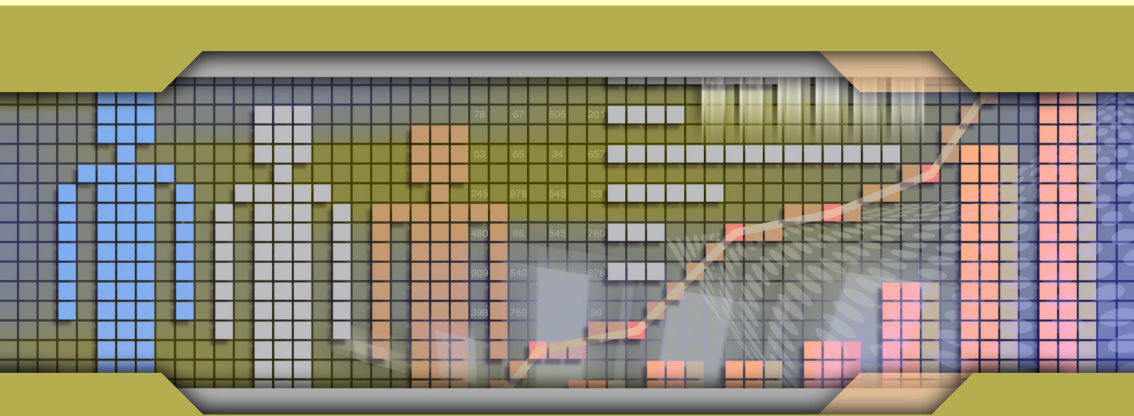


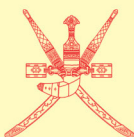
Sultanate of Oman

National Center for Statistics & Information

Population Series **2**

The Elderly from Statistical Facts



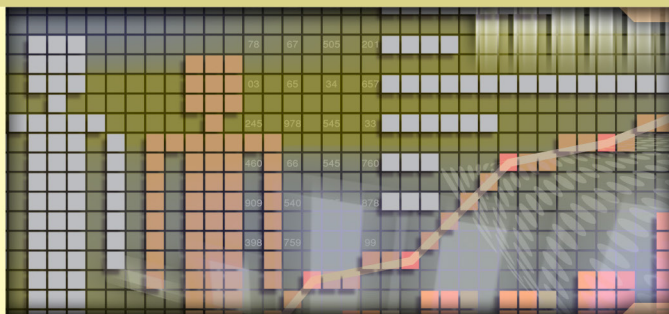


Sultanate of Oman

National Center for Statistics & Information

Population Series **2**

The Elderly from Statistical Facts



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Preamble

Care of elderly has emerged as one of the basic concerns in today's societies since the eighties of the last century. This concern has expanded to include, beside the services directed towards care for the elderly, systems and regulations organizing the different facts of the series within a legal frame work which was incorporated in the International agenda. Elderly issues and needs have been awarded due concern at the International level in view of the demographic changes experienced by economically developed countries, which have become ageing with the increases in elderly population accompanies by noticeable decline in fertility rates. This has led the International community to direct more attention to the elderly through convening of International conferences and seminars to highlight the challenges facing this population group and setting up international working plans, most important among them the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing issued in 2002 and the Arab Plan of Action up to 2012.

This booklet is devoted to address the status of the elderly in the Sultanate in appreciation of their role in securing the future for the new generations. This booklet is the second of a series of publications that review a statistical portrait of the situation of the Sultanate population, specially the citizens at the different age groups issued under the name "Population Series". The first issue of the series was promulgated in 2010 which dealt with the status of population with special needs.

This series of publications depends on censuses, household surveys and administrative data of the different government entities in reviewing the status of the population group under reference, in addition to Royal Decrees and Laws prevailing in the Sultanate for the purpose of explaining the legal and legislative framework applicable to this group.

Lastly, we pray for Almighty God to grant success to all who participated in the development of our dear country and achieve prosperity to the citizens living in its blessed land.

