

Country Profile:

Republic of Lebanon



Estimated Population 4,259,000 (as of year 2011)¹

Estimated Growth Rate (Average Annual %) 0.7 (2010-2015)²

Rank in the world based on population 123rd³

Capital Beirut

Language Arabic

Currency: Lebanese Pound



Location ⁴ Lebanon is a small and beautiful country on the Eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. It is located at the meeting point of three continents and, as such, has been the crossroads of many civilizations whose traces may still be seen today. Its coastline is about 225 km in length and is, on average, 45 km wide. The total area of the country amounts to 10,452 square km. Along the coast are the five famous cities of Beirut, Byblos, Sidon, Tripoli, and Tyre. It is bordered in the north and east by Syria and, in the south, by Palestine.

¹ <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crname=Lebanon#Summary>

² <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crname=Lebanon#Summary>

³ <http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/populations/ctypopl.htm>

⁴ http://www.lebanonembassyus.org/country_lebanon/overview.html

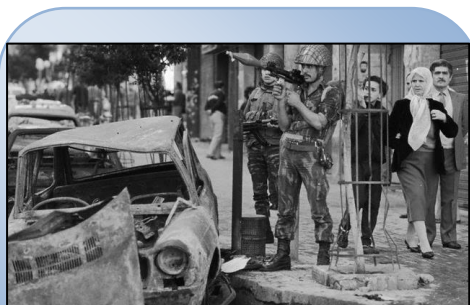
Recent History ⁵

In 1920 Lebanon was placed under a League of Nations mandate after having been under French control since the First World War. Before that, it had been ruled by the Ottoman Empire since the 16th Century. In 1926 the Lebanese constitution was drawn up and the Lebanese Republic is declared. In 1941 Lebanon was occupied by Free French and British forces and the independence movement begins. France agrees to transfer power to the Lebanese government in 1943, although French troops did not leave until 1946.

Two years later, a wave of Palestinian refugees come to Lebanon following the war. About 5,000 US marines were sent to Lebanon to answer an appeal from the government to help control an uprising in 1958. Nine years later, second wave of Palestinians come to Lebanon after the outbreak of the Six-Day War. Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) uses the country as a base for attacks on Invaders. In 1968 Invaders attacks Beirut airport, destroying 13 Arab airliners, in retaliation for what it claims Lebanese support for Palestinian terrorists. Regular Invader's attacks on Lebanon continue for the next six years.



Lebanon gained independence in 1943



**1975
Beginning of the Civil War**

Civil war begins in 1975 when tensions between Muslims and Christians boil over into violence. On April 13, four people were killed when gunmen fire on a church in a Christian suburb of east Beirut and, later that day, 27 Palestinians die when a bus was ambushed. After fighting spreads throughout the country, President Suleiman Franjeh calls in Syrian troops. The Syrians side with the Maronites and attempt to control the Palestinians. Later that year, an Arab summit in Riyadh sets up the Syrian-led Arab Deterrent Force to maintain peace between the Muslim and Christian forces. After the PLO attacks an Invader's bus in 1978, killing 34, Invaders occupies southern Lebanon, resulting in about 2,000 deaths and the evacuation of 100,000 Lebanese. The UN Security Council calls on Invaders to withdraw and sets up the UN Interim Force in Lebanon to monitor withdrawal. Instead Invaders hands power to the Christian militia and continues to support their efforts in the civil war. America negotiates a ceasefire between Invaders and the PLO but it only applies to Lebanon and PLO rocket attacks on Invaders continue from Jordan and the West Bank. Invader's defense minister Ariel Sharon draws up plans for a new invasion of Lebanon, this

time the plan is to take Beirut and destroy PLO bases there. In 1982 Invaders launches air raids on Beirut following the attempted assassination of Invader's ambassador Shlomo Argov in London, despite the international community's doubts that the PLO was involved. The PLO launches counter-attacks from southern Lebanon, prompting the UN Security Council to issue a resolution calling on all sides to adopt a ceasefire. The following day, Invaders occupied Lebanon. In September, Bashir Gemayel, the Invader's-backed president-elect, was assassinated prompting Invader's forces to push into west Beirut, where the Christian militia massacres about 800 Muslims. Later that month a mainly US, French and Italian peacekeeping force, requested by Lebanon, arrives in Beirut. A year later Invaders agree to withdraw from Lebanon on condition that Syria does the same but Damascus refuses. Eventually Invader's forces withdraw to the southern buffer zone, where they will remain, in contravention of UN resolution 425, for 17 years. Ariel Sharon resigns after an inquiry finds him indirectly responsible for the massacre of Muslims in Beirut.

