

The Labour Force and Household Living Conditions Survey (LFHLCS) 2018-2019 was fully funded by the EU delegation in Lebanon.

In addition to CAS permanent staff responsible of managing, coordinating and doing the technical work related to the survey; the ILO contracted on temporary basis External Collaborators (Excols) as fieldworkers (12 supervisors and about 130 interviewers) and office team (about 37 persons) to work on administrative aspects, data entry, data editing, coding and cleaning.

The Human Resources Information Management System (HRIMS)-an IT program, developed by CAS, was used to manage the human resources, the payment and the work progress on the field and the office.

The ILO managed all contracts and the budget, in addition to providing international expertise.

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Boulevard Camille Chamoun, Atwe building.

Phone: +961 5 462 880

www.cas.gov.lb

Key findings on the labour market 2018–2019

Employment

1. Less than 50 per cent of the working age population (15 years and over) were participating in the labour force 2018–19.
2. Among women of working age, the labour force participation rate was 29.3 per cent.
3. There was a slow but steady change in the structure of employment, away from agriculture (about 4 per cent) and industry (about 21 per cent), and towards services (about 76 per cent), and, most likely, informal employment.
4. Hours of work were generally higher in service jobs, such as administrative and support service activities, accommodation and food, wholesale and retail trade, and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles. By contrast, hours of work were generally lower in education, own-use production work, and real estate activities.
5. The employed population usually worked an average of about 48.5 hours per week at their main job.
6. The estimated number of persons with more than one job during the survey reference week was 55,100, representing about 3.5 per cent of total employment.
7. While the data show a relatively high degree of gender occupational segregation (index = 43.8 per cent), the proportion of women in managerial positions (28.9 per cent) was roughly in proportion to their overall share in total employment (30.5 per cent).
8. Among young persons in employment, 31.5 per cent were engaged in occupations with qualification requirements below their level of education (over-educated), and 21.3 per cent were engaged in occupations with qualification requirements above their level of education (under-educated).
9. Non-Lebanese workers made up about 21.3 per cent of the total labour force living in residential dwellings within the scope of the survey. Compared with Lebanese residents, non-Lebanese residents had a significantly higher labour force participation rate (60.8 per cent versus 46.3 per cent), and a lower unemployment rate (8.7 per cent versus 12.1 per cent). They also worked longer hours at all jobs, with a higher concentration in household activities and the industrial sector, particularly construction, and experienced a highly disproportionate amount of employment in elementary occupations for their main job (50.2 per cent versus 5.4 per cent for Lebanese workers). They were also characterized by having informal jobs, no social security coverage provided by employer, no paid sick leave and no paid annual leave (91.1 per cent versus 27.8 per cent for Lebanese employees).

Youth labour underutilization

10. The youth (15–24 years old) unemployment rate was 23.3 per cent – more than double the general unemployment rate (11.4 per cent), and was even higher among university graduates (35.7 per cent) of the same age cohort.
11. Taking into account time-related underemployment and the potential labour force, including discouragement from job-search, the survey results show that 29.4 per cent of the extended youth labour force were in various forms of labour underutilization.
12. About half of unemployed young people had been looking for work for more than 12 months. The percentage of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) was about 22 per cent, significantly higher among young women (26.8 per cent) than young men (16.7 per cent).
13. In terms of seasonality, higher than average unemployment was recorded in winter months, but dropped to lower than average in the summer months, a general pattern consistent with seasonal unemployment in the northern hemisphere.

Demographic characteristics of residents in Lebanon

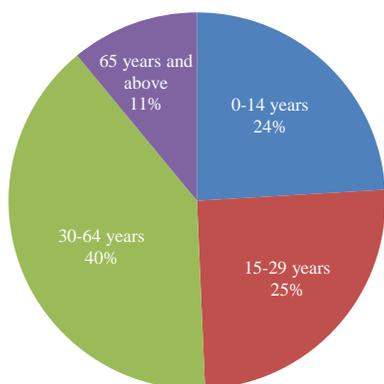
Residents in Lebanon in mid-2018

The population of Lebanon for mid-2018 was estimated at around 4.842 million people, excluding people living in non-residential units, such as army barracks, refugee camps and adjacent gatherings, and informal settlements.

Eighty per cent of residents are Lebanese and 20 per cent are citizens of other countries.

The caza of Baabda accounted for the largest share of residents (11.4 per cent), and the caza of Becharre for the lowest share (0.5 per cent).

Residents by major age groups (in percentage)



