

Chapter II

Educational status

1. School Enrollment

The school enrollment rate at the elementary level in Lebanon, for both males and females, is very high. The National Survey of Household Living Conditions 2004 – 2005 reveals results touching 98% and 95% respectively for age groups (5-9) and (10-14), which decline to approximately 70% for the age group (15-19). It is worth noting that school enrollment rates for females and males are very similar in Lebanon at all educational levels, with a slight increase in female enrollment at certain levels. See table (2-1)

Table (2-1)
Rates of school enrollment by age

Age group	Females	Males	Females and Males
5-9	98.9	98.4	98.6
10-14	96.1	94.4	95.2
15-19	73.6	68.7	71.1
20-24	34.7	33.8	34.2
25-29	5.7	7.9	6.8

School enrollment rates according to age groups among the governorates are relatively similar for age groups (5-9) and (10-14). However, a gap exists in school enrollment rate among governorates for the age groups 15 years and above, where the rate of enrollment in Beirut and Mount Lebanon for age groups (15-29) is much greater than that of the other governorates. See table (2-2)

Table (2-2)
Rates of school enrollment by governorate and age

Age group	Beirut	Mount Lebanon	North Lebanon	Bekaa	South Lebanon	Nabatieh	Lebanon
5-9	98.9	98.1	99.1	99.0	98.3	99.6	98.6
10-14	96.1	96.5	92.5	96.6	94.0	95.7	95.2
15-19	79.4	76.9	61.4	70.6	67.2	66.8	71.1
20-24	39.8	39.0	27.6	29.3	29.3	32.3	34.2
25-29	9.8	6.7	4.8	6.5	8.1	6.2	6.8

2. School enrollment and age-grade delay at the elementary level¹

According to the National Survey, the raw enrollment rate for male students at the elementary level is 111.7%, (i.e. the total number of students enrolled at the elementary level, of all ages, compared to the total number of students aged 6 to 11). However, the net enrollment rate of male students is 92.7%, (i.e. the total number of students aged 6 to 11 years enrolled at the elementary level, compared to the total number of students aged 6 to 11). The difference between these two averages results from age-grade delay by male students.

The percentage of male students' age-grade delay at the elementary level as a whole is 12.4%, (which is equivalent to the percentage of students above 12 years of age who are registered in elementary education, compared to the total number of students at the elementary level). Whereas the percentages of male student's age-grade delay at the class level is 33.2%, (i.e. the percentage of those who are older than the supposed age of each relevant elementary level class compared to the total number of students at the elementary level).

The female enrollment rates at the elementary level do not differ greatly from those of the male students, as the raw female enrollment rate at the elementary level is 109.0%, and the net enrollment rate 92.7%. However, the age-grade delay percentages of female students are lower than those of male students, with the percentage of female students' elementary level age-grade delay as a whole is 9.8%, and the class level age-grade delay percentage is 28.5%. See table (2-3)

1. According to the previous system, the educational levels prior to university were divided as follows: the elementary level (5 years from Grade I to Grade V), the intermediate level (4 years from Grade VI to Grade IX), and the secondary level (3 years from Grade X to Grade XII). According to the current methodology, the designations have changed to basic education (9 years) and secondary education (3 years), and the levels are now known as follows: basic level Cycle I (3 years from Grade I to Grade III), basic level Cycle II (3 years from Grade IV to Grade VI), basic level Cycle III (3 years from Grade VII to Grade IX), and secondary level (3 years from Grade X to Grade XII). The new terms are still not widely used. In the current text, the elementary level refers to the first 6 years following pre-school (i.e. Cycle I and II of the basic level according to the new methodology).

