



International
Labour
Organization

▶ ASSESSMENT OF LABOUR MIGRATION STATISTICS

OMAN Country Profile

To be read with Tables 1, 2 and 3
28 February 2022



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The total population of Oman numbered 4,471,148 in December 2020, during the last census conducted in the country.¹ Unlike in most Gulf countries, international migrants are not a majority in the resident population of Oman. Non-nationals were numbering 1,739,692 at the census reference date, and thus comprised 39 per cent of Oman’s total population. Oman is, nonetheless, a destination country for migrant workers.

I. Oman’s statistical apparatus and major sources of immigration data

Oman has only a recent history of recording population movements: the first census ever conducted in Oman only took place in 1993. Yet, the country has caught up and set up a modern statistical apparatus from scratch: from the 1990s to the 2010s, Oman evolved from “an absence to a hyper sophistication” of population statistics.² The latest technological innovations regarding interviewers’ training to data collection, loading, and processing of data were used at every step of the four census operations conducted so far,³ in 1993, 2003, 2010⁴ and 2020. In 2003, Oman was the first country in the world to equip interviewers with Personal Digital Assistants (PDA) devices,⁵ and Census 2020 was exclusively based on administrative records. The preparation of census 2020 also relied on the e-Oman Integration Platform, a data hub that facilitates data exchange in real time between different government agencies. The Integration Platform was instrumental in the propagation of the different data registers into the e-Census 2020 platform.⁶

The major source of immigration statistics is the **National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI)**, which centralises data produced by other bodies. Among its goals is the “Exploitation of administrative data and maximizing their uses in statistical and non-statistical fields”.⁷ As a matter of fact, administrative records from the Royal Oman Police (ROP) have become the source of most socio-demographic statistical data published by NCSI. Oman’s last census conducted in 2020,⁸ relies on administrative sources (Table 1),⁹ such as statistics published in Statistical Yearbooks, Monthly Statistics publications, etc. However, the NCSI also continued in parallel conducting household surveys (Table 1, lines 17-23), which collected, and partially published information rarely found in GCC countries’ statistics, such as duration of stay in Oman and duration of employment (see Table 1, line 22). NCSI’s publications are many, diverse, comprehensive and contain statistics disaggregated by country of citizenship (selected nationalities only). Some sources are in Arabic only (see Table 1, column S).

The **Immigration Department** of the **Royal Oman Police (ROP)**¹⁰ processes employment visa applications. The **General Directorate of Civil Status (GDCS)**, under the Royal Oman Police, registers births and deaths of expatriate residents in the Sultanate and issues residence and labour “visas”, or permits (one card), to resident expatriate workers and to their dependents. These residence permits are valid for two years. The GDCS maintains Oman’s National Registration System (NRS), which aggregates information from more than 20 governmental agencies.¹¹ The NRS records all vital statistics and identity data for nationals and foreign residents. Registration is mandatory and an identification system is assigned to every new-born. The NRS was developed as a demographic database to support statistics.¹²

Established by Royal Decree 89 of 2020, Oman’ new **Ministry of Labour** replaced and took over the tasks of several public institutions, including the former Ministry of Civil Service and the Ministry of Manpower, respectively in charge of employment in the governmental, and in the private and domestic work sectors. The new Labour Ministry’s tasks encompass all the activities needed to open job opportunities to Omani jobseekers and young graduates (training of workforce, centralisation of information on Omani workers and available job vacancies, job matching, proposing, implementing and following

1 (3) National Centre for Statistical Information (NCSI). E-census 2020 portal, Population datasets <https://portal.ecensus.gov.om/ecen-portal/indicators/category/4/subCategory/42>.

2 Jihan Safar, *Mariage et procréation à Oman et au Koweït : étude des mutations générationnelles dans le contexte d’Etats rentiers*, Ph.D. in Economic Demography, Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris, 2015, unpublished, pp. 126-127.

3 As of November 2021.

4 For a description of the techniques used during the three censuses, see, for example: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/Conferences/Korea/2012/docs/s07-5-1-Oman.pdf>

5 With access to satellite maps and direct transmission of information to data processing computers, http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/CensusEGM04/docs/AC98_8.pdf.

6 Al-Lawati, Ali Hussain and Soares Barbosa, Luís. “Towards a register-based census in Oman”, In *Proceedings of the 13 th International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGOV 2020)*, 23-25 September 2020, Athens, Greece, 4 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3428502.3428631>. <https://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:7868/p823-Al-Lawati.pdf>, p. 825.

7 <https://www.ncsi.gov.om/aboutus/pages/roadmap.aspx>.

8 <https://portal.ecensus.gov.om/ecen-portal/indicators/83/viewer>.

9 <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2021/egm-covid19-census-20210209/docs/s04-04-OMN.pdf>.

10 <https://www.rop.gov.om/english/Index.aspx>

11 <https://omanportal.gov.om/wps/wcm/connect/EN/site/home/gov/gov22/NRS/>.

12 https://www.rop.gov.om/english/cs_system.html.

up on policies, management of complaints and job quality, etc.). The Ministry is thus in charge of speeding up the nationalisation of the workforce, through replacing foreign employees by Omanis in the public and private sectors.¹³ In January 2021, the Ministry expanded the list of professions prohibited to foreign workers,¹⁴ and increased the fees for hiring migrant workers.¹⁵ The employment of an expatriate in the private or public sectors is conditional on the approval of the Ministry, which is in charge of checking for suitable Omani candidates to fill available vacancies before the employer is given a licence to hire expatriates.¹⁶ The clearance of the Ministry is also necessary to hire a migrant domestic worker.¹⁷ Data on work permits and on licences issued to employers permitting them to hire foreign/migrant workers are not currently available to the public but may be a source of information on foreigners' inflows.

