



**Labour Force and Household Living  
Conditions Survey (LFHLCS)  
2018-2019 in Bcharre**

**Suggested citation:**

**"Labour Force and Household Living Conditions Survey 2018-2019 in Bcharre", Central  
Administration of Statistics, 2020**

**Copyright © Lebanese Republic Central Administration of Statistics 2020**

## Acknowledgments

This report comes as one of a series of reports launched by the Central Administration of Statistics, covering the twenty-six districts of Lebanon. Producing these reports was a collaborative endeavor between the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Official statistics presented in this report are drawn from the findings of the national Labour Force and Households Living Conditions Survey (LFHLCS) that was carried out by CAS between 2018 and 2019 with funding from the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon and the technical cooperation of the Regional Office for Arab States of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

CAS acknowledges the professional input and contribution of all the partners, experts, and staff who have been particularly active and supportive along the production process in the elaboration, preparation and drafting of the final series of district statistics.

CAS would like to express its sincere appreciation to Celine Moyroud and the UNDP core team for all of their technical and administrative support. Also gratefully acknowledged are the contributions of CAS staff: Haifa Hussein, Mayssaa Daher, Ali Hamieh and Amina Basbous.

Dr Maral Tutélian - Guidanian  
Director General  
Central Administration of Statistics

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAS	Central Administration of Statistics
GER	The Gross Enrolment Ratio
ILO	International Labour Organization
LFHLCS	Labour Force and Households' Living Conditions Survey
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NER	The Net Enrolment Rate
NSSF	National Social Security Fund
SMAM	Singulate Mean Age at Marriage
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

## Table of Contents

<b>About the Survey</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>District Statistics</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>I. DEMOGRAPHICS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
The residents in Bcharre: who and how many are they?.....	4
<b>II. HOUSING</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Where do residents in Bcharre live? .....	6
Primary residences by area (m <sup>2</sup> ) .....	6
How many rooms does a household have? .....	7
Persons per room .....	7
Are the primary residences old or new? .....	8
Connectivity to infrastructure and utilities .....	8
Cost associated with residence .....	9
Home appliances and means of transportation.....	9
Access to basic services.....	10
<b>III. EDUCATION</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Gross Enrolment Ratio versus Net Enrolment Rate .....	12
Schooling in Bcharre.....	13
<b>IV. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUND</b> .....	<b>15</b>
How much do households earn in total? .....	15
... and how do they perceive their wealth status?.....	15
Health Coverage .....	16
<b>V. LABOUR FORCE and EMPLOYMENT</b> .....	<b>18</b>
Labour market structure .....	18
Who is Employed, Searching for a job or Inactive - From a Gender Point of View.....	18
Where do they work?.....	21
... and how many hours per week.....	22
What type of jobs do they hold and where?.....	22
How many jobs are "vulnerable"? .....	23
Youth in Employment versus Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) .....	24
<b>The Team</b> .....	<b>25</b>

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Residents in Bcharre 2018-2019 .....	4
Figure 2: Head of household by sex .....	4
Figure 3: Marital status (aged 15+) by sex .....	5
Figure 4: Distribution of primary residences by type of dwelling.....	6
Figure 5: Primary residences by area of residence (%) .....	6
Figure 6: Primary residences by number of rooms (%).....	7
Figure 7: Persons per room (%).....	7
Figure 8: Primary residences by age of residence.....	8
Figure 9: Facilities of main source of drinking water at the dwelling (%).....	8
Figure 10: Sources of electricity in primary residences .....	8
Figure 11: Home appliances types and means of transportation (%).....	10
Figure 12: Access to services (%).....	11
Figure 13: Distribution of students by type of educational institution.....	13
Figure 14: Residents (aged 3+) by level of education attained and sex (%) .....	13
Figure 15a: Illiteracy rate by age group and sex (aged 10 years +).....	14
Figure 15b: Total illiteracy rate by sex (aged 10 years +).....	14
Figure 16: Household income range from all sources in the month preceding the Survey in thousand LBP (%).....	15
Figure 17: Self classification of wealth of households .....	16
Figure 18: Health coverage by sex (%) .....	16
Figure 19: Residents (aged 15 years +) by employment status and health insurance coverage (%).....	17
Figure 20: Distribution of residents benefiting from health insurance by source of insurance .....	17
Figure 21: Labour force participation rate (%) .....	19
Figure 22: Labour force participation rate among youth and adults (%).....	19
Figure 23: Employment-to-population ratio (%).....	19
Figure 24: Employment-to-population ratio by broad age groups (%).....	20
Figure 25: Unemployment rate by sex (%).....	20
Figure 26: Unemployment rate among youth and adults (%) .....	20

Figure 27: Inactivity rate of residents aged 15 years + (%) .....	21
Figure 28: Economic activity sector by sex (%) .....	21
Figure 29: Average usual and actual weekly hours of work by sex.....	22
Figure 30: Employed (15 years and above) by employment status and sex (%) .....	23
Figure 31: Vulnerable employment (%) .....	23
Figure 32: Youth in employment and NEET rate (%).....	24

## List of Tables

Table 1: Yearly expenditures on services for main dwellings (in thousand LBP) .....	9
Table 2: Enrolment by level of education (in %) .....	12
Table 3: Formality versus Informality (in %) .....	22

## About the Survey

This report comes as one of a series of reports launched by the Central Administration of Statistics, covering the twenty-six districts of Lebanon. Producing these reports was a collaborative endeavor between the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Official statistics presented in this report are drawn from the findings of the national Labour Force and Households Living Conditions Survey (LFHLCS) that was carried out by CAS between 2018 and 2019 with funding from the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon and the technical cooperation of the Regional Office for Arab States of the International Labour Organization (ILO)<sup>1</sup>.

The 2018-2019 LFHLCS is the first Lebanese survey to produce estimates not only at the national and sub-national governorate (*mouhafaza*) levels, but also at the district (*caza*) level. Lebanon is composed of eight governorates, called *mouhafaza*, and 26 districts, called *caza*. Only the governorates of Beirut and Akkar were taken as a whole in the survey sample and were not subdivided into districts.

LFHLCS covered all the population of Lebanon living in primary residential dwellings. It was carried out from April 2018 to March 2019. It did not cover the population living in non-residential units, such as construction and agriculture sites, shops, stores, factories, unfinished buildings, army barracks, refugee camps and adjacent gatherings, and informal settlements.

With an unprecedented complete national sample size of 50,000 households, more than 39,000 responded to the survey, providing a relatively high response rate of 79%.

Through 227 questions organized into 10 modules, the LFHLCS questionnaire gathered extensive data that were used in the production of a broad array of indicators and a cross-sectional analysis regarding:

- The demographic and social characteristics of households and the individuals living in them on a regular basis (more than six months in a year), including information on education, health, social security and others;
- The labour force situation and the economic activity of all active individuals in the household;
- The characteristics of the household and the conditions of the dwellings and the available amenities.

The concepts, definitions and methodologies that were used in the survey, were designed according to the latest international survey statistical standards especially those in line with the 19th ICLS Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For more information about the 2018-2019 LFHLCS, refer to the main survey report, available at <http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php/component/content/article?id=212>.






<sup>2</sup> Source: ILO, *Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2013*.

# District Statistics

The district statistics represent an invaluable source of updated information and analysis of the prevailing social and economic conditions in each district. They are made available to the district authorities and leadership - including the Kâim-Makâm (Caza Governor), the District Unions of Municipalities, and a range of other government and non-government district planners, policy makers and users. The district statistics also aim at informing appropriate and evidence-based development policies and programmes at the district level.

This report presents data pertaining to the district of Bcharre, which is situated in the Governorate of North Lebanon.

It consists of five chapters highlighting the following aspects:

-  I. Demographics
-  II. Housing
-  III. Education
-  IV. Social and Economic Background
-  V. Labour Force and Employment

Wherever possible and statistically significant, the indicators presented at the district level are compared to the national values for the purpose of contextualization and comparison.



# I. DEMOGRAPHICS

## The residents in Bcharre: who and how many are they?

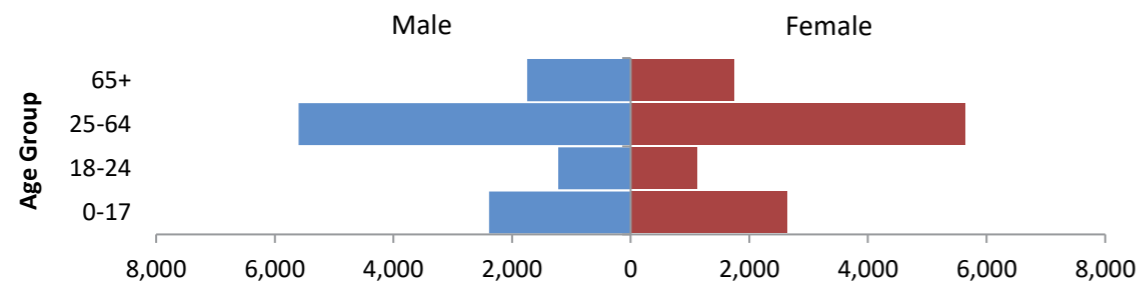
The survey results show that in 2018–19, the caza of Bcharre had the smallest share of the population in the country, with around 22,100 residents, accounting for only 0.5 per cent of all residents of Lebanon. 50.4 per cent of the residents were females and 49.6 per cent males.

