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BYBLOS BANK
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LEBANON THIS WEEK

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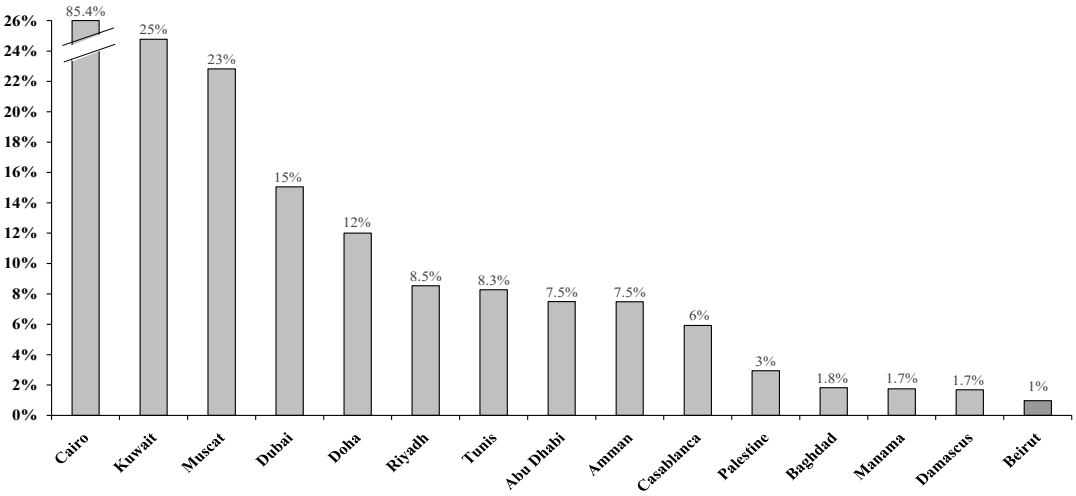
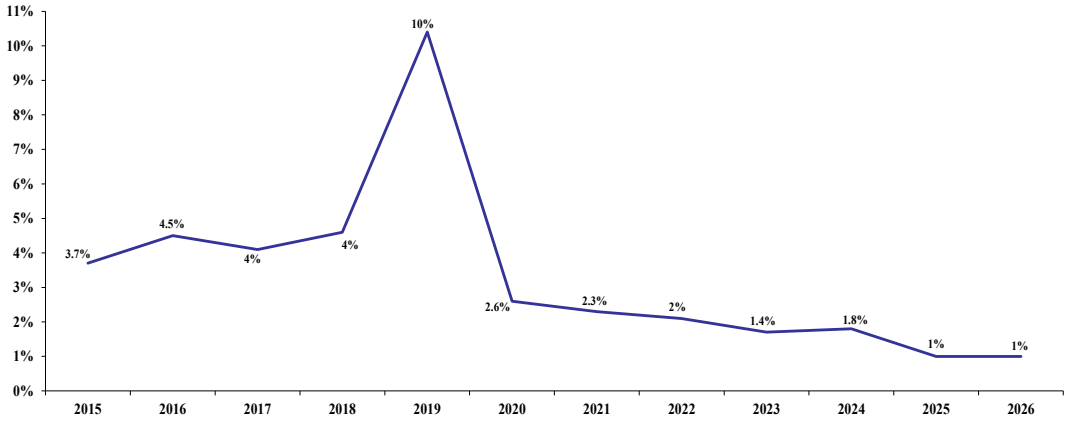
Chart of the Week

Turnover Ratios of Select Arab Stock Markets in the First Eight Months of 2026 (%)



Turnover Ratio on the Beirut Stock Exchange*



**The aggregate value of shares traded in the first seven months of the year relative to the market capitalization at the end of July of each year*

Source: Arab Federation of Capital Markets, Beirut Stock Exchange, Byblos Bank

Quote to Note

"Today, there is a clear will to rebuild the State, restore the role of its institutions, and move forward with the reforms that the country needs, a path to which the State, with all its components, is committed to."

HE President Joseph Aoun, on his determination to strengthen the country's institutions and implement the rule of law

Number of the Week

49,000: Number of workers and employees in the public education sector, excluding employment at the Lebanese University, according to estimates by the Lebanese authorities and the International Monetary Fund

Lebanon in the News

$m *(unless otherwise mentioned)*	2024*	2025*	2026*	%Change**	Jun-25	May-26	Jun-26
Exports	1,419	1,744	1,498	(14.1)	264	309	250
Imports	8,384	9,610	10,150	5.6	1,469	1,414	1,700
Trade Balance	(6,965)	(7,865)	(8,652)	10.0	(1,205)	(1,105)	(1,449)
Balance of Payments	2,704	8,495	(2,856)	(133.6)	352	(969)	(4,370)
Checks Cleared in LBP***	433	313	355	13.3	44	61	50
Checks Cleared in FC***	780	383	234	(38.9)	31	56	58
Total Checks Cleared***	1,213	696	589	(15.4)	75	117	108
Fiscal Deficit/Surplus****	448	313	470	50.0	-	-	-
Primary Balance****	545	352	497	41.2	-	-	-
Airport Passengers	2,998,441	2,999,426	2,027,421	(32.4)	589,808	338,990	441,895
Consumer Price Index	76.5	14.7	16.2	150bps	15.0	19.0	17.3
$m *(unless otherwise mentioned)*	**Jun-25**	**Feb-26**	**Mar-26**	**Apr-26**	**May-26**	**Jun-26**	**%Change****
BdL FX Reserves	11.18	6.80	6.10	5.96	6.70	6.68	(40.2)
In months of Imports	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Debt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Assets	103.51	101.90	100.68	100.72	100.59	100.50	(2.9)
Bank Deposits (Private Sector)	88.79	86.68	86.23	86.12	85.95	85.73	(3.4)
Bank Loans to Private Sector	5.47	5.24	5.24	5.20	5.18	5.06	(7.4)
Money Supply M2	1.65	1.63	1.62	1.56	1.51	1.55	(5.9)
Money Supply M3	68.99	66.80	66.39	66.20	65.98	65.78	(4.6)
LBP Lending Rate (%)	9.11	9.74	9.80	8.43	8.35	6.15	(296bps)
LBP Deposit Rate (%)	1.58	5.13	3.66	3.99	3.76	5.19	361bps
USD Lending Rate (%)	4.83	3.84	4.78	4.13	4.27	4.10	(73bps)
USD Deposit Rate (%)	0.04	0.08	0.10	0.11	0.09	0.10	6bps

**in the first half of each year; **year-on-year*
****checks figures do not include compensated checks in fresh currencies; ****in the first quarter of each year*
Source: Association of Banks in Lebanon, Banque du Liban, Ministry of Finance, Central Administration of Statistics, Byblos Research

Capital Markets

Most Traded Stocks on BSE*	Last Price ($)	% Change*	Total Volume	Weight in Market Capitalization
Audi GDR	1.70	(7.1)	64,705	1.1%
Solidere "A"	72.00	2.9	46,886	40.6%
Solidere "B"	72.00	0.0	32,004	26.4%
Audi Listed	1.64	(16.3)	19,300	5.4%
Byblos Common	0.65	0.0	10,000	2.1%
Ciments Libanais	49.45	(1.1)	2,325	5.4%
BLOM Listed	7.97	9.9	1,400	9.7%
BLOM GDR	7.02	0.0	-	2.9%
Byblos Pref. 09	29.99	0.0	-	0.3%
Byblos Pref. 08	25.00	0.0	-	0.3%

*Source: Beirut Stock Exchange (BSE); *week-on-week*

Sovereign Eurobonds	Coupon %	Mid Price in US$	Mid Yield %
Nov 2026	6.60	27.75	1,442.00
Mar 2027	6.85	28.00	509.28
Nov 2028	6.65	28.00	70.27
Feb 2030	6.65	28.13	40.65
Apr 2031	7.00	28.38	29.46
May 2033	8.20	29.75	19.08
May 2034	8.25	29.88	16.43
Jul 2035	12.00	29.25	14.39
Nov 2035	7.05	29.13	14.01
Mar 2037	7.25	29.13	12.10

Source: LSEG Workspace

	September 14-18	September 7-11	% Change	August 2026	August 2025	% Change
Total shares traded	176,620	338,182	(47.8)	305,182	2,784,318	(89.0)
Total value traded	$5,928,757	$4,982,651	19.0	12,233,852	22,009,475	(44.4)
Market capitalization	17.76	17.62	0.8	17.80	19.64	(9.4)

Source: Beirut Stock Exchange (BSE)

IMF stresses need for fiscal discipline and for advancing banking sector reforms

In its end-of-mission statement, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicated that the Lebanese authorities have maintained a measure of macroeconomic stability despite the exceptionally difficult circumstances and the impact of the Hezbollah-Israel conflict and regional security developments on the economy and on living conditions. It expected economic activity to contract significantly in 2026 and for the inflation rate to remain in double digits, while it anticipated the current account deficit to widen this year due mainly to the higher cost of imported hydrocarbons. Also, it noted that the war resulted in extensive damage to infrastructure and housing, large-scale internal displacement, and a significant deterioration in the living standards of internally-displaced persons (IDPs).

