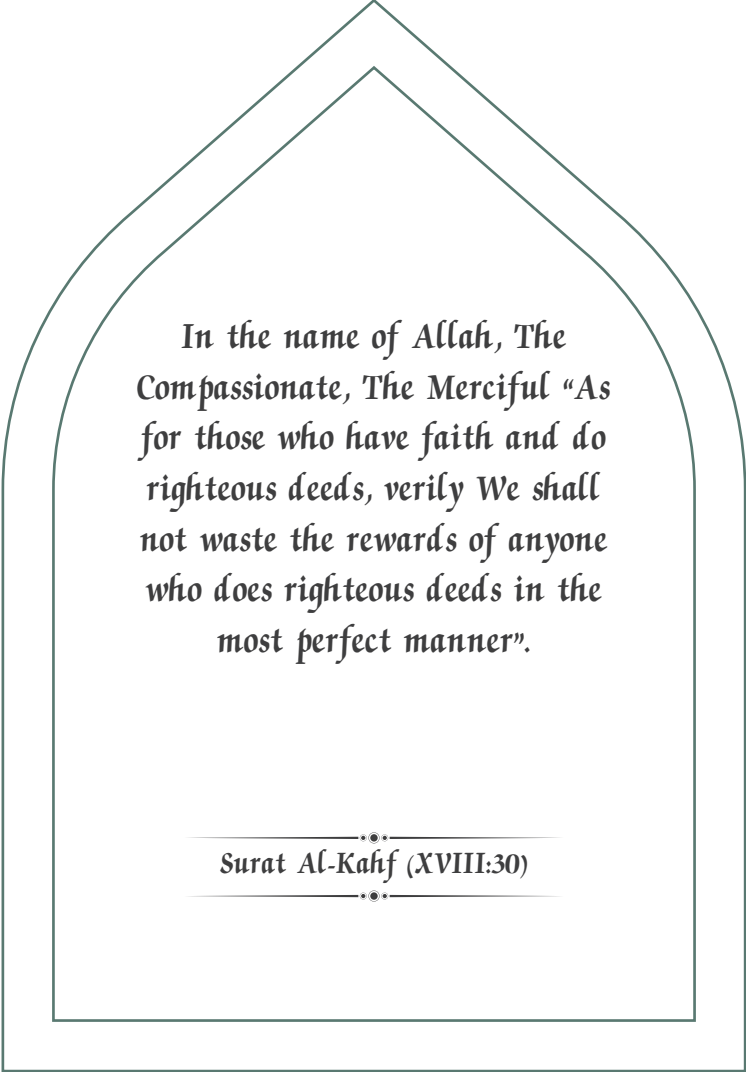


Oman
A Vision of the Future

2024



*In the name of Allah, The
Compassionate, The Merciful "As
for those who have faith and do
righteous deeds, verily We shall
not waste the rewards of anyone
who does righteous deeds in the
most perfect manner".*

•••
Surat Al-Kahf (XVIII:30)
•••



**His Majesty the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said
May Allah rest his soul**



***His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
May Allah protect him***

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A large, stylized archway graphic with a light green interior and a dark teal border, set against a dark teal background. The archway is composed of several concentric layers, creating a sense of depth.

Foreword

The Sultanate of Oman continues its steady march towards development and prosperity, guided by enlightened vision, steadfast determination and an ambitious outlook for the future. Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, Oman advances confidently across cultural and economic domains. His Majesty's commitment is evident in the drive to strengthen the pillars of the modern state, with a firm focus on the Omani citizen as a central partner in the nation's comprehensive development journey.

This visionary approach has fostered a spirit of cohesion and synergy among government institutions, the private sector and civil society, resulting in concrete progress and accomplishments across the social, cultural, economic and political domains. Over the past four years, the Sultanate of Oman has witnessed remarkable progress in its national performance, driven in part by the successful implementation of the Medium-Term Fiscal Balance Plan (2020–2024), which has resulted in positive and measurable outcomes thanks to steadfast commitment and sound fiscal governance. These efforts have led to a lower average break-even oil price in the general budget, a decline in public debt levels and an improvement in the Sultanate's credit rating.

As a result of well-considered fiscal measures, supported by improved oil prices in 2024, the Sultanate achieved a fiscal surplus of approximately OMR 540 million. Significant progress was also made in enhancing the public debt profile, with the debt-to-GDP ratio reduced to 34% by the end of 2024. These improvements contributed to an upgrade in Oman's credit rating and enabled the allocation of a growing share of resources to development initiatives and social spending.

The government is moving forward with its efforts to establish a dynamic financial sector that fosters sustainable economic development. In January 2024, it launched a three-year national programme for fiscal sustainability and financial sector development under the title "Estidama" (Sustainability). The programme serves as a central pillar in advancing the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

This book offers a comprehensive overview of the progress achieved by the Sultanate of Oman in its current era of prosperity, shedding light on the ongoing Omani Renaissance and its remarkable contributions across a wide range of fields.

We pray to Almighty Allah to grant His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik continued health, well-being, and long life and to preserve for the Sultanate of Oman the enduring blessings of security, stability and prosperity.

Ministry of Information

Haitham

A Wise Leader



Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, the Sultanate of Oman remains firmly committed to realising the goals of Oman Vision 2040. Since ascending to leadership, His Majesty has taken thoughtful and decisive steps to establish a clear course for national progress, shaping a comprehensive roadmap for domestic and foreign policy. This path continues the legacy of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said, may Allah rest his soul, and reflects the nation's aspirations for the future through strategic initiatives that promote sustainable development, economic diversification, the advancement of both public and private sectors and the enhancement of quality of life for all who live in Oman. The Sultanate of Oman is equally committed to enhancing its stature regionally and internationally by safeguarding internal security and supporting regional stability, while maintaining a policy of neutrality and refraining from alignment with any side in geopolitical tensions.



His Majesty expressed his satisfaction with the improvement in financial performance indicators while presiding over the Council of Ministers meeting

The directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him, towards the realisation of Oman Vision 2040 are clearly reflected in the emphasis on enhancing economic and financial stability and diversifying sources of income beyond oil dependency. His Majesty continues to guide the nation towards a knowledge-based and innovation-driven economy, while advancing the development of infrastructure and smart, sustainable cities. These efforts aim to create a competitive and attractive environment for both local and international investment, enabling comprehensive and balanced development across all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. His visionary leadership aspires to position Oman as a distinguished model in the region; one that harmoniously blends deep-rooted heritage with modern socioeconomic progress.

In line with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's commitment to financial stability, Royal Decree No. (1/2024) was issued at the beginning of 2024, approving the State's General Budget for the fiscal year, reflecting continued support for the Sultanate's path towards sustainable economic development. Subsequently, Royal Decree No. (2/2024) was issued, establishing the National Emergency Fund, aimed at addressing natural disasters such as extreme weather events, floods, earthquakes, and other risks that may impact public facilities and infrastructure. The Fund plays a fundamental role in supporting the implementation of general policies and necessary procedures for managing emergency situations, by providing timely and adequate funding to ensure the restoration of normal life after such events. His Majesty also issued Royal Decrees Nos. (5/2024) and (6/2024), the former amending provisions of the Tax Authority System, and the latter appointing a Chairman of the Tax Authority; steps intended to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the national tax system.

His Majesty the Sultan emphasises the importance of enhancing institutional performance and leveraging the data provided by the NCSI to support effective planning and informed decision-making

To keep pace with development needs and to evaluate proposals submitted by units of the state's administrative apparatus and other public legal entities regarding the prioritisation and significance of development projects, His Majesty issued Royal Decree No. (36/2024), assigning specific powers to both the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economy. Additionally, Royal Decree No. (47/2024) was issued, enacting the Bank Deposit Protection Law, which aims to provide comprehensive protection for deposits held in member banks. This step seeks to promote a culture of savings and reinforce public confidence in the strength and resilience of the banking sector in the Sultanate of Oman. As part of efforts to regulate the mechanisms for signing contracts and financial obligations across government entities, His Majesty issued Royal Decree No. (59/2024), promulgating the System for Signing Contracts and Financial Obligations of the State. This decree aims to enhance transparency and efficiency in the management of government financial transactions.

His Majesty the Sultan also issued Royal Decree No. (70/2024), calling for the issuance of a top-up tax on constituent entities of multinational groups. The decree aims to align the local tax framework with the globally agreed minimum rate of 15%, thereby ensuring that tax revenues remain within the Sultanate of Oman. This initiative also seeks to enhance the Sultanate's economic competitiveness through the implementation of a fair and transparent tax system.

On 9 January 2024, His Majesty the Sultan presided over the Council of Ministers meeting held at Al Barakah Palace. During the meeting, His Majesty commended the achievements accomplished in 2023 and expressed his satisfaction with the positive developments in financial, economic, and social performance indicators. He further emphasised the



His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him, while presiding over the Council of Ministers

need to sustain and build upon these improvements through continued government efforts. His Majesty the Sultan has shown great keenness in following up on the 2023 performance evaluation of government institutions, which reflected continued improvement across various sectors. His Majesty emphasised the importance of further elevating performance levels and conducting in-depth analysis of strengths and weaknesses to effectively address existing challenges. He also commended the efforts of government institutions, particularly those that attained high ratings in the evaluation.

His Majesty also praised the pivotal role of the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) in addressing the country's data requirements. He emphasised the importance of government entities making full use of this data to support planning and decision-making processes, evaluate programmes and projects, and assess the impact of public policies to ensure their effectiveness and alignment with national priorities.

The Council of Ministers adopted the National Policy for Local Content and called on governors to prioritise the development of tourist sites

With the launch of the Social Protection System in 2024, His Majesty underscored the importance of regularly monitoring and evaluating the system's performance and programmes to ensure their responsiveness to evolving social and economic conditions. He also emphasised the need to accurately identify and address the needs of citizens, particularly those who rely on this system for support.

In continuation of the Council of Ministers' directives on developing a national policy for local content, the Council of Ministers adopted the National Policy for Local Content (2024–2030), which aims to regulate, promote and monitor local content across all economic sectors. His Majesty the Sultan emphasised the importance of achieving key objectives, including the creation of job opportunities for citizens, the localisation of industries, the support of entrepreneurs, and the encouragement of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The National Policy for Local Content also aims to reduce reliance on imports and strengthen the trade balance. In the same context, the Council of Ministers endorsed the National Product Loyalty Program, which aims to encourage consumers to prioritise Omani products in order to support local companies, enhance their competitiveness, and ensure their long-term sustainability. Given the unique natural beauty and the historical and cultural richness of the Sultanate's governorates, the Council of Ministers called on governors to give priority to the development of tourism sites.

His Majesty also called for the development of plans to organise regularly scheduled tourism events aimed at attracting visitors and stimulating tourism activity, thereby enhancing the sector's contribution to the local economy and creating job opportunities. His Majesty further directed the preparation of a timetable for the development of Jabal Al Abyad

Unifying and
restructuring
411 fees to
streamline
procedures,
improve the
business
environment and
boost economic
competitiveness

His Majesty directed the launch of an incentive programme aimed at supporting the transformation of private and family-owned enterprises into public joint-stock companies, with the goal of further developing the capital market in the Sultanate

and Wakan village, with a focus on completing the necessary infrastructure to improve their conditions and transform them into major destinations for excursions, camping, and adventure tourism.

The Council of Ministers continues to prioritise food safety and quality. This includes legislation, preventive measures and regulatory procedures that ensure safe production, import, export, distribution and consumption of food products. In this context, His Majesty directed a review of the roles of the relevant authorities to enhance coordination and improve the effectiveness of food safety efforts.

As part of ongoing efforts to simplify procedures, improve the business environment, and enhance the competitiveness of the national economy, the Council of Ministers approved the outcomes of the third phase of the Government Services Pricing Guide Project. This phase includes the cancellation, reduction, simplification, and integration of the 411 fees. The Council also approved a proposal by the relevant authorities to reduce fees for drinking water connection services for both residential and non-residential categories.

On 9 January 2024, during a meeting of the Council of Ministers, His Majesty reviewed the Sultanate's relations with sisterly and friendly countries, highlighting the positive outcomes of recent visits and meetings. His Majesty reaffirmed Oman's commitment to pursuing cooperation with all partners, in accordance with the principles of its foreign policy. Concluding the meeting, His Majesty addressed matters of national importance, offering his directives and expressing his sincere wishes for continued progress and prosperity for the nation and its loyal citizens.

While presiding over the Council of Ministers meeting on 28 May 2024 at Al Barakah Palace, His Majesty reviewed the local situation. In economic matters,

the Council of Ministers approved the State's Final Account for the fiscal year 2023, which showed an improved financial position and a decline in the fiscal deficit. The decline in public debt contributed to the continued improvement of the Sultanate of Oman's credit rating. His Majesty praised all efforts made in this regard. In an effort to develop the capital market in the Sultanate of Oman and enhance the market value of the Muscat Stock Exchange, His Majesty directed the launch of an incentive programme that includes initiatives to support the transformation of private, family-owned, and SMEs into public joint-stock companies. As part of this initiative, a dedicated sub-market named "Promising Companies Market" will be established within the Muscat Stock Exchange to further strengthen the local economy. During the same meeting, the Council of Ministers adopted the Industrial Strategy 2040 as part of Oman Vision 2040, aiming to strengthen the industrial sector, diversify the economy, enhance the quality of Omani products and establish a modern, technology-driven manufacturing base.

His Majesty directed the establishment of the Omani Endowment Foundation, with the mandate to invest endowment funds in accordance with international best practices. His Majesty also issued a directive to grant monthly allowances to internal scholarship students starting from the academic year 2024-2025, in order to alleviate the living challenges they face and ensure dignified living conditions. In the same context, the Council of Ministers approved the allocation of OMR 70 million to strengthen the Housing Assistance Programme at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning for the years 2024 and 2025, with the aim of supporting citizens in obtaining suitable housing. During the meeting, His Majesty reviewed a number of regional and international developments, including the situation in Gaza and bilateral relations with brotherly and friendly countries. He noted that

His Majesty
commended
the efforts of
the security
services
and praised
the positive
outcomes
resulting
from the
implementation
of the
Governorates
System and
the Municipal
Councils Law

His Majesty expressed his appreciation for the development projects aimed at increasing the number of tourists and commended the efforts of the security services in confronting challenges

the recent period witnessed numerous fruitful visits and meetings with leaders of brotherly nations, which yielded positive outcomes. His Majesty affirmed the Sultanate of Oman's commitment to enhancing cooperation and strengthening partnerships in service of shared interests. At the conclusion of the meeting, His Majesty expressed his aspirations for continued progress and prosperity for the nation and its citizens and issued his directives accordingly.

During the Council of Ministers meeting held under the chairmanship of His Majesty the Sultan at Al Mamoura Palace in Salalah on 19 September 2024, His Majesty expressed his satisfaction with the continued decline in public debt and the positive economic indicators that reinforce confidence in the strength and resilience of the national economy. The Council of Ministers also emphasised that employment remains a national priority, noting that the government has adopted a series of initiatives aimed at creating job opportunities and supporting workforce development across various sectors. These initiatives contribute to creating new employment opportunities for citizens. To further stimulate these efforts, an additional allocation of OMR 50 million has been approved to support employment programmes targeting job seekers in the private sector. This funding complements the contributions collected from the oil and gas sectors, as well as government entities, to ensure the sustainability and long-term impact of these opportunities.

As part of His Majesty's supreme interest in the social and educational spheres, His Majesty praised the efforts made to monitor and improve the living conditions of citizens. In this regard, His Majesty directed the allocation of OMR 72 million to finance the (Family Support Benefit) programme under the Social Protection Fund, reinforcing the government's commitment to social welfare and inclusive

development. His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him, also extended his congratulations to students on the commencement of the new academic year, expressing his appreciation for the dedicated efforts of teachers and academic staff in ensuring a successful and well-prepared start to the school year. In response to the increasing student density in certain governorates experiencing steady population growth, the Council of Ministers approved the allocation of an additional OMR 40 million to expedite the construction of new schools within the framework of the current Five-Year Development Plan. Additionally, the Council of Ministers approved the National Programme for Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Digital Technologies. This programme aims to elevate the Sultanate of Oman's position in the Government Readiness Index, enhance productivity across key economic sectors and support the growth of specialised technology startups, thereby fostering a competitive and innovation-driven digital economy.

His Majesty praised the efforts exerted by the relevant authorities in attracting one million visitors to the Khareef Dhofar season by the end of August 2024. His Majesty expressed appreciation for the development projects and tourism initiatives that played a vital role in the success of the season and in enhancing the Sultanate's appeal as a distinguished tourist destination. His Majesty also emphasised the importance of further developing services and tourism activities to achieve sustained growth in the number of visitors in future seasons.

His Majesty commended the performance of government institutions in addressing national priorities and enhancing the quality and efficiency of public services. His Majesty further underscored the need to develop effective mechanisms for measuring beneficiary satisfaction and to streamline procedures, with the aim of enhancing the quality and efficiency of services provided to citizens. His Majesty directed the launch of an electronic platform for receiving complaints and suggestions across government institutions, to be implemented in the coming year, as part of efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement.

In light of the enduring strength of social cohesion and the harmony that have long characterised Omani society, the Council of Ministers underscored the importance of fortifying the social fabric and reinforcing the role of the family in raising children on the foundations of authentic Omani values that inherently reject fanaticism and partisanship. His Majesty commended the dedicated efforts of the military and security agencies in addressing security challenges and emphasised the importance of maintaining vigilance in monitoring and addressing negative phenomena that may affect societal stability. In the context

of international relations, His Majesty affirmed the Sultanate of Oman's steadfast commitment to fostering cooperation with brotherly and friendly countries, in pursuit of mutual interests and the promotion of regional and global stability. At the conclusion of the meeting, His Majesty directed all state institutions to continue enhancing their performance and to work diligently towards creating the appropriate conditions for the Sultanate's continued development and progress.

On 19 January 2024, His Majesty demonstrated his enduring commitment to comprehensive development through his meeting with the Sheikhs and dignitaries of Musandam Governorate, along with a number of members of the Council of Oman, members of the Municipal Council and local businessmen. This meeting reflected His Majesty's continued engagement with the nation's citizens and his dedication to advancing development across all governorates of the Sultanate. This meeting reaffirmed the importance of direct communication with citizens and identifying their needs, while consolidating the principle of decentralisation in the governance of the governorates. His Majesty highlighted the economic achievements realised in 2023, noting the marked improvement in financial and economic performance and the positive outcomes of implementing the Governorate System and the Municipal Councils Law, which granted governors expanded powers.

His Majesty affirmed that the Sultanate of Oman continues to advance its plans and programmes across various sectors and that efforts are underway to further expand the powers delegated to governorates in the coming period. He also expressed his keen interest in the economic development of Musandam Governorate, given its strategic location and the promising investment opportunities it offers, particularly in the tourism, fisheries, and services sectors.

His Majesty called upon investors, businesspeople and entrepreneurs to capitalise on these opportunities and to stimulate commercial activity by leveraging the ports and infrastructure currently being developed by the government. In addition, His Majesty emphasised the importance of initiating light industries within industrial zones to support the local economy and create employment opportunities for citizens. He directed the implementation of several development projects in the governorate, including the establishment of a commercial-residential zone in the Al Jaradiyah and an industrial zone in Saih Al Wasat in the Wilayat of Madha, social housing units across the governorate, the development of several coastal villages and the creation of ready-made model factories in both the Mahas Industrial Zone in the Wilayat of Bukha and in the industrial zone in Saih Al Wasat in the Wilayat of Madha, aimed at supporting entrepreneurs and emerging enterprises.



His Majesty laid the foundation stone for the Oman Cultural Complex project

On 21 January 2024, His Majesty laid the foundation stone for the (Oman Cultural Complex) and the new headquarters of the National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA), located at the project site in Airport Heights, Muscat Governorate. The complex is envisioned as a vital cultural landmark dedicated to the preservation, documentation, and celebration of Oman's living, historical, and contemporary artistic and cultural heritage. The Oman Cultural Complex aspires to promote cultural, literary, theatrical and research initiatives, strengthen cultural activities, events and programmes, and advance the broader cultural landscape of the Sultanate. It also aims to gather and showcase elements of Omani cultural identity and highlight the rich legacy embedded in the national memory. As an integrated hub for knowledge and creativity, the complex will provide scientific and intellectual research services to students and researchers, thereby contributing to the development of cultural activities, the enrichment of academic and artistic endeavours and the preservation of Oman's historical and cultural achievements.



Laying the Foundation Stone for the Oman Cultural Complex Project

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The Royal Hospital is a leading healthcare institution in the Sultanate of Oman, delivering medical services in accordance with both national and international standards of excellence

The complex will comprise three main institutions: the NRAA building, which plays a pivotal role in preserving the historical memory of the Sultanate; the National Library, with a capacity to house up to one million volumes; and the National Theatre, featuring a state-of-the-art auditorium with seating for 1,000 attendees. In addition to these core institutions, the Oman Cultural Complex will include four supporting facilities: a dedicated Children's Library to nurture young readers and promote early literacy; cultural cinemas for showcasing local and international films; an exhibition and workshop building designed to host cultural displays and creative activities; and the headquarters of the Literary Forum, which will feature spaces for dialogue, literary events, and the promotion of intellectual and artistic expression. The Literary Forum will feature a lecture hall, fine arts halls, and dedicated sections for youth to engage in a wide range of cultural activities. Notably, it will bring together three key national institutions under one roof, reinforcing its role as a comprehensive cultural and intellectual hub in the Sultanate of Oman.

On 1 February 2024, His Majesty approved an annual budget for the Ministry of Health to provide electronic glucose monitors to Omani children living with diabetes. Children diagnosed with type 1 diabetes often face significant challenges in managing the condition. The provision of electronic monitors and insulin pumps is expected to significantly ease the daily burden of these young patients, offering them greater flexibility in managing their condition and improving their overall quality of life. These medical devices serve a crucial therapeutic role by helping to prevent

sudden and potentially life-threatening fluctuations in blood glucose levels; whether hyperglycaemia or hypoglycaemia that could otherwise lead to serious complications or death. The use of such technologies is a preferable and effective option for children, helping to minimise long-term complications that may affect vital organs over time. In the same year, His Majesty issued Royal Decree No. (10/2024), defining the responsibilities of the Ministry of Health and approving its organisational structure. Royal Decree No. (11/2024) also established the University Medical City and outlined its governing framework. These strategic initiatives reflect the government's commitment to advancing the health sector by strengthening the role of governmental health colleges in education, training, and research. They also aim to enhance the quality of healthcare services provided in accordance with national and international standards, promote scientific and applied research and support the publication of research findings in peer-reviewed medical journals and other reputable outlets.

In line with efforts to organise and manage data effectively, and to strengthen cooperation among government institutions in support of the Sultanate of Oman's digital transformation agenda, His Majesty issued Royal Decrees Nos. 53/2024 and 54/2024. These decrees include the promulgation of the National Records Law and the establishment of a dedicated Centre for National Records.

On March 3, His Majesty issued four royal decrees reflecting the Sultanate's ongoing commitment to institutional development and international cooperation. Royal Decree No. (13/2024) introduced amendments to certain provisions of the State of Emergency Law, reinforcing the legal framework to align with national priorities and global standards. Royal Decree No. (14/2024) defined the competencies of the Ministry of Social Development and approved its updated organisational structure, thereby enhancing the Ministry's role in delivering social welfare services. In the realm of international representation, Royal Decree No. (15/2024) appointed a permanent representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, while Royal Decree No. (16/2024) appointed a permanent representative to the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) in Riyadh.

In a continued effort to strengthen the Sultanate's diplomatic presence and cultural institutions, His Majesty issued several royal decrees addressing key appointments and organisational developments. Royal Decree No. (38/2024) conferred the title of Ambassador and appointed a Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Similarly, Royal Decree No. (53/2024) appointed a Permanent Representative of the Sultanate to the United Nations in New York. In the cultural domain, Royal

Decree No. (27/2024) transferred the Oman Centre for Traditional Music to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, while Royal Decree No. (28/2024) approved the establishment of a new foundation, reflecting the government's commitment to preserving Omani heritage and fostering cultural development. On April 9, 2024, His Majesty extended heartfelt congratulations to the loyal citizens of the homeland, the residents of Oman, and the wider Islamic Ummah on the blessed occasion of Eid Al Fitr, invoking prayers for peace, prosperity and continued unity.

On March 25, 2024, His Majesty issued three royal decrees reflecting the Sultanate's commitment to legal, educational and economic reform. Royal Decree No. (18/2024) introduced amendments to the Criminal Procedures Law, reinforcing the legal system in line with the principles of justice and the rule of law. Royal Decree No. (19/2024) approved the issuance of the Sultan Qaboos University System, a strategic step aimed at activating the provisions of the Basic Statute of the State concerning the independence of higher education institutions. The system also seeks to enhance the quality of education in accordance with international standards, promote research and support national efforts towards the realisation of Oman Vision 2040. In the economic and regulatory sphere, Royal Decree No. (20/2024) established the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and issued its governance framework. This move aims to modernise the structure of the financial services sector in the Sultanate, ensuring it is responsive to the needs of the present while remaining flexible and resilient in the face of future developments.

On March 26, 2024, His Majesty issued Royal Decree No. (21/2024), promulgating the Biometrics Law. The law prohibits the use of genetic fingerprint testing for the purpose of establishing or denying lineage, while allowing exceptions in specific cases. These include suspected birth discrepancies within healthcare institutions, cases involving in vitro fertilisation (IVF), missing or mixed-up children due to accidents or disasters, as well as situations involving rape of minors or individuals lacking legal competence, and the presence of unidentified bodies. The law affirms the Sultanate's commitment to upholding human dignity, safeguarding the sanctity of private life, and ensuring the protection of personal data. It sets out clear guidelines for the ethical collection and use of biometric and genetic data, reinforcing the principles of privacy and data security throughout all stages of the process. In the same context, His Majesty issued Royal Decrees Nos. (17/2024) and (39/2024), which included the appointment of non-resident ambassadors, as well as Royal Decrees Nos. (12/2024), (32/2024), and (49/2024), which included appointments to various senior positions. Furthermore, Royal Decree No. (58/2024) was issued to promulgate the Media Law, while Royal Decree No. (61/2024) addressed developments in the vocational training sector.



His Majesty presided over the grand opening of Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Project in the presence of His Highness the Emir of the sisterly State of Kuwait

In the context of strengthening the legal and institutional structure, His Majesty issued Royal Decree No. (33/2024), which stipulated the abolition of the Court of Appeal in the Wilayat of Al Mudhaibi. He also issued Royal Decree No. (54/2024) appointing judges to the Supreme Court, and Royal Decree No. (41/2024) issuing the Law on Advocacy and Legal Consultancy.

On 7 February 2024, His Majesty presided over the grand opening of Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Project in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, in the presence of his brother, His Highness Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the sisterly State of Kuwait. The project represents a strategic investment partnership between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Kuwait, realised through the collaboration between the Omani OQ Group and Kuwait Petroleum International. It stands as a testament to the longstanding and deep-rooted relations between the two countries. As a culmination of their shared history and common vision, this



Opening of Duqm Refinery

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partnership has resulted in the Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Project. This project is considered as the largest joint investment between two Gulf states in the refining sector.

As part of national efforts to preserve biological diversity, protect natural resources and conserve wildlife, His Majesty issued three royal decrees establishing natural reserves in various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. Royal Decree No. (23/2024) Establishing the Al Jabal Al Gharbi Natural Reserve located in the northern part of the Sultanate between the Governorates of North Al Batinah and Al Buraimi. Royal Decree No. (24/2024) stipulated the establishment of the A'Dhahirah Nature Reserve, situated in A'Dhahirah Governorate, specifically within the mountainous range extending from the south of Wadi Al Fatah in the Wilayat of Yanqul to the Al Mazam northwest of the Wilayat of Ibri. Royal Decree No. (25/2024) stipulated the establishment of the Al Buraimi Oasis Natural Reserve, which spans three governorates: Al Buraimi, North Al Batinah and A'Dhahirah. The reserve lies within a mountainous range that extends from the north of Al Shu'iyah in the Wilayat of Ibri (A'Dhahirah Governorate), bordered to the east by the village of Al Uqair in the Wilayat of Saham (North Al Batinah Governorate) and to the north by the villages of Al Khad and Khadra Al Makateem in the Wilayat of Sohar. It stretches as far as Wadi Sa'a in the Wilayat of Al Buraimi in the northwest. The Sultanate of Oman is known for its diverse natural environments, ranging from coasts and mountains to deserts. Oman is home to a wide variety of unique plant and animal species. These reserves play a vital role in safeguarding Oman's rich ecological heritage for future generations.

The establishment of natural reserves serves not only to protect the environment and natural ecosystems, but also to promote a balanced approach to economic, social, and environmental development. It reflects the Sultanate's commitment to ensuring the sustainability of natural resources for the benefit of future generations. His Majesty also issued Royal Decree No. (45/2024), promulgating the Law Regulating Trade in Wildlife, aimed at conserving these species and safeguarding them from extinction, in recognition of their vital role in maintaining environmental balance which is an essential pillar for the sustainability of natural resources for future generations.

As part of efforts to enhance international cooperation and strategic partnerships with various countries and international organisations, His Majesty the Sultan issued a series of royal decrees ratifying agreements in the fields of aviation

and diplomacy. Royal Decree No. (3/2024) ratified the Air Services Agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and the Federative Republic of Brazil. This was followed by Royal Decree No. (4/2024), which ratified a similar agreement with the Government of the Republic of Rwanda. In addition, Royal Decree No. (7/2024) ratified the Air Services Agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and the Government of the Republic of The Gambia.

In the context of strengthening air connectivity, Royal Decrees Nos. (22/2024) and (29/2024) were issued to ratify Air Services Agreements between the Sultanate of Oman and the Swiss Federal Council, and the Arab Republic of Egypt. Royal Decree No. (30/2024) ratified the Air Transport Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, while Royal Decrees Nos. (34/2024) and (35/2024) ratified agreements with the Government of the Republic of Tunisia and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania on air services between the two territories and beyond.

The Sultanate of Oman continued its efforts to enhance international cooperation in civil aviation with the ratification of additional agreements. Royal Decree No. (40/2024) ratified the Air Services Agreement with the Government of Georgia, while Royal Decree No. (37/2024) ratified the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Further international cooperation was affirmed through Royal Decree No. (42/2024), which ratified an agreement with the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf regarding the establishment of several GCC institutions: the Advisory Board of the Supreme Council, the Office of the Gulf Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, and the GCC Centre for Translation, Arabisation and Promotion of Arabic.

His Majesty the Sultan issued a series of royal decrees aimed at strengthening international cooperation and strategic partnerships between the Sultanate of Oman and several countries and international organisations in the field of civil aviation

In addition, Royal Decree No. (43/2024) ratified an amendment to the protocol annexed to the agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Within the framework of diplomatic and developmental cooperation, His Majesty the Sultan issued a number of royal decrees, most notably Royal Decrees Nos. (48/2024), (56/2024), and (57/2024), which ratified mutual visa exemption agreements for holders of diplomatic, special and service passports with the Republics of Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Suriname and Bulgaria. In the area of financial cooperation, Royal Decrees Nos. (60/2024) and (62/2024) ratified agreements with Ireland and the Republic of Estonia for the elimination of double taxation on income and the prevention of tax evasion and avoidance. Furthermore, Royal Decree No. (64/2024) ratified a similar agreement with the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg concerning taxes on income and capital.

Another set of international agreements in the field of air services was ratified through Royal Decrees Nos. (63/2024), (67/2024), (68/2024) and (69/2024), covering agreements with the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Suriname, the Republic of Uganda, and the Republic of Seychelles. In addition, Royal Decrees Nos. (65/2024) and (66/2024) ratified air transport agreements with the Governments of the Republic of Chad and Australia. Furthermore, Royal Decree No. (71/2024) ratified the framework agreement for the establishment of private sector operations between the Sultanate of Oman and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), underscoring the Sultanate's commitment to strengthening economic and development partnerships at both regional and international levels.

In the oil sector, and in line with efforts to enhance economic returns, promote sustainable field development, and attract foreign investment, His Majesty the Sultan issued three royal decrees. Royal Decree No. (8/2024) ratified the Petroleum Agreement between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and CC Energy B38 Limited (Oman Branch) for Block 38. Royal Decree No. (9/2024) approved the Petroleum Agreement between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and CC Energy B74 Limited (Oman Branch) for Block 74. In addition, Royal Decree No. (31/2024) approved the assignment of a percentage of rights and obligations under the petroleum agreement for Block 65. In support of natural resource development and the strengthening of the national economy, His Majesty also issued Royal Decree No. (72/2024), approving the Concession

Agreement for the Extraction and Processing of Salt from Seawater between the Sultanate of Oman and Naqa Salt LLC for Block 51K.

The Government of His Majesty continued to implement effective measures to control the financial situation, supported by rising oil prices. As a result, it was able to repay part of the public debt and successfully manage the lending portfolio by the end of 2024. These efforts led to a reduction in the public debt by approximately 0.8 billion Omani rials, bringing the total down to 14.4 billion Omani rials, compared to 15.2 billion Omani rials at the end of 2023.

The ratio of public debt to GDP also declined to 34%, while public debt service costs decreased to approximately 940 million Omani rials, compared to the 2024 approved budget estimate of around 1.050 billion Omani rials. The Sultanate of Oman successfully regained its investment-grade rating after a seven-year decline, since 2017, due to the impact of global oil price fluctuations and the COVID-19 pandemic. As a reflection of improved financial performance, the international credit rating agency Standard & Poor's affirmed the Sultanate's credit rating at BBB- with a stable outlook in its second credit rating report on Oman. The BBB- credit rating represents the first level of investment-grade status in credit assessments and indicates a safe and stable investment environment.

Oman

Cradle of Civilisations and Cultures



The Sultanate of Oman stands as a vibrant historical crossroads where ancient civilisations such as the Sumerian, Babylonian, Pharaonic and Roman intersect to narrate a rich legacy of cultural exchange and commercial interaction. Omani ships once sailed across the Indian Ocean, bearing stories and artifacts from diverse nations. Their journeys reached the southern Persian ports and the ports of the Arabian Gulf, extending to Iraq, and inscribed new chapters of history along the East African coast, from Somalia to Mozambique.



Castles and forts stand as enduring architectural legacies that reflect the depth and richness of Oman's history

The Sumerians referred to the land now known as the Sultanate of Oman as “Majan,” or the “Mountain of Copper”; a name that reflects the region’s strategic importance and its rich natural resources, particularly copper and precious stones, which established it as a vital commercial hub in ancient times. Historical records recount the migration of Arab tribes to the land of the Sultanate of Oman since ancient times. Sources indicate that the first organised and influential migration occurred under the leadership of Malik bin Fahm, a prominent figure from the Azd tribes, towards the end of the first century AD.

With the dawn of Islam, the Sultanate of Oman was among the first nations to voluntarily embrace the new faith during the lifetime of the Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. The Prophet, peace be upon him, sent Amr ibn al-As with a message to Jaifar and Abd sons of Al-Julanda, the two rulers of Oman at the time, inviting them to Islam. Oman accepted the call under the leadership of the sons of Al-Julanda, marking the beginning of its enduring role as a stronghold of Islam. From that moment, Oman became a vital force in the spread of Islam, particularly across East and Central Africa.

During the early years of the Islamic era, the Sultanate of Oman played a significant role in the Ridda Wars that followed the passing of the Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. Omani forces also took part in the major Islamic conquests, particularly in Iraq, Persia and Sindh, in addition to contributing to the spread of Islam through military campaigns in several other regions both within and beyond the Arabian Peninsula.



Muscat: A Historic Gateway to the Gulf and Beyond

The Yaruba State stands as one of the most prominent milestones in Omani, Gulf, and Arab history. It is remembered for its pivotal role in expelling the Portuguese from the coasts of Oman, the Arabian Gulf, and the wider Indian Ocean region, extending its influence as far as East Africa. This legacy was further cemented by the Al Busaidi State, established in 1744 by Imam Ahmed bin Said Al Busaidi. Today, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, continues this distinguished legacy. Under the Al Busaidi rule, the Sultanate of Oman emerged as a significant regional power, successfully establishing a vast Omani empire in the first half of the nineteenth century that spanned several parts of East Africa. This expansion enabled Oman to assert its maritime influence across the Indian Ocean and to forge balanced political relations with major world powers.

As the nineteenth century came to a close and the twentieth century began, the dawn of the Omani Renaissance rose under the leadership of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimur, may Allah rest his soul. He led a modern renaissance that paved the way for the Sultanate of Oman to reclaim its historic glory and esteemed position among the nations of the world.

The blessed renaissance continues under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, who, since assuming power on 11 January 2020, has affirmed the commitment to advancing the path of construction and development. His Majesty emphasised: “Conscious of the immense responsibility, we reaffirm that Oman will always remain our supreme goal, in all actions and pursuits. We call upon all citizens, without exception, to safeguard the gains of the blessed renaissance, and effectively contribute to maintaining the triumphant parade, relying on the Almighty Allah’s assistance and support.”

Names of Oman

Opinions vary regarding the origin of the name «Oman» Some historians attribute it to the ancient Qahtani tribe known as the Omn, while others believe it is derived from meanings associated with settlement and stability. Ibn al-A'rabī noted that the term “Omn” refers to those who reside in a place, as in the expressions “a man of Omn” and “Ommon”, suggesting that the name «Oman» may be etymologically linked to the concept of settlement and stability.

Al-Zajjaji believed that Oman was named after Oman, the son of Abraham (peace be upon him), while Ibn al-Kalbi suggested that the name derives from Oman, son of Saba, son of Yaqthan, son of Abraham, who is thought to have founded the city of Oman. It is also said that the Azd tribe named the region Oman after a valley in Ma'rib bearing the same name, where their ancestral homes were located, thus lending the name a distinctly local character.

The Roman historian Pliny is regarded as one of the earliest to mention Oman by name in the first century AD, referring to a city called “Omana” in his writings. The name also appears in the works of the geographer Ptolemy in the second century AD. The scholar Grohmann suggests that the “Omana” mentioned in these early writings may actually refer to the city of Sohar, which was regarded as the most prominent economic centre in the region during that period.

Oman was also known by other names throughout history, including Majan, a name given by the Sumerians and Mesopotamians, and Mazoon, used by the Persians. The latter is believed to be derived from the word Muzn, meaning clouds and abundant water, reflecting the prosperity of agriculture in Oman since ancient times.

The name Oman appears in early Arab sources as an independent region. Both Al-Istakhri and Ibn Hawqal noted that Oman comprised autonomous areas, highlighting its distinct political and geographical identity. Ibn Khaldun was more explicit in his classification, describing Oman as a distinct sultanate and listing it among the independent Arab regions. Regardless of the differing views on its name and origins, it is evident that Oman dates back to ancient historical eras and has been distinguished by its deeply rooted Arab identity since time immemorial.

Oman: A name that embodies the essence of Arab civilisation and echoes the depth of its rich history

Geography and Strategic Location

Geography, at its essence, goes beyond mere location and terrain; it represents a dynamic interaction between nature and the ways in which human societies harness it for development and progress. The Sultanate of Oman is distinguished by its strategic location at the southeastern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, with a coastline stretching over 3,165 kilometres, from the Arabian Sea to the Strait of Hormuz, overlooking some of the world's most important maritime routes.

Oman is bordered to the southwest by the Republic of Yemen, to the west by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and to the north by the United Arab Emirates, positioning it as a vital crossroads along key international maritime trade routes. The Sultanate of Oman spans an area of approximately 309,500 square kilometres and is distinguished by its diverse terrain. Among its most prominent geographical features are the Al Hajar Mountains, which stretch from Ras Musandam in the north to Ras Al Hadd in the east, reaching elevations of up to 3,000 metres in the Wilayat of Jabal Al Akhdar. These mountains are considered the backbone of the country, dividing it into two main regions: Al Batinah, the fertile coastal plain, and the Al Hajar Al Gharbi and Al Hajar Al Sharqi ranges, where numerous agricultural Wilayats are located.

The Dhofar Mountains stretch from east to west for approximately 400 kilometres, extending from the area opposite the Hallaniyat Islands to the border with the Republic of Yemen. This region is distinguished by its unique tropical climate, which transforms the landscape into rich vegetation during the autumn season, due to the seasonal southwest monsoon winds. These climatic conditions make Dhofar an ideal area for agriculture and livestock grazing. Notably, frankincense trees grow in parts of the region, forming the basis of a once-flourishing trade that brought wealth and fame to Dhofar in ancient times. The area is also known for its springs that flow year-round, further enriching its natural beauty and agricultural potential.

Along the Arabian Sea, the Omani coastline stretches for approximately 560 kilometres across the Al Wusta and Dhofar governorates. Seasonal rainfall in parts of this region contributes to the prosperity of agriculture and supports an abundance of marine resources, making it a vital area for both farming and fishing activities.

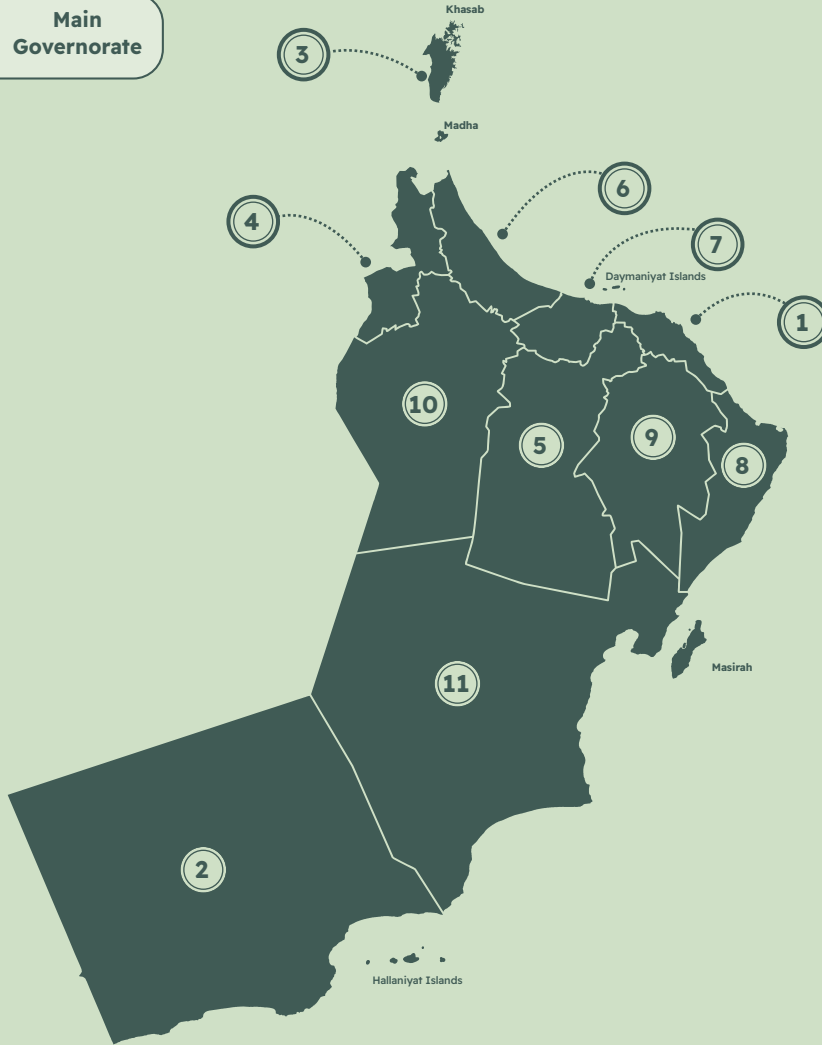


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Governorates and Wilayats

11 Main Governorate



1 Muscat

4 Al Buraimi

7 South Al Batinah

10 A'Dhahirah

2 Dhofar

5 A'Dakhiliyah

8 South A'Sharqiyah

11 Al Wusta

3 Musandam

6 North Al Batinah

9 North A'Sharqiyah

Map source: National Survey Authority website

Royal Decree No. (36/2022)

Promotes a decentralised system of local administration.

It aims to promote the development of the governorates and reinforce decentralisation in decision-making processes.

Among the key goals of Oman Vision 2040 are:

Creating a Sustainable development for the governorates.

Creating an attractive environment for investments.

Improving local services and activities.

Organisation and supervision

The Governor:

Represents the responsible authority and is appointed by a royal decree.



A centralised reference body operating under the supervision of the Minister of Interior.



Unified regulations for the governance of municipal affairs.



Flexible mandates for governors.



Promoting economic development and diversifying sources of income.

Unification of organisational structures in accordance with Royal Decree No. (36/2022)

Standardised administrative divisions across all governorates.

Flexibility in adapting organisational structures to evolving needs.

Municipal Councils Law

Issued on 12 November 2020
Royal Decree No. (126/2022)

Amendments pursuant to
Royal Decree No. (38/2022)

Muscat Governorate



Muscat Governorate functions as the political, economic and administrative heart of the Sultanate of Oman. It encompasses the city of Muscat, the nation's capital, which hosts the seat of government and the core of the state's administrative institutions. Additionally, the governorate plays a pivotal role as a major hub for economic, tourism, and commercial activity, both within the country and in Oman's international relations.

Muscat Governorate lies along the Sea of Oman on the southern part of Al Batinah coast. It is bordered to the east by Al Hajar Mountains and North A'Sharqiyah Governorate, to the west by South Al Batinah Governorate, and to the south by A'Dakhiliyah Governorate. Muscat Governorate is regarded as the most densely populated governorate in the Sultanate of Oman.



Number of
Wilayats

6

Muscat

Matrah

Al Amirat

Boushar

A'Seeb

Qurayyat

Population



1,455,671

People

Number of Municipal Council members: 21 members

Muscat Governorate Development Projects

1

Sultan
Haitham
City



2

The
Sustainable
City (YTI)



3

Development
of Al
Khuwair area
downtown



4

Talal Al
Irfan
Project



5

Omani
Botanical
Garden



Development
of Hawiyat
Najm Sink
Hole, Quriyat
Seafront,
Bousher Sands
area and Ain
Ghala

6



Development
of Al-Qurm
area (beach
and reserve),
and the
coastal road

7



Development of Al
Qurm Commercial
District, Rawi
Commercial
District, and Al
Mahj Commercial
Area in the Wilayat
of Al Amerat

9



Al Khuwair
Square project
includes the
tallest flagpole,
green spaces
and facilities

9



1 General gardens
Muscat
Governorate
is home to 126
parks within
residential
neighbourhoods.
7 public parks

10

Dhofar Governorate



Dhofar Governorate, known as the land of frankincense in the Arabian Peninsula, has long held historical and cultural significance. Once Oman's vital gateway to the Indian Ocean and a key crossing point for trade caravans in the southern Arabian Peninsula, Dhofar has also become a symbol of the Sultanate's progress, development, and prosperity during the modern Omani Renaissance.

Dhofar Governorate is situated in the far south of the Sultanate of Oman, with the city of Salalah located approximately 1,000 kilometres from Muscat. It is bordered to the west by Al Wusta Governorate, to the southeast and south by the Arabian Sea, to the west and southwest by the Republic of Yemen, and to the north and northwest by the vast Rub' al Khali desert. The governorate is renowned for its unique seasonal climate known locally as Khareef, during which the landscape becomes green, and the hills are covered in mist, and a gentle drizzle cools the air, creating a distinctive and refreshing atmosphere.



Number of
Wilayats

10

Salalah

Taqah

Mirbat

Rakhyut

Thumrait

Dhalkut

Al Mazyuna

Sadah

Shalim

Hallaniyat
Islands

Population



512,266

People

Number of Municipal Council members: 29 members

Dhofar Governorate Development Projects

1

Completion of the second phase of the Al Hafah Area Development Project



2

Completion of the design phase for the waterfront development project in Al-Dahariz Park



3

Tender issued for the Shuwaimiya Waterfront Project



4

Awarding of a tender for the development of the waterfront project in the Wilayat of Sadah



5

Completion of the consultancy study for the establishment of an Entrepreneurial Innovation Center in Salalah



6

Implementation of a project to develop the commercial district in the Wilayat of Al Mazyouna



7

Development and enhancement of the central area of the Wilayat of Dhalkut



8

Establishment of a public garden in Shahb Asaib, Wilayat of Rakhyut



9

Tender issued for the Rathath Boulevard project



10

Establishing, developing, and expanding nine hospitals and health centres across various Wilayats of the governorate



Musandam Governorate



Musandam Governorate holds significant strategic importance due to its location overlooking the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical international waterways for oil exports and global trade. Approximately 90% of the Gulf countries' oil exports pass through this strait. It also serves as the eastern gateway for maritime trade and navigation to and from the Gulf region.

Musandam Governorate is located in the far north of the Sultanate of Oman and overlooks the Strait of Hormuz, which serves as the gateway connecting the Gulf to the open waters of the Sea of Oman and the Indian Ocean.



Number of
Wilayats

4

Khasab

Dibba

Bukha

Madha

Population



56,800

People

Number of Municipal Council members: 17 members

Musandam Governorate Development Projects

1

Musandam
Airport
Project



2

Consultancy
and
development
studies for the
enhancement
of Khasab Port



3

Development
of a fishing
port in the
Wilayat of
Dibba



4

A strategic
project for the
construction
of fuel storage
tanks



5

Strategic
Medical
Stockpile
Project



6

Mahas City
Project



7

The permanent
campus of the
University of
Technology
and Applied
Sciences



8

Implementation
of a strategic road
project linking the
Wilayat of Khasab,
the Niyabat of
Lima, and the
Wilayat of Dibba



9

Ras Al Amud
Resort



10

Club Med
Resort



Al Buraimi Governorate



Al Buraimi Governorate is known for its strategic and commercially significant location in the northwest of the Sultanate of Oman. Its elevation above sea level and the availability of water sources such as valleys and aflaj made it a historic trade route and supported the cultivation of wheat, palm trees, and various fruits. The governorate is home to numerous forts and castles, including the prominent Al Khandaq Fort, Al Hillah Fort, Bait Al Nad Fort and Al Khabaib Fort, among others. Al Buraimi is currently witnessing the implementation of several major development projects that aim to enhance its appeal and stimulate both economic and tourism growth, including advanced and promising tourism initiatives.



Number of
Wilayats

3

Al Buraimi

Mahdah

Al Sunaina

Population



130,576

People

Number of Municipal Council members: 15 members

Al Buraimi Governorate Development Projects

1

Development
of Al Buraimi
Oasis
«Downtown Al
Buraimi»



2

Establishment
of an artificial
lake



3

34 projects
in the
agricultural
sector



4

Establishment
of a solar
power station
at Al Buraimi
University



5

Establishment
of gardens,
playgrounds, and
fitness walkways
to enhance
community well-
being and public
spaces



6

Establishment
of an economic
zone in the
Niyabat of
Rawda



7

Tourist
Information
Centre at Al
Buraimi Gate



8

Expansion of Al
Buraimi Hospital
and establishment
of a health centre
in Al Fay village
in the Wilayat of
Mahdha



9

Tender issued for
the consultancy
study to prepare
a tourism
development plan
for the governorate



10

Allocation of 41
government land
plots for tourism
development in
the governorate

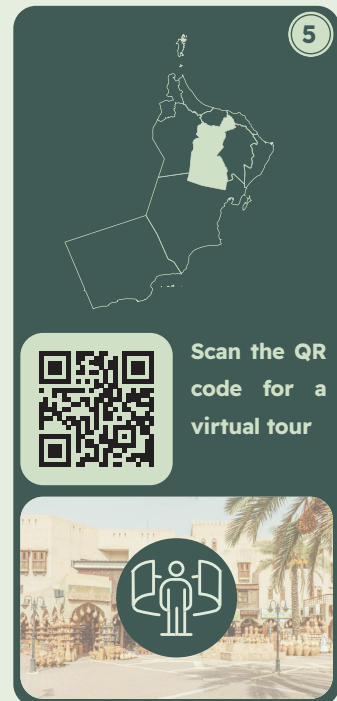


A'Dakhiliya Governorate



A'Dakhiliya Governorate, with its rich history, cultural heritage, strategic location and diverse topography, is considered one of the most important governorates in the Sultanate of Oman. It represents the strategic heart of the country, encompassing a vast plateau situated at the centre of the Sultanate. The Wilayat of Al Jabal Al Akhdar is located within this region, with its mountainous slopes descending towards the southern desert plains.

