

## Chapter V

# Cultural and leisure activities

### 1- Cultural and leisure activities practiced by individuals aged five years and above<sup>1</sup>

The National Survey of Household Living Conditions 2004-2005 (The Multipurpose Survey) studied the cultural and leisure activities practiced by residents aged five years and above.<sup>2</sup> The study considers several cultural and leisure activities, with different time frequencies specified by activity. The time specified by the individual to perform the activity, or its frequency, is also activity-dependent. It should be noted that individuals may engage in more than one activity at the same time, and that variations may occur in the number of hours specified for any of these activities.

The activities included in the questionnaire are: during the week prior to the interview, reading newspapers and magazines, using the Internet outside the work domain, or carrying out student and social activities; visiting relatives and going out to restaurants and cafés during the month prior to the survey, and engaging in artistic or cultural activities during the year prior to the interview.

<sup>1</sup> Does not include domestic workers

<sup>2</sup> It is important to note that very young individuals may be accompanied by their parents when engaging in educational and social activities, such as going out to restaurants and cafés and visiting relatives.

**Table (5-1)**  
**Distribution of residents by leisure activities**

Measurement period	Type of leisure activity	Percentage of residents who practiced this activity		Total
		Yes	No	
The week prior to the interview	*Reading newspapers and magazines	26.0	74.0	100.0
	Using the Internet	10.3	89.7	100.0
	**Social and student activities	6.8	93.2	100.0
The month prior to the interview	Visiting friends and relatives	80.5	19.5	100.0
	Going out to restaurants and cafés	14.0	86.0	100.0
The year prior to the interview	***Engaged in cultural and artistic activities	13.7	86.3	100.0

\* Including magazines for children

\*\* Includes social activities such as scouts and student activities and volunteer work, etc.

\*\*\* Includes art and educational activities, theaters, exhibitions, etc.

#### **a. Weekly reading of newspapers and magazines**

The percentage of residents who read newspapers and magazines weekly is 26.0% of all residents aged five years and above in Lebanon. The percentages differ among governorates, with readers in Beirut totaling 38.1% of the residents in Beirut, followed by Nabatieh with 36.9%, Mount Lebanon 29.6%, South Lebanon 28.3% and the Bekaa 22.9%. The percentage declines noticeably to 9.8% in North Lebanon. See table (5-2)

**Table (5-2)**  
**Distribution of individuals aged five years and above who read newspapers and magazines weekly, by governorate**

Governorate	Percentage
Beirut	38.1
Mount Lebanon	29.6
North Lebanon	9.8
Bekaa	22.9
South Lebanon	28.3
Nabatieh	36.9
Lebanon	26.0

Most readers of newspapers and magazines did so for less than two hours per week (65.1%), 21.6% spent between two and less than five hours, 6.5% between five and less than 10 hours, and 6.8% spend 10 or more hours. Males represent 47.9% of total weekly readers of newspapers and magazines while Females constitute 52.1%. The age group (35-64) represents 38.9% of readers, followed by the age group (15-24) with 25.7%, then the age group (25-34 years) with 20.2%. Around ten percent of those aged between 5 and 14 years read newspapers and magazines weekly while 5.4% of the elderly (65 years and above) do so. See table (5-3). The percentage of weekly readers of newspapers and magazines who work is 41.9%, with students representing 28.4% of total readers, and 19.0% of women engaged in housework.

**Table (5-3)**  
**Distribution of individuals aged five years and above who read newspapers and magazines weekly, by sex per age group**

Age groups	Females	Males	Females and Males
5-14	52.1	47.9	100.0
15-24	53.6	46.4	100.0
25-34	49.7	50.3	100.0
35-64	44.9	55.1	100.0
65 and above	27.3	72.7	100.0
Total	47.9	52.1	100.0

**Table (5-4)**  
**Distribution of total individuals aged five years and above who read newspapers and magazines weekly per age groups by sex**

