

Sector Reports

Infrastructure

Doing Business in Chile Guide 2025

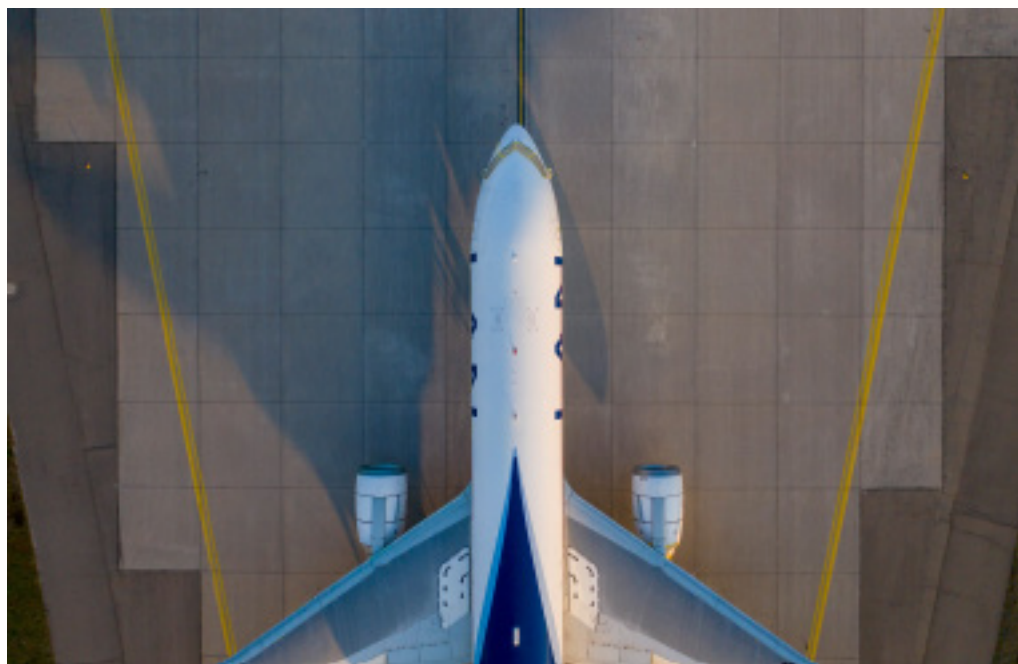




Chile's infrastructure has significantly improved through sustained public works programs, modernizing airports, hospitals, and ports. The country's push to decarbonize its energy matrix has also driven major investments in transmission infrastructure to support large-scale renewable energy projects.

Market Overview

In 2024, the Ministry of Public Works launched the 2024–2028 Public-Private Partnership Infrastructure Plan, projecting US\$17.6 billion in investment. The plan prioritizes road access, urban transport, airport upgrades, and water security. These projects complement ongoing energy and desalination initiatives, which are vital to Chile's broader economic development.





Investment Opportunities in Chile

1. Chile's Energy Transition

Over three-quarters of Chile's greenhouse gas emissions stem from the energy sector. In response, the country has embarked on an ambitious transition towards a sustainable energy matrix, supported by regulatory reforms and infrastructural investments. Central to this transformation is the development of renewable energy sources and the expansion of the transmission grid.

Chile has adopted a comprehensive institutional framework to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Key focal areas include:

- Clean energy generation
- Electromobility
- Energy efficiency
- Green hydrogen technologies

The Chilean Congress is currently debating the Energy Transition Bill, which seeks to refine project bidding processes, ensure accountability, adjust investment valuation mechanisms, and enable price reviews under certain conditions. These reforms aim to drive the sustainability and economic viability of Chile's energy infrastructure.

2. Green Hydrogen

Green hydrogen is emerging as a vital element of Chile's decarbonization strategy. Capable of replacing fossil fuels in various applications, green hydrogen offers scalability and versatility with minimal infrastructure modifications.