A'Dakhiliya Governorate serves as a central point of connection with other governorates in the Sultanate of Oman. It borders South and North A'Sharqiyah Governorates to the east, A'Dhahirah Governorate to the west, Al Wusta Governorate to the south, and both Muscat and South Al Batinah Governorates to the north.



Number of
Wilayats

9

Nizwa

Bahla

Al Hamra

Manah

Adam

Izki

Samail

Bidbid

Al-Jabal
Al-Akhdar

Population



556,033

People

Number of Municipal Council members: 27 members

A'Dakhiliya Governorate Development Projects

1

Development of the integrated public transport station in the Wilayat of Nizwa



2

Establishment of A'Dakhiliya Square in the Wilayat of Nizwa and development of the Wilayat's main entrance



3

Jebel Shams Grand Canyon Project



4

Construction and paving of internal roads in the governorate's Wilayats



5

Rehabilitation of damaged sections of the Bidbid-Nizwa Road



6

Implementation of dual carriageway projects for the Farq-Al Turath-Izki Road, Jabal Shams Road, and Aqbat Afri Road



7

Renovation and development of archaeological landmarks across the Wilayats of the Governorate



8

Developing the entrance to Jabreen and Basiya and rehabilitating and developing Souq Bahla



9

Establishing public parks in the governorate's Wilayats



10

New Smail Hospital Project



North Al Batinah Governorate



North Al Batinah Governorate, which stretches as a coastal strip between the sea and the mountains, is considered one of the most important governorates in the Sultanate of Oman, both geographically and economically. Its strategic location along the southern coast of the Sea of Oman has historically positioned it as a key maritime gateway, linking Oman to the wider region through active maritime and commercial engagement in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

The governorate also possesses significant economic potential, including Al Batinah Plain which is the largest agricultural plain in the Sultanate, alongside a variety of mineral resources that support the development of vital heavy industries. One of the governorate's most prominent economic assets is the Sohar Industrial Port, a cornerstone of Oman's industrial and trade infrastructure.



Number of
Wilayats

6

Sohar

Shinas

Liwa

Saham

Al Khaboura

Al Suwaiq

Population



917,546

People

Number of Municipal Council members: 21 members

North Al Batinah Development Projects

1

Al-Durra
Project in Al
Khabourah



2

Development
of the
Sustainable
City of Tayeb
in the Wilayat
of Liwa



3

Public
parks in the
Governorate's
Wilayats



4

Liwa Fruits
and Vegetables
Market



5

Majis
Waterfront
Project



6

Redevelopment
and rehabilitation
of the city centre
in the Wilayat of
Shinas



7

Developing
the coastal
road in Saham



8

Establishment
of Al Suwaiq
Industrial City



9

The Future
City of Sohar



10

The
Agricultural
City in the
Wilayat of
Sohar

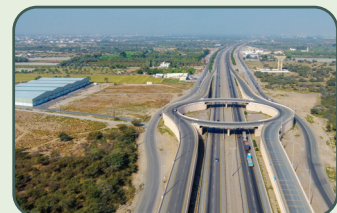


South Al Batinah Governorate



South Al Batinah Governorate stretches between the Sea of Oman to the east and the foothills of the Western Hajar Mountains to the west. Its strategic location, economic potential and population density have made it a historically influential region in the Sultanate of Oman.

While significant progress has been achieved in services, road networks, communications and urban planning in line with the economic and social development of the Sultanate of Oman, attention has also been given to city beautification, strategic planning and the enhancement of tourist sites. Among these are natural springs such as Al Kasfah in the Wilayat of Rustaq and Al Thawra in the Wilayat of Nakhal, which are among the most well-known hot mineral springs in the Sultanate. These efforts also include the development of public and tourist parks to enrich the visitor experience and improve the quality of life.



Number of
Wilayats

6

Al Rustaq

Al Awabi

Nakhal

Wadi Al Ma'awil

Barka

Al Musannah

Population



545,449

People

Number of Municipal Council members: 21 members

South Al Batinah Development Projects

1

Ain Al Thawra
Development
Project



2

Ain Al Kasfa
Development
Project



3

Reconstruction
and
development
of Souq Al-
Maghsar in the
Wilayat of Al
Musannah



4

Reconstruction
of the historic
Rustaq souq,
known as the
«Souq Abu
Thamaniya»



5

Paving internal
roads and
street lighting



6

Rimal Park
Project



7

City Walk
Project



8

Oasis Mall
Project



9

Two seafront
development
projects



10

Implementation
of a project to
establish local
markets in both
Al Awabi and
Wadi Al Ma'awil



South A'Sharqiyah Governorate



South A'Sharqiyah Governorate lies along the northeastern coast of the Sultanate of Oman. It overlooks the Arabian Sea to the east, borders the Sharqiyah Sands to the south and connects to A'Dakhiliyah Governorate to the west.

The governorate is currently witnessing the implementation of numerous development initiatives. In addition to expanding the road network and advancing tourism projects, South A'Sharqiyah is known for major industrial ventures such as the liquefied natural gas project, the urea and ammonia fertilizer plant, and the industrial zone in Sur.



Number of
Wilayats

5

Sur

Al Kamil W'al
Wafi

Jaalan Bani Bu
Hassan

Jaalan Bani Bu
Ali

Masirah

Population



366,501

People

Number of Municipal Council members: 19 members

South A'Sharqiyah Governorate Development Projects

1

Implementation of industrial projects in Sur Industrial City (Madayn), including the establishment of a magnesium production facility



2

Tender issued for the Al Falah Hospital project in the Jalan area



3

Development of the main road connecting the seafront to the water desalination plant in the Wilayat of



4

Development of gardens, parks, and seafronts



5

Development of the Mibam Tourist Village and the rehabilitation and enhancement of the fishing port in the Niyabat of Tiwi



6

Development of the archaeological city of Qalhat, the seafront in the Niyabat of Al Ashkharah, and the beachfront in the Al Ayjah



7

Quroun Coastal Beach Park Development Project



8

Tender issued for the establishment of a multi-purpose port in the Wilayat of Masirah



9

The Qatari Diar Project in Ras Al Hadd, Wilayat of Sur



10

Paving and rehabilitation of internal roads, along with the installation of road lighting

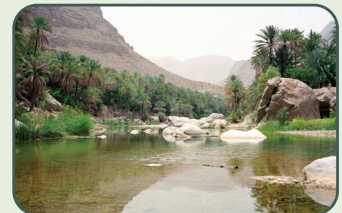


North A'Sharqiyah Governorate



North A'Sharqiyah Governorate lies along the interior side of the eastern Al Hajar Mountains. It is bordered to the north by Muscat Governorate, to the west by A'Dakhiliyah Governorate, and to the east and south by South A'Sharqiyah Governorate.

The governorate is witnessing ongoing improvements and comprehensive development efforts aimed at meeting societal aspirations, enhancing infrastructure, and attracting diverse investments across various sectors. These efforts include economic, tourism, and urban development projects that seek to elevate service quality, increase investment opportunities, and foster innovative initiatives in pursuit of sustainable development and economic and social prosperity.



Number of
Wilayats

7

Ibra

Al Mudhaibi

Bidiya

Wadi Bani
Khalid

Dima
W'attayeen

Al Qabil

Sinaw

Population



314,557

People

Number of Municipal Council members: 23 members

North A'Sharqiyah Governorate Development Projects

1

Initiation of
construction for
the Al Namaa
Hospital project



2

Awarding
of Souq Al
Mawarid
project in the
Wilayat of
Sinaw



3

Signing of an
agreement to
establish Wadi
Bani Khalid
Mountain Road



4

Tender
issued for the
establishment
of Al-Mudhaibi
Industrial City



5

The «Al-Samou
Neighbourhood»
project in the
Wilayat of Al
Mudhaibi



6

Souq Al
Mudayrib
Project in the
Wilayat of Al
Qabil



7

The «Hail Al
Qash» project
in the Wilayat
of Dima
W'attayeen
includes 24
housing units



8

«Al Rahibat
Village»
project in the
Wilayat of Al
Qabil includes
45 housing
units



9

«Hyal Al Kufuf»
project in the
Wilayat of Dima
W'attayeen
includes 50
housing units



10

«Al Raki»
project in the
Wilayat of Wadi
Bani Khalid
includes 19
housing units

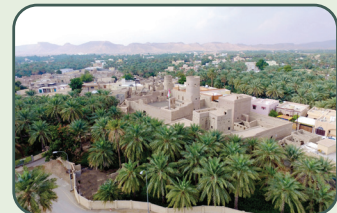


A'Dhahirah Governorate



A'Dhahirah Governorate is rich in agricultural, tourism and historical potential. It has witnessed significant and tangible development across various sectors during the years of the modern Omani Renaissance. A'Dhahirah Governorate is a semi-desert plain that extends from the southern foothills of the Western Hajar Mountains towards the Rub' al Khali Desert. Al Kor Mountains separate it from the interior regions of Oman to the east, while it borders the Ru' al Khali Desert to the west and Al Wusta Governorate to the south.

The governorate is notable for its agricultural activity and strategic location, which has historically connected it to other parts of the Arabian Peninsula through ancient caravan routes. A'Dhahirah is also home to numerous oil and gas fields and has benefited from a substantial share of development projects and achievements.



Number of
Wilayats

3

Ibri

Yanqul

Dhanak

Population



240,529

People

Number of Municipal Council members: 15 members

A'Dhahirah Governorate Development Projects

1

Signing the
establishment
of Itlalat Yanqul
and Itlalat
Dhank



2

Science and
Innovation
Centre and
Youth Centre
in Ibri



3

Ibri Public
Park



4

Implementation
of a road
expansion and
commercial
development
project in the
Wilayat of Dhank



5

Ibri Yard
Project



6

Opening of the
second Ibri
solar energy
project



7

Paving and
maintenance
of internal
roads in the
Governorate's
Wilayats



8

Development
and
enhancement of
public markets,
gardens, and
parks



9

Completion of
the Ibri
Arena project



10

Opening of the
first phase
of the Ibri
Industrial City
project



Al Wusta Governorate



Al Wusta Governorate is situated south of A'Dakhiliyah and A'Dhahirah Governorates. It borders the Arabian Sea to the east and the Rub' al Khali Desert to the west and is connected to Dhofar Governorate to the south.

Al Wusta Governorate is home to numerous oil and gas production fields and enjoys a moderate climate throughout the year. Among its most prominent development initiatives is Duqm Special Economic Zone, one of the most significant projects established in the governorate. Strategically located along the Arabian Sea, Duqm serves as a multi-purpose global economic hub and a key regional centre. It has recorded notable achievements and now holds a distinguished position on the global investment map, owing to its strategic advantages, competitive incentives, and investor-friendly facilities. A key component of this zone is the Duqm Dry Dock Complex, which embodies the government's vision for the development of Al Wusta. This strategic project is positioned to make a substantial contribution to the national economy and to elevate the Sultanate of Oman's international profile.

11



Scan the QR
code for a
virtual tour



Number of
Wilayats

4

Haima

Mahout

Duqm

Al Jazer

Population



60,665

People

Number of Municipal Council members: 17 members

Al Wusta Governorate Development Projects

1

Development
of six
designated
service
sites



Design and
development of
the commercial
area in Al
Jouba

6

2

Knowledge
Garden and
Exhibition
Square in the
Wilayat of
Haima



Design of
Dhahr seafront
development
project in the
Wilayat of
Duqm

7

3

Development
of the urban
residential
district in the
Wilayat of Haima
and the creation
of green spaces



Design and
development
of the main
seafront project
in Ras Madrakah

8

4

Establishment
of Mahout
Public Park
in the Wilayat
of Mahout



Design and
construction of
a seafront and
public park in
Wilayat of Al
Jazer

9

5

Shannah
Seafront
project

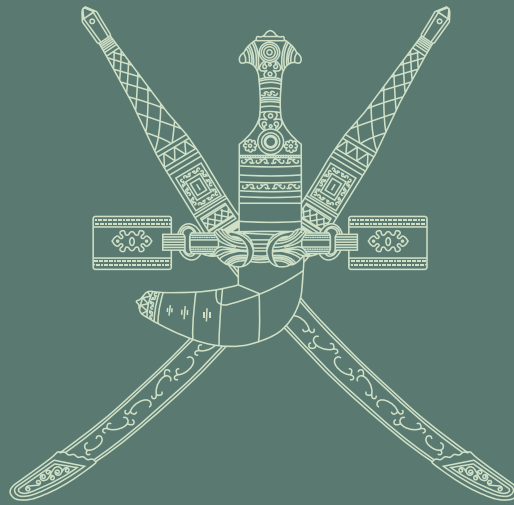


Creation of
artificial lakes
designed
to support
mangrove
cultivation

10

Institutions

Shaping the Future Vision



His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, has affirmed the Sultanate of Oman's commitment to entering a new phase, proceeding with confident and deliberate steps towards a prestigious position among nations. Central to this vision is the continued consolidation and empowerment of the foundations of the state of institutions and the rule of law. In doing so, His Majesty follows in the enlightened footsteps of the founder of the modern Omani Renaissance, the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimur, may Allah rest his soul, carrying forward his legacy with steadfastness and determination. This new phase seeks to preserve the remarkable achievements of the past while building upon them to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for the nation.

His Majesty the Sultan, may Allah protect him, has laid out a comprehensive vision encompassing various aspects of national development. This vision has been supported by foundational legislation, such as the Basic Statute of the State and the Law of Governorates and Municipal Affairs, as well as by structured mechanisms and work programmes, most notably Oman Vision 2040. This strategic framework aims to advance key national priorities across diverse fields, including health, education, research, innovation, economic diversification, financial sustainability, regional development, and the governance of the state's administrative apparatus. Modern institutions have been established to ensure this vision is implemented in line with democratic and consultative principles. These include the Council of Oman with its two chambers, the State Council and the Shura Council, along with the municipal councils across the various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

The issuance of Royal Decree No. (75/2020) concerning the State Administrative Apparatus on 12 August 2020 represents a practical translation of the Royal Speech delivered by His Majesty the Sultan on 23 February 2020. In his address, His Majesty affirmed his determination “to undertake the necessary measures to restructure the State Administrative Apparatus, modernise legislation and legal frameworks, update work mechanisms and programmes, and uphold the core values and principles of governance, as well as adopting modern methods, streamlining procedures and strengthening performance, integrity, and accountability to ensure full alignment with the requirements and objectives of the national vision.”

The issuance of the State Administrative Apparatus System came as a response to the evolving needs of the current phase of the modern Omani Renaissance. It marked a key starting point for reinforcing the path of construction and development across the Sultanate of Oman. Rooted in the aspirations of the future vision, Oman Vision 2040, the system contributes to defining the nation's economic, social and cultural priorities and objectives, reflecting a clear vision and ambitious outlook for a prosperous future. In continuation of these reform efforts, the issuance of the Basic Statute of the State, pursuant to Royal Decree No. (6/2021) on 11 January 2021, provided the foundational legal framework that governs the functions and separation of powers among the various branches of government. It serves as the source from which all state institutions derive their structures and operational systems. This landmark legislation defined the principles of modern state-building, clarified the relationships between state institutions and outlined the responsibilities, rights, duties, and functions assigned to the administrative, executive, parliamentary, and judicial bodies. It ensures that each entity fulfils its national role in a manner that promotes harmony and integration, particularly between the Council of Ministers and the Council of Oman with its two chambers, the State Council and the Shura Council. At the same time, it upholds the independence of the judiciary to safeguard justice, monitor performance and ensure progress along the right path.

An
organisational
structure and
governance
framework
that ensures
efficiency,
performance,
and
sustainable
development

Royal Decree No. (75/2020) marked a significant step towards restructuring the State's administrative apparatus, fulfilling the pledge made by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik in his Royal Speech on 23 February 2020. It aimed to enhance the development process and reinforce the principle of a state governed by institutions and the rule of law.

The State Administrative Apparatus System comprises three chapters containing a total of 18 articles. As defined in Article (1), the term State Administrative Apparatus refers to ministries, military and security agencies, councils and other executive units that derive their authority from the State, regardless of their designation. This also includes public legal entities responsible for managing public services or economic facilities, such as public authorities and institutions. The State's administrative apparatus is composed of central units, such as ministries, agencies, and councils, as well as decentralised units, including public authorities, institutions and similar entities. The establishment, organisation or dissolution of any unit within the State's administrative apparatus is carried out through royal decrees. Each unit may issue regulations, decisions or instructions within the scope of the competencies assigned to it, in accordance with the royal decrees governing its functions.

The State's Administrative Apparatus: A Pillar of Stability and Development

In affirmation of the foundational principles upon which the Sultanate of Oman was established, which have guided its policies across various domains and been upheld locally, regionally, and internationally and in consolidation of Oman's international standing and its pivotal role in promoting justice, righteousness, security, stability and peace among nations and peoples, the Basic Statute of the State was issued on 11 January 2021, pursuant to Royal Decree No. (6/2021). This landmark legislation reflects a firm determination to shape

a future marked by greater achievements for the nation and its citizens. It aims to safeguard the homeland, preserve its territorial integrity, unity and social fabric, protect its cultural heritage, and reinforce the rights and responsibilities of all citizens. In addition, it affirms public freedoms, strengthens state institutions, and consolidates the principles of Shura.

The Basic Statute of the State comprises 98 articles divided into seven chapters, establishing a stable framework for the transfer of power in the Sultanate of Oman, as well as a clear mechanism for appointing the Crown Prince, outlining his duties and powers. It also affirms the principle of the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary as foundational pillars of governance in the state.

The second chapter of the Basic Statute of the State outlines the guiding principles of the Sultanate's political, economic, social, cultural and security policies. The third chapter addresses public rights and duties, where Article (18) affirms that "life and dignity are a right for every human being, and the state is committed to respecting and protecting them in accordance with the law."

Article (21) further states: "All citizens are equal before the law and are equal in public rights and duties. There shall be no discrimination among them on the basis of gender, origin, colour, language, religion, sect, domicile or social status."

The Basic Statute also safeguards various freedoms through Articles (34), (35) and (36). These include the right to perform religious rites in accordance with established customs, provided they do not disrupt public order or contravene moral values. Freedom of opinion and expression, whether spoken, written or through other means, is guaranteed within the limits of the law. Additionally, the sanctity of private life is protected, and may not be violated. The confidentiality of electronic communications of all kinds, as well as telephone, telegraph, postal and other forms of correspondence, is also safeguarded. These may not be monitored, inspected, disclosed, delayed or confiscated except in cases defined by law and in accordance with legally prescribed procedures.

The Basic Statute consists of 98 articles distributed across seven chapters, and it establishes a clear and stable mechanism for the transfer of power.

Solid Foundations

The Basic Statute of the State affirms in its opening articles that the Sultanate of Oman is an independent Arab Islamic state with full sovereignty. Muscat is designated as the capital, Islam is the official religion, Islamic Sharia is the basis of legislation and Arabic is the official language of the state.

Articles (5) to (11) of the first chapter set out the structure of governance and the mechanism for the transfer of power. The Statute establishes that the system of government is a hereditary Sultanate passed down among the male descendants of Sultan Turki bin Said bin Sultan. According to its provisions, the mandate of governance is transferred from the Sultan to his eldest son and thereafter to the eldest son of that son, continuing in this manner through successive generations. Should the eldest son pass away before assuming power, the mandate is transferred to his eldest son, even if the deceased Sultan has surviving brothers.

In the absence of a son, the succession passes to the Sultan's eldest brother. If there are no brothers, it is transferred to the eldest son of the eldest brother. Should the eldest brother have no sons, the mandate then goes to the eldest son of the Sultan's other brothers, in accordance with their birth order.

If the Sultan has no brothers or nephews, succession passes to his paternal uncles and their sons, following the order set forth in Clause (2) of Article (5).

"Whoever assumes the title to the throne must be Muslim, rational, and a legitimate son of Muslim Omani parents." If the title to the throne passes to a person under the age of twenty-one, the powers of the Sultan shall be exercised by a council of regency appointed by a royal directive of the Sultan. If the Sultan does not appoint a council of regency prior to His death, the Royal Family Council shall appoint a council of regency composed of one of the brothers of the Sultan and two sons of His paternal uncles.

A royal order shall be issued to appoint the person to whom the title to the throne belongs to in accordance with article (5) of this statute as crown prince. This royal order shall specify the competences and the responsibilities assigned to him. Before assuming his duties, the Crown Prince shall take the oath prescribed in Article (10) of the Basic Statute before the Sultan. In the event of a temporary cause that prevents the Sultan from exercising His authorities, the crown prince shall take His place.

Article (9) of the Statute stipulates the establishment of a Royal Family Council, the composition, structure, authority and order of precedence of which shall be determined by a royal decree.

The Organisational Structure of the State:

The organisational structure of the state consists of His Majesty the Sultan, the councils, institutions and bodies as follows:

First

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

Second

Council of Ministers

Third

Defence Council

Fourth

National Security Council

Fifth

**Board of Governors of the
Central Bank of Oman**

Sixth

Supreme Judicial Council

Seventh

Private Office

Eighth

**Supreme committees, specialised
councils, and public bodies**



First: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

His Majesty the Sultan is the Head of State, the supreme representative of the nation and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. His person is inviolable, and respect for him is a national duty. His commands are to be obeyed, as he embodies the symbol of national unity and the vigilant guardian and protector of the state. Article (49) of the Basic Statute of the State outlines the duties and responsibilities undertaken by His Majesty in the exercise of his sovereign role.



His Majesty, may Allah protect him, graciously presided over the Council of Ministers meeting

Second: Council of Ministers

The Council of Ministers assists His Majesty the Sultan in formulating and implementing the general policy of the state. It is the executive authority responsible for carrying out national policies and ensuring their effective application. Its duties include submitting recommendations to His Majesty on matters of state, proposing draft laws and royal decrees, safeguarding citizens' interests, ensuring the provision of essential services, and defining the objectives and general policies for comprehensive development, along with the procedures required for their implementation. The Council also reviews development plans prepared by competent authorities, presents them to the Council of Oman and submits the same to the Sultan for approval. It follows up on the execution of these plans, reviews ministerial proposals and issues appropriate recommendations and decisions. The Council of Ministers also supervises the administrative apparatus of the state, monitors its performance, coordinates between its units, ensures the implementation of laws, royal decrees, and judicial rulings, and exercises any additional powers delegated by His Majesty or specified by law.

On 16 June 2022, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, issued Royal Decree No. (34/2022), forming the Council of Ministers under His Majesty's chairmanship and including the membership of the following:

His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said

Deputy Prime Minister for Council of Ministers Affairs

His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik bin Taimur Al Said

Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs

His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said

Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth

His Excellency Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal bin Saud Al Busaidi

Minister of Diwan of Royal Court

His Excellency General Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nomani

Minister of Royal Office

His Excellency Sayyid Hamood bin Faisal bin Said Al Busaidi

Minister of Interior

His Excellency Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Al Busaidi

Foreign Minister

His Excellency Sultan bin Salim bin Said Al Habsi

Minister of Finance

**Her Excellency Dr. Madiha bint Ahmed bin Nasser
Al Shibaniyah**

Minister of Education

**His Excellency Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Said
Al Saidi**

Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs

**His Excellency Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa
Al Harrasi**

Minister of Information

**His Excellency Salim bin Mohammed bin Said
Al Mahroqi**

Minister of Heritage and Tourism

**His Excellency Dr. Saud bin Hamood bin Ahmed
Al Habsi**

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources

**His Excellency Dr. Khalfan bin Said bin Mubarak
Al Shuaili**

Minister of Housing and Urban Planning

**Her Excellency Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim bin Said
Al Mahrouqiyah**

Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation

**His Excellency Eng. Said bin Hamood bin Said
Al Mawali**

Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

**His Excellency Dr. Said bin Mohammed bin
Ahmed Al Saqri**

Minister of Economy

**His Excellency Qais bin Mohammed bin Moosa
Al Yousef**

Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion

**Her Excellency Dr. Laila bint Ahmed bin
Awadh Al Najar**

Minister of Social Development

His Excellency Dr. Mahad bin Said bin Ali Baowain

Minister of Labour

His Excellency Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Afi

Minister of Energy and Minerals

His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Saeed Al Maamari

Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs

His Excellency Dr. Hilal bin Ali Al Sabti

Minister of Health

Third: Defence Council

The Defence Council was established by Royal Decree No. (105/96) dated 28 December 1996. It was subsequently reorganised under Royal Decree No. (12/2021) issued on 25 January 2021. The Council, chaired by His Majesty the Sultan, consists ex officio of six members, namely: the Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs; the Minister of the Royal Office and Head of the Office of the Supreme Commander; the Head of the Communications and Coordination Department at the Royal Office; the Head of the Internal Security Service; the Inspector General of Police and Customs; and the Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces.

Without prejudice to the powers conferred upon it by applicable laws and royal decrees, the Defence Council is entrusted with addressing all matters related to the preservation and defence of the Sultanate of Oman's integrity. The Council convenes whenever the declaration of a general mobilisation becomes necessary

Fourth: National Security Council

The National Security Council is tasked with considering all matters related to national security. On 25 January 2021, Royal Decree No. (13/2021) was issued to reorganise the Council. Article 1 of the this Royal Decree stipulates that the Council shall be chaired by His Majesty the Sultan, the Supreme Commander and shall include as members the Minister of the Royal Office and Head of the Office of the Supreme Commander, the Head of the Communications and Coordination Department at the Royal Office, the Head of the Internal Security Service, the Inspector General of Police and Customs and the Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces. The Council may also invite any individual it deems necessary to attend its meetings, even if they are not a member.

The National Security Council shall have a Secretary-General, appointed by a royal decree. The Council shall be supported in the exercise of its functions by a General Secretariat, which operates under the authority of the Royal Office, as well as by a number of committees subordinate to the Council. A decision issued by the Minister of the Royal Office and Head of the Office of the Supreme Commander shall regulate the work of the General Secretariat, define the powers of the Secretary-General, establish the committees and specify their respective mandates.

Fifth: Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman

The Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman is responsible for formulating the Sultanate's monetary policy and overseeing the management of the Central Bank of Oman, which was established on 1 December 1974 pursuant to Banking Law No. (7/74), as amended by Royal Decree No. (114/2000). The Board holds full authority to take all necessary measures for the effective administration of the Central Bank, including issuing currency, supervising banking institutions and overseeing banking activities within the Sultanate.

The Board of Governors comprises six members appointed by His Majesty the Sultan. On 18 August 2020, Royal Decree No. (112/2020) was issued appointing several officials, including the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman, with the rank of Minister.

Sixth: Supreme Judicial Council

Article (82) of the Basic Statute of the State stipulates that “the judiciary shall have a Supreme Council that shall supervise the proper conduct of work in the courts and in the auxiliary agencies. A royal decree shall be issued regarding its formation and work system, and the law shall prescribe its powers in the employment affairs of judges and the public prosecution.”

In line with this provision, Royal Decree No. (35/2022) was issued to regulate the administration of judicial affairs, including the establishment of the Supreme Judicial Council, chaired by His Majesty the Sultan and supported by a Deputy Chairman with the rank of Minister.

The Supreme Judicial Council is entrusted with formulating the general policy of the judiciary, ensuring the smooth operation and development of the courts and the Public Prosecution, streamlining litigation procedures and bringing judicial services closer to litigants. It is also responsible for proposing draft laws and royal decrees related to the judiciary, providing opinions on draft judicial cooperation agreements with other countries and enhancing cooperation in judicial matters with relevant authorities, organisations and specialised regional and international institutions. The system grants the Council legal personality as well as financial and administrative independence and assigns it full responsibility for all judiciary-related affairs. An independent annual budget is allocated for the judiciary, supported by qualified technical and administrative personnel. The royal decree

also unifies the litigation and prosecution bodies into a single judicial system to consolidate efforts and ensure integrated functioning across the judiciary, rather than dispersing responsibilities among multiple entities. Furthermore, the royal decree establishes a General Secretariat for the Council, which serves as a unified administrative body overseeing all financial and administrative affairs of the judiciary. The Secretariat is headed by a Secretary-General, supported by a number of Assistant Secretaries-General, and provides essential support services to the judicial system, including the Public Prosecution.

Seventh: Private Office

The Private Office was established on 3 June 2020 pursuant to Royal Decree No. (59/2020) and reports directly to His Majesty the Sultan. Its responsibilities include preparing and organising daily work files for His Majesty, liaising with the Council of Ministers and various government bodies on matters as directed by His Majesty, documenting topics presented to or requested by His Majesty for information or action and keeping His Majesty informed of the progress of work programmes arising from the “Oman 2040” Vision.

Eighth: Supreme Committees, Specialised Councils and Public Bodies

Article (63) of the Basic Statute of the State stipulates that “specialised councils shall be established, their powers shall be determined, and their members shall be appointed by royal decrees. They shall be affiliated with the Council of Ministers unless the decrees establishing them stipulate otherwise.” In line with this provision, Royal Decree No. (75/2020) concerning the state’s administrative apparatus stipulates that the apparatus consists of central units such as ministries, agencies, councils and similar entities, as well as decentralised units such as public authorities and institutions. A public authority is established to manage a facility that serves the public interest or provides a service without the intention of making a profit, while a public institution is established to manage an economic facility that contributes to the development of the national economy. The establishment, organisation and dissolution of units within the state’s administrative apparatus are governed by royal decrees.

Supreme Committee for Conferences

The Supreme Committee for Conferences is responsible for the preparation, follow-up and coordination of conferences in which the Sultanate of Oman participates, particularly those related to the Gulf Cooperation Council, in coordination with the relevant ministries.

The Main Supreme Committee for Five-Year Development Plans

The Supreme Committee for Five-Year Development Plans is responsible for identifying the core pillars of the five-year development plans, conducting semi-annual evaluations and monitoring their implementation. Through its leadership, composition and assigned responsibilities, the Committee plays a key role in translating the priorities outlined by His Majesty the Sultan into guiding principles and foundational elements that shape and drive the five-year plans. Additionally, the Committee ensures coordination between the government and both the State Council and the Shura Council, while also mobilising efforts and resources to achieve national objectives.

General Secretariat for National Celebrations

The General Secretariat for National Celebrations is responsible for preparing and organising celebrations held on national occasions. It was granted legal personality as well as financial and administrative independence on 1 March 2020 pursuant to Royal Decree No. (6/2020) and operates under the supervision of the Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court.

On 8 September 2020, Royal Decree No. (116/2020) was issued amending certain provisions of Royal Decree No. (6/2020), including the replacement of the name “Supreme Committee for National Day Celebrations” with “General Secretariat for National Celebrations.” This Decree also stipulated the formation of an Executive Committee within the General Secretariat, chaired by the Secretary-General and composed of representatives, each holding a rank no lower than Undersecretary or equivalent, from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers and the Royal Oman Police. The

committee also includes representatives from the Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces and the Royal Protocols.

State Audit Institution

The practice of financial and administrative auditing in the Sultanate of Oman began with the onset of the modern renaissance in 1970. Since then, the State Audit Institution has undergone several stages of development in terms of its legal framework, organisational structure, and official designation. A significant milestone was the issuance of Royal Decree No. (95/1999), which changed the name of the General Secretariat for State Financial Audit to the State Financial Audit and established it as an independent body with financial and administrative autonomy. This was followed by subsequent royal decrees that further regulated the institution's functions and structure. As part of this ongoing development, Royal Decree No. (27/2011) was issued on 27 February 2011, renaming the institution as the "State Audit Institution" and expanding its mandate to include administrative auditing. Additionally, Royal Decree No. (111/2011) promulgated the State Audit Law, confirming the Institution's direct subordination to His Majesty the Sultan. This was accompanied by the issuance of the Law on the Protection of Public Funds and Avoidance of Conflict of Interest under Royal Decree No. (112/2011), which further strengthened the Institution's role in supporting the goals of comprehensive and sustainable national development.

In 2014, the Institution was assigned the responsibilities of the Anti-Corruption and Prevention Authority and the oversight of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, following Royal Decree No. (64/2013) approving the Sultanate's accession to the Convention.

Most recently, on 11 January 2021, Article (66) of the Basic Statute of the State reaffirmed the Institution's jurisdiction over the financial and administrative oversight of the state's administrative units and other public legal entities, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Oman Investment Authority

The Oman Investment Authority (OIA) serves as the investment arm of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, managing the country's funds and assets to maximise returns and contribute to the realisation of Oman Vision 2040, which aspires to create a sustainable and prosperous economic future for the Omani people and future generations. Established by Royal Decree No. (61/2020), issued on 4 June 2020, the OIA assumed ownership of all government companies, investments and assets previously managed by the Ministry of Finance, with the exception of Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) and government contributions to international institutions. The OIA plays a pivotal role in the governance and oversight of these companies, working to align their policies and regulations with the overarching strategies of the state.

Royal Decree No. (57/2021), which promulgated the OIA's System, outlines its objectives and powers. Article (5) of the decree affirms OIA's status as the government's investment arm, with a mandate to manage, develop and invest the Sultanate's funds and assets in a manner that maximises returns, builds financial reserves and supports the general state budget. The OIA also aims to enhance financial sustainability, contribute to the implementation of government strategies for economic sector development, improve the investment climate and attract domestic and foreign investments to the Sultanate of Oman.

Sultan Qaboos University Council

The Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) Council is the highest administrative authority within the university. As stipulated in SQU's Charter, the Council is responsible for formulating and overseeing the implementation of SQU's general policy. It undertakes a range of functions aimed at strengthening SQU's role, enabling it to fulfil its mission and achieving its strategic objectives. On 13 March 2022, the Council approved the establishment of a new academic programme titled "Certificate in Arabic Language and Literature for Non-Native Speakers" within the Department of Arabic Language and Literature at the College of Arts and Social Sciences. Additionally, the Council approved the launch of a Bachelor of Elementary Education programme at the College of Education, designed to prepare qualified teaching staff for the first cycle of basic education. The programme aims to produce highly capable educators equipped to contribute to teaching, educational research, and technical supervision, in alignment with the ongoing educational development in the Sultanate of Oman.

Tender Board

The Tender Board was established on 30 April 1973. In October 1984, Royal Decree No. (84/86) was issued to promulgate the Tender Law and its implementing regulations, in alignment with the Sultanate of Oman's legislative advancements and in support of its economic and social development plans. On 24 March 2008, Royal Decree No. (36/2008) was issued, introducing the current Tender Law, which serves as an essential tool for the protection and management of public funds. This law has since been amended by several royal decrees, including Nos. (19/2011), (2011/120), and (60/2013).

Further institutional development was marked by Royal Decree No. (84/2020), issued on 17 August 2020, establishing the General Secretariat of the Tender Board. The decree granted the General Secretariat legal personality and financial and administrative independence. The Secretary-General is tasked with managing all administrative and financial affairs of the Secretariat, representing it in external relations and before the judiciary, and exercising the powers of the head of a government unit as defined by applicable laws and royal decrees.

The Tender Board is responsible for announcing tenders, opening bids, reviewing and analysing bid submissions or conducting such analyses directly. It is authorised to award all government contracts exceeding three million Omani rials, regardless of their nature. However, contracts related to security and defence entities, wholly government-owned companies, or those exempted by other laws are not subject to these procedures. The Board operates through mechanisms designed to enhance the performance of government agencies, ensure the effective implementation of public projects, and secure goods, supplies, and services at the highest quality and most competitive prices.

It also upholds principles of fairness and transparency, ensuring equal opportunities for companies and institutions to compete. Additionally, the Board actively supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), promotes local industrial products, and contributes to the employment of the national workforce.

Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB)

The Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB) was established on 2 April 2006 pursuant to Royal Decree No. (31/2006). It was created to align with international standards in advanced medical education and training, while playing a vital local role in supporting government institutions through programmes and initiatives tailored to the evolving needs of the healthcare sector. Among these is the General Foundation Program, which targets Omani general practitioners who have successfully completed their internship.

In 2024, OMSB implemented 31 projects and initiatives as part of its annual plan, along with several other initiatives linked to the outcomes of the Human Resources for Health Laboratory.

The OMSB's strategic plan focuses on five key projects aimed at strengthening medical education and raising the professional competence of healthcare practitioners in Oman. Ongoing initiatives include the Medical Training and Health Innovation Development Project, which introduces innovation tools and programmes to advance medical education and training and the National Examinations Centre Project, which provides professional licensing examinations for health practitioners and assessment exams for specialty and fellowship programmes. Additional projects include aligning medical specialties with the needs of the health sector and developing an advanced medical education system that reflects the broader strategic directions of the Sultanate, in coordination with key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health and the Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit. OMSB is also implementing a Digital Transformation and Procedures Automation Project, which aims to streamline processes and improve services for beneficiaries.

As of the 2023–2024 academic year, the OMSB oversees 20 specialised training programmes. The first cohorts of physicians have been admitted to the Adult Haematology Programme and the Paediatric Intensive Care Program. Currently, 15 doctors are enrolled in various local fellowship programmes, in addition to general practitioners participating in the General Foundation Program.

Since 2009, the OMSB has supervised more than 1,000 medical missions abroad. To date, over 550 physicians have graduated from its specialty and fellowship programmes, including those in the clinical master's programme in dentistry.

Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit

The Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit was established pursuant to Royal Decree No. (100/2020), issued on 18 August 2020. The Unit possesses legal personality and financial and administrative independence and is empowered to own, manage and dispose of both fixed and movable assets.

Its primary mandate is to oversee the implementation of the objectives and outcomes of Oman Vision 2040, including monitoring the performance indicators of the entities responsible for delivering its goals. The Unit is also tasked with creating a supportive environment for the implementation of the Vision and its associated development and economic projects by proposing solutions to challenges and obstacles that may arise.

In addition, the Unit plays a critical role in fostering and strengthening partnerships between the public sector entities involved in the Vision and the private sector, to ensure effective implementation of the Vision's strategies and projects. It is committed to enhance cooperation with relevant government bodies, promote excellence, embed a culture of innovation, and uphold principles of total quality management in line with international best practices. The Unit also monitors the quality of public services to ensure they meet approved standards, establishes systems to guarantee high-quality service delivery, and oversees the simplification of procedures to improve access to government services.

In September 2024, the Unit released its third annual report, applying a methodology focused on assessing the actual performance of government agencies and their efforts in the economic and development sectors. The report evaluated their contribution to the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 and its associated performance indicators. It also reflected the ongoing collaboration between the Unit and other government entities, coinciding with the Vision's entry into its fourth year in January 2024, a period during which the Sultanate recorded notable progress in several global indicators.

Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ)

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) was established pursuant to Royal Decree No. (105/2020), issued on 18 August 2020. It enjoys financial and administrative independence and reports directly to the Council of Ministers.

OPAZ is responsible for overseeing the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, Al Mazunah Free Zone, Salalah Free Zone, Sohar Free Zone, as well as any other special economic or free zone established by royal decree.

Following the issuance of Royal Decree No. (53/2022) on 28 June 2022, the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) was transferred to OPAZ, which now assumes the Madayn's responsibilities relating to the formulation of general policy, regulation, oversight, supervision and the unification of services, facilities and incentives offered to investors.

OPAZ proposes policies and strategic plans concerning special economic and free zones, aligned with national development objectives and submits them to the Council of Ministers for approval. It is also tasked with implementing, monitoring, and evaluating these approved strategies and plans. Its responsibilities include preparing relevant studies, plans, and programmes; proposing the establishment of new special economic and free zones; and taking the necessary steps to issue royal decrees for their establishment, including determining their locations, boundaries and the incentives, benefits and facilities granted to the managing entities and companies operating within them.

Additionally, OPAZ is charged with promoting investment opportunities within these zones, both domestically and internationally, in coordination with relevant stakeholders. It also approves the establishment of companies in accordance with applicable laws for the purpose of developing, managing, or promoting key sectors within the special economic and free zones.

Financial Services Authority (FSA)

The Financial Services Authority (FSA), in its capacity as the legislative and regulatory body for the capital market and insurance sectors, has strategically focused on advancing economic priorities and maintaining robust stakeholder protections. It strives to uphold principles of justice, integrity and transparency, while aligning its efforts with international best practices. To this end, the FSA has established a robust legal framework governing both sectors by enacting new legislation and updating existing laws to reflect contemporary requirements and align with developments endorsed by international organisations.

Royal Decree No. (5/2021), issued on 1 June 2021, marked a significant milestone by transforming the Muscat Securities Market into a closed Omani joint-stock company under the name Muscat Stock Exchange Company S.A.O.C (MSX). This transformation represents a strategic step towards enhancing service quality and operational capabilities, attracting foreign investment, boosting market liquidity, increasing trading volumes, and strengthening investor confidence. Subsequently, the FSA approved the licensing of the MSX on 11 April 2021.

In alignment with these developments, the issuance of the Securities Law pursuant to Royal Decree No. (46/2022) reflects the Sultanate of Oman's commitment to elevating the regulatory framework of the securities industry to meet both current and future demands. This initiative addresses the challenges posed by rapid technological advancements and establishes the legal foundations necessary to regulate financial technology and support innovative financing instruments.

Royal Decree No. (20/2024), which established the FSA and issued its bylaws, restructured the financial services system to enhance its integrity and independence. The decree expanded the FSA's mandate to include oversight of the capital market, insurance sector, and the accounting and auditing profession.

Under its provisions, all assets, allocations, rights, obligations, and holdings of the former Capital Market Authority were transferred to the FSA. Additionally, all employees were retained with their existing financial grades. The responsibility for regulating the accounting and auditing profession was also transferred from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion to the newly established FSA.

Oman Charitable Organization (OCO)

The Oman Charitable Organization (OCO) has successfully achieved many of the noble goals and humanitarian objectives for which it was established. Its core responsibilities include receiving and collecting donations, endowments and other contributions, whether offered as acts of worship or voluntary giving and ensuring their delivery to those in need. OCO also supports and funds projects that serve children, orphans, and the elderly, as well as initiatives focused on social welfare that benefit citizens. In addition, OCO provides urgent relief assistance to individuals and institutions affected by disasters, fires or accidents, both within and outside the Sultanate of Oman. It also extends support to charitable and social institutions and to the poor and needy at home and abroad.

OCO's financial resources are derived from various sources, including government subsidies, voluntary donations and endowments, stocks and bonds designated for its benefit, and returns from investments in its funds and projects. It places a strong emphasis on investing unallocated resources to generate sustainable income and secure stable funding to support its ongoing plans and initiatives.

To enhance its reach, OCO has worked to cover the widest possible geographical area within the Sultanate of Oman, ensuring the effective distribution of donations to local charitable organisations. It has also embraced modern technology, such as electronic payment gateways and advanced information and communications systems, to serve the community and facilitate donation procedures across Oman.

Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA)

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established on 12 March 2002 pursuant to the Telecommunications Regulatory Law issued by Royal Decree No. (30/2002), with the objective of liberalising and advancing telecommunications services in the Sultanate of Oman. In 2012, the TRA's mandate was expanded to include regulation of the postal services sector, in accordance with the Postal Services Regulation Law issued by Royal Decree No. (71/2012), with the aim of developing, liberalising, and expanding the postal sector.

Since its inception, the TRA has concentrated its efforts on establishing a telecommunications sector capable of delivering high-quality, world-class services to all users at affordable prices. To this end, it has increased the number of market licensees and enhance consumer choice.

The TRA has implemented strategic initiatives to improve service quality and ensure the safe and effective deployment of modern technologies, thereby supporting sustainable development in the sector. Key regulatory milestones include the issuance of the Access and Interconnection Regulations in January 2024, followed by the Quality-of-Service Requirements Regulations in March 2024, which obligate licensees to meet defined standards aimed at improving service levels for end users.

Continuing its regulatory advancements, in July 2024, TRA issued amendments to the Regulations on Telecommunications Equipment Approval. In September 2024, it introduced a new regulation governing the resolution of telecommunications-related disputes, providing a transparent legal framework for dispute settlement. TRA also issued the Data Centres and Cloud Computing Regulation, reflecting the Sultanate's commitment to embracing modern technology and strengthening its digital infrastructure.

National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA)

The National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA) is the body responsible for preserving, collecting, classifying and archiving documents and records in the Sultanate of Oman. It was established on 2 July 2007 by Royal Decree No. (60/2007) and has since played a significant role in developing the documentation sector through a range of initiatives aligned with advances in preservation technologies. These efforts are in line with NRAA's vision to establish an archival system built on scientific principles, contributing to the structured management of records across government entities, and supporting the advancement of archival practice, as well as the effective use of records in promoting academic research, intellectual exploration, and creative output.

The NRAA holds a growing collection of over 577,000 documents, encompassing both physical and digital formats, stored in a variety of forms. This reflects NRAA's ongoing efforts in documentation acquisition and preservation, including materials from both public institutions and private individuals. It ensures the safekeeping and accessibility of official state records alongside family and personal papers, supporting their use in scholarly research and safeguarding them for future generations.

In carrying out its mandate, the NRAA prioritises the development of the archival field through the adoption of modern methods and international best practice. It is committed to preserving Oman's national memory, protecting its rich historical and cultural heritage, and reinforcing national identity. This contributes to a vision of a bright future underpinned by sustained progress and a deep respect for the past.

NRAA also fosters strategic partnerships with archival institutions around the world. It has signed 19 memoranda of understanding with international bodies, research centres and national archives. These collaborations are pursued through diplomatic channels and bilateral relations, particularly with countries that have had longstanding historical, economic, political or geographical ties with Oman. Through such agreements, NRAA seeks to obtain either originals or copies of historically significant documents, most often the latter, from international archives, thus enriching the national documentary record.

Consumer Protection Authority (CPA)

On 26 February 2011, Royal Orders were issued to establish an independent authority dedicated to consumer protection. This was followed by Royal Decree No. (26/2011), issued on 28 February 2011, formally establishing the Public Authority for Consumer Protection. Subsequently, on 5 April 2011, the organisational framework of the Authority was defined through Royal Decree No. (53/2011). Later, on 12 August 2020, Royal Decree No. (77/2020) amended its name to the Consumer Protection Authority (CPA).

Since its inception, CPA has operated through a comprehensive system aimed at fulfilling its founding objectives. It serves as a protective shield for consumers, working to prevent illegal practices by some commercial actors and monitoring markets across the Sultanate of Oman.

In the context of a liberalised global economy, and with Omani markets increasingly open to international trade and the import and export of various goods, CPA has prioritised protecting consumers from commercial fraud. As one of the key regulatory bodies tasked with this mission, it has played an active role in safeguarding market integrity. The issuance of Royal Decree No. (54/2021) concerning the Unified Law for Combating Commercial Fraud in the GCC countries further strengthened Oman's legal framework in this domain. It represents a vital tool in CPA's efforts to counter harmful practices and ensure fair market operations.

In line with its commitment to improving performance and operational efficiency, CPA adopted the ISO Quality Management System, aiming to simplify and systematise its internal procedures. This includes the implementation of clear performance indicators and standards, helping to improve service delivery, unify work processes and enhance the overall effectiveness of CPA's operations.

Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)

The bylaws of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation, issued pursuant to Royal Decree No. (34/2013) on 16 September 2013, set forth the objectives of establishing the Authority to advance the civil aviation sector and its supporting infrastructure. These objectives include elevating service efficiency and quality to the highest standards and ensuring the safety and security of civil aviation operations, particularly in the field of air transport.

On 17 August 2020, Royal Decree No. (85/2020) was issued, renaming the “Public Authority for Civil Aviation” as the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Subsequently, Royal Decree No. (60/2022), issued on 2 October 2022, reassigned responsibilities related to climate affairs from CAA to the Environment Authority.

Since its establishment, CAA has played a pivotal role in both regulatory and service-related aspects of the civil aviation sector, contributing to its growth at both the national and international levels. Its core functions include the development and enforcement of civil aviation systems and regulations in the Sultanate of Oman, the issuance of licences for aircraft crews and maintenance stations and the negotiation of bilateral aviation agreements with other countries. CAA also develops policies and controls to ensure airport security and air transport safety, while formulating strategies for increasing revenue from airports and aviation facilities across the Sultanate. Additionally, it promotes investment opportunities in the sector and conducts oversight through monitoring, inspection and auditing of aviation companies and institutions operating within Oman, in accordance with its designated areas of responsibility.

Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education (OAAAQA)

The Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education (OAAAQA) was established on 13 January 2021 by Royal Decree No. (9/2021), which amended the name of the former “Oman Academic Accreditation Authority” and redefined its mandate. OAAAQA is responsible for establishing a national system to ensure the quality of school and higher education in the Sultanate of Oman, with the aim of maintaining levels that align with international standards. Its key functions include encouraging educational institutions to develop and implement internal quality assurance systems and evaluating both public and private schools

based on standards and procedures set by OAAAQA. It is also responsible for accrediting public and private higher education institutions and programmes, auditing General Foundation Programmes, and overseeing the preparation and development of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The OAAAQA's role in the NQF includes incorporating Omani qualifications, aligning international and foreign qualifications with the framework and publishing the outcomes of quality assurance and accreditation processes, as well as the results of qualification inclusion and alignment, in accordance with the controls it establishes. OAAAQA is also tasked with training educational personnel in the fields of quality assurance for school and higher education, as well as in the implementation and development of the NQF.

Environment Authority

The Environment Authority was established on 18 August 2020 pursuant to Royal Decree No. (106/2020), which abolished the former Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs. The Authority is financially and administratively independent, reporting directly to the Council of Ministers. Under Royal Decree No. (60/2022), responsibilities related to climate affairs were transferred from the Civil Aviation Authority to the Environment Authority.

The Authority is tasked with proposing policies, strategic plans and regulatory requirements related to environmental protection and sustainability, pollution control and ecosystem conservation. Its mandate includes safeguarding environmental safety, protecting biodiversity and wildlife, preserving renewable resources and ensuring their sustainable use in alignment with the fundamental goals of sustainable development.

The Authority also contributes to the advancement of research in environmental fields, facilitates knowledge exchange and promotes the collection and use of scientific data. It also plays a key role in raising public awareness and instilling environmentally responsible values and practices across all segments of society, aiming to consolidate a culture of environmental ethics and accountability, and sustainable natural resource management.

SMEs Development Authority

The SMEs Development Authority was established on 18 August 2020 by Royal Decree No. (107/2020). Under this decree, all allocations, assets, rights, obligations and holdings of the former Public Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development and the Al Raffd Fund were transferred to the newly established Authority. This included the Fund's capital and the annual budgetary support allocated to it under the State's general budget.

The Authority is responsible for formulating plans and policies for the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and handicraft industries as part of the Sultanate's broader national development strategy, which are submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval. It also seeks to create a supportive regulatory environment that promotes the growth and sustainability of SMEs and crafts-based businesses. To achieve its objectives, the Authority develops and implements executive plans and programmes in coordination with relevant stakeholders. It provides financial, administrative and legal consultancy services to SMEs to support their growth, strengthen their competitiveness and enable them to deliver high-quality products. In addition, the Authority establishes specialised centres aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs and improving their products and services in line with international best practices.

The Executive Regulations for SME and Craftsmen Financing, issued by the Authority on 18 January 2022, set the maximum financing amount at OMR 250,000. The funding allocated to each project is determined based on a comprehensive economic feasibility study and the project's investment cost.

Authority for Public Services Regulation

The Electricity and Related Water Sector Regulation Authority was established pursuant to Article (19) of the Law Regulating and Privatising the Electricity and Related Water Sector, issued by Royal Decree No. (87/2004) on 1 August 2004, and subsequently amended by Royal Decree No. (59/2009) and Royal Decree No. (47/2013). The Authority is recognised as an independent legal entity with financial and administrative autonomy and it reports directly to the Council of Ministers.

On 12 August 2020, Royal Decree No. (78/2020) was issued, amending the Authority's name to the Authority for Public Services Regulation and expanding

its responsibilities to include the regulation of natural gas transportation activities, as set out in Articles (4), (26), (27), (28), (29), (30), and (31) of the Oil and Gas Law, issued by Royal Decree No. (8/2011). In exercising these responsibilities, the Authority holds full regulatory powers, including the issuance of licences for natural gas transportation and the conclusion of concession agreements. These concession agreements become effective only upon approval by royal decree.

To ensure service quality and protect consumer interests, the Authority for Public Services Regulation launched the implementation of Service Level Assurance (SLA) standards on 1 July 2022. These standards define the minimum service levels that must be met by companies licensed for electricity and water distribution and supply, in alignment with international best practices for service provision.

Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA)

The Public Authority for Civil Defence and Ambulance was established pursuant to Royal Decree No. (3/2013), issued on 8 January 2013. The Authority enjoys legal personality and financial and administrative independence and operates under the affiliation of the Royal Oman Police. On 30 November 2014, the Authority's system was formalised by Royal Decree No. (68/2014).

Subsequently, Royal Decree No. (39/2021) was issued on 22 April 2021, amending the name from the "Public Authority for Civil Defence and Ambulance" (PACDA) to the "Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority." (CDAA).

According to Article (2) of this Royal Decree, the CDAA is mandated to protect lives and property, promote public safety and reduce the risks and impacts of natural and industrial disasters. It is also responsible for implementing measures and procedures related to civil defence and ambulance services, including roadside emergency response, general emergency medical services, and air ambulance operations.

In alignment with Royal Decree No. (39/2021), the CDAA launched the "Home Ambulance Service" on 6 February 2022. This service focuses on providing emergency medical care for critical home-based cases and ensuring timely transportation to the nearest and most appropriate healthcare facility. The initiative began in governorates with lower population densities as a first phase, with a broader nationwide rollout planned under a phased implementation schedule.

Social Protection Fund (SPF)

The Social Protection Fund (SPF) is the official institution responsible for overseeing all social protection initiatives and programmes in the Sultanate of Oman. It is an administratively and financially independent entity, established pursuant to Royal Decree No. (33/2021). The SPF's core mandate is to implement the provisions of the Social Protection Law and related legislation, in collaboration with relevant authorities, through programmes of protection, empowerment, integration, care, and support aimed at delivering services to eligible groups.

SPF strives to enhance the quality of life and ensure comprehensive social care and protection for the population. It is also tasked with monitoring key indicators of the sustainability, efficiency, adequacy, and equity of these programmes and policies. This includes assessing their alignment with national goals and strategic visions in the field of social protection and evaluating their sustainability, coherence, inclusiveness, and long-term stability. SPF also examines the broader impact of social protection policies on promoting community engagement, safeguarding social cohesion, and preserving the rights of both current and future generations.

Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC)

Since its establishment, the Omani Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has made dedicated efforts to promote a clear vision and articulate a consistent message on human rights within the Sultanate of Oman. It has remained committed to monitoring and protecting human rights, fundamental freedoms and associated responsibilities, in accordance with the powers granted to it under Royal Decree No. (124/2008), issued on 15 November 2008, which established the Human Rights Commission and defined its mandate. OHRC enjoys legal personality and operational independence in carrying out its functions. Its headquarters is located in Muscat, and it operates under the affiliation of the State Council.

On 18 April 2016, Royal Decree No. (23/2016) was issued, amending its name to the Omani Human Rights Commission.

In line with the broader restructuring of the state's administrative apparatus, Royal Decree No. (57/2022) was issued to reorganise the work of OHRC. It stipulates the formation of the Commission with 14 members, comprising individuals with expertise and interest in human rights, as well as representatives from several government agencies concerned with human rights matters. Members are appointed

by royal decree and at their first meeting, a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected from those not representing government entities. OHRC has also strengthened its international engagement by maintaining communication with human rights organisations and actively participating in regional and international meetings, conferences, workshops and training programmes. OHRC has responded to several international reports addressing human rights issues in Oman, coordinating with relevant authorities to verify and address the information and observations presented therein.

temas de derechos humanos relacionados con Omán, coordinando previamente con las autoridades competentes para verificar la información y observaciones contenidas en dichos informes.

Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Science (ONCECS)

The Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Science (ONCECS) aims to facilitate communication and coordination between Arab, Islamic, and international organisations, such as UNESCO, ALECSO, and ICESCO, in the fields of education, culture and science. It also serves as a link between these organisations and the relevant authorities, educational institutions, and cultural bodies within the Sultanate of Oman. ONCECS also strives to introduce and promote Omani heritage, as well as highlight the Sultanate's efforts in education, culture and science. ONCECS collaborates with the three aforementioned organisations to support mutual understanding and foster communication between peoples and civilisations.

The Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation is awarded biennially through UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme, in recognition of the outstanding contributions made by individuals, groups, institutions and organisations in the field of environmental protection, in line with UNESCO's policies and programmes in this area.

Notably, the Sultan Qaboos Prize is the first Arab prize to be awarded globally in the field of environmental protection. It was established in 1989 at the initiative of the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, may Allah rest his soul, and with the endorsement and warm support of UNESCO.

Cyber Defence Centre (CDC)

The Cyber Defence Centre (CDC) was established pursuant to Royal Decree No. (64/2020), issued on 10 June 2020, as the competent authority responsible for cyber defence in the Sultanate of Oman. It acts as the national reference for protecting the country's vital interests in cyberspace and supervises the development of national capabilities in the field of cybersecurity. CDC is affiliated with the Internal Security Service.

The CDC aims to strengthen the ability of relevant authorities and individuals to respond to electronic threats. It also focuses on building specialised national capacities in electronic security by fostering partnerships across key sectors, both locally and internationally. To fulfil its mission, CDC carries out a range of responsibilities. These include preparing the national cybersecurity strategy and its implementation mechanisms, proposing necessary amendments, and ensuring its effective enforcement following approval by the Council. It is also tasked with establishing the regulatory and legal frameworks and governance mechanisms required to implement the strategy. CDC also prepares the national plan to address cybersecurity risks and threats, monitors compliance with it after approval by the relevant committee and proposes amendments when necessary. It further defines and classifies cybersecurity infrastructure and identifies key sectors and entities involved in the national cybersecurity system.

In support of personal data protection, the Personal Data Protection Law was issued on 9 February 2022, under Royal Decree No. (6/2022). The law applies to all personal data processing and stipulates that such processing must adhere to principles of transparency, honesty and respect for human dignity, and must only occur with the explicit consent of the data subject. Requests to process personal data must be made in a clear, explicit and understandable written form and data controllers are required to provide evidence of the individual's written consent for any processing activities.

Oman Council

Legislative
and Oversight
Powers
Strengthening
the Omani
Shura Model



The Shura Council in the Sultanate of Oman embodies the nation's Shura (consultative) approach, serving as a cornerstone of development and a vital link between the leadership and the people. It reflects the values of justice, equality and participatory governance. Since the beginning of the modern Omani Renaissance, the Sultanate of Oman has witnessed numerous important milestones that have strengthened the concept of Shura and emphasised the importance of citizen participation in decision-making. With the accession of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, to power, a new phase of parliamentary work has begun, as the recent legislative amendments represent a strategic step towards achieving Oman Vision 2040.



Oman Council: A Pioneering Force in Advancing the Omani Renaissance

The Shura Council in the Sultanate of Oman entered a new phase with the issuance of Royal Decree No. (6/2021) on 11 January 2021, which laid a solid foundation for parliamentary work and opened new horizons for enhancing public participation. This decree embodies a comprehensive vision aimed at developing parliamentary practice in alignment with the aspirations of Oman Vision 2040.

As a continuation of this process, Oman Council Law was promulgated by Royal Decree No. (7/2021), further empowering the bicameral structure comprising the appointed State Council and the elected Shura Council. The law clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of both chambers, reflecting the Sultanate's commitment to strengthening legislative and oversight functions.

The Basic Statute of the State includes eight articles that establish the overarching framework for Oman Council, while Oman Council Law comprises 78 articles outlining general provisions, the structure of the two councils, their mandates and authorities. Article (12) of the Basic Statute of the State affirms the fundamental values upon which governance in Oman is based, emphasising justice, Shura (consultation) and equality.

His Majesty
the Sultan
inaugurates
the annual
session
of Oman
Council and
underscores
the
importance
of integration
in advancing
the nation's
development
journey

Oman Council: Synergy in Action for Greater National Impact

As part of his unwavering commitment to strengthening the role of the Oman Council in the sustainable development process, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, commended the maturity of the Council's experience and its integration with various state institutions. This came during the opening of the first annual session of the eighth term of Oman Council on 14 November 2023. His Majesty affirmed that such integration enhances the effectiveness of national action, emphasising the importance of extending greater attention and support to the Council. This, he noted, would contribute to realising the desired achievements and advancing the nation's overarching goals of promoting citizens' well-being.

Underscoring the Council's pivotal role within the state apparatus, His Majesty described it as a key partner in governance, a partnership that places profound responsibilities upon its members. He called on them to uphold these responsibilities with dedication, guided by the national interest and the principles enshrined in the Basic Statute of the State and the laws regulating their duties. His Majesty also highlighted the broad powers conferred upon the Council by the Oman Council Law, expressing his confidence that their work will meaningfully contribute to enriching the Omani Renaissance, which continues to witness ongoing development and progress.

In line with the royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, the State Council convened the second ordinary session of the eighth term (2023–2027) on 10 November 2024, in accordance with the provisions of Article 38 of the Oman Council Law. On the same day, the Shura Council held the second annual session of the tenth term (2023–2027), pursuant to Article (41) of the same law.



The powers granted to the State Council continue to reinforce its vital role in driving forward the national development process

State Council and Its Strategic National Role

The State Council is regarded as one of the main pillars of national action in the Sultanate of Oman, playing a vital role through the exercise of its legislative and financial powers in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Statute of the State, the Oman Council Law and its internal regulations. The State Council has a legal personality, as well as financial and administrative independence. Its membership comprises a distinguished group of experienced and competent individuals, further strengthening its role in advancing national development.

The Council's term spans four years, consisting of four annual sessions, each lasting no less than eight months. This period commences with the annual opening of the Oman Council, underscoring the State Council's commitment to sustained and diligent work in support of the objectives of sustainable development.

The State Council serves as a fundamental pillar in the national development process. It operates with financial and administrative independence and is composed of qualified and experienced staff



State Council- Social and Cultural Committee

Mandates and Competencies of the State Council

Article (72) of the Basic Statute of the State outlines the powers entrusted to the State Council:



Approval or amendment of draft laws



Reviewing development plans and the state's general budget and issuing recommendations on both

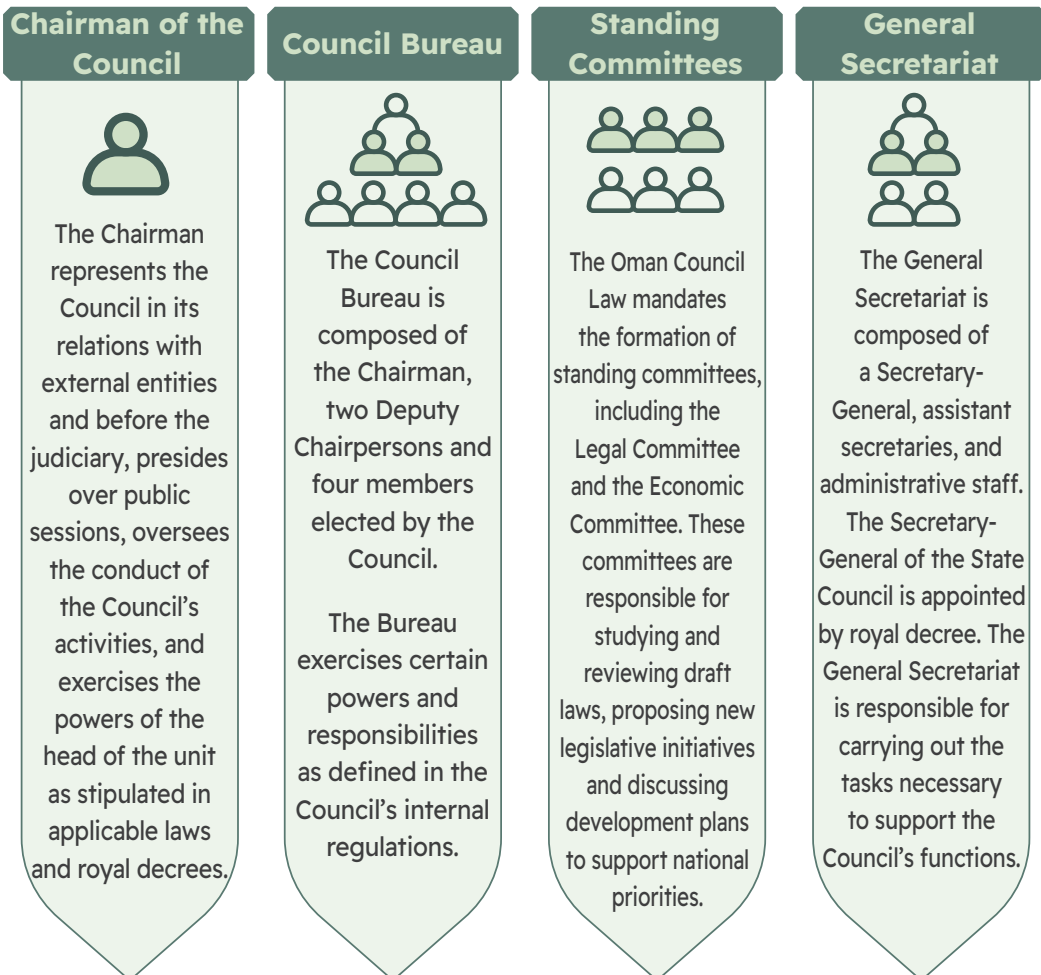


Proposing new draft laws that align with national interests

The Council also approves or amends draft legislation and examines matters related to the implementation of development strategies. In this capacity, the Council submits proposals aimed at enhancing development programmes and national initiatives. Through its work, the Council contributes to preserving the core values of Omani society, safeguarding its achievements, and proposing viable solutions to a range of economic and social challenges.

Organisational Structure of the State Council

The State Council consists of several main bodies, as outlined in Article (31) of the Oman Council Law. These include:



A Surge in Activity Marked by Milestones

The first session of the eighth term of the State Council witnessed heightened activity and the realisation of several key accomplishments. The Council deliberated on a range of significant issues aimed at reinforcing the legislative and regulatory framework of the Sultanate of Oman. This included the review of draft laws referred by the government, the approval of various proposals and studies, and the discussion of the draft State General Budget for the fiscal year 2024. During this session, five meetings were convened, addressing a number of important topics, including:

- The Draft Law on the Protection of Bank Deposits.
- The Draft Law on Regulating Trade in Wildlife.
- The Draft Law on Media.

The Council also held a joint session with the Shura Council to discuss disputed articles in several draft laws referred by the government, in accordance with the provisions of Article (49) of the Oman Council Law No. (7/2021). This session exemplified the spirit of cooperation between the two chambers in the pursuit of national objectives.

With regard to the activities of the Council's Bureau during the first session of the current term, five meetings were convened to examine approximately 41 topics. The Bureau hosted several heads of the Council's standing committees to discuss their reports on draft laws and study proposals referred to them.

Additionally, the Bureau reviewed responses from the Council of Ministers concerning topics raised by the State Council, as well as a number of reports and communications received from various entities. The Council's Bureau issued a total of 31 decisions and extended 6 official invitations during the session.

During its meetings in the first session, the Council's Bureau formed three Ad hoc committees, namely:

1. The Ad hoc Committee to Study the Contents of the Royal Speech Delivered at the Opening of the First Session of the Eighth Term of the Oman Council.
2. The Ad hoc Committee to Examine the Mechanism for Diversifying Sources of Income in the Sultanate of Oman.
3. The Ad hoc Committee to Study the Role of Plant Breeds in Strengthening the Local Economy and Analysing Related Opportunities and.

The Bureau also approved five proposals submitted by the standing committees for consideration during the eighth term.

Throughout the first session, the standing committees and their subcommittees within the State Council held over 131 meetings, during which they reviewed various referred topics as well as their own proposals. These meetings included 22 hosting sessions with officials and specialists from relevant entities, along with three joint meetings held in collaboration with the Shura Council.

In its continued efforts to strengthen coordination and cooperation with other state institutions, the State Council has remained committed to playing a national role characterised by harmony and consistency, supporting the ongoing process of development and nation-building in the Sultanate of Oman. In accordance with the provisions of the Basic Statute of the State and the Oman Council Law and within the framework of established coordination with the esteemed Council of Ministers, consultative meetings are held during each session to explore areas of collaboration. A joint meeting was convened between the Council of Ministers and members of the Council's Bureau, during which emphasis was placed on the importance of unifying efforts in service of the nation's higher interests. The meeting also reaffirmed the need to strengthen the partnership between the government and the Council and endorsed the continuation of targeted community awareness initiatives. Furthermore, coordination between the State Council and the Shura Council remains ongoing, ensuring complementarity in their work through their respective bureaux and committees, in addition to joint sessions. The mechanism for resolving disagreements over draft law articles is set out in the Basic Statute of the State.

As part of its external engagement efforts, the State Council continues to build bridges of communication and cooperation with sisterly and friendly countries. It has received several visiting officials and delegations and has maintained an active presence in regional and international forums through the participation of its members in conferences and meetings organised by parliamentary bodies and unions.



Shura Council: Empowering community engagement in national decision-making is essential to achieving holistic and sustainable development

Shura: A Pioneering Approach Towards Comprehensive Development

The Shura Council continues to advance steadily along its pioneering path, in alignment with national aspirations, strengthening its role in promoting comprehensive development across the Sultanate of Oman and translating the goals of Oman Vision 2040 into tangible outcomes. By fostering community participation in national decision-making, the Council aims to integrate its functions with those of other state institutions through its legislative and oversight activities.

The Tenth Term Elections: Marking a Transformational Shift

The elections for the tenth term of the Shura Council (2023–2027) marked a qualitative shift in electoral mechanisms and practices, contributing to the strengthening of the Shura process in the Sultanate of Oman. The elections witnessed active public participation, with a total of 496,279 voters across the various governorates of the Sultanate. A total of 90 members were elected, with a voter turnout of 65.07%; a positive indicator of the success of the electronic voting system via the “Entikhab” application, which facilitated accessibility and efficiency for all segments of society.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, affirmed during the opening of the current session of the Council that the Oman Council is a fundamental partner in the state system. This emphasis reflects the great responsibility placed upon the Council and has helped shape the course of its work during the tenth term (2023–2027), which has progressed steadily in line with the Sultanate’s developments across various sectors.

The work of the Shura Council has coincided with the launch of the executive plan for Oman Vision 2040, underscoring the Council’s commitment to achieving the vision’s goals and foundational principles. The Council operates on a clear framework derived from the Basic Statute of the State and Oman Council Law, which outline the Council’s areas of authority and scope of work. The first annual session of the tenth term witnessed strong coordination between the Council and the government through constructive meetings and a meaningful national partnership. Within the scope of its legislative competencies, the Council reviewed and completed 18 draft laws and agreements referred by the government, comprising 9 agreements and 9 draft laws.

During this annual session, the Council convened 12 regular meetings, including 4 dedicated sessions to discuss ministerial statements delivered by service ministers. These sessions included the submission of questions and observations regarding the performance of governmental bodies, as well as discussions on challenges facing the implementation of development plans across different sectors. Ministries that presented their data and statements included the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. The Council also examined the Ministry of Finance’s statement on the draft State General Budget for the fiscal year 2024.

In 2024, the Shura Council actively utilised the oversight tools granted to it under the Oman Council Law issued in 2021. These tools include:

**Parliamentary
questions**

Formal requests

**Requests for
information**

Interpellations

**Discussions of
ministerial statements**

**Urgent motions for
resolution**

These tools reflect the concerns of citizens and the wider public, with a total of 145 follow-up actions recorded. These included 29 parliamentary questions spanning various service, health, education and social sectors, along with more than 98 requests for information. In addition, 4 urgent statements were delivered addressing a range of public issues and demands.

The Shura Council Bureau convened 13 meetings, while the Council's committees held 97 meetings during which they addressed 89 topics based on expressed wishes across a variety of sectors, each within its respective area of competence. The committees' work also included hosting officials and conducting field visits.

In line with its commitment to fostering partnership and integration in national efforts, the Shura Council continues to enhance cooperation with other state institutions. The meeting held between the Council Office and the Council of Ministers stands as a notable example of this coordination, aimed at achieving shared objectives and implementing programmes that strengthen the national governance framework. This collaboration reflects a continuous effort to translate strategic coordination into tangible outcomes that serve national interests.

The Shura Council also maintained an active presence in regional and international parliamentary forums, striving to exchange experiences and perspectives that support greater collaboration between the Sultanate of Oman and its sisterly and friendly nations. The Council participated in several significant events, including:

- The 6th Conference of the Arab Parliament
- The 14th Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
- The 5th Conference of the League of Parliamentarians for Al-Quds
- The 18th Session of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States

These participations underscore the Council's commitment to engaging effectively with global issues. The Council also sought to reinforce Oman's foreign relations through a series of bilateral visits to brotherly and friendly countries, reflecting the Sultanate's position, vision and foreign policy across a range of regional and international contexts.

**Firm
Principles**
and Shared
Values
Strengthening
Bonds of
Friendship and
Dialogue



Throughout its modern history, the Sultanate of Oman has been distinguished by its balanced relations with countries across the world. It has focused on building a modern state characterised by peace, security and stability, while striving to ensure a better quality of life for the Omani people. Oman's foreign policy is grounded in firm principles, most notably, good neighbourliness, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and respect for their sovereignty. These positions are guided by the values of truth, justice and fairness, and are deeply rooted in the Sultanate's Arab and Islamic identity. The Sultanate of Oman consistently advocates for the peaceful resolution of disputes and the promotion of constructive dialogue. It also seeks to strengthen mutual interests with sisterly and friendly nations, while actively supporting the efforts of regional and international organisations.

Omani Diplomacy: A Pillar of Trust and Stability in International Relations

The Sultanate of Oman is recognised for its policies of transparency and clarity, which set it apart in its approach to regional and international developments, whether at the Gulf, Arab or global level. Omani diplomacy has earned a strong reputation and high credibility in international circles, positioning the Sultanate of Oman as a key player in initiatives aimed at resolving regional and global disputes. Its approach is grounded in dialogue and mutual understanding, steering away from the pursuit of narrow self-interest and instead prioritising the promotion of regional and international peace, security and development.

Oman continues to advance its renewed Renaissance under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, guided by a consistent policy of friendship with all, and a firm commitment to dialogue and tolerance in addressing global challenges. His Majesty has reaffirmed these principles in his first speech before the Council of Oman, stating: “We affirm the constants established by the late Sultan in our country’s foreign policy, which are based on peaceful coexistence among nations and peoples, good neighbourliness, non-interference in the internal affairs of others, respect for the sovereignty of states, and international cooperation in various fields.” In line with these values, the Sultanate of Oman actively supports international cooperation and seeks to contribute to sustainable development through investment promotion and innovative solutions. These efforts further strengthen Oman’s position as a leading economic and diplomatic hub in the region.

His Majesty’s visits contribute to strengthening international relations and enhancing cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and other nations

The vision of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, is characterised by positive cooperation with everyone and the promotion of mutual interests. This vision was manifested on several occasions, including His Majesty’s reception on 6 February 2024, of His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, during his official visit to the Sultanate of Oman as a “state” visit. During the meeting, ways of cooperation in various fields that contribute to achieving the aspirations of the two countries towards a more prosperous future. The visit witnessed the opening of the Duqm Refinery and petrochemical industries, which embodies the fruitful economic relations between the two brotherly countries. His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, paid an official visit to the State of Kuwait on 13 May 2024, invited by his brother Emir of the State of Kuwait. During the visit, issues of common concern were discussed and ways of moving forward with the current cooperation at all levels were raised, as well as sharing views on different regional and international issues and topics.



His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him, receives Emir of the State of Kuwait as part of his visit to the Sultanate of Oman

The Omani-Kuwaiti Business Forum for Trade and Investment also addressed ways to enhance the existing joint cooperation between the two brotherly countries across various sectors. The forum witnessed the signing of 4 Omani-Kuwaiti memoranda of understanding (MoUs), each aimed at strengthening collaboration in key areas. The first MoU focused on diplomacy and training, aiming to foster cooperation in developing and proposing modern training methodologies for specialists in foreign policy, international relations, political science, and other related fields. It also includes the exchange of documents, studies, and expertise on topics of mutual interest. The second MoU addressed direct investment, establishing a framework for cooperation between the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and the relevant Kuwaiti authority. It is designed to facilitate knowledge and expertise exchange and to encourage increased Kuwaiti direct investment in the Sultanate of Oman. The third MoU focused on standardisation and quality. It seeks to enhance cooperation between Oman's Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Kuwait's Public Authority for Industry in the areas of standards, quality control, laboratory services, and conformity assessment. The agreement aims to improve the quality of non-food industrial products and shared services between the two nations. The fourth MoU established a joint framework for cooperation and coordination in investment between the Oman Investment Authority and the Kuwait Investment Authority. It includes discussions on future investment opportunities in Oman and the State of Kuwait, as well as exploration of opportunities within existing investment funds managed by the Oman Investment Authority. These funds cover diverse sectors such as energy, utilities, infrastructure, communications, transport, and logistics services, and may include the establishment of a joint investment fund.



From His Majesty the Sultan's visit to the United Arab Emirates

His Majest's visit to the United Arab Emirates

On 22 April 2024, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, undertook a state visit to the United Arab Emirates, aimed at strengthening the deep-rooted historical ties between the two brotherly nations and reinforcing the bonds of fraternity, harmony and good neighbourliness. The visit marked a significant elevation in bilateral relations, reaching the level of a solid strategic partnership across multiple sectors. During the visit, several agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed, covering diverse fields such as investment, renewable energy, railways and modern technology. In the area of investment, a memorandum of understanding was signed to explore, identify and exchange investment opportunities and foster economic cooperation.

In the field of modern technology, the official launch of the “Jasoor” Fund was announced. The fund aims to support direct investment in emerging technology companies and small and medium enterprises operating within the technology sector. Abu Dhabi Development Holding Company, represented by Lunit, and the Oman Investment Authority, represented by Ethka Group, reaffirmed their commitment to financing the fund with a capital of USD 180 million, as stipulated in a memorandum of understanding signed between both parties in 2022.



His Majesty also visited the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi during this state visit



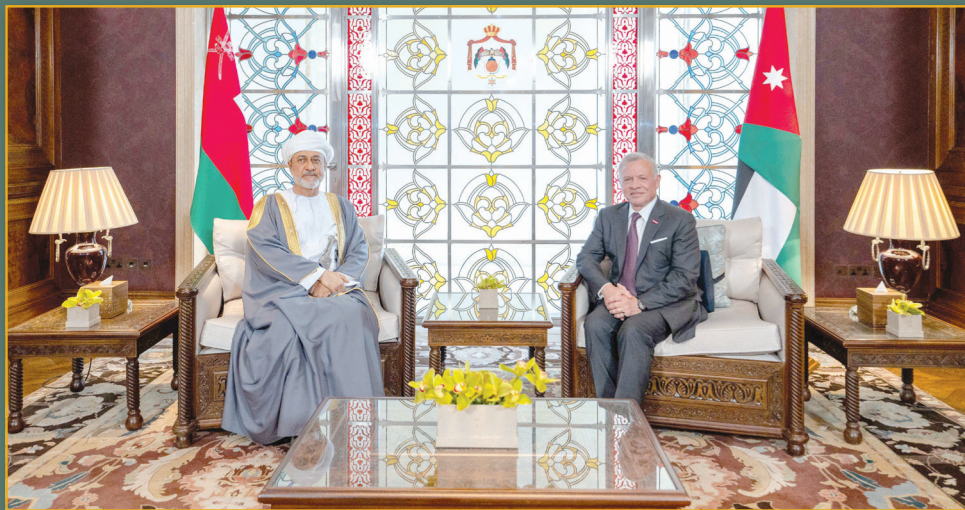
His Majesty's visit to the United Arab Emirates

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In the renewable energy sector, a number of Omani institutions and companies affiliated with the Oman Investment Authority, particularly those engaged in green minerals, renewable energy and the electricity sector, signed a framework memorandum with leading UAE companies. The agreement paves the way for feasibility studies to be conducted for pioneering projects in the fields of green aluminium, iron and renewable energy.

As part of the railway network project linking the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates, three key agreements were signed. The first was a shareholder partnership agreement between Etihad Rail, Oman Rail and Mubadala, authorising the implementation of the joint railway project. The second agreement involved the awarding of civil works contracts for the joint network to an Omani-Emirati consortium led by Trojan Construction Group (NPC) and Gulfar Engineering and Contracting. The third agreement covered systems and integration contracts, which were awarded to a consortium comprising Siemens and HAC, to ensure the railway network is equipped with cutting-edge technologies.



From His Majesty the Sultan's visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

His Majesty's visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



His Majesty's visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

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On 22 May 2024, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him, undertook an official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The visit focused on reviewing prospects for enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly nations across various sectors, in light of the deep-rooted historical ties and bonds that unite them. Discussions centred on ways to promote mutual interests and deliver tangible benefits for the peoples of Oman and Jordan. The two sides also exchanged views on key issues of concern on the Arab and international arenas, with particular emphasis on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories. The visit resulted in the signing of a memorandum of understanding in the field of investment, aimed at strengthening joint investment opportunities in a range of sectors, including information and communications technology, food and agriculture, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, energy, mining, tourism and logistics services. Both parties also underscored the importance of continued development of bilateral cooperation in all fields and reaffirmed the centrality of the Palestinian cause, stressing the necessity of reaching a just and comprehensive solution. They expressed their firm rejection of any attempts to separate the Gaza Strip from the West Bank and voiced their support for preserving the historical and legal status quo at the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem.



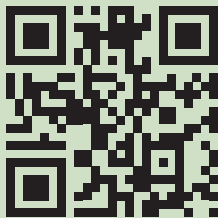
His Majesty the Sultan during his reception of the President of the Algerian Republic

Algerian President's visit to the Sultanate of Oman

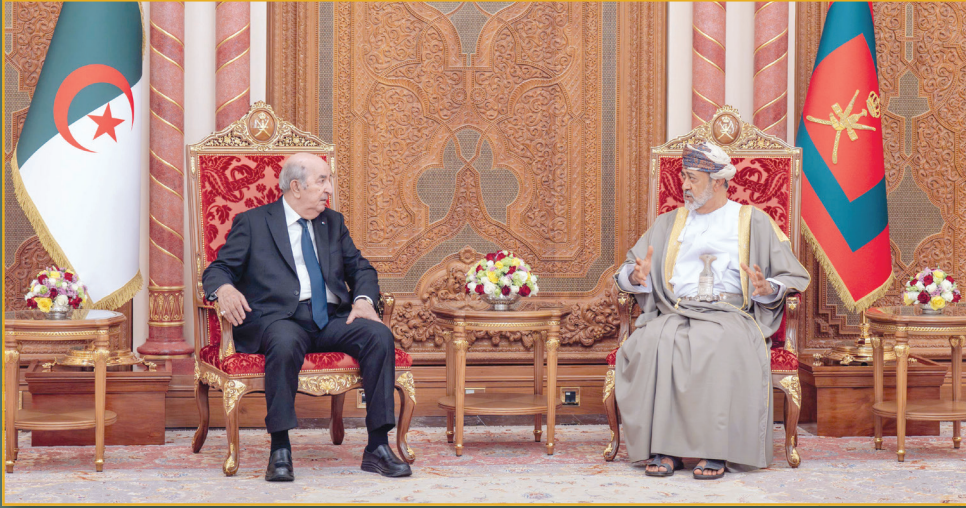


**His Majesty the Sultan during
his reception of the President
of the People's Democratic
Republic of Algeria**

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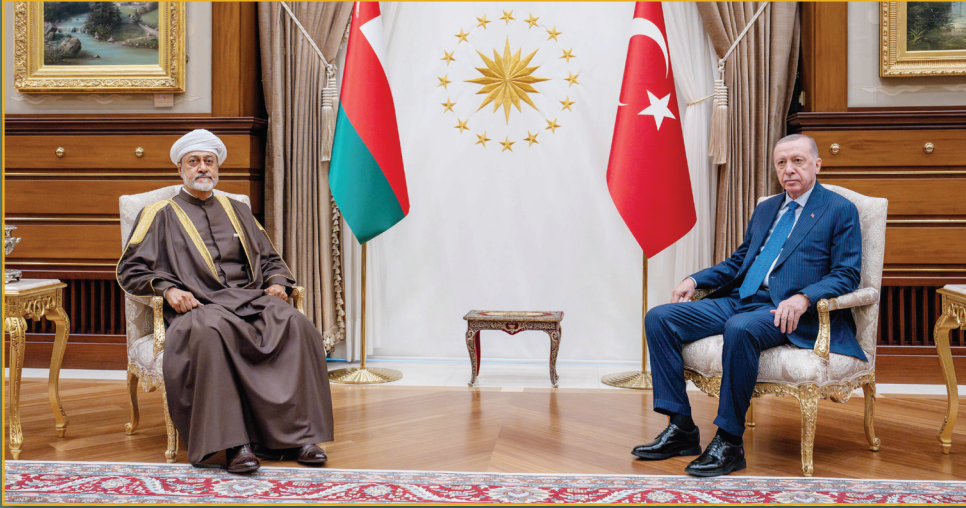
On 28 October 2024, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, received His Excellency President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the sisterly People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, as part of a three-day state visit to the Sultanate of Oman. The visit was marked by discussions held in a spirit of brotherhood and mutual understanding, reflecting a strong and sincere desire to deepen bilateral cooperation across various sectors in a manner that serves the shared interests of both nations and their peoples. The visit underscored the deep-rooted and enduring fraternal relations that bind the two countries. During the talks, both sides reaffirmed the significance of the outcomes of the eighth session of the Omani-Algerian Joint Committee, held in Algeria in June 2024, and the accompanying business seminar, which explored the vast and promising investment and trade opportunities available in both countries. The two leaders also welcomed the initiative to establish a joint Omani-Algerian investment fund, which



His Majesty the Sultan Holds Bilateral Talks with the President of Algeria

will facilitate partnerships and projects in key areas such as renewable energy, petrochemicals, desert agriculture, technology, tourism and other high-potential sectors. Further strengthening bilateral ties, the governments of the Sultanate of Oman and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria signed eight memoranda of understanding. These covered cooperation in higher education, research, financial services, employment and training, media, environment and sustainable development, as well as the organisation of exhibitions, events, conferences and investment promotion.

With regard to consultations, the exchange of views, and coordination on current regional and international developments, both sides emphasised the urgent need for an immediate cessation of Israeli aggression against the Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Syria and Iran. They reaffirmed the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to end the illegal occupation and to establish an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the two-state solution and in pursuit of full membership in the United Nations. The two sides also underscored the importance of enhancing cooperation and coordination between their countries within regional and international organisations and forums, in a manner that serves their mutual interests and contributes to strengthening joint Arab action. They reiterated their support for the foundations of security, peace, and stability in the region and the world and for all efforts aimed at reinforcing peaceful approaches and upholding international law, respecting international legitimacy and adhering to the principles of justice and equity.



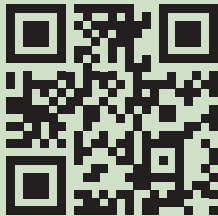
His Majesty the Sultan and the President of the Republic of Türkiye exchange views on a number of issues

His Majesty's visit to the Republic of Türkiye



His Majesty's visit to the Republic of Türkiye

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His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, also paid a state visit to the Republic of Türkiye on 28 November 2024. The visit featured discussions on strengthening the historical bonds of friendship and enhancing cooperation across various fields to serve the interests of both countries and support the realisation of their shared aspirations. During the visit, His Majesty held talks with His Excellency President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of the Republic of Türkiye, exchanging views on a range of issues of mutual concern in light of regional and international political developments. The two leaders emphasised the importance of opening broader horizons for investment and economic cooperation, as well as reinforcing trade relations and increasing the volume of bilateral trade.

The visit witnessed the signing of 10 agreements and memoranda of understanding, most notably a strategic partnership between the Oman Investment Authority and the Turkish Armed Forces Retirement Fund (OYAK), valued at \$500 million. This partnership aims to invest in key sectors including food, industry, healthcare and new energy. Additionally, an agreement was signed to strengthen cooperation in the fields



During the visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Republic of Türkiye

of public health and the pharmaceutical industry.

In the political sphere, a memorandum of understanding was signed to organise regular political consultations between the two countries. In the diplomatic field, another memorandum was signed to enhance cooperation in diplomatic studies and training.

In the area of investment promotion, a memorandum of understanding was signed to establish a joint framework aimed at facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise in vital sectors, including food security, agriculture, logistics, transportation, infrastructure, minerals, financial and banking services, tourism, information technology and industry, with potential for broader cooperation going forward. A further memorandum was signed in the agricultural sector, covering cooperation in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and water resources. This agreement also includes provisions for the exchange of information and research, rural development initiatives, the promotion of joint investments in agriculture and food industries, the development of water desalination and renewable energy technologies and the strengthening of national capacities in flood management.

Additional agreements included a memorandum of cooperation on labour relations and a memorandum to enhance cooperation in entrepreneurship and the development of small and medium enterprises between the Omani SMEs Development Authority and the Turkish Ministry of Industry. The Central Bank of Oman and the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye also signed a memorandum of understanding to advance cooperation in payment systems and research initiatives. Finally, a cultural memorandum of understanding was signed to promote cooperation in the arts and cultural industries, including the exchange of artistic events and exhibitions.



During His Majesty the Sultan's visit to the Kingdom of Belgium

His Majesty's visit to the Kingdom of Belgium



His Majesty's visit to Kingdom of Belgium

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On 2 December 2024, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, undertook an official visit to the Kingdom of Belgium at the invitation of His Majesty King Philippe Leopold Louis Marie, King of the Belgians. This visit represented a historic and significant milestone in the evolution of bilateral relations, reaffirming the deep bonds of friendship and cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Belgium. It underscored the two nations shared values, mutual respect and joint commitment to advancing peace, stability and prosperity.

The two sides discussed avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation across key economic sectors, including maritime industries, port collaboration, the transition to sustainable energy and the production of green hydrogen. Discussions also addressed the development of trade and service industries, life sciences, technological innovation and space sciences. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening investment partnerships and fostering joint economic opportunities. They also agreed to continue negotiations on extending the Duqm Port concession, with the aim of achieving mutual benefits and further deepening economic ties between the two countries.



Visit of the President of the Republic of Belarus to the Sultanate of Oman

Visit of the President of the Republic of Belarus to the Sultanate of Oman

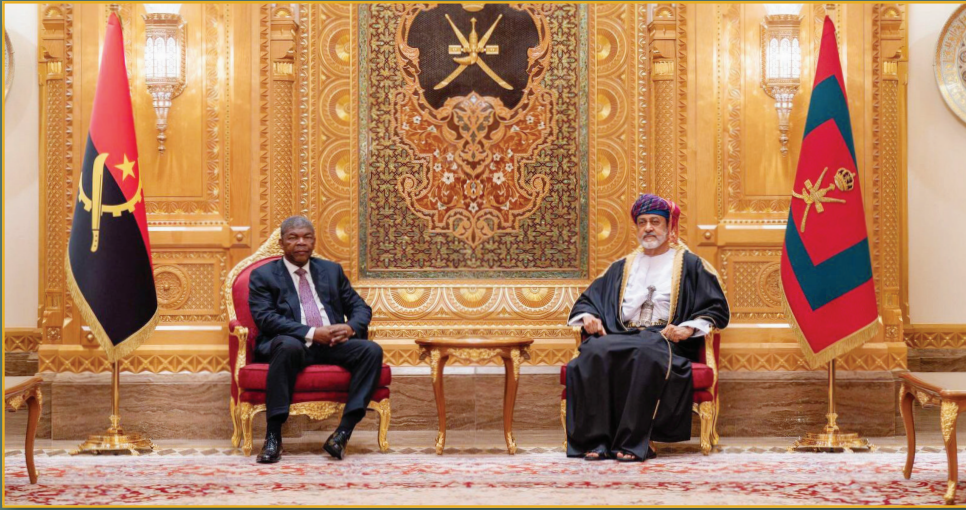


Visit of the President of the Republic of Belarus to the Sultanate of Oman

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On 15 December 2024, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, received His Excellency President Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, at Al Alam Palace on the occasion of His Excellency's visit to the Sultanate of Oman. An official session of talks was held, during which both sides reviewed the strong bilateral relations and explored ways to enhance cooperation and partnership in the economic, investment, technological and medical sectors, in a manner that serves the mutual interests of the two friendly nations. The talks also covered a number of regional and international developments, as well as issues of common concern. Particular focus was placed on cooperation in the field of food security, including the implementation of joint projects for food production in the Sultanate, the exchange of expertise and official visits and the utilisation of Belarus's experience in advancing agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture. The visit witnessed the signing of two memoranda of understanding in the fields of industry and standardisation. Discussions also highlighted promising investment opportunities in the food, pharmaceutical and automotive sectors, and explored the potential for establishing joint ventures aimed at both local and international markets, steps that would further strengthen the economic partnership between the two countries.



His Majesty the Sultan during his reception of the President of the Republic of Angola

Visit of the President of the Republic of Angola to the Sultanate of Oman



Visit of the President of the Republic of Angola to the Sultanate of Oman

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On 19 December 2024, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, may Allah protect him, received His Excellency President João Manuel Lourenço, President of the friendly Republic of Angola, at Al Alam Palace on the occasion of his official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. An official session of talks was held, during which the two sides reviewed areas of cooperation and investment in key sectors such as mining, agriculture, food security, seaports, logistics and clean energy, with the aim of advancing economic growth and fostering further progress and prosperity for both countries. The visit also witnessed the signing of one agreement and two memoranda of understanding. The agreement pertained to the acquisition of a stake in the Catoca and Luele mines in the Republic of Angola. Additionally, a memorandum of understanding was signed to enhance cooperation in the energy sector, along with another to explore opportunities in strategic financial initiatives. These developments underscore the two countries' shared commitment to deepening their strategic partnership and building mutually beneficial relations that open new horizons for development and cooperation.



Sayyid Asaad bin Tarik chairs the Sultanate of Oman's Delegation at the Joint Summit between the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union in the Kingdom of Belgium

The Sultanate of Oman Plays an Effective Role on the International Scene

As part of the Sultanate of Oman's efforts to strengthen international relations and enhance its effective role on the global stage, His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, led the Sultanate's delegation to the 45th Summit of the Supreme Council of GCC Leaders, held in December 2024 at Bayan Palace in the sisterly State of Kuwait. On 14 October, His Highness also received His Excellency Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus. The meeting underscored the shared desire to support and expand cooperation between the two countries across various sectors. During the visit, three memoranda of understanding were signed: The first memorandum of understanding focused on cooperation in the fields of competition protection and anti-monopoly regulation. It aims to promote collaboration, share legal developments, and exchange technical expertise between the two countries. The second memorandum of understanding concerned consumer protection and sought to enhance cooperation in related legislation, information exchange and institutional expertise. The third memorandum of understanding aimed to strengthen investor protection and create favourable conditions for the effective development of financial and insurance markets between the two friendly nations.

Representing His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him, His Highness Sayyid Asaad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs and Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, headed the Sultanate of Oman's delegation

to the first Joint Summit between the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union, held in the Kingdom of Belgium. In parallel, His Excellency Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, led the Sultanate's delegation to the Third South Summit of the Group of 77 and China, and the 19th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in the Ugandan capital, Kampala. Furthermore, His Excellency Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, headed Oman's delegation to the Future Summit, held at the United Nations Headquarters on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly. In light of the passing of President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi and his companions, may Allah have mercy on them, an official delegation, acting on the royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, conveyed His Majesty's condolences and heartfelt sympathy to His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Mokhber, Acting Head of the Executive Authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In addition, His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Saeed Al Maamari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, participated in the "International Meeting for Peace," held in Paris, France.

By the command of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him, His Highness Sayyid Asaad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs and Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, received a number of senior officials and ambassadors during the year. His Highness held meetings with: His Excellency Bakhtiar Saidov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, His Excellency Mehmet Şimşek, Minister of Treasury and Finance of the Republic of Türkiye and His Excellency Dr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives. These meetings reflected the commitment of the Sultanate of Oman to strengthening diplomatic ties and enhancing cooperation in various fields with friendly nations. His Highness also received a number of ambassadors accredited to the Sultanate of Oman who were concluding their terms of service. In farewell meetings, His Highness received: His Excellency Ambassador Ali Najafi Khoshrudi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Ambassador Najmuddin Muhammad Ali, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Her Excellency Ambassador Amina Ali Abdullah, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya and Her Excellency Ambassador Li Lingbing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China. During these meetings, the ambassadors expressed their sincere gratitude to His Majesty the Sultan for the support extended to them during their tenure. They praised the cooperation of the Omani government and people, which enabled them to carry out their duties smoothly and effectively. In a separate meeting on 26 June 2024, His Highness Sayyid Asaad received His Excellency Bakhtiar Saidov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The discussions focused on enhancing existing cooperation between the two countries and exploring new areas for partnership that serve the mutual interests of both nations and their peoples. A number of regional and international issues of common concern were also discussed.

Throughout the year, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him, received numerous cables and phone calls from leaders of sisterly and friendly countries. These communications focused on exchanging views on key regional and international developments, reinforcing bilateral relations and exploring ways to promote peace and stability in the region.

Oman

A Land of Tolerance and Peace



Throughout its long and rich history, the Sultanate of Oman has been distinguished by its enduring commitment to tolerance and peaceful coexistence with diverse peoples and civilisations. This approach is deeply rooted in the nation's profound cultural and Islamic heritage. The values of tolerance, mutual respect and acceptance of others have become integral to the Omani identity and societal fabric. Within Omani society, principles such as understanding, dialogue, wisdom and sincere counsel are regarded as essential foundations for building meaningful relationships with others. This deeply embedded ethos reflects the character of Omani society, marked by openness, hospitality and respect for the cultures and beliefs of others. This has made Oman a distinguished model of peaceful human coexistence and intercultural harmony.



The values of tolerance and acceptance of others are deeply embedded in the Omani national identity

In his royal speech on 23 February 2020, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him, affirmed that the world has long known Oman, throughout its ancient and deep-rooted history, as a civilised, effective and influential force in fostering regional prosperity, security, and peace. Generations have taken turns in carrying the nation's pride, remaining committed to ensuring that Oman's enduring message of peace continues to resonate across the globe. With pride, His Majesty declared: "Destroy not, bring closer and do not distance. This is what we will strive to continue, with you and by you, so that we may all, with determination and resolve, fulfil our civilisational role and our historical trust."

Oman has consistently promoted the values of tolerance and cultural coexistence; a commitment reflected in the active participation of its leaders in various religious and cultural events. On 16 September 2024, His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, presided, on behalf of His Majesty the Sultan, over the ceremonial reading of the Noble Prophet's Biography on the occasion of the Prophet's birthday. The event was held at the Mawlid Hall in Al Alam Palace in honour of the best of creation, Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). The Sultanate's foreign and domestic policies are rooted in steadfast principles of good neighbourliness, constructive neutrality and friendship with all nations. Oman adopts dialogue and tolerance as cornerstones in addressing global challenges, reinforcing its standing as an oasis of peace and mutual understanding.

This enduring Omani approach to religious tolerance has been solidified within the framework of the modern Omani Renaissance as a core national value. The Basic Statute of the State affirms this principle by safeguarding individual freedoms, including religious practice. Article (34) of the Basic Statute clearly states: “The freedom to practise religious rites according to recognised customs shall be protected, provided that it does not violate public order or morals.” Furthermore, Article (282) of the Omani Personal Status Law permits resident Muslims who are not Omani citizens to apply their own legal provisions in matters of personal status, in alignment with the country’s respect for cultural and legal diversity.

Peaceful Coexistence

In line with its deeply rooted principles, the Sultanate of Oman continues to champion the values of religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence. The country provides places of worship for various religious communities, ensuring that individuals can freely and safely practise their faith. Reflecting this commitment, His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, received in January 2024 the supervisors of places of worship in the Sultanate. During the meeting, His Highness expressed Oman’s appreciation for all religions and reaffirmed that Islam, as practiced in Oman, is grounded in the principles of tolerance, coexistence and mutual respect. He emphasised the rejection of religious discrimination and underscored the importance of cooperation between followers of different faiths to foster a culture of acceptance and advance the cause of peace. The supervisors of places of worship praised the Sultanate’s unwavering policy of supporting interfaith dialogue and promoting a climate of mutual understanding.

This approach is further enshrined in Omani legislation. The Penal Code criminalises any act that incites religious or sectarian strife or discord, deeming such acts a threat to national security. According to Article (108), individuals found guilty of such offences may be sentenced to imprisonment for no less than three years and no more than ten years. The law also classifies the offences “as aggravated if it occurs in places of worship, official institutions, public spaces, or is committed by a public employee in the course of duty, or by individuals of religious standing.”

As part of its ongoing efforts to advance a culture of peace and mutual respect, the Sultanate launched the «Message of Peace from the Sultanate of Oman» initiative. The project aims to challenge and correct negative stereotypes about Islam in the West and to foster interreligious and intercultural dialogue. It reflects Oman’s long-standing experience in promoting religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence and reaffirms the country’s belief in tolerance as a universal humanitarian principle. Implemented by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, the exhibition has reached more than 140 venues across the globe and within the Sultanate, serving as a global platform for the dissemination of peace and understanding.

This initiative forms part of Oman Vision 2040, which prioritises citizenship, national identity and cultural heritage. The Ministry continues to expand its local and international role in promoting human values and peaceful coexistence, working collaboratively with relevant institutions to mitigate the impact of global crises on societies. It also actively contributes to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly its 17 goals aimed at achieving inclusive and sustainable development worldwide.

Oman's International Participation in Advancing the Values of Peace and Global Understanding



The 15th OIC Summit Conference in Banjul

Convened under the theme of **“Enhancing unity and solidarity through dialogue for sustainable development.”**

Oman's speech called for compassion, mercy and cooperation between countries.

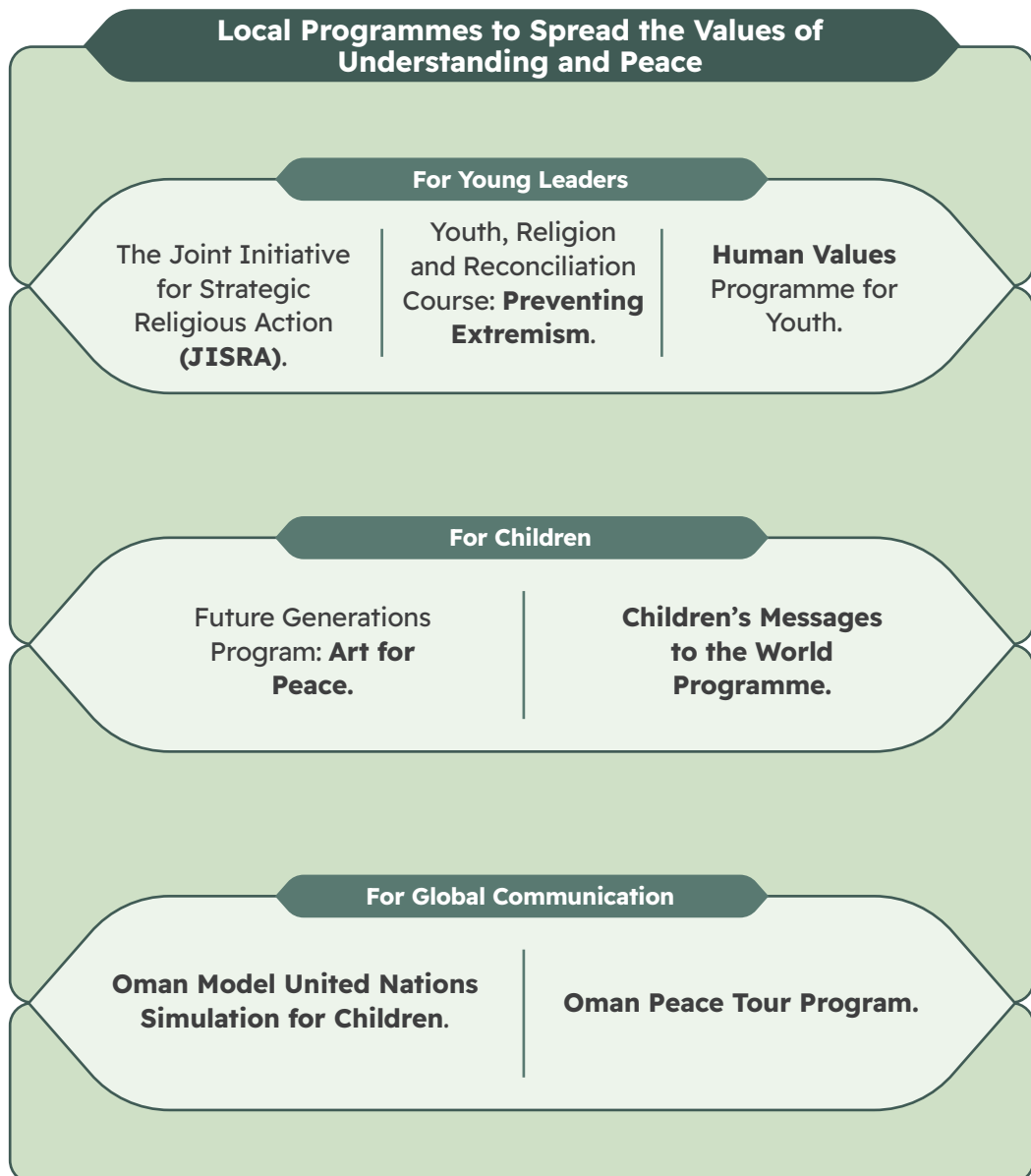


International Meeting for Peace in Paris

Convened under the theme of **«Imagine Peace.»**

The Sultanate of Oman has called for the strengthening of peace, dialogue, mutual understanding, and international coexistence.