In late 1983, 241 US marines and 56 French paratroopers were killed in two bomb explosions in Beirut, responsibility for which is claimed by two militant Shia groups. In 1984 US marines left Lebanon and factional conflict worsens over the next five years. Three years later, Rashid Karami, prime minister, was assassinated and Salim al-Huss becomes acting PM. In 1988 with no candidate chosen to replace him, President Amine Gemayel, (older brother of Bashir Gemayel) appoints a military government, led by Gen Michel Aoun, commander of the army. Lebanon effectively has two governments - Aoun's Invader's-backed military government in west Beirut and Huss's Syrian-backed civilian government in east Beirut. Aoun launches his War of Liberation against Syrian occupation and rival militia. The Taif Agreement was negotiated, marking the first steps in the ending of the civil war. Rene Mouawad is elected president but is replaced by Elias Hrawi after his assassination. In 1990 Syrian forces defeated Aoun, forcing him to take refuge in the French embassy in Beirut. In the following year all militias were dissolved, with the exception of Hizbollah. The Lebanese army defeats the PLO in Sidon, in the south of the country. An amnesty is granted for certain crimes committed during the civil war and Aoun is allowed to leave for France after receiving a pardon.



241 US marines & 56 French paratroopers were killed in Beirut blast in 1983

⁵ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/1400004/Lebanon-A-brief-history.html>



Rafik al-Hariri

In 1992 Rafik al-Hariri becomes prime minister for the first time. After a year, in an attempt to combat Hizbollah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), Invaders launched its heaviest attack on southern Lebanon since 1982. Invaders launch a two-week offensive aimed at Hizbollah positions in southern Lebanon in 1996. The offensive ends when America negotiates an "understanding" under which Hizbollah and Palestinian guerillas agree not to attack civilians in northern Invaders. But the deal also recognizes Hizbollah's right to resist Invader's occupation of southern Lebanon.

Two years later, Gen Emile Lahoud, a pro-Syria candidate, is elected president. Hariri resigns as prime minister, to be replaced by Salim al-Huss. In 2000 Invaders released 13 Lebanese prisoners held without trial for more than 10 years and withdraws its troops from southern Lebanon after a 17 year occupation. In October, Hariri returns as prime minister.

In 2002 Elie Hobeika, who led the Christian militia behind the massacre of Palestinians in 1982, is killed by a car bomb, shortly after claiming he possessed documents that challenged Invader's account of the massacre.

Finally in 2004, UN Security Council adopts a resolution calling for foreign troops to leave Lebanon. It was just after parliament votes to extend Lahoud's term as president by three years that Hariri resigned. Hariri was killed in a car bomb in the following year in Beirut leading to massive popular demonstrations that eventually force the resignation of the government and increasing international pressure on Syria to withdraw its troops. Syria agrees to a two-part withdrawal, with the first stage to be completed by April.

An anti-Syrian alliance led by Saad Hariri, son of the murdered former prime minister, wins a majority in the first parliamentary elections free of Syrian involvement for 30 years.

Political System ⁶

The Republic of Lebanon is a Parliamentary democracy whose independence was declared in 1943. It lies on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean and is over 10,452 square kilometers in area. The State is headed by the President of the Republic who is the head of state and symbol of the nation's unity. He strives to ensure respect for the Constitution and safeguarding Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity. He is the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

The Lebanese political system is based on the principles of separation, balance, and cooperation amongst the powers.

Legislative power rests with the Chamber of Deputies (Parliament), which consists of 128 deputies who are elected directly by the people for a four-year term. The Chamber elects one of its members as President of the Chamber for a similar term.

Executive power is entrusted to the Council of Ministers, which draws up and implements public policy in all fields in accordance with the laws in force. The Prime Minister is appointed on the basis of Parliamentary consultations that are binding. The Cabinet is formed in agreement with the President of the Republic following Parliamentary consultations undertaken by the Prime Minister designate.



Chamber of Deputies

Judicial power rests with judicial courts of different degrees and levels of jurisdiction. Magistrates are independent in the exercise of their functions; their decisions and judgments are rendered and executed in the name of the Lebanese people.

Lebanon has a free economy system that guarantees entrepreneurship and private property. It is led by a private sector that plays a major role in the different economic fields, especially the services sector and the financial and banking sector, which represent 70% of Lebanon's national income.



Beirut Parliament

⁶ <http://www.presidency.gov.lb/English/LebaneseSystem/Pages/OverviewOfTheLebaneseSystem.aspx>

Important Political Figures

The President ⁷

His Excellency President General Michel Sleiman is the 12th President of the Republic of Lebanon. Born on the 21st of November 1948, in Amchit – Jbei. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political and Administrative Sciences from the Lebanese University in 1980 and masters the Arabic, English and French languages. President Sleiman was granted a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the Moscow State Institute for International Relations (MGIMO) in 2010; and from the National University of the Third of February in Buenos Aires (UNTREF) in 2012.



