

# Oman

## Geography

Location: Middle East, bordering the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, and Persian Gulf, between Yemen and the United Arab Emirates

Area:

total area: 212,460 sq km

land area: 212,460 sq km

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

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 12 nm

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 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: rising soil salinity; beach pollution from oil spills;

very limited natural fresh water resources

natural hazards: summer winds often raise large sandstorms and duststorms in interior; periodic droughts

Note: strategic location with small foothold on Musandam Peninsula controlling Strait of Hormuz, a vital transit point for world crude oil

## People

Population: 2,125,089 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 46% (female 480,974; male 498,619)

15-64 years: 51% (female 493,685; male 593,740)

65 years and over: 3% (female 31,826; male 26,245) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 3.71% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 38.05 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 5 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 4.09 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 34.3 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:  
total population: 70.25 years  
male: 68.31 years  
female: 72.29 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 6.16 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:  
noun: Omani(s)  
adjective: Omani

Ethnic divisions: Arab, Baluchi, South Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi)

Religions: Ibadhi Muslim 75%, Sunni Muslim, Shi'a Muslim, Hindu

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

## Government

Names:

conventional long form: Sultanate of Oman

conventional short form: Oman

local long form: Saltanat Uman

local short form: Uman

Type: monarchy

Capital: Muscat

Independence: 1650 (expulsion of the Portuguese)

National holiday: National Day, 18 November (1940)

Constitution: none

Suffrage: none

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

# Economy

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

Agriculture: accounts for 4% 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

## Transportation

Railroads: 0 km

Highways:  
total: 26,000 km

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

Ports: Mina' al Fahl, Mina' Qabus, Mina' Raysut

Airports:  
total: 140

Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Royal Oman Police