

## Basic data

- Lebanon has some 4.1 million inhabitants in 2011, with 25.8% of the population less than 14 years of age (average age: 29.4 )
- GDP per capita in 2011: \$US 10,473
- Main cities: Beirut, Tripoli, Saïda
- Languages: Arabic, English, French, Armenian
- Currency: Lebanese pound (0.000510€)

## Lebanon in 2011, means :

- A progressive recovery in the flow of FDI, tarnished following the war of August 2006, with nearly 1.5 billion € received between 2007 and 2011 (Source: ANIMA-MIPO)
- A well-established banking sector, very liberal and with a good reputation throughout the region (60 banks)
- A highly competitive tertiary sector, which represents 76% of national GDP: services to business, financial and commercial intermediation, tourism, media, etc.
- An economy open to innovation: in 2010, the creative industries (media, culture, fashion, TV, advertising, communication, etc.) represented 4.5% of Lebanese GDP.
- Lebanon can also count the contribution of its diaspora which can boast nearly 12 million individuals (transfers of funds represented close to 25% of GDP in 2008)
- A booming tourist industry: more than 2.2 million tourists visited Lebanon in 2010. Eco-tourism has become an important market niche.

## Useful links

- Central Bureau of Administrative Information [www.informs.gov.lb](http://www.informs.gov.lb)
- Lebanese Central Bank [www.bdl.gov.lb](http://www.bdl.gov.lb)
- Ministry of Finance [www.finance.gov.lb](http://www.finance.gov.lb)
- Institute of Finances [www.if.org.lb](http://www.if.org.lb)
- Beirut Stock Exchange (BSE) <http://www.bse.com.lb/>
- Ministry of Economy and Trade <http://www.economy.gov.lb/MOET/English/Pages/Home.aspx>
- Ministry of Industry <http://www.industry.gov.lb/>
- Lebanese Investment Development [www.idal.com.lb](http://www.idal.com.lb)
- ANIMA, Invest in Med [www.anima.coop](http://www.anima.coop)
- Zawya [www.zawya.com](http://www.zawya.com)
- The Daily Star Lebanon [www.dailystar.com.lb](http://www.dailystar.com.lb)



# Lebanon

## All out cooperation with neighbouring countries

- Lebanon, Turkey, Syria and Jordan decided in 2010 to initiate a free trade agreement intended to revitalise the regional economy
- The Lebanese, Turkish, Syrian and Jordanian ministers of tourism are to create a free circulation area to support the tourism sector
- In 2009, Lebanon celebrated the integration of its electricity network into that of 8 other Arab countries, so as to reduce its problem of electricity shortfalls
- Beirut and Ankara signed a free trade agreement in 2010, with the aim of strengthening economic and trade relations between the 2 countries

## Private Equity: a promising future in Lebanon

Despite still limited activity, business opportunities and the location of the heavyweights of the sector witness the recent development of the Private Equity industry in Lebanon. Lebanon today totals eleven investment fund management companies established in the country, some of which have regional importance, such as the Capital Trust Group which manages three funds out of Beirut. Lebanese businesses may thus count upon the effective backing of five investment funds entirely devoted to the country and on the potential support of more than 120 regional funds which may be likely to invest here. Other than sizeable investments in development or infrastructure, investment capital activities are also deployed here, promoted by Berytech, Middle East Ventures Partners (which has just created a regional fund and relaunched the Building Block Equity Fund), Abraaj RED Growth and its ancillary funds, or less conventional companies such as Cedrus Ventures.

(Source: ANIMA-Med Funds)

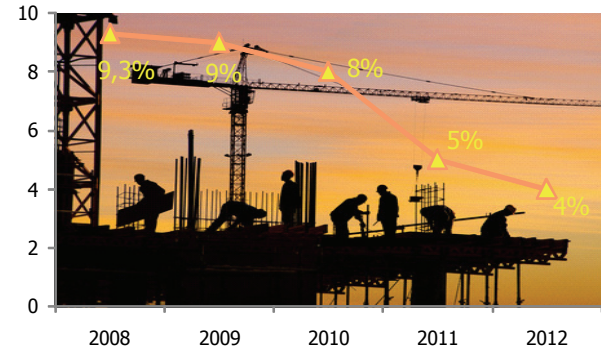
## Real Estate: several investments gained since 2009

Foreign investors count on the capacity of Lebanon to recover its economic and financial dynamism rapidly as the investments in the prestige real estate domain since 2009 have proved:

- In 2010, the Swiss chain Kempinski Hotels launched the construction of a five star hotel in the centre of Beirut
- Still in 2010, the Emirates group Coral International opened the Coral Suites Al Hamra, its first hotel in Beirut under the banner of Coral Hotels & Resorts
- The Canadian Four Seasons opened its first hotel in Beirut in 2009, which is aimed at a luxury clientele

## Despite uncertainties, growth remains above 4%

GDP growth rate (Source: IMF)



## Lebanon's main suppliers

Imports 2010 (Source: CIA World Fact Book)

