INTRODUCTION
The inhabitants of the area of Oman have long prospered from Indian Ocean trade. In the late 18th century, the nascent sultanate in Muscat signed the first in a series of friendship treaties with Britain. Over time, Oman’s dependence on British political and military advisors increased. In 1970, QABOOS bin Said Al-Said overthrew his father, and during his 50-year rule ushered Oman into the modern age.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
Sultan and Prime Minister HAYTHAM bin Tariq bin Taimur Al-Said
Head of Government
Sultan and Prime Minister HAYTHAM bin Tariq bin Taimur Al-Said
Government Type
absolute monarchy
Capital
Muscat
Legislature
bicameral Council of Oman or Majlis Oman consists of Council of State or Majlis al-Dawla (85 seats) and Consultative Council or Majlis al-Shura (86 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 309,500 sq km
Land: 309,500 sq km
Water: 0 sq km
Climate
dry desert; hot, humid along coast; hot, dry interior; strong southwest summer monsoon (May to September) in far south
Natural Resources
petroleum, copper, asbestos, some marble, limestone, chromium, gypsum, natural gas

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
high-income, oil-based economy; large welfare system; growing government debt; citizenship-based labor force growth policy; US free trade agreement; diversifying portfolio; high female labor force participation
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $135.8 billion (2019 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $27,300 (2019 est.)
Industries - crude oil production/refining, natural and liquefied natural gas production, construction, cement, copper, steel, chemicals, optic fiber
Agricultural products - dates, tomatoes, vegetables, goat milk, milk, green chilies/peppers, watermelons, sorghum, melons
Exports $103.3 billion (2017 est.)
crude petroleum, natural gas, refined petroleum, iron products, fertilizers (2019)
partners: China 46%, India 8%, Japan 6%, South Korea 6%, UAE 6%, Saudi Arabia 5% (2019)
Imports $24.12 billion (2017 est.)
cars, refined petroleum, broadcasting equipment, gold, iron (2019)
partners: UAE 36%, China 10%, Japan 7%, India 7%, US 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
3.7 million (2021 est.)
Population Growth
1.89% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Arab, Baluchi, South Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi), African
Languages
Arabic (official), English, Baluchi, Swahili, Urdu, Indian dialects
Religion
Muslim 85.9%, Christian 6.4%, Hindu 5.7%, other and unaffiliated 2% (2020 est.)
Urbanization
urban population: 87% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 2.32% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)