Introduction

Sustainable social development requires that attention be paid to all population segments to ensure that they are reaping the benefits of development. Among these segments come the elderly whose needs, provision of care for them and meeting their requirements is considered a social, ethical and religious obligation called for by the different religious and traditions and social norms in different societies. In fact, this is a well deserved right in view of their contribution in the development of their communities during their youth.

Experts in sociology and population sciences recognize the continuous increase in the world population, accompanied by the increase of ageing population and the expansion of their segment in the population pyramid, reflecting the progress and coverage of the public medical services, though with relative differences between developed and developing countries.

Although for statistical purposes aiming at International comparisons, the United Nations had defined the elderly as population at the age of 60 years and above¹, many countries adopted other definitions according to their retirement age and social insurance systems. Following the definition of the elderly adopted by the UN on the one hand and depending on the national retirement systems for the government staff on the other hand, elderly in this booklet will be considered as the population at the age of 60 years or above.

This issue of this booklet coincides with the last year of the implementation of the Arab Plan of Action for the Elderly adopted by the Sultanate. This adoption entails an evaluation and analysis of the achievement so far and utilize the outcome in the preparation for the new phase to undertake the remaining unfinished tasks. This booklet would however, review the distribution of the elderly population by five year age intervals and governorates. The booklet would then proceed to show the health, education, economic status (relation with the labour market) and social status. Lastly, the booklet reviews the social care provided to this population segment, together with listing the Royal Decrees and Laws relevant to the dimensions of this booklet.

1- UN (2009), Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses - Revision 2, Series M No. 67/Rev.2, New York.

Terminologies

The Elderly:-

Elderly are defined as the population in the age group of 60 years and above.

To achieve the objectives of this booklet, and to conform with the definition of the elderly adopted here, the age groups used to calculate the following indicators has been modified:

Age Dependency Rate:-

It is the number of population below 15 years of age and over 60 years for every 100 individuals in the age group (15 – 59) years.

Elderly Dependency Rate:-

It Is the number of elderly individuals of age sixty and above for every 100 individuals in the working age group (i.e. (15-59) years).

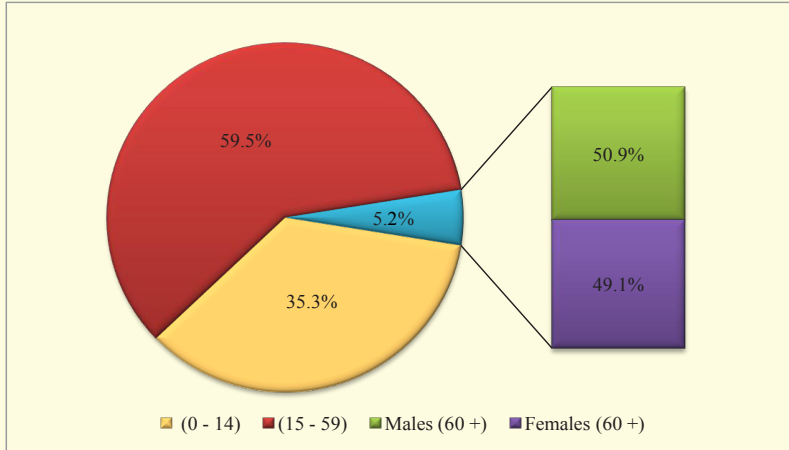
Ageing Index:-

It is a tool for assessing population ageing and is defined as the number of individuals in the age of 60 years or above for every 100 child below 15 years of age.

First: Population Status

Distribution of the elderly by age groups:

Figure No.(1): Distribution of Omanis by wide age groups, 2010



Source: Census 2010.

- Omani elderly, according to the 2010 population census reached 101,145 representing about 5% of the total Omani population.

The Elderly from Statistical Facts

Table No. (1): Distribution of Omani population (60 years and above) by age groups and sex for the years 1993, 2003 and 2010.

