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A LIGHT IN THE DARK TUNNEL

LEBANESE IMPORTS DECLINED BY USD 8 BILLION (2019-2020)

BDL
SUBSIDIES AND STATE LOANS

SELLING GOLD RESERVES
A SOLUTION OR PROBLEM?

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“The Necessities of Independence”

By Jawad N. Adra

This article was first written and published in The Monthly issue No. 87 of January 2011, and we are republishing it today for the reality it reflects has never changed.

Exasperated with the current state of affairs, the Lebanese might find it enlightening and soothing to read Riad Al-Solh's response to the complaints regarding corruption, waste of public funds, nepotism and confessionalism in 1943, when he formed the government of independence: those are “the necessities of independence”.

In order for Lebanon to be independent, certain behavior or rules of conduct with foreign powers and nationally are necessary. In order for F.B's (France and Britain) efforts to be successful and to grant Lebanon independence, Lebanese politicians behaved the way they did. At that time, the issues weren't as overwhelming, they were limited to some plots of land, the electricity and tobacco companies' concessions and a few public contracts. The new Lebanese state and system adopted measures of compromise and pragmatism without which Lebanon as we know it now perhaps would not have been formed nor maintained. This was the story of the so called “first independence” and the story of the “second independence” of 2005 is not much different.

Since F.B, and through “mediation efforts” of Egypt and the US (E.U) and currently of Syria, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the US, “the necessities” have grown exponentially with Solidere, Sukleen, public debt and banks' profits, while the talk on state building has become even more eloquent.

“The necessities of independence” require that 225 people, since 1943, are assassinated without any indictment. “The necessities of independence” require that we go into a civil war with hundreds of thousands killed and wounded and thousands taken hostage by warlords that we honor and whose photographs we plaster on our dirty balconies with our dirty linen. The same “necessities” also require them to pay us for this advertisement.

“The necessities of independence” require that we be drowned in garbage, waste water and public debt while following the leader and seeking immigration.

“The necessities of independence” require us to name the streets after our occupiers, Foch and Clemenceau. The same “necessities” decree that we also name streets after Jamal Abdel Naser, Kennedy, Gandhi, Syria, Lebanon and Argentina in a strange cocktail that reflects a weird sense of urban planning, in a perpetuated tragicomedy scene.

“The necessities of independence” require us to scream “Thank you Syria” and “Syria out” and to curse the petrodollar and to assume and pretend that the “mediators” are do-gooders while we obediently await the result of the S.S (Syria-Saudi) “mediation efforts”. And this is what we call Independence Lebanese Style.

Leader



A LIGHT IN THE DARK TUNNEL

**LEBANESE IMPORTS
DECLINED BY
USD 8 BILLION (2019-2020)**

The Lebanese economy has suffered from chronic structural imbalances due to the deficit in the various economic sectors and the declining of financial and economic activities, in particular the deficit in trade balance.

Trade Deficit

Lebanon's trade deficit has risen year after year, reaching about USD 18.1 billion in 2014. This is due to the fact that the country's imports exceed its exports, the Lebanese industries rely on imported raw materials and nearly 90% of the consumed goods and materials are imported. Considerable efforts and measures have been taken to reduce imports but proved fruitless.

Actually, the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic and the financial meltdown that Lebanon has experienced since end of 2019 have successfully achieved what the government policies had failed to. Table No. 1 below shows that imports and exports have disproportionately declined, further reducing the trade deficit.

Table No. 1: Evolution of imports, exports and trade deficit (2010-2020).

Year	Imports (USD billion)	Exports (USD billion)	Deficit (USD billion)	Trade deficit ratio (%)
2010	17.964	4.253	-13.711	76.3
2011	20.276	4.265	-16.011	78.9
2012	22.037	4.482	-17.555	79.7
2013	22.020	3.936	-18.084	82.1
2014	21.437	3.313	-18.124	84.5
2015	18.595	2.952	-15.643	84.1
2016	19.119	2.977	-16.142	84.4
2017	19.582	2.843	-16.739	85.5
2018	19.980	2.952	-17.028	85.2
2019	19.240	3.732	-15.508	80.6
2020	11.310	3.545	-7.765	68.6

Source: General Directorate of Lebanese Customs.

What Products did the Lebanese Skip?

Lebanese imports went down from about USD 19.3 billion in 2019 to around USD 11.3 billion in 2020, registering a decline of 42% or USD 8 billion.

Three main factors have contributed to this decline:

- The drop in the global prices of a number of commodities, namely oil derivatives. The oil bill fell from about USD 6.4 billion in 2019 to around USD 3 billion in 2020.
- The cessation of importing various commodities and materials and their replacement with less expensive substitutes.
- The decline in the imports of cars. The number of imported new cars has decreased from 22,000 to around 7,000.



Imports

Deficit

Exports

2012		
22 USD billion	-17.5 USD billion	3.3 USD billion
2019		
19.2 USD billion	-15.5 USD billion	3.7 USD billion
2020		
11.3 USD billion	-7.7 USD billion	3.5 USD billion

Examples of this decline include:

Table No. 2: The Lebanese imports (2019-2020).

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Live bovine animals	272.7	111,236	282.7	110,362	+10	-874
Live sheep	37.882	14,570	46.078	15,099	+0.196	+529
Boneless beef meat, fresh or chilled	93.783	17,479	56.082	11,424	-37.701	-6,055
Boneless beef meat, frozen	25.524	7,312	25.398	7,329	-126	+17
Poultry meat, frozen	13.052	5,397	2.630	1,587	-10.422	-3,810
Salmon fish	15.687	1,732	6.700	750	-8.987	-982
Bream fish	23.966	7,673	11.562	3,411	-12.404	-4,262
Shrimp	13.097	1,793	3.031	464	-10.066	-1,329

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Dairy products containing more than 10% fat	10.176	3,930	4.564	1,532	-5.612	-2,398
Dairy products and cream in metal cans or aluminum bags	7.590	1,949	5.214	1,179	-2.376	-770
Dairy products and cream	13.287	5,195	16.842	5,900	+3.555	+705
Cream, powdered or granulated, in metal cans	48.919	10,617	29.878	6,455	-19.041	-4,162
Cream, powdered or granulated	17.738	5,293	8.915	2,590	-8.823	-2,703
Butter	26.924	4,485	12.491	2,047	-14.433	-2,438
Grated cheese	31.672	8,353	16.483	4,675	-15.189	-3,678
Processed cheese, ungrated	59.109	10,001	31.716	6,203	-27.393	-3,798
Kashkaval	24.557	4,848	12.638	2,658	-11.919	-2,190
Other cheese	31.146	6,859	12.170	2,533	-18.976	-4,326
Forest trees and seedlings	7.444	7,205	1.503	3,113	-5.941	-4,092
Potato for planting under certain specifications	17.483	21,475	16.270	20,255	-1.213	-1,220
Potato for planting	27.321	70,898	15.194	44,366	-12.127	-26,532
Chickpeas	10.330	13,762	13.621	21,083	+3.291	+7,321
Lentils	7.820	14,169	14.331	19,650	+6.511	+5,481
Unpeeled cashew nuts	31.692	5,085	8.021	1,650	-23.671	-3,408
Peeled almond	29.165	4,026	11.582	1,739	-17.583	-2,287
Unpeeled pistachio nuts	10.699	1,464	9.422	1,863	-1.277	+399
Peeled pistachio nuts	15.016	1,255	6.032	512	-8.984	-743
Dried fruits and dates	12.273	6,723	8.235	6,788	-4.038	+65
Unroasted caffeinated coffee beans	71.348	33,542	36.628	19,602	-34.720	-13,940
Black tea packed in boxes not weighing more than 3 kg	21.165	3,247	17.017	2,448	-4.148	-799
Wheat for sowing	123.152	535,022	148.406	630,388	+25.254	+95,366
Barley for sowing	16.827	79,756	11.406	53,378	-5.421	-26,378

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Corn for sowing	108.129	549,011	117.613	556,978	+9.484	+7,967
Milled (bleached) rice	61.490	84,992	76.023	127,063	+14.533	+42,071
Wheat used in making pita bread	10.922	24,969	8.761	27,620	-1.361	+2,651
Soybeans for sowing	57.271	137,561	47.742	116,822	-9.529	-20,739
Peeled peanuts	14.027	8,217	9.763	5,256	-4.264	-2,961
Sunflower seeds	16.743	15,698	14.559	14,005	-2.184	-1,693
Oily fruits and seeds	46.663	26,610	47.006	30,551	343,000+	+3,941
Palm oil	16.137	19,562	20.509	21,407	+4.372	+1,845
Crude oil	41.703	56,510	55.235	66,502	+13.536	+9,992
Crude oil	32.312	33,519	27.504	26,950	-4.808	-7,069
Sausages and other food preparations	12.321	3,231	7.060	1,726	-5.261	-1,505
Parts of beef meat	8.440	2,083	3.858	990	-4.582	-1,093
Canned tuna	30.042	6,437	19.419	4,571	-10.623	-1,866
Refined sugar	71.952	184,120	95.762	222,814	+23.810	+38,694
Chewing gum	9.820	1,421	1.134	673	-8.686	-748
Candies	20.961	7,021	8.208	5,076	-12.753	-1,945
Cocoa bars	23.144	3,986	4.903	1,324	-18.241	-2,662
Chocolate	37.030	8,011	11.128	3,233	-25.902	-4,778
Preparations for feeding infants and toddlers	78.505	6,766	62.751	7,369	-15.754	+603
Food preparations	20.847	6,970	15.434	5,789	-5.413	-1,181
Cream and custard powder	11.312	6,263	5.598	3,691	-5.714	-2,572
Macaroni and vermicelli	20.603	21,570	28.909	37,329	+8.306	+15,759
Ready-to-eat corn flakes	10.645	2,455	2.866	872	-7.779	-1,583
Sweet biscuits	34.644	12,189	12.152	5,375	-22.492	-6,814
Biscuit pie	22.111	6,657	9.626	3,695	-12.485	-2,962
Bread	42.792	14,908	12.259	6,295	-30.533	-8,613
Extracts, essences and concentrates	19.572	3,504	13.120	1,825	-6.452	-679
Coffee-based preparations	32.449	7,875	18.766	5,315	-13.683	-2,560
Live yeasts	8.846	4,194	6.350	3,307	-2.496	-887

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Tahini	22.152	9,308	8.825	6,646	13.327	-5,662
Soups and preparations for making soups and broths	11.328	2,183	4.661	1,094	-6.667	-1,089
Preparations for making non-alcoholic beverages	24.092	1,110	21.886	1,282	-2.206	+172
Chemical enhancers used in the bread industry	83.190	14,101	45.173	10,769	-38.017	-3,332
Water, including mineral and carbonated water	12.468	9,940	3.766	6,627	-8.702	-3,313
Energy drinks	18.932	17,031	9.405	7,063	-9.527	-9,968
Beer	11.224	17,032	4.497	6,713	-6.727	-10,319
Whiskey with less than 50% alcohol	38.713	4,243	16	2,371	-22.629	-1,872
Vodka	9.074	1,588	4.380	1,750	-4.694	+162
Residues from soybean oil extraction	46.715	124,451	58.489	152,303	+11.774	+27,852
Dog and cat food	14.352	9,371	10.155	7,661	-4.197	-1,710
Materials for feed industry and poultry framing	31.218	18,679	24.472	15,183	-6.746	-3,496
Ribless tobacco	21.953	4,000	18.531	3,436	-3.422	-564
Cigarettes	71.261	2,779	9.233	370	-62.028	-2,409
Waterpipe tobacco	28.077	3,092	13.739	1,522	-14.338	-1,520
Tobacco	8.596	1,315	8.322	1,162	-274	-153
Matches	9.354	94,313	8.916	136,009	-438	+41,696
Unground calcium derivatives	39.042	479,064	32.625	457,177	-6.417	-21,887
Marble cut into slabs	8.246	54,619	3.929	25,603	-4.317	-29,016
Gasoline, not less than 98 octane	172.898	263,185	75.5	157,152	97.398	-106,033
Gasoline, less than 98 octane	1.158.668	1,837,023	761.4	1,680,496	-397.268	-156,527
Kerosene for aviation	21.059	31,953	8.295	17,344	-12.769	-14,609
Diesel	3.197.459	5,128,983	1.668.630	4,118,926	-1.528.829	-1,010,057
Fuel	1.722.399	3,859,417	493.214	1,429,995	-1.229.185	-2,429,422
Petroleum products used in many industries	63.412	34,462	41.045	28,564	-22.367	-5,898

