

# **SULTANATE OF OMAN**

## **Public Administration Country Profile**

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

United Nations

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# OMAN

[Click here](#) for detailed map



Source: [The World Factbook](#) - [Oman](#)

Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id assumed power on July 23, 1970. Since his accession, Sultan Qaboos has balanced tribal, regional, and ethnic interests in composing the national administration.

In November 1991, Sultan Qaboos established the Majlis al-Shura (Consultative Council), which replaced the 10-year-old State Consultative Council, in an effort to systematize and broaden public participation in government.

After North and South Yemen merged in May 1990, Oman settled its border disputes with the new Republic of Yemen on October 1, 1992.

In November 1996, the "Basic Statute of the State", Oman's first written constitutional text, was introduced.

Source: [U.S. Department of State \(Background Notes\)](#) - [Oman](#)

## Government type

Sultanate

## Independence

1650 (expulsion of the Portuguese)

## Constitution

On 6 November 1996, Sultan QABOOS issued a royal decree promulgating a new basic law (White Book) which, among other things, clarifies the royal succession, provides for a prime minister, bars ministers from holding interests in companies doing business with the government, establishes a bicameral legislature, and guarantees basic civil liberties for Omani citizens ([click here](#))

## Legal system

Based on English common law and Islamic law; ultimate appeal to the monarch; has not accepted compulsory International Court of Justice jurisdiction

## Administrative divisions

8 administrative regions - 5 regions and 3 governorates (Muscat, Dhofar and Musandam) ([click here](#))

Source: [The World Factbook](#) - [Oman](#)

# 1. General Information

1.1 People	Oman	UAE	Yemen	1
<b>Population</b>				a
Total estimated population (,000), 2003	2,851	2,995	20,010	
Female estimated population (,000), 2003	1,213	1,048	9,849	
Male estimated population (,000), 2003	1,638	1,947	10,161	
Sex ratio (males per 100 females), 2003	135	186	103	
Average annual rate of change of pop. (%), 2000-2005	2.93	1.94	3.52	
<b>Youth and Elderly Population</b>				b
Total population under age 15 (%), 2003	37	25	49	
Female population aged 60+ (%), 2003	4	3	4	
Male population aged 60+ (%), 2003	3	2	3	
<b>Human Settlements</b>				c
Urban population (%), 2001	77	87	25	
Rural population (%), 2001	23	13	75	
Urban average annual rate of change in pop. (%), '00-'05	3.96	2.22	5.34	
Rural average annual rate of change in pop/ (%), '00-'05	0.91	-1.89	3.63	
<b>Education</b>				d
Total school life expectancy, 1998/1999	9 <sup>i</sup>	10.7	8.5	1
Female school life expectancy, 1998/1999	8.9 <sup>i</sup>	..	5.3	1
Male school life expectancy, 1998/1999	9.1 <sup>i</sup>	..	11.4	1
Female estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 2000	38.4	20.9	74.7 <sup>ii</sup>	2
Male estimated adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), 2000	19.9	25.2	32.5 <sup>ii</sup>	2
<b>Employment</b>				e
Unemployment rate (15+) (%), 2000	..	2.3 <sup>iii</sup>	..	1
Female adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 1995	16 <sup>iv</sup>	31	2 <sup>v</sup>	2
Male adult (+15) economic activity rate (%), 1995	84 <sup>iv</sup>	92	81 <sup>v</sup>	2

Notes: <sup>i</sup> 2000/2001; <sup>ii</sup> 1994; <sup>iii</sup> Based on registered unemployment from employment office records; <sup>iv</sup> 1993; <sup>v</sup> 1986, Data refer to the former Yemen Arab Republic only

1.2 Economy	Oman	UAE	Yemen	2
<b>GDP</b>				a
GDP total (millions US\$), 2002	20,073	..	10,395	
GDP per capita (US\$), 2002	7,906	..	559	
PPP GDP total (millions int. US\$), 2002	32,826 <sup>i</sup>	..	14,564	
PPP GDP per capita(int. US\$), 2002	12,929 <sup>i</sup>	..	783	
<b>Sectors</b>				b
Value added in agriculture (% of GDP), 2003	2.0 <sup>ii</sup>	3.2	10.8	
Value added in industry (% of GDP), 2003	54.2 <sup>ii</sup>	54.1	41.6	
Value added in services (% of GDP), 2003	43.8 <sup>ii</sup>	42.7	47.6	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				b
GDP implicit price deflator (annual % growth), 2003	-0.5	4.8	12.5	
Private consumption (% of GDP), 2003	41.2	48.5	63.6	
Government consumption (% of GDP), 2003	24.6	14.7	17.6	