Year	Sex	(60-64)	(65-69)	(70-74)	(75-79)	(80-84)	(85 +)	Total
1993	Male	14949	6857	6952	2718	2970	2715	37161
	Female	12124	5921	7211	2698	3257	2900	24111
	Total	27073	12778	14163	5416	6227	5615	71272
	%	38.0	17.9	19.9	7.6	8.7	7.9	100
2003	Male	17240	10389	8959	3852	3611	3191	47242
	Female	14808	7989	7973	3534	3914	3501	41719
	Total	32048	18378	16932	7386	7525	6692	88361
	%	36.0	20.7	19.0	8.3	8.5	7.5	100
2010	Male	16345	11679	11220	5442	3806	2985	51477
	Female	16119	11050	9600	4885	4240	3774	49668
	Total	32464	22729	20820	10327	8046	6759	101145
	%	32.1	22.5	20.6	10.2	8.0	6.7	100

Source: Census 1993, 2003 & 2010

- The above table reveals the decrease of the population in the age group (60-64) years from 38.0% to 32.1% and the increase of population in the age group (65-69) years from 17.9% to 20.7% during the period (1993–2010).
- The number of Omani elderly has increased by 2.5% annually during the period (1993–2010), resulting in a slight increase of the proportion of the elderly from the total Omani population from 4.8% to 5.2% during the same period.

The Elderly from Statistical Facts

Table No. (2): Indicators for the elderly in the years 1993, 2003 and 2010.

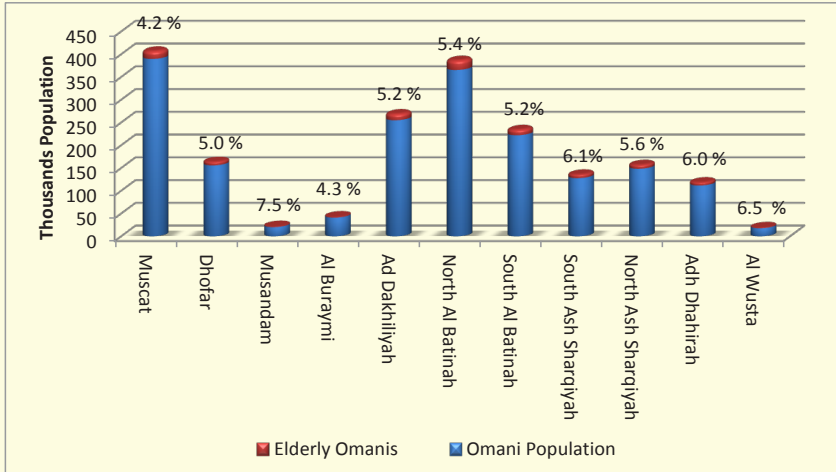
Indicators	1993	2003	2010
Age dependency ratio	129.3	83.8	67.9
Elderly dependency ratio	11.0	9.2	8.7
Ageing index	9.3	12.3	14.6

Source: Census 1993, 2003 & 2010

- The decline of age dependency ratio between 1993 and 2010 indicates that the age composition of Omanis is witnessing continuous changes.
- These changes are also indicated by the ageing index which has increased from 9 elderly for every 100 Omani child under the age of 15 in 1993 to 15 elderly in 2010.
- The number of elderly has also decreased from 11 for every 100 Omani in the productive age group (15 -59 years) in 1993 to 9 elderly in 2010.

Distribution of the Elderly by Governorates:

Figure (2): Geographical distribution of Omani population and elderly by governorates in 2010.