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Propane	14.538	25,205	8.528	15,934	-6.010	-9,271
Butane	123.464	231,597	113.568	227,400	-9.896	-4,197
Petroleum coke for cement industry	24.669	261,917	3.836	52,605	-20.833	-209,312
Asphalt for roads	21.394	50,185	5.052	16,815	-16.342	-33,370
Primary chemicals used in the pharmaceutical industry	10.625	5,067	6.145	3,264	-4.480	-1,803
Primary chemicals used in the pharmaceutical industry	5.765	10	6.263	14	+498	+4
Antibiotics and serums	26.848	22	23.951	13	-2.897	-9
Immune products	335.293	340	375.882	523	+40.589	+183
Human vaccines	47.693	30	51.621	29	+3.978	-1
Veterinary vaccines	8.660	66	5.736	41	-2.924	-25
Materials for dairy industry	8.833	17	1.172	13	-4.661	-4
Human and veterinary drugs, hormones and serums	7.522	60	8.141	44	-619	-16
Drugs containing antibiotics	26.642	294	21.100	180	-5.542	-114
Drugs containing insulin	13.151	32	13.553	37	+4021	+5
Hormones	13.761	90	10.558	70	-3.203	-20
Human and veterinary drugs, hormones and serums	12.017	344	18.899	628	+6.882	+284
Human drugs, hormones and serums	10.136	213	9.145	226	-991	+13
Medical preparations for human use, not recognized as drugs by the Ministry of Health	23.257	1,092	17.095	916	-6.162	-176
Human and veterinary drugs, hormones and serums	651.100	6,589	581.648	5,735	-69.452	-854
Human and veterinary drugs, hormones and serums	33.823	111	30.348	126	-3.475	+15
Phosphate of ammonia	18.519	28,629	843	1,548	-17.676	-27,081
Leather tanning colors	13.272	4,771	7.070	2,707	-6.202	-2,064

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Paint pastes	15.852	24,768	5.697	8,282	-10.155	-16,486
Aromatics used in the beverage industry	16.004	490	13.392	486	-2.612	-4
Materials for the manufacture of perfumes, beverages and detergents	12.710	813	14.714	1,045	+2,004	+232
Perfumes and perfumed water	39.564	1,401	12.441	451	-27.123	-950
Eye cosmetics	6.309	163	3.541	72	-2.768	-91
Cosmetics	47.427	1,874	18.970	847	-28.457	-1,027
Cosmetics-shampoo	28.831	8,652	14.265	5,653	-14.544	-2,999
Hair care cosmetics	20.550	2,972	11.698	1,774	-8.852	-1,198
Tooth cleansers	11.383	1,316	7.908	1,403	-3.475	+87
Body deodorants and antiperspirants	14.657	1,659	4.850	679	-19.507	-980
Olive oil soap	9.173	3,492	5.751	3,119	3.422	-373
Surface active preparations and cleaning preparations	10.084	2,078	4.189	1,144	-5.895	-934
Hand dishwashing liquid detergents	42.290	33,084	24.067	24,700	-18.223	-8,384
Hand dishwashing liquid detergents	13.151	13,453	5.118	8,155	-8.033	-5,298
Materials for the manufacture of cardboard	6.471	2,616	3.581	1,959	-2.890	-657
Materials for the manufacture of diapers, sanitary pads and toilet paper	7.223	3,100	5.058	2,159	-2.165	-941
Materials for the manufacture of pesticides	15.993	1,639	9.401	703	-6.592	-936
Materials for the manufacture of paints	8.101	1,193	5.140	608	-2.961	-585
Materials for the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industry	7.567	1,816	7.862	1,862	+295	+46
Diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing	56.655	761	73.997	562	+17.342	-199

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Chemical preparations used in food industry	16.623	15,330	10.807	9,286	-5.816	-6,044
Polyethylene (chemicals), with a density less than 0.94	71.190	66,433	40.777	43,298	-30.413	-23,135
Polyethylene with a density not less than 0.94	35.098	31,064	17.143	17,752	-17.955	-13,312
Polypropylene	23.633	19,843	11.576	11,262	-12.057	-8,581
Propylene copolymers	7.433	5,784	4.199	3,819	-3.234	-1,965
Polystyrene	10.175	7,944	4.619	4,116	-5.556	-3,828
Vinyl chloride	11.736	13,310	2.768	3,183	-8.968	-10,127
Methyl methacrylate	10.610	6,735	8.449	5,272	-2.161	-1,463
Polyethers	12.097	7,219	6.483	4,407	-5.614	-2,812
Ethylene terephthalate, having a viscosity number of 78 ml/g	14.661	13,104	22.563	28,286	+7.902	-15,182
Ethylene terephthalate	21.706	19,272	7.784	9,108	-13.922	-10,164
Plates and sheets	10.149	2,891	756	89	-9.393	-2,802
Plates and sheets	12.291	5,622	7.887	3,928	-4.404	-1,694
Packing strips with a width not exceeding 15 mm	16.637	7,779	17.522	8,456	+885	+677
Nylon for greenhouses	6.132	3,066	4.317	1,948	-1.815	-1,118
Cellulose products	13.659	6,586	7.964	2,786	-5.695	-3,800
Preforms for bottles and jars	10.364	5,622	6.431	4,220	-3.933	-1,402
Disposable forks, spoons and knives	12.562	3,266	3.638	1,226	-8.924	-2,040
Disposable forks, spoons and knives	13.215	3,116	4.065	1,070	-9.150	-2,046
Cooling tubes	11.251	9,570	3.313	2,858	-7.938	-6,712
Materials for the manufacture of bags and jewelry boxes	21.118	5,553	12.406	3,318	-8.712	-2,235
Tires for cars	55.164	15,145	14.397	4,213	-40.767	-10,932
Tires for buses and trucks	11.969	4,375	4.649	1,994	-7.320	-2,381
Non-sterile medical gloves	10.089	2,209	4.862	867	-5.227	-1,392

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Bags of genuine or refurbished leather	12.648	48	6.981	17	-5.667	-31
Textile bags	9.755	322	3.952	153	-5.803	-169
Coal	32.926	48,586	18.780	27,800	-14.146	-20,786
Pine wood	12.732	29,141	3.751	9,054	-8.981	-20,087
Fir wood	13.381	32,605	2.322	5,682	-11.059	-26,923
Wood	8.843	20,549	2.904	7,398	-5.939	-13,151
Poplar wood	6.495	8,590	1.611	2,494	-4.884	-6,096
Wooden planks	23.232	55,587	12.151	30,317	-11.081	-25,270
Wooden planks with a thickness of more than 9 mm	20.048	56,130	8.833	25,360	-11.215	-30,770
Wood pulp	8.076	12,563	4.952	9,989	-3.124	-2,574
Cardboard	9.905	12,161	5.940	8,414	-3.965	-3,797
Cardboard	10.766	11,577	7.453	9,411	-3.313	-2,166
Cardboard in rolls	17.803	18,517	13.163	15,922	-4.640	-2,595
Toilet paper and makeup remover wipes	16.100	14,390	14.549	13,689	-1.551	-701
Unbleached cardboard	4.767	8,104	1.027	2,052	-3.740	-6,253
Paper for making big bags	4.814	5,005	3.863	5,278	-951	-273
Semi-chemical paper for the manufacture of corrugated board	9.884	19,275	7.300	16,530	-2.584	-2,745
Cardboard	15.581	19,363	7.467	9,835	-8.114	-9,528
Light coated paper	7.816	9,089	3.095	4,002	-4.721	-5,087
Cardboard	5.259	7,931	4.015	5,768	-1.244	-2,163
Glued or sticky cardboard	5.651	2,457	3.936	1,648	-1.715	-809
Cardboard for the manufacture of packaging paper	5.636	2,746	2.374	1,256	-3.262	-1,490
Cardboard for the manufacture of packaging paper	13.829	4,126	6.306	2,738	-7.523	-1,388
Toilet paper	4.104	1,519	2.902	1,070	-1.202	-449
Papers for the manufacture of diapers and sanitary pads	9.232	4,719	3.856	1,161	-5.376	-3,558

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Papers for the manufacture of diapers and sanitary pads	4.219	1,441	4.184	2,051	-35	-610
Paper for packaging dairy products, juice and non-alcoholic beverages	6.594	2,274	4.826	1,437	-1.768	-837
Dictionaries and encyclopedias	33.942	3,388	10.551	1,926	-23.391	-1,462
Textiles	4.914	315	2.713	250	-2.201	-65
Fabrics and textiles	4.703	2,857	2.566	1,935	-2.137	-922
Fabrics	6.075	2,411	4.600	2,179	-1.475	-232
Ensembles of textile materials	6.184	986	4.623	854	-1.561	-132
Cotton shirts	5.072	66	1.777	23	-3.295	-4
Fabrics of synthetic or artificial fibers	4.600	407	773	56	-3.827	-351
Cotton shirts	27.988	793	9.358	434	-18.630	-359
Shirts made of other textile materials	7.354	255	1.710	46	-5.644	-209
Cotton blouses	17.400	396	7.794	177	-9.606	-219
Blouses made of composite or synthetic fibers	14.817	869	4.594	304	10.223	-565
Cotton clothes for toddlers	5.398	144	1.891	57	-8.695	-276
Cotton clothes	10.776	430	5.008	216	-7.088	-143
Cotton pants	13.166	433	4.471	157	-7.182	-123
Cotton jackets	11.790	252	4.702	109	-7.088	-143
Cotton dresses	10.563	190	3.311	67	-7.182	-123
Dresses made of composite fibers	9.575	188	3.095	115	-6.480	-73
Dresses made of other textile materials	5.236	37	1.275	8	-3.961	-29
Cotton skirts	4.714	178	1.477	61	-3.237	-117
Cotton pants	35.162	778	11.424	272	-23.738	-506
Pants made of synthetic fibers	6.630	182	1.727	63	-4.903	-119
Men's cotton shirts	7.643	113	2.107	30	-5.536	-83

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Women's cotton blouses and shirts	14.795	266	3.611	67	-11.184	-199
Women's blouses and shirts made of synthetic or artificial fibers	5.750	87	1.301	20	-4.449	-67
Women's blouses or shirts made of other textile materials	4.996	448	1.909	231	-3.087	-271
Clothes	4.937	499	3.074	315	- 1.863	-184
Swimwear made of synthetic or artificial fibers	8.486	304	2.025	73	-6.461	-231
Women's swimwear made of other textile materials	9.501	104	4.752	111	-4.749	+7
Bras	7.794	129	1.580	35	-6.214	-94
Life jackets and belts	5.450	739	12.440	821	+6.990	+82
Second-hand clothes	12.699	12,458	10.859	10,403	-1.840	-2,055
Sneakers	5.238	1,147	5.599	1,560	+361	+413
Footwear with protective metal toecap	13.638	1,205	6.948	1,100	-6.690	-105
Footwear	9.853	235	3.221	92	-6.632	-143
Footwear	8.827	306	2.070	99	-6.757	-207
Footwear	30.623	1,053	9.129	568	-21.494	-485
Sneakers	20.494	587	7.608	258	-12.886	-329
Marble, travertine and alabaster	16.013	92,747	3.727	17,479	-12.286	-75,268
Other stones	7.413	22,879	2.297	17,322	-5.116	-5,557
Marble, travertine and alabaster	11.497	47,652	7.220	28,257	-4.277	-19,395
Asphalt products	6.398	10,527	2.293	4,173	-4.105	-6,354
Panels and board, faced or reinforced with paper or paperboard only	4.943	29,287	4.589	30,198	-354	+911
Tiles	9.658	47,825	5.050	24,983	-4,608	-22,842
Tiles and blocks of a water absorption coefficient by weight not exceeding 0.5%	31.879	88,011	12.957	36,043	-18.922	-51,968