The **Statistical Centre for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries ("GCC-Stat")** was established in Muscat, Oman in June 2011 to provide a common official pool of statistics and data for the six GCC member states. The GCC-Stat is responsible for data collection, analysis, dissemination through the national statistical centres (NSOs) and works on their classification, storage, and analysis. One of the Centre's four divisions focuses on Demography and Social Statistics, which include labour issues. The Centre's publications include data disaggregated by nationality (national/non-national), when supplied by countries' NSOs. GCC-Stat is also responsible for creating data hubs, and implementing joint statistical projects through national statistical centres, such as the 2020 census round.¹⁸ This project of administrative records-based harmonized population censuses for the GCC region, aiming to come up with datasets validly aggregated at the GCC level and consistent with the UN recommendations, was postponed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁹

As indicated in Table 1, the NCSI is the only publicly available source of statistical information on international migration to Oman (Table 1, column T). Data may be produced by the NCSI or resulting from the processing of third-party data by the NCSI. As also indicated in Table 1, the basic disaggregation of Oman's migration figures and indicators highlight the composition and dynamics of migrant populations, which are often disaggregated by country of citizenship. Available sources are less informative on international migrant workers. As of February 2022, the Comprehensive Household Survey of 2015-2016 was the last survey offering detailed data on employment patterns in Oman. Census 2020, like other administrative sources, overlooks the unemployed: 0 "expatriates" are recorded as unemployed in the distribution of the total population by nationality and relation to the labour force, for instance.²⁰ Unemployed migrants were only pinpointed during the Comprehensive Household Survey of 2015-2016. The monthly publication "Monthly Statistical Indicators", nonetheless, present the distribution of employed migrant workers in the three principal sectors of employment (i.e., public, private and domestic), according to a set of basic disaggregation variables (country of citizenship (top-ten), education level, occupation, activity), with year-on-year comparison of figures and rates. Useful flow data on newly issued, renewed and cancelled residence permits by purpose of permit ceased being published in 2018.

The issue of unemployment notwithstanding, Table 2 indicates that the items of data collection on migrants' stocks, defined as minimal by the ICLS 2018 Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration,²¹ are all collected in the identified major sources of migration and labour migration data or can be deduced from collected data, except for the working time and place of birth. However, the place of birth item is usually asked on entry visa forms (see Table 1, cell E33), which suggests that such data are entered into the statistical system.

13 Article 5 of Law 89 of 2020 (<https://mjla.gov.om/legislation/decrees/details.aspx?id=1239&type=L&lang=e>). In Arabic for full version with Annexes. English: no Annexes.

14 <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Oman-axes-foreign-workers-to-revive-domestic-employment-52156.html>.

15 <https://www.oerlive.com/oman/cost-for-recruitment-of-expats-in-oman-increased-minister-of-labour/>.

16 Article 13 of Law 89 of 2020.

17 <https://omanportal.gov.om/wps/wcm/connect/en/site/home/gov/gov1/gov5governmentorganizations/manpower/pidha>.

18 <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ccsa/documents/GCC.pdf>.

19 <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2021/egm-covid19-census-20210209/docs/s03-09-GCCStat.pdf>.

20 <https://portal.ecensus.gov.om/ecen-portal/indicators/261/viewer>.

21 ILO. Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration, 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Geneva, 10-19 October 2018, ICLS/20/2018/Guidelines, §46.

Table 3 confirms the comprehensiveness of migration data collected in Oman, including of flows (until 2018). Most core indicators²² on migrants’ stocks, as well as flows, are available or can be directly calculated based on available data.

II. Methodologies, classifications, and definitions: compliance with ICLS Guidelines, and limitations

Methodologies

Methodologies and sources of data are clearly stated in Omani statistics, such as that of the 2020 census.²³ Using administrative records for conducting censuses is an international recommendation, which allows cutting costs of door-to-door surveys and enables quick dissemination of results. Moreover, like traditional censuses, administrative records-based censuses produce statistical data for small areas and subgroups. However, censuses based on administrative registers can only cover the variables included in those registers.²⁴ In the case of Oman, the exclusion of migrant workers (“expatriates”, see below in the “Definitions” section) from unemployment insurance schemes²⁵ explains why no data on migrant workers’ unemployment is available from the administrative sources at hand as of February 2022.

The focus of administrative censuses on the de jure population (residents holding an ID, i.e., residing in Oman for six months or more during the year) also conceals information on temporary residents, whose country of labour attachment is outside Oman. Nonetheless, the inclusion of resident expatriates holding residencies expired for a maximum of two years in the census population, as well as in the “population statistics” (Table 1, lines 24-27) is noteworthy. The insistence on recording the presence of undocumented migrants in the country may be an acknowledgment that a significant share of migrants lost their employment, and consequently could not renew their residencies, because of the economic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, or earlier, as a result of the radical policies of nationalisation (“Omanisation”) of the workforce, ongoing since 2011. Excluding them from the administrative or census population would create too large a gap, between the de jure and de facto resident populations of Oman. Estimates of the numbers of residents having overstayed their residence permits may have been drawn by NCSI from the sample surveys conducted during the decade (Table 1).

