

Chapter I

Demographic characteristics of residents

Given the absence of comprehensive population surveys, and with the last census held in 1932, sample studies provide the only option for estimating the number of residents in Lebanon, as well as to identify their demographic, educational, professional, health and other characteristics. The National Survey of Household Living Conditions 2004-2005 (The Multipurpose Survey) is considered the most recent in this domain, and it reveals numerous characteristics related to households and individuals residing in Lebanon.

1. Number of residents and their geographic distribution

The population of Lebanon was estimated in 2004, according to the National Survey of Household Living Conditions (The Multipurpose Survey), at 3,755,034 (with the exception of those residing in the Palestinian camps). The Lebanese represent 93.4% of the population, with 6.6% being non-Lebanese.

Beirut and its suburbs, in addition to the coastline of Lebanon, make up the basic concentration areas of population allocation. The survey's data reveal that Lebanon's middle regions, consisting of the governorates of Beirut and Mount Lebanon, comprise 50.4% of Lebanon's residents, with the rest of the population distributed among the remaining four governorates accordingly: 20.5% in North Lebanon, 12.5% in the Bekaa, 10.7% in South Lebanon and 5.9% in Nabatieh.

The overall average household size in Lebanon has declined from 5.4 individuals per household in 1970, and 4.8 individuals in 1997, to 4.3 individuals in 2004. The

minimum discrepancy is 3.8 individuals in Beirut, and the maximum discrepancy is 4.7 individuals in the North Lebanon governorate. The average percentage of households per governorate differs from the average percentage of individuals per governorate due to the difference in the size of the households.

Moreover, the survey results demonstrate that the population density per governorates varies between a maximum of 21,938 persons per square km in Beirut, and a minimum of 110 individuals per square km in the Bekaa. This disparity in population distribution and population density demonstrates a clear need to reevaluate the provision of educational, health and leisure services within the various regions of Lebanon, in addition to the necessity of increasing job opportunities to limit internal migration. See table (1-1)

Table (1-1)

Distribution of households and individuals, average household size and average population density, by governorate

Governorate	Number of individuals	Percentage of individuals	Number of households	Percentage of households	Average household size
Beirut	390,503	10.4	101,695	11.6	3.84
Mount Lebanon	1,501,570	40.0	371,289	42.2	4.04
North Lebanon	768,709	20.5	162,344	18.5	4.74
Bekaa	471,209	12.5	102,797	11.7	4.58
South Lebanon	401,197	10.7	89,423	10.2	4.49
Nabatieh	221,846	5.9	52,306	5.9	4.24
Lebanon	3,755,034	100.0	879,855	100.0	4.27

A comparison of the distribution of population in 2004 with that of 1970 and 1997 per governorate shows that approximately 50% of the population was based in the governorates of Beirut and Mount Lebanon between 1997 and 2004, versus 60% in 1970. Additionally, there is a slight increase in the percentage of current residents in Mount Lebanon, the result of internal migration from the governorates of South Lebanon, Nabatieh and the Bekaa. See table (1-2)

Table (1-2)

Percentage distribution of individuals residing in Lebanon in 1970, 1997 and 2004, by governorate

Governorate	1970	1997	2004
Beirut	22.3	10.1	10.4
Mount Lebanon	39.2	37.6	40.0
North Lebanon	17.2	20.2	20.5
Bekaa	9.6	13.5	12.5
South Lebanon		11.8	10.7
Nabatieh	11.7	6.9	5.9
Lebanon	100.0	100.0	100.0

1. Administration of Central Statistics, Labor force in Lebanon – November 1970 (Beirut: Bureau, July 1972).

2. Central Administration of Statistics Bureau, Household Living Conditions in 1997, a national survey (Beirut: Bureau, February 1998).

2.
Family structure and residential density within the dwelling

The family structure in Lebanon is mostly a nuclear one, consisting of the head of household, spouse (husband/ wife) and children. Table (1-3) below shows that for every 1,000 heads of households there are 795 spouses and 2,259 children and less than 100 others relatives. The type of family structure is relatively similar within the periphery governorates, but differs in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, in particular in terms of the number of children for every 1,000 household heads. Additionally, 85.8% of households have a male head of household, and 14.2% of households are headed by women.

