

Foreign Trade Report 2020

Trade Balance

According to the statistics of the General Directorate of Customs, the value of Lebanese imports in 2020 amounted to about 11.3 billion dollars, and the value of exports amounted to 3.5 billion dollars. Thus the deficit in the trade balance was 7.8 billion dollars, a decrease of 50 percent compared to 2019, when the trade balance deficit amounted to 15.5 billion dollars.

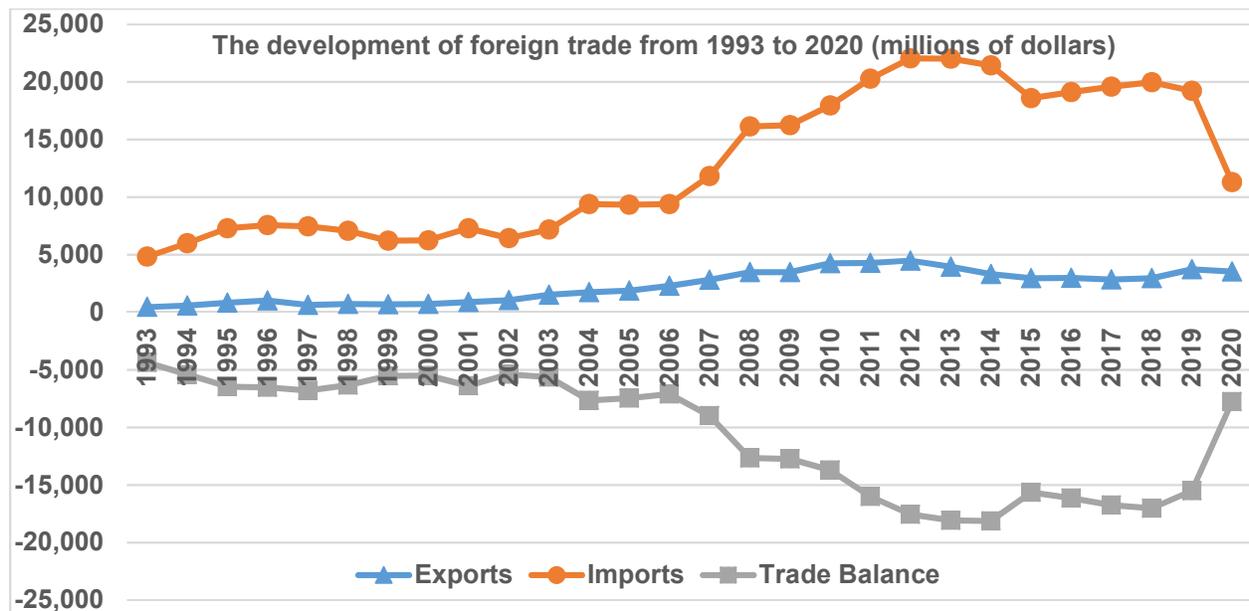


Table 1 The development of foreign trade from 1993 to 2020

millions of dollars				
Year	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance	Coverage Ratio %
1993	452	4,821	-4,369	9.38%
1994	572	5,990	-5,418	9.55%
1995	825	7,287	-6,462	11.32%
1996	1,017	7,554	-6,537	13.46%
1997	642	7,455	-6,813	8.61%

1998	716	7,060	-6,344	10.14%
1999	677	6,207	-5,530	10.90%
2000	714	6,228	-5,514	11.47%
2001	889	7,291	-6,402	12.20%
2002	1,045	6,445	-5,399	16.22%
2003	1,524	7,168	-5,644	21.26%
2004	1,747	9,397	-7,650	18.59%
2005	1,880	9,340	-7,460	20.13%
2006	2,283	9,398	-7,115	24.29%
2007	2,816	11,815	-8,999	23.83%
2008	3,478	16,137	-12,659	21.55%
2009	3,484	16,242	-12,758	21.45%
2010	4,253	17,964	-13,711	23.68%
2011	4,265	20,276	-16,011	21.03%
2012	4,483	22,037	-17,554	20.34%
2013	3,936	22,020	-18,084	17.87%
2014	3,313	21,437	-18,124	15.45%
2015	2,952	18,595	-15,643	15.88%
2016	2,977	19,119	-16,142	15.57%
2017	2,844	19,582	-16,738	14.52%
2018	2,952	19,980	-17,028	14.77%
2019	3,731	19,239	-15,508	19.39%
2020	3,544	11,310	-7,766	31.34%

Source of figures: Lebanese customs, Preparation of tables and graphs: Center for Economic Research

The most important export market

The value of exports decreased by 5 percent. The foreign trade coverage ratio of exports to imports increased to 31.3 percent in 2020 compared to 19.4 percent in 2019.

Switzerland ranked first on the list of the most important Lebanese export markets in 2020, accounting for 30 percent of total exports, followed by the UAE having 13 percent, then by Saudi Arabia having 6 percent, then by Syria having 4 percent, and then by Iraq having 4 percent.

