LEBANON

INTRODUCTION
Following World War I, France acquired a mandate over the northern portion of the former Ottoman Empire province of Syria. 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.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Michel Awn
Head of Government
Prime Minister Hassan Diab (caretaker)
Government Type
parliamentary republic
Capital
Beirut
Legislature
unicameral National Assembly or Majlis al-Nuwab in Arabic or Assemblee Nationale in French (128 seats)

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
upper middle-income Middle Eastern economy; economic activity hurt by economic depression, COVID-19, and port explosion; hyperinflation and sharp poverty increases; banks have ceased lending; new financing facility helping with recovery
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $79.51 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $11,600 (2020 est.)
Industries - banking, tourism, real estate, construction, food processing, wine, jewelry, cement, textiles, mineral/chemical products, wood/furniture products, oil refining, metal fabricating
Agricultural products - potatoes, milk, tomatoes, apples, oranges, olives, wheat, cucumbers, poultry, lemons
Exports $3.524 billion (2017 est.)
gold, jewelry, shotguns, diamonds, scrap copper (2019)
partners: Switzerland 27%, UAE 15%, South Korea 11%, Saudi Arabia 7%, Kuwait 6% (2019)
Imports $18.34 billion (2017 est.)
refined petroleum, cars, packaged medicines, jewelry, gold (2019)
partners: UAE 11%, China 10%, Italy 8%, Greece 8%, Turkey 7%, US 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
5.3 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.68% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Arab 95%, Armenian 4%, other 1%
Language
Arabic (official), French, English, Armenian
Religion
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.)
Urbanization
urban population: 89.1% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: -1.23% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)