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Population & Housing in Lebanon

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- SIF – Issue 1: **The Labour Market in Lebanon**. October 2011

Designed by Khodor Daher - Central Administration of Statistics



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

Within the context of the Twining 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 you the second issue of the Statistics In Focus (SIF), a series of publications on Social Statistics. This issue is entitled 'Population and Housing characteristics in Lebanon'.

This issue of the SIF contains key indicators and figures on Population and Housing 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

Population and Housing Characteristics in Lebanon

This issue of SIF looks briefly at the population and housing characteristics 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 the population and housing 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 or administrative data sources gathered by other Ministries. This will be noted where applicable.

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Acronyms:

CAS = Central Administration of Statistics

MICS = Multiple Indicators Clusters Survey - Round 3 - 2009

GDGS = General Directorate of General Security

CBDE = Census of Buildings and Dwellings and Establishments 2004 - 2005, CAS

PAPFAM = Lebanon family health survey, 2004, CAS

General notice:

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

Introduction

The population of Lebanon, as referred to in this publication, is made up of Lebanese people and non-Lebanese living in Lebanon. Our statistics cover all the Lebanese territories except the Palestinian refugee camps.

In general, population changes as a result of a number of phenomena including births, deaths, fertility, marriages, and migration. Statistics indicate relatively little overall change in the population of Lebanon in recent years, with the average household size remaining almost the same since 2004. However, within this overall total there has been a relatively greater increase in the number of deaths than in births. Over recent years there has been a low net migration into Lebanon, while Lebanese emigration has increased. The number of non-Lebanese crossing the borders into Lebanon has also increased over time.

In general the number of women and men in Lebanon is almost equal, with slightly more women than men overall. Although more boys were recorded at birth, men, on average, die younger than women. The recorded number of marriages has increased in the last 5 years; and the average age at first marriage has also increased during the same period.

Our statistics show that while the population of Lebanon is relatively young, when compared with neighbouring countries, Lebanon has the largest proportion of senior citizens in the population. One possible reason for this could be the effect of out-migration of relatively large numbers of young people from Lebanon, a phenomenon that can be described as brain drain.

In terms of regions, the governorate of Mount Lebanon account for the largest share of the population followed by the governorate of North while the governorate of Nabatieh had the fewest residents.

Our statistics on housing show that the majority of households live in owner occupied accommodation. The majority of dwellings occupied as primary residence were found in the governorate of Mount Lebanon where the majority of the population lives in apartments or independent houses.

On average, expenditure on housing represented one third of Lebanese households' total annual expenditure, although this ranged from **26%** for wealthier households to **47%** for households with total annual income below 6 million LBP. It is also the case that smaller households spend relatively more of their total expenditure on housing.

The composition of the population

■ The residents in Lebanon, who and how many are they?

The population of Lebanon is made up of Lebanese and non- Lebanese living in Lebanon at the time of the survey, and sample surveys are used to estimate the population.

This source provided an estimate of **3.8 million** persons living in Lebanon in 2007 with about **4 persons** on average in each household. This produced a population density of approximately **362 inhabitants** per square kilometers.

In 2007, the population was approximately made up of equal numbers of women and men.

Children under the age of 15 constituted **25%** of the total population and elders (those aged 65+) represented around **10%** of the population.

The majority (**56%**) of the population were single and very few were widowed, divorced or separated (**5%**). **96%** of the total population was Lebanese and about **4%** were not Lebanese citizens.

■ The population of Lebanon in 2007 (in thousands)

Population by Sex

Total: **3,759**
Women: **1,901**
Men: **1,858**

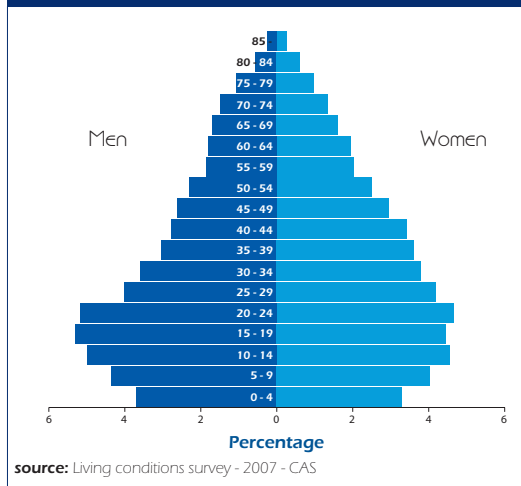
Population by marital status

Never married: **2,103**
Married: **1,455**
Widowed: **167**
Divorced & Separated: **34**

Population by age structure

0-14 years: **928**
15-24 years: **731**
15-64 years: **1,737**
65 years & above: **362**

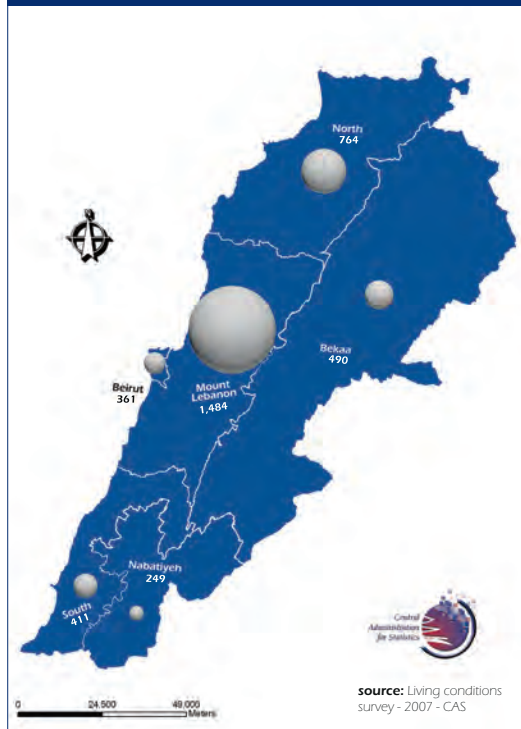
**FIGURE 1: WOMEN AND MEN
IN LEBANON, IN 2007**



The population pyramid shows relatively few newborn and young boys and girls in the lowest age ranges of the pyramid (that is up to the age of 14 years) compared with those who are aged 15 to 24 years.

This was also seen on the recorded births during the period 2000-2003.

**FIGURE 2: POPULATION BY REGION
IN 2007 (IN THOUSANDS)**



The governorate of mount Lebanon account for the largest share of the population followed by the governorate of North.

