

Chile¹⁴⁴

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For comparisons with other countries in this review on leave provision and early childhood education and care services, please see the [cross-country tables](#) at the front of the review (also available individually on the [Leave Network website](#)). To contact authors of country notes, see the [members](#) page on the Leave Network website.

1. Current leave and other employment-related policies to support parents

a. Maternity leave (*pre y postnatal maternal*) (responsibility of Ministry of Labour and Social Security)

Length of leave (before and after birth)

- 18 weeks: 6 weeks before the birth and 12 weeks after the birth.
- It is obligatory to take all the above leave.
- Women are entitled to an additional 12 weeks of leave after obligatory Maternity leave is finished.

Payment, funding and taxation

- 'Dependent' worker: 100 per cent of earnings, up to an upper limit of UF73.20 [€2,706.72] per month.¹⁴⁵ To avoid fluctuations, an average income is calculated for 3 months from the beginning of the Maternity leave. The obligatory monthly contribution to pension insurance (10 per cent) is also paid.
- Payments are made to the parent by the health insurance institution of the worker; each worker can choose between a private (ISAPRE) or public (Compin-FONASA) health insurance.
- Independent worker: 100 per cent of earnings with a taxable limit of UF73.20 [€2,706.72] per month; a monthly payment is made based on the average earnings of the worker, which is calculated based on the commercial invoice issued 3 months before the beginning of the Maternity leave.

¹⁴⁴ Please cite as: Bosch, M.J. (2026) 'Chile country note', in Dobrotić, I., Arnalds, Á.A., Kaufman, G., Koslowski, A., Moss, P. and Valentova, M. (eds.) *International Review of Leave Policies and Research 2026*. Available at: <https://www.leavenetwork.org/annual-review-reports/>

¹⁴⁵ The national currency is the Chilean peso. *Unidad de Fomento* (UF) is a unit of account used in Chile, adjusted in line with inflation. It was created in 1967 to maintain the value of savings against inflation. Later, its use was extended to the financial system, pensions system, health system, education, and other fields. Conversion of the UF currency undertaken on 20 July 2026 using: <https://www.unitconverters.net/currency-converter.html>.

- Payments are made to the parent by the health insurance institution of the worker.
- Payment is not subject to taxation.

Flexibility in use

- Women can choose to go back to work on a part-time basis for the second period of leave (after obligatory leave), in which case they may extend this leave period by 6 weeks to a total of 18 weeks.

Eligibility (e.g., related to employment or family circumstances)

- 'Dependent' worker: all employees with permanent job contracts are entitled to take Maternity leave. Employees on fixed-term contracts must meet the following conditions:
 - Renewal of their contract.
 - If the contract is not renewed the worker must have at least:
 - One year of contribution to the pension system through the administration of the individual pension funds (the name in Chile is AFP.
 - The last contribution to the pension system must be as a dependent worker, no matter the type of contract (permanent or fixed term).
- Independent worker: independent workers are entitled to Maternity leave if they meet the following requirements:
 - A one-year contribution to the pension system (AFP).
 - At least six contributions to the pension system during the last 12 months before stopping work before giving birth.
 - Contribute to a health insurance institution (public or private).

Variation in leave due to child or family reasons (e.g., multiple or premature births; poor health or disability of child or mother; single parent); or delegation of leave to person other than the mother

- If any health complications are detected by a doctor during pregnancy, the worker is entitled to supplementary leave before the birth: the length is specified by the doctor and a medical certificate is required.
- In the case of multiple births, the leave is extended by 7 days for every child, starting with the second baby.
- In the case of a premature birth, Maternity leave is extended from 12 to 18 weeks after birth. In the case of a premature and multiple birth, the longer extension applies.
- If childbirth occurs more than 6 weeks after the mother started her pre-birth leave, the pre-natal leave is extended until the date of the birth.
- If the child dies during or after childbirth, the mother is entitled to use Maternity leave, though it is not obligatory.
- If the mother has any health problems because of childbirth, Maternity leave is extended according to medical judgement.
- If the mother dies during or after childbirth, all Maternity leave rights are transferred to the father or a legal guardian.
- Women can choose to transfer a period of the second (non-obligatory) part of Maternity leave to the father, in one of two ways: (i) the mother transfers the last 6 weeks of full-time leave to the father and his health insurance