Classifications

The NCSI uses international organisations’ classifications regarding activities (ISIC), as well as UNESCO classification of education levels (ISCED).²⁶ As regards occupations, NCSI resorts to the 2014 Gulf Unified Classification of Professions,²⁷ which is apparently based on ISCO classifications (4 levels each identified with 1 digit). Level 1 (Major Groups) is identical to ISCO-08.

Definitions

In Oman like elsewhere in the GCC region, the definition of international migrant is citizenship-based. Naturalisations are almost inexistant. As with the other countries in the region, immigration is mostly linked to employment, and foreigners’ stay is not meant to be permanent or even long-term. Expatriates are considered temporary contract workers, although some (very selective) paths to long-term or permanent residence do exist, especially for investors.²⁸ Requirements to qualify for citizenship are equally restrictive and include to demonstrate residence in the country for a period of at least 20 years, among other criteria.²⁹

22 ILO, 2018, §40 and 41.

23 <https://portal.ecensus.gov.om/ecen-portal/indicators/category/5/subCategory/20>.

24 ESCWA. Use of Administrative Registers in Population and Housing Censuses, Beirut: ESCWA, E/ESCWA/SD/2016/Technical Paper.2, 16 May 2016 <https://www.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/pubs/pdf/administrative-records-population-housing-censuses-english.pdf>., pp. 5-6.

25 <https://www.dentons.com/en/insights/alerts/2020/september/7/new-fund-to-support-omani-terminated-employees-and-job-seekers>.

26 <https://www.ncsi.gov.om/Pages/Classifications.aspx>. Occupations and activities are classified according to ISCO and ISIC classifications in publications.

27 <https://www.ncsi.gov.om/Pages/Classifications.aspx>.

28 <https://www.omanobserver.om/article/1107458/business/markets/oman-launches-long-term-residency-program-for-expat-investors>.

29 <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/58dcfe444.pdf>; <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/oman/oman-30-more-expats-get-citizenship-1.80244108>.

Therefore, it could be said that the very notion of immigration/ immigrant is rejected in Oman. No definition exists of an international migrant in the methodological sections of the country's statistical publications. International migrants are thus labelled “guests” or wafidīn,³⁰ in publications in the Arabic language, or “expatriates” in English-language publications. Because it could encourage international migrants to seek longer-term settlement, family reunion was made conditional on income and housing requirements.³¹ Since 2017, however, as the Sultanate started witnessing a decline in the numbers of foreign residents, the income threshold allowing for family reunion was lowered, “to revitalise the Omani economy”.³²

This has several implications, as regards the consistency of concepts and definitions used in Oman, with those of the ILO.

First, the categories of “wafidin” (guest labourers), or “expatriates” are not consistent with the concept of international migrant as defined in the ICLS Guidelines 2018 (§13), which “include[s] all those residents of a given country who have ever changed their country of usual residence.” Since the birth right for citizenship and maternal transmission of citizenship do not apply in Gulf countries, a share of the foreign residents, born in these countries but not naturalised, are not “migrants” according to the ILO/ UN definition, which takes as a criterion the change of usual residence. Children of a foreign father and a national or a foreign mother, for instance, are unduly counted as migrants (non-nationals, or expatriates).

Second, the concept of “international migrant worker” applies to foreign migrants in the labour force, i.e., employed, and unemployed. However, since residency is linked to employment in Oman, unemployment insurance schemes only apply to nationals,³³ hence the absence of any administrative records witnessing the existence of unemployed migrant workers. When reporting 0 unemployed expatriates during census 2020, Omani statistics de jure use the “labour force” as a category of reference, but de facto categorise international migrant workers as “employed foreign workers”.

Third, Oman’s and other Gulf States’ rejection of the very notion of international migrant workers and the subsequent representation of (most) migrants and migrant workers as “temporary sojourners” may create confusions between international bodies and Gulf states, over the concept of “temporary migrant workers”, singled out in ICLS Guidelines 2018 (§ 34 and 35) within the “For-work international migrants” or “international migrant workers” categories. According to the ICLS Guidelines, these two categories may be split between categories 14a and 14b (“usual resident migrant workers” and “non-usual resident migrant workers”). Specific durations and types of work permits should be identified for reaching a common ground in identifying the specific subset of migrants, in accordance with international definitions.

III. Discrepancies between sources of data

Table 3 highlights the consistency of Omani data and indicators between sources. The figures of international migrants and international migrants of working age obtained from administrative records and from the 2015-2016 Household Survey (table 3, columns H and I) are relatively close (with only a 3.4 and 4 per cent discrepancy, respectively).

The consistency of data between administrative and survey sources is a sign of the progress made by Oman in the coverage of resident populations during field work, and in the registration of vital and other events. For earlier periods, a pronounced gap could be noticed between survey-based census figures (1993 and 2003) and intercensal estimates, based on administrative registration (Table A). An assessment of possible explanations for these discrepancies³⁴ concluded an underestimation of expatriates’ figures in intercensal estimates based on civil registration. Before the registration of vital events in the Civil Registry of the Directorate General of Civil Status became mandatory in 2004, the systematic and comprehensive registration of births and deaths and, hence, knowledge of the age structure of the total population, was far from complete.³⁵ After that date, it appeared that census 2010 had most likely underestimated the number of expatriates and that civil registration figures were more accurate.

Migrants’ estimates taken from Census 2020 are close to those obtained from ROP’s Civil Register and records of residence permits (Table 3), as ROP records were used as a source for population statistics in the census.³⁶ Yet, the consistency between 2015-2016 Household Survey, a sample field survey, and ROP’s administrative registration figures, suggests that both sources of data (field surveys and administrative records) are of comparable relevance.

