Country Profile
Republic of LEBANON

ICDT 2025
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General Data

General info

- Capital: Beirut
- Type of state: Parliamentary democracy
- Location: Near East - Area: 10,452 km²
- Time zone: GMT + 2

Demography

- Population : 5 805 960 - 2024
- Natural increase: 0.5% - 2023
- Official language: Arabic
- Business language: Arabic, English, French

Currency

- Lebanese Pound (LBP)
- 1 USD = 89.382 LBP – June 2025

Macro economy

- GDP: 28.3 MMUSD - 2024 Growth: -0.6% - 2022
- GDP per capita : 5282 USD - 2024
- Employment rate of 15 years and over: 36 % - 2021

International trade

- Imports – 2023: USD 18.12 MM
- Exports – 2023: USD 4.56 MM

FDI

- FDI stocks in 2023: USD 71.2 MM
- Inward FDI flows in 2023: 582 M USD

Strong facts

- Strategic geopolitical position, at the crossroads of three continents.
- Offshore gas potentiel
- Tourism potential
- Abundant water resources

GDP growth

Lebanon's economy faced significant challenges in 2024, with real GDP contracting by approximately 7.1% due to ongoing regional crises.
However, prospects for 2025 appear more optimistic. The World Bank projects a 4.7% growth in real GDP, potentially marking Lebanon's first year of positive economic growth since 2017. This anticipated recovery is attributed to factors such as a resurgence in tourism, increased consumption, limited reconstruction inflows, and a favorable base effect following the sharp contraction in 2024.

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.

Doing Business in lebanon

Lebanon offers a unique and dynamic environment for doing business, combining a strategic location at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa with a highly educated, multilingual workforce. The country has a long-standing tradition of entrepreneurship and a vibrant private sector, particularly strong in banking, tourism, trade, and services. Beirut, its capital, is a regional hub for finance and media, offering access to both Arab and international markets.
Lebanon’s free-market economy encourages private enterprise, with liberal trade policies and no restrictions on foreign ownership in most sectors. Investors benefit from a strong diaspora network and robust connections with global markets. The country’s banking sector, despite challenges, remains well-developed, and the legal system supports contract enforcement and property rights.
Investment opportunities exist in sectors such as technology, agriculture, renewable energy, and tourism. Special Economic Zones and government incentives further enhance the business climate. Lebanon’s resilience and entrepreneurial spirit continue to attract investors seeking long-term potential in a culturally rich and strategically located market.

Main sectors of activity

5.7 %	Share of agriculture in GDP It employs 11% of the population
21 %	Share of industry in GDP It employs 24% of the population
73.3 %	Share of services in GDP They employ 65% of the population

Sector Strategies

Lebanon has adopted an industrial strategy that aims at contributing effectively and consistently to the achievement of sustainable development by 2025. The strategy seeks :

- To build an efficient, dynamic and advanced Ministry of Industry capable of leading and guiding the industrial sector towards a sustainable prosperity.
- To strive to make the Lebanese society a highly productive and active industrial society.
- To achieve national economic development and raise the standard of living.
- To contribute to narrowing the trade deficit.
- To increase employment opportunities consistently.
- To increase the production capacity of the national industry to be able to supply 50% to 70% of the local consumption needs in different sectors.
- To increase the contribution of the industrial sector to the gross domestic product (GDP) to 18%.
- To preserve and protect the environment.
- To pursue the rhythm of the developments, to support research and innovation.

In the longer term, i.e. by 2035, Lebanon aspires to become a diversified high-income economy with a globally competitive and distinctive presence through 3 major levers:

- An advanced knowledge-based economy with established areas of expertise
- Diversified source of economic input and contribution
- Sound macro-fiscal position

Infrastructure

Maritime

Lebanon's three main ports are located in Beirut, the capital, in Tripoli, the country's second largest city, and in Jounieh, about 30 km north of Beirut.

Other smaller ports accommodate recreational and fishing boats.