A Ministry of Energy report in 2021 projected that Chile will achieve production costs as low as US\$1/kg H₂ by 2030, positioning it as a global leader in green hydrogen production. To capitalize on this advantage, the Ministry of Energy released the Green Hydrogen Action Plan (2023–2030), aligning with broader national energy strategies.



Government incentives include:

- Preferential access to public lands
- Streamlined environmental assessments

Key projects include:

- HNH (Magallanes): 10 million tons of ammonia/year; 4,000 jobs
- H2V CAP (Biobío): 1,550 tons of hydrogen/year
- Southern Lighthouse (Magallanes): 25,000 tons of hydrogen/year
- Haru Oni: First operational e-fuel plant globally (HIF Global)

3. Energy Storage

Energy storage, especially via battery systems, is increasingly recognized as a cornerstone of Chile's energy transition. Storage ensures grid reliability, complements renewable generation, and enhances economic performance.

Legislative progress has been made through Law No. 21.505, which supports electricity storage and electromobility. The law classifies storage as "coordinated" assets and enables infrastructure integration, laying the groundwork for widespread adoption.

Numerous storage projects are under development, aimed at optimizing electricity dispatch and improving the efficiency of renewable energy utilization.

4. Desalination

Chile is among the countries most affected by water stress globally. To address this crisis, the development of desalination projects has become a national priority.

Currently, 22 desalination plants serve the mining sector, with six more under construction. Projections indicate a sharp rise in water demand across domestic, industrial, and agricultural sectors between 2025 and 2030.



Public-private partnerships (PPPs) are pivotal for the development of desalination infrastructure. A 2023 law now authorizes the Ministry of Public Works to lead hydraulic projects, including desalination plants. One such initiative is the Coquimbo Region desalination plant, requiring an investment of US\$286 million.

Additionally, in June 2024, the government accelerated legislative discussions on seawater use, proposing a “desalination concession” regime to provide legal certainty and boost investor confidence.

5. Public Infrastructure

Chile has introduced a renewed concessions program to continue advancing public infrastructure through public-private collaboration. Between 2024 and 2028, the Ministry of Public Works expects US\$17 billion in investments across 24 projects.

Highlighted initiatives include:

- Ruta 5 Caldera-Antofagasta: US\$931 million
- Ruta 5 Antofagasta-Iquique: US\$720 million
- Ruta 57 Santiago-Colina-Los Andes: US\$900 million
- Valdivia Access Routes: US\$675 million
- Valparaíso Peripheral Concession: US\$815 million
- Alto Hospicio-Iquique Cable Car: US\$108 million
- National Tsunami Early Warning System: US\$94 million
- Talca Prison: US\$41 million
- Copiapó Prison: US\$200 million

These tenders present valuable opportunities for local and international stakeholders.



6. Railways

In 2023, the Chilean government launched a flagship project to restore rail connectivity between Valparaíso and Santiago, emphasizing inclusivity and regional development. The initiative targets underserved communities like Tiltil, La Calera, and Llaillay, integrating them into the broader rail network.

This 172-kilometer project focuses on upgrading existing infrastructure and introducing high-standard services. The total projected investment is US\$3.82 billion, reinforcing Chile's commitment to sustainable, equitable transportation.

7. Hospitals

Chile's Hospitals for Chile Plan encompasses 45 hospitals under construction, addressing varying levels of complexity across regions. The projects are a mix of concessions managed by the Ministry of Public Works and direct builds overseen by the Ministry of Health.

One of the most notable projects is the Red O'Higgins initiative, which includes new hospitals in Rengo and Pichilemu. These facilities are expected to benefit approximately 276,000 residents, enhancing healthcare infrastructure and accessibility across the O'Higgins Region.

Conclusion

Chile is positioning itself as a global leader in sustainable infrastructure and green innovation. Through regulatory reform, public-private partnerships, and strategic investment across sectors such as energy, water, transportation, and healthcare, the country offers a robust platform for investment and long-term growth.