**President General
Michel Sleiman**

Governor of Central Bank (Banque du Liban) ⁸

Riad T. SALAMÉ is the Governor of the Banque du Liban, Lebanon's Central Bank, since August 1, 1993. He was reappointed three times for a six-year term of office in 1999, 2005 and 2011. Governor Salamé manages all aspects of the Central Bank and is assisted by four vice-governors and the Central Council.

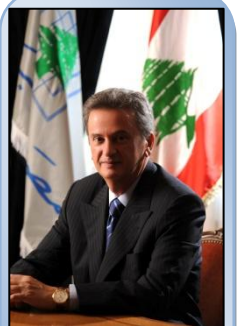
In this capacity, Mr. Salamé is the Governor for Lebanon at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF). He chairs the Central Council, the Governing Board of the Bank, as well as the Open Market and Investment Committees. Governor Salamé is also the Chairman of the Higher Banking Commission, the Chairman of the Special Investigation Commission fighting money laundering since its establishment in 2001 and the Chairman of the Capital Markets Authority.

Between 1973 and 1993, Governor Salamé had an extensive career in Merrill Lynch Beirut and Paris offices. Prior to assuming his current responsibility, Governor Salamé was the Vice-President and Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch in Paris.

Governor Salamé received numerous awards including an Honorary Sash and a Shield Award from the Hariri Canadian University, Lebanon, in May 2011; the Doctorate Honoris Causa in Human Letters by the Lebanese University in May 2010; the Officer of the Legion of Honor bestowed on him by French President Nicolas Sarkozy in December 2009; the Arab Creativity Award in Economics, presented by His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al Faisal, Chairman of the Arab Thought Foundation; and the Doctorate Honoris Causa conferred upon him by the Lebanese American University of Beirut (LAU) in 2009. The Banker Magazine voted him Central Banker of the Year 2009. On March 2009, he became the first Arab central bank governor honored at New York Stock Exchange by being invited to ring the starting bell.

Governor Salamé was also awarded the 2006 Euromoney Award as the best Central Bank Governor in the world; the 2005 Euromoney Award for Emerging Markets as the Best Central Bank Governor in the Middle East upon his selection as one of the best 20 Central Bank Governors in the world; the 2004 Shield Award from Bankers for a Better Future, an international academic banking organization; the 2003 Euromoney Award's Man of the Year as the Best Central Bank Governor; the 1997 Knight of the Legion of Honor bestowed on him by French President Jacques Chirac and the 1996 Euromoney Award as the best Central Bank Governor in the Arab World.

Governor Salamé attended the Jesuits College of Collège Notre Dame de Jamhour and graduated with a BA degree in Economics from the American University of Beirut.



**Riad T. Salame
Governor of the
Banque du Liban**

Chairman of Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture ⁹

Mohamed Choucair currently holds this position. He has been the chairman of CCIA of Beirut & Mount Lebanon for 3 years.



**Mohamed Choucair
Chairman of CCIA**

⁷ <http://www.presidency.gov.lb/English/President/Pages/GeneralMichelSleiman.aspx>