Age and sex

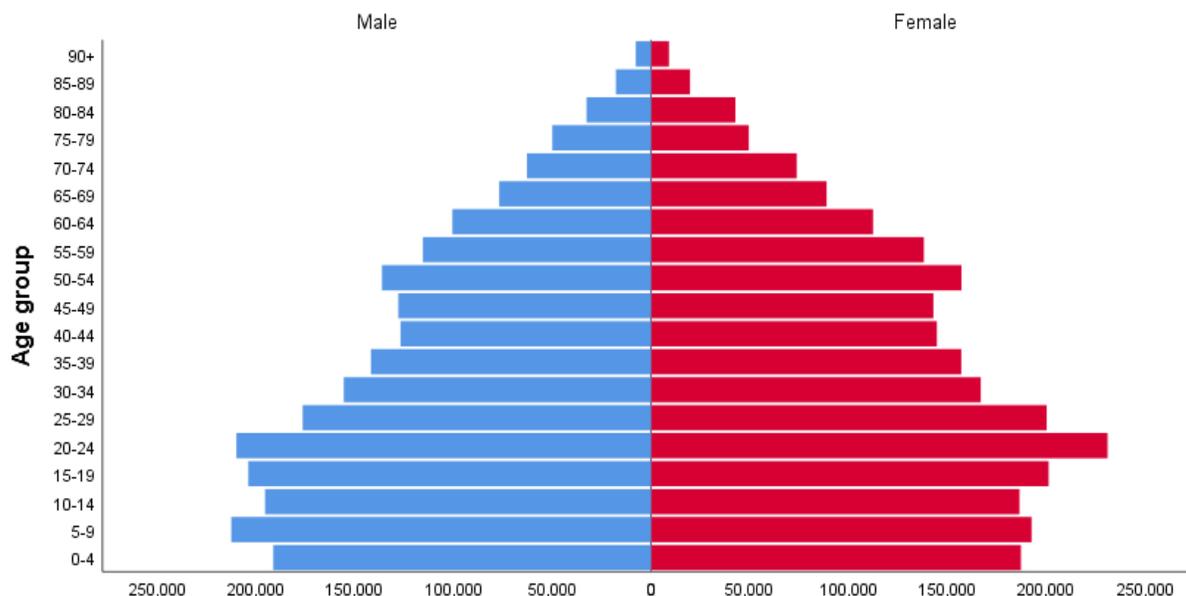
Women comprised 51.6 per cent and men 48.4 per cent of the total residential population.

Residents in Lebanon in mid-2018

Caza of residence	Frequency	Percent
Beirut	341,700	7.1
Baabda	553,800	11.4
Maten	511,000	10.6
Chouf	277,000	5.7
Aley	300,800	6.2
Keserwan	260,500	5.4
Jbeil	129,500	2.7
Tripoli	243,800	5.0
Koura	84,600	1.7
Zgharta	87,700	1.8
Batroun	58,900	1.2
Akkar	324,000	6.7
Bcharre	22,100	0.5
Minieh-Danniyeh	140,800	2.9
Zahleh	177,400	3.7
West Beqaa	86,400	1.8
Baalbek	214,600	4.4
Hermel	30,500	0.6
Rachaya	33,800	0.7
Saida	296,600	6.1
Tyr	255,700	5.3
Jezzine	32,100	0.7
Nabatieh	180,200	3.7
Bint Jbeil	96,200	2.0
Marjaayoun	74,000	1.5
Hasbaya	28,700	0.6
Total	4,842,500	100.0

Note: Figures are rounded to ease readability, so percentage total may not correspond to 100.

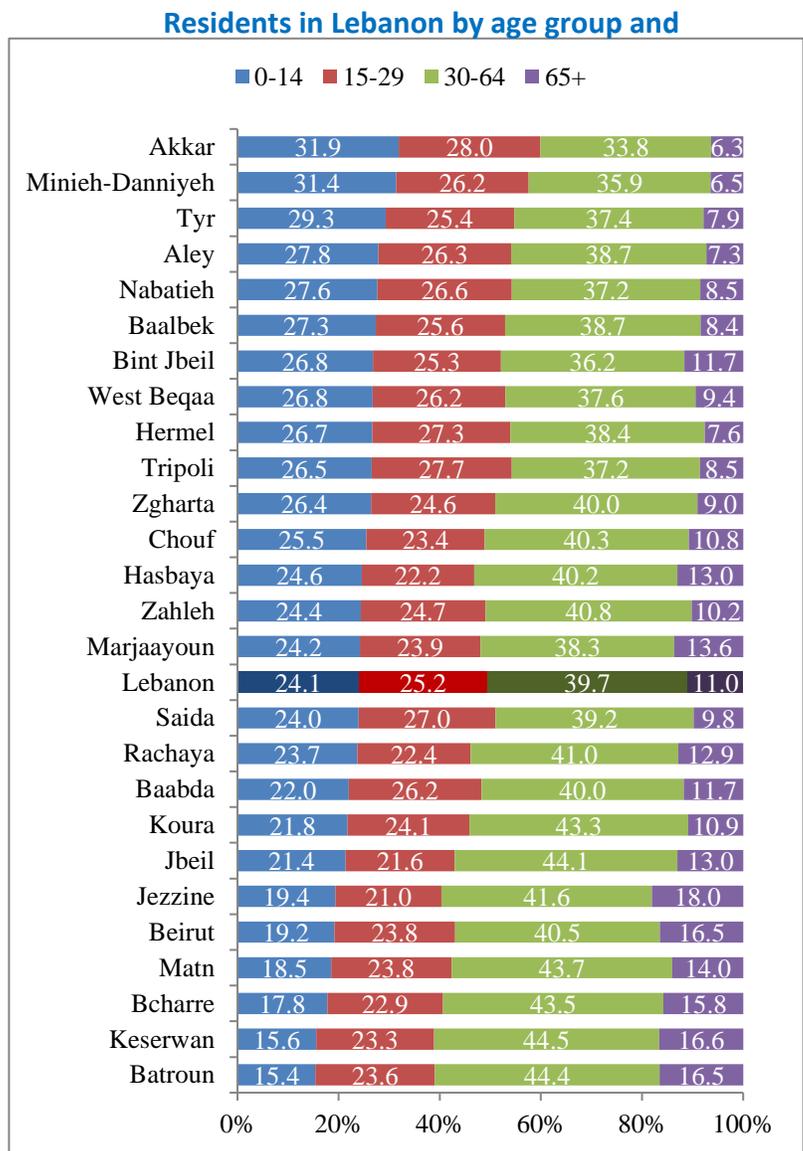
Age pyramid for Lebanon residents



Residents in Lebanon by age group and caza

This graph shows the relative size of the age group 0–14 years in 11 cazas. It shows that in 11 cazas the share of children is below the national average (24 per cent). Jezzine hosts the largest share of senior persons (18 per cent compared with the national average of 11 per cent).

