



COUNTRY PROFILE OMAN

Arab Business Legislative Frameworks Oman Profile



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life





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Country Profile

OMAN



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Summary



Oman's legal system includes sharia law and a Basic Law (established by a Royal Decree in 1996), as well as components of a civil code structure. Ultimately, royal decrees form the basis for primary legislation, followed by ministerial decisions.

Competition



- **ROYAL DECREE NO. 67 OF 2014** forms the **basis** for **governing competition**; this has since been amended and updated through **Royal Decree No. 22 of 2018**;
- Complementing Oman's legislation on competition is **ROYAL DECREE NO. 18 OF 2019** governing **commercial companies**;
- However, Oman **EXCLUDES KEY SECTORS**, such as **research** and **development activities**, allowing for the possibility of **monopolistic behaviour** to flourish.

Foreign Direct Investment



- FDI in Oman is governed by **ROYAL DECREE NO. 55 OF 1990 ON TRADE**; **Royal Decree No. 102 of 1994** on **Foreign Investment**; and **Royal Decree No. 56 of 2002** on **Free Trade Zones**. Recently, Oman established **Royal Decree No. 50 of 2019**, which updated the FDI regulations, and **Royal Decree No. 52 of 2019** on **Promulgating the Public Private Partnership Law**;
- The updated FDI law **REMOVES LIMITS** on **foreign ownership** and seeks to open up the market for more **foreign investment**. The legislation still **does not have a clear regulatory framework** and is **so far assessed** on a case-by-case basis through the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



Anti-Corruption



- Oman **DOES NOT HAVE** a singular explicit law on anti-corruption;
- **SPECIFIC PROVISIONS** in a number of royal decrees address **corruption** and **bribery** in various ways. These include **Oman's Penal Code**, which was updated by **Royal Decree No. 7 of 2018**; **Royal Decree No. 120 of 2004** on **Civil Service**; **Royal Decree No. 36 of 2008** on **Public Tenders**; **Royal Decree No. 111 of 2011** on **State Audits**; **Royal Decree No. 112 of 2011** on **Protection of Public Funds** and **Avoidance of Conflict of Interest**; **Royal Decree No. 30 of 2016** on **Money Laundering** and **Terrorism Financing**; and **Royal Decree No. 41 of 2016** on **Joining Anti-Bribery Conventions**;
- Despite these laws, however, several cabinet members have allegedly had **DIRECT** or **INDIRECT BUSINESS INTERESTS**. In addition, there currently is **no national institution** or body **authorized to receive** and **handle whistleblowing** claims in cases of abuses, which undermines the whistleblower laws.

Consumer Protection



- Oman established its **CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW** through **Royal Decree No. 66 of 2014**;
- The law, however, **MAKES NO MENTION** and **authorizes no bodies** to **act on complaints**, despite it being **possible to file complaints** with the **Public Authority of Consumer Protection**.

Main Headings

● Very Strong
● Strong
● Developed
● Moderate
● Basic
● Weak
● Very Weak

COMPETITION

● **DEVELOPED**

Anti-Trust and Competition Laws ———— ● Developed

Anti-Dominance and Monopolisation Laws ———— ● Strong

Cartels and Anti-Competitive Agreements ———— ● Moderate

Competition Enforcement Practices ———— ● Developed

International Trade Agreements ———— ● Basic

Liberalisation and Competition Intervention
in Regulated Sectors ———— ● Moderate

Merger Regulatory Regime ———— ● Strong

Labor Protection ———— ● Basic



FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

● **MODERATE**

Banking Regulations ———— ● Very Strong

Macroeconomic Policies ———— ● Developed

Investment Regulatory Framework ———— ● Strong

Incentivisation Schemes ———— ● Basic

Bi-lateral Treaties ———— ● Weak



ANTI-CORRUPTION

● DEVELOPED



Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Public Sector	● Very Strong
Anti-Bribery and Whistle Blow Laws	● Moderate
Budgeting and Public Expenditures	● Moderate
Digital Government	● Very Weak
Open Government and Transparency	● Moderate
Public Procurement Standards	● Developed

CONSUMER PROTECTION

● MODERATE



Physical Safety Regulations	● Moderate
Protection of Consumers' Economic Interests	● Strong
Measures Enabling Consumers to Obtain Redress	● Basic
Promotion of Sustainable Consumption	● Weak

Sub-categories

● Very Strong
● Strong
● Developed
● Moderate
● Basic
● Weak
● Very Weak

COMPETITION

Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	● Strong
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	● Moderate
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	● Strong
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	● Moderate
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	● Very Strong
Exemptions	● Very Weak
Accessibility/Transparency	● Moderate



FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	● Developed
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	● Weak
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	● Very Strong
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	● Developed
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	● Very Strong
Exemptions	● Very Weak
Accessibility/Transparency	● Moderate



ANTI-CORRUPTION



Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	Moderate
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	Developed
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	Developed
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	Very Weak
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	Very Strong
Exemptions	Developed
Accessibility/Transparency	Moderate

CONSUMER PROTECTION



Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	Moderate
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	Developed
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	Strong
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	Very Weak
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	Basic
Exemptions	Very Strong
Accessibility/Transparency	Basic