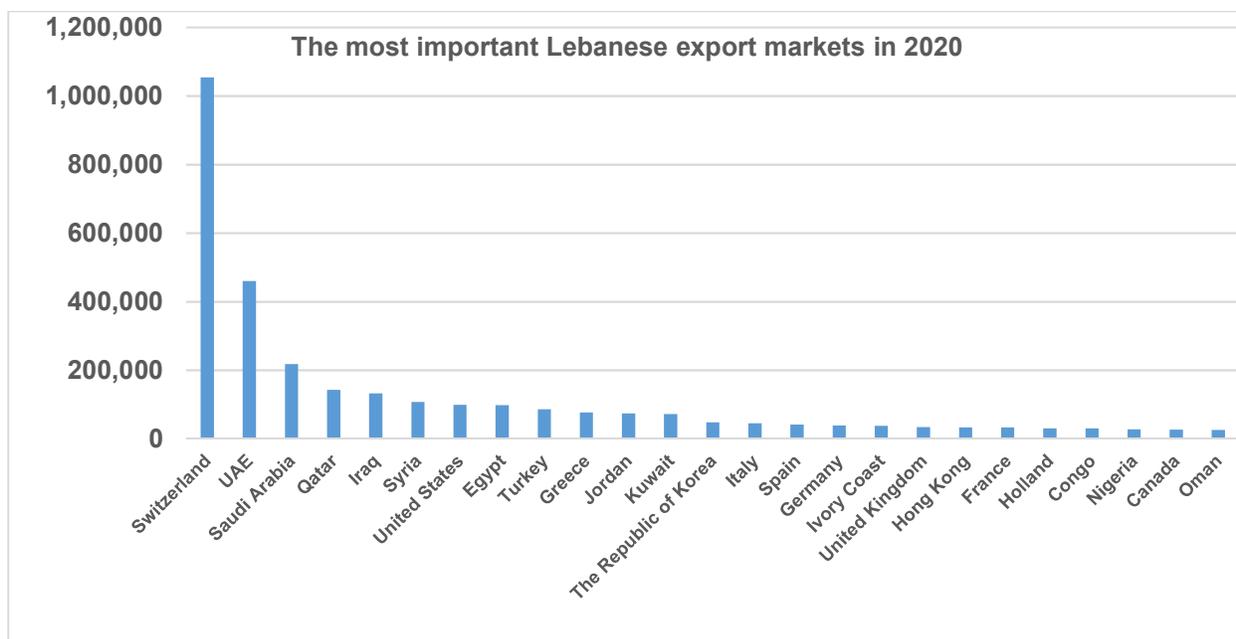


Table 2 The most important Lebanese export markets in 2019 and 2020

Rank	The most important Lebanese export markets in 2019	Value (thousand \$)	Percentage (%)	The most important Lebanese export markets in 2020	Value (thousand \$)	Percentage (%)
1	Switzerland	1,061,805	28.5%	Switzerland	1,054,023	30%
2	UAE	438,607	11.8%	UAE	460,306	13%
3	Saudi Arabia	245,983	6.6%	Saudi Arabia	217,710	6%
4	Syria	190,020	5.1%	Qatar	142,250	4%
5	Iraq	146,214	3.9%	Iraq	132,566	4%
6	Qatar	128,027	3.4%	Syria	107,452	3%
7	Jordan	89,171	2.4%	United States	98,709	3%
8	Egypt	78,098	2.1%	Egypt	97,597	3%
9	United States	69,346	1.9%	Turkey	85,915	2%
10	South Africa	68,725	1.8%	Greece	76,775	2%
11	Kuwait	67,659	1.8%	Jordan	73,787	2%
12	Greece	63,332	1.7%	Kuwait	71,624	2%
13	Turkey	61,119	1.6%	The Republic of Korea	47,846	1%
14	France	52,602	1.4%	Italy	44,961	1%
15	The Republic of Korea	47,160	1.3%	Spain	41,616	1%
16	Germany	44,719	1.2%	Germany	38,199	1%
17	Hong Kong	44,162	1.2%	Ivory Coast	37,582	1%

18	Spain	42,358	1.1%	United Kingdom	33,489	1%
19	Congo	37,740	1.0%	Hong Kong	33,128	1%
20	United Kingdom	36,178	1.0%	France	32,857	1%
21	Oman	34,452	0.9%	Holland	30,423	1%
22	Bangladesh	33,897	0.9%	Congo	30,049	1%
23	Ivory Coast	33,602	0.9%	Nigeria	27,332	1%
24	Algeria	31,124	0.8%	Canada	26,850	1%
25	Italy	30,831	0.8%	Oman	25,106	1%
	Other countries	554,419	15%	Other countries	476,343	13%
	Total	3,731,350	100%	Total	3,544,495	100%

The most important import sources

The value of imports decreased in 2020 compared to 2019 by 41.2 percent, reaching \$11.3 billion in 2020 and \$19.2 billion in 2019.

The United States topped the list of Lebanese import sources in 2020 having 8 percent of total imports, followed by China having 8 percent, then by Greece having 7 percent, then by the Russian Federation having 7 percent, and then Italy having 6 percent .