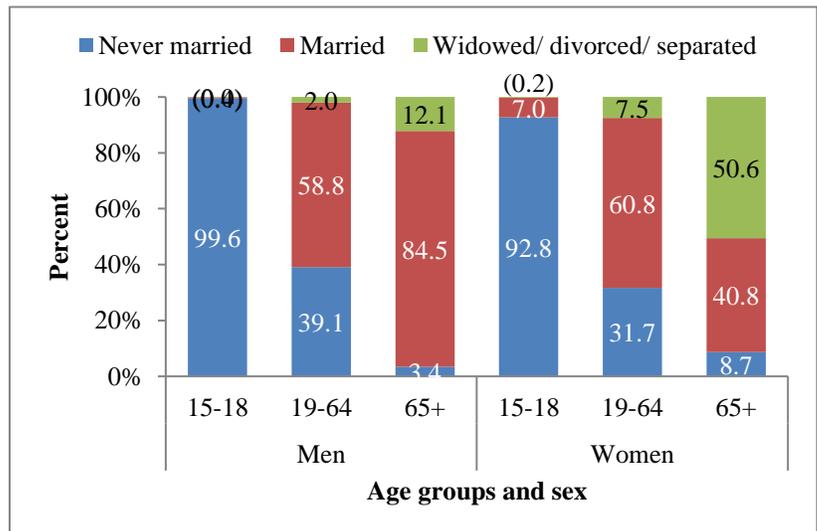
The total share of the working age population (15–64 years) was 65 per cent for Lebanon: 68 per cent in the caza of Batroun, followed by Keserwan, Matn and Koura.



Note: The percentage in the age group 65 years and above in the Caza of Hermel represents estimation below 2500 of the absolute value with a standard error above 20 per cent.

Marital status by age group and sex

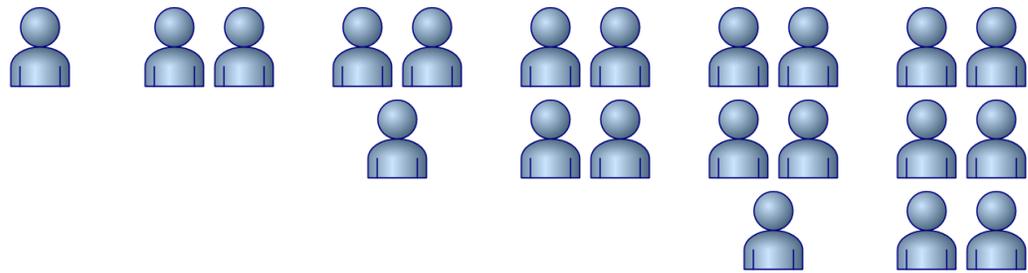
55.1 per cent of residents were married, 36.4 per cent never married and 8.5 per cent were either widowed or divorced or separated. Early marriage among young persons 15 to 18 years was low, occurring only among less than 4 per cent of the residents, and 7 per cent among women aged 15-18 years.



Household's composition and size

The estimated total number of households in Lebanon is around 1.266 million. The most common kind of household composition was of 4 persons on average; just 10 per cent of households were composed of only one person.

Household size
(in persons)



Number of
Households

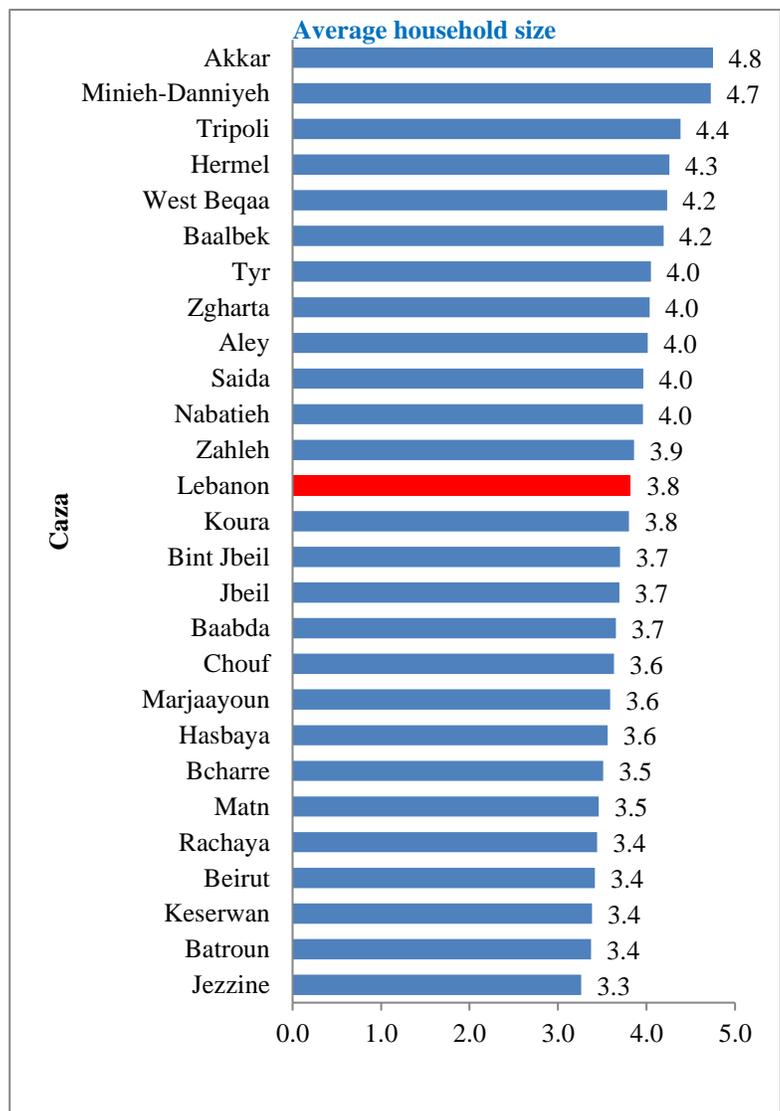
129,200 230,600 221,900 258,600 204,200 222,200