Further, it urged the authorities to maintain cautious fiscal and monetary policies in the near-term. It welcomed the progress that the authorities achieved on the budget's management since its previous staff visit on February 13, 2026 and the enactment of amendments to the Bank Resolution Law. It considered that the amendments align the law with international best practices and provide an effective and orderly framework for bank resolution and liquidation.

Also, it stated that there is a need to amend the Financial Stabilization and Deposits Recovery draft law in order to align it with international standards, and stressed the importance of respecting the hierarchy of claims and of ensuring that depositors do not absorb losses before shareholders and junior creditors. It noted that the restructuring of the banking sector should result in a sound sector and must safeguard long-term financial and fiscal stability. It added that the plan for the repayment of deposits needs to be consistent with the viability of the banking sector and the sustainability of the public debt.

In parallel, the IMF welcomed the authorities' tight budget execution amid financing constraints, and noted that the draft budget for 2027 targets a balanced position and includes measures to strengthen tax compliance. But it pointed out that Parliament has yet to enact the increase in the value-added tax (VAT) from 11% to 12% that the Council of Ministers approved in February 2026 to fund the increase in the public sector's salaries and pensions. As such, it expected that the increase in the cost of the public sector's wages and salaries will put significant pressure on public expenditures, and encouraged the authorities to enact the VAT increase, incorporate all foreign-financed spending in the 2027 budget, prioritize support for IDPs, and create room for capital expenditures. Also, the IMF warned the government to refrain from approving random increases of the public sector's salaries and pensions before sourcing the needed revenues to cover any salary hike, and added that any future raises must fit into a comprehensive fiscal framework.

In addition, the IMF welcomed the authorities' efforts to develop a medium-term fiscal framework (MTFF), but it pointed out that the latter requires additional work to prioritize and sequence fiscal measures and to integrate capital and social spending needs in the MTFF. It considered that the formal adoption of a credible MTFF is essential to anchor annual budgets, restore fiscal sustainability, and create room for essential reconstruction and social protection spending.

Finally, it reiterated its commitment to supporting the Lebanese authorities in developing and implementing a comprehensive reform agenda that could be supported by an IMF arrangement, and indicated that discussions with the authorities will continue.

Port of Beirut processes 2.5 million tons of freight in first five months of 2026

Figures released by the Port of Beirut show that the port processed 2.47 million tons of freight the first five months of 2026, constituting a decrease of 3% from 2.55 million tons of freight in the same period last year. Imported freight totaled 2.17 million tons in the first five months of 2026, down by 2.7% from 2.2 million tons in same period last year, and accounted for 87.5% of the total processed freight in the covered period. In addition, the volume of exported cargo reached 309,000 tons in the first five months of 2026, representing a decrease of 5% from 325,000 tons in the same period of 2025, and accounted for 12.5% of aggregate freight in the covered period. A total of 526 vessels docked at the port in the first five months of 2026, down by 10% from 584 ships in the same period last year. The port handled 446,000 tons of freight in May 2026, down by 15.8% from 530,000 tons in April 2026. In addition, 114 vessels docked at the port in May 2026 compared to 112 ships in the preceding month.

In parallel, the Port of Tripoli processed 674,000 tons of freight in the first five months of 2026, representing a drop of 319,000 tons, or of 32%, from 993,000 tons in the same period last year. Imported freight stood at 560,000 tons in the covered period and contracted by 213,000 tons (-27.6%) from 627,000 tons in the first five months of 2025. Imports accounted for 83% of freight activity in the covered period. Further, the volume of cargo that was exported through the port reached 114,000 tons in the first five months of 2026, constituting a drop of 106,000 tons, or of 48.2%, from 220,000 tons in the same period of 2025, and represented 17% of aggregate freight in the covered period. A total of 240 vessels docked at the port in the first five months of the year, constituting a decline of 28.4% from 335 ships in the same period of 2025. The port handled 110,000 tons of freight in May 2026, down by 41.2% from 187,000 tons in April 2026. Also, 50 vessels docked at the port in May 2026 unchanged from April 2026.

Banque du Liban expands categories of beneficiaries for deposit withdrawals in foreign currency

Banque du Liban (BdL) issued Intermediate Circular 775/13844 dated September 14, 2026 addressed to banks, which modifies Basic Circular 158/13335 of June 8, 2021 about exceptional measures related to the gradual disbursement of deposits in foreign currency from accounts that clients opened prior to October 31, 2019. Also, BdL issued Intermediate Circular 776/13845 dated September 14, 2026 addressed to banks that modifies Basic Circular 166/13611 of February 2, 2024 about exceptional measures related to the gradual disbursement of deposits in foreign currency from accounts that clients opened prior to June 30, 2023. The new circulars allow sole proprietorships, associations licensed by the relevant authorities, as well as religious associations and orders subject to the applicable legal frameworks to benefit from the terms of Basic Circular 158/13335 and Basic Circular 166/13611

BdL indicated that BdL and commercial banks have disbursed $6.11bn to eligible depositors between July 2021 and the end of March 2026 under Basic Circular 158/13335 and Basic Circular 166/13611. It said that the two circulars have allowed hundreds of thousands of depositors to recover part or all of their foreign currency deposits. As such, it said that the two circulars provided cash in US dollars to a total of 578,770 depositors as at the end of March 2026, and that 266,166 eligible depositors recovered the full amount of their eligible deposits, which accounted for 46% of the total number of benefiting depositors. It added that all eligible depositors who have benefited from the circulars since the launch of Basic Circular 158/13335 on July 1, 2021, and whose deposits totaled $40,200 or less, have fully recovered their savings as of the end of April 2026.

Also, it stated that the payments under the two circulars are funded from the reserve requirements that banks deposited at BdL, which legally and factually belong to the depositors. It pointed out that BdL disbursed $4.183bn, of 68.5% of the aggregate payments, while commercial banks paid out $1.926bn, or 31.5% of the total. It added that depositors submitted 610,624 applications as of May 11, 2026, in order to benefit from the two circulars. In parallel, it said that monthly payments under the two circulars reached $240.4m in March 2026, constituting a decrease of $1.8m, or of 0.73%, from $242.2m in February 2026. It indicated that the banks' share of the March payment totaled about $28.36m, which is 11.8% of the payments for the month, while BdL covered 88.2% of the amounts disbursed under these two circulars.

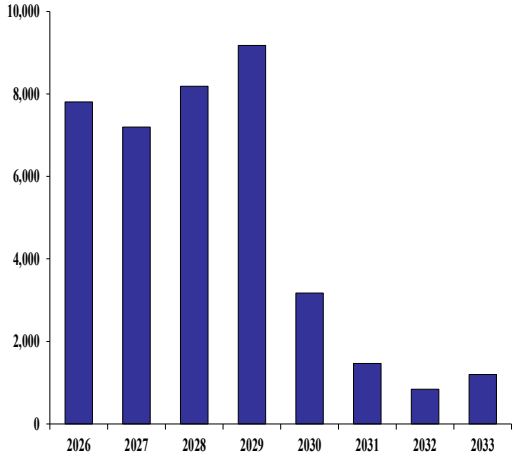
In parallel, BdL issued Intermediate Circular 768/13824 and Intermediate Circular 769/13825 dated June 4, 2026 addressed to banks, which allowed eligible depositors to benefit from an additional amount of $4,200 under Basic Circular 158/13335 and from a further amount of $6,000 under Basic Circular 166/13611.

Nearly 89% of Treasury securities have eight-year maturities or longer at end-August 2026

Figures released by the Association of Banks in Lebanon show that the face value of outstanding Treasury securities denominated in Lebanese pounds stood at LBP39,044bn at the end of August 2026, compared to LBP47,847bn at end-2025 and to LBP54,577bn at end-August 2025. The securities were equivalent to $436.2m at the end of August 2026 based on the exchange rate of LBP89,500 per US dollar, according to the BdL Central Council's Decision No. 48/4/24 dated February 15, 2024. The weighted interest rate on Lebanese Treasury securities was 6.6% in August 2026 compared to 6.79% in August 2025.

Also, the distribution of outstanding Treasury securities shows that 10-year Treasury bonds totaled LBP24,753bn and accounted for 63.4% of aggregate securities denominated in Lebanese pounds at the end of August 2026, followed by eight-year Treasury securities with LBP8,520bn (21.8%), three-year Treasury securities with LBP3,100bn (7.9%), 15-year Treasury bonds with LBP1,417bn (3.6%), and five-year Treasury bonds with LBP1,253bn (3.2%). As such, 88.8% of outstanding Treasury securities have eight-year maturities or longer and 92.1% have five-year maturities or more.

