

ISSUE
03
APRIL
2012

Education in Lebanon

Najwa YAACOUB

Lara BADRE



We are here to help you!

Should you require any help or assistance about this publication, please email us at **social@cas.gov.lb**

Or give us a call at **+961 1 373 164**

You can also visit our website **www.cas.gov.lb** where you can download free available statistics and indicators about Lebanon.

Suggested Citation: Education in Lebanon, Statistics In Focus (SIF), Central Administration of Statistics, Lebanon, Issue number 3, April 2012.

This publication is free of charge and can be found at the following link: http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=40

Previous SIF publications you may have missed reading: link: http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=40

- SIF – Issue 1: **The Labour Market in Lebanon**. October 2011
- SIF – Issue 2: **Population and Housing in Lebanon**. April, 2012

Designed by: Khodor Daher – Central Administration of Statistics, Lebanon



This publication was prepared within the EU Twinning project to support the Central Administration of Statistics in Lebanon

Within the context of the EU Twinning Project between the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) Lebanon and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Northern Ireland, UK, CAS has the pleasure making available to users the third issue of the Statistics In Focus (SIF), a series of publications on Social Statistics entitled 'Education in Lebanon'.

This issue of the SIF contains key indicators and figures on Education in Lebanon; it is based on official statistics and can be considered as starting point for users who are looking for general statistics and information about the topic.

The Central Administration of Statistics wishes to thank the persons who contributed to this publication.

Dr. MARAL TUTELIAN GUIDANIAN

Director General
Central Administration of Statistics

Education in Lebanon

This issue of SIF looks briefly at Education in Lebanon using key indicators and figures available from a number of surveys conducted by the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) in Lebanon in recent years.

Its objective is to provide users with important information on Education in Lebanon enabling them to understand the current situation and to compare Lebanon to neighbouring countries.

For this publication we have primarily used the most recent available data from the Multiple Indicators Clusters Survey, Round 3 (MICS3) conducted by the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) in 2009 in partnership with the UNICEF-Beirut office.

However for some indicators we used surveys previously conducted by CAS and sometimes we also used administrative data sources gathered by other Ministries. This will be noted where applicable.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Introduction	2
General structure of the education	3
About schools, teachers and pupils	4
Students and universities	6
From a gender point of view	8
Vocational and technical education	9
Education and household's characteristics	10
Illiteracy in Lebanon	11
Lebanon compared to neighbouring countries	12
Glossary and classifications	13

Acronyms:

CAS = Central Administration of Statistics

MICS = Multiple Indicators Clusters Survey - Round 3 - 2009

CERD = Center of Education Research and Development

ISCED = International Stand Classification of Education

General notice:

Figures will sometimes not sum to 100 % that is because of the rounding.

Disclosure notice:

In this publication the use of [*] in tables and graphs indicates that numbers were below 25 persons, and [n.n] indicates that numbers were between 25 and 50 persons. Those figures should be considered with caution.

Introduction

In 2009-2010, pupils, university students and students in vocational and technical education represented about **32%** of the total population of Lebanon; overall the number of school children was approximately 5 times more than the number of university students. The majority of pupils and students were Lebanese, but more non-Lebanese were found to be enrolled in universities than in schools.

Compulsory education in Lebanon is usually up to six years of primary schooling. Illiteracy among women was twice that among men, however above primary level there was little difference between women's and men's education.

Schools in Lebanon were evenly distributed among public and private sectors, but the majority of pupils were enrolled in private schools. The pupil to teacher ratio indicates that there was on average one teacher for every seven pupils in the public schools. But the situation was different in the private schools where there was, on average, one teacher for 12 pupils.