Table (1-3)
Distribution of household residents (by governorates) based on their relationship with head of household, per 1,000 household heads

Relationship with head of household	Beirut	Mount Lebanon	North Lebanon	Bekaa	South Lebanon	Nabatieh	Lebanon
Head of household	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Husband/Wife	708	775	848	844	813	818	795
Son/Daughter	1,731	2,024	2,688	2,612	2,569	2,382	2,259
Father/Mother	62	55	39	43	23	23	46
Son-in-law/Daughter-in-law	42	19	43	12	19	15	25
Grandson/Granddaughter	96	43	95	33	68	39	60
Other relative	132	118	59	71	41	26	90
No relationship	19	18	2	2	1	1	11
Servant/Maid	160	44	13	12	30	24	45

The results of the National Survey of Household Living Conditions (The Multipurpose Survey) reveal that most households are made up of four residents (19.7%) or five (18.5%). The percentage of households made up of seven or more residents is 12.6%, and the percentage of households made up of one person is 7.3%. See table (1-4) Most of the latter are made up of elderly people, (41.9% of single-person households are the elderly, aged 65 years and above), and most of these elderly are women. See table (1-5)

Table (1-4)**Percentage distribution of households according to their number of residents**

Number of household residents	Percentage
1	7.3
2	14.5
3	15.2
4	19.7
5	18.5
6	12.2
7	6.4
8 or more	6.2
Total	100.0

Table (1-5)**Distribution of single-person households according to age group and sex**

Age group	Females	Males	Females & Males
15-24	0.6	3.3	3.9
25-64	23.1	31.1	54.2
65 and above	32.3	9.6	41.9
Total	56.0	44.0	100.0

Approximately 65% of two-person households consist of married couples without children. See table (1-6) The remainder of two-person households vary, with approximately 19% consisting of widows/widowers living with another member of the household.

Table (1-6)**Distribution of two-person households, according to marital status and sex**

Marital status	Females	Males	Females & Males
Single	20.2	21.7	20.9
Married	58.7	74.1	65.4
Widowed	18.9	3.2	12.0
Divorced	1.7	0.9	1.4
Separated	0.5	0.1	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Most households, (48.1%), have an average density of residents, with the average number of individuals per room ranging between one and two. The percentage of households living in unacceptable conditions, (with an average of more than two individuals per room), is 16.7%. The distribution of households according to their residential density differs among governorates. See table (1-7) Discrepancies in household density between the governorates are relatively rare, with the exception of Beirut.

Table (1-7)

Percentage distribution of households by governorate according to the average number of individuals per room, per dwelling

Average number of individuals in a single room	Beirut	Mount Lebanon	North Lebanon	Bekaa	South Lebanon	Nabatieh	Lebanon	
From 0 to less than 0.5 individual per room	13.1	8.3	9.0	7.0	5.5	6.0	8.4	
From 0.5 to less than 1 individual per room	30.1	28.7	25.2	24.9	22.1	22.9	26.7	35.2
From 1 to less than 1.5 individuals per room	31.9	37.8	33.1	32.3	32.9	37.2	35.1	
From 1.5 to less than 2 individuals per room	10.0	11.0	14.5	16.3	16.0	17.4	13.1	48.1
From 2 to less than 2.5 individuals per room	7.3	7.0	10.9	12.2	12.1	9.8	9.0	
From 2.5 to less than 3 individuals per room	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.7	4.5	3.1	3.1	
3 individuals or more per room	4.7	4.2	4.5	3.7	6.8	3.5	4.5	16.7
No response	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The percentage of households in which each individual receives less than 20 m² of dwelling space is 20.5%; whereas in 17.2% of households the individual receives an area equivalent to 60 m² or more. See table (1-8)

Table (1-8)

**Percentage distribution of households by governorates
according to the individual's allocated share of dwelling space**

Individual's share of residential area	Beirut	Mount Lebanon	North Lebanon	Bekaa	South Lebanon	Nabatieh	Lebanon	
From 0 to less than 10 m ² per person	6.3	2.9	2.6	0.9	2.5	0.7	2.8	
From 10 to less than 20 m ² per person	20.3	17.7	19.3	13.2	20.6	11.3	17.7	20.5
From 20 to less than 30 m ² per person	22.4	26.2	24.7	25.1	27.1	25.7	25.4	
From 30 to less than 40 m ² per person	14.7	19.6	18.0	19.1	17.7	21.6	18.6	
From 40 to less than 60 m ² per person	15.9	17.6	17.1	21.0	17.2	22.6	18.0	62.0
From 60 to less than 100 m ² per person	13.0	10.6	11.1	13.6	9.3	11.4	11.2	
100 m ² or more per person	7.2	5.0	7.0	7.2	5.3	6.4	6.0	17.2
No response	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