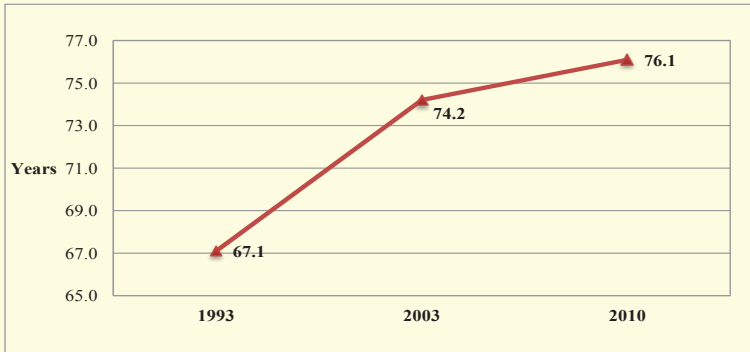


Source: Census 2010.

- The percentage of elderly in Musandam Governorate is the highest reaching 7.5% from its total Omani population whereas this percentage declines to 4.2% in Muscat Governorate.
- The percentage distribution of Omani elderly is exactly compatible with the percentage distribution of the total Omani population in the Sultanate Governorates, where one third of the Omani elderly live in North and South Al Batinah Governorates with one third of the total population also living in these two Governorates as well. The lowest percentage of Omani elderly and population are found in Al Wusta Governorate.

Second: Health Status

Figure (3): Life expectancy at birth of Omanis during the years 1993, 2003 and 2010.



Source: Ministry of National Economy, Statistical Year Books for the period (1994-2011).

- The Sultanate has witnessed remarkable improvement in the rates of survival since the beginning of the last decade of the twentieth century, rising from 67.1 years in 1993 to 74.2 years in 2003 and to 76.1 years in 2010.

The Elderly from Statistical Facts

Table No. (3): The number of new diabetics cases registered in health institutions at the governorate levels for population 60 years and above during 2010.

Governorate	Age Groups			
	(60 – 64)	(65 – 69)	(70 +)	Total
Muscat	90	63	75	210
Dhofar	35	16	16	67
Musandam	4	1	3	8
Al Buraymi	4	3	3	10
Ad Dakhiliyah	71	39	46	156
North Al Batinah	90	56	73	219
South Al Batinah	46	22	25	93
South Ash Sharqiyah	21	19	9	49
North Ash Sharqiyah	46	28	38	112
Adh Dhahirah	47	21	29	97
Al Wusta	7	1	2	10
Total	461	269	301	1031

Source: Ministry of Health, Annual Health Report 2010, pg. 8-73.

- Most of the new diabetic cases among the elderly are in the age group (60 – 64) years, representing 44.7% from the total registered new diabetic cases among the elderly.
- The highest number of the new diabetic cases among the elderly is found in the Governorate of North Al Batinah and Muscat. The data of Muscat Governorate however, includes the Royal Hospital.

The Elderly from Statistical Facts

Table No. (4): Main leading causes of hospital mortality among the population 60 years and above by categories of diseases in 2010.

	Disease	%	No. Of Deaths
1	Septicemia	20.3	359
2	Neoplasm	10.7	189
3	Angina Pectoris & other Ischaemic heart diseases	6.0	106
4	Pneumonia	4.9	87
5	Cardiac Dysrhythmia	4.8	85
6	Cerebral infraction	4.3	76
7	Hypertensive Diseases	4.2	75
8	Acute Myocardial Infarction	4.2	74
9	Heart Failure	3.1	55
	Total deaths among (60 years and above)		1765

Source: Ministry of Health, Annual Health Report 2010, pg. 9-85.

- Around one fifth of the deaths among elderly in the public hospitals in 2010 were due to blood poisoning and a tenth due to tumors.

The Elderly from Statistical Facts

Table No. (5): Percentage distribution of disabled Omanis (60 years and above) by Governorate in 2010.