Notes: <sup>i</sup> Most recent estimate from 2001 or 2000; <sup>ii</sup> 2002

<sup>1</sup> [United Nations Statistics Division](#):

<sup>a</sup> [Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); <sup>b</sup> [Statistics Division and Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); <sup>c</sup> [Population Division of the UN Secretariat](#); <sup>d1</sup> [UNESCO](#); <sup>d2</sup> [UNESCO](#); <sup>e1</sup> [ILO](#); <sup>e2</sup> [ILO/OECD](#)

<sup>2</sup> [World Bank - Data and Statistics](#):

<sup>a</sup> [Quick Reference Tables](#); <sup>b</sup> [Country at a Glance](#)

1.3 Public Spending	Oman	UAE	Yemen	
<b>Public expenditures</b>				3
Education (% of GNP), 1985-1987	4.1	2.1	..	a
Education (% of GNP), 1995-1997	4.5	1.7	7	a
Health (% of GDP), 1990	2	0.8	1.1	
Health (% of GDP), 1998	2.9	0.8	..	
Military (% of GDP), 1990	18.3	..	8.5	b
Military (% of GDP), 2000	9.7	..	5.2	b
Total debt service (% of GDP), 1990	7	..	3.5	
Total debt service (% of GDP), 2000	7.7 <sup>1</sup>	..	2.6	

Notes: <sup>1</sup> 1998

1.4 Public Sector Employment and Wages						
<i>Data from the latest year available</i>		Oman 1991-1995	Oman 1996-2000	Middle East & North Africa average <sup>4</sup> 1996-2000	Gulf States average <sup>4</sup> 1996-2000	Middle income group average <sup>4</sup> 1996-2000
<b>Employment</b>						
Civilian Central Government <sup>5</sup>	(,000)	..	..			
	(% pop.)	..	..	0.65	0.68	0.59
Sub-national Government <sup>5</sup>	(,000)	..	0.0			
	(% pop.)	..	0.0	0.65	0.68	0.59
Education employees	(,000)	..	24.1			
	(% pop.)	..	1.03	0.96	1.63	1.20
Health employees	(,000)	..	4.0			
	(% pop.)	..	0.17	0.20	0.31	0.70
Police	(,000)	..	0.4			
	(% pop.)	..	0.02	0.37	0.76	0.30
Armed forces	(,000)	..	43.5			
	(% pop.)	..	1.89	0.91	1.73	0.46
SOE Employees	(,000)	..	50.2			
	(% pop.)	..	2.23	2.67	..	3.61
Total Public Employment	(,000)	..	..			
	(% pop.)	..	..	6.26	..	6.05
<b>Wages</b>						
Total Central gov't wage bill	(% of GDP)	8.5	7.6	11.1	11.2	8.5
Total Central gov't wage bill	(% of exp)	24.2	29.8	32.6	40.6	21.6
Average gov't wage	(,000 LCU)	..	5			
Real ave. gov't wage ('97 price)	(,000 LCU)	..	5			
Average gov't wage to per capita GDP ratio		..	2.0	2.3	1.7	4.2

Source: [World Bank](#) - [Public Sector Employment and Wages](#)

<sup>3</sup> UNDP - [Human Development Report 2002](#)

<sup>a</sup> Data refer to total public expenditure on education, including current and capital expenditures.

<sup>b</sup> As a result of a number of limitations in the data, comparisons of military expenditure data over time and across countries should be made with caution. For detailed notes on the data see SIPRI (2001).

<sup>4</sup> Averages for regions and sub regions are only generated if data is available for at least 35% of the countries in that region or sub region.

<sup>5</sup> Excluding education, health and police – if available (view [Country Sources](#) for further explanations).

## 2. Legal Structure

Enacted in 1996, the purpose of the Basic Statute of the State has laid down a procedure for the successor to the throne as well as the formation of a State Council which, with the Majlis al-Shura, forms the Council of Oman.