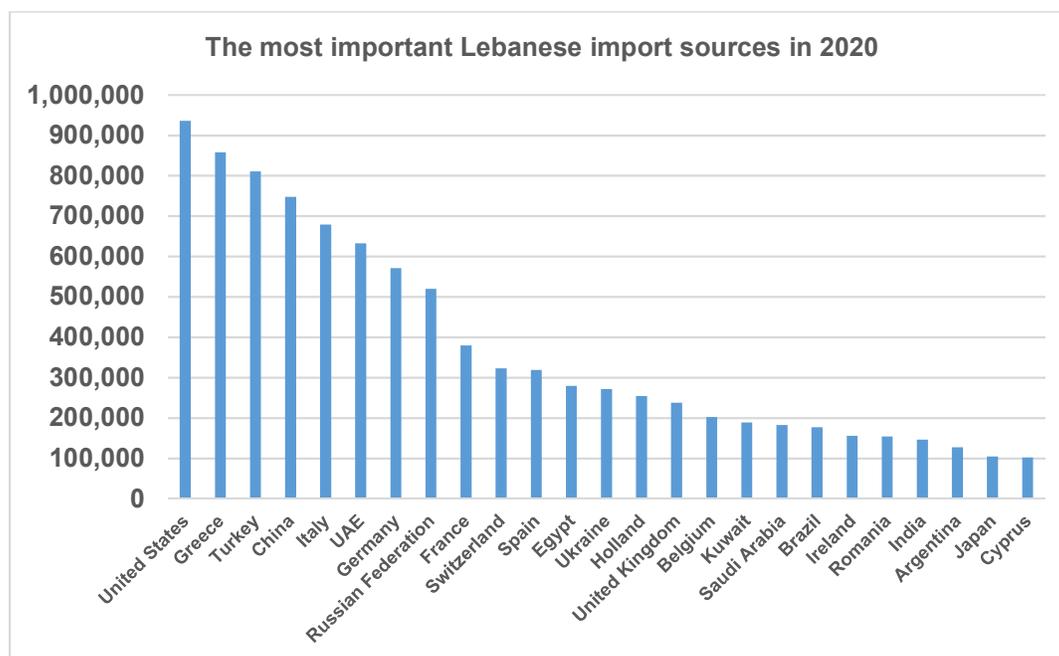


Table 3 The most important sources of Lebanese import in 2019 and 2020

Rank	The most important sources of Lebanese import in 2019	Value (thousand \$)	Percentage (%)	The most important sources of Lebanese import in 2020	Value (thousand \$)	Percentage (%)
1	United States	1,704,725	9%	United States	936,127	8%
2	China	1,626,506	8%	Greece	857,619	8%
3	Greece	1,400,755	7%	Turkey	810,919	7%
4	Russian Federation	1,343,868	7%	China	747,597	7%
5	Italy	1,326,215	7%	Italy	678,867	6%
6	Germany	953,825	5%	UAE	632,406	6%
7	Turkey	939,616	5%	Germany	570,776	5%
8	France	769,308	4%	Russian Federation	519,629	5%
9	UAE	563,545	3%	France	379,827	3%
10	Kuwait	556,564	3%	Switzerland	323,198	3%
11	Spain	535,017	3%	Spain	319,199	3%
12	Belgium	459,011	2%	Egypt	279,718	2%
13	United Kingdom	452,253	2%	Ukraine	271,575	2%
14	Egypt	408,407	2%	Holland	253,976	2%
15	Saudi Arabia	344,277	2%	United Kingdom	237,989	2%
16	India	337,468	2%	Belgium	202,387	2%
17	Switzerland	314,980	2%	Kuwait	189,060	2%
18	Brazil	309,957	2%	Saudi Arabia	182,598	2%
19	Romania	305,552	2%	Brazil	177,072	2%
20	Japan	288,469	1%	Ireland	156,002	1%
21	Ukraine	287,845	1%	Romania	153,996	1%
22	Holland	287,102	1%	India	146,776	1%
23	Jordan	208,485	1%	Argentina	127,529	1%
24	Ireland	167,798	1%	Japan	104,985	1%
25	Thailand	159,587	1%	Cyprus	102,290	1%
	Other countries	3,188,259	17%	Other countries	1,947,616	17%
	Total	19,239,394	100%	Total	11,309,733	100%

The most important exported goods

The most important goods exported by Lebanon in 2020 were jewelry accounting to 40% of total exports, machinery and equipment having 6%, vegetable and fruit preparations having 4%, fruits and citrus fruits having 3%, and machinery and electrical appliances having 3%.

Table 4 The most important Lebanese exports in 2019 and 2020

Customs chapter	The most important Lebanese exports in 2019	value (thousand dollars)	(%)	Customs chapter	The most important Lebanese exports in 2020	value (thousand dollars)	(%)
71	Jewelry	1,454,914	39%	71	Jewelry	1,409,841	40%
84	Machines, devices and machine tools	216,797	6%	84	Machines, devices and machine tools	195,339	6%
85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts	164,750	4%	20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts	129,208	4%
39	Plastics and articles thereof	149,731	4%	8	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit	120,293	3%
33	Oils, perfumes and cosmetics	126,574	3%	85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts	116,426	3%
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts	118,492	3%	33	Oils, perfumes and cosmetics	108,930	3%
49	Publishing and press products	74,736	2%	39	Plastics and articles thereof	101,119	3%
72	iron and steel	72,277	2%	72	iron and steel	90,304	3%
8	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit	71,821	2%	74	Copper and articles thereof	72,758	2%
48	Paper and cardboard and articles thereof	69,282	2%	22	Drinks, alcoholic liquids and vinegar	65,199	2%
74	Copper and articles thereof	66,908	2%	76	Aluminum and articles thereof	60,002	2%
22	Drinks, alcoholic liquids and vinegar	59,342	2%	28	Inorganic chemical products	53,981	2%
94	furniture	59,172	2%	48	Paper and cardboard and articles thereof	53,449	2%
76	Aluminum and articles thereof	58,956	2%	15	Animal or vegetable fats and oils	52,280	1%
15	Animal or vegetable fats and oils	58,499	2%	94	furniture	51,735	1%
30	pharmacy products	57,878	2%	30	pharmacy products	47,800	1%
31	Fertilizers	54,818	1%	19	Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk	44,136	1%
27	Mineral fuels and mineral oils	54,258	1%	78	Lead and articles thereof	44,038	1%
78	Lead and articles thereof	52,290	1%	7	Vegetables, plants, roots and tubers	43,759	1%

28	Inorganic chemical products	47,353	1%	21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	40,084	1%
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	45,780	1%	49	Publishing and press products	37,960	1%
32	Extracts for tanning and dyeing	44,236	1%	32	Extracts for tanning and dyeing	37,350	1%
19	Grain or flour preparations	41,246	1%	9	coffee and tea	36,243	1%
7	Vegetables, plants, roots and tubers	40,982	1%	87	Automobiles, tractors, bicycles	34,911	1%
9	coffee and tea	36,713	1%	1	live animals	32,513	1%
	other goods	433,545	12%		other goods	464,837	13%
	Total	3,731,350	100%		Total	3,544,495	100%

Based on Lebanese customs statistics

The most important imported goods

Imports of oil derivatives accounted for about 28 percent of the total Lebanese imports in 2020, followed by pharmaceutical products having 10 percent, then by jewelry having 8 percent, then by devices and machine tools having 5 percent, and then by cars and bicycles having 4 percent.

