

Lebanon Facts and Figures¹

Location:

Middle East, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Israel and Syria.

Area:

10,400 sq km (4,015 sq mi).

Border Countries:

Israel 79 km (49 mi), Syria 375 km (233 mi).

Natural Hazards:

Dust storms, sandstorms.

Climate

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

Environment—Current Issues:

Deforestation; soil erosion; desertification; air pollution in Beirut from vehicular traffic and the burning of industrial wastes; pollution of coastal waters from raw sewage and oil spills.

Population:

4,140,289 (July 2012 est.)

Median Age:

29.8 years (2011 est.)

Population Growth Rate:

-0.38% (2012 est.)

Life Expectancy at Birth:

75.23 years (2012 est.)

HIV/AIDS—People Living With HIV/AIDS:

3,600 (2009 est.)

Nationality:

Noun: Lebanese (singular and plural)

Adjective: Lebanese

¹ Information in this section comes from the following source: Central Intelligence Agency, "Lebanon," in *The World Factbook*, 3 May 2012, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/le.html>

Sex Ratio:

At birth: 1.05 male(s)/female

Under 15 years: 1.05 male(s)/female

15–64 years: 0.95 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.86 male(s)/female

Total population: 0.96 male(s)/female (2012 est.)

Ethnic Groups:

Arab 95%, Armenian 4%, other 1%.

Note: Many Christian Lebanese do not identify themselves as Arab but as descendants of the ancient Canaanites, and prefer to be called Phoenicians.

Religions:

Muslim 59.7% (Shi'a, Sunni, Druze, Isma'ilite, Alawite or Nusayri), Christian 39% (Maronite Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Melkite Catholic, Armenian Orthodox, Syrian Catholic, Armenian Catholic, Syrian Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Chaldean, Assyrian, Coptic, Protestant), other 1.3%.

Note: 17 religious sects recognized.

Languages:

Arabic (official), French, English, Armenian.

Literacy:

Definition: Persons age 15 and over who can read and write.

Total population: 87.4%

Male: 93.1%

Female: 82.2% (2003 census)

Country Name:

Conventional long form: Lebanese Republic

Conventional short form: Lebanon

Local long form: Al Jumhuriyah al Lubnaniyah

Local short form: Lubnan

Former: Greater Lebanon

Government Type:

Republic

Capital:

Name: Beirut

Administrative Divisions:

6 governorates: (*mohafazat*; singular: *mohafazah*); Beqaa, Beyrouth (Beirut), Liban-Nord, Liban-Sud, Mont-Liban, Nabatiye

Note: Two new governorates—Aakkar and Baalbek-Hermel—have been legislated but not yet implemented.

Independence:

22 November 1943 (from League of Nations mandate under French administration).

National Holiday:

Independence Day, 22 November (1943)

Constitution:

23 May 1926; amended a number of times, most recently in 1990 to include changes necessitated by the Charter of Lebanese National Reconciliation (Ta'if Accord) of October 1989.

Legal System:

Mixed legal system of civil law based on the French civil code and religious laws covering personal status, marriage, divorce, and other family relations of the Jewish, Islamic, and Christian communities.

Suffrage:

21 years of age; compulsory for all males; authorized for women at age 21 with elementary education; excludes military personnel

Government:

Chief of state: President Michel Sulayman (since 25 May 2008).

Head of government: Prime Minister Najib Miqati (since 7 July 2011), Deputy Prime Minister Samir Moqbil (since 7 July 2011).

Cabinet: Cabinet chosen by the prime minister in consultation with the president and members of the National Assembly.

Elections: President elected by the National Assembly for a 6-year term (may not serve consecutive terms); election last held on 25 May 2008 (next to be held in 2014); the prime minister and deputy prime minister appointed by the president in consultation with the National Assembly.

Election results: Michel Sulayman elected president; National Assembly vote: 118 for, 6 abstentions, 3 invalidated; 1 seat unfilled because of death of incumbent.

Legislative Branch:

Unicameral National Assembly or *Majlis al-Nuwab* (Arabic) or *Assemblée Nationale* (French) (128 seats; members elected by popular vote on the basis of sectarian proportional representation to serve 4-year terms).

Elections: last held on 7 June 2009 (next to be held in 2013)

Election results: Percent of vote by group: March 8 Coalition 54.7%, March 14 Coalition 45.3%; seats by group: March 14 Coalition 71; March 8 Coalition 57.

Judicial Branch:

Four Courts of Cassation (three courts for civil and commercial cases and one court for criminal cases); Constitutional Council (called for in Ta'if Accord—rules on constitutionality of laws); Supreme Council (hears charges against the president and prime minister as needed).

International Organization Participation: Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (ABEDA), Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Group of 24 (G-24), Group of 77 (G-77), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (ICRM), International Development Association (IDA), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS), International Labor Organization (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), International Olympic Committee (IOC), Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Telecommunications Satellites Organization (ITSO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), League of Arab States (LAS), Multilateral Investment Geographic Agency (MIGA), Nonaligned Movement (NAM), Organization of American States (Observer) (OAS), Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), International Organization of the French-Speaking World (OIF), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), United Nations (UN), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Customs Organization (WCO), World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Trade Organization (observer) (WTO).

GDP—Real Growth Rate:

1.5% (2011 est.)

GDP—Composition by Sector:

Agriculture: 4.5%

Industry: 15.9%

Services: 79.7% (2011 est.)

Telephones—Main Lines in Use:

887,000 (2010).

Telephones—Mobile Cellular:

2.875 million (2010)

Broadcast Media:

7 TV stations in operation, 1 of which is state-owned; more than 30 radio stations, 1 of which is state-owned; satellite and cable TV services are available; transmissions of at least 2 international broadcasters are accessible through partner stations (2007).

Internet Users:

1 million (2009)

Airports:

7 (2010)

Airports—With Paved Runways:

Total: 5

Over 3,047 m (1.89 mi): 1

2,438 to 3,047 m (1.51 to 1.89 mi): 2

914 to 1,523 m (0.57 to 0.95 mi): 1

Under 914 m (0.57 mi): 1 (2010)

Airports—With Unpaved Runways:

Total: 2

914 to 1,523 m (0.57 to 0.95 mi): 2 (2010).

Military Branches:

Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF): Army ([Al Jaysh al Lubnaniya] includes Navy [Al Quwwat al Bahiriyya al Lubnaniya] and Air Force [Al Quwwat al Jawwiya al Lubnaniya]) (2010).

Military Service Age and Obligation:

18–30 years of age for voluntary military service; no conscription (2007).

International Disputes:

Syria:

Lacking a treaty or other documentation describing the boundary, portions of the Lebanon-Syria boundary are unclear with several sections in dispute.

Syria/Israel:

Since 2000, Lebanon has claimed Shab'a Farms area in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights; the roughly 2,000-strong UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has been in place since 1978.