Projected Maturities of Treasury Securities*
(in LBP billions)



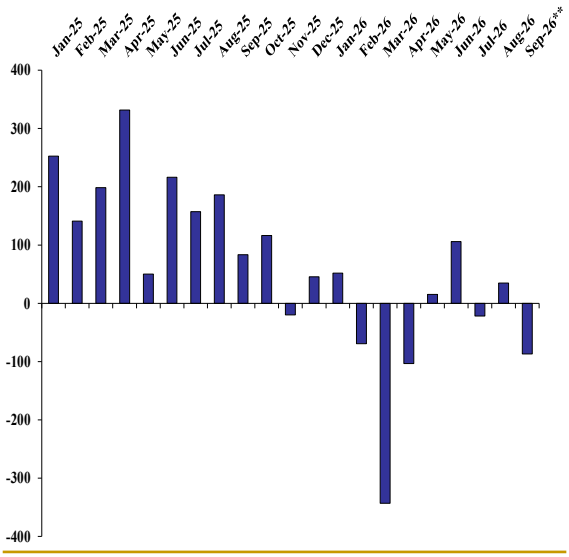
**as at end-August 2026*
Source: Association of Banks in Lebanon, Byblos Research

In parallel, LBP616bn in outstanding Treasury securities denominated in Lebanese pounds matured in August 2026. The distribution of maturing securities shows that 48% consisted of five-year Treasury securities, 31.8% were 10-year Treasury bonds, 20% consisted of eight -year Treasury bonds and 0.02% were three-year Treasury bonds. According to the ABL, LBP7,807bn in outstanding Treasury securities in Lebanese pounds will mature in the remainder of 2026.

Banque du Liban's liquid foreign reserves at $11.48bn, gold reserves at $39.3bn at mid-September 2026

Banque du Liban's (BdL) interim balance sheet shows that its total assets reached LBP8,334.5 trillion (tn) as at September 15, 2026, relative to LBP8,346.5tn at end-August 2026, LBP8,352.5tn at mid-August 2026, LBP8,406.5tn at the end of 2025, and to LBP8,463.2tn at mid-September 2025. BdL indicated that it revised its balance sheet figures starting on October 15, 2024 in accordance with international standards. It said that it changed the classification of "Foreign Assets" to "Foreign Reserve Assets" in order to present non-resident and liquid foreign assets only, while it reclassified the "other resident and/or illiquid items" to its "Securities Portfolio" or to the "Loans to the Local Financial Sector" entries.

Change in Foreign Reserve Assets* (US$m)



**month-on-month change*
***as at mid-September 2026, change from end-August 2026*
Source: Banque du Liban, Byblos Research

BdL's Foreign Reserve Assets stood at $11.48bn on September 15, 2026 compared to $11.57bn at end-August, to $11.62bn at mid-August, to $11.89bn at end-2025, and to $11.83bn at mid-September 2025. Further, they increased by $51.9m in January of this year, while they decreased by $69.2m in February, by $343.2m in March and by $103.1m in April 2026. Also, they grew by $15.4m in May 2026, by $106.1m in June, declined by $21.8m in July, increased by $34.9m in August, and regressed by $87m in the first half of September 2026. As such, they decreased by $398.7m since the end of February and by $416m in the first 36 weeks of the year, but they rose by $2.9bn between the end of July 2023 and end-September 2026 despite a decline of $530.3m in the fourth quarter of 2024. BdL said that Foreign Reserve Assets represent non-resident and liquid foreign assets. The dollar figures are based on the exchange rate of the Lebanese pound of LBP89,500 per US dollar starting on February 15, 2024, according to the BdL Central Council's Decision No. 48/4/24 dated February 15, 2024.

Further, the value of BdL's gold reserves reached $39.3bn on September 15, 2026 compared to $41bn at end-August 2026, to $40.1bn at mid-August 2026, and to $33.6bn at mid-September 2025. The value of the gold reserves reached a peak of $47.7bn at the end of February 2026. Also, BdL's securities portfolio totaled LBP579,531.3bn at mid-September 2026 relative to LBP580,162.3bn two weeks earlier and to LBP549,695.8bn at mid-September 2025. BdL noted that the securities portfolio includes Lebanese Eurobonds that had a market value of $1.5bn at mid-September 2026, compared to $1.52bn at end-August 2026 and to $1.22bn at the end of 2025.

Moreover, Deferred Open-Market Operations totaled LBP186,665bn at mid-September 2026 relative to LBP185,783.1bn at end-August 2026. BdL said that, based on the Central Council's decision 23/36/45 of December 20, 2023, it has started to present all deferred interest costs originating from open-market operations under this new line item. As a result, it transferred all deferred interest costs included in the "Other Assets" and "Assets from Exchange Operations" entries to the new item. Therefore, the item "Other Assets" stood at LBP22,922.9bn ($256.1m) at mid-September 2026 relative to LBP21,487.4bn ($240.1m) two weeks earlier.

Also, the Revaluation Adjustments item on the asset side reached LBP1,439.9tn at mid-September 2026 relative to LBP1,299.6tn at end-August 2026. It consists of a special account called the "Exchange Rate Stabilization Fund", in which BdL recorded all the transactions related to foreign exchange interventions to stabilize the exchange rate starting in 2020 and that had a balance of LBP169.1tn at mid-September 2026 relative to LBP169tn at end-August 2026. It also consists of a special account in the name of the Treasury that stood at LBP1,270.9tn at mid-September 2026 compared to LBP1,130.6tn at end-August 2026. Further, the balance sheet shows that BdL's loans to the public sector totaled LBP1,486,843.8bn at mid-September 2026 relative to LBP1,486,830bn two weeks earlier, and includes an overdraft of $16.52bn as at mid-September 2026, unchanged from end-August 2026.

On the liabilities side, BdL's balance sheet shows that currency in circulation outside BdL stood at LBP56,820.5bn at mid-September 2026 compared to LBP57,604.5bn at end-August 2026, and represented a decrease of 23.7% from LBP74,511.3bn at mid-September 2025. Further, the deposits of the financial sector reached LBP7,148.4tn, or the equivalent of $79.9bn at mid-September 2026, relative to LBP7,179.7tn ($80.2bn) at end-August 2026; while public sector deposits at BdL totaled LBP936,184.4bn at mid-September 2026 compared to LBP918,121.5bn at end-August 2026, LBP772,183.1bn at end-2025, and

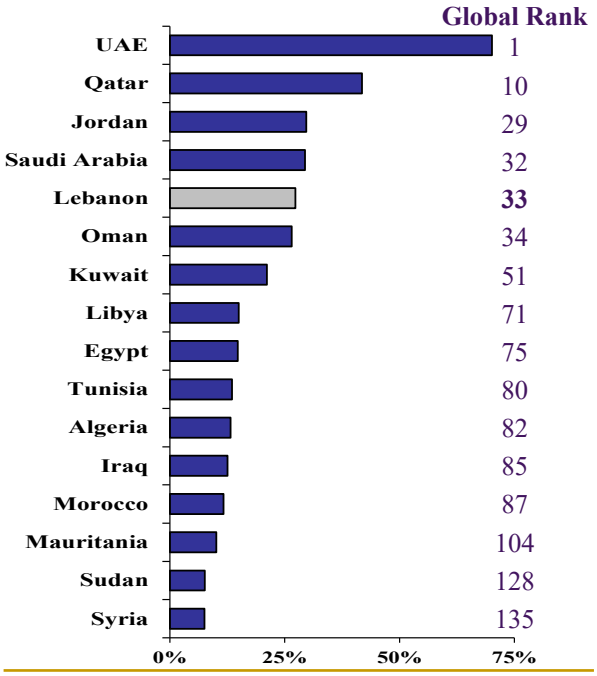
Government signs Digital Cooperation Organization Charter

The Saudi-based intergovernmental body Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) announced on September 14, 2026 that the Lebanese government signed the DCO Charter to become a signatory member, which constitutes a step towards the country's full accession as a Member State and opens a new phase of cooperation to support Lebanon's digital economy priorities.

It indicated that, along with the signing of the Charter, the Lebanese government and the DCO announced the launch of the Lebanon Digital Prosperity Plan (DPP), which aims to translate national digital priorities into practical initiatives and measurable outcomes across digital policies, infrastructure and connectivity, artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies, skills, entrepreneurship, innovation, and investments. It added that the DPP aligns Lebanon's digital transformation priorities with the capabilities of the DCO and with international partnerships, in order to accelerate the country's digital transformation.

Further, it stated that Lebanon's digital economy provides a strong foundation for this cooperation due to a highly connected population and an established technology and entrepreneurship ecosystem, and added that Lebanon is home to about 550 companies in the Information and Communication Technology field, and has a strong base of technical, entrepreneurial and creative talent.

AI Adoption in First Quarter of 2026 (%)
Arab Countries' Scores & Rankings



Source: Microsoft AI Economy Institute , Byblos Research

Figures released by online platform DataReportal about the usage of digital platforms, services and devices in Lebanon, show that the number of internet users reached 5.38 million individuals in Lebanon at the end of 2025, which represented an internet penetration rate of 91.8% compared to a penetration rate of 91.6% in January 2025. It indicated that the rise in the penetration rate reflects an increase in internet adoption in the country from previous years.

