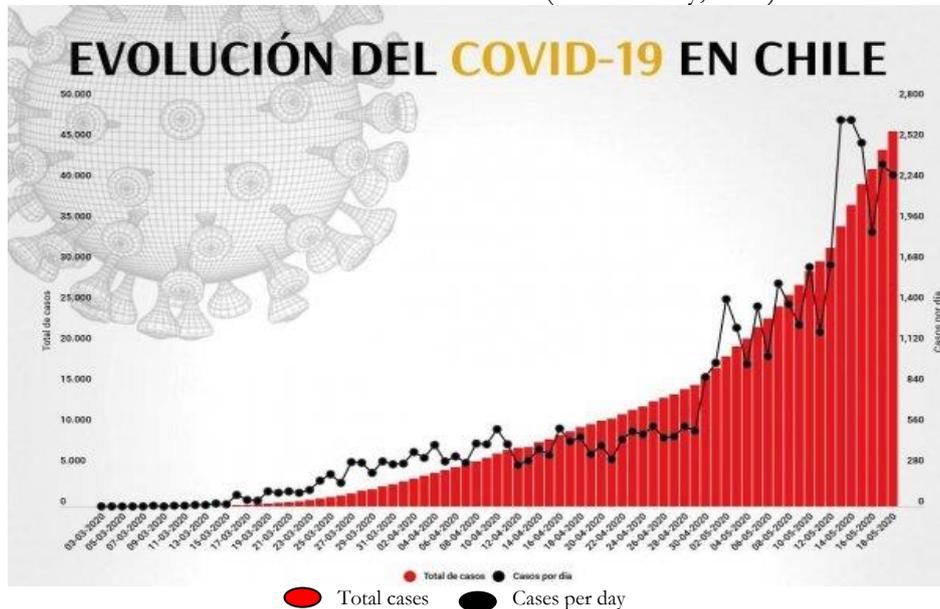


Chile's import and export logistics operations continue to operate normally under the pandemic's situation



On March 19th the Chile's President Piñera declared a State of Catastrophe for 90 days, and announced several measures to face the pandemic, with guarantee that the production and distribution chain will be operated normally to ensure the supply for the population. In spite of a full closure of all land, air and sea borders, the freight transport will not be affected and operations will be in full function.

Evolution of Covid-19 in Chile (as of 16 May, 2020)



The Covid-19 pandemic has been impacting global trade routes and markets in 2020, however the Government has been preparing the country to minimize the hit of the pandemic since the beginning of the year.

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Port, shipping, land transport companies, and local authorities, such as Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, The National Customs Service, General Directorate of the Maritime Territory and Merchant Marine (DIRECTEMAR), among others, have been applying several contingency plans and port security measures, in order to ensure the continuity of Chile's foreign trade.

According to some information provided by the Chilean Port Union and ProChile, the current logistic operation's situation in the country is as follows:

Northern Chile

In Arica, there have been no significant obstacles for foreign trade, both maritime and land, despite the mandatory quarantine that affects the city's urban radius. Arica's port is operating normally, and ground transportation to neighboring countries continues with defined schedules.

Iquique is also fully operational. The ports Iquique Terminal Internacional (ITI) and Empresa Portuaria Iquique (EPI) maintain normal activity, with strict security measures for shipping and receiving cargo. Sanitary controls have been intensified to secure national shipments, generating some delays in the processes.

Antofagasta maintains logistical operations among customs and ports, taking all necessary measures to guarantee the continuity of services.

Atacama is operating normally with fully functioning ports, both for mining cargo and other goods, as well as routes to ports in regions such as San Antonio.

Meanwhile, the Coquimbo Region is conducting harvests and exports Service and Livestock Department (SAG) sites for USDA certifications operate as required and undergo inspections on Saturdays to ensure safety and efficiency.

Central Chile

In the Valparaíso Region, all ports of Valparaíso and San Antonio are operating normally. Empresa Puerto Valparaíso mobilized significant cargo volumes (2.2 million tons in the first quarter), reflecting the operational normality of its terminals and the logistics support area, despite challenging situations in the country and the world.