3.
Age pyramid and its characteristics

Lebanon is witnessing numerous demographic changes in the average age at marriage, and in the patterns of births, deaths and external immigration, which is reflected in the demographic structure. The age pyramid for Lebanon portrays these changes clearly, marking significant demographic traits including the population distribution according to age groups, the male-to-female ratio among age groups, and the average age of household breadwinners. Table (1-9) shows the distribution of individuals in Lebanon according to age groups and the relevant age pyramid, and discloses the following basic demographic traits:

- A decline within the age groups (0-4) and (5-9) is related to the later categories (10-14), (15-19) and (20-24), as a result of a reduction in fertility during the past ten years.
- A great difference exists between percentage of males in the (20-24) age group, and those in the (25-29) age group and above, which may be due to the immigration abroad of the latter age groups.
- A decline in male-to-female ratio within age groups 25 to 64 is the result of various reasons, one of which may be the external immigration of males.

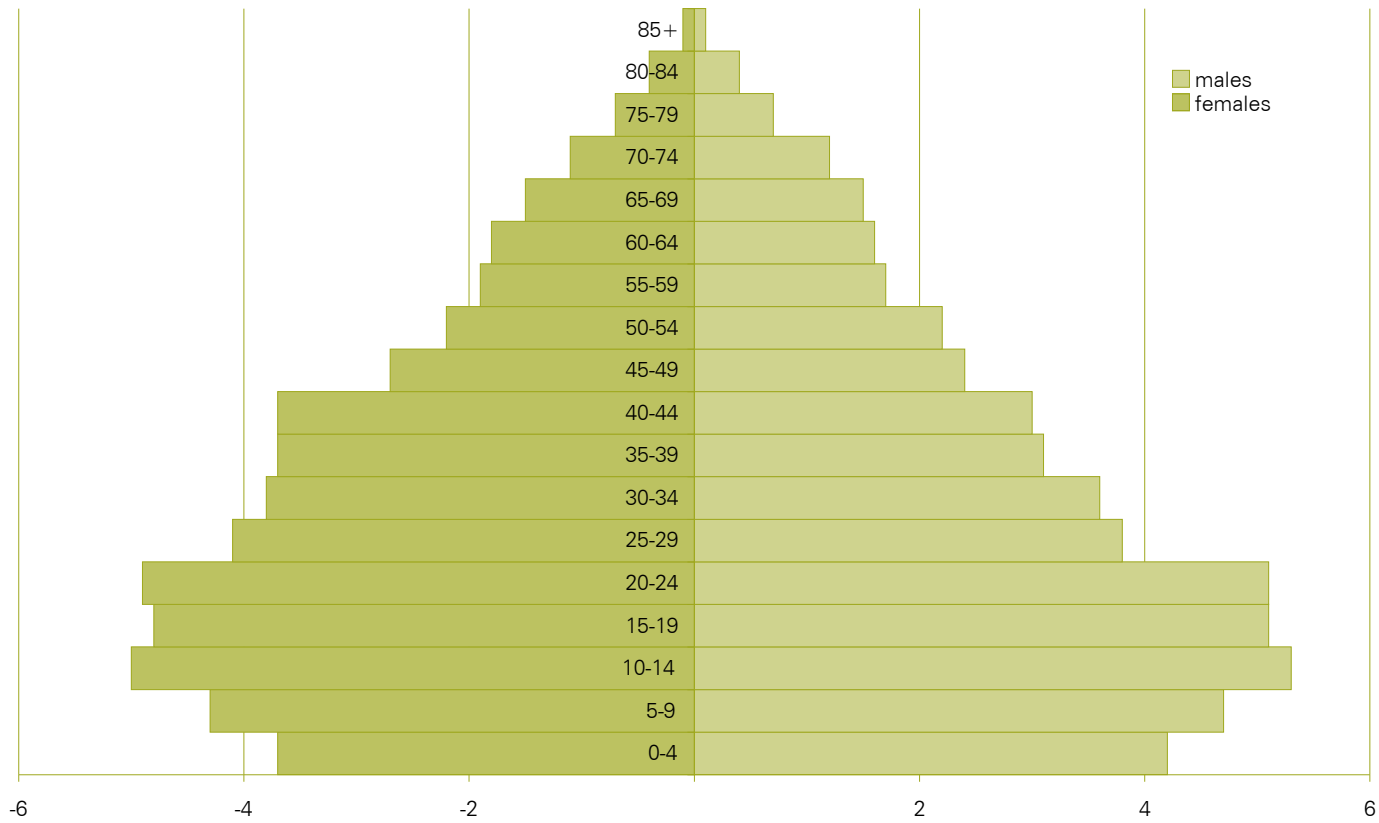
Male to female ratio = (number of males ÷ number of females) × 100