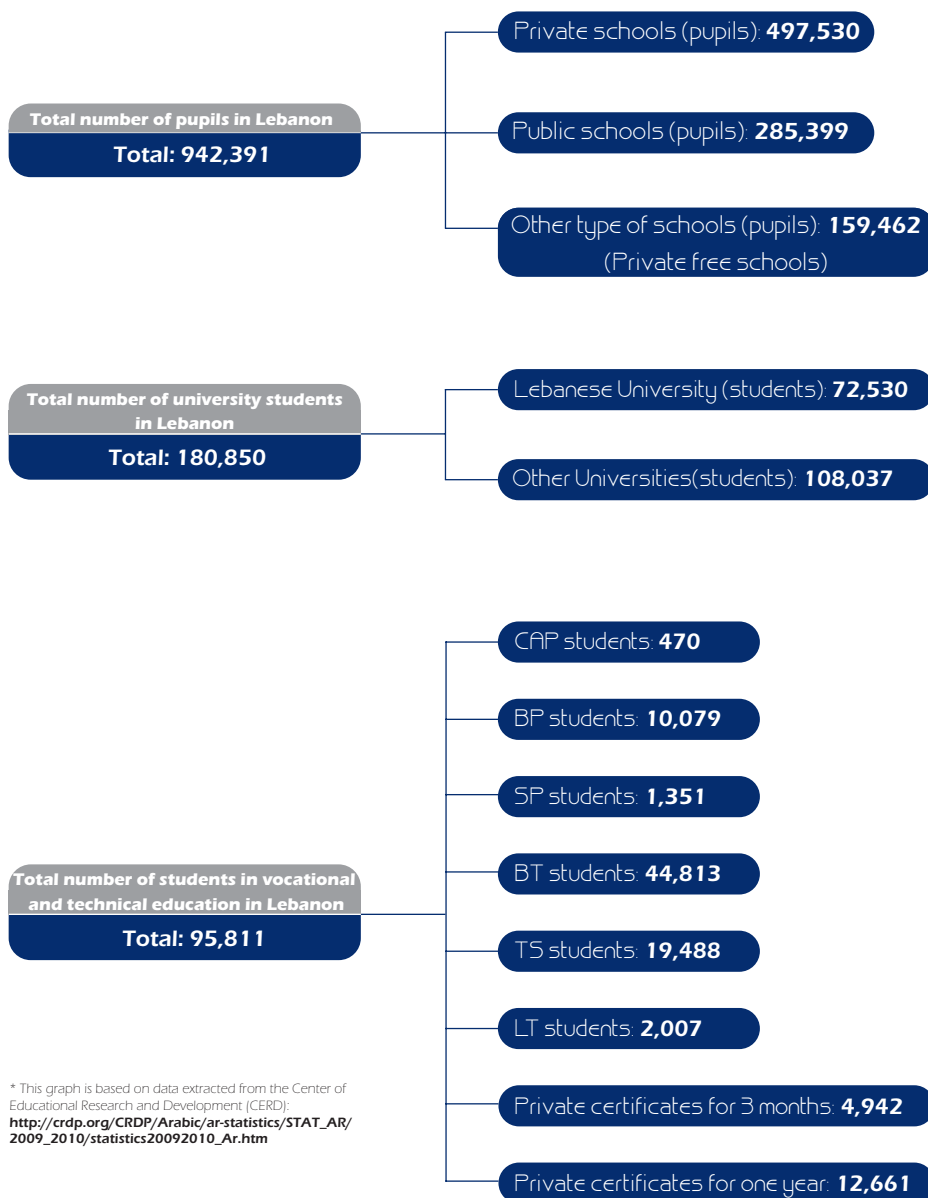
Statistics showed that in general there was a preference for literary studies rather than scientific ones at university. We also noted there were **6%** more women than men enrolled in university courses in 2009-2010. While women represented just under half of enrolments at other universities they made up almost two thirds of enrolments at the Lebanese universities. In vocational and technical education women and men were almost equally distributed.

Household's characteristics were also looked at because we considered they could have an implication on the choice of the schooling type. The level of education of the head of the household had an impact on the choice of school type with pupils from younger and better educated households more likely to be in private schools.

Drop out between secondary and university is much higher than that which occurs at earlier school levels.

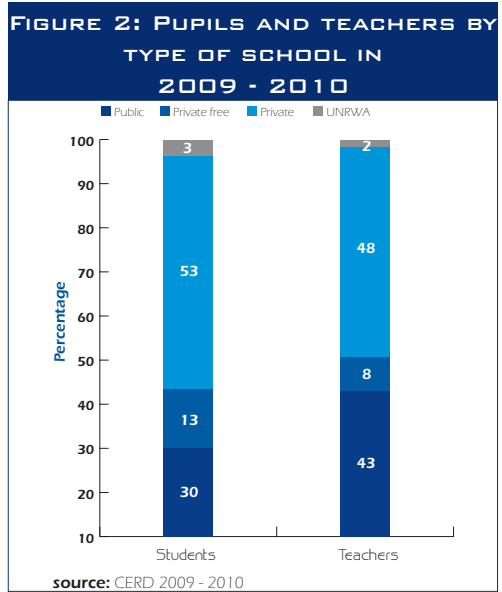
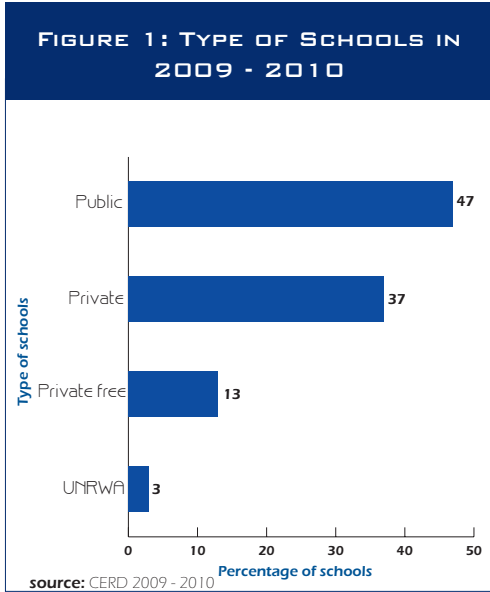
We also looked at the profile of households with illiterate persons at home and found that almost a quarter of households in Lebanon had at least one illiterate household member. While at the same time **38%** of total households in Lebanon contained at least one person holding a university degree. And finally in general the population of Lebanon was multi-lingual; almost a third of the persons aged 15 years and above spoke French and some **22%** spoke English.