Table 5 The most important Lebanese imports in 2019 and 2020

Customs chapter	The most important Lebanese imports in 2019	value (thousand dollars)	(%)	Customs chapter	The most important Lebanese imports in 2020	value (thousand dollars)	(%)
27	Mineral fuels and mineral oils	6,534,231	34%	27	Mineral fuels and mineral oils	3,187,667	28%
30	pharmacy products	1,242,451	6%	30	pharmacy products	1,184,268	10%
87	Automobiles, tractors, bicycles	1,110,963	6%	71	Jewelry	894,096	8%
71	Jewelry	931,390	5%	84	Machines, devices and machine tools	596,063	5%
84	Machines, devices and machine tools	922,770	5%	87	Automobiles, tractors, bicycles	431,299	4%
85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts	742,136	4%	10	Cereals	354,660	3%
39	Plastics and articles thereof	530,464	3%	1	live animals	336,124	3%
72	iron and steel	404,012	2%	39	Plastics and articles thereof	305,541	3%
1	live animals	317,096	2%	85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts	301,276	3%
10	Cereals	311,828	2%	72	iron and steel	187,456	2%
4	Dairy products, eggs and honey	299,074	2%	90	Optical or imaging equipment	182,037	2%
90	Optical or imaging equipment	296,606	2%	19	Grain or flour preparations	166,712	1%
19	Grain or flour preparations	265,902	1%	4	Dairy products, eggs and honey	159,293	1%

62	Un-knitted clothes	241,370	1%	12	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	143,195	1%
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	222,509	1%	38	Various chemical products	136,258	1%
33	Oils, perfumes and cosmetics	217,504	1%	48	Paper and cardboard and articles thereof	135,652	1%
48	Paper and cardboard and articles thereof	217,147	1%	21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	128,667	1%
94	furniture	184,820	1%	15	Animal or vegetable fats and oils	126,724	1%
61	Knitted clothing	173,096	1%	7	Vegetables, plants, roots and tubers	112,545	1%
44	Wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal	171,573	1%	33	Oils, perfumes and cosmetics	110,641	1%
12	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	169,802	1%	17	Sugar and sugar products	108,319	1%
8	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit	164,107	1%	23	Food leftovers and waste	101,093	1%
38	Various chemical products	155,599	1%	2	Meat, offal and edible offal	88,242	1%
73	Articles of iron and steel	148,006	1%	62	Un-knitted clothes	79,213	1%
69	Ceramic products	145,589	1%	9	coffee and tea	75,294	1%
	other goods	3,119,349	16%		other goods	1,677,398	15%
	Total	19,239,394	100%		Total	11,309,733	100%

Based on Lebanese customs statistics

Distribution of exports and imports to international groups

At the level of international groups, Arab countries accounted for 40 percent of the total value of Lebanese exports in 2020, followed by European countries from outside the European Union having 30 percent, then by European Union countries having 11 percent, and then by African countries having 7 percent.

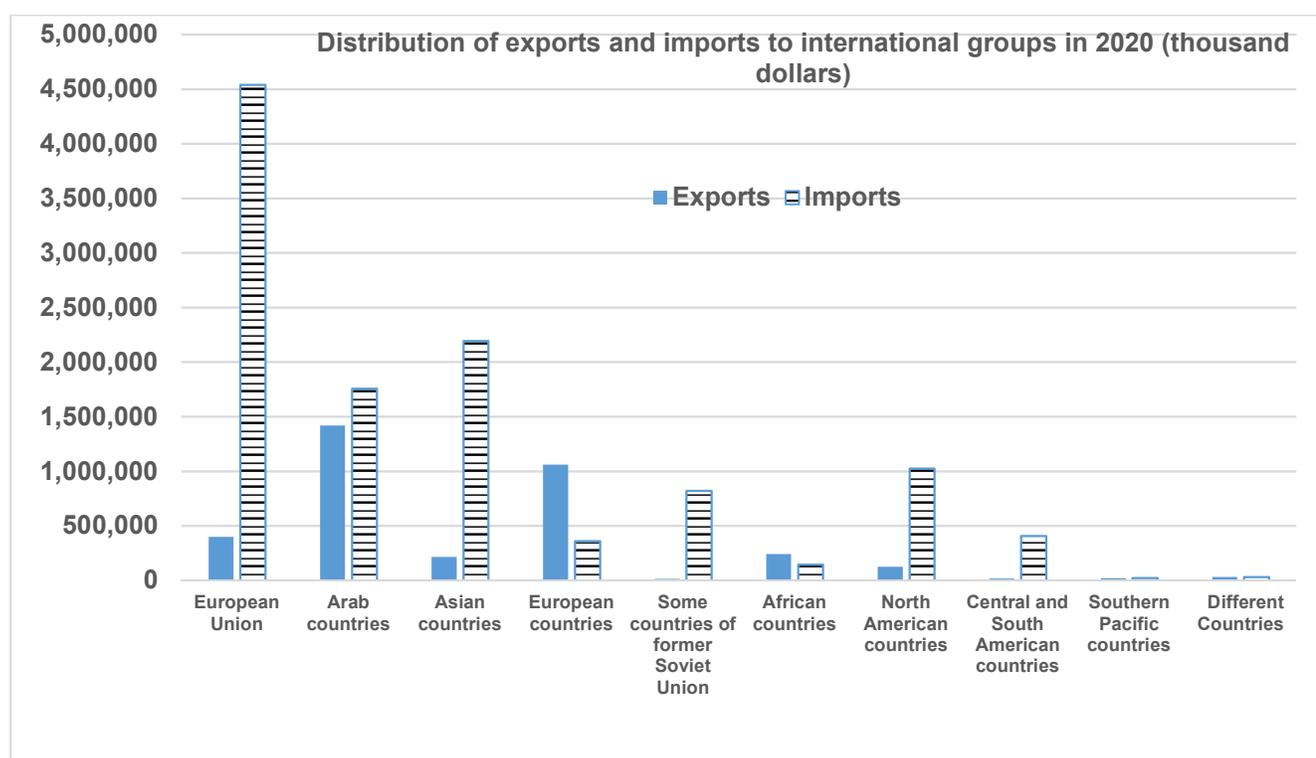
In terms of imports, European Union countries accounted for 40 percent of the total value of Lebanese imports in 2020, followed by Asian countries having 19 percent, then by Arab countries having 16 percent, then by North American countries having 9 percent, and then by some countries of the former Soviet Union having 7 percent.