Note: Figures are rounded.

Lebanese heads of households represent 85 per cent, while non-Lebanese heads of households made up the remaining 15 per cent. Around 18 per cent of households were headed by women and 82 per cent by men.

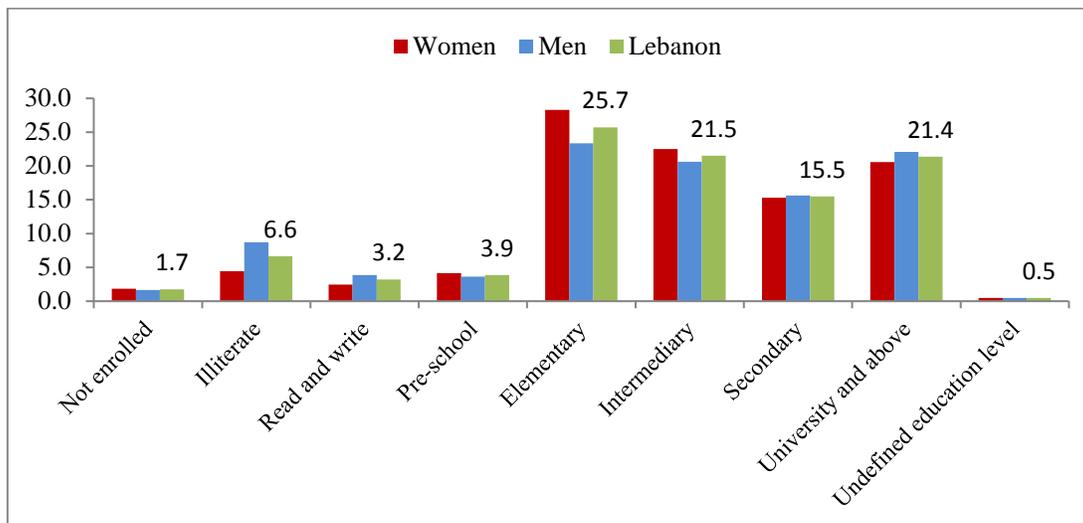
Average household size

The overall average household size in Lebanon was 3.8 individuals – a decline from 4.3 in 2004. The caza of Akkar had the largest average household size, reaching 4.8 and the lowest was in the caza of Jezzine with 3.3.



Education

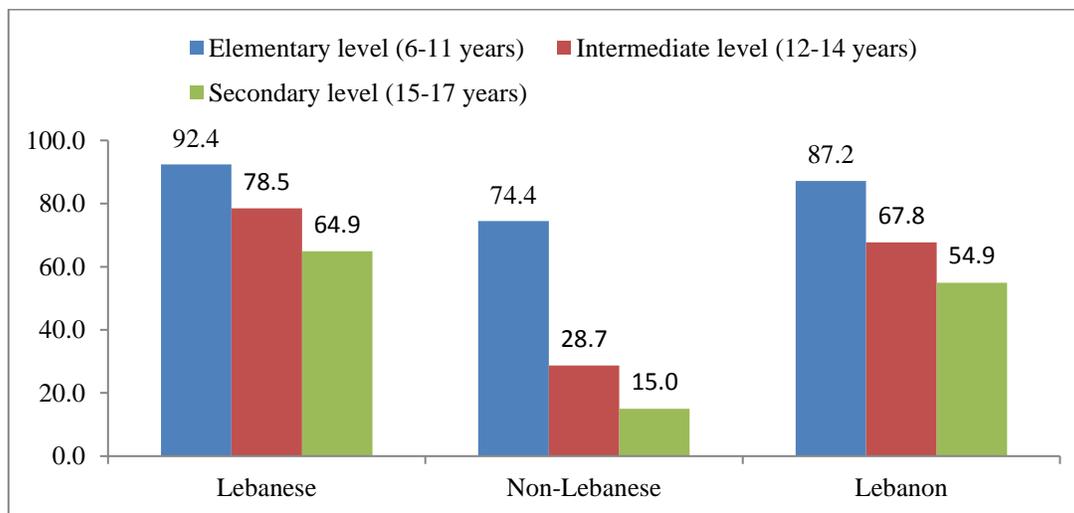
Educational attainment by sex



About 2 per cent of residents aged 3 years and above were not enrolled in education and 7 per cent were illiterate. The percentage of residents holding a university degree was 21 per cent, with almost no difference between women and men.