30 The Arabic term used to designate foreign residents in these countries is wafed, pl. wafidīn, which designates foreigners who arrived, and is generally used for students and workers.

31 <https://www.rop.gov.om/english/Visas.aspx?VisaName=FamilyJoiningVisa>.

32 <https://www.gdnonline.com/Details/268002/New-family-reunion-visa-regulations-clarified>.

33 https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/legal/story/Omans_first_unemployment_insurance_scheme_to_help_stabilise_labour_market-SNG_187694991/.

34 De Bel-Air, F. “Demography, Migration, and the Labour Market in Oman,” Explanatory Note No. 7/2018, GLMM, <http://gulfmigration.org>.

35 <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/vitalstatkb/Attachment75.aspx>.

36 Al-Lawati and Soares, 2020 (op. cit.).

► **Table A. Evolution of the number of expatriates in Oman (mid-year figures, 1993-2020).**

1993*	534,848	2003*	559,257	2013	1,683,204
1994	538,000	2004	612,645	2014	1,732,188
1995	574,000	2005	666,153	2015	1,814,156
1996	612,000	2006	693,486	2016	1,986,226
1997	613,000	2007	820,802	2017	2,054,594
1998	602,000	2008	900,248	2018	2,022,470
1999	596,000	2009	1,156,358	2019	1,962,783
2000	623,571	2010*	816,143	2020**	1,745,076
2001	651,563	2011	1,282,140		
2002	668,162	2012	1,530,437		

Source: National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), data portal (2000-2020).
*census figures; **: end of year figures.

IV. Suggestions for improvement of the data and indicators

The inventory of migration-related data sources and characteristics in Oman suggests that migration is perhaps less sensitive a topic in this country than elsewhere in the GCC region. Therefore, one suggestion is to expand the scope of indicators and the range of disaggregation available regarding migrants’ stocks, flows (inflows/outflows, transfers between migration categories), structure and dynamics. More data disaggregated by migrant’s citizenship would be useful. It is also hoped that the publication of flow data (permits issued, renewed, and cancelled) will resume.

On the methodological level, it is also hoped that field surveys will continue being conducted, in parallel to the comprehensive population database constituted at the occasion of census 2020. Implementing Labour Force Surveys, which are not part of the operations traditionally conducted in Oman, would be useful to continue assessing the consistency of labour-related administrative records.

Nonetheless, the significant volume of data on international migrants produced in Oman and other Gulf states, added to the disaggregation items available (see Tables 1 and 2), may be used to construct a more developed set of quantitative indicators than the core indicators identified in the ICLS 2018 Guidelines.

- Indicators of international migrant workers’ employment and socio-demographic characteristics (by sector, occupation, and skill level, and by sex and age group, country of birth, etc.);
- Sector-specific indicators, for the domestic and private sector, when data is available;
- Indicators of international migrant workers’ social conditions, such as households and accommodation characteristics (whether collective or private), prevalence and profile of inactive migrants and accompanying family members (whether active or inactive, their education level, etc.).

These would be useful, as they may document the evolution of labour and recruitment policies in the region, and more generally, the reality of Gulf international migration on the ground.

► Table 1: OMAN. Sources of statistical data on migration and work migration to Oman and their characteristics (as of 30/09/2021)

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Data collection							
	Data-producing body	Source	Type of data collection operation	Data collected	Periodicity of data collection	Data collection method	Primary source of information (if administrative records)
Stocks	National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI)	Census 2020	1993-2010: survey; 2020: synthesis of administrative data from government agencies	characteristics of individuals, households, housing units, establishments and buildings	ad hoc (1993; 2003; 2010; 2020)	electronic census-administrative records	Foreign population: Royal Oman Police (ROP) (records of residency permits; Foreign labour and establishments data: Royal Oman Police, Ministry of Civil Service and Ministry of Manpower records of employees.
		Comprehensive Household Survey 2015-2016	Sample survey	Socio-demographic characteristics (sex, age, nationality (8 main national groups only); language of communication; place of residence, relationship to head of HH, total duration of stay in Oman over the last 10 years; duration of stay in Oman during last (current) stay); education level and enrollment, specialisation, marital status and number of children); employment characteristics (relation to labour force, type and characteristics of monthly income, sector of employment, activity and occupation, activity status, type of contract (permanent, temporary, seasonal, ...); secondary profession (activity and sector), number of previous employers; distribution of inactives by type; Characteristics of buildings, establishments, dwellings and households.	2016 (mid-year reference period)	interviews	
		Household and Expenditures Survey 2018-2019	Sample survey	Patterns of households' incomes and expenditures. Household's characteristics: geographic location, characteristics of housing and available equipment, household assets and properties, sources of livelihoods and income at the level of the household, salaries and wages from the government sector or private, private enterprises and professions, self-production and the informal sector ... etc.Characteristics of family members: characteristics of individuals (age, gender, educational status, educational level, employment status and characteristics (with place of work-inside/ outside Oman and possibility of secondary employment), marital status and other characteristics; Income of household members from different sources (monthly, annual) Expenditure on consumption (2 types)	2019 October 19 to 2018 October 2	interviews	
		Population statistics	Extraction/synthesis from administrative records	Name, gender, age, marital status, nationality, address, civil number, educational level, occupation (https://www.rop.gov.om/english/Services.aspx?DepartmentName=CivilStatusandPassport)	continuous	administrative records	DGCS records (National Registration System-NRS), Royal Oman Police
		Labour statistics	Extraction/synthesis from administrative records	Employment characteristics of foreign workers	continuous	administrative records	DGCS residency permits records, Royal Oman Police

