CHILE

Capital: Santiago

GEODATA

Area 756,626 km²

Major language Spanish (official)

Major religious groups Roman Catholic (89%), Protestant (11%)

Surrounding countries Argentina, Bolivia, Peru

POLITICAL DATA

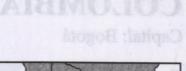
Type of government Republic

National legislature Upper house: Senate Lower house: Chamber of Deputies; multiparty

Leader President Ricardo Lagos Escobar

Population 15.2 million (2000 est.)

Population growth rate 1.4% (1990–1999 average)





Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade María Soledad Alvear Valenzuela

Minister of Economy José de Gregorio Rebeco

UN Human Development Index (2000) Chile ranks 38th among 174 countries

Canadian official development assistance 1.94 million (1998–1999)

ECONOMIC DATA

Real GDP \$69 billion US (2000 est.)

GDP growth rate 5.5% (2000 est.)

GDP per capita \$4,424 US (1999) Inflation rate 4.6% (2000 est.)

Unemployment rate 10% (1999 est.)

Main exports Copper, wood products, fish and fish meal, fruit and nuts, raw materials, textiles, industrial products

Main imports

Capital goods, spare parts, raw materials, petroleum, foodstuffs

Main exports to Canada

\$555.4 million (2000), including ores, slag and ash; fruit and nuts; beverages; wood; fish and seafood; inorganic chemicals; rare metals; food waste and animal feed; preserved food; copper and articles thereof; cereals

Main imports from Canada

\$445.6 million (2000), including electrical machinery; machinery; cereals; paper and paperboard; mineral fuel and oil; plastics; vehicles; fertilizers; vegetables; iron and steel products

Canadian Representative

Paul D. Durand, Ambassador, The Canadian Embassy Nueva Tajamar 481, Torre Norte, Piso 12 (Casilla 139, Correo 10) Santiago, Chile Phone: (011-56-2) 362-9660, Fax: (011-56-2) 362-9664, Web site: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/santiago/