Enrolment

Net enrolment rates differ between Lebanese and non-Lebanese residents.

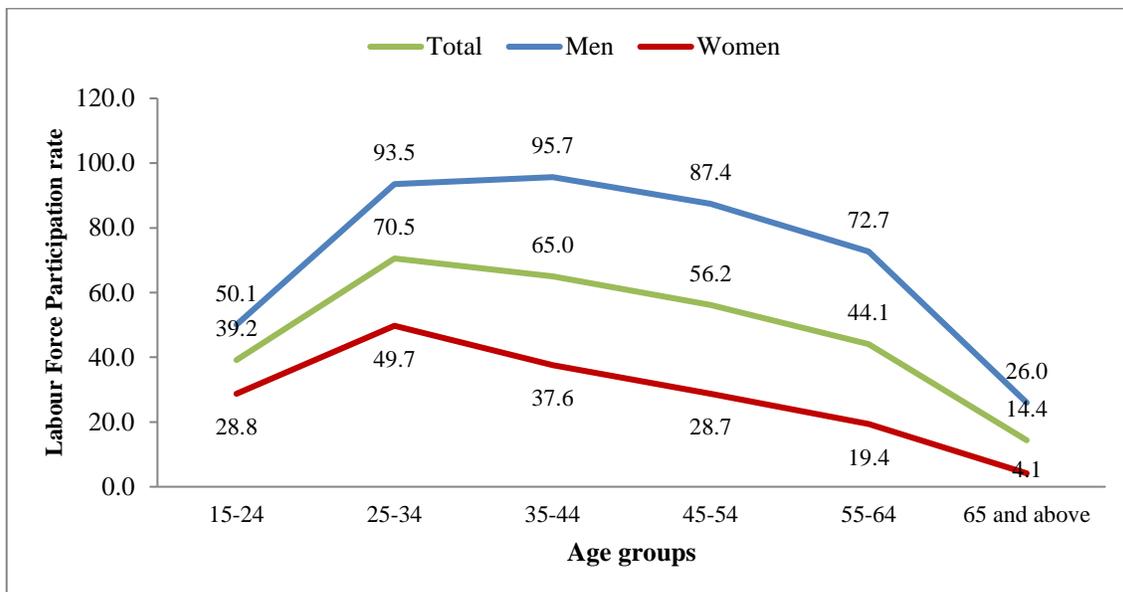


The net enrolment rate counts students registered at the relevant level as a share of the total number of students in the same age group. For example, the net enrolment rate for intermediate level students was computed as the total number of registered students in the intermediate level aged 12–14 as a proportion of the total number of students aged 12–14 years. Differences were found in enrolment rates between Lebanese and non-Lebanese students at all levels, but were most acute at the intermediate and secondary levels, therefore decreasing enrolment rates at the national level.

The labour market

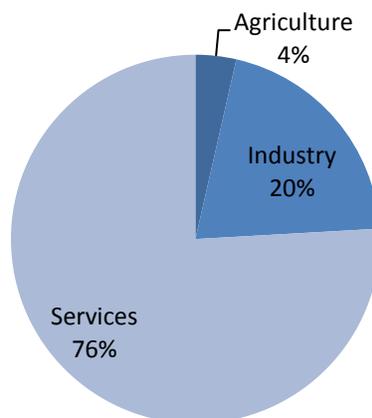
Concepts adopted by the LFHCLS were based on guidelines and recommendations of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), which is convened by the ILO. The working age population (15+ years) accounts for around 3.7 million persons; 47.4 per cent men and 52.6 per cent women. The total labour force participation rate was 48.8 per cent, with a large difference between men (70.4 per cent) and women (29.3 per cent); participation was also found to vary according to age and sex.

Labour force participation rate by sex and age



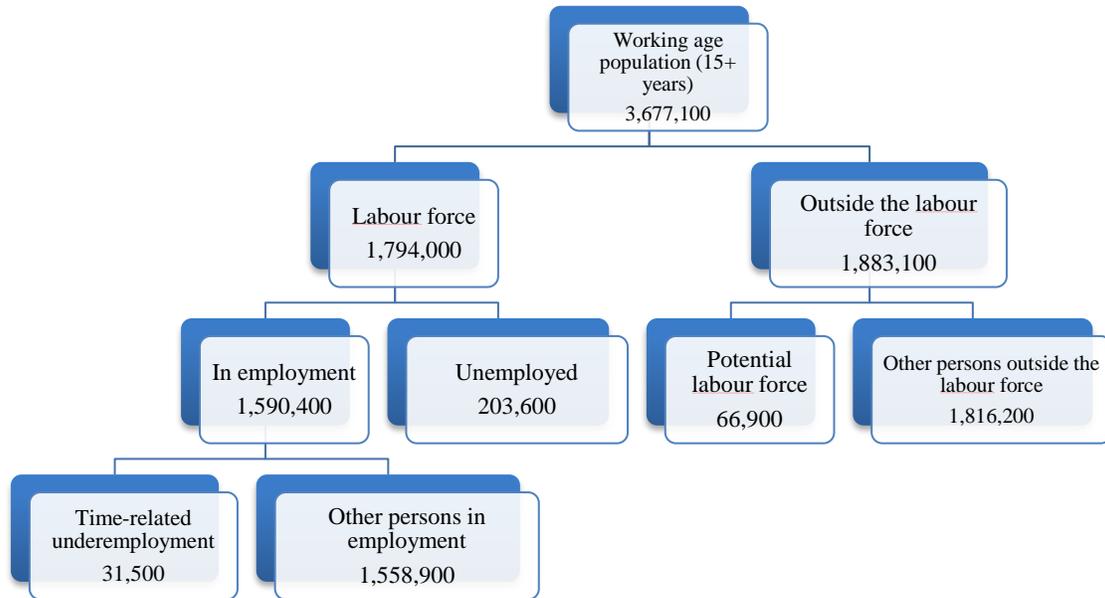
The public sector share of employment (ministries, public administration, and government-owned institutions) in Lebanon is 14 per cent; the private sector accounts for the remaining 86 per cent.

