

12. OMAN

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Major Changes

- The Omani air force received its first F-16 fighters from the US. The remainder was to be supplied by the end of 2006 but there is no confirmation that this has actually taken place.
 - It was confirmed that Oman received Mistral light SAMs in 2004.
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General Data

Official Name of the State: Sultanate of Oman

Head of State: Sultan Qabus ibn Said al-Said

Prime Minister: Sultan Qabus ibn Said al-Said

Minister of Defense Affairs: Badr bin Saud bin Harib al-Busaidi

Chief of General Staff: Lieutenant General Ahmad bin Harith bin Naser al-Nabhani

Commander of the Ground Forces: Major General Said bin Naser bin Suleiman al-Salmi

Commander of the Air Force: Air Vice Marshal Yahya bin Rashid al-Juma'ah

Commander of the Navy: Rear Admiral Salim bin Abdalla bin Rashid al-Alawi

Area: 212,000 sq. km.

Population: 2,700,000

Oman

Demography

Ethnic groups		
• Arabs	2,446,200	90.6%
• Others (Africans, Persians, Southeast Asians)	253,800	9.4%
Religious groups		
• Ibadi Muslims	2,025,000	75.0%
• Sunni Muslims	507,600	18.8%
• Shi'ite Muslims, Hindus	167,400	6.2%

Economic Data

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
• GDP (current price)	\$ bn	20.3	21.8	24.7	30.8	36.1
• GDP per capita	\$	8,120	9,478	10,292	12,320	13,885
• Real GDP growth	%	2.3	2.3	5.4	5.8	6.6
• Consumer price index	%	-0.3	0.2	0.7	1.9	3.2
• External debt	\$ bn	4.7	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.5
Balance of payments						
• Exports fob	\$ bn	11.17	11.67	13.38	18.69	21.2
• Imports fob	\$ bn	-5.63	-6.08	-7.87	-8.03	-9.93
• Current account balance (including services and income)	\$ bn	1.94	1.48	0.57	4.72	4.36
Government expenditure						
• Total expenditure	\$ bn	7.63	8.28	9.89	11.1	NA
• Defense expenditure	\$ bn	2.49	2.62	2.96	3.64	NA
• Real change in defense expenditure	%	3.26	5.2	13	23	NA
• Defense expenditure / GDP	%	12.3	12.0	12.0	11.8	NA
Population	m	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6
Official exchange rate	OR:\$1	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.385

Sources: EIU Quarterly Report, EIU Country Profile, IMF International Financial Statistical Yearbook, SIPRI Yearbook

Foreign Military Cooperation

Type	Details
• Foreign forces	30 US troops (as of September 2006)
• Joint maneuvers	Egypt (2001); GCC countries (2003); India (2003); Jordan (2001); Pakistan (2006); UK (2001); US (2001)
• Security agreement	GCC countries; India (2005); Iran (2003); Turkey (2001); US; Yemen (2004)

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Arms Trade

Arms Procurement and Security Assistance Received

Country	Type	Details
Australia	• Arms transfers	High-speed transport boats (2006)
France	• Arms transfers	VBL APCs (2003), NH90 helicopters (2006), Mistral SAMs (2004), upgrading of C ⁴ I system (2006), A320 transport aircraft (2007)
India	• Military training	Trainees abroad (2005)
Italy	• Arms transfers	AB-139 Helicopters for security services (2004), patrol boats (2006)
Jordan	• Military training	Trainees abroad (2005)
PRC	• Arms transfers	NORINCO APCs (2003)
UAE	• Arms transfers	fast assault boats (2004), landing craft (2006)
UK	• Arms transfers	Super Lynx helicopters (2004), patrol boats (2003), Khareef OPVs (2006)
US	• Military training	Training of air force personnel (2004)
	• Arms transfers	F-16C/D (2005), Harpoon AGMs (2003), JDAMs guided bombs (2003), Paveway LGB's (2004), AARS reconnaissance systems (2006), radio communications systems (2004), Javelin ATGMs (2006), sensor fuzed weapons (2004), aircraft training system (2005), WCMD systems (2005), FPBs (2005), EW systems (2005)
	• Military training	Foreign advisers/instructors/serving personnel
	• Assistance	\$20 million military aid (2006)

