

Country Comparison

A Comprehensive comparison between Denmark and Lebanon

By: The Danish Embassy in Beirut

Overview:

This comparison between Denmark and Lebanon is done in order to provide the public with information about the two countries in a clear and easy way. The comparison will help the public further understand the differences and similarities between the two countries. This way Denmark according to the Lebanese/ Lebanon according to the Danes will not just be another far away country.

The data below are selected according to importance, impact and understandability. Credible sources such as World Bank, World Economic Forum, IMF, Danish Government, United Nation Development Program UNICEF, UNESCO, Bonn International Centre for Conversion Facilitating Peace and Development, Freedom House, Transparency International and other sources were used in the process of data collection.

We are very interested in adding more to this comparison, so if you have any interesting ideas for a new comparison or any other comments please let us know.

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Contents

General Information	3
Population.....	3
Politics and Government.....	4
Economic and Fiscal Data.....	5
Infrastructure and Communication	6
Energy and Environment.....	6
Business.....	7
Education	8
Health.....	9
Geography and Climate	9
General Facts	10
Annex.....	11

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General Information

	Lebanon	Denmark
Population (in millions)	4.2	5.5
Area	10,425 km ²	43,094 km ² (Denmark) 2,220,093 km ² (including Greenland and Faroe Islands)
Capital City	Beirut	Copenhagen
Location	Middle East	Northern Europe
Government Type	Republic	Constitutional Monarchy
Currency	Lebanese Pound (LBP)	Danish Kroner (DKK)
Language	Arabic (official) , French, English	Danish, Faroese, Greenlandic
Flag		

Population

	Lebanon	Denmark
Population Growth Rate	0.244%	0.251%
Birth Rate (Birth/1,000 population)	15.02	10.29
Death Rate (Deaths/1,000 population)	7	10
Urbanization	87%	87%

Politics and Government

	Lebanon	Denmark
Independence Date	22 November 1943 (French released Lebanese government officials after imprisoning them)	5 June 1849 became Constitutional Monarchy
Last Parliamentary Elections	7 June 2009 (2013 next elections)	15 September 2011 (next elections at latest 15 September 2015)
Current Major Political Parties	8 th of March Coalition (holds majority) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hezbollah Party • Amal Movement • Free Patriotic Movement 14 th of March Coalition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lebanese Forces Party • Lebanese Phalanges Party • Future Movement 	Social Democrats (in Gov. + PM) Socialist People's Party (in Gov.) Social Liberal Party (in Gov.) Liberal Party Conservative People's Party Danish People Party Green-Red Coalition
Legal System	Mixed Civil (private laws are based on religion)	Civil
Transparency of Government Policymakingⁱ Rank out of 144	107	45
Proportion of Seats Held by Women In National Parliaments	3%	38%
Women in Current Government	0	8 + Prime Minister
Corruption Perception Rank¹	134	2
Wasteful Government Spending Rank out of 144	127	35
Judicial Independence Rank out of 144	131	13
Freedom Status	Partly Free	Free
Reliability of Police Servicesⁱⁱ Rank out of 144	107	7
Armed Forces Personnel	76000	30000
Global Militarization Index Levelⁱⁱⁱ	High	Medium
Military Expenditure(in billions USD) in 2010	1.5	4.6
Military Expenditure (% of government expenditure)	14%	3.4%

¹ Source: Transparency International

Economic and Fiscal Data

	Lebanon	Denmark
Market Type	Free market services based	Free market agricultural and high tech industries
Gross Domestic Product^{iv} 2011 (billion USD)	42	332
GDP Growth Rate 2011	3%	1%
Inflation (2011)	5.88%	3.2%
Labor Force (millions)	1.48	2.852
Unemployment Rate	15%	6.2%
Unemployment Rate (aged 15-24)	21%	11%
Population Below Poverty Line^v	28.6% ² (2005)	5.6 ³
Government Debt as % GDP	136%	44.25%
Gov. Revenues in billion	\$8.4	\$171.7
Gov. Expenditure in billions	\$11.31	\$180.7
Budget Deficit as % of GDP	-7.17%	-4.88%
Account Balance in billions^{vi}	-4	15
Exports as % GDP	21%	50%
Imports as % GDP	85%	46%
Bilateral Export Goods/Services^{vii} in million USD	4/13	116/34
Foreign Direct Investment^{viii}; net (in USD) 2011	2.7 billion	-8.7 billion

² 20.6 % live on less than 4\$/day while 8% live on less than 2.4\$/day.