pays 100 per cent of his earnings and pension insurance up to a taxable limit of UF73.20 [€2,706.72]; or (ii) the mother transfers 12 weeks of part-time leave to the father and his health insurance pays 50 per cent of his earnings and pension insurance, while the employer pays the other 50 per cent.

Regional or local variations in leave policy

- None.

Additional note (e.g., if leave payments are supplemented by collective agreements, employer exclusions, or rights to postpone)

- Private or public companies may have internal policies that extend Maternity leave periods beyond statutory entitlements. Additionally, organizations may offer supplementary benefits, such as gradual return-to-work arrangements following statutory leave. These practices, however, are not mandatory and vary according to individual company policies.

b. Paternity leave (*Permiso pagado del padre en caso de nacimiento - postnatal paternal*) (responsibility of the employer)

Length of leave

- 5 working days.
- It is obligatory to take the whole period.

Payment, funding and taxation

- 100 per cent of earnings.
- Payments are made to the parent by the employer.
- Payment is not subject to taxation.

Flexibility in use

- The father can choose to take leave in one continuous period immediately after childbirth or can distribute the 5 days over the first month after the birth.

Eligibility (e.g., related to employment or family circumstances)

- All employees are eligible if they have a contract (permanent or fixed term).
- Self-employed workers do not receive any payment.
- Fathers who are deprived of their parental rights by a court lose all their rights of Paternity leave and transferred Maternity leave.
- Same-sex couples are not recognized in Chilean law.

Variation in leave due to child or family reasons (e.g. multiple or premature births; poor health or disability of child or mother; lone parent); or delegation of leave to person other than the mother

- Chile does not provide additional Paternity leave entitlements or variations based on specific child or family circumstances, nor does it allow delegation of leave entitlements to individuals other than the mother.

Regional or local variations in leave policy

- None.

Additional note (e.g., if leave payments are supplemented by collective agreements, employer exclusions, or rights to postpone)

- Private or public companies may have internal policies that extend paternity leave periods beyond statutory entitlements. These practices, however, are not mandatory and vary according to individual company policies.

c. Parental leave (*postnatal parental*) (responsibility of Ministry of Labour and Social Security)

No statutory entitlement.

d. Childcare leave or career breaks

No statutory entitlement.

e. Other types of leave and flexible working

Adoption leave and pay

- Parents that adopt a child are entitled to the same leave as biological parents. If the adopted child is over 6 months of age, the mother is only able to use the 1st part of Maternity leave.

Time off for the care of dependents

- Every working mother or father is entitled to paid **leave in the case of serious illness of a child under the age of 1 year**. This must be certified by a doctor who should also specify the length of the leave. Paid at 100 per cent of earnings by the parent's health insurance with a taxable cap of UF73.20 [€2,706.72]. The father can take the leave only if the mother permits it. In case the mother dies, all her rights are transferred to the father. In the case of single mothers, these rights are transferred to the legal guardian of the child.
- Every working mother is entitled to **leave in the case of a serious illness (i.e., cancer, organ transplant, or terminal disease) or of a serious accident of a child between 1 and 18 years of age**. If a child has cancer, mothers are entitled to 15 days leave, with the possibility of extension to 90 days full-time or 180 days part-time in a period of 12 months. In the case of an organ transplant, they are also entitled to 15 days of leave, with the possibility of extension to 90 days full-time or 180 days part-time in a period of 12 months. In the case of a child diagnosed with a terminal disease, they are entitled to take leave until the death of the child. Finally, if a child has a serious accident, mothers are entitled to 15 days leave, with the possibility of extension to 45 days. The employee chooses how to distribute the hours (e.g., as complete days, partial days, or a combination). If both parents work, the mother can transfer this leave to the father.

