

LEBANESE - COUNTRY REPORT *

* The data of the report are selections from The World Factbook – 2020 and the International Religious Freedom Report – 2012; the International Religious Freedom Report of 2012; “Dissecting The Lebanese Public Debt: Debt Dynamics & Reform Measures”, July 2016.

PROFILE



Population
5,469,612
(July 2020 est.)



Ethnic groups
Arab 95%, Armenian 4%, others 1%.
note: many Christian Lebanese do not identify themselves as Arab but rather as descendants of the ancient Canaanites and prefer to be called Phoenicians



Religious groups
18 different sects recognized.
27% Sunni, 27% Shia,
21% Maronite, 5.6% Druze



Capital
Beirut



Official languages
Arabic (official), French,
English, Armenian

SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

• **Government type: Parliamentary Republic:**

• Lebanon is a confessional democracy where political powers are divided onto the various sectarian communities since the French Mandate. After the Taif agreement that ended the Civil war (1975 – 1990), Lebanon turned into a traditional parliamentary system, with powers of the Christian president diminished in favor of the Council of Ministers. The agreement changed the power-sharing formula that had favoured the Christians 6:5 to a 50:50 ratio with Muslims.

• According to the National Pact in 1943, it was agreed that the President of the Republic was to be a Maronite Christian, the Prime Minister a Sunni Muslim, and the Speaker of Parliament a Shia Muslim.

• The president is elected by the National Assembly with two-thirds majority vote in the first round and if needed absolute majority vote in a second round for a 6-year term (eligible for non-consecutive terms).

• The president appoints the prime minister in consultation with the National Assembly while the cabinet is chosen by the prime minister in consultation with the president and National Assembly.

• **Legislative: Unicameral**

National Assembly with 128 seats.
Members are directly elected by listed-based proportional sectarian representation vote as of 2017 and they serve 4-year terms.

LEGAL SYSTEM



• **It is a mixed legal system:**

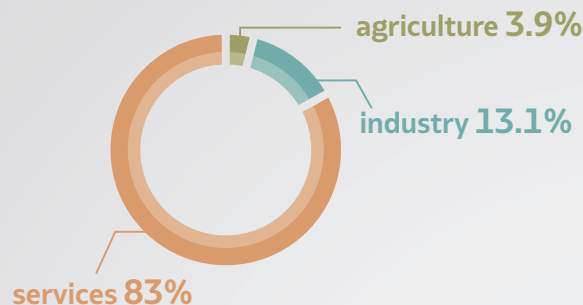
- The French civil code,
- Ottoman legal tradition,
- Religious laws governing each sect.

ECONOMY

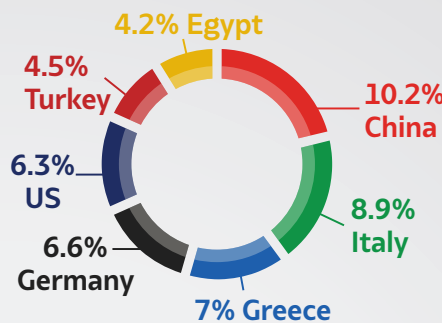
• **Type of economy:**

Lebanon has a free-market economy and a strong laissez-faire commercial tradition. The Lebanese economy is service-oriented; main growth sectors include banking and tourism.

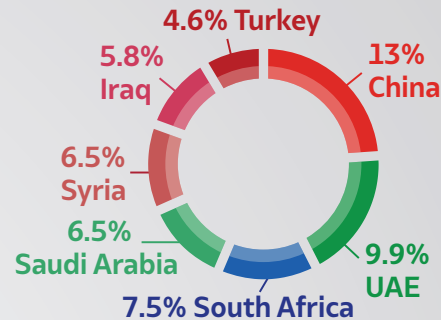
• **GDP - GDP composition by sector: (2017)**



• **Major Import Partners: (2017)**



• **Major Export Partners: (2017)**



Commodities: jewelry, base metals, chemicals, consumer goods, fruit and vegetables, tobacco, construction minerals.

DEBT

- **Gross public debt: \$71.65 billion** (2016 est.) Most of the debt is held internally by Lebanese banks.
- **External Debt: \$39.3 billion** (31 December 2017 est.)

