

# Population and Development



National Population Committee  
Technical Office

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## LUMINOUS WORDS

“ As far as domestic policy is concerned , our plan is to build our country and provide all its people with a prosperous life. That will be achieved only when the people share the burden of responsibility and help with the task of building. We have opened up opportunities for our citizens to achieve this end, and we shall strive hard to establish just, democratic rule in our country within the framework of our Omani Arab reality, the customs and traditions of our community, and the teachings of Islam – which always light our path”

### Sultan Qaboos bin Said

First National Day

30 Jumada - I 1391 AH - 23 July 1971 AD

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## EDITORIAL

It is a great occasion that the issuance of this new bulletin coincides with the Sultanate celebrations of the Fortieth National Day. The occasion that gives deep joy in Omanis' hearts, looking at what was achieved during the four decades of the renaissance with pride and love and to what is coming with hope and optimism that the future will be even better. Also, that the development process which began since the dawn of the 23rd of July 1970 will continue laying modern life fingerprints in every part of the Omani soil.

The 40th National Day have its great glow and radiance and offer us the spirit of challenge to exert more effort for this country. The Royal vision guides us to continue our path on the exact approach which had enabled us to firmly walk on the right track. The human being, over all the renaissance years and still, is the basic element in the development project and manpower is the betting on the ability of the nation to progress. Praise be to God, that what had been achieved in health, education and qualification is clear, thus the human became an effective element in the nation-building working for its sake in the various fields as any achievement is made by him and its usefulness return to him. We ask God sustained reconcile and be able to serve our country, wishing the best for His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and Oman.

Ali bin Hamoud bin Ali al Busaidi

Minister of Diwan of Royal Court

## The National Population Strategy of the Sultanate of Oman

Dear reader, we wish you prosperity and grace on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Renaissance. We continue the reviewing of the referral studies on the national population strategy formulated by the Technical Office of the National Population Committee (NPC) with participation of various government units and institutions during (2000-2002). Our theme for the fifth study is:

### Education , Training and Qualification

The study addresses several issues in area of education development and the educational characteristics of the population in the Sultanate of Oman. The study focused on illiteracy (41% of the population in age 15 and above in 1993). It explained students' distribution between the general, technical and vocational education, and development of enrollment rates at the various educational stages by gender and administrative divisions. Further, the study analyzed the internal efficiency standards of general education (dropout and repetition) and education quality in terms of class density, students per teacher and the quality of schools and facilities. The study reviewed the forecasts of students in various education stages in the long term; their needs, pressures on the resources and quality of education resulting from rapid population growth. Also, analyzed the priorities and challenges of the education and training sector, the current policies and programs related to education, training and qualification including adult education programs (non-formal education) and in service training. The study arrived to a number of proposals and recommendations for quantitative and qualitative improvement of education, where it recommended establishment of a supreme national authority to oversee the directing of higher education, coordination between government and private universities and institutes, formulation of policies, plans and programs that aim to ensure quality of outputs, avoid losses and ability to assess outputs. Also, it recommended formation of councils or sectoral committees for vocational training for the various vocational sectors. The Study concluded by giving projections on the procedures and programs to achieve the proposed objectives.

### The National Population Strategy of GCC Countries

Urban growth and internal migration is one of the GCC States population policies dimensions which were approved by the Supreme Council of GCC States during its 19th session in Abu Dhabi in (7-9) December 1998. The dimension included the following policies:

- 1- Decrease disparity between urban and rural regions so as to limit the migration towards cities.
- 2- Creating urban centers close to industrial areas and providing general utilities and basic amenities therein to limit the rapid growth of large cities.
- 3- Developing the basic amenities in the rural areas and working towards settlement and stability of nomadic population.
- 4- Redistribution of certain services as well as economic and social activities in small cities.
- 5- Preservation of and protection of environment and controlling all forms pollution.
- 6- Giving priority to provision of housing and evolving national plans for judicious utilization of land, water and other resources so as to derive optimum benefit out of these resources.



### Research Institutions in the Field of Population and Development

#### The Omani Encyclopedia Project

The project is a national knowledge project aiming to authoring a comprehensive reference book that includes entries related to Oman people and nature. The Omani Encyclopedia targets the general reader such as students in schools, universities, colleges and institutes, researchers and those looking for information and facts about Oman.

The Encyclopedia tackle various subjects in the humanities and natural fields such as issues related to Omani society and its characteristics, the social, economical and cultural activities of population such as customs, professions, art, traditional games and other. In addition to entries on the Omani history with its events and characters, entries on the economy, science, scientists, arts and other issues.

