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INVEST IN LEBANON

INVEST IN LEBANON GUIDE

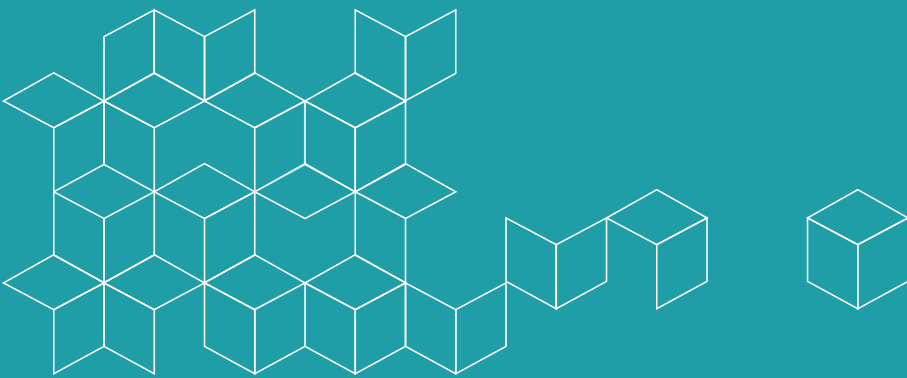
LEBANON AT A GLANCE



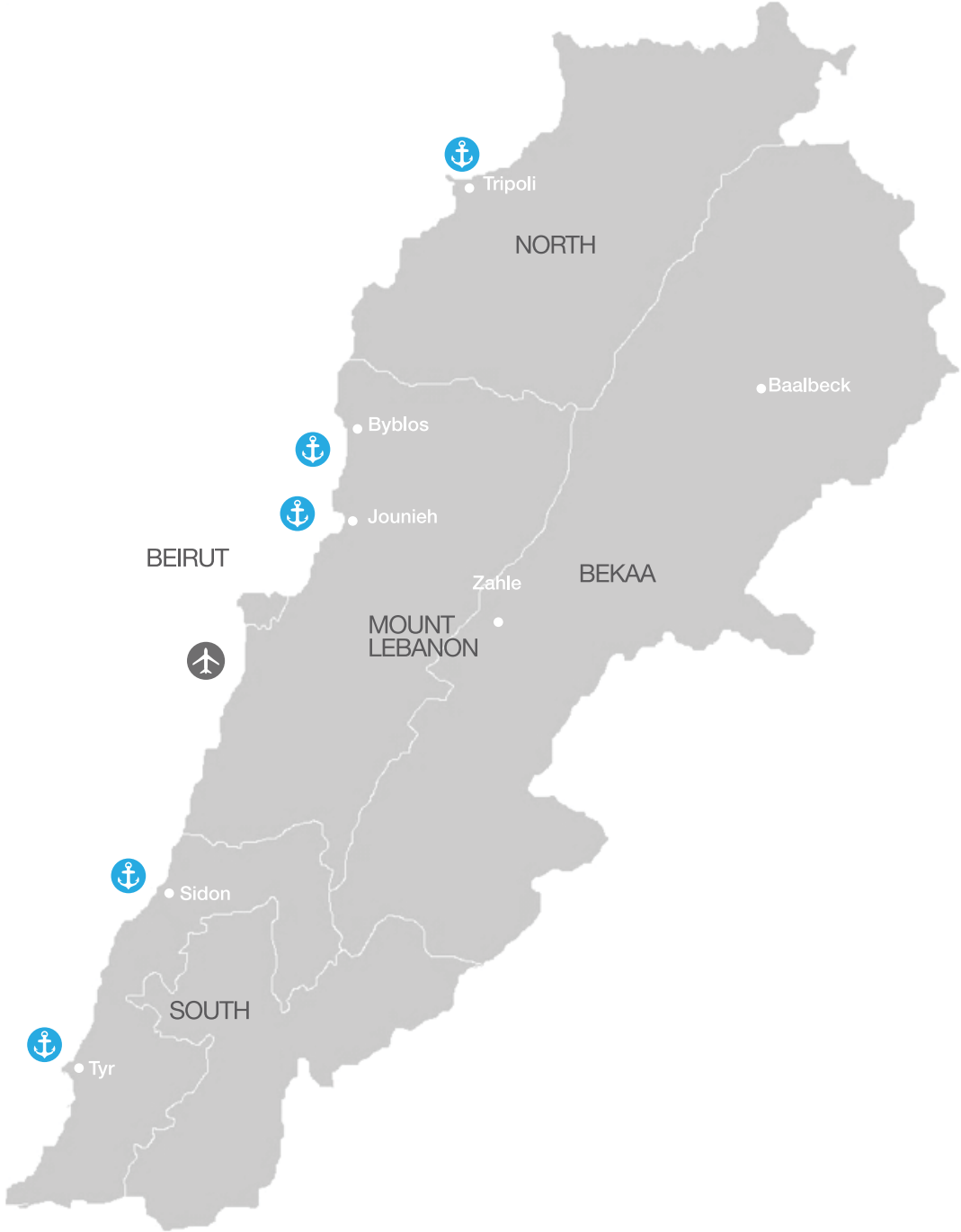
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LEBANON: KEY FACTS & FIGURES



LEBANON IN FIGURES



GOVERNMENT



Capital: Beirut

Area: 10,452 km²

Form of Government: Parliamentary Democracy

Official Languages: Arabic

Currency: Lebanese Pounds USD 1 ~ LBP 1507

GEOGRAPHY



Governorates: Akkar, Baalbeck, Bekaa, Beirut, El Hermel, Mount Lebanon, South Lebanon, Nabatiyeh, North Lebanon

Time Zone: EET (UTC+2) Summer (DST) EEST (UTC+3)