In addition, the Office of the Ministry of State for Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence (MITAI) said that, through its cooperation with the DCO and the DPP, it aims to accelerate the adoption of advanced technologies and artificial intelligence, develop national capabilities, support startups and entrepreneurs, and attract strategic investments.

The MITAI launched in December 2025 its digital technology and AI strategy for Lebanon. It declared that it aims to leverage technology and AI to improve public services, drive national development, empower citizens, and generate sustainable economic growth. It indicated that the strategy consists of four strategic objectives that are to build institutional, legal and governance structures to support Lebanon's digital transformation; to invest in secure, interoperable broadbands, cloud, and digital identity systems; to reverse the brain drain through AI-skills programs, support research and development, and provide incentives; and to position Lebanon as a regional innovation hub by establishing the Lebanon Angel Investor Network and a Fund-of-Funds for AI startups.

Further, it said that the strategy's national priorities include the development of a national digital infrastructure by rolling out a unified, sovereign tech stack to enable AI-ready digital government services; scaling the adoption of a national digital ID to streamline access and verify rights in a secure way; expanding interoperable e-payments across ministries and services to support financial inclusion and reduce cash leakages; deploying AI to optimize planning, monitor service delivery, and detect inefficiencies or fraud; using automation and AI to simplify complex government services such as business registration, property documentation, and social benefits; and establishing regulator sandboxes, public data pools, and shared compute, in order to accelerate digital startups and applied AI experimentation.

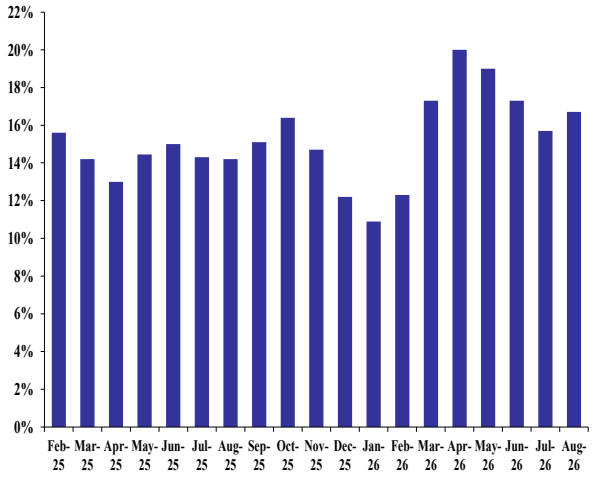
Established in 2020, the DCO aims to achieve social prosperity and the growth of the digital economy by unifying the efforts of its members to advance digital transformation and promote common interests.

Consumer Price Index up 16.7% year-on-year in August 2026

The Central Administration of Statistics' Consumer Price Index increased by 16.2% in the first eight months of 2026 from the same period of 2025. In comparison, it grew by 14.6% and by 63.6% in the first eight months of 2025 and 2024, respectively, from the corresponding periods of the previous years. The CPI rose by 16.7% in August 2026 from the same month of 2025 compared to increases of 15.7% in July, 17.3% in June, 19% in May, 20% in April, 17.3% in March, 12.3% in February and 11% in January 2026. Also, it registered its 30th consecutive double-digit increase since the last triple-digit rise in February 2024 when it stood at 123.2%.

Further, the slowdown of the inflation rate from triple-digit rates in previous years is due in part to the widespread dollarization of consumer goods and services in the economy and to the stabilization of the exchange rate of the Lebanese pound against the US dollar since August 2023. However, the increase in the inflation rate since March is due in part to the rise of the cost of energy, transportation, and food prices, to the imposition in February of a $4 fee on each gallon of retail gasoline, to the surge of fees in the public administration, and to the inability of the authorities to monitor and contain retail prices.

Annual Change in Consumer Price Index* (%)



**from the same month of the previous year*
Source: Central Administration of Statistics, Byblos Research

The cost of recreation & entertainment surged by 45.7% in August 2026 from the same month in 2025, followed by the cost of education (+35.7%), the prices of water, electricity, gas & other fuels (+32%), transportation costs (+31.7%), actual rent (+16.6%), the cost of miscellaneous goods & services (+15.7%), rates at restaurants and hotels (+14.3%), the prices of food & non-alcoholic beverages (+11.6%), the prices of furnishings & household equipment (+9.6%), healthcare costs (+7.4%), the prices of alcoholic beverages & tobacco and imputed rent (+7% each), and the prices of clothing & footwear (+1.2%). In contrast, the cost of communication regressed by 0.8% in August 2026 from the same month last year. Also, the distribution of actual rent shows that new rent surged by 6.5% and old rent increased by 32.3% in August 2026 from the same month of 2025.

In parallel, the CPI increased by 1.4% in August 2026 from the previous month relative to a decreases of 0.03% in July 2026, 0.75% in June, a growth of 0.48% in May, an increase of 3% in April 2026, a rise of 4.9% in March 2026, an increase of 1.9% in February 2026, and a downturn of 0.08% in January 2026. The month-on-month increase in the CPI is due mainly to the decrease in the cost of energy fuels in August.

The cost of water, electricity, gas & other fuels increased by 7.1% in August 2026 from the preceding month, followed by the cost of transportation (+2.6%), the prices of furnishings & household equipment (+2.4%), the prices of food & non-alcoholic beverages (+0.83%), rates at restaurants and hotels (+0.7%), healthcare costs and the cost of actual rent (+0.64% each), the prices of miscellaneous goods & services (+0.5%), the cost of alcoholic beverages and tobacco (+0.47%), the cost of recreation & entertainment (+0.17%), and imputed rent (+0.12%). Also, the cost of education was unchanged in August 2026 from July. In contrast, the prices of clothing & footwear decreased by 2.8% in August 2026 from the preceding month, followed by the cost of communication (-0.3%). In addition, the distribution of actual rent shows that new rent grew by 0.07% and the old rent increased by 1.4% in August 2026.

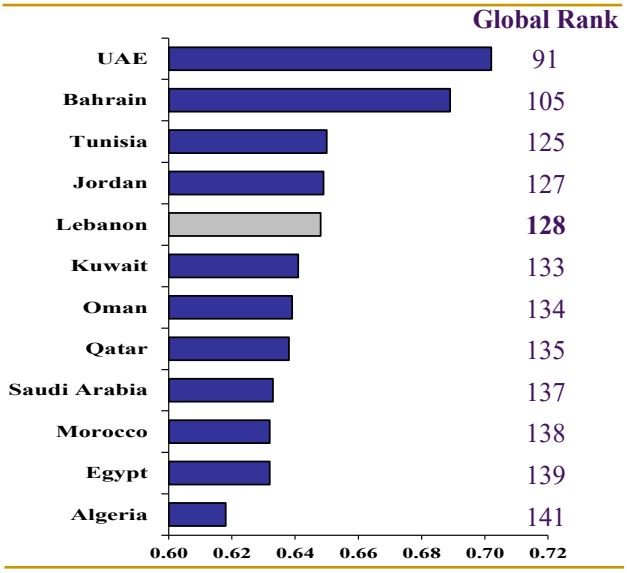
Also, the CPI increased by 2.12% in the Nabatieh governorate, by 1.75% in Mount Lebanon, 1.38% in the Bekaa, by 1.1% in the North, by 0.8% in the South and by 0.5% in Beirut in August 2026 from the preceding month. In parallel, the Fuel Price Index surged by 50.5% and the Education Price Index was unchanged month-on-month in August 2026.

Lebanon ranks 128th globally, fifth among Arab countries on gender gap index

The World Economic Forum ranked Lebanon in 128th place among 145 countries and in fifth place among 12 Arab countries on its Global Gender Gap Index for 2026. It also ranked Lebanon in 29th place among 35 Lower-middle income countries (LMICs) included in the survey. In comparison, Lebanon ranked in 136th place globally, in eighth place regionally, and in 35th place among LMICs on the 2025 index, while it came in 135th place among 144 countries worldwide and in 11th place among 15 Arab countries on the 2016 index. Based on the same set of countries in the 2025 and 2026 surveys, Lebanon's global rank advanced by six spots, while its regional and LMICs ranks improved by three spots each from the 2025 index. Lebanon ranked in the 12th percentile worldwide on the 2026 index, which means that 88% of the countries have a narrower gender gap than Lebanon, while it came in the 58th percentile in the Arab world, which means that 42% of Arab countries have a narrower gender gap than it does.

The index ranks countries according to their proximity to gender equality rather than on the degree of female empowerment. It aims to capture the magnitude and scope of gender-based disparities in each country and to track their progress over time. The index is based on 14 indicators grouped into four sub-indices that measure Economic Participation & Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health & Survival, and Political Empowerment.