The governorate of Beirut is ranked 5th in terms of number of inhabitants

About birth and death in Lebanon

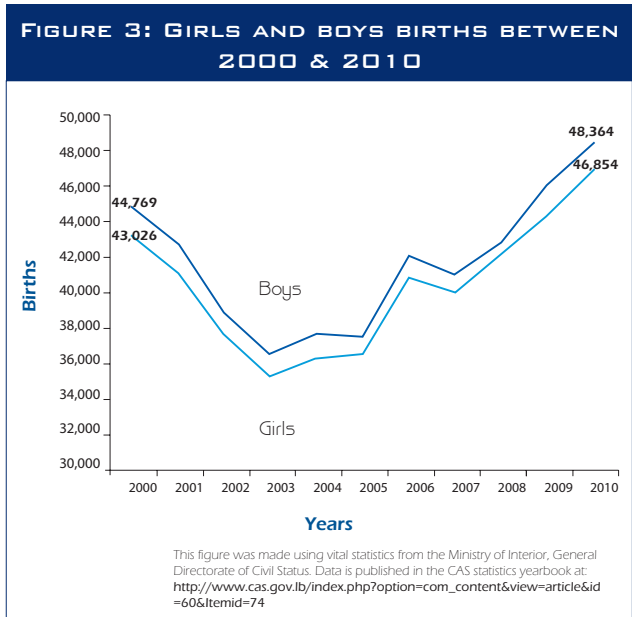
More boys at birth and many more men at death

Births: More boys than girls

During the last ten years, Lebanon witnessed more boys' births than girls. On average about **1,300** more boys than girls were born each year between 2000 and 2010.

In 2010 there were **95,218** births registered in total, that is **5%** more boys and girls than in 2009.

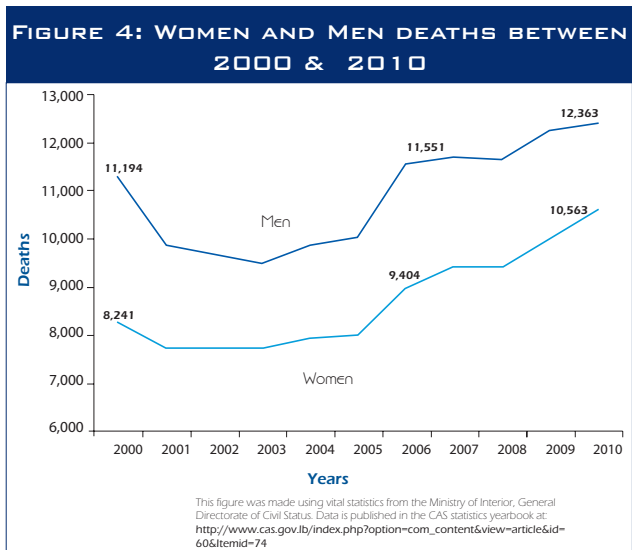
In 2004, the total period fertility rate (that is a measure of the number of children per woman) was **1.9** children (for the 5 years previous to the survey, that is years 1999 to 2003).



Deaths: More men than women

Women live longer than men, and the difference at death between the sexes has decreased. Each year, more men die than women. In 2010 we noted that almost **1,800** more men died than women. However, between 2000 to 2010 the number of deaths among women increased more sharply than among men.

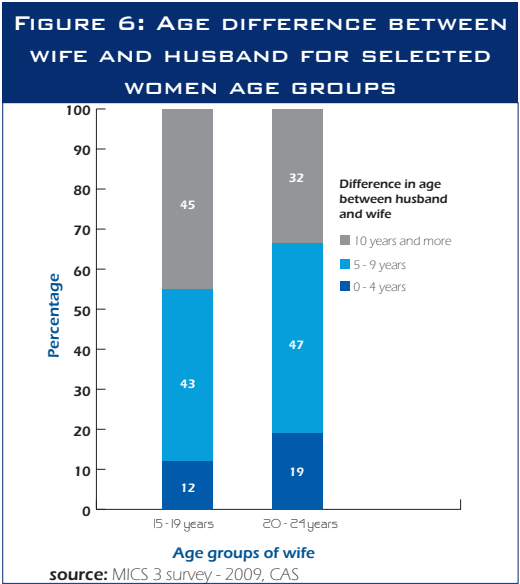
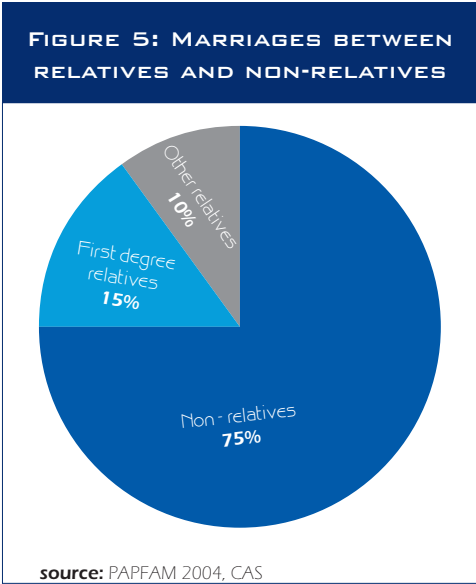
In 2010, around **22,926** deaths in total were registered overall, that is an increase of about **3%** in deaths between 2009 and 2010.



Infant, child mortality and orphanhood in Lebanon

In 2009 the infant mortality rate (that is children dying before their first birthday) was **9** per thousand and child mortality rate (for children dying before reaching their 5th birthday) was **10** per thousand. In 2009, our survey results showed **3%** of children, aged 0 to 17 years, had lost at least one of their natural parents.

About marriage and divorce in Lebanon



In 2009 women’s average age at first marriage was calculated at 27.7 years.

The PAFAM survey results in 2004 indicated that **25%** of marriages happened between relatives. This phenomenon was high among illiterate women and also quite common in the governorates of South, North and Nabatieh.

With regard to polygamy, we noted that some **2%** of wives were married to men who had more than one wife at the same time.

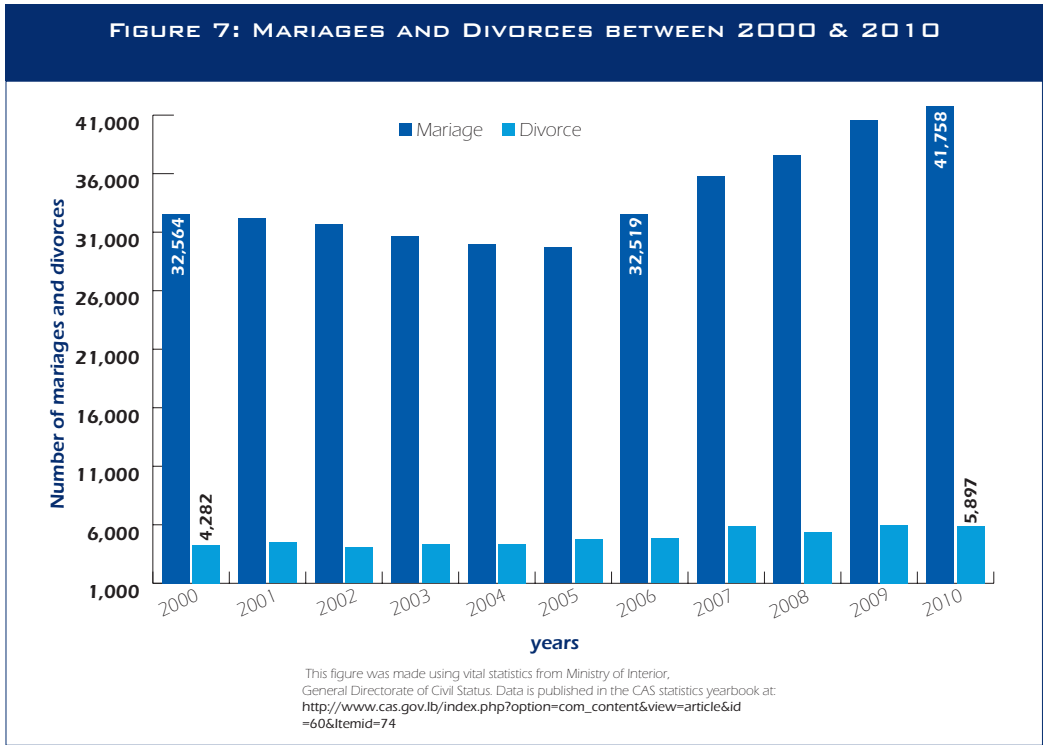
Husbands are usually older than their wives and for some the age gap is quiet large. In 2009, our statistics showed that **45%** of married women, whose age is between 15 & 19 years, had husbands who were at least 10 years older than them.

