Country Profile: Lebanon

The Republic of Lebanon is a parliamentary republic. Political power is concentrated in the office of the President, Prime Minister and Speaker of Parliament, each representing one of Lebanon's three largest religious sects (Maronite Christians, Sunni and Shi'a Muslims). Since 1973, Lebanon has been in a state of war with Israel. Read the Department of State Background Notes on Lebanon for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERV	DUNTRY OVERVIEW		
Country Name:	Lebanon		
Continent:	Asia (Middle East)		
Capital City:	Beirut		
Boundary Countries:	Israel, Syria		
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Beirut:American University of Beirut Medical Center, AI-Rassoul AI-Aazam Hospital, Bahman Hospital, Clemenceau Medical Center, Consulting Clinics, Hotel Dieu De France Hospital, Lebanese-Canadian Hospital, Makassed General Hospital, Najjar Hospital, Rizk Hospital, Salhel General Hospital, St. George University Hospital Medical Center Bekaa:Khoury General Hospital, Tatari Hospital El Chouf:Ain Wazein Hospital Hamra:Fouad Khoury Hospital Jounieh: Hopital Notre Dame du Liban Matn: Abou Jaoude Hospital Tripoli: Monla Hospital, Nini Hospital Tyre: Hiram Hospital		
Main Cities:	Beirut, Bekaa, Tyre, Tripoli, Sidon, Jbail, Baalbeck, Sidon, Zahlé, El Mina, Chekka, Batroun, Jounié, Naqoura, Hermel, Jazzin		
Country Size:	10,400 sq km		
Population:	3,925,502		

COUNTRY	GENERAL	INFORMATIO	N

Language:	Arabic (official), French, English, Armenian
Currency:	Lebanese Pound (LBP)
Predominant Religions:	Muslim 59.7% (Shi'a, Sunni, Druze, Isma'ilite, Alawite or Nusayri), Christian 39% (Maronite Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Melkite Catholic, Armenian Orthodox, Syrian Catholic, Armenian Catholic, Syrian Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Chaldean, Assyrian, Copt, Protestant), other 1.3% note: 17 religious sects recognized

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National Holidays:	Independence Day, 22 November (1943)
Economic Status:	The Israeli-Hizballah conflict caused an estimated \$3.6 billion in infrastructure damage in July and August of 2006, and internal Lebanese political tension continues to hamper economic activity.
Security:	Lebanese Armed Forcees (LAF): Army, Navy, and Air Force
US Presence:	U.S. Embassy in Beirut Awkar-Facing the Municipality, Main Street Beirut, Lebanon Tel: 04 – 543 600 Fax: 04 – 542 600
Major Airports:	Airports: 7, Airports w/paved runways: 5 Beirut – Rafic Hariri International Airport (BEY/OLBA) Beirut Airport, Lebanon, Beirut, Lebanon Tel: +961 (0)1 628190/2 Fax: +961 (0)1 629013 Website: www.beirutairport.gov.lb

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