As part of the celebration of the International Day of Tolerance, the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs organised a series of local programmes and events aimed at promoting the values of understanding, peace, and coexistence. These initiatives targeted youth, children and the broader global community, reflecting the Sultanate of Oman's ongoing vision to foster a culture of tolerance. A total of 250 individuals benefited from these activities, underscoring the Ministry's commitment to instilling these values across all segments of society.





Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque

Endowments

As part of its efforts to realise Oman Vision 2040, the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs enhanced endowment governance in 2024 by developing mechanisms to regulate endowments, endowment institutions, and their agents. It also launched the National Endowment Registry, which contributed to the documentation of endowment assets and the issuance of ownership certificates. In addition, the Ministry developed the Electronic Endowment System to promote community engagement and strengthen societal partnerships.

Endowments are among the priorities of Oman Vision 2040 in the area of protection and social welfare, with the Ministry committed to improving the sector in line with national strategic directions. Endowments are deeply rooted in Oman's heritage, with a history that spans over a millennium. Notable historical endowments include those of Imam Al Warith bin Kaab Al Kharousi, which date back more than 1,200 years. Today, there are more than 100 types of endowments in the Sultanate, reflecting the sector's remarkable diversity and profound social impact. These include endowments for aflaj (irrigation channels), water springs and related facilities, canes for the visually impaired, birds of the Two Holy Mosques, orphans, guests and the sick.



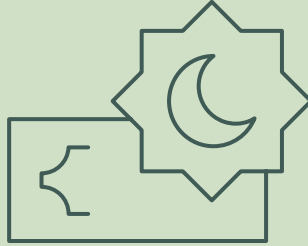
**Scan the QR code
to immerse yourself
in the rich details of
the mosque**

**Enjoy your visit to Sultan
Qaboos Grand Mosque**

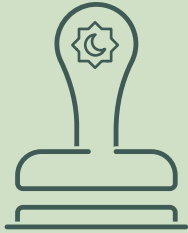


Endowment Governance: Achievements in 2024

60
endowment
institutions



14 million
Omani riyals
Total endowment
assets

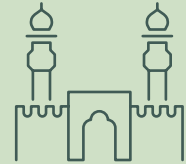


161
endowment
assets were
registered in
2024



5%
The
percentage
of increase in
endowment
revenues

95%
Construction
and operating
expenses for
mosques



Announcing

3
new
endowment
institutions

Signing

5
investment
contracts



Awareness
sessions and
signing of
memoranda of
understanding for
auditing accounts



Contracting with

3
companies
to manage
endowment
building

Digital Transformation:

In line with the government's policy of digitising the administrative apparatus of the state, the digitisation and e-government sector has been identified as a key priority within the framework of Oman Vision 2040, which aims to enhance governance across government bodies, resources and projects. In 2024, the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs made significant strides in advancing its digital services.

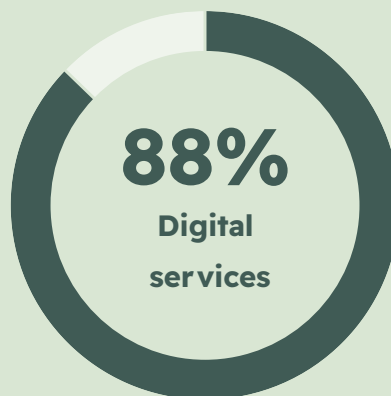
The Ministry launched several electronic systems across various sectors, including the Electronic Zakat System, the Electronic Hajj System, the Electronic Mosque System, the Electronic Endowment System and the Distance Learning System for the Holy Qur'an. In addition, an internal office system was introduced for employees, along with a number of mobile applications. These initiatives reflect the Ministry's strong commitment to digital transformation and to improving the efficiency and accessibility of its services.

Mosques:

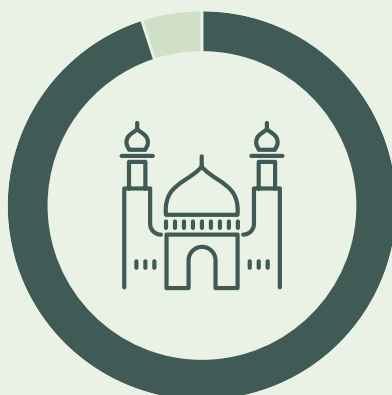
As part of its efforts to realise Oman Vision 2040, the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs places special emphasis on the mosque sector, recognising it as a cultural and religious symbol that reflects the essence of the Prophet's message. This message calls for goodness, charity and benevolence and helps to strengthen social cohesion. The Ministry designated 2024 as the Year of the Mosque and aligned its executive plans with this initiative to achieve its objectives. These included the construction of new mosques and renewed focus on their spiritual and social roles. In addition, the Ministry developed the Electronic Mosque System, a platform designed to support procedural governance and facilitate service delivery.

The system provides a range of services, including those related to mosque lands, building permits, facility development and data management. It is also integrated with several government entities, such as the Ministry of Housing, the Authority for Public Services Regulation and other relevant bodies, to streamline administrative procedures. Through various programmes, such as «Growth and Sustainability», the Ministry aims to improve the operational efficiency of mosques and Qur'an schools. This ensures the continuity of their noble mission and expands their impact within society.

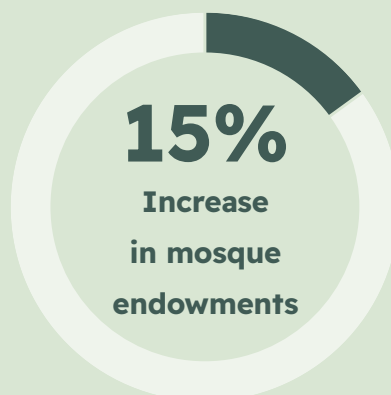
Digital transformation to sustain the mosques' mission in Oman Vision 2040



95%
Community
participation
in covering
construction and
operating costs



17,600
Number of
mosques,
prayer halls
and prayer
rooms



Zakat:

In parallel, and as part of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs' efforts to achieve integration between its various initiatives, the Zakat sector has been identified as a key priority under the protection and social welfare pillar of Oman Vision 2040. The Ministry's work in this sector is guided by several core principles, most notably the strengthening of trust between the state and society and the organisation of Zakat in a way that facilitates its collection and ensures its fair distribution to those who are entitled to it. The Electronic Zakat System has played a central role in achieving comprehensive procedural governance. It offers a range of services to Zakat payers, beneficiaries and committees and contributes to improved transparency and professionalism in the management of the sector. These efforts are undertaken in cooperation with the international firm Deloitte.

Zakat Sector Development

32.2
thousand
families
benefited

66
Zakat Committees
in various
governorates of
the Sultanate of
Oman

2.5%
revenue
growth rate in
2024

Future Vision of Zakat

Establishing
a Zakat
institution in
every wilayat
or governorate

Empowering
families
eligible for
Zakat

Providing
health
insurance and
educational
support for
those eligible
for Zakat

Fatwa:

Within the framework of the priorities of education, learning, research and national capacity building set out in Oman Vision 2040, the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs continues to advance its objectives in the sector of fatwa, Da'wah activities and religious guidance. The programme titled "Our Identity: Thought and Ethics" has contributed to a 5% increase in the number of beneficiaries of religious activities and fatwa services. The Ministry has supported this progress by issuing annual religious guides and supervising the preparation of Friday sermons, mosque lessons and lectures, which attract significant engagement from the community. In addition, the Ministry launched the Electronic Knowledge Sector System, which aims to regulate the provision of religious knowledge services to the public and strengthen religious awareness throughout society.

Key Services of the E-knowledge Sector Platform

**Presenting
the lectures
locations**

**Distributing
employees**

**Designing
electronic
plans and
electronic
forms**

**Receiving
fatwas
through the
Fatwa Office
website**

The Fatwa Office plays a pivotal role in issuing religious rulings (fatwas) and promoting Islamic values and Omani identity. It organises scholarly workshops aimed at combating extremism, as well as public events such as Ta'aruf and the My Identity Exhibition, which serve to foster greater understanding of Islam and celebrate Omani heritage. The Office also contributes to international collaboration through its partnership with the Omani Research and Studies Centre at the International Islamic University Malaysia, strengthening cultural awareness and academic cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and Malaysia.



Qualified national cadres and advanced technologies are employed to observe the crescent moon with high precision

Astronomical Affairs

The Sultanate of Oman has adopted a distinctive approach that integrates the objectives of Sharia with the principles of astronomy in observing the crescent moon. The Department of Astronomical Affairs plays a central role in this effort, carrying out a wide range of responsibilities. These include monitoring the sighting of the crescent moons for the Hijri months and other celestial phenomena; operating and maintaining telescopes and astronomical observatories to ensure their precision; and preparing detailed astronomical reports related to the Islamic calendar and cosmic events. The Department also compiles the annual Hijri calendar based on astronomical calculations, participates in conferences, seminars, lectures and exhibitions in the field of astronomy, and monitors global developments and data on celestial phenomena via international networks.

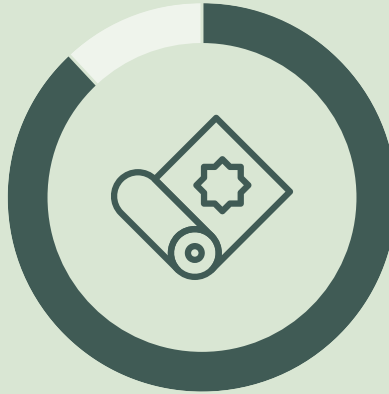
Hajj and Umrah

The Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs has adopted a modern approach to managing the Hajj and Umrah sector, centred on governance, quality and digital transformation, in coordination with relevant authorities, foremost among them the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah. The Ministry seeks to create a conducive environment for pilgrims, ensuring the smooth and comfortable performance of the rituals in line with the objectives of Sharia. Its responsibilities include coordinating Hajj affairs with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, ensuring fair distribution of Oman's pilgrim quota and managing the Omani

Hajj mission. To enhance trust and operational efficiency, the Ministry has implemented integrated electronic systems that promote transparency, regulate Hajj company contracts and ensure financial oversight to prevent any suspicion of money laundering. It also works to improve service quality by modernising transportation and service delivery mechanisms, restructuring Hajj companies, enacting legislation to govern Umrah operations and expanding endowment investments to sustainably support the sector.

Achievements of the e-Hajj System in the Sultanate of Oman

267.6
thousand Hajj
applications
between 1437
AH and 1446 AH



90%
Satisfaction rate
for the electronic
system used
to grant Hajj
entitlements

76.9
Thousand
pilgrims have
performed the
Hajj since the
start of the
regime



100%
Electronic systems
now govern the
management of
applications and
entitlements

The system
was awarded
the (Labmate
Excellence
Award) for Best
Digital System



90%
Reduction in
the repetition
of performing
Hajj has been
achieved

The Omani Economy

Pathways to Sustainable Growth and Diversification



The performance of the Omani economy in 2024 was marked by strong growth across a range of economic indicators. This included solid public finance outcomes, improved sovereign credit ratings, a rise in GDP and increased revenues from both oil and non-oil sectors. Foreign trade continued to flourish, while labour market conditions and employment rates improved. Notably, inflation fell to a safe level of 0.58% by the end of the third quarter of 2024, compared to 1.15% during the same period in the previous year.

During the inauguration of the first annual session of the eighth term of the Council of Oman, held at the Council's headquarters in Muscat Governorate, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, affirmed in his speech that the nation, "with the help and guidance of Allah, our country has been able to achieve commendable results and significant accomplishments at the social, economic and financial levels, despite the challenges facing the global economy, which have negatively affected our economy and national programmes. We have carefully devised our plans with objectives that respond to present needs and aim to achieve sustainable growth through the prudent management of our resources, in order to ease the burden of public debt. We have also allocated a portion of financial surpluses to support social sectors and stimulate economic growth."

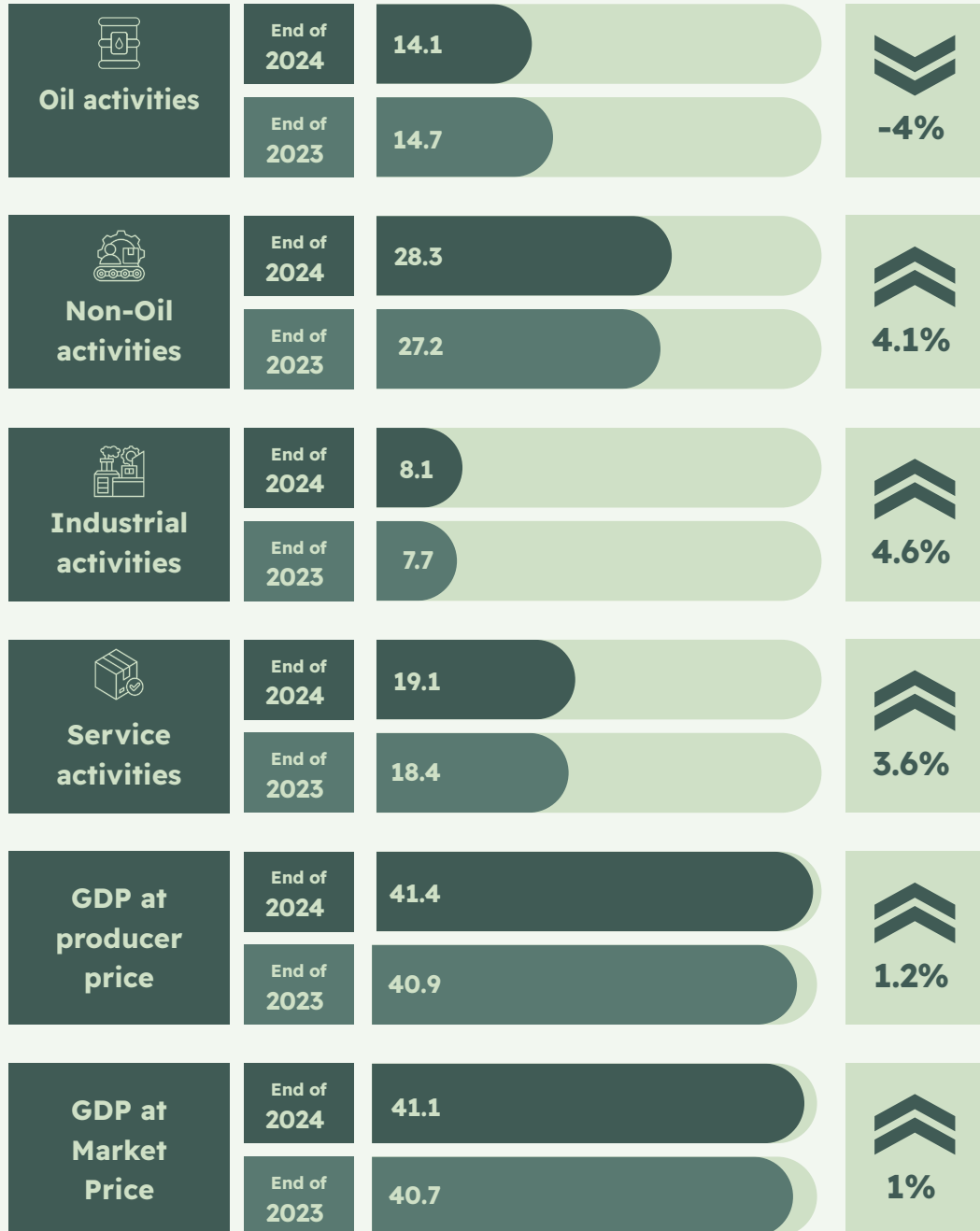
His Majesty further reaffirmed the nation's commitment to continuing efforts to diversify sources of national income by increasing non-oil revenues, thereby ensuring the long-term sustainability of the state's public finances.

Preliminary financial performance results for the year 2024 indicated a surplus of approximately OMR 540 million, compared to the initially projected deficit of around OMR 640 million in the state's general budget. The government strategically allocated the additional revenues to a range of objectives that helped improve key financial and economic indicators, strengthen the Sultanate of Oman's fiscal position and enhance its sovereign credit rating. Part of these revenues was directed towards increasing social spending and stimulating economic growth.

Notable progress was also made in managing public debt, owing to the sustained implementation of various government measures and initiatives. These included efforts to rationalise expenditure, enhance spending efficiency and boost non-oil government revenues, complemented by rising oil prices. This enabled the adoption of a policy to allocate a portion of the surplus towards reducing public debt levels, refinancing high-cost government loans with lower-cost alternatives and maintaining the Ministry of Finance's commitment to servicing public debt obligations.

The positive performance of the Omani economy can be attributed to three fundamental elements: strong governance, policy clarity and the presence of effective accelerators. These accelerators include the programmes of the Tenth Five-Year Plan and the national initiatives that support the priorities of Oman Vision 2040. Together, they have helped create an enabling environment that brings the objectives of the Vision's first executive plan closer to realisation.

Gross Domestic Product at current prices (Value: billion Omani Riyals)



Source: Monthly Statistical Bulletin – January 2025 – National Centre for Statistics and Information

Contribution of economic sectors to GDP

at current prices at the end of 2024



2.21
billion OMR

Natural gas



11.95
billion OMR

Crude oil



4.1
billion OMR

Manufacturing industries



0.2
billion OMR

**Mining and
quarrying**



1
billion OMR

**Agriculture,
forestry and
fishing**

Source: Monthly Statistical Bulletin – January 2025 – National Centre for Statistics and Information

Government Revenues and Public Spending

The preliminary financial results for 2024 indicate a 15.1% increase in public revenues, reaching approximately OMR 12.6 billion, compared to the OMR 11.01 billion approved in the State General Budget for the same fiscal year. This increase is primarily attributed to a 24.3% rise in net oil revenues, which amounted to approximately OMR 7.3 billion, compared to the approved figure of OMR 5.9 billion. Net gas revenues also increased by 14.3%, reaching around OMR 1.8 billion, up from the budgeted OMR 1.5 billion.

The preliminary financial performance results in 2024 also show a 4.1% rise in total public spending, reaching approximately OMR 12.1 billion, compared to the OMR 11.6 billion allocated in the general budget. This increase is largely due to a 12.4% rise in total contributions and other expenditures, which reached around OMR 2.4 billion, compared to an originally approved amount of OMR 2.1 billion, mainly due to higher subsidies for petroleum products and the electricity sector. Development expenditures for civil ministries were recorded at approximately OMR 1.1 billion.

Preliminary financial performance results for 2024 - Value (Omani billion riyals)

Statement	Approved budget for 2024	Preliminary results for 2024	% Change
Net Oil Revenues	5.915	7.353	24.3%
Gas revenues	1.575	1.800	14.3%
Total revenues	11.010	12.674	15.1%
Spending	11.650	12.134	4.1%
Deficit/excess	-0.640	0.540	—

Source: State General Budget Guide – January 2025 – Ministry of Finance

Public Debt

The Sultanate of Oman has witnessed a marked improvement in its public debt profile, driven by the continued implementation of a range of government measures and initiatives aimed at enhancing spending efficiency and rationalisation. The increase in non-oil government revenues, combined with rising oil prices, has further enabled the government to adopt a policy of allocating a portion of these additional revenues towards reducing public debt. The government has successfully replaced high-cost loans with lower-cost alternatives, alongside the Ministry of Finance's continued commitment to repaying public debt obligations in line with the approved borrowing plan, which includes the following:

**Early
repayment of
foreign loans
amounting to**

355
OMR million

Repayment of

600

OMR million

**of due
government
development
bonds and local
sovereign sukuk**

**Issuance of
government
development bonds
and ijarah sukuk
totalling OMR**

705
million in line
with the approved
borrowing plan

Preliminary financial results for 2024 revealed a reduction in public debt by approximately OMR 0.8 billion, bringing the total down to around OMR 14.4 billion from OMR 15.2 billion at the beginning of the year. The public debt-to-GDP ratio also declined to 34%, while public debt servicing costs fell to approximately OMR 940 million, compared to the OMR 1.05 billion allocated in the 2024 budget.

Official statistics reflect the ongoing improvement in indicators of the Sultanate of Oman's financial strength, the steady reduction in the burden on the general budget, and a broader trend towards fiscal stability. This progress is further supported by continued increases in oil prices, alongside sustained efforts to diversify the economy and strengthen non-oil revenue streams.

Credit Rating

The Sultanate of Oman's sustained efforts to strengthen its financial and economic position, manage its fiscal obligations and reduce public debt have contributed to a steady improvement in its credit ratings and enhanced investor confidence in the national economy. These developments have fostered a more attractive investment environment and stimulated growth across various economic sectors. In August 2024, Moody's revised its outlook for the Sultanate from stable to positive, while affirming its credit rating at Ba1. This upgrade was attributed to the ongoing decline in public debt and improved oil revenues. Moody's also highlighted the government's commitment to its public debt management strategy, which has helped mitigate external debt risks, reinforce the financial position, and maintain stable levels of foreign reserves.

In September 2024, Standard & Poor's upgraded Oman's credit rating from BB+ to BBB- with a stable outlook, returning the Sultanate to investment grade after several years of downgrades linked to the earlier oil price crisis. The agency cited the continued improvement in fiscal performance, the achievement of budget surpluses, and the reduction in public debt as key drivers of the upgrade. It further noted that Oman's credit rating could improve again within the next two years if the government sustains its efforts to increase non-oil revenues and enhance the efficiency of public spending.

In December 2024, Fitch Ratings also revised its outlook for the Sultanate from stable to positive, affirming the credit rating at BB+. The agency attributed this to ongoing government initiatives to reduce debt, both public and that of state-owned enterprises, consolidate public finances and grow sovereign net foreign assets. Fitch stated that Oman's credit rating could see further upgrades if fiscal consolidation continues, public debt declines as a percentage of GDP, non-oil revenues expand and foreign currency reserves strengthen.

Oman's Credit Rating in 2024

Authority	Classification	Classification Date
MOODY'S	Ba1 With a positive outlook	August 2024
S&P Global	BBB- With a stable outlook	September 2024
Fitch Ratings	BB+ With a positive outlook	December 2024

Foreign Direct Investment

The Sultanate of Oman is making sustained efforts to promote and attract foreign investment through the modernisation of investment legislation, laws and regulations, the creation of a supportive environment for business start-ups, the digital transformation of services provided to investors, and the provision of a range of incentives and benefits for those seeking to invest in the country. These initiatives also contribute to enhancing Oman's global competitiveness.

By the end of the fourth quarter of 2024, the volume of foreign direct investment in the Sultanate had exceeded OMR 30 billion, an 18% increase compared to the same period in 2023.

Statement	Value	Change in value % at the end of the fourth quarter (2023/2024)
Oil and gas recovery	23.94 billion OMR	24.1
Manufacturing industries	2.48 billion OMR	0.3
Financial intermediation	1.37 billion OMR	-7.7
Real estate, rental and commercial project activities	1.01 billion OMR	-2.2
Transportation, Storage and Communications	340.8 million OMR	18.3
Electricity and water	324.7 million OMR	-0.2
Commerce	262.3 million OMR	4.7
Hotels and restaurants	110 million OMR	-4
Constructions	88.7 million OMR	-5.8
Other	96.9 million OMR	17
Total	30.04 billion OMR	18

Oman Investment Authority

The Oman Investment Authority (OIA) serves as the investment arm of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman. It is responsible for managing, investing, and developing the country's assets both locally and internationally. OIA's portfolio is geographically diverse, with investments spanning more than 50 countries worldwide.

OIA plays a central role in driving the Sultanate's sustainable economic development and contributes significantly to the realisation of Oman Vision 2040, which aspires to position Oman as an attractive destination for investment.

OIA Performance Indicators in 2024

1. The official operations of the Oman Future Fund have commenced, with 19 projects approved to date: three major projects and sixteen small, medium, and emerging ventures.



2. Entry into new investment funds across both public and private markets, along with a number of international investments, most notably a stake in xAI, a company specialising in artificial intelligence technologies founded by American entrepreneur Elon Musk.



3. Establishment of a joint investment fund worth USD 500 million in partnership with the Turkish government's OYAK Fund.



Energy Sector

The official opening of the Duqm Refinery and the signing of investment agreements to develop the plastics industry through cooperation between the OQ Group and the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn). A portion of OQ Exploration & Production and OQ Basic Industries was also offered for public subscription.



Logistics Sector

Implementation of the Hafeet Railway Project has commenced. ASYAD has also placed an order for two state-of-the-art fifth-generation LNG carriers, an investment that will strengthen Oman's maritime transport capabilities and reinforce the Sultanate's position as a reliable regional hub in the natural gas sector. In addition, ASYAD Group acquired Skybridge Freight Solution to expand its operations and enhance access to the world's largest economies.

 Services Sector	The fifth phase of the Barka Desalination Plant was inaugurated and the project to interconnect the main electrical networks between northern and southern Oman was implemented. These initiatives aim to enhance the sustainability and efficiency of electricity supply across the Sultanate.
 Telecommunications Sector	Omantel supported the launch of the first Omani experimental rocket (Duqm-1) and the successful testing of the first two Omani-designed semiconductor chips (Oman-1 and Oman-2), both achieving a 100% success rate. The project also attracted and trained approximately 100 Omani engineers, contributing to national capacity building in advanced technologies.
 Mining Sector	The foundation stone was laid for an integrated mining and copper concentrate production project in the Wilayat of Yanqul, with estimated reserves of 22.9 million tons. Operational work also commenced on the 4-Block copper project to extract approximately 2.9 million tons of reserves from the Al Aseel and Al Bayda mines in the Wilayats of Sohar and Liwa. In addition, 5.5 million tons of additional copper ore reserves were discovered in Yanqul, alongside the identification of a new chrome ore site in North Al Batinah, which may increase reserves to 150,000 tons. Notably, the first shipment of copper concentrates was exported from the Al Aseel mine in Sohar Governorate, marking a resumption of copper exports after a three-decade suspension.
 Food Security Sector	The vessel Admas has joined the fleet of the Omani Surface Fisheries Company, a subsidiary of the Fisheries Development Oman. Additionally, the integration of business activities between the Oman Food Investment Holding Company (Nitaj) and the Fisheries Development Oman Company has commenced, forming a unified entity with an economic and commercial stature that reflects the strategic importance of this sector.
 Tourism Sector	The Trump International Hotel Oman was launched as part of the Aida project in the Sustainable City of Yiti. In addition, a number of major tourism projects were announced, including the Salalah Gardens Project, the Club Med Musandam Resort, and the Santani-Jebel Shams Project, reflecting ongoing efforts to enhance Oman's tourism infrastructure and diversify its offerings.
In-Country Value (ICV)	The proportion of spending on SMEs within the total supply chain expenditure increased to 21.4% by the end of the third quarter of the year, surpassing the target of 11.40%.
International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds	The successful hosting of the annual meeting of the International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds marked the largest gathering of its kind in history, with over 300 participants representing 46 countries, including heads of state, ministers and CEOs from more than 50 sovereign wealth funds.

Banking Sector

Preliminary data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) indicate a 2.7% increase in nominal GDP in the Sultanate of Oman at the end of the third quarter of 2024, compared to the same period in 2023. This growth was primarily driven by a 4.2% increase in non-oil sector output, while GDP from the hydrocarbon sector rose by 0.3%.

Real GDP grew by 1.9% over the same period, largely due to a 4.2% rise in the added value of non-oil activities. As of the end of November 2024, the average price of Omani crude oil stood at approximately USD 81.8 per barrel, representing a slight increase of 0.1% compared to the same period in 2023. In terms of production, average daily oil output reached 993.1 thousand barrels, reflecting a 5.4% decrease. On the price front, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) showed an annual inflation rate of 0.6% by the end of November 2024.

Banking Sector Indicators as of November 2024

Total credit granted by the banking sector	32.2 billion OMR
Credit granted to the private sector	26.8 billion OMR
Total deposits in the banking sector	31.5 billion OMR
Total private sector deposits in the banking sector	20.6 billion OMR
Total deposits in traditional commercial banks	24.9 billion OMR
Total assets of traditional commercial banks	38.5 billion OMR
Total assets of Islamic banks and windows	8.3 billion OMR
Total deposits in Islamic banks and windows	6.6 billion OMR
Broad Money Supply (M2)	24.8 billion OMR

Tender Board

By the end of the third quarter of 2024, the Tender Board had issued 83 tenders with a combined value exceeding OMR 654.7 million.

Key 5 Tenders Issued by the Tender Board

Tender	Cost (million OMR)
Muscat Expressway Expansion	140.3
Dualisation of the Al Kamil-Al Wafi-Jalan Bani Bu Hassan-Jalan Bani Bu Ali road, located in the South A'Sharqiyah Governorate.	55
The dualisation of the Izki-Nizwa Road (Southern Qarut-Barakat Al Mouz-Farq) in the A'Dakhiliyah Governorate.	42.5
The dualisation of the Raysut-Al Mughsail Road in Dhofar Governorate.	33
Construction of a flood-protection dam on Wadi Al-Zuhaymi in the Wilayat of Liwa, North Al Batinah Governorate.	11.4

By the end of the third quarter of 2024, the Tender Board had awarded 67 tenders with a total value exceeding OMR 319 million.

Key 7 Tenders Awarded by the Tender Board in 2024

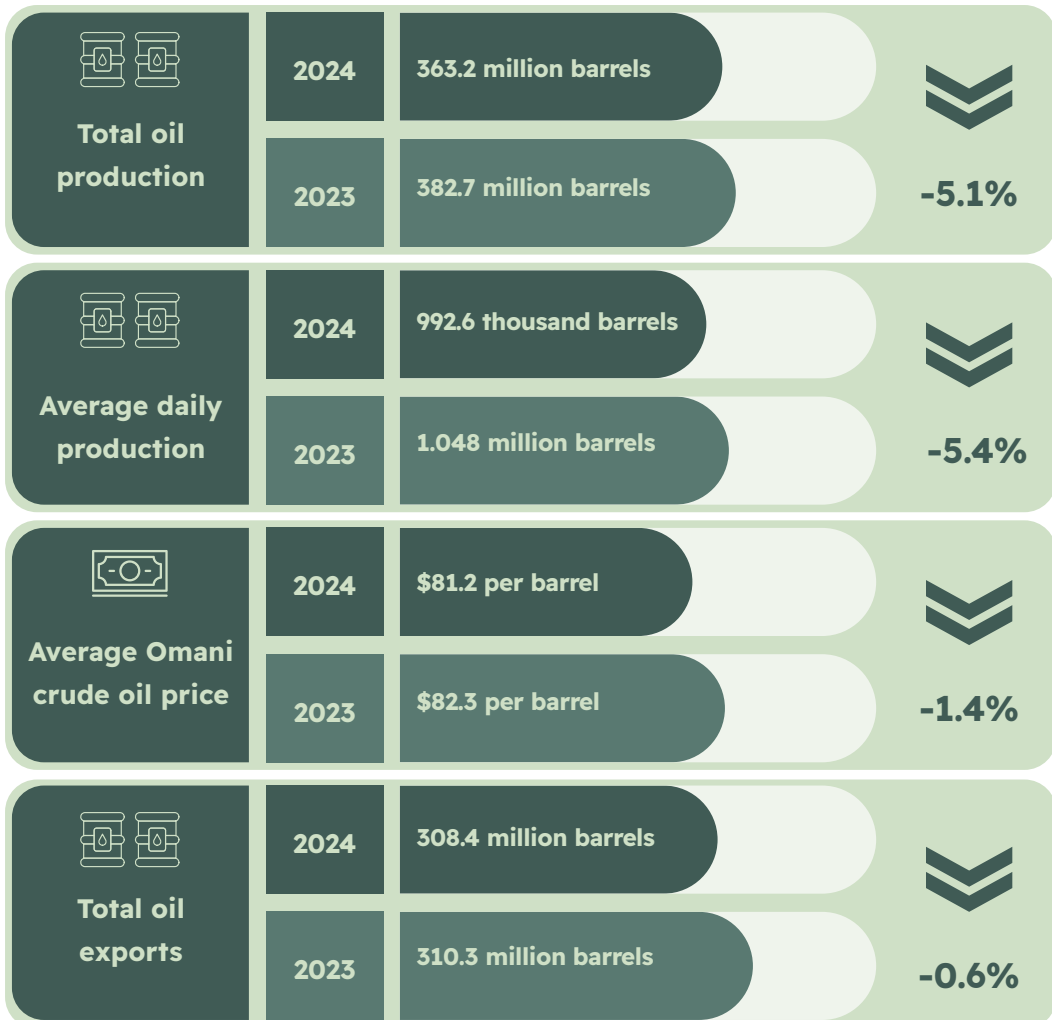
Tender	Cost (million OMR)
Completion of the remaining works on the Eastern Province Expressway Project (Part Two – Phase Two).	68.4
Construction of Al Batinah Expressway – Package 5: Sohar Gateway-Free Zone Link.	3.19
Provision of consulting services for the Musandam Airport Project.	2.9
Works related to the dualisation of the Raysut-Al Mughsail Road in Dhofar Governorate.	34.8
Establishment of Al Falah Hospital in the South A'Sharqiyah Governorate,	51.8
Design and construction of 12 school buildings in various governorates across the Sultanate of Oman	20.9
Provision of services for the preliminary design works of the Integrated Sports City Project.	4.2

Oil and Gas Sector

The oil and gas sector remains a key driver of economic and social development in the Sultanate of Oman. Total oil reserves are estimated at 4.8 billion barrels, while natural gas reserves stand at approximately 23 trillion cubic feet.

In 2024, the sector saw continued development efforts, including exploratory surveys, an increase in the number of producing wells and investments in projects that enhance local added value.

Oil Production and Exports in 2024



Muscat Stock Exchange

Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) recorded an estimated market capitalisation gain of approximately OMR 3.8 billion in 2024. This growth was driven by the listing of OQ Exploration and Production and OQ Basic Industries, alongside increases in the share prices of several listed companies. Additional factors included capital increases by various companies and the listing of new companies on the closed market.

The MSX main index closed trading for 2024 up by 62 points, finishing at 4,576 points. The financial sector index recorded a gain of 333 points, closing at 7,725 points. The services sector index rose by 177 points (the highest percentage increase among the stock exchange indices for 2024, at 11.3%) and closed at 1743 points. Meanwhile, the industrial sector index fell by 204 points, ending at 5,270 points. The Shariah Index edged up by 21 points to close at 425 points.

By the end of 2024, the total market capitalisation of securities listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange had risen to OMR 27.595 billion. Out of this total, public joint stock companies accounted for OMR 12.332 billion in market capitalisation, recording gains of OMR 3.365 billion during the year.

Market capitalisation also benefitted from an increase in the closed market value, which rose to OMR 10.953 billion by year-end, an increase of OMR 550 million. In contrast, the bonds and sukuk market recorded a decline of OMR 122.3 million, closing 2024 at approximately OMR 4.309 billion.

The market value of public joint stock companies grew by 37.5% during the year, supported by the listing of OQ Exploration and Production Company in October 2024. By the end of the year, its market value had reached about OMR 2.7 billion, making it the largest listed company by market value. Bank Muscat ranked second at approximately OMR 1.9 billion, followed by Bank Sohar in third place at OMR 893.3 million. Omantel came fourth with a market value of OMR 705 million, and OQ Gas Networks ranked fifth at OMR 597.6 million.

The new listings contributed to an increase in the trading value, which rose to OMR 1.2573 billion in 2024, reflecting growth of 11% compared to OMR 1.1327 billion in 2023. The number of transactions executed last year grew by 39%, increasing from 184,000 to over 257,000 transactions.

Main indicators of the Muscat Stock Exchange

Item	End of 2023	End of 2024
Main Index Closing (Points)	4514	4576
Number of Executed Transactions (Transactions)	184.266	257.544
Total Value of Trades (Omani Riyals)	1.133 billion OMR	1.257 billion OMR
Average Daily Trading Value (Million Omani Riyals)	4.6	5.1
Market Value (Billion Omani Riyals)	23.80	27.59

Main Foreign Trade Indicators (Value in Billion OMR)

Statement	January - November 2023	January - November 2024
Oil and gas exports	12.5	14.9
Non-oil exports	6.7	5.6
Re-export	1.34	1.59
Total merchandise exports	20.6	22.2
Total recorded commodity imports	13.63	15.08
GDP at constant prices for the third quarter of the year	9.5	9.7
GDP at current prices for the third quarter of the year	10.04	10.4

Source: Monthly Statistical Bulletin – January 2025– National Centre for Statistics and Information

Trading Partners of the Sultanate of Oman

I. Countries Importing Omani Oil



State	Quantity (million barrels)
China	289.2
South Korea	5.76
Japan	5.65
India	3.004
Other	4.77

II. Non-oil Exports



State	Value as at End of November 2024 (Million OMR)
United Arab Emirates	935
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	764
South Korea	611
India	586
USA	374
Other	2.37 billion OMR

III. Re-export

	State	Value as at End of November 2024 (Million OMR)
	United Arab Emirates	526
	Iran	335
	Kuwait	110
	China	59
	USA	55
	Other	505

IV. Imports

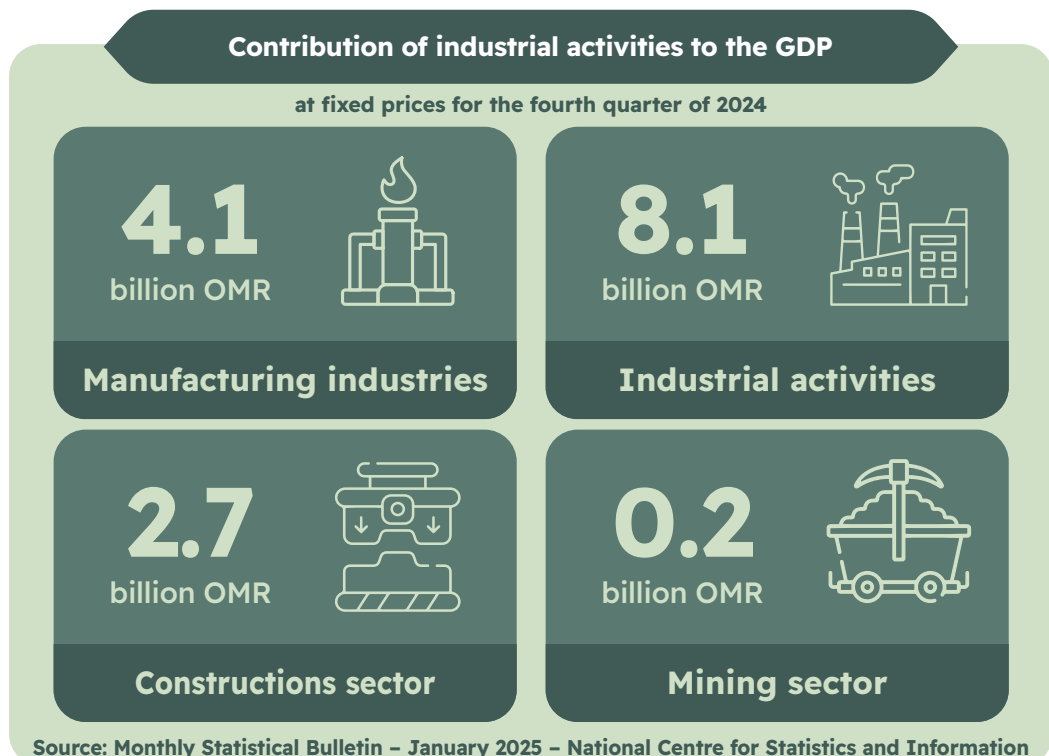
	State	Value as at End of November 2024 (OMR)
	United Arab Emirates	3.6 billion
	China	1.6 billion
	Kuwait	1.4 billion
	India	1.3 billion
	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	1.2 billion
	Other	5.8 billion

Industry sector

The Sultanate of Oman aims to build a robust industrial future in line with its national aspirations. Over the past five years, it has achieved significant milestones in the industrial sector, most notably the royal endorsement of the Industrial Strategy 2040 in May 2024. In this context, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion has organised a series of discussion panels, bringing together all relevant stakeholders to present the strategy's initiatives.

Oman's plans focus on increasing the industrial sector's contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) and creating employment opportunities for citizens. In recent years, various initiatives have been launched to develop the sector and boost its share of GDP.

Current indicators show that the industrial sector is playing an increasingly important role in the Omani economy, with the contribution of industrial activities to GDP at current prices reaching 19.5%. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the government's development plans, which aim to enhance production capacity and attract investment.



Industrial sector achievements in 2024

Initiatives to Develop the Sector and Enhance
its Contribution to the Gross Domestic Product:

1

The Royal Endorsement of the Industrial Strategy 2040 in May 2024

2

The Sultanate of Oman ranked 53rd globally and fourth regionally in the Competitive Industrial Performance Report 2020, issued by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

3

Launching the Omani Product Identity, the Oman Barcoding Centre and the Commercial Identity

4

Attracting a group of investments with advanced technologies

5

Launching programmes to automate factories and enhance supply chains

6

Upgrading manufacturing industries with advanced technology and developing innovative products

7

Implementing a package of policies and legislation aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of the national product in local and international markets

8

Launching the local content plan ‘Tasnee’ for the industrial sector and the ‘Taamir’ programme for major projects

9

Launching the “Itqan” programme, aimed at empowering national competencies in the industrial

Economic and Free Zones

Special economic zones, free zones and industrial cities across the various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman are receiving significant interest from investors. This comes at a time when the country is placing greater emphasis on implementing a wide range of infrastructure projects that facilitate investment, support legislative development and promote new opportunities.

In 2024, the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) undertook numerous initiatives to increase the volume of investment and attract more investors to the areas under its supervision. OPAZ oversees 23 investment zones, including eight zones currently under development.

investment zones in the Sultanate of Oman 23

Existing economic zones: 15 economic zones

Khazaen Economic City

Investment volume

0.45 billion OMR

Duqm Special Economic Zone

Investment volume

6 billion OMR

Sohar Free Zone

Investment volume

1.3 billion OMR

Salalah Free Zone

Investment volume

4.7 billion OMR

Industrial cities managed by «Madayn»

Investment volume

7.5 billion OMR

Al Mazyouna Free Zone

Investment volume

0.14 billion OMR

Statistics indicate that the cumulative volume of investment committed to the economic, free, and industrial zones supervised by the OPAZ reached approximately OMR 20.1 billion by the end of June 2024, compared to OMR 16.7 billion in June 2023.

This growth reflects the favourable investment climate in the Sultanate of Oman and the efforts made by OPAZ, along with the administrations of the economic and free zones and industrial cities, to attract investment, localise private sector projects and encourage both local and international companies to invest in the country.

During the first half of the current year, the economic zones, free zones and industrial cities attracted new investments worth more than OMR 1.053 billion. The Sohar Free Zone led all regions in terms of investment volume for this period, with additional investments amounting to OMR 711.4 million. The industrial cities ranked second, attracting OMR 175.2 million, while the Salalah Free Zone came third with OMR 131.8 million.

Zones under development: 8 Zones

**The Integrated Economic
Zone in A'Dhahirah
Governorate**

Rawda Economic Zone

**Free Zone at Muscat
International Airport**

Wadi Al Kabir Industrial City

Thamrait Industrial City

Al Mudhaibi Industrial City

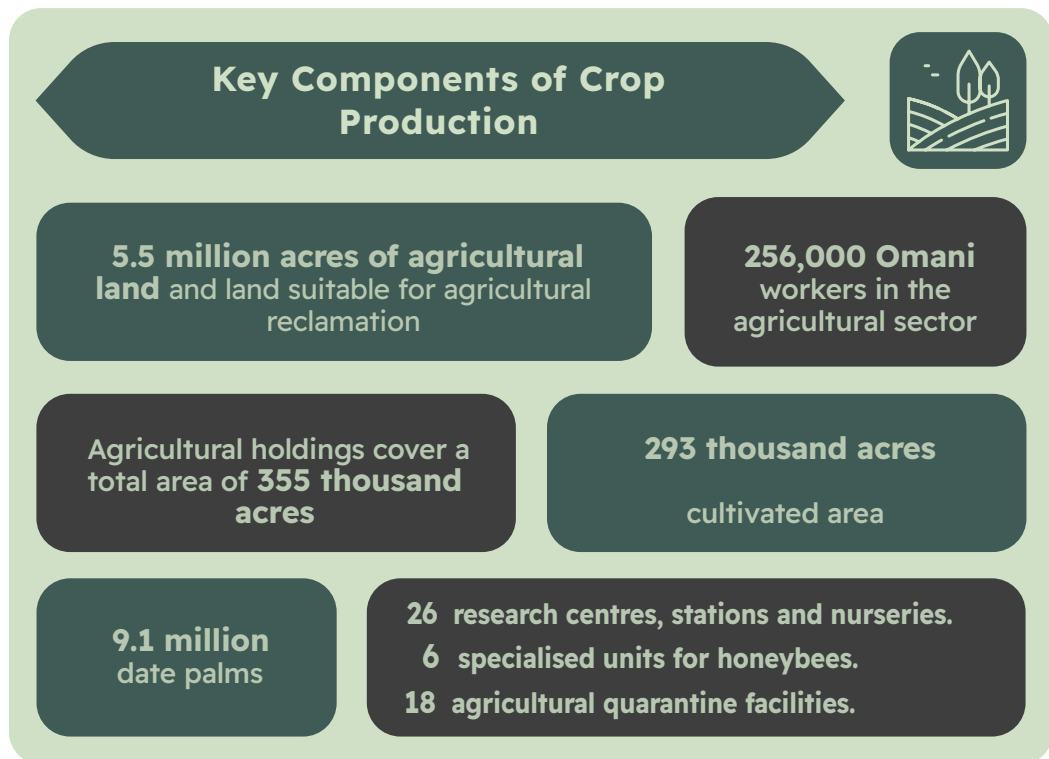
Al Suwaiq Industrial City

Saih Al Wasat Industrial City

Agricultural and Fisheries Resources

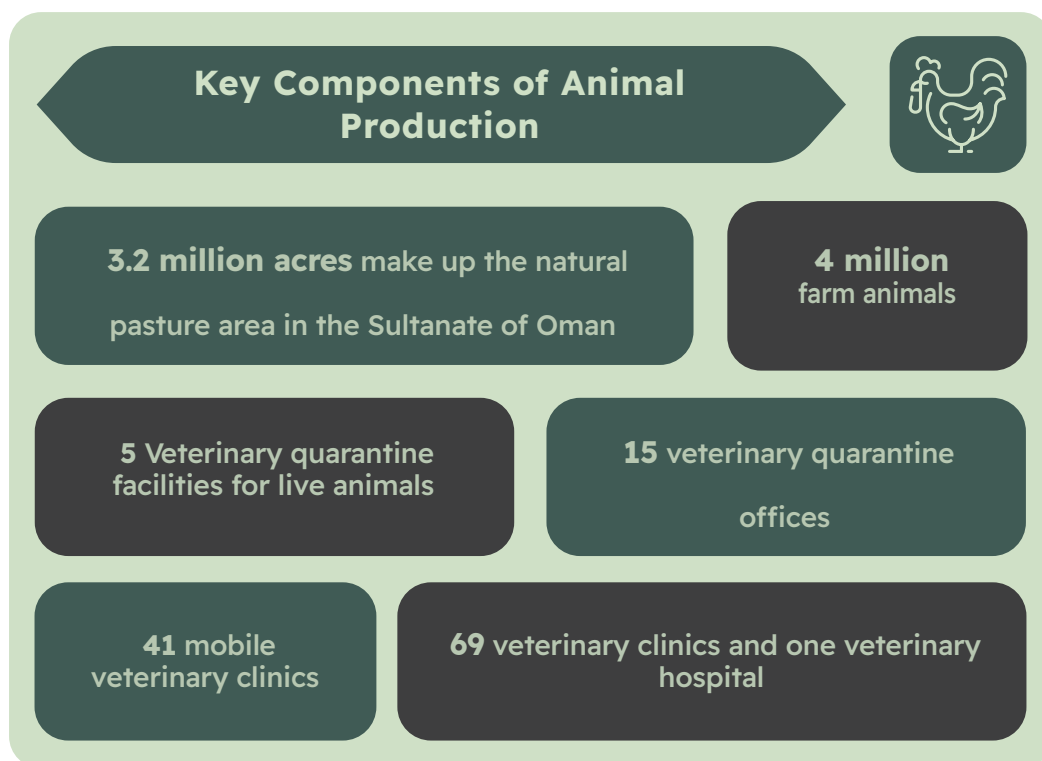
The Sultanate of Oman is strengthening its food security system by establishing numerous investment projects across the agricultural, livestock, fisheries and water resources sectors. Oman has achieved self-sufficiency in the fisheries sector and has also recorded prominent levels of self-sufficiency in various crops and animal products, including dates, certain vegetables, milk and eggs.

The activities of the 2024 Food Security Lab resulted in the signing of 41 investment projects worth more than OMR 45 million, covering 66 investment opportunities across different sectors. In addition, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning signed 177 agreements related to food security, worth OMR 32.3 million and covering over 13,700 acres. Investment contracts in the fisheries sector alone exceeded OMR 36.8 million.



The fisheries and agricultural sectors, both plant and animal, are among the main pillars of the national economy and play a vital role in achieving food security. These sectors also provide numerous employment opportunities for citizens, whether in agricultural production and livestock breeding or in artisanal fishing and related activities within the fisheries sector.

In 2024, the Tharawat platform was launched to support the digital transformation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, along with ten new electronic services. The platform aims to convert all of the Ministry's 248 services into electronic services to improve efficiency, enhance the user experience, save time and ensure round-the-clock service delivery for greater beneficiary satisfaction. The Zad platform was also launched to market products, with the aim of building a wide network of digitally connected Omani stores to supply fresh and organic produce and essential goods directly to consumers.



Key Components of the Fisheries Sector



A large and varied fish stock

**More than
64,000
fishermen
work in the
sector**



24 ports
with fish landing
sites along the
Omani coast



3829 licenses
for fish transport
and marketing



**26,029 licensed
fishing boats**



**114 fish
factories,**
52 of which have
obtained a fish quality
control certificate

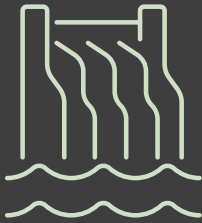


**62
existing fish
markets**



**962 licensed
fishing vessels**

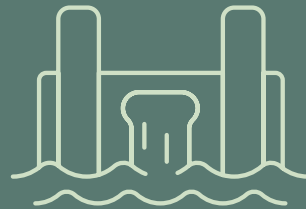
Key Components of the Water Resources Sector



69 dams with a total capacity of **108.7 million m³** to recharge groundwater reservoirs

100 million cubic metres is the total capacity of Wadi Dayqah Dam

114 dams in mountainous areas with a capacity of 585 thousand m³



13 Cloud Seeding Stations



4 flood protection dams with a capacity of **136.7 million m³**



4,675 hydrometric monitoring stations, **639** of which operate remotely

4,173 aflaj (3,050 active)

Towards Sustainability

Building
the Future
with Vision
and
Purpose



The renewed Omani Renaissance continues its bright journey towards progress and prosperity, fulfilling its aspirations for the nation's advancement and national development through a comprehensive vision that embraces all aspects of life. Since His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, assumed the reins of power on 11 January 2020, His Majesty affirmed in his royal speech that "Oman will remain the ultimate goal in everything we undertake and strive to achieve," calling upon "all citizens of the nation, without exception, to safeguard the achievements of the blessed Renaissance and to participate actively in carrying forward this triumphant march, placing their trust in Allah Almighty for His help and success."



