



**Characteristics of Emigrants (1991-2000)
and Emigration Visa Applicants (1991-2000)
by Information International
1-7 November 2001**

Second Part

Introduction

While the first part of the study focused on the number of emigrants and the countries of emigration, this part shall be dedicated to the characteristics of those emigrants.

The Lebanese emigrants originate from several social, cultural and religious backgrounds; therefore, the Lebanese community abroad might be representative of the Lebanese population.

I. Emigration Facts Shown by a Sample Survey

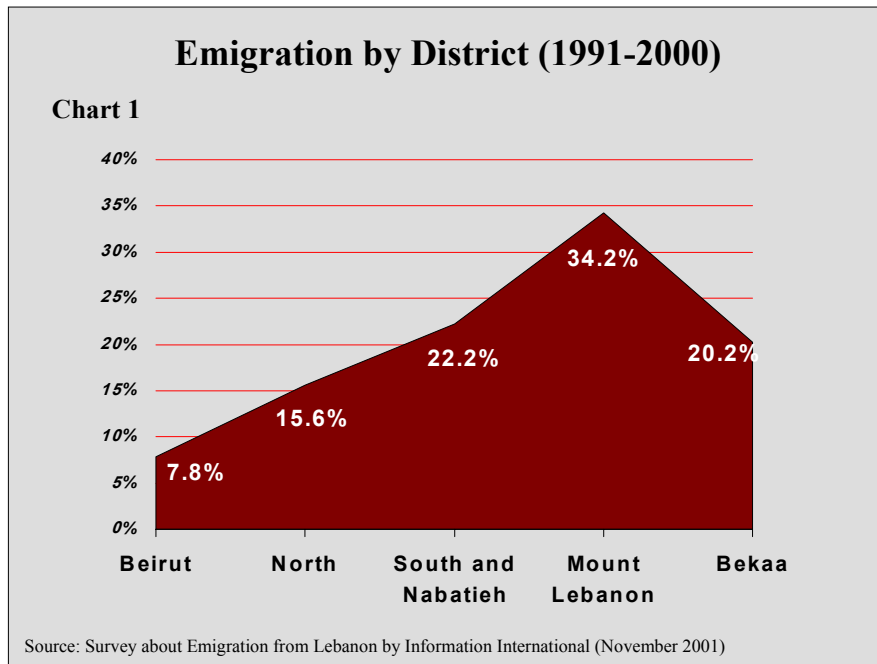
Due to the inaccuracy and the contradiction of the circulating figures, and in order to reflect the reality about emigration, Information International has conducted a survey using a sample of 1087 families composed of 5890 members on November 1-7 2001.

1. Families Affected by Emigration

During the last ten years, emigration has touched 214 families from the sample, of which 257 members have emigrated. Therefore, we can conclude that emigration has affected 21.8 % of the Lebanese families. This brings the aggregate number of emigrants to 187,000, which is close to the figure released by the emigration countries (200,000) and mentioned in the first part.

2. Emigrants by District

Emigrants originate from all six districts. 34,2% of them come primarily from Mount Lebanon, then 22,2% from the South (including Nabatiyeh), 20,2% from the Bekaa Valley, 15,6% from the North, and 7,8% from Beirut (Chart n° 1).



3. Emigrants by Confession

Emigration concerns all sects in Lebanon, and is no longer restricted to particular ones. The percentage of Christians is 46% against 54% for Muslims. The following table shows the percentage of emigrants by sects.