50.9 per cent of the residents in Bcharre

were found in the age group 25–64 years. The younger residents (0–24 years) represented 33.3 per cent of the total, while the older residents (65+ years old) represented 15.8 per cent. (Figure 1)

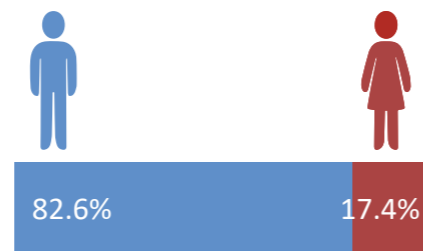
In 2018–19, the age dependency ratio<sup>3</sup> for Bcharre was 50.5 per cent, compared to 53.9 per cent at the national level.

Figure 1: Residents in Bcharre 2018-2019



The Survey results showed that males predominated as heads of household. It was estimated that 82.6 per cent of households were headed by a man compared to 81.5 per cent nationally, while 17.4 per cent of households were headed by a woman relatively to 18.5 per cent in Lebanon. (Figure 2)

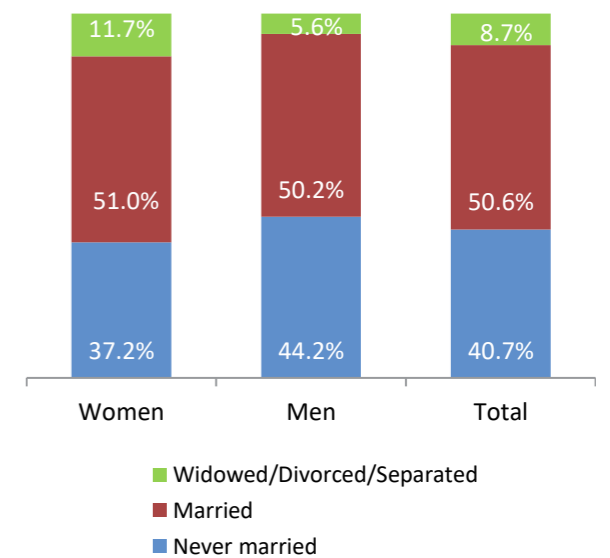
Figure 2: Head of household by sex



<sup>3</sup>Age dependency ratio is the number of dependents aged 0-14 years and those aged 65+ compared to the total population aged 15-64 years, which is the working age population. It describes the degree to which the economically non-productive population is dependent on the working-age population. The higher the ratio, the greater the economic burden.

Among all the cazas in Lebanon, the lowest share of married residents was found in Bcharre. Almost half (50.6 per cent) of all residents aged 15 and above declared that they were “married” in 2018–19, whereas 40.7 per cent stated that they were “never married”. The proportion of married women (51.0 per cent) was slightly higher than for men (50.2 per cent), while the share of never married women (37.2 per cent) was lower than for men (44.2 per cent). 11.7 per cent of women stated they were either widowed, divorced or separated, compared with almost half of this proportion for men (5.6 per cent). (Figure 3)

Figure 3: Marital status (aged 15+) by sex



**WHAT IS THE SMAM?**

The singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) is the average length of single life expressed in years among those who marry before age 50. It is a synthetic indicator calculated from marital status categories of men and women aged 15 to 54 at the date of the census or the survey.

Among Bcharre residents, the Singulate Mean Age at Marriage (SMAM) was 26.6 years for women and 34.1 years for men, a result that showed a delay in the age of marriage with respect to the national level where the mean age of marriage was found to be 25.6 and 30.7 for women and men respectively.

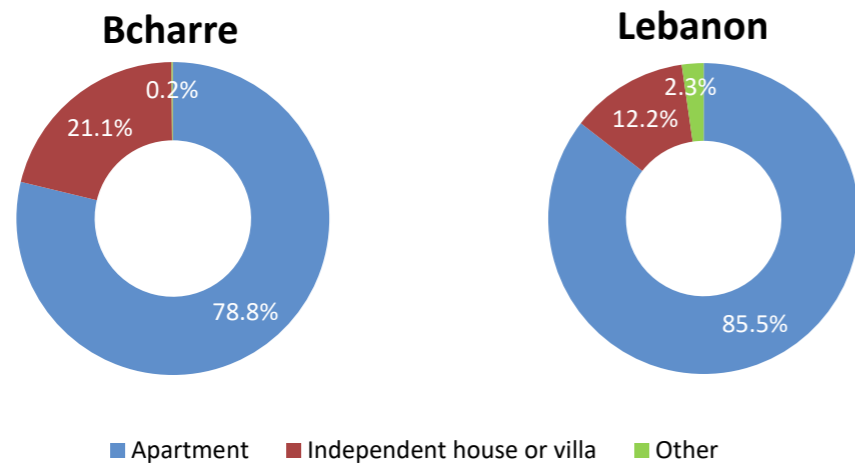


## II. HOUSING

### Where do residents in Bcharre live?

Primary residences in Bcharre are mostly apartments (78.8 per cent), followed by independent houses or villas (21.1 per cent). It is worth noting that the percentage of apartments at the caza level is lower than that at the national level, however, that of the independent houses or villas is relatively higher. (Figure 4)

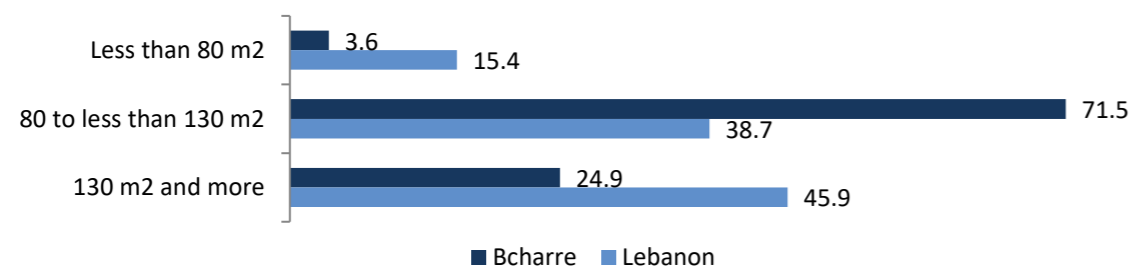
Figure 4: Distribution of primary residences by type of dwelling



### Primary residences by area (m<sup>2</sup>)

The largest share (71.5 per cent) of primary residences in Bcharre were between 80 and 130 square meters compared to 38.7 per cent at the national level. Small residences of less than 80 m<sup>2</sup> were not common – just 3.6 per cent of the dwellings, compared to 15.4 per cent at the level of the country. Large residences of 130 m<sup>2</sup> and over comprised 24.9 per cent of the total, compared to 45.9 per cent nationally. (Figure 5)

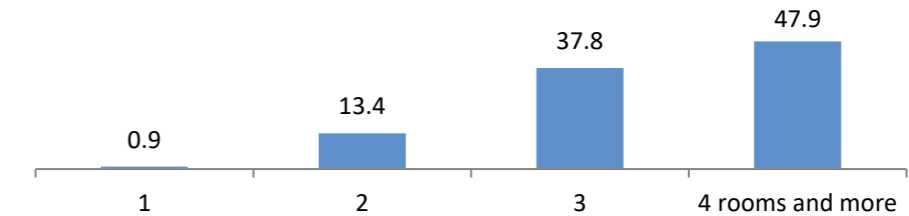
Figure 5: Primary residences by area of residence (%)



### How many rooms does a household have?

Around half of the primary residences had 4 rooms and over (47.9 per cent), followed by 37.8 per cent dwellings composed of 3 rooms. Nationally, 57.8 per cent of the primary residences had 4 rooms and over and 25.1 per cent had 3 rooms. (Figure 6)

Figure 6: Primary residences by number of rooms (%)



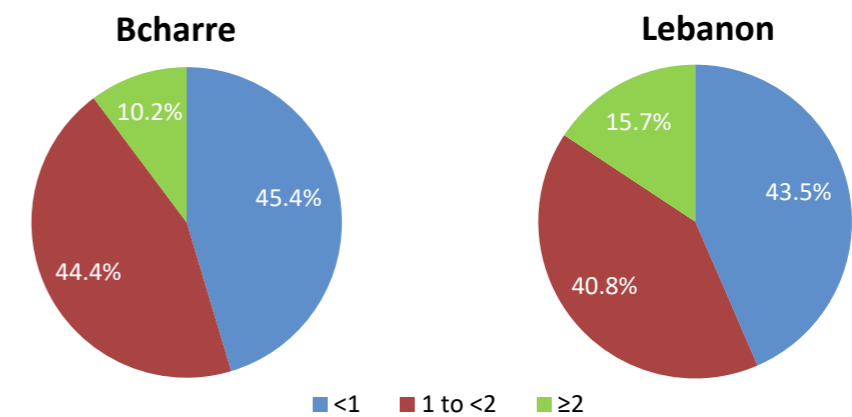
### Persons per room

The number of individuals per room is an indicator that provides a measure of residential crowding and occupancy.