An integrated implementation plan to develop the education and vocational training sectors



His Majesty the Sultan's visit to Sultan Faisal bin Turki School

Scan the QR code to
watch the video



His Majesty the Sultan, may Allah protect him, emphasised the importance of making education a foremost national priority, affirming that education is the pathway to developing societies, the route to a better future, and the principal driver of sustainable development. His Majesty further stressed that education forms the foundation through which young people will be equipped to contribute to building Oman's present and future and to meet the demands of the coming era. In line with this vision, His Majesty issued a royal directive to design a comprehensive executive plan to develop the education and vocational training sectors in cooperation with international institutions, to complete the establishment of the technical education pathway within the general education system, and to align the general education outcomes (specifically the technical track) with vocational education and training programmes.

In this context, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, may Allah protect him, paid a visit to Sultan Faisal bin Turki School for Boys in Al Amerat, Muscat Governorate, on 25 November 2024, to observe first-hand the progress

of the educational process and the modern programmes implemented to enrich the cognitive and perceptual development of school students. His Majesty met with a group of educators and their students from various schools within Muscat Governorate to hear about their initiatives, achievements and perspectives in the field of education.

Education

Education is the cornerstone of building the future and advancing nations. The education sector in the Sultanate of Oman has received special attention since His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him, assumed the reins of power. Education has been placed at the forefront of national priorities, the importance of which His Majesty, may Allah protect him, emphasised in his royal speech in February 2020, highlighting its pivotal role in enabling future generations to contribute to building the present and future of Oman in line with the requirements of the coming phase and the vision of Oman 2040.

The education sector has witnessed remarkable developments, beginning with the royal directives to complete the construction of 76 new school buildings within the Tenth Five-Year Plan and extending to the promotion of innovation and the strengthening of scientific knowledge among students through major initiatives such as the Oman Science Festival. The issuance of the School Education Law in May 2023 also established a solid foundation for the governance of the education system, paving the way for a more comprehensive and integrated approach to nurturing learners' personalities in all their dimensions. This law embodies a clear vision for building an integrated educational system. It harnesses digital transformation technologies and artificial intelligence to prepare students for diverse educational pathways that meet the needs of sustainable development and future skills.

Teachers are regarded as the cornerstone of the educational process, playing a crucial role in equipping students with knowledge and skills, while also having a significant influence on shaping their characters and preparing them for practical life.

Within the framework of developing teachers' competencies, the Ministry of Education has sought to provide continuous training programmes to support new teachers and enhance their capabilities in various aspects of the teaching profession, in line with Oman Vision 2040 and modern educational goals. The Ministry, represented by the Directorate-General of Educational Supervision, has ensured that all new teachers across specialisations who joined the profession in the academic year 2024/2025 participate in a training programme delivered locally within the educational directorates of the governorates. This programme focuses on supporting new teachers in fulfilling their duties and familiarising them with their roles in accordance with the systems and regulations governing their work.

Inclusive Education and Sustainable Learning

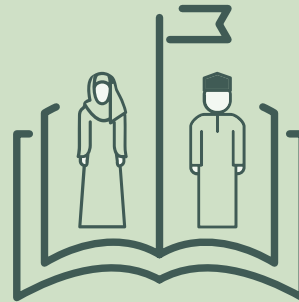
Construction of

15

buildings

begins and tenders are
issued for 20 school
buildings

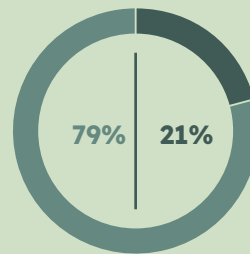
Receipt of

16new school
buildingsIssuing a set
of guidelines
in artificial
intelligenceIntroducing new subjects in
identity and citizenshipand amending the names of
the individual skills subjects
to be consistent with global
trends6 new engineering
and industrial
specialisationsintroduced in vocational
and technical education

Total appointees

3237

teachers

**2542****695**



The education system provides students with professional and technical knowledge and skills

Technical and Vocational Education

Technical and vocational education is one of the cornerstones of developing the education system. It aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare them for the labour market and to enhance their entrepreneurial abilities. To meet the needs of the Omani labour market, the Ministry of Education has begun implementing technical and vocational education programmes designed to provide students with professional skills and core values, while fostering an educational environment that encourages entrepreneurship. This system also seeks to produce graduates capable of competing in the labour market, strengthen partnerships with economic sectors and promote the culture of vocational and technical education within society. The programme was launched in 2023 in 4 selected schools, including two boys' schools and two girls' schools within the educational directorates of the governorates of Muscat and North Al Batinah, targeting 200 male and female students.

Technical and vocational education is a fundamental pillar in preparing Omani youth for the labour market

Digital Transformation

To achieve the objectives of the e-learning and digital transformation strategy, the Ministry of Education has implemented the Digitisation of Curricula project for Grades 1-12, which aims to convert curriculum content from its traditional paper form into interactive digital material accessible via the internet and information and communications technology devices. The first phase of the project's implementation in schools began in the academic year 2024/2025 in selected schools for Grades 1-4 within the educational directorates across the governorates.

Curriculum Digitisation Project

Technologies adopted

Cloud
computing



Educational
software



Online
educational
platforms



Multimedia
(video, audio,
animation)



Interactive digital content

Interactive
educational
activities



Audio
materials



Educational
films



Educational
games

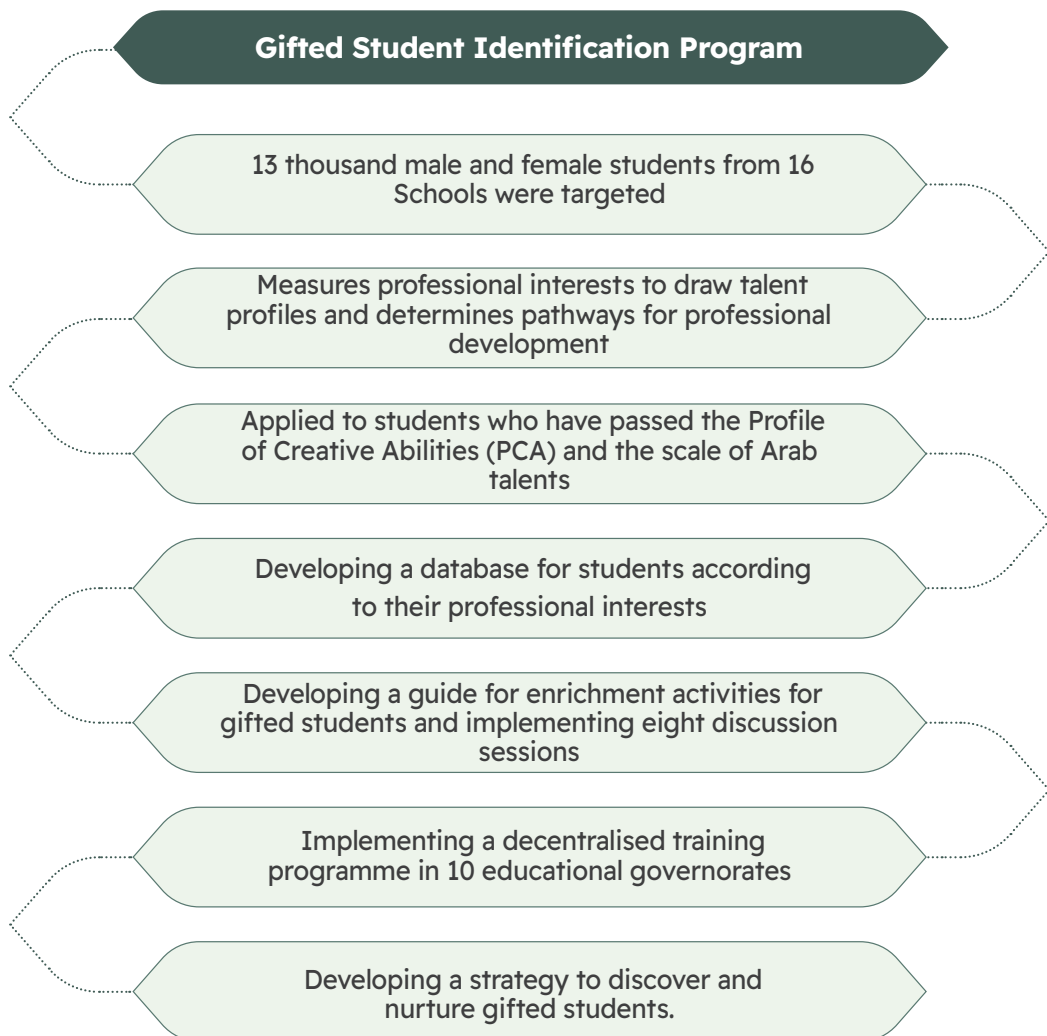


Virtual and
Augmented
Reality
Technologies



Special Education

The Ministry of Education, through the Directorate-General of Special Education and Continuing Learning, has developed reference lists to guide the preparation of individual educational plans for students with intellectual disabilities. These serve as a resource for special education teachers working in the schools dedicated for students with intellectual disabilities, as well as in certain basic education schools that include students with intellectual disabilities. The lists are intended to support special education teachers and assist them in preparing tailored educational plans for these students. Additionally, the Ministry is implementing the programme for identifying gifted students (Tharwa 2), which is the second version of the national initiative for discovering gifted learners. This national programme aims to establish a robust framework for identifying and nurturing gifted students within school settings.





Promoting the use of artificial intelligence technologies in the educational process

Adult Education

As part of the development of the Adult Education Strategy 2030, the Directorate General of Special Education and Continuing Learning has formulated a comprehensive plan to enhance the adult education system in the Sultanate of Oman, drawing on regional and international theoretical and applied frameworks. The plan aims to address future adult education needs and reduce illiteracy rates by expanding the establishment of departments and programmes that attract individuals with literacy needs across various governorates. According to statistics from the National Centre for Statistics and Information, the illiteracy rate in the Sultanate of Oman has decreased to 0.44% in the 15–44 age group, 2.40% among those aged over 10 years, and 2.63% in the 15 years and above age group.

The Ministry of Education also aims to strengthen the use of artificial intelligence technologies within the educational process, with the goal of improving teaching and fostering the development of future skills among students and faculty members through the implementation of educational and pedagogical programmes. The Ministry seeks to promote a culture of artificial intelligence and create significant opportunities to develop the education system in the Sultanate of Oman. To this end, the Directorate General of Information Technology has undertaken a number of initiatives at the planning level, including the formation of the National Team for Artificial Intelligence under the umbrella of the Digital Transformation Committee, overseeing its governance plan and preparing a draft executive programme for integrating artificial intelligence into teaching and learning.

Spreading the Culture of Artificial Intelligence in the Educational Process

Forming the National Artificial Intelligence Team under the umbrella of the Digital Transformation Committee

Designing a draft of the executive programme for artificial intelligence in education

Forming teams in the educational directorates in the governorates

Dedicating a day to artificial intelligence

Publishing awareness guides on the use of artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT and Mid Journey

Publishing digital materials such 'Basma Raqamiyya' and 'Adhka'

Implementing the international artificial intelligence licence programme for 30 trainees

Providing accounts for artificial intelligence applications to improve work efficiency

Designing and constructing laboratories in various governorates

Signing memoranda of understanding with universities to advance key educational areas

Implementing AI-enabled classrooms in exploration centres and schools

Efforts to Enhance Digital Transformation

Replacing

43,917
computers

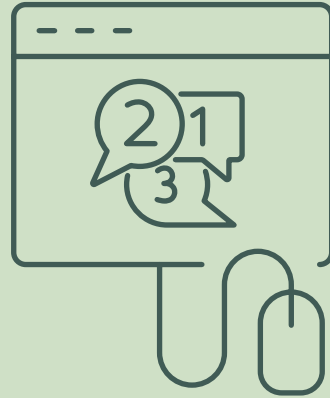
in public schools
(first cycle)



Equipping
classrooms

with interactive
whiteboards
and starting to
implement them for
first grade

Allocating devices to
school administration,
learning resource centres,
computer laboratories and
classrooms



Launching the curriculum
digitisation project and
the first phase of the
educational platform

Upgrading school
internet networks to
high speed

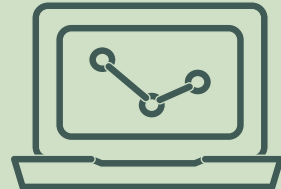
1 GB

(10 times the previous
speed)

Replacement of

6,117

computers for career
guidance centres, science
laboratories, and training
centres



Professional Licences for Teachers

The Ministry of Education is committed to advancing the teaching profession by selecting the most qualified personnel and adopting modern educational methods and systems that support the teaching and learning process. With the aim of providing high-quality educational services to society, one such system is the Professional Tracks and Licences framework which is an educational system characterised by effectiveness and efficiency in improving the performance of teaching staff. This framework is based on the principle that “A professional licence is a fundamental requirement for practising the teaching profession. The professional future of a member of the teaching staff depends on progressing through professional tracks and grades according to clear and specific professional standards. These standards include defined duties and responsibilities, which teachers ascend to during their career in the teaching profession, based on their level of performance and professional competence.”

The reference foundations for the Professional Tracks and Licences system for teaching staff are set out in the School Education Law, issued by Royal Decree No. (31/2023), which forms the legislative framework underpinning the professional licensing system. Article 50 of this law stipulates that “The teaching profession may not be practised except after obtaining a licence for that purpose,” and the regulations define the standards, conditions and requirements for granting such licences to educational staff. The law also includes two additional articles directly related to licensing: Article 51 states, “The Ministry shall provide continuous professional development programmes for its employees from the teaching staff in a manner consistent with their various professional tracks,” while Article 52 stipulates, “The Ministry shall develop the professional track of its employees from the teaching staff.”

The National Education Strategy 2040 is another key reference for the Professional Tracks and Licences system, as its third strategic pillar focuses on building quality in education and raising the standard of the educational system to align with international benchmarks, while producing high-quality outcomes.

The Omani National Professional Framework for the Teaching Profession also serves as a reference for the Ministry of Education, teacher training institutions and stakeholders in education, including individuals, parents and community organisations. This framework comprises four reference documents: the Charter of Ethics for the Teaching Profession, the Professional Pathways and Licences for Teachers, the Professional Standards for Teachers and the Professional Development for Teachers. These documents were developed in line with the national directions outlined in Oman Vision 2040 and the principles of educational philosophy in the Sultanate of Oman. They also align with the objectives of global sustainable development, successful regional and international experiences, and a thorough analysis of reference documents, academic studies and relevant sources.

The Professional Tracks and Licences system aims to reinforce the ethics and professional practices of the teaching profession in accordance with the national educational philosophy and local legislation. It seeks to establish an integrated professional pathway for teachers that includes promotion and incentives, while setting conditions for obtaining professional licences as a prerequisite for practising the profession. It also defines the professional standards and procedures required to support teachers' performance and promotes sustainable professional development to ensure the quality of education and professional competence. The Professional Tracks and Licences system is expected to achieve significant outcomes. These include promoting teaching ethics among the teaching staff, raising awareness of teachers' rights and responsibilities and improving their academic and professional qualifications. It also aims to achieve high-quality educational outcomes, attract qualified personnel to the teaching profession and strengthen effective partnerships between schools and the wider community.

Oman Science Festival 2024

Hosted more than

520

activities

Included

200

volunteers

Festival objectives

Delivering
knowledge
in an
interactive
and
motivating
manner



Enhancing
creative
thinking in
science and
innovation



Keeping pace
with global
trends in
science and
technology



Enhancing
students' skills
to integrate
them into the
knowledge-
based economy



Encouraging
young people
to specialise in
scientific fields



Higher Education, Research and Innovation

Higher education, research and innovation are fundamental pillars for achieving Oman Vision 2040. These sectors are instrumental in building a prosperous society and a sustainable, knowledge-based economy. By advancing education and learning and enhancing national capabilities, society is empowered to meet challenges, adapt to risks and keep pace with global developments.

Higher education represents the highest stage of the educational system, encompassing universities as well as educational, training and research institutions. It plays a vital role in preparing qualified national talent who actively contribute to the country's development and progress. In recognition of the critical importance of these sectors, the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation was established. These areas are seen as the foundation of human development in Oman and a key measure of national advancement. Today, higher education institutions and research and innovation centres have become hubs for scientific and cultural decision-making, sources of guidance for national strategies and incubators for nurturing minds capable of driving the national economy forward and enriching the country's cultural landscape.

Higher Education Opportunities for Omani Students: International Scholarships and Partnerships

206

Annual scholarship at
educational institutions

**In the Kingdom of Saudi
Arabia**

100

Annual scholarships
provided by the
Moroccan government

50

Annual scholarship in
cooperation with the
Republic of Hungary

3

Local private higher
education institutions have
received scholarships for
the first time, **funded by
+Erasmus**

20

Annual scholarship in
**the Arab Republic of
Egypt**

22

Annual scholarship at
**French higher education
institutions**

Strengthening academic cooperation with the **Turkish Science Council (TÜBİTAK)**
and **Western Australian universities**

Higher Education Opportunities for International Students in the Sultanate of Oman

100

Seats for students from sisterly and friendly nations with established diplomatic and cultural relations

91

Seats for Gulf countries citizens



101

Students were accepted in the academic year 2023/2024



Launching the “**Study in Oman**” campaign to promote Oman as a destination for international students



Global Rankings and International Partnerships 2024

Omani private universities have 7 been included in the QS Arab Region University Rankings

Enhancing international academic cooperation through twinning partnerships between Omani universities and their global counterparts

Organising Global Knowledge Dialogue sessions with international partners across the globe

Signing 14 cooperation agreements, memoranda of understanding and implementation programmes

Higher Education Development Policies and Initiatives

The education-linked training programme (Eadad):

In collaboration with **26 participating** public and private educational institutions.

Hosted by **31 companies** and institutions from the industrial and private sectors.

694 trainees have graduated since its inception

An initiative to improve and optimise the efficiency of academics' preparatory programmes

Review and develop training programmes in vocational colleges

Aligning scholarship specialisations with labour market needs

Reviewing educational curricula and conducting periodic graduates surveys

Her Excellency the Minister's meetings with final-year students from higher education institutions

Private Higher Education

The private higher education sector in the Sultanate of Oman has witnessed remarkable growth, reflected in the expansion and diversification of academic programmes, as well as the increasing number of affiliation agreements and memoranda of understanding and cooperation with Arab and international universities across various scientific, academic and research fields.

Developments in Private Higher Education Institutions

23

Private universities and colleges have obtained institutional accreditation from the Oman Academic Accreditation Authority

173

New academic programmes have been licensed in the past three years:

Medical Laboratory Sciences,
Energy Engineering,
Artificial Intelligence and
Cyber Security

Automotive Technology,
Data Analysis, Augmented
Reality, and Robotics and
Intelligent Systems

Specialisations in Business
Administration

Contributing to Achieving Net Zero by 2050

Converting higher
education buildings
into smart, green
and environmentally
friendly buildings



Increasing green
spaces and
converting waste
into biofuel



Promoting green building
initiatives, using digital
technology and reducing
emissions



Higher Education Admissions Statistics 2023/2024

49,980

students

registered in the
Higher Education
Admission

28,951

students

accepted in
higher education
institutions

Development of the Admission System 2023/2024

Creating a new index to enable students to know their chances of acceptance

Issuing a guide to minimum rates of admission.

Establishing a new mechanism for recent graduates who wish to pursue education majors at their own expense

Unifying educational programmes interview criteria

Establishing a flexible mechanism for admission to internal scholarship programmes (STEM/ESAM)

Transferring vacant seats in cultural scholarships

Completing the electronic link between the Higher Education Admission Centre and higher education institutions

Automating applications for international qualifications (BTEC)

Developments in scholarships and postgraduate studies in the Sultanate of Oman 2024/2025

550

Seats in foreign scholarships in the last two academic years

535

International grants



10,800

internal scholarships

in private higher education institutions

724

Full internal scholarship

for the General Education Diploma graduates

Granting monthly allowances to internal scholarship students

Continuation of the National Programme for Postgraduate Studies, with the allocation of 200 scholarships under the Masar Watant Scholarships 2024/ 2023

Supervising **3** cultural attaches

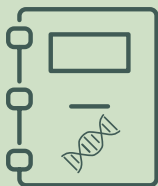
An Effective National System for Research

The Sultanate of Oman attaches great importance to research and innovation. It continuously invests in developing scientific infrastructure, encouraging innovation and nurturing national talent. This is achieved by making use of the country's diverse natural resources and cultural and scientific wealth, and by striving to enhance international cooperation in research, development and innovation, with the aim of achieving sustainable development and building a knowledge-based society.

The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation is keen to strengthen research and innovation outcomes by implementing a number of programmes aimed at building the capacities of researchers and innovators. These efforts include launching competitions and awards to encourage innovators and patent holders to participate actively in providing innovative solutions that contribute to the advancement of various development sectors. The programmes provide opportunities for innovators to showcase their work on international platforms, thus enhancing their standing in the fields of scientific and technical research. These initiatives also help to build an integrated academic and industrial environment, driving sustainable development and supporting the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

Programmes Supporting Research and Innovation Activities In 2024

Signing 29 research contracts worth OMR 2.47 million



More than 300 research proposals and 97 industrial challenges



Financing increased by 18% compared to 2023

Supporting research projects with national priorities

Contracting with 5 government institutions

9 agreements signed at the Oman Innovation Festival

Achievements of the Oman Animal and Plant Genetic Resources Centre (Mawarid) 2021-2024

Launch of the Conservation and Sustainable Use Strategy Book

Launch of the Plant Genetic Resources Data Platform

Implementation of the Earthworm Project begins

Collection of 112 samples of wild rabbit genetic material

Commencement of the project to establish a gene bank for wild animals

Preservation of 800 semen samples collected from purebred Arabian horses

Storage of 200 seed entries for medicinal, aromatic and food plants

Collection and preservation of 25 samples of marine sponges from the coasts of the Sea of Oman

Five new fungi recorded globally and seven fungal families recorded in Dhofar

Research and Innovation Programmes, Competitions and Awards 2024

National Award for Research

Upgrade programme to transform graduation projects into start-ups

Science Academy Program

School Students and Teachers' Innovation Skills Development Programme

Research and Innovation Training Support Program

Research Skills Forum Programme in cooperation with the Arab Open University

Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions

London International Youth Science Forum

Falling Walls Lab Competition

Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings

Malaysia International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition ITEX

The Innovation Park Muscat (IPM) is one of the key initiatives of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI), contributing to the transition towards a knowledge-based economy. The IPM is notable for being a free, tax-exempt science zone and focuses on four main sectors: health, environment and water, food and biotechnology, and renewable energy. The IPM continues its efforts to attract investment in these vital areas, supporting the achievement of sustainable development goals. The MoHERI, represented by the Department of Incubators and Business Accelerators within the Research and Innovation Sector, is implementing numerous projects and programmes aimed at realising the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Oman's ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2024

Ranked 59th globally in innovation inputs

Achieving the highest performance in the human capital and research pillars and the infrastructure pillar

The Sultanate of Oman has advanced in innovation inputs by (6) ranks

Oman ranked among the top 20 countries in the world in 3 sub-indicators

Oman ranked 12th globally overall, 2nd globally for science and engineering graduates, and 16th globally for electricity production

Oman has advanced 9 places in the research cooperation index between industry and universities

Innovation Centres Empowerment Projects and Programmes

Scientific Incubators Programme in Higher Education Institutions

Innovation Accelerator Program

Business incubators at IPM

Cooperation programme with the SMEs Development Authority

Programme to support the establishment and operation of innovation and technology transfer centres in higher education institutions



Sultan Qaboos University attaches great importance to scientific research and innovation

Sultan Qaboos University

Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) continues its confident journey towards strengthening its international standing and contributing to the transformation of the national economy into an innovative knowledge-based economy. This is guided by the noble vision of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him, which emphasises the importance of research and innovation in achieving sustainable development. SQU builds on a rich legacy of scientific and cultural achievements and its ever-renewing capacity in education, research and innovation. It also focuses on developing postgraduate programmes that help to prepare highly qualified professionals capable of addressing existing challenges and promoting community development. SQU is implementing ambitious plans to establish and expand postgraduate programmes.

Recognising the vital role of research and innovation in enhancing competitiveness and supporting sustainable development, SQU continues to provide both financial and organisational support to researchers, while developing an electronic system for managing research projects to simplify procedures and offer a comprehensive reference record. This support has resulted in the completion of 300 research projects and scientific consultations, including the Royal Grant for Strategic Projects, externally funded projects and joint grants, in addition to support for student research. Grants are awarded to various categories of researchers according to standardised regulations and procedures, and within a strategic framework that addresses the requirements of key sectors, including energy. These projects vary in scope and field.

Programmes and Scholarships in 2024

**Approving
120 academic
programmes**

**191 full
scholarships
and tuition fee
exemptions**

**Approval of
30 exemption
grants for SQU
employees**

**11 seats provided
by Petroleum
Development
Oman and one seat
from (CCG)**

**142
international
students
enrolled at SQU**

**81 social
activities and
programmes**

University research chairs

9 research chairs in partnership with local, regional and international institutions

Various specialisations include:

ICESCO Chair in Machine Learning and Geographic Information Systems

Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chair for Economic Studies

Joint chairs with UNESCO in various fields

Chair of WTO and Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre (ROLACC)



University of Technology and Applied Sciences

The University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS) was established by Royal Decree No. (76/2020) through the merger of the Technical Colleges (previously under the Ministry of Manpower) and the Colleges of Applied Sciences (previously under the Ministry of Higher Education). This makes it the largest university in the Sultanate of Oman, among both public and private higher education institutions, in terms of student numbers. Its branches and colleges are spread across nine administrative governorates, with a total of twelve branches throughout the Sultanate of Oman. UTAS offers a wide range of specialisations in engineering and technology, creative industries, economics and business administration, computer and information sciences, applied sciences, and pharmacy, in addition to educational specialisations. It offers 94 academic programmes, organised according to colleges and qualification levels. UTAS believes that its success depends on a set of established principles that guide its mission in higher education, research, consultancy and innovation. UTAS is driven by clear visions aimed at anticipating the future and opening new horizons, aligned with Oman Vision 2040 and its own strategic plans. Its achievements are diverse in the fields of education, research, consultancy, innovation and community service, contributing to building an informed and qualified society capable of keeping pace with scientific and technological developments.

Key UTAS Projects in 2024:

- Cooperation agreement to host the ICESCO Research Chair in Artificial Intelligence EthicsLanzamiento de la Iniciativa AI Makers en la universidad.
- Launch of UTAS Makers of AI Initiative.
- Entrepreneurship, student companies and innovation.



An integrated healthcare system that meets the needs of society

Healthcare Sector

The healthcare sector in the Sultanate of Oman has seen significant development, with notable improvements in health indicators achieved within the framework of the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2021–2025), Oman Vision 2040 and the Future Health System 2050. The system aims to strengthen preventive and community health programmes, with a focus on enhancing healthcare provision across its three levels. This is being realised through the expansion and modernisation of health centres to deliver primary care services, alongside the development of hospitals to broaden the scope of specialised care. The strategy also encompasses improving health services in emergencies and crises, as well as strengthening medical rehabilitation and elderly care programmes. Through these efforts, the Sultanate of Oman seeks to build an integrated healthcare system that addresses the current and future needs of Omani society.

Developing health infrastructure is one of the key pillars of Oman's healthcare strategy. The project to expand specialised services and upgrade referral hospitals is focused on providing advanced care, with nine new hospitals under construction, offering a combined capacity of more than 1,660 beds, in addition to the expansion of five referral hospitals. Efforts also include enhancing primary healthcare services through the establishment, replacement, and expansion of 15 primary healthcare facilities, as well as the addition of nine specialised kidney dialysis units to meet essential healthcare needs.

As part of these initiatives, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, inaugurated the Medical City Hospital for Military and Security Forces in Muscat on the 11th of November 2024. This



His Majesty the Sultan during the opening of the Medical City Hospital for Military and Security Forces in Muscat

project marks a qualitative leap in the provision of healthcare for members of the military and security forces and their families, owing to its integrated design and sound management. The Medical City operates under the supervision of a high-level Board of Directors, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs. The Board includes the Minister of the Royal Office as Deputy Chairman, the Minister of Health, the Inspector General of Police and Customs and the Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence. This structure ensures the concerted efforts of all relevant agencies to achieve the City's intended objectives. The Medical City enjoys legal personality and financial and administrative independence, which enhances its capacity to deliver high-quality medical services without being constrained by traditional administrative procedures.

The Ministry of Health has enhanced its services to keep pace with epidemiological and demographic changes. Medical and surgical equipment has been upgraded and emergency departments have been expanded through the establishment of eight new units. The health system has also prioritised the reduction and control of the spread of infectious diseases by implementing health awareness campaigns and robust disease surveillance measures. Additionally, non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular and arterial conditions, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, and cancer are being addressed through targeted services aimed at reducing morbidity and premature mortality.



**His Majesty
inaugurates the
Medical City Hospital
for Military and
Security Forces**

Scan the QR code to
watch the video



Health Institutions in 2023-2024

50 government hospitals operate under the Ministry of Health, along with 6 hospitals that are not affiliated with the Ministry and 36 hospitals belonging to the private sector

215 government health centres affiliated with the Ministry of Health and 78 centres not affiliated with the Ministry

University Medical City

Military and Security Medical City

Central Public Health Laboratory in Seeb- Under Construction

The rehabilitation programme is one of the core components of the Omani health system, with national partnerships with relevant authorities supporting the rehabilitation of people with disabilities, individuals recovering from drug addiction and mental health patients. This partnership has also contributed to the success of elderly healthcare and community care programmes. The Ministry of Health collaborates with primary healthcare institutions to provide preventive, rehabilitative and home care services. It also offers nursing, medical, and nutritional consultations to beneficiaries within the community.

Enhancing the efficiency of health spending is also a key part of the Ministry of Health's strategy. This is achieved through a set of measures designed to balance public health expenditure with the country's economic circumstances. Spending is prioritised according to the health system's needs, while also strengthening health economics and encouraging investment in the sector. The Ministry aims to achieve financial efficiency through three main pillars:

1. Assessing current health sector spending and comparing it with international benchmarks.
2. Analysing the allocation of the Ministry of Health's budget in relation to efficiency.
3. Developing mechanisms to further enhance financial efficiency within the Ministry.



The active participation of Omani women in medicine demonstrates the significant contribution they make to the development of the healthcare sector

The workforce forms the cornerstone of the healthcare system. Accordingly, the Sultanate of Oman aims to enhance and develop workforce indicators through training programmes, scholarships and grants to support postgraduate studies, in line with the ongoing advancement of the healthcare system.

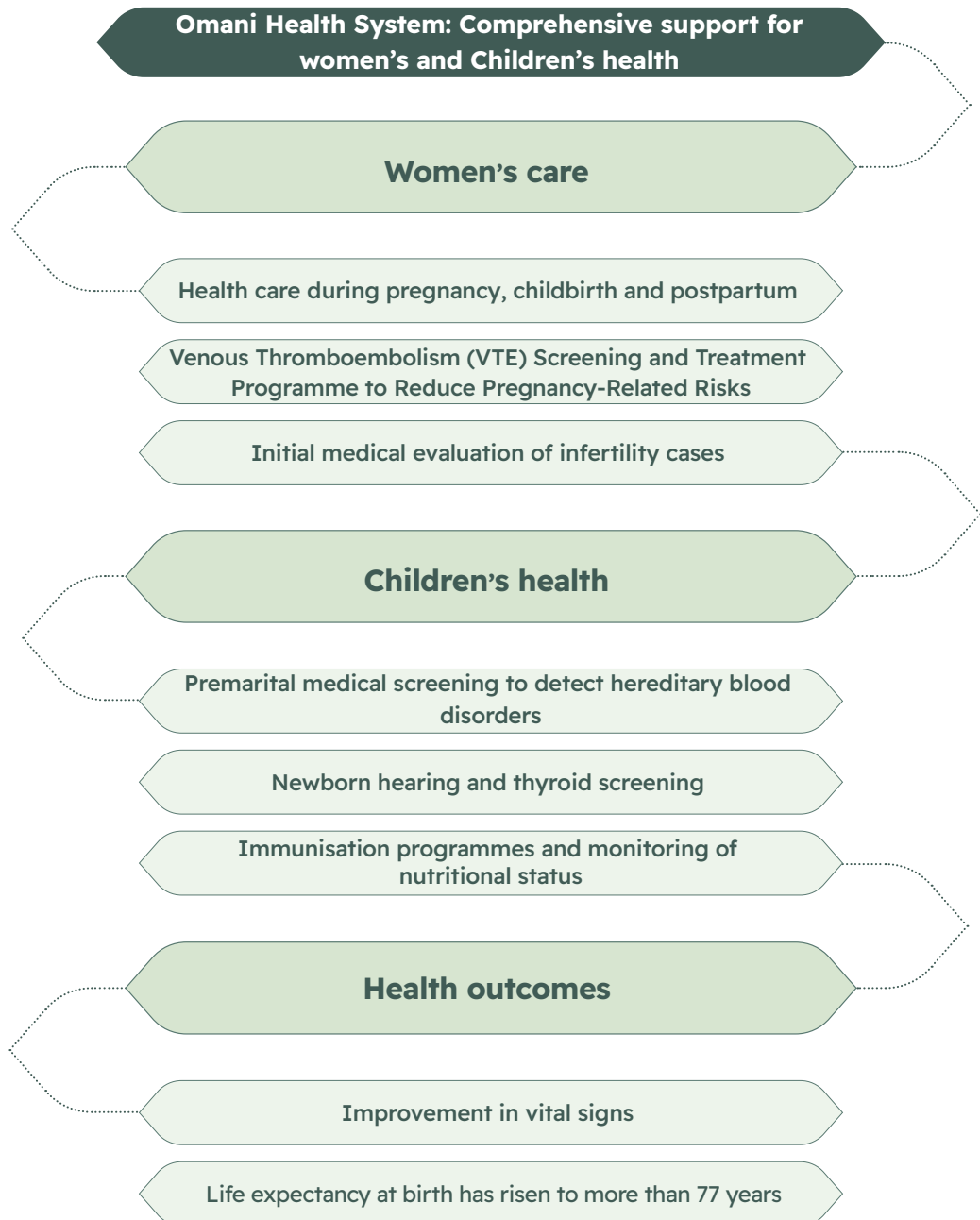
Health System Workforce

More than 69.5 thousand employees, including nearly 40 thousand employees affiliated with the Ministry of Health

A total of 688 medical staff and 47 support staff are currently pursuing postgraduate studies

Training 2,300 employees in short training courses

The healthcare system in the Sultanate of Oman places great importance on the health of women and children. Services provided to these groups form a key pillar of healthcare priorities, encompassing comprehensive care for women during pregnancy, advanced prevention and treatment programmes and dedicated services for newborns. These efforts have contributed to a marked improvement in national health indicators.





The Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB) launches strategic projects to enhance medical education

Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB)

professions and ensuring a high level of competence among healthcare professionals in the Sultanate of Oman. OMSB continues to implement strategic projects aligned with its own strategic objectives, which are also linked to national priorities such as healthcare, private sector growth, investment and international cooperation, and the governance of the state's administrative apparatus, resources and projects, as outlined in Oman Vision 2040. To achieve these aims, the OMSB is implementing 31 projects and initiatives as part of its annual plan for 2024. Its strategic plan includes 5 projects focused on strengthening medical education and raising the professional competence of health practitioners within the sector.

OMSB currently oversees 20 specialised training programmes: histopathology, anaesthesia, clinical biochemistry, dermatology, emergency medicine, family medicine, general dentistry, general surgery, haematology, internal medicine, microbiology, neurology, obstetrics and gynaecology, ophthalmology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthopaedics, ear, nose and throat surgery, paediatrics, psychiatry, and radiology. At present, 705 doctors are enrolled across all specialties. Additionally, five doctors have joined local fellowship training programmes in the academic year 2024/2025. Since its establishment, 15 cohorts have graduated, bringing the total number of graduating doctors to 1,364, comprising 1,351 graduates from specialty programmes and 13 from local fellowship programmes.



OMSB is committed to leveraging digital technologies to enhance the quality of services provided to individuals and employers alike

Ministry of Labour

The Ministry of Labour in the Sultanate of Omans seeks to build a future founded on a new work philosophy that aligns with the aspirations of the current phase and the ambitions of sustainable development. Guided by a strategic vision, the Ministry focuses on advancing the labour and human resources sectors by developing Omani human capital through training and qualification programmes, improving productivity, and enhancing scientific, cultural and cognitive capabilities. The Ministry also continues its efforts to encourage investment, support productive projects and diversify income sources, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, issued Royal Decree No. (53/2023) promulgating the Labour Law, which keeps pace with global economic changes and aims to strike a balance between the rights of employers and employees. The law provides an integrated framework to protect the rights of all parties, creating an attractive, safe and stable working environment in the private sector.

In line with this transformation, the Ministry of Labour launched the ‘Ejada’ job rotation platform. This initiative reflects a future-focused vision for the governance of the state’s administrative apparatus and the enhancement of human capital, in line with the Tenth Five-Year Plan, which aims to develop government sector

competencies and equip employees with skills required for the future.

The Ministry continues to develop employment policies for both the public and private sectors, ensuring optimal use of human and financial resources while driving national economic growth. This focus supports the development of a knowledge-based economy, increases productivity, stimulates diverse business sectors and empowers jobseekers and entrepreneurs. These efforts contribute to addressing unemployment and creating more job opportunities for Omani citizens.

In 2024, the Ministry launched a range of initiatives to strengthen the local labour market and realise the goals of Oman Vision 2040. These initiatives include the adoption of digital technologies to enhance services provided to individuals and employers. One of the most prominent is the 'Tawteen' platform, which connects jobseekers with employment opportunities and supports the work of employment governance committees across economic sectors, currently comprising 16 committees that coordinate efforts between the public and private sectors. The platform also features the Employment Application System initiative, which matches job opportunities with the skills of jobseekers, facilitating the recruitment process for Omanis and providing accurate labour market data. Additionally, the Ministry launched the 'Masar' initiative to support professional qualifications, enabling government sector employees to obtain internationally recognised certifications in various fields, thereby enhancing efficiency and productivity.

The Ministry has also embraced digital transformation by digitising its services to the public, accelerating processes and ensuring accessible and user-friendly services for all. As part of this, it launched the Ma'ak mobile application, a digital project designed to facilitate communication between jobseekers and employers and to offer a wide range of electronic services to support this sector.

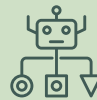
Efforts To Enhance Digital Transformation



**Digitisation
of 76% of
services**



**Integration with
39 government
agencies**



**Streamlining
transactions
through artificial
intelligence**

Various electronic services:

- Resignation requests
- Data editing
- Profiles viewing



Investing in human capital to drive sustainable development



Ma'ak Application Services

1. Employment Contracts
2. Licences
3. Grievances

“Masar” initiative

1. Enabling government sector employees to obtain professional qualifications.
2. Supporting training and the enhancement of professional competencies.
3. Supporting Sustainable Development in Line with Oman Vision 2040.

Statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information indicate that the replacement and Omanisation plans in the government sector have led to a reduction in the number of expatriate workers in government jobs in 2024. As of the end of October 2024, the total number of Omani employees in the Sultanate stood at approximately 870,885 across the public and private sectors, an increase of 5.7% compared to the same period in 2023. This total includes 378,221 Omanis employed in the government sector, 419,367 in the private sector, 62,297 in the family sector, and 1,981 in the social development sector.



Social Development

In the context of the ongoing pursuit of comprehensive social development, the concept of social development in the Sultanate of Oman extends beyond the traditional provision of care services to encompass broader dimensions such as equity, social integration and community participation. This is achieved by enhancing individuals' capabilities and empowering them intellectually and economically, with the aim of fostering livelihood independence that enables active participation in the sustainable development process.

The Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) is making concerted efforts to develop its programmes and activities, targeting various segments of society to enable individuals and families to realise their full potential and achieve a standard of living that meets their needs. MoSD continues to deliver protection, social care and training services through comprehensive and advanced mechanisms, working in collaboration with relevant authorities within an integrated framework that aims to build a sustainable and prosperous society.

In 2024, MoSD launched the 'We Reach You' campaign to strengthen public trust in its services and raise awareness of the support available. The campaign aligns with the government's digital transformation efforts, as MoSD seeks to facilitate and accelerate the delivery of services via electronic channels, encourage the public to adopt digital services and promote community engagement to improve and further develop these services.

Social Aid Provided by MoSD in 2024

Disaster aid

More than 1.4 million Omani Riyals were disbursed to 2,576 affected cases

Emergency cash assistance

Over 4.2 million Omani Riyals have been disbursed to support 20,050 cases

The MoSD continues to undertake a range of significant social research projects that support the provision of assistance and services to various segments of society. These include research related to social protection benefit applications, follow-up cases and disaster response. MoSD also conducts studies on behalf of other entities, such as universities and charitable organisations. In the first half of 2024, a large number of these studies were carried out to serve diverse social objectives.

Social Research to Provide Support and Services



31,983
social
research studies
conducted



27,733
research
papers related to
the MoSD



4,250
research
papers conducted
for other entities

Types of Research

Research related to social protection

Research on follow-up cases and disaster response

Research for institutions such as Sultan Qaboos University and the Social Protection Fund

MoSD places great emphasis on supporting people with disabilities by providing a range of rehabilitation and empowerment programmes and services aimed at enhancing their quality of life. These services include specialised centres such as the National Centre for Autism and the Al Wafa Centres for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, as well as support for prosthetic devices and other related services.

Programmes to Support and Rehabilitate Persons with Disabilities in the First Half of 2024

National Centre for Autism

Providing services to **120** autism cases

Age group from **2 to 30 years**

Types of Programmes:

Behavioural therapy: Speech and language therapy

Vocational rehabilitation: Supporting activities

Occupational therapy: Special Education

Al Wafa Centres for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities

3,889 enrolled in the centres

1,437  **2,452** 

39 centres in various governorates

Age group from **2 to 14 years**

Private Rehabilitation Centres Funded by MoSD

3,472 enrolled in private centres

1,064  **2,408** 

Card System for People with Disabilities

23,093 individuals registered in the system

9,948  **13,145** 

The MoSD seeks to support Omani families by implementing a range of programmes aimed at improving their quality of life and ensuring their stability. These programmes include family guidance and counselling services, family protection and support for children and young people who require special care. MoSD provides both field and telephone services to protect individuals from social and psychological problems.

Family Development and Protection Programmes 2024

Family Counselling and Guidance Services

1,212 beneficiaries

624  588 

Telephone Family Counselling

262 calls

147  115 

Family Protection

9 cases of women experiencing abuse

17 cases involved women being unlawfully prevented from marrying

2,973 cases of children being abused

27 cases of human trafficking of foreign nationalities

Child Care Centres & Youth Hostels

74 children enrolled in care centres

Nurseries (369)

8,706 children enrolled,
4,650 males and 4,056 females

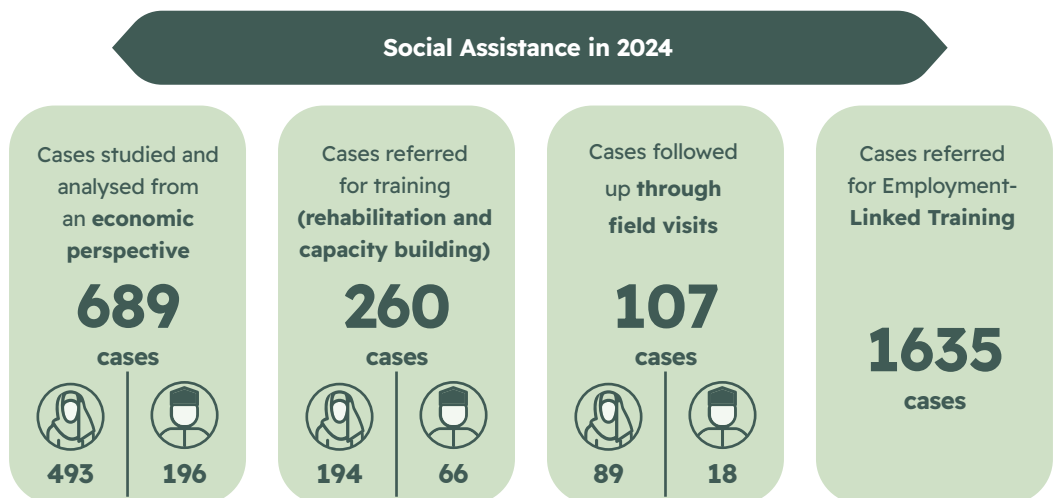
Youth Integration Hostels

77 young people enrolled

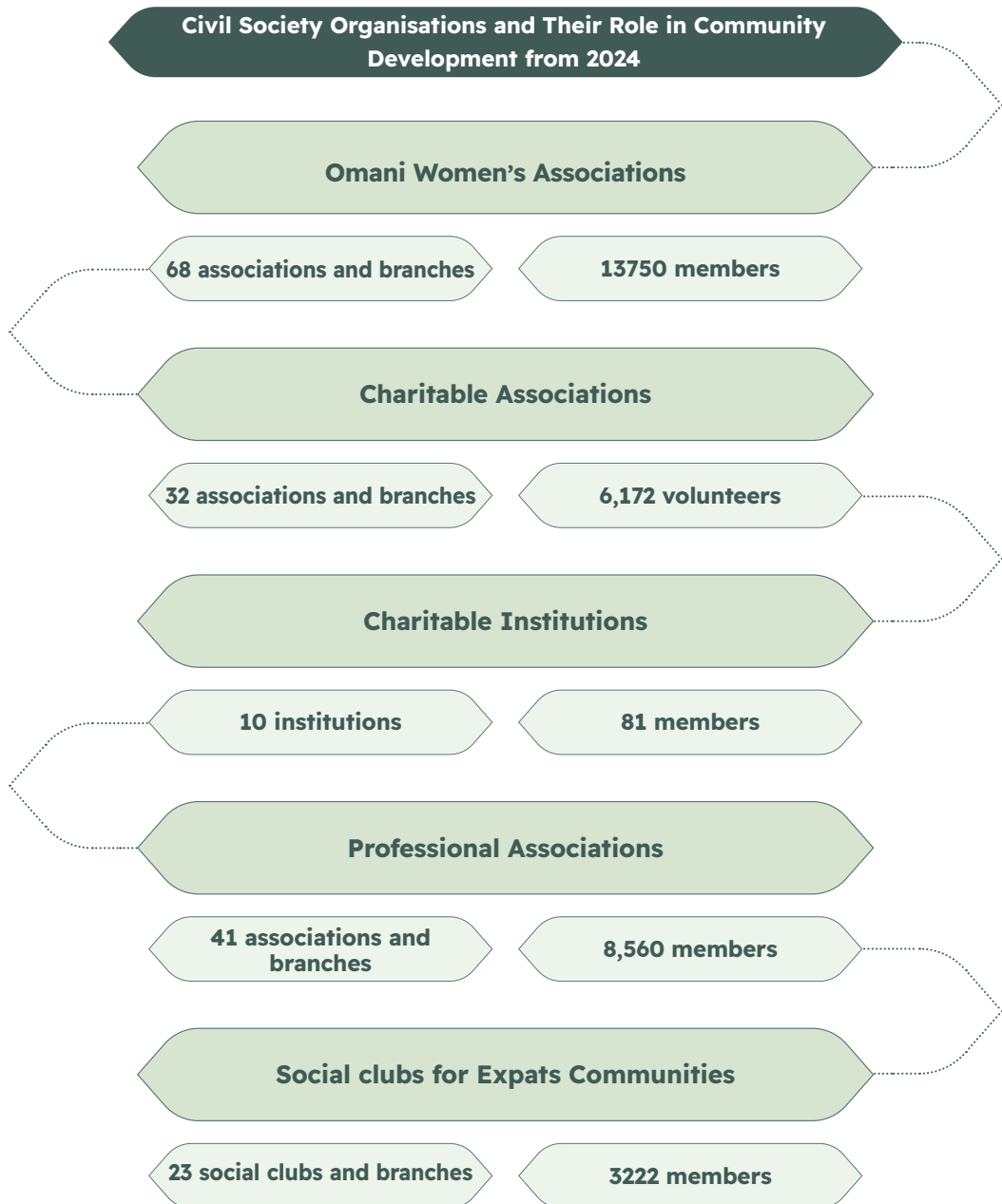
MoSD also pays special attention to the elderly by providing them with the necessary care through the Social Care Home in the Wilayat of Rustaq in the South Al Batinah Governorate, in addition to home care programmes designed to offer support and protection to elderly people who lack a breadwinner. The MoSD seeks to improve the quality of life for this group and to meet their basic needs.



MoSD has adopted the “Tamkeen” programme, which targets individuals who benefit from the MoSD’s social protection and social assistance schemes, as well as those with limited income. The programme aims to empower these individuals to become self-reliant, make use of their capabilities and promote the concept of self-employment. It also provides administrative, technical and financial support to help them manage small or medium-sized enterprises.



MoSD supervises a number of civil and professional associations, Omani women's associations, and social clubs for foreign communities. It monitors their activities to ensure compliance with labour laws and regulations. It also oversees the organisation of general assembly meetings and the implementation of various activities.



The Sultanate of Oman, represented by MoSD, hosted the “Third Arab Women Creators Forum” in April 2024, coinciding with the selection of Muscat as the “Capital of Arab Women” for 2024. The forum aimed to shed light on Oman’s vision and renaissance, with a focus on the role of Omani women in the fields of creativity and innovation. The forum included two dialogue sessions addressing the themes of creativity and innovation, during which working papers were presented on the contributions of Arab women in both fields. In addition, contributions in areas such as artificial intelligence and intellectual property were recognised, and prominent figures from the Arab world were honoured for their distinguished achievements.

In 2023, the MoSD launched the “Jood” digital platform for charitable donations, aiming to facilitate electronic giving and support charitable associations and groups in the Sultanate of Oman. The platform provides a unified channel for donations, making it easier to reach associations and offer financial assistance through secure payment methods. It also ensures that donations are delivered directly to recipients quickly and transparently.



Jood Platform

Jood Platform in 2024

Participants: 99 teams and charities

64 charitable teams and 30 charitable associations with their branches

4 endowment institutions and one government agency

Donors: 171,970 donors

182,173 OMR for relief campaigns

2,580,172 OMR for charitable initiatives

In May 2024, the MoSD launched the “Taheel” electronic platform to facilitate the provision of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities and their families, as well as for entities involved in operating rehabilitation centres. The platform also aims to improve services for persons with disabilities by streamlining the application and assessment process, providing accurate follow-up reports, and simplifying licensing and oversight procedures for rehabilitation centres.

In November 2024, the MoSD issued the “Regulatory Regulations for the Care of the Elderly in Alternative Families”, which define “elderly” as anyone who has reached the age of 60, and “alternative family” as a family that provides care for an elderly person.



The regulations set out the conditions and procedures for providing alternative care, stipulating that the elderly person entrusted to an alternative family must be of Omani nationality, must not have a family or must not be receiving adequate care from their family as determined by a social assessment conducted by the competent department, and must be free of contagious diseases according to a medical report from a recognised health institution.

The regulations also specify that an alternative family must include at least one Omani national, must be socially stable and able to meet the elderly person's needs based on a social assessment, and its members must be free of infectious diseases and behavioural disorders. The family must have a stable income sufficient to cover its needs, and its place of residence must be suitable. An exemption allows for an individual to provide care if they meet the same conditions.

Additionally, the MoSD issued the “Regulatory Regulations for Licences to Collect Money from the Public”, comprising 28 articles across 4 chapters, covering definitions and general provisions, licensing conditions and procedures, obligations of the collecting entity, and administrative penalties. In the same month, the MoSD also issued the “Regulatory Regulations for Day Care Centres for the Elderly”, which include 34 articles across ten chapters. These address definitions and general provisions, licensing controls, licensee obligations, management of care centres, requirements and specifications for care centres, conditions and procedures for enrolling the elderly, supervision and monitoring, suspension and cancellation of licences, fees and administrative penalties. Day care centres provide social, rehabilitation, psychological, cultural and other services for elderly people during the daytime.