■ Youngest brides

In 2009, **2%** of women (aged between 15 & 49 years) were married before reaching their 15th birthday.

A further **13%** of women (aged between 15 & 49 years) were married before reaching their 18th birthday.

■ Increase in marriages and slightly recent decline in divorces



On average there were **34,093** marriages celebrated annually between 2000 and 2010. And the number has increased each year since 2005. In 2010, there were around **41,758** marriages celebrated, an increase of **3%** from the year 2009.

On average there were **4,927** divorces happening annually between 2000 and 2010.

However between 2000 and 2005 the average number of divorces each year was **4,378** and after 2005 this increased to an annual average of **5,587** divorces. In 2010 there were **5,897** registered divorces that is **1%** fewer than in 2009.

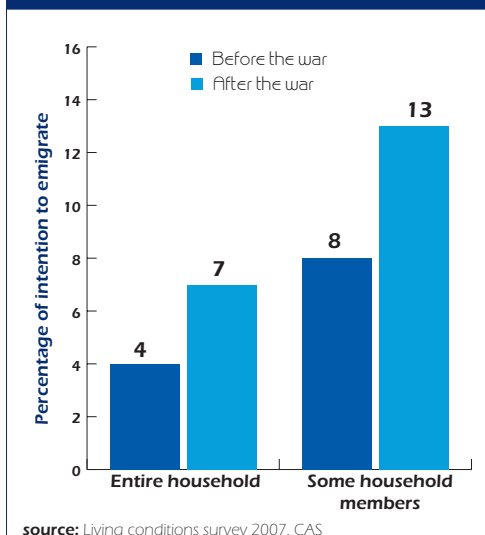
International migration

■ Is it an economic driven out-migration or some other reason?

In 2004, **50%** of the young people (aged between 15 & 25 years) had thought about migrating out of Lebanon. Of these, most cited either 'looking for a job' (**43%**) or 'for a better life' (**35%**) as their main reason.

Three years later, in 2007, our survey results showed that, after the war, there was an increase in the proportion of households expressing a desire to migrate out of Lebanon.

FIGURE 8: INTENTION OF MIGRATION BEFORE AND AFTER THE WAR OF JULY 2006



We noted few households expressing their intention to migrate before the war but then after the war some **13%** of household members and some **7%** of entire households in Lebanon wanted to emigrate.

35% of households where any household member or the entire household, had seriously considered migration, had already started a particular migration procedure.

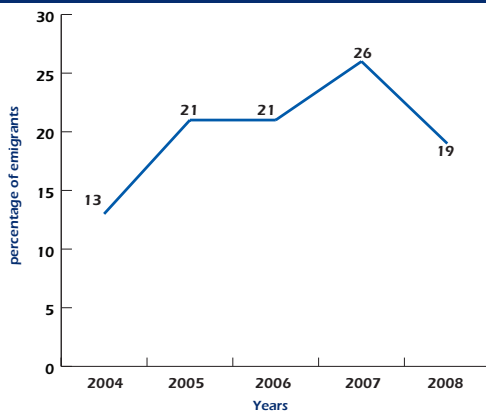
In 2009 about **6%** of the Lebanese households had a least one person (directly linked to the head of the household such as children, siblings, parents...) who had left the country between 2004 and 2009 and the major pull factor was once again 'looking for a job'.

Is it brain drain?

In 2009, households who reported they had at least one emigrant since 2004 were also asked to provide some migrants' characteristics at the time of their migration. We found that the majority of emigrants were men (76%), single (57%), younger than 35 years (77%) and 44% of them held a university degree. Half of the migrants were jobless in Lebanon and they left the country mainly looking for a job outside Lebanon (66%).

Out of the total emigrants recorded between 2004 and 2009, 21% left the country in 2005 and 26% left in 2007. From 2008 the percentage of emigrants dropped to 19% in 2009, possibly because of the international economic recession of the years 2007 - 2008.

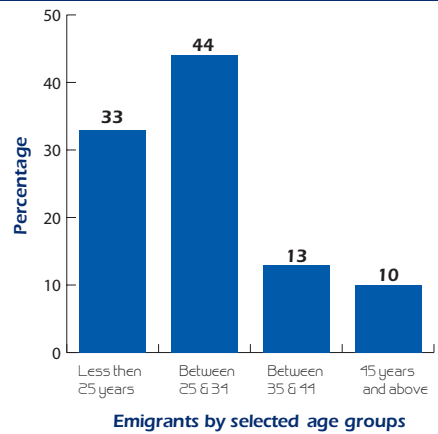
FIGURE 9: EMIGRANTS BETWEEN 2004 AND 2009 BY YEAR OF EMIGRATION



source: MICS 3 survey - 2009, CAS

In simple terms, our young migrants were highly educated but unfortunately other economies were benefiting from their skills to contribute to their workforce. Lebanese emigration was mostly pulled by other economies such as Arab states (39%), Europe (20%), America (19%) and Africa (12%) where job opportunities were offered.

FIGURE 10: EMIGRANTS BETWEEN 2004 AND 2009 BY AGE GROUPS



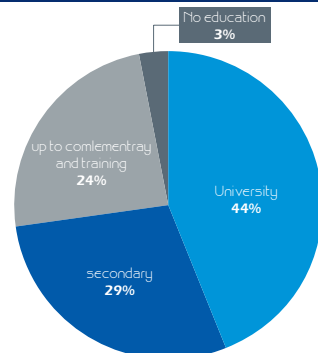
source: MICS 3 survey - 2009, CAS

Looking at the level of education of migrants, we found that 44% held a university degree compared with 16% of the total resident population of Lebanon.

29% of total migrants attained their secondary level education compared with 17% of the total resident population of Lebanon.

24% of total migrants had achieved their complementary school or had some form of informal training.

