

SULTANATE OF OMAN

سلطنة عمان

Formal Name: Sultanate of Oman

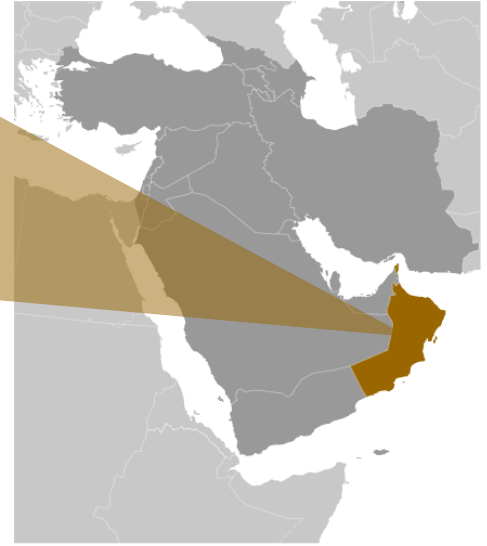
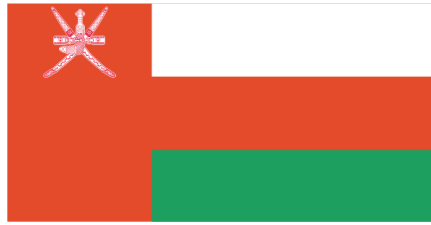
Short Name: Oman

Adjective: Omani

Capital: Muscat

Government: Monarchy

LAS Member since: September 29th, 1971



DEMOGRAPHICS

Ethnicity Groups: Arab, Baluchi, South Asian, African

Religions: Ibadhi Muslim 75%, other 25%

Languages: Arabic (official), English, Baluchi, Urdu, Indian Dialects

Life Expectancy: 74.97 years

Median Age: 24.9 years

Sex Ratio: 1.05 male/female

Literacy Rate: 86.9%

Independence Day: November 18, 1940
Total Area: 309,500 km ²
Population: 3,219,775 million
Gross Domestic Product: \$94.86 billion
Military Spending: 11.4% of GDP

ECONOMY

Labor Force: 968,800

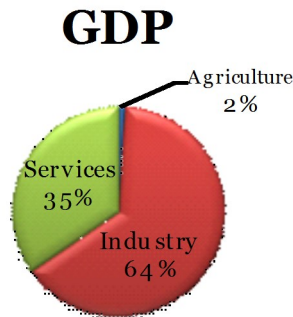
Unemployment Rate: 15%

Poverty Rate: NA%

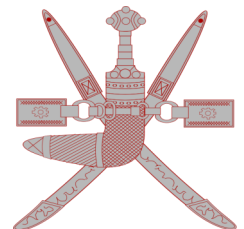
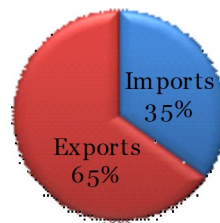
Inflation: 4%

Exports: \$56.22 billion (petroleum, reexports, fish, metals, textiles)

Imports: \$30.75 billion (machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, food, livestock, lubricants)



Trade Balance



700s	Onset of Arab domination and introduction of Islam
800s	Ibadiyah Islamic sect begins rule
1507	Portuguese capture the Omani coast
1650	Portuguese driven out of Omani land
1737	Persians invade
1749	Persians are driven out; the Al Bu Said dynasty comes to power
1913	Control of country splits: the interior is ruled by Ibadite imams and coastal areas by the Sultan
1954	Clashes resume between the two forces
1959	Sultan Said bin Taimur regains control of the interior
1964	Oil reserves are discovered
1970	The Sultan is overthrown by his son in a bloodless coup; Sultan Qaboos bin Said begins a liberalization and modernization program
1981	Oman is founding member of GCC
1997	Sultan Qaboos decrees that women can stand for election and vote
1999	Oman and UAE sign a border agreement
2002	Sultan Qaboos extends voting rights to all citizens over the age of 21
2003	First elections to the Consultative Council
2004	Sultan appoints Oman's first female minister with portfolio
2005	Suspected Islamists are arrested; 31 Omanis are convicted of trying to overthrow the government but are later pardoned
2006	Oman and the US sign a free trade deal
2009	A cargo vessel is hijacked by suspected Somali pirates off Oman
2011	Protesters demand jobs and political reform; Sultan reacts by promising jobs & benefits
2012	Trial begins for activists who are accused of posting abusive and provocative criticism of the government online.
2013	Sultan Qaboos pardons around 30 people including activists and protestors
2014	Former commerce minister is sentenced 3 years in prison for corruption