General structure of the education in Lebanon in 2009-2010

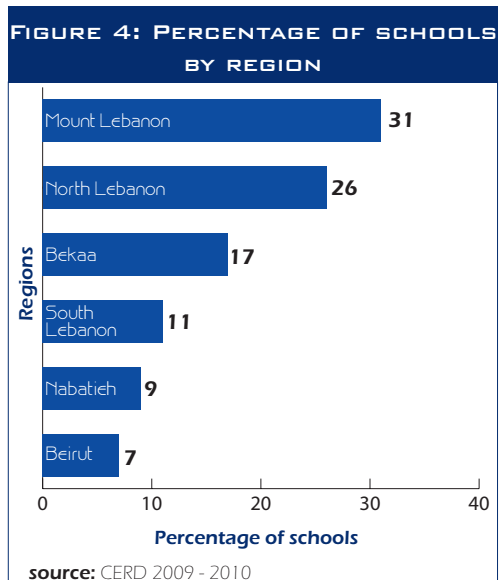
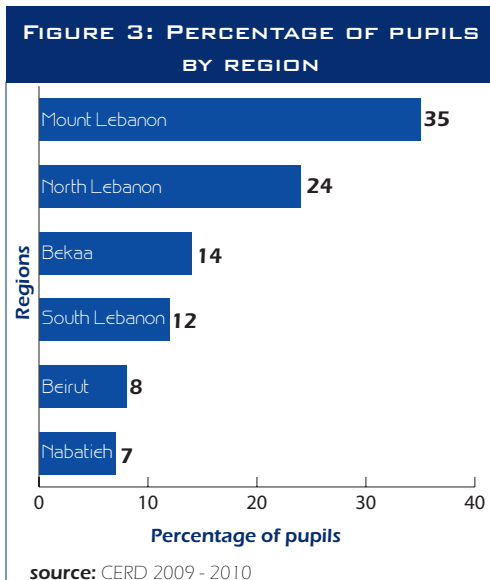


* This graph is based on data extracted from the Center of Educational Research and Development (CERD): http://crdp.org/CRDP/Arabic/ar-statistics/STAT_AR/2009_2010/statistics20092010_Ar.htm

About schools, teachers and pupils

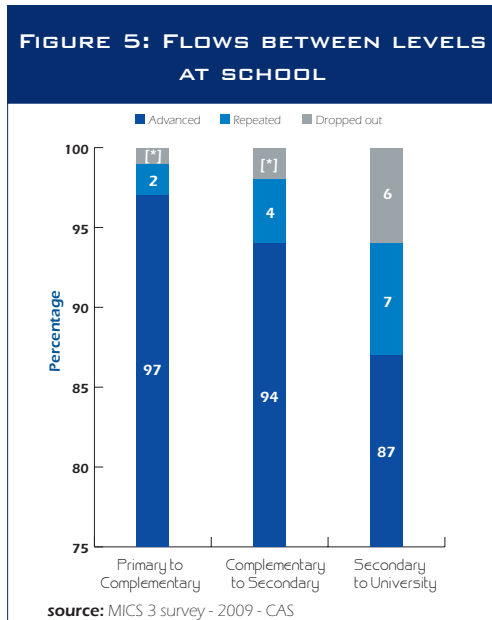


In 2009-2010 there were 2,882 schools in total in Lebanon evenly distributed between public and private sectors. However the majority of pupils were enrolled in private schools, accounting for 66% of pupils.



The distribution of schools and pupils across regions were similar but we noted that the proportion of pupils in Mount Lebanon was greater than the proportion of schools in that region; the opposite was the case in North Lebanon, Bekaa and Nabatieh.

Flows between levels at school in 2009



MICS 3 results indicated that Some **97%** of pupils were able to achieve their studies with success between primary and complementary levels but **3%** of pupils had to repeat their classes. The situation was similar for pupils moving between complementary and secondary levels but quite different for pupils moving between secondary and university. At this level **7%** of pupils had to repeat their classes and **6%** dropped out of education at this stage.

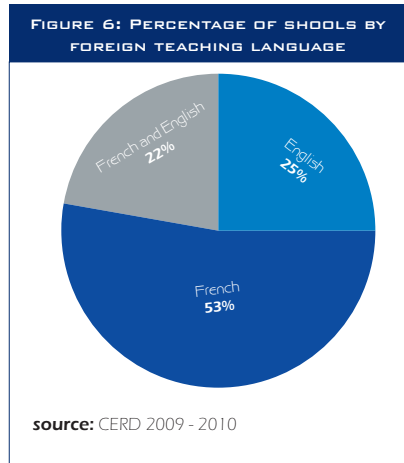
Do you remember this?

In our previous SIF publication dedicated to the 'Labour Market in Lebanon' we calculated the economic activity rate by age and found that about **18%** of the persons aged 15-19 years have joined the labour market.

That was in October 2011. If you have missed reading this publication, you can still find it online at the following link: http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=40

Did you know?

Foreign teaching languages



With regard to foreign teaching languages in schools in Lebanon, we noted that **53%** of schools used French as teaching language, and some **25%** of schools were teaching in English. **22%** of schools had both French and English as a common teaching language.