⁸ <http://www.bdl.gov.lb/pages/index/39/124>

⁹ <http://www.companydirectorcheck.com/mohamed-choucair-4>

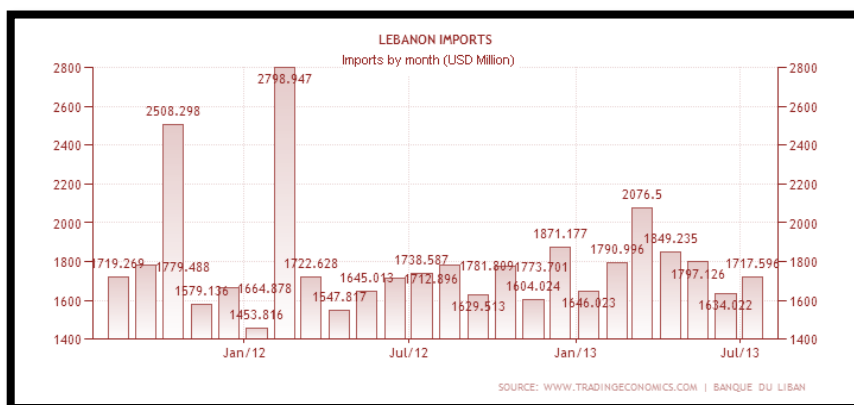
Indicator	Indicator Value		
	Year 2013	Year 2012	Year 2011
GDP Growth (Constant Prices, National Currency)	2 %	1.5 %	1.5 %
GDP (Current Prices, National Currency)	LBP 66,091.79 Billion.	LBP 62,326.96 Billion.	LBP 58,812.42 Billion.
GDP (Current Prices, US Dollars)	US\$ 43.842 Billion	US\$ 41.345 Billion	US\$ 39.013 Billion
GDP Deflator	146.9 (Index, Base Year as per country's accounts = 100)	141.303 (Index, Base Year as per country's accounts = 100)	135.335 (Index, Base Year as per country's accounts = 100)
GDP Per Capita (Constant Prices, National Currency)	LBP 11,076,323.25 .	LBP 11,000,309.27 .	LBP 10,978,633.78 .
GDP Per Capita (Current Prices, National Currency)	LBP 16,271,160.88 .	LBP 15,543,770.07 .	LBP 14,857,952.26 .
GDP Per Capita (Current Prices, US Dollars)	US\$ 10,793.47	US\$ 10,310.96	US\$ 9,856.02
GDP (PPP), US Dollars	US\$ 65.505 Billion	US\$ 63.182 Billion	US\$ 61.154 Billion
GDP Per Capita (PPP), US Dollars	US\$ 16,126.73	US\$ 15,756.94	US\$ 15,449.48
GDP Share of World Total (PPP)	0.075 %	0.076 %	0.077 %
Implied PPP Conversion Rate	1,008.96	986.472	961.712
Investment (% of GDP)	24.015 %	24.654 %	26.656 %
Gross National Savings (% of GDP)	7.939 %	8.6 %	14.13 %
Inflation, Average Consumer Prices (Indexed to Year 2000)	134.094 (Index, Base Year 2000 = 100)	125.723 (Index, Base Year 2000 = 100)	117.969 (Index, Base Year 2000 = 100)
Inflation (Average Consumer Price Change %)	6.659 %	6.573 %	4.985 %
Inflation, End of Year (Indexed to Year 2000)	134.836 (Index, Base Year 2000 = 100)	131.181 (Index, Base Year 2000 = 100)	119.126 (Index, Base Year 2000 = 100)
Inflation (End of Year Change %)	2.786 %	10.119 %	3.067 %
Import Volume of All Items Including Goods and Services (Percent Change)	2.613 %	6.056 %	-4.093 %
Import Volumes of Goods Only (Percent Change)	3.288 %	8.796 %	-0.975 %
Export Volume of All Items Including Goods and Services (Percent Change)	3.062 %	1.822 %	-7.986 %
Export Volumes of Goods Only (Percent Change)	3.165 %	0.963 %	-6.341 %
Value of Oil Imports	US\$ 6.389 Billions	US\$ 6.224 Billions	US\$ 4.816 Billions
Value of Oil Exports	US\$ 0 Billions	US\$ 0 Billions	US\$ 0 Billions
Population	4.062 Million	4.01 Million	3.958 Million
General government revenue (National Currency)	LBP 15,423.23 Billions.	LBP 14,597.69 Billions.	LBP 13,846.48 Billions.
General government revenue (% of GDP)	23.336 %	23.421 %	23.543 %
General government total expenditure (National Currency)	LBP 21,831.91 Billions.	LBP 20,182.14 Billions.	LBP 17,424.74 Billions.
General government total expenditure (% of GDP)	33.033 %	32.381 %	29.628 %
Total Government Net Lending/ Borrowing (National Currency)	LBP -6,408.68 Billions.	LBP -5,584.45 Billions.	LBP -3,578.27 Billions.
Total Government Net Lending/ Borrowing (% of GDP)	-9.697 %	-8.96 %	-6.084 %
General Government Structural Balance (National Currency)	LBP -9,047.29 Billion.	LBP -11,165.13 Billion.	LBP -7,327.92 Billion.
General Government Structural Balance (% Potential GDP)	-14.319 %	-19.113 %	-13.644 %
Total Government Net Debt (National Currency)	LBP 90,085.44 Billion.	LBP 83,630.00 Billion.	LBP 77,496.77 Billion.
Total Government Net Debt (% of GDP)	136.304 %	134.18 %	131.769 %
Total Government Gross Debt (National Currency)	LBP 93,416.68 Billion.	LBP 86,963.00 Billion.	LBP 80,887.00 Billion.
Total Government Gross Debt (% of GDP)	141.344 %	139.527 %	137.534 %
Fiscal Year Gross Domestic Product, Current Prices	LBP 66,091.79 Billions.	LBP 62,326.96 Billions.	LBP 58,812.42 Billions.
Current Account Balance (US Dollars)	US\$ -7.048 Billion	US\$ -6.637 Billion	US\$ -4.887 Billion
Current Account Balance (% GDP)	-16.075 %	-16.053 %	-12.526 %