In Bcharre, the vast majority of households had a density of less than two individuals per room, with an approximate equal share of 45.4 per cent (less than 1) and 44.4 per cent (between 1 and 2) respectively. Compared

to the national level, the distribution of households for these two groups of density was slightly higher. As for the residences that were found to be more crowded (more than two persons per room), they represented 10.2 per cent of the households, a proportion below the national level. (Figure 7)

Figure 7: Persons per room (%)

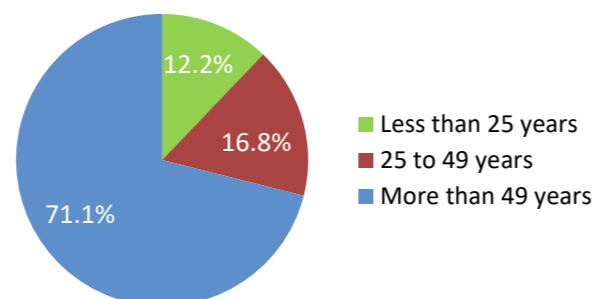




## Are the primary residences old or new?

At the caza level, Bcharre had the oldest dwellings, with 71.1 per cent of primary residences aged at least 49 years. This percentage was more than twice as high as that observed all over Lebanon (31.8 per cent). Only 12.2 per cent of primary residences were constructed less than 25 years ago, compared to around a third nationally (33.8 per cent). (Figure 8)

**Figure 8: Primary residences by age of residence**

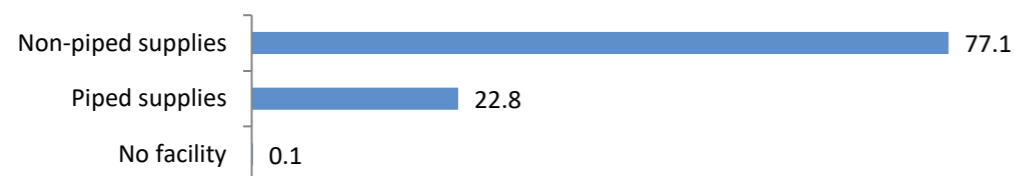


## Connectivity to infrastructure and utilities

For only 22.8 per cent of households, drinking water was in the form of a supply directly piped to the residence; non-piped water supply represented 77.1 per cent, and

0.1 per cent of dwellings had no drinking water facility. Similar results were found at the country level. (Figure 9)

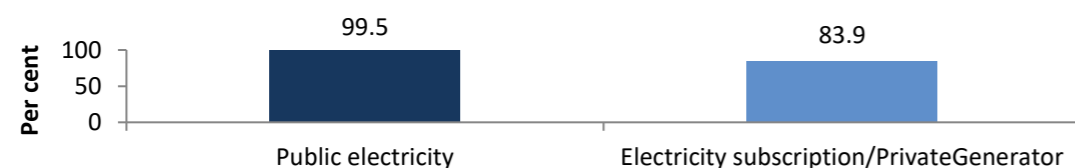
**Figure 9: Facilities of main source of drinking water at the dwelling (%)**



Connection to the public electricity network was the most common in the caza (99.5 per cent), whereas 83.9 per cent of households were subscribed to a private electricity

source or had their own private generator. At the national level, almost identical results were observed. (Figure 10)

**Figure 10: Sources of electricity in primary residences**



## Cost associated with residence

The average yearly expenditure on services for main dwellings in Bcharre was estimated at approximately 2,247 thousand LBP, compared to 3,308 thousand LBP nationally. At the district level, average spending was mainly on generators (928 thousand LBP) followed by electricity (502 thousand LBP); whereas the lowest average yearly expenses

were on satellite/dish (184 thousand LBP). These expenses were slightly lower compared to the ones observed at the national level. The median annual expenses in Bcharre were 1,871 thousand LBP, which was lower than that observed in Lebanon as a whole (2,940 thousand LBP). (Table 1)

**Table 1: Yearly expenditures on services for main dwellings (in thousand LBP)**

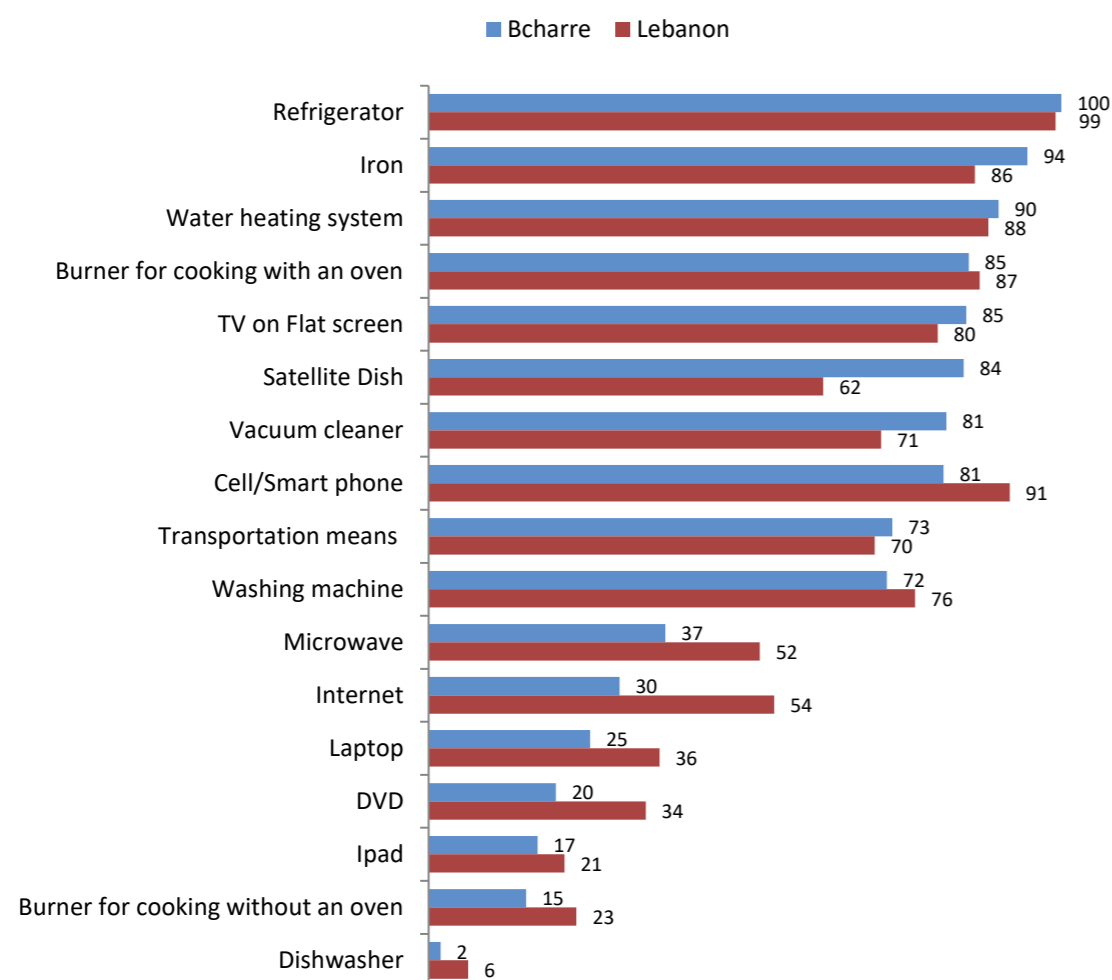
Services	Bcharre		Lebanon	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Public water	266	280	293	300
Electricity	502	420	671	480
Generator	928	780	1,100	900
Satellite/dish	184	180	231	240
Fixed phones (without Internet)	368	360	433	360
<b>Total yearly Expenses on services</b>	<b>2,247</b>	<b>1,871</b>	<b>3,308</b>	<b>2,940</b>

## Home appliances and means of transportation

Almost all households had a refrigerator and about 94 per cent had an iron at home in Bcharre. Dishwashers were the least common in the district (2 per cent of households) with a lower proportion relatively to the national level (6 per cent). It is instructive to note that the proportion of