³ When considering poverty as population below 50% of median income

Infrastructure and Communication

	Lebanon	Denmark
Quality of Infrastructure Rank out of 144	141	13
Quality of Roads Rank out of 144	115	19
Fixed Telephone lines per100 population	21%	47%
Mobile Telephone subscriptions	79%	126%
Individuals Using Internet	52%	90% (2010)
Registered TV-Stations	10	11
Published Newspapers	13	31
Newspaper Daily Circulation	220,000	1,500,000

Energy and Environment

	Lebanon	Denmark
CO₂ Emissions per Capita (Metric Tons)	3.23	9.15
Electricity Generation from Renewable Sources	0.8 %	29%
Current Renewable Energy Sources	Hydropower	Wind (20% of energy produced), biomass
Quality of Electricity Supply Rank out of 144	144	5

Business

	Lebanon	Denmark
Ease of Doing Business Rank out of 185	115	5
Days Needed to Open Business	9	6
The problematic Factors for Doing Business	Inadequate Infrastructure	Difficulty to access financing
Women in Labor Force (as a ratio to men)	0.33 to 1	0.92 to 1
Extent of Staff Training Rank out of 144	102	10
Buyer Sophistication Rank out of 144	35	31
Companies' Expenditure on Research and Development Rank out of 144	122	9
Total Tax Rate as percentage of Profits	30%	27%
Strength of Auditing Standards Rank out 144	76	33
Availability of Financial Services Rank out of 144	49	30
Ease of Access to Loans Rank out of 144	42	55
Ethical Behavior of Firms Rank out of 144	127	4
Effectiveness of Anti-Monopoly Policy Rank out of 144	103	10

Education

	Lebanon	Denmark
Literacy Rate^{ix}	87.4%	99%
Public Expenditure on Education as % of GDP	1.8 (2009)	8.7 (2009)
Quantity of Education⁴ (1 -7) 7 best	4.9	6.3
Quality of Education System^x Rank out of 144	10	19
Primary School Enrollment Rate	92%	96%
Quality of Primary Education Rank out of 144	7	36
Secondary School Enrollment Rate	75%	89%
Quality of Math and Science Education. Rank out of 144	4	38
Internet Access in Schools Rank out of 144	97	19
Higher Education and Training Rank out of 144	48	14
Top University Ranking⁵ (Name/Worldwide Rank)	American University of Beirut 250 Saint Joseph University 501-550	University of Copenhagen 51 University Aarhus 89 Technical University Denmark 132
Availability of Engineers and Scientists Rank out of 144	37	28
Global Innovation Index Rank (1st is highly innovative)	49 th	6 th
Quality of Research Institutions Rank out of 144	129	18

⁴ Overall Enrollment

⁵ Source: QS World University Ranking <http://www.topuniversities.com>

Health

	Lebanon	Denmark
Life Expectancy	73	79
Under five Mortality per 1000 births	12	4
Health Expenditure as % of GDP^{xi} (private and public)	7%	11.4%
Public Expenditure on Health % of total health expenditure^{xii}	39%	85%
Hospital Bed Density Beds Per 1000 population	3.5	3.57

Geography and Climate

	Lebanon	Denmark
Highest Point	3088 m Qurnat as Sawda ¹	179m Møllehøj
Terrain	Narrow coastal plain, rugged Mountains	low and flat plains
Climate	Warm, dry summers , cool wet winters	mild, windy winters, cool summers
Forrest Area in Km²	1,370	5,440
Forrest Area as % of Total Area	13.4%	12.8%
Agricultural Land as % of land	67%	63%