Source: [Ministry of Information \(Sultanate of Oman\) - Legal Affairs \(edited\)](#)

### 2.1 Legislative Branch

Bicameral Majlis Oman consists of an upper chamber or Majlis al-Dawla (53 seats)<sup>6</sup> and a lower chamber or Majlis al-Shura (83 seats).<sup>7</sup>

*Women in parliament:* State Council – 5 out of 53 seats: (9%). Consultative Council – 2 out of 83 (2%).<sup>8</sup>

The Council of Oman is a bicameral system. The Basic Statute of the State provided for the establishment of The Council of Oman which was created by Royal Decree in 1997. It comprises the Majlis a'Shura (Consultative Council), whose members are elected by Omani citizens every three years, and the Majlis Al Dawla (State Council), whose members are appointed by the Sultan. Both chambers have advisory powers.<sup>10</sup>

**Fact box:**

*elections:* Last held 4 October 2003 (next to be held 2006)

*election results:* No political parties<sup>9</sup>

The State Council's president and members are prominent members of the Omani community chosen for their expertise and seniority and appointed by Royal Decree. State Council members must be Omani nationals, aged 40 years and above, of high status and reputation and with appropriate practical experience. Membership is for three years and is renewable. The size of Council membership does not exceed that of the Majlis a'Shura.

Members of the State Council cannot be elected to the Consultative Council (Majlis a'Shura). Membership of the State Council is barred to those who remain in public office, apart from members working in science, literature and culture, or as academic staff. However, the Sultan can make exceptions to this rule.

The Council submits proposals and recommendations to His Majesty the Sultan or the Council of Ministers. The council president submits an annual report to the Sultan on its activities and deliberations. The current State Council's 53 members include five women.

In December 1991, H.M. Sultan Qaboos inaugurated the Majlis al-Shura, the Consultative Council which complemented the Majlis al Dawla. Due to increases in population, the original 59 members of the Council have now increased to 82 in order to serve those *wilayats* with a population of more than 30,000. Each member is elected with the exception of the President. The two vice-presidents are elected by the membership of the Council in a secret ballot.

The role of the Majlis al-Shura is, inter alia, to:

<sup>6</sup> [Ministry of Information \(Sultanate of Oman\) - The Council of Oman](#)

<sup>7</sup> Source of fact boxes if nothing else stated: [The World Factbook - Oman](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Ministry of Information \(Sultanate of Oman\) - The Council of Oman](#)

<sup>9</sup> [U.S. Department of State - Background Notes](#)

<sup>10</sup> [The World Factbook - Oman](#) & [CNN.com - Article](#)

- Review all draft economic and social legislation, as prepared by the various Ministries and as laid down in the [Five Year Plans](#).
- Put forward proposals as the Majlis sees fit in the domain of upgrading economic and social laws in the Sultanate.
- Voice opinions on issues of public policy which the government may bring before the Majlis and then make suitable proposals in this regard.
- Voice opinions on various other matters which Sultan Qaboos sees fit to bring before the assembly.

Source: [Ministry of Information \(Sultanate of Oman\) - The Council of Oman \(edited\)](#)

In November 2002 the Sultan issued a royal decree expanding the electorate to include all native born citizens.<sup>11</sup> This was a departure from the 2000 election format in which the Government established a system under which Consultative Council members, male and female, were elected directly by receiving the most votes from eligible voters in their districts.

Source: [U.S. Department of State - Human Rights \(2002\)](#)

## 2.2 Executive Branch

*cabinet:* Cabinet appointed by the Sultan

*elections:* None; hereditary Sultanate

The Sultan is the Head of State and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

The Sultan discharges, inter alia, the following functions:

- Presiding over the Council of Ministers or appointing a person to serve in that position;
- Presiding over the Specialized Councils or appointing chairmen for them;
- Appointing and dismissing Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers and those of their rank;
- Appointing and dismissing Under-Secretaries, General Secretaries and those of their rank;
- Appointing and dismissing senior judges;
- Issuing and ratifying laws;
- Waiving or commuting punishments

### Fact box:

*chief of state & head of government:*  
Sultan and Prime Minister QABOOS bin Said Al Said (since 23 July 1970)

The Council of Ministers is the body entrusted with implementing general State policies. Amongst other functions it shall:

- Submit recommendations to the Sultan on economic, political and social, as well as executive and administrative matters of concern to the Government, and propose draft laws and decrees;

<sup>11</sup> In the 2000 elections, the Government selected more than 175,000 men and women, approximately 25 percent of adult citizens, to register to vote, of whom 114,000 registered and 100,000 voted.

- Formulate aims and general policies for economic, social, and administrative development and propose methods of implementing these policies which will make the best use of financial, economic and human resources;
- Discuss developmental plans prepared by the relevant departments, submit them to the Sultan for approval, and follow up their implementation;
- Discuss proposals by Ministries in their fields of executive jurisdiction and make appropriate recommendations and decisions in this regard.