Main Cities: Beirut, Baabda, Sidon, Baalbek, Zahle, Tripoli, Nabatiyeh

SOCIO - DEMOGRAPHICS



Population (2011): 4,259,405

Density: 379/km²

Spoken languages: Arabic, French, English

Percentage of Tertiary Education (2011): 54%

Labor force (2011): 1.2 million

Urban Population (2011): 87% of total

Human Development Index (2011): 0.739

Unemployment Rate (2010): 6.4%

Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Central Administration for Statistics (CAS), UNDP

ECONOMY



GDP at current prices (2012): USD 41.8 billion

GDP/Capita (2012): USD 10,416

Real GDP growth (2012): 2.0%

GDP composition by sector (2010):

Market Services (33.5%)

Trade (27.5%)

Construction (15.2%)

Industry (7.2%)

Transport and Communication (5.5%)

Agriculture (4.7%)

Energy & Water (-2.6%)

Government (9.1%)

Average Inflation Rate (2012): 6.5%

Current Account balance (2012): -16.12% of GDP

Balance of Payments (2012): USD -1,54 million

Domestic credit to private sector (2011): 84% of GDP

Corporate tax rate: 15%

Main Import Partners (2012): USA, Italy, China, France, Germany

Main Export Partners (2012): South Africa, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Syria

FDI inflows (2011): USD 3.5 billion

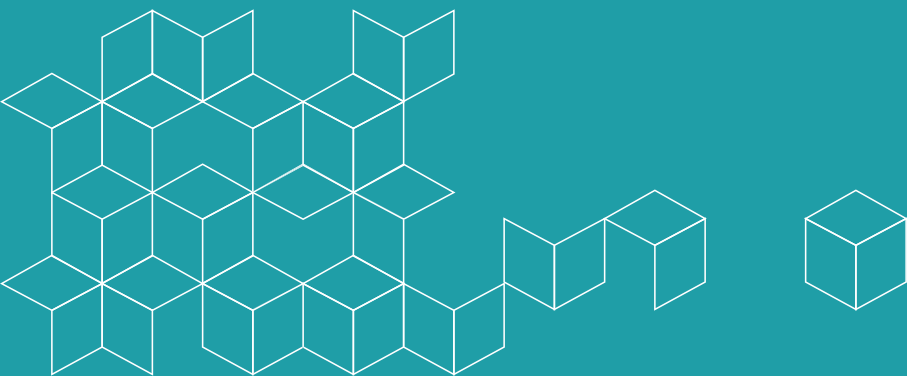
Airport passengers (2012): 5.9 million

Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Bank Audi, Central Administration for Statistics (CAS), Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanese Customs Administration

Note: Latest available figures in the time of publication.

LEBANON

THE RIGHT PLACE
TO DO BUSINESS



LEBANON HAS A LOT TO OFFER TO INVESTORS ON MANY LEVELS

Economically

Investing in Lebanon is a **SOUND DECISION**

Financially

Investing in Lebanon is a **FULFILLING ENDEAVOR**

All-In-All

Investing in Lebanon is a **REWARDING VENTURE**

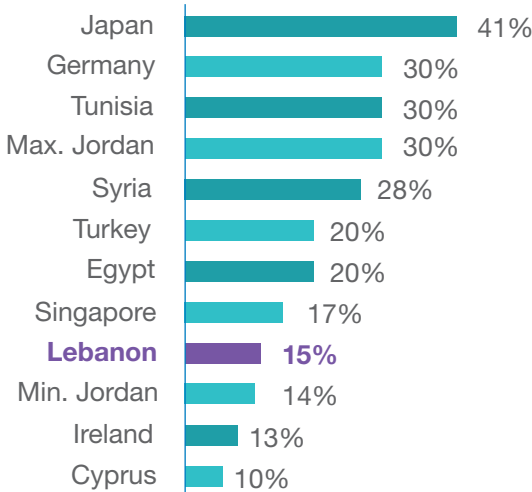
SOUND DECISION

Lebanon, with its official non-interventionist stance toward private investments, offers one of the most liberal investment climates in the Middle East. The openness of the country is harnessed through the absence of legal restrictions on the entry or exit of firms, encouraging free market competition and furthering the development of the private sector. Lebanon's low corporate tax rates and competitive taxation schemes have also played a defining factor in channeling investments to the country. The country's ability to manage and mitigate external risks, successfully averting the negative repercussions of the last global economic downturn and regional disturbances is attributed to its highly liquid banking sector considered the backbone of the Lebanese economy, and offering investors the security needed through its Banking Secrecy Law.

LAISSEZ-FAIRE	ATTRACTIVE	LIBERAL
COMMERCIAL	FISCAL	FINANCIAL
TRADITION	INCENTIVES	ECOSYSTEM

Lebanon boasts one of the lowest corporate income tax rates in the world, which has played a defining role in channeling investments to the country.

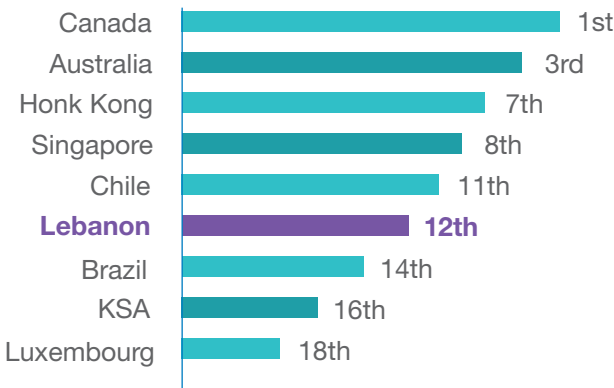
Corporate Tax Rates | 2012



Source: Country's Investment Promotion Agencies

It has one of the most solid and safest banking systems, as reflected in the soundness of banks indicator, which is one of the highest in the world.

