

## Chile



Chile's unusual, ribbon-like shape - 4,300 km long and on average 175 km wide - has given it a hugely varied climate. This ranges from the world's driest desert in the north, through a Mediterranean climate in the center, to a snow-prone Alpine climate in the south, with glaciers, fjords and lakes

### CHILE FACTS

**Population:** 15.8 million (UN, 2003)

**Capital:** Santiago

**Major language:** Spanish

**Major religion:** Christianity

**Life expectancy:** 73 years (men), 79 years (women) (UN)

**Monetary unit:** Chilean peso

**Main exports:** Copper, fish, fruits, paper and pulp, chemicals

**Average annual income:** US\$4,590 (World Bank, 2001)

**Internet domain:** .cl

**International dialing code:** +56

It had Latin America's fastest-growing economy in the 1990s and has weathered recent regional economic instability. But it faces the challenges of having to diversify its copper-dependent economy and further narrow its wealth gap.



Flag Description: two equal horizontal bands of white (top) and red; there is a blue square the same height as the white band at the hoist-side end of the white band; the square bears a white five-pointed star in the center; design was based on the US flag. For more information go to:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country\\_profiles/1222764.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1222764.stm)