Source: [Ministry of Information \(Sultanate of Oman\) - Basic Law](#)

## 2.3 Judiciary Branch

Supreme Court (the nascent civil court system, administered by region, has non-Islamic judges as well as traditional Islamic judges)

In November 1999, four Royal Decrees, 90, 91, 92 and 93/99 were issued which make fundamental changes to the legal system in line with the provisions of the Basic Statute.

Royal Decree 90/99 which came into force in June 2000 establishes four levels of courts in Oman: Supreme Court, Appeal Courts, Preliminary Courts, and Courts of Summary Jurisdiction.

These courts will hear all criminal, civil and commercial cases, but personal matters will continue to be referred to the Sharia courts. The Commercial Court will continue to function as before during the period of transition to the new courts.

Royal Decree 91/99 establishes the Administrative Court which is an independent judicial body with the power to review all decisions made by Government bodies. The purpose of the Court is to prevent the misinterpretation or misuse of authority. Administration of this Court comes under the Diwan of Royal Court.

Royal Decree 92/99 sets up the Public Prosecution Authority, which is an independent body under the supervision of the Inspector General of Police and Customs. Its functions are to act in criminal cases on behalf of the public, to monitor the enforcement of the penal code, the surveillance of culprits and the enforcement of judgements.

Royal Decree 93/99 establishes the Supreme Judicial Council, which will formulate the general policy of the Judiciary and ensure its independence and further development. The Council convenes under the chairmanship of His Majesty the Sultan.

Source: [Ministry of Information \(Sultanate of Oman\) - Basic Law](#)

## 2.4 Local Government

The Sultanate of Oman is divided into three governorates - Muscat, Dhofar and Musandam and five regions - i.e. there are eight administrative regions: [A'Dakhliyah](#); [A'Dhahira](#); [Al Batinah](#); [Dhofar](#); [Al Wusta](#); [Muscat](#); [Musandam](#); [Al Sharqiya](#). Each of these is subdivided into smaller districts called wilayats, which are governed by the *wali*, the person responsible for the area who reports to the Ministry of the Interior.

Source: [Ministry of Information \(Sultanate of Oman\) - Geography](#)

Formal decentralization of government exists with the division of the nation into municipalities, but in practice these sub-units have limited autonomy. Oman has 43 municipalities, 14 municipal sections, and 23 rural cleaning units. The municipalities



of Oman are overseen by the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Environment (MRME), which funds and manage the municipalities. The MRME has implemented a number of projects to improve the urban infrastructure in several municipalities including the towns of Nizwa, al-Buraimi, Sur and al-Rostaq.

Source: [UNDP \(POGAR\) - Decentralization and Urban Management](#)

## 3. The State and Civil Society

### 3.1 Ombudsperson

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

### 3.2 NGOs

Source: [Institution](#) - [Title](#)

### 3.3 Civil Society

The Basic Law of the Sultanate of Oman provides for freedom of opinion within the limits of the law. Citizens have the freedom to form associations on a national basis for legitimate objectives and in a proper manner that does not conflict with the stipulations of the Basic Law. It is forbidden to establish associations whose activities are inimical to social order, or are secret, or are of a military nature.

The 1984 Press and Publication Law enables the government to censor publications if they are politically, culturally, or sexually offensive. The state also owns and controls local radio and television companies. Oman TV and Radio Oman are operated by the Ministry of Information. Private radio or television broadcasting is not allowed but satellite dishes are permitted.

Since 1997, the Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel) is the official Internet Service Provider (ISP). The service provider controls the sites and controls information before it reaches the users.

Following his taking office, Sultan Qaboos engaged in expanding the public sphere gradually. The elections to the Consultative Council (Majlis ash-Shoura) are an aspect of this opening. There are no political parties in Oman.

The Sultan travels annually with his top ministers from place to place within the country. During the tours, the Sultan meets in public meetings (majlis) with citizens and listens to their personal requests and grievances.

Source: [UNDP \(POGAR\) - State-Civil Society Relations](#)

## 4. Civil Service

The Civil Service Council draws up general policies on the Civil Service and considers decisions, laws and other measures aimed at boosting Omanization and improving the efficiency of the state's administrative apparatus.

Source: [Ministry of Information \(Sultanate of Oman\) - The Administrative System \(edited\)](#)

The Ministry of Civil Service was established in 1988 and in 1992 a Royal Decree was issued defining the functions of the Ministry. The principal aim of the Ministry has been the modernizing and streamlining of the Civil Service to make the machinery of government more effective and less bureaucratic. In 1970, the State employed only 1,630 Omanis.