TABLE 1: RATIO OF PUPILS TO TEACHERS BY TYPE OF SCHOOL (2009 - 2010)

Type of Schools	Ratio of pupils to teachers
Public	7
Private free	19
Private	12
UNRWA	21

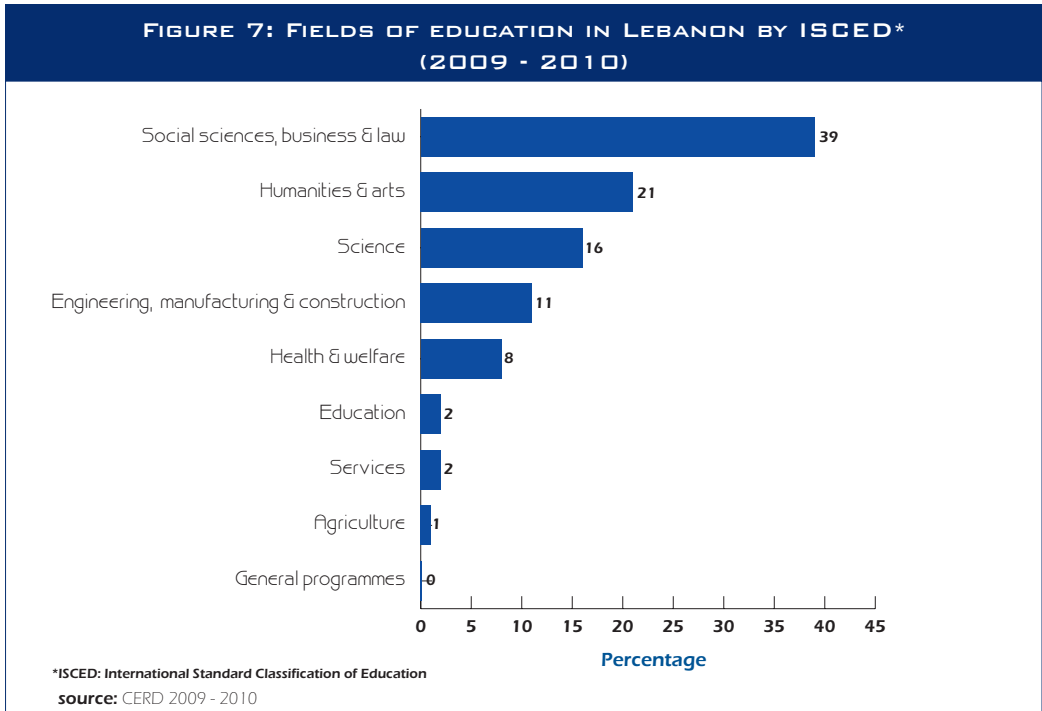
source: CERD 2009 - 2010

There were on average seven pupils for one teacher in public schools and 12 pupils per teacher in the private ones.

Students and Universities in 2009 - 2010

According to the CERD statistics there were about 38 universities in Lebanon and 180,850 students enrolled overall. Statistics also indicated that the Lebanese University took up **40%** out of the total number of students in Lebanon. **16%** of students enrolled in universities in Lebanon were not Lebanese.

- The tendency in education was toward literary studies rather than scientific ones !



During the academic year 2009-2010, education was more oriented towards humanities and social sciences; there were more students in the literary than scientific. **39%** of students enrolled in universities have chosen Social Sciences, Business and Law. This field comprises 4 sub-groups namely social and behavioral science, journalism and information, business and administration and finally law. The specific courses of study included economics, sociology, psychology, journalism, marketing, public relations,

finance, banking, insurance, and law.

The second largest field of education chosen by students was Humanities and Arts, in which **21%** of students were enrolled. This field included for example fine arts, performing arts, graphic and audio-visual arts, religion and theology, languages and literature and philosophy

Science, that includes life science, physical sciences, mathematics and statistics and computing, was chosen by **16%** of students.

TABLE 2: TOP TEN MAJORS TAUGHT IN UNIVERSITIES IN LEBANON (2009 - 2010)

Lebanese University		Other Universities	
Arabic and oriental literature	6,074	Business	18,571
Law	5,872	Islamic Studies	6,809
Social sciences	5,491	Law	5,832
Chemistry	4,601	Banking and finance	3,878
English Literature	4,268	Computer and communications	3,468
Biology and natural sciences	3,556	Management	3,261
Psychology	3,309	Computer science	2,714
History	3,298	Engineering	2,643
Business	2,691	Information management	2,307
Mathematics	2,439	Pharmacy	2,290
Total Students for top ten majors	41,599	Total Students for top ten majors	51,773
Total Students in the Lebanese university	72,813	Total Students in private universities	108,037

source: CERD 2009 - 2010

We looked at the number of students by major, and prepared the table above and noted that the top ten majors' taught in the Lebanese University accounted for **57%** of total students enrolled in that university. In private universities the top 10 majors

accounted for **48%** of enrolments. Overall it seems that the majority of students enrolled in the Lebanese University have chosen humanities and social sciences while students of other private universities preferred business oriented majors.