Table 6 Distribution of exports and imports to international groups in 2020

International groups 2020	Thousand dollars				
	Exports	Percentage%	Imports	Percentage%	Trade Balance
European Union	399,396	11%	4,540,899	40%	-4,141,503
Arab countries	1,417,694	40%	1,757,042	16%	-339,348
Asian countries	215,348	6%	2,193,800	19%	-1,978,452

European countries	1,060,536	30%	362,263	3%	698,273
Some countries of the former Soviet Union	14,282	0%	821,797	7%	-807,515
African countries	242,320	7%	146,354	1%	95,966
North American countries	125,928	4%	1,025,844	9%	-899,916
Central and South American countries	16,877	0%	407,248	4%	-390,371
Southern Pacific countries	21,025	1%	22,707	0%	-1,682
Different Countries	31,089	1%	31,779	0%	-690
Total	3,544,495	100%	11,309,733	100%	-7,765,238

Based on Lebanese customs statistics



Commercial Crossings

In the period between the years 2011–2020, the weight that border crossings represented in the movement of trade exchange changed, due to the repercussions of the Syrian crisis and the closure of the borders with Jordan.

Table 7 The evolution of imports across the border crossings

Thousand dollars						
	2011	%	2015	%	2020	%
Postal Parcel	301	0%	327	0%	0	0%
Al Kaa	2,500	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Tyre	16,475	0%	14,275	0%	4,896	0%
Sidon	405,172	2%	391,421	2%	343,638	3%
Tripoli	1,192,742	6%	1,009,673	5%	889,574	8%
Al Aboudieh	185,743	1%	22,399	0%	21,041	0%
Al Arida	13,236	0%	57,854	0%	23,430	0%
Beirut Port	13,030,343	64%	13,545,471	73%	7,046,017	62%
Al Masnaa	995,189	5%	133,991	1%	124,984	1%
Airport	4,434,254	22%	3,419,246	18%	2,856,153	25%
Total	20,275,957	100%	18,594,657	100%	11,309,733	100%

In terms of imports, Beirut Port recorded 64 percent of imports in 2011, this percentage rose to 73 percent in 2015 and then fell to 62 percent in 2020. This percentage declined through the airport from 22 % in 2011 to 18 % in 2015 then increased to 25 % in 2020. It declined through Masnaa from 5% in 2011 to 1% in 2015 and 2020.

Table 8 Evolution of exports across the border crossings

Thousand dollars						
	2011	%	2015	%	2020	%
Al Kaa	2,675	0%	0	0%	0	0%
National Cement Plant	7,672	0%	1,101	0%	0	0%
Tyre	21	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Sidon	24,577	1%	14,591	0%	55,858	2%
Tripoli	302,491	7%	257,334	9%	180,684	5%
Al Aboudieh	244,527	6%	90,501	3%	10,112	0%
Al Arida	9,532	0%	59,313	2%	23,273	1%
Beirut Port	1,160,920	27%	1,531,647	52%	1,420,044	40%
Al Masnaa	668,821	16%	182,377	6%	164,879	5%
Airport	1,844,025	43%	815,097	28%	1,689,646	48%
Holcim Lebanon	197	0%	450	0%	0	0%
Total	4,265,459	100%	2,952,411	100%	3,544,495	100%

Lebanon exported through Beirut port 27 percent of Lebanese exports in 2011.

This percentage increased to 52 percent in 2015, and then decreased to 40 percent in 2020. It

increased through the port of Tripoli from 7 to 9 percent, and then decreased to 5 percent. While exports through the airport decreased from 43 to 28 percent and then increased to 48 percent. Exports decreased through Masnaa from 16 to 6 and then 5 percent.

Development of the most important Lebanese exports and its foreign markets

The value of exports increased in 2020 compared to 2016 by 19 percent. The reason behind this is the increase in the value of jewelry exports by 70 percent. Also the value of machinery and machine tools exports increased by 15 percent, the value of vegetable and fruit preparations exports increased by 19 percent, the value of fruits and citrus exports increased by 64 percent, and the value of iron and steel exports increased by 69 percent.

On the other hand, there was a decline in the value of electrical appliances exports by 29 percent, the value of perfumes and cosmetics exports by 12 percent, the value of plastics and its products exports by 22 percent, the value of paper and cardboard exports and their products by 11 percent, and the value of furniture exports by 24 percent.