Parents taking leave receive 100 per cent of earnings, with no upper limit. The insurance is funded by contributions of 0.03 per cent of employees' taxable income. To be eligible for this leave, an employee must have a job contract and have paid 8 contributions to pension insurance in the 24 months preceding the start of leave.¹⁴⁶ Self-employed workers should have at least 12 months of contribution to the pension system in the last 24 months, and their health insurance payment must be up to date. Finally, laid off workers are also entitled to this benefit if they register at least 12 months of contributions to the pension system before the leave starts.

- Every worker is entitled to take a leave of up to 10 days per year to **care for a disabled person for whom they are responsible**. The period of leave taken should be made up by working extra hours or using holidays; if this cannot be done, earnings are reduced. To use the leave, the dependent person must be enrolled in the National Disability Registration. Any carers can use the leave, however the decision for a male worker to use leave rests with his female partner (unless she has died).

Specific provision for (breast)feeding

- Every working mother has the right to use at least 1 hour daily to feed a child under the age of 2 years. This can be taken in one of 3 ways: (i) during the working day; (ii) dividing the breastfeeding hour into two half hours (at the beginning or at the end of the working day); or (iii) postponing the beginning of the working day or leaving earlier.
- The employee receives 100 per cent of her earnings.

Flexible working for carers

- Workers who have personal care responsibilities for a child under 14 years, or who are responsible for the care of a person with a disability or in a situation of severe or moderate dependence, regardless of the age of the person being cared for, have the right to work remotely or telework, allowing workers to perform all or part of their daily or weekly schedule in these ways to the extent that the nature of their jobs permits it.
- Workers who have care responsibilities for a child under 14 years or a teenager under 18 years with a disability have the right to request statutory holidays during the vacation period set by the Ministry of Education, with their request being given priority over those without these responsibilities. Likewise, workers meeting these criteria have the right, during the vacation period defined by the Ministry of Education and when the nature of their jobs permits it, to request temporary modifications to shifts or the distribution of the daily and weekly schedule to reconcile work with care needs during these periods.

Antenatal appointments and care

- Pregnant employees have the statutory right to attend antenatal medical appointments and examinations. Employers are legally obligated to grant

¹⁴⁶ Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile (2016) *Recuperado el 14 de Marzo de 2019, de Ley Fácil*. Available at: <https://www.bcn.cl/leyfacil/recurso/licencia-medica-para-el-acompanamiento-de-hijos-e-hijas-enfermos-graves-o-en-estado-terminal>

the necessary time off for antenatal care without loss of remuneration or negative repercussions on employment conditions.

Other provisions of leave

- **Bereavement leave.** Employees are entitled to 7 days of paid leave in the event of the death of a spouse, civil partner, or child, and 3 days for the death of a parent or unborn child.
- **Domestic violence leave.** Employees experiencing domestic violence are entitled to paid leave, granting them time off for protective measures and necessary legal procedures.

2. Relationship between leave policy and early childhood education and care policy

The maximum period of post-natal leave is around five and a half months, paid at a high rate. There is no entitlement to Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC).

The Labour Law requires that all companies that employ more than 20 female workers must either provide a day nursery or pay for this service outside of the workplace.¹⁴⁷ In practice, this law has become a 'tax' for female employment, so increasing the cost of labour for the employer and providing a real obstacle to women joining the labour market.

Other ECEC policies are focused on the most vulnerable families in the country. Public services have increased their coverage, efficiency, and quality for their target population: every child between birth and five years of age in the bottom 60 per cent of households, in terms of wealth. In this context, the government has developed three programmes:

- Chile Crece Contigo: this inter-sectoral policy deals with early childhood development, covering health, education, social protection, justice, and employment, with guidelines from the Ministry of Social Development, and offering all its services at a local level. ECEC is the largest budgetary item on this programme, but there are no official statistics for coverage rates.¹⁴⁸
- Two other programmes provide ECEC for vulnerable families:
 - Kindergartens administered by the National Council of Kindergartens (Junta Nacional de Jardines Infantiles- JUNJI).
 - Kindergartens and day nurseries administered by the Integra Foundation.

