



COUNTRY PROFILE OMAN

Arab Business Legislative Frameworks Oman Profile

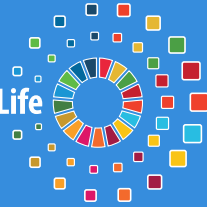


Shared Prosperity Dignified Life





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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

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Country Profile

OMAN



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Summary



The Sultanate of Oman is a unitary state and an absolute monarchy, in which all legislative, judiciary and executive power resides with the Sultan. 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