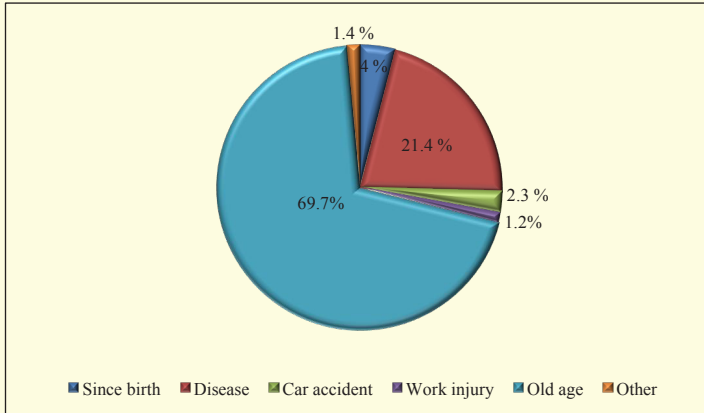
Governorates	Omani elderly		Disabled Omani elderly		Percentage of disability among Omani elderly
	No.	%	No.	%	
Muscat	17,078	16.9	3,782	16.1	22.1
Dhofar	8,123	8.0	1,223	5.2	15.1
Musandam	1,632	1.6	620	2.6	38.0
Al Buraymi	1,829	1.8	379	1.6	20.7
Ad Dakhiliyah	13,904	13.7	3,140	13.4	22.6
North Al Batinah	20,960	20.7	5,374	22.9	25.6
South Al Batinah	12,251	12.1	3,176	13.6	25.9
South Ash Sharqiyah	8,237	8.1	1,744	7.4	21.2
North Ash Sharqiyah	8,753	8.7	1,625	6.9	18.6
Adh Dhahirah	7,148	7.1	2,196	9.4	30.7
Al Wusta	1,230	1.2	169	0.7	13.7
Total	101,145	100.0	23,428	100.0	23.2

Source: Ministry of Health, Annual Health Report 2010, pg. 9-85.

- Although Musandam governorate contains 1.6% of the total Omani elderly, the disability among them is high. Around 38% of the Omani elderly in this governorate are disabled.

The Elderly from Statistical Facts

Figure (4): Percentage distribution of disabled Omani elderly by cause of disability, 2010



Source: Census 2010.

- Most of the disabilities among Omani elderly in 2010 were caused by old age posting 70%, followed by disabilities resulting from disease posting 21%.

Table No. (6): Percentage distribution of disabled Omanis (60 years and above) by type of disability and sex.

Type of Disability	Male	Female	Total
Vision	37.8	31.8	34.8
Hearing	7.6	6.8	7.2
Movement	35.6	40.5	38.0
Remembering/Concentrating	2.8	3.2	3.0
Taking care of him/her self	10.0	13.2	11.6
Communicating in normal language	0.7	0.4	0.6
Movement of the upper part of the body	5.4	4.0	4.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Census 2010.

- Two fifth of disabled elderly Omani women suffer from difficulty of movement from one place to another, whereas their male counter parts proportion in the disability areas of movement and vision are close.

Third: Educational Status

Table No. (7): Percentage distribution of Omani population (60 years and above) by educational status and sex in 1993, 2003 and 2010

Educational Status	1993			2003			2010		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Illiterate	85.0	98.4	91.4	75.7	95.7	85.0	62.9	90.8	76.6
Read and write	14.3	1.3	8.1	20.3	3.4	12.5	26.3	6.8	16.7
Below university level	0.6	0.2	0.4	3.3	0.8	2.1	8.6	1.9	5.3
University qualification and above*	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.5	2.2	0.5	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Includes diploma Specialist qualification

Source: Census 1993, 2003 & 2010

- Despite the improvement in the education level of the Omani elderly in 2010 compared to 1993 and 2003, illiteracy is still considerably spread among them, where three quarters of them are illiterate rising among elderly women to 91% compared to 63% among elderly men.

The Elderly from Statistical Facts

Table No.(8): Distribution of illiterate Omani population (60 years and above) by governorate and sex in 2010.