FIGURE 11: EMIGRANTS BETWEEN 2004 AND 2009 BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION

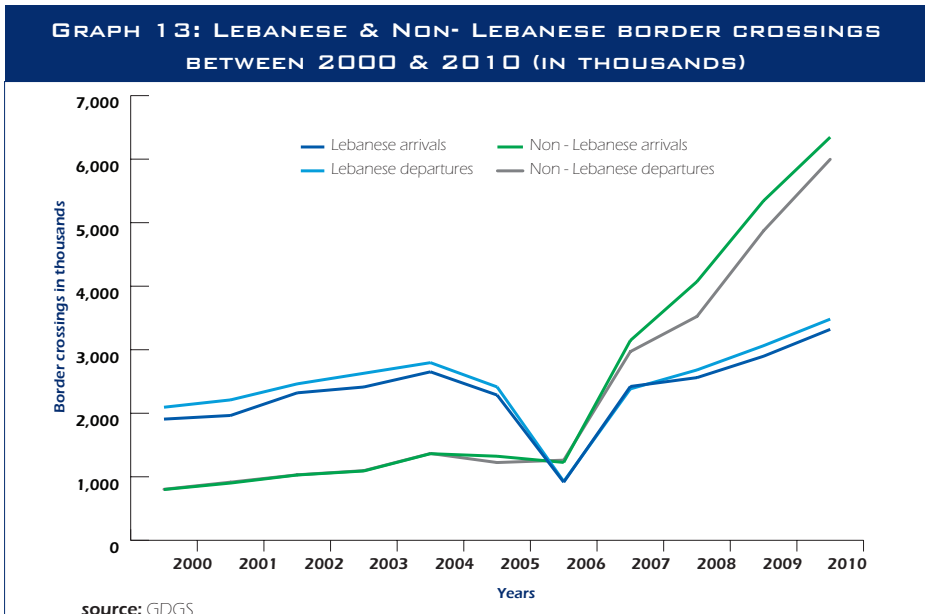
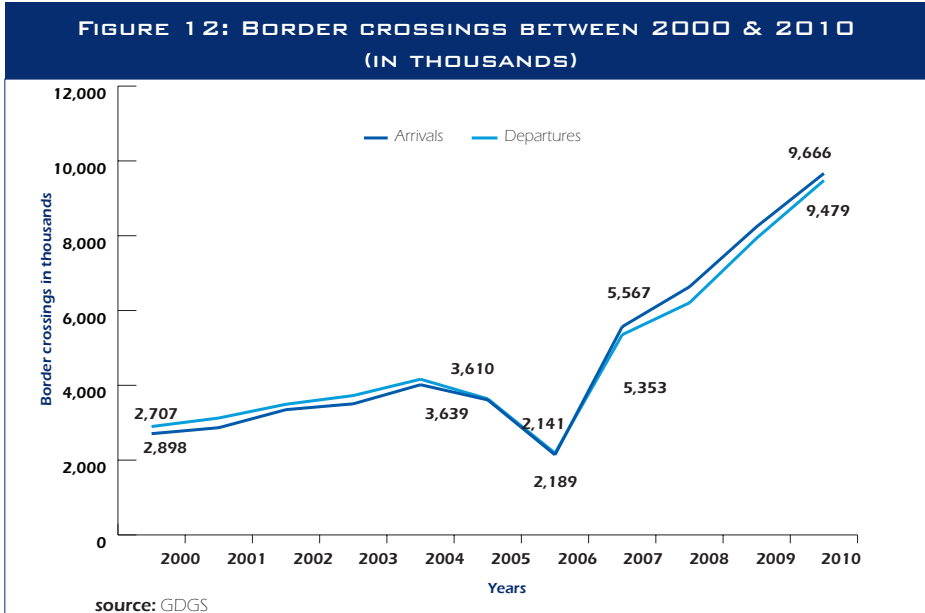


source: MICS 3 survey - 2009, CAS

■ Border crossing

Border crossing statistics reveal low net migration flows during the past ten years, since the number of arrivals to Lebanon were off-set by the numbers departing. 2006 saw disturbed movements at the borders because of the war of July. Furthermore, in

2007 the General Directorate of General Security (GDGS) adopted a change in the methodology. The border crossing figures, therefore, look much higher since then in terms of flows in both directions, especially for non Lebanese.



■ Lebanese are going out and non - Lebanese are coming in.

FIGURE 14: LEBANESE BORDER CROSSINGS BETWEEN 2000 & 2010 (IN THOUSANDS)

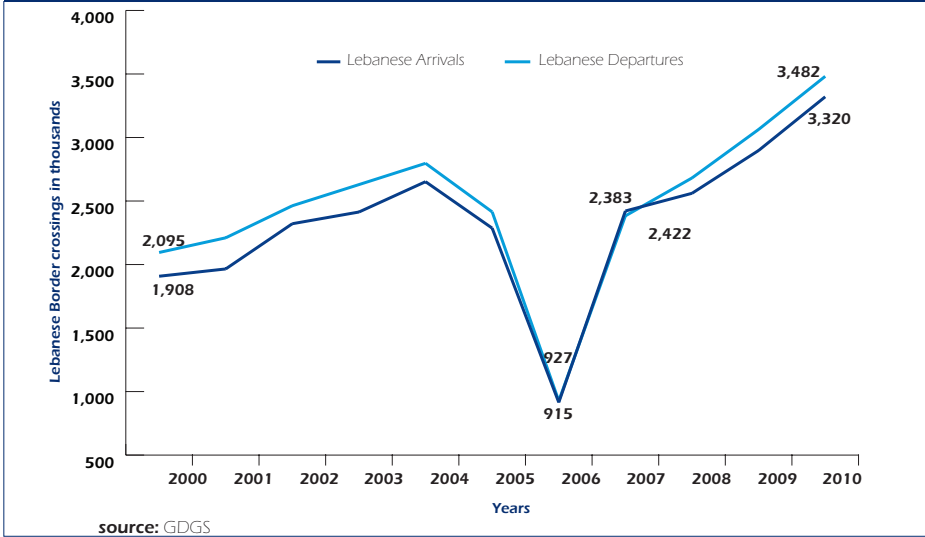
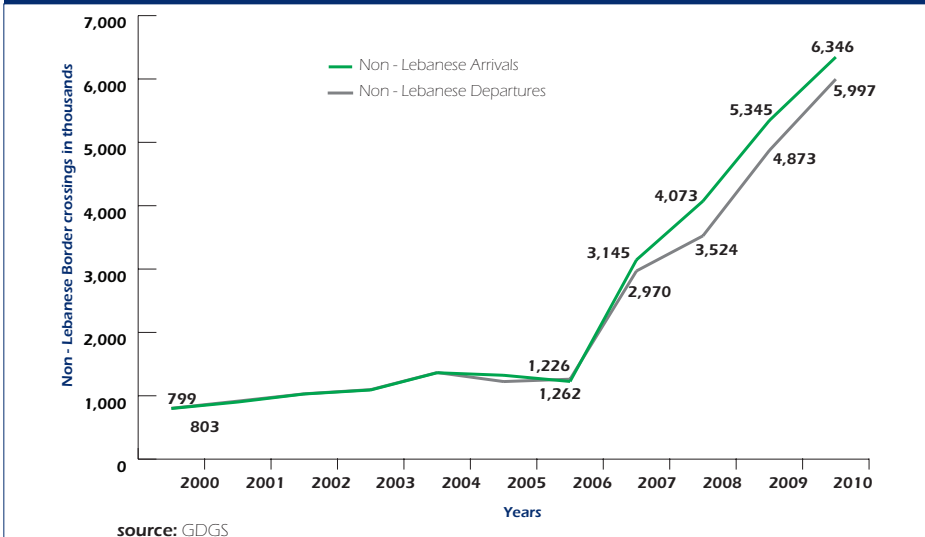