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Tiles and blocks of a water absorption coefficient by weight exceeding 0.5%	22.084	88,457	10.994	47,120	-11.090	-41,337
Tiles and blocks of a water absorption coefficient by weight exceeding 10%	12.768	31,880	3.219	10,435	-9.549	-21,445
Mosaic cubes	35.076	127,910	9.833	35,906	-25.243	-92,004
Porcelain sinks (Chinese)	8.580	7,326	4.188	3,731	-4.392	-3,595
Tableware and kitchenware	12.696	7,043	2.648	1,552	-10.048	-5,491
Ceramic tableware and kitchenware	3.142	1,303	580	203	-2.562	-1,100
Glass-surface ground or polished glass	13.512	42,512	15.137	49,051	+1.625	+6,539
Multiple-walled insulating units of glass	3.167	1,586	1.313	757	-1.854	-829
Stoppers and lids	6.650	12,906	7.885	15,173	+1.235	+2,267
Colored flasks and bottles of a capacity not exceeding 1 liter	27.270	57,473	26.099	56,785	-1.171	-688
Stemware drinking glasses	5.424	3,537	1.579	1,391	-3.845	-2,146
Unworked diamonds	4.146	-	1.080	-	-3.066	-
Non-industrial diamonds, unworked	173.886	-	190.080	-	+16.194	-
Unworked diamonds	154.544	-	80.742	-	-73.802	-
Rubies, sapphires and emeralds	18.095	-	4.694	-	13.401	-
Gold bars	476.574	11	541.909	10	+65.335	-1
Gold	7.344	-	44.959	-	+37.615	-
Articles of jewelry	21.435	-	391	+	-21.044	-
Precious stones	61.623	2	19.541	-	-42.082	-
Fake jewelry	3.853	214	821	38	-3.038	-176
Fake jewelry	3.958	400	603	69	-3.355	-331
Flat-rolled products of iron, of a thickness of 3mm or more but less than 4.25 mm	8.606	14,941	2.189	4,075	-6.417	-7,866

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Iron products, of a thickness of less than 3 mm	7.510	14,703	2.933	6,341	-4.577	-8,362
Iron products, of a thickness of 4.75 mm or more but less than 10 mm	4.184	7,887	2.470	5,407	-1.714	-2,480
Iron products, of a thickness of 3mm or more but less than 4.75 mm	3.874	7,426	1.508	3,124	-2.366	-4,302
Iron products, of a thickness of less than 3 mm	37.878	71,890	15.384	32,699	-22.494	-39,191
Plated or coated iron products, of square or rectangular shape	7.486	8,711	4.844	5,933	-2.642	-2,778
Iron products, plated or coated with zinc	4.597	6,660	666	1,037	-3.931	-5,623
Iron products, plated or coated with zinc	5.953	8,303	1.018	1,355	-4.935	-6,948
Iron products, plated or coated with zinc	20.277	30,389	9.763	15,397	-10.514	-14,992
Aluminum-coated iron	8.730	10,192	4.984	6,153	-3.746	-4,039
Cast iron	17.632	34,675	5.726	12,404	-11.906	-22,271
Iron rods	161.585	342,870	92.372	211,615	-69.213	-131,255
Iron rods	13.123	30,375	736	1,518	-12.387	-28,857
Iron wire	4.166	8,102	479	590	-3.687	-7,512
Stainless steel	4.267	1,748	1.664	731	-2.603	-1,017
Steel bars	5.498	8,238	1.670	2,749	-3.828	-5,489
Steel bars used in construction	8.007	18,361	-		-8.007	-18,361
Steel bars	4.621	8,183	1.442	2,866	-3.179	-5,317
Steel bars	20.705	39,536	11.484	23,614	-9.221	-15,922
Iron towers and masts	3.453	1,182	46	12	-3.407	-1,170
Iron doors and windows	3.453	1,182	1.753	741	-1.700	-441
Shutters and verandahs	11.260	8,865	4.544	3,918	-6.176	-4,947

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Cans which are to be closed by soldering or crimping	9.720	2,664	8.216	2,379	-1.504	-285
Screws, bolts and nuts	4.012	1,667	1.319	610	-2.693	-1,057
Nuts	3.009	2,176	749	511	-2.260	-1,665
Stoves, ranges, grates, cookers	13.244	3,901	4.636	1,542	8.608	-2,359
Stainless steel tableware	7.975	1,725	1.882	455	-6.093	-1,270
Cast iron tableware	7.040	2,257	2.008	834	-5.032	-1,423
Sheet piling of iron	11.680	4,721	3.923	2,098	-7.757	-2,623
Copper bars, angles and shapes	5.318	811	786	118	-4.532	-693
Copper wire	40.216	6,406	21.606	3,368	-18.610	-3,038
Copper tubes and pipes	4.242	605	1.888	262	-2.354	-343
Aluminum alloys	17.950	8,145	5.673	2,885	-12.277	-5,260
Aluminum bars	9.814	2,783	764	172	-9.050	-2,611
Aluminum bars and angles	13.255	3,685	6.926	1,516	-6.329	-2,169
Aluminum wire	6.910	3,302	3.610	1,723	-3.300	-1,579
Aluminum panels	3.778	1,515	724	392	3.054	-1,123
Greenhouse aluminum frames	4.267	1,007	1.521	364	2.746	-643
Aluminum cans	21.388	2,889	10.322	1,438	-11.066	-1,451
Aluminum can lids	6.719	850	2.834	305	-3.885	-545
Aluminum containers	5.101	510	81	6	-5.020	-504
Aluminum plates	11.808	2,351	4.319	9,701	-7.489	-1,381
Aluminum grill, netting and fencing	3.355	561	1.793	245	-1.562	-316
Hand tools	4.521	1,168	1.575	398	-2.946	-770
Razors and shaving kits	3.512	242	1.476	183	-2.036	-59
Locks and deadbolts	4.515	885	1.240	269	-3.275	-616
Articles of base metal used in furniture	3.861	1,136	1.728	370	-2.133	-766
Articles of base metal used in buildings	4.047	456	2.982	218	-1.065	-241
Other furniture articles	7.778	2,587	2.151	759	-5.627	-1,828

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Articles for the manufacture of refrigerators and washing machines	8.121	2,626	3.360	1,179	-4.761	-1,447
Metal billboards and signs	6.452	183	134	25	-6.318	-158
Appliances for boilers	6.414	943	884	45	-5.530	-898
Piston engines	13.439	4,108	6.519	1,882	-6.920	-2,226
Other engines	70.641	6,202	27.725	2,979	-42.916	-3,223
Paper making equipment	11.529	215	13.476	209	+1.947	-6
Water powered turbines	119.584	77	251.746	67	+132.162	-10
Centrifugal pumps	8.892	777	3.025	308	-5.867	-469
Pumps	9.680	1,607	2.055	283	-7.625	-1,324
Air conditioning machines and equipment	33.106	6,105	8.805	1,582	-24.301	-4,523
Air conditioners	4.039	579	3.259	606	-780	+27
Household refrigerators	11.026	2,247	1.573	305	-9.453	+1,942
Household freezers	11.440	3,625	3.492	1,419	-7.948	-2,206
Refrigerating or freezing chests, cabinets, display counters, showcases	11.056	1,720	1.823	279	-9.333	-1,441
Ice cream and ice cube makers	8.177	1,232	1.252	191	-6.925	-1,041
Apparatus and appliances for preparing hot drinks or for cooking and warming food	4.147	276	872	43	-3.275	-233
Heaters	3.162	206	1.377	83	-1.785	-123
Water filtration and purification machines and equipment	10.142	730	3.228	287	-6.914	-443
Fluid purification machines	5.430	680	3.611	465	-1.811	-215
Filters for medical use	5.258	190	5.043	212	-215	+22
Centrifuges	4.018	274	2.501	135	-1.517	-139
Bottle filling and capping machines and devices	4.519	211	6.532	381	+2.013	+170

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Packing and packaging machines and equipment	20.332	668	4.216	259	-16.116	-401
Packing machines and equipment	5.738	37	4.848	29	-860	-8
Elevators for persons and goods	6.076	1,675	3.441	769	-2.635	-906
Elevators	5.243	991	1.604	193	-3.639	-798
Front loaders	6.416	1,911	874	209	-5.542	-1,702
Machinery with a 360-degree revolving superstructure	5.902	2,471	909	389	-4.993	-2,082
Elevator equipment	8.707	2,335	4.355	903	-4.352	-1,432
Drilling machines	6.096	2,525	1.653	625	-4.443	-1,900
Machines and equipment for the preparation of food and beverages	7.952	395	1.981	257	-5.971	-138
Machines capable of connecting to a data-processing	4.119	156	941	27	-3.178	-129
Accessories for printers and facsimile machines	3.475	132	1.944	63	-1.531	-69
Accessories for printers	13.752	373	5.400	239	-8.352	-134
Automatic washing machines	17.504	4,977	2.794	1,029	-14.710	-3,948
Household washing machines	4.989	2,221	2.368	1,279	-2.621	-947
Chainsaws	3.926	722	946	179	-2.980	-543
Automatic data processing machines	38.259	272	23.275	177	-14.984	-95
Data processing units	25.125	175	6.253	28	-18.872	-147
Input or output units	4.383	111	1.504	26	-2.879	-85
Storage units	13.842	69	5.653	27	-8.189	-42
Machines for sorting or folding mail	7.074	362	3.707	124	-3.637	-238
Parts and accessories for machines	5.849	344	2.210	88	-3.639	-256
Machinery for molding or retreading pneumatic tires	3.430	248	31	11	-3.399	-237

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Other machinery	3.173	565	2.435	223	-738	-342
Machinery for making up tobacco	5.534	78	773	25	-4.761	-53
Mixing, kneading or crushing machines	15.212	823	1.564	119	-13.648	-53
Home dehumidifiers	6.451	582	214	3	-6.237	-579
Milling equipment	3.600	291	4.792	167	+1.192	-124
Valves	3.505	286	779	42	-2.726	-244
Taps of copper and nickel-plated copper	4.774	219	1.958	195	-2.816	-24
Taps	24.310	1,737	9.081	490	-15.229	-1,247
Tubes for medical use	4.190	372	2.535	164	-1.655	-208
Electric motors	4.478	788	2.143	443	-2.335	-345
Home electric curtain motors	5.111	10,094	2.193	566	-2.968	-528
Electric generators of an output exceeding 75 KVA but not exceeding 375 KVA	6.936	1,723	1.370	374	-5.566	-1,349
Electric generators of an output exceeding 375 KVA but not exceeding 750 KVA	3.415	829	1.008	262	-2.407	-567
Electric generators	3.137	856	1.154	398	-1.983	-458
Electric generators	4.986	954	1.962	740	-2.687	-214
Electric generators	6.609	1,018	3.922	1,422	-2.687	-404
Electric transformers	4.143	1,675	254	101	-3.889	-1,574
Electric transformers	24.146	1,664	11.076	782	-13.070	-882
Electric transformers	3.326	386	2.199	135	-1.127	-251
Primary batteries	3.385	447	1.049	156	-2.336	-291
Primary batteries	27.522	11,070	11.490	5,001	-16.032	-6,069
Electric accumulators	25.118	7,393	5.050	1,785	-20.068	-5,608
Electric accumulators	7.422	2,651	4.875	1,979	-2.547	-672
Vacuum cleaners	3.240	614	679	198	-2.561	-416
Food grinders and mixers and fruit juice extractors	6.273	905	1.266	277	-5.007	-628
Lighting or visual signaling equipment	7.412	528	2.027	163	-5.385	-365