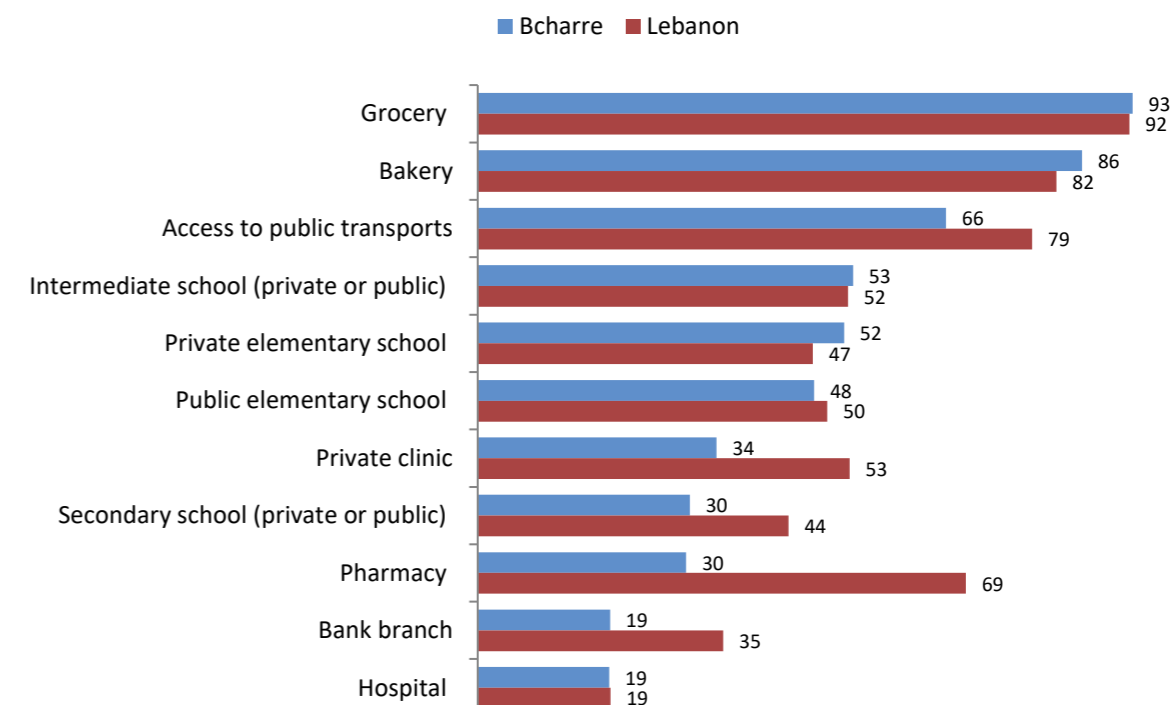
households who had a satellite dish in the caza (84 per cent) exceeded considerably that at the country level (62 per cent), whereas the proportions of those who had a microwave, internet, a laptop or a DVD fell remarkably behind the national levels. (Figure 11)

**Figure 11: Home appliances types and means of transportation (%)**



Note: The internet does not include Cable/ADSL/3G or 4G.

**Figure 12: Access to services (%)**



### Access to basic services

The vast majority of primary residences reported having access to at least one grocery store (93 per cent), a bakery (86 per cent), or access to public transports (66 per cent) within a 10-minute walk from home. Pharmacies (30 per cent), bank branches (19 per cent) and hospitals (19 per cent) were the least common services in Bcharre.

In comparison with the national level, access to public transports was 13 percentage points less (79 per cent in Lebanon).

Moreover, 34 per cent of all households had access to a private clinic compared to 53 per cent at the national level, and one third (30 per cent) lived within reach of a secondary school compared to 44 per cent nationally.

It is also worth noting that compared to the national level, access to pharmacies was twice as lower (69 per cent in Lebanon) and the widespread of bank branches was 16 percentage points less. (Figure 12)



### III. EDUCATION

#### Gross Enrolment Ratio versus Net Enrolment Rate

Both Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and Net Enrolment Rate (NER) decreased with level. In Bcharre, the GER at the elementary level was 100.1 per cent while it was 96 per cent at the secondary level. The NER at the elementary level was 92.2

per cent but decreased to 72.2 per cent at the secondary level. Interestingly, the Gross Enrolment Ratio and the Net Enrolment rate were at all levels higher in Bcharre than the national level. (Table 2)

Table 2: Enrolment by level of education (in %)

Level of education	Bcharre		Lebanon	
	Gross Enrolment Ratio	Net Enrolment Ratio	Gross Enrolment Ratio	Net Enrolment Ratio
Elementary level	100.1	92.2	98.9	87.2
Intermediate level	97.9	83.7	93.4	67.8
Secondary level	96	72.2	76.8	54.9

Note: These results exclude domestic workers

#### WHAT ARE THE GER AND NER?

**The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** is defined as the number of students enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education. A high GER generally indicates a high degree of participation, whether the pupils belong to the official age group or not. A GER value approaching or exceeding 100% indicates that a country is, in principle, able to accommodate all of its school-age population.

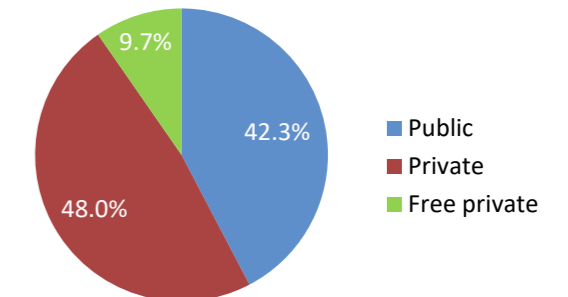
**The Net Enrolment Rate (NER)** is defined as the total number of students in the theoretical age group for a given level of education enrolled in that level, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group. A high NER denotes a high degree of coverage for the official school-age population. The theoretical maximum value is 100%.

\*Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

### Schooling in Bcharre

In Bcharre, students aged 3-24 years were more likely to enrol in private educational institutions (48 per cent), rather than public institutions (42.3 per cent). At the national level, almost identical results were found for the enrolment in private institutions (47.8 per cent); however, the enrolment in public institutions was slightly higher (46.5 per cent). (Figure 13)

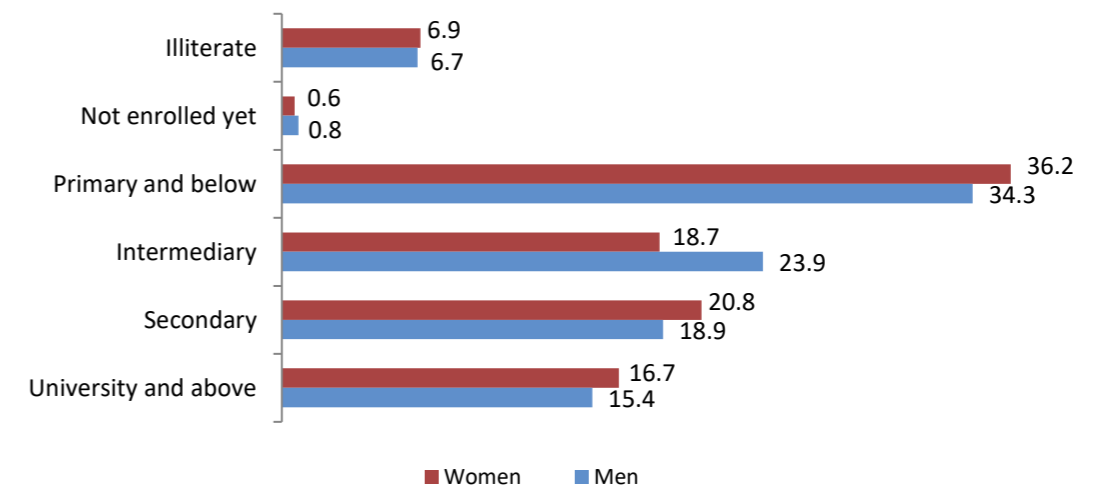
Figure 13: Distribution of students by type of educational institution



For 35.2 per cent of the residents aged 3 years and above in the caza, the highest attainment was a "primary and below" level<sup>4</sup> and 16.1 per cent had attained a university-level education or above – slightly higher for women (16.7 per cent) than for men (15.4 per cent). Although the

illiterate residents were twice as high among females (8.7 per cent) as among males (4.4 per cent) at the national level, no major gender discrepancies were observed at the caza level (6.9 per cent for women and 6.7 per cent for men). (Figure 14)

Figure 14: Residents (aged 3+) by level of education attained and sex (%)



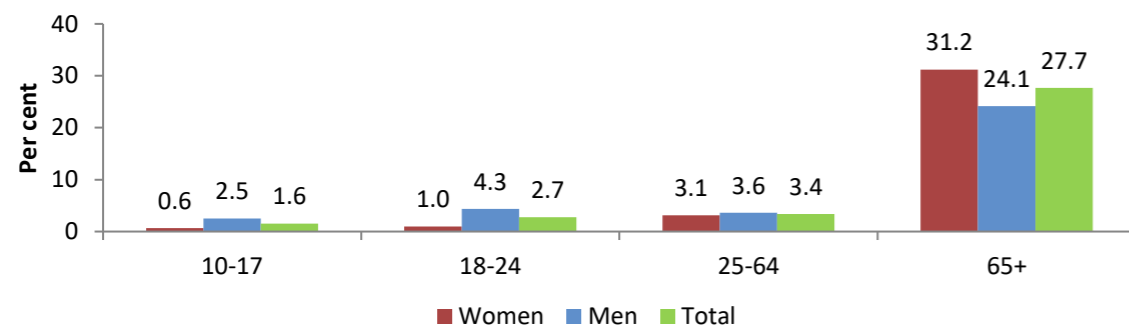
The survey shows that the illiteracy rate for residents aged 10 years and above increased with age. 27.7 per cent of residents aged 65 years old and above were illiterate. In contrast, 1.6 per cent of those aged between 10 and 17 years old were

illiterate. Interestingly, women of all age groups were less likely to be illiterate than men, except for those aged 65 years and above, where 31.2 per cent of women and 24.1 per cent of men were illiterate. (Figure 15a)

<sup>44</sup>Primary and below: include Read and write, Pre-school, Primary, and undefined education level.

