



Chile



Background	Indigenous groups inhabited central and southern Chile for several thousand years, living in mixed pastoralist and settled communities. The Inca then ruled the north of the country for nearly a century prior to the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century. In 1541, the Spanish established the Captaincy General of Chile, which lasted until Chile declared its independence in 1810. The subsequent struggle with the Spanish became tied to other South American independence conflicts, with a decisive victory not being achieved until 1818. In the War of the Pacific (1879-83), Chile defeated Peru and Bolivia to win its current northernmost regions. By the 1880s, the Chilean central government cemented its control over the central and southern regions inhabited by Mapuche Indigenous peoples. Between 1891 and 1973, a series of elected governments succeeded each other until the Marxist government of Salvador ALLENDE was overthrown in 1973 in a military coup led by General Augusto PINOCHET, who ruled until a democratically elected president was inaugurated in 1990. Economic reforms that were maintained consistently since the 1980s contributed to steady growth, reduced poverty rates by over half, and helped secure the country's commitment to democratic and representative government. Chile has increasingly assumed regional and international leadership roles befitting its status as a stable, democratic nation.
Capital	name: Santiago; note - Valparaiso is the seat of the national legislature
Government type	presidential republic
Area	total : 756,102 sq km land: 743,812 sq km water: 12,290 sq km
Climate	temperate; desert in north; Mediterranean in central region; cool and damp in south
Natural resources	copper, timber, iron ore, nitrates, precious metals, molybdenum, hydropower
Population	total: 18,664,652 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.61% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	White and non-Indigenous 88.9%, Mapuche 9.1%, Aymara 0.7%, other Indigenous groups 1% (includes Rapa Nui, Likan Antai, Quechua, Colla, Diaguita, Kawesqar, Yagan or Yamana), unspecified 0.3% (2012 est.)
Religions	Catholic 57%, none 25.7%, Evangelical or Protestant 16.2%, other Christians and traditions related to Christ 1.3%; less than 1%: Buddhist, Catholic Orthodox, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Islam, Judaism, other religions, no religion (2024)
Languages	Spanish 99.5% (official), English 10.2%, Indigenous 1% (includes Mapudungun, Aymara, Quechua, Rapa Nui), other 2.3%, unspecified 0.2% (2012 est.)
Executive branch	chief of state: President Gabriel BORIC (since 11 March 2022) head of government: President Gabriel BORIC (since 11 March 2022)
Legislative branch	legislature name: National Congress (Congreso Nacional)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Juan Gabriel VALDES Soublette (since 7 June 2022)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador-designate Brandon JUDD (since November 2025)
Economic overview	export-driven economy; leading copper producer; though hit by COVID-19, fairly quick rebound from increased liquidity and rapid vaccine rollouts; decreasing poverty but still lingering inequality; public debt rising but still manageable; recent political violence has had negative economic consequences
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$596.556 billion (2024 est.) \$581.187 billion (2023 est.) \$578.173 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$30,200 (2024 est.) \$29,600 (2023 est.) \$29,600 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$111.123 billion (2024 est.) \$103.256 billion (2023 est.) \$107.039 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	China 39%, USA 16%, Japan 7%, S. Korea 6%, Brazil 4% (2023)
Exports - commodities	copper ore, refined copper, fish, carbonates, pitted fruits (2023)
Imports	\$99.239 billion (2024 est.) \$100.082 billion (2023 est.) \$118.928 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	China 23%, USA 20%, Brazil 10%, Argentina 7%, Germany 5% (2023)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, crude petroleum, cars, garments, trucks (2023)

Population Pyramid