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Domestic stoves	3.431	724	1.245	379	-2.186	-345
Cookers, cooking plates, boiling rings, grillers and roasters	6.254	1,247	1.438	267	-4.816	-980
Coffee and tea makers	5.281	282	966	72	-4.315	-280
Telephones for cellular networks	176.988	499	92.850	260	-84.138	-239
Mobile phone accessories	3.892	13	179	3	-3.713	-10
Base stations	10.882	106	76	-	-10.806	-
Modem	7.742	199	3.543	102	-4.199	-97
Router	15.827	84	6.715	28	-9.112	-56
Router	13.941	85	3.613	33	-10.328	-52
Router	4.577	56	1.732	24	-2.845	-32
Router parts	23.152	265	6.682	125	-16.470	-140
Headphones, microphones and loudspeakers	4.712	232	1.666	90	3.046	-141
Video recorders	3.129	144	674	40	-2.455	-104
Solid-state non-volatile storage devices	3.691	14	1.291	4	-2.400	-10
Smart cards	18.421	60	5.520	9	-12.901	-51
Television cameras	8.455	156	2.078	44	-6.377	-112
Monitors	6.207	201	1.346	44	-4.861	-157
Monitors	3.734	163	624	31	-3.110	-152
Reception apparatus for television	37.263	2,397	12.065	1,060	-25.198	-1,337
Circuit breakers	10.463	537	5.051	215	-5.412	-322
Electrical connectors	3.205	101	2.100	71	-1.105	-30
Electrical switches and breakers	6.278	364	3.108	157	-3.170	207
Equipment for the manufacture of electronic refrigerators and washing machines	5.531	431	2.125	132	-3.406	-299
Equipment for the manufacture of generators and food preparations	9.796	835	3,364	331	-6.432	-504

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Electric control panels	10.600	643	5.582	276	-5.018	-367
Electric control panels	5.503	508	261	16	-5.242	-492
Electric control panels	8.201	1,104	1.984	292	-6.217	-812
Electric control panels	6.615	253	3.286	116	-3.329	-137
Light-emitting diode lamps	9.246	1,144	3.203	536	-6.043	-608
Photosensitive devices	6.284	1,593	2.767	789	-3.517	-809
Processors and controllers	3.522	5	980	2	-2.542	-3
New and used medical devices	7.970	671	5.224	166	-2.746	-505
Wires	4.571	487	1.681	146	-2.890	-341
Insulated electrical cables and connectors	6.452	1,022	1.487	345	-4.965	-677
Fiber optic ropes	4.026	449	641	160	-3.385	-289
Tractors	3.769	1,174	1.814	474	-1.955	-700
Motor vehicles with compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine	3.920	531	185	33	-3.735	-498
Unregistered public vehicles	5.323	1,413	1.052	190	-4.271	-1,223
Tourist rental vehicles	54.376	6,004	10.010	1,123	-44.366	-4,881
Used vehicles	183.470	24,664	71.618	8,600	-111.852	-16,064
Used vehicles	197.994	18,717	55.245	4,705	-142.754	-14,012
Used vehicles	241.410	25,987	119.756	10,410	-121.654	-15,577
Used vehicles	91.788	3,896	39.126	1,403	-52.662	-2,493
Used motor vehicles	7.701	267	5.494	192	-2.207	-75
Rental vehicles	17.215	738	6.215	230	-11.000	-508
Dumpers designed for off-highway use	3.821	636	702	232	-3.119	-404
Motor vehicles	4.920	1,250	1.543	322	-3.377	-928
Buses	51.166	11,851	14.317	3,606	-36.849	-8,245
Chassis fitted with an engine and cab	16.394	2,051	5.407	723	-10.987	-1,328
Equipment for the manufacture of trunk and tractor trunks	56.317	14,092	24.850	6,577	-31.467	-17,375

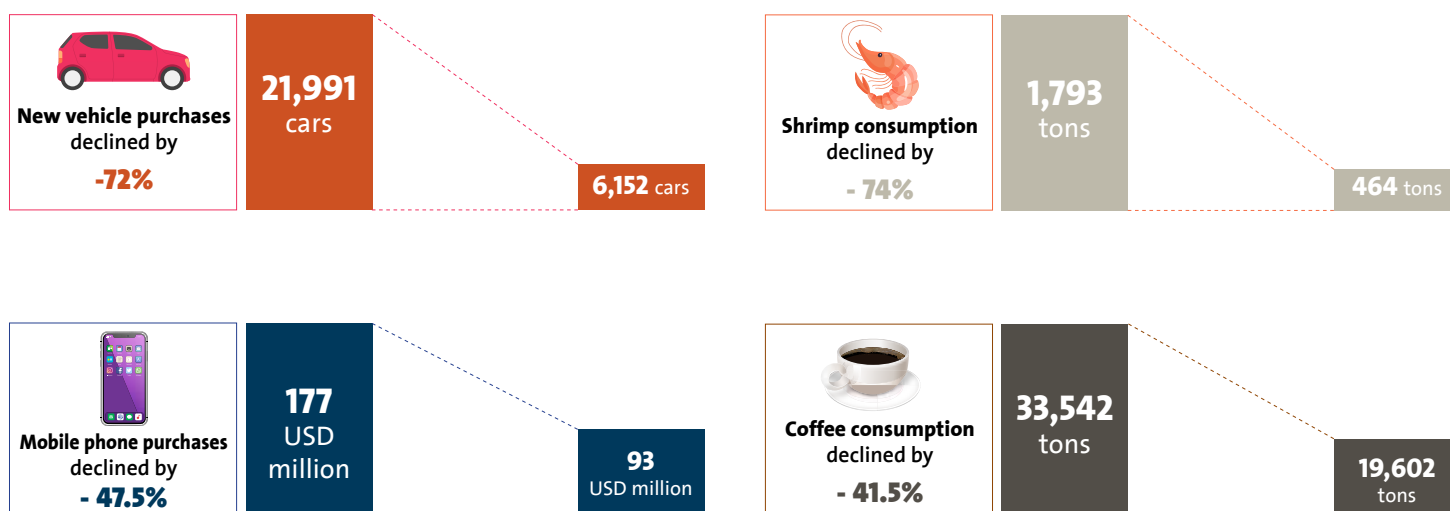
	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Brakes	16.970	3,584	6.185	1,504	-10.785	-2,080
Wheels	3.915	1,003	882	368	-3.033	-635
Shock absorbers	6.007	859	1.999	272	-4.008	-587
Radiators	4.931	540	1.672	196	-3.259	-344
Truck equipment	105.978	21,074	42.824	9,031	-63.154	-12,043
Motorcycles	16.554	4,201	1.999	413	-14.555	-3,788
Bicycles	3.390	970	1.381	402	-2.009	-568
Parts of motorcycles	5.641	1,195	2.608	628	-3.033	-567
Parts of aeroplanes or helicopters	50.784	81	30.464	53	-20.320	-28
Aeroplane accessories	5.538	30	6	-	-5.532	-
Contact lenses	3.539	18	1.813	9	-1.726	-9
Sunglasses	6.197	81	905	17	-5.292	-64
Ultrasonic scanning apparatus	4.731	16	1.425	8	-3.306	-8
Magnetic resonance imaging apparatus	11.990	151	3.891	25	-8.099	-126
Refurbished medical equipment	7.322	83	4.756	52	-2.566	-31
Syringes, with or without needles	3.259	440	2.946	380	-313	-60
Non-sterile articles and tubes for medical use	24.444	549	17.900	475	-6.544	-74
Medical consumables and equipment	7.124	78	1.478	20	-5.646	-58
Other ophthalmic instruments and appliances	4.733	19	899	4	-4.729	-15
Medical equipment	44.824	579	39.511	628	5.313	+49
Artificial respiration apparatus	6.232	202	11.830	179	+5.598	-23
Orthopedic or fracture appliances	13.582	66	6.601	41	-6.981	-25
Artificial teeth and dental fittings	9.363	11	3.420	5	-5.943	-6
Artificial joints	7.311	7	5.193	5	-2.118	-2
Artificial parts of the body	25.450	46	15.159	36	-10.291	-10

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Pacemakers for stimulating heart muscles	5.265	1	2.641	1	-2.624	-
X-ray machines	10.601	25	6.338	14	-4.263	-11
X-ray machines for medical use	13.972	146	4.053	35	-9.919	-111
X-ray machines for other uses	3.110	73	161	5	-2.949	-68
Spectrometers	3.594	14	483	1	-3.111	-13
Apparatus using optical radiations	6.820	48	3.204	20	-3.616	-28
Microtomes	3.500	25	2.241	22	-1.259-1.259	-3
Electricity meters	3.941	188	3.370	65	-571	-123
Automatic regulating apparatus	10.810	135	8.297	63	-2.513	-72
Automatic wristwatches	4.365	0	3.962	-	-403	-
Wristwatches	4.530	9	2.154	1	-2.376	-8
Wristwatches with mechanical display only	9.653	31	2.636	9	-7.017	-22
Automatic wristwatches	5.675	6	3.522	1	-2.153	-5
Wristwatches	7.654	28	2.452	4	-5.202	-24
Watch straps, watch bands and watch bracelets	8.773	764	55	1	-8.718	-763
Upholstered seats	3.628	301	1.370	106	-2.258	-195
Seats	13.441	6,214	3.062	965	-10.379	-5,249
Dentist and barber chairs	4.149	373	1.913	232	-2.236	-141
Baby parks	12.039	2,823	4.220	781	-7.819	-2,042
Kitchen wooden furniture	6.048	875	2.469	387	-3.579	-488
Bedroom wooden furniture	3.651	1,238	1.210	263	-2.441	-975
Other wooden furniture	28.834	6,503	9.304	2,083	-19.530	-4,420
Baby furniture and walkers	6.893	2,725	2.220	1,504	-4.673	-3,221
Non-wooden furniture	16.249	2,213	6.263	745	-9.986	-1,468
Non-wooden furniture	4.407	828	2.686	346	-1.721	-482
Mattresses	5.724	1,173	1.526	358	-4.198	-815

	Value in 2019 (USD million)	Volume in 2019 (tons)	Value in 2020 (USD million)	Volume in 2020 (tons)	Difference in value 2019-2020 (USD million)	Difference in volume 2019-2020 (tons)
Chandeliers and lighting fixtures	11.619	908	2.764	210	-8.855	-698
Electric lamps	4.409	525	1.660	137	-2.749	-388
Other lighting fixtures	28.790	3,629	9.854	1,099	-18.936	-2,530
Tricycles and scooters	39.849	10,121	9.474	2,847	-30.375	-7,274
Articles for Christmas festivities	7.554	1,531	447	105	-7.107	-1,426
Articles and equipment for general physical exercise, gymnastics and athletics	8.127	2,561	152	46	-7.975	-2,605
Sports equipment	3.864	1,283	1.217	437	-2.647	-846
Toothbrushes	3.143	208	1.225	136	1.918	-72
Ball point pens	3.424	251	1.005	91	-2.419	-160
Smoking pipes and cigar or cigarette holders	3.893	2,161	2.474	1,774	-1.419	-387
Sanitary towels (pads) and baby diapers	61.340	19,221	44.888	17,222	-16.452	-1,999
Paintings, drawings and pastels	5.239	67	2.742	10	-2.497	-57
Complete household	5.582	2,354	3.040	1,152	2.542	-1,202
Incomplete household	4.977	1,584	2.225	755	-2.752	-829

Source: General Directorate of Lebanese Customs.