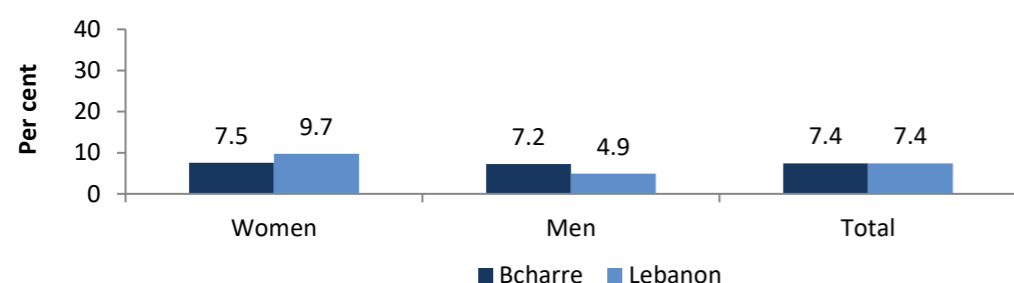


Figure 15a: Illiteracy rate by age group and sex (aged 10 years +)



When compared with the national level, the illiteracy rate in Bcharre was reported to be at the same level (7.4 per cent). Although this rate was nearly the same for men (7.2 per cent) and for women (7.5 per cent) at the caza level, the proportion of illiterate women (9.7 per cent) was twice as high as that of men (4.9 per cent) in Lebanon. (Figure 15b)

Figure 15b: Total illiteracy rate by sex (aged 10 years +)



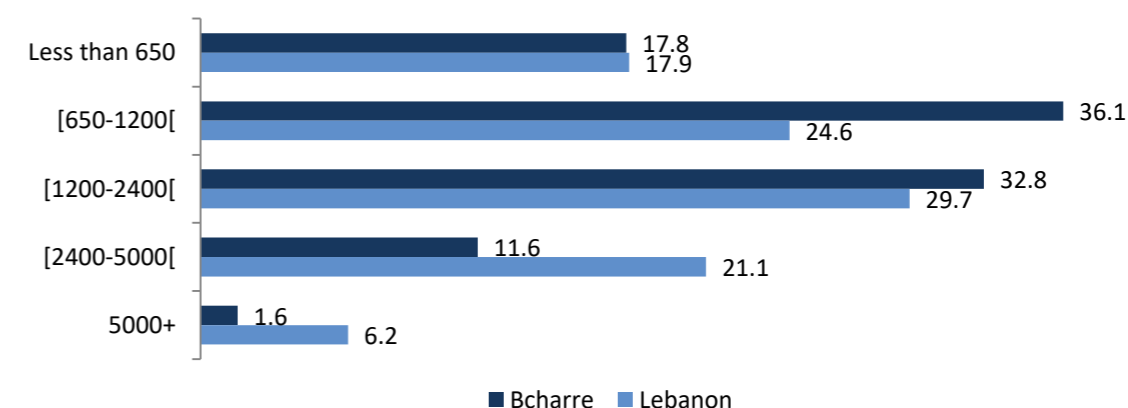
## IV. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

### How much do households earn in total?

The largest share of households in Bcharre had a total income from all sources ranging between 650 and 2,400 thousand LBP in the month preceding the Survey (68.9 per cent), almost equally divided between [650-1200[ and [1200-2400[ thousand LBP income ranges. The proportion of households all over Lebanon who had total earnings falling

into these two ranges was lower (54.3 per cent). In contrast, households in Bcharre were less likely to earn an income ranging between 2,400 and 5,000 thousand LBP (11.6 per cent) or 5 million LBP or more (1.6 per cent) compared to the national level (21.1 per cent and 6.2 per cent respectively). (Figure 16)

Figure 16: Household income range from all sources in the month preceding the Survey in thousand LBP (%)



### ... and how do they perceive their wealth status?

Households classified their wealth status from their own subjective point of view. 80.9 per cent classified themselves as "average or average to poor", 13.4 per cent as "poor or very poor" and 5.7 per cent declared they are "wealthy or financially well-off". Nationally, the proportion of households who classified themselves as

"average or average to poor" was relatively lower (67.5 per cent), the proportion of those who declared they are "poor or very poor" was higher (26.3 per cent), whereas the proportion of those who considered themselves "wealthy or financially well-off" was nearly the same (6.1 per cent in Lebanon). (Figure 17)

Figure 17: Self classification of wealth of households

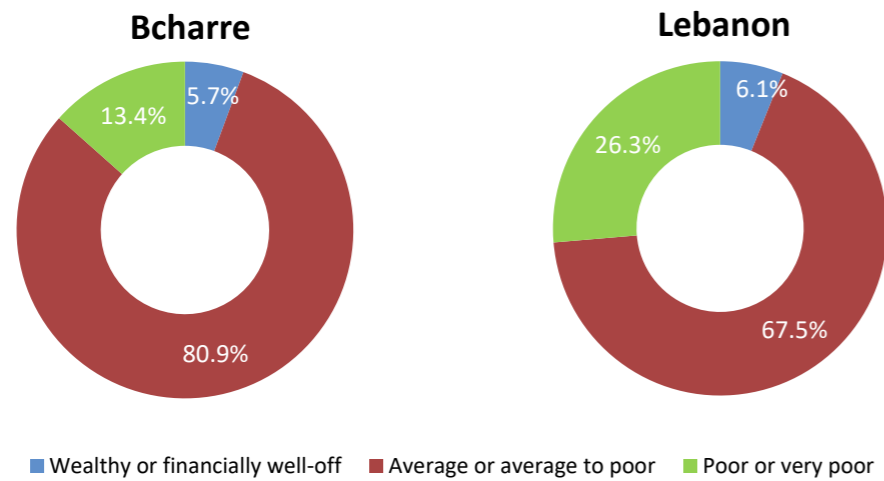
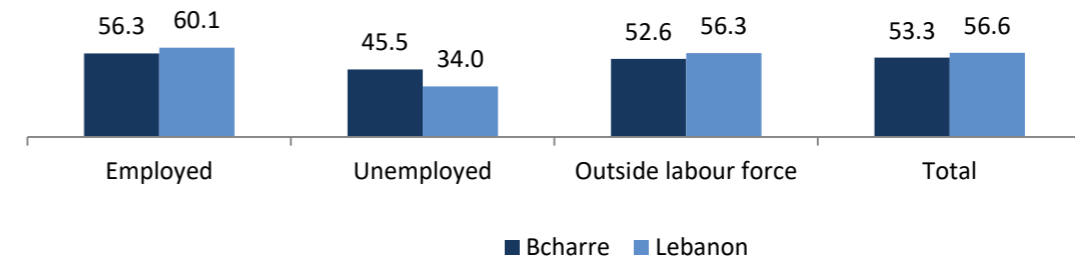


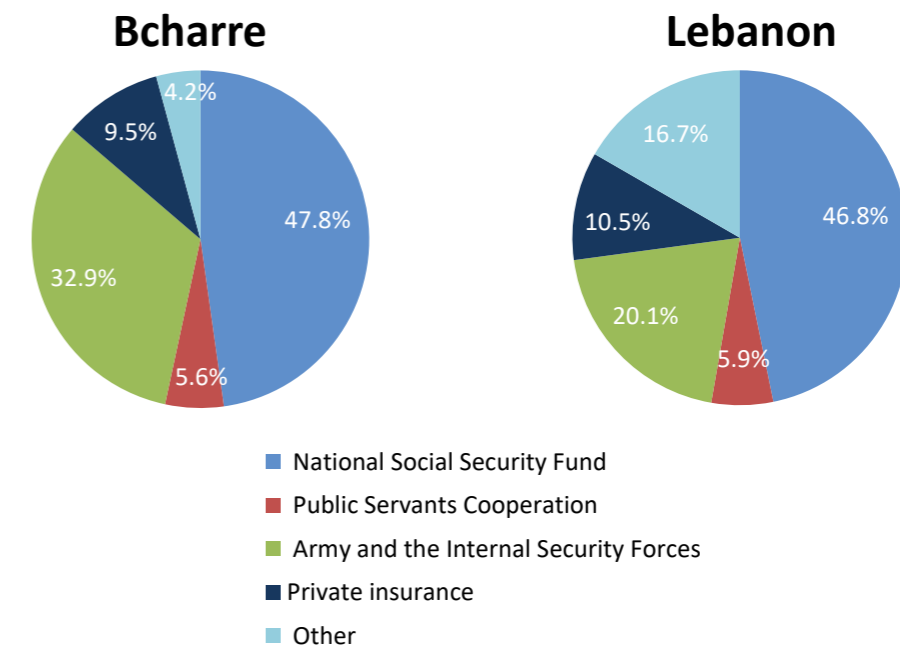
Figure 19: Residents (aged 15 years +) by employment status and health insurance coverage (%)