Table (1-9)
Percentage distribution of population according to age, sex, male-to-female ratio and age groups

Age group	Males	Females	Total	Male-to-female ratio average	Decline in male-to-female ratio
0-4	4.2	3.7	8.0	113.7	
5-9	4.7	4.3	9.0	111.1	
10-14	5.3	5.0	10.3	107.0	
15-19	5.1	4.8	9.9	107.0	
20-24	5.1	4.9	9.9	104.4	
25-29	3.8	4.1	7.9	92.3	
30-34	3.6	3.8	7.3	94.9	
35-39	3.1	3.7	6.8	85.1	
40-44	3.0	3.7	6.7	80.0	
45-49	2.4	2.7	5.2	89.3	
50-54	2.2	2.2	4.4	99.0	
55-59	1.7	1.9	3.7	91.2	
60-64	1.6	1.8	3.4	90.3	
65-69	1.5	1.5	3.0	101.8	
70-74	1.2	1.1	2.2	107.5	
75-79	0.7	0.7	1.3	98.6	
80-84	0.4	0.4	0.7	100.9	
85 and above	0.1	0.1	0.2	85.1	
Whole population	49.8	50.2	100.0	99.0	

* The male-to-female ratio varies usually at birth between 103% and 107% in a census. The reason behind the 113.7% figure within the age group (0-4) is the margin of error resulting from sampling, taking into consideration the size of the basic sample on the one hand, and the relatively small sample size regarding this age group, on the other.

Diagram (1-1)
The age pyramid



The age dependency rate is 53.3% in Lebanon, and varies among the governorates within a minimum of 43.5% in Beirut and a maximum of 66.3% in Nabatieh. See table (1-10)

$$\text{Age dependency rate} = \frac{[(\text{number of individuals of age group (under 15 years)} + \text{number of individuals of age group (64 years and above)}) \div (\text{number of individuals of age group (15-64 years)})] \times 100}$$

Table (1.-10)
Age dependency rates by governorate

Age group	Beirut	Mount Lebanon	North Lebanon	Bekaa	South Lebanon	Nabatieh	Lebanon
0-14	73,816	370,634	257,437	132,307	119,083	69,587	1,022,864
15-64	272,156	1,018,899	471,427	298,647	255,412	133,379	2,449,920
65 and above	44,533	112,035	39,845	40,255	26,702	18,879	282,249
Total	390,505	1,501,568	768,709	471,209	401,197	221,845	3,755,033

Age group	Beirut	Mount Lebanon	North Lebanon	Bekaa	South Lebanon	Nabatieh	Lebanon
Number of dependents	118,349	482,669	297,282	172,562	145,785	88,466	1,305,113
Number of breadwinners	272,156	1,018,899	471,427	298,647	255,412	133,379	2,449,920
Dependency rates	43.5	47.4	63.1	57.8	57.1	66.3	53.3

4.
Celibacy averages

One of the main demographic trends in Lebanon is the late marriage age for both males and females, started a few years ago and is currently still evident. A comparison of the years 1970, 1997 and 2004, for the whole of Lebanon, reveals that the female unmarried percentage has risen to around double its original size for many of the age categories when 1970 is compared with 1997 and 2004. The unmarried male percentage remained constant between 1997 and 2004, but rose between 150-200% between 1970, and 1997 and 2004.

By comparing governorates, a significant discrepancy appears in celibacy among both males and females, especially within the age groups of 25 years and above for males, and 20 years and above for females. The unmarried percentage for age group (25-29) for males, for instance, varies between a minimum of 59.5% in North Lebanon and a maximum of 78.7% in Beirut. The unmarried percentage for age group (25-29) for females varies between a minimum of 30.6% in Nabatieh and a maximum of 62.9% in Beirut. See tables (1-11) and (1-12)

Celibacy average = (number of celibates within an age group ÷ total number of individuals within this age group) × 100

Table (1-11)

Average male celibacy for 2004 by governorate, and for 1970, 1997 and 2004 for all of Lebanon