Examples of commodities whose consumption declined between 2019 and 2020



In this connection, it is worthwhile to note the following:

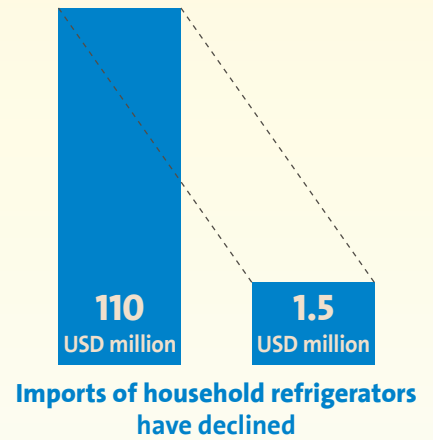
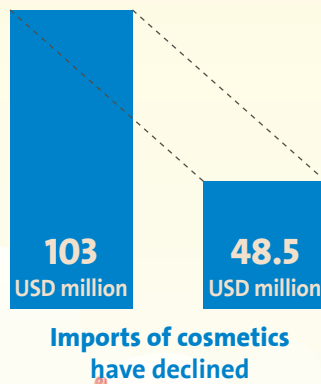
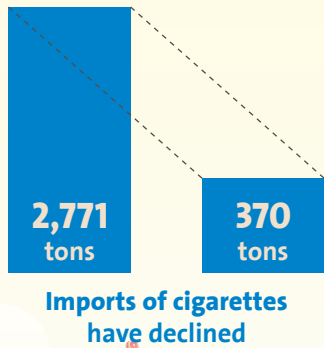
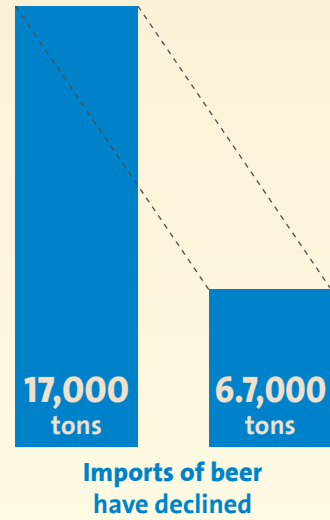
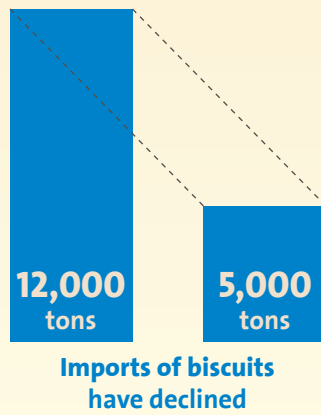
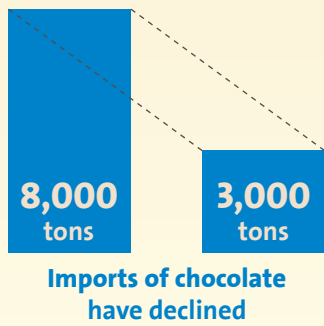
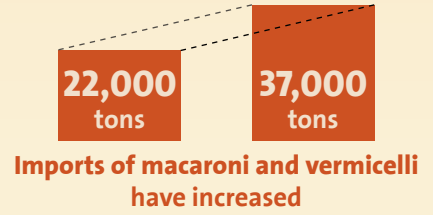
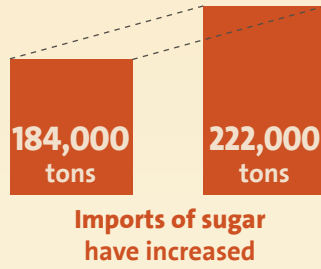
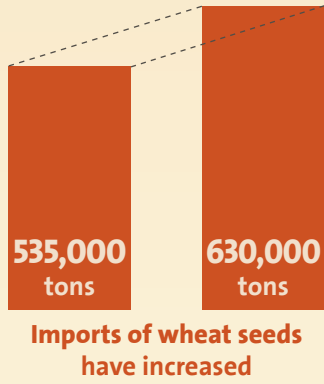
1- In terms of increase:

- Imports of agricultural wheat seeds have increased in volume from 535,000 tons to 630,000 tons and in value from USD 123 million to USD 148 million. But is this increase destined for smuggling or we will witness an increase in the areas planted with wheat?
- Imports of sugar have grown up in volume from 184,000 tons to 222,000 tons and in value from USD 72 million to USD 95 million.
- Imports of macaroni and vermicelli have risen in volume from 22,000 tons to 37,000 tons and in value from USD 20.6 million to USD 29 million.
- Imports of unworked non-industrial diamonds have increased in value from USD 173.8 million to USD 190 million.
- Imports of gold bars have increased in value from USD 476.5 million to USD 542 million.

2- In terms of decrease:

- Imports of chocolate have declined in volume from 8,000 tons to 3,000 tons and in value from USD 37 million to USD 11 million.
- Imports of biscuits have decreased in volume from 12,000 tons to 5,000 tons and in value from USD 34.6 million to USD 12.1 million.
- Imports of beer have decreased in volume from 17,000 tons to 6,700 tons and in value from USD 11.2 million to USD 4.5 million.
- Imports of whiskey have decreased in volume from 4,200 tons to 2,300 tons and in value from USD 38.7 million to USD 16 million, with some attributing the decline to an increase in smuggling.
- Imports of cigarettes have significantly declined in volume from 2,771 tons to 370 tons and in value from USD 71 million to USD 9.2 million. This decline may also be attributed to an increase in smuggling.
- Imports of gasoline and petroleum products have decreased in volume from 11.4 million tons to 7.7 million tons and in value from USD 6.4 billion to USD 3.17 billion.
- Imports of perfumes have declined in value from USD 39.5 million to USD 12.4 million.
- Imports of cosmetics have declined in value from USD 103 million to USD 48.5 million.
- Imports of dental cleaners have declined in value from USD 11.3 million to USD 7.9 million.
- Imports of liquid dishwashing detergents have declined in value from USD 55.5 million to USD 29.2 million.
- Imports of disposable forks, spoons and knives have declined in value from USD 25.7 million to USD 7.9 million.
- Imports of bras have declined in value from USD 7.8 million to USD 1.6 million.
- Imports of unworked diamonds have declined in value from USD 154.5 million to USD 80.7 million.
- Imports of jewelry have declined in value from USD 21.4 million to USD 391,000.
- Imports of air conditioning machines and equipment have declined in value from USD 21.4 million to USD 391,000 and in number from 158,537 to 39,868.
- Imports of household refrigerators have declined in value from USD 110 million to USD 1.5 million and in number from 33,266 to 4,518.
- Imports of washing machines have declined in value from USD 22.5 million to USD 5.1 million and in number from 152,368 to 46,762.

Examples of commodities whose consumption increased or declined between 2019 and 2020



BDL SUBSIDIES AND STATE LOANS

The Code of Money and Credit that established Lebanon's Central Bank (BDL) was promulgated on the 1st of August 1963 by Decree No. 13513. It defines the Bank's nature, role, tasks and relationships with the other banks and the Lebanese State.

LIBAN



مصرف لبنان

BDL

The Code of Money and Credit considers BDL as “a legal public entity enjoying financial and administrative autonomy. The Bank is deemed to be a trader in its relations with the others. Its operations shall be carried out and accounted in conformity with commercial and banking rules and practices.”

Relationship with the State

Despite the provision for its autonomy, the BDL is the only “public sector bank” with which the public funds are deposited. The principle is that it does not grant loans to the public sector, except in specific cases.

Article 88 of the Code of Money and Credit stipulates that the Bank shall, upon the request of the Minister of Finance, grant the Treasury for up to 4 months cash facilities that do not exceed 10% of the State ordinary average budgetary revenue of the last three closed financial years. This means that such facilities are of limited amount (LBP 1,647 billion if the average state revenues of the past three years amounted to LBP 16,500 billion) and short term (only 4 months and not years).

The State can only borrow from BDL in “exceptionally serious” circumstances or in cases of extreme necessity. If there are no other resources and the government insists on requesting the loan, the Bank will then grant the required loan for a term of up to 10 years and charge interest.

By reviewing the fiscal years’ financial situation, we find that BDL has loaned the government under normal circumstances, thereby violating the Code of Money and Credit. Some people do not consider BDL’s subscription to treasury bonds a State loan, but in fact it is.

The following table shows the value and proportion of BDL’s subscription to LBP treasury bonds in the past years. The value of bonds has increased from LBP 143 billion (3% of the total LBP treasury bonds) in 1992 to LBP 55,079 billion (61.3% of the total LBP treasury bonds) in 2020, turning BDL into the country’s top lender of Lebanese pound and causing major inflation. As BDL tends to print Lebanese pounds when suffering from liquidity shortages, it has printed about LBP 15 billion in the past two years (2019-2020).

A table showing BDL’s share of treasury bonds in Lebanese pound (1992-2020).

Year	Value of LBP treasury bonds held by BDL (LBP billion)	Proportion out of the total LBP treasury bonds (%)
1992	143	3
1993	455	6.8
1994	30	0.3
1995	195	1.4
1996	124	0.7
1997	375	1.9
1998	281	1.3
1999	115	0.5

Year	Value of LBP treasury bonds held by BDL (LBP billion)	Proportion out of the total LBP treasury bonds (%)
2000	1,726	6.4
2001	6,251	22.2
2002	723	2.9
2003	8,938	33.2
2004	10,652	40.4
2005	11,686	40.1
2006	9,588	31.7
2007	9,052	28.8
2008	8,781	22.5
2009	10,334	23
2010	13,130	27.2
2011	16,380	33.2
2012	15,049	30
2013	16,761	29.8
2014	19,454	31.5
2015	23,907	36.7
2016	30,150	42.7
2017	35,580	48
2018	39,006	50.1
2019	50,717	58.1
2020	55,079	61.3

Source: BDL reports.

Note:

Since November 2019, BDL holds in its balance sheet USD 5.03 billion worth of Lebanese Eurobonds.

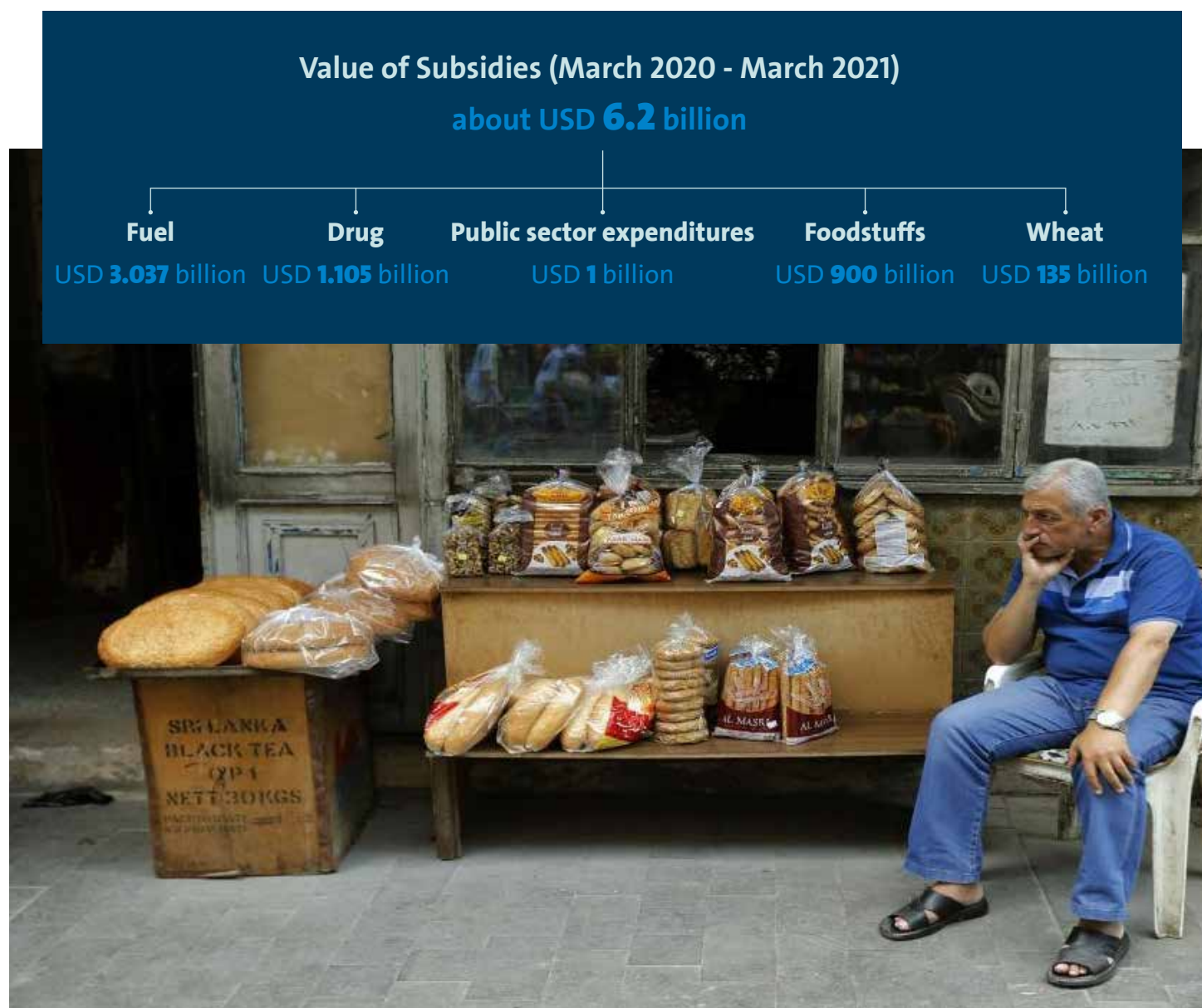
Subsidies or State Loans

With the collapse of Lebanese pound's exchange rate against the dollar and other foreign currencies, BDL has adopted a policy to finance essential commodities and goods by subsidizing them by about USD 6.2 billion from March 2020 to March 2021.