The main source of health coverage in Bcharre was the National Social Security Fund (NSSF)<sup>6</sup>, which covered 47.8 per cent of the insured population, followed by the Lebanese Army and the Internal Security

Forces (32.9 per cent). It is worth noting that the Army and the Internal Security Forces health coverage was more common in Bcharre compared to the whole of Lebanon (20.1 per cent). (Figure 20)

Figure 20: Distribution of residents benefiting from health insurance by source of insurance

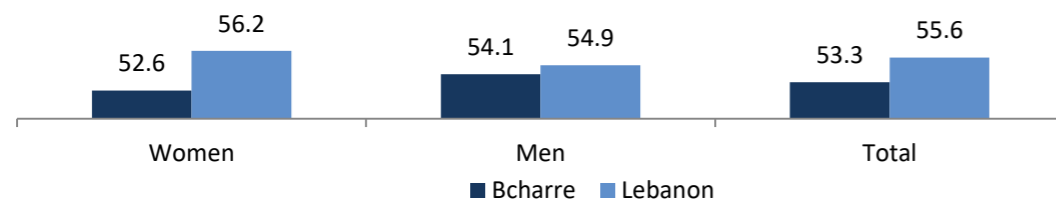


### Health Coverage<sup>5</sup>

Only 53.3 per cent of the total residents in Bcharre were covered by at least one type of health insurance: a slightly lower health coverage was found for women (52.6 per cent) than for men (54.1 per cent). At the national level, the results show a relatively higher health coverage for both women

(56.2 per cent) and men (54.9 per cent). Yet, it is worth noting that the gap between women in Bcharre and women in Lebanon amounted to a 3.6-point difference, compared to a 0.8-point difference for men. (Figure 18)

Figure 18: Health coverage by sex (%)



In Bcharre, nearly half of the residents aged 15 years and above had a health coverage (53.3 per cent), whereas nationally, the proportion of the insured population in the same age group was slightly higher (56.6 per cent). Unemployed residents (45.5 per cent in Bcharre) were more likely to be covered.

On the contrary, the proportions of residents "employed" and "outside the labour force" who had a health coverage in Bcharre (56.3 per cent and 52.6 per cent respectively) were slightly lower than those observed at the national level (60.1 per cent and 56.3 per cent respectively). (Figure 19)

<sup>5</sup>In this section, all the figures exclude the domestic workers.

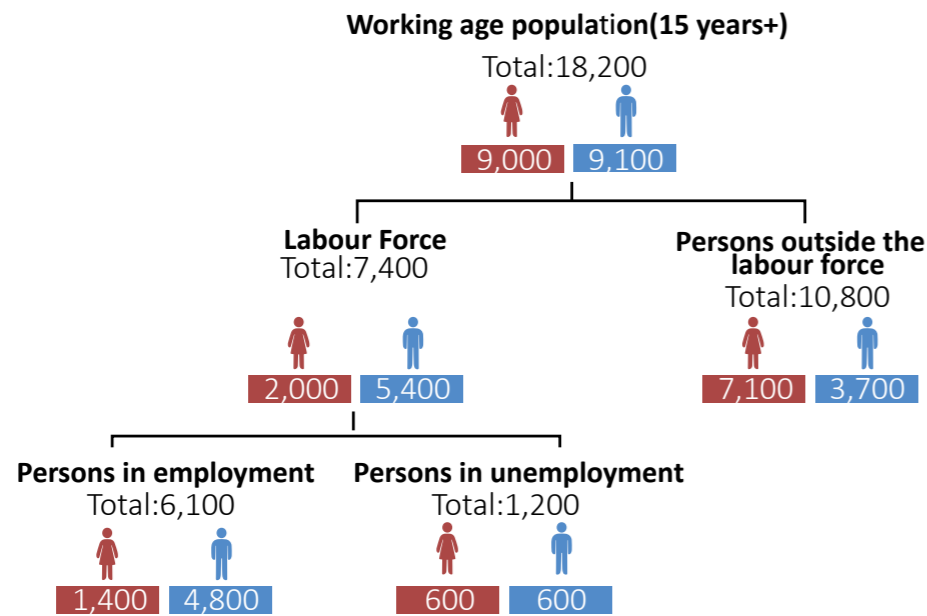
<sup>6</sup> Including Facultative Fund.



## V. LABOUR FORCE and EMPLOYMENT

### Labour market structure

Among the estimated 18,200 individuals aged 15 years old and above living in primary residential dwellings in Bcharre in 2018–19, about 7,400 people were in the labour force, either employed (6,100) or unemployed (1,200). The remaining 10,800 individuals were outside the labour force.



Note: Estimation below 2,500 has a standard error above 20 per cent. Due to rounding, numbers presented may not add up precisely to the totals.

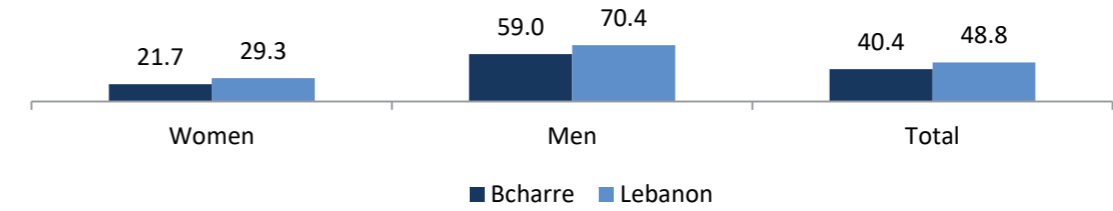
### Who is Employed, Searching for a job or Inactive - From a Gender Point of View

Total labour participation rate<sup>7</sup> in Bcharre was 40.4 percent, which was lower than the national rate of 48.8 percent. Gender disparity was high at the district level, still less accentuated than the national level. Men’s participation rates (59 percent in Bcharre compared to 70.4 per cent in Lebanon) were higher compared to women’s (21.7 in Bcharre and 29.3 per cent in Lebanon) at both the district and national levels, with a notable gender gap<sup>8</sup> reaching a difference of 37.3 percentage points and 41.1 percentage points respectively. (Figure 21)

<sup>7</sup> Labour Force Participation Rate =  $\frac{\text{Persons in Employment} + \text{Persons in Unemployment}}{\text{Working-age Population (15+years old)}} * 100$

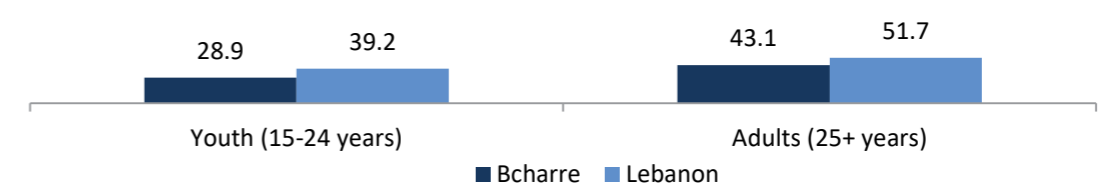
<sup>8</sup>In this brief, the gender gap is calculated by subtracting the female rate from the male rate.

