

15. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

15.1 Overview

Until recently, this sector was almost completely under state ownership. Following the privatisations in the second half of the 1980s, however, the situation reversed almost completely. Now all important companies are in private hands.

The strong situation of the Chilean economy has allowed for ambitious telecommunications development plans, which will imply a boost in equipment spending that will reach US\$500 million in 1995 (See Table 1 in the Statistical Appendix).

15.2 Telecommunication services and products

In Chile there exists a variety of services defined by law. These include public, limited, and intermediate services. Public services are classified in fixed and mobile telephony, public telegraphy, telex, and radio. Intermediate services are defined as those which satisfy the needs of transmission and computation of public utility concessionaires.

Private entities can provide for their own telecommunications needs. In such cases, the services are classified as limited, and have no access to the public network. Private services are not recognized explicitly in the legislation, but also exist. These include the renting of infrastructure and equipment to telecommunication firms. For example, the (state-owned) national petroleum company (ENAP) satisfies its telecommunication needs renting infrastructure and equipment from the (privately owned) national telecommunications company (ENTEL). Some of the firms providing each of the above services are detailed in Table 2 in the Statistical Appendix.

The most important single service is the local and long distance telephony, with a share of approximately 50% of total revenues in the sector.