Participation of the national football team in international forums

Sports and Youth Sector

Since the advent of the modern Omani Renaissance, Omani youth have been the beating heart of its journey, building its foundations with determination and upholding steadfast principles. They have always been, and remain, the cornerstone upon which the nation's achievements are built, and their loyal efforts are the driving force behind shaping Oman's bright future.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him, has paid great attention to youth, consistently emphasising their pivotal role in realising the nation's aspirations and the ambitions of its people. In a royal speech on 23 February 2020, His Majesty highlighted the importance of youth, stating: "Young people are the wealth of nations, their inexhaustible resource, and the arms that build. They are the nation's present and future. We will be keen to listen to them and identify their needs, interests and aspirations, and there is no doubt that they will receive the attention they deserve."

The Sultanate of Oman places great importance on sports and culture, focusing on supporting sports competitions and sponsoring outstanding athletes, in addition to providing support to private sports organisations and overseeing them in accordance with prevailing laws and regulations. Oman is also keen to organise sports events, matches and competitions at both local and international levels, with the aim of strengthening the Omani presence in the sports arena. In 2024, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth organised a series of sports activities aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle and encouraging young people to engage in sports. These activities included a variety of events and competitions for all age groups, contributing to building a more active and cohesive society and supporting the Sultanate of Oman's vision of a brighter future.

Sports Activities in 2024

**The Third Ramadan Basketball
Championship**

**With the participation of
120 girls**

Third Boccia Competition

**With the participation of
131 people**

**Amateur League Competition
«Support Your Team»**

**With the participation of
13,109 participants**

3x3 Basketball Competition for School Students

**With the participation of
352 students**

Higher Education Institutions Futsal Championship

**With the participation of
340 students**

**Festivals, specialised workshops, and sports
events**

Competiciones Juveniles en 2024

Youth Competitions in 2024

With the participation of
66 projects

Seventh National Debating Championship

With the participation of
464 participants

Dhofar Programming Competition

With the participation of
155 students

Military Discipline Camp in Dhofar Governorate

700 youths participated

Steadfast Forces

The Shield of
the Nation's
Achievements
and Stability



Over the years of its glorious renaissance, the Sultanate of Oman has achieved advanced rankings in global safety indicators, topping several international competitiveness indices. Oman has been ranked among the countries least exposed to terrorism and achieved a prominent position in the Global Peace Index 2024, placing 37th globally.

This success is attributed to the noble values upheld within Omani society, as well as a historical and cultural heritage that rejects intolerance and hatred. These factors have enabled the Sultan's Armed Forces, the Royal Oman Police, and other military and security agencies to maintain security and stability throughout the Sultanate, which has become an oasis of peace and safety where its people enjoy prosperity and reassurance.



His Majesty the Sultan presided over the military parade marking the Sultanate of Oman's National Day celebrations

These successes come within the framework of a comprehensive renaissance, the foundations of which were laid by the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimur, may Allah rest his soul, and carried forward by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him, who has affirmed his determination to “transform Oman to the level of the aspirations and hopes of its citizens in various fields.”

The military parade, graciously attended by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces at the Military Parade Ground at Al Samoud Camp of the Sultan's Special Force on 18 November 2024, marking the Sultanate of Oman's celebrations of the glorious fifty-fourth National Day, is a testament to the care and attention bestowed upon the Sultan's Armed Forces, which is reflected in their continuous development.

Various branches of the Armed Forces participated in the parade, which included symbolic units representing the Royal Army of Oman, the Royal Air Force of Oman, the Royal Navy of Oman, the Royal Guard of Oman, the Sultan's Special Force, the Royal Oman Police and the Royal Court Affairs, in addition to the joint and mounted military bands and divisional forces.



The Sultan's Armed Forces continue to advance through sustained development, modernisation and progress

Sultan's Armed Forces: The Unyielding Shield and Faithful Protector of the Renaissance's Achievements

Over the past 54 years of the blessed Renaissance, the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) have witnessed significant development, modernisation, progress and prosperity, under the royal patronage and generous care of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, the Supreme Commander, may Allah protect him, and before him, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, may Allah rest his soul. This progress reflects the SAF's deep commitment to their national duty of safeguarding the achievements and gains of the blessed Renaissance and its full readiness to carry out its noble mission of protecting and defending the homeland, ensuring that the flag of the Sultanate of Oman remains high in the skies of glory.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander reaffirmed his care and attention for the armed forces in his Royal Speech on 23 February 2020, commending their vital role in protecting the homeland and defending its achievements. He expressed his pride in all those serving in the military and security sectors and called for strengthening their role as guardians of the nation.

The SAF remain true to their pledge, fully committed to protecting the nation and safeguarding its accomplishments. They operate under an integrated system that prioritises quality performance, advanced training, systematic development and the procurement of modern weapons and equipment according to well-considered plans. In addition, the



The human element in the Sultan's Armed Forces is the most important basic component in the system of development and training plans

SAF undertake ambitious national projects that support the country's comprehensive development. The human capital is the cornerstone of the SAF's development and training plans, making it a steadfast supporter of the nation's progress and a protector of the gains of the glorious Renaissance. This element receives constant care and appreciation from His Majesty the Supreme Commander, may Allah protect him, as it represents the true wealth and the most vital component within the SAF's system of training, development and armament. The SAF, with all its branches including the Royal Army of Oman, the Royal Air Force of Oman, the Royal Navy of Oman and the Royal Guard of Oman, focus on highly trained, capable personnel. Targeted training ensures maximum efficiency and results in a force that is well-organised, well-armed and capable of employing the latest military technologies across various domains.

The Sultanate of Oman has been consistently integrating and strengthening its military system. Its human resources possess high levels of competence and benefit from strong material and moral support. Oman has adopted clear plans to equip the SAF with advanced weapons and equipment, including tanks, armoured personnel carriers, missile systems, artillery, combat and transport aircraft, helicopters, and various naval vessels such as landing ships, corvettes and advanced boats, all supporting the SAF's significant national role. Continuous development and modernisation of support weapons further enable the SAF to fulfil their national duties to the highest standard. Alongside this, comprehensive plans and programmes are in place to train and qualify human resources in line with the high scientific and technical standards achieved by the Omani soldier, who is now fully capable of mastering modern technology with professionalism and expertise.



The Royal Army of Oman continues to advance the development of its brigades, formations and units

Royal Army of Oman

The Royal Army of Oman has achieved significant progress in development and modernisation throughout the years of the blessed Renaissance, becoming a source of pride and honour. Its brigades, formations and units have been equipped with advanced weapons and technology, supported by a training plan designed to keep pace with technological advancements from a modern perspective. Human resources are scientifically and technically qualified, with continuous training conducted to enhance the combat capabilities of this distinguished force. Comprehensive development of brigades, formations and units is ongoing, ensuring they are equipped with the necessary weaponry to fulfil their national duties. This includes tanks, armoured troops and modern artillery, air defence systems, armoured vehicles, signal corps equipment, transport vehicles and maintenance workshops. These brigades and formations now operate as an integrated, high-performance combat system, equipped with effective firepower and manoeuvre capabilities, alongside robust operational, administrative and technical support services. The division forces have also seen notable organisational development, benefiting from modern facilities, service installations and advanced communications systems, all of which contribute to their readiness and effectiveness. Weapons continue to be acquired in line with the Royal Army of Oman's plans, enabling it to meet its operational requirements and national duties and to contribute to the strategy of building an integrated Omani military system. This is achieved both by upgrading and developing unit models and by establishing specialised and professional formations capable of safeguarding the nation's security and preserving the achievements of the modern Omani Renaissance.



His Majesty the Sultan during his visit to Adam Air Base of the Royal Air Force of Oman

Royal Air Force of Oman

The Royal Air Force of Oman has witnessed a significant qualitative leap in all aspects, making it a modern air force in terms of armament and organisation. It is equipped with advanced aircraft and fighters, state-of-the-art equipment and highly qualified personnel capable of safeguarding the achievements of the Omani Renaissance through a well-considered strategic approach, supported by the high efficiency and capability of its members. The force's capabilities have been strengthened with various types of aircraft, including fighter jets, logistics transport aircraft and other specialised aircraft. The Royal Air Force of Oman has also signed multiple agreements to address future challenges and requirements, enhancing its armament capabilities by incorporating the latest military technologies into its systems. In addition, it maintains well-equipped air bases that provide all the necessary resources for an effective air force capable of operating under diverse conditions. The Air Force's equipment, systems, transportation assets and human resources are continuously upgraded to ensure high efficiency and readiness to carry out its missions. The Royal Air Force of Oman plays a vital national role in safeguarding the skies of Oman and supporting the other branches of the Sultan's Armed Forces in various operations and duties.



The Royal Air Force of Oman is a modern, well-armed and highly organised force

The modernisation of the Armed Forces has been accompanied by the development of human resources, ensuring that personnel are fully qualified to operate advanced aircraft, systems and equipment, in line with the vision of the blessed Renaissance, which places human development at the core of its priorities and as a fundamental pillar of its foundations. The Armed Forces have focused on equipping their members intellectually and physically through various courses and ongoing motivation, enhancing their capabilities and enabling them to keep pace with the modern information and technological revolution.

As part of this modernisation and development, new aircraft such as the Hawk training aircraft and Typhoon fighter jets have been added to the force. These aircraft are distinguished by their advanced systems, which provide them with high operational capabilities, in addition to being equipped with modern weapons systems that enable them to operate effectively in diverse conditions. Further aircraft are planned to be added to air bases across the country to support national duties alongside other modern aircraft, such as the F-16.

Sultan Qaboos Air Academy is regarded as one of the most important training institutions within the Royal Air Force of Oman. The academy plays a vital role in preparing and qualifying officers and pilots, as well as contributing to the training and development of personnel from the Sultan's Armed Forces and other security agencies.



His Majesty the Sultan during his visit to Said bin Sultan Naval Base

Royal Navy of Oman

The Sultanate of Oman possesses a modern naval force represented by the Royal Navy of Oman. Its naval fleet comprises numerous advanced ships with diverse missions and responsibilities, playing an effective role in safeguarding national interests strategically, economically and in terms of security, through its constant and vigilant presence in Omani waters. The fleet is equipped with advanced weaponry and includes a range of surface vessels such as artillery ships, fast missile boats, and ships dedicated to support, training, transport and hydrographic (marine survey) operations. The Royal Navy of Oman protects the Omani coastline, secures its territorial waters, ensures the safe maritime passage of ships and oil tankers through the strategic Strait of Hormuz, secures maritime transport for units of the Sultan's Armed Forces along the Sultanate's coasts, supports defensive operations, protects fisheries, and contributes to joint amphibious and maritime transport operations. Its personnel are highly trained and well-qualified, ensuring they can effectively meet the challenges they face in carrying out their national duties. The Royal Navy of Oman has also been honoured to organise the Sultan Qaboos Award for Sailing. This prestigious award is presented at the conclusion of the annual sailing conference organised by the Sail Training International Association to the winning vessel in recognition of its achievements in the world of sailing, following competition with other governmental and private organisations and associations from around the globe.



The Royal Navy of Oman has a fleet equipped with advanced weapons capabilities

As part of the continued modernisation of its fleet, the Royal Navy of Oman has, over the past few years, been equipped with numerous modern and diverse vessels through recent projects, including the Khareef Project, the Horizon Project and the Sea of Oman Project. These additions to the surface fleet enhance the operational effectiveness of the Royal Navy of Oman and, with the advanced systems and equipment they are fitted with, enable it to carry out missions under various maritime conditions for extended periods in the open sea and to operate within the framework of joint operations. These modern vessels also support coastal patrols, relief and search and rescue operations, and strengthen the Navy's presence on the high seas, asserting national sovereignty over Omani waters and ensuring the safety of maritime navigation.

Among its specialised facilities, the Royal Navy of Oman operates a decompression chamber within the Deep Sea Medicine and Oxygen Therapy Unit, which treats diving-related accidents and chronic conditions throughout the Sultanate. In addition to its defensive and security roles, the Royal Navy of Oman makes significant contributions to national development.

The Sultan Qaboos Naval Academy plays a vital role in supplying the fleet with well-trained and qualified personnel through specialised training and qualification courses. These programmes aim to hone members' skills and capabilities, provide training in various marine sciences relevant to their duties, and equip them to perform their tasks with the highest levels of efficiency and competence.



His Majesty the Sultan during his visit to the Royal Guard of Oman and some of its facilities and units

Royal Guard of Oman

The Royal Guard of Oman (RGO) is one of the key branches of the modern Omani military system. Like the other branches of the Sultan's Armed Forces, it receives the royal care and attention of His Majesty the Supreme Commander, may Allah protect him, enabling it to attain a high level of efficiency and combat readiness. The RGO comprises infantry and support units equipped with advanced systems, equipment and technology, alongside educational, technical and administrative units. The RGO places great emphasis on qualification and training, with comprehensive training plans developed to meet the requirements of operating its sophisticated equipment.

The RGO Technical College plays an important role in providing the RGO and other state institutions with technically qualified personnel whose training aligns with international standards of technical education. The Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra, part of the RGO, is distinguished by its talented young Omani musicians. The RGO also includes integrated military bands that have made their mark at military and national events as well as international competitions. The RGO Cavalry performs a range of equestrian and show jumping displays at national and military events and graduation ceremonies. Throughout the year, Royal Guard of Oman units conduct a range of mobilisation drills and participate in annual shooting competitions. The RGO also takes part in joint military exercises with other branches of the Sultan's Armed Forces. Additionally, the Royal Guard of Oman's freefall parachute team represents Oman at various regional and international events.



The Academy of Strategic and Defence Studies is a strategic landmark of Oman's renewed Renaissance

Academy of Strategic and Defence Studies

The Academy of Strategic and Defence Studies was established by Royal Decree No. (27/ 2022), issued by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, the Supreme Commander, may Allah protect him, on 5 May 2022. This institution adds a new cornerstone to the state system and serves as a strategic pillar of Oman's renewed Renaissance. Operating under the Ministry of Defence, this distinguished academy encompasses the National Defence College, the Joint Command and Staff College, and the Centre for Strategic and Defence Studies.

1- National Defence College

The National Defence College was established by Royal Decree No. (2/2013) and was officially inaugurated on 11 December 2013. It stands as a testament to the principles upon which the vision of the Blessed Renaissance is founded: building both the state and its people. The college is the highest strategic academic institution dedicated to preparing national cadres capable of studying and applying strategic thinking and planning at national, regional and international levels in areas related to security, defence, strategy and decision-making. It also aims to enhance the ability to unify, integrate and coordinate national efforts across all fields within a comprehensive national framework. The college contributes significantly and positively to reinforcing the successes and achievements of the Sultan's Armed

Forces and various military and security agencies in particular, and the broader state sectors in general, supporting the comprehensive and ongoing Renaissance. It seeks to establish Omani military and civil intellectual foundations that operate in harmony and integration to serve the supreme national interest, expand knowledge in the field of strategy and deepen understanding of local, regional and international issues related to national security and defence.

2- Joint Command and Staff College

The Joint Command and Staff College at the Academy of Strategic and Defence Studies is one of the achievements of the blessed Renaissance journey. It has firmly established itself as a distinguished academic military institution with a track record of numerous accomplishments. The college continues to witness remarkable progress and advances steadily towards achieving its strategic objectives. It is characterised by the breadth and diversity of its curriculum, continuously monitoring and incorporating developments in military and leadership sciences. This ensures that officers are well-prepared to fulfil their national duties within their respective units upon graduation and contributes to nurturing a new generation of future leaders. As a prominent military educational institution, the college awards its graduates a bachelor's degree in military science. The college provides the Sultan's Armed Forces, the Royal Guard of Oman and other security agencies with officers who are well-qualified in leadership, enabling them to undertake command roles and responsibilities in the future. Additionally, the college attracts, on an annual basis, a number of officers from brotherly and friendly countries to pursue their studies alongside Omani officers.

3- Centre for Strategic and Defence Studies

The Centre for Strategic and Defence Studies is a specialised centre focused on strategic, defence and military studies. It plays a vital role in examining emerging challenges and supports the Ministry of Defence and Sultan's Armed Forces by developing researchers with advanced knowledge and expertise. The Centre was officially inaugurated in December 2003.

Its establishment marked a significant milestone in advancing strategic and defence research at all levels within the Ministry of Defence and the Sultan's Armed Forces. Since its inception, the Centre has served as a beacon of thought and knowledge, providing high-quality scientific studies and research with a high degree of professionalism. Within this framework, the Centre for Strategic and Defence Studies continues to offer the Ministry of Defence, the Sultan's Armed Forces, and other military and security agencies expert research and valuable, constructive studies.



The Ministry of Defence's engineering services contribute to comprehensive and sustainable development efforts

The Ministry of Defence's Engineering Services

The Engineering Services of the Ministry of Defence is one of the main support arms of the Sultan's Armed Forces. It plays a vital role by providing technical and engineering support during military exercises, as well as supplying and maintaining essential services such as water, electricity, sewage networks and infrastructure facilities in military camps, bases and installations. In addition, they develop designs, supervise construction projects and maintenance works, maintain infrastructure and various facilities, design and build internal roads within camps, and contribute to paving roads in various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman as part of the Ministry of Defence's contribution to the country's comprehensive development efforts. The Engineering Services also helps expand green spaces by providing the relevant authorities with treated water at a rate of 4,063,211 cubic metres annually, from a total volume of 5,804,578 cubic metres of treated water produced each year. They oversee numerous projects and logistical support programmes, such as the Comprehensive Construction Equipment Project, which represents a significant advancement that supports the implementation of various projects using modern engineering systems and practices.

The Ministry of Defence's Engineering Services also places special emphasis on academic and training aspects. They collaborate with numerous entities nationwide to coordinate efforts, advance research and foster technical cooperation in engineering fields. They also organise specialised courses and training programmes as part of ongoing plans to improve training quality and to promote knowledge and skills exchange.

National Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (NASGI)

The National Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (NASGI) of the Ministry of Defence (formerly the National Survey Authority) was established in October 1984. It has assumed a prominent position as the central body responsible for producing military and civil maps, conducting aerial photography across the Sultanate of Oman, setting standards for topographic surveys, maintaining the national archive of geographic materials, and providing aviation maps and geographic information. This is supported by a wide range of modern printing equipment, advanced software for all stages of map production and photography, state-of-the-art technical production tools, and highly accurate space surveying systems, as well as standard and analytical photogrammetric devices. All geographic information and data produced by NASGI undergo rigorous review and strict quality control and assurance before being made available to users or uploaded to the national database.

NASGI also plays a major role in maintaining survey networks, providing geographic reference frameworks and offering training in surveying and map production. To this end, NASGI established the Institute of Surveying and Map Production, which awards the National Diploma in Surveying and Mapping and attracts trainees from relevant military and civilian agencies.

The strategic projects and national geospatial information initiatives undertaken by NASGI form the foundation and backbone of all surveying activities and the production of maps and geographic data within the Sultanate. These outputs provide a fundamental resource for planning, development and informed decision-making for all users of geospatial information and serve as the benchmark for ensuring compatibility of geospatial data.

Among its major achievements, NASGI has completed several strategic national projects, including the National Network of Permanently Operating Reference Stations for the Sultanate of Oman (OMANCORSNET), the National Geodetic Model of the Sultanate of Oman (OMANGEOID), the Geospatial Guide of the Sultanate of Oman, topographic maps at scales of 1:50,000 and 1:100,000, the Road Atlas of the Sultanate of Oman, and the National Geodetic Datum of the Sultanate of Oman (ONGD). The NASGI has also developed a modern mobile mapping system to complement its existing surveying capabilities. In July 2023, NASGI launched an advanced unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to keep pace with global developments in spatial geography and to enhance its capacity to fulfil its national role. The NASGI is the official body accredited to produce, review and approve the official map of the Sultanate of Oman.



A scene that embodies the competence of national cadres and the integration of specialisations to support the health of Armed Forces personnel

Armed Forces Medical Services

The Armed Forces Medical Services provides healthcare to members of the Sultan's Armed Forces and their families. It also plays a significant role in medical support and evacuation operations, contributes to the development of the national health sector and provides airborne medical services in emergency situations. The Armed Forces Medical Services is equipped with the latest medical technology to perform diagnostics, examinations, laboratory tests, surgery and treatment to the highest standards.

The Armed Forces Medical Services School is a key training institution providing the Sultan's Armed Forces with scientifically and technically qualified medical and technical professionals. The Armed Forces Hospital in Al Khoudh, which reflects the Sultan's Armed Forces' commitment to the wellbeing of its personnel and their families, has undergone significant expansion and development across its departments and facilities. This flagship hospital is equipped with an electronic radiography system (PACS) and an advanced lithotripsy device. Recent enhancements include the opening of an arterial clinic, alongside existing clinics, centres and specialised departments, all of which are continuously updated and upgraded in line with advancements in medical equipment and technologies. Several additional centres are also under construction. In addition to the hospital, the Ministry of Defence and the Sultan's Armed Forces maintain medical centres at various formations, bases and camps, with their facilities and medical teams

constantly improved to support the development and modernisation of healthcare services throughout the country. Beyond providing healthcare within Oman, the Armed Forces Medical Services arranges overseas treatment when required. Special medical committees are formed to assess and evaluate cases that need advanced treatment abroad.

Among its notable medical achievements, the Armed Forces Hospital in Al Khoudh has successfully performed a hearing aid implant procedure for a patient with 70% hearing loss. The Ophthalmology Centre and the Ear, Nose and Throat Department have also performed a single corneal transplant for two patients, marking the first such milestone in ophthalmology within the Sultanate of Oman. This pioneering operation was carried out by a qualified national medical team using the VisuMax device, which utilises femtosecond laser technology, one of the most advanced technologies in eye surgery. This achievement positions Oman, through the Armed Forces Medical Services, at the forefront of adopting cutting-edge medical technology.

In March 2022, as part of its modernisation efforts, the Armed Forces Medical Services celebrated the inauguration of the new expansion of the Armed Forces Hospital in Al Khoudh and the opening of the Medical Supply Unit, further enhancing its efficiency and the quality of specialised healthcare provided to personnel of the Ministry of Defence, the Sultan's Armed Forces and other military and security agencies.

The Armed Forces Medical Services also organises numerous conferences, including the First Conference on Military Medicine and Disaster Medicine, which brought together various health institutions in the Sultanate alongside international experts, with the aim of sharing knowledge and best practices across diverse health fields.

The Military Technical College

The Military Technical College (MTC) is a leading centre of modern specialised knowledge, equipped with advanced capabilities and expertise. Its cutting-edge academic curricula, highly qualified training staff, state-of-the-art training programmes and strong academic management enable it to fulfil the national goals for which it was established. MTC offers multiple qualification levels leading up to a bachelor's degree, contributing to the absorption of general education graduates in the Sultanate of Oman and achieving a high rate of Omanisation in both academic and support roles within the college. It aims to centralise technical education under one umbrella and plans to establish a research centre to serve the Ministry of Defence, as well as government agencies and the private sector.

MTC provides academic and practical training programmes based on a thorough study of the current and future technical needs of the Sultan's Armed Forces. It covers all approved technical and engineering specialisations, including aeronautical engineering, marine engineering, mechanical and electrical engineering, construction engineering, and electronics and communications engineering. In addition, MTC offers specialised technical courses in advanced military technologies, as well as courses in refrigeration and air conditioning, control systems, precision instruments, medical equipment and other technical fields.

MTC is equipped with a wide range of modern facilities built to the highest standards, including classrooms, administrative buildings, student accommodation, student clubs, a theatre, outdoor sports fields, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, an exhibition hall, a mosque, a comprehensive clinic, a commercial centre, staff housing, a parade ground and other essential facilities. These resources support students both academically and militarily and enable them to pursue a full range of educational and extracurricular activities.

Military Social Services

The Military Social Services, headed by the Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces, provides social care to members of the Sultan's Armed Forces with the aim of ensuring social stability for them and their families. This is achieved by providing housing services and supervising construction projects, alongside a range of other social support services. These services are not limited to active military duty but extend into the post-service phase. Many social support programmes are offered to members of the Sultan's Armed Forces and the Royal Guard of Oman after their service, including care for persons with disabilities. This group receives dedicated support through rehabilitation, social integration, continuous monitoring, and meeting their diverse needs. Numerous programmes, events, charity races and solidarity days are organised for them, in addition to annual recreational trips arranged under the auspices of the Armed Forces Medical Services and in cooperation with the Sultan's Armed Forces. These trips allow persons with disabilities to experience the country's cultural heritage and diverse natural environment. In addition, visits are arranged to the holy sites to do Umrah, as well as visits to retirees during holidays and official occasions. Support is also extended to the injured, the sick and the families of deceased members of the Ministry of Defence and the Sultan's Armed Forces. The Sultanate of Oman is a permanent member of the Arab Union of Veterans and War Victims, represented by the Military Social Services.

SAF Morale Guidance and Military Protocols

Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) Morale Guidance and Military Protocols serves as the mirror and official spokesperson of SAF and other departments within the Ministry of Defence. It embodies the functions of military media, which include delivering military news, providing awareness and education in various forms, ensuring moral and psychological support, and backing military operations. Morale Guidance is responsible for upholding morale and highlighting the vital national role played by the SAF and its brave personnel, as well as the high standards they have achieved in all fields, through the execution of its diverse military media responsibilities. It provides media coverage of military, social, cultural and sporting activities and events across various media platforms, including print, audio, visual and digital outlets. It also produces a wide range of publications aimed at raising the cultural and intellectual level of officers and personnel, prepares television and radio programmes, and presents military reports and features in cooperation with the Ministry of Information. Additionally, Morale Guidance commemorates religious occasions and fulfils guiding, advisory and educational roles, including the preparation and issuance of the annual SAF diaries. It plays an important role in media operations and continuously strives to keep pace with modern developments in this field.

Al Sumoud Radio

With the blessings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, may Allah protect him, and on the occasion of the first anniversary of His Majesty's accession to power, the Ministry of Defence and SAF celebrated, on 11 January 2021 at Al Murtafa'a Camp, the official opening of Al Sumood Radio under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs. At the headquarters of Al Sumood Radio, His Highness, the patron of the occasion, received a briefing on the radio project, its content, vision and objectives, as well as its daily broadcast schedule, all designed to achieve the desired goals and national purpose. Through the airwaves of Al Sumood Radio, His Highness the Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs delivered the inaugural address, saying: "In the name of Allah, and with Allah's blessing, we inaugurate Al Sumood Radio for the Sultan's Armed Forces". Military radio media embodies the national role undertaken by SAF and the Ministry of Defence departments by highlighting military achievements on the one hand, and their various developmental contributions on the other, alongside their sacred national duty to defend the homeland and protect its gains and accomplishments. In addition, military radio supports awareness-raising efforts and contributes to cultural, economic, social, health and sports initiatives within the Sultanate of Oman.

Sultan's Armed Forces Museum

The Sultan's Armed Forces Museum offers a glimpse into Oman's military history through its various stages, housed within the historic Bait Al Falaj Fort, which was built during the reign of Sayyid Said bin Sultan in 1845 AD. It is the only military museum in the Sultanate of Oman, allowing visitors to explore the nation's military heritage from the pre-Islamic era to the Renaissance period. The museum comprises multiple halls displaying weapons, photographs and historical documents, taking visitors on a journey through time to witness stories of victories and military events narrated in each hall.

Since its official opening by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, may Allah rest his soul, on 11 December 1988, the museum has played a prominent role in preserving and showcasing the history of the Omani military and highlighting its cultural contributions. It includes pavilions narrating the evolution of SFA and their national roles. Visitors can observe the remarkable development SFA has undergone since 1970. The museum also features an outdoor exhibition area displaying a collection of previously used military equipment, including vehicles, tanks, aircraft and ships. It contributes significantly to enriching Omani military culture and has become a key destination for visitors to the Sultanate from around the world, providing information in multiple international languages, supported by a dedicated website and informational publications. In line with the royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, an exact copy of the letter addressed by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, may Allah rest his soul, to the Royal Family Council through the Defence Council has been on display since March 2020 in the hall dedicated to military achievements during His Majesty Sultan Qaboos's reign. On 9 January 2021, the museum was further honoured to exhibit the Land Rover and the gun carriage that carried the body of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said, may Allah rest his soul.

Information Technology Services

The Information Technology Services Department at the Sultan's Armed Forces Chief of Staff has achieved significant progress by professionally qualifying its personnel and acquiring leading international software programmes. It has also provided training for all departments and sections within the Ministry of Defence and SAF. The deployment of specialised information systems for electronic administration and various vital functions, including human resources management, supply, procurement, finance and others, has expanded significantly. These systems contribute effectively to increasing productivity and accelerating work processes with high efficiency, while providing decision-makers with essential data in a smooth and accessible manner.

Maritime Security Centre

The Maritime Security Centre was established to coordinate all maritime security efforts, as the passage of numerous commercial vessels and oil and petroleum tankers through Omani waters posed a security challenge that required a dedicated entity to oversee and ensure the safety and security of international navigation. The Centre is a key institution responsible for safeguarding the Omani maritime environment and addressing all maritime security risks within Omani waters. The Centre receives reports of maritime security incidents such as marine environmental pollution, search and rescue operations, obstruction of navigation routes, maritime piracy, infiltration, smuggling, and other related activities. It coordinates closely with military, security and civilian agencies to respond effectively to illegal activities at sea. As part of its training and capacity-building framework, the Maritime Security Centre conducts several maritime security drills in cooperation with SAF, other security agencies, and relevant authorities from various countries. These drills aim to assess the readiness and responsiveness of competent authorities in conducting search, rescue and medical evacuation operations, controlling oil pollution within Omani waters, and countering maritime security threats.

Joint Drills

SAF's development plans and training programmes focus on maintaining high levels of readiness and efficiency, ensuring that they are fully equipped to fulfil their national missions and duties. Joint military drills form an integral part of these programmes and plans, building on the training efforts established for this purpose and strengthening channels of communication and cooperation. In this context, and with the aim of enhancing and sustaining the effectiveness of SAF and its personnel in carrying out their sacred duties, joint exercises and practical demonstrations are conducted at various stages and levels across brigades, formations, units and bases of SAF and the Royal Guard of Oman. These drills also serve to test the performance of equipment and assess the capabilities and readiness of personnel in operating advanced weaponry.



The second Shabab Oman Ship carries the cultural and civilisational heritage of the Sultanate to countries around the world

Shabab Oman Ship II

The Royal Navy of Oman's ship Shabab Oman II continues the historic role of its predecessor, Shabab Oman I, in building bridges of communication and friendship between the Sultanate of Oman and brotherly and friendly countries around the world. The ship visits ports in these countries to foster cultural exchange with peoples across the globe and to showcase the Sultanate of Oman, its civilisation and its people. On each voyage, the ship carries Oman's cultural and civilisational heritage to the continents of the world, with a number of young Omanis on board proudly representing their nation. The ship has received numerous international awards, most notably the International Friendship Award, which has become closely associated with Shabab Oman II and is recognised worldwide. The ship has also won Friendship Trophy in the Historic Seas Race in Greece, the International Friendship Award for the Tall Ships Race for the seventh time in the United Kingdom, and the International Friendship Award for the North Sea Race in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The ship Shabab Oman has achieved international successes unmatched by any other vessel in the history of tall ship racing. Notably, the Sultanate of Oman succeeded in registering the "Shabab Oman Sailing Training Programme for Peace and Sustainable Cultural Dialogue" as a national entry on the UNESCO Register of Good Safeguarding Practices of Intangible Heritage.



The second Oman Youth Ship upon its arrival in Szczecin, Poland

This came during the participation of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, the Royal Navy of Oman, and the Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, in the 19th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which was recently held in Asuncion, Paraguay, and continued until 7 December 2024.

The Shabab Oman ship programme of the Royal Navy of Oman received strong commendation from the UNESCO Expert Committee, reflecting the Sultanate of Oman's commitment and capability in implementing the International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and preparing nomination files to the highest standards.

This registration represents global recognition and appreciation for the role played by the Shabab Oman ship in promoting culture through its participation in international events and festivals, showcasing the Sultanate of Oman's dedication to fostering a culture of dialogue and peace among nations worldwide. This recognition also highlights the sustainability and continuity of the Shabab Oman ship's programmes, which draw on the ship's accumulated knowledge and expertise to implement a range of cultural projects, while anticipating future developments in line with the cultural strategy and the priorities of Oman Vision 2040.

Regional and International Sports Participations

SAF have witnessed remarkable developments in the field of sports, with significant efforts made to modernise and advance all aspects of sporting activities across its formations and bases. Necessary sports facilities and amenities have been provided, and national personnel have been trained to a high standard. These efforts have enabled the organisation of various competitions and tournaments, leading to the emergence of professional military sports teams that represent the Sultanate of Oman at regional and international events and demonstrate a strong presence at national and military occasions.

The achievements of the national freefall team have been notable, culminating in first place at both the ASEAN Championship and the Open Freefall Championship, earning the title of 2019 Asian Champion in the individual target event. The military beach volleyball team secured second and third places at the Military World Cup held in Germany in September 2022.

The Royal Army of Oman team won the 21st edition of SAF Volleyball League Championship in 2023. The shooting team has also excelled, achieving first places at the International Military Shooting Championship in the United Kingdom in June 2023, and securing high rankings at the 16th Arab Shooting Championship in Cairo, as well as at the international championship held in Bulgaria.

The national freefall parachute team has achieved advanced positions in several competitions, including the Slovenian Freefall Championship and the Asian Firearms and Air Pressure Championship in Jakarta. The team also recorded impressive results at the Bologna Championship in Italy and participated in the World Military Parachuting Championship in Hungary, where it achieved high rankings.

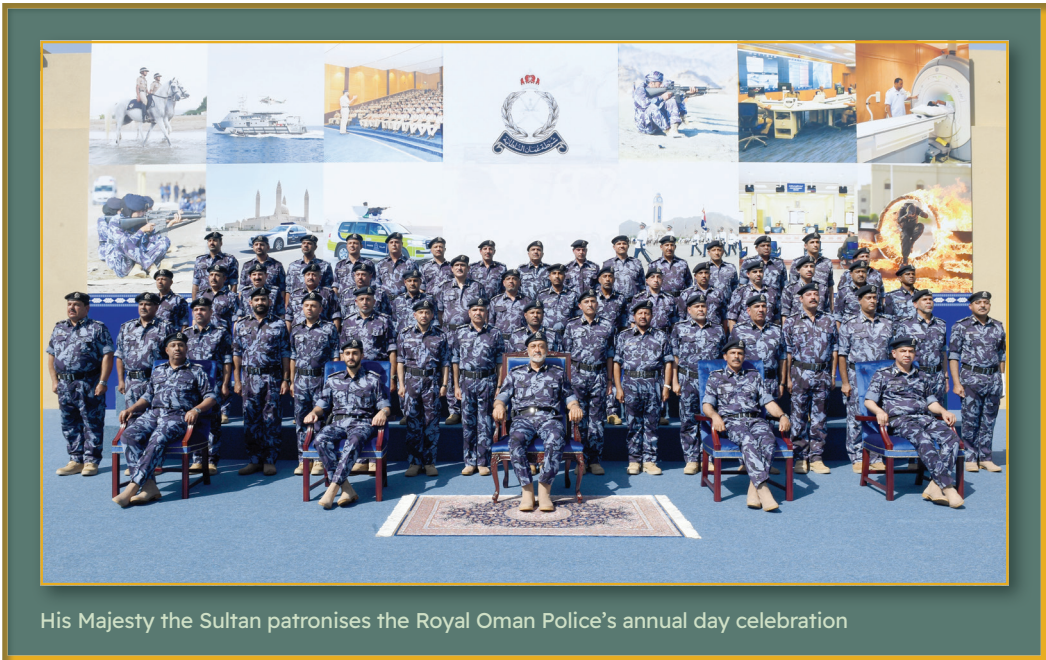
In the field of music, the Royal Army of Oman Band earned top international rankings at the World Music Competition in Scotland, which featured 204 musical bands from around the world, highlighting its prestigious reputation. The Royal Air Force of Oman Band also secured advanced positions at the same competition, where over 180 bands competed, achieving results that reflect the continued excellence of the Sultan's Armed Forces in various fields.

Military and Security Services Pension Fund

The Military and Security Apparatus Pension Fund was approved pursuant to Royal Decree No. (51/2023), issued on 17 July 2023. The decree stipulates that employees of the Ministry of Defence Pension Fund, the Royal Office Pension Fund, the Royal Oman Police Pension Fund, the Internal Security Service Pension Fund, the Royal Guard of Oman Pension Fund, and the Sultan's Special Force Pension Fund shall be transferred to the Military and Security Apparatus Pension Fund with the same ranks, grades and financial entitlements. Furthermore, the phrases "Ministry of Defence Pension Fund", "Royal Office Pension Fund", "Royal Oman Police Pension Fund", "Internal Security Service Pension Fund", "Royal Guard of Oman Pension Fund", and "Sultan's Special Force Pension Fund" shall be replaced by the phrase "Military and Security Services Pension Fund" wherever they appear in the applicable laws and royal decrees currently in force.

Sultan's Armed Forces Contributions to National Development

SAF work closely with various government agencies in support of the country's development efforts, recognising that development represents both a civilisational challenge and a modern achievement that requires the combined efforts of all state institutions to achieve sustained progress and advancement. From this perspective, SAF contribute to areas of comprehensive development, foremost among which is safeguarding the achievements of the prosperous journey of progress under the leadership and patronage of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him. This safeguarding helps create an environment of prosperity, security and stability, enabling citizens to play their full role in contributing to nation-building and creating favourable conditions for foreign investment through confidence in the country's secure and stable climate. SAF stand at the forefront of those government institutions that participate actively and effectively in the processes of modernisation, development and construction.



Royal Oman Police

The Royal Oman Police (ROP) receives significant attention and continuous support from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, the Supreme Commander, may Allah protect him, which has contributed to the development of its security and service systems in line with the national vision aimed at ensuring stability and prosperity for the nation and its citizens.

ROP operates according to well-considered and systematic plans and strategies, guided by a clear vision that encompasses all its formations to extend security and safety across the entire country. It seeks to develop integrated electronic systems, bring police services closer to the public, simplify and enhance these services, and strengthen integration and partnership with the community as well as public and private institutions.

ROP continues to fulfil its national mission, inspired by the noble vision and wise guidance of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, the Supreme Commander, may Allah protect him, by maintaining order and public security, safeguarding morals, protecting lives, honour and property, ensuring peace and tranquillity, preventing crimes, investigating those that occur, and delivering its services to the public in a manner that keeps pace with modern technologies and contributes to the realisation of Oman Vision 2040.

ROP: Deployment and Readiness

ROP provides comprehensive security coverage across the entire country through its geographical commands and police stations distributed throughout all governorates. In addition, it delivers traffic, passport and civil status services through various service centres. The Special Taskforce Command also plays an important role in responding to security incidents and providing support and assistance to all Royal Oman Police formations.

Combating Crimes

The Directorate General of Inquiries and Criminal Investigation has strengthened its capacity to perform its assigned duties by employing advanced equipment and software. It has updated the forensic and digital evidence system to support crime-fighting efforts. It has also enhanced international cooperation with global police agencies to develop competencies, build capabilities, and benefit from international knowledge and expertise. The ROP has established several forensic laboratories across various governorates, in addition to a dedicated digital laboratory and has equipped them with qualified personnel and advanced technical systems to combat cybercrime and expand the use of biometric fingerprints, enabling rapid identification of perpetrators.

Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT)

In February 2024, the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the National Centre for Financial Information (NCFI), obtained membership in the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units. This accession recognises the efforts made by the NCFI in anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism through the exchange of information on suspicious transactions with various relevant local and regional authorities, and through the establishment of numerous cooperation programmes and bilateral memoranda of understanding. This membership will enhance the NCFI's participation at the international level and enable it to benefit from the training programmes and workshops organised by Egmont Group.

Drug Control and Prevention

In line with the royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, the Supreme Commander, may Allah protect him, the Sultanate of Oman has adopted the National Strategy for Combating Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (2023–2028). This strategic initiative aims to build a society protected from the dangers of drugs and psychotropic substances by unifying national efforts to tackle this global challenge. It outlines future plans for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug users, the promotion of community awareness, and the development of human resources. ROP plays a key role in this endeavour by raising awareness on effective approaches to supporting drug users, providing volunteer services to aid their recovery and offering alternatives to punitive measures. It places strong emphasis on prevention through the implementation of awareness campaigns, treatment programmes, and psychological and social support services.

Developing and Reinforcing the Police Work System

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, the Supreme Commander, may Allah protect him, issued Royal Decree No. (72/2023) amending certain provisions of the Police College's bylaws. This reflects the great importance placed on raising the academic standard of this scientific institution, which is dedicated to training and qualifying officer candidates physically and militarily, enabling them to fulfil their policing duties and awarding them a bachelor's degree.

In addition to the college, the Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences comprises a group of training institutes, including the Officers' Training Institute, the Other Ranks Institute, the Recruits' Police Institute, and the Women's Police Institute, as well as the Practices Complex, all of which provide a conducive environment for training and research.

To promote the exchange of expertise, the joint organisation of training programmes, and the advancement of research, the Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences signed several cooperation agreements in 2024 with the Academy of Strategic and Defence Studies, A'Sharqiyah University, Al Buraimi University and Nizwa University in the academic, research and training fields.



The Royal Oman Police's electronic system includes more than 650 systems and services

Digitisation of Services

ROP won three local awards at the COMEX Excellence in Technology Awards 2024 in recognition of its efforts to enhance user experience and develop digital services. These awards include the Best E-Services Award, the Best Smartphone Application Award, and the Best of the Best Award.

In addition, ROP received the Best Institution Achieving Digital User Experience and Beneficiary Satisfaction Award within the Institutions Track of the 2024 Digital Excellence Award in the Government Sector. It also won the Best Digital Government Service Provided to the Business Sector Award for its Bayan application.

The Royal Oman Police's electronic system encompasses more than 650 systems and services, along with several new services launched in 2024. These include the digital identity service for verifying a person's identity using facial recognition, displaying traffic violations via the digital identity, first-time vehicle registration through authorised agencies, the electronic portal of the Traffic Safety Institute, adding and cancelling vehicle mortgages, and the electronic fingerprint form. Furthermore, ROP has established links with the Ministry of Health for the pre-arrival medical examination service and with the Supreme Judicial Council to enable direct registration of marriages in the civil status system.

Modern and Advanced Levels of Customs Efficiency

The Directorate General of Customs has kept pace with digital transformation to enhance the level of electronic customs services provided to the commercial community. This has been achieved by improving work systems and digitising customs procedures and operations through the Bayan customs system, which supports trade exchange and delivers customs services characterised by safety, capacity, speed and convenience, in line with modern technologies and electronic systems. The system also enables customs clearance prior to the arrival of shipments and provides accurate information and data that contribute to supporting the national economy and facilitating procedures for investors. The Bayan system comprises 496 electronic services linked to 74 government and private entities.

In 2024, the Royal Oman Police launched a training programme for citizens participating in the management and operation of handling operations at land ports, in partnership with the private sector. This initiative is one of several pioneering efforts launched by the ROP to strengthen collaboration with the private sector and help create job opportunities for Omani youth.

Traffic Sector

The Directorate General of Traffic monitors and oversees work carried out through 53 service sites, including traffic departments located across the governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. ROP has established 11 Traffic Safety Institutes throughout the governorates with the aim of raising traffic awareness within society and providing specialised qualification and training for vehicle drivers in partnership with various government and private institutions and civil society organisations. These institutes include mini traffic schools designed to instil traffic awareness in children.

Digital transformation in the traffic sector includes electronic integration with the customs system, the passport and civil status system, electronic insurance platforms, the eye examination system, the self-service device system, and a system linking vehicle sales agencies for the direct registration of new vehicles. It also includes the provision of technical inspection services for vehicles in cooperation with private establishments.

As part of the regulatory framework for the traffic sector, amendments have been issued to certain provisions of the Executive Regulations of the Traffic Law to define the approved scientific standards for establishing bicycle driving schools, the requirements for obtaining the necessary licences, and the conditions that must be met by bicycle driving instructors.



The Coast Guard Police is equipped with the latest equipment, and its personnel are distinguished by their high level of efficiency

Coastal Protection

The Coast Guard Police stations have been equipped with a number of speedboats of various sizes, fitted with the latest navigational devices, communication systems and maritime safety equipment. Reflecting ROP General Command's commitment to enhancing the competencies of its personnel and developing their capabilities across various fields of work, officers are provided with the knowledge and skills needed to handle new developments and keep pace with technological advancements. In line with this commitment, ROP, represented by the Coast Guard Police Command, obtained international accreditation in 2024, granting it the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Operator Certificate. This certification enables the Royal Oman Police to offer specialised training programmes and workshops for GMDSS operators on maritime safety procedures and protocols, as well as on the use of communication equipment and devices for ship rescue operations.

Integrated Service Stations

The Directorate General of Passports and Civil Status provides advanced electronic services to citizens and residents, including applications for the issuance and renewal of passports and national ID cards, as well as various types of electronic visas. These services are available through Royal Oman Police service centres located throughout the Sultanate of Oman, enabling applicants to complete their transactions easily and efficiently.

Air Support Operations

ROP has strengthened the role of the Directorate General of Police Aviation, which provides vital support to various formations and conducts patrols to monitor the coastal strip and detect suspicious vessels within the territorial waters of the Sultanate of Oman. It also transports personnel from other police formations to areas with difficult terrain, carries out search and rescue missions, and undertakes evacuation operations. In addition, it transports supplies and essential provisions to residents in mountainous regions.

Mounted Police

The Mounted Police Command patrols areas that are difficult to access by vehicle, as well as neighbourhoods, beaches and airports. The Command carries out preventive inspections using dogs, tracking and searching for narcotics and explosives, and locating missing persons. It also supports the police commands of the various governorates in maintaining security and takes part in displays during national holidays and official Royal Oman Police events. In addition, the Mounted Police Command plays a key role in maintaining order at events, festivals, official competitions and other occasions where its presence is required. It is also actively involved in horse races, show jumping, tent pegging and other equestrian competitions.

Security Media

The security media places strong emphasis on the importance of community engagement in creating a cooperative, united, informed and responsible society that contributes to maintaining security and public order. It also focuses on community issues and the need to address negative phenomena such as drug abuse and traffic accidents, as well as on guiding individual behaviour to protect people from harm, preserve their rights, and strengthen their legal awareness. Security media covers all aspects of community security, including criminal cases and awareness-raising topics, while highlighting police efforts that are dedicated to serving the community, maintaining safety and security, and fostering public awareness and social stability.

The ROP keeps pace with modern technologies, tools and methods used in media publishing and broadcasting, as well as in journalistic work and visual and audio media. The ROP maintains an active electronic presence through its social media accounts and its dedicated YouTube channel. In cooperation with various government and private entities and members of the public, the Directorate of Relations and Security Information carried out awareness campaigns in 2024 on the dangers of harbouring and employing infiltrators, as well as campaigns to raise awareness of the risks of blackmail and electronic fraud.



Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority: Qualified personnel and advanced equipment

Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority: Continuous Efforts to Reduce Disaster Risks

The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) is one of the public security units, as defined in Article 16 of Royal Decree No. (68/2014). Its mission is to protect lives and property, ensure public safety, reduce the risks of natural and industrial disasters and mitigate their effects, and implement measures and procedures related to civil defence and ambulance services.

On 22 April 2021, Royal Decree No. (39/2021) was issued, amending its name from the Public Authority for Civil Defence and Ambulance to the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority.

The fire service is one of the most important services provided by CDAA, addressing various types of fires through trained firefighting teams equipped with modern tools and equipment to protect lives and property.

The land rescue service is closely linked to the fire service and handles incidents such as evacuating people trapped in vehicles following traffic accidents. The water rescue service plays a key role in rescuing people from beaches, dams, wells, springs and sewage channels, and supports search and rescue teams during operations to locate missing persons in wadis and remote areas.

In recent years, the CDAA's ambulance service has expanded significantly. Initially limited to providing first aid to those injured in traffic accidents, it now includes response services and emergency medical care for critical cases at home, ensuring patients are transported to the nearest and most suitable health institutions. The service also covers injuries resulting from fires, building collapses, drowning incidents and other emergencies requiring advanced and urgent medical care.

In response to the Sultanate of Oman's industrial development and the growth of industrial zones and ports, CDAA has given high priority to preparedness for hazardous materials incidents. It has developed qualified personnel capable of handling chemical, biological and radiological incidents, as well as petroleum-related accidents.

The CDAA continues to work with other relevant bodies to simplify, facilitate and expedite the procedures for issuing protection licences and certificates for commercial and industrial establishments. These services are connected with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion through the "Invest Easy" programme.

In line with its vision to expand its services and develop human resources, the CDAA has celebrated the graduation of two groups of medical emergency technicians in the health assistant category, along with new graduates in the field of civil defence sciences who have completed specialised courses in firefighting, rescue, search and rescue operations, and the handling of hazardous materials incidents. As part of its ongoing expansion, on 22 January 2024 CDAA inaugurated the Civil Defence and Ambulance Centre in the Wilayat of Jabal Al Akhdar to provide firefighting, rescue and ambulance services. On 14 November 2024, Civil Defence and Ambulance services were launched in the Wilayat of Al Musannah in South Al Batinah Governorate, alongside new Civil Defence services in the Wilayats of Sinaw and Al Kamil and Al Wafi, as well as ambulance services in the Al Saadah area of the Wilayat of Taqah in Dhofar Governorate and in Al Rusayl area in Muscat Governorate.

Omani Media

The Nation's
Honest Mirror
and Measured
Voice



The media sector in the Sultanate of Oman continues to serve as a key partner in supporting and advancing the nation's modern and renewed Renaissance. It has made steady and confident strides in showcasing the distinctive qualities of the Omani identity and its cultural contributions, while fostering bridges of friendship and goodwill with countries and peoples around the world through a balanced media policy. Its role in promoting economic growth, attracting investment, and boosting the tourism sector is reflected in its effective presentation of Oman's economic opportunities and natural splendour.

In keeping with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's commitment, may Allah protect him, to empower the media and its professionals to fulfil their constructive and pivotal role in national development, Royal Decree No. (58/2024) was issued to enact the Media Law. This is aligned with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, the evolving dynamics of the media landscape and the transformative impact of modern technologies in digital media. This law strengthens the sector's mission by ensuring objectivity, integrity, complete neutrality and freedom of expression in line with the Basic Statute of the State, while upholding the values of citizenship and national belonging.

Oman's media sector is committed to realising its strategic vision by developing and executing plans and initiatives that reflect the Sultanate's overarching policies. It aims to harness the media's role in raising awareness and knowledge, promoting cultural openness, and safeguarding freedom of opinion and expression in accordance with the law. It also seeks to enhance the performance and sustainability of the Omani press, advance media studies and research, and improve radio and television broadcasting to keep pace with the latest technological advancements. In parallel, the sector focuses on activating electronic platforms, websites, social media channels and related applications to strengthen communication with the public and enrich content related to the Sultanate. Continuous efforts are also made to update media legislation and professional codes of conduct to ensure free and responsible media practices, promote Oman's reputation and civilisational contributions, and inform international public opinion about the foundations of national policy and Oman's positions on local, regional and international issues and events.

National media authorities continue to advance media legislation and professional guidelines to ensure a free and responsible media environment that reflects the Sultanate of Oman's identity and cultural achievements



A Modern Media Environment Showcasing National Achievements

Radio and Television: Delivering an Honest and Purposeful Media Message

With renewed confidence and a clear vision, Oman's radio and television channels continue to shape a dynamic media landscape that informs, engages and inspires society. Just as they documented the milestones of the modern Omani Renaissance and the nation's progress in construction and development, these channels have maintained their steadfast mission throughout the era of the renewed Renaissance. They reinforce the noble values of Omani society, promote community participation in nation-building and development, strengthen national identity, and highlight the state's achievements and foreign policy, which is grounded in the principles of peace, coexistence and cooperation at all levels.