- Raw enrollment rate for elementary level students = (total number of registered students in the elementary level of all ages ÷ total number of students aged 6 to 11) × 100
- Net enrollment rate for elementary level students = (total number of registered students in the elementary level aged 6 to 11 ÷ total number of students aged 6 to 11) × 100

- Age-grade delay percentage at the elementary level as a whole = (total number of students aged 12 years and above who are registered in the elementary level ÷ total number of students at the elementary level) × 100
- Age-grade delay percentage by class at the elementary level = (total number of students registered in the elementary level classes who are above the supposed age of each relevant elementary class ÷ total number of students at the elementary level) × 100

Table (2-3)
Rates of school enrollment and age-grade delay at the elementary level, by sex

Indicators	Females	Males	Females and Males
Raw enrollment rate at the elementary level	109.0	111.7	110.4
Net enrollment rate at the elementary level	92.7	92.7	92.7
Age-grade delay percentage by educational level	9.8	12.4	11.2
Age-grade delay percentage by class level	28.5	33.2	30.9

3.
School enrollment and age-grade delay at the intermediate level²

At the intermediate level, the raw enrollment rate for male students aged 12 to 14 is 92.0%, compared to 104.0% for females of the same ages. The net enrollment rate for male students aged 12 to 14 is 65.0%, as opposed to 72.5% for female students.

- Raw enrollment rate for intermediate level students = (total number of registered students in the intermediate level of all ages ÷ total number of students aged 12 to 14) × 100
- Net enrollment rate for intermediate level students = (total number of registered students in the intermediate level aged 12 to 14 ÷ total number of students aged 12 to 14) × 100

² The intermediate level refers to the first three school years following the elementary level, (i.e. Cycle III: Grades IV to VI of the basic years according to the new methodology).

Age-grade delay percentages at the intermediate level are 22.7% for males and 23.6% for females, whereas the class age-grade delay percentages at the intermediate level are 45.6% for males and 42.7% for females. Thus, at the intermediate level, there are higher enrollment rates for female students, but a relative proximity between the sexes in age-grade delay per educational level. See table (2-4)

- Age-grade delay percentage at the intermediate level as a whole = (total number of students aged 15 years and above who are registered in the intermediate level ÷ total number of students at the intermediate level) × 100
- Age-grade delay percentage by class at the intermediate level = (total number of students registered in intermediate level classes who are above the supposed age of each relevant intermediate class ÷ total number of students at the intermediate level) × 100

Table (2-4)

Rates of school enrollment and age-grade delay percentages at the intermediate level, by sex

Indicators	Females	Males	Females and Males
Raw enrollment rate at the intermediate level	104.0	92.0	97.7
Net enrollment rate at the intermediate level	72.5	65.0	68.5
Age-grade delay percentage by educational level	23.6	22.7	23.1
Age-grade delay percentage by class level	42.7	45.6	44.2

4.

School enrollment and age-grade delay at the secondary level

Enrollment rates begin to differ drastically between males and females at the secondary level (typically aged 15 to 17), where the raw enrollment rates for male and female students is 58.8% and 65.7% respectively, and the net enrollment rates are 39.2% for male and 45.6% for female students.

- Raw enrollment rate for secondary level students = (total number of registered students in the secondary level of all ages ÷ total number of students aged 15 to 17) × 100
- Net enrollment rate for secondary level students = (total number of registered students in the secondary level aged 15 to 17 ÷ total number of students aged 15 to 17) × 100

The age-grade delay percentages between the sexes also differ for the secondary level as a whole, with 28% for males and 25.1% for females. The age-grade delay percentage of the secondary level by class is 51.1% for males and 47.5% for females. See table (2-5)

- Age-grade delay percentage for the secondary level as a whole = (total number of students aged 18 and above who are registered in the secondary level ÷ total number of students at the secondary level) × 100
- Age-grade delay percentage by class at the secondary level = (total number of students registered in the secondary level classes who are above the supposed age of each relevant secondary class ÷ total number of students at the secondary level) × 100

Table (2-5)
Rates of school enrollment and age-grade delay percentages at the secondary level, by sex

Indicators	Females	Males	Females and Males
Raw enrollment rate at the secondary level	65.7	58.8	62.2
Net enrollment rate at the secondary level	45.6	39.2	42.3
Age-grade delay percentage per educational level	25.1	28.0	26.5
Age-grade delay percentage by class level	47.5	51.1	49.2