In 1988, the new Ministry introduced an Omanization plan, in accordance with the directives of His Majesty to replace expatriates with trained Omani Personnel without detriment to the efficiency of the Service.

Source: [Ministry of Information \(Sultanate of Oman\) - Human Development](#)

### 4.1 Legal Basis

Source: [Institution - Title](#)

### 4.2 Personnel

At the end of 1999, the number of Omanis in government service had exceeded the target of 72% set in the relevant Five-Year Plan. Excluding the Ministries of Health and Education the percentage of Omanis in public sector employment rises to nearly 86% of the total number. The percentage of Omanis in the Ministry of Health is now nearly 70%, while in the Ministry of Education it is just over 50%.

At the end of 2000, the Government (excluding the Diwan of Royal Court and other organisations considered as public corporations applying special regulations) employed 63,934 Omanis and 20,728 expatriates.

Source: [Ministry of Information \(Sultanate of Oman\) - Human Development \(edited\)](#)

Distribution of State employees (2000/12/31)				
	Omani employees	Non-Omani employees	Total employees	Omani (%)
Female	18,641	9,468	28,109	66
(%)	29	46	33	-
Male	45,293	11,260	56,553	80
(%)	71	54	67	-
Total	63,934	20,728	84,662	76

Source: [Arab Administrative Development Organization \(ARADO\) - The Administrative Reform in Oman \(in Arabic\)](#)

<b>Evolution of State Employment (1974-2000)</b>				
Year	Govern- ment	Office of the Sultan	Public cor- porations	Total
1974	12,035	..	..	..
1980	35,652	4,188	1,500	40,340
1990	68,120	12,384	3,807	84,311
2000	84,662	18,280	7,556	110,498

Source: Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) - The Administrative Reform in Oman (in Arabic)

### 4.3 Recruitment

Source: Institution - Title

### 4.4 Promotion

Source: Institution - Title

### 4.5 Remuneration

Source: Institution - Title

### 4.6 Training

The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) was established by Royal Decree in 1977 and is an autonomous body which came under the supervision of the Ministry of the Civil Service in 1988. The Director-General of the IPA is appointed by the Minister and a board of directors. The Institute works closely with the Ministry to produce a national training programme and has a permanent cadre of professionally qualified lecturers in public & business administration. Since its establishment the IPA has implemented 987 training programmes, involving 18,474 participants. The Institute has also conducted a number of field and theoretical studies, as well as publishing 75 issues of its administration periodical. During 1999, over 100 training programmes with 1,612 participants from 50 government departments were organized by the Institute.

Agreements have been signed with several training organisations, including the Gulf Institute for Manpower Development to train technicians. The Ministry also offers scholarships for higher studies enabling employees to obtain degrees and doctorates.

The IPA plays an important part in the efforts made to meet Omanization targets in the Civil Service. Training programmes for senior civil servants, including undersecretaries and directors general are arranged as well as courses for staff at lower levels in Government. Courses in accountancy, statistics and English language proficiency are some of the subjects offered by the IPA.

The aim of the IPA is to enhance the professional competence of Omanis in both the public and private sectors. In addition to its training programmes, the IPA also provides research and consultancy services and maintains a library of reference material in Arabic and English.

The Ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, has taken further steps to omanize more teaching positions by running a teacher training diploma course for university and teacher training college graduates.

Source: [Ministry of Information \(Sultanate of Oman\) - Human Development \(edited\)](#)

#### **4.7 Gender**

Approximately 20% of civil servants are women, with 13% of senior management positions held by females. Gender discrimination is prohibited in the workplace and the law provides for equal pay for equal work. However, women have encountered discrimination and a substantial glass ceiling in promotions. Women in the public and private sectors are granted 40 days of paid maternity leave.

Source: [UNDP \(POGAR\) - Women in Public Life](#)

## 5. Ethics and Civil Service

### 5.1 Corruption

2003 CPI Score relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen by business people and country analysts and ranges between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt).

Corruption Perceptions Index							
		2003 CPI Score	Surveys Used	Standard Deviation	High-Low Range	Number Inst.	90 percent confidence range
Rank	Country						
1	Highly clean	9.7	8	0.3	9.2 - 10.0	4	9.5 - 9.9
26	Oman	6.3	4	0.9	5.5 - 7.3	4	5.8 - 7.0
133	Highly corrupt	1.3	8	0.7	0.3 - 2.2	6	0.9 - 1.7

Source: [Transparency International - Corruption Perceptions Index 2003](#)

**Surveys Used:** Refers to the number of surveys that were used to assess a country's performance. 17 surveys were used and at least 3 surveys were required for a country to be included in the CPI.

