



LEBANON



INTRODUCTION

Following World War I, France acquired a mandate over the northern portion of the former Ottoman Empire province of Syria. The French demarcated the region of Lebanon in 1920 and granted this area independence in 1943. Lebanon's borders with Syria and Israel remain unresolved.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Michel AUN

Head of Government

Prime Minister Hassan DIAB (caretaker)

Government Type

parliamentary republic

Capital

Beirut

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly or Majlis al-Nuwab in Arabic or Assemblée Nationale in French (128 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 10,400 sq km

Land: 10,230 sq km

Water: 170 sq km

Climate

Mediterranean; mild to cool, wet winters with hot, dry summers; the Lebanon Mountains experience heavy winter snows

Natural Resources

limestone, iron ore, salt, water-surplus state in a water-deficit region, arable land

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

upper middle-income Middle Eastern economy; economic activity hurt by economic depression, COVID-19, and port explosion; hyperinflation and sharp poverty increases; banks have ceased lending; new financing facility helping with recovery

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$79.51 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$11,600 (2020 est.)

Industries - banking, tourism, real estate, construction, food processing, wine, jewelry, cement, textiles, mineral/chemical products, wood/furniture products, oil refining, metal fabricating

Agricultural products - potatoes, milk, tomatoes, apples, oranges, olives, wheat, cucumbers, poultry, lemons

Exports \$3.524 billion (2017 est.)

gold, jewelry, shotguns, diamonds, scrap copper (2019)

partners: Switzerland 27%, UAE 15%, South Korea 11%, Saudi Arabia 7%, Kuwait 6% (2019)

Imports \$18.34 billion (2017 est.)

refined petroleum, cars, packaged medicines, jewelry, gold (2019)

partners: UAE 11%, China 10%, Italy 8%, Greece 8%, Turkey 7%, US 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

5.3 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.68% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Arab 95%, Armenian 4%, other 1%

Language

Arabic (official), French, English, Armenian

Religion

Muslim 67.8% (31.9% Sunni, 31.2% Shia, smaller percentages of Alawites and Ismailis), Christian 32.4% (Maronite Catholics are the largest Christian group), Druze 4.5%, very small numbers of Jews, Baha'is, Buddhists, and Hindus (2020 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 89.1% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: -1.23% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

