



**Labour Force and Household Living  
Conditions Survey (LFHLCS)  
2018-2019 in Zahleh**

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## Acknowledgments

This report comes as one of a series of reports launched by the Central Administration of Statistics, covering the twenty-six districts of Lebanon. Producing these reports was a collaborative endeavor between the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Official statistics presented in this report are drawn from the findings of the national Labour Force and Households Living Conditions Survey (LFHLCS) that was carried out by CAS between 2018 and 2019 with funding from the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon and the technical cooperation of the Regional Office for Arab States of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

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Director General  
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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAS	Central Administration of Statistics
GER	The Gross Enrolment Ratio
ILO	International Labour Organization
LFHLCS	Labour Force and Households' Living Conditions Survey
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NER	The Net Enrolment Rate
NSSF	National Social Security Fund
SMAM	Singulate Mean Age at Marriage
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

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## About the Survey

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Official statistics presented in this report are drawn from the findings of the national Labour Force and Households Living Conditions Survey (LFHLCS) that was carried out by CAS between 2018 and 2019 with funding from the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon and the technical cooperation of the Regional Office for Arab States of the International Labour Organization (ILO)<sup>1</sup>.

The 2018-2019 LFHLCS is the first Lebanese survey to produce estimates not only at the national and sub-national governorate (*mouhafaza*) levels, but also at the district (*caza*) level. Lebanon is composed of eight governorates, called *mouhafaza*, and 26 districts, called *caza*. Only the governorates of Beirut and Akkar were taken as a whole in the survey sample and were not subdivided into districts.

LFHLCS covered all the population of Lebanon living in primary residential dwellings. It was carried out from April 2018 to March 2019. It did not cover the population living in non-residential units, such as construction and agriculture sites, shops, stores, factories, unfinished buildings, army barracks, refugee camps and adjacent gatherings, and informal settlements.

With an unprecedented complete national sample size of 50,000 households, more than 39,000 responded to the survey, providing a relatively high response rate of 79%.

Through 227 questions organized into 10 modules, the LFHLCS questionnaire gathered extensive data that were used in the production of a broad array of indicators and a cross-sectional analysis regarding:

- The demographic and social characteristics of households and the individuals living in them on a regular basis (more than six months in a year), including information on education, health, social security and others;
- The labour force situation and the economic activity of all active individuals in the household;
- The characteristics of the household and the conditions of the dwellings and the available amenities.

The concepts, definitions and methodologies that were used in the survey, were designed according to the latest international survey statistical standards especially those in line with the 19th ICLS Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For more information about the 2018-2019 LFHLCS, refer to the main survey report, available at <http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php/component/content/article?id=212>.

<sup>2</sup> Source: ILO, *Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2013*.

# District Statistics

The district statistics represent an invaluable source of updated information and analysis of the prevailing social and economic conditions in each district. They are made available to the district authorities and leadership - including the Kâim-Makâm (Caza Governor), the District Unions of Municipalities, and a range of other government and non-government district planners, policy makers and users. The district statistics also aim at informing appropriate and evidence-based development policies and programmes at the district level.

This report presents data pertaining to the district of Zahleh, which is situated in the Governorate of Bekaa.

It consists of five chapters highlighting the following aspects:

-  I. Demographics
-  II. Housing
-  III. Education
-  IV. Social and Economic Background
-  V. Labour Force and Employment

Wherever possible and statistically significant, the indicators presented at the district level are compared to the national values for the purpose of contextualization and comparison.





## I. DEMOGRAPHICS

### The residents in Zahleh: who and how many are they?

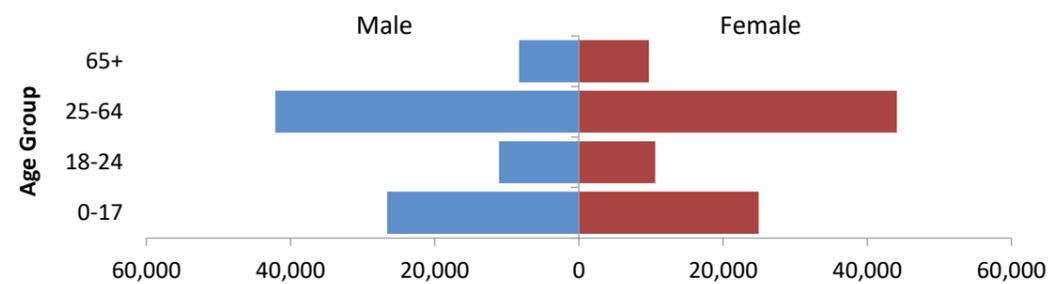
The survey results show that in 2018–19, the caza of Zahleh hosted 3.7 per cent of residents of Lebanon, with around 177,400 residents. 50.3 per cent of the residents were females and 49.7 per cent males.

18 years old represented 29 per cent of the total, whereas those aged between 18 and 24 years old represented 12.2 per cent. The remaining 10.2 per cent were the older residents (65+ years old). (Figure 1)

Almost half of the residents of Zahleh were found in the age group 25–64 years (48.6 per cent). The younger residents of less than

In 2018–19, the age dependency ratio<sup>3</sup> for Zahleh was 52.8 per cent, compared to 53.9 per cent at the national level.

Figure 1: Residents in Zahleh 2018-2019



The Survey results showed that males predominated as heads of household. It was estimated that 82.5 per cent of households were headed by a man compared to 81.5 per cent nationally, while 17.5 per cent of households were headed by a woman relatively to 18.5 per cent in Lebanon. (Figure 2)

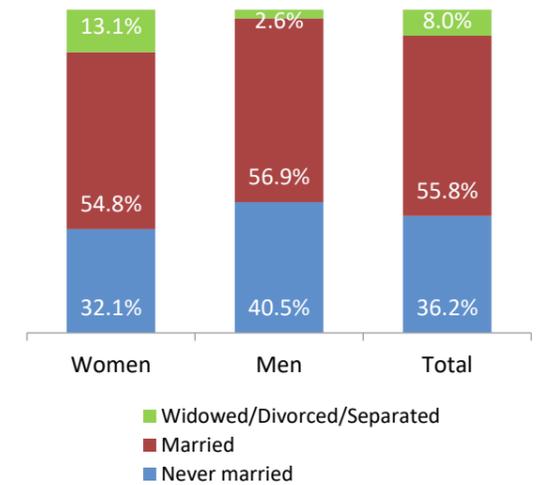
Figure 2: Head of household by sex



<sup>3</sup>Age dependency ratio is the number of dependents aged 0-14 years and those aged 65+ compared to the total population aged 15-64 years, which is the working age population. It describes the degree to which the economically non-productive population is dependent on the working-age population. The higher the ratio, the greater the economic burden.

At least half (55.8 per cent) of all residents aged 15 and above in Zahleh declared that they were “married” in 2018–19, whereas 36.2 per cent stated that they were “never married”. The proportion of married women (54.8 per cent) was slightly lower than for men (56.9 per cent), and the share of never married women (32.1 per cent) was lower than for men (40.5 per cent). Interestingly, the share of women who stated they were either widowed, divorced or separated (13.1 per cent) was five times higher than that of men (2.6 per cent). (Figure 3)

Figure 3: Marital status (aged 15+) by sex



### WHAT IS THE SMAM?

The singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) is the average length of single life expressed in years among those who marry before age 50. It is a synthetic indicator calculated from marital status categories of men and women aged 15 to 54 at the date of the census or the survey.

