

Bilaeral relations with Lebanon

Main Country Indicators 2013

	Lebanon	EU28
Total area (in km2)	10.450	4.385.992
Population (million)	4,5	506,7
Population density (per km2)	436,6	120
GDP (current US \$)	42,3 billion	17,3 trillion
GDP per capita (current US \$)	9.928	34.240
GDP growth (% change with previous year)	0,9	0,1

Sources: Eurostat, World Bank

Economic importance of agriculture (2011)

	Lebanon	EU28
Agricultural land (km2)	6.380	1.878.817
Agricultural land as proportion of land area (%)	62,4	44,3
Arable land as % of land area	10,9	25,6
Permanent cropland (% of land area)	12,3	2,8
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	6,3 **	5 *
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP)	7,2 ***	1,6 *

Sources: World Bank

* year 2012

** year 2009

*** year 2013

Agriculture in Lebanon

Arable land is scarce, but the climate and the relatively abundant water supply from springs favour the intensive cultivation of a variety of crops on mountain slopes and in the coastal region. On the irrigated coastal plain, market vegetables, bananas, and citrus crops are grown. In the foothills the principal crops are olives, grapes, tobacco, figs, and almonds. At higher elevations (about 460 meters), peaches, apricots, plums, and cherries are planted, while apples and pears thrive at an elevation of about 3,000 feet (900

meters). Sugar beets, cereals, and vegetables are the main crops cultivated in Al-Biqā'. Poultry is a major source of agricultural income, and goats, sheep, and cattle are also raised.

Eu- Lebanon Relations

The EU seeks to help Lebanon develop into a stable, democratic, politically open and economically strong neighbour. Bilateral relations are based on the EU-Lebanon Association Agreement (link to: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2006.143.01.0001.01.ENG) in force since 2003, establishing a framework for political dialogue, enhancing trade and promoting cooperation in economic and social fields. The current EU-Lebanon Action Plan transforms these objectives into detailed actions, for the period 2013-2015. Progress in achieving the Action Plan objectives is annually assessed by the ENP Progress Reports.

As a result of the Association Agreements, Lebanese industrial as well as most agricultural products benefit from free access to the EU market.

Bilateral trade between the EU and Lebanon has been increasing steadily over the past years, with an average annual growth of 12.7% since 2008, with a total trade amounting to €7 billion in 2012. In 2012 the EU ranked as the first trading partner for Lebanon, covering almost 27 % of Lebanese trade.

Trade Statistics

EU28 **exports** of agricultural products to Lebanon (2013): €933 million

EU28 **imports** of agricultural products from Lebanon (2013): €75 million

>> More statistical information (link to: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/lebanon_en.pdf)