Soundness of Banks | 2012

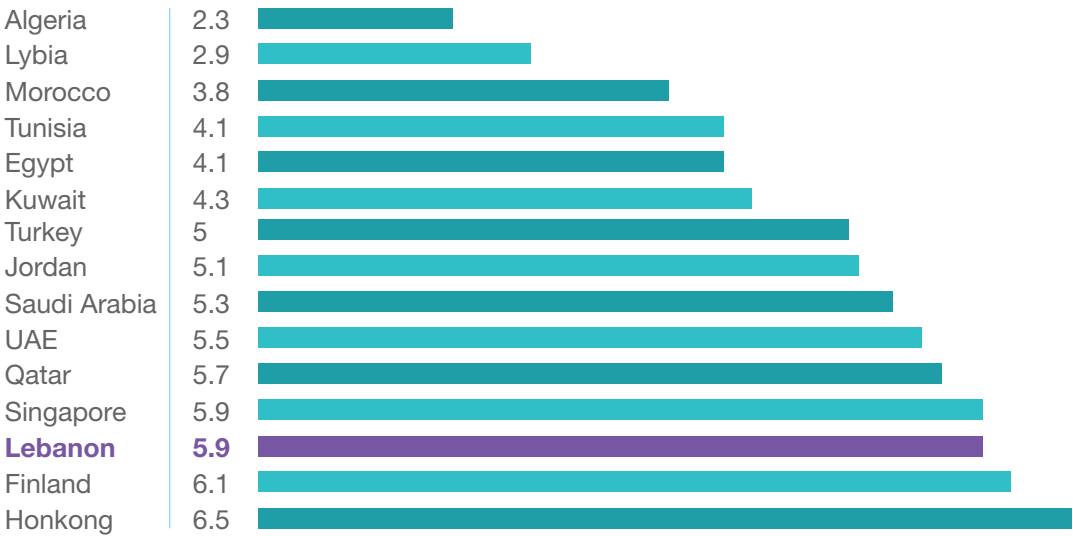


Source: World Competitiveness Report, 2012

Note: Standing among 139 countries. Ranking based on the degree of soundness of financial institutions.

Furthermore, the absence of restrictions on capital flows, a main feature of our liberal financial system, is reflected in Lebanon's leading position at par with developed countries such as Finland and Singapore.

Restrictions on Capital Flows | 2010



Source: World Economic Forum, 2010

Note: The Index measures how restrictive are the regulations of a country in relation to the flow of interaction capital. 1 = highly restrictive; 7 =not restrictive at all

A FULFILLING ENDEAVOUR

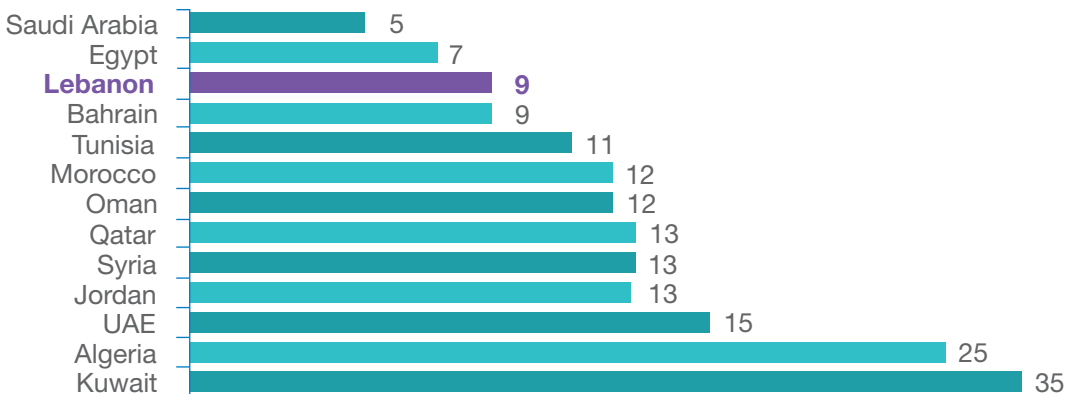
With an average of 9 days only to start a business and 37 days to enforce a contract, Lebanon offers national and foreign investors alike with a competitive business environment. Its multi-skilled and highly educated workforce, ranked 4th globally in the quality of Math and Science education, has been the backbone of the country's success, providing it with the needed skills to move to an innovative based economy. Over the last few years, Lebanon has in fact managed to graduate successful start-ups which are now global players.

COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT	HIGHLY SKILLED LABOR FORCE
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► Competitive Business Environment

The country's pro-business environment, in which it takes only 9 days to **open a business** and 37 procedures to **enforce a contract**, in addition to a **cost competitive structure** have made Lebanon an attractive business destination.

Time Required to Start a Business | no. of Days | 2012



Source: World Bank, 2012

Number of Procedures to Enforce a Contract | 2012

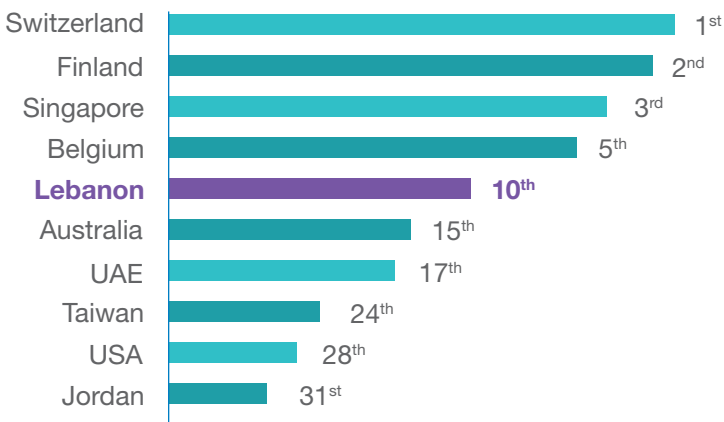


Source: World Bank, 2012

► Highly Skilled Labor Force

A highly skilled workforce is the foundation to a successful business. Lebanon offers the most educated labor force in the region with the highest number of graduates.