Global Gender Gap Index for 2026
Scores & Rankings of Arab Countries



Source: World Economic Forum, Byblos Research

Globally, Lebanon had a narrower gender gap than Sri Lanka, India and Papua New Guinea, and a wider gap than Tunisia, Türkiye and Jordan among economies with a GDP of $10bn or more. Lebanon received a score of 0.648 points, which means that Lebanon closed about 65% of the gender gap in 2026. Still, Lebanon's score was lower than the global average of 0.72 points and the LMICs average score of 0.689 points, while it was close to the Arab average of about 0.648 points. Further, Lebanon's score increased by 2.5% from the 2025 survey and by 8.4% from the 2016 index.

Globally, Lebanon preceded Türkiye, Tunisia, and Saudi Arabia, and trailed Jordan, Sri Lanka and Qatar on the Economic Participation & Opportunity Sub-Index. This category captures the difference between the labor-force participation rates of males and females, assesses their opportunities to advance in the workplace, and measures their earned income in similar professions. According to the survey, Lebanon closed 53.5% of the gap between males and females on this category, compared to the narrowing of the gender gap by 68.2% globally. Regionally, Lebanon came ahead of Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Algeria, Egypt and Morocco in the Arab world on this category.

Also, Lebanon ranked ahead of Bolivia, Germany and the Philippines, and came behind Kazakhstan, Bahrain and Iceland worldwide on the Educational Attainment Sub-Index. This category captures the gap between males and females in terms of current access to education through the ratios of females to males in primary-, secondary- and tertiary-level education. Lebanon closed about 98.9% of the gender gap in education, while countries worldwide closed 97.2% of the education gender gap. Lebanon came ahead of Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, and Morocco among Arab countries on this category.

Further, Lebanon preceded Montenegro, Ghana and Singapore, while it trailed the U.S., Angola and Slovenia globally on the Health & Survival Sub-Index. This category measures the differences between the health of males and females, as reflected by the gap in the life expectancy of males and females and by the sex ratio at birth. Lebanon closed about 97.2% of the gender gap on this category, as countries around the world narrowed the health and survival gender gap by 96.9%. Lebanon came first in the Arab world on this category.

Finally, Lebanon ranked ahead of Azerbaijan, Botswana and Cambodia, while it trailed Jordan, Algeria, and Burkina Faso worldwide on the Political Empowerment Sub-Index. This category captures the ratio of females to males in ministerial-level positions and in parliament, in addition to the number of years that females serve in executive office. Lebanon closed 9.3% of the gender gap on this category, while countries worldwide closed about 25.7% of the political gender gap. Regionally, Lebanon came ahead of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and Oman among Arab economies on this category.

Components of the 2026 Global Gender Gap Index for Lebanon

	Global Rank	LMICs Rank	ARAB Rank	Lebanon Score	Global Avg Score	LMICs Avg Score	Arab Avg Score
Health & Survival	60	12	1	0.972	0.969	0.968	0.961
Educational Attainment	86	9	8	0.989	0.972	0.955	0.985
Political Empowerment	126	30	8	0.093	0.257	0.197	0.124
Economic Participation & Opportunity	129	26	6	0.535	0.682	0.635	0.521

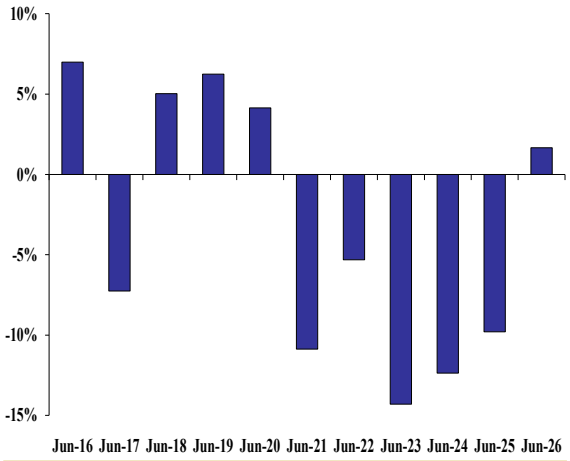
Source: World Economic Forum, Byblos Research

Payment cards at 1.73 million at end-June 2026, ATMs total 1,443

Figures released by Banque du Liban show that the number of payment cards issued in Lebanon reached 1.73 million cards at the end of June 2026, constituting an increase of 28,239 cards (+1.7%) from 1.79 million cards at end-June 2025, and decreases of 156,439 cards (-8.3%) from 1.88 million cards at end-June 2024, of 422,256 cards (-19.6%) from 2.15 million at end-June 2023, and of 780,907 cards (-31.1%) from 2.5 million at end-June 2022.

Payment cards held by residents accounted for 95.7% of total cards issued in Lebanon at the end of June 2026. The distribution of payment cards by type shows that debit cards with residents reached 1.19 million and accounted for 69% of the total, followed by 300,127 prepaid cards with residents (17.4%), 97,798 charge cards with residents (5.7%), 65,479 credit cards with residents (3.8%), 63,944 debit cards held by non-residents (3.7%), 5,896 charge cards with non-residents (0.3%), 3,333 credit cards held by non-residents (0.2%); and 1,169 prepaid cards with non-residents (0.07%).

Change in Number of Payment Cards (%)*



**year-on-year change at end of June of each year*
Source: Banque du Liban, Byblos Research

Also, the number of prepaid cards with residents dropped by 60,829 cards (-17%) in the first half of 2026 and credit cards with residents declined by 695 cards (-1%), while the number of debit cards held by residents increased by 64,466 cards (+5.7%), charge cards with residents grew by 6,199 cards (+6.8%), the number of debit cards with non-residents expanded by 2,976 cards (+5%), the number of prepaid cards held by non-residents rose by 869 cards (+289.7%), charge cards with non-residents grew by 393 cards (+7.1%), and credit cards with non-residents increased by 389 cards (+13.2%).

In parallel, the number of prepaid cards held by residents dropped by 113,567 cards (-27.5%) in the 12-month ending June 2026. In contrast, the number of debit cards held by resident increased by 88,785 cards (+8%) in the covered period, charge cards with residents jumped by 35,475 cards (+57%), debit cards with non-residents rose by 12,959 cards (+25.4%), charge cards held by non-residents expanded by 2,370 cards (+67.2%), prepaid cards with non-residents increased by 962 cards (+464.7%), credit cards with non-residents rose by 643 cards (+24%), and credit cards with residents grew by 612 cards (+1%).

Further, the aggregate number of registered points-of-sales (PoS) that accept payment cards reached 13,536 at the end of June 2026, constituting an increase of 3,270 (+32%) from the end of June 2025, of 15,144 (-52.8%) from end-June 2024, of 26,665 (-66.3%) from end-June 2023, and of 29,456 (-68.5%) from end-June 2022. There were 1.3 registered PoS per square kilometer (km²) in Lebanon at the end of June 2026 compared to 1 PoS per km² at the end of June 2025, 2.7 PoS per km² at the end of June 2024, to 3.8 PoS per km² at the end-June 2023, and to 4.1 PoS per km² at the end-June 2022.

In parallel, there were 1,443 automated teller machines (ATMs) across Lebanon at the end of June 2026, constituting increases of 11 ATMs from 1,432 ATMs at end-June 2025, of 33 machines from 1,410 ATMs at end-June 2024, and of 91 machines from 1,352 ATMs at end-June 2023, and a decrease of 194 machines from 1,637 ATMs at end-June 2022. The Mount Lebanon area had 563 ATMs at the end of June 2026, equivalent to 39% of the total, followed by the Greater Beirut area with 452 ATMs (31.3%), the North with 162 machines (11.2%), the Bekaa with 119 ATMs (8.25%), the South region with 118 ATMs (8.18%) and the Nabatieh area with 29 ATMs (2%).

As such, there were 138 ATMs per 1,000 km² in Lebanon at the end of June 2026 compared to 137 ATMs per 1,000 km² at the end of June 2025, to 135 ATMs per 1,000 km² at the end of June 2024, to 129 ATMs per 1,000 km² at end-June 2023, and to 157 ATMs per 1,000 km² at end-June 2022.

Registered real estate transactions down 5% to $3.7bn in first eight months of 2026

Figures released by the General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre (GDLRC) at the Ministry of Finance show that the ministry registered 34,083 real estate transactions in the first eight months of 2026, constituting a drop of 24.8% from 45,313 transactions in the same period of 2025, and compared to 23,983 transactions in the first eight months of 2024. In addition, the GDLRC registered 4,633 transactions in January, 3,755 real estate deals in February, 3,095 transactions in March, 3,493 real estate deals in April, 3,655 transactions in May, 4,999 transactions in June, 5,308 real estate deals in July, and 5,145 transactions in August 2026.

The distribution of transactions shows that the ministry registered 7,354 real estate deals in the Baabda/Aley/Chouf area in the first eight months of 2026, representing 21.6% of the total, followed the North with 7,063 transactions (20.7%), the Northern Metn district with 4,679 deals (13.7%), the Bekaa/Baalbeck-Hermel region with 4,605 deals (13.5%), the Keserwan/Jbeil region with 4,264 transactions (12.5%), Beirut with 2,463 deals (7.2%), the South governorate with 2,352 transactions (7%), and the Nabatieh governorate with 340 deals (1%).