Table 9 The evolution of the most important Lebanese exports

Customs chapter	Thousand dollars	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	Change 2016/2020 %
71	Jewelry	1,409,841	1,454,914	648,046	586,001	828,343	70%
84	Machines, devices and machine tools	195,339	216,797	151,500	141,761	169,932	15%
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts	129,208	118,492	104,654	108,265	108,524	19%
8	Fruits, nuts and citrus fruits	120,293	71,821	77,922	66,033	73,467	64%
85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts	116,426	164,750	170,120	175,210	163,659	-29%
33	Oils, perfumes and cosmetics	108,930	126,574	121,687	124,831	123,637	-12%
39	Plastics and articles thereof	101,119	149,731	177,084	147,172	130,309	-22%
72	Iron and steel	90,304	72,277	123,242	104,417	53,339	69%
74	Copper and articles thereof	72,758	66,908	93,753	83,082	72,541	0%
22	Drinks, alcoholic liquids and vinegar	65,199	59,342	59,438	60,020	63,253	3%
76	Aluminum and articles thereof	60,002	58,956	62,612	58,454	49,183	22%
28	Inorganic chemical products	53,981	47,353	36,242	17,750	20,236	167%
48	Paper and cardboard and articles thereof	53,449	69,282	72,609	68,203	60,070	-11%

15	Animal or vegetable fats and oils	52,280	58,499	54,769	35,938	39,338	33%
94	furniture	51,735	59,172	62,688	59,541	68,038	-24%
30	pharmacy products	47,800	57,878	56,904	52,483	53,983	-11%
19	Grain or flour preparations	44,136	41,246	49,965	43,805	38,924	13%
78	Lead and articles thereof	44,038	52,290	45,643	45,412	24,842	77%
7	Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	43,759	40,982	40,828	57,184	56,305	-22%
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	40,084	45,780	59,239	94,357	88,570	-55%
49	Publishing and press products	37,960	74,736	67,474	73,413	72,914	-48%
32	Tanning and dyeing extracts and their derivatives	37,350	44,236	41,896	37,860	34,272	9%
9	coffee and tea	36,243	36,713	39,458	36,013	33,438	8%
	Other goods	532,261	542,621	534,052	566,331	549,483	-3%
	Total	3,544,495	3,731,350	2,951,825	2,843,536	2,976,600	19%

The intersection of the most important export markets with the most important exported commodities

At the intersection of the 10 most important Lebanese export markets with 10 of the most important Lebanese exported commodities in 2020, the following data emerged:

- Switzerland imported jewelry from Lebanon worth \$1 billion and \$42.5 million.
- The UAE imported jewelry from Lebanon worth \$313.6 million.
- Saudi Arabia imported vegetables and fruits preparations worth \$25.6 million from Lebanon.
- Qatar imported vegetables and fruits preparations worth \$8.7 million from Lebanon.
- Iraq imported cosmetics worth 29.1 million dollars from Lebanon.
- Syria imported plastic and its products from Lebanon at a value of \$22.4 million.
- The United States imported jewelry worth 16.7 million dollars from Lebanon.
- Egypt imported iron and steel from Lebanon at a value of \$39.9 million.
- Turkey imported fruits and citrus from Lebanon at a value of 13 million dollars.
- Greece imported iron and steel from Lebanon at a value of \$42.7 million.

As for the intersection of the most important exported commodities with the most important export markets in 2020, it was found that Lebanon exported:

- Jewelry worth 1 billion and 42.5 million dollars to Switzerland.
- Machines and tools worth 15.6 million dollars to Egypt.

- Vegetable and fruit preparations worth 25.6 million dollars to Saudi Arabia.
- Fruits and citruses worth \$20.2 million to Saudi Arabia.
- Machines and electrical appliances worth 17.3 million dollars to Iraq.
- Perfumes and cosmetics worth \$29.1 million to Iraq.
- Plastic and its products worth 22.4 million dollars to Syria.
- Iron and steel worth 42.7 million dollars to Greece.
- Copper and articles thereof with a value of 14.8 million dollars to Greece.
- Printing products worth \$ 10.4 million to Saudi Arabia.
- Drinks and vinegar worth \$6.1 million to the UAE.

It is worth noting the need to define the strategy that will be followed to develop and increase Lebanese exports and whether it is supposed to focus on the intersection of the most important exports with the most important markets or search for new markets for new products or both. Exhibitions are considered one of the most important means of promoting Lebanese products abroad.

Table 10 The intersection of the most important Lebanese exports with the most important Lebanese markets in 2020

HS	Value Thousand \$	Switzerland	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Iraq	Syria	United States	Egypt	Turkey	Greece
71	Jewelry	1,042,521	313,603	10,710	762	75	0	16,724	812	5,776	2
84	Machines, devices and machine tools	2,049	8,226	9,500	3,150	13,382	5,314	3,178	15,579	611	186
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts	290	8,272	25,638	8,672	4,473	95	14,316	802	108	159
8	Fruits, nuts and citrus fruits	4	7,602	20,163	5,343	7,464	18,929	57	10,842	12,965	40
85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts	3	9,257	7,466	2,920	17,288	5,028	436	5,924	602	146
33	Perfumes and beauty	70	17,505	15,676	2,734	29,147	623	2,238	2,497	426	7
39	Plastics and articles thereof	10	1,578	9,144	8,511	4,774	22,367	1,553	5,752	1,415	329

72	iron and steel	0	54	51	60	51	928	0	39,853	0	42,704
74	Copper and articles thereof	17	323	19	456	49	0	78	0	0	14,821
22	Drinks, alcoholic liquids and vinegar	503	6,108	2,049	3,065	5,965	259	5,112	1,527	1,392	4

Agricultural trade exchange

The gap between importing and exporting agricultural products only (from chapter 6 to chapter 14) amounted to about 564 million dollars in 2020, and the coverage ratio of agricultural exports to imports was about 29 percent.