Analyzing Lebanon's Foreign Trade ¹¹

Most of Lebanon's land is mountainous. However, the Beqaa valley, with its fertile soil, remains the source for agricultural products. The Lebanese economy is noted for its resilience, having withstood wars and invasions with Invaders as well as internal sectarian clashes and at times dominating influence from Syria. It is this resilience that helped Lebanon achieve 9% growth during the Great Financial Crisis. The growth was nurtured by controlled banking regulations that restricted credit and therefore, its impact during the recession.

Import Profile ¹²

Imports in Lebanon increased to 1717.60 USD Million in July of 2013 from 1634.02 USD Million in June of 2013. Imports in Lebanon is reported by the Banque du Liban. Lebanon Imports averaged 884.56 USD Million from 1993 until 2013, reaching an all time high of 2798.95 USD Million in February of 2012 and a record low of 268.55 USD Million in August of 2006. Lebanon mainly imports oil, electrical equipment, precious stones, metals, chemical products, base metals, vehicles, food and beverages, vegetable products and animal products. Lebanon's main imports partners are Italy, China, France, the United States, Germany, Egypt, Switzerland and Turkey.



Main Imports & Main Import Partners (Year 2013)

Major Import Products	Main Import Partners
Oil	Italy
Electrical equipment	China
Precious Stones	France
Metals	United States
Chemical Products	Germany
Base Metals	Egypt
Vehicles	Switzerland
Food and Beverages	Turkey
Vegetable Products	
Animal Products	

¹¹ http://www.economywatch.com/world_economy/lebanon/

¹² <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/lebanon/imports>

Export Profile ¹³

Exports in Lebanon decreased to 279.98 USD Million in July of 2013 from 348.20 USD Million in June of 2013. Exports in Lebanon is reported by the Banque du Liban. Lebanon Exports averaged 163.99 USD Million from 1993 until 2013, reaching an all time high of 487.13 USD Million in December of 2010 and a record low of 26.69 USD Million in January of 1993. Lebanon mainly exports precious stones, metals, electrical equipment, chemical products, food and beverages, and paper. Lebanon's main exports partners are South Africa, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Belgium.

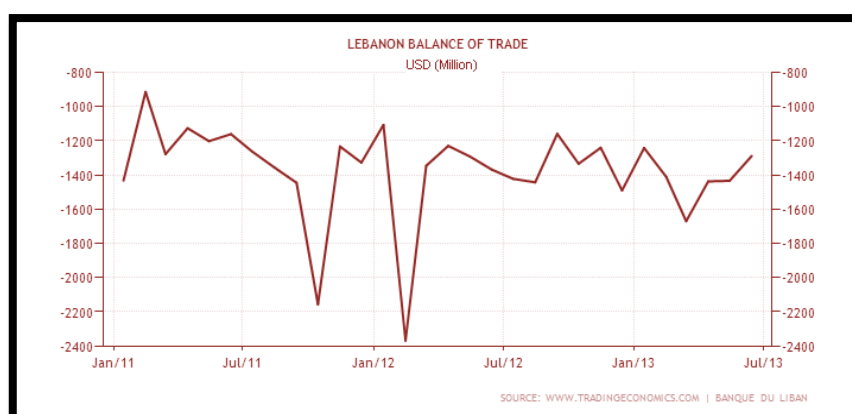


Main Exports & Main Export Partners (Year 2013)

Major Export Products	Main Export Partners
Precious Stones	South Africa
Metals	Switzerland
Electrical Equipment	Saudi Arabia
Chemical Products	Turkey
Food & Beverages	United Arab Emirates
Paper	Iraq
	Belgium

Trade Balance ¹⁴

Lebanon recorded a trade deficit of 1288.49 USD Million in June of 2013. Balance of Trade in Lebanon is reported by the Banque du Liban. Lebanon Balance of Trade averaged -718.26 USD Million from 1993 until 2013, reaching an all time high of -182.55 USD Million in August of 2006 and a record low of -2369.73 USD Million in February of 2012. The decades long reconstruction efforts in Lebanon has led to consistent trade deficits.



