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Chapter 1

137

1.1 137.guide

Texified version of data for Lebanon.

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Lebanon

1.2 137.guide/Lebanon

Lebanon

Header (Lebanon)
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1.3 137.guide/Header (Lebanon)

Header (Lebanon)

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Note:

Lebanon has made progress toward rebuilding its political institutions and regaining its national sovereignty since the end of the devastating 16-year civil war in October 1990. Under the Ta'if accord - the blueprint for national reconciliation - the Lebanese have established a more equitable political system, particularly by giving Muslims a greater say in the political process. Since December 1990, the Lebanese have formed three cabinets and conducted the first legislative election in 20 years. Most of the militias have been weakened or disbanded. The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) has seized vast quantities of weapons used by the militias during the war and extended central government authority over about one-half of the country. Hizballah, the radical Sh'ia party, is the only significant group that retains most of its weapons. Foreign forces still occupy areas of Lebanon. Israel continues to support a proxy militia, The Army of South Lebanon (ASL), along a narrow stretch of territory contiguous to its border ↔

The ASL's enclave encompasses this self-declared security zone and about 20 kilometers north to the strategic town of Jazzine. As of December 1992, Syria maintained about 30,000 troops in Lebanon. These troops are based mainly in Beirut, North Lebanon, and the Bekaa Valley. Syria's deployment was legitimized by the Arab League early in Lebanon's civil war and in the Ta'if accord. Citing the continued weakness of the LAF, Beirut's requests, and failure of the Lebanese Government to implement all of the constitutional reforms in the Ta'if accord, Damascus has so far refused to withdraw its troops from Beirut.

1.4 137.guide/Geography (Lebanon)

Geography (Lebanon)

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Location:

Middle East, in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, between Israel and Syria

Map references:

Africa, Middle East, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

10,400 km²

land area:

10,230 km²

comparative area:

about 0.8 times the size of Connecticut

Land boundaries:

total 454 km, Israel 79 km, Syria 375 km

Coastline:

225 km

Maritime claims:

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

separated from Israel by the 1949 Armistice Line; Israeli troops in ←
southern

Lebanon since June 1982; Syrian troops in northern, central, and eastern

Lebanon since October 1976

Climate:

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

Terrain:

narrow coastal plain; Al Biqa' (Bekaa Valley) separates Lebanon and
Anti-Lebanon Mountains

Natural resources: limestone, iron ore, salt, water-surplus state in a ←
water-deficit region

Land use:

arable land:

21%

permanent crops:

9%

meadows and pastures:

1%

forest and woodland:

8%

other:

61%

Irrigated land:

860 km² (1989 est.)

Environment:

rugged terrain historically helped isolate, protect, and develop numerous
factional groups based on religion, clan, ethnicity; deforestation; soil
erosion; air and water pollution; desertification

Note:

Nahr al Litani only major river in Near East not crossing an international
boundary

1.5 137.guide/People (Lebanon)

People (Lebanon)

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Population:

3,552,369 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:

1.81% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:

27.86 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:

6.66 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:

-3.1 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:

41 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population:

69.01 years

male:

66.63 years

female:

71.52 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:

3.47 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:

noun:

Lebanese (singular and plural)

adjective:

Lebanese

Ethnic divisions:

Arab 95%, Armenian 4%, other 1%

Religions:

Islam 70% (5 legally recognized Islamic groups - Alawite or Nusayri, Druze, Isma'ilite, Shi'a, Sunni), Christian 30% (11 legally recognized Christian groups - 4 Orthodox Christian, 6 Catholic, 1 Protestant), Judaism NEGL%

Languages:

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

Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1990)

total population:

80%

male:

88%

female:

73%

Labor force:

650,000

by occupation:

industry, commerce, and services 79%, agriculture 11%, government 10% ←
(1985)

1.6 137.guide/Government (Lebanon)

Government (Lebanon)

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Names:

conventional long form:

Republic of Lebanon

conventional short form:

Lebanon

local long form:

Al Jumhuriyah al Lubnaniyah

local short form:

none

Digraph:

LE

Type:

republic

Capital:

Beirut

Administrative divisions:

5 governorates (muhafazat, singular - muhafazah); Al Biqa, 'Al Janub, Ash Shamal, Bayrut, Jabal Lubnan

Independence:

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

Constitution:

26 May 1926 (amended)

Legal system:

mixture of Ottoman law, canon law, Napoleonic code, and civil law; no judicial review of legislative acts; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

National holiday:

Independence Day, 22 November (1943)

Political parties and leaders:

political party activity is organized along largely sectarian lines; numerous political groupings exist, consisting of individual political figures and followers motivated by religious, clan, and economic considerations

Suffrage: 21 years of age; compulsory for all males; authorized for women ←
at age 21

with elementary education

Elections:

National Assembly:

Lebanon's first legislative election in 20 years was held in the summer of 1992; the National Assembly is composed of 128 deputies, one-half Christian and one-half Muslim; its mandate expires in 1996

Executive branch:

president, prime minister, Cabinet; note - by custom, the president is a Maronite Christian, the prime minister is a Sunni Muslim, and the speaker ←
of

the legislature is a Shi'a Muslim

Legislative branch:

unicameral National Assembly (Arabic - Majlis Alnuwab, French - Assemblée Nationale)

Judicial branch:

four Courts of Cassation (three courts for civil and commercial cases and one court for criminal cases)