Employment by broad economic sectors



With respect to working hours, 76 per cent of workers reported working 40 hours and over per week.

Structure of the labour market



Note: Figures are rounded.

The potential labour force includes all persons 15 years and over who, during the past 7 days, were neither in employment nor in unemployment, but were: (a) seeking employment but not currently available (*unavailable jobseekers*); or (b) wanting employment and currently available to work but did not carry out activities to seek employment during the past 4 weeks (*available potential jobseekers*, including *discouraged potential jobseekers*).

Time-related underemployment includes all persons in employment who, during the past 7 days: (a) wanted to work additional hours; (b) whose working time in all jobs was less than 40 hours during the past 7 days; and (c) were available to work additional hours had they been given such an opportunity.

Informality

The share of informal employment in Lebanon was 55 per cent (i.e. 45 per cent formal employment). The share of the informal sector is 65 per cent compared to 35 per cent for the formal sector.

Employment by formality status and by informal or other production unit				
		Informal employment		
		Informal employment	Formal employment	Total
Employment in the informal Sector	Informal sector	559,000	400	559,400
	Formal sector	314,800	716,200	1,031,000
	Total	873,800	716,600	1,590,400

Note: Figures are rounded.

Informal employment characteristics included:

- 64 per cent of informal employment was found in the informal sector and 36 per cent in the formal sector;
- 32 per cent of persons working in informal employment were university graduates;
- 71 per cent of persons in informal employment were either paid monthly, weekly or daily.

Informal sector characteristics included:

- 99.9 per cent of the sector was comprised of informal employment;
- 69 per cent of persons working in the informal sector were men (31 per cent were women).

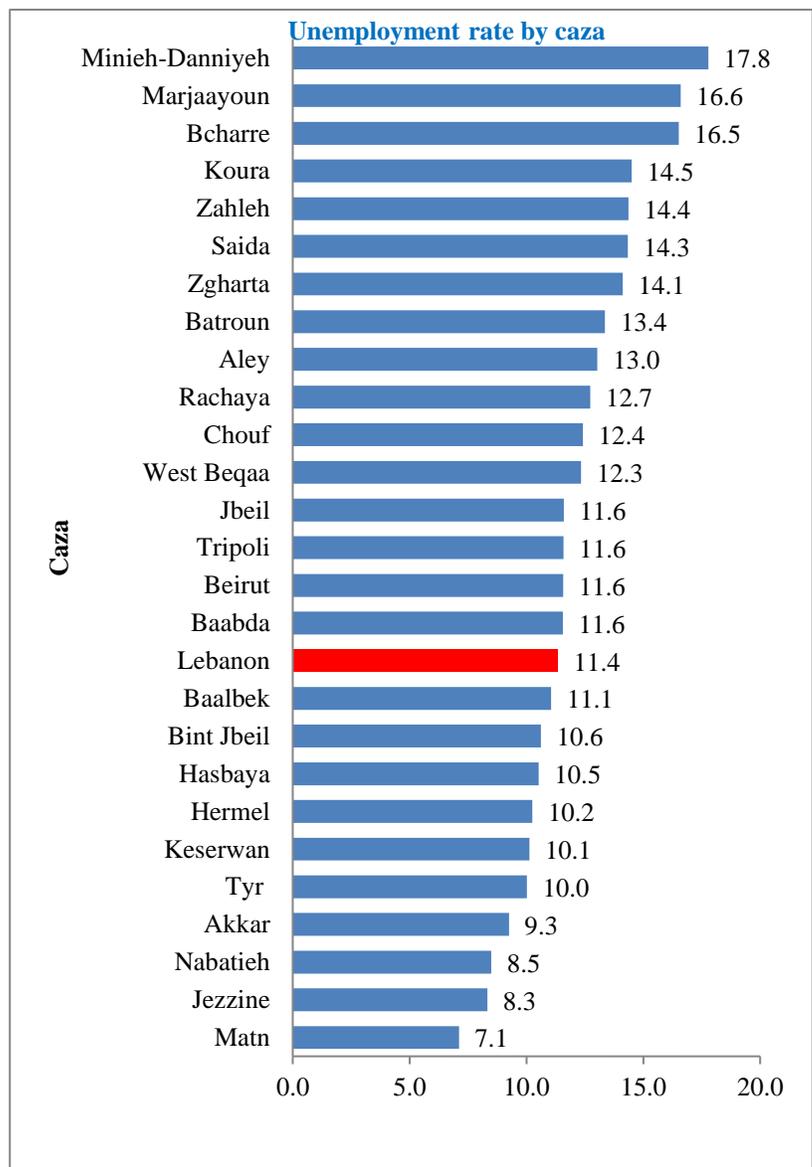
“Informal employment” includes:

- all employees where, in their main or secondary jobs, the employer does not pay a social security contribution on behalf of that person (if the information on social security contributions is not available or unknown, the classification relies on whether or not the person is entitled to paid annual leave [or compensation in lieu of it] and paid sick leave);
- all contributing family workers;
- all employers, own-account workers or members of producers’ cooperatives of informal sector enterprises.