Age groups	Females	Males	Females and Males
5-14	10.8	9.1	9.9
15-24	28.7	22.8	25.7
25-34	20.9	19.5	20.2
35-64	36.5	41.1	38.9
65 and above	3.1	7.5	5.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**b. Using the Internet weekly outside the work domain**

Individuals using the Internet weekly as a recreational or educational activity outside the work represent 10.3% of the total residents aged five years and above in Lebanon. Internet user percentages vary by governorates, where Beirut contains the highest percentage (17.0%), followed by Mount Lebanon (12.0%), Nabatieh (9.6%), and the Bekaa (9.4%). The percentages decline in South Lebanon and North Lebanon (7.5% and 5.4% respectively). See table (5-5)

**Table (5-5)**  
**Distribution of individuals aged five years and above who use the Internet weekly, per governorate**

Governorate	Percentage
Beirut	17.0
Mount Lebanon	12.0
North Lebanon	5.4
Bekaa	9.4
South Lebanon	7.5
Nabatieh	9.6
Lebanon	10.3

The majority of individuals, 60.1%, using the Internet weekly spend less than two hours online, with 25.7% online for two to less than five hours, 10.3% five to under ten hours and 4.0% ten or more hours.

Males use the Internet noticeably more than females, with 60.8% of weekly Internet users being males, and 39.2% of females. The age group (15-24) represents the highest percentage of Internet users (52.8%), followed by 20.8% of children aged (5-14). The rate declines with the elderly (65 year and above), with 0.4% using the Internet weekly. Students represent 64.8% of all Internet users and workers represent 26.2% of them.

**Table (5-6)**

**Distribution of individuals aged five years and above who use the Internet weekly, by sex for each age group**

Age groups	Females	Males	Females and Males
5-14	38.2	61.8	100.0
15-24	39.9	60.1	100.0
25-34	38.5	61.5	100.0
35-64	39.0	61.0	100.0
65 and above	25.6	74.4	100.0
Total	39.2	60.8	100.0

**Table (5-7)**

**Distribution of total individuals aged five years and above who use the Internet weekly, per age group by sex**

Age groups	Females	Males	Females and Males
5-14	20.3	21.1	20.8
15-24	53.8	52.2	52.8
25-34	15.1	15.5	15.3
35-64	10.7	10.8	10.7
65 and above	0.2	0.4	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

### c. Practicing weekly social or student activities

The percentage of individuals who carry out weekly social or student activities is 6.8% of total residents aged five years and above in Lebanon. The highest percentage is found in Nabatieh (38.5%), followed by South Lebanon (12%), and declines in Mount Lebanon (5.1%), the Bekaa (3.4%) and Beirut (3.2%), to 2.3% in North Lebanon.

In terms of the time spent practicing those activities, 49.4%, spend less than two hours per week, 17.5% dedicate between two and less than five hours, 6.6% between five and less than ten hours, and 26.5% engage in social or student activities for more than ten hours per week.

Males represent 52.3% of people engaged in such activities while females constitute 47.7% of the total. The highest percentage of those who practice such activities weekly (31.1%) is for children aged 4-15, followed by the youth (15-24) with 30.1%, then the age group (35-64) with 22.1%, and finally 5.8% for the elderly (65 years and above). See table (5-9) The majority of people engaging in these activities are: students (57.9%), workers (21.4%) and women engaged in housework (13.3%).

**Table (5-8)**

**Distribution of individuals aged five years and above who engage in weekly social and student activities, by sex per each age group**

Age groups	Females	Males	Females and Males
5-14	48.1	51.9	100.0
15-24	46.4	53.6	100.0
25-34	51.0	49.0	100.0
35-64	48.3	51.7	100.0
65 and above	44.4	55.6	100.0
Total	47.7	52.3	100.0

**Table (5-9)**

**Distribution of total individuals aged five years and above who engage in weekly social and student activities, per age group by sex**

Age groups	Females	Males	Females and Males
5-14	31.3	30.9	31.1
15-24	29.2	30.8	30.1
25-34	11.6	10.2	10.9
35-64	22.4	21.9	22.1
65 and above	5.4	6.2	5.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