Governorates	Males			Female			Total		
	No.	Percentage from		No.	Percentage from		No.	Percentage from	
		Total	Omani elderly		Total	Omani elderly		Total	Omani elderly
Muscat	3844	11.9	46.6	7024	15.6	79.6	10,868	14.0	63.6
Dhofar	2251	7.0	57.0	3593	7.9	86.0	5844	7.5	71.9
Musandam	799	2.5	86.1	683	1.5	97.0	1482	2.0	90.8
Al Buraymi	612	1.9	61.0	751	1.7	90.9	1363	1.8	74.5
Ad Dakhiliyah	4188	12.9	60.0	6497	14.4	93.9	10,685	13.8	76.8
North Al Batinah	7668	23.7	70.7	9643	21.4	95.4	17,311	22.3	82.6
South Al Batinah	4309	13.3	66.2	5444	12.1	94.8	9753	12.6	79.6
South Ash Sharqiyah	2792	8.6	64.7	3569	7.9	91.0	6361	8.2	77.2
North Ash Sharqiyah	3244	10.0	71.5	3939	8.7	93.4	7183	9.2	82.1
Adh Dhahirah	2026	6.7	58.5	3442	7.6	93.4	5468	7.1	76.5
Al Wusta	629	1.9	90.5	529	1.2	98.9	1158	1.5	94.1
Total	32,362	100.0	62.9	45,114	100.0	90.8	77,476	100.0	76.6

Source: Census 2010

- Data indicates that 94% of Omani elderly in Al Wusta governorate are illiterate but they make up only 1.5% of the total illiterate Omani elderly. The lowest percentage of illiterate Omani elderly is reported in Muscat governorate and they form around 14% of the total illiterate Omani elderly.

Fourth: Economic Activity Status

The Civil Service Law

Article (140) included reasons for terminating employee's service, reaching the age of sixty is one of them.

Article (141): The service of the sixty-year-old employee may be extended for a maximum of five years provided that such extension is upon the request of the unit head. Extension procedures should be taken at least three months before the employee reaches sixty.

The Cabinet may make exception of the provisions of this Article in the cases it deems necessary. The provisions of this Law and its regulation shall apply to the employee during the extension period.

Royal Decree No.120/2004 and its amendments.

The Omani Labour Law

- The Omani labour law issued by Royal Decree No.35/2003 and its amendments did not specify an age for ending the service of an employee in the private sector.

The Elderly from Statistical Facts

Table No. (9): Percentage distribution of Omani population (60 years and above) by economic activity and sex in 1993, 2003 and 2010.

Economic Activity Status	1993			2003			2010		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Employed	33.4	1.2	18.0	23.2	1.2	13	19.4	1.5	10.6
Job seeker	6.2	0.1	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.5
In house domestic worker	0.0	54.3	26.0	0.1	47.4	22.1	2.0	57.2	29.1
Self – Sufficient	23.6	2.7	13.6	40.7	6.3	24.7	34.8	3.0	19.1
Unable to work	36.8	41.7	39.1	36	45.1	40.2	42.9	38.3	40.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Census 1993, 2003 & 2010

- Comparison of data from the three population censuses reveals that the percentage of employees among Omani elderly declined from one fifth to one tenth during the period (1993-2010), while the percentage of self-sufficient increased from around 14% to 19% during the same period.
- With regard to Omani elderly women, over the past seventeen years between 1993 and 2010 the largest percentage of them were housewives.

Distribution of Elderly Employees by Sector of Work

Table No. (10): Distribution of employed Omani's (60 years and above) by sector and sex in 2010.