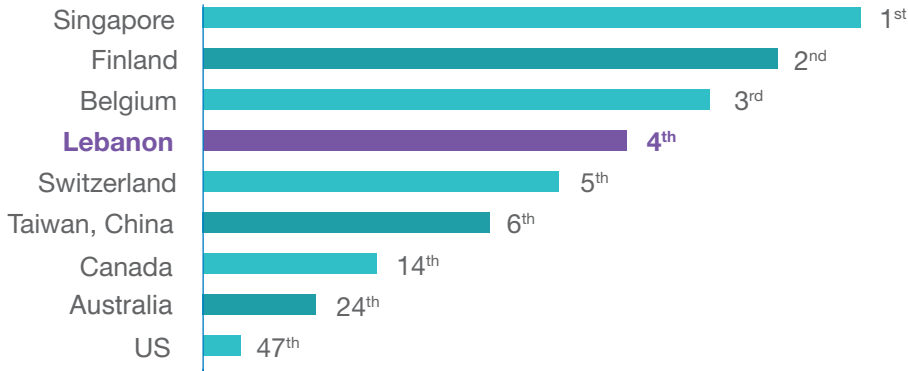
Quality of the Educational System | 2012



Source: Global Competitiveness Report, 2012-2013

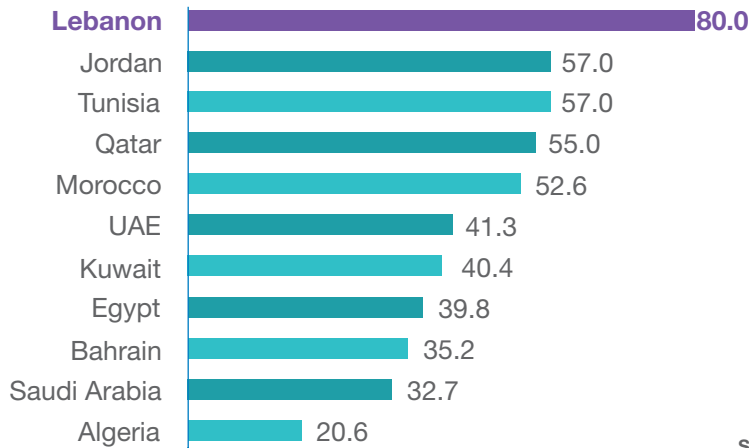
Note: The Quality of the Education Index measures how well the educational system in a certain country meets the needs of a competitive economy. The scores range between 1 and 7, 1 being the worst i.e. “not well” and 7 being the highest, i.e. “very well”. Lebanon scores 5.3, which allowed it to rank among the top 10 countries globally.

Quality of Math & Science Education Index | 2012-2013



Source: Global Competitiveness Report, 2012-2013

Education Capability Index in Arab Countries | 2010



Source: PricewaterhouseCoopers, 2010

Note: On a Scale of 1 to 100, the Education Capability Index is calculated based on responses to three questions: 1- the CEOs rating on the existing quality of local and foreign education institutions in their country, 2- to what extent they feel that the education system in their country provides people with adequate skills to enhance the country's economy and 3- their level of confidence towards the education system reaching standards required by the business sector in the next 10 year.

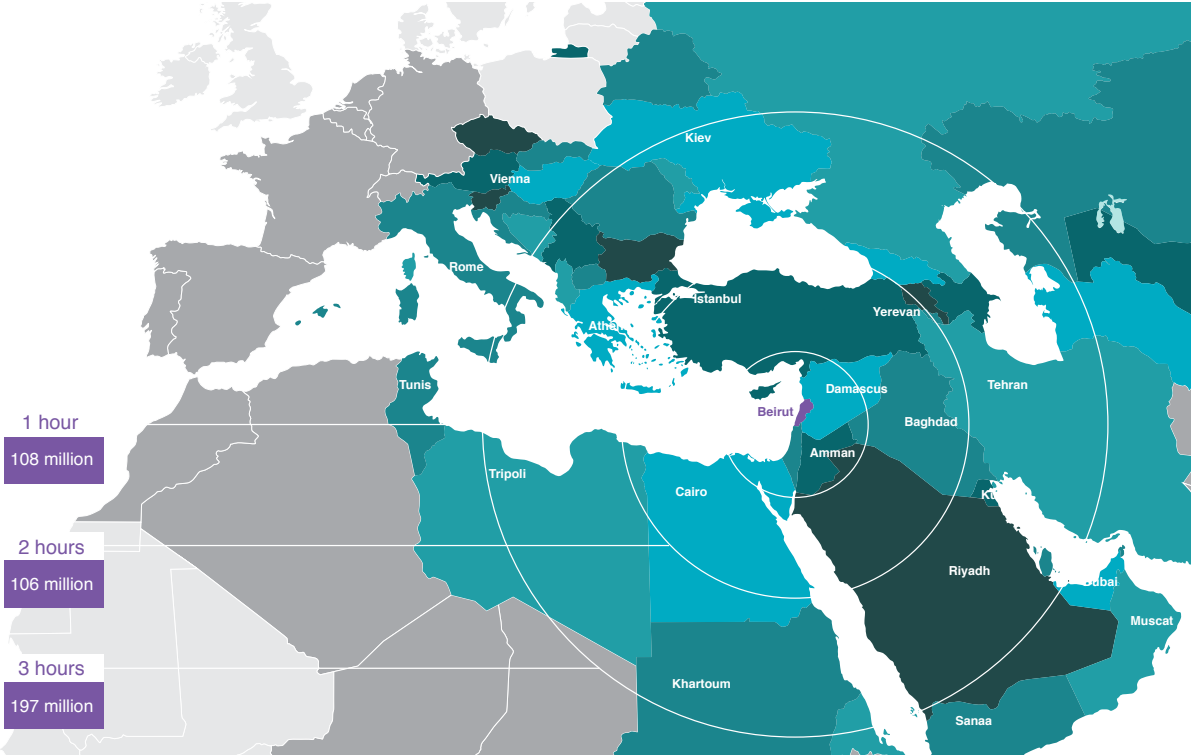
A REWARDING VENTURE

Invest in Lebanon and enjoy the most hospitable MENA destination for business, culture and leisure with a Mediterranean climate, cosmopolitan lifestyle and a variety of touristic attractions and activities across breath-taking natural landscapes. Strategically located at the intersection of Europe, Asia and Africa, Lebanon can provide companies easy access to regional and global markets. Lebanon also boasts state-of-the-art health care services, internationally renowned for the quality medical centers and staff. A historic melting pot for multiple civilizations, Lebanon is a small, multilingual haven of culture and diversity that is worth the journey.

