

The Life of Women and Men in Lebanon: A Statistical Portrait

Introduction

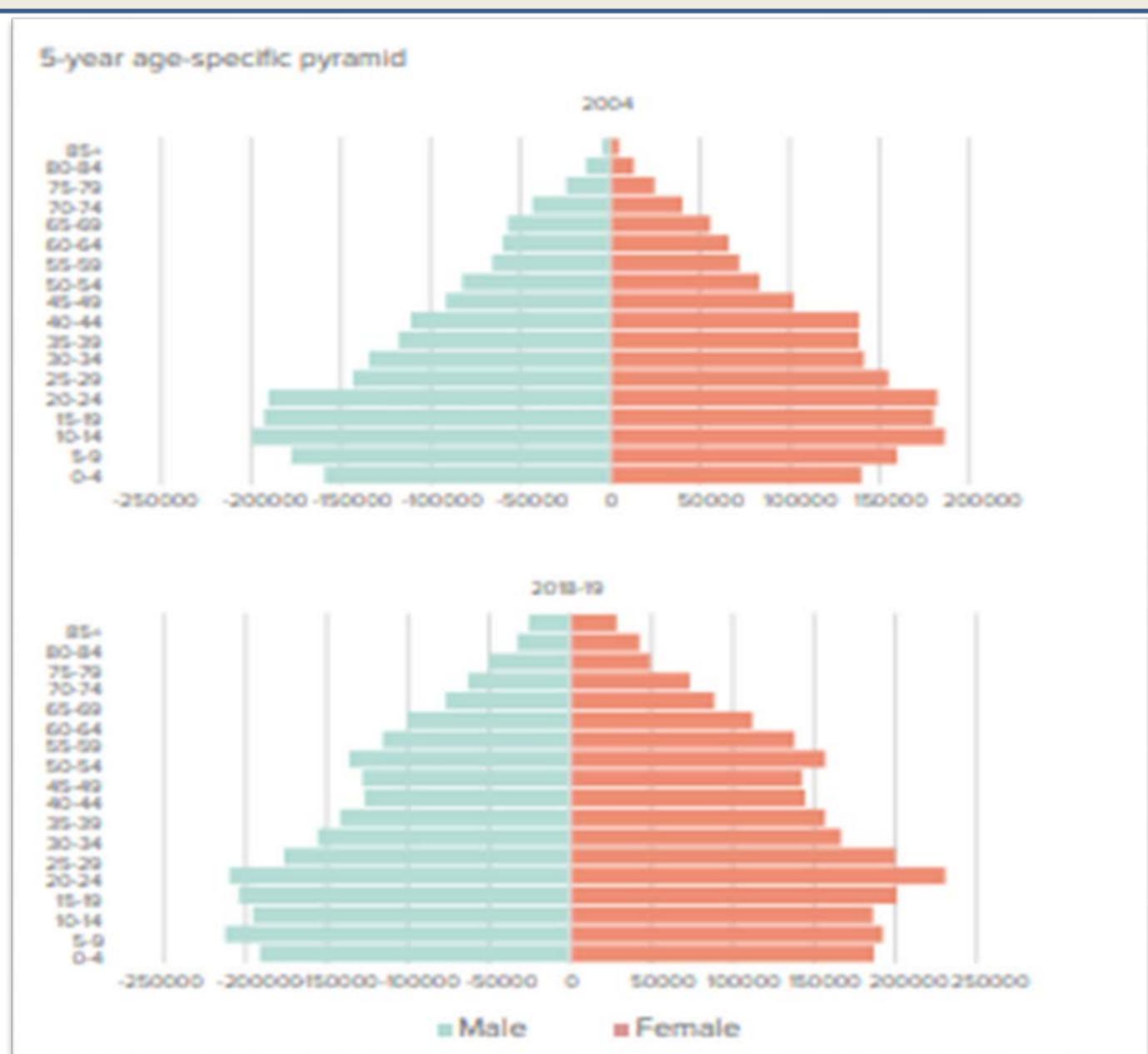
The presented cases provide an overview of the statistics and trend analysis of the status of women and men in Lebanon. It aims to offer available information that underlines the achievements made towards gender equality and women empowerment in various areas of development over the past 15 years. The compilation and analysis of data are in line with the latest methodological developments in the field of official statistics, to back national and international reporting and monitoring requirements. The data derived from household-based surveys conducted by the Central Administration of Statistics Lebanon (CAS) covering the period 2004-2019 provided the backbone of this analysis. Survey-based statistics were complemented with administrative data supplied by the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, General Directorate of Civil Affairs (Vital statistics), the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Health and other state agencies, which gave a different perspective and added more depth to the survey information available at CAS.