Among Zahleh residents, the Singulate Mean Age at Marriage (SMAM) was 24.5 years for women and 30.4 years for men, whereas at the national level, the mean age of marriage was found to be 25.6 and 30.7 for women and men respectively.



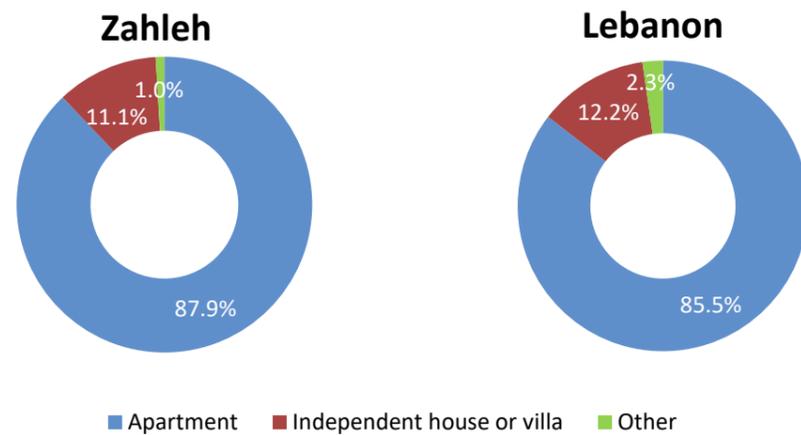
## II. HOUSING

### Where do residents in Zahleh live?

The vast majority of primary residences in Zahleh were apartments (87.9 per cent) whereas 11.1 per cent were independent houses or villas. It is worth noting that the

percentage of apartments at the caza level slightly exceeded that at the national level (85.5 per cent). (Figure 4)

Figure 4: Distribution of primary residences by type of dwelling

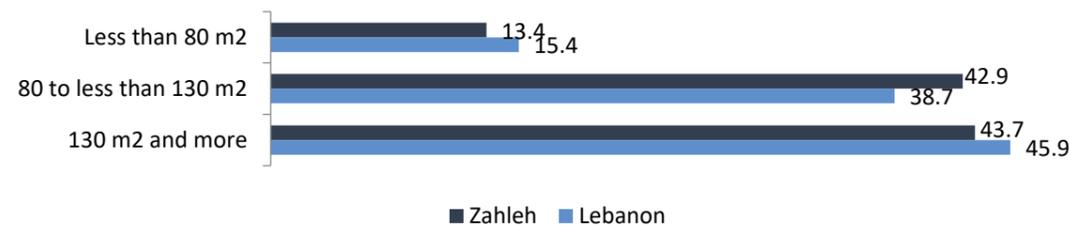


### Primary residences by area (m<sup>2</sup>)

The largest share (43.7 per cent) of primary residences in Zahleh were large residences of 130 m<sup>2</sup> and over, compared to 45.9 per cent nationally. Small residences of less than 80 m<sup>2</sup> were the least common – 13.4 per cent of the dwellings compared to 15.4 per

cent at the level of the country. Residences between 80 and 130 square meters comprised 42.9 per cent of the total compared to the 38.7 per cent at the national level. (Figure 5)

Figure 5: Primary residences by area of residence (%)

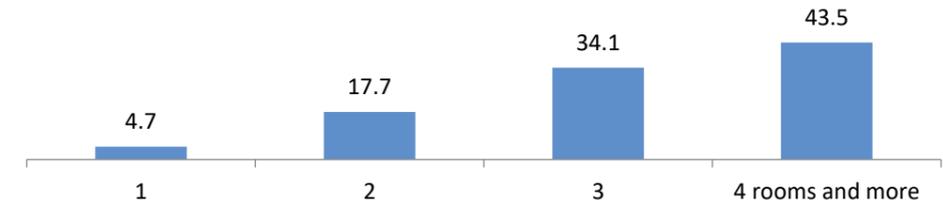


### How many rooms does a household have?

About 43.5 per cent of the primary residences had 4 rooms and over, followed by 34.1 per cent dwellings composed of 3

rooms. Nationally, 57.8 per cent of the primary residences had 4 rooms and over and 25.1 per cent had 3 rooms. (Figure 6)

Figure 6: Primary residences by number of rooms (%)



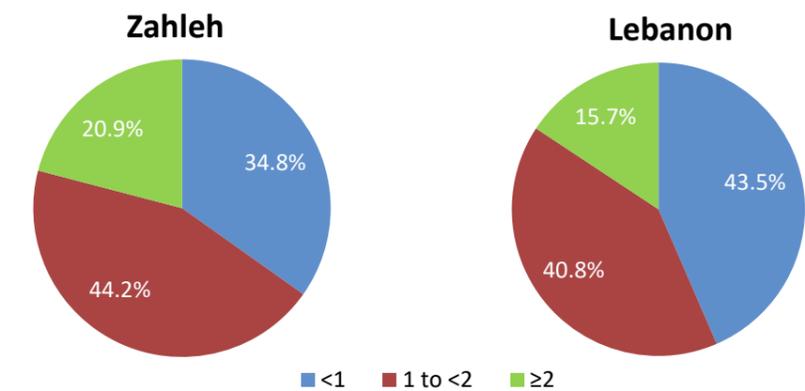
### Persons per room

The number of individuals per room is an indicator that provides a measure of residential crowding and occupancy.

distribution of households was higher for a density between one and two individuals per room whereas it was lower for a density of less than one individual per room. As for the residences that were found to be more crowded (more than two persons per room), they represented 20.9 per cent of the households, a proportion higher than the national level. (Figure 7)

In Zahleh, the vast majority of households had a density of less than two individuals per room, with 44.2 per cent between one and two individuals per room, and 34.8 per cent less than one individual per room. Compared to the national level, the

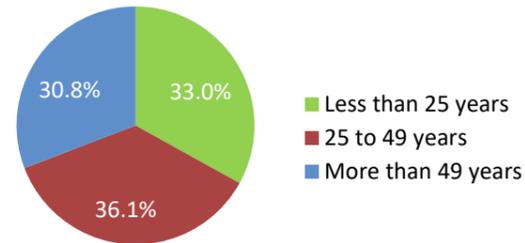
Figure 7: Persons per room (%)



### Are the primary residences old or new?

36.1 per cent of the dwellings in Zahleh were constructed 25 to 49 years ago, a percentage slightly higher than that observed all over Lebanon (34.4 per cent). On the other side, around a third of the primary residences (30.8 per cent) were constructed more than 49 years ago, compared to 31.8 per cent nationally. (Figure 8)

**Figure 8: Primary residences by age of residence**

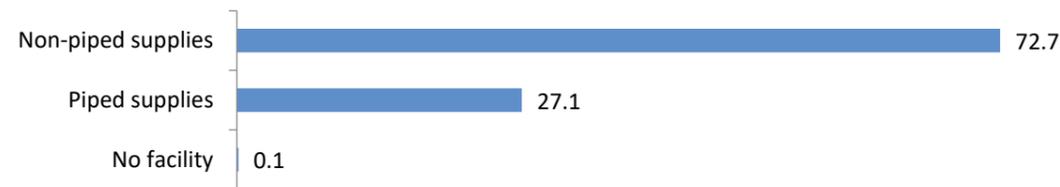


### Connectivity to infrastructure and utilities

Non-piped water supply (72.7 per cent) was the main source of drinking water in Zahleh, yet slightly less prevalent at the district level than the national level (76.9 per cent). For only 27.1 per cent of households, drinking

water was in the form of a supply piped directly to the residence, whereas 0.1 per cent of dwellings had no drinking water facility whatsoever. (Figure 9)

