



There Sultanate of Oman

MAL FACT SHEET

SUMMARY

The Sultanate of Oman is a country located on the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula in West Asia or the Middle East. The country spans the mouth of the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea and borders Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Sultan: Haitham bin Tariq

Capital: Muscat

Other notable cities: Sur, Nizwa, Salalah

Gov Type: Absolute Monarchy

Population: 3.9 million

Colonial History: Former Portuguese Occupation of Muscat (1507-1650), Former Ottoman Occupation of Muscat (1581-1888), Former Persian Occupation (18th cent.)

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

The Sultanate of Oman is about 309,500 sq km in total area, which is twice the size of the state of Georgia, and has 2,092 km of coastline.

The climate is dry desert with a hot and humid climate along the coast, with a hot and arid interior. Between the months of May and September, there is a strong southwest summer monsoon season in the far south of the state.

The terrain of Oman is central desert plain with rugged mountains in the north and south of the country.

Natural resources include petroleum, copper, asbestos, some marble, limestone, chromium, gypsum, and natural gas. Land use is divided between agricultural land (4.7%), forest (0%) and other uses (95.3%).

There are natural hazards such as summer winds that often raise large sandstorms and dust storms in the interior as well as periodic droughts.

The Sultanate of Oman consists of Oman proper and the two northern enclaves of Musandam and Al Madhah. Musandam is a vital transit point for world crude oil because of its strategic location adjacent to the Strait of Hormuz.

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Economy and Politics



DEMOGRAPHICS

Noun: Omani(s)

Adjective: Omani

Ethnic Groups (2000): 48.1% Omani Arab, 15% Balochi, 9.8% other Indo-Pakistani, 7.7% Other, 7.2% Other Arab, 4.4% Bengali, 2.8% Persian, 2.5% Tamil, 2.5% Zanzibari

Languages: Arabic (Official), English, Baluchi, Swahili, Urdu, Indian Dialects

Religions: 85.9% Muslim (Ibadhi, Sunni, Shia), 6.4% Christian, 5.7% Hindu, 2% Other and Unaffiliated

Literacy: 95.7% (Male 97%, Female 92.7%)

Oman's rate of population increase exceeds the world average as the country has one of the highest birth rates among the Persian Gulf states and a relatively low birth rate. There are also large numbers of foreigners that reside in the country such as Western businessmen, government advisors, army officers, and laborers from the Indian subcontinent, the Philippines, and other Asian countries.

ECONOMY AND GDP

Oman's economy is described as a high-income, oil-based economy with a large welfare system. The country has growing government debt, a citizenship-based labor force, a free trade agreement with the U.S. and a high female labor force participation with a diversifying portfolio.

Real GDP (Purchasing Power Parity): \$161.712 billion (2022), \$155.028 billion (2021), \$150.378 billion (2020)

Real GDP Growth Rate: 4.31% (2022), 3.09% (2021), -3.38% (2020)

Real GDP Per Capita: \$35,300 (2022)

GDP (Official Exchange Rate): \$114.667 billion (2022)

Inflation Rate (Consumer Prices): 2.81% (2022), 1.55% (2021), -0.9% (2020)

GDP - Composition: 1.8% Agriculture (2017), 46.4% Industry (2017), 51.8% Services (2017)

Unemployment Rate: 1.53% (2022), 1.9% (2021), 2.94% (2020)

Youth Unemployment: 14.6% (2021)

MAIN POLITICAL CONTENTIONS

Despite the Sultanate of Oman being the oldest independent state in the Arab World, the country does not really have any enemies or contentious relations. When Sultan Qaboos assumed power in 1970, the country had limited contact with other countries.

Oman is a part of the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council and has maintained close relations with its neighbors in the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, despite that most Gulf states are Sunni while Oman is majority Ibadhi. Oman has not suspended diplomatic relations with any country, including Iran, with which many states in the Arab League have contentious relations.

Oman: A Timeline