Road

The road and highway network has a total length of 21,705 km;

The country is part of the Arab Mashreq road network which includes the countries of the Arabian Peninsula in Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Kuwait, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman and Yemen.

Airport

The main airport in Lebanon is Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport. From this airport, 31 airlines serve 45 destinations. It received 8,689,603 passengers and carried 87,517 tons of cargo.

There are two airlines in the country. Middle East Airlines is the largest with 33 destinations served.

Promising Sectors

01 **Agriculture:** The temperate climate, the richness of its soils and the abundance of its water resources, make Lebanon an ideal location for agricultural activity. All these factors allow the cultivation of a wide variety of crops that normally grow in both cold and tropical countries. The Middle East remains the main export market for agricultural products (96.2% of exports)

02 **Agro-food** Lebanon enjoys a number of competitive advantages: the availability of a skilled and competitive workforce, the presence of upstream links with a strong and diversified agricultural sector, institutional support from the government, and a world-class Lebanese cuisine.

03 **Chemical Industry :** Essential oils, resinoids, cosmetics and prepared toiletries represent a large part of Lebanese industrial exports. A number of universities offer graduate programs in chemistry and train a qualified workforce.

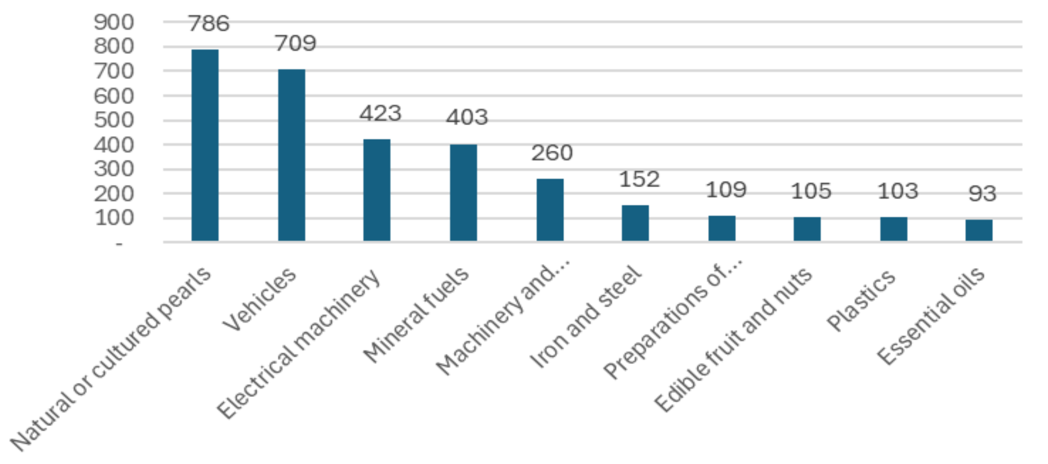
04 **ICT:** : a fast-growing sector with over 800 companies employing more than 5,000 highly qualified staff in development, mobile and smartphone applications, web development, e-services and software outsourcing. The country is ranked 8th in the MENA region according to the ICT Skills Development Index

05 **Media:** Lebanon now leads the advertising market in the Middle East with an expenditure of 463 million US dollars. The contribution of the creative industries to the Lebanese national GDP is the highest among the countries of the Middle East and North Africa. The country constitutes a source of talent for the entire Arab region.