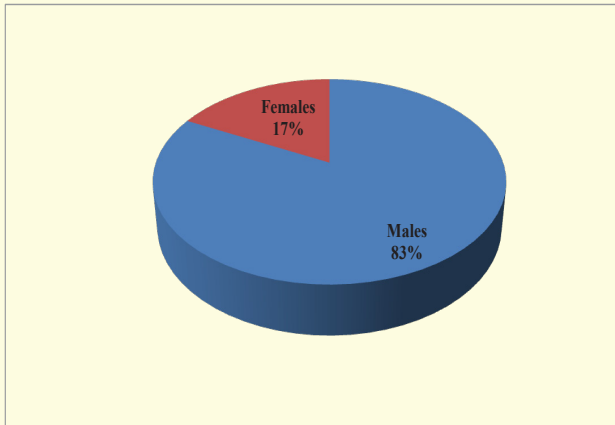
Sector	Males		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Public	2681	26.9	165	21.1	2846	26.5
Private	3552	35.6	116	15.1	3668	34.2
Family	3419	34.3	478	62.3	3897	36.3
Communal	156	1.6	5	0.7	616	1.5
Other	149	1.5	2	0.3	151	1.4
Not stated	8	0.1	1	0.1	9	0.1
Total	9965	100.0	767	100.0	10372	100.0

Source: Census 2010

The Elderly from Statistical Facts

- The percentage of Omani elderly working in the private and family sectors exceeds one third in each of them, while it exceeds one fourth in the public sector, taking into consideration that employed elderly in 2010 represents only one tenth of Omani elderly.
- Most of employed elderly (21%) are found in Muscat Governorate, followed by North Al Batinah Governorate reaching 18% and Ad Dakhiliyah Governorate posting around 14%.

Figure No. (5): Omani employees (60 years and above) in the civil service sector in 2010.



Source: Ministry of Civil Service, 2011, The Annual Statistics of Civil Service Employees 2010

- The Omani elderly employees in civil service sector accounted for 172 representing 40% of the total elderly employees in this sector in 2010.

The Elderly from Statistical Facts

Table No.(11):Distribution of Omanis (60 years and above) employed in the private sector and registered with the Public Authority for Social Insurance by sex during the period (2006–2010)

Sex	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Males	842	864	989	12.7	1347
Female	23	32	35	53	61
Total	865	896	1024	1260	1408
Percentage of total registered Omanis	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8

Source: Ministry of National Economy, Statistical Year Books for the period (2006-2010).

- Statistics reveal the increase of the number of Omani elderly employed by the private sector and registered with the Public Authority for Social Insurance by 63% during the period 2006 – 2010. In general, the registered Omani elderly represents around 0.8% of the total Omanis registered with the Authority during (2006-2010).

Fifth: SOCIAL STATUS

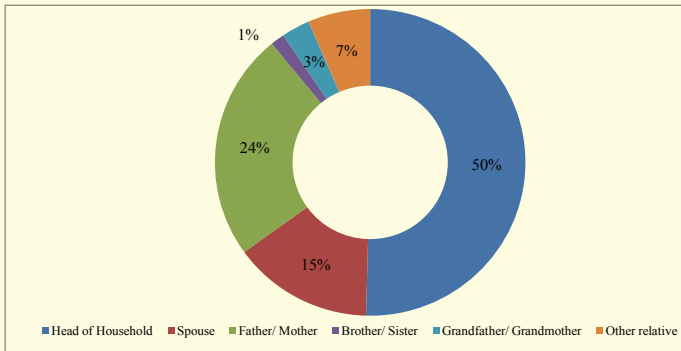
Table No.(12) : Percentage distribution of Omanis (60 years and above) by sex and marital Status in 1993, 2003 and 2010

Year	Sex	Marital Status					Total
		Never Married	Married	Divorced	Widow	Not Stated	
1993	Males	3.8	80.5	5.9	9.5	0.4	100.0
	Females	1.5	30.8	9.1	55.9	2.6	100.0
	Total	2.7	56.7	7.4	31.7	1.4	100.0
2003	Males	3.1	84.2	4.3	8.3	0.1	100.0
	Females	1.2	36.5	7.9	52.2	2.2	100.0
	Total	2.2	61.8	6.0	28.9	1.1	100.0
2010	Males	2.3	86.8	3.5	7.4	0.0	100.0
	Females	0.9	39.3	6.9	52.9	0.0	100.0
	Total	1.6	63.5	5.2	29.7	0.0	100.0

Source: Census 1993, 2003 and 2010

- Generally, the pattern of the distribution of Omani elderly by marital status remained nearly similar in the three population censuses, though there was a drop in the percentage of widows and divorced against an increase in the number of married Omanis.

