INTRODUCTION
Prior to the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century, the Inca ruled northern Chile for nearly a century while an indigenous people, the Mapuche, inhabited central and southern Chile. Although Chile declared its independence in 1810, it did not achieve decisive victory over the Spanish until 1818. Chile has increasingly assumed regional and international leadership roles befitting its status as a stable, democratic nation.

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
export-driven economy; leading copper producer; though hit by COVID-19, fairly quick rebound from increased liquidity and rapid vaccine rollouts; decreasing poverty but still lingering inequality; public debt rising but still manageable; recent political violence has had negative economic consequences

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $445.9 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $23,300 (2020 est.)
Industries - copper, lithium, other minerals, foodstuffs, fish processing, iron and steel, wood/wood products, transport equipment, cement, textiles
Agricultural products - grapes, apples, wheat, sugar beets, milk, potatoes, tomatoes, maize, poultry, pork
Exports $79.8 billion (2020 est.)
copper, wood pulp, fish fillets, pitted fruits, wine (2019)
partners: China 32%, US 14%, Japan 9%, South Korea 7% (2019)
Imports $66.43 billion (2020 est.)
refined and crude petroleum, cars, broadcasting equipment, delivery trucks (2019)
partners: China 24%, US 20%, Brazil 8%, Germany 5%, Argentina 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
18.3 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.68% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
White and non-Indigenous 88.9%, Mapuche 9.1%, Aymara 0.7%, other indigenous groups 1%, unspecified 0.3% (2012 est.)
Language
Spanish 99.5% (official), English 10.2%, indigenous 1%, other 2.3%, unspecified 0.2% (2012 est.)
Religion
Roman Catholic 66.7%, Evangelical or Protestant 16.4%, Jehovah’s Witness 1%, other 3.4%, none 11.5%, unspecified 1.1% (2012 est.)

as of October 2021