**Standard Deviation:** Indicates differences in the values of the sources. Values below 0.5 indicate agreement, values between 0.5 and c. 0.9 indicate some agreement, while values equal or larger than 1 indicate disagreement.

**High-Low Range:** Provides the highest and lowest values of the sources.

**Number Institutions:** Refers to the number of independent institutions that assessed a country's performance. Since some institutions provided more than one survey.

**90 percent confidence range:** Provides a range of possible values of the CPI score. With 5 percent probability the score is above this range and with another 5 percent it is below.

The State Financial Audit was established under Royal Decree No. 95/99, issued in November 1999, as a financially and administratively independent entity to replace the Secretariat-General of the State Financial Audit.

Source: [Ministry of Information \(Sultanate of Oman\) - The Administrative System](#)

In 2000, the new [State Audit Law](#) was promulgated by Royal Decree No. 55/2000 establishing the State Audit Institution (SAI).

The SAI is an autonomous legal entity, enjoying financial, administrative and operational independence. Its audit activities are intended to:

- protect State public funds;
- provide assurance regarding internal control systems and procedures and compliance with laws and regulations;
- expose cases of financial irregularities;
- highlight deficiencies in financial laws, rules and regulations and recommend means of redressing them; and
- ensure the economic, efficient and effective utilization of resources.

Source: [State Audit Institution - About Us](#)

### 5.2 Ethics

Source: [Institution - Title](#)

## 6. e-Government

### e-Government Readiness Index:

The index refers to the generic capacity or aptitude of the public sector to use ICT for encapsulating in public services and deploying to the public, high quality information (explicit knowledge) and effective communication tools that support human development.

The index is comprised of three sub-indices: Web Measure Index, Telecommunications Infrastructure Index and Human Capital Index.

### Web Measure Index:

A scale based on progressively sophisticated web services present. Coverage and sophistication of state-provided e-service and e-product availability correspond to a numerical classification.

### Telecommunications Infrastructure Index:

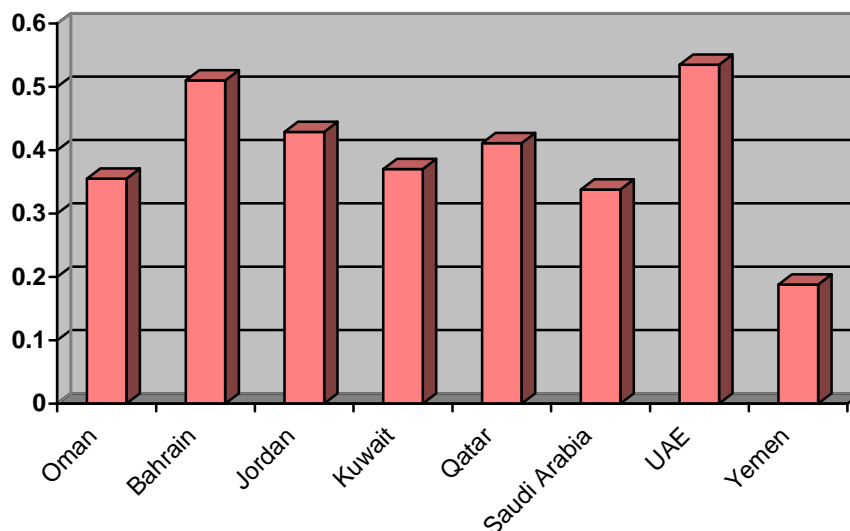
A composite, weighted average index of six primary indices, based on basic infrastructural indicators that define a country's ICT infrastructure capacity.

Primary indicators are: PC's, Internet users, online population and Mobile phones. Secondary indicators are TVs and telephone lines.

