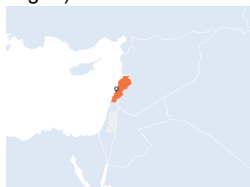


Introduction

Lebanon is a country located in the Middle East on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. It is bordered by Syria and Israel. Lebanon's rugged terrain and location at the crossroads of the Mediterranean Basin and the Arabian hinterland has helped isolate, protect, and develop numerous factional groups within the country. The government system is a republic; the chief of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister. Lebanon is a member of the League of Arab States (Arab League).



Location: Western Asia

Capital City: Beirut (+2 GMT)

Chief of State: Vacant

Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Najib Miqati

Currency: Lebanese pound (LBP)

Major Languages: <p>Arabic (official), French, English, Armenian</p>

Primary Religions: <p>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</p>

Calling Code: 961

Voltage: 110/220

Key Websites

Main Government Page: presidency.gov.lb

Commerce Ministry: ccib.org.lb

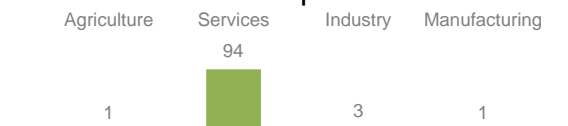
Export Promotion Agency: investinlebanon.gov.lb

Investment Promotion Agency: investinlebanon.gov.lb

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Upper Middle Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$80.15 billion (2021)
GDP growth (annual %):	-7.00% (2021)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$14,330.52 (2021)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$66,893,314,415.10 (2021)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	1.43% (2021)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$2.99 billion (2021)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	154.76% (2021)
Labor force, total:	1,866,554 (2022)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	12.64% (2022)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$12.21 billion (2021)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$6.02 billion (2021)

GDP Composition %



**Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.*

Rankings

Index	Rank
Corruption Perceptions Index	151 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	88 / 141
Global Enabling Trade Index	90 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	164 / 176
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	79 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	82 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	58 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	88 / 139
Open Budget Index	102 / 114

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: D - A high-risk political and economic situation and an often very difficult business environment can have a very significant impact on corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is very high.

Business Climate rating: D - The business environment is very difficult. Corporate financial information is rarely available and when available usually unreliable. The legal system makes debt collection very unpredictable. The institutional framework has very serious weaknesses. Intercompany transactions can thus be very difficult to manage in the highly risky environments rated D.

Strengths

- Strategic geopolitical location, in the middle of three continents
- Possibility to attract international aid in case of a commitment by the government on fiscal reforms
- Offshore gas potential
- Tourism potential

Weaknesses

- After defaulting in March 2020, access to external funding remains problematic
- Dependence on foreign funds to finance the external deficit
- High-inflation environment, weak local currency
- Loss of an important part of local infrastructure after the Beirut explosion in 2020
- Persistent political uncertainty
- Difficulty to restore tourism flows due to social tensions resulting from the economic crisis and low levels of vaccination

U.S. Embassy

U.S. Embassy Beirut

Awkar - Facing the Municipality, Main Street
Beirut, Lebanon

Tel: 961-4- 543 600

<https://lb.usembassy.gov>