In the Metropolitan Region, some delays have been reported for the movement of land cargo. This is due to the strict inspection of sanitary controls by branch authorities. Additionally, there are minor delays for air shipments at the Arturo Merino Benítez Airport.

The logistics of the O'Higgins and Maule regions operate with absolute normality. Ñuble and Biobío regions have adopted new logistical operation and sanitary control measures, without reporting any difficulties for loading to date. Cargo transportation in ports and the Carriel Sur de Concepción Airport is operating as usual.

Southern Chile

The regions of Araucanía and Los Ríos report that their logistics and distribution chain are functioning normally. Despite increased sanitation measures, the movement of exportable products from La Araucanía to the ports improved their transit speed and logistics performance compared to past weeks.

Los Lagos Region, Chile's primary aquaculture zone, reports that shipments to Asian markets are moving towards a normal flow. In the region, there are strict sanitary control measures to ensure the safety of logistics officials and cargo.

Austral Zone

No cargo transit problems have been reported in the Aysén Region. Five weekly cargo flights from Tuesday through Saturday are scheduled to accommodate high shipment volumes.

While in the Magallanes Region, all ports operate with absolute normality. Food exporters report high operational efficiency despite an increase in safety measures.

Chile's Foreign Trade (first trimester 2020)

As mentioned before, imports and exports have been operating normally. However, the Covid-19's has brought some consequences.

Worldwide exports

During the first quarter 2020, Chile's exports plunged 8.9%, in comparison to the same period 2019. China was the main buyer with 34% of the overall total exports, followed by USA with 14.3% and Japan 9.8%. All together accounted for 58.1% total Chilean sales.

Sales to China, as the major trading country decreased 6.3%, totaling a drop by US\$411 million. However, the volume exported to the country up by 19.3%.

In relation to means of transport, 88.2% of exports were done by maritime transport, equivalent to 97.1% of the volume cargo. In the second and third position were air transport and land transport with 6.8% and 3.3% respectively.

The mining industry represented 50.8% of total exports, accounting for US\$9,070 million, a fall down by 3.6% in comparison to the result 2019. The main products were copper ores and concentrates, copper, iron ores and concentrates.

On the other side, non-mining exports represented 49.2%, totaling US\$8,793 million, a drop by 13.8%. The main products were fruits, seafood products, forest products and by-products, and other food sector.

In terms of Thailand, Chile exported US\$122,456,929.- from January to March 2020 and US\$105,881,746.- in the same period 2019 .

Worldwide imports

During the first quarter 2020, Chile's imports dropped by 18.8%, in comparison to the same period 2019. China was also the main country's supplier with 23.1% of overall total imports. In the second position was USA, followed by Brazil with 21.6% and 8.1% respectively. All together accounted for 52.8% total Chilean buying.

Purchases from China has decreased by 17.6%, representing a descend by US\$696 million. Imports from USA increased by 4.2%. In terms of means of transport, maritime transportation is still the most used for import cargo, accounting for 88.6% in terms of volume and 75.6% in terms of value. 18.6% of total imports corresponded to fuel and lubricants, totaling US\$2,634 million, an up by 0.6%.

81.4% of imports corresponded to non-fuel products, reaching US\$11,537 million with a fall by 15.4%. The main products were machineries, all merchandises under the category of means of transport and parts and vehicles for passenger transportation

In terms of Thailand, Chile imported US\$124,634,039 from January to March 2020 and US\$ 161,482,613.- in the same period 2019. The pandemic of Covid 19 arrived the country in a moment that its foreign trade has been weak due to the impact of several situations adverse both in the international and domestic scenario, where the main economies tried to protect themselves due to the consequences of the war between USA and China, the fall of raw material prices and the currency volatility of the main emerging countries against the American dollar. Consequently, the drop of figures is a consequence of the current situation.

Indeed, in a context of a worldwide economy hit by a sanitary crisis, the figures show the impact of the expansion of Covid-19 across the world. Likewise, Chile is also feeling the internal demand effects due to the social outbreak facing since October 2019. Despite the crisis, importers and exporters are still welcome to do business with local companies, soon the economy will be reactivated and the Government will do its best to direct the country back to its aim as "the jaguar of Latin America".

Source: www.mundomaritimo.cl
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