TABLE 3: ALL MAJORS TAUGHT IN UNIVERSITIES IN LEBANON BY FIELDS OF EDUCATION - ISCED (2009 - 2010)

ISCED Classification - major groups	Lebanese University		Other Universities	
		%		%
General programmes	-		695	1
Education	1,378	2	2,332	2
Humanities & arts	23,664	32	14,458	13
Social sciences, business & law	22,449	31	47,957	44
Science	14,970	21	14,456	13
Engineering, manufacturing & construction	5,673	8	14,209	13
Agriculture	713	1	462	0
Health and welfare	3,560	5	11,085	10
Services	406	1	2,383	2
Total	72,813	100	108,037	100

source: CERD 2009 - 2010

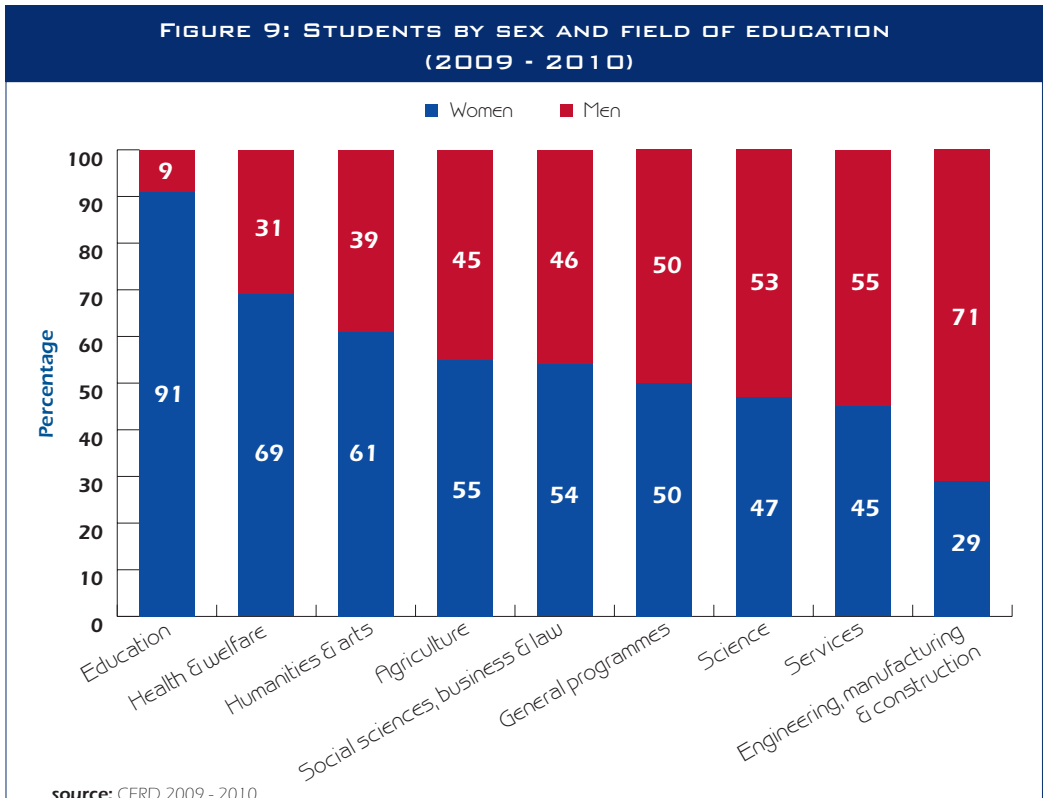
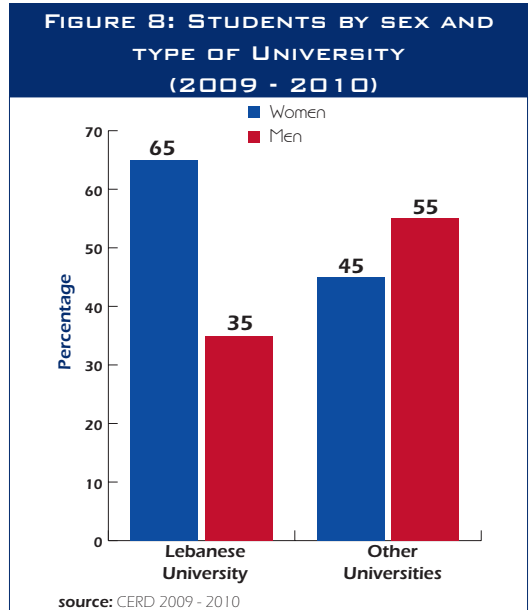
Based on the number of students by field of education and type of university, results showed that the Lebanese University was mainly chosen by students enrolled in humanities & arts and sciences. Other universities were mostly chosen by students enrolled in social sciences, business & law, humanities, science and engineering and health & welfare.