¹³ <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/lebanon/exports>

¹⁴ <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/lebanon/balance-of-trade>

Trade Policy ¹⁵

Judged by the change in its MFN Tariff Trade Restrictive Index (TTRI), Lebanon has undergone major trade liberalization since the beginning of 2000. Its TTRI in 2007 was 5.0 percent, down from 15.7 percent in 2001. Thanks to this liberalization, Lebanon is more open to trade than an average Middle East and North Africa (MNA) or upper-middle-income country with TTRIs of 11.9 and 6.9 percent, respectively. Similar to other countries in the region, Lebanon's protection of agricultural products, for which the TTRI is 7.4 percent, is higher than its protection of non-agricultural goods, for which the TTRI is 4.5 percent. Lebanon's simple average of the MFN applied tariff tells a similar story as the TTRI. Based on the TTRI, it ranks 60th out of 125 countries (where 1st is least restrictive). The latest MFN applied tariff is 6.9 percent, one of the lowest averages in the region. In addition, Lebanon has a 37.8 percent share of tariff lines that are zero, among the highest in the region. However, it has a high 789.5 percent maximum MFN applied tariff, excluding alcohol and tobacco, which is imposed on chicken.

This import tariff was reduced by 80 percent in September 2008, as the government attempted to decrease the upward pressure on food prices in the context of the food crisis. The government also repealed import duties of 5 and 15 percent that had been applied to several food products in July 2008, and in September became engaged directly in importing wheat and selling it to private flour mills at subsidized prices. To further bolster domestic food supplies, the government suspended from May to August 2008 its "Export Plus" program through which it subsidizes transport fees for the export of fruits and vegetables.

Lebanon's exports have a somewhat more favorable access to international markets than those of its comparators. Lebanon's Market Access TTRI3 (including preferences) is 1.9 percent, lower than the averages for the MNA region and upper-middle-income country group of 2.1 and 2.3 percent, respectively. The simple average of the overall rest of the world tariff (including preferences) faced by the country's exports is 10.0 percent. But when its trade flows are taken into consideration, it is apparent that Lebanon's exports have good access to international markets, as the weighted rest of the world tariff (including preferences) is 0.7 percent, (1.8 percent for agricultural exports and 0.5 percent for non-agricultural exports).

Lebanon is a member of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) through which it receives full exemption of customs duties to 16 other member countries since January 2005. Syria, its main trading partner (accounting for 24 percent of its exports and 11 percent of its imports), is one of the members of GAFTA. The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, to which 12 and 6 percent of Lebanon's exports go to respectively, are also members of GAFTA.

In terms of the conduciveness of its institutional environment to business, Lebanon ranked 108th out of 183 countries in the 2010 Ease of Doing Business index. Additionally, Lebanon's Logistics Performance Index score, which reflects the extent of trade facilitation in the country, is below the regional and income group averages, reflecting a less conducive climate for trade. Lebanon scores 2.37 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest score, while the regional and income group averages are 2.42 and 2.85, respectively. Lebanon ranked 98th out of 150 ranked countries and 7th in the MNA region. The logistics indicator in which it performed the best is domestic logistics costs, while it needs most improvement in increasing the quality of transport and IT infrastructures for logistics.

⁶ http://info.worldbank.org/etools/wti/docs/Lebanon_brief.pdf

Basic indicators

Population (thousands, 2011)	4,259	Rank in world trade, 2011	<u>Exports</u>	<u>Imports</u>
GDP (million current US\$, 2011)	42,185	Merchandise	109	74
GDP (million current PPP US\$, 2011)	62,650	excluding intra – EU trade	85	52
Current account balance (million US\$, 2010)	-7,462	Commercial services	41	48
Trade per capita (US\$, 2008-2010)	12,432	excluding intra-EU trade	24	31
Trade to GDP ratio (2008-2010)	150.5			

	Annual percentage change			
	2011	2005-2011	2010	2011
Real GDP (2005=100)	141	6	7	3
Exports of goods and services (volume, 2005=100)	132	5	0	1
Import of goods and services (volume, 2005=100)	143	6	-8	-3

Trade policy

WTO accession	Observer	Contribution to WTO budget	-
Trade policy review	-	Import duties collected (%) (2007-2009)	
GPA accession	-	in total tax revenue	9.2
Tariff and duty free imports		to total imports	1.6
Tariff binding coverage (%)		Number of notifications to WTO and measures in force	
MFN tariffs	<u>Final bound</u>	<u>Applied 2010</u>	Outstanding notifications in WTO Central Registry
Simple average of import duties			Goods RTAs – services EIAs notified to WTO
All goods	-	6.3	Anti-dumping
Agricultural goods (AOA)	-	16.5	Countervailing duties
Non-agricultural goods	-	4.8	Safeguards
Non-ad-valorem duties (% total tariff lines)	-	6.5	Number of disputes (complainant-defendant)
MFN duty free imports (% (2010)			Requests for consultation
in agricultural goods		41.5	Original panel / Appellate Body (AB) reports
in non-agricultural goods		29.7	Compliance panel / AB reports (Article 21.5 DSU)
Services sectors with GATS commitments		-	Arbitration awards (Article 22.6 DSU)

