



# Lebanon



**Background** After World War I, France acquired a mandate over the northern portion of the former Ottoman Empire province of Syria. From it the French demarcated the region of Lebanon in 1920 and granted this area independence in 1943. Lebanon's borders with Syria and Israel remain unresolved.

**Capital** name: Beirut

**Government type** parliamentary democratic republic

**Area** total : 10,400 sq km  
land: 10,230 sq km  
water: 170 sq km

**Climate** Mediterranean; mild to cool, wet winters with hot, dry summers; the Lebanon Mountains experience heavy winter snows

**Natural resources** limestone, iron ore, salt, water-surplus state in a water-deficit region, arable land

**Population** total: 5,364,482

**Population growth rate** 0.61% (2024 est.)

**Ethnic groups** Arab 95%, Armenian 4%, other 1%

**Religions** 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 (2020 est.)

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

**Executive branch** chief of state: President Joseph AOUN (since 9 January 2025)  
head of government: Prime Minister Najib MIQATI (since 20 September 2021)

**Diplomatic representation in the US** chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Waël HACHEM, Counselor (since 15 March 2021)

**Diplomatic representation from the US** chief of mission: Ambassador Lisa A. JOHNSON (since 6 February 2025)

**Economic overview** lower middle-income Middle Eastern economy; hyperinflation and sharp poverty increases; banks have ceased lending; economic contraction, destroyed infrastructure, and reduced consumer demand resulting from Israel-Hezbollah conflict

<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$65.818 billion (2023 est.) \$65.917 billion (2022 est.) \$66.329 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$12,300 (2023 est.) \$11,500 (2022 est.) \$11,600 (2021 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$11.77 billion (2023 est.) \$12.445 billion (2022 est.) \$9.684 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	UAE 22%, Syria 8%, Egypt 5%, US 5%, Turkey 4% (2022)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	diamonds, plastics, jewelry, gold, scrap iron (2022)
<b>Imports</b>	\$23.313 billion (2023 est.) \$24.536 billion (2022 est.) \$17.667 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	China 14%, Turkey 13%, Greece 9%, UAE 7%, Italy 5% (2022)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	refined petroleum, cars, gold, broadcasting equipment, diamonds (2022)