LEBANON

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State
President Michel AWN

Head of Government
Prime Minister Saad HARIRI

Government Type
parliamentary republic

Capital
Beirut

Legislature
unicameral National Assembly or Majlis al-Nuwab in Arabic or Assemblee Nationale in French (128 seats)

Judiciary
Court of Cassation or Supreme Court (organized into 8 chambers, each with a presiding judge and 2 associate judges); Constitutional Council (consists of 10 members)

Ambassador to US
Ambassador Gabriel ISSA

US Ambassador
Ambassador Dorothy SHEA

GEOGRAPHY

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

ECONOMY

Economic Overview
has a free-market economy and a strong laissez-faire commercial tradition; the economy is service-oriented; main growth sectors include banking and tourism; the Syria conflict cut off one of Lebanon's major markets and a transport corridor through the Levant

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)
$88.25 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
$19,600 (2017 est.)

Exports
$3.524 billion (2017 est.)
partners: China 13%, UAE 9.9%, South Africa 7.5%, Saudi Arabia 6.5%, Syria 6.5%, Iraq 5.8%, Turkey 4.6% (2017)

Imports
$18.34 billion (2017 est.)
partners: China 10.2%, Italy 8.9%, Greece 7%, Germany 6.6%, US 6.3%, Turkey 4.5%, Egypt 4.2% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population
5.5 million (July 2020 est.)

Population Growth
-6.68% (2020 est.)

Ethnicity
Arab 95%, Armenian 4%, other 1%

Language
Arabic (official), French, English, Armenian

Religion
Muslim 61.1% (30.6% Sunni, 30.5% Shia, smaller percentages of Alawites and Ismailis), Christian 33.7% (Maronite Catholics are the largest Christian group), Druze 5.2%, very small numbers of Jews, Baha'is, Buddhists, and Hindus (2018 est.)[1]

Urbanization
urban population: 88.9% of total population (2020)
rate of urbanization: 0.75% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Literacy
95.1% (2018)

as of November 2020

[1] data represent the religious affiliation of the citizen population