Table 1: Distribution of Emigrants by Sect

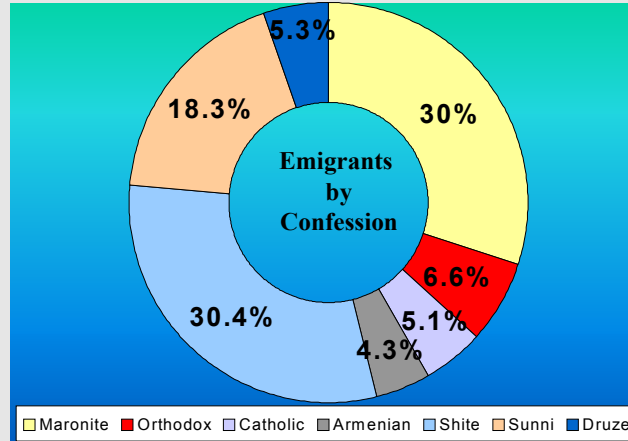
Confession	Percentage
Maronite	30 %
Orthodox	6.6%
Catholic	5.1%
Armenian Catholic/Orthodox	4.3%
Shite	30.4%
Sunni	18.3%
Druze	5.3%

This table shows that emigration, which was mainly a “Christian phenomenon” at the beginning, has grown to become “Christian and Muslim” during the past years.

An article published by the Australian Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs pertaining to Lebanese immigration, indicates that 39,7% of the immigrants are Maronites and Catholics, 38,6% are Muslims 38,6%, and 21,7% are of other religious confessions (Department of Immigration and Multicultural affairs, Australia, 1996) (Chart n° 2).

Lebanese Emigrants by Confession (1991-2001)

Chart 2



Source: Survey about Emigration from Lebanon by Information International (November 2001)

4. Emigrants by Age Groups

Emigrants are divided into several age groups. The 25-29 group ranks first with 32% followed by the group 30-34 with 28%.

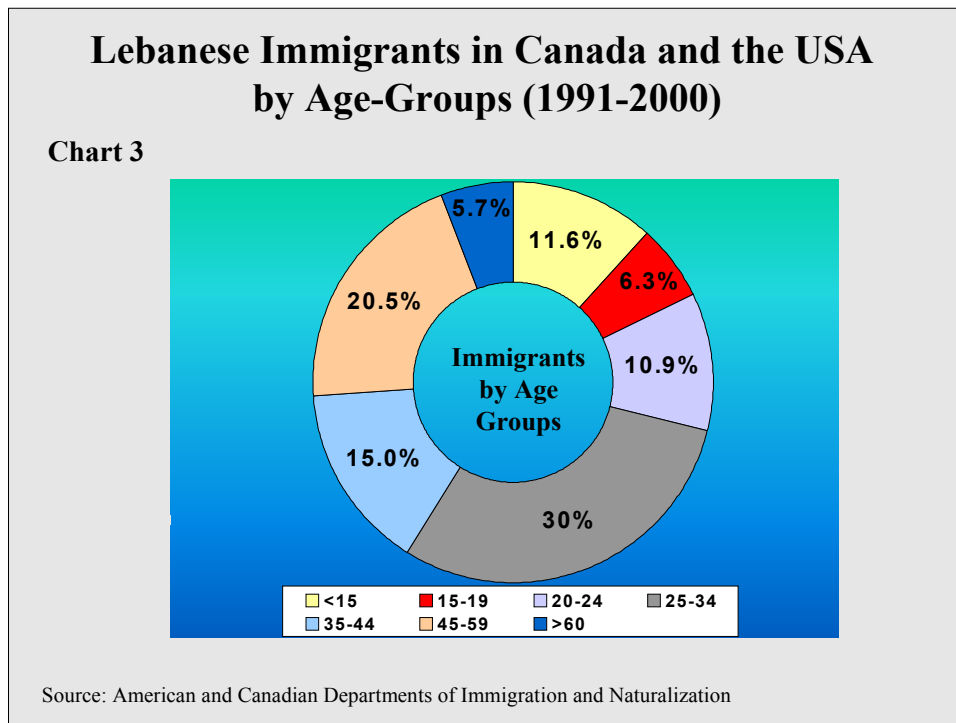
Below is a table representing population in Lebanon that was prepared by the Central Administration for Statistics in 1998:

Table 2: Population in Lebanon by Age Groups

Age Group	Percentage
0-9	17.8%
9-15	10.2%
15-19	11%
20-24	9.9%
25-29	9%
34-30	7.9%
39-35	6.7%
40-44	5.2%
45-49	4.6%
50-59	7.9%
Over 60	9.8%

