

# Lebanon

*Women, Business and the Law 2022* (WBL2022) presents an index covering 190 economies and structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. Overall scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score. Data refer to the laws and regulations that are applicable to the main business city (Beirut). Different rules may apply in other jurisdictions so local legislation should be reviewed. Based on this approach, **Lebanon scores 58.8 out of 100**. The overall score for Lebanon is higher than the regional average observed across the Middle East and North Africa (53). Within the Middle East and North Africa region, the maximum score observed is 88.8 (Malta).

## Lebanon - Scores for Women, Business and the Law 2022



## Relative Strengths

When it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, and laws affecting women's decisions to work, Lebanon gets a perfect score.

## Areas for Improvement

However, when it comes to laws affecting women's pay, constraints related to marriage, laws affecting women's work after having children, constraints on women starting and running a business, gender differences in property and inheritance, and laws affecting the size of a woman's pension, Lebanon could consider reforms to improve legal equality for women.

For example, one of the lowest scores for Lebanon is on the indicator measuring laws affecting women's work after having children (the WBL2022 Parenthood indicator). To improve on the Parenthood indicator, Lebanon may wish to consider making paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers, making the government administer 100% of maternity leave benefits, making paid leave available to fathers, and making paid parental leave available.

## Recent Reforms

During the past year (October 2nd, 2020 – October 1st, 2021), Lebanon enacted legislation protecting women from sexual harassment in employment. It adopted criminal penalties for sexual harassment in employment and also enacted civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment.



Further data details for Lebanon are available at:  
<https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/data/exploreconomies/lebanon/2022>



	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
Mobility	Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman apply for a passport in the same way as a man?	Yes	Passport Law, Art. 6; Passport application procedures
	Can a woman travel outside the country in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Workplace	Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	Yes	Labor Code, Art. 26
	Is there legislation on sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	Law on Criminalizing Sexual Harassment and the Rehabilitation of its Victims, Arts. 1 and 2(B)
Pay	Are there criminal penalties or civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	<i>Criminal:</i> Law on Criminalizing Sexual Harassment and the Rehabilitation of its Victims, Arts. 1 and 2(B) <i>Civil:</i> Law on Criminalizing Sexual Harassment and the Rehabilitation of its Victims, Art. 5
	Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman work at night in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman work in a job deemed dangerous in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Marriage	Can a woman work in an industrial job in the same way as a man?	No	Labor Code, Art. 27 and Annex 1
	Is there no legal provision that requires a married woman to obey her husband?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman be head of household in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Is there legislation specifically addressing domestic violence?	Yes	Law on the Protection of Women and Family Members Against Domestic Violence; Law No. 204 on Amending Law on the Protection of Women and Family Members Against Domestic Violence
	Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	No	Constitution of Lebanon, Arts. 9 and 19
Parenthood	Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	No	Constitution of Lebanon, Arts. 9 and 19
	Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	No	Labor Code, Art. 28
	Does the government pay 100% of maternity leave benefits?	No	Labor Code, Art. 29
	Is paid leave available to fathers?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Is there paid parental leave?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Entrepreneurship	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	Labor Code, Art. 52
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman sign a contract in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman register a business in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Assets	Can a woman open a bank account in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Do men and women have equal ownership rights to immovable property?	Yes	Constitution of Lebanon, Art. 7
	Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents?	No	Constitution of Lebanon, Arts. 9 and 19
	Do female and male surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	No	Constitution of Lebanon, Arts. 9 and 19
	Does the law grant spouses equal administrative authority over assets during marriage?	Yes	Constitution of Lebanon, Arts. 9 and 19
	Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	No	Constitution of Lebanon, Arts. 9 and 19
Pension	Is the age at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits the same?	No	Women: No applicable provisions could be located. Men: No applicable provisions could be located
	Is the age at which men and women can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	No	Women: No applicable provisions could be located. Men: No applicable provisions could be located
	Is the mandatory retirement age for men and women the same?	Yes	Women: Labor code, Art. 55. Men: Labor Code, Art. 55
	Are periods of absence due to childcare accounted for in pension benefits?	No	No applicable provisions could be located