Age group	2004						Lebanon 2004	Lebanon 1997	Lebanon 1970
	Beirut	Mount Lebanon	North Lebanon	Bekaa	South Lebanon	Nabatieh			
15-19	99.4	99.8	98.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.6	99.9	99.0
20-24	97.6	97.0	89.6	96.9	95.4	95.7	95.4	95.3	88.1
25-29	78.7	76.6	59.5	77.4	67.8	69.9	72.5	73.2	54.9
30-34	49.0	46.7	28.5	47.4	40.3	36.4	42.3	42.0	25.2
35-39	26.9	23.5	12.5	28.6	18.6	9.6	20.8	20.4	15.0
40-44	11.7	12.7	6.2	10.0	8.6	3.1	10.1	10.3	8.5
45-49	8.2	9.0	5.2	4.1	4.4	4.4	7.0	5.9	5.7
50-54	2.0	5.4	3.2	2.0	2.3	3.8	3.9	4.3	6.4
55-59	5.9	4.0	4.3	2.5	4.7	1.4	4.1	3.3	6.9
60-64	3.1	3.1	0.0	2.7	1.9	0.0	2.2	2.2	4.6
65-69	5.4	3.9	1.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	2.7	2.2	
70-74	4.5	3.5	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	2.2		
75-79	3.3	4.6	8.9	0.0	2.2	0.0	4.0		
80-84	4.4	6.0	4.9	2.7	0.0	0.0	4.0		
85 and above	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	3.2

Table (1-12)

Average female celibacy for 2004 by governorate, and for 1970, 1997 and 2004 for all of Lebanon

Age group	2004						Lebanon 2004	Lebanon 1997	Lebanon 1970
	Beirut	Mount Lebanon	North Lebanon	Bekaa	South Lebanon	Nabatieh			
15-19	97.3	96.3	90.8	95.8	94.8	95.3	94.7	94.4	86.8
20-24	80.3	75.7	63.0	77.9	69.8	70.3	73.0	74.4	50.2
25-29	62.9	52.0	37.5	55.9	48.7	30.6	49.7	49.7	25.1
30-34	41.6	26.8	25.9	38.8	34.1	21.6	30.1	30.5	14.2
35-39	25.8	19.7	18.6	20.5	25.6	21.0	20.9	21.2	10.1
40-44	23.8	17.6	12.6	19.9	13.7	21.6	17.5	13.7	7.6
45-49	18.6	11.5	9.3	12.2	10.2	14.2	12.3	9.5	6.9
50-54	12.7	9.8	10.1	5.4	6.3	11.2	9.5	6.8	7.3
55-59	10.2	9.7	7.8	3.9	3.5	10.1	8.3	6.0	6.4
60-64	12.6	4.7	5.9	5.4	5.9	13.4	6.8	5.3	7.3
65-69	10.2	7.3	6.5	3.6	5.6	7.9	6.9	4.3	
70-74	9.0	7.1	3.1	5.7	3.0	2.1	6.0		
75-79	7.0	5.5	9.7	8.6	6.1	3.7	6.5		
80-84	5.3	8.0	5.5	7.4	0.0	12.8	6.5		
85 and above	10.0	0.0	8.1	7.4	0.0	0.0	4.7	5.3	5.0

5. Population distribution according to place of registration and place of residence

The available data within the National Survey of Household Living Conditions (The Multipurpose Survey) demonstrate the presence of a significant percentage of the population who do not reside in their place of registration. Table (1-13) below shows the distribution of Lebanese according to place of registration and place of residence per governorate. This table also reveals that significant percentages of the registered population in the periphery governorates (especially the Bekaa, South Lebanon and Nabatieh) reside in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, as only 60.9% of Beirut's residents are registered in Beirut and 39.1% are registered elsewhere, mostly in Mount Lebanon (14.6%) and Nabatieh (10.5%). Moreover, less than half of the residents of Mount Lebanon are registered in Mount Lebanon itself, and 51.6% of them are registered in other governorates, mainly Nabatieh (15.6%), the Bekaa (14.4%) and Beirut (9%).

Table (1-13)
Percentage distribution of Lebanese citizens according to place of registration and place of residence

		Place of residence						
		Beirut	Mount Lebanon	North Lebanon	Bekaa	South Lebanon	Nabatieh	Lebanon
Place of registration	Beirut	60.9	9.0	0.2	0.2	1.8	1.8	9.8
	Mount Lebanon	14.6	48.4	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.2	21.3
	North Lebanon	2.8	3.8	98.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	23.1
	Bekaa	4.7	14.4	0.3	98.6	0.3	0.9	19.5
	South Lebanon	6.5	8.9	0.0	0.0	89.3	1.7	12.2
	Nabatieh	10.5	15.6	0.1	0.4	7.7	95.3	14.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0