Arms Sales and Security Assistance Extended

Country	Type	Details
UK	• Facilities	Use of airfields and naval bases (2006)
US	• Facilities	Airfields at Masira, Seeb, al-Khasb, Thamarit; storage facilities and prepositioning of US Army and Air Force support equipment; naval facilities at Masira and Ghanam Peninsula; communications center; contraction of an air base at al-Musnana (2002)

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Defense Production

	M	P	A
Land force equipment			
• Nimer-1 APC	✓		

Note: M - manufacture (indigenously developed)
P - production under license
A - assembly

Strategic Assets

NBC Capabilities

Nuclear capability

No known nuclear activity. Signatory to the NPT.

Chemical weapons and protective equipment

No known CW activities. Party to the CWC.

Biological weapons

No known BW activities. Party to the BWC.

Oman

Armed Forces

Order-of-Battle

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
General data					
• Personnel (regular)	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000
Ground Forces					
• Number of brigades	4	4	4	4	4
• Total number of battalions	18	18	18	18	18
• Tanks	151 (201)	151 (201)	124 (201)	124 (201)	124 (201)
• APCs/AFVs	385 (415)	385 (415)	446 (476)	446 (476)	446 (476)
• Artillery	148 (154)	148 (154)	133 (139)	133 (139)	133 (139)
Air Force					
• Combat aircraft	29 (30)	29 (30)	31 (32)	32 (33)	32 (33)
• Transport aircraft	41 (45)	41 (45)	50 (54)	50 (54)	50 (54)
• Helicopters	46	49	62	62	61
Air Defense Forces					
• Light SAM launchers	58	58	112	112	112
Navy					
• Combat vessels	9	9	9	9	9
• Patrol craft	37	68	68	68	68

*Due to change in estimate.

Personnel

	Regular	Reserves	Total
Ground Forces	25,000		25,000
Air Force	5,000		5,000
Navy	4,000		4,000
Total	34,000		34,000
Paramilitary			
• Tribal force (Firqat)	3,500		3,500
• Police/border police (operating aircraft, helicopters and PBs)			7,000
• Royal Household (including Royal Guard, Royal Yachts and Royal Flight)			6,500

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Ground Forces

Formations

	Independent brigade/group	Independent battalion/ Regiment
Royal Guard	1HQ	
Armored	1 HQ	2+1 royal guard
Infantry (Partly Mechanized)	2HQ	8+2 royal guard
Reconnaissance		2 (1 inf.+1 armd.)
Paratroops/ Special Forces		1+2 royal guard
Artillery		4
Air Defense		1
Total	4	23

Tanks

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
MBTs				
High quality				
• Challenger-2	38	38	1995	
Medium and low quality				
• M-60 A3	93	43	1990	
• M-60 A1	6	6	1980	
• Chieftain	27	0	1982	
Subtotal	126	49		
Light tanks				
• Scorpion	37	37	1980	Being upgraded
Total	201	124		

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APCs/AFVs				
Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
APCs				
• GKN-Defense Piranha	174	174	1995	
• AT-105 Saxon	15	15	1986	
• Fahd	31	+		Unconfirmed
• Spartan	23	23	1980	Including 3 Samson ARVs, 4 Sultan CPs
• VAB	23	23	1986	9 are also listed under Air Defense
• WZ-551B	~50	~50	2003	
Subtotal	~315	~285		
IFVs				
• V-150 Commando	20	20	1982	
Reconnaissance				
• VBC-90	9	9	1986	
Light armoured vehicles				
• VBL	132	132	1996	8 mounted with TOW Additional being delivered
Total	476	446		