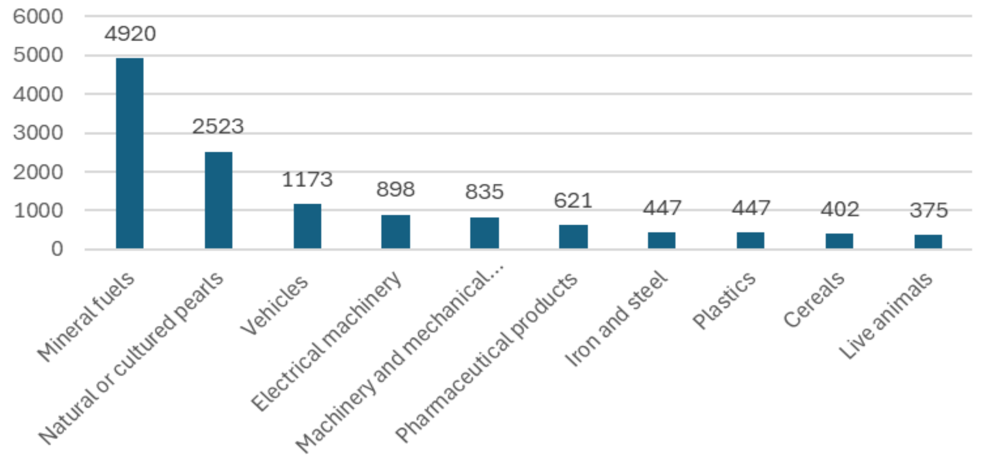
06 **Tourism:** Tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors in Lebanon. The country has recreational and entertainment opportunities (Beirut was named the best food city in the world in 2016), an exceptional landscape (Byblos, the second oldest inhabited city in the world, Arab Tourism of the Year 2016) in addition to a highly skilled and competitive workforce:

International trade

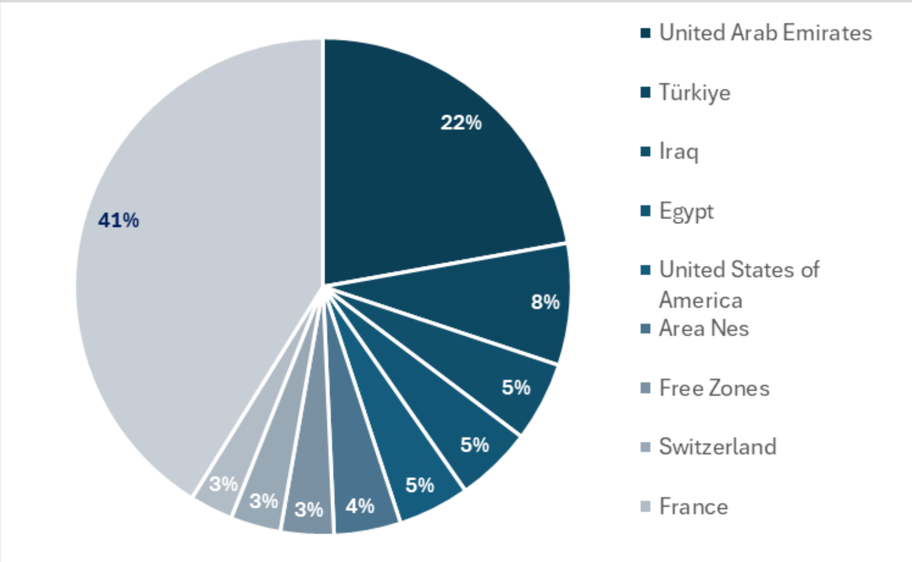
Main Products Exported by Lebanon in 2023 -MUSD



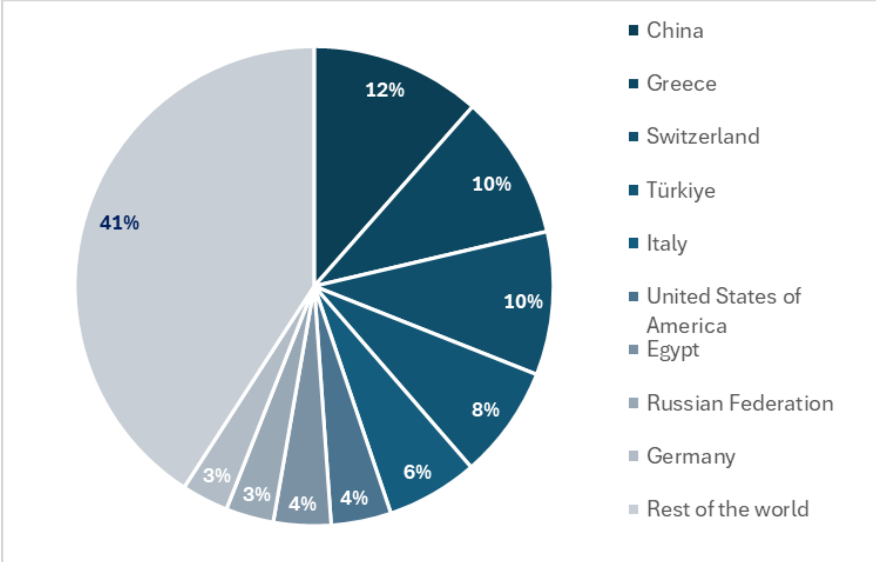
Main Products Imported by Lebanon in 2023 -MUSD



