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Chapter 1

182

1.1 182.guide

Texified version of data for Oman.

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Oman

1.2 182.guide/Oman

Oman

Geography (Oman)
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1.3 182.guide/Geography (Oman)

Geography (Oman)

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Location:

Middle East, along the Arabian Sea, between Yemen and the United Arab Emirates

Map references: Middle East, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

212,460 km²

land area:

212,460 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Kansas

Land boundaries:

total 1,374 km, Saudi Arabia 676 km, UAE 410 km, Yemen 288 km

Coastline:

2,092 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

continental shelf:

to be defined

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

no defined boundary with most of UAE; Administrative Line with UAE in far north; a treaty with Yemen to settle the Omani-Yemeni boundary was ratified in December 1992

Climate:

dry desert; hot, humid along coast; hot, dry interior; strong southwest summer monsoon (May to September) in far south

Terrain:

vast central desert plain, rugged mountains in north and south

Natural resources:

petroleum, copper, asbestos, some marble, limestone, chromium, gypsum, natural gas

Land use:

arable land:

less than 2%
 permanent crops:
 0%
 meadows and pastures:
 5%
 forest and woodland:
 0%
 other:
 93%
 Irrigated land:
 410 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 summer winds often raise large sandstorms and duststorms in interior; ←
 sparse
 natural freshwater resources
 Note:
 strategic location with small foothold on Musandam Peninsula controlling
 Strait of Hormuz (17% of world's oil production transits this point going
 from Persian Gulf to Arabian Sea)

1.4 182.guide/People (Oman)

People (Oman)

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Population:
 1,643,579 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 3.46% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 40.56 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 5.94 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 38.4 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 67.32 years
 male:
 65.47 years
 female:
 69.27 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 6.58 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Omani(s)
 adjective:
 Omani
 Ethnic divisions:
 Arab, Balochi, Zanzibari, South Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi)

Religions:
 Ibadhi Muslim 75%, Sunni Muslim, Shi'a Muslim, Hindu
 Languages:
 Arabic (official), English, Balochi, Urdu, Indian dialects
 Literacy:
 total population:
 NA%
 male:
 NA%
 female:
 NA%
 Labor force:
 430,000
 by occupation:
 agriculture 40% (est.)

1.5 182.guide/Government (Oman)

Government (Oman)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Sultanate of Oman
 conventional short form:
 Oman
 local long form: Saltanat Uman
 local short form:
 Uman
 Digraph:
 MU
 Type:
 absolute monarchy with residual UK influence
 Capital:
 Muscat
 Administrative divisions:
 there are no first-order administrative divisions as defined by the US
 Government, but there are 3 governorates (muhafazah, singular - muhafazat);
 Musqat, Musandam, Zufar
 Independence:
 1650 (expulsion of the Portuguese)
 Constitution:
 none
 Legal system:
 based on English common law and Islamic law; ultimate appeal to the sultan;
 has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
 National holiday:
 National Day, 18 November
 Political parties and leaders:
 none
 Other political or pressure groups:
 outlawed Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO), based in Yemen
 Suffrage:

none
 Elections:
 elections scheduled for October 1992
 Executive branch:
 sultan, Cabinet
 Legislative branch:
 unicameral National Assembly
 Judicial branch:
 none; traditional Islamic judges and a nascent civil court system
 Leaders:
 Chief of State and Head of Government:
 Sultan and Prime Minister QABOOS bin Sa'id Al Sa'id (since 23 July 1970)
 Member of:
 ABEDA, AFESD, AL, AMF, ESCWA, FAO, G-77, GCC, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IDB, IFAD,
 IFC, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO (correspondent), ITU,
 NAM, OIC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WMO
 Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Awadh bin Badr AL-SHANFARI
 chancery:
 2342 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008
 telephone:
 (202) 387-1980 through 1982
 US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador David DUNFORD

1.6 182.guide/Government (Oman 2. usage)

Government (Oman 2. usage)

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embassy:
 address NA, Muscat
 mailing address:
 P. O. Box 50202 Madinat Qaboos, Muscat
 telephone:
 [968] 698-989
 FAX:
 [968] 604-316
 Flag:
 three horizontal bands of white (top, double width), red, and green (double
 width) with a broad, vertical, red band on the hoist side; the national
 emblem (a khanjar dagger in its sheath superimposed on two crossed swords ↔
 in
 scabbards) in white is centered at the top of the vertical band

1.7 182.guide/Economy (Oman)

Economy (Oman)

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Overview:

Economic performance is closely tied to the fortunes of the oil industry. Petroleum accounts for more than 85% of export earnings, about 80% of government revenues, and roughly 40% of GDP. Oman has proved oil reserves of 4 billion barrels, equivalent to about 20 years' supply at the current rate of extraction. Agriculture is carried on at a subsistence level and the general population depends on imported food.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$10.2 billion (1991)

National product real growth rate:

7.4% (1991)

National product per capita:

\$6,670 (1991)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

1.6% (1991)

Unemployment rate:

NA%

Budget:

revenues \$4.1 billion; expenditures \$4.8 billion, including capital expenditures of \$1 billion (1991)

Exports:

\$4.9 billion (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

petroleum 87%, reexports, fish, processed copper, textiles

partners:

UAE 30%, Japan 27%, South Korea 10%, Singapore 5%

Imports:

\$3.0 billion (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

machinery, transportation equipment, manufactured goods, food, livestock, lubricants

partners:

Japan 20%, UAE 19%, UK 19%, US 7%

External debt:

\$3.1 billion (December 1989 est.)

Industrial production: growth rate 10% (1989), including petroleum sector

Electricity:

1,142,400 kW capacity; 5,100 million kWh produced, 3,200 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

crude oil production and refining, natural gas production, construction, cement, copper

Agriculture:

accounts for 6% of GDP and 40% of the labor force (including fishing); less than 2% of land cultivated; largely subsistence farming (dates, limes, bananas, alfalfa, vegetables, camels, cattle); not self-sufficient in food; annual fish catch averages 100,000 metric tons

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$137 million; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$148 million; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$797 million

Currency:

1 Omani rial (RO) = 1,000 baiza

Exchange rates:

Omani rials (RO) per US\$1 - 0.3845 (fixed rate since 1986)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

1.8 182.guide/Communications (Oman)

Communications (Oman)

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Highways:

26,000 km total; 6,000 km paved, 20,000 km motorable track

Pipelines:

crude oil 1,300 km; natural gas 1,030 km

Ports:

Mina' Qabus, Mina' Raysut, Mina' al Fahl

Merchant marine:

1 passenger ship (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 4,442 GRT/1,320 DWT

Airports:

total:

138

usable:

130

with permanent-surface runways:

6

with runways over 3,659 m:

1

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

9

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

74

Telecommunications:

modern system consisting of open-wire, microwave, and radio communications stations; limited coaxial cable; 50,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 2 AM, 3 FM, 7 TV; satellite earth stations - 2 Indian Ocean INTELSAT, 1 ARABSAT, and 8 domestic

1.9 182.guide/Defense Forces (Oman)

Defense Forces (Oman)

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Branches:

Army, Navy, Air Force, Royal Oman Police

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 370,548; fit for military service 210,544; reach military

age (14) annually 20,810 (1993 est.)
Defense expenditures:
exchange rate conversion - \$1.6 billion, 16% of GDP (1993 est.)