

National energy consumption is diversified among various sources. Petroleum is by far the most important source, representing approximately 45% of total energy consumption. Presently, Chile imports 49% of its total energy, in the form of crude oil, liquid fuels and coal. The government and the private sector are working on a new Strategic Energy plan for the next ten years which aims to diversify the country's energy consumption pattern by stimulating the development of new energy sources such as hydroelectricity, domestic coal and geothermal power while encouraging gas imports from neighbouring countries. It will also promote the rational use of energy and implement flexible energy supply policies for users, avoiding further import increases and its by-products. The Chilean energy sector is widely heterogeneous, both in market structure and orientation of each sub-sector, and in the structure of property. While electricity generation and transmission are now mainly under private ownership, oil exploration and refining are still in the hands of the state (although distribution is made by private firms). The emerging gas industry's entire operations are under private ownership as well.

The potential for growth in the energy sector implies possible investment opportunities, which, combined with other factors, provide the means to develop sound energy projects and profitable businesses in the Chilean energy sector such as joint ventures, engineering and construction services, and qualified personnel for the operation of power plants.

Energy Dependency								
In Thousands of Barrels of Oil per Day								
	1976		1982		1988		1994	
	%		%		%		%	
Imported Energy	71	39	50	25	92	35	190	49
National Energy	111	61	153	75	175	65	202	51
Total (in TBOD)	182		203		267		392	

The graph represents the ratio between locally produced and imported oil within the context of total gross energy consumption. The above figures have been arrived at on the basis of primary energy plus imports minus exports of secondary energy sources. Hydroelectricity has been included with a caloric equivalent of 2,750 Cal/KWh.

Taken from : Balance Nacional de Energia 1974-1994 Chile, Comision Nacional de Energia (CNE), Santiago, Chile.