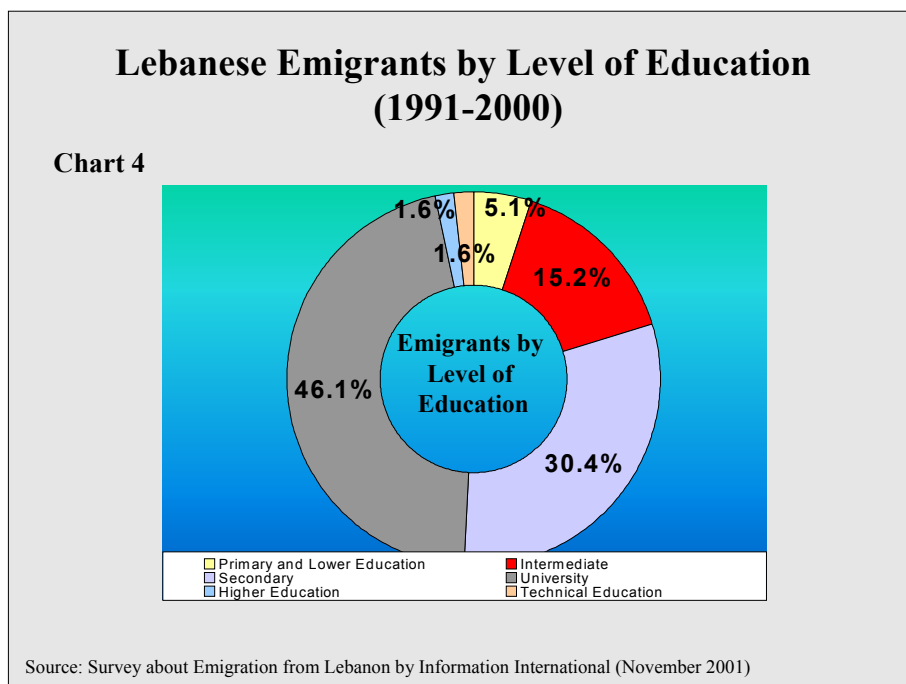
It can be noticed that the age groups (20-44) represents 38.7% of the Lebanese population, and 82.6% of the emigrants, which is very critical to the future of the country due to the ageing factor.

The American and Canadian statistics show that the Lebanese emigrants are divided according to the aforementioned age groups respectively: 53.8% and 58% according to chart n° 3.



5. Emigrants by Level of Education

University graduates constitute the highest percentage of emigrants (46,3%), while technical studies graduates constitute 1,6%. Chart n° 4 shows the categorization of emigrants by education level.



The survey about the social conditions of families in 1997 showed that the percentage of university graduates of more than 20 years old is 13.9% for residents and 46.3% for emigrants. This is clearly significant as far as the brain drain factor is concerned.