Leaders:

Chief of State:

President Ilyas HARAWI (since 24 November 1989)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Rafiq HARIRI (since 22 October 1992)

1.7 137.guide/Government (Lebanon 2. usage)

Government (Lebanon 2. usage)

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Member of:

ABEDA, AFESD, AL, AMF, CCC, ESCWA, FAO, G-24, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICFTU, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ITU, LORCS, NAM, OIC, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNRWA, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Simon KARAM

chancery:

2560 28th Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone:

(202) 939-6300

consulates general:

Detroit, New York, and Los Angeles

US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Ryan C. CROCKER

mailing embassy:

Antelias, Beirut

address:

P. O. Box 70-840, Beirut, or Box B, FPO AE 09836

telephone:

[961] 417774 or 415802, 415803, 402200, 403300

Flag:

three horizontal bands of red (top), white (double width), and red with a green and brown cedar tree centered in the white band

1.8 137.guide/Economy (Lebanon)

Economy (Lebanon)

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Overview:

Since 1975 civil war has seriously damaged Lebanon's economic

infrastructure, cut national output by half, and all but ended Lebanon's position as a Middle Eastern entrepot and banking hub. Following October 1990, however, a tentative peace has enabled the central government to ← begin

restoring control in Beirut, collect taxes, and regain access to key port and government facilities. The battered economy has also been propped up by a financially sound banking system and resilient small- and medium-scale manufacturers. Family remittances, banking transactions, manufactured and farm exports, the narcotics trade, and international emergency aid are main sources of foreign exchange. In the relatively settled year of 1991, industrial production, agricultural output, and exports showed substantial gains. The further rebuilding of the war-ravaged country was delayed in ← 1992

because of an upturn in political wrangling. Hope for restoring economic momentum in 1993 rests with the new, business-oriented Prime Minister HARIRI.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$4.8 billion (1991 est.)

National product real growth rate:

NA%

National product per capita:

\$1,400 (1991 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

100% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

35% (1991 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$533 million; expenditures \$1.3 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1991 est.)

Exports:

\$490 million (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

agricultural products, chemicals, textiles, precious and semiprecious ← metals

and jewelry, metals and metal products

partners:

Saudi Arabia 21%, Switzerland 9.5%, Jordan 6%, Kuwait 12%, US 5%

Imports:

\$3.7 billion (c.i.f., 1991)

commodities:

Consumer goods, machinery and transport equipment, petroleum products

partners:

Italy 14%, France 12%, US 6%, Turkey 5%, Saudi Arabia 3%

External debt:

\$400 million (1992 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate NA%

Electricity:

1,300,000 kW capacity; 3,413 million kWh produced, 990 kWh per capita ← (1992)

Industries:

banking, food processing, textiles, cement, oil refining, chemicals, jewelry, some metal fabricating

Agriculture:

accounts for about one-third of GDP; principal products - citrus fruits, vegetables, potatoes, olives, tobacco, hemp (hashish), sheep, goats; not self-sufficient in grain

1.9 137.guide/Economy (Lebanon 2. usage)

Economy (Lebanon 2. usage)

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Illicit drugs:

illicit producer of opium, hashish, and heroin for the international drug trade; opium poppy production in Al Biqa almost completely eradicated this year; hashish production is shipped to Western Europe, Israel, US, the Middle East, and South America

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-88), \$356 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$664 million; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$962 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$9 million

Currency:

1 Lebanese pound (#L) = 100 piasters

Exchange rates:

Lebanese pounds (#L) per US\$1 - 1,742.00 (April 1993), 1,712.80 (1992), 928.23 (1991), 695.09 (1990), 496.69 (1989), 409.23 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.10 137.guide/Communications (Lebanon)

Communications (Lebanon)

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Railroads:

system in disrepair, considered inoperable

Highways:

7,300 km total; 6,200 km paved, 450 km gravel and crushed stone, 650 km improved earth

Pipelines:

crude oil 72 km (none in operation)

Ports:

Beirut, Tripoli, Ra'Sil'ata, Juniyah, Sidon, Az Zahrani, Tyre, Jubayl, Shikka Jadidah

Merchant marine:

63 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 270,505 GRT/403,328 DWT; includes 39 cargo, 1 refrigerated cargo, 2 vehicle carrier, 3 roll-on/roll-off, 1 container, 9 livestock carrier, 2 chemical tanker, 1 specialized tanker, 4 bulk, 1 combination bulk

Airports:

total:

9

usable:

8
 with permanent-surface runways:
 6
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 0
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
 3
 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
 2

Telecommunications:

telecommunications system severely damaged by civil war; rebuilding still underway; 325,000 telephones (95 telephones per 1,000 persons); domestic traffic carried primarily by microwave radio relay and a small amount of cable; international traffic by satellite - 1 Indian Ocean INTELSAT earth station and 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station (erratic operations), coaxial cable to Syria; microwave radio relay to Syria but inoperable ← beyond

Syria to Jordan, 3 submarine coaxial cables; broadcast stations - 5 AM, 3 FM, 13 TV (numerous AM and FM stations are operated sporadically by various factions)

1.11 137.guide/Defense Forces (Lebanon)

Defense Forces (Lebanon)

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Branches:

Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF; including Army, Navy, and Air Force)

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 798,299; fit for military service 495,763 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$271 million, 8.2% of GDP (1992 budget)