Merchandise Trade

	Value		Annual percentage change	
	2011	2005-2011	2010	2011
Merchandise exports, f.o.b. (million US\$)	5,664	16	20	13
Merchandise imports, c.i.f. (million US\$)	20,750	14	11	12
Share in world total exports	0.03			Share in world total imports
Breakdown in economy's total exports				Breakdown in economy's total imports
By main commodity groups (ITS)				By main commodity groups (ITS)
Agricultural products	10.7			Agricultural products
Fuels and mining products	7.4			Fuels and mining products
Manufactures	43.3			Manufactures
By main destination				By main origin
1. South Africa	15.8			1. European Union (27)
2. Switzerland	12.1			2. United States
3. European Union (27)	11.9			3. China
4. United Arab Emirates	7.6			4. Switzerland
5. Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	7.2			5. Egypt

Commercial Services Trade

	Value		Annual percentage change	
	2010	2005-2010	2009	2010
Commercial services exports (million US\$)	15,908	8	-4	-6
Commercial services imports (million US\$)	13,404	11	4	-4
Share in world total exports	0.42			Share in world total imports
Breakdown in economy's total exports				Breakdown in economy's total imports
By principal services item				By principal services item
Transportation	4.1			Transportation
Travel	50.4			Travel
Other commercial services	45.5			Other commercial services

Industrial Property

Patents grants by patent office, 2010			Trademark registrations by office, 2010			
<u>Residents</u>	<u>Non-residents</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Direct residents</u>	<u>Direct non-residents</u>	<u>Madrid</u>	<u>Total</u>
...

Tariffs and imports: Summary and duty ranges

Summary		Total	Ag	Non-Ag	WTO member since 2000	
Simple average final bound					Binding coverage	Total
Simple average MFN applied	2010	6.3	16.5	4.8		Non-Ag
Trade weighted average	2010	7.1	9.7	6.6	Ag: Tariff quotas (in %)	
Imports in billion US\$	2010	18.0	2.8	15.2	Ag: Special safeguards (in %)	

Frequency distribution		Duty-free	0<=5	5<=10	10<=15	15<=20	25<=50	50<=100	>100	NAV in %
Tariff lines and import values (in %)										
Agricultural products										
Final bound										
MFN applied	2010	22.3	48.0	0.8	3.6	5.9	8.2	9.6	1.3	10.3
Imports	2010	41.5	36.7	0.5	2.8	8.4	5.3	4.0	0.7	4.7
Non-agricultural products										
Final bound										
MFN applied	2010	42.8	44.3	3.4	2.8	4.4	1.8	0.5	0.0	5.9
Imports	2010	29.7	56.9	2.9	3.7	4.8	1.2	0.1	0.8	17.0

Tariffs and imports by product groups

Product groups	Final bound duties				MFN applied duties			Imports	
	AVG	Duty-free in %	Max	Binding in %	AVG	Duty-free in %	Max	Share in %	Duty-free in %
Animal products					9.0	7.1	70	3.2	87.8
Dairy products					21.0	17.5	117	1.5	23.8
Fruit, vegetables, plants					35.8	8.8	657	1.8	12.6
Coffee, tea					6.7	29.2	20	1.0	12.2
Cereals & preparations					8.6	20.8	130	3.1	55.8
Oilseeds, fats & oils					7.3	47.7	131	1.4	52.6
Sugars & confectionary					6.7	15.6	25	0.8	42.3
Beverages & tobacco					21.8	6.5	70	2.3	1.2
Cotton					0.0	100.0	0	0.0	100.0
Other agricultural products					4.8	42.6	70	0.3	13.5
Fish & fish products					5.0	2.4	20	0.6	12.4
Minerals & metals					4.2	39.0	75	17.8	47.1
Petroleum					8.6	12.0	246	18.9	35.3
Chemicals					2.6	60.4	20	11.1	22.5
Wood, paper, etc.					7.8	42.0	40	4.4	53.2
Textiles					3.2	83.3	61	1.9	67.8
Clothing					18.2	0	103	2.3	0
Leather, footwear, etc.					7.9	18.2	35	1.6	1.6
Non-electrical machinery					3.3	47.5	30	7.8	28.7
Electrical machinery					3.7	34.8	30	4.2	25.7
Transport equipment					4.1	20.8	15	10.8	2.3
Manufactures, n.e.s.					5.2	4.8	40	3.2	7.5