Methodology

Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) has made a concerted effort to bring together statistics and indicators that portray the situation of women and men in the major economic, social and human development domains. This publication hence presents a compilation of data that are aimed to answer the needs of data users. The data available at CAS, for the period from 2004 to 2019 are the backbone of this special edition.

Case 1: Demographic Changes and Family Arrangements

Population and family dynamics explain a lot about the changes that occur in the life of women and men. Population growth rates, age structure and the differences in the distributions of people by gender portray the status of women and men. Besides, the marital status and family arrangement patterns indicate the diversity between women and men with respect to choices and functional capacity. The age and sex structure are the most basic ways to show the level of development of the resident population in Lebanon. This information is useful to understand the resident population change over time, the gender balances as well as the variation of some underlying socio-economic patterns of the society. The population pyramid in 2004 and 2018-19 indicate that one of the most notable demographic changes in Lebanon in the past 15 years has been the transition of the resident population to an older structure as shown in the graphs below



Resident population pyramid by age-group, 2004 and 2018-19



Marital status of women and men 15 years and above, by age-groups, 2018-19

Case 2: Family Formation and Living Arrangements

Changes in marriage patterns represent the diversity in social, cultural and legal systems in a country. Marital status indicates whether a person is legally married or not. Based on the household survey questionnaires, four categories of legal marital status are reported: (i) single, never married; (ii) married; (iii) divorced or separated; (iv) widowed. The data are obtained from household surveys and the analysis focuses on the resident population 15 years and above. In Lebanon, slightly over half of female and male population aged 15 years and above were married in 2018-19 (53.4 percent of women and 57.0 percent of men respectively). The second largest category was the single (never married) population (33.4 percent for women and 39.7 percent for men). Women in the age group 20-64 were married and divorced at slightly higher rates, (62.1 percent and 3.3 percent respectively) compared to men of the same age bracket (60.5 percent married and 1.7 percent divorced). Men are more likely than women to be never married (37.3 percent men against 30.2 percent women).

Fadia Kiwan: A Tale of Female Academic Success Story

Fadia Kiwan, a name to be honored and highly respected, was destined to be born in a country as beautiful and potent as its Cedars, but as marred and ripped as its dreary wars, endless political conflicts, and plethora of corruption that comes in different styles and packages. Moreover, a country, where its patriarchal system gives favor to men over women, empowers them, enables them, and provides them with various business, educational, and managerial opportunities to excel and succeed, leaving women to fight for their way to thrive.

She embarked on her educational journey in Lebanon, attaining C.A.P.E.S in Philosophy and Psychology from the Lebanese University, only to accomplish later her Ph.D. in Political Science from the Sorbonne University in Paris. Of her many achievements and accomplishments, including establishing the Institute of Political Science at St. Joseph University in 2002 and serving as its director for more than 10 years, her passion lies mostly in teaching, research, educational development, women's rights, and empowering women to excel in their fields of specialty.

Serving as the current General Director of the Arab Women Organization, her main goal is to be an agent of change in Arab women's lives by changing the social, political, and cultural mindset in the Arab world that seeks to oppress women instead of alleviating and strengthening them to fulfill their different significant roles in the community.

Conclusion

Gender statistics are defined as a field of statistics which cuts across the other traditional fields to identify, produce and disseminate statistics that reflect the realities of the lives of women and men and policy issues related to gender equality. Accordingly, these statistics adequately reveal the differences and inequalities in the situation of women and men in several areas of life (UNSD 2016). Lebanon applies international standards for the production and dissemination of gender statistics. Accordingly, the statistical standards and methodological guidelines developed by the United Nations (UN) support the effort for integration of the gender perspective into statistics, as well as to improve their availability, quality, and comparability. Common concepts, classifications and methods are defined and recommended by UNSD, UNECE, WB and other international agencies to allow for standardization, harmonization, and in-country and cross-country comparisons (UNSD 2016, UNECE & WB, 2010). The strategic standards of Eurostat for publishing and disseminating up-to-date gender statistics guided this work to ensure that high quality statistics are conveyed to the users. Likewise, the production of nationally and internationally harmonized indicators as well as the application of standardized methods to support the monitoring of gender equality and women's empowerment are an important step towards quality, accuracy and comparability of data. Two indicator's frameworks are agreed to be the guide for the national production and compilation of gender statistics: the UN Minimum Set of Internationally agreed Gender Indicators, UN MGI (UNSD, 2019), and the global list of gender-relevant indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals to tracking progress on achieving the gender related targets of the SDGs (UN, 2018).

Disclaimer: this case study reflects the views only of the authors, and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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