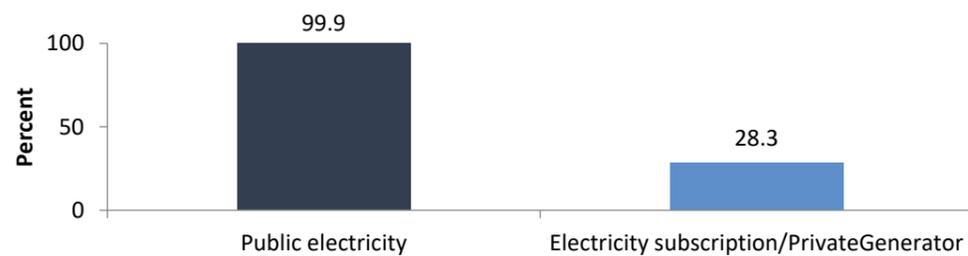
**Figure 9: Facilities of main source of drinking water at the dwelling (%)**



Connection to the public electricity network was common in the caza (99.9 per cent), whereas 28.3 per cent of households were subscribed to a private electricity source or had their own private generator. At the national level, almost identical results were

observed for the connection to the public electricity; however, subscription to a private electricity was considerably less prevalent in Zahleh (84 per cent in Lebanon). (Figure 10)

**Figure 10: Sources of electricity in primary residences**



### Cost associated with residence

The average yearly expenditure on services for main dwellings in Zahleh was estimated at approximately 2,557 thousand LBP, compared to 3,308 thousand LBP nationally. At the district level, average spending was mainly on electricity (1,054 thousand LBP) followed by generators (905 thousand LBP); whereas the lowest average yearly expenses

were on satellite/dish (238 thousand LBP). Compared to the national level, these expenses were higher for electricity, lower for generators, and nearly the same for satellite/dish. The median annual expenses in Zahleh were 2,490 thousand LBP, which was lower than that observed in Lebanon as a whole (2,940 thousand LBP). (Table 1)

**Table 1: Yearly expenditures on services for main dwellings (in thousand LBP)**

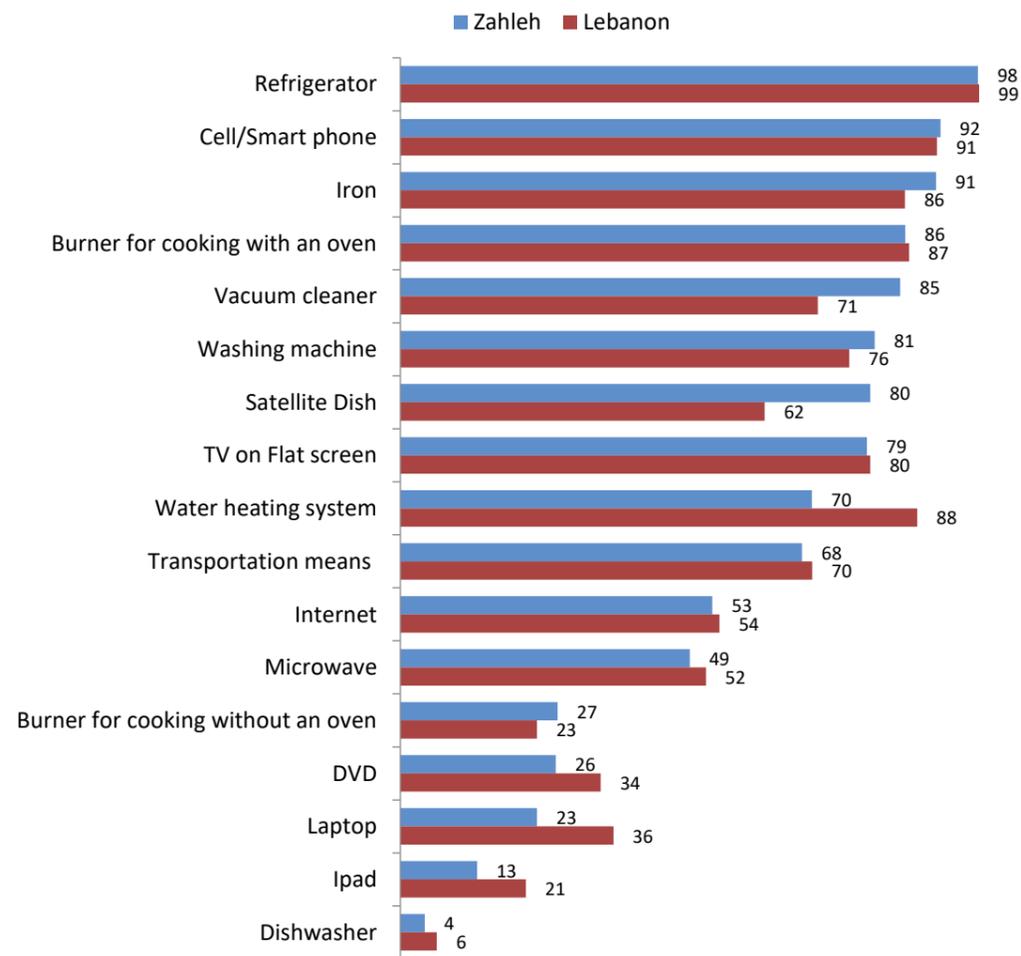
Services	Zahleh		Lebanon	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Public water	241	246	293	300
Electricity	1,054	900	671	480
Generator	905	720	1,100	900
Satellite/dish	238	204	231	240
Fixed phones (without Internet)	478	360	433	360
<b>Total yearly Expenses on services</b>	<b>2,557</b>	<b>2,490</b>	<b>3,308</b>	<b>2,940</b>

### Home appliances and means of transportation

Almost all households had a refrigerator (98 per cent), about 92 per cent had a cell/smart phone and 91 per cent had an iron at home in Zahleh. Dishwashers were the least common in the district (4 per cent of households) with a slightly lower proportion relatively to the national level (6 per cent).

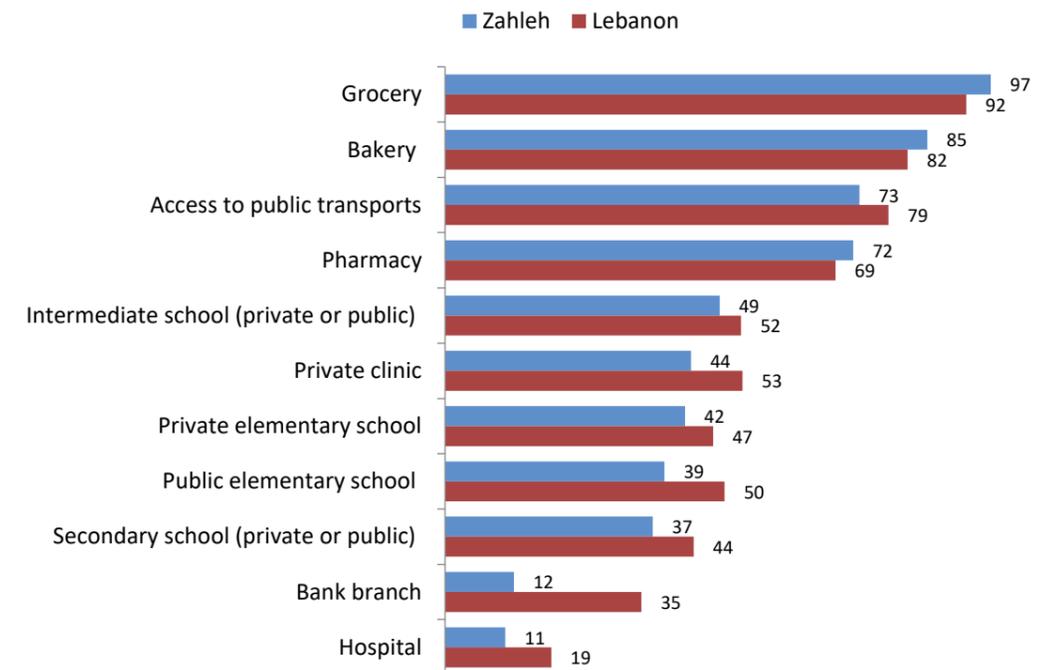
It is instructive to note that the proportions of the households who had a vacuum cleaner or a satellite dish in Zahleh exceeded markedly those in Lebanon as whole. In contrast, the proportions of the households who had a water heating system or a laptop fell remarkably behind the national levels. (Figure 11)