In relation to natural areas, the Encyclopedia includes entries related to Omani soil, its geological characteristics, natural phenomena, plants species; together with entries on animal and plants prevailing in Oman soil.

The Encyclopedia entries are characterized by comprehensiveness, objectivity, accuracy and impartiality in the provision of the scientific material.

Two types of data which constitute the entrance are used to access these attributes : Text data represented in the literal text of the entrance and non-text data which is a set of pictures, maps, tables, graphs so that each entrance is autonomous and encompasses all aspects of the subject mater.

A group of writers, specialized researchers and Omani research assistants participated in preparation of the entries of the Omani Encyclopedia.

### Arab Countries Experiences in Population Policies:

#### Sudan (The National Population Council)

The document on national population policy issued as per the Council of Ministers resolution No (48) in 2002, was the first official reference on population policies in Sudan. The document was prepared in response to the ICPD programme in Cairo in 1994. The National Population Council, established in late 1994, is considered the official body entrusted with preparation of the national population policy, its reviewing and evaluation. The population policies were incorporated in other sectoral policies in 2002 as per the Council of Ministers resolution which stipulated that the population policy be the base for all the policies of the ministries, organizations and the State authorities. This was due to the fact that the population policy of Sudan was based on an important principle manifested in that the human being is the most precious resource, and the mean and goal of development. Accordingly, the strategic objective of the policy stressed on the upgrading the population level, maintaining of human resources by maintaining the current population growth rate, improve the spiritual values and population characteristics and achieving a better life quality. The population policy included a number of strategies such as: redistribution of population so as to achieve urban and rural balance, pursuing to achieve economic growth rates that exceed the population growth rates conditioned a balanced and comprehensive economic development.



### Population Objectives in the First Long-Term Development Strategy

Since the beginning of the Renaissance, the Sultanate adopted the scientific planning as an approach to accelerate the pace of comprehensive development. The planning process was based on long-term plans defining the basic strategic directions to develop the country, and medium-term successive, harmonious and integrated Five-Year Plans pursuing to achieve and translate the long-term objectives of the development.

The population's objectives were among the developmental objectives that the Sultanate sought to achieve through these development strategies and the Five-Year Plans so as to bring about the desired change in population life. Since 1975, this directive was manifested in the first development strategy (1975-1995) which within its framework included the formulation of four Five-Year Plans covering two decades. The long-term population objectives of the strategy included:

1. Development of the national human resources so as to be able to assume its role in the Omani economy.
2. Geographic distribution of investments so that its outputs be of benefit to the various regions and the population till removing disparities in living standards among the regions, with priority to less developed regions.
3. Support and develop the current population centres and their maintaining against risk of mass migrations to dense population centres.

The four Five-Year Plans during (1975-1995) comprised activities and programmes to develop these population objectives. On evaluating the achievements, it was clear that the Sultanate was able to accomplish these objectives where the number of pupils enrolled in schools increased, improved health services provided to population which was reflected in reduced mortality rates and increase of life expectancy at birth. Also, the per capita income increased to reach the level of the upper group of middle-income countries.

Ahmed Awadh Al yaqoubi  
Statistician  
Directorate General of Social Statistics

### The National Day 23<sup>rd</sup> July

When people celebrate their glorious days, they were celebrating a long history of struggle and sacrifice, hence assuring the firm and renewable determination to build the renaissance in its various manifestations and requirements.

On the dawn of the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1970, Oman was on a date with the preeminence of an ambitious unrivaled leader. His Majesty first words in that day were instilling hope and reassuring the people who suffered a lot: " I will work as quickly as possible to enable you to live in happiness in a better future ".

Every year people recall this day in pride and glory. The 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2010 comes with a forty years of great advancement, pride, building and reconstruction on every site in Oman. The occasion is a chance for renewing loyalty to the Renaissance builder His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said who always stressing that the Omani citizen is the active part in laying the blocks of development that was achieved comprising the features of originality, modernity and contemporary manifested in achievements at the various levels and fields. For example, in His Majesty speech in the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2003 in the opening of the third session of the Council of Oman, His majesty said: "From the very beginning it was our wish to see Oman embark upon its own enterprise in the field of democratic action in which its citizens play their part in taking national decisions. This enterprise has been build up brick-by-brick in firm foundations based on the realities of Omani life and the conditions of the age in which we live."