FIGURE 15: NON - LEBANESE BORDER CROSSINGS BETWEEN 2000 & 2010 (IN THOUSANDS)



Between 2000 and 2010, an average of 2,333 thousands Lebanese arrived to Lebanon per year and about 2,468 thousands Lebanese departed per year. The non-Lebanese arrivals were about 2,422 thousands persons yearly on average and 2,278 thousands departures per year.

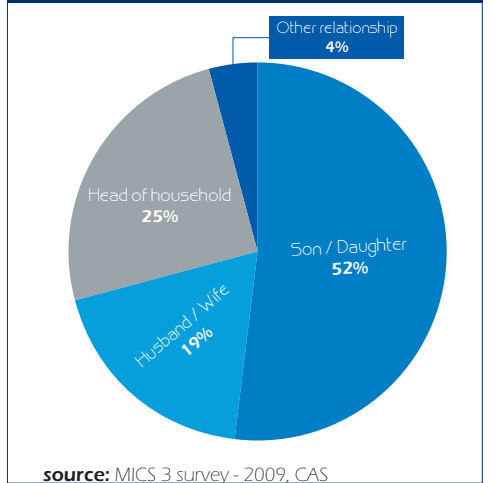
Figures on border crossing were made using border crossing statistics from the General Directorate of General Security (GDGS) of ministry of Interior. Data is published in the CAS statistics yearbook at: http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=60&Itemid=74

Household's composition in 2009

Head of Household

Regardless of the sex of the head of the household, our survey indicated that **25%** of residents in Lebanon are the head of the household. Each head of household had on average 2 children. **4%** of the population had some other form of relationship with the head of the household, including siblings, parents or other persons with no direct relationship to the head of the household such as servants and maids.

FIGURE 16: RESIDENTS ACCORDING TO RELATIONSHIP WITH HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (BOTH SEXES)



Women heads of household

15% of households in Lebanon were headed by women. Those women heads of household were in the main 65 years or older, widowed and illiterate. We also noted that for **56%** of those households headed by women, there were no boys or men living with them at home.

FIGURE 17: ATTAINED EDUCATION LEVEL FOR WOMEN HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

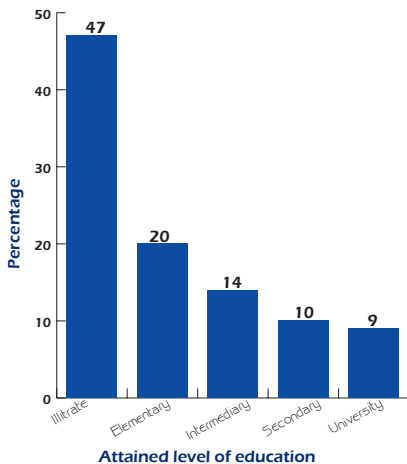
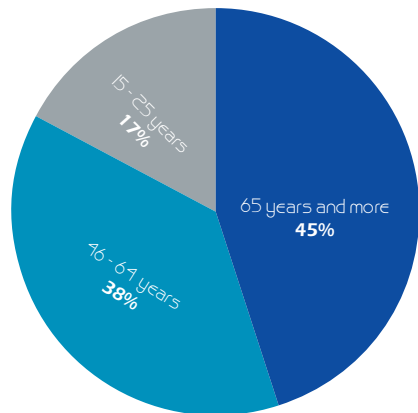


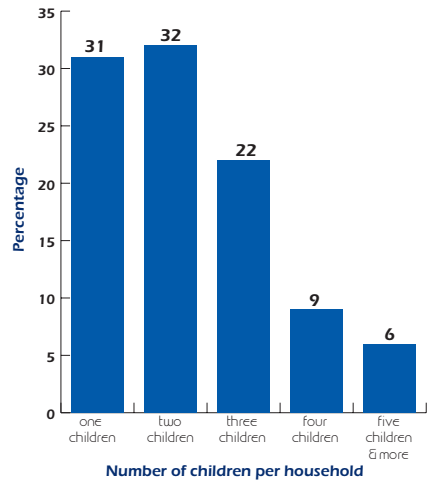
FIGURE 18: WOMEN HEAD OF HOUSEHOLDS BY AGE GROUPS



Children

52% of total households in Lebanon had no children under the age of 15 years and the head of those households were on average 61 years old. The remaining 48% of households had at least one child less than 15 years of age. 6% of households, who had children below the age of fifteen, had five or more children.

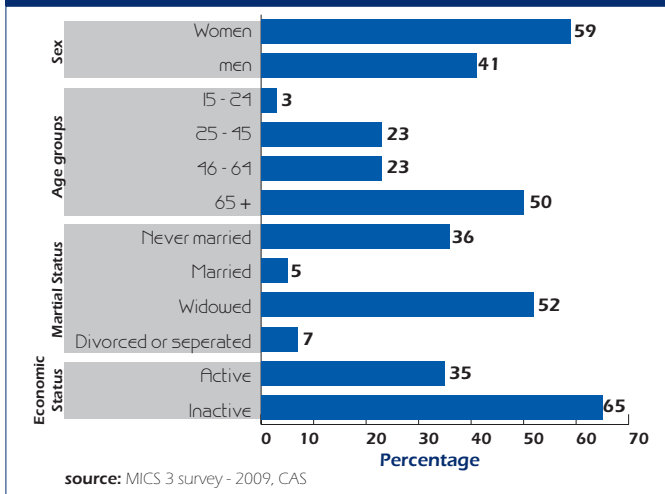
FIGURE 19: HOUSEHOLDS WITH AT LEAST ONE CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 15 YEARS



source: MICS 3 survey - 2009, CAS

Single person households, Who are they?

FIGURE 20: SINGLE PERSON HOUSEHOLD'S CHARACTERISTICS



source: MICS 3 survey - 2009, CAS

7% of total households in Lebanon are single person households. Those households were largely made up of women, older persons and the widowed.

Those households were also generally constituted of inactive people (65%).

However, some 35% of people in those households were economically active: specifically 34% were employed and only 1% was unemployed.

How much of a burden is supporting dependents ?

In 2007, the total age-dependency ratio that relates to the number of individuals who are likely to be "dependent" on the support of others for their daily living was estimated at 52%. In other words, there were 52 people of dependent age for every 100 person of a working age.