5.
Educational attainment of Lebanese residents (aged 4 years and above)

Table (2-6) shows that 32.9% of the population of Lebanon (aged 4 years and above) has attained an elementary level education, and that 13.4% attained a university level education or beyond. It is important to note the inverse relation between the educational level and the age group; there is an increase in the university level education for the age groups (20-24) and (25-29) to approximately 37% and 24% respectively, as opposed to a decline to less than 7% for the age groups 60 years and above. A decline in illiteracy percentages which correlate with the age groups is also obvious, where illiteracy gradually declines from 53.7% for age group 85 and above to 0.5% for the age group (10-14). See table (2-6)

Table (2-6)

Percentage distribution of Lebanese residents (aged 4 years and above) by age and educational level

Age group	Not enrolled in school	Illiterate	Literate (read & write)	Pre-school	Elem	Inter	Sec	.Univ	Special education	Not concerned or no response	Total
4	25.1	0.0	0.0	74.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0
5-9	1.1	0.0	0.0	14.4	84.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	100.0
10-14	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	48.3	48.5	2.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	100.0
15-19	0.0	1.0	0.6	0.4	14.1	26.3	42.9	14.0	0.2	0.7	100.0
20-24	0.0	1.5	1.1	0.6	20.9	19.4	16.3	36.9	0.1	3.2	100.0
25-29	0.0	2.3	1.3	0.7	26.2	24.3	15.7	24.1	0.0	5.4	100.0
30-34	0.0	2.5	1.9	0.8	28.0	26.2	21.0	17.8	0.0	1.7	100.0
35-39	0.0	4.2	3.0	1.4	29.6	24.0	20.4	16.5	0.0	0.9	100.0
40-44	0.0	5.8	4.1	1.1	30.3	25.5	18.2	14.3	0.0	0.7	100.0
45-49	0.0	9.2	5.5	1.1	29.2	23.3	16.1	14.7	0.0	1.0	100.0
50-54	0.0	15.3	7.7	0.5	31.5	19.8	13.2	11.8	0.0	0.3	100.0
55-59	0.0	19.4	10.9	0.7	30.3	16.6	11.6	10.2	0.0	0.3	100.0
60-64	0.0	29.3	14.3	0.5	27.9	12.0	9.1	6.6	0.0	0.2	100.0
65-69	0.0	38.9	15.6	0.4	23.4	9.6	6.4	5.6	0.0	0.1	100.0
70-74	0.0	42.4	19.5	0.5	21.8	7.7	4.3	3.5	0.0	0.3	100.0
75-79	0.0	42.6	22.7	0.5	21.4	5.7	3.6	3.3	0.0	0.2	100.0
80-84	0.0	41.9	23.7	0.3	18.1	7.5	6.4	2.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
85 and above	0.0	53.7	16.0	0.8	16.4	5.2	4.5	3.4	0.0	0.0	100.0
All concerned ages	0.6	*7.8	4.1	3.3	32.9	21.8	15.0	13.4	0.1	1.2	100.0

* The illiteracy percentage (7.8%) comprises residents aged 4 years and above, whereas the stated illiteracy percentage in Table (2-7) comprises residents aged 10 years and above – the latter is the percentage used in international and national comparisons, and in formulating policies related to illiteracy.

Illiteracy for age groups aged 10 years and above reaches 8.8%, with a relatively small sex difference: 5.6% for males and 11.8% for females. The illiteracy percentages disaggregated by sex vary most within the older age groups, where the female percentages are more than double those of males for the age groups 40 years and above. However, the illiteracy rates are almost the same for age groups 25 years and less for both sexes. See table (2-7)

Table (2-7)**Percentage of illiteracy for ages 10 years and above, by age and sex**

Age group	Females	Males	Females and Males
10-14	0.5	0.5	0.5
15-19	0.8	1.1	1.0
20-24	1.4	1.7	1.5
25-29	2.2	2.4	2.3
30-34	2.2	2.7	2.5
35-39	4.8	3.4	4.2
40-44	7.9	3.1	5.8
45-49	13.4	4.5	9.2
50-54	23.7	6.8	15.3
55-59	28.9	9.1	19.4
60-64	40.4	17.1	29.3
65-69	54.2	23.8	38.9
70-74	53.2	32.3	42.4
75-79	56.5	28.5	42.6
80-84	58.4	25.6	41.9
85 and above	66.6	38.6	53.7
All ages (years and above 10)	11.8	5.6	8.8

