

CCI Entrepreneurial Ecosystem for Youth and Women Lebanon

Coordinated by EMEA

Co-funded by the EU



Country Overview



Total Population
5,353,930 in 2023

Source: World Development Indicators (WB)



GDP per Capita
4136 USD in 2021

Source: World Development Indicators (WB)



Global Innovation Rank
NA/132 in 2022

Source: <https://www.globalinnovationindex.org/Home>



Global Competitiveness Rank
84/133 in 2022

Source: World Economic Forum
(<https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-global-competitiveness-report-2020/>)

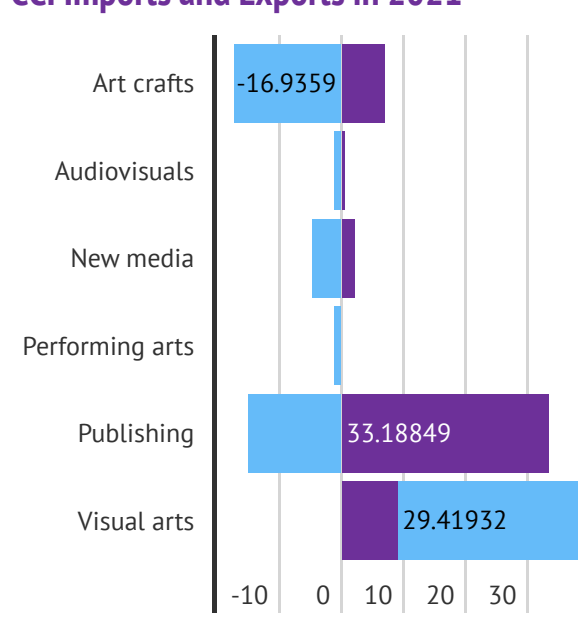
Age distribution of the country



Source: World Development Indicator (WB)

● 0-14 ● 15-64 ● 64+

CCI Imports and Exports in 2021



● Exports: 509M\$ ● Imports: 246M\$



Total CCI exports: 2.81% GDP



Total CCI imports: 1.36% GDP

Source: UNCTAD- Creative Economy Outlook 2022

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem



Multiple crises since 2020
creating a difficult environment
for MSMEs to survive



36% of MSMEs are facing credit constraints in 2017

Source: International Finance Corporation (WB)
<https://www.smeffinanceforum.org/data-sites/msme-finance-gap>



MSME Finance Gap 12% of GDP in 2017

Source: IFC (WB)



Global Entrepreneurship Index (GEI) 59/137 in 2019

Source: <http://thegedi.org/global-entrepreneurship-and-development-index/>



Young Entrepreneurs

30% of 25-34 year-olds in Lebanon were starting or running a new business, compared to 17% of the same age group in Turkey (GEM, 2018)



Entrepreneurial Intention

Nearly one in four adults in Lebanon in 2018 was either starting or running a new business, 4th highest of the 48 countries participating in the GEM Adult Population Survey (GEM, 2018)



Women Entrepreneurs

Highest level of women-led start-ups in the MENA region. More than one in six women in Lebanon were starting or running a new business, however, men are twice as likely to start a business (GEM, 2018)



Necessity-Driven or Opportunity Seeker

Nearly two-thirds of those starting a new business claimed to be seizing a business opportunity, just one third claiming to be driven by necessity (GEM, 2018)



Women Empowerment



Global Gender Gap Rank
119/146 in 2022

Source: <https://www.weforum.org/reports/global-gender-gap-report-2022/>



Gender Inequality Rank
108/170 in 2021

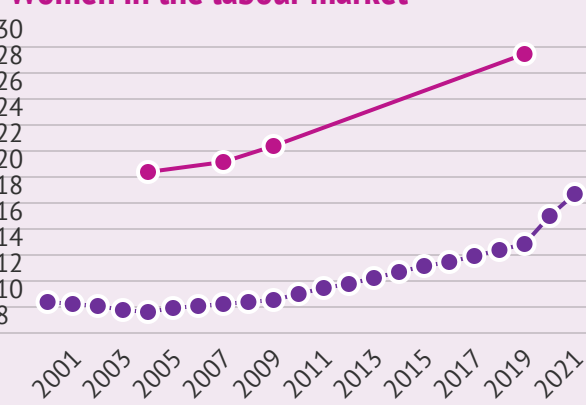
Source: <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/thematic-composite-indices/gender-inequality-index>



21.2% of Women in managerial positions in 2019

Source: ILOSTAT

Women in the labour market



Source: ILOSTAT

● Female unemployment rate

● Female labour force participation rate



16% of MSMEs are owned by women
22% suffer from credit constraints in 2017

Source: IFC (WB)



16.6% of adult women have an account in a financial institution in 2021

Source: World Development Indicators (WB)



Youth Empowerment



Youth Progress Rank
92/163 in 2020

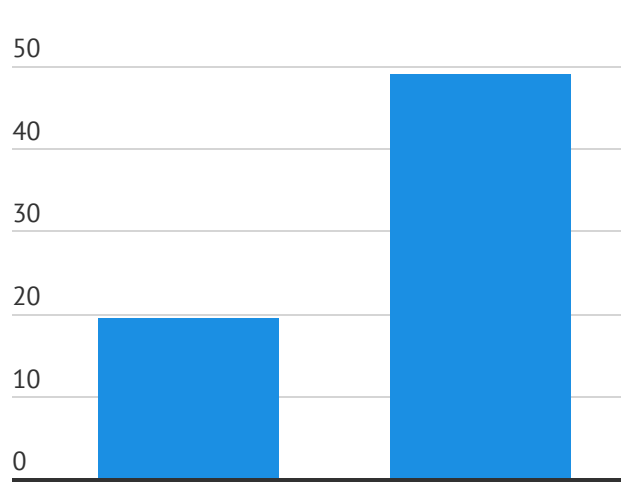
Source: <https://youthprogressindex.org/>



Share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET): 23.5 in 2019

Source: ILOSTAT

Youth in the labour market (2019)



Source: ILOSTAT



Lebanon is suffering from high migration, notably youth brain drain
Net migration 115.122 in 2021

Source: World Development Indicators (WB)

Lebanon's cultural and creative industries have the potential to become a key driver of economic growth and job creation. The country boasts a diverse and dynamic arts scene, with a rich heritage of music, film, and literature. Additionally, the fashion and design sectors are rapidly growing, with Lebanese designers gaining international recognition. By investing in these industries, Lebanon can leverage its cultural assets to create new opportunities for entrepreneurship and innovation, while providing much-needed employment opportunities for its youth and women, even in its current difficult macroeconomic context.

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