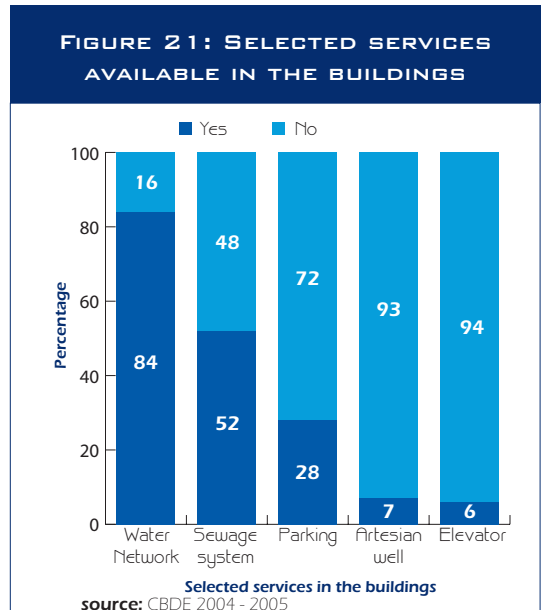
About housing in Lebanon

Buildings in Lebanon

Based on the Census of Buildings, Dwellings and Establishments (CBDE) we conducted in 2004-2005, there were approximately **408,515** buildings in Lebanon.

The CBDE results showed that only **6%** of total buildings in Lebanon had elevators.

Only half of the buildings in Lebanon had a sewage system but **84%** were connected to a water network.

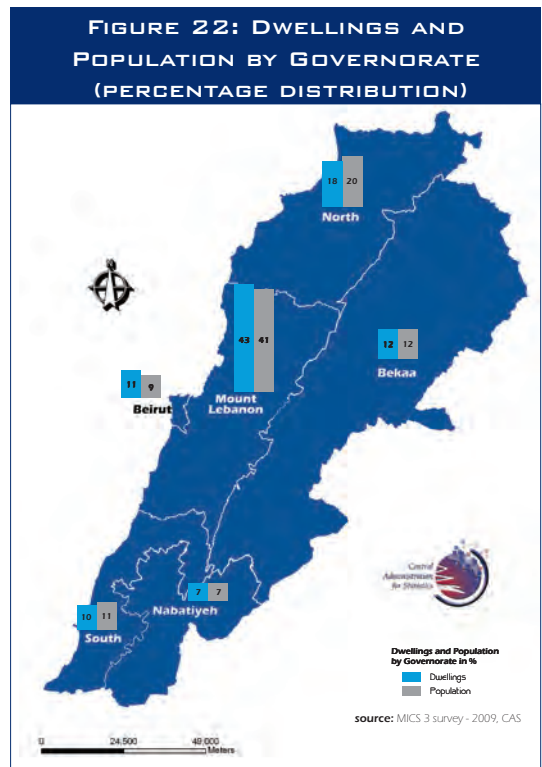


Dwellings in Lebanon

In 2009, our survey estimated about **930,500** dwellings occupied by households as a primary residence. **43%** of dwellings in Lebanon were found in the governorate of Mount Lebanon where the largest part of the population lived, followed by the governorate of North with **18%** of the dwellings and **20%** of the population, and thirdly the governorate of Bekaa.

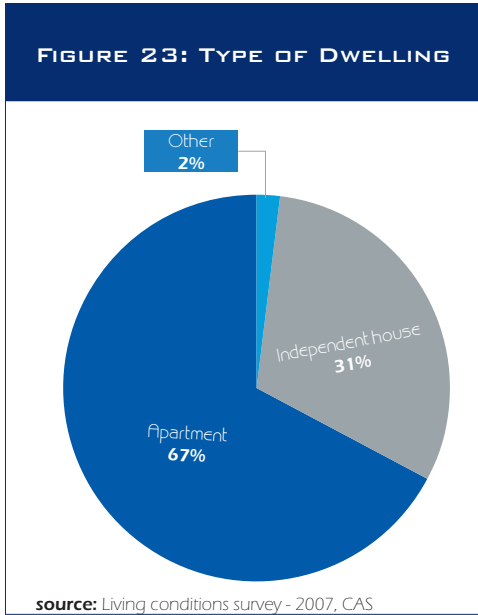
Results suggest underoccupation in Beirut and Mount Lebanon and overoccupation mainly in the North.

In 2004, our survey showed a significant level of owner occupied accommodation in Lebanon. We noted that **71%** of households owned their own dwellings.



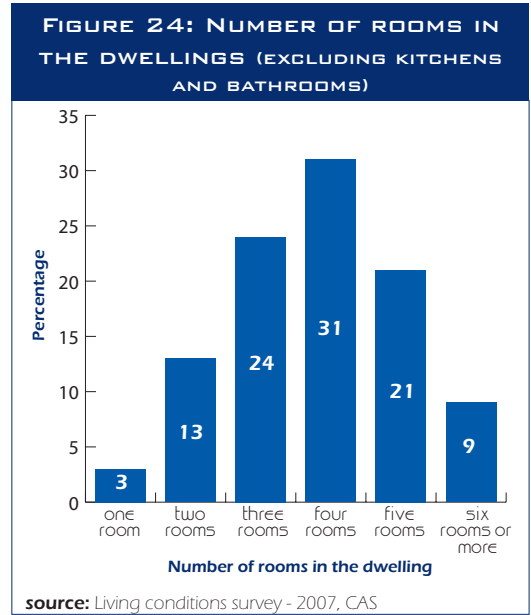
Housing characteristics in Lebanon

Types of Dwelling



The majority of the households lived in apartments or independent houses and very few lived in other types of dwellings such as villas or improvised dwellings.

Living space



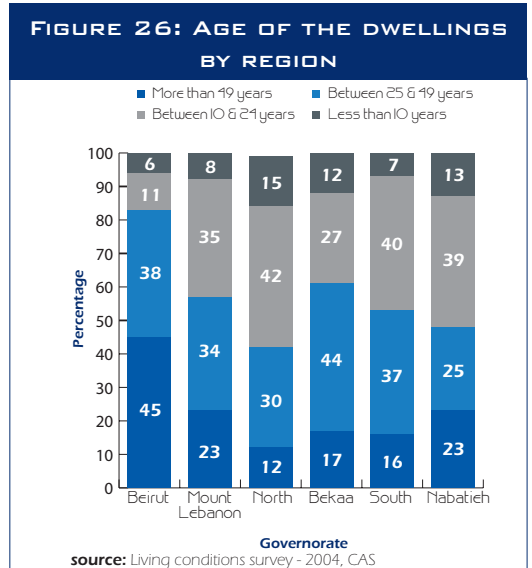
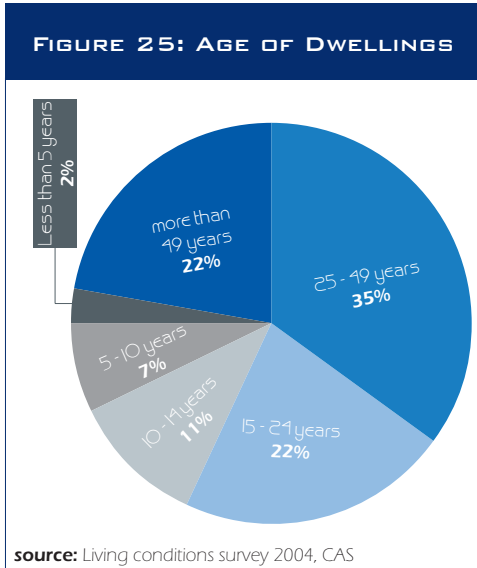
One notable characteristic of dwellings in Lebanon is the relatively large number of living spaces (excluding kitchens and bathrooms). The majority of dwellings had at least four rooms while very few were composed of only one room (3%).