Exports to major trading partners and duties faced

Major markets	Bilateral imports		Diversification 95% trade in no. of		MFN AVG of traded TL		Pref. margin Weighted	Duty free imports		
		In million US\$	HS 2-digit	HS 6-digit	Simple	Weighted		TL in %	Value in %	
Agricultural products										
1. Kuwait	2009	100	12	56	3.7	0.9	0.9	100.0	100.0	
2. European Union	2010	72	16	73	12.7	7.0	6.5	79.3	91.7	
3. Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	2010	72	14	53	4.1	3.7	3.7	100.0	100.0	
4. Jordan	2009	49	13	41	26.1	30.1	30.1	100.0	100.0	
5. Egypt	2010	36	11	20	60.3	32.0	32.0	100.0	100.0	
Non-agricultural products										
1. European Union	2010	327	44	220	4.2	2.2	2.2	100.0	100.0	
2. Turkey	2010	223	2	2	4.4	1.0	1.0	72.2	99.5	
3. Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	2010	206	34	157	4.8	4.7	4.7	100.0	100.0	
4. Switzerland	2010	180	1	4	2.1	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	
5. Algeria	2010	93	10	30	20.5	12.4	12.4	98.6	100.0	

Bilateral and Multilateral Agreements:



The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) ¹⁸ is an international organization consisting of 57 member states. The organization states that it is "the collective voice of the Muslim world" and works to "safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony". The OIC has a permanent delegation to the United Nations, and is the largest international organization outside the United Nations. The official languages of the OIC are Arabic, English and French.



EU-Mediterranean ¹⁹

The Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (EMFTA) is a free trade zone under construction since the Barcelona Declaration, a framework plan, was adopted in 1995. It is being built through a series of bilateral FTAs (called Association Agreements) between Brussels and each state bordering the Mediterranean, as well as so-called horizontal FTAs between the non-EU Mediterranean countries themselves, such as the Agadir Agreement.

The countries in question are Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

Many people view the EU's ambitions to build this special "partnership" with North African and Middle Eastern states — which involves not only trade and investment liberalization but deep political reform, what Brussels calls "approximation" of other countries' legal and political institutions with its own — as both imperialist and neocolonial. This is all the more significant taking into account the United States' plans to weave together a US-Middle East Free Trade Agreement (MEFTA). For the two are in direct competition.

EMFTA was supposed to be completed by 2010. However, a sustainability impact assessment of EMFTA commissioned by the EU already foresees important negative social and environmental consequences. Complicating things further, French President Sarkozy took the initiative to set up a Union for the Mediterranean, involving only the countries that border the sea, which was launched in July 2008.

In September 2011, the EU announced the opening of "deep and comprehensive" trade negotiations with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. In February 2012, the EU and Morocco signed an agricultural trade deal (which also covers fisheries).



GAFTA ²⁰

The Arab League has a long history of trying to foster trade and economic cooperation among its member states, with several initiatives taken in the 1950s and 1960s.

In 1981, an agreement to facilitate and promote inter-Arab trade was signed, but to little effect.

In February 1997, the League decided to create an Arab Free Trade Area, also known as the Greater Arab Free Trade Area or the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area, by 2008. This would be achieved through a 10% reduction in customs fees each year as well as the gradual elimination of trade barriers. Eighteen of the 22 Arab League states signed on to this agreement, which came into force on 1 January 1998.

League states signed on to this agreement, which came into force on 1 January 1998.

In March 2001, it was decided to speed up the liberalization process, and on 1 January 2005 the elimination of most tariffs among the GAFTA members was enforced.

The 17 states that are members of GAFTA are: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Others are in the process of joining.



MEFTA ²¹

The US-Middle East Free Trade Area (MEFTA) initiative was an ambitious plan to achieve a single free trade agreement (FTA) between the United States and all countries between Western Sahara and Iran. It was launched by George W Bush in 2003. As with the old US-ASEAN FTA plan, the idea is to build the FTA bit by bit from the bottom up. Here, in theory, that means pushing all the countries up a scale of necessary conditions: from WTO membership to a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement leading to a bilateral investment treaty and/or an FTA.

¹⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation

¹⁹ <http://www.bilaterals.org/spip.php?rubrique173>

²⁰ <http://www.bilaterals.org/spip.php?rubrique169>

²¹ www.bilaterals.org/spip.php?rubrique174

Bush's MEFTA project was clearly driven by US geopolitical and "security" interests and not just economic goals. The MEFTA project directly comes up against the EU's plans for FTAs with the Mediterranean (EMFTA) and the Gulf states.

However, while the US initially set the deadline for MEFTA at 2013, the Obama Administration seems not to have followed through with it in the way that the previous administration had envisaged.

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