Data collection						
	Data-producing body	Source	Survey unit	statistical population/ data coverage	Classifications used	Definitions (compliance with ILO concepts)
Stocks	National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI)	Census 2020	Individuals, households, housing units, establishments	De jure population residing in Oman for most of the previous 12 months (i.e for a period of 6 months and at least one day) or the place where the individual intends to reside for at least 6 months and does not include periods of temporary absence for holiday and work assignment. Residents are: Holders of a valid residence visa, inside Oman+holders of a valid residence visa, outside Oman for a period of 6 months or less+holders an expired residence visa for a period of two years and less, staying inside Oman. Residence Visas incorporate the following categories/ purposes of stay: Accompanied Work; Unaccompanied Work; Temporary Work; Housemaid; Investor; Joining Relatives; Study; Residence of the wife of a citizen; Family.	Occupations: Unified Arab Gulf Directory for Occupational Classification; Activities: ISIC Rev. 4; Educational attainment: based on ISCED; Education specialisations: Standard Classification of Education in the Sultanate of Oman (OSCED) (https://www.ncsi.gov.om/Elibrary/LibraryContentDoc/ben_Statistical%20Classifications%20and%20Pass%20Tables%2006_712ba197-848c-4b13-ba8f-c1f1dbba6c98.pdf)	No definition of international migrant/ migrant worker. De facto: non-Omani/ non-Omani worker. Labour-related concepts (employment, unemployment, ...): no definition, but the 2020 census round in the GCC is conducted in line with international recommendations.
		Comprehensive Household Survey 2015-2016	households, individuals	nationally-representative sample of 14,460 private households+300 collective households (10 individuals from each household)	activities: ISIC rev. 4; occupations: Unified Arab Gulf Directory for Occupational Classification; ISCED 1999	relation to labour force+employment: ILO concept (aged 15 and above, 1 week prior to the survey as period of reference), but no implementation of the 19th ICLS Resolution (definition of "employed" includes workers working for their own consumption- see https://www.ncsi.gov.om/Elibrary/LibraryContentDoc/bar_Comprehensive%20Household%20Survey_1e2bc0c8-30cf-4deb-aec1-d23008bb6cc6.pdf , p. 26).
		Household and Expenditures Survey 2018-2019	Households; households' members (individuals)	5,660 households, distributed on almost equal monthly samples during the survey period (12 months); representative sample of all households in the country (at level of administrative regions and urban/rural division). The statistical population defined to include all Omani and expatriate households, except collective households and laborer camps.	activities: ISIC rev. 4; occupations: Unified Arab Gulf Directory for Occupational Classification; education: local classification by education status and level (13 categories, from illiterate to PhD).	relation to labour force: ILO concept (1 week prior to the survey as period of reference). Presumably no implementation of the 19th ICLS Resolution (definition of "employed" includes unpaid workers- See: https://www.ncsi.gov.om/Elibrary/LibraryContentDoc/bar_household%20survey%202018%20-%202019_cf613376-ce44-4917-89a7-8e384ffef892.pdf , p. 45).
		Population statistics	Individuals	Expatriate (foreign) population includes all residents holding valid visas, present in Oman for 6 months and more during the year. Residents with expired visas for a maximum of two years and dependents holding valid visas are also included provided that they are in the country (https://www.ncsi.gov.om/Pages/IndicatorDetails.aspx?ItemID=m3J5yY5QxUbEvHhsfc8KuQ%3d%3d).		No definition of international migrant. De facto: non-Omani
		Labour statistics	Individuals	Employees in Government Sector: individuals working in the public / Civil sector: civil service Ministries + Diwan of Royal Court + Royal Court Affairs + other public authorities. Employees of the military sector are not included. Employees in Private Sector: individuals working in establishments owned by one individual or more which they established for profit and in which case the establishments should have a commercial registration and municipality permit; Employees in Household Sector: means individuals working with families, for other individuals and own account .	Activities: ISIC rev. 4; Occupations: Unified Arab Gulf Directory for Occupational Classification; Education: local classification by education status and level (13 categories, from illiterate to PhD).	n.d.