Figure 11: Home appliances types and means of transportation (%)



Note: The internet does not include Cable/ADSL/3G or 4G.

Figure 12: Access to services (%)



### Access to basic services

The vast majority of primary residences in Zahleh reported having access to at least one grocery store (97 per cent), a bakery (85 per cent), public transports (73 per cent) and a pharmacy (72 per cent) within a 10-minute walk from home. Less than half of all dwellings lived within reach of a private clinic (44 per cent). Hospitals were the least common in the area (11 per cent).

It is worth noting that compared to the national level, access to a public elementary school was 11 percentage points less (39 per cent in Zahleh and 50 per cent in Lebanon) and the widespread of bank branches was about three times lower (12 per cent in Zahleh and 35 per cent in Lebanon). (Figure 12)



### III. EDUCATION

#### Gross Enrolment Ratio versus Net Enrolment Rate

Both Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and Net Enrolment Rate (NER) decreased with level. In Zahleh, the GER at the elementary level was 94.4 per cent while it was 72.3 per cent at the secondary level. The NER at the elementary level was 82.8 per cent but decreased to 54.2 per cent at the secondary level. Interestingly, the Gross Enrolment Ratio and the Net Enrolment rate were at all levels lower in Zahleh than the national level. (Table 2)

Table 2: Enrolment by level of education (in %)

Level of education	Zahleh		Lebanon	
	Gross Enrolment Ratio	Net Enrolment Ratio	Gross Enrolment Ratio	Net Enrolment Ratio
Elementary level	94.4	82.8	98.9	87.2
Intermediate level	90.8	63.5	93.4	67.8
Secondary level	72.3	54.2	76.8	54.9

Note: These results exclude domestic workers

#### WHAT ARE THE GER AND NER?

**The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** is defined as the number of students enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education. A high GER generally indicates a high degree of participation, whether the pupils belong to the official age group or not. A GER value approaching or exceeding 100% indicates that a country is, in principle, able to accommodate all of its school-age population.

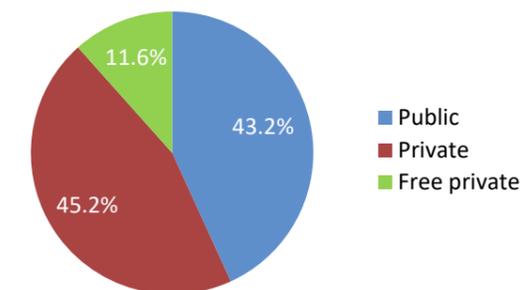
**The Net Enrolment Rate (NER)** is defined as the total number of students in the theoretical age group for a given level of education enrolled in that level, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group. A high NER denotes a high degree of coverage for the official school-age population. The theoretical maximum value is 100%.

\*Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

#### Schooling in Zahleh

In Zahleh, students aged 3-24 years were more likely to enrol in private educational institutions (45.2 per cent), rather than public institutions (43.2 per cent). With 47.8 per cent enrolled in private educational institutions and 46.5 per cent enrolled in public institutions in Lebanon, results show that both private and public schooling were less common in Zahleh. (Figure 13)

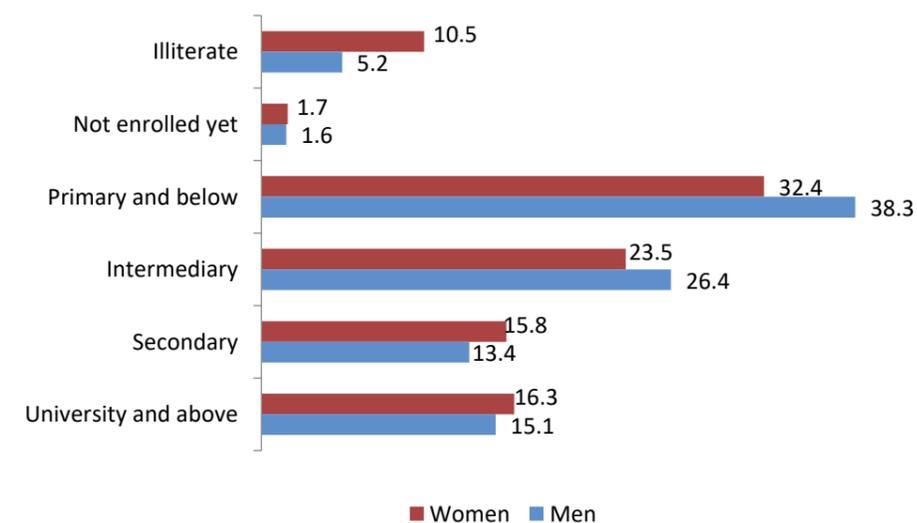
Figure 13: Distribution of students by type of educational institution



The "primary and below" level<sup>4</sup> (35.3 per cent) was the highest educational attainment in the caza, with a higher proportion for males (38.3 per cent) than females (32.4 per cent). Although the illiterate residents aged 3 years and above were twice as high among females (8.7 per cent) as among males (4.4 per cent) at the national level, gender discrepancies were

slightly more observed at the caza level (10.5 per cent for women and 5.2 per cent for men). This result may be explained by the fact that the proportion of elderly women aged 65+ years is greater than that of men. Furthermore, the survey results show that the illiteracy rate among the elderly is greater. (Figure 14)

Figure 14: Residents (aged 3+) by level of education attained and sex (%)



<sup>4</sup>Primary and below: include Read and write, Pre-school, Primary, and undefined education level.



## Zahleh district

### IV. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

#### How much do households earn in total?

29.8 per cent of the households in Zahleh had a total income from all sources between 1,200 and 2,400 thousand LBP in the month preceding the Survey, a proportion that was similar to the one observed at the national level. That was followed by 26.8 per cent of households at the caza level who had earnings ranging between 650 and 1,200 thousand LBP, and 23.6 per cent of households who earned below 650 thousand LBP. In contrast, households in Zahleh were less likely to earn a total

income between 2,400 and 5,000 thousand LBP (16.2 per cent) or 5 million LBP or more (only 2.9 per cent) compared to the other income categories.