General Facts

	Lebanon	Denmark
Etymology of the country name	The name Lebanon comes from the Semitic root lbn, meaning "white", likely a reference to the snow-capped Mount Lebanon	Debatable. The debate is centered primarily around the prefix "Dan" and whether it refers to the Dani or a historical person Dan and the exact meaning of the "-mark" ending
History	Phoenician 1550 BC to 300 BC.	Viking (A.D. 800 to the 11th century)
Human Development Index^{xiii}	High Human Development. Rank: 71	Very High Human Development. Rank:16
Way of Life	Show off, individualism, close family ties, lack of equality and lack of punctuality	Equality, Punctuality and modesty
Pastime	Sitting with family or friends while enjoying coffee or food	"hygge": relaxing with good friends or loved ones over good food or drinks
Cuisine	Mezze: Mix of hot and cold appetizers	Smorrebrod consisting of open sandwiches, usually on thinly sliced rye bread
Local Alcoholic Drink	Arak	Akvavit
Famous Local Beer	Almaza	Carlsberg and Tuborg pilsner
Total Beer Consumption (million liters)	23.7	327
Beer Consumption per capita (Liters)	6	67
Minimum Drinking Age	18	16 to buy from stores 18 if served in bars and restaurants and for alcohol above 16.5%
Usage of Car Horns	Extensive	Kept to urgent situations
Number of Vehicles per 1000 Inhabitant	434	549

Traffic-Related Death per 100,000 inhabitants per year	28.5	7.4
Cycling	Hobby mostly by children and youth	Most Danes are active cyclists 50% of Danes in Copenhagen commute daily to work or study by bicycle
Number of Stolen Cars in 2010	1110	17102
Reported Homicides in 2010	95	49
Reported Robberies in 2010	583	3372
Organized Crime Rank out of 144	67	28
Waste Management and Disposal	Use of landfills and open dumps. Minimal Recycling and Composting	Use of recycling composting energy to waste and other techniques in waste management
Number of Medals in London Summer Olympics 2012	0	9 (2 of which gold)
Most Common Surname	Hadad (Blacksmith)	Jensen (Sons of Jens)

Annex:

i **Government Transparency**: How easy is it for businesses in your country to obtain information about changes in government policies and regulations affecting their activities?

ii **Police Reliability**: To what extent can police services be relied upon to enforce law and order in your country?

iii **GMI** compares a country's military expenditure with its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and its health expenditure. It contrasts the total number of military and paramilitary forces in a country with the number of physicians. Finally, it studies the number of heavy weapons available to a country's armed forces

iv **GDP** Market value of final goods and services produced within a country in a given period of time

v **Definitions of poverty** vary considerably among nations. For example, rich nations generally employ more generous standards of poverty than poor nations.

vi **Account Balance**: Monetary transactions with the rest of the world

vii **Service Export**: Export of services such as tourism, banking and insurance, transportation, education, architecture, construction, Information Technology and Entertainment.

viii **Net Foreign Direct Investment**: FDI is the net inflows of investment to acquire a lasting management interest (10 percent or more of voting stock) in an enterprise operating in an economy other than that of the investor. It is the sum of equity capital, reinvestment of earnings, other long-term capital, and short-term capital as shown in the balance of payments. Net FDI = FDI from foreign source – FDI by local source.

ix **Literacy**: Age 15 and above with ability to read

x **Quality of the educational system**: How well does the educational system in a country meet the needs of a competitive economy

xi **Health expenditure (% of GDP)**: Total health expenditure is the sum of public and private health expenditure. It covers the provision of health services (preventive and curative), family planning and nutrition activities, and emergency aid for health.

xii **Public health expenditure** consists spending from budgets, external borrowings and grants (including donations from international agencies and nongovernmental organizations), and social health insurance funds.

xiii **Human Development Index**: measures development by combining indicators of life expectancy, educational attainment and income