### d. Monthly visits to relatives and friends

Of Lebanese residents aged five years and above, 80.5% visit their relatives and friends monthly. Around 91% visit their relatives and family in Bekaa, 82.4% in Mount Lebanon, 78.7% in Nabatieh, 76.2% in North Lebanon, 75.8% in Beirut and 74.9% in South Lebanon. See table (5-10)

**Table (5-10)**

**Distribution of individuals aged five years and above who visit relatives and friends monthly, per governorate**

Governorate	Percentage
Beirut	75.8
Mount Lebanon	82.4
North Lebanon	76.2
Bekaa	90.6
South Lebanon	74.9
Nabatieh	78.7
Lebanon	80.5

Results demonstrate that 26.4% of those who visit relatives and friends monthly do so less than twice a month, but that 56.6% pay visits from two to less than five times a month, 11.9% between five to less than ten times a month and finally 5.1% do so ten times or more a month.

**Table (5-11)**

**Percentage of individuals aged five years and above who visit relatives and friends monthly, by sex per each age group**

Age groups	Females	Males	Females and Males
5-14	48.0	52.0	100.0
15-24	50.1	49.9	100.0
25-34	52.0	48.0	100.0
35-64	53.3	46.7	100.0
65 and above	45.9	54.1	100.0
Total	50.8	49.2	100.0

The percentages are similar for males and females who visit relatives and friends monthly, at 49.2% and 50.8% respectively. See table (5-11) Individuals from the age group (35-64) represent 34.2% of the total, with 6.9% for the elderly aged 65 years and above. See table (5-12)

**Table (5-12)**

**Percentage of individuals aged five years and above who visit relatives and friends monthly, per age group by sex**

Age groups	Females	Males	Females and Males
5-14	20.1	22.5	21.3
15-24	20.6	21.2	20.9
25-34	17.0	16.2	16.6
35-64	35.9	32.5	34.2
65 and above	6.3	7.6	6.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

#### **e. Going out monthly to restaurants and cafés**

The results show that 14.0% of total residents aged five years and above in Lebanon go out monthly to restaurants and cafés. The percentages vary noticeably among the governorates, with 28.7% of people in Beirut going out to restaurants and cafés, and 18.1% in Mount Lebanon. However, the percentages decline for the periphery governorates as follows: 7.9% in Bekaa, 7.9% in South Lebanon, 7.7% in North Lebanon and 5.9% in Nabatieh. See table (5-13)

**Table (5-13)**

**Percentage of individuals aged five years and above who go out monthly to restaurants and cafés per governorate**

Governorate	Percentage
Beirut	28.7
Mount Lebanon	18.1
North Lebanon	7.7
Bekaa	7.9
South Lebanon	7.9
Nabatieh	5.9
Lebanon	14.0

Around 52% of Lebanese residents go out on average twice a month, 39.5% between two and less than five times a month, 6.3% between five to less than ten times a month and 2.5% go out ten times or more.

Males make up 54.6% of those who go out to restaurants and cafés, and females 45.5%. See table (5-14) The age group (35-64) represents 31.0% of people who go out monthly, followed by the age group (15-24) with 27.7%, then 15.0% for the age group (5-14), and finally 3.8% for the elderly aged 65 years and above. See table (5-15)

**Table (5-14)**

**Distribution of individuals aged five years and above who go out monthly to restaurants and cafés, by sex per each age group**

Age groups	Females	Males	Females and Males
5-14	46.7	53.3	100.0
15-24	45.3	54.7	100.0
25-34	44.0	56.0	100.0
35-64	46.4	53.6	100.0
65 and above	41.7	58.3	100.0
Total	45.4	54.6	100.0

**Table (5-15)**

**Distribution of individuals aged five years and above who go out monthly to restaurants and cafés, per age group by sex**

Age groups	Females	Males	Females and Males
5-14	15.5	14.7	15.0
15-24	27.7	27.8	27.7
25-34	21.8	23.1	22.5
35-64	31.5	30.4	30.9
65 and above	3.5	4.1	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