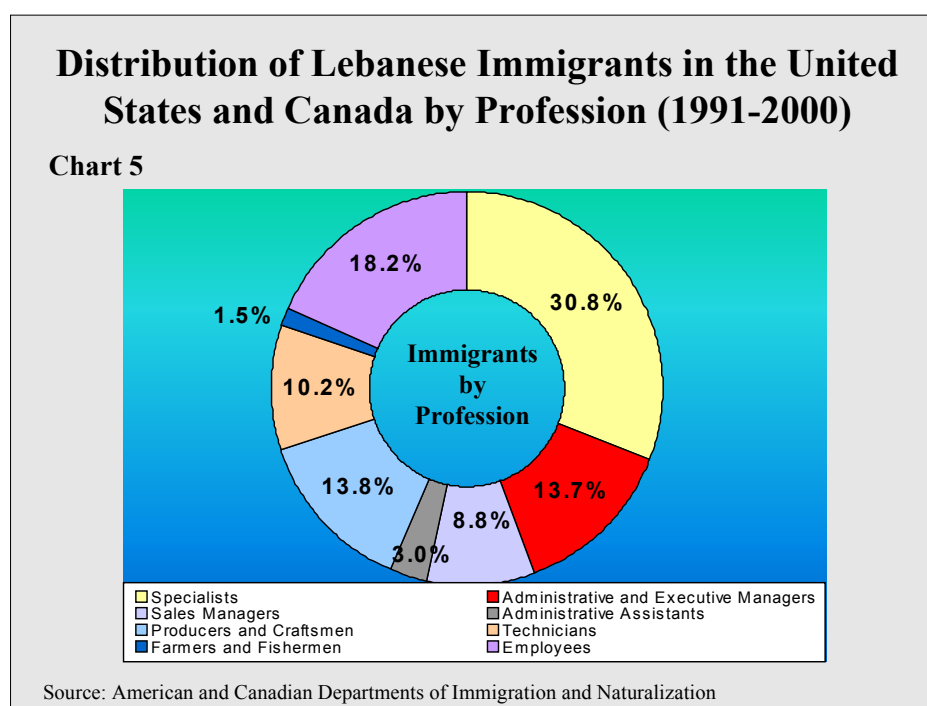
6. Emigrants by Professions

Emigrants belong to different professions according to the following table:

Table 3: Emigrants by Profession

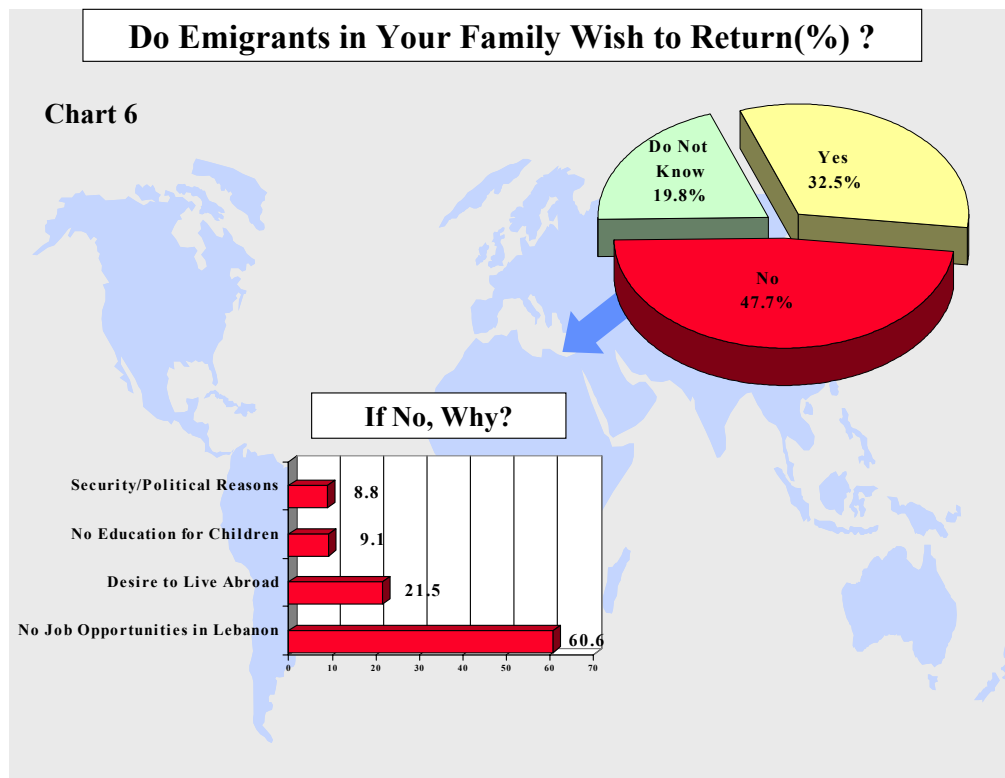
Profession	Percentage
Merchant	19%
Administrative assistant and employee	12,8%
Administrative and marketing manager	8%
Physician / Pharmacist	2,7%
Craftsman	0,9%
Liberal profession	20,2%
Student	3,1%
Housewife	8,8%
Teacher	1,8%
Engineer	11,2%
Computer programmer	5,3%
Lawyer	1,3%
Owner of a business	4,9%

According to Canadian and American statistics, specialists, professionals and technicians rank first in the emigration race, followed by executive and administrative personnel. (Chart n° 5).