How many square meters does a person have at home?

We divided the total dwelling area over the number of occupants to extract a calculation of the approximate space available per person, and the median area of the dwellings was estimated at 30 square meters per person.

■ The age of the dwellings

In 2004, we asked in our survey about the age of the dwelling used as a primary residence by households, and found that **21%** of the dwellings were built after 1990. Around **57%** were built during the period 1955 to 1989 and some **22%** were built before 1955.

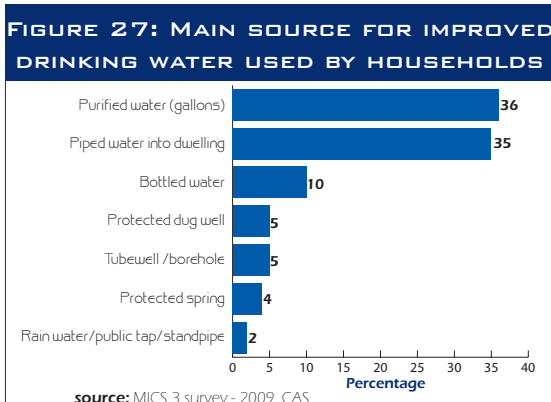


57% of dwellings used as primary residence by households were 25 years or older, only **3%** were built in the last 5 years.

When we looked at the age of the dwellings by region, we noted that Beirut had the oldest dwellings in Lebanon with **45%** built in 1954 or earlier and some **38%** built between the years 1978 and 1995. Conversely, the North of Lebanon had a greater proportion of newer dwellings with **15%** of dwellings in that region been built during the years 1994 to 2004.

■ Water sources used by the households

In 2009, **75%** of households were connected to the public water network and **87%** of households had drinking water available in their dwelling premises. Almost all households (**99%**) in Lebanon were storing water at home in different ways.



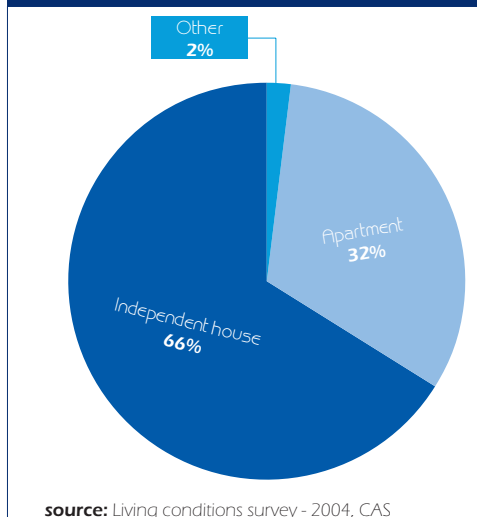
The majority of households in Lebanon (**98%**) were using improved drinking water sources and yet **22%** of households were using additional means to treat the improved water before drinking it such as using water filters.

Households using improved water sources reported on the main source they used for drinking water at home. Results showed that the most common sources for improved drinking water were purified water (**36%**) and piped water (**35%** of households).

■ Secondary residence in and outside Lebanon

Survey results in 2004 showed that about **8%** of households had, in addition to their primary houses, at least one secondary residence and the majority of those dwellings were inside Lebanon (**94%** of the total secondary houses).

FIGURE 28: TYPES OF SECONDARY DWELLINGS



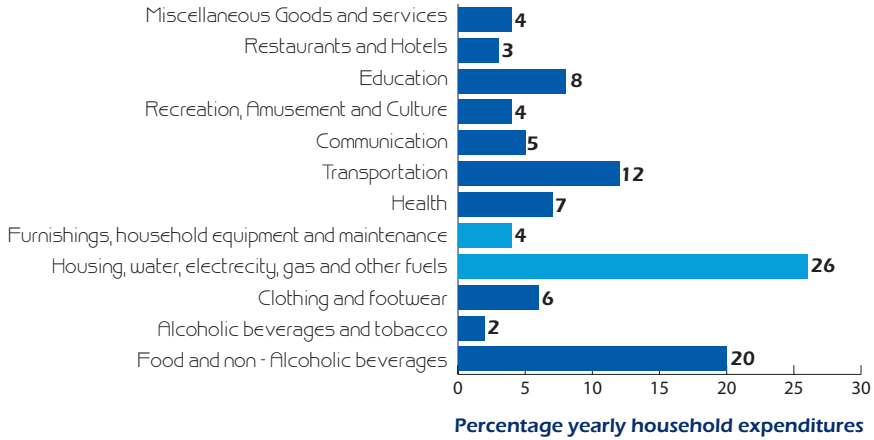
The majority of households use their secondary dwelling as a place to spend holidays (**88%**) or work (**12%**).

With regard to the type of the secondary dwelling, we found that the majority were independent houses followed by apartments in private buildings or compounds and very few were villas.

The majority of secondary houses (**68%**) were in the individual ownership of the head of the household or other household member while about **21%** were shared ownership with household members, siblings or other relatives. Very few secondary houses were rented (**8%**), donated or confiscated (**2%**). **52%** of secondary houses were inherited and **46%** were purchased by the household with their own money or a private loan.

■ How much were households spending on their housing?

FIGURE 29: PERCENTAGE ANNUAL EXPENDITURE OF HOUSEHOLD BY CATEGORY

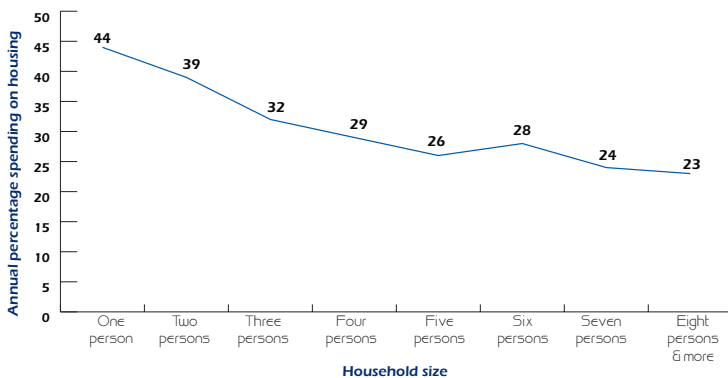


source: Living conditions survey - 2004, CAS

The average spending on housing (including services, furniture and durables) was estimated at approximately 5,677 million Lebanese Pounds a year in 2004, representing on average **30%** of the total yearly household expenditure.