Compared to the national level, it is interesting to note that households in Zahleh were more likely to have earnings less than 1,200 thousand LBP, whereas they were less likely to earn more than 2,400 thousand LBP. (Figure 16)

The survey shows that the illiteracy rate for residents aged 10 years and above increased with age. 30.8 per cent of residents aged 65 years old and above were illiterate. In contrast, 3 per cent of those aged between 10 and 17 years old were illiterate. It is worth noting that women of

all age groups were more likely to be illiterate than men. Gender discrepancies were mostly noticed for illiterate residents aged 65 years and more, with a notable gender gap reaching 21.4 percentage points (40.6 per cent for women and 19.2 per cent for men). (Figure 15a)

Figure 15a: Illiteracy rate by age group and sex (aged 10 years +)



When compared with the national level, illiteracy rate in Zahleh was reported to be slightly higher (8.7 per cent in comparison with 7.4 per cent at the country level). This rate was found to be higher for women (11.5

per cent) than for men (5.7 per cent) in the district, but also in Lebanon, where the proportion of illiterate women (9.7 per cent) was twice as high as that of men (4.9 per cent). (Figure 15b)

Figure 15b: Total illiteracy rate by sex (aged 10 years +)

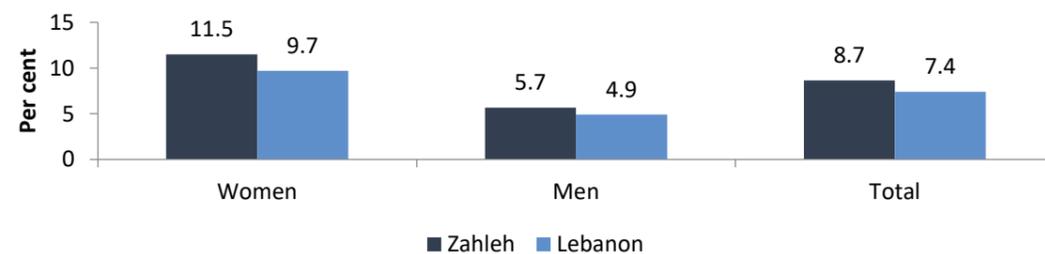
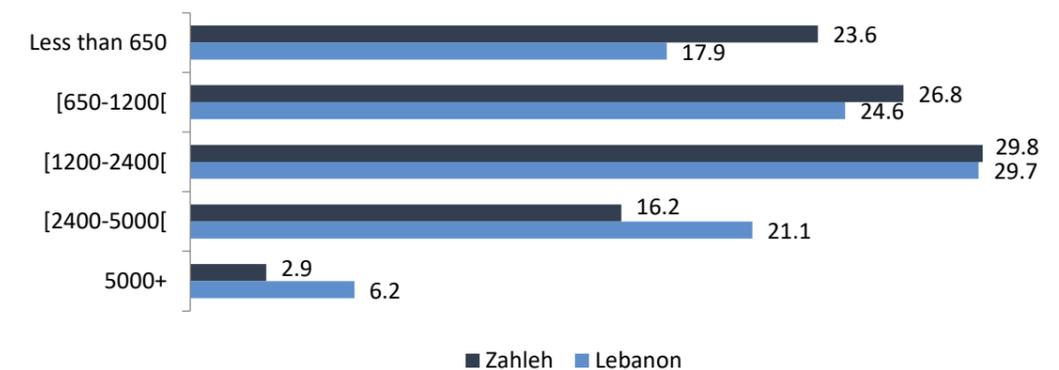


Figure 16: Household income range from all sources in the month preceding the Survey in thousand LBP (%)

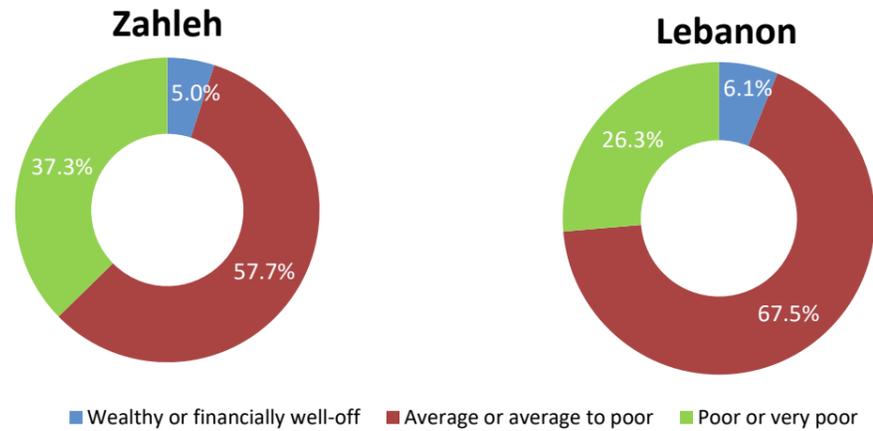


#### ... and how do they perceive their wealth status?

Households classified their wealth status from their own subjective point of view. 57.7 per cent classified themselves as "average or average to poor", 37.3 per cent as "poor or very poor", and 5 per cent declared they are "wealthy or financially well-off". Nationally, although the

proportion of households who classified themselves as "average or average to poor" was higher in Lebanon (67.5 per cent), the proportion of those who considered themselves "poor or very poor" was lower (26.3 per cent). (Figure 17)

Figure 17: Self classification of wealth of households

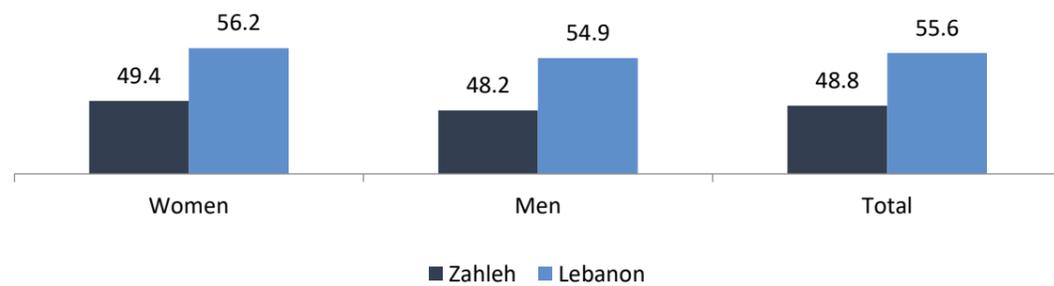


### Health Coverage<sup>5</sup>

Only 48.8 per cent of the total residents in Zahleh were covered by at least one type of health insurance: a slightly higher health coverage was found for women (49.4 per cent) than for men (48.2 per cent). At the

national level, the results show a relatively higher health coverage for both women (56.2 per cent) and men (54.9 per cent). (Figure 18)

Figure 18: Health coverage by sex (%)

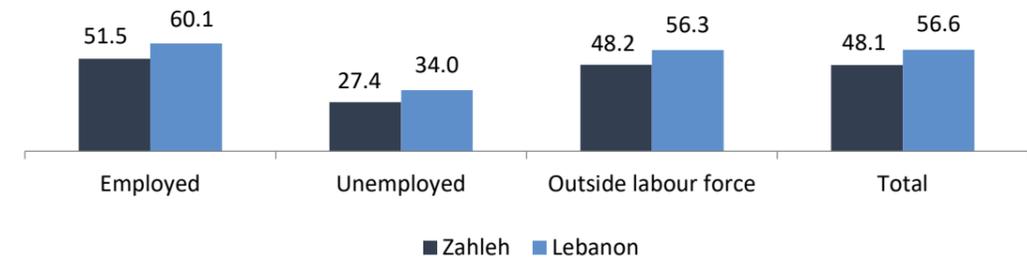


In Zahleh, 48.1 per cent of the residents aged 15 years and above had a health coverage, whereas nationally, the proportion of the insured population in the same age group was higher (56.6 per cent). Significant difference is noted when looking at the employment status of population. Employed residents were less likely to be covered in Zahleh (51.5 per cent) compared

to the whole of Lebanon (60.1 per cent). Also, the proportions of residents "outside the labour force" and unemployed who had a health coverage in Zahleh (48.2 per cent and 27.4 per cent respectively) were lower than those observed at the national level (56.3 per cent and 34 per cent respectively). (Figure 19)

<sup>5</sup>In this section, all the figures exclude the domestic workers.

