# COUNTRY PROFILE
## LEBANON

# Arab Business Legislative Frameworks
## Lebanon Profile

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Beirut

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United Nations publication issued by ESCWA, United Nations House, Riad El Solh Square, P.O. Box: 11-8575, Beirut, Lebanon.

Website: www.unescwa.org.

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# LEBANON

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## Summary

Lebanon has a legal system based on and inspired by the French legal code. Lebanon is considered a civil law country with a constitution, while the personal status is governed by the different religious courts.

# Competition

- Lebanon currently has NO COMPETITION LAW relying instead on other **legislation to govern modes of competition**, such as the **archaic Commercial Code and Penal Code**;
- Because of the LACK OF ANY COMPETITION LAW, there are **neither clear definitions** of **anti-competitive behaviour nor coherent methods** of **tackling monopolistic behaviour**;
- A DRAFT COMPETITION LAW has been **pending** for over a decade.

# Foreign Direct Investment

- Lebanon developed LAW NO. 360 OF 2001, known as the **Investment Law**;
- To that effect, Lebanon has a developed FDI LEGISLATION SYSTEM, which includes **legislations**, **enforcement processes** and institutions to **approve**, **assess** and **manage foreign investments** into the country;
- However, the FDI LEGISLATION still LACKS SOME CLEAR and CONCISE DEFINITIONS. In addition, there are **restrictions on FDI** in certain sectors, such as the fields of **military and security**, the **media**, **banking**, **telecommunications**, **energy**, **real estate** and **public utilities sectors**, to name a few.

# Anti-Corruption

- Lebanon DOES NOT HAVE A STANDARDIZED ANTI-CORRUPTION LAW; a **draft law** is currently pending;
- Lebanon currently relies on a MIX OF OTHER LEGISLATION to TACKLE CORRUPTION, such as **Law No. 154 of 1999** (The Illicit Wealth Law); **Law No. 318 of 2001** (on fighting money laundering); **Law No. 44 of 2015** (on money laundering and terrorist financing); and **Law No.83 of 2018** (on whistleblower protection);
- The Lebanese Government HAS NOT YET FORMED AN OFFICIAL ANTI-CORRUPTION BODY that is **independent** and **authorized** with the **powers to monitor**, **asses** and **enforce** the **legislations**.

# Consumer Protection

- Lebanon has a CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW, **No. 658 of 2005**, which was **amended** and **updated** in **2012** and **2014**;
- Thanks to that law, there is a CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY within the **Ministry of Economy and Trade** that is **authorized** to **handle complaints** and **tackle violations**;
- THERE REMAIN MAJOR GAPS in terms of coherent and **consistent definitions** related to **consumer protection**, and a **major gap** in terms of **robust implementation** and **enforcement of the laws**.

# Main Headings

Very Strong | Strong | Developed | Moderate | Basic | Weak | Very Weak

## COMPETITION — WEAK

| | |
|---|---|
| Anti-Trust and Competition Laws | Weak |
| Anti-Dominance and Monopolisation Laws | Very Weak |
| Cartels and Anti-Competitive Agreements | Weak |
| Competition Enforcement Practices | Weak |
| International Trade Agreements | Weak |
| Liberalisation and Competition Intervention in Regulated Sectors | No Score |
| Merger Regulatory Regime | Basic |
| Labor Protection | Basic |

## FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) — DEVELOPED

| | |
|---|---|
| Banking Regulations | Developed |
| Macroeconomic Policies | Strong |
| Investment Regulatory Framework | Strong |
| Incentivisation Schemes | Basic |
| Bi-lateral Treaties | Developed |

## ANTI-CORRUPTION — MODERATE

| | |
|---|---|
| Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Public Sector | Strong |
| Anti-Bribery and Whistle Blow Laws | Moderate |
| Budgeting and Public Expenditures | Very Strong |
| Digital Government | Moderate |
| Open Government and Transparency | Moderate |
| Public Procurement Standards | Very Weak |

## CONSUMER PROTECTION — DEVELOPED

| | |
|---|---|
| Physical Safety Regulations | Strong |
| Protection of Consumers' Economic Interests | Very Strong |
| Measures Enabling Consumers to Obtain Redress | Strong |
| Promotion of Sustainable Consumption | Basic |

# Sub-categories

Very Strong | Strong | Developed | Moderate | Basic | Weak | Very Weak

## COMPETITION

| | |
|---|---|
| Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations) | Weak |
| Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties) | Very Weak |
| Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities) | Weak |
| International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements) | Weak |
| Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences) | No Score |
| Exemptions | Moderate |
| Accessibility/Transparency | Weak |

## FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

| | |
|---|---|
| Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations) | Strong |
| Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties) | Basic |
| Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities) | Very Strong |
| International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements) | Developed |
| Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences) | Strong |
| Exemptions | Very Strong |
| Accessibility/Transparency | Strong |

## ANTI-CORRUPTION

| | |
|---|---|
| Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations) | Developed |
| Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties) | Developed |
| Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities) | Basic |
| International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements) | Moderate |
| Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences) | Moderate |
| Exemptions | No Score |
| Accessibility/Transparency | Developed |

## CONSUMER PROTECTION

| | |
|---|---|
| Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations) | Moderate |
| Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties) | Developed |
| Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities) | Very Strong |
| International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements) | Moderate |
| Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences) | Moderate |
| Exemptions | Very Strong |
| Accessibility/Transparency | Developed |

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