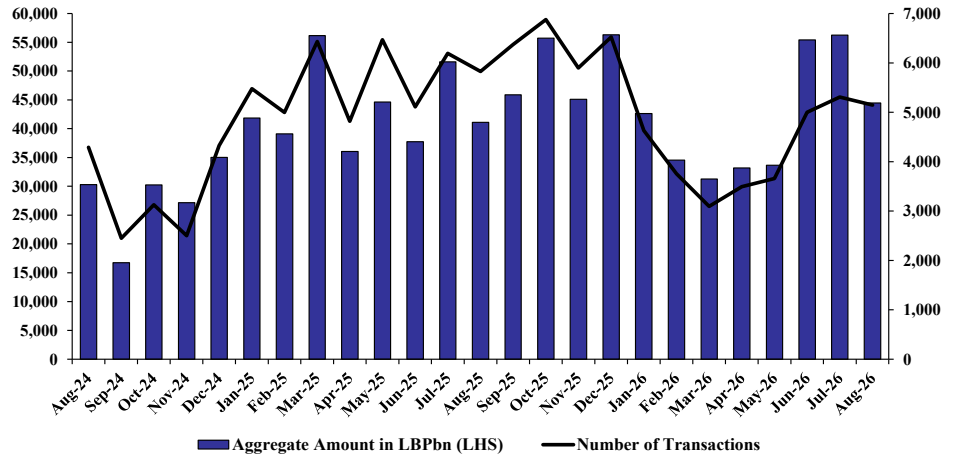
In parallel, the aggregate amount of registered real estate transactions stood at LBP331,415.2bn in the first eight months of 2026, constituting a decrease of 4.8% from LBP348,200bn in the same period of 2025. In US dollar terms, the total amount of registered real estate deals reached $3.7bn in the first eight months of 2026 relative to $3.89bn in the same period last year. Also, the amount of real estate transactions was LBP42,639.2bn in January, LBP34,542.5bn in February, LBP31,275.2bn in March, LBP33,203.5bn in April, LBP33,649.4bn in May, LBP55,403bn in June, LBP56,235.4bn in July, and LBP44,467.1bn in August 2026.

Further, the value of registered real estate transactions in Beirut was LBP84,877.3bn and accounted for 25.6% of the total in the first eight months of 2026. The Northern Metn district followed with LBP68,327.4bn (20.6% of the total), then the Baabda/Aley/Chouf area with LBP56,461.9bn (17%), the Keserwan/Jbeil region with LBP44,440.3bn (13.4%), the North region with LBP38,361.3bn (11.6%), the South governorate with LBP18,349.4bn (5.5%), the Bekaa/Baalbeck-Hermel region with LBP15,463.8bn (4.7%), and the Nabatieh governorate with LBP1,136.9bn (0.3%).

In parallel, the average amount per registered real estate transaction was LBP9.7bn in the first eight months of 2026 and increased by 26.5% from an average of LBP7.7bn in the same period last year. Also, there were 505 real estate transactions executed by foreigners in the first eight months of 2026 compared to 1,057 deals in the same period of 2025 and to 522 transactions in the first eight months of 2024. The number of real estate deals by foreigners accounted for 1.5% of the registered real estate transactions in the covered period, compared to 2.3% in the first eight months of 2025 and relative to 2.2% in the same period of 2024.

Further, the Baabda/Aley/Chouf region accounted for 23.4% of real estate transactions executed by foreigners in the first eight months of 2026, followed by the Northern Metn district (18.2%), the North governorate (15.4%), the Keserwan/Jbeil area (14.5%), Beirut (12.1%), the South governorate (9%), and the Bekaa/Baalbeck-Hermel region (7.5%).

Number and Amount of Real Estate Transactions



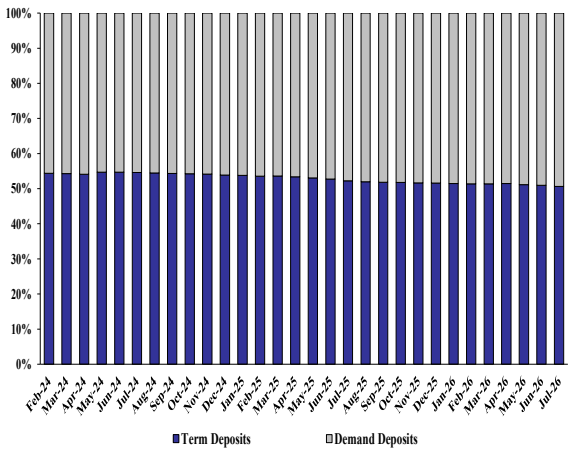
Source: Ministry of Finance, Byblos Research

Term deposits account for 50.7% of customer deposits at end-July 2026

Figures issued by Banque du Liban (BdL) about the distribution of bank deposits at commercial banks in Lebanon show that aggregate deposits, which include demand deposits and term deposits, stood at LBP7,922.4 trillion (tn) at the end of July 2026, or the equivalent of $88.5bn, compared to LBP8,071.1tn ($90.2bn) at end-2025 and to LBP8,198.2tn ($91.6bn) at end-July 2025.

Total deposits include private sector deposits that reached LBP7,658.3tn, deposits of non-resident financial institutions that amounted to LBP205.1tn, and public sector deposits that stood at LBP59tn at the end of July 2026. The figures reflect BdL's Basic Circular 167/13612 dated February 2, 2024 that asked banks and financial institutions to convert their assets and liabilities in foreign currency to Lebanese pounds at the exchange rate of LBP89,500 per US dollar when preparing their financial positions starting on January 31, 2024.

Breakdown of Deposits at Commercial Banks (%)



Source: Banque du Liban, Byblos Research

Term deposits in all currencies reached LBP4,013.2tn and accounted for 50.7% of total deposits in Lebanese pounds and in foreign currency at the end of July 2026 relative to 52.3% at end-July 2025. Further, the term deposits in Lebanese pounds of the public sector dropped by 69% from end-2025, followed by a decrease of 4% in the foreign currency-denominated term deposits of the resident private sector, a decline of 3.9% in term deposits of the non-resident financial sector, a decrease of 2.8% in the term deposits of non-residents, and a contraction of 0.7% in foreign currency-denominated term deposits of the public sector. In contrast, the term deposits in Lebanese pounds of the resident private sector increased by 16.6% from end-2025.

In addition, the foreign currency-denominated term deposits of the resident private sector reached $31.3bn and accounted for 35.3% of aggregate deposits at the end of July 2026 relative to 37% a year earlier. Term deposits of non-residents followed with $11.8bn or 13.3% of the total, then the term deposits of the non-resident financial sector with $1.13bn (1.3%), term deposits in Lebanese pounds of the resident private sector with LBP42.2tn (0.5%), term deposits of the public sector in foreign currency with $149m (0.2%), and term deposits of the public sector in Lebanese pounds with LBP3.8tn (0.05%).

In parallel, demand deposits in all currencies at commercial banks stood at LBP3,909.2tn at the end of July 2026 compared to LBP3,913.5tn a year earlier, and accounted for 49.3% of aggregate deposits at end-July 2026 relative to 47.7% at end-July 2025. Demand deposits of non-residents increased by $182.8m in the first seven months of 2026, followed by a rise of $109.3m demand deposits in the non-resident financial sector, and a pick-up of $37.4m in the public sector's demand deposits in foreign currency. In contrast, foreign currency-denominated demand deposits of the resident private sector declined by $198m, followed by a decrease of LBP4,033.7bn in demand deposits in Lebanese pounds of the public sector and a contraction of LBP3,580.2bn in demand deposits in Lebanese pounds of the resident private sector in the covered period.

In comparison, demand deposits of non-residents rose by $317.7m in the 12 months ending July 2026, followed by a surge of LBP2,515.5bn in demand deposits in Lebanese pounds of the public sector, an increase of $20.6m in demand deposits of the non-resident financial sector, and a growth of LBP203.8bn in demand deposits in Lebanese pounds of the resident private sector. In contrast, foreign currency-denominated demand deposits of the resident private sector dropped by $198m from end-July 2025, followed by a decrease of $1.37m in the public sector's demand deposits in foreign currency

Also, demand deposits in foreign currency of the resident private sector totaled $32.1bn and accounted for 36.3% of aggregate deposits at end-July 2026, relative to 35.4% a year earlier. Demand deposits of non-residents followed with $9.5bn (10.7%), then demand deposits of the non-resident financial sector with $1.16bn (1.3%), demand deposits in Lebanese pounds of the resident private sector with LBP42tn (0.5%), demand deposits in foreign currency of the public sector with $355.2m (0.4%), and demand deposits in Lebanese pounds of the public sector with LBP10tn (0.1%).

