Lebanon

Full name: The Lebanese Republic
Government: republic

Location: Middle East, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Israel and Syria
Capital: Beirut
Area: 10,452 sq km (4,036 sq miles); about 0.7 times the size of Connecticut

Climate: Mediterranean; mild to cool, wet winters with hot, dry summers; Lebanon mountains experience heavy winter snows
Terrain: narrow coastal plain; El Beqaa (Bekaa Valley) separates Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon Mountains
Natural Hazards: dust storms, sandstorms

Population: 3.8 million (UN, 2005)
Ethnicity: Arab 95%, Armenian 4%, other 1%
Major Language: Arabic
Religion: Muslim 59.7% (Shi'a, Sunni, Druze, Isma'ilite, Alawite or Nusayri), Christian 39% (Maronite Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Melkite Catholic, Armenian Orthodox, Syrian Catholic, Armenian Catholic, Syrian Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Chaldean, Assyrian, Copt, Protestant), other 1.3%
Life expectancy: 70 years (men), 74 years (women) (UN)

Currency: 1 Lebanese pound (or lira) = 100 piastres