These subsidies were distributed as follows:

- Fuel: USD 3.037 billion.
- Public sector expenditures: USD 1 billion.
- Drug: USD 1.105 billion
- Foodstuffs: USD 900 million
- Wheat: USD 135 million

Can the money spent by BDL be considered a "Government loan"? Of course not, because the money used by BDL are the depositors' funds. So, how and when will it repay them?



IS THE BANKING SECTOR'S ROLE OVER?

Lebanese banks have for decades served as a lever for the national economy. They have provided the various economic sectors with loans and credits, financed the state deficit and funded many overseas projects. This triple role, making the banking industry a major sector, has declined in recent years; the banks have confined their activities to the local environment and chosen only to fund state deficit as the best and shortest way to achieve easy and quick profits and avoid future outcomes.



As the banks appeared to be on the verge of bankruptcy end of 2019, many branches have closed their doors and numerous employees have been dismissed. Credits and deposits have also declined after registering different growth rates in the past years. The following table shows the reality of Lebanese banking sector between 2018- March 2021.

A table showing the reality of banking sector (2018-March 2021).

	End of 2018	End of 2019	End of 2020	2021 (until March)
No. of banks	65	63	63	62
No. of branches	1,080	1,058	10,30	1,008
No. of employees	25,908	24,886	21,810	20,625
Total deposits (USD billion)	178.5	163.7	144.6	142.7
In USD billion	126	124.4	116.2	109.8
In LBP billion	79,143	59,245	42,813	49,597
Credits (USD billion)	59.3	49.8	36.2	34.2
Treasury bonds (LBP billion)	27,406	25,500	25,084	25,084 (February)
Profits (USD billion)	2.050	USD 930 million	Undeclared	–

Source: BDL reports.



SELLING GOLD RESERVES

A SOLUTION OR PROBLEM?

Several proposals have been put forward to address the serious and unprecedented economic-financial crisis that hit Lebanon, chief among them selling part of Lebanon's gold reserves in order to boost the economy, generate interests, secure foreign currencies and ensure the basic needs of food and medicine for Lebanese people. This proposal has been met with rejection for its implementation would further erode the remaining confidence in the local currency and speed its collapse, as in the case of Venezuela and other countries.

Code of Money and Credit

Article 69 of the 1963 Code of Money and Credit and its amendments stipulates that “the Central Bank shall retain, among its assets, bullion of gold and foreign currencies that provide a coverage for the Lebanese pound, equivalent in value to at least 30% of the value of the cash it issued and the value of its demand deposits, provided that the value of gold and foreign currencies is no less than 50% of the value of the issued cash.”

BDL's Gold Holdings

The Lebanese government began, prior to the establishment of the Banque du Liban (BDL), to purchase gold as a currency reserve. Further to instructions from the BDL's governor and the President of the Republic Elias Sarkis, the purchases have been made in 1951, 1972 and 1979 at low prices ranging from USD 35 to USD 42 per ounce, bringing the total held by BDL to 9,222,341 ounces or 286,846 kg.

Evolution of Gold's Value

Notwithstanding that the amount of gold is constant, its value varies up and down depending on the global price. As shown in the following table, it has reached USD 390 million in 1986 and recorded the highest price in 2020 at USD 17.3 billion.

A table showing the evolution of gold's value (1986-2021).

End of year	Value (USD million)
1986	390
1992	3,066
1993	3,603
1994	3,534
1995	3,571
1996	3,408
1997	2,668
1998	2,652
1999	2,678
2000	2,524
2001	2,561
2002	3,216
2003	3,833
2004	4,006
2005	4,736

End of year	Value (USD million)
2006	5,807
2007	7,640
2008	8,031
2009	10,062
2010	13,009
2011	14,400
2012	15,312
2013	11,103
2014	10,951
2015	9,848
2016	10,706
2017	11,961
2018	11,770
2019	13,938
2020	17,324
2021 (end of June)	16,211

Source: BDL's budget.

Dealing with Gold Reserves

In 1986, when the Lebanese pound depreciated against the US dollar and all other currencies from about LBP 2.5 to LBP 80, some public officials began calling for the liquidation of some of the Central Bank's gold reserves to support the currency on the foreign exchange market. This resulted in Law No. 42/86 that was passed by the Parliament on September 24, 1986 declaring the following: "Exceptionally and contravening any previous statements, dealing with gold reserves or the account of the reserves at the Central Bank is forbidden irrespective of the nature of the action whether directly or indirectly, except through legislation issued by parliament". At that time, the value of gold was nearly USD 390 million.

Risks of Selling Gold Reserves

It is true that Lebanon is mired in the worst economic crisis in its history, but many believe that the use of part of gold reserves to address the crisis would spark a rapid collapse of the Lebanese pound, arguing that the current political and administrative class might waste the gold sale proceeds as it did with the foreign currency reserves. In fact, selling gold reserves should be done at the right time for it would trigger a great loss if the current global prices increase. For example, if 10% of gold was sold in 2000, its revenues would be USD 250 million. However, selling 10% today would bring in nearly USD 1.6 billion in revenues.

PRICE OF GASOLINE 'TANK' (2016-2021)

FROM LBP 18,000 TO LBP 70,000

Gasoline prices have brought an unnerving new concern for Lebanese people who have had no choice but to own a car and incur heavy expenses in the absence of public transportation.

The following table shows that the price of a gasoline tank (20 liters) has risen considerably over the past years. It has ranged between LBP 32,000 and LBP 39,500 during the years 2010-2014, with the highest price recorded in 2012, then dropped in the subsequent years due to the decline in global prices, reaching the lowest price (LBP 18,600) in March 2016.

With the increase of global prices and depreciation of Lebanese pound beginning of 2021, the price of gasoline started to rise again after varying from LBP 22,000 to LBP 25,000 between 2015 and 2020.

Although the Central Bank (BDL) has kept paying fuel prices at the official exchange rate (LBP 1,515 per dollar), it has reduced its subsidies to 90% after changing the tariff on August 11th 2020, provided that the owners of fuel companies and stations secure the 10% at the market rate. This percentage has gradually increased with the rise in the dollar's exchange rate from LBP 4,000 to LBP 13,200 (June 22nd, 2021).

By end of June 2021, BDL decided to lift subsidies and provide the state with dollar loans in order to purchase petroleum products at LBP 3,900, thereby increasing the prices from LBP 45,000 to LBP 60,000. Fuel companies have rejected this increase for it does not cover their expenses but produce losses. In response, the Ministry of Energy and Water has, after 2 days, set a new tariff of LBP 70,100, which is likely to rise if the global prices keep increasing. This means that the price of a barrel, which is now USD 75, may reach USD 100. However, if the global prices remain stable, the US dollar exchange rate is pegged at LBP 15,000 and the subsidies are totally lifted, the price of a gasoline tank may reach LBP 200,000.

A table showing the price of 95-octane gasoline tank (2010 - July 1st, 2021)

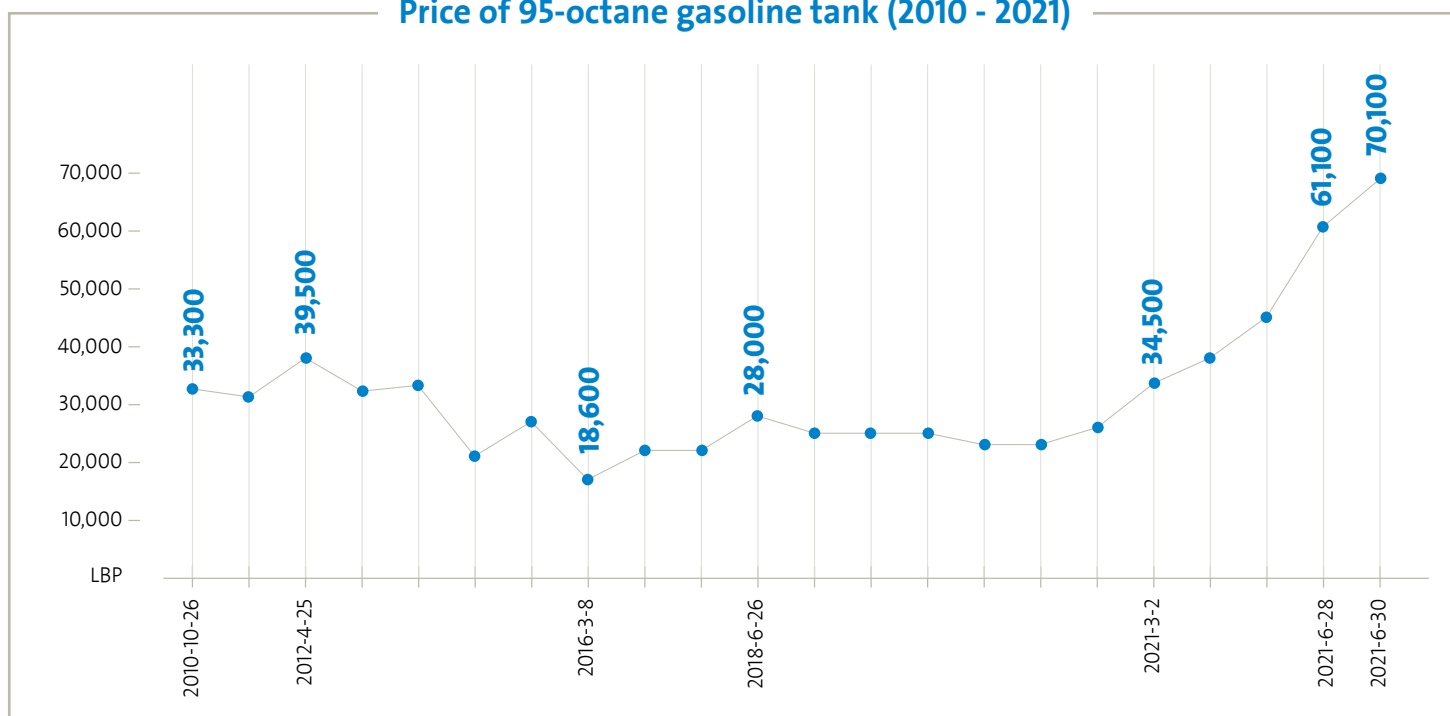
Date	Price of 95-octane gasoline tank (LBP)
26-10-2010	33,300
04-01-2012	31,900
25-04-2012	39,500
25-06-2013	33,500
25-06-2014	34,500
03-02-2015	21,100
25-06-2015	27,700
08-03-2016	18,600
29-06-2016	22,200
28-06-2017	22,000
26-06-2018	28,000
26-06-2019	25,000
16-10-2019	25,100
01-01-2020	24,600
23-06-2020	23,500
17-11-2020	23,500

Date	Price of 95-octane gasoline tank (LBP)
06-01-2021	26,400
02-03-2021	34,500
27-04-2021	38,600
22-06-2021	45,200
28-06-2021	61,100
30-06-2021	70,100

Source: Information International based on the Ministry of Energy and Water's pricing tables.