Talib Mohammed Al Wahshi  
Population studies researcher  
Directorate General of Social Statistics

### Today's Issue

#### The living standards of the citizen

Since the dawn of the blessed Renaissance in 1970, there was the desire to establish a strong economy capable of meeting the needs of the country, provide decent livelihood for the citizens and the optimal use of available resources. These were the major goals of the economical and developmental projects accomplished by the Sultanate which was clearly reflected through the successive Five-Year Development Plans which their overall aims were building of strong foundations for the Omani economy, pursuing to double per capita income, achieving balance between revenues and expenditure, upgrading the level of provision of health and educational services and promote the living standards of the citizen.

Of the indicators used to follow-up and assess the standard of living is Engels Law related to ratio of food consumption to total household consumption. According to the Law, poor households' food consumption rate reaches 60% and above of the total consumption, while in well-off households it amounts to 20% maximum. As per the results of the (1999-2000)- Households Expenditure and Income Survey, the average food share reached 30% of total household consumption and declined in the (2007-2008)- survey to about 29% noting that educational and health services are free which raises the food share. This survey evinced a greater harmony in expenditure levels among Omani households compared to (1999-2000)- survey, reflected in slight improvement in Gini index, which measures the equitable distribution of consumption in the society where its value was 33% in the last survey compared to 35.7% in the previous one with the second and third quintiles of Omani households enjoy about 50% of total national consumption.

The improvement of these indicators and other is an evidence of attention to the Omani citizen provided by the wise government of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, the builder and supporter of the development path and who has given much attention to his people and grant safety and security to our country.

Mahfoodh Salim Mahfoodh AL-Msharfi  
Population studies researcher  
Directorate General of Social Statistics

## Population Terms

### 1- Ratio of female estimated income to male estimated income

A ratio of average female income over average male income ; measured as:

$$\text{Ratio} = \frac{(\text{estimated females income in specific year})}{(\text{estimated males income in the same year})} \times 100$$

Source: Ministry of National Economy. (2006). [Sustainable development methodologies indicators manual](#). Sultanate of Oman

### 2- Age dependency of elders

Ration of population of age 65 and above to 100 population in age group (15-64) ; measured as :

$$\text{Ratio of age dependency for elders} = \frac{\text{Population of 65 years and above}}{\text{Population in age group (15-64)}} \times 100$$

Source: Population training and studies centre- Sana university (2001). [Basics of demography : methods and applications](#) . Republic of Yemen.

## Arab and International Days

International Literacy Day	September 8
International Day of older persons	October 1
Universal Children's Day	November 20
International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women	November 25

## Do You Know ?

- The Omani Flag was approved by Royal Decree and raised for the first time in the 17th of December 1970.
- His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said was the first Arab leader awarded the International Peace Prize in the 16th Of October 1998 and won for the second time the Peace Prize of the International Russian Society in the 18th of July 2007.
- Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environment Preservation is the first Arab Prize awarded on international level in the field of environment protection. The prize has been established in 1989 and granted for the first time in 1991 to the Mexican centre for studies and research
- The Sultanate rate 19 in the world in the international report on IT 2009/2010 issued by the World Economic Forum in the index of readiness to e-government.
- Sultanate of Oman radio started broadcasting for the first time in 30th July 1970, one week after the start of the blessed Renaissance .
- Sultanate of Oman television started broadcasting for the first time from Muscat in 17th November 1974 and from Salalah in the 25th November 1975.

Source : [www.omanet.com](http://www.omanet.com)

## Population Indicators (Oman 2009) :

Total population of the Sultanate (3173917) with (36.4%) expatriate <sup>1</sup>	Total civil service employees (126134) with (88.7%) Omanis <sup>2</sup>
Total fertility rate (3.3) <sup>1</sup>	Total granted lands (27288) plot for different uses <sup>4</sup>
Total traffic accidents ( 7253) with (953) deaths <sup>3</sup>	

1.Ministry of National Economy. (2010). [Facts and Figures 2009](#).

2.Ministry of Civil Service. (2010). [The Annual Survey 2009](#)

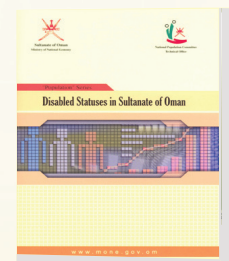
3.Royal Oman Police. [Facts and Figures 2010](#)

4.Ministry of Housing. [The Statistical Year Book 2009](#)

## Technical Office of the National Population Committee Publications

### Disabled Statues in Sultanate of Oman

The book constituted a number of laws related to disabled which were promulgated by Royal Decrees. In addition, it reviewed statistical data for this group in terms of demography, health, education, employment, social and sport based on the 2003-Census together with the most recent data available.



## Invitation for Participation

For participation and comments in the periodical bulletin or for access of a copy please use the email

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