareholders generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax in respect of the distributions.

A holder of ADSs or common shares that is a foreign corporation or a non-resident alien individual generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax on dividends received on ADSs or common shares, unless that income is effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business in the United States.

Taxation of Capital Gains or Losses

If you realize gain or loss on the sale, exchange or other disposition of ADSs or common shares, that gain or loss will be capital gain or loss and generally will be long-term capital gain or loss if the ADS or common shares have been held for more than one year. Long-term capital gain realized by a U.S. Holder that is an individual generally is subject to a reduced tax rate. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to significant limitations.

Any gain or loss a U.S. Holder realizes on such a sale, exchange, or other disposition will generally be treated as U.S. source income or loss for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes. Consequently, in the case of a disposition of common shares (which, unlike a disposition of ADSs, would be taxable in Chile), a U.S. Holder generally would not be able to utilize foreign tax credits in respect of any Chilean tax imposed on the disposition (see "Taxation – Chilean Taxation – Capital Gains) unless the U.S. Holder has other income from foreign sources, in the appropriate category, for purposes of the foreign tax credit limitation rules. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the application of the foreign tax credit limitation rules to their investment in, and disposition of, the ADSs and common shares.

Deposits and withdrawals of common shares by U.S. Holders in exchange for ADSs will not result in the realization of gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

A holder of ADSs or common shares that is a foreign corporation or a non-resident alien individual generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a gain from the sale or other disposition of ADSs or common shares unless:

- the gain is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States, or
- in the case of a gain realized by a holder that is an individual, the holder is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the disposition, and certain other conditions are satisfied.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Dividends paid on, and proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, the ADSs or common shares to a U.S. Holder generally may be subject to the information reporting requirements of the Code and may be subject to backup withholding unless the U.S. Holder provides an accurate taxpayer identification number and makes any other required certification or otherwise establishes an exemption. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a U.S. Holder will be allowed as a credit against the U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle the U.S. Holder to a refund, provided that certain required information is furnished to the IRS.