From a gender point of view

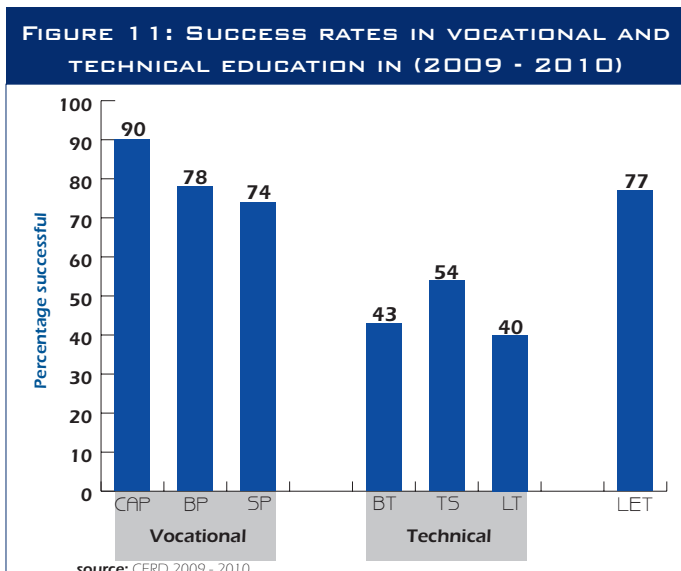
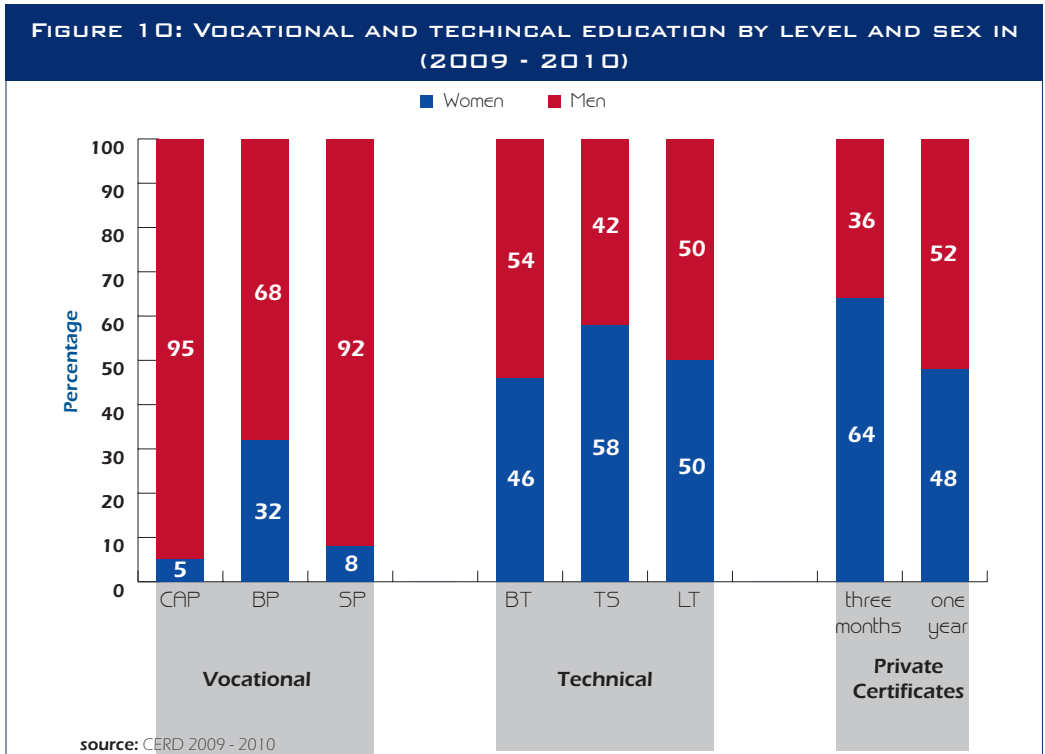
In general there were more women than men enrolled in universities in 2009-2010. Out of the total number of students in all universities there were **53%** women and **47%** men.

At the Lebanese University there were many more women than men, while in other universities the difference between women and men was not as marked but there were more men than women.

Women are in the majority in education, but also in health and welfare and humanities. On the other hand men are in the majority in engineering but they also share with women a number of fields where they are almost equal, such as general programmes, social sciences and business; science; agriculture and services.



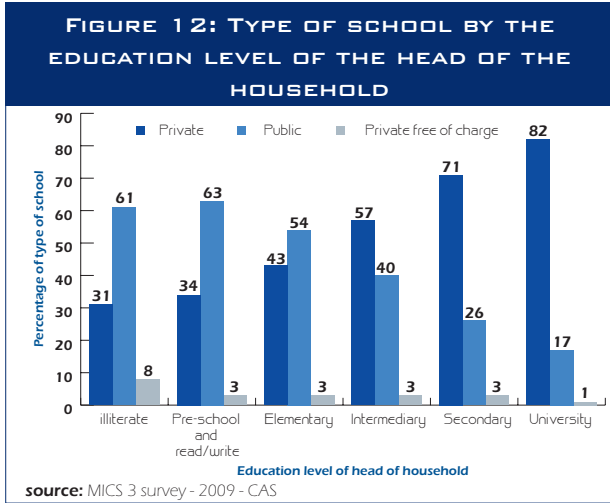
Vocational and technical education in 2009 - 2010



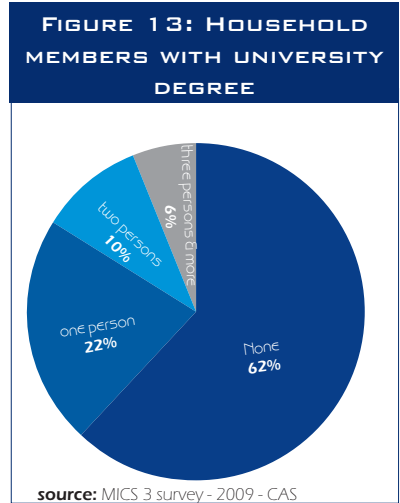
Students in technical education were doing less well compared to students enrolled in vocational education.