The informal sector is a subset of unincorporated enterprises not constituted as separate legal entities independent of their owner.

Unemployment rates

For Lebanon as a whole, the unemployment rate was 11.4 per cent, with differences observed between women (14 per cent) and men (10 per cent), and among cazas. The highest unemployment rate was found in Minieh-Danniyeh (17.8 per cent), and the lowest was in Matn (7.1 per cent).



Unemployment rate by age and sex

The unemployment rate was higher for women than men.

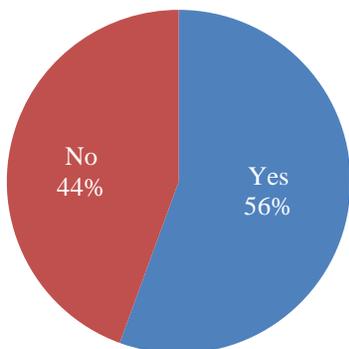
The youth (15–24 years) unemployment rate of 23.3 per cent was more than double the national unemployment rate (11.4 per cent).

Age	Lebanon	Women	Men
15–24	23.3	21.4	24.5
25–34	12.5	15.9	10.6
35–44	8.0	12.7	5.9
45–54	6.3	9.4	5.2
55–64	6.1	6.1	6.1
65 and above	2.9	0.9	3.3
Totals	11.4	14.3	10.0

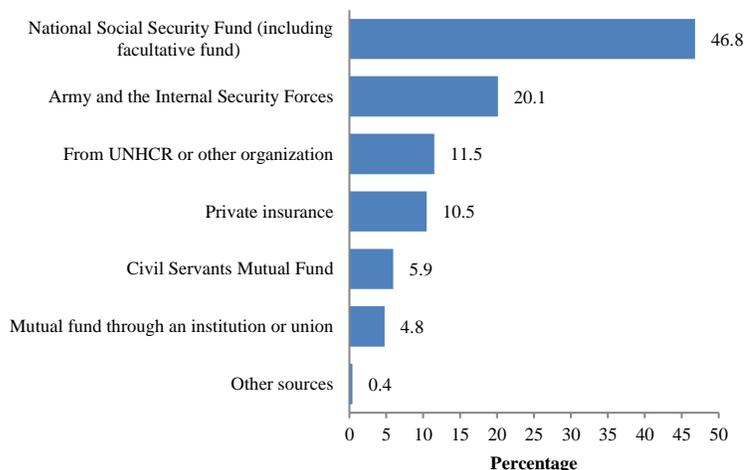
Living conditions

Some 56 per cent of residents were found to benefit from social protection.

Residents benefiting or not from social protection



Source of social protection



Health and disability

Based on the guidelines of the *Washington Group on Disability Statistics*, about 4 per cent of residents suffer from a disability, or have *difficulty functioning*, which restricts their participation because of difficulties in one or more of the following six core functional domains: seeing; hearing; walking or climbing steps; remembering or concentrating; self-care; and communicating.

Disability status	Percentages		
	Women	Men	Total
Person with a disability	4.1	3.9	4.0
Person without a disability	94.4	94.5	94.5
Not applicable (e.g. infants and newborns)	1.4	1.5	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

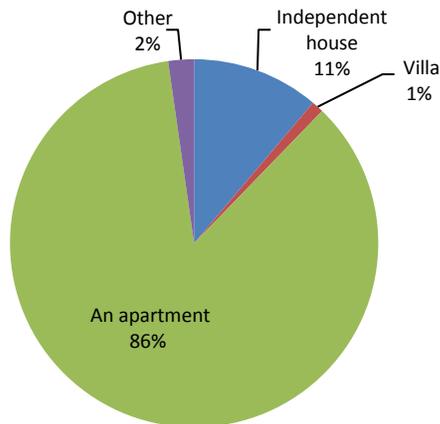
Unmet needs in health

About 24 per cent of residents faced regular expenses related to their medical condition. Unmet needs related to regular use of drugs for chronic medical conditions were observed among 3.5 per cent of residents. About 92 per cent of these persons declared not being able to pay the price of drugs and 7.5 per cent said there was a shortage of the drugs they needed.