University educations were attained by 24.6% of Beirut's population (age 4 years and above), as opposed to approximately 9% for the residents of the periphery governorates. Moreover, the percentages of illiteracy or non-enrollment rates in schools in the governorates of Beirut and Mount Lebanon are as low as 5.6% and 6.6%, respectively, versus a percentage of illiteracy or non-enrollment rates reaching 12.9% and 13.4%, respectively, in the governorates of Nabatieh and the Bekaa. See table (2-8)

Table (2-8)

Distribution of residents (aged 4 years and above) by place of residence and educational attainment

Educational level	Beirut	Mount Lebanon	North Lebanon	Bekaa	South Lebanon	Nabatieh	Lebanon
Illiterate or not enrolled	5.6	6.6	8.0	13.4	9.8	12.9	8.3
Literate (read & write)	1.9	4.6	3.2	4.5	4.5	5.8	4.1
Pre-school	1.9	3.7	3.5	2.8	3.1	3.8	3.3
Elementary	21.7	28.9	46.3	28.9	36.0	37.0	32.9
Intermediate	21.5	22.7	17.6	25.8	23.0	19.1	21.8
Secondary	18.5	16.4	12.0	15.0	13.1	12.2	15.0
University	24.6	15.7	8.6	9.3	9.7	8.4	13.4
Special education	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Not concerned or no response	4.2	1.2	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.8	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.

Distribution of students according to type of educational institution

Lebanon is known for its numerous private educational institutions, with 53.2% of all students attending private educational institutions and 44.6% enrolled in public educational institutions. A majority of students attend private educational institutions for all levels of education below the secondary level, with approximately three-quarters of preschool students, (72.4%), enrolled in private educational institutions, as opposed to 26.9% in public schools. Furthermore, 60.2% of elementary level students attend private educational institutions, versus 38.9% at public educational institutions. However, the number of students enrolled in public educational institutions at both the secondary and university levels exceeds those who are enrolled in private educational institutions; 56.4% of secondary level students attend public educational institutions versus 42.2% at private ones, and 50.3% of higher education students are enrolled in the Lebanese University and the other public higher educational institutions, as opposed to 40.4% enrolled in private universities and other higher educational institutions. See table (2-9)

Table (2-9)**Distribution of students by level of education and type of educational institution**

Level of education	Private educational institutions	Public educational institutions	No response or not concerned	Total
Pre-school	72.4	26.9	0.8	100.0
Elementary	60.2	38.9	0.8	100.0
Intermediate	49.9	49.4	0.8	100.0
Secondary	42.2	56.4	1.4	100.0
University	40.4	50.3	9.3	100.0
Special education	78.7	14.1	7.2	100.0
Total	53.2	44.6	2.3	100.0

Additionally, the majority of the educational institutions in the governorates of Beirut and Mount Lebanon are privately owned. In Beirut, 70.5% of students are enrolled in these private institutions, and only 25.8% of students in Beirut attend public institutions. In Mount Lebanon, 63% of students attend private institutions, with a 35.4% enrollment rate in public institutions. It is worth noting, however, that most of the educational institutions in North Lebanon are public, with 65% of students attending the public institutions, as opposed to an enrollment rate of only 33.5% in the private educational institutions. See table (2-10)

Table (2-10)**Distribution of students according to governorates and type of educational institution**

Governorate	Private educational institutions	Public educational institutions	No response or not concerned	Total
Beirut	70.5	25.8	3.7	100.0
Mount Lebanon	63.0	35.4	1.6	100.0
North Lebanon	33.5	65.0	1.5	100.0
Bekaa	51.8	45.7	2.6	100.0
South Lebanon	48.8	48.0	3.2	100.0
Nabatieh	46.7	49.0	4.3	100.0
Lebanon	53.2	44.6	2.3	100.0