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Artillery

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Self-propelled guns and howitzers				
• 155mm G-6	24	24	1995	
Towed guns and howitzers				
• 155mm FH-70	12	12	1986	
• 130mm Type 59	12	12	1981	
• 122mm D-30	25	25		
• 105mm L-118	42	36	1976	
Subtotal	91	85		
Mortars, under 160mm				
• 120mm	12	12	1976	
• 107mm M-30 SP	12	12	1986	Mounted on M106
Subtotal	24	24		
MRLs				
• 122mm type 90A	+	+		Unconfirmed
Total	139	133		

Logistic and Engineering Equipment

Challenger ARVs (4); Samson ARVs (3); tank transporters (9)

Anti-Tank Missiles

Model	Launchers	Missiles	Since	Notes
• Javelin	+	+	2007	Being delivered
• BGM-71A TOW	26	+		8 mounted on VBL
• MILAN	32	+	1984	
Total	60			
Future procurement				
• Javelin	30	250		To be delivered in 2007

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Air Force

Order-of-Battle

Category	Quantity	In service	Notes
• Combat	33	32	
• Transport	54	50	
• Helicopters	61	61	

Combat Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Advanced Multi-role				
• F-16 C/D	3	3	2005	
Multi-role				
• Jaguar Mk 1/2	19	18	1977	Upgraded
• HAWK Mk-203	11	11	1994	
Subtotal	30	29		
Total	33	32		
Future procurement				
• F-16 C/D	12			Being delivered

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Transport Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
• BAe-111	3	3	1974	
• BN-2 Defender/Islander	4	0	1974	
• C-130H Hercules	3	3	1981	
• CN-235	3	3	1993	With police
• DC-8	1	1	1982	
• DC-10	1	1		
• Dornier Do-228-100	2	2	1984	Used by police air wing for maritime surveillance and border patrol
• Gulfstream	1	1	1992	
• Skyvan Srs 3M	36	36	1970	7 employed in maritime patrol role
Total	54	50		
Future procurement				
• Airbus A320	2			

Training and Liaison Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Jet trainers				
• PC-9	12	12	2000	
• BAC-167 Strikemaster Mk 82	12	0	1967	
• Hawk Mk-103	4	4	1993	
Subtotal	28	16		
Piston/Turbo-prop				
• AS-202 Bravo	4	4	1976	
• MFI-17B Mushshak	8	8	1994/2002	
Subtotal	12	12		
Total	40	28		

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Helicopters

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Medium transport				
• AB-205	24	24	1970	
• Bell 212	3	3	1976	
• AB-214	10	10	1974	Some in internal security roles
• AS-330/332 Super Puma	5	5	1982	
Subtotal	42	42		
Light transport				
• Bell 206 JetRanger	3	3	1970	
Naval attack				
• Super Lynx 300	16	16	2004	
Total	61	61		
Future procurement				
• NH90 TTH	20			Deliveries to begin in 2008

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Miscellaneous Aircraft

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Maritime surveillance				
• Skyvan Srs 3M	7	7	1970	Also listed under transport Aircraft
• Dornier DO-228-100	2	2	1984	Also listed under transport Aircraft
Target drones				
• TTL BTT-3 Banshee	53	+		

Advanced Armament

Air-to-air-missiles

R-550 Magic (70), AIM-9P/J Sidewinder (330)

Air-to-ground-missiles

AGM-84D Harpoon (20)

Bombs

BL-755 CBU

Future procurement

AMRAAM (50), AIM-9M Sidewinder (100), AGM-65D/G Maverick (80), JDAM (84), TARS reconnaissance systems (2), PANTERA targeting systems (7), Paveway LGB's, CBU-97 SFW (350)

Note: Numbers in parentheses refer to number of units purchased, not to current inventory levels.