7. Emigrants Willingness to Return to Their Homeland

According to emigrant families, 32.4% wish to return, 19.8% have no option but to stay, 47.8% do not wish to return for several reasons: primarily for economic ones due to the lack of job opportunities (60.6%); then for personal reasons such as the desire to live abroad (21.5%) or the wish to give their children “better education” abroad (9.1%); and last but not least for security and political reasons (8.8%) (Chart n° 6).

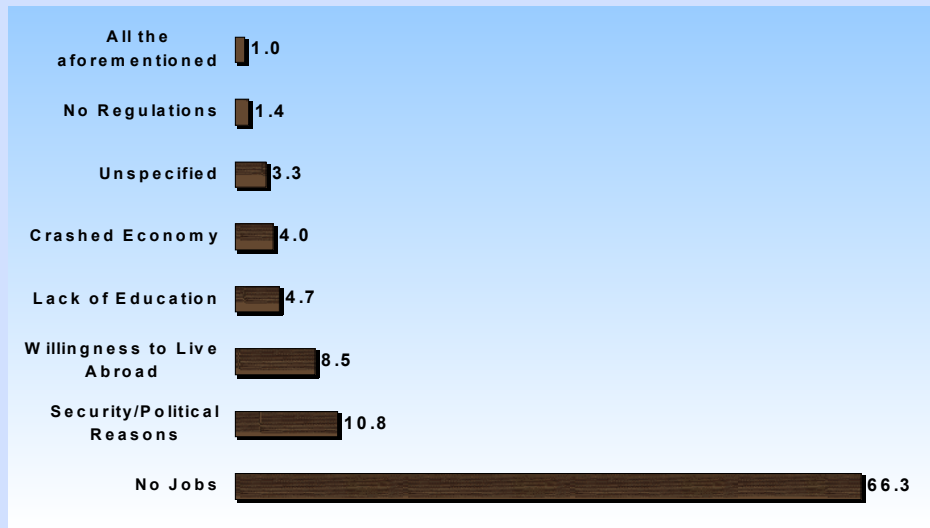


8. Causes of Emigration

Several factors drive the Lebanese out of their country: primarily the dramatic lack of job opportunities (70.4%), the willingness to live and study abroad (13.2%), security and political reasons (10.8%), the absence of rules and regulations in Lebanon (1.5%), other reasons (4.1%) (Chart n° 7).

What is in your Opinion the Main Cause of Emigration? (%)