HIGH
QUALITY
OF LIFE

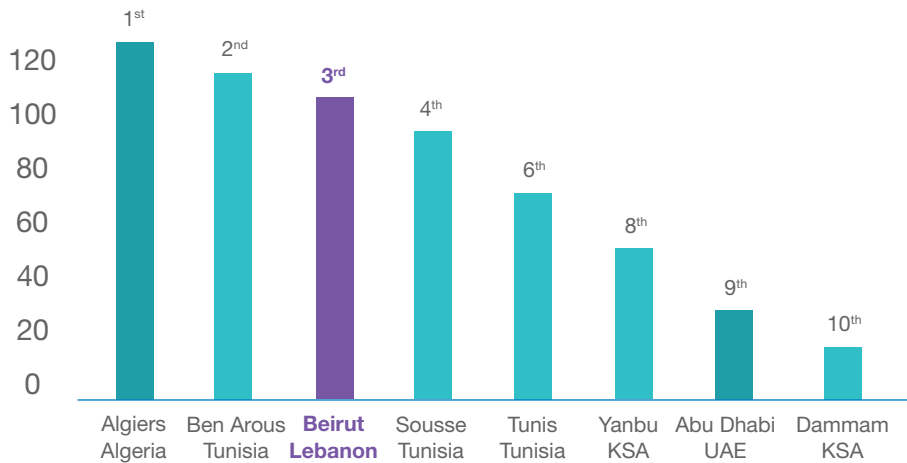
SUPERIOR
HEALTH
SERVICES

Lebanon’s regional geographic location has been recognized for centuries as a contact point between east and west, and as the gateway to the Middle Eastern market. Less than a few hours of travel will connect any investor to a consumer base of around 197 million.



► High Quality of Life

Arab Cities Ranking From Least to Most Polluted | 2011



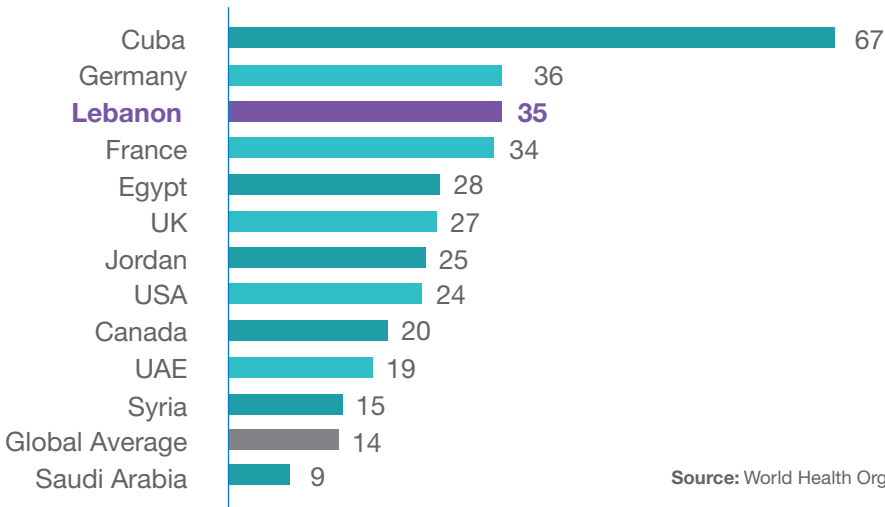
Source: World Health Organization Report, 2011



► Superior Health Services

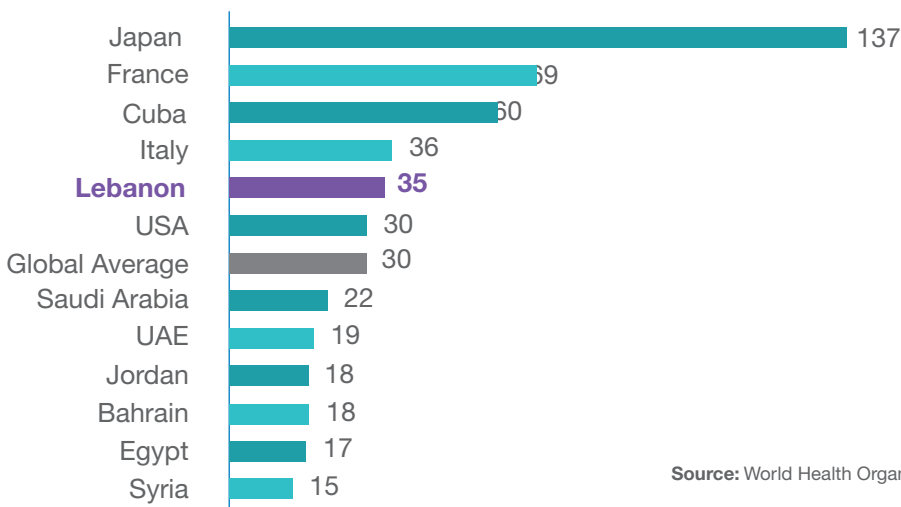
Lebanon's quality of life is also reflected in its state-of-the-art healthcare services which have traditionally attracted tourists seeking it's long-term medical treatment and services.

Physicians Per 10,000 Population | 2005 - 2010



Source: World Health Organization Report, 2011

Beds per 10,000 Population | 2005 - 2011



Source: World Health Organization Report, 2011

BEFORE MAKING YOUR DECISION



READ ABOUT THE INVESTMENT LEGISLATION

Lebanon's investment legislation is simple and transparent seeking to facilitate the establishment of new business in Lebanon, and to ensure their viable growth and expansion. The multiple trade agreements and investment treaties signed over the last few years have further improved the investment climate in Lebanon, accelerating its integration into regional and global economies. The Lebanese legal framework complies with international standards, offering equal treatment for local and foreign investors and presenting a suitable platform for businesses.