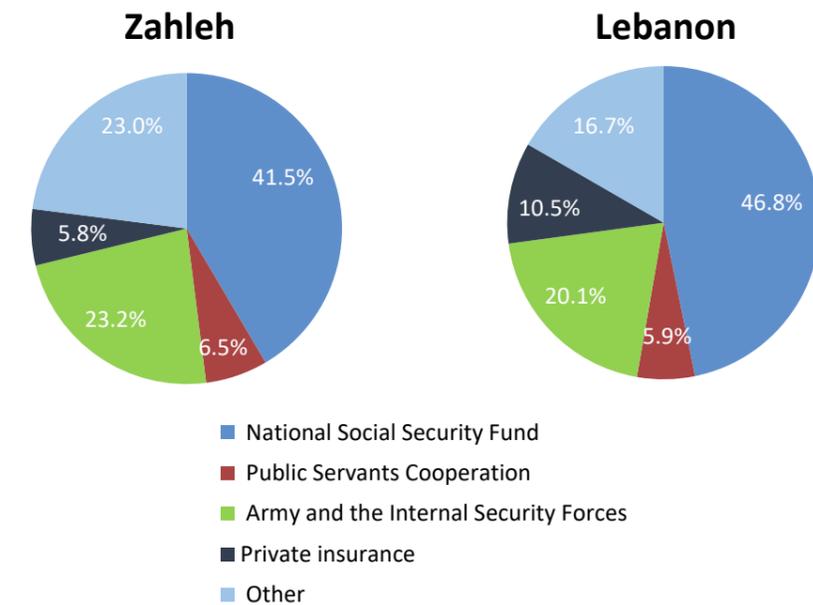
Figure 19: Residents (aged 15 years +) by employment status and health insurance coverage (%)



The main source of health coverage in Zahleh was the National Social Security Fund (NSSF)<sup>6</sup>, which covered 41.5 per cent of the insured population. This proportion was followed by the Lebanese Army and the Internal Security Forces (23.2 per cent). The

coverage of the Public Servants Cooperation was almost equal in Zahleh (6.5 per cent) and in Lebanon (5.9 per cent), whereas private insurance was less common (5.8 per cent in Zahleh compared to 10.5 per cent in Lebanon). (Figure 20)

Figure 20: Distribution of residents benefiting from health insurance by source of insurance



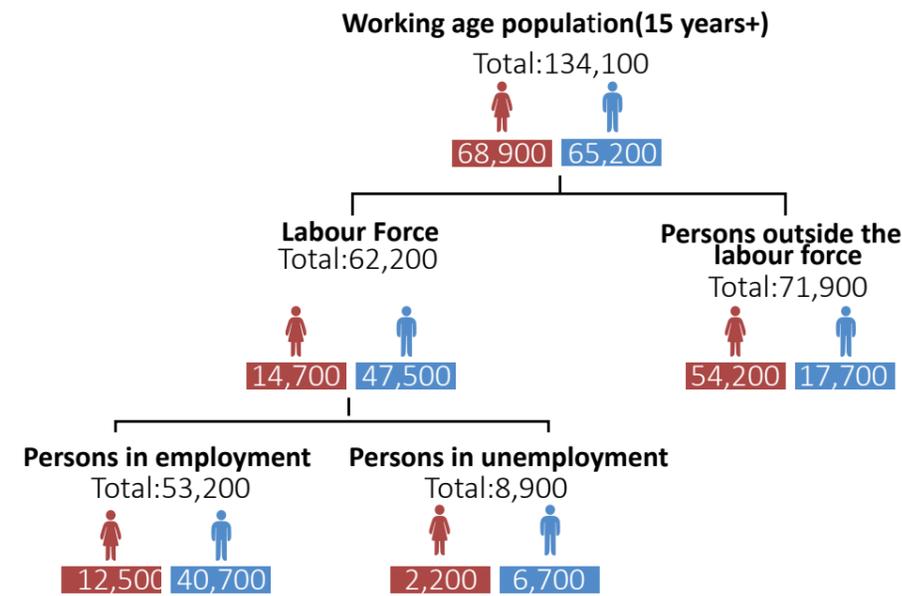
<sup>6</sup> Including Facultative Fund.



## V. LABOUR FORCE and EMPLOYMENT

### Labour market structure

Among the estimated 134,100 individuals aged 15 years old and above living in primary residential dwellings in Zahleh in 2018–19, about 62,200 people were in the labour force, either employed (53,200) or unemployed (8,900). The remaining 71,900 individuals were outside the labour force.



Note: Estimation below 2,500 has a standard error above 20 per cent. Due to rounding, numbers presented may not add up precisely to the totals.

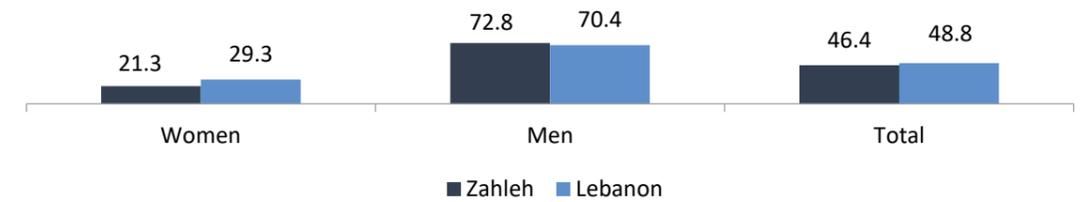
### Who is Employed, Searching for a job or Inactive - From a Gender Point of View

Total labour force participation rate<sup>7</sup> in Zahleh was 46.4 per cent, which was lower than the national rate of 48.8 per cent. Gender disparity was high in Zahleh, and more accentuated than the national level. Men’s participation rates (72.8 per cent in Zahleh and 70.4 per cent in Lebanon) were higher compared to women’s (21.3 per cent in Zahleh and 29.3 per cent in Lebanon) at both the district and national levels, with a notable gender gap<sup>8</sup> reaching 51.5 percentage points and 41.1 percentage points respectively. (Figure 21)

<sup>7</sup> Labour Force Participation Rate =  $\frac{\text{Persons in Employment} + \text{Persons in Unemployment}}{\text{Working-age Population (15+ years old)}} * 100$

<sup>8</sup> In this brief, the gender gap is calculated by subtracting the female rate from the male rate.