Data dissemination									
	Name of publication/ dataset		Available data	disaggregation variables	Frequency of dissemination/update	Last issue(s) published as of 30/09/2021	Language	Publisher	url/ path
Stocks	1	E-Census portal: dash-boards and datasets	Foreign population	sex, age, education level (aged 10+), marital status (aged 15+), administrative region and subregion of residence, relation to workforce	ad hoc	2020	mostly Arabic	NCSI	https://portal.ecensus.gov.om/ecen-portal/?lang=en https://www.ncsi.gov.om/Elibrary/LibraryContentDoc/ben_Statistical%20Methodologies%20for%20Building%2005_fff5b05f-d7ba-424d-9153-45906c744dfd.pdf
			Foreign workers	sex, age, education level, status in employment (paid worker, employer, self-employed), sector, activity sector, occupation.					
			Foreign households	size of households					
			Private sector employees	administrative region					
	2	Detailed results of e-census 2020	Foreign population	sex, age group, administrative region (governorate) and district (wilaya), country of citizenship (selected),	ad hoc	2020	Arabic		https://portal.ecensus.gov.om/ecen-portal/indicators/68/viewer
			Currently enrolled foreign students (primary and secondary schools)	sex, administrative region, school sector (public, private), grade					
			Currently enrolled foreign students (higher education)	sex					
			Foreign population aged 10 and above	sex, age group, educational attainment, administrative region					
			Employed foreign population (aged 15 and above)	sex, age group, educational attainment, sector.					
			Foreign workers in Establishments	number and size, main activity, legal status, administrative region and district of establishment, in 20 main activity categories of establishments in private sector (6 digits), in main categories of activity employing Omanis (6 digits), category of Omanisation performance of establishment,					
			Foreign investors	country of citizenship (selection)					
	1	Final report of the results of the household survey 2015 - 2016	Foreign housing units	type, number of rooms; duration of residence in unit, equipments,	ad hoc	October 2019	Arabic only		
			Foreign private households	size of household and sex of HH, source of income, assets, number of active/inactive members members					
			Foreign individuals	governorate, sex, age of members, duration of residence in Oman, education level and characteristics, actual/ intended number of years of study; marital status; use of internet, relation to labour market (aged 15+)					
			Foreign population aged 15+ in each category of relation to labour force	sex, age group, governorate, education level					
			Foreign population in the labour force	work status (employed/unemployed, governorate)					
			Employed foreign population	urban/rural, sex, age, governorate, marital status; education level, activity, sector, occupation, duration of work in years; type of work (temporary, permanent, seasonal, on demand); work status, net monthly income, second job; employment outside Oman					

		Data dissemination							
		Name of publica- tion/ dataset	Available data	disaggregation variables	Frequency of dissemination/ update	Last issue(s) published as of 30/09/2021	Language	Publisher	url/ path
Stocks	1	Final findings of the household income and expenditures survey (20 October 2018 to 19 October 2019)	Households' average monthly and annual earnings and per capita income	sex, age group (4 categories), governorate, household size, education level, number of employed in household, source of income, economic dependency ratio, HH relation to labour force (not economically active/ employed only) and sector of employment, activity,	ad hoc	April 2020	English/ Arabic	NCSI	https://www.ncsi.gov.om/ Elibrary/Pages/ LibraryContentView.aspx
	1	population estimates-data portal	Foreign popula- tion	sex (daily, monthly), age group, administrative region (annual)	daily, monthly, annual	15/09/2021	English/ Arabic		
	2	Mid-Year population statistics	Foreign popula- tion	sex, age, governorate, district, selected countries of citizenship	Annual	2019			
	3	Statistical Yearbooks, section "Population"	Foreign popula- tion	sex	Annual	2021 (2020 data)			
	4	Monthly Statistical Indicators	Foreign popula- tion		Monthly	September 2021			
	1	Statistical Yearbooks, section "Employment"	Foreign workers	sex, age, sector (public, private, domestic), education level, governorate	Annual	2021 (2020 data)			
			Foreign workers in the public sector	sex, age, education level, governorate, country of citizenship (selection), detailed government unit					
			Foreign workers in the private and domestic sectors	sex, age, education level, governorate, economic activity, occupation, skill level, country of citizenship (top 9 communities by size, private sector only)					
	2	Monthly Statistical Indicators	Foreign workers	country of citizenship (top 9 communities by size-since 2014); sector (public, private, domestic), education level; governorate	Monthly	September 2021	English/ Arabic		
			Foreign workers in the private and domestic sectors	occupation, activity sector					

Data collection											
	Data-producing body	Source	Type of data collection operation	Data collected	Periodicity of data collection	Data collection method	Primary source of information (if administrative records)	Survey unit	Statistical population/ data coverage	Classifications used	Definitions (compliance with ILO concepts) Classifications used
FLOWS	General Directorate of Civil Status (GDCS), Royal Oman Police	Residency visas (permits) statistics	Extraction/ synthesis from administrative records	Type (first issuance; renewal) and purpose of visa (work, family reunion, ...); duration of permit; socio-demographic and employment details of individuals, including country of birth (in entry visa applications)	continuous	administrative records	residency permits records	Individuals	Foreign workers+spouses and children (aged below 21 years) of workers satisfying the income threshold allowing or family reunion+foreign wives of Omani citizens.		
	Ministry of Civil Service; governmental institutions and companies	Labour flows statistics	Extraction/ synthesis from administrative records	characteristics of inflows to (new recruitments) and outflows (foreigners leaving) from the public sector	continuous	administrative records	Records of employees' inflows and outflows	Individuals	Employees in Government Sector: individuals working in the public /Civil sector: civil service Ministries + Diwan of Royal Court + Royal Court Affairs + other public authorities. Employees of the military sector are not included.		
	Directorate of Immigration, Royal Oman Police		Administrative recording	Number and characteristics of employment visas applications, all sectors	continuous	administrative records	Records of employment visas applications	Individuals	Applicants to employment visas (not necessarily in country)		
	Ministry of Manpower / Ministry of Labour (since 2020)		Administrative recording	Approvals of recruitment of foreign employees, all sectors	continuous	administrative records	Records of employment approvals	Individuals	Foreign workers granted clearance to work in the public, private and domestic sectors (not necessarily in country)		

► Table 2: OMAN. International migrants' characteristics by source and availability (last available date for each source)

