

Sector Reports

Technology

Doing Business in Chile Guide 2025





Chile's Digital and Technological Advantage

Despite its challenging geography, Chile boasts some of the most advanced digital infrastructure in Latin America. It leads the region in internet penetration and user numbers and hosts major regional data centres for global tech companies including Google, AWS, Oracle, and Microsoft. The country is well positioned to adopt emerging AI and cloud technologies, supported by its world-class astronomical data capacity.





Chile also stands out for its strong human capital, with top regional performance in programming and STEM fields. Its open economy has facilitated technology transfer and innovation through international academic exchanges and the presence of multinational companies.

Key Characteristics

Chile ranks second in Latin America for digital growth, with a 71% increase, just behind Colombia at 74%. In 2020, Chile's IT market was valued at USD 6.4 billion, representing 2.5% of GDP. While this is below levels in the U.S. (10%) and Europe (5–10%), it indicates significant growth potential.

Connectivity and Infrastructure

Chile has made major strides in digital infrastructure, focusing on connectivity, data storage, and secure transmission. Projects include:

- The deployment of fibre optic cables connecting Chile with California and Asia.
- A USD 450 million investment to double the national fibre network from 18,000 to 36,000 km.
- The Humboldt Project, a strategic agreement with Google in 2024 to install the first transoceanic fibre optic cable linking South America with Asia and Oceania—positioning Chile as a regional digital hub.

Internet Access & Usage

Chile has seen steady growth in internet access across households:

- 94.3% of households now have internet access (2023).
- Fixed connections rose from 56.1% (2017) to 71.3% (2023).
- Mobile access increased from 56.6% (2017) to 76.1% (2023).



According to the Huawei Global Connectivity Index, Chile has been Latin America's most connected country for over five years. As of June 2024, Subtel shows:

- Fixed internet: 4.6 million connections
- Mobile internet: 22.7 million connections
- 4G: 16.8 million users
- 5G: 4.8 million users
- Mobile phone accounts: 26.8 million

Chile's Digital Strengths

Human Capital

Chile boasts one of the strongest higher education systems in Latin America, with eleven universities ranked in the regional top 50 (QS 2021) and two in the global top 200. This skilled workforce supports innovation across key sectors.

5G Network

Chile was the first country in Latin America to launch 5G in December 2021. The network is enabling advancements in mining, agriculture, and telemedicine, and is expected to fuel digital transformation and the growth of new startups and applications.

Data Centre Infrastructure & Cloud Services

Global tech leaders such as Google, AWS, Microsoft, Oracle, and IBM have established data centres in Chile, attracted by its geography and stable political climate. In 2024, the Ministry of Science launched the National Data Centre Plan to strengthen the sector, including a public consultation process aligned with the government's Pro-Growth agenda.



Digital Capacity & Global Services

Chile's digital infrastructure supports a growing global services hub, divided into three main areas:

1. IT Services: Software development, R&D, and technical support, with firms like Oracle, Accenture, and Citi operating in Chile.
2. Business Process Services: Shared services in finance, marketing, and logistics, supported by companies like Experian and Tata Consultancy Services.
3. Industrial Internet & Analytics: Application of AI, IoT, Big Data, and automation in key industries, with IBM, Huawei, and Telefónica active in the sector.

Major Trends in Chile's Digital Landscape

Cybersecurity

In response to a rise in high-profile cyberattacks, Chile passed the Framework Law on Cybersecurity (Law No. 21.663) in 2023. This legislation highlights the growing national focus on digital security, driving demand for specialized training and certifications across sectors.

Blockchain

Blockchain technology is gaining momentum in Chile, with applications in finance, energy, and the potential for smart contracts. This is particularly relevant in a country where notarial services remain largely manual, opening the door to major efficiencies.

Evolving Regulatory Landscape

Chile has introduced several regulations to govern emerging technologies, including the Fintech Law (Law No. 21.521), sector-specific rules for telecoms, healthcare, banking, and insurance, and pending legislation on Personal Data Protection and Artificial Intelligence. These frameworks aim to align Chile with global standards and increase consumer trust in digital systems.



Digital Inclusion

Efforts to bridge the digital divide are ongoing, with projects aimed at expanding connectivity in underserved areas. These include:

- National Fibre Optic (FON): 10,000 km of fibre reaching 202 communes, benefiting over 3 million users.
- Austral Fibre Optic (FOA): Extends 4,500 km from Puerto Montt to Puerto Williams.
- Last Mile Projects: Targeted infrastructure in all 16 regions to reach remote communities.

Chile as a Regional Digital Hub

With its robust infrastructure, skilled workforce, and stable economy, Chile is positioning itself as South America's leading digital hub. International tech giants like Google, AWS, and Nisum have set up operations, leveraging Chile's connectivity (e.g., the Humboldt transoceanic cable) and integration into regional digital markets.