Figure 21: Labour force participation rate (%)



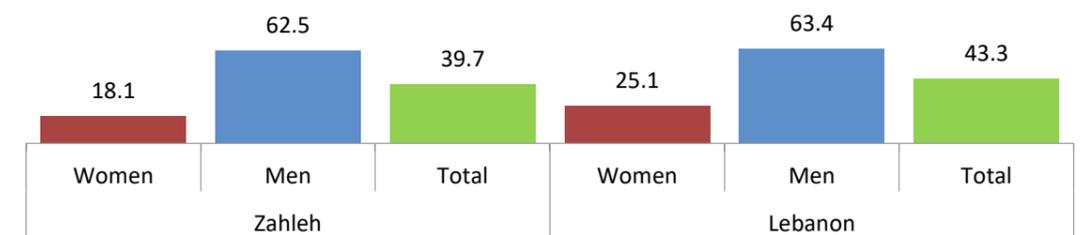
The share of the adult labour force (be they unemployed or in work) exceeded that of the youth and marked 48.2 per cent compared to 39.8 per cent in Zahleh, and 51.7 per cent compared to 39.2 per cent at the national level. (Figure 22)

Figure 22: Labour force participation rate among youth and adults (%)



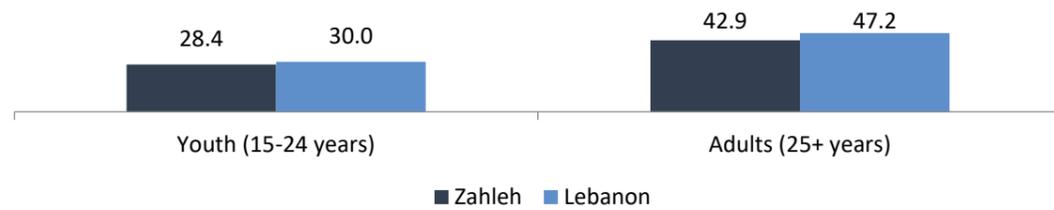
The employment-to-population ratio in Zahleh (39.7 per cent) was lower than that of the country (43.3 per cent). There were some notable gender disparities in the employment-to-population ratio at both the district and country levels. 18.1 per cent of women and 62.5 per cent of men were employed in Zahleh with a gender gap of 44.4 percentage-point difference. In Lebanon, the employment-to-population ratio reached 25.1 per cent for women and 63.4 per cent for men, marking a gender gap of 38.3 percentage-point difference. (Figure 23)

Figure 23: Employment-to-population ratio (%)



The comparison of the results by broad age groups shows that the youth employment-to-population ratio in Zahleh (28.4 per cent) was remarkably lower than that of the adults (42.9 per cent). It is worth noting that these ratios were lower than those marked at the national level. However, the gap between the two age groups was less significant at the caza level (14.5 percentage-point difference relative to 17.2 percentage points in Lebanon). (Figure 24)

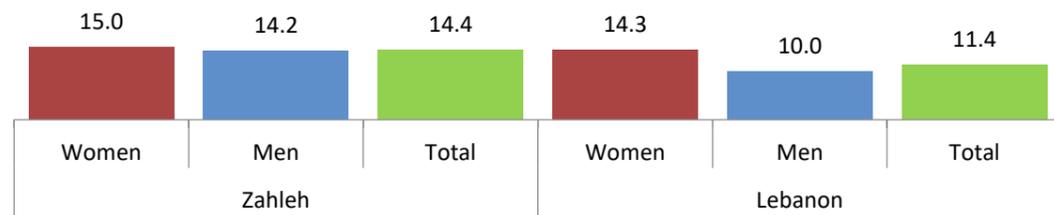
**Figure 24: Employment-to-population ratio by broad age groups (%)**



The unemployment rate<sup>9</sup> in Zahleh (14.4 per cent) was higher than that of Lebanon (11.4 per cent). Differences at the country level were observed between women (14.3 per cent) and men (10 per cent), yet the gap was lower in Zahleh where the unemployment rate was 15 per cent for women and 14.2

per cent for men. In other words, the gender gap in the unemployment rate was at least five times less significant in Zahleh (0.8 percentage-point difference) than in Lebanon as a whole (4.3 percentage-point difference). (Figure 25)

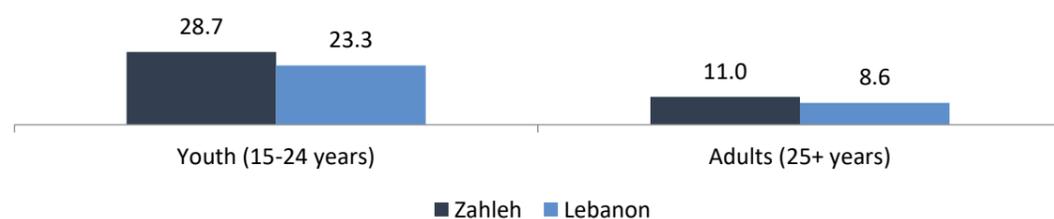
**Figure 25: Unemployment rate by sex (%)**



Unemployment was less prevalent among adults than among youth at both the district and country levels, with a rate reaching 11 per cent and 28.7 per cent respectively in Zahleh, compared to 8.6 per cent and 23.3 per cent respectively in Lebanon as a whole.

The gap between the youth and the adults' unemployment rate reached 17.7 percentage points in Zahleh and 14.7 percentage points in Lebanon as a whole. (Figure 26)

**Figure 26: Unemployment rate among youth and adults (%)**

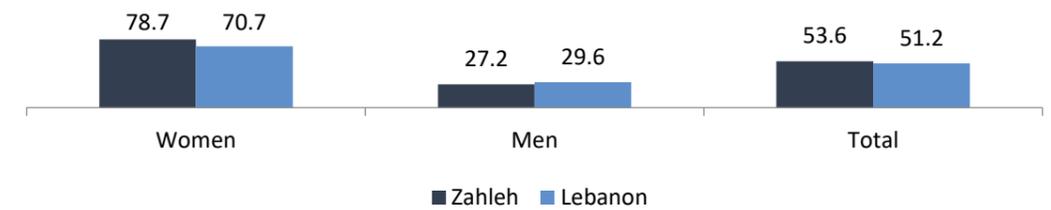


<sup>9</sup> Unemployment rate =  $\frac{\text{Persons in Unemployment (aged 15 years and above)}}{\text{Labour Force (aged 15 years and above)}} * 100$

The inactivity rate, which represents the proportion of the persons considered inactive- neither working nor looking for any job- in the total population aged 15 years and above in Zahleh (53.6 per cent), exceeded that of Lebanon (51.2 per cent).

78.7 per cent of women and 27.2 per cent of men were inactive at the caza level, compared to 70.7 per cent of women and 29.6 per cent of men at the national level. (Figure 27)

