CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

FACTS AND FIGURES:

- The Lebanese chemical industry is one of the most diversified sectors in the country. There are around **110 different items produced in this sector**, including basic chemicals, soaps and detergents, cosmetics, plastic, rubber, oil refining, and paints and varnishes.
- **7th largest national industrial sector** in terms of contribution to GDP, accounting for **LBP 465 billion in 2013**.
- In 2015, there are around **366 factories** with 8 employees and above operating in this sector, accounting for around **9% of total industrial firms** in the country.
- In 2015**,** 80% of all companies in the chemical sector had activities in the plastics industry 29% of them in the perfumery industry ,and 26% in the paints industry.
- Exports of chemical products accounted for **14% of total Lebanese industrial exports** in 2015, placing it in third place in terms of the most exported industrial products.
- Lebanon is a **net exporter of inorganic chemicals and of fertilizers**. In 2015, inorganic chemicals accounted for 2% of Lebanon's total exports, and fertilizers accounted for 3% of total exports. For other sub-sectors, the balance of trade is negative.
- In 2015, Lebanon's chemical exports are constituted primarily **of essential oils, resinoids, cosmetics and toilet preparations,** which account for **27% of total exports of chemical products**.
- In 2015, Lebanon's chemical imports are constituted primarily of **plastics and articles thereof**, which account for **40% of total imports of chemical product**.

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES:

- Access to new technologies.
- Various government initiatives and incentives to boost the sector (LIRA, ELCIM, IDAL, …).
- Multiple trade agreements, namely with Arab countries.
- Highly skilled university graduates and laboratory workforce: there are about ten universities that offer graduate and undergraduate programs in Chemistry. A number of those have R&D facilities, exchanging knowledge with the private sector, and transferring vital skills.
- Strong export potential.