Chart 7



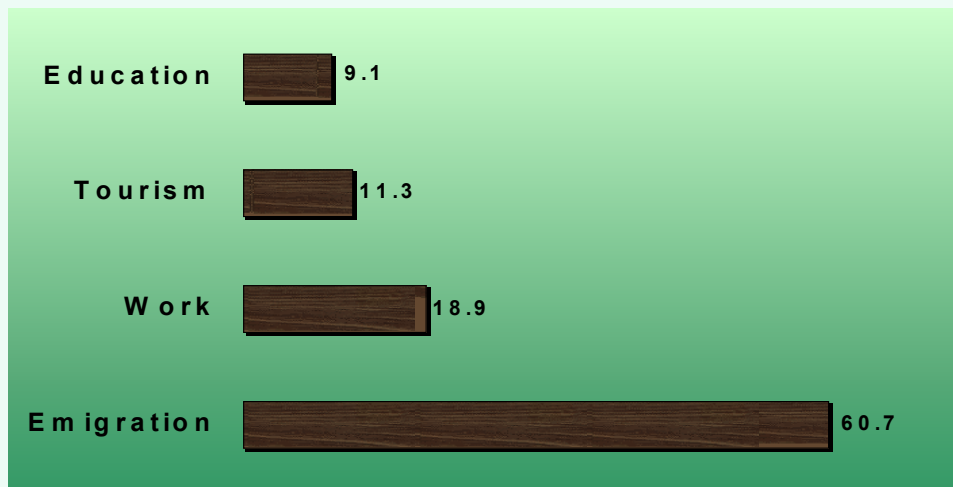
II. Emigration Visa Applicants

1. Visa Applicants

The results of the survey show that 6.7% of the Lebanese residents have applied for a visa. This means that 232,000 want to travel, 60.7% as emigrants, 18.9% as workers, 11.3% as tourists and 9.1% as students (Chart n° 8).

Visa Applications

Chart 8



Source: Survey about Emigration from Lebanon by Information International (November 2001)

2. Visa Applicants by Region

The inhabitants of Mount Lebanon rank first amongst visa applicants (26.6%), followed by Bekaa (23.3%), Beirut (22.8%), South (15.3%) and North (12%).

3. Visa Applicants by Confession

The Sunnis rank first (28.2%), then come the Shites (24.5%), the Maronites (19.5%), the Orthodox (9.5%), the Catholics (9.1%), the Druze (6.2%) and the Armenian Catholics/Orthodox (3%).

4. Visa Applicants by Gender

83% of the applicants are men while only 17% are women.

5. Visa Applicants by Age Groups

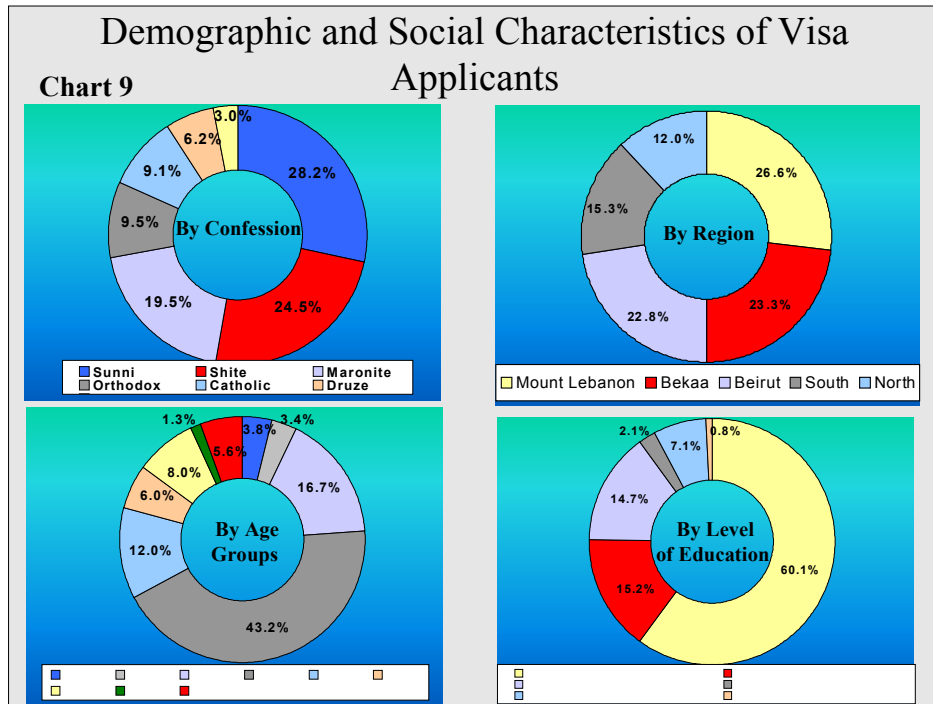
Applicants are principally young men and women distributed according to the following table:

Table 4: Visa Applicants by Age Groups

Age-group	Percentage
0-14	3,8%
15-19	3,4%
20-24	16,7%
25-29	43,2%
30-34	12%
35-39	6%
40-44	8%
45-49	1,3%
Over 50	5,6%

6. Visa Applicants by Level of Education

60.1% of visa applicants are university graduates, 15.2% have finished their secondary studies, 14.7% their intermediate studies, 7.1% have a primary or lower level of education, 2.1% hold a technical diploma and 0.8% received a higher education (chart n° 9).