Housing represents the largest component of annual household expenditure followed by food and transportation.

FIGURE 30: ANNUAL PERCENTAGE SPENDING (OUT OF TOTAL SPENDING) ON HOUSING BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE

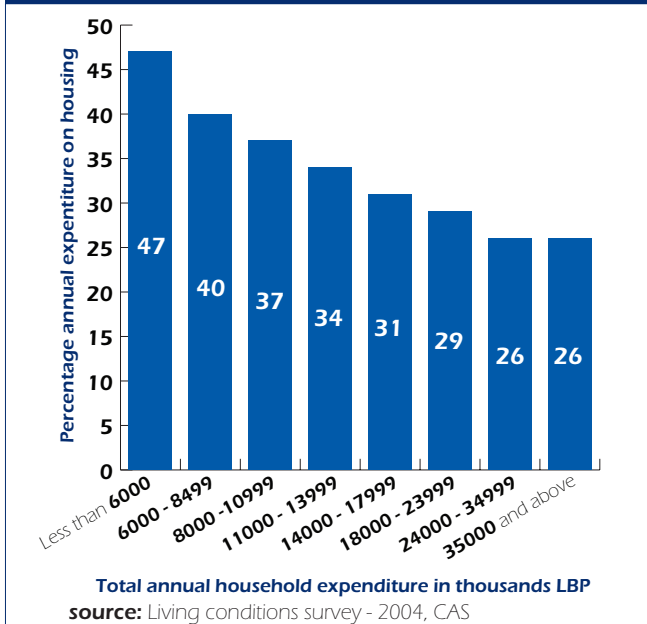


source: Living conditions survey - 2004, CAS

The proportion of total annual household spending that goes on housing will vary according to the number of household members sharing the same dwelling; this decreases in relative terms when the number of household members increases.

On average, the annual spending on housing ,services and equipments, was estimated at **44%** of total expenditure, for single person households and less then **25%** for households made up of 7 persons or more.

FIGURE 31: ANNUAL PERCENTAGE SPENDING ON HOUSING BY HOUSEHOLD TOTAL EXPEDITURES IN THOUSANDS LBP



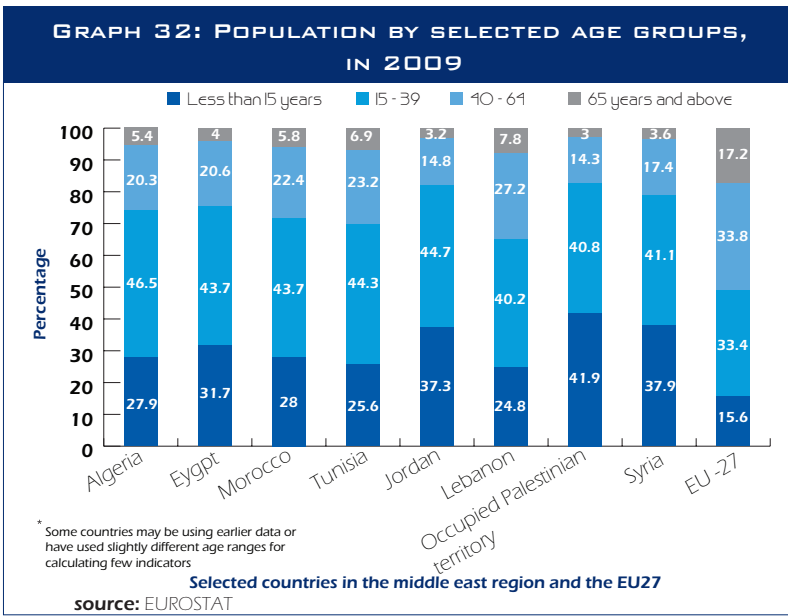
Spending on housing represents a greater burden for lower income households. Households with total expenditure less than 6 million Lebanese Pounds a year spend almost half of this (47%) on housing and related charges and services. In contrast households with the highest total annual expenditure (over 24 million Lebanese Pounds a year), spend only a quarter (26%) of this on housing.

Lebanon Compared to neighbouring countries

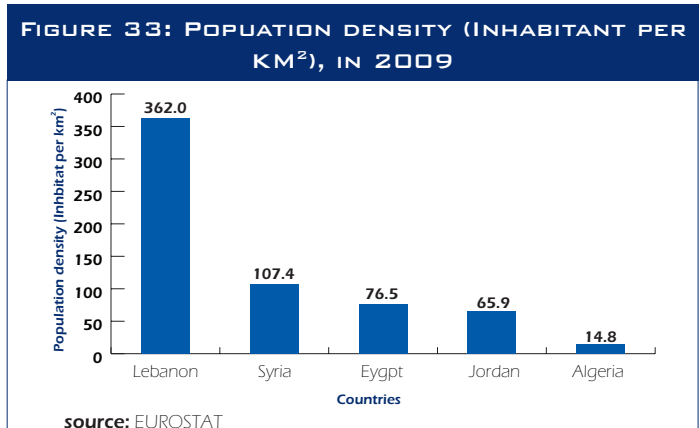
This section is dedicated to comparing Lebanon to selected Mediterranean countries; it is based on the EUROSTAT publication, which provided comparable figures. Data used in this section are extracted from the 'Pocketbook on Euro-Mediterranean statistics, 2011 edition, available at the following link: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

We are the oldest in the region

We compared Lebanon to a number of selected countries in the Middle East region and to the 27 European countries, using MEDSTAT comparable indicators. Lebanon had the largest proportion of senior citizens and at the same time the lowest proportion of children compared to other countries in the Middle East region.



Compared to some countries in the region, Lebanon has the largest population density.



A quick reminder of definitions and concepts used in this publication

Based on international definitions and standards

- Population density: is the number of people per unit area (square kilometer).
- Total period fertility rate: Is the measure of the number of children per woman (for the 5 years previous to the survey, that is years 1999 to 2003).
- Infant mortality rate: That is children dying before their first birthday usually calculated per thousand.
- Child mortality rate: That is children dying before reaching their 5th birthday usually calculated per thousand.
- Total age-dependency ratio: Is a measure of the age structure of the population. It relates the number of individuals who are likely to be “dependent” on the support of others for their daily living – the young and the elderly – to the number of those individuals who are capable of providing this support. The total-age-dependency ratio is the ratio of the sum of the number of young and the number of elderly people at an age when both groups are generally economically inactive, (under 15 years of age and aged 65 and over), compared to the number of people of working age (15-64 years old).

■ 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
- Census of Buildings Dwellings and Establishments (CBDE), Central Administration of Statistics, Lebanon 2004. Census results are available at the following link: http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=54&Itemid=37
- Lebanon Family Health Survey (PAPFAM), Central Administration of Statistics, Lebanon 2004. Survey results are available at the following link: <http://www.cas.gov.lb/images/PDFs/Lebanon%20PAPFAM%20Arabic.pdf>
- CAS statistics yearbook 2000 - 2010: http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=100&Itemid=2

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