Balance sheet of investment banks at LBP91.1 trillion at end-June 2026

Figures released by Banque du Liban (BdL) show that the consolidated balance sheet of investment banks in Lebanon reached LBP91.1 trillion (tn) at the end of June 2026, or the equivalent of $1.02bn, constituting a decrease of 1.1% from LBP92.2tn ($1.03bn) at end-2025 and an increase of 15% from LBP79.2tn ($884m) at end-June 2025. The figures reflect Banque du Liban's Basic Circular 167/13612 dated February 2, 2024 that asked banks and financial institutions to convert their assets and liabilities in foreign currencies to Lebanese pounds at the exchange rate of LBP89,500 per US dollar when preparing their financial positions starting on January 31, 2024.

On the assets side, claims on resident customers stood at LBP8.6tn ($96.2m) at the end of June 2026 and increased by 11% from LBP7.76tn ($86.7m) at the end of 2025 and by 44.2% from LBP5.97tn ($66.7m) a year earlier. Further, claims on resident customers in Lebanese pounds totaled LBP377.6bn at end-June 2026, constituting declines of 13% from LBP434.6bn at end-2025 and of 29% from LBP530.7bn at end-June 2025, while claims on resident customers in foreign currency amounted to LBP8.2tn ($92m) at end-June 2026 and grew by 12.4% in the first half of 2026 and by 51.3% from a year earlier. Also, claims on non-resident customers stood at LBP824.9bn ($9.2m) at the end of June 2026, as they increased by 2.2% from end-2025 and decreased by 3.8% from end-June 2025.

Further, claims on the resident financial sector reached LBP8.6tn ($96m) at end-June 2026, as they rose by 24.2% from LBP6.92tn ($77.3m) at end-2025 and by 2.2% from LBP8.4tn ($94m) a year earlier. Claims on the resident financial sector in Lebanese pounds amounted to LBP3.5tn at the end of June 2026 and surged by 70.4% from LBP2.07tn at end-2025 and by 6.8% from LBP3.3tn at end-June 2025; while claims on the resident financial sector in foreign currency totaled LBP5.07tn ($56.6m) at end-June 2026, increased by 4.5% from LBP4.85tn ($54.2m) at the end of the previous year and decreased by 0.8% from LBP5.1tn ($57.1m).

In addition, claims on the non-resident financial sector reached LBP6.1tn ($68.5m) at the end of June 2026 and decreased by 25.6% from LBP8.25tn ($92.1m) at end-2025 and by 19% from LBP7.6tn ($84.5m) at end-June 2025. Also, claims on the public sector stood at LBP3.6bn at end-June 2026 compared to LBP3.3bn at end-2025 and LBP36.4bn a year earlier; while the securities portfolio, which includes Lebanese Treasury bills and Eurobonds, amounted to LBP10.33tn, regressed by 1.7% from LBP10.5tn at the end of 2025 and increased by 0.5% from LBP10.28tn at end-June 2025. In parallel, currency and deposits with local and foreign central banks reached LBP35.3tn ($394.6m) at end-June compared to LBP36tn ($402.7m) at end-2025 and to LBP29.5tn ($330.2m) at end-June 2025.

On the liabilities side, deposits of resident customers stood at LBP28.15tn ($314.5m) at the end of June 2026, constituting a decrease of 4.3% from LBP29.4tn ($328.7m) at the end of 2025 and an increase of 2.2% from LBP27.5tn ($307.7m) at the end of June 2025. Deposits of resident customers in Lebanese pounds amounted to LBP3,121bn at end-June 2026 as they grew by 29% in the first half of the year and by 11% from a year earlier, while deposits of resident customers in foreign currency reached LBP25tn ($279.6m) at the end of June 2026, regressed by 7.3% from end-2025 and increased by 1.2% from end-June 2025. Also, deposits of non-resident customers totaled LBP9.06tn ($101.2m) at the end of June 2026, as they increased by 2% from LBP8.9tn ($99.3m) at the end of 2025 and by 15.7% from LBP7.8tn ($87.5m) a year earlier.

Further, liabilities to the resident financial sector amounted to LBP3.85tn ($43m) at end-June 2026 and declined by 18.7% from LBP4.7tn ($52.9m) at end-2025 and by 15% from LBP4.5tn ($50.6m) at end-June 2025. Liabilities to the resident financial sector in Lebanese pounds totaled LBP1,822bn at end-June 2026, as they decreased by 34.4% in the first half of 2026 and by 32.3% from a year earlier; while liabilities to the resident financial sector in foreign currency reached LBP2,024.2bn ($22.6m) at end-June 2026 and grew by 3.5% from LBP1,956.1bn ($21.9m) at end-2025 and by 10.4% from LBP1,834bn ($20.5m) at end-June 2025.

In addition, liabilities to the non-resident financial sector amounted to LBP12.1tn ($135.6m) at end-June 2026, increasing by 18.3% in the first half of 2026 and by 40% from a year earlier,;while public sector deposits totaled LBP220.2bn at the end of June 2026 relative to LBP446.4bn at the end of 2025 and to LBP1,314.4bn at end-June 2025. Further, the aggregate capital account of financial institutions stood at LBP24.6tn ($274.8m) at the end of June 2026 relative to LBP25.1tn ($280.9m) at the end of 2025 and to LBP20tn ($222.8m) at end-June 2025.

Banque du Liban extends deadline for banks' external liquidity ratio

Banque du Liban (BdL) issued Intermediate Circular 774/13843 dated September 14, 2026 addressed to banks and to their external auditors that modifies Article 3 of Basic Circular 154/13262 of August 27, 2020 about Exceptional Measures to Reactivate the Work of Banks Operating in Lebanon.

Article 1 mandated banks to place at an account at foreign correspondent banks the equivalent of 3% of the aggregate amount of their deposits in foreign currency as at June 30, 2026. It said that banks that cannot constitute or do not have the required amount have until the end of March 2027 to meet the external liquidity ratio. BdL stated that this circular goes into effect upon its issuance.

Previously, BdL issued Intermediate Circular 739/13741 dated August 14, 2025 that required banks to place at an account at foreign correspondent banks the equivalent of 3% of the aggregate amount of their deposits in foreign currency as at June 30, 2025. It extended until the end of June 2026 the deadline for banks to meet the external liquidity ratio.

Also, BdL issued Intermediate Circular 716/13678 dated November 21, 2024 that mandated banks to place at an account at foreign correspondent banks the equivalent of 3% of the aggregate amount of the bank's deposits in foreign currency as at July 31, 2024. It said that banks that cannot constitute or do not have the required amount have until the end of 2025 to meet the required external liquidity ratio. It added that banks can include in the calculation of the ratio the market value of their portfolio of Lebanese Treasury Eurobonds that are classified at Fair Value through Profit or Loss (FVTPL) and at Fair Value through other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI). It also authorized banks to include in the calculation of the external liquidity ratio their portfolio of sovereign bonds issued by the Group of 10 countries and bonds rated 'BBB' and higher that are issued by parties that have the same or equivalent rating, on the condition that the bonds are classified at FVTPL and at FVOCI.

BdL issued Basic Circular 154/13262 on August 27, 2020 addressed to banks and to their external auditors that details the exceptional measures that banks operating in Lebanon have to take. The circular stipulated, among other requirements, that each bank should have an account at a foreign correspondent bank by the end of February 2021, that is not subject to any obligations in foreign currency and that has funds that are equivalent to at least 3% of the aggregate amount of the bank's total deposits in foreign currency at end-July 2020. It added that banks can include in the calculation of the ratio the market value of their portfolio of Lebanese Treasury Eurobonds that are classified at FVTPL and at FVOCI.

BLOM Bank registers profits of LBP11.2 trillion in first half of 2026

BLOM Bank sal, one of Lebanon's listed banks on the Beirut Stock Exchange, declared unaudited net profits of LBP11,237bn in the first half of 2026 compared to unaudited net losses of LBP10,278.7bn in the same period of 2025. The bank's net interest income reached LBP8,905.8bn in the first half of 2026 relative to LBP12,257.8bn in the same period last year, while its net fees & commission income stood at LBP6,084.8bn compared to LBP5,652.6bn in the first half of 2025. Also, the bank's net operating income totaled LBP21,859bn in the first half of 2026 relative to operating expenses of LBP423.9bn in the same period of 2025. In parallel, the bank's total operating expenditures reached LBP9,850.6bn in the first half of 2026 compared to LBP9,042.7bn in the same period of the preceding year, with personnel cost accounting for 58.3% of the total in the covered period.

Also, the bank's aggregate assets amounted to LBP1,626.8 trillion (tn) at the end of June 2026 relative to LBP1,616.6tn at end-2025. The bank's cash and balances with central banks stood at LBP1,132.4tn at end-June 2026 relative to LBP1,44.4tn at end-2025; while its dues from banks and financial institutions amounted to LBP179,699.3bn compared to LBP150,914.3bn at end-2025. In addition, the bank's financial assets held at fair value through profits or losses totaled LBP59,176.4bn at end-June 2026 relative to LBP55,492.7bn at end-2025, and its assets taken in settlement of debt reached LBP6,872bn at end-June 2026 compared to LBP6,550.7bn at end-2025. Further, net loans & advances to customers totaled LBP97,111bn at end-June 2026 compared to LBP97,154.8bn at end-2025, while net loans & advances to related parties stood at LBP508.4bn at end-June 2026 relative to LBP555.8bn at end-2025.