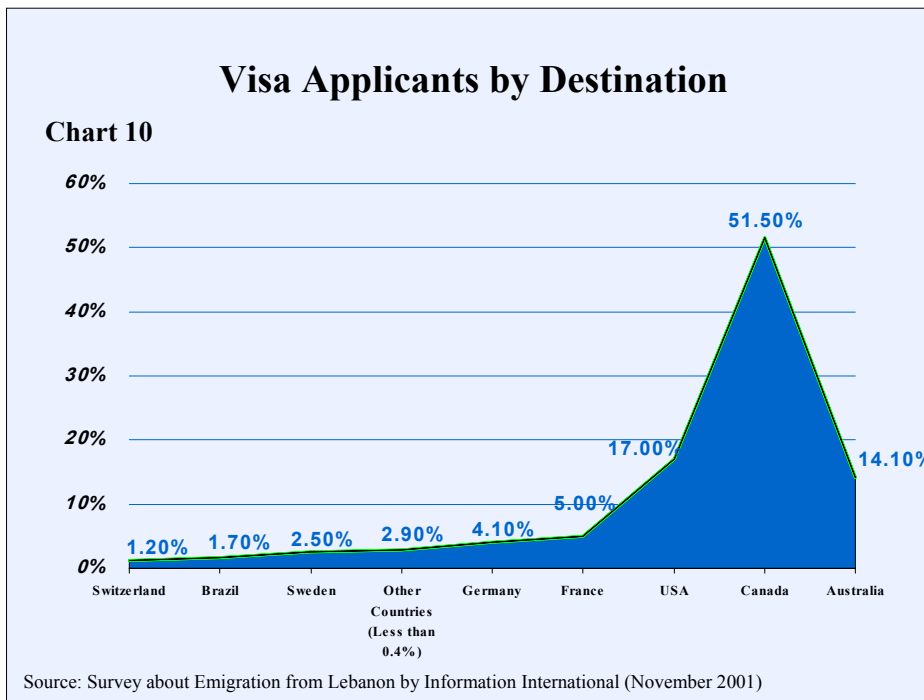


7. Visa Applicants by Profession

21.7% of the applicants are professionals (other than lawyers, engineers and physicians), 13.3% are in business management and marketing, while 12.8% are engineers, 9.9% administrators, 8.9% computer scientists, 7.9% students, 5.9% merchants, 4.9% lawyers, 3% self-employed, 2.5% physicians and pharmacists and 9.2% other professions.

8. Visa Applicants by Destination

51.5% of the applicants would prefer to emigrate to Canada, 17% to the United States, 14.1% to Australia, 5% to France, 4.1% to Germany, 2.5% to Sweden, 1.7% to Brazil, 1.2% to Switzerland and 2.9% to other countries (each less than 0.4%) (Chart n° 10).



Conclusion

We can therefore conclude that:

1. The causes of the emigration from Lebanon are economic and not confessional or political, given the fact that Maronite and Shite ranked first amongst emigrants and their percentages are relatively similar. The 10.8% who stated that emigration is attributed to security and political reasons are of various regional and religious affiliations.
2. 8.8% attributed the reluctance of their emigrant family member to return to political or security reasons.
3. The minorities will be more demographically affected than the others.
4. University students and specialized work force constitute the bulk of the emigrants.
5. Sunnis ranked first amongst the citizens who are “actively seeking to emigrate”, followed by the Shites and then the Maronites.
6. The applicants for emigration visas are mainly residents from Mount Lebanon, the Bekaa and Beirut.
7. If emigration continues at the same rate i.e. 20,000 per year and with the same characteristics, demographic growth will be affected, the rate of ageing will increase and it will constitute a drain on the specialized workforce and university graduates.