Figure 21: Labour force participation rate (%)



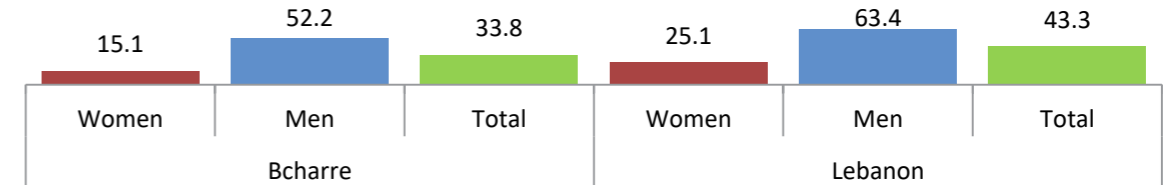
The share of the adult labour force (be they unemployed or in work) exceeded that of the youth and marked 43.1 per cent compared to 28.9 per cent in Bcharre, and 51.7 per cent compared to 39.2 per cent at the national level. (Figure 22)

Figure 22: Labour force participation rate among youth and adults (%)



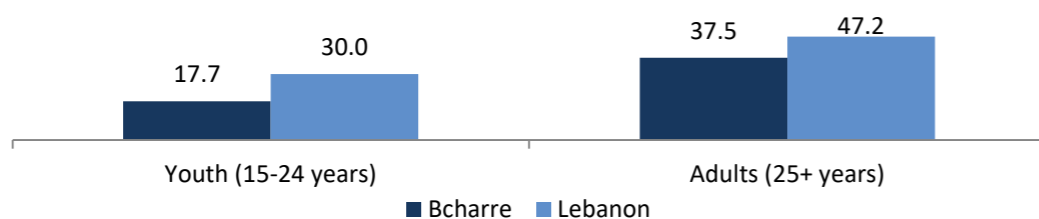
The employment-to-population ratio in Bcharre (33.8 per cent) was lower than that of the country (43.3 per cent). There were some notable gender disparities in the employment-to-population ratio at both the district and country levels. The employment-to-population ratio reached 15.1 per cent for women and 52.2 per cent for men aged 15 years and above in Bcharre, marking a gender gap of 37.1 percentage-point difference. In Lebanon, a quarter of women (25.1 per cent) and more than a half of men (63.4 per cent of men) were employed with a gender gap of 38.3 percentage-point difference. (Figure 23)

Figure 23: Employment-to-population ratio (%)



The comparison of the results by broad age groups shows that the youth employment-to-population ratio in Bcharre (17.7 per cent) was almost half of that of the adults (37.5 per cent). It is worth noting that these ratios were much lower than those marked at the national level. However, the gap between the two age groups was more significant at the caza level (19.8 percentage-point difference relative to 17.2 percentage points in Lebanon). (Figure 24)

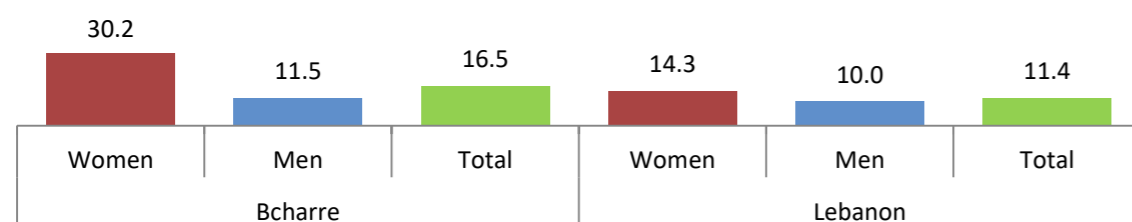
**Figure 24: Employment-to-population ratio by broad age groups (%)**



The unemployment rate<sup>99</sup> in Bcharre (16.5 per cent) exceeded that of Lebanon (11.4 per cent). Differences at the country level were observed between men (10 per cent) and women (14.3 per cent), yet the gap was much larger in Bcharre where the unemployment rate was 30.2 per cent for women and 11.5 per cent for men. In other words, the gender gap in the unemployment

rate was remarkably higher in Bcharre (18.7 percentage-point difference) than in Lebanon as a whole (4.3 percentage-point difference). It is noteworthy that this difference is primarily due to the unemployment rate of women in Bcharre, almost twice as high as that observed at the national level. (Figure 25)

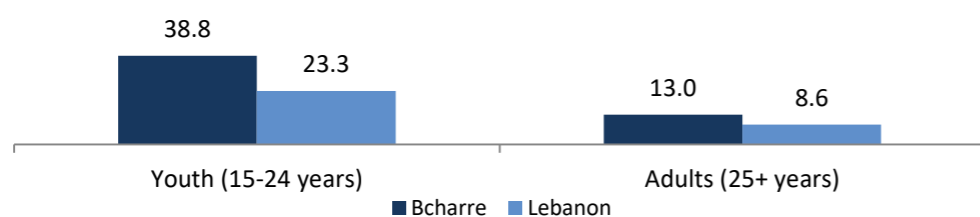
**Figure 25: Unemployment rate by sex (%)**



Unemployment was less prevalent among adults than among youth at both the district and country levels, with a rate reaching 13 per cent and 38.8 per cent respectively in Bcharre, compared to 8.6 per cent and 23.3 per cent respectively in Lebanon as a whole.

The gap between the youth and the adults' unemployment rate reached 25.8 percentage points in Bcharre and 14.7 percentage points in Lebanon as a whole. (Figure 26)

**Figure 26: Unemployment rate among youth and adults (%)**

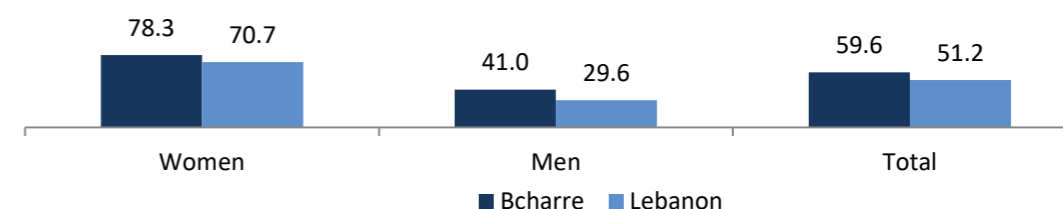


<sup>99</sup> Unemployment rate =  $\frac{\text{Persons in Unemployment (aged 15 years and above)}}{\text{Labour Force (aged 15 years and above)}} * 100$

The inactivity rate, which represents the proportion of the persons considered inactive- *neither working nor looking for any job*- in the total population aged 15 years and above in Bcharre (59.6 per cent), exceeded that of Lebanon (51.2 per cent).

78.3 per cent of women and 41 per cent of men were inactive at the caza level, compared to 70.7 per cent of women and 29.6 per cent of men at the national level. (Figure 27)

**Figure 27: Inactivity rate of residents aged 15 years + (%)**

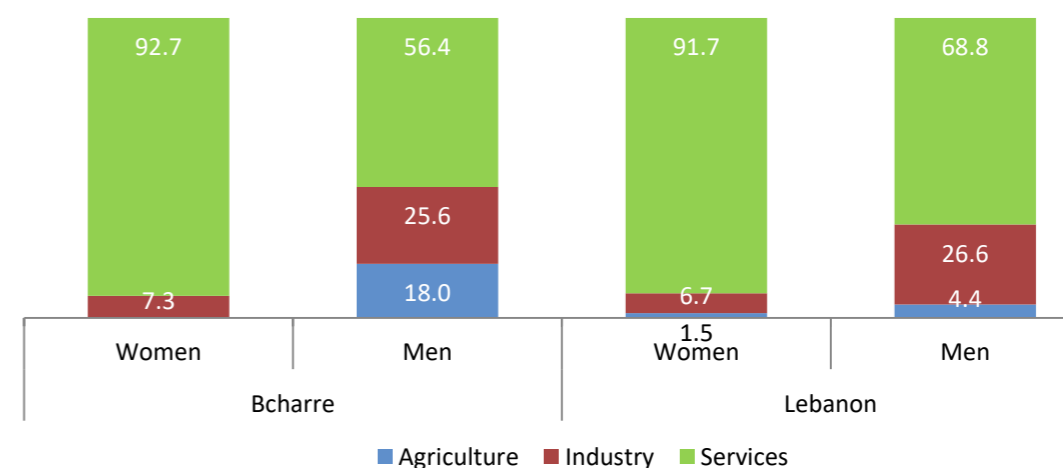


### Where do they work?

The Services sector was the largest employment sector for women and men, with respectively 92.7 per cent and 56.4 per cent in Bcharre, compared to 91.7 per cent and 68.8 per cent in Lebanon. In this sector, women surpassed men by 36.3 percentage points at the caza level. It was particularly noticeable that 25.6 per cent of working men and 7.3 per cent of working women

were employed in industry in Bcharre, compared to 26.6 per cent of working men and 6.7 per cent of working women in the whole of Lebanon. Although the employment in agriculture in Bcharre was above the national level for working men (18 per cent in Bcharre and 4.4 per cent in Lebanon), it was absent for women. (Figure 28)

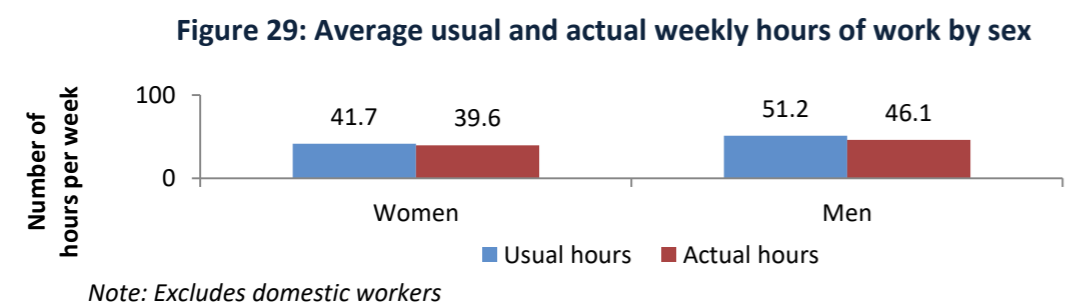
**Figure 28: Economic activity sector by sex (%)**



### ... and how many hours per week

Men in employment were reported to be working longer paid hours than women. The average number of actual paid weekly hours was 46.1 for men and 39.6 for women. Furthermore, the actual number of hours of work was slightly below the usual number of

hours for both sexes, due to temporary absences such as vacation, annual leave, etc. In Lebanon as a whole, the actual number of hours of work was 50 per cent for men and 39.1 per cent for women. (Figure 29)



### What type of jobs do they hold and where?

According to the ILO, the concept of "informal employment" refers to jobs that do not provide employees with legal or social protection, thus exposing them to greater economic risks than other employed people. As for concept of the "informal sector", it is a subset of unincorporated enterprises not constituted as separate legal entities independent of their owners.