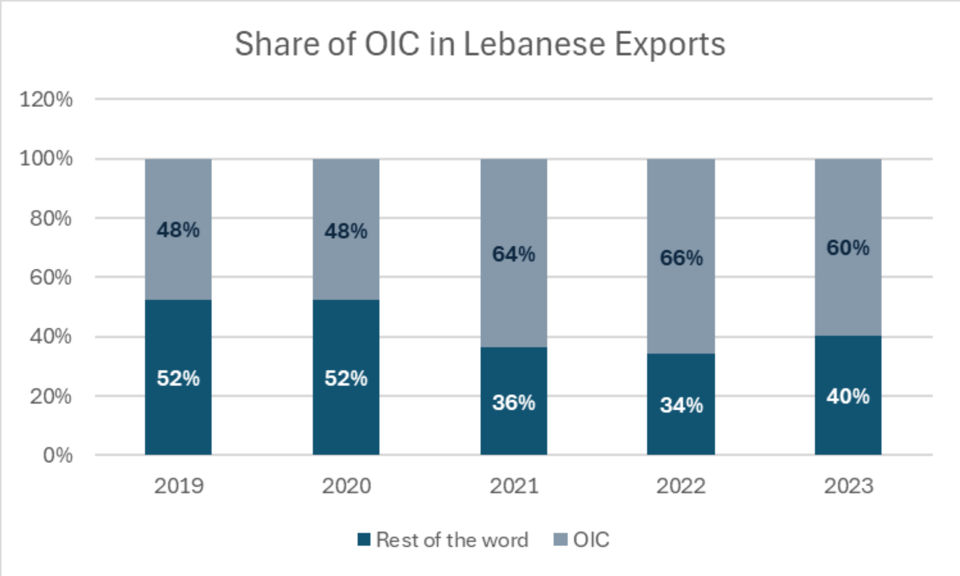
Main customers of Lebanon in 2023

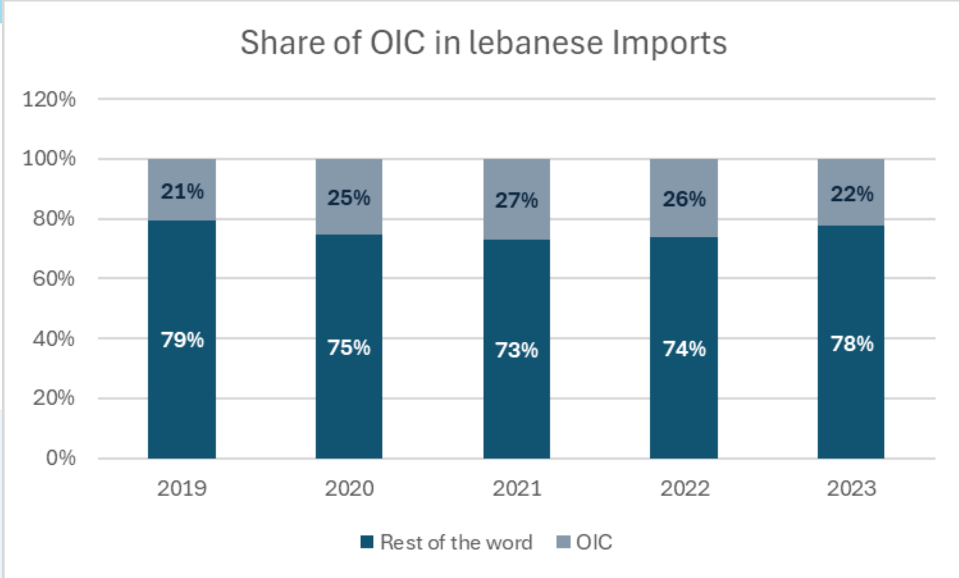


Main suppliers of Lebanon in 2023



Intra-OIC Trade





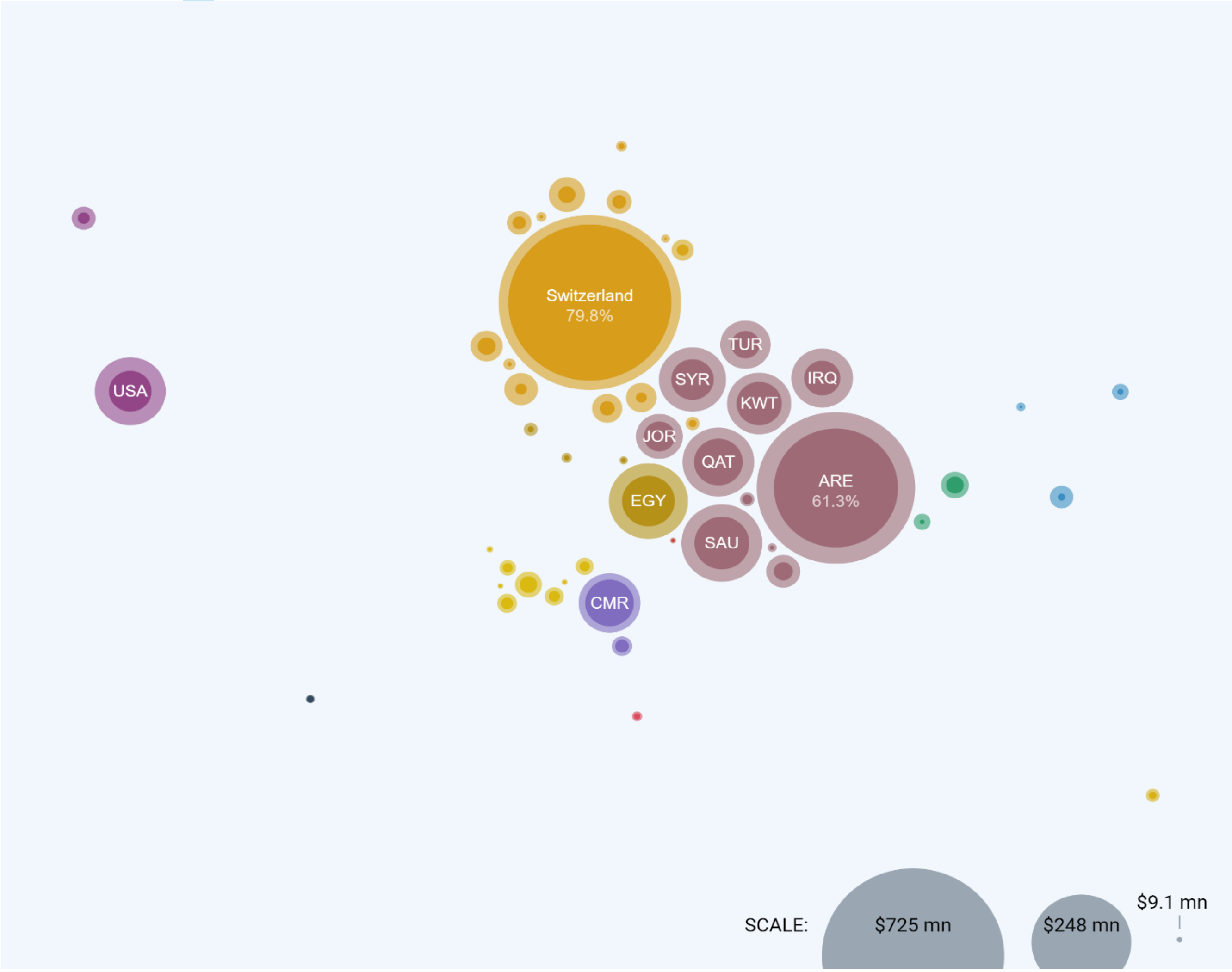
Top 10 Customers, OIC Members in 2023

1. United Arab Emirates
2. Türkiye
3. Iraq
4. Egypt
5. Syrian Arab Republic