### Human Capital Index:

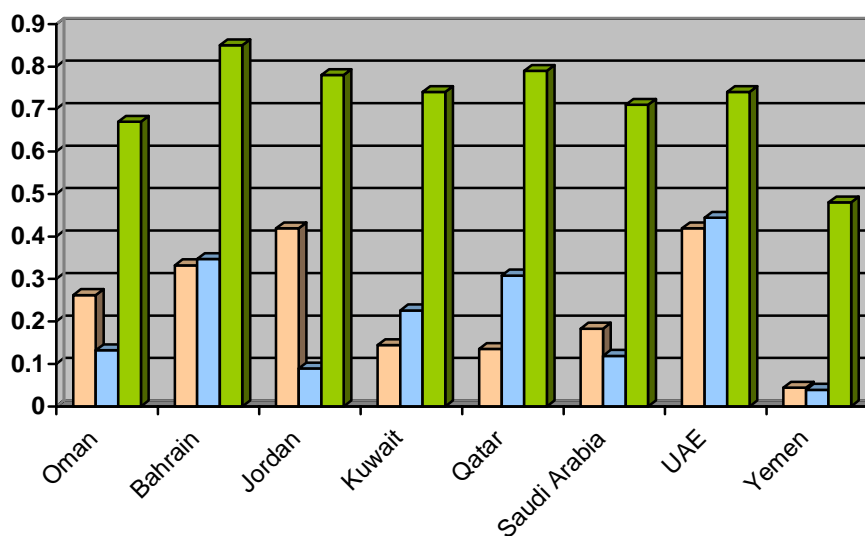
A composite of the adult literacy rate and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio, with two thirds of the weight given to adult literacy and one third to the gross enrolment ratio.

### e-Government Readiness Index



Source: HUnited Nations – World Public Sector Report 2003H

### Web Measure Index Telecom. Infrastructure Index Human Capital Index



Source: HUnited Nations – World Public Sector Report 2003H

**e-Participation Index:**

Refers to the willingness, on the part of the government, to use ICT to provide high quality information (explicit knowledge) and effective communication tools for the specific purpose of empowering people for able participation in consultations and decision-making both in their capacity as consumers of public services and as citizens.

**e-information:**

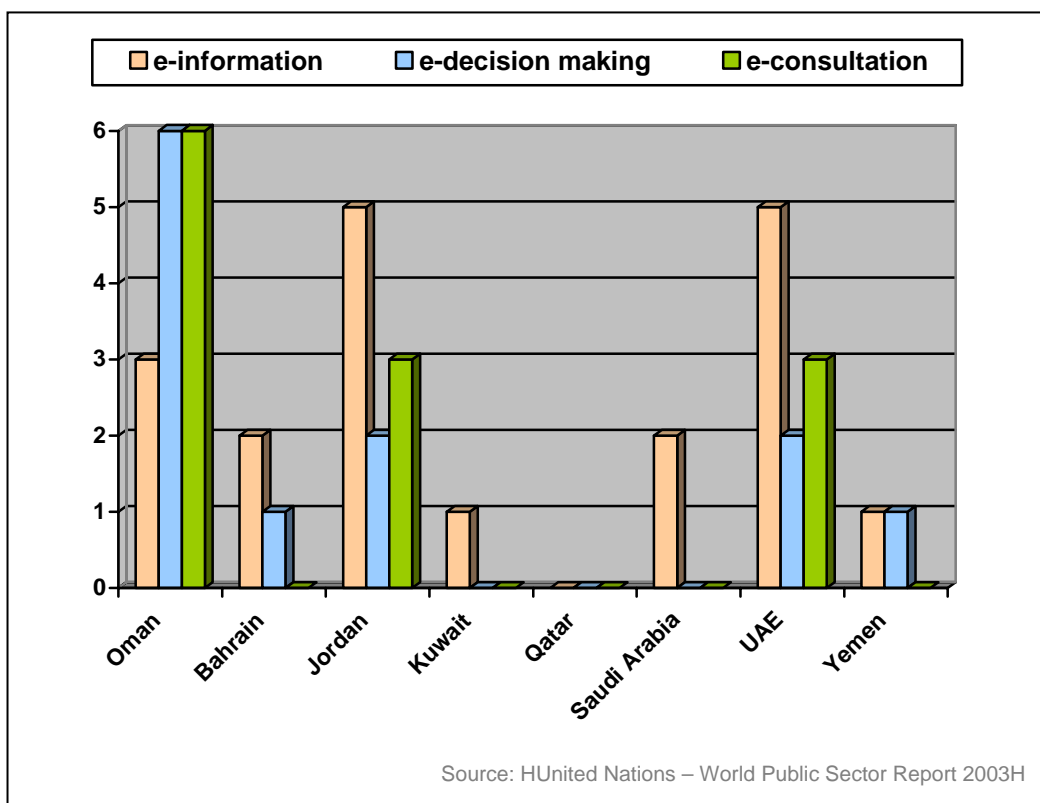
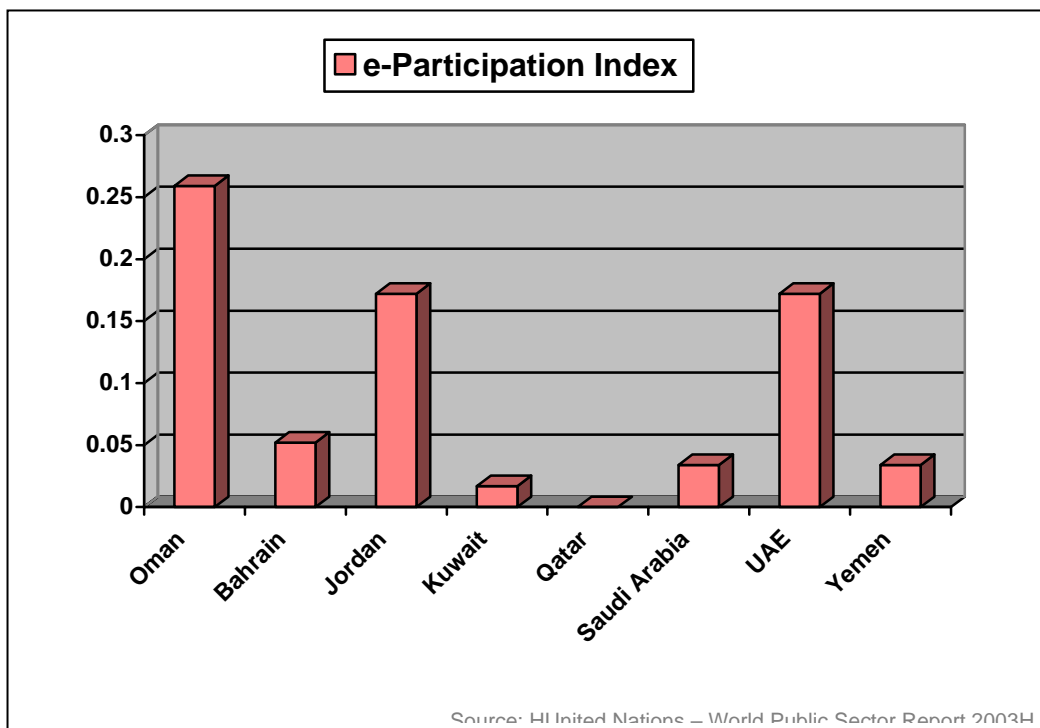
The government websites offer information on policies and programs, budgets, laws and regulations, and other briefs of key public interest. Tools for disseminating of information exist for timely access and use of public information, including web forums, e-mail lists, newsgroups and chat rooms.