In 2018, JUNJI kindergartens and nurseries¹⁴⁹ covered 92 per cent of the target population, which is children from the bottom 60 per cent of households, in terms of wealth, enrolled in the Social Registry of Homes (*Registro Social de Hogares*). This means that the coverage of the program descended from 2017, when kindergartens received 98 per cent of the target population¹⁵⁰. In terms of

¹⁴⁷ Dirección del Trabajo (2019). *Código del Trabajo*. Santiago de Chile.

¹⁴⁸ PNUD (2014) *Chile Crece Contigo: El desafío de la protección social a la infancia*. Santiago de Chile.

¹⁴⁹ Ministerio de Desarrollo Social (2018) *Informe de Seguimiento de Programas Sociales: Jardín Clásico Administrado por Junji y Vía Transferencia de Fondos*. Santiago de Chile.

¹⁵⁰ Ministerio de Desarrollo Social (2017) *Informe de Seguimiento de Programas Sociales: Jardín Clásico Administrado por Junji y Vía Transferencia de Fondos*. Santiago de Chile.

attendance, JUNJI kindergartens and nurseries presented a low increase from 77.2 per cent in 2017 to 79.0 per cent in 2018.

The situation of the Integra Foundation¹⁵¹ for both nurseries and kindergartens is similar: the programme covered 93.4 per cent of its target population in 2018.

These numbers may suggest that the coverage of kindergarten population for vulnerable families is quite high, however, the potential population with needs of primary education is much higher. A recent evaluation made by the Ministry of Social Development, stated that JUNJI kindergartens and nurseries only cover 21.6 per cent of the population that face a gap between parental leave and elementary education in Chile.

For ECEC attendance levels, see 'relationship between leave and ECEC entitlements' in the [cross-country tables](#) at the front of the review.

3. Changes in policy since April 2025 (including proposals currently under discussion)

No structural changes to Maternity, Paternity or Parental leave legislation were enacted during the period covered by this report (April 2025 to April 2026).

However, two legislative developments with indirect implications for leave-related benefits came into effect. First, the minimum wage was adjusted upwards by Law N° 21.751 (published in the *Diario Oficial*, 28 June 2025), setting it at CLP\$529,000 [€496.97]¹⁵² from 1 May 2025 and CLP\$539,000 [€506.44] from 1 January 2026. Because the minimum daily amount of maternal subsidies (prenatal, postnatal, and postnatal parental) is calculated as a fraction of the minimum wage for non-remunerational purposes, this adjustment raised the minimum daily subsidy floor to CLP\$5,683 [€5.33] from 1 May 2025 (SUSESO, 2025). Second, the Pension Reform Law (N° 21.735) came partially into effect in August 2025, introducing a new employer contribution of 1 per cent of taxable wages. Of this, 0.9 per cent is directed to a new Social Insurance fund that includes a Compensation for Life Expectancy Differences for women, a measure aimed at reducing the gender pension gap arising from women's greater longevity.

A parliamentary bill proposing a substantial extension of postnatal parental leave was under discussion during this period. The bill would extend the postnatal parental leave period to 40 weeks in total (compared to the current 12 weeks), with a decreasing subsidy schedule (100 per cent for the first 28 weeks, 80 per cent for weeks 29–40, and 50 per cent for weeks 41–52), and would expand paid paternity leave from 5 working days to 4 weeks. The bill was approved in June 2025 by the Lower Chamber's Labour Committee but, as of April 2026, had not completed its full parliamentary process and had not been enacted into law. Experts and legislators noted that, given the bill's complexity and the absence of executive urgency designation, enactment was unlikely before the end of the current presidential term.