Source	STOCKS			
	Census 2020		Comprehensive Household Survey 2015-2016	
	collected	published	collected	published
(a) main socio-demographic characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))	IM; IMW			
sex	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
age in single years or date of birth	Yes	-	Yes	-
age group	-	Yes	-	Yes
relation to head of household	-	-	Yes	
marital status (15 and above)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
level of education attained (10 years and above) (broad classification based on ISCED)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
place of residence (administrative region, municipality, ..)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
type of living quarters (private household, collective or institutional reason household, other type of living quarters, non-residential accommodation)	Yes	Yes (appartment, villa, establishment)	-	-
nationality (national/ non-national)	Non-nationals			
group of countries of origin (Arab states, non-Arab Asian countries, etc...)	can be deduced from country of citizenship	-	can be deduced from country of citizenship	-
country of birth and country of birth of parent(s)	-	-	-	-
country of citizenship	Yes	Yes (selection)	Yes	-
country of usual residence	Oman			
(b) main migration characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))	IM			
purpose of migration (declared or documented reason for first entry into the country, specifically the country of actual or intended labour attachment)	-	-	-	-
type of visa, residence permit, work permit	-	-	-	-
permanent, temporary or circular nature of migration	-	-	-	-
duration of stay: date of first entry into the country of labour attachment	-	-	Yes	Yes
(c) main work characteristics (resident and non-resident international migrant workers - IMW) (15 years and above)	IM and IMW			
labour force status (employed, unemployed, outside the labour force)	?	Yes	Yes	Yes
sector of activity (governmental, private, domestic, other)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
branch of economic activity	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
current occupation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
previous occupation	-	-	Yes	-
reasons for leaving previous employment	-	-	-	-
reasons for unemployment	-	-	-	-
status in employment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
stability of employment (permanent/ temporary)	-	-	Yes	-
working time, including hours usually worked, contractual hours of work	-	-	-	-
duration of employment in years	-	-	Yes	Yes
duration of unemployment/ job search	-	-	-	-
employment-related income	-	-	Yes	Yes

	STOCKS AND FLOWS	
Source	Records of residence permits; ID cards	
	collected	published (in Mid-year population statistics; Statistical Yearbooks, sections "Social services and security" (until 2018); "Employment" and "Population"; Monthly Statistical Indicators)
(a) main socio-demographic characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))		
sex	Yes	Yes
age in single years or date of birth	Yes	-
age group	-	Yes
relation to head of household	-	-
marital status (15 and above)	Yes	-
level of education attained (10 years and above) (broad classification based on ISCED)	Yes	Yes
place of residence (administrative region, municipality, ..)	Yes	Yes
type of living quarters (private household, collective or institutional reason household, other type of living quarters, non-residential accommodation)	can be deduced from address	-
nationality (national/ non-national)		
group of countries of origin (Arab states, non-Arab Asian countries, etc...)	can be deduced from country of citizenship	-
country of birth and country of birth of parent(s)	?	-
country of citizenship	Yes	Yes (selection)
country of usual residence		
(b) main migration characteristics (international migrants (IM), international migrant workers (IMW))		
purpose of migration (declared or documented reason for first entry into the country, specifically the country of actual or intended labour attachment)	Yes	Yes
type of visa, residence permit, work permit	Yes	-
permanent, temporary or circular nature of migration	duration of residency/number of renewals	-
duration of stay: date of first entry into the country of labour attachment	can be deduced from above	-
(c) main work characteristics (resident and non-resident international migrant workers - IMW) (15 years and above)		
labour force status (employed, unemployed, outside the labour force)	Yes	(employed)
sector of activity (governmental, private, domestic, other)	Yes	Yes
branch of economic activity	Yes	Yes
current occupation	Yes	Yes
previous occupation	Yes (if any in Oman)	-
reasons for leaving previous employment	-	-
reasons for unemployment	-	-
status in employment	Yes	-
stability of employment (permanent/ temporary)	-	-
working time, including hours usually worked, contractual hours of work	?	-
duration of employment in years	can be deduced from work history	-
duration of unemployment/ job search	-	-
employment-related income	?	-

Yes: collected/ published -: Not collected/Not published Suggested additions to list of items in ICLS 2018

► Table 3. OMAN. Core statistics of stocks and flows and indicators pertaining to international migrant workers available in Oman published sources (most recent relevant/comparable source as of 15/10/2021)

statistics and indicators	indicator items and calculation	Remarks	Number/ rate by source		Discrepancy (%)
			census 2020	ROP records of residence permits in: Monthly Statistical Indicators (MSI) OR NCSI data portal- datasets	
			Date of reference: 12 Dec. 2020	31 Dec. 2020	
A	stock of international migrants at mid point of the reference period (13b)	Observed (survey), or stock of residency permit holders	1 739 692	1 745 076	0,31
A'	Stock of international migrants of working age (16a)	same as above, aged 15 and above	1 603 275	1 607 384	0,26
		(aged 15 to 64)	1 588 270	1 591 568	0,21
B	stock of international migrant workers (labour force) (14) (16b)	inside the labour force, aged 15 and above (aged 15 to 64). Col. F: employed.	1 406 976	1 443 128	2,57
	usual residents (14a)		(1,400,262)		
	non-residents (14b)	No information on non-residents			
C	inflow of international migrants	new residency permits issued to newcomers	2016 data (end of year). No information on inflows/outflows after 2018		
D	inflow of for-work international migrants	new residency permits issued to newcomers for the purpose of working	New residency permits issued for the purpose of working (categories "employment"; "domestic work" and "business"). 2016 data (end of year). No information on inflows/outflows after 2018		
E	inflow of international migrant workers	(a) number of international migrants already present in the country of measurement before the beginning of the specified reference period, who were outside the labour force at the beginning of the reference period but entered the labour force of the country of measurement during the reference period;	New residency permits issued for the purpose of working (categories "employment"; "domestic work" and "business"). 2016 data (end of year). No information on inflows/outflows after 2018		
		(b) inflow of international migrants who entered the country of measurement during the reference period – whether as for-work international migrants or for whatever other reason – and entered the labour force of the country of measurement during the reference period;			
		(c) non-residents of the country of measurement who became non-resident international migrant workers in the country during the reference period.	No information on non-residents		
		(a+b+c)			
F	outflow of international migrant workers	(a) number of international migrant workers who left the country of measurement (or died) during the specified reference period; and non-resident international migrant workers in the country of measurement whose labour attachment in that country terminated during the reference period, for whatever reason	Cancellations of residency permits issued for the purpose of working (categories "employment"; "domestic work" and "business"). 2016 data (end of year). No information on inflows/outflows after 2018		
		(b) number of international migrant workers who remained in the country of measurement but left the labour force of the country during the reference period			
		(c) non-resident international migrant workers in the country of measurement whose labour attachment in that country terminated during the reference period, for whatever reason	No information on non-residents		
		(a+b+c)			