Through a rich array of radio and television programmes, these channels showcase the Sultanate's comprehensive development across various sectors, employing truthful reporting and a clear vision to illustrate the prosperity, growth and progress that characterise Oman. They ensure that listeners and viewers can participate meaningfully in discussions on diverse topics, thereby deepening patriotism and civic responsibility, particularly among young people, who are a central focus of this content. Youth are given platforms for direct participation and their activities, scientific accomplishments and contributions are highlighted, presenting their ideas and reinforcing their sense of responsibility. This approach reflects the wise leadership's unwavering belief in the Omani citizen's capacity to contribute to national advancement and affirms that the people of Oman are the country's most valuable asset.

Oman's Radio: Robust Programming with Quality and Credibility

Oman Radio stands as the leading voice of Omani media, playing a pivotal role in promoting the nation's culture and heritage and strengthening national identity. Since its inception, it has aspired to serve as a comprehensive platform that keeps pace with the aspirations of the Omani people, offering a wide variety of programmes spanning news, politics, culture, heritage, religion and entertainment to meet society's diverse needs.

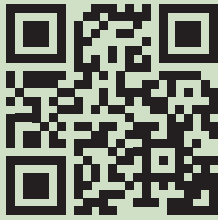
Over the years, Oman Radio has evolved significantly, transitioning from traditional to digital broadcasting, thereby reaching a broader audience. Specialised channels such as the Holy Quran Radio, Youth Radio, English Radio and Classic Radio have been launched to cater to all segments of society. Embracing modern broadcasting technologies, Oman Radio has evolved into a comprehensive digital platform that offers high-quality content and contributes to preserving Omani heritage through programmes reflecting the nation's history and civilisation. It also seeks to instil core values such as loyalty to the homeland and tolerance by disseminating culture and knowledge and strengthening national cohesion. In addition, it supports sustainable development through awareness programmes focusing on the environment and natural resources.

In 2024, Oman Radio achieved a remarkable milestone, winning 12 awards across various programme and series categories at the Gulf Radio and Television Festival held in Bahrain and the Arab Radio and Television Festival organised in Tunisia. Oman Radio also received recognition from the Arab States Broadcasting Union's Arab Centre for News and Programme Exchange in appreciation of its valuable contributions and outstanding efforts in the field of media. In drama production, Oman Radio excelled, presenting 34 diverse radio dramas in the same year, underscoring its ongoing commitment to delivering cultural, creative and entertaining content that appeals to listeners with varied interests.

In 2024, the Sultanate of Oman Radio achieved a significant milestone by **winning 12 awards across various programme and series categories** as part of the Gulf Festival and the Tunisia Festival



Scan the QR code for live broadcast



General Radio

Total programmes produced

23



1245

Total number
of episodes
for live
programmes

2296
hours

Total
broadcast
hours
for live
programmes



1520

Total number
of episodes
for recorded
programmes

518
hours

Total
broadcast
hours for
recorded
programmes



Scan the QR code for live
broadcast



Al Shabab Radio

Total programmes produced

19



1380

Total number
of episodes
for live
programmes

3029
hours

Total
broadcast
hours
for live
programmes



349

Total number
of episodes
for recorded
programmes

51
hours

Total
broadcast
hours for
recorded
programmes

إذاعة القرآن الكريم

Scan the QR code for live broadcast



برنامج إضاءة من شهر الصيام تناول ما يميز الدين الإسلامي وأصوله وتطرق مسائل الإيمان والأخلاق مع: د. خالد بن سليمان الحصار الإذاعة: MCT 13:00	برنامج العروة الوثقى (٢) مع: د. يوسف بن عبدالله الشحي الإذاعة: MCT 21:50	برنامج من أنباء الرسل (٣) استلهم الحروس والعر من قصص أنباء الرسل في القرآن الكريم مع: الشيخ ناصر بن سليمان الساجعي ومحمد بن سليمان المغولي الإذاعة: MCT 22:40
برنامج آيات الدعاء مع: طالب بن سعيد الشويبي الإذاعة: MCT 13:00	برنامج نساء إيمانية تأليف: الجواب الذكية المتعلقة بنوع الفترات لدى الأفراد مع: د. عبدالله بن مبارك العربي الإذاعة: MCT 21:50	برنامج أحكام التلاوة والتجويد يتناول أحكام القرآن الكريم فيها أهم أحكام التجويد مع: أحمد بن سالم المصلي الإذاعة: MCT 14:00

Holy Quran Radio

Total programmes produced

14



29

Total number
of episodes
for live
programmes

43
hours

Total
broadcast
hours
for live
programmes



2417

Total number
of episodes
for recorded
programmes

663
hours

Total
broadcast
hours for
recorded
programmes



Oman English FM

Scan the QR code for live broadcast



Oman English FM

Total programmes produced

18



867

Total number
of episodes
for live
programmes



2456

hours

Total
broadcast
hours
for live
programmes



292

Total number
of episodes
for recorded
programmes



385

hours

Total
broadcast
hours for
recorded
programmes



Oman Classic Radio

Classic Radio in the Sultanate of Oman stands as a cultural beacon, enriching the nation's airwaves with classical music. Inspired by the wise vision of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said, may Allah rest his soul, this station began its journey in 2010, emerging as a dedicated platform for classical music listeners.

It offers a diverse repertoire of international and Arab classical music, spanning various musical eras and styles. The station also celebrates national occasions by broadcasting compositions that reflect Omani identity and embody the spirit of patriotism and belonging.

Programmes are presented in both Arabic and English, enabling the station to reach a wide audience and introduce listeners to the rich world of classical music. Each musical piece is accompanied by informative commentary in both languages, deepening listeners' understanding and appreciation of the art form.

In a step that further cements its place in Oman's cultural landscape, Classic Radio has announced a strategic partnership with the Royal Opera House Muscat. This collaboration reflects the shared vision of both institutions to promote high-quality musical culture and nurture emerging Omani talent. Through this partnership, Royal Opera House concerts will be broadcast on Classic Radio, offering a broader audience the opportunity to enjoy performances by both Omani and international artists.



Sultanate of Oman TV

Sultanate of Oman TV comprises the following channels: the General Channel, the Sports Channel, Oman Live, and the Oman Cultural Channel

In 2024, the Ministry of Information marked the fiftieth anniversary of Sultanate of Oman TV

which first began broadcasting from Muscat on 17 November 1974

Winning prestigious 10 awards at various media festivals and events



Its signal reaches different governorates across the Sultanate

Broadcasting **360 reports** on the General Channel and **58 reports** on the Cultural Channel

General Channel



As a leading national broadcaster, the General Channel remains at the forefront of reflecting Oman's renewed Renaissance under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him. The channel focuses on highlighting development milestones and promoting authentic Omani values, shedding light on Oman's rich history and vibrant present, while promoting the principles of citizenship, tolerance and peace. In 2024, it devoted extensive coverage to national projects and cultural accomplishments, alongside a varied schedule of scientific, religious, cultural, economic, youth and health programming, as well as children's and entertainment shows. The channel's content has been further enriched with local,

Arab and international productions, catering to diverse viewer interests. To keep pace with digital transformation, the General Channel broadcasts its content across social media platforms such as YouTube, X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram, and offers live streaming via Periscope.

The channel played a particularly prominent role in covering the adverse weather conditions experienced by the country, providing reliable information from the relevant authorities and maintaining direct contact with its network of trained correspondents to document and showcase national crisis management efforts. It has also received several awards at the Gulf Radio and Television Festival and the Arab Radio and Television Festival.

Number of reports produced

360



541

Total number
of episodes
for live
programmes



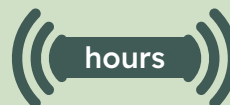
596

Total hours
of live
television
broadcasting



245

Total number
of episodes
for recorded
programmes



174

Total hours
of recorded
television
broadcasting



Oman Sports Channel

Oman Sports Channel is a dedicated television channel that covers broadcasts a wide range of local and international sporting events and activities, catering to the interests of sports audiences, particularly young people. It offers a diverse selection of sports programmes, including daily, weekly and seasonal shows, as well as daily sports news bulletins, with a special focus on Omani sporting achievements. The channel aims to highlight the state's efforts to develop Omani sports through investment in infrastructure and facilities, foster healthy competition among teams and clubs, promote positive sporting values, and strengthen the link between sports and public health.



الرياضية

Scan the QR code
for live broadcast



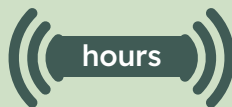
Total programmes produced

18



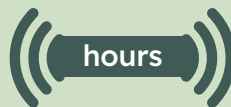
Broadcasting
hours

450



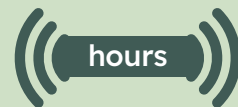
for live
programmes

15



or recorded
programmes

195



for coverage and
events

Oman Cultural Channel



Launched in 2016, Oman Cultural Channel has stayed true to its original vision, rooted in the national identity of the Sultanate and dedicated to showcasing the richness of Omani tangible and intangible heritage. At the same time, it remains open to global cultures, offering a variety of programmes with both local and international themes. Through its diverse content, the channel presents Oman's culture from multiple perspectives, nature, history, geography, and society, highlighting customs, crafts, arts, and a broad cultural legacy. It also devotes special segments to classical and modern Arabic literature and provides live broadcasts that reflect its cultural mission.

Throughout its daily broadcast, which runs for 24 hours, the channel offers viewers not only a balanced schedule but also a rich diversity of creative Omani productions spanning different eras and fields. At the same time, it features a wide range of programmes that highlight cultures from various continents and historical periods, providing an engaging window into human cultural heritage around the world.



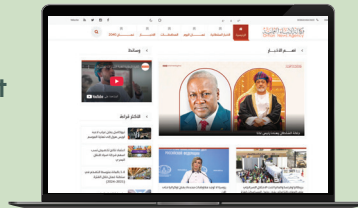
Oman News Agency

As the official government news source, the Oman News Agency (ONA) delivers trusted information to local and international audiences in both Arabic and English through four main channels: print news produced by its editorial department, visual and audio news from its news centre, and electronic news managed by a dedicated team. Supported by young Omani professionals trained on the latest technologies, these channels ensure high-quality content and technical excellence.

ONA keeps pace with developments through real-time field coverage and a wide network of local and international correspondents, while actively collaborating with regional and global news associations and agencies. ONA is committed to providing objective, honest and accurate reporting, offering comprehensive coverage in areas such as the economy, culture, and sports, as well as a dedicated governorates' bulletin that highlights local events and achievements in line with Oman Vision 2040.

**2.3
million**
visits to ONA's
website

10,000
electronic content
items have been
produced



**2
million**
followers




23
**daily visual
and audio news
bulletins**



370
**photographic
coverages for 60
entities**



36
**Journalists
inside the
Sultanate of
Oman**



38
**Journalists
outside the
Sultanate of
Oman**

Omani Press

Oman's press sector continues to evolve in step with global advancements in media and communication, while staying closely responsive to the interests and aspirations of the Omani people. A distinctive feature of the national press landscape is its predominantly private ownership, with the exception of Oman Newspaper and Oman Observer. The operations of press institutions, as well as the licensing of newspapers, publishing houses, printing presses and advertising agencies, are governed by the Media Law, issued under Royal Decree No. (58/2024).

The Sultanate publishes a wide variety of newspapers, magazines and bulletins, ranging from daily and weekly newspapers to free magazines and periodicals issued bi-monthly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually and annually, reflecting society's ongoing development and responding to the public's interests. Various ministries and government bodies also produce their own magazines and publications to highlight their activities and address issues of public concern.

Daily Printed Newspapers Published in the Sultanate of Oman

Local newspapers in Arabic



1. Oman
2. Al Watan
3. Al Shabiba
4. Al Roya

Local newspapers in English



1. Oman Observer
2. Times of Oman
3. Muscat Daily



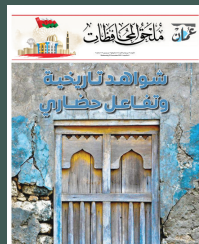
Oman Newspaper stands out as a trusted source of rich and diverse content, delivered through a range of modern media channels. It fulfils its mission through the daily print edition, its website, social media platforms, mobile application, and supplements issued to mark significant national occasions.

The newspaper plays a vital role in strengthening the national press, sustaining Omani media presence, supporting creative talent in journalism, and nurturing writing skills. It gathers news, information and reports from within the Sultanate and abroad, accompanied by relevant images from various sources, and re-edits and republishes them through its main publication and supplementary issues. It also analyses news and information, translates and prepares reports, conducts surveys, and produces in-depth coverage of key topics. In 2024, Oman Newspaper played an important role in voicing citizens' opinions and highlighting their issues and demands. By presenting these to the appropriate government bodies, the newspaper acts as an essential link between the government and society, helping to raise public awareness of government projects, decisions and policies.

Website visits

15.7 million visits

Supplements
Issued
with Oman
Newspaper
During 2024



Governorates
Supplement

13
Supplements



Oman Scientific
Supplement

12
Supplements



Oman Cultural
Supplement

12
Supplements



Oman Newspaper: a leading platform reinforcing the role of national journalism

Oman Newspaper Statistics for 2024



OMAN DAILY Observer



Oman Observer is an English-language daily newspaper that provides comprehensive coverage of local and international news, highlighting developments in the Omani economy, society, politics and culture, and offering in-depth analysis and opinion pieces by both local and international writers.

Oman Observer Newspaper Statistics for 2024

SPOTLIGHTS

273

Analytical
columns

480

Articles

960

Translated
Materials

562

NEWS

13,961

7.7 million

visits to the
websiteweb

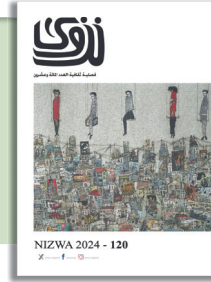
Readers have access to
80% of the total local
news published across
the newspaper's various
sections

ELECTRONIC MAGAZINE
CORRESPONDENT

6 issues

Oman
Observer
PodcastMOS
A I CFOODCOIN
PODCASTBUSINESS
CLASS

نِزْوَ



Nizwa Magazine

Nizwa Magazine is a quarterly publication, with its first issue released in November 1994. It is one of the most prominent Arab cultural platforms, focusing on literature, criticism, philosophy, poetry and intellectual discourse. The magazine also features interviews with cultural figures and provides coverage of the arts, cinema, theatre and translated works.

On 18 February 2024, at the Royal Opera House Muscat, the Ministry of Information, through Nizwa Magazine, launched the outcome of a special project celebrating one of the most illustrious periods of Omani history. This took the form of a documentary film entitled 'House of Wonders; The Omani Presence in Zanzibar and East Africa'. The film is part of a three-part documentary series, each part centred on a major historical figure within interconnected political, social, cultural and commercial contexts. The series includes:

- **Part One: The Life of Sayyid Said bin Sultan Al Busaidi.**
- **Part Two: The Story of (Tippu Tip) Hamad bin Mohammed Al Marjabi.**
- **Part Three: The Life of Mubarak Al Hanawi.**

This significant production aims to revive the memory of that remarkable historical era for current generations, highlighting the depth of the Sultanate of Oman's history and the reach of its civilisation into distant regions such as East Africa. The film series has been screened in cinemas across several governorates, presented at international forums, and will be shown abroad through Omani embassies to introduce global audiences to Oman's rich heritage. Each part of the documentary runs for 50 minutes and is produced in three separate language versions: Arabic, English and Swahili. Filming took place in numerous locations worldwide, including Zanzibar, various African and Asian countries, Europe, America and multiple sites within the Sultanate of Oman. The House of Wonders film has gained numerous regional and international awards, including:

- **Outstanding Gulf Production at the Broadcast Pro Summit and Awards organised by Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU).**
- **First Prize in the General Documentary Films and Programmes category at the 23rd Arab Radio and Television Festival in Tunisia.**



The House of Wonders film brings this remarkable historical era to life for current generations

The Ministry of Information also published a book by the German author Georg Popp, documenting the research and investigations conducted by the German company Dymax for the project 'The Omani Presence in Zanzibar and East Africa.' The book was published in three separate language editions: Arabic, English and Swahili. It recounts the human stories of Omani figures who played a pivotal role in spreading Islam, the Arabic language and Omani culture throughout these distant regions of the African continent.

Print Content of Nizwa Magazine in 2024



4
issues

Accompanying publications:

1. Book: Falak al-Salama wa Ashya' Ukhra (Falak al-Salama and Other Things).
2. Book: al-Sawt wa al-Sada (Sound and EchoLibro: Poemas Históricos).
3. Book: al-Manzumaat al-Tarikhiyya (Historical Poems).
4. Book: Azhar min Bir Zahir Al-Ghafri (Flowers from the Well of Zaher Al-Ghafri).

Government Communication

The Government Communication Centre (GC) plays a pivotal role in strengthening the impact of government messaging and ensuring a unified media narrative across all institutions, thereby fostering clear and effective communication with the public. Its mission is to guarantee that accurate information reaches society and is easily accessible, while providing media support to government bodies in managing events and delivering projects. The GC develops strategic media plans and coordinates institutional roles in line with each entity's responsibilities, promoting closer integration between government institutions and media institutions. As part of its work, the GC places strong emphasis on monitoring trending topics on social media and analysing public reactions and perspectives, producing detailed reports that help refine communication strategies. It collaborates with more than 100 government institutions to provide essential support and strengthen institutional communication. In 2024, the GC convened three media meetings to review communication practices, discuss challenges and developments in media work, and reinforce dialogue between society and government institutions. From January to September 2024, it also designed six communication plans in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

The Government Communication Center's Efforts to Support Institutions in 2024



GC Social Media Publications and Initiatives in 2024

485

posts published
on the
Government
Communication
Canter's account



630

posts have
been prepared
for publication
through Oman is
Ready account

49

topics related to
news networks
and accounts

52

news accounts
have been
handled

101

topics related to
news networks
and accounts

A total of

24

ceremonies,
events and
statements were
covered

19

posts covering
official visits
and national
occasions

13

communication
meetings and
conferences
held

7

publications
focusing on
international
indicators and
achievements

710

710 issues and
topics were
tracked and
analysed

A total of

200

daily reports

150

special reports

36

weekly reports on
monitored issues
and topics

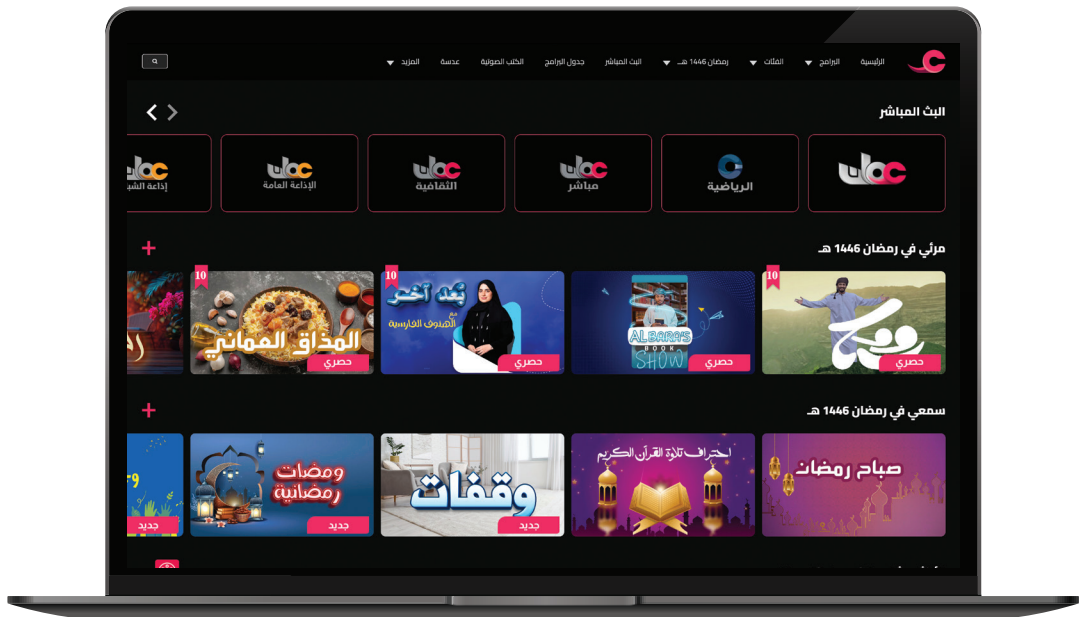
9

reports
evaluating the
accounts of
government
institutions

Issued several
reports related
to hosting
officials in the
Shura Council

9

monthly reports
were issued



A Visionary and Coherent Media Policy

In 2024, Oman's electronic media sector made impressive strides, showcasing its ability to keep pace with global developments and harness cutting-edge technologies to produce high-quality digital content. This progress aligns with the Ministry of Information's vision for a forward-looking, innovative media landscape. The sector's achievements have significantly enhanced the Sultanate's standing on the regional and international media map, demonstrating the adaptability and creativity of Omani media in embracing new platforms and enriching digital content.

A prime example of this growth is the launch of the "Ayn" electronic platform, a comprehensive digital hub that combines audio and visual content with audiobooks, establishing Omani media as a strong player in the global digital space.

Developed in line with global best practices, Ayn offers exclusive productions that expand the nation's digital library and provide audiences with an engaging, safe and accessible experience. With content tailored to all ages and segments of society, the platform's dedicated team ensures diversity and quality in every production.



E-media Achievements in 2024

The Ayn Platform has been recognised with ESCWA Digital Arabic Content Award

The Ayn platform has been recognised with the Artificial Intelligence Economics Award

The documentary series Eye Towards the **Sky won the Golden Sail Award** in the Digital Media category for Visual Production at the Gulf Radio and Television Festival 2024

The Ministry of Information held its inaugural short film festival, known as the Ayn Short Film Festival

Producing 50 audiobooks covering a wide range of fields, including literature, poetry, philosophy, history, religion, novels, biographies and more

Holding the “Ayn Hackathon for the Electronic Games Industry” with an **Omani Identity**

Total number of followers of official newspaper accounts, radio and television channels, and electronic platforms by December 2024



**800
thousand**



4.2 million



**900
thousand**



**700
thousand**



**12.5
thousand**



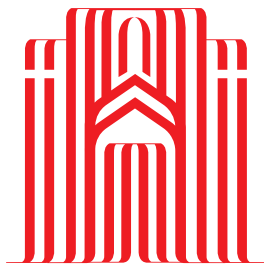
195



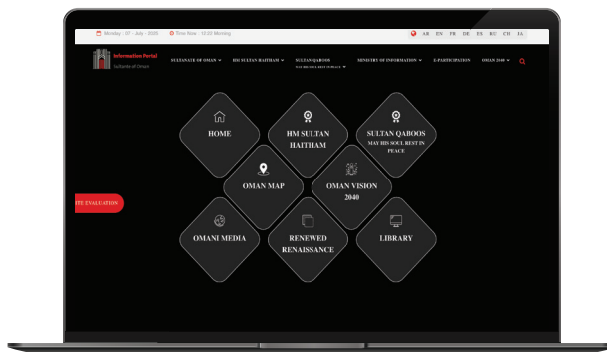
**87
thousand**

Total

6.7 million



Information Portal
Sultanate of Oman



Visits to the Information Portal

12 million visits

The 5 countries that visited the media portal the most during 2024

1. USA

4,004,231 visits

2. Canada

2,881,982 visits

3. China

1,502,309 visits

4. Sultanate of Oman

234,246 visits

5. Saudi Arabia

212,087 visits

Active Efforts to Promote Oman's Profile

As part of its mission to enhance cultural and media exchange with other nations and to highlight Oman's cultural legacy and development achievements, the Ministry of Information seeks to promote the Sultanate's rich heritage and natural beauty on the international stage. These efforts are realised through active participation in international book fairs and media events around the world, fostering communication with other peoples and opening new avenues for cultural and media cooperation. Through these activities, the Ministry aims to strengthen cooperation with sisterly and friendly countries, with the signing of agreements and memoranda of understanding supporting the exchange of expertise and the advancement of joint media initiatives. In 2024, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the Italian news agency (AkI). The Ministry also organised the Media Centre for the Muscat International Book Fair on 20 February 2024. It participated as well in 6 international book fairs, as follows:



Tunis International Book Fair

19-28 April



Doha International Book Fair

9- 18 May

Sultanate of Oman Guest of Honour



The Rabat International Book and Publishing Fair (SIEL)

9- 18 May



Tehran International Book Fair

9- 19 May



Seoul International Book Fair

26 -30 June

Sultanate of Oman Guest of Honour



Riyadh International Book Fair

26 September -10 October

The Ministry's Media Attachés in Washington, London and Cairo continue to play a vital role in strengthening the Sultanate of Oman's presence in the international media landscape. These attachés are responsible for monitoring and documenting news and media coverage that highlight Oman's progress across various fields, working closely with media institutions in their host countries. They also help build bridges of media communication by covering events and participating in exhibitions, as well as cultural and political activities, thereby promoting a positive image of Oman abroad. In addition, the attachés coordinate media visits and organise engagement programmes with the foreign press to foster mutual interests and deepen understanding of Omani policies. They also monitor and analyse published content related to the Sultanate to ensure accurate representation and effective communication.

Programmes and Initiatives for Omani Media Presence Internationally in 2024

74

permits were
issued to foreign
governmental,
private and
media institutions

127

media
professionals from
around the world
have visited the
Sultanate of Oman

243

articles
published in
the Jordanian
Addustour
newspaper

550

articles
published in
Gulf and Arab
institutions

87

reports were
edited and
shared with
various friendly
media outlets

9

monitoring
reports were
developed and
shared with
government
and private
institutions

14

articles
edited for
foreign
media
institutions

828

pieces
of media
content were
produced by
the media
supplements

Role of Media Attaché in Cairo in Highlighting the Sultanate of Oman's Presence



17850

print and electronic news items published in Egyptian newspapers

380

TV broadcasts were featured on Egyptian channels

225

reports were produced on Omani news, along with 225 additional reports on regional and international developments

150

studies and political analyses addressing regional and international developments were produced

Collecting

85

files from the Omani press

12

Egyptian journalists visited the Sultanate of Oman

951

posts on social media platforms

Participation in the Cairo International Book Fair

Role of Media Attaché in Washington in Highlighting the Sultanate of Oman's Presence



220

reports on the Sultanate of Oman and the region in American newspapers

22

analytical and media reports on key regional events and American domestic policies

12

summary reports of the most prominent books published in the United States

150

books and publications about the Sultanate of Oman are available in libraries and universities

5

television reports were broadcast on Oman TV, covering the most significant events

12

press reports highlighting the embassy's key events was published by the Oman News Agency

7

reports were produced monitoring discussions in think tanks about the Sultanate of Oman and the region

5

visits by American media professionals and academics to the Sultanate of Oman



The Sultanate of Oman's participation in the Doha International Book Fair aims to enhance cultural exchange and promote Omani content

Role of Media Attaché in London in Highlighting the Sultanate of Oman's Presence



Daily monitoring of news about the Sultanate of Oman and the Gulf in major British newspapers

Cooperation with The Guardian newspaper aimed at rectifying information about human rights in the Sultanate of Oman

A visit to Spain to open channels of communication with the Spanish media outlets

Spanish journalists were invited to cover Omani events such as Investment in Tourism

An invitation was extended to international journalists to visit the Sultanate of Oman and cover Khareef Dhofar events

The British Omani Society coordinated the screening of the film House of Wonders in London

Media coverage of the Sultanate of Oman's participation in the World Travel Market (WTM)

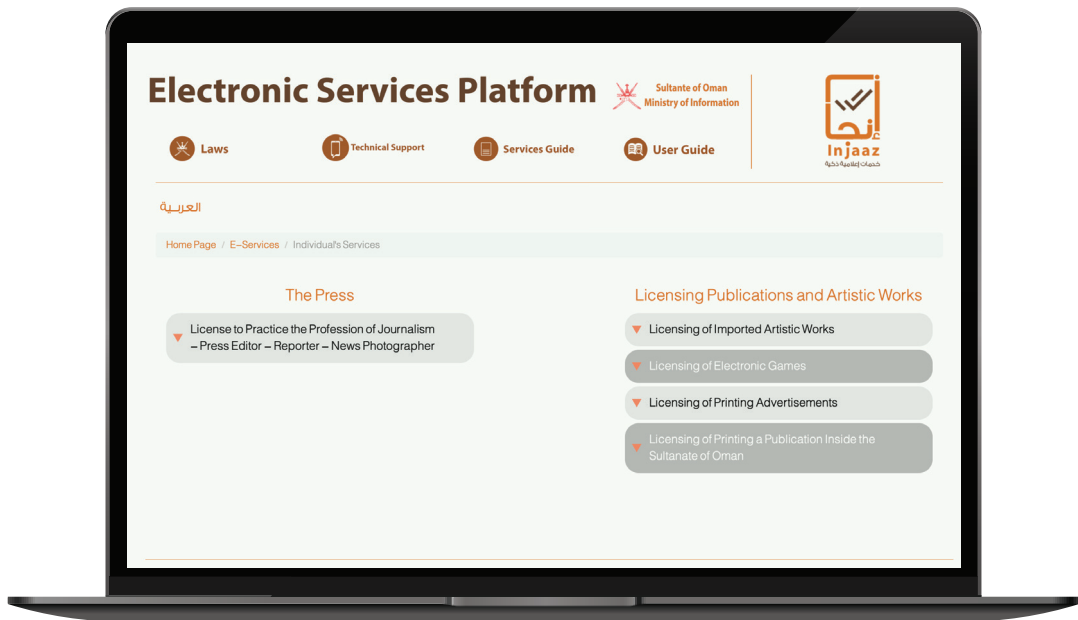
Coverage of a musical evening by the Muscat Philharmoni Orchestra in London

Coordinating with Sandstone Global to film 'Treasures of Oman' in historical and natural locations

Media coverage of the Omani students' celebrations in Manchester

Media coverage of the launch of the exploratory trip project "Sultanate of Oman: Jewel of the Arabia"

Sponsorship of the Foreign Press Association (FPA) Awards Ceremony and promotion of Omani heritage



Publications and Artistic Works Licensing: Speed and Quality of Performance

The Ministry of Information's e-services platform 'Injaz' offers comprehensive digital services to individuals and institutions, reflecting its commitment to providing a seamless and distinctive user experience. Operating under the slogan 'Ease, Speed, Achievement', the platform delivers over 100 electronic services covering various media-related licences and processes. Work is ongoing to complete the digitisation of the remaining services in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

A key feature of Injaz is its electronic integration with several government entities, including the Royal Oman Police, and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion. This integration significantly accelerates and simplifies procedures, enhancing efficiency in processing transactions.

Injaz serves as the unified electronic gateway through which the Ministry delivers its services to individuals and to both government and private institutions, facilitating access and promoting seamless cooperation between stakeholders. The platform also provides an integrated electronic work environment for employees, enabling them to perform their duties through a virtual office and to complete all procedures conveniently from any location with internet access.

The Directorate General of Publications and Artistic Works accounts for the largest share of services offered through the Injaz platform, due to the nature and diversity of its work, as well as the laws under its remit. Licensing statistics demonstrate the

platform's high level of efficiency in streamlining procedures and enhancing service delivery.

In 2024, the Ministry of Information approved numerous licences, including applications from press and media institutions, radio and television establishments, and audio-visual electronic platforms. A total of 6,131 licences were issued, underscoring the Ministry's commitment to the development and transformation of these services into fully digital solutions.

Media and Press Licences in 2024

150

approved press and
media licences

450

employees in press
and media
institutions

206

licences issued for
approved technical
classification
activities

1018

requests for
future media
activities

1327

authorised books
1018 in Arabic
309 in foreign
languages

1657

authorised
advertisements
in total



Media Training Centre

As part of its unwavering commitment to strengthening the national media landscape, the Ministry of Information continues to develop its media message and achieve its strategic objectives. It is dedicated to enhancing the capabilities of journalists and media professionals across all platforms, while also developing the skills of employees within government units and private media institutions. The Ministry's Media Training Centre provides specialised training programmes designed to build professional skills and keep pace with technological advancements in the media sector, with particular emphasis on artificial intelligence and modern communication methods.

The Centre also offers training opportunities for students and graduates of higher education institutions, helping them to refine their skills and strengthen their competencies. This ensures they are well-prepared to adapt to different specialisations and enter the labour market with confidence and professionalism.

Media Training Canter's Achievements in 2024

126 training programmes

85 programmes for ministry employees

training programmes were delivered for staff in communication and media departments across various government and private sector units

1,837 trainees participated in the programmes

1070 trainees from the Ministry's employees

767 trainees from communication departments in other government and private agencies

190 training opportunities for students and graduates

125 opportunities for students.

65 for graduates

12 Artificial Intelligence programmes

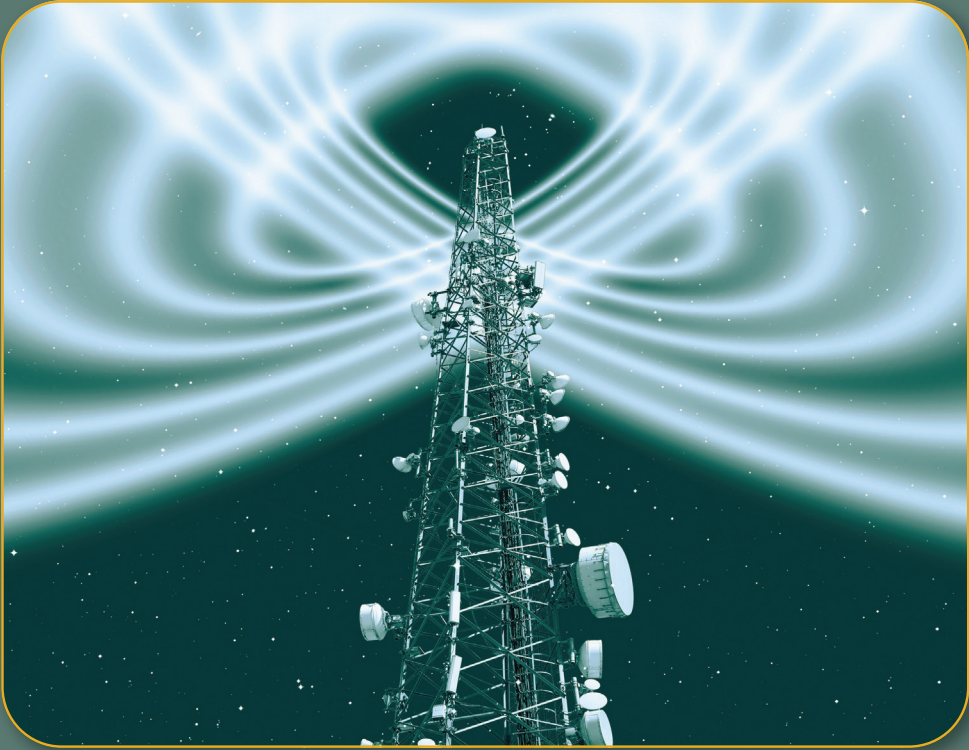
Artificial Intelligence media content creation programme

Artificial Intelligence journalism vs. talent and creativity programme

Using Artificial Intelligence programme

Conducting distance training programmes

Partnerships with Al Jazeera Media Institute, Thomson Foundation Institute, and others



Engineering Efforts Contribute to the Development of Media Workflows

The Directorate General for Engineering at the Ministry of Information is responsible for providing the engineering infrastructure that underpins media operations. This includes equipping radio and television studios with the necessary technical systems, maintaining external transmission vehicles and satellite broadcast units, and overseeing radio and television transmission stations and ground stations. The Directorate also manages the distribution and coordination of radio frequency use within the Ministry.

In addition, it prepares engineering project plans aimed at expanding the reach of radio and television broadcasting, improving and modernising transmission methods, and enhancing performance to keep pace with the latest engineering advancements in the field.

Engineering statistics in 2024



Radio and
television
field
coverage

929
coverages



Exchange of
engineering
signals
internally
and
externally

2330
signals



Operating hours
of external
transport units
and vehicles

1824
hours



TV studios
operating hours

2552
hours



Maintenance
hours for
transport
vehicles and
their accessories

1824
hours



Private Sector and Radio and Television Broadcasting

The new media law marks a significant step forward for private media in the Sultanate of Oman, granting greater freedom and fostering a more open and dynamic media landscape. Article 3 guarantees ‘media freedom’, underpinned by key principles such as the right of individuals and organisations to engage in media activities and to access and share information through legitimate means. The law also eases restrictions on publication and abolishes prior censorship, providing private media outlets with greater flexibility in their operations. This progressive framework encourages investment in the media sector and supports the growth of new and diverse media platforms.

In 2024, private radio stations, television channels and digital platforms offered a variety of programmes, ranging from cultural content to entertainment as detailed below:



**Hala FM in Arabic and HI FM in English, both owned by the
Entertainment Network SAOC**

Radio	Number of Programmes	Type of programmes		Number of programme materials by broadcast type		Programmes by Type of Production	
		Cultural	Entertainment	Live	Recorded	Local	Imported
Hala FM 	146	80	66	80	66	146	0
HI FM 	56	53	3	32	24	53	3



Al Wisal Radio (Arabic), Merge FM Radio, and Virgin Radio Oman (English) are all owned by SABCO Media

Radio	Number of Programmes	Type of programmes		Number of programme materials by broadcast type		Programmes by Type of Production	
		Cultural	Entertainment	Live	Recorded	Local	Imported
Al Wisal Radio 	107	70	20	37	70	105	2
Merge FM Radio 	38	12	26	12	26	38	0
Virgin Radio Oman 	35	27	8	23	21	35	0



**Al Shabiba FM in Arabic and TFM in English are both owned by
Muscat Media Group**

Radio	Number of Programmes	Type of programmes		Number of programme materials by broadcast type		Programmes by Type of Production	
		Cultural	Entertainment	Live	Recorded	Local	Imported
Radio Shabiba FM 	56	50	6	24	32	54	20
Radio TFM 	140	107	33	107	33	140	0



Muscat FM Radio is owned by Muttrah Media Services Company

Channel	Number of Programmes	Type of programmes		Number of programme materials by broadcast type		Programmes by Type of Production	
		Cultural	Entertainment	Live	Recorded	Local	Imported
FM Muscat 	56	50	6	24	32	54	20



Majan TV is currently the only private satellite TV channel and has been broadcasting 24/7 since 2009

Channel	Number of Programmes	Type of programmes		Number of programme materials by broadcast type		Programmes by Type of Production	
		Cultural	Entertainment	Live	Recorded	Local	Imported
Majan TV 	128	122	6	10	118	122	6

A Unified Judiciary Upholding Justice, Integrity, and Transparency



Oman Vision 2040 sets out an ambitious roadmap to transform the judiciary sector, aiming to build a system founded on independence, transparency and technological advancement. The vision focuses on establishing flexible laws and empowering a legislative authority vested with full jurisdiction. It promotes an effective oversight mechanism designed to ensure transparency, protect national resources, and uphold accountability. Additionally, it envisions a competent, impartial and specialised judiciary that leverages future technologies. These objectives will be realised through a legislative and participatory framework that ensures an independent and specialised judicial system alongside effective and transparent oversight.

His Majesty the Sultan places special emphasis on the judiciary and underscores the importance of consolidating justice and integrity through the updating of legislation and the strengthening of accountability mechanisms

With unwavering dedication, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect, leads the nation towards achieving its aspirations as it enters a defining era of progress and development. His Majesty has paid special attention to the judiciary and legal institutions, emphasising in his royal speeches the importance of consolidating justice and integrity through the updating of legislation and laws and the strengthening of accountability mechanisms. In this regard, His Majesty issued Royal Decree No. (41/2024) on 3 October 2024, enacting the Advocacy and Legal Consultancy Law. This law aims to regulate the legal profession and ensure the quality of legal practices, thereby facilitating justice and safeguarding the rights of individuals and institutions. It establishes a clear legal framework for practising the profession and defines the standards and controls to which lawyers must adhere. This contributes to enhancing professional competence and providing the necessary legal protection for society. Furthermore, the law regulates the provision of legal advice in a transparent and credible manner, fostering a legal environment that keeps pace with contemporary legal developments and challenges.

On 25 March 2024, His Majesty issued Royal Decree No. (18/2024), amending the Criminal Procedures Law, and Royal Decree No. (54/2024), appointing judges to the Supreme Court. These measures enhance justice, ensure judicial independence, consolidate the rule of law and strengthen public confidence in the judiciary.

In his royal speech marking the glorious 50th National Day on 18 November 2024, His Majesty the Sultan affirmed that “work is continuing to review legislative and oversight frameworks and to develop accountability tools as a fundamental pillar of future Oman, emphasising their crucial importance in preserving the rights of the nation and its citizens, and in consolidating justice and integrity. This system will receive our special care, Allah willing.”



Supreme Judicial Council: A unified judicial system encompassing all judicial bodies and courts

Supreme Judicial Council

The rule of law and justice are fundamental pillars underpinning societal stability and driving sustainable economic and social progress. They ensure the protection of rights and build trust between individuals and institutions, fostering social cohesion and creating an environment conducive to growth and prosperity.

The establishment of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) represents a critical milestone towards unifying all judicial bodies and courts under one cohesive system. This unified structure enhances operational efficiency, streamlines judicial workflows, and accelerates case adjudication.

In 2024, the courts of the Sultanate of Oman handled over 174,000 lawsuits, compared to the previous year.

Law and justice are fundamental to societal stability, and the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) is committed to achieving the highest standards of fairness, integrity and transparency

The SJC is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of justice, integrity, and transparency. It strives to reinforce the rule of law and elevate the judiciary's status through a participatory legislative framework, an independent, specialised, and efficient judicial system, and effective, transparent oversight. These efforts support sustainable development and enhance social and economic progress. The SJC formulates public policy for the judiciary and ensures the smooth operation and continual development of courts and the public prosecution service. It works to simplify litigation procedures, improve access for litigants, propose draft laws and royal decrees related to the judiciary, and review draft judicial cooperation agreements with other countries. The SJC also fosters judicial cooperation with relevant authorities and specialised regional and international organisations.

Aligned with ongoing legislative updates and adoption of modern judicial practices, the SJC has launched initiatives focusing on prompt justice, modern technology integration, transparency, integrity, and the creation of a specialised judiciary that delivers integrated judicial services through highly qualified administrative cadres, all in line with Oman Vision 2040. The SJC developed its first long-term strategic plan spanning 2024 to 2040. Formulated with wide input from government, private sector, and civil society, the plan provides the framework for implementing judiciary, legislation, and oversight priorities within Oman's visionary development agenda.

This strategic plan reviews priorities, objectives and implementation programmes, optimises resources, drives innovative solutions, leverages opportunities, assesses challenges and risks, builds institutional capacity and supports proactive decision-making. It restructures procedures to foster an effective work environment anchored in performance evaluation and continuous monitoring. The plan targets nine main pillars to improve judicial workflows, facilitate litigation, and boost public confidence in the judicial system. It prioritises human resource development in a creative environment, employing emerging technologies and artificial intelligence to harness smart solutions that achieve strategic goals. The SJC is actively engaging local, regional, and international expertise. It awarded a consultancy contract for its digital transformation to a leading regional firm with proven expertise in judicial digitalisation.

Supreme Court

Powers and Functions

Considering
appeals from
judgments
issued by
the Courts of
Appeal

Resolution of
jurisdictional
disputes
between
courts

Reviewing the
compliance
of laws and
regulations with
the Basic Statute
of the State

During 2024

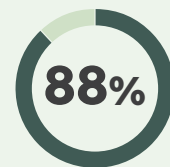
A total of
8,161
appeals were
handled



Issuance
7,217
rulings



Case
resolution
rate



Courts of Appeal

12 courts distributed across various governorates

Powers and Functions

Review of judgments appealed from lower courts

Consideration of criminal cases

During 2024

A total of
52,155
cases were handled

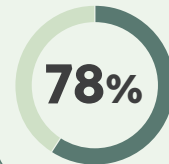


Issuance
35,546
rulings



Case
resolution
rate

78%



Primary Courts

Powers and Functions

Courts of first instance have original jurisdiction over disputes, except for criminal cases

During 2024

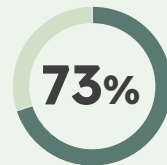
A total of
113,985
cases were handled



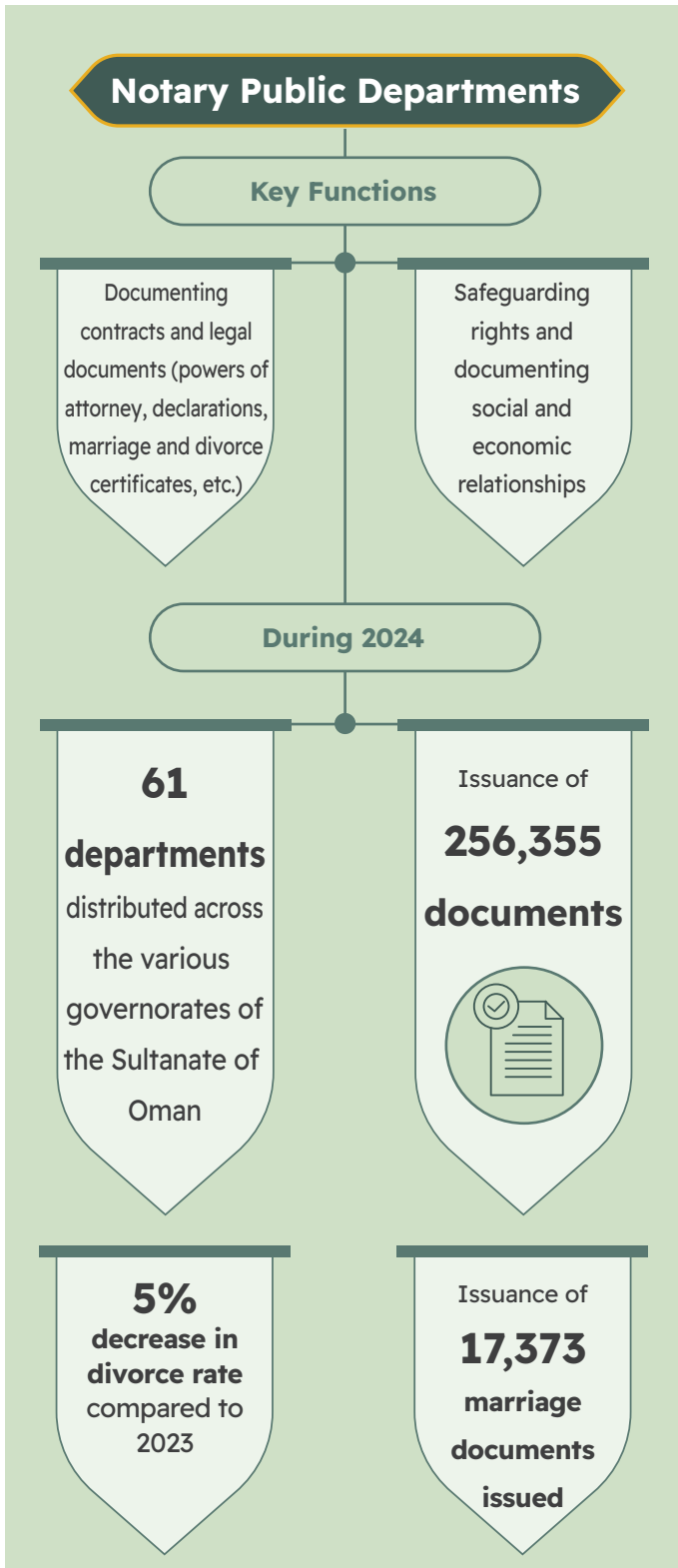
Issuance
82,816
rulings



Case
resolution
rate



54,935
executed judgments



Judicial inspection is a fundamental pillar in supporting the independence of the judiciary and reinforcing justice and integrity. It facilitates effective oversight and the development of accountability tools essential for protecting the rights of the nation and its citizens. The Supreme Judicial Council is committed to organising and enhancing inspection mechanisms to improve efficiency and standardise court procedures. It has also issued legal regulations governing the inspection of judges and members of the public prosecution, detailing inspection procedures, committee formation, and robust complaint management.

In efforts to simplify judicial service procedures and improve the investment climate in the Sultanate of Oman, amendments to the Notary Public Law have introduced digital services. These include the electronic issuance of declarations, various types of powers of attorney, particularly commercial and investment-related, and the ratification of contracts, all facilitated through user-friendly electronic systems. Such advancements strengthen confidence in the judicial system and contribute significantly to attracting both national and foreign investments.

Justice and Legal Affairs

The Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs plays a pivotal role in enabling an integrated legal system in the Sultanate of Oman, founded on the Basic Statute of the State. The Ministry is responsible for designing and reviewing draft royal decrees and laws, taking the necessary measures for their issuance, and examining regulations and legislative decisions issued by state administrative units and other public institutions prior to their publication in the Official Gazette. Beyond drafting legislation, the Ministry reviews and develops existing laws in coordination with relevant government agencies to ensure they remain compatible with ongoing developments and achieve effective legal harmonisation.

Additionally, the Ministry provides legal opinions concerning the implementation of royal decrees, laws, regulations and decisions, upon request from state administrative units and other public bodies. It also offers legal consultations regarding the application of international agreements and contracts concluded by these units and public legal entities. The Ministry handles the settlement of disputes between these entities and government companies. Among its key tasks is the review of draft contracts exceeding five million Omani riyals before signing by government bodies. The Ministry also reviews draft international agreements and memoranda of understanding, offers opinions on requests to join international agreements and contributes to the preparation of periodic reports for regional and international organisations.

The Ministry also organises the work of experts appearing before courts of various levels and other authorities in Oman. It is responsible for issuing the Official Gazette, which publishes the texts of royal decrees, laws, regulations, ministerial decisions, announcements, and other legally required materials. These publications are also made accessible on the Ministry's website, reflecting the Sultanate's commitment to digital government services and e-government transformation. The Ministry annually issues a volume compiling royal decrees, royal orders, laws,

Ministry of
Justice and
Legal Affairs:
A Pivotal Role
in Developing
the Legal
System and
Enhancing
Transparency

The Ministry of Justice has launched its new website, designed to facilitate browsing of legal publications and enhance accessibility

regulations, and decisions promulgated during the year, ensuring transparency and accessibility of the Sultanate's legal framework.

International participations of the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs:

1. The 62nd Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO).
2. The Urgent Response Conference for the Gaza Strip held in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
3. The 26th Meeting of the Permanent Committee for Officials of Legislation Departments of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries, held in Riyadh.
4. Meeting of the Undersecretaries of the Ministries of Justice of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries, held in Riyadh.
5. Receiving a delegation from the Qatari Ministry of Justice.
6. Digital Transformation of Justice Conference in Morocco.
7. Meeting of the GCC Expert Committee in Riyadh.
8. Meeting of the Committee of International Cooperation Department Officials in Riyadh.
9. Expert Meeting on Preventing Hate Speech at the League of Arab States.

In 2024, the Ministry launched its new website, featuring digital browsing of legal publications and an advanced search function. The site is compatible with various devices, ensuring easy access for all users. It includes reports, statistics, lectures, and legal workshops, enhancing the Ministry's communication with the public and contributing to the widespread dissemination of legal knowledge.