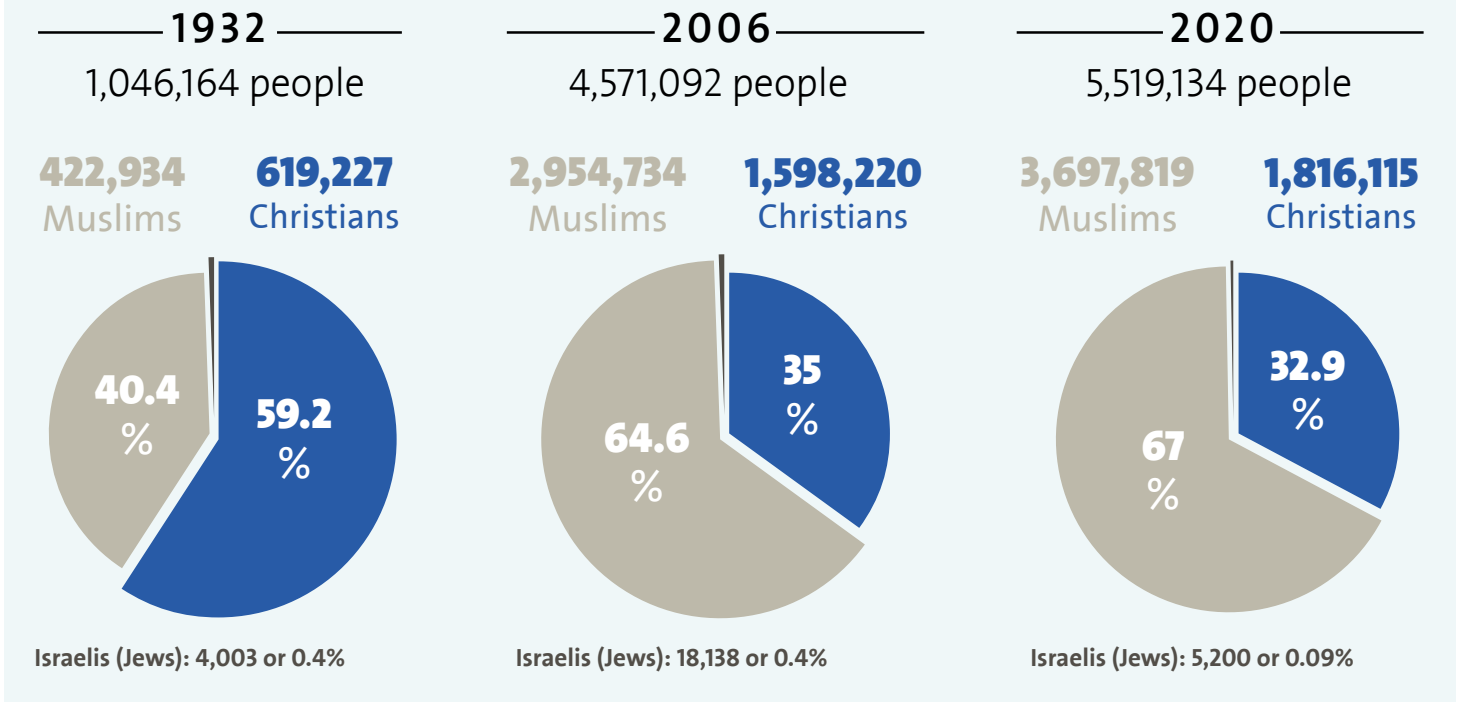
Price of 95-octane gasoline tank (2010 - 2021)



SECTARIAN DISTRIBUTION OF LEBANESE NATIONALS

Lebanon may be among the few countries in the world that have an unknown number of nationals. This is due to the fact that Lebanon consists of 18 sects, and therefore the population censuses should not show a numerical superiority of certain sects over others.

Sectarian distribution of Lebanese nationals 1932-2020



The last official census conducted in 1932 indicated that Lebanon had a population of 1,046,164 people, of whom 793,396 were residents and 252,768 or 24.1% were non-residents, distributed by sect as follows:

- Christians: 619,227 or 59.2%.
- Muslims: 422,934 or 40.4%.
- Israelis (Jews): 4,003 or 0.4%.

In 2006, when an unofficial census was taken, the population of Lebanon was 4,571,092, distributed by sect as follows:

- Christians: 1,598,220 or 35%.
- Muslims: 2,954,734 or 64.6%.
- Israelis (Jews) / no sect: 18,138 or 0.4%.

The period from 2006 to 2020 saw an increase in population of 948,042 where 1,304,516 persons were born compared to 356,475 recorded deaths.

The number of Lebanese nationals was estimated, at the beginning of 2021, at 5,519,134, with 4.250 million residing in Lebanon and 1.270 million or 23% living abroad and retaining their Lebanese identity. They are distributed by sect as follows:

- Muslims: 3,697,819 or 67%.
- Christians: 1,816,115 or 33%.
- Israelis (Jews): 5,200 or 0.09%.



MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

The Lebanese Order of Physicians and hospitals in Beirut have declared a one-week warning strike from Monday May 10th to Saturday May 15th 2021 in rejection of the judgment rendered by the Beirut Court of Appeal in the case of Ella Tannous.

Ella Tannous Case

In February 2015, Ella Tannous had been admitted to Notre Dame Des Secours (al-maounat) Hospital, Jbeil for a medical condition. But as her health getting worse, she was transferred to the American University Hospital (AUH) of Beirut where she was diagnosed with gangrene and had all four limbs amputated. Her parents filed a lawsuit that finally resulted in LBP 9 billion compensation judgment, in addition to a monthly income of four times the minimum wage (currently 2.7 million) for Ella and an amount of LBP 500 million for each parent, a sum that shall be jointly and severally paid by Drs. Rana Sharara and Issam Maalouf, Notre Dame Des Secours Hospital of Lebanese Maronite Order and AUH. The majority of physicians believe, though, that the media and the judiciary do not do justice to them and such a case is sometimes subject to errors or routine medical procedures that have natural complications.

Medical Malpractice by Law

By virtue of law, the physician shall, whether has or has not concluded a contract with the patient, provide the best medical care to his patient. The physician, who treats the patient, shall exercise vigilant care within the limits of the medical profession's established rules. If the physician fails to provide such care, he is considered committing an error that holds him accountable.

Should the error be proved by a medical committee, the physician is subject to two types of sanctions:

- Disciplinary sanctions that are imposed by the Disciplinary Board of the Order of Physicians. Such sanctions are appealable but they are often non-deterrent, favoring the physicians at the expense of the aggrieved patient.
- Penal sanctions that are imposed by the Lebanese courts. They range from financial compensation to an imprisonment from 6 months to 10 years and up to 20 years if the committed act is an intentional tort or killing. Actually, in the event of medical error or malpractice, the physicians are held accountable.

Cases of Medical Malpractice

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 5 persons in the world die every minute from medical errors in treatment. An average of 40 to 50 medical error complaints are filed annually in Lebanon, few of which are referred to the Disciplinary Board without being brought to justice. The following table shows some of the recent medical error cases that were brought to justice.

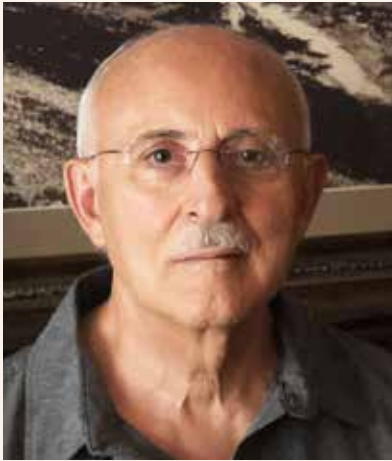
A table listing some recent medical error cases that were circulated in the media.

Victim's name	Incident's date	Hospital	Case
Ella Hasan Tannous	February 2015	Notre Dame Des Secours in Jbeil and AUH	Her fever has risen, leading to the deterioration of her health. She developed gangrene and had her four limbs amputated.
Sofi Fawzi Mashlab	June 2015	Saint George Hospital University Medical Center	She underwent a surgery to remove a non-malignant tumor, then suffered from kidney failure and cerebral palsy.
H.A	February 2021	-	He underwent a surgery that led to his death.

Victim's name	Incident's date	Hospital	Case
Nadia Srour	January 2019	-	The patient was suffering from a slight cold. The maltreatment has left her paralyzed.
Mohammad Yassine	February 2018	Rae Hospital	He was admitted to the hospital for a medical condition but he passed away. It has been rumored that the cause of death is medical neglect.
Khadija Al-Shahal	January 2018	Tripoli Governmental Hospital	The patient was admitted to Tripoli Governmental Hospital and had surgery to diagnose the cause of her pain. The doctor found that the cause of pain was jaundice but she died as a result of appendix burst, which poisoned her body.
Farah Al-Kassab	June 2017	Dr. Nader Saab Hospital	She was admitted to hospital for liposuction and plastic surgery and passed away a few hours after the surgery.

Source: Lebanese newspapers and media outlet.





THE GOLDEN TOOTH

LEBANON, 1951

By Dr. Hanna Saadah

“I was married in 1882, when I was fourteen, to a man who was forty-four,” began my grandmother, when I asked her why she had a little bald spot in the middle of her head. I was five years old in 1951 when I asked my grandmother that question.

“Four years before we married, your future grandfather, Nicholas, had returned to *Amioun* [our Lebanese mountain town] after spending twenty years in America and serving four years in the American Army. He built a grand stone house and started looking for a wife. He was modern and could read and write both Arabic and English. I hid behind the wall when he came to visit us because I was unschooled, simple, and poor. Smallpox was in the air then, and he told my father that to protect me from coming down with smallpox, he would have to brand me in the middle of my head with a hot coin, a trick he had learned from gypsies who used to pass through *Amioun* when he was growing up. He was modern, you see, and knew things no one else knew. He knew about the smallpox vaccine because he was vaccinated when he served in the American Army. But the ruling Turks would only give the smallpox vaccine to their soldiers, never to us people”.

“During his third visit to our home, my father called me, saying my suitor had brought me a gift

of sugar. In 1882, under Turkish rule, people were starving in *Amioun* and no one had sugar. When I ran in, screaming with excitement, my father held me tight to his chest, and your future grandfather, Nicholas, branded me in the middle of my head with an American coin, which he had heated on hot coals”.

“As soon as my father let go of me, I ran away with my tears and hid among the olive trees. My mother came looking for me, put oil on my burn, and told me that Nicholas branded me because he wanted to protect my beauty from becoming disfigured by smallpox. She also brought me a sandwich of olive oil and sugar, which I ate when I stopped sobbing. I had never tasted sugar before”.

“Still I was so angry at him that I hid each time he came to visit. My mother pleaded with me to marry him, but I was stubborn. Finally, my father asked me on Easter Sunday, when we were at church, what it would take for me to accept Nicholas’s hand in marriage. I said that I wanted a golden tooth. At that time, no woman in *Amioun* had a golden tooth, and I wanted to be the first. ‘But your teeth are fine,’ protested my father. I countered by saying that I do not want new clothes; I just want a golden tooth that shone each time I smiled”.

“And so, it was. My father, my fiancé, and I took an all-day carriage trip to *Tripoli*. It was my first trip and by the time we arrived, I was exhausted because the carriage ride had made me sick and I vomited all the way from *Amioun* to *Tripoli*. We spent the night in an inn and visited the dentist the next day. He had to order the gold from a jeweler and shape it to fit my right upper incisor. On the third day, I had my golden tooth and we headed back home. Again, I vomited all the way back, but it was worth it because I was the only woman in *Amioun* who had a golden tooth”.