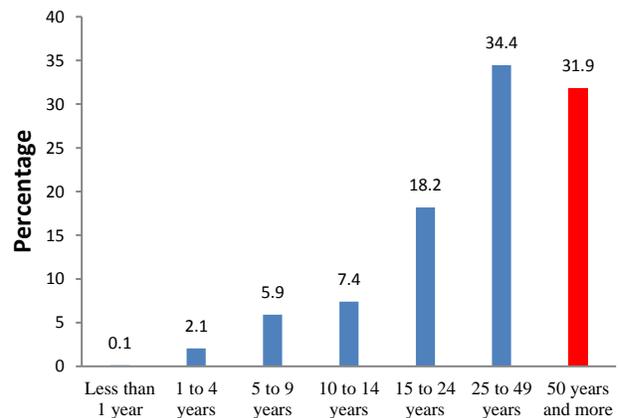
Unmet needs for medical services was observed among 3 per cent of residents. Among these people, 95 per cent could not afford to pay for medical services and 4 per cent declared a shortage of the medical services they required.

Housing

Type of dwelling



Age of dwelling

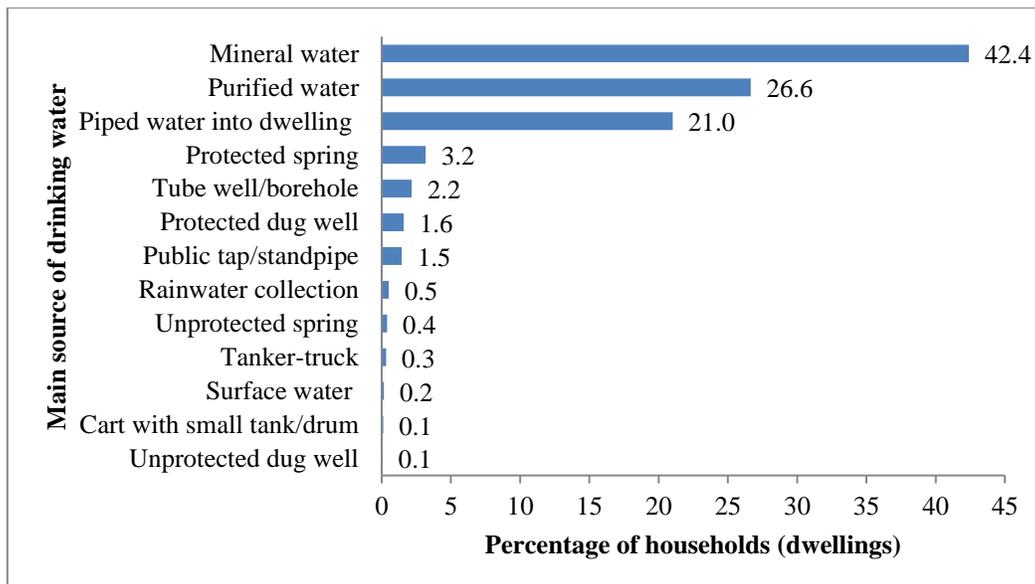


About one-third of dwellings in Lebanon were at least 50 years old; very few were constructed recently.

Ownership of dwelling

Some 69 per cent of dwellings were owned by residents and 31 per cent were not. Of those owned by residents, 89 per cent were individually owned by a household member. In 11 per cent of cases, ownership was shared – 6 per cent with other household members and 5 per cent with relatives or other persons.

Sources of drinking water



Despite the fact that 82.3 per cent of households in Lebanon have a public or private water network connected to their dwelling (piped water), the most common source of drinking water in Lebanon was mineral water, followed by purified water.

Methodology

The Labour Force and Households' Living Conditions Survey (LFHLCS) was conducted by the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) between 2018 and 2019 and entirely funded by the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon, with technical cooperation from the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The LFHLCS is the first survey to produce estimates at the national, governorate (*mohafaza*) and subnational district (*caza*) levels. It provides data and indicators on a number of socio-demographic variables, including education levels, labour market and living conditions, and other characteristics of residents in Lebanon considered instrumental for social and economic development planning and evidence-based decision making.

The scope of the survey covered the population of Lebanon living in residential dwellings. It was designed to cover an unprecedented national sample size of 39,116 responding households. It excludes the population living in non-residential units, such as army barracks, refugee camps and adjacent gatherings, and informal settlements.

The LFHLCS required lengthy preparation and execution phases. It was conducted on the basis of probability sampling with a stratified two-stage design. An update of the primary sampling units (PSUs) was undertaken prior to visiting households for data collection.

The data were collected between April 2018 and March 2019. Accordingly, the average population estimates were considered to refer to the mid-year situation, i.e. 30 June or 1 July 2018.

In the preparation phase, the survey questionnaire took into account previous experience of the CAS in designing household survey questionnaires, reflecting national needs, with consideration for the latest international statistical standards, definitions and classifications, such as those adopted by the International Conference of Labour Statistics (ICLS), particularly the 19th ICLS.

Data were coded in the office using the most recent international and national classifications. Editing and cleaning rules were applied with consistency. Estimates used in this publication were sometimes rounded for ease of use and readability. A data quality assessment was undertaken by international experts and data were found to show acceptable levels of sampling errors and non-sampling errors.

In addition to CAS permanent staff, who were responsible for managing, coordinating and executing the survey, the ILO provided technical assistance throughout the process and contracted fieldworkers on a temporary basis (12 supervisors and about 130 interviewers), and an office team (37 persons) to work on the administrative aspects, data entry, data editing, coding and cleaning. More information and results will become available on the CAS and ILO websites in due course. A number of thematic reports and publications, based on the survey outcomes, will become available during the course of the year.

The CAS acknowledges the professional input and contribution of the partners, experts and staff involved in the preparation and the implementation of this survey, and would like to thank all the households for their cooperation in answering the survey questionnaire.