6. Qatar
7. Jordan
8. Kuwait
9. Côte d'Ivoire
10. Libya, State of

Top 10 Suppliers, OIC Members in 2023

1. Türkiye
2. Egypt
3. United Arab Emirates
4. Saudi Arabia
5. Algeria
6. Syrian Arab Republic
7. Libya, State of
8. Indonesia
9. Jordan
10. Malaysia

Export potential of Lebanon by country of destination



Markets with potential for Lebanon's exports

Legend

- Export potential
- Realized potential

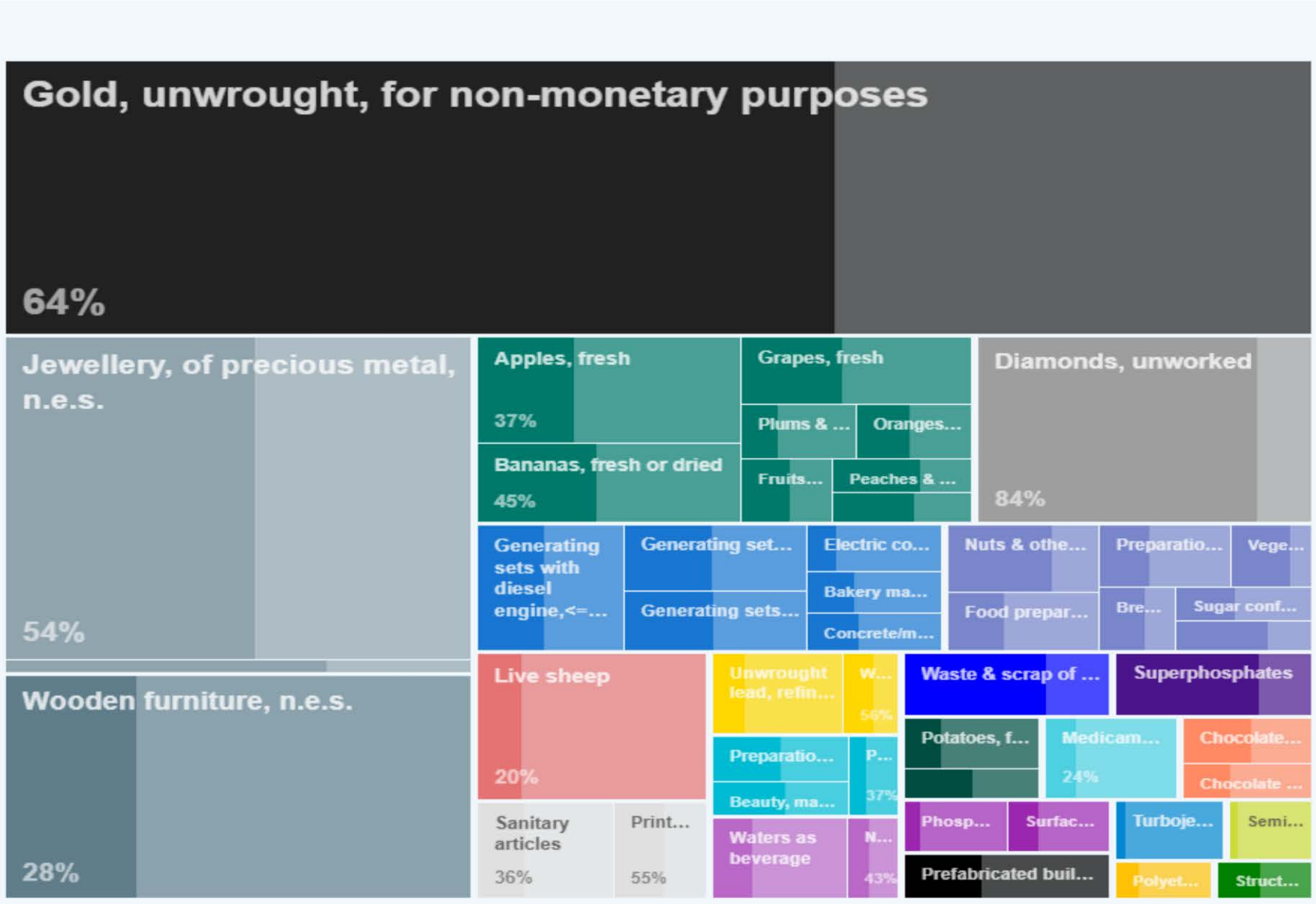
- Middle East
- EU & West Europe
- Northern Africa
- North America
- Western Africa
- Central Africa
- East Asia
- South Asia
- East Europe & Central Asia
- Pacific
- Southern Africa
- South & Central America
- Eastern Africa