#### **f. Engaging in educational and artistic activities once a year**

Of all Lebanese residents aged five years and above, 13.7% engage in artistic and educational activities at least once a year, such as going to the theater or attending concerts, movies and art exhibitions. The percentage in Beirut is much higher, reaching 31.9%, followed by Mount Lebanon with 17.0%. The rates then decline to reach 9.5% in Bekaa, 6.8% in Nabatieh, 6.7% in South Lebanon and 6.1% in North Lebanon. See table (5-16)

**Table (5-16)**

**Distribution of individuals aged five years and above who engage in artistic and cultural activities at least once a year, by governorate**

Governorate	Percentage
Beirut	31.9
Mount Lebanon	17.0
North Lebanon	6.1
Bekaa	9.5
South Lebanon	6.7
Nabatieh	6.8
Lebanon	13.7

The percentage is similar for males and females who engage in artistic or educational activities, at 51.5% and 48.5% respectively. It is also noted that people aged (15-24) engage in such activities most, at 31.1%, followed by the age group (35-64), with 29.4%. Children (5-14 years) form 17.4%, and the elderly, aged 65 years and above, account for only 2.6%. See table (5-18)

**Table (5-17)**

**Distribution of individuals aged five years and above who engage in artistic and cultural activities at least once per year, by sex per each age group**

Age groups	Females	Males	Females and Males
5-14	47.8	52.2	100.0
15-24	47.4	52.6	100.0
25-34	48.1	51.9	100.0
35-64	51.3	48.7	100.0
65 and above	37.4	62.6	100.0
Total	48.5	51.5	100.0

**Table (5-18)**

**Distribution of total individuals aged five years and above who engage in artistic and cultural activities at least once per year, per age group by sex**

Age groups	Females	Males	Females and Males
5-14	17.2	17.7	17.4
15-24	30.4	31.8	31.1
25-34	19.2	19.5	19.4
35-64	31.1	27.8	29.4
65 and above	2.0	3.2	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**2.**

**Travel with at least one night spent abroad during the past 12 months**

The study tallied the percentage of individuals traveling abroad during the past 12 months, with at least one night spent outside the country, and the possibility of traveling more than once a year. People were asked about the causes of their trips, the means used and the duration of each trip. The percentage of individuals who left the country once or more is 5.1% of total residents in Lebanon, out of which 99.0% traveled only once during the year prior to the survey. See table (5-19)

**Table (5-19)**

**Distribution of individuals who have traveled once or more, spending at least one night abroad, during the past 12 months by number of trips**

Number of trips	Percentage
1	99.0
2	0.7
3	0.1
4 and more	0.1
Total	100.0

**a. Distribution of individuals who have traveled once or more, spending at least one night abroad, during the past 12 months by age and sex**

Of the Lebanese residents who have traveled once or more, females represent 48.1% and males 51.9%. The age group (25-29) represents the highest percentage, 11.1%, among those individuals, with the age group (15-24) representing 15.0%, and age groups (30-64) 51.1%. The elderly, aged 65 years and above, represent 8.0% of total travelers. See table (5-20)

**Table (5-20)**

**Distribution of individuals who have traveled once or more, spending at least one night abroad, during the past 12 months, by age and sex**

Age groups	Females	Males	Females and Males
0-4	4.8	5.0	4.9
5-9	3.9	5.5	4.8
10-14	5.2	5.3	5.3
15-19	6.2	4.6	5.4
20-24	9.3	9.9	9.6
25-29	10.6	11.5	11.1
30-34	8.2	10.5	9.4
35-39	7.8	9.7	8.8
40-44	9.3	9.5	9.4
45-49	7.3	6.2	6.7
50-54	7.6	5.2	6.4
55-59	6.2	4.3	5.2
60-64	5.1	5.2	5.2
65-69	4.3	3.8	4.0
70 and above	4.2	3.7	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**b. Distribution of residents who traveled once or more, spending at least one night abroad, during the past 12 months by educational attainment**