TRADE AGREEMENTS

Lebanon has adopted trade liberalization policies as part of its comprehensive economic strategy to allow further integration of Lebanon into the global economy. Lebanon's economic growth and business competitiveness have improved with the signing of a number of trade agreements, designed to enhance the access of local companies to international markets. These trade agreements have been signed mainly with Arab countries and the European Union aiming at establishing a free trade area between the trading partners:

- » **The Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA), 2005:** As a member of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA), Lebanon receives full exemption of tariffs on all agricultural and industrial goods traded between the 17 Arab member countries.
- » **The Free Trade Agreement with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), 2004:** In June 2004, a free trade agreement between the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and Lebanon was signed which grants Lebanese industrial exports (including fish and other marine products, as well as processed agricultural products) free access to the following EU markets: Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Iceland.

- » **The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Initiative, 2002:** Since 2003, Lebanese industrial and most agricultural products which fall within the limits of tariff quotas enjoy free access to EU markets . As part of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership initiative, an Association Agreement with the EU was signed in 2006, which stipulates the progressive elimination of tariffs on imported goods manufactured by European countries and this by 2014. The Agreement has put in place the necessary conditions for progressive and reciprocal liberalization of trade in goods with a view to establishing a bilateral free trade area including relevant provisions on customs cooperation, competition, protection of intellectual, industrial and commercial property, and services.

- » **Bilateral Free Trade Agreements** with Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Syria, and the UAE.

- » Lebanon is also an observer in the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** since 1999.

BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATIES

53 bilateral agreements for the Promotion and Protection of Investments provide foreign investors with a legal framework whereby the most favorable setting is established between Lebanon and the 53 contracting partners. The treaties provide a fair and equitable treatment on a non-discriminatory basis, and a full protection and security of foreign investments in both countries.

CONVENTIONS FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION

To facilitate trading across borders and foster international business, Lebanon has signed tax conventions with 32 countries. These conventions promote the exchange of goods and services, the inflow of capital and technology by avoiding double taxation, on one hand, and the prevention of fiscal evasion through administrative assistance between the contracting parties on the other hand.

For more information on these agreements and conventions, please visit the Ministry of Finance's website at www.finance.gov.lb.

MAJOR LAWS REGULATING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

A robust and efficient legal framework underpins Lebanon's attractiveness to investors seeking business opportunities, and creates a high degree of transparency protecting investors' rights and regulating their operations:

▶ Laws that Regulate Investments

>> Investment (Law No. 360, 2001)

Investment Law No. 360, which was enacted in 2001, provides a framework for regulating investment activities in Lebanon, and offers local and foreign investors alike a range of incentives and business support services.

>> Privatization Law (Law No. 228, 2000)

This Law established the Higher Council for Privatization (HCP), tasked with initiating, implementing and controlling privatization procedures and processes in Lebanon, in addition to listing all provisions to be respected by the HCP.

>> Foreign Acquisition of Property Law (Law No. 296, 2001)

Law No. 296 came as an amendment to Law No. 11614, enacted in 1969. The new law abolished discrimination on property ownership by Arab and foreign nationals, and lowered real estate registration fees from 6 percent for Lebanese and 16 percent for foreigners to five percent for both categories of investors.

>> Law on Fighting Money Laundering (Law No. 318, 2001)

Law 318 established the Special Investigation Commission for fighting money laundering as an independent legal entity with judicial status at the Central Bank.

Environmental Regulations

>> Laws on the Protection of the Environment (Law No. 444, 2002)

This Law specifies the general legal framework to implement a national policy for the protection of the environment from all types of hazards.

>> Environmental Impact Assessment Decree (No. 8633, 2012)

This decree sets the guidelines needed to assess the environmental impact of any public or private project, in addition to laying down the steps required to obtain an environmental impact assessment.

Labor Regulations

>> Labor Law (1946) Amended in 2010

The law includes all provisions related to terms of employment, working hours, termination of employment, and other related regulations.

>> Social Security Law (1963)

The law enumerates all provisions related to coverage for sickness, maternity care, family allowance, end-of-service pensions, and work related incidents.

► Protection of Rights

>> Patent Law (Law No. 240, 2000)

The Law outlines all rules and regulations related to patenting, as well as the rights of patented products. According to Article 20, the owner of a patent shall have the exclusive right to his invention in terms of manufacturing, exploitation, and marketing.

>> Copyright Law (Law No. 75, 1999)

This Law covers the protection of literary and artistic property, and protects all human intellectual productions created prior to and after its enactment. It specifically encompasses all categories of artistic works.

>> Consumer Protection Law (Law No. 13068, 2004)

The Law outlines the general rules regarding the protection of consumers and the safety and quality of goods and services. It specifies consumer rights and provides the legal framework for protecting consumers from fraud.

► Companies' Regulations

>> Laws and Regulations for Holding and Offshore Companies in Lebanon.

>> Law Regulating Holding Companies (Legislative Decree No. 45 of June 24, 1983 amended by law No. 772 of Nov 11, 2006).

>> Law Regulating Offshore Companies (No. 46 of June 24, 1983, amended by law 19 of September 5, 2008).



INVESTMENT INSURANCE PROGRAMS

Investments in Lebanon profit from insurance against political risks provided by the **National Investment Guarantee Corporation (NIGC)**. The corporation which benefits from a government guarantee since 1977, continues to encourage new investments by Lebanese or foreign commercial companies insuring them against political risks, civil strife, riots, confiscation and expropriation, provided that an annual premium of 0.2% of the insured amount is paid.