Air Force Infrastructure

Aircraft shelters

For all combat aircraft, at Masira and Thamarit

Military airfields

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Al-Musnana, Bureimi, Dukha, Masira, Muscat (Seeb), Salala, Thamarit

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Air Defense Forces

Surface-to-Air Missiles

Model	Batteries	Launchers	Since	Notes
Light missiles				
• Mistral-2		54		On Panhard VBL
• Rapier Mk2		28		Upgraded
• Javelin		30	1989	
• Tigercat		★		
Total		112		
Shoulder-launched missiles				
• Blowpipe		+	1982	
• SA-7 (Grail)		34	1988	
Total		~35		

Other Air Defense Systems

Model	Quantity	In service	Since	Notes
Air defense systems (missiles, radars and guns)				
• Skyguard AD system	+	+	1995	With 35mm guns
Short-range guns				
• 40mm Bofors L-60	12	12	1987	
• 35mm Oerlikon Contraves	+	+	1995	With Skyguard
• 23mm ZU 23x2	4	4	1980	
• 20mm 20x2 VDAA SP	9	9	1986	On VAB
Total	25	25		
Radars				
• OFEQ-2000 C ⁴ I	+	+	2001	Integrated command and control system
• AR-15	+	+		
• S-713 Martello 3D	2	2		
• S-600	+	+		
• Watchman	+	+		

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Navy

Combat Vessels

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/ armament
Missile corvettes			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qahir class (Vosper Thornycroft) 	2	83.7/1,450	1xHelicopter 8xExocet MM40 SSMs 1x8 Crotale-NG SAMs 1x76mm gun 2x20mm guns 6x324mm torpedoes
MFPBs			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dhofar class (Province class) 	4	56.7/394	6-8 Exocet MM40 SSMs 1x76mm gun 2x40mm guns 2x12.7mm MGs
Gunboats			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • al-Bushra (P-400) 	3	54.5/475	1x76mm gun 1x40mm gun 2x20mm guns 2x12.7mm MGs
Total	9		
Future procurement			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khareef OPVs 	3	97/ 2,500	Helicopter deck 1x12 MICA-VL SAMs 1x76mm gun

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Patrol Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/ armament
• CG-29	3	28.9/84	2x20mm guns with police
• CG-27	1	24/53	1x20mm gun with police
• Cougar Enforcer 33	20	10.8/5.4	
• Seeb (Vosper Thornycroft)	4	25/60.7	1x20mm gun 2x7.62mm MGs
• Vosper 75	5	22.9/50	1x20mm gun
• Zahra (Watercraft type)	5	13.9/16	2x7.62mm MG with police
• P-2000	1	20.8/80	1x12.7mm MG with police
• P-1903	1	19.2/26	2x12.7mm MGs with police
• Dheeb al Bahar (D- 59116)	2	23/65	1x12.7mm MG with police
• Seaspray Assault Boats	12	9.5m	
• Rudman 58	14	18.5 m	
Total	68		
Future procurement			
• Patrol boats	2		For Coast Guard

Landing Craft

Type	Quantity	Length (m.)/ displacement (t.)	Notes/ armament
• Nasr al Bahar (Brooke Marine LST)	1	93/2,500	Helicopter deck 4x40mm guns 2x20mm guns 2x12.7mm MGs 400 tons or 7 tanks; 240 troops; 2 LCVP
• al-Munassir	1	64 m	
• Vosper 230-ton LCM	3	33.0/230	100 tons
• Al-Neemran (LCU)	1	25.5/30	
Total	5		
Future procurement			
• High speed sealift vessel	2	65/146	Helicopter deck 40 LAVs; 200 troops Deliveries by 2008.

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Auxiliary Vessels

Type	Quantity	Length (m.) / displacement (t.)	Notes/ armament
• Mabrukah (Brooke Marine training ship)	1	62/900	1x40mm gun 2x20mm guns helicopter deck ex-royal yacht
• Al-Sultana (Conoship Groningen)	1	65.7/1,380 dwt	
• Fulk al Salamah	1	136.4/3239	Supply ship
• Survey craft	1	15.5/23.6	
• Diving craft	1	18/13	

Naval Infrastructure

Naval bases 4
Mina Raysut (Salala), al-Khasb, Muscat, Wuddam
Ship maintenance
and repair facilities
Muscat