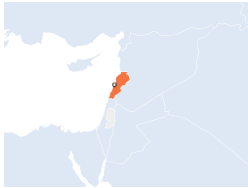


Introduction

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: President Michel Aoun

Head of Govt.: Saad Hariri

Currency: Lebanese pound (LBP)

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

Primary Religions: <p>Muslim 54% (27% Sunni, 27% Shia), Christian 40.5% (includes 21% Maronite Catholic, 8% Greek Orthodox, 5% Greek Catholic, 6.5% other Christian), Druze 5.6%, very small numbers of Jews, Baha'is, Buddhists, Hindus, and Mormons</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 \$):	\$88.27 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	1.53% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$14,512.69 (2017)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$73,526,412,439.80 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	6.45% (2017)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$12.40 billion (2017)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	4.32% (2017)
Labor force, total:	2,230,294 (2018)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	6.17% (2018)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$23.53 billion (2017)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$12.82 billion (2017)

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	143 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	80 / 139
Global Enabling Trade Index	90 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	153 / 179
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	103 / 115

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: C - The business environment is difficult. Corporate financial information is often unavailable and when available often unreliable. Debt collection is unpredictable. The institutional framework has many troublesome weaknesses. Intercompany transactions run major risks in the difficult environments rated C.

Strengths

- Financial support from the diaspora
- Gas potential
- Robust banking system

Weaknesses

- Highly exposed to regional geopolitical tensions
- Political divisions along religious lines
- Very high public debt
- Strong political differences leading to instability

U.S. Embassy

U.S. Embassy Beirut

Awkar - Facing the Municipality, Main Street

Beirut, Lebanon

Tel: 961-4- 543 600

<https://lb.usembassy.gov>