In addition, customer deposits reached LBP1,435.4tn at the end of June 2026 compared to LBP1,439.6tn at end-2025, with deposits from related parties standing at LBP1,967.5bn at end-June 2026 relative to LBP1,837.7bn at end-2025. As a result, aggregate deposits totaled LBP1,437.4tn at end-June 2026 relative to LBP1,441.4tn at end-2025. Also, the bank's dues to central banks reached LBP5,313.3bn at end-June 2026 compared to LBP5,465.3bn at end-2025, while its due to banks and financial institutions stood at LBP12,184.3bn relative to LBP8,845.2bn at end-2025. Further, provisions for risks and charges amounted to LBP6,831.4bn at end-June 2026 compared to LBP6,934.1bn at end-2025, while other liabilities totaled LBP27,335.7bn relative to LBP27,132.6bn at end-2025. In parallel, the bank's shareholders' equity was LBP137.4tn at the end of June 2026 relative to LBP126.1tn at end-2025, while the bank's retained earnings stood at LBP12,537bn at end-June 2026 compared to LBP35,329.1bn at end-2025.

Import activity of top five shipping firms and freight forwarders up 7.5% in first five months of 2026

Figures released by the Port of Beirut show that the aggregate volume of imports by the top five shipping companies and freight forwarders through the port totaled 126,898 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in the first five months 2026, constituting an increase of 7.5% from 118,079 TEUs in the same period last year. The five shipping and freight forwarding firms accounted for 97% of imports to the Lebanese market in the covered period.

Merit Shipping handled 50,499 TEUs in the first five months 2026, equivalent to 38.6% of the total import freight market to Lebanon. Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) followed with 40,915 TEUs (31.3%), then Sealine Group with 28,687 TEUs (22%), Gezairi Transport with 4,945 TEUs (3.8%), and El Fil Shipping with 1,852 TEUs (1.4%). MSC registered a rise of 19.5% in imports in the first five months 2026, the highest growth rate among the covered companies, while El Fil Shipping posted a drop of 44%, the steepest decrease among the five firms year-on-year in the first five months 2026. Also, the import shipping operations of the top five firms through the port decreased by 8.6% in May 2026 from the preceding month and by 23.6% from May 2025.

In parallel, the aggregate volume of exports by the top five shipping and freight forwarding firms through the Port of Beirut reached 25,475 TEUs in the first five months 2026, constituting a decrease of 3.2% from 26,328 TEUs in the same period last year. The five companies accounted for 99% of exported Lebanese cargo in the first five months of 2026.

Merit Shipping handled 12,131 TEUs of freight in the first five months 2026, equivalent to 47% of the Lebanese cargo export market. Sealine Group followed with 7,352 TEUs (28.5%), then MSC with 4,580 TEUs (17.8%), Gezairi Transport with 920 TEUs (3.6%), and El Fil Shipping with 492 TEUs (2%). MSC posted a surge of 19.2% in exports in the first five months 2026, the highest growth rate among the covered companies, while Gezairi Transport registered a decrease of 40.5%, the steepest decline among the five firms year-on-year in the first five months 2026. The export-shipping operations of the top five companies increased by 11.5% in May 2026 from the previous month and decreased by 9% from May 2025.

MEARCO's assets at LBP1,359bn at end-2025

Middle East Assurance & Reinsurance Co (MEARCO) sal's audited balance sheet shows that the firm had total assets of LBP1,359.1bn at the end of 2025 compared to LBP1,308.8bn at the end of 2024. On the assets side, general company investments reached LBP795.4bn at the end of 2025 relative to LBP738.3bn a year earlier. They included LBP598.7bn in cash & cash equivalent, LBP76.4bn in land and real estate assets, and LBP66.4bn in variable securities. Further, the firm blocked LBP54bn in bank deposits with maturities of more than three months that include LBP19bn in favor of the Ministry of Economy & Trade as guarantees. Also, the reinsurance's share in technical reserves for the non-life category totaled LBP65.2bn at end-2025 and decreased by 44% from LBP116.2bn a year earlier. Further, the deferred cost of policies totaled LBP110.4bn at end-2025 relative to LBP83.6bn at end-2024.

On the liabilities side, technical reserves for the non-life segment stood at LBP748.3bn at end-2025 compared to LBP657bn a year earlier. Non-life technical reserves included outstanding claims reserves of LBP176bn that increased by 7.6%, unearned premium reserves of LBP471.2bn that grew by 6.7%, and LBP4.7bn in "reserves incurred but not reported" that surged by 683.4% year-on-year. Also, provisions for risks and charges reached LBP10bn at end-2025 compared to LBP4bn a year earlier. In addition, the firm's shareholders' equity stood at LBP458bn at end-2025 relative to LBP471.6bn a year earlier. Also, the insurer’s paid-in capital stood at LBP5.1bn at end-2025, unchanged from end-2024, and is equivalent to the subscribed capital. Further, the insurer declared net losses of LBP6.3bn in 2025 compared to net profits of LBP50.9bn in 2024, with retained earnings of LBP216.8bn at end-2025 relative to retained incomes of LBP166bn at end-2024.

In parallel, figures released by the Insurance Control Commission (ICC) indicate that MEARCO's gross written premiums totaled LBP1,141.9bn, or $12.8m in 2025, with motor premiums reaching LBP502.5bn and accounting for 44% of the total, followed by health premiums with LBP362.4bn (31.7%), and property & casualty premiums with LBP277bn (24.3%). Further, the ICC figures show that the insurer ranked in 20th place in terms of non-life premiums. Further, the ICC figures show that the insurer had a 1% share of the local insurance market in 2025, with a 1.1% share of the local non-life insurance market.

Ratio Highlights

(in % unless specified)	2023	2024	2025	Change*
Nominal GDP ($bn)	25.9	30.5	36.1	5.6
Gross Public Debt / GDP	246.2	215.0	191.9	(23.1)
Trade Balance / GDP	-56.01	-46.55	-48.30	(1.8)
Exports / Imports	17.1	16.0	17.3	1.3
Fiscal Revenues / GDP	12.0	12.8	17.9	5.1
Fiscal Expenditures / GDP	13.6	12.6	14.8	2.2
Fiscal Balance / GDP	(1.6)	0.1	3.1	3.0
Primary Balance / GDP	(1.0)	1.4	3.7	2.3
Gross Foreign Currency Reserves / M2	143.5	689.4	461.7	(227.7)
M3 / GDP	51.7	227.2	185.8	(41.4)
Commercial Banks Assets / GDP	76.6	338.4	282.5	(55.8)
Private Sector Deposits / GDP	62.9	290.8	240.8	(50.0)
Private Sector Loans / GDP	5.5	19.5	14.4	(5.1)
Private Sector Deposits Dollarization	96.3	99.1	98.9	(0.2)
Private Sector Lending Dollarization	90.9	97.8	97.8	0.0

**change in percentage points 25/24;*

Source: National Accounts, Banque du Liban, Ministry of Finance, Institute of International Finance, International Monetary Fund, Byblos Research Estimates & Calculations

Note: M2 includes money in circulation and deposits in LBP, M3 includes M2 plus Deposits in FC and bonds

National Accounts, Prices and Exchange Rates

	2023	2024	2025e
Nominal GDP (LBP trillion)	2,257.8	2,728.4	3,241.0
Nominal GDP (US$ bn)	25.9	30.5	36.1
Real GDP growth, % change	-0.5	-5.2	3.7
Private consumption	3.50	0.30	2.4
Public consumption	-1.00	4.10	11.4
Private fixed capital	-18.60	-10.20	-4.0
Public fixed capital	81.0	35.4	23.1
Exports of goods and services	-4.2	-14.5	-3.6
Imports of goods and services	3.1	0.0	6.4
Consumer prices, %, average	221.3	45.2	14.6
Official exchange rate, average, LBP/US$	15,000	89,500	89,500
Parallel exchange rate, average, LBP/US$	86,362	89,700	89,700
Weighted average exchange rate LBP/US$	87,043	89,474	89,700

Source: National Accounts, Institute of International Finance

Ratings & Outlook

Sovereign Ratings	Foreign Currency			Local Currency		
	LT	ST	Outlook	LT	ST	Outlook
Moody's Ratings	C	NP	Stable	C	-	Stable
Fitch Ratings*	RD	C	-	RD	RD	-
S&P Global Ratings	SD	SD	-	CCC+	C	Stable

**Fitch withdrew the ratings on July 23, 2024*

Banking Sector Ratings	Outlook
Moody's Ratings	Negative

Source: Moody's Ratings

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