Results showed that approximately half of them didn't succeed in their training programme in 2009-2010.

Education and household characteristics

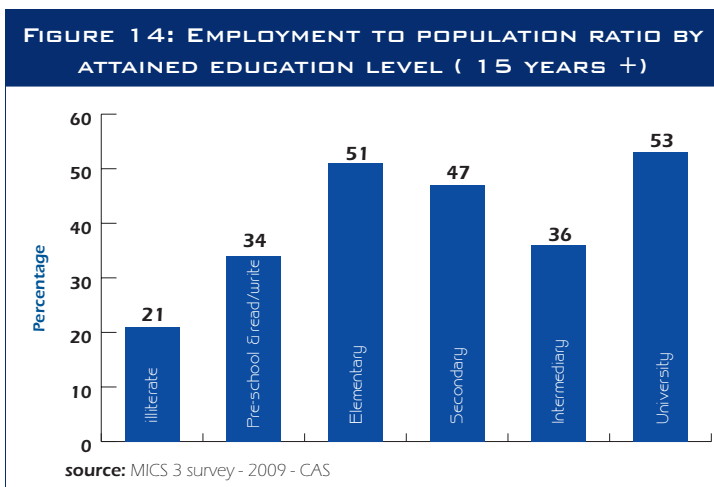


There was a clear relationship between the education level of the head of household and the type of school pupils were enrolled in. The higher the education level of the head of the household the more likely it was that pupils would be enrolled in a private school. Only 31% of pupils, whose head of household was illiterate, were enrolled in a private school compared with 82% of pupils whose head of household had a university degree.



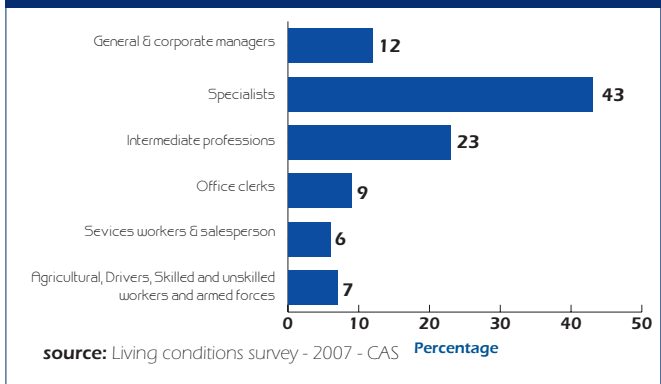
For 62% of households none of their members held a university degree. On the other hand 38% of households had at least one person holding a university degree and 16% had more than one person educated to degree level.

■ Did University degree provide direct access to the labor market



Only 53% of the population of Lebanon aged 15 years and above holding university degree are in employment, the remaining are either inactive or unemployed.

FIGURE 15: PEOPLE WITH UNIVERSITY DEGREE BY OCCUPATION

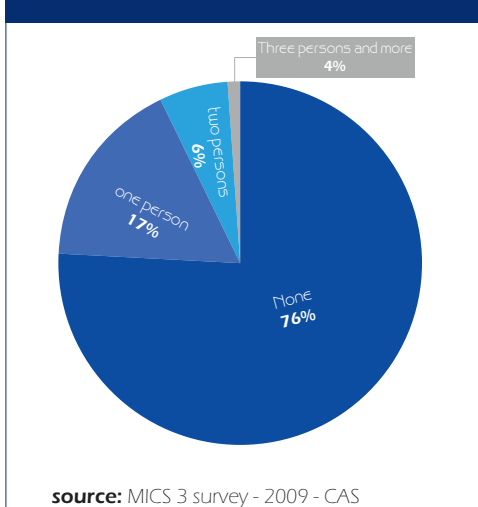


In general household's members who held a university degree had higher level jobs such as specialists, general and corporate managers or intermediate professions, those accounted for 78% of persons with university degree.

Illiteracy in Lebanon

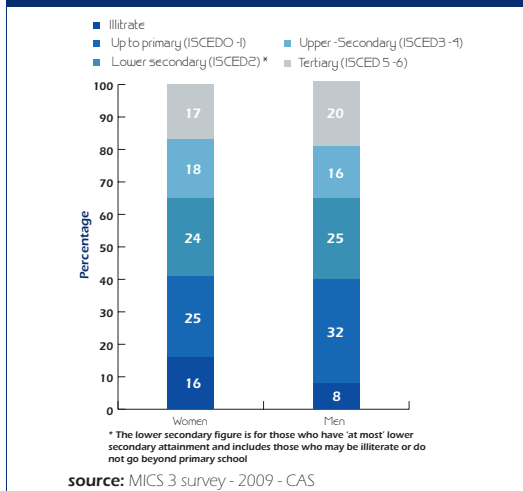
■ Illiteracy rate for women was twice that for men

FIGURE 16: ILLITERATE HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



24% of households had at least one household member identified as being illiterate and 7% had more than one.

FIGURE 17: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF POPULATION AGED 25 AND OVER (IN PERCENTAGE)



Illiteracy is calculated for persons aged 10 years and above.