Other main investment programs operating in Lebanon include:

»**Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)** - member of the World Bank Group. MIGA has been operating in Lebanon since 1994, providing guarantees to investors and lenders. It protects investments against non-commercial risks and can help investors obtain access to funding sources with improved financial terms and conditions.

www.miga.org

»**Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC-US)**: Delivers finance innovations that help U.S. businesses successfully enter, grow and compete in emerging markets.

www.opic.gov

»**COFACE (France)**: COFACE offers to companies of all sizes, business sectors and nationalities, a full and modular range of products with the aim of optimizing their trade receivables management: credit insurance, factoring, services of business information, debt collection and invoice management.

www.coface.com

»**Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD- UK)**: ECGD complements the private market by providing assistance to exporters and investors, initially in the form of insurance and guarantees to banks.

www.ecdg.gov.uk

»**Hermes Kreditversicherungs-AG (HERMES- Germany)**: The German credit insurance company provides tailored solutions for risk management and problems of turnover control and security.

www.eulerhermes.de/en/

»**Istituto per i Servizi Assicurativi e il Credito all'Esportazione (SACE- Italy)**: In addition to credit insurance, SACE provides integrated credit management solutions, such as the protection of investments, sureties and financial guarantees for commercial and financial transactions, in addition to offering arrangements for project and structured finance.

www.sace.it

»**Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC)**: IAIGC provides insurance coverage for Arab and non-Arab investments in Lebanon and all its member countries against non-commercial risks such as nationalization, confiscation, expropriation, civil disturbances, current transfer risks, default, insolvency, bankruptcy and breach of contract.

www.iaigc.org



BEFORE ARRIVING



READ ABOUT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All foreigners must have a valid passport and visa to enter Lebanon. Passports must be valid for at least six months. Visas can be obtained in advance at Lebanese embassies and consulates around the world. Nationals of many countries can also obtain business visas upon arrival at the Beirut airport and at other ports of entry on the Lebanese borders. At the Rafik Hariri International airport, visa stamps can be purchased at a window directly across from passport control. You can pay in cash in U.S. dollars or Lebanese pounds.

WHO REQUIRES A VISA?

A visa is required by all except the following:

- » Nationals of Syria for unlimited stays, provided arriving directly from Syria;
- » Nationals of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE for stays up to three months;

Restricted entry: The Government of Lebanon refuses entry to holders of Israeli and Palestinian passports; i.e holders of passports containing a visa from Israel, valid or expired, used or unused passports with entry stamps to Israel.

TYPES OF VISAS

There are several types of visas one may apply for depending on the nature of the trip. The following are the most popular types:

- **Business Visa:** Visa applicants who are planning to attend business meetings, conferences or seminars in Lebanon should be ready to provide information about the nature of their business and information on the conference/seminar, its venue, date, as well as the phone and fax numbers of the organizers in Lebanon.
- **Tourist Visa:** Individual visas are issued at both the Lebanese embassy in the traveler's home country and the Lebanese airport upon arrival. Moreover, collective visas are also possible in case of group travel.

➤ **Work Visa:** Applications for employment are submitted by the company in Lebanon or person representing the applicant/s to the **Ministry of Labor** for prior approval. Thereafter, these representatives should present the application form to the **Directorate General of the General Security** for its approval. The approval is communicated to the Embassy or one of the Consulates of Lebanon, through the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.



ENTRY VISA FOR INVESTORS, BUSINESSMEN, BANKERS, GENERAL MANAGERS & EMPLOYERS

Free visas and temporary residence valid for a period of six months are granted on border departments and centers based on the following conditions:

- **Arab investors, businessmen and their family members** who are visiting Lebanon for the first time for investment purposes: they should present an official document from the appropriate authorities proving their professional occupation in addition to a recommendation letter from the same authorities in favor of granting the visa.
- **Arab investors, businessmen and their family members** holding a letter from the Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (when benefiting from IDAL's incentives) in the favor of granting the visa.
- **Arab investors, businessmen, traders and their family members** pursuant to an invitation from a Lebanese businessman according to the following:

The inviting party presents an application to the General Directorate of General Security that should include:

- » *A written commitment to bring over the concerned party on the applicant's responsibility.*
- » *A photocopy of his commercial record.*
- » *A photocopy of the invited person's passport along with an official document issued by the competent authorities certifying his professional occupation.*

- **Investors and businessmen mentioned above**, possessing a temporary residence for a period of six months and who have already launched investment projects in Lebanon; they can present a request to the General Directorate of General Security to obtain a yearly or permanent residence, valid for three years and renewable.

» **For the citizens of the countries who were not granted immediate visas at the airport,** their cases will be treated according to the following:

- » *Bankers, Directors/General Managers and Employers after presenting a document that certifies their positions.*
- » *People from Lebanese origin provided they present a proof.*
- » *Touristic delegations of minimum eight persons pursuant to an application presented by an authorized tourist company in Lebanon along with departure commitment by that company.*

RESIDENCE IN LEBANON FOR INVESTORS AND BUSINESSMEN

The temporary residence is granted to those entering with a work permit (which will have to be obtained from the Ministry of Labor). People concerned in this category should obtain a work permit and a yearly residence permit within three months from the date of entrance to Lebanon. In the case they fail to, the employer has to obtain a clearance for the employee from the Ministry of Labor and should, jointly with the employee, consult the General Security's regional department located within the employee's residential area in order to obtain a temporary stay that allows the employee to obtain a work permit.

The foreigner should present the application at one of the regional departments of the General Security located within the applicant's residential area in order to obtain a temporary stay that allows for a work permit.

If the applicant is Syrian, then the application should be presented at one of the regional departments of the General Security located within the applicant's residential area along with the passport or a valid identity card or a return coupon.

The General Directorate of General Security can extend the temporary residence beyond its expiry to a maximum period of one year starting the date of entrance to Lebanon.

Investors and businessmen possessing temporary residence for six months and who have initiated investment projects in Lebanon may apply before the General Directorate of General Security for a yearly or permanent residence valid for a period of three years and renewable.