The results show that more than half of the employed population in Bcharre held informal jobs at their main occupation (55.1

per cent), a result that was found to be close to the national level (54.9 per cent), and 43.9 per cent of the employed population were working in the informal sector. It is instructive to note that the latter proportion was higher compared to the national level (35.2 per cent). On the contrary, the proportion of employed individuals holding an informal job in a formal sector was less prevalent in Bcharre (11.3 per cent) compared to that in the whole of Lebanon (19.8 per cent). (Table 3)

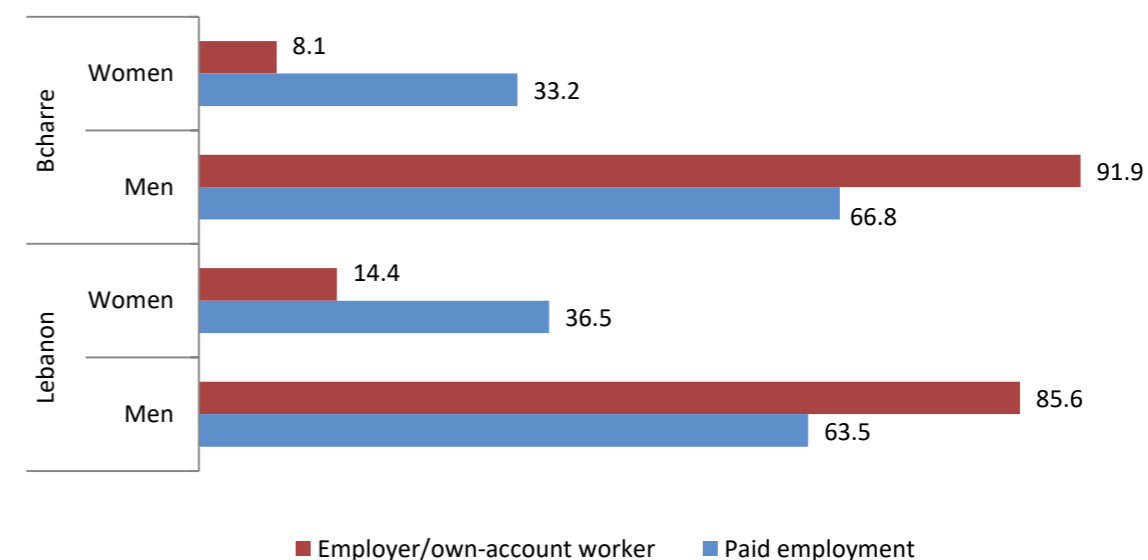
**Table 3: Formality versus Informality (in %)**

Type of employment	Bcharre			Lebanon		
	Informal Sector	Formal Sector	Total	Informal Sector	Formal Sector	Total
Informal	43.7	11.3	55.1	35.1	19.8	54.9
Formal	0.1	44.8	44.9	0.0	45.0	45.1
Total	43.9	56.1	100	35.2	64.8	100.0

Women's share in employment was low, yet more prevalent for paid employment than "employer/own account worker". The majority of employers or own-account workers in Bcharre were men (91.9 per cent), a proportion that was more than that

attained at the national level (85.6 per cent). Men's share in paid employment was nearly the same at both the district and national levels (66.8 per cent and 63.5 per cent respectively). (Figure 30)

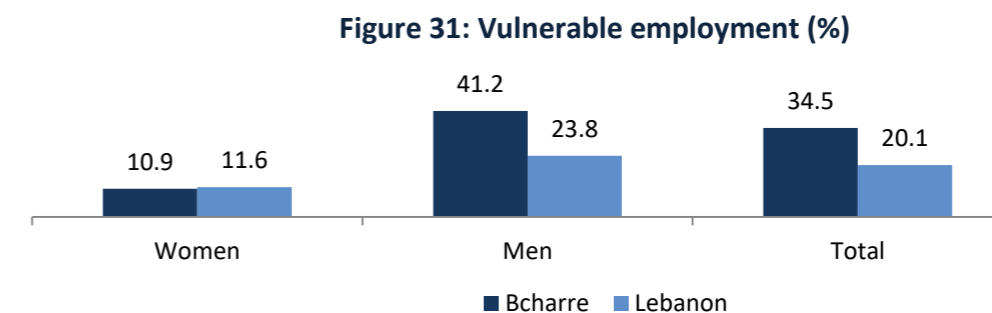
**Figure 30: Employed (15 years and above) by employment status and sex (%)**



### How many jobs are "vulnerable"?

In Bcharre, vulnerable employment was reported to be remarkably higher than that observed at the country level (34.5 per cent and 20.1 per cent respectively) and one of the highest among all cazas. It is worth noting that vulnerable employment was

markedly higher for men in Bcharre compared to the whole of Lebanon. Moreover, it was at least three times as prevalent among men (41.2 per cent) than among women (10.9 per cent). (Figure 31)





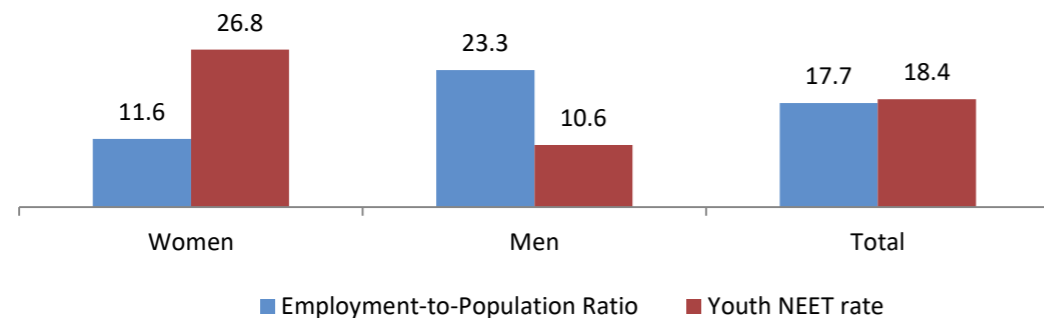
**DID YOU KNOW ?**

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition, "Vulnerable Employment" is the sum of own-account workers and contributing family workers in total employment. This category of workers has a lower likelihood of having formal work arrangements and is therefore more likely to lack elements associated with adequate social security and a voice at work.

### Youth in Employment versus Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Youth NEET rate - *Youth not in education, employment or training rate* - (18.4 per cent) in Bcharre was slightly higher than the youth employment-to-population ratio (17.7 per cent), as opposed to the result observed at the country level, where the youth employment-to-population ratio was 30 per cent and the Youth NEET rate was 21.8 per cent. Moreover, women's NEET rate (26.8 per cent) was more than twice as high as that of men (10.6 per cent). (Figure 32)

**Figure 32: Youth in employment and NEET rate (%)**



## The Team

This report would not have been possible without the joint effort and cooperation of a team of experts working in the Central Administration of Statistics and the United Nations Development Programme. The report was prepared under the overall direction and guidance of Dr Maral Tutélian - Guidanian, Director General of the Central Administration of Statistics and Celine Moyroud, UNDP Resident Representative.

The contributions of the following team are gratefully noted:

**Supervision:**

Dr Francois Farah | International Expert on population, development, and social policy (UNDP)

**Report drafting:**

Haifa Hussein | Economist (CAS)

**Data Preparation and Tabulations:**

Mayssaa Daher and Ali Hamieh | Math Statisticians (CAS)

**Report review:**

Francois Farah, Kawthar Dara, Lea Bou Fadel (UNDP)  
Mayssaa Daher, Amina Bassbous (CAS)

**Table drawing:**

Haifa Hussein  
Amina Bassbous, Alia Sayyed Ali, Ali Khreiss, Younes Kojok | Assistant Statisticians (CAS)

**Report Design:**

Layal Attieh (UNDP)

**Central Administration of Statistics**  
**Atwe building, Boulevard Camille Chamoun**  
**Beirut, Lebanon**  
**Phone: +9615462880 | [www.cas.gov.lb](http://www.cas.gov.lb)**