Ministry of Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs

Powers and Functions

Supervision
of lawyers'
affairs in
accordance
with the royal
decree

Registration
of lawyers
in the
official
records

Issuance and
withdrawal of
professional
licences in the
event of legal
violations

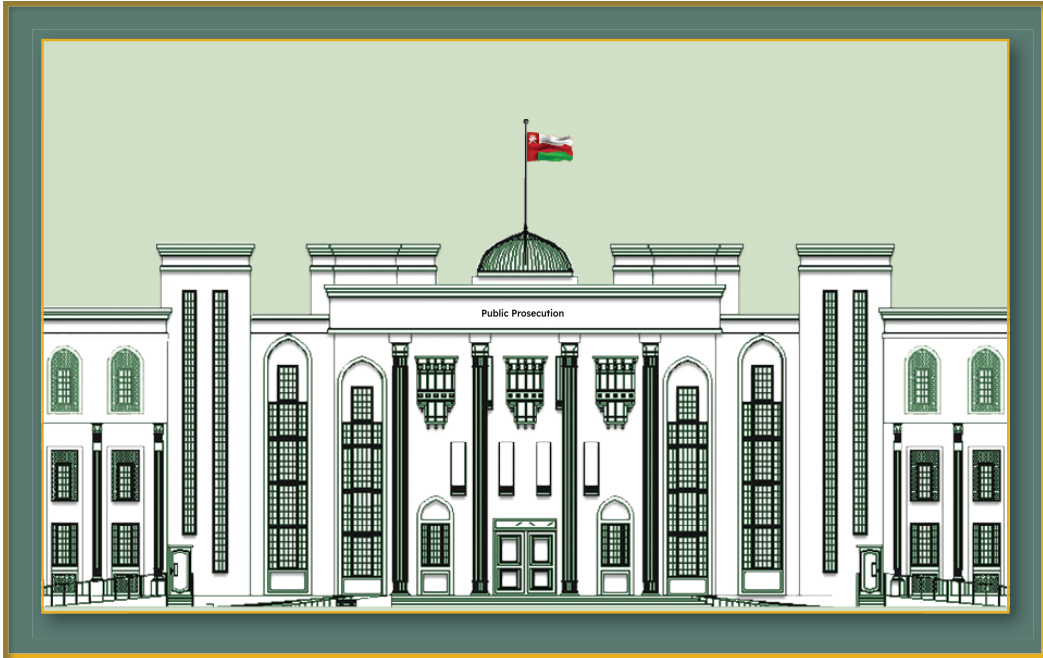
Lawyers and Law Firms

5,914
registered
lawyers



788
licensed law
offices and
firms





Public Prosecution

With unwavering commitment, the Public Prosecution advances its vital role in upholding justice and the rule of law, firmly grounded in the Basic Statute of the State issued in January 2021 under Royal Decree No. (6/2021). Article 86 clearly mandates that “The Public Prosecution is part of the judiciary. It undertakes public litigation on behalf of society, supervises judicial control affairs, ensures the enforcement of criminal laws, prosecutes offenders, and implements judgments in accordance with the law.” This law structures the Public Prosecution, defines its powers and specifies the qualifications and safeguards for those entrusted with its duties. The Public Prosecution is dedicated to empowering its qualified personnel to fulfil its mission in close cooperation with state institutions, aligning with the government’s aspirations under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him, and consistent with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 to promote justice and integrity.

The Public Prosecution upholds the principles of justice and strives to achieve fairness through the support of its qualified personnel and the enforcement of criminal laws

Public Prosecution

Statistics 2024

37,836

cases

Total received
cases

96.9%

disposal rate for
incoming cases

94%

quality rate for
referred cases
to courts

Achievements 2024

ISO 9001
Quality
Management
System (QMS)
Certification



ISO 37001
Anti-Bribery
Management
Systems
(ABMS)
Certification





Providing the judicial system with new cadres of judges to strengthen its capacity

The Public Prosecution Office has made a significant advancement by appointing a new batch of assistants and securing international accreditation certificates

In coordination with partner agencies and pursuant to the decision of the Vice President of the Supreme Judicial Council No. (206/2024), the Public Prosecution successfully appointed 30 Public Prosecution Assistants (the Merit Batch) in September 2024. Earlier, in March 2024, the “Bravery Batch” took the legal oath before the Vice President of the Supreme Judicial Council, marking a significant milestone that strengthened the institution’s human resources. In 2024, the Public Prosecution hosted its annual conference titled “Procedural Justice.”

Demonstrating a firm commitment to excellence and transparency, the Public Prosecution has implemented robust procedures and adopted comprehensive guidelines that align with international quality standards. These initiatives led to the prestigious achievement of the international accreditation certificates for the Quality Management System (ISO 9001) and the Anti-Bribery Management System (ISO 37001), making it the first judicial authority worldwide to earn such recognition.

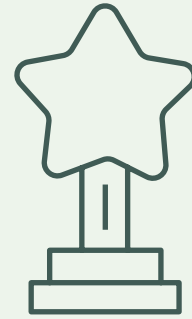
In the sphere of judicial and legal cooperation, the Public Prosecution signed a Memorandum of Understanding

with the Public Prosecution Office of the sisterly Kingdom of Morocco. This partnership aims to enhance collaboration on cases involving money laundering, terrorist financing, and transnational organised crime.

At the international level, the Public Prosecution hosted a delegation from the French National Judicial School in June 2024 to discuss cooperation in training Public Prosecution members and developing their capabilities. In July 2024, the Public Prosecution participated in the preparatory meeting of the Executive Committee of the Arab Public Prosecutors Association held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Public Prosecution also hosted the fifteenth biennial meeting of Their Excellencies and Highnesses the Attorneys General and Public Prosecutors of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in Muscat. The meeting concluded with the adoption of the Muscat Document on the Rules for the Protection of Children during the Investigation Phase, the approval of the Code of Ethics for Artificial Intelligence in Public Prosecution Activities, and the endorsement of rules for the immediate settlement of proceeds from financial crimes and financial penalties.

As part of efforts to enhance Arab judicial cooperation, the Public Prosecution participated in the third meeting of the Arab Association for Prosecutors held in the Kingdom of Morocco under the slogan “For a Sustainable Arab Judicial Dialogue.” During this meeting, the Sultanate of Oman was elected Vice President for the Arabian Gulf region. In October 2024, the Public Prosecution also took part in the 29th Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors held in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In July 2024, the Public Prosecution received an award for the leading entity in implementing the administrative practice of internal identity during the third forum of the National System for Institutional Innovation and Change Management, further affirming its excellence in innovation and institutional management.



The Public Prosecution received the **award for the leading entity in implementing the administrative practice of internal identity** at the third forum of the National System for Institutional Innovation and Change Management in 2024

Oman's Cultural Heritage

Diversity
Rooted in
Identity



The Sultanate of Oman is renowned for its rich and diverse cultural heritage, which seamlessly blends tangible landmarks with intangible traditions. From majestic castles and ancient forts to unique archaeological treasures, Oman's heritage embodies the profound bond its people share with their land and history. This diverse heritage reflects the authentic Omani identity and serves as a cornerstone in building the nation's renaissance and driving comprehensive development.



The Sultanate of Oman is endowed with a rich cultural heritage

As part of empowering this rich legacy and recognising the vital role of culture and youth in achieving sustainable development, significant institutional restructuring took place in August 2020. This included the establishment of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, the definition of its competencies, the adoption of its organisational structure, and the renaming of the Ministry of Heritage and Culture to the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, along with the clarification of its responsibilities and adoption of its new organisational framework. These steps represent an important milestone towards streamlining efforts, centralising work effectively, and ensuring that the roles and responsibilities of each institution are clearly defined and free from overlap or conflict, thereby enhancing performance and service delivery.

Royal Decree No. (87/2020) established the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, outlined its mandates, and approved its organisational structure. The Ministry's responsibilities include managing cultural affairs, developing policies, plans and programmes in the fields of culture, sports and youth, and presenting them to the Council of Ministers for approval. It also oversees libraries, cultural centres and institutions. It collects, documents and promotes Omani literature, encourages writers and researchers, highlights their contributions and nurtures their talents. Moreover, it undertakes research, studies and specialised translations in cultural fields, organises exhibitions and cultural festivals to showcase Oman's cultural role and foster connections with peoples and civilisations worldwide, collects, documents and preserves Omani artistic heritage, promotes its dissemination, encourages creativity and innovation, and supports and sponsors artists across various artistic fields.

Active Presence in Cultural Programmes

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth places great importance on preserving intangible cultural heritage and promoting Omani identity through a range of initiatives, including documentation and publication both locally and internationally. It is dedicated to supporting and fostering cultural and creative industries as a source of economic development, while also promoting authentic Omani heritage and raising public awareness of the importance of safeguarding it within society.

Cultural Events in 2024

**Omani Song
Festival
(12th
Edition)**

**The 8th
Omani
Theatre
Festival**

**Children's
Culture
Award**

**The Royal
Cavalry's
Annual
Horse Race**

Muscat International Book Fair (28th Edition)

847

**publishing
houses from**

34

countries

622

**thousand titles
and**

269

**thousand
Arabic books**

200

**thousand
foreign books
and**

19

**thousand
Omani
books**

35.9

**thousand new
publications
and**

847

participations

Sur Book Fair

20

**publishing
houses**

10

**government
institutions**

39

**cultural
activities**

10

titles

111 Fine Arts Exhibition

90

artworks



25

artists



**Launch of
the book
'The Omani
Contemporary
Artistic
Achievement'**

Muscat Art Exhibition

**Specialised
lectures**

Workshops

More than

200

artists

Sculpting

**Installation
artworks**

Live music

«Photographic Heritage» Exhibition

Display of
old photos
of the late
Sultan
and his
belongings

20
artworks of
light art



«Hidden Nature» Exhibition (Insects and Reptiles)

51
photos



7
photographers



«Hibr» Exhibition (Arabic Calligraphy and Islamic Ornamentation)

68
artworks



48
calligraphers
and
decorative
artists

«Liqa» Exhibition (Visual Arts)

Subject:
Civilisations
and the Ancient
Heritage of
Omani and
Iraqi Nature

18
paintings of
Oman

17
paintings of
Iraq

External Participations

Doha
International
Book Fair

Seoul
International
Book Fair

Brunei Book
Festival

Cultural Forums and Seminars

27th Edition
of Literary
and Artistic
Forum

A seminar on
Investment
Opportunities
in the Omani
Encyclopaedia
for Young
People

A panel
discussion
titled 'The
Status of
Translation
in the
Sultanate of
'Oman

A celebration
of poetry and
poets marking
International
Poetry Day

Celebrating
World
Theatre
Day and
announcing
a playwriting
competition



The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth and Sultan Qaboos University, hosted the 35th conference of Arab Federation for Libraries and Information (AFLI) from 12 to 14 November 2024, under the theme “Role of Arab libraries and archive institutions in promoting citizenship and digital identity”. The conference brought together over 100 researchers and experts, who presented 54 papers across 10 panels and workshops, addressing the pivotal role of libraries in consolidating national identity and fostering a digital environment that supports active citizenship. An accompanying exhibition showcased leading Arab institutions specialising in libraries and information databases.

During the conference, the research project “Map of Cultural and Creative Industries” was launched and made accessible through a QR code linking to the map file, published on the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth’s website. This initiative is the first of its kind launched by the Ministry to highlight cultural and creative industries in the Sultanate of Oman, aligning with the Ministry’s ambitious objectives set out in its Cultural Strategy 2021–2040, developed to realise the pillars of Oman Vision 2040.

Preserving Archaeological Sites

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is dedicated to protecting Oman's cultural heritage and ensuring its sustainability through a range of initiatives. These include raising public awareness of its significance and building the capacity of relevant authorities to preserve it. The Ministry also implements measures to prevent the sale, smuggling, and theft of cultural property. In 2019, it established the Cultural Heritage Register and Department for Combating Illicit Trafficking, tasked with safeguarding cultural assets from illegal trafficking and theft. Additionally, the Ministry places strong emphasis on strengthening cooperation with local and international bodies. The Sultanate of Oman has ratified several key international agreements, most notably the 1954 Hague Convention and its Second Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, as well as the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. This highlights Oman's role as a global partner in the preservation of humanity's cultural heritage.

The Ministry also prioritises developing heritage assets to benefit the national economy, particularly the tourism sector, and to reinforce a sense of national identity by documenting heritage and promoting it globally. It is actively involved in restoring and maintaining archaeological sites and aims to attract 33 international archaeological missions during the 2024–2025 season. Efforts are also underway to include historical sites, such as “Bisya and Salut” in the Wilayat of Bahla, on the National World Heritage List. As part of its sustainability framework, the Ministry has made 43 historic landmarks available for investment, with contracts signed for 20 sites, including Al Mirani Fort, Bahla Oasis, Nakhal Fort, Mutrah Fort, Jabrin Fort, and the Wadi Douka site. Significant restoration and maintenance work has been carried out at landmarks such as Rustaq Fort, Jabrin Fort, Ibri Fort, Al Baleed Wall, Al Lawatiya Towers, Al Kasfa Fort and Tower, Al Muntarib Fort, and Al Wasil. Tender documents have also been prepared for other sites, including Bait Al Radidah, Bukha Fort, Khasab Fort, Sohar Fort, and Al Musannah Fort. Restoration works have been completed on Sadah Fort in Wilayat Sadah, Taqah Fort in the Governorate of Dhofar, and Sur Al Maghabsha in Wilayat of Suwaiq, North Al Batinah Governorate, with plans to offer these sites for investment in the future.

Efforts to Protect Cultural Heritage and Combat Illicit Trafficking

Participating in 6 international and regional meetings and workshops

Organising three workshops for employees in selected sectors to build capacity and raise awareness

Organising 6 awareness sessions for school students and the local community

Organising mini-exhibitions showcasing cultural property

Updating the list of restricted goods supervised by the Ministry

Disseminating lists of cultural property at risk at border crossings and airports

Participating in the Exhibition of Private Museums and Archaeological Houses

Coordinating with the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority to take precautionary measures in postal services

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is actively encouraging citizens to hand over any archaeological artefacts they discover, while implementing strict measures to combat the illegal trafficking of cultural property. These measures include inspecting artefacts, issuing exit permits following inspection, and providing warnings about illegal practices at archaeological sites. The Omani Cultural Heritage Law, promulgated by Royal Decree No. (35/2019), serves as the legal framework for regulating and protecting cultural heritage in accordance with international agreements. It governs the sale and purchase of cultural property and requires a licence from the Ministry for any related transactions. The law stipulates that the illegal possession of cultural heritage is punishable by imprisonment for up to three months and a fine ranging from 500 to 10,000 Omani rials.

Heritage Sector Scientific Publications for 2024

**The annual
issue of
the Journal
of Oman
Studies**

**Printing a
bulletin on the
results of the
archaeological
missions in the
two seasons**

**Two
publications
in cooperation
with the
Natural
History
Museum**

**4
new issues
of the Omani
Archaeological
Heritage series**

**6
diverse
scientific
publications
in the heritage
sector**

**Reprinting
five previously
published
books and
translating
three editions
into Arabic**

As part of implementing the Omani Cultural Heritage Law, which aims to manage and preserve the nation's cultural heritage, the Omani Cultural Heritage Register has been developed through both a website and an electronic application. This enables citizens, as well as private and government museums, to list cultural properties. Ministry specialists then inspect and document these properties, which supports the issuance of official registration certificates. The application also provides functionality to track items in the event of theft or loss, and streamlines processes related to export, loans, sales and purchases. Additionally, the Ministry continues to coordinate with government and private museums and actively encourages citizens to register their properties via the website, with the goal of building a comprehensive national database of cultural assets.

Ministry of Heritage and Tourism: Participated Exhibitions

**First Sur
Book Fair**

**28th Muscat
International
Book Fair**

**Doha
International
Book Fair**

**Seoul
International
Book Fair**

Museums: Windows into the Glories of the Past

The Sultanate of Oman attaches great importance to its heritage and historical treasures, recognising that museums are cultural landmarks, windows that reveal the hidden treasures of national identity and keys to understanding the fabric of society's culture.

National Museum



Date of
establishment:

**November
2013**

**Museum's
Objective:**

Capturing and
preserving
the history of
Oman across
its many eras

It showcases
more than
**7,000 rare
artefacts, as**
well as tens
of thousands
of additional
collectibles

Sultan Qaboos Corner



Date of
establishment:

**May
2022**

**Corner's
Objective:**

Commemorating
**the life of
the late Sultan**

Oman Across Ages Museum



Date of
establishment:

**March
2023**

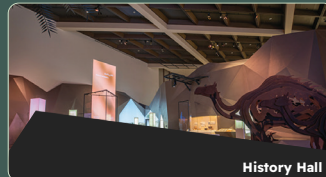
**Museum's
Objective:**

Documenting
the history
of Oman's
land spanning
around 800
million years

Envisioning
a future
that
fulfils the
aspirations
of the
Sultanate of
Oman



Renaissance Hall



History Hall

Royal Cars Museum



Date of
establishment:

October

2024

**Museum's
Objective:**

Documenting
the legacy of
the late Sultan
Qaboos bin
Said

It contains
a splendid
collection
of cars that
reflects the
history of the
Sultanate of
Oman and
the world



Museums supervised by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism

Natural History Museum

Opening: 1985

Museum's Objective:
Showcasing the Omani environment

Children's Museum

Opening: 1990

Museum's Objective:
Disseminating knowledge in science and technology

Omani-French Museum

Opening: 1992

Museum's Objective:
Celebrating Omani-French relations

Sultan's Armed Forces Museum

Opening: 1988

Museum's Objective:
Highlighting Omani military history

Museum of the Land of Frankincense

Opening: 2007

Museum's Objective:
Highlighting Oman's maritime history

Oil and Gas Museum

It traces the history of oil formation through the ages and highlights the journey of oil discovery and extraction in the Sultanate of Oman

Currency Museum

It presents the history of currency circulation in the Sultanate of Oman and highlights the coins used in the early years of the Islamic state

Private Museums

Bait Al Zubair Museum

It includes collections from various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman

Educational Museum

It reflects the concept of the traditional Omani house from the early 1950s to the mid-1970s

Place & People Museum

It reflects the concept of the traditional Omani house from the early 1950s to the mid-1970s

Fath Al-Khair Centre

A tourist and educational site in Sur that highlights the traditional heritage of shipbuilding and navigation tools

The Sultanate of Oman, through cooperation between the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and the Swiss scientific team from the University of Bern, documented 34 meteorites during the 2024 field research season. This work forms part of projects dedicated to exploring scientific phenomena and protecting the natural heritage.

As part of the recovery plan to support struggling museums and private heritage houses, improvements to museum displays have been completed at Madha Museum, Adam Museum, Bidiya Museum, Bait Al Darwaza Museum, and Abnaa Majan Museum, while work continues in other museums to further enhance their cultural presence. Additionally, the design and supervision of the Maritime History Museum in Sur has been assigned to a consulting firm. This museum aims to showcase Oman's ancient maritime heritage, highlighting the Sultanate's historical role in maritime trade and exploratory voyages spanning centuries. This project is part of a broader partnership between the public and private sectors.

Activities Marking International Museum Day 2024

**Omani Geological Heritage
Exhibition**

**Two exhibitions of
meteorites**

**Environment Day
Exhibition**

Wildlife Exhibition

**National Science, Technology,
Engineering and Mathematics Week
Exhibition**

**Publishing two special issues,
the National Palaeontological
Collection and the Snake Guide**

**Archives of the Past'
Exhibition**

**Preserved Heritage: Cultural
Properties from Museums**

In celebration of the Sultanate of Oman's International Museum Day 2024, under the slogan "Museums for Education and Research," the Department of Heritage and Tourism in A'Dakhiliyah Governorate organised a permanent exhibition at its headquarters in May. The exhibition showcased archaeological collections to highlight the role of museums in raising cultural awareness. In the same month, the Museum of the Land of Frankincense in Dhofar Governorate organised an exhibition entitled "We Are Coming," which featured a theatrical performance exploring the relationship between the museum, the community and students. The programme also included an online cultural competition, engaging students to deepen their understanding of the educational role of museums and to enhance their interaction with museum content.

Living Testimonies to the Course of History

Documents and archives of all kinds are among the most important living records that capture the course of history and its detailed aspects. They are far more than mere papers and files, they represent a living memory that preserves knowledge, ideas and decisions which have shaped the destinies of nations and peoples. In the Sultanate of Oman, documents and archives have received particular attention, becoming an integral part of the national memory and chronicling the country's development across diverse fields.

Since the establishment of the National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA) under Royal Decree No. (60/2007), NRAA has been keen to preserve and organise these materials according to scientific principles and in line with the latest preservation technologies. It has also focused on developing the national documentation system, which facilitates document management in government institutions and encourages research and intellectual creativity. National documents and archives are invaluable resources for understanding Oman's history and provide vital information and data that support academic research and knowledge development. NRAA continues to shape a modern vision for the management of documents and archives, emphasising the importance of making archival materials accessible to institutions and researchers to maximise their benefit.

As part of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's ongoing commitment to promoting Omani culture and safeguarding national identity, His Majesty graciously patronised the groundbreaking ceremony for the Oman Cultural Complex and the NRAA's building on 21 January 2024. This milestone project reflects His Majesty's vision to enrich cultural and intellectual life in the Sultanate, promote cultural, literary and theatrical activities, and preserve the Omani cultural legacy within the national memory, while providing scientific and intellectual research services. The project spans a construction area of 80,200 square metres on a site covering 400,000 square metres.

Components and Facilities of the Oman Cultural Complex

Main components of the complex

NRAA's building

National Library
With a capacity of up to
one million volumes

National Theatre:
1000-seat hall

Other facilities

Children's
Library

Cultural
cinemas

Exhibition
and
workshop
building

Literary
Forum and
a lecture
hall

Fine arts
halls

Sections for
youth

In line with its mission to safeguard national memory and enrich cultural heritage, NRAA, in collaboration with the Wathiqat Watan Foundation of the Syrian Arab Republic, organised the International Conference on Oral History titled “The Concept and Experience in the Arab World.” The conference took place in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, from 23 to 25 September 2024, and brought together a number of Arab and international institutions, organisations, and documentary centres. The event explored key themes in oral history, including its definition and practice within the Arab world, insights from global experiences, and opportunities for future development and wider application in the region.

NRAA Activities in 2024

Memory of a Nation Exhibition in Salalah

It comprises 1,300 printed
and electronic documents

Highlighting Oman's civilisational
role, Omani contributions to
humanity, and Omani-Turkish
relations

Institutions Supporting Cultural Enrichment

The Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science is one of the most prominent institutions contributing to the advancement of the cultural and educational landscape in the Sultanate of Oman and to the consolidation of Omani identity at both local and international levels. It achieves this through supporting research and studies and delivering high-quality educational services. The Centre is also dedicated to promoting Omani thought and fostering cultural exchange with specialised institutions and centres worldwide. The Sultan Qaboos Institute for Teaching Arabic to Non-Native Speakers plays a vital role in promoting Omani culture and civilisation. It offers a range of educational services, including visual presentations, educational trips, and cultural lectures. Since its establishment in 2012, the Institute has welcomed more than 1,508 students representing over 60 nationalities.

Initiatives to Promote Culture and Thought Among Youth

Sultan Qaboos Award for Culture, Arts and Literature 2024

Award 's Objective:

Recognition of intellectuals, artists and writers

Award fields:

1. Environmental Studies .
2. Omani Radio Programmes.
3. Classical Arabic Poetry.

Iqra Competition for Youth 2024

Competition's Objective:

Encouraging a love of reading and libraries, and fostering citizenship and patriotism

As part of efforts to uphold religious values and encourage the memorisation of the Holy Quran, the Sultan Qaboos Holy Quran Competition was launched in its 32nd session for 1445 AH (2024 AD). The competition comprises seven levels designed to suit different ages and abilities. The levels are as follows:

- **Level One:** memorisation of the entire Holy Quran.
- **Level Two:** memorisation of twenty-four consecutive parts.
- **Level Three:** memorisation of eighteen consecutive parts.
- **Level Four:** memorisation of twelve consecutive parts.
- **Level Five:** memorisation of six consecutive parts.
- **Level Six:** memorisation of four consecutive parts.
- **Level Seven:** memorisation of two consecutive parts.

Modern Infrastructure for a Greener Tomorrow



In the final year of the Tenth Five-Year Plan, which is the first executive plan under Oman Vision 2040, recent figures confirm that around 388 strategic programmes have been implemented and are operational between 2021 and December 2024. This represents a high implementation rate of 93 per cent of the total 416 programmes set out in the plan. These programmes cover the priorities outlined in the Tenth Five-Year Plan and align with the four pillars of Oman Vision 2040.



The Sultanate of Oman achieves a significant improvement in the Global Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2024

Under the economy and development pillar, the proportion of strategic programmes currently being implemented has reached 99%. For the human and society pillar, the implementation rate stands at 92%, while the sustainable environment pillar has achieved an 88%, matched by the governance and institutional performance pillar at 88%.

The Sultanate of Oman has achieved a significant advancement in the latest Global Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2024, climbing to 54th place after previously ranking 149th out of 180 countries in 2022, with a score of 51.9 out of 100, according to the announcement issued in June 2024 by the Yale Centre for Environmental Law & Policy, the United States.

This progress reflects Oman's continued efforts to enhance ecosystem quality, protect biodiversity and manage it effectively. Royal decrees establishing 30 nature reserves and expanding biodiversity sites, alongside the Environment Authority's initiatives to rehabilitate threatened species, combat desertification and control invasive species, have all contributed to this positive assessment.

These achievements are further supported by Oman's announcement of hosting Oman Climate Week in February 2025 which is a global platform that will bring together leaders, experts and decision-makers to advance climate action. The event will feature scientific sessions, technical exhibitions and specialised workshops.



The Sultanate of Oman is making progress in improving the quality of environmental systems

Various Environmental Achievements in 2024

1

33 nature reserves in the Sultanate of Oman

2

Planting millions of wild trees in the Sultanate of Oman

3

Election of the Sultanate of Oman as President of the Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

4

Automating services through the «Sahl» platform

5

Launching of the Turtle Commando Programme initiative to protect, monitor and observe sea turtles

6

Launching the National Biodiversity Survey Project

7

Launching Marine Mammal Species Survey Project

National Zero Neutrality Program

The Sultanate of Oman is among the countries that swiftly announced its strategic commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, under the auspices of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect him, in October 2022. This milestone reflects the nation's determination to improve environmental performance and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Oman has since been included on the list of countries that have adopted a national strategy under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In 2024, the National Programme for Zero Neutrality launched a suite of projects and initiatives, known as Net Zero 3 aimed at expanding efforts to meet the 2030 targets set out in the National Strategy for the Orderly Transition to Net Zero. By 2024, the total number of projects and initiatives had reached 212. These cover a wide range of sectors, including transportation, gas, industry, cities and buildings, education, and agriculture, as well as the governorates and the military and security services sector.

Projects Implemented to Achieve net Zero

16

projects in the
industrial
sector

10

projects in the
oil and
gas sector

28

projects in the
electricity
sector

36

projects in the
transportation
sector

26

projects in
the cities and
buildings
sector

15

projects in the
environment
and economy
sectors

21

projects in the
military and
security sector

14

projects
in the
education
sector

Enhancing Oman's infrastructure and readying it for electric vehicles

Housing and Urban Planning

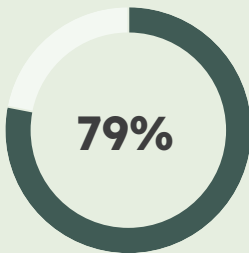
Oman's housing and urban planning strategy is driven by a commitment to comprehensive development, with a strong focus on placemaking to elevate the quality of housing and urban services. The government land usufruct programme plays a pivotal role as a cornerstone of sustainable economic development in the Sultanate. It serves as a strategic mechanism that advances economic and social growth while embedding sustainability as a guiding principle nationwide. Together, these efforts support the ambitions of Oman Vision 2040, steering the country towards a prosperous and resilient economy.

TATWIR Real Estate Development Platform

As part of its commitment to automating usufruct services, promoting transparency, and enabling investors to benefit from services without the need for in-person visits, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has launched the TATWIR Real Estate Development Platform. This innovative digital platform streamlines the process of competing for government usufruct land with high levels of transparency and security. It offers a range of services that allow investors to access government land for investment across various sectors through clear, efficient procedures. The TATWIR platform also contributes to fostering competitiveness, stimulating investment, and creating an attractive investment environment that aligns with market and societal needs.

The platform is integrated with more than 12 government entities, which collectively manage land offerings for diverse uses, all benefiting from the platform's comprehensive services. This institutional integration contributes to diversifying development projects through the usufruct programme.

Government Land Usufruct Programme 2024



Land
utilisation
rate
increased by



Signing more
than 700 usufruct
contracts in
several sectors

Future Cities for Thriving Communities

With population growth accelerating and lifestyles evolving, the need to build future cities that align with the aspirations of Oman Vision 2040 is becoming increasingly clear. The goal is to achieve sustainable urban development through integrated residential neighbourhood projects and master plans that incorporate key features such as renewable energy use, accessible integrated transport systems, and a healthy, carbon-free environment. These future cities will also be distinguished by highly efficient smart infrastructure, a circular economy, ample green spaces, and effective urban density, ensuring a vibrant, sustainable living environment for generations to come.

Sultan Haitham City

14,800,000 M²



Bousher Heights

6,650,000 M²

Manah City

6,000,000 M²



Sohar City

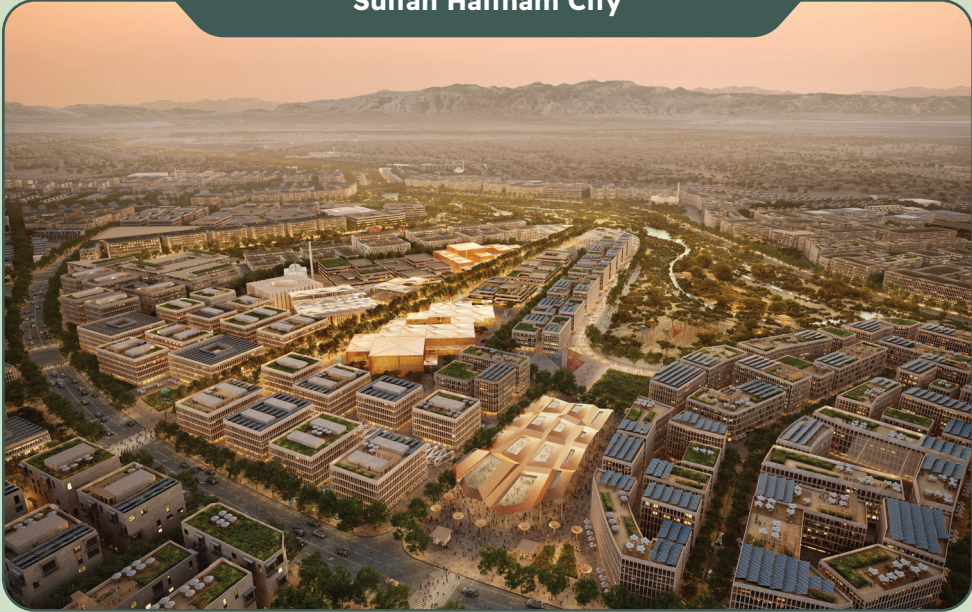
6,200,000 M²

Salalah City

5,300,000 M²



Sultan Haitham City



Sultan Haitham City stands at the forefront of future smart cities in the Sultanate of Oman, elevating urban life to new heights and broader horizons. The city is designed around 12 global benchmarks covering quality of life and well-being. It offers reasonable living costs and integrated facilities, complemented by a modern lifestyle and sustainable systems, all aimed at ensuring a vibrant and resilient urban environment.

**Total green
areas**

2,900,000 M²

Total area

14,800,000 M²

**Total
population
of**

**100,000
inhabitants**

**Central
Park and
Wadi**

1,640,000 M²

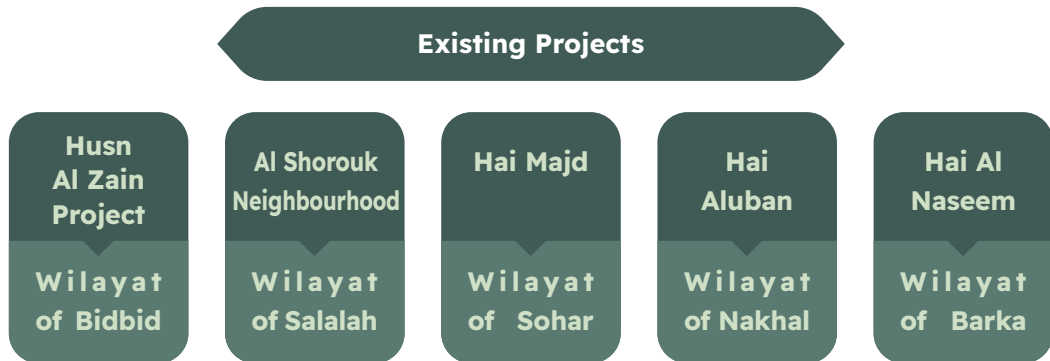
25 mosques
**19 integrated
neighbourhoods**
**11 healthcare
facilities**
**39 public and
private schools**

**The city's
construction
phases are
divided
into four
implementation
phases
extending from
2024 to 2045**

**The city provides a network of
new connecting roads linking it
to the Muscat Expressway and
Sultan Qaboos Street, with 23
different access points designed
to ensure quick entry and exit
while reducing congestion**

Integrated Neighbourhoods and Housing Plans Programme

As part of efforts to enhance social welfare and offer ready-made housing within fully serviced residential neighbourhoods at affordable costs, the Soroush National Initiative for Integrated Residential Neighbourhoods marks a significant step towards achieving sustainable urban development in the Sultanate of Oman.



Objectives of the Neighbourhood Initiative

1. Embracing diverse alternatives and solutions to provide adequate housing for all segments of society in line with the relevant legislation.
2. Achieving the objectives and requirements of the urban strategy and Oman Vision 2040, which aim to create sustainable cities and villages that fulfil the aspirations of their residents.
3. Strengthening the role of the private sector and engaging it in the development of integrated and sustainable urban communities.
4. Providing basic services and an innovative model as alternatives within the land grant policy to meet community needs.



The Sorouh Initiative for residential neighbourhoods is an important step towards achieving urban development

Real Estate Sector Activity from January to the end of December 2024

Statement	January-December 2023	January-December 2024
Current value of the property	2.6 billion OMR	3.3 billion OMR
Fees collected for all legal transactions	64.9 million OMR	69 million OMR
Current value of sales contracts	1.044 billion OMR	1.094 billion OMR
Number of issued title deeds	235.3 thousand	233.3 thousand
Number of title deeds issued to GCC nationals	1.3 thousand	1.4 thousand



Ongoing developments in expanding land transport to facilitate movement

Land Transport

The land transport sector receives significant attention due to its vital role in facilitating movement between the various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, stimulating commercial activity and supporting the tourism sector. By 2024, the total length of asphalt roads supervised by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology had exceeded 16,026 kilometres, while the length of dirt roads reached 17,069 kilometres.

Key Developments in the Land Transport Sector in 2024

1. Repairing roads damaged by climatic conditions (e.g. Shaheen).
2. Expanding the Al Rusayl–Bidbid road.
3. Dualisation of the link roads connecting the Wilayats in North Al Batinah Governorate via the Al Batinah Expressway.
4. Construction of Al Aflaj Road in the Wilayat Al Mudhaibi in North A'Sharqiyah Governorate.
5. Completion of the remaining works for the dual carriageway project of Mahda–Al Rawdah Road in Al Buraimi Governorate.
6. Completion of the remaining works on Sanat Wadi Al A'la Road in Wilayat Bahla.
7. Completion of the remaining works on Saih Qatna Road in Wilayat Jabal Al Akhdar.
8. Rehabilitation of the Bidbid–Nizwa dual carriageway.



Strategic roads through challenging terrain and mountains connecting Oman's Governorates

Strategic Road Projects

1. The Dibba-Lima-Khasab road in Musandam Governorate, with an approximate length of 70 km.
2. Completion of the remaining works for the Al Batinah Coastal Road Project.
3. A'Sharqiyah Expressway Dualisation (Part Two – Phase Two).
4. Tender for the implementation of the Aqaba (Afri) Road Project, linking the Wilayats of Samayil and Izki.
5. Tender for the Empty Quarter Road Dualisation Project (Phase One).
6. Tender for the implementation of the remaining parts of the Adam-Haima-Thumrait Road dualisation project.
7. Tender for the implementation of a road project in the Wilayat of Al Hamra in A'Dakhiliyah Governorate.
8. Tender for the dual carriageway of the existing road from Marfa Daris Roundabout in the Wilayat of Nizwa to Jabreen in the Wilayat Bahla.



The maritime sector: a promising pillar for economic growth and GDP contribution

Maritime Transport

The maritime transport sector is experiencing continuous development, driven by its commercial and industrial importance, which has a positive impact on various economic sectors. In 2024, notable achievements included the following:

1. Revenues from Maritime Affairs exceeded one million Omani riyals during 2024.
2. A total of 384 navigation permits were issued for foreign vessels operating in Omani territorial waters.
3. 766 ships and marine units were registered under the Omani flag.
4. 2,276 ships and marine units had their registrations renewed.
5. 703 certificates were issued to sailors, along with 1,072 licences for marine activities.



Omani Ports: Attracting Global Attention

Omani Ports

Omani ports have emerged as key drivers of economic growth and income diversification, supporting the government's vision to reduce reliance on oil revenues. The Sultanate of Oman is renowned for its major ports, which have become strategic hubs attracting global attention for their vital role in providing world-class logistical support and services to international companies and institutions. These ports are now directly connected to countries exporting goods to Oman, as well as destinations for Omani exports via maritime transport companies. This connectivity has helped shorten shipping times for imports and exports, lower maritime transport costs, and reduce dependence on neighbouring ports to supply the local market.

Volume of Handling at Omani Ports in 2024

107
million
tonnes of
general,
liquid, and
bulk cargo

More than
4 million
twenty-foot
equivalent
units (TEUs)

3
million
heads of
livestock

More than
10,000
ships
arrived
at Omani
ports

More than
325,000
passengers
passed
through
Omani ports

Air Transport

Passenger traffic at Oman's airports continued to grow in 2024, with more than 14.5 million passengers passing through the Sultanate's airports between January and December, compared to 14.1 million during the same period in 2023. This marks an increase of 2.8%.

The number of airports in the Sultanate of Oman is (4) airports:

1. Muscat International Airport in Muscat Governorate
2. Salalah Airport in Dhofar Governorate
3. Sohar Airport in North Al Batinah Governorate
4. Duqm Airport in Al Wusta Governorate

Airport Air Traffic Indicators in 2024

Statement	Muscat International Airport	
Total number of flights	96.1 thousand a flight	
International flights	86.8 thousand flights	
Domestic flights	9.2 thousand flights	
Total number of passenger	12.8 million passengers	
Via international flights	11.6 million passengers	
Via domestic flights	1.2 million passengers	



Omani airports play a vital role in attracting direct economic activity and investment

	Salalah Airport	Sohar Airport	Duqm Airport
	10.4 thousand flights	638 flights	622 flights
	5 thousand flights	495 flights	–
	5.4 thousand flights	143 flights	622 flights
	1.5 million passengers	66.7 thousand passengers	61.1 thousand passengers
	650.6 thousand passengers	43.4 thousand passengers	–
	869.9 thousand passengers	23.2 thousand passengers	61.1 thousand passengers

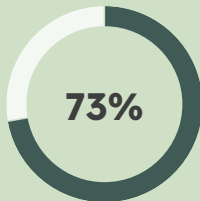
Information Technology Services

Government digital transformation is a key enabler for achieving Oman Vision 2040 and plays a vital role in building a flexible, innovative and future-ready government. To align efforts across the government sector with the objectives of the Government Digital Transformation Executive Plan 2021–2025, the Main and Technical Committees for Digital Transformation, supported by the executive team at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, have strengthened coordination with all targeted government agencies. This ensures that obstacles are addressed and the implementation of government digital transformation projects and initiatives, whether joint, centralised, or independent, can proceed at pace, according to each institution's nature and area of specialisation.

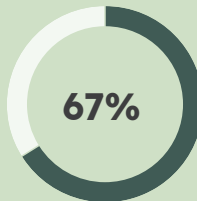
Following approval by the Council of Ministers in July 2021, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology began implementing the Government Digital Transformation Programme 2021–2025. The programme targets 59 government entities and is structured around four main practical tracks that collectively shape the digital transformation journey: Excellence in e-Government Services, Efficiency in Internal Systems, Human Resources Empowerment, and Community Participation.

Key Indicators of the Government Digital Transformation Programme as at End of 2024

Overall performance



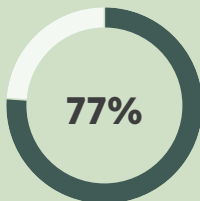
Digitisation of Priority Services



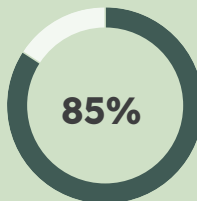
2680

services now
have streamlined
procedures

Proficiency Rate for Government Institutions



The Ministry's rating for digital transformation has risen to



27 million

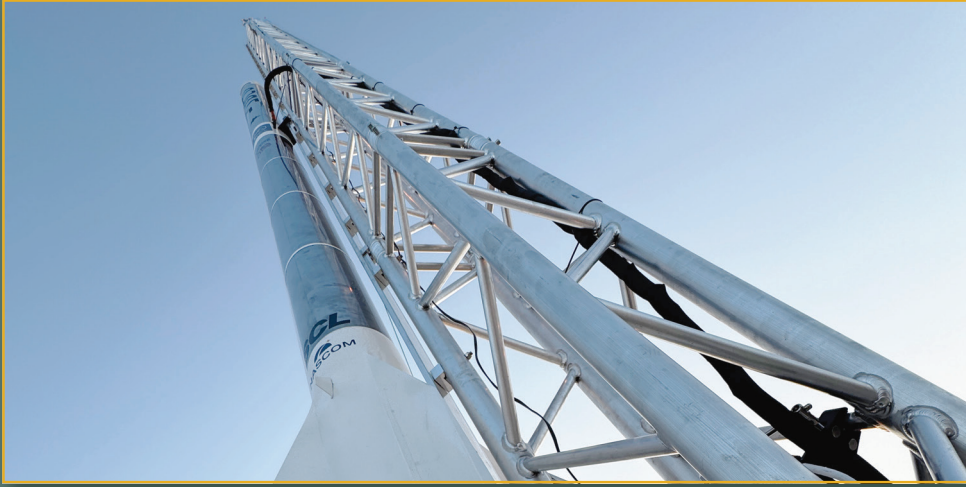
digital
government
transactions



Localising artificial intelligence technologies by supporting start-ups and training Omani talent

Projects and Initiatives

In line with Oman Vision 2040, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology launched the National Programme for Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Digital Technologies in 2024. Public and private investments in artificial intelligence have reached approximately 60 million Omani rials as of 2024. During the year, an agreement was signed to establish the Fourth Industrial Revolution Centre in collaboration with the World Economic Forum. The Ministry also implemented the ‘Engineer it with Artificial Intelligence’ competition, which led to the development of eight Omani applications using generative AI now available in the market. Additionally, a research chair for AI ethics was launched in partnership with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, in collaboration with the Ministry.



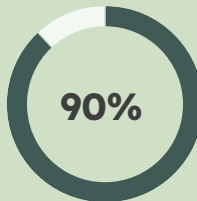
The establishment of the spaceport in Duqm strengthens the Sultanate of Oman's position as an international hub for launching space rockets and satellites

Oman's Space Programme

Highlights of 2024

**Launch of
the Omani
Space
Rocket**

The percentage of
operating companies
has increased by

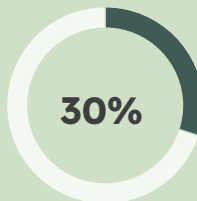


**The Sultanate
of Oman
has become
an official
member
of the
International
Astronautical
Federation**

Job growth rate



**Investment volume in
the sector grew by**



Electricity and Water Sector

Oman's total electricity production rose to 48.4 million GWh by the end of December 2024, marking a 7.6% increase compared to 45 million GWh during the same period in 2023.

Statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information show that Oman's net electricity production grew by 7.2%, reaching 46.8 million GWh by the end of December 2024.

In addition, the total volume of water produced in the Sultanate of Oman up to the end of December 2024 amounted to 520.3 million cubic metres.

Net Electricity Production in the Governorates of the Sultanate of Oman by the End of December 2024 (GWh)

Governorate	2023	2024
Muscat	604.2 thousand	486.9 thousand
Dhofar	5.07 million	5.67 million
Musandam	472.7 thousand	503.8 thousand
A'Dakhiliyah	183.4 thousand	262.2 thousand
South Al Batinah, North Al Batinah and A'Dhahirah	28.4 million	30.2 million
South A'Sharqiyah, North A'Sharqiyah	9.9 million	10.6 million
Al Wusta	224.7 thousand	169 thousand



An ambitious vision for clean and sustainable energy

In 2024, the Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR) oversaw several strategic projects in the energy sector. These included reviewing and approving operational and capital allocations for a number of licensed companies, as well as establishing the necessary regulatory frameworks to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance the sector's financial performance. In this context, the electrical interconnection project linking the north and south of the Sultanate of Oman is regarded as a vital initiative. It aims to enhance resource sustainability, increase the efficiency and reliability of the electricity network, and reduce reliance on 14 diesel-powered plants. This is expected to lower costs and cut carbon emissions by approximately 474,000 tonnes annually. APSR has also developed a direct sales project, enabling large consumers to contract directly with energy producers, and has created a regulatory framework for energy transmission within licensed networks. APSR is also working to liberalise supply activities and promote greater competition in this field.

Telecommunications Sector Indicators as at the End of December 2024

Item	Figure
Total fixed line subscriptions	435,596
Number of mobile phone subscribers	7,506,870
Number of active mobile broadband subscriptions	6,455,261
Total fixed internet subscriptions	574,730

Water Resources

Dams are among the key water projects that play an effective role in optimising water use and reducing the water deficit by providing water supplies, recharging groundwater reservoirs, and protecting residential areas and infrastructure from the risks of flooding. The number of dams overseen by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources exceeds 188, with a total storage capacity estimated at more than 346 million cubic metres of water. The Ministry also attaches great importance to the regular maintenance of dams to ensure their continued effectiveness and safety.

Governorates' Efforts

Guided by the wise vision of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, may Allah protect him, the development of the Sultanate of Oman's governorates stands as a strategic pillar for achieving comprehensive and sustainable economic and social progress. This vision is reinforced by the priority of "Developing Sustainable Governorates and Cities", which enables each governorate to make the best use of its resources and realise its comparative advantages.

In his royal speech at the first annual meeting of the eighth session of Oman Council in 2023, His Majesty emphasised: "The interest in developing the governorates and consolidating the principle of decentralisation is an approach whose foundations we have established through the issuance of the Governorates System and the Municipal Councils Law. This completes the implementation of our vision for local administration based on decentralisation, whether in planning or execution, and enables the local community to manage its own affairs and contribute to building the nation." Royal Decree No. (36/2022), which issued the Governorates System, underscores the importance of local administration rooted in the principle of decentralisation. It provides a framework that empowers governorates to make informed decisions and perform their roles effectively, supporting development in all areas and aligning with the goals, pillars and priorities of Oman Vision 2040.

In line with these royal directives, the financial allocation for the Governorates Development Programme has been doubled from 10 million Omani rials to 20 million Omani rials for each governorate under the current Five-Year Plan (2021-2025). This substantial increase serves as a key enabler for implementing strategic programmes to develop governorates and sustainable cities, while boosting each region's competitiveness and economic appeal.

Between 2021 and 2024, total expenditure on governorate development exceeded 81 million Omani rials, with an additional allocation of approximately 44 million Omani rials planned for 2025. Notable projects under this programme include the development of seafronts, the paving of internal roads and the enhancement and maintenance of public parks. Furthermore, several winning proposals for outstanding development projects are being implemented, such as the Ibri View project in A'Dhahirah Governorate, the Grand Canyon in A'Dakhiliyah Governorate, and the revitalisation of the historical centre in North Al Batinah Governorate.



The Sultanate of Oman: a leading global tourism destination

Tourism

The Sultanate of Oman is rich in diverse natural, historical and cultural tourism assets. The new Tourism Law, issued by Royal Decree No. (69/2023), defines the role of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism in developing the tourism sector and regulating tourism and hospitality establishments across the Sultanate. The law, which comprises five chapters and 21 articles, paves the way for further growth in the tourism sector by enabling the identification and development of new sites and areas that can be leveraged in line with the comparative and competitive advantages of each governorate.

In 2024, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism signed several usufruct agreements to implement tourism projects in various Wilayats and Governorates. This approach forms part of the broader investment programme for the tourism sector across all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. It aims to maximise the economic and social impact of new projects by contributing to local communities through job creation and the enhancement of local content. Additionally, it seeks to increase the supply of hotel rooms and facilities required by the growing tourism sector, in line with the objectives of the comprehensive tourism development plan.



Sur, in the South A'Sharqiyah Governorate, has been selected as the Arab Tourism Capital for 2024

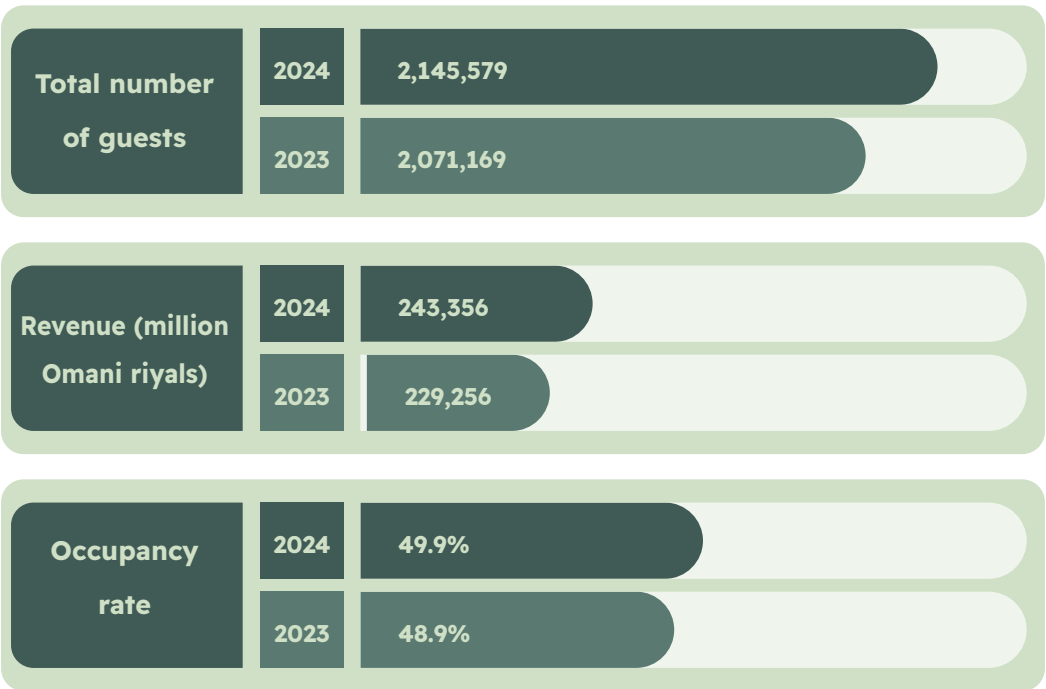
In December 2023, Sur, in the South A'Sharqiyah Governorate, was chosen as the Arab Tourism Capital for 2024 during the 26th session of the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism, held in Doha, Qatar.

This selection was based on several criteria, including the availability of infrastructure and tourism resources, the diversity of tourism offerings and activities and the implementation of environmental conservation policies. The country's rich historical and cultural heritage, including archaeological sites from various historical periods, some of which are listed on the World Heritage List and the Tentative List. In addition, natural attractions such as beaches, wadis, springs, caves and nature reserves draw tourists from within Oman and abroad.

Revenue from three- to five-star hotels in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 6.2%, reaching OMR 243.3 million by the end of December 2024, compared to OMR 229.2 million for the same period in 2023.

Data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information indicate that the total number of guests in hotels classified as three to five stars rose by 3.6% to approximately 2.1 million guests by the end of December 2024, up from two million during the same period of the previous year. The occupancy rate also grew by 2.1%, reaching 49.9% by the end of 2024.

3-5 Star Hotel Performance (January–December 2024)



Consumer Protection Authority (CPA)

The Consumer Protection Authority (CPA) aims to maintain market balance by stabilising prices and monitoring the availability of essential goods, while also raising consumer awareness about the risks of misleading advertising. It receives and investigates complaints to safeguard consumer rights and promotes fair competition by combating commercial fraud and monopolistic practices. CPA also develops plans to protect consumers, examines relevant proposals, conducts specialised research, and drafts proposed legislation to regulate markets effectively.

CPA's Achievements 2024

Issuing a decision to ban the circulation of cosmetics and personal care products

Issuing a decision to ban the circulation of used tyres

Implementing the ISO 9001 system across all departments in the governorates

Launching several internal and external IT systems

Signing joint cooperation agreements to enhance cooperation in a number of fields

Key CPA's Statistical Indicators 2024

32,776
Complaints handled

8,086
Reports received

5,479
Fines recorded

115,848
Seized goods

365,868
Inspection visits

OMR million
2.95
Refunds collected

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Mohammed bin Said Al Balushi

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information

Head of the Team

Rashid bin Hamed Al Hashmi

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Majid bin Abdullah Al Hattali

Hamed bin Saif Al Kalbani

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Ain platform



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