For more information on visas, permits and other entry requirements, please visit the General Directorate of General Security's website at www.general-security.gov.lb

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

- Customs Authorities inspect the luggage of arriving passengers.
- Israeli products are not allowed into Lebanon.
- The following items are allowed duty free:
 - » *200 cigarettes, or 200 grams of tobacco, or 25 cigars.*
 - » *1 liter of alcoholic drinks.*
 - » *60 grams of perfume, or 0.5 liters of Eau de Cologne.*
 - » *A few personal gifts.*
- Arriving passengers may bring in foreign currencies without restrictions. Gold coins and jewelry are exempted from taxes and should be declared to the authorities upon entry.
- Departing passengers may take out Lebanese and foreign currencies without restrictions. However, passengers are allowed to take out the same quantity of gold coins and jewelry declared upon arrival. Receipts for jewelry while in Lebanon should be presented if requested by Customs Officials.
- Passengers are not allowed to bring in or take out, under any circumstances, weapons and ammunition without prior permission from both the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior. Passengers are not allowed to bring in or take out illegal drugs and narcotics under any circumstances. Valuable antiquities cannot be exported without prior export permission from the Competent Authorities.

For more information on the custom regulations when entering Lebanon, please visit the Customs website at www.customs.gov.lb

READ ABOUT LEBANON & ITS QUALITY OF LIFE

LIVING COSTS

The below data is the average cost of different aspects of a daily life in Lebanon in 2012. You can use the information to get an idea on the country's living costs.

Restaurants	Avg. USD
Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant	13.66
Meal for 2, Mid-range Restaurant, Three-course	53.26
Combo Meal at McDonalds or Similar	8.00
Cappuccino (regular)	3.00
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)	0.68
Water (0.33 liter bottle)	1.02

Markets	Avg. USD
Milk (regular), 1 liter	2.00
Loaf of Fresh White Bread (500g)	0.68
Eggs (12)	2.58
Fresh Cheese, (1kg)	8.50
Chicken Breasts (Boneless, Skinless), (1kg)	7.66
Apples (1kg)	2.00
Oranges (1kg)	1.75
Potato (1kg)	1.00
Lettuce (1 head)	1.17
Water (1.5 liter bottle)	1.00
Pack of Cigarettes (Marlboro)	1.70

Transportation **Avg. USD**

One-way Ticket (local transport)	1.33
Monthly Pass	52.23
Taxi Start (Normal Tariff)	6.00
Taxi 1km (Normal Tariff)	6.00
Taxi 1hour Waiting (Normal Tariff)	27.48
Gasoline (1 liter)	1.22
Volkswagen Golf 1.4 90 KW Trend line (Or Equivalent New Car)	20,500

Utilities (Monthly) **Avg. USD**

Basic (Electricity, Gas, Water, Garbage) for 85m ² apartment	150
1 min. of Prepaid Mobile Tariff Local (No Discounts or plans)	0.37
Internet (6 Mbps, Flat Rate, Cable/ADSL)	55.63

Sports and Leisure **Avg. USD**

Fitness Club, Monthly Fee for 1 Adult	60
Tennis Court Rent (1 Hour on Weekend)	14.15
Cinema, International Release, 1 Seat	8.00

Rent Per Month **Avg. USD**

Apartment (1 bedroom) in City Centre	750
Apartment (1 bedroom) Outside of Centre	450
Apartment (3 bedrooms) in City Centre	2,500
Apartment (3 bedrooms) Outside of Centre	1097.81

Buy Apartment Price **Avg. USD**

Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment in City Centre	5,000
Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment Outside of Centre	1,998.67

Salaries And Financing **Avg. USD**

Median Monthly Disposable Salary (After Tax)	1,000
Mortgage Interest Rate in Percentages (%), Yearly	6.00

QUALITY OF LIFE

Lebanon not only makes an outstanding touristic destination, ranked #1 on “*The New York Times*” list of 44 places to go to in 2009, but it also makes for a great place to live and to do business. This is due to many factors that ensures a certain standard of quality of life for its inhabitants as well as its visitors. According to the annual Quality of Life Index, prepared by “*International Living*” magazine at the beginning of each year, Lebanon ranked 8th out of 18 MENA countries in 2011.

► CULTURE

Lebanon’s culture is the product of various civilizations that have passed through the country over thousands of years. Lebanon’s diverse population, composed of different ethnic and religious groups, has further contributed to the country’s festivals, musical styles and literature as well as cuisine. Despite the ethnic, linguistic, religious and denominational diversity of the Lebanese, they share an almost common culture: Lebanese society is very modern and similar to many Mediterranean countries, especially in Europe. Uniquely diverse ethnic and religious composition creates a rare environment that is at once Arab and European. It is often considered as Europe’s gateway to Western Asia as well as Asia’s gateway to the Western World.



➤ TOP-NOTCH UNIVERSITIES

Lebanon has one of the highest literacy rates in the Middle East. There are around 40 institutions for higher education in Lebanon, some dating back to the late 1800's and are recognized globally. The major universities include the American University of Beirut, Université Saint-Joseph (subsidized by the French government and administered by the Jesuit order), the Lebanese American University, the Lebanese University (Université Libanaise) and the Beirut Arab University (an affiliate of the University of Alexandria).



► GREAT NIGHTLIFE

Beirut ranked #3 on the top list of nocturnal cities in 2011. Beirut the city that never sleeps, has something to offer everyone from once the sun sets from festivals, to concerts, night-clubs, pubs, lounges, bars and beach parties.



► A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Lebanon is at the cross road of the Middle East, connecting the Western and Eastern worlds, the Mediterranean Basin and the Arabian hinterland. No other country in the region can claim the ethnic and cultural diversity that Lebanon enjoys. The Lebanese constitution recognizes the rights of freedom of expression associated and assembly. Those freedoms are held in high esteem and practiced daily by 19 recognized religious dominations that constitute the Lebanese society.





CONTACT US

If you require any further information on investing in Lebanon or on the services IDAL can offer you, please do not hesitate to contact us at the following:

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