In 2009, survey results showed that 16% of women were illiterate while only 8% of men were illiterate. However above primary level education the proportion of women and men achieving each level are broadly equivalent.

Lebanon Compared to neighbouring countries

This section is dedicated to comparing Lebanon to selected Mediterranean countries; it is based on the EUROSTAT publication, which provided comparable figures. Data used in this section are extracted from the 'Pocketbook on Euro-Mediterranean statistics, 2011 edition, available at the following link: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-32-11-802

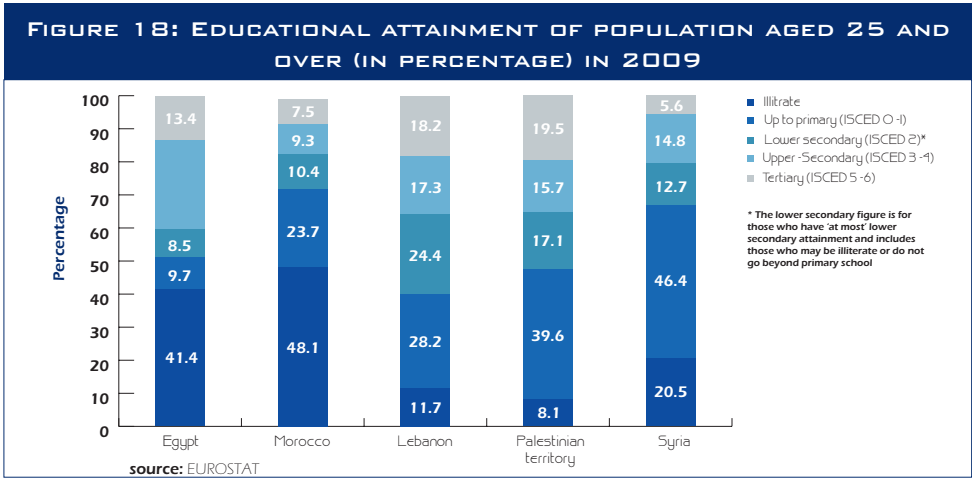


TABLE 4: ADULT (15 YEARS AND ABOVE) LITERACY RATES IN 2007

	Women	Men	Total
Algeria*	64.1	81.4	72.8
Egypt*	57.8	74.6	66.4
Jordan*	88.4	95.7	92.1
Lebanon*	86	93.4	89.6
Syria*	78	91.7	85.2
Tunisia*	68.1	85.3	76.6

*Algeria, Egypt, Syria and Tunisia 2006
source: EUROSTAT

TABLE 5: YOUTH (15 - 24 YEARS) LITERACY RATES IN 2007

	Women	Men	Total
Algeria*	89.2	94.4	91.8
Egypt*	81.8	87.9	84.9
Jordan*	98.1	98.4	98.3
Lebanon*	99.1	98.4	98.7
Syria*	94.6	96.6	95.7
Tunisia*	94.9	97.9	96.4

*Algeria, Egypt, Syria and Tunisia 2006
source: EUROSTAT

Glossary and classification used in this publication

■ Glossary for vocational and technical education

CAP	الكفاءة المهنية
BP	التكميلية المهنية
SP	الثانوية المهنية
BT	البكالوريا الفنية
TS	الامتياز الفني
LT	الاجازة الفنية
LET	الاجازة التعليمية الفنية
Private certificates	الافادات الخاصة

ISCED: International Standard Classification of Education: Designed by UNESCO to serve as an instrument for assembling, compiling and presenting statistics of education both within individual countries and internationally. More details can be found at the following link: http://www.unesco.org/education/information/nfsunesco/doc/isced_1997.htm

ISCED classification of levels of education

- Level 0 - Pre-primary education
- Level 1 - Primary education or first stage of basic education
- Level 2 - Lower secondary or second stage of basic education
- Level 3 - (Upper) secondary education
- Level 4 - Post-secondary non-tertiary education
- Level 5 - First stage of tertiary education
- Level 6 - Second stage of tertiary education

Employment –to population ratio: Is the ratio of employed persons to total population with same age groups, it is calculated according the the following formula:

$$\text{Employment – to population ratio 15 years \& above} = \frac{\text{Employed 15 years \& above}}{\text{Population 15 years \& above}} * 100$$

■ Data sources

- Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey, round 3 (MICS3), Central Administration of Statistics in collaboration with UNICEF, Lebanon, 2009. Survey results are available at the following web: http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=108&Itemid=115
- Living Conditions Survey, Central Administration of Statistics in collaboration with ILO, UNDP and MOSA, Lebanon 2007. Survey results are available at the following link: http://cas.gov.lb/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=115&Itemid=2
- Living Conditions Survey, Central Administration of Statistics in collaboration with UNDP and MOSA, Lebanon 2004-2005. Survey results are available at the following link: http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=108&Itemid=115
- Center of Educational Research and Development (CERD) education statistics indicators: http://crdp.org/CRDP/Arabic/ar-statistics/STAT_AR/2009_2010/statistics20092010_Ar.htm

Lebanese Republic

Presidency of the Council of Ministers

Central Administration for Statistics

5th floor, Finance and Trade bldg,

Army Street, Kantary

Beirut -Lebanon

Phone/ Fax: +9611373160

www.cas.gov.lb