

Lebanon

ICT Development Study



Preface

Lebanon is one of the smallest countries in the region, but strategically located on the Eastern Mediterranean, it is an important commercial hub for the Middle East. A heterogeneous country, highly divided along both religious and confessional lines, Lebanon has a relatively young population. The Lebanese system of government reflects a combination of the prime ministerial and presidential systems. A lengthy power vacuum was recently filled with the appointment of Michel Aoun as President and Saad Hariri as Prime Minister.

The business environment in Lebanon is relatively restrictive, with the World Bank ranking it 126 out of the 189 countries surveyed in its Doing Business 2017. In terms of Global Competitiveness, the World Economic Forum ranks Lebanon as the 101st most competitive nation in the world (out of 138 economies).

ICT is a prioritized strategic industrial sector in Lebanon that witnessed significant growth over the past decade, propelled by massive investments in the sector. ICT's contribution to GDP is expected to be greater than USD 6 billion by 2017. Computer hardware constitutes the bulk of Lebanon's ICT market, followed by IT services sub-sector, and software development. Telecommunication is the second income generating sector for Lebanon's state treasury after the VAT, and the country has a very high mobile telephone penetration rate. This study is a part of the Development Study and analyses the ICT sector.

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