“A month later, I married Nicholas, who was as old as my father; they had grown up together and were good friends. I smiled all the way down the aisle for all to see my golden tooth. When I became pregnant with my first child, Nicholas was ordained as the town’s priest and my name changed to *Khouryeh* [the priest’s wife]. I bore him eight children; your father was my seventh, and he was four years old when your grandfather, Nicholas, died at eighty-four. He returned from working the land one afternoon, asked me to lay down his mattress and call all the children, for we slept on the floor then and rolled up the mattresses and stowed them in the closet by day. With all of us around him, he recited the Lord’s Prayer, smiled, closed his eyes, and died. Life is a long story, Dear, but telling it takes such a short time.”

* * *

That night, I lay awake pondering my grandmother’s life. The one question nagging on my mind—the question I did not have time to ask because we had to return home to *Tripoli*—had to wait till Easter Sunday. After church, lunch, and coffee, when the big stone house quieted down, allowing me time for private talk, I asked my question.

“Grandma,” I began, for she was eighty-three and edentulous by then. “What happened to your golden tooth?”

A sad gleam shone from her eyes and a faint smile quivered on her weather worn lips as she paused for a sigh of recall and then began. “Your grandfather left me with eight children and no income except for what I could eke from our olive trees and vineyards. He was tall, strong, and could work the land. I was small and frail and could not do the needed labor. My three older boys had immigrated to Argentina and the two boys at hand did their best to fill their father’s shoes. But, under French rule, things were just as bad as under Turkish rule. My health deteriorated and I lost all my teeth except for my golden tooth. When your father could not make enough money to pay for his tuition, I resolved to sell my golden tooth, but I was not going to ride the car to *Tripoli* because of the horrible carsickness I would have to endure”.

“There was no dentist in *Amioun*, but there was a man who could pull teeth with little pain. I went to him and he agreed to pull my golden tooth for five kilos of olives. He sat me on a chair, tied a thin string to my tooth, passed the string under the chair, up over the door, and tied it to the five kilos of olives, which I had brought him in a basket. He then put a bamboo rod between my jaws to prevent me from biting, and had his wife hold my head tight against her chest. Then, from behind the door, he raised the basket, with the five kilos of olives in it, and dropped it to the floor. My tooth flew out of my mouth, down under the chair, up over the door, and out to where he was standing. It was so sudden that I felt no pain. His wife handed me a roll of cloth and asked me to bite on it to stop the bleeding”.

“When I walked out with the cloth in my mouth, I found the man screaming, chasing after the cat

who had gotten hold of the tooth and was running away with it. The cat disappeared and so did my golden tooth, and with it your father's tuition. The man felt so bad that he gave me back my five kilos of olives.

"When your father found out, he cried angry tears because I had concealed my scheme from him. He wrote a letter to his three older brothers in Argentina and told them the golden-tooth story. A few weeks later, a letter arrived with enough Argentinian pesos in it to pay for your father's tuition. The pesos kept coming, month after month, until your father finished medical school. Now, he's the one who takes care of us all. Sometimes, what seems like a loss is in fact a gain".

* * *

My grandmother's stories have formed and formatted me, giving me global dimensions and making me a proud citizen of the world. What a frail, illiterate, head-branded, golden-toothed widow taught me was that the real world-wide-web connects humanity not with electrons but rather with love, labor, and opportunity.

I will never forget her eyes, full of history, and her scalp, stamped with an 1876 twenty-cent coin, a rare collectors' item that left an indelible mark on our lives. My grandmother died in 1972, clear minded, in her own bed, at the age of one hundred and four—on the very same mattress that her husband, an American Veteran who had returned to become the town's priest, died fifty-one years earlier.

My grandmother never came down with smallpox, and we found the 1876 twenty-cent coin wrapped with my grandfather's wedding ring in a yellowed handkerchief stashed inside a small wooden box.

We never found her golden tooth.

Timeline:

- 1838 – My grandfather, Nicholas, was born in Amioun, Lebanon.
- 1858 – My grandfather immigrated to America when he was 20 years old.
- 1868 – My grandmother, Ramza, was born in Amioun, Lebanon.
- 1878 – My grandfather returned from America at the age of 40 years.
- 1882 – He married my grandmother who was 14 when he was 44 years old.
- 1918 – My father, Abdallah, was born in Amioun, when my grandmother was 50 years old.
- 1920 – My grandfather died at age 84 when my grandmother was 54 years old.
- 1946 – I was born in Amioun, Lebanon.
- 1951 – The story began in 1951 when I was 5 and my grandmother was 83 years old.
- 1971 – I immigrated to America after finishing my medical studies at the American University of Beirut, the same university from which my father graduated in 1944.
- 1972 – My grandmother died at the age of 104 years.



AATRINE: THE VILLAGE OF WATER AND SPRINGS

Located in the Qada'a of Shouf between two hills, the Lebanese village "Aatrine" is renowned for being the village of water and springs.

Etymology

There are two possibilities for the origin of this name:

It may originate from a Syriac word, meaning "fortunes and wealth", for the village is known for its fertile land and agricultural crops.

It may be so named because of its fragrant crops.

Location

Aatrine is located in the Qada'a of Shouf at an altitude of 780 m above sea level. It is 45 km from Beirut, stretches across an area of 360 hectares and is bordered to the north by Samqaniyeh, to the south by Gharifeh, to the east by Kahlouniyeh and to the west by Ainbal.

Population and Houses

Aatrine has around 220 houses, with a registered population of about 1,700 people belonging to the Druze sect.

Voters

476 out of 911 registered voters have cast their votes in 2000. Their number rose to 1,019 in 2009, with only 414 exercising their voting rights and reached 1,126 in the 2018 parliamentary elections, of whom 527 cast their ballots.

Sarieddine and Hassan are the village's two major families, in addition to Neeman, Amin and Khalil:

- Sarieddine, the largest family: 642 voters
- Hassan: 435 voters
- Neeman: 24 voters
- Amin: 13 members
- Khalil: 12 members

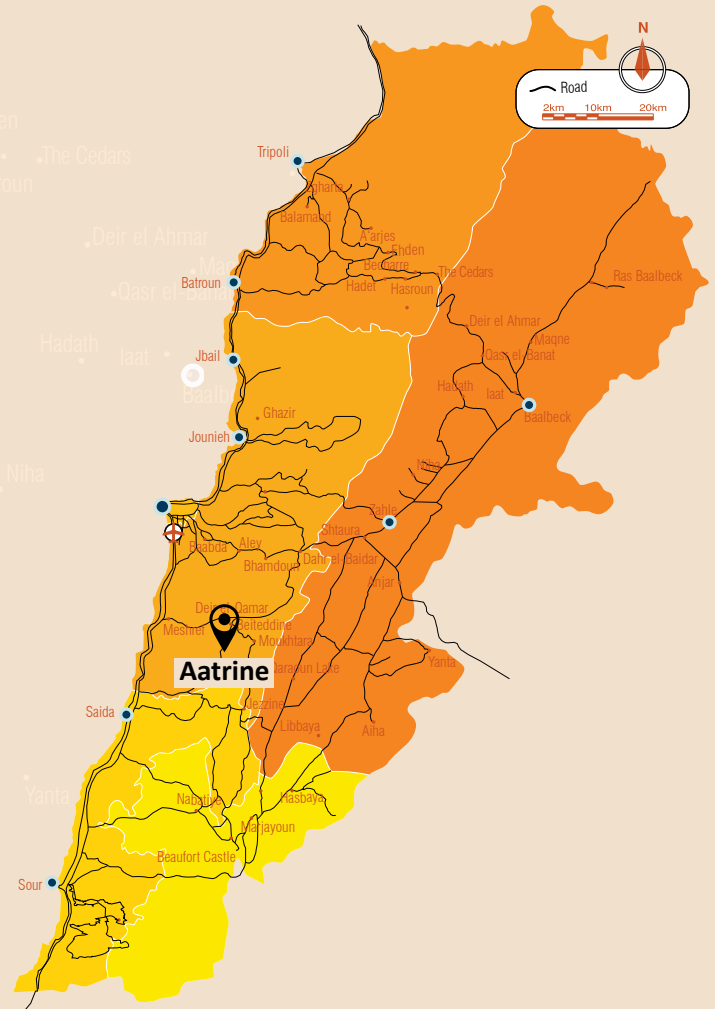
Local Authorities

Aatrine has a nine-member municipal council and a Mukhtar.

Educational institutions

There are two schools in Aatrine:

- Aatrine Public School, which has closed down.
- Oakland Academy, a private school that has 197 students and 22 staff members.



Economic Life

Agriculture, namely the cultivation of olives, figs, and grapes is a key source of residents' income. While some of them serve in the military, others work in the village's small factories and shops and receive remittances from their families abroad.

KHNAIFESS FAMILIES

“Greek Orthodox” in Blat

Khnaifess, the diminutive of the word “Khonfoss” (effeminate), refers to a man who imitates woman in terms of hairstyle, clothes and colors. “Khonfoss” (beetle) is also a small black insect.

Family members

Khnaifess family members total about 130.

Whereabouts

Khnaifess family is from Blat- Qada’a of Marjeyoun, but some of its female members were transferred by marriage to other towns and cities.

Sectarian Affiliation

Khnaifess family members belong to the Greek Orthodox sect.

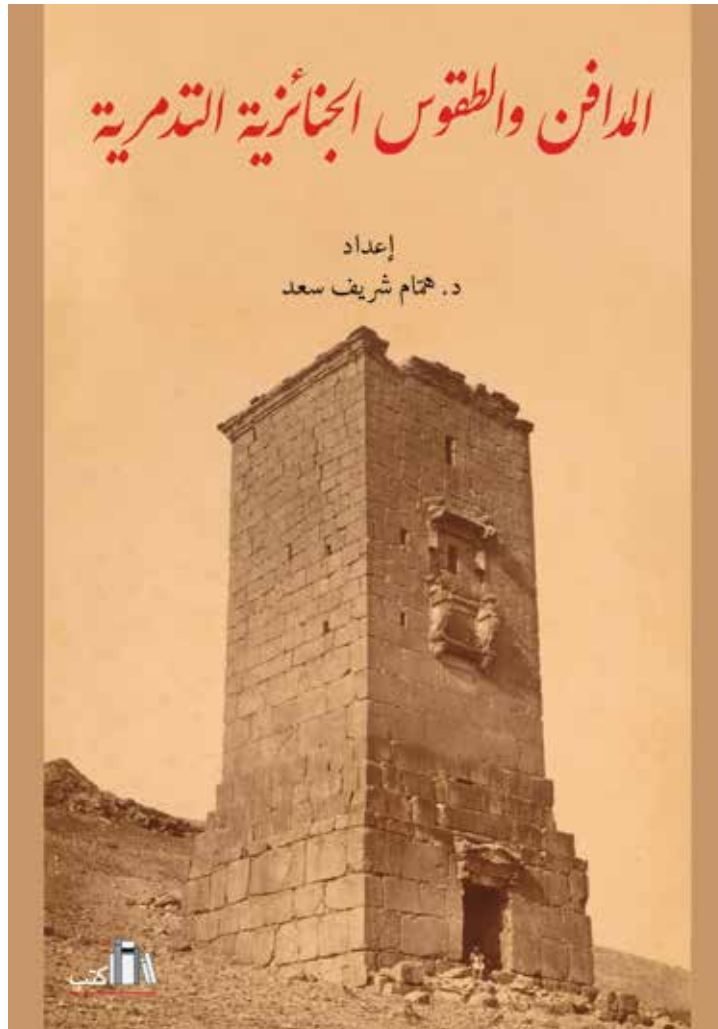
BAYASS FAMILIES

“Druze” in Aatine

Bayass is one of the smallest Lebanese families. It consists of 6 Druze members who live in Aatine, Qada’a of Shouf.

THE PALMYRENE TOMBS AND FUNERARY PRACTICES

KUTUB Ltd. has recently published a book entitled “Al-Madafen Wal Toukouss Al-Jana’iziya Al-Tadmouriya” (The Palmyrene Tombs and Funerary Practices), a master’s thesis prepared by Dr. Hammam Sherif Saad to throw light on the destroyed tombs of the ancient city of Palmyra. Through this research, the writer tends to manifest the peculiarity of Palmyrene tombs by studying their various types and describing the funerary practices, thereby providing a reference for those interested in the city’s history and heritage.



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