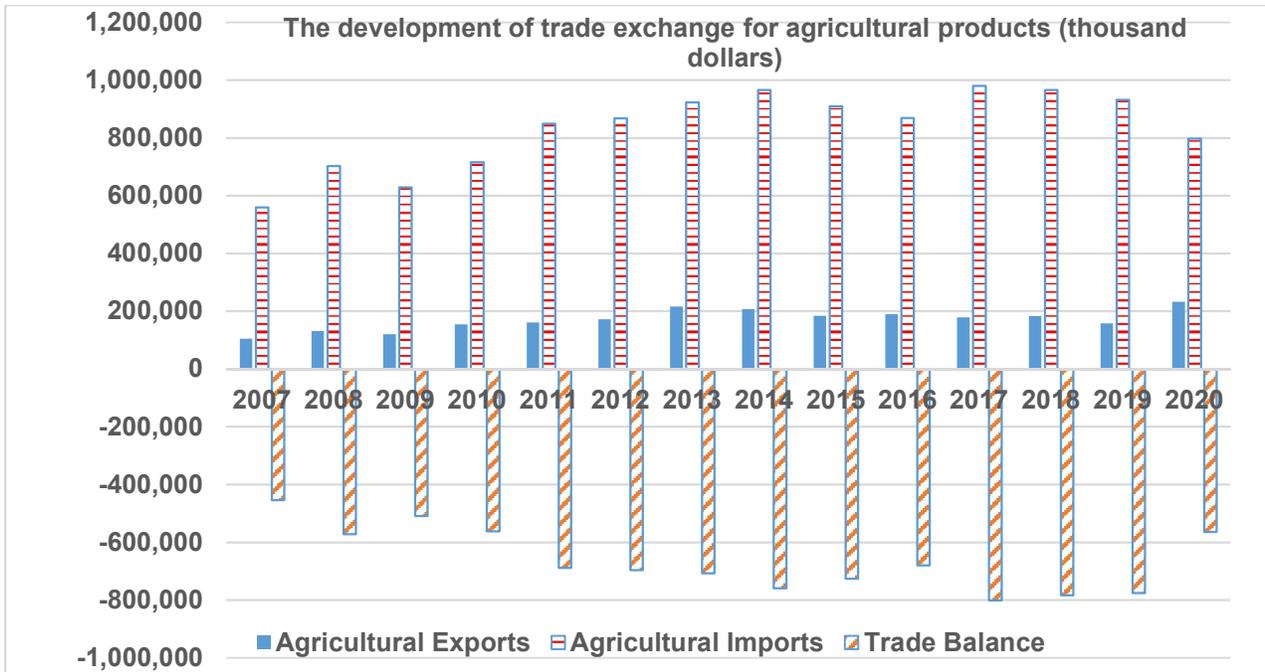
The value of agricultural exports increased from 105 million dollars in 2007 to 232.9 million dollars in 2020, an increase of 122 percent thus setting a record value for agricultural exports.

Agricultural imports increased from \$559.3 million in 2007 to \$796.8 million in 2020, an increase of 42 percent. In 2017, it set a record value of \$979.7 million.

Table 11 The development of trade exchange for agricultural products

Thousand dollars				
	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance	Exports / Imports (%)
2007	105,059	559,318	-454,259	19%
2008	130,690	702,117	-571,427	19%
2009	120,092	628,853	-508,761	19%
2010	154,116	715,649	-561,533	22%
2011	160,584	849,613	-689,029	19%
2012	171,242	867,623	-696,381	20%
2013	215,697	922,785	-707,088	23%
2014	207,396	966,178	-758,782	21%
2015	183,675	909,567	-725,892	20%
2016	189,092	869,259	-680,167	22%
2017	178,572	979,748	-801,176	18%
2018	182,687	965,484	-782,797	19%
2019	157,073	932,194	-775,121	17%
2020	232,861	796,839	-563,978	29%

Based on Lebanese customs statistics



The most important agricultural products exported in 2020 were coffee (10 percent), bananas (9 percent), grapes (9 percent), other nuts (8 percent), and citrus fruits (8 percent).

Table 12 The most important agricultural exports in 2020

HS4	Description	Value (thousand \$)	Weight (tons)	Percentage(%)
9.01	Coffee	22,725	2,755	10%
8.03	Banana	22,020	44,112	9%
8.06	Grape	21,118	47,172	9%
8.02	Other nuts	19,041	1,486	8%
8.05	Citrus	17,491	56,168	8%
7.01	Potato	16,702	67,423	7%
10.06	Rice	14,296	21,650	6%
8.08	Apple, pear and quince	13,505	58,783	6%
8.09	Apricot, cherry and peach	13,409	34,017	6%
9.1	Ginger, saffron, turmeric and thyme	11,077	2,177	5%
7.05	lettuce and dandelion	8,536	7,670	4%
11.05	Flour, semolina	7,633	4,529	3%
8.1	Other fruits	6,102	8,452	3%
8.04	Dates, figs, pineapple and avocado	5,903	5,808	3%

7.13	Dried leguminous vegetables	5,103	5,287	2%
7.1	Uncooked or steamed vegetables	4,521	7,120	2%
7.09	Other vegetables	3,663	2,371	2%
12.09	Seeds, fruit and spores, of a kind used for sowing.	2,893	138	1%
12.12	Locust beans, seaweeds and other algae, sugar beet and sugar cane,	2,157	752	1%
7.03	Onions, shallots, garlic, leeks and other alliaceous vegetables	2,008	7,119	1%
	Other agricultural products	12,958	19,037	6%
	Total	232,861	404,026	100%

The most important agricultural products imported in 2020 were wheat (19 percent), corn (15 percent), rice (10 percent), soybeans (6 percent), and other fruits and oilseeds (6 percent).