¹⁵¹ Ministerio de Desarrollo Social (2018) *Informe de Seguimiento de Programas Sociales: Jardines Infantiles y Sala Cuna de Administración Delegada*. Santiago de Chile.

¹⁵² Conversion of the UF currency undertaken on 20 July 2026 using: <https://www.xe.com/>.

4. Uptake of leave¹⁵³

a. Maternity leave

Data on the use of the obligatory period of Maternity leave is only available for up to 2017. According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, approximately 42.9 per cent of mothers in that year took the leave 6 weeks before the birth of the child. Additionally, 44.6 per cent of mothers took Maternity leave after childbirth. These percentages are based on all mothers, but Maternity leave can only be taken by women who are employed, and the female employment rate is 48.5 per cent¹⁵⁴. More recent data from SUSESO show a declining trend in postnatal subsidies initiated, from 98,505 in 2018 to 75,554 in 2024 and 71,575 in 2025, consistent with Chile's falling birth rate. Prenatal subsidies initiated followed a similar pattern, declining from 96,418 in 2018 to 72,664 in 2024 and 68,361 in 2025 (SUSESO, 2026).¹⁵⁵ The data also does not include women working in national defense (army, air force, navy, and police).

The additional period of part-transferable Maternity leave started in 2012. That year, 37.4 per cent of mothers took the leave: this number had increased to 44.4 per cent in 2017. Approximately 99 per cent of women who took the leave did so full-time, which means taking 12 weeks of leave. This ratio has been a continuous tendency until 2019. More recent SUSESO data show that postnatal parental leave subsidies initiated declined from 97,468 in 2017 to 85,047 in 2023, 73,682 in 2024, and 71,269 in 2025, again reflecting the downward trend in births (SUSESO, 2026).

This leave is transferred to fathers in very few cases. Only 1,802 transfers have been made from 2011 to 2019. This means that, every year, only 0.2 per cent of leaves have been transferred to the father. The average number of days taken was 33.8: i.e., less than the six weeks allowed. According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, this low level of transfer is due to several reasons: (i) many women are still breastfeeding at a time when they might transfer leave; (ii) the decision to transfer leave is the mother's to make; (iii) the legal procedure for transferring leave is complex and unknown in most human resources departments due to its low uptake; and (iv) fathers do not have the same maternal jurisdiction that mothers have at work. Maternal jurisdiction lasts two years, while paternal immunity only doubles the period in which they took the leave.

b. Paternity leave

No information available.

¹⁵³ INE (2019) *Anuario de Estadísticas Vitales, 2017*; Ministerio del Trabajo y Previsión Social (2017) *Protección a la maternidad en Chile: Evolución del postnatal parental a cinco años de su implementación 2011-2016* Santiago de Chile; Superintendencia de Seguridad Social (2020) *Estadísticas de Seguridad Social*. Available at: <https://www.suseso.cl/608/w3-propertyvalue-10364.html>

¹⁵⁴ INE (2017) *Brechas de género en el mercado laboral chileno a nivel nacional*. [Gender gaps in the Chilean labor market at the national level]. Available at: http://historico.ine.cl/genero/files/estadisticas/pdf/infografias/0_infografia_brecha_genero_mercado_laboral.pdf

¹⁵⁵ Suseso (2026) *Estadísticas. Estadísticas e subsidios maternos*. Available at: <https://www.suseso.cl/608/w3-propertyname-775.html>

c. Parental leave

No statutory leave entitlement.

d. Other types of leave

Regarding the use of serious child illness leave (EGNM — Enfermedad Grave del Niño Menor de un año), SUSESO data indicate that subsidies initiated under this provision increased substantially, from 187,680 in 2019 to 209,384 in 2024, before a slight decline to 184,303 in 2025. This growth likely reflects increased awareness and use of the benefit since the Ley SANNA extensions (from 2018 onwards), as well as broader coverage of qualifying conditions (SUSESO, 2026).