**Figure 27: Inactivity rate of residents aged 15 years + (%)**

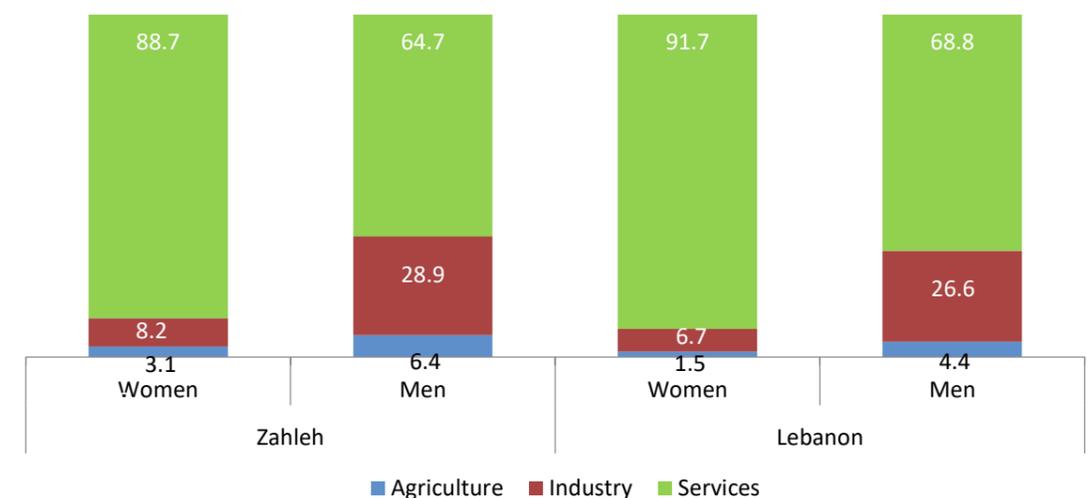


### Where do they work?

The Services sector was the largest employment sector for women and men, with respectively 88.7 per cent and 64.7 per cent in Zahleh, compared to 91.7 per cent and 68.8 per cent in Lebanon. In this sector, women surpassed men by 24 percentage points at the caza level. It was particularly noticeable that 28.9 per cent of working

men and 8.2 per cent of working women were employed in industry in Zahleh, compared to 26.6 per cent of working men and 6.7 per cent of working women in the whole of Lebanon. Employment in agriculture was the lowest among all the economic sectors at the national and district levels. (Figure 28)

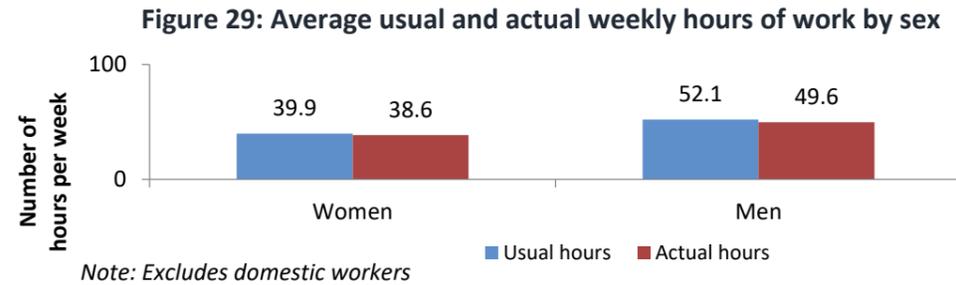
**Figure 28: Economic activity sector by sex (%)**



### ... and how many hours per week

Men in employment were reported to be working longer paid hours than women. The average number of actual paid weekly hours was 49.6 for men and 38.6 for women. Furthermore, the actual number of hours of work was slightly below the usual number of

hours for both sexes, due to temporary absences such as vacation, annual leave, etc. In Lebanon as a whole, the actual number of hours of work was 50 per cent for men and 39.1 per cent for women. (Figure 29)



### What type of jobs do they hold and where?

According to the ILO, the concept of "informal employment" refers to jobs that do not provide employees with legal or social protection, thus exposing them to greater economic risks than other employed people. As for concept of the "informal sector", it is a subset of unincorporated enterprises not constituted as separate legal entities independent of their owners.

result that was found to be higher than the national level (54.9 per cent), and 40.4 per cent of the employed population were working in the informal sector. It is instructive to note that the latter proportion was slightly higher compared to the national level (35.2 per cent). The proportion of employed individuals holding an informal job in a formal sector was nearly the same in Zahleh and in the whole of Lebanon (20.5 per cent and 19.8 per cent respectively). (Table 3)

The results show that 60.9 per cent of the employed population in Zahleh held informal jobs at their main occupation, a

**Table 3: Formality versus Informality (in %)**

Type of employment	Zahleh			Lebanon		
	Informal Sector	Formal Sector	Total	Informal Sector	Formal Sector	Total
<b>Informal</b>	40.4	20.5	60.9	35.1	19.8	54.9
<b>Formal</b>	0.0	39.1	39.1	0.0	45.0	45.1
<b>Total</b>	40.4	59.6	100	35.2	64.8	100.0

Women's share in employment was low, yet more prevalent for paid employment than "employer/own-account worker". At the caza level, the share of women that are employers/own-account workers was found to be the lowest (7.4 per cent). The majority of employers or own-account workers in

Zahleh were men (92.6 per cent), a proportion that exceeded the national level (85.6 per cent). Men's share in paid employment was higher in Zahleh compared to the national level (69.2 per cent and 63.5 per cent respectively). (Figure 30)

**Figure 30: Employed (15 years and above) by employment status and sex (%)**

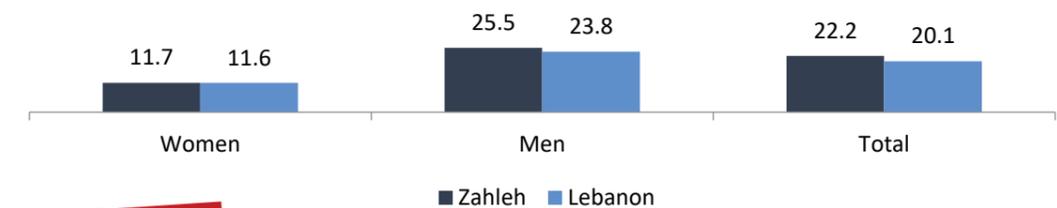


### How many jobs are "vulnerable"?

In Zahleh, vulnerable employment was reported to be higher than that observed at the country level (22.2 per cent and 20.1 per cent respectively). Moreover, it was

remarkably more prevalent among men (25.5 per cent) than among women (11.7 per cent). (Figure 31)

**Figure 31: Vulnerable employment (%)**



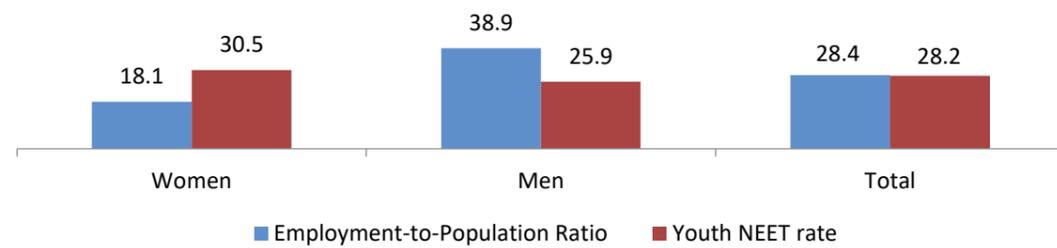
#### DID YOU KNOW?

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition, "Vulnerable Employment" is the sum of own-account workers and contributing family workers in total employment. This category of workers has a lower likelihood of having formal work arrangements and is therefore more likely to lack elements associated with adequate social security and a voice at work.

## Youth in Employment versus Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Youth NEET rate - *Youth not in education, employment or training rate* - (28.2 per cent) in Zahleh was nearly the same as the youth employment-to-population ratio (28.4 per cent), whereas at the country level, Youth NEET rate (21.8 per cent) fell behind the youth employment-to-population ratio (30 per cent). Moreover, women's NEET rate in Zahleh (30.5 per cent) was higher than that of men (25.9 per cent). (Figure 32)

**Figure 32: Youth in employment and NEET rate (%)**



## The Team

This report would not have been possible without the joint effort and cooperation of a team of experts working in the Central Administration of Statistics and the United Nations Development Programme. The report was prepared under the overall direction and guidance of Dr Maral Tutélian - Guidanian, Director General of the Central Administration of Statistics and Celine Moyroud, UNDP Resident Representative.

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