

Facilities for processing consumable products, mainly in the South as indicated above, have captured large investments, somehow less spectacular in comparison to the fish meal industry. However, the production of human consumable products requires more labor than capital. The shift to the production of human consumables is demonstrated by the increased construction of new fish processing facilities. As an example, in June 1989, 33 new fish processing lines were authorized. Since the opening of a long-line fishery in 1986, from the X Region southward, landing of fish species aimed for human consumption explain half of the annual growth this subsector had in the 3 years afterwards. This area could very well accept more investors.

The aquaculture industry, represented largely by the production of salmon, trout, seaweed, oysters, mussels, has drawn large investment and large companies from around the world. This investment included pen-raised facilities, fish feed plants, quality control and fish disease laboratories, frozen and smoked product plants, cold storage facilities and other aquaculture facilities; plus other services.

The fishing industry employs around 100,000 people, of which 57 % are artisanal and the remainder are industrial. The fishing industry represents 2.2 % of Chile's total labour force.

The newly elected Chilean Government has maintained clear-cut investment rules. That has reflected in the largest total foreign investments ever done in Chile during 1990. Among other policies; the Government is supporting foreign trade through the Export Promotion Office (ProChile); maintaining a competitive peso exchange rate; maintaining low custom duties for all imports, thus permitting the market to determine factor costs.