Table 13 The most important agricultural imports in 2020

HS4	Description	Value (thousand \$)	Weight (tons)	Percentage (%)
10.01	Wheat	148,488	630,548	19%
10.05	Corn	117,833	557,076	15%
10.06	Rice	76,217	127,280	10%
12.01	Soybean	47,742	116,822	6%
12.07	Other oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	47,427	31,190	6%
7.13	Dried leguminous vegetables	44,116	56,537	6%
9.01	Coffee	41,187	19,940	5%
8.02	Other nuts	39,476	8,170	5%
7.01	Potato	31,465	64,621	4%
9.02	Tea	19,518	3,069	2%
12.09	Seeds, fruit and spores, of a kind used for sowing.	19,082	7,192	2%
8.04	Dates, figs, pineapple and avocado	15,000	12,686	2%
12.06	sunflower seed	14,559	14,005	2%
7.03	Onions, shallots, garlic, leeks and other alliaceous vegetables	12,147	23,662	2%
12.02	Peanuts	11,710	6,200	1%
10.03	Barley	11,412	53,388	1%

11.01	wheat flour	9,508	28,793	1%
8.01	Coconut, Brazil Nut and Cashew Nut	9,076	3,098	1%
11.08	Starch	8,821	16,292	1%
6.02	Other live plants	5,795	7,383	1%
	Other agricultural products	66,260	88,947	8%
	Total	796,839	1,876,899	100%

The most important agricultural export markets in 2020 were Saudi Arabia (14 percent), Syria (14 percent), Kuwait (10 percent), the UAE (8 percent), and Qatar (7 percent).

Table 14 The most important Lebanese agricultural export markets in 2020

	Value (thousand \$)	Weight (tons)	Percentage (%)
Saudi Arabia	33,177	59,071	14%
Syria	32,393	59,153	14%
Kuwait	23,944	66,251	10%
Arab Emirates	19,611	39,244	8%
Qatar	16,595	22,419	7%
Turkey	15,684	4,671	7%
Jordan	12,565	25,743	5%
Egypt	11,650	54,537	5%
Iraq	8,291	26,294	4%
Oman	6,863	19,917	3%
United States	3,793	789	2%
Italy	3,622	150	2%
Holland	3,496	859	2%
Sweden	3,307	712	1%
Canada	2,889	621	1%
Germany	2,888	968	1%
United Kingdom	2,786	830	1%
Bahrain	2,729	8,366	1%
Australia	2,057	405	1%
Ivory Coast	1,862	716	1%
Other countries	22,659	12,310	10%
Total	232,861	404,026	100%

The most important agricultural import sources in 2020 were Ukraine (18 percent), China (10 percent), the United States (8 percent), Brazil (7 percent), and Egypt (5 percent).

Table 15 The most important sources of Lebanese agricultural import in 2020

	Value (thousand \$)	Weight (tons)	Percentage(%)
Ukraine	146,463	612,654	18%
China	79,119	110,717	10%
United States	60,627	107,613	8%
Brazil	54,867	125,559	7%
Egypt	42,542	78,087	5%
Argentina	36,830	149,484	5%
Sudan	36,653	25,824	5%
Turkey	29,193	51,380	4%
Russian Federation	29,176	107,966	4%
India	26,010	17,828	3%
Syria	22,923	43,871	3%
Romania	22,339	101,502	3%
Bulgaria	16,684	65,505	2%
Iran	15,580	3,436	2%
Holland	14,546	17,273	2%
Sri Lanka	13,853	2,419	2%
Moldova	13,302	62,685	2%
Vietnam	10,779	3,854	1%
Thailand	10,722	18,710	1%
Italy	10,496	13,696	1%
Other countries	104,135	156,836	13%
Total	796,839	1,876,899	100%

Trade in food products

The trade exchange of agricultural and animal products and the food industry (from customs chapter 1 to customs chapter 24) witnessed an increase in the value of food exports from 687.8 million dollars in 2016 to 701.7 million dollars in 2020 an increase of 2 percent with a record value recorded in 2014 amounting to 781.2 million Dollars.

The value of food imports decreased from 3.3 billion dollars in 2016 to 2.3 billion dollars in 2020 a decrease of 30 percent. Imports recorded a record value also in 2014 amounting to 3.6 billion dollars.

The contribution of food exports in total exports decreased from 23 percent in 2016 to 20 percent in 2020 while the contribution of food imports to total imports increased from 17 to 20 percent.

The most important food exports in 2020 were vegetable and fruit preparations (4 percent), fruits and citrus fruits (3%), beverages, alcoholic liquids and vinegar (2%), greases, fats and oils (1%), and cereal preparations (1 percent).

The most important food imports in 2020 were cereals (3 percent), live animals (3%), cereal preparations (1 percent), dairy products, eggs and honey (1%), and cereals and oily fruits (1 percent).

Table 16 Trade exchange of food products (value in thousand dollars)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Food exports	687,837	691,505	643,692	628,102	701,736
Total exports	2,976,600	2,843,536	2,951,825	3,731,350	3,544,495
%	23%	24%	22%	17%	20%
Food imports	3,272,333	3,403,027	3,496,093	3,112,227	2,297,925
Total imports	18,705,307	19,582,210	19,979,509	19,239,394	11,309,733
%	17%	17%	17%	16%	20%
Food balance	-2,584,496	-2,711,522	-2,852,401	-2,484,125	-2,484,124
Food exports/food imports (%)	21%	20%	18%	20%	31%