**e-decision making:**

The government indicates that it will take citizens input into account in decision making and provides actual feedback on the outcome of specific issues.

**e-consultation:**

The government website explains e-consultation mechanisms and tools. It offers a choice of public policy topics online for discussion with real time and archived access to audios and videos of public meetings. The government encourages citizens to participate in discussions.





## 7. Links

7.1 National sites	
Authority	Topic
Ministry of Information	<a href="http://www.omanet.om/">http://www.omanet.om/</a>
Government	<a href="http://www.omanet.om/english/government/overview.asp?cat=gov">http://www.omanet.om/english/government/overview.asp?cat=gov</a>
Ministries	<a href="http://www.omanet.om/english/misc/otherministry.asp">http://www.omanet.om/english/misc/otherministry.asp</a>
Statistical Yearbook 2003 – Gov't employment	<a href="http://www.moneoman.gov.om/mone/government.htm">http://www.moneoman.gov.om/mone/government.htm</a>

7.2 Miscellaneous sites	
Institution	Topic
Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO)	<a href="http://www.arado.org.eg/">http://www.arado.org.eg/</a>
Arab Election Law Compendium	<a href="http://www.arabelectionlaw.net">http://www.arabelectionlaw.net</a>
Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development	<a href="http://www.arabfund.org/">http://www.arabfund.org/</a>
Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations	<a href="http://www.agfund.org/">http://www.agfund.org/</a>
Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union	<a href="http://www.arab-ipu.org/">http://www.arab-ipu.org/</a>
Arab Social Science Research	<a href="http://www.assr.org/countries/oman/index.html">http://www.assr.org/countries/oman/index.html</a>
Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf	<a href="http://www.qcc-sg.org/">http://www.qcc-sg.org/</a>
International Labour Organization (ILO) - NATLEX	<a href="http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home">http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home</a>
UNDP - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (POGAR)	<a href="http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/oman/index.html">http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/oman/index.html</a>
UNPAN	<a href="http://www.unpan.org/virtual_library-byregion.asp">http://www.unpan.org/virtual_library-byregion.asp</a>
World Bank (WB)	<a href="http://www.worldbank.org/om">http://www.worldbank.org/om</a>