University-level residents represent the highest percentage, (25.2%), among the past year's travelers, followed almost equally by residents with an intermediate- or elementary-level education, at 22.0% and 21.9% respectively. See table (5-21)

**Table (5-21)**

**Distribution of residents who traveled once or more, spending at least one night abroad, during the past 12 months, by educational attainment**

Educational attainment	Percentage
Illiterate	7.0
Literate (read & write)	3.1
Pre-school	1.7
Elementary	21.9
Intermediate	22.0
Secondary	15.2
University	25.2
No response	0.1
* Inapplicable	3.8
Total	100.0

\* This category includes individuals who were not asked about their educational level, like domestic workers

**c. Distribution of residents who traveled once or more, spending at least one night abroad, during the past 12 months by governorate**

Individuals who traveled abroad once or more are concentrated in the governorates of Mount Lebanon and Beirut, where they represent 40.8% and 31.3%, respectively, of Lebanon's total travelers. The percentage rates drop in the periphery governorates, with 13.2% for the Bekaa and lower still for North Lebanon, South Lebanon and Nabatieh. See table (5-22).

**Table (5-22)**

**Distribution of residents who traveled once or more, spending at least one night abroad, during the past 12 months by governorate**

Governorate	Percentage
Beirut	31.3
Mount Lebanon	40.8
North Lebanon	8.4
Bekaa	13.2
South Lebanon	3.2
Nabatieh	3.1
Total	100.0

**d. Distribution of residents who traveled once or more, spending at least one night abroad, during the past 12 months, by current profession status (relationship with labor force)**

Workers represent 45.2% of the total residents who traveled at least once, women engaged in housework represent 24.6%, and students represent 17.6% of the total. See table (5-23)

**Table (5-23)**

**Distribution of resident who traveled once or more spending at least one night abroad during the past 12 months, by current profession status (relationship with labor force)**

Current profession status (relationship with labor force)	Percentage
Below school age	4.3
Working	45.2
Unemployed	3.3
Student	17.6
Retired	2.3
Housework	24.6
Unable to work	1.4
* Other	1.3
Total	100.0

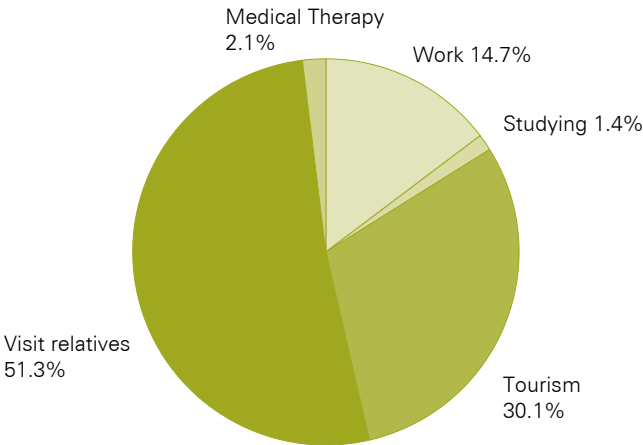
\*This category includes individuals who voluntarily terminated their activities, clergy, the contented and the economically inactive.



**e. Distribution of trips by residents, by cause of travel**

The main reason for most travel is to visit relatives, at 51.3%, with tourism second at 30.1%, work coming third at 14.7%, medical therapy fourth at 2.1%, and study at 1.4%. See diagram (5-1)

**Diagram (5-1)**  
**Distribution of trips by residents by cause of travel**



**f. Distribution of trips of residents by means of transportation**

Air travel represents the type of transportation most used, at 46.7%, while travel by car represents 29.4% and by bus 23.1% of the total transportation means. See table (5-24)

**Table (5-24)**  
**Distribution of trips of residents by means of transportation**

Transport means	Percentage
Airplane	46.7
Car	29.4
Bus	23.1
*Other means	0.3
Not specified	0.5
Total	100.0

\* This category includes trucks and ships