	statistics and indicators	Number/ rate by source		Discrepancy (%)
		Comprehensive Household Survey 2015-2016	ROP records of residence permits in: Monthly Statistical Indicators (MSI) OR NCSI data portal- datasets, OR Statistical Yearbooks	
		Date of reference: mid-2016	30 June 2016	
A	stock of international migrants at mid point of the reference period (13b)	1 920 003	1 986 226	3,45
A'	Stock of international migrants of working age (16a)	1 823 940	1 896 775	3,99
B	stock of international migrant workers (labour force) (14) (16b)	1 721 585		
	usual residents (14a)			
	non-residents (14b)			
C	inflow of international migrants		452 609	
D	inflow of for-work international migrants		450 028	
E	inflow of international migrant workers		450 028	
F	outflow of international migrant workers		309 935	
			309 935	

	statistics and indicators	indicator items and calculation	Remarks	Number/ rate by source		Discrepancy (%)
				census 2020	ROP records of residence permits in: Monthly Statistical Indicators (MSI) OR NCSI data portal- datasets	
				Date of reference: 12 Dec. 2020	31 Dec. 2020	
G	change in the stock of international migrant workers	(E-F)	(2016 data-end of year)			
H	labour force participation (activity) rate	(a) IMW 14a, 16b	Zero unemployed IMW recorded in census/ foreigners not included in Public Authority for Manpower Registry as job seekers	1 406 976		
		(b) IM of working age 16a		1 603 275		
		a/b*100 (%)		87,8		
I	employment-to-population ratio	(a) Employed IMW 14a, 16c		1 406 976	1 443 128	2,57
		(b) IM of working age 16a		1 603 275	1 607 384	0,26
		a/b*100 (%)		87,8	89,8	2,0
J	Unemployment rate of international migrants	(a) Unemployed IMW 14a, 16d	Zero unemployed IMW recorded in census/ foreigners not included in Public Authority for Manpower Registry as job seekers			
		(b) IMW 14a, 16b				
		a/b*100 (%)				
K	share of inflow of for-work international migrants in the total inflow of international migrants during the reference period	D/C				
L	Share of women in migrant labour force	(a) females IMW 14a, 16b	IMW in ROP data not disaggregated by sex (MSI)/ domestic workers not included (Data portal)	178 204		
		(b) IMW 14a, 16b		1 406 976		
		a/b*100 (%)		12,7		
M	Migrant youth participation rate (15-29)	(a) IMW aged 15-29 14a, 16b	IMW in ROP data not disaggregated by age (in MSI)/domestic workers not included (Data portal)	328 624		
		(b) IM aged 15-29 16a		404 339		
		a/b*100 (%)		81,3		
N	Share of highly-skilled workers in foreign labour force	(a) IMW in the 3 upper categories of occupation (ISCO and Unified Arab Gulf Directory for Occupational Classification)	occupational distribution of IMW in ROP data only includes private and domestic sectors	151 477		
		(b) IMW 14a, 16b		1 406 976		
		a/b*100 (%)		10,8		

	statistics and indicators	Number/ rate by source		Discrepancy (%)
		Comprehensive Household Survey 2015-2016	ROP records of residence permits in: Monthly Statistical Indicators (MSI) OR NCSI data portal- datasets, OR Statistical Yearbooks	
		Date of reference: mid-2016	30 June 2016	
G	change in the stock of international migrant workers		140 093	
H	labour force participation (activity) rate	1 721 585		
		1 823 940		
		94,4		
I	employment-to-population ratio	1 719 117	1 795 665	4,45
		1 823 940	1 896 775	3,99
		94,3	94,7	0,4
J	Unemployment rate of international migrants	3 648		
		1 721 585		
		0,2		
K	share of inflow of for-work international migrants in the total inflow of international migrants during the reference period			
L	Share of women in migrant labour force	132 937		
		1 823 940		
		7,3		
M	Migrant youth participation rate (15-29)	515 872		
N	Share of highly-skilled workers in foreign labour force	232 639		
		1 823 940		
		12,8		

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International Labour Organization
Regional Office for the Arab States
P.O. Box 11-4088 Riad Solh 1107-2150
Beirut – Lebanon
Beirut@ilo.org