Within the OIC region, the markets with the highest export potential are located in the Middle East and North Africa.

Source: International Trade Center

Export potential of Lebanon by product

Source: International Trade Center



Lebanon's products with potential

Legend

- Export potential
- Realized potential

- Precious metals
- Jewellery & precious metal articles
- Wood products
- Fruits
- Pearls & (semi-)precious stones
- Machinery, electricity
- Food products n.e.s. (processed or preserved)
- Live animals (except poultry)
- Paper products
- Metals (except ferrous & precious)
- Beauty products & perfumes
- Beverages (not alcoholic)
- Ferrous metals
- Fertilisers
- Vegetables
- Pharmaceutical components
- Cocoa beans & products
- Chemicals
- Miscellanous manufactured products
- Aircrafts, spacecrafts & parts

The products with the greatest export potential are precious and ferrous metals, jewelery and wood products, fruits and pearls & (semi)precious stones.

Market Access

Customs Duties and Taxes

Average rate: 6%
Average rate of agricultural products: 15.8%
Average rate of non-agricultural products: 4.4%

Trade agreements

Signatory of a Euro-Mediterranean partnership with the European Union
Signatory of a free trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Member of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area
Signatory to a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement with the United States
Signatory of an association agreement with Turkey
Observer member at the World Trade Organization (WTO)

Fairs and Exhibitions

For more information, visit the website:
https://www.eventseye.com/fairs/c0_salons_liban.html

Public markets

All projects and tenders can be consulted on the Lebanese Council for Development and Reconstruction website: https://www.cdr.gov.lb/

Investing in Lebanon

Why Lebanon

Easy access to regional markets (Near and Middle East)
Highly qualified and multilingual workforce
Investment opportunities in the areas of basic and productive infrastructure reconstruction,
Continuous financial flows from a large diaspora,
Discovery of offshore natural gas deposits.

Special Economic Zones

Lebanon has 3 free zones (Beirut International Airport, Beirut Port, Tripoli Port).
In addition, the country has a special economic zone in Tripoli where several specific incentives are offered such as tax exemptions on profits and income.

Implemented Measures

- Total exemption from corporate income tax for up to 10 years
- Total exemption from tax on project dividends for up to 10 years
- Total exemption from land registration fees
- Reduction of up to 50% of work and residence permit fees
- Reduction of up to 50% of construction permit fees
- Immediate issuance of work permits of all categories
- 54 bilateral agreements with 50 countries for the development and protection of investments
- 34 tax agreements with 32 countries (exchange of goods and services, capital inflow and technology, double taxation treaty).

Contacts

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