Figure No.(6):Distribution of Omani population (60 years and above) by relationship to the head of household.



Source: Census 2010

- Half of Omani elderly in 2010 are household heads and 11% of those are women.
- Around 7% of Omani elderly live within an Omani household without being first degree relatives to the head of household.

Sixth: SOCIAL CARE

The basic law of the Country

Article (12) : The Social principles

The state guarantees assistance for the citizen and his family in cases of emergency, sickness, incapacity and old age in accordance with the social security system according to the scheme of the social security.

Royal Decree No.101/1996

Social Insurance law

Article (1): The following definition is for the old age cases included within the Social Security Law:

Old Age: Every male or female who reached the age of 60 and has no breadwinner capable and committed to bear his / her expenses and has no adequate source of income.

Article (12): The following individuals as defined in Article (1) have the right to get a monthly pension in accordance with the provisions of this law. The Minister may issue a resolution to amend these groups as may be required in coordination with the financial authorities.

- a) Orphans b) Widows c) Divorced d) Unmarried girls
- e) Unable f) The elderly g) Deserted h) families of prisoners.

The use of this law is limited on the Omani citizens and their families, and takes into account in all cases, the lack of an adequate source of income, or the absence of a binding breadwinner capable of alimony.

Royal Decree No.87/1984 and its amendments

Social Insurance Law Entitlement to Old Age Pension

Article (21): The insured is entitled for a pension from the Public Authority for Social Insurance according to the subscription period starting from the date of application of this law, whether consecutive or separate covering the following cases:

End of service of the insured by reaching the age of sixty if the period of his subscription in insurance was 180 months at least, or the insured reached the fifty five of her age if her period of subscription in insurance was 120 months at least.

End of service of the insured before he reaches the age of sixty if his subscription period was 240 months at least, or the insured before she reaches the age of fifty five if her subscription was 180 months at least provided that each of them has reached the age of forty five at least.

End of service of the insured after the age of sixty for males and the age of fifty five for female employees when the subscription period was 180 months at least, including not less than 36 months in continuous service during the last five years preceding the end of service.

Article (27) : The old age pension is calculated as one fortieth of the average insured monthly salary during the last five years of the subscription period or if this period was less it will be multiplied by the number of years of subscription in the insurance system by RO.100 per month as a minimum and with a minimum of 80% from the average mentioned above.

Royal Decree No.72/91 and its amendments.

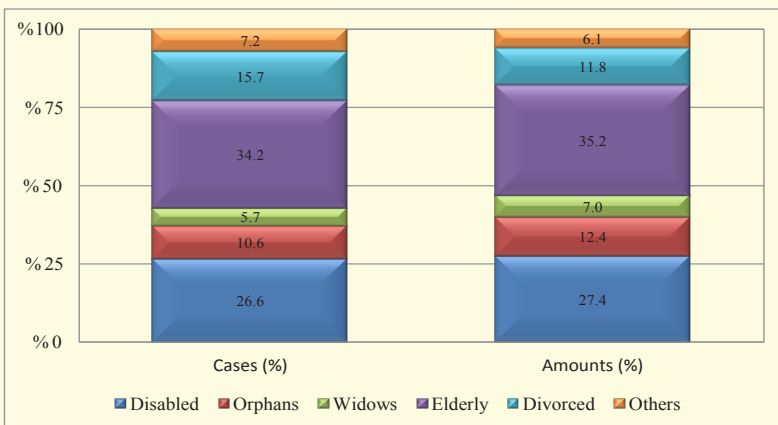
Social Welfare Services

- 1- There is a home for the provision of care for the elderly though relatively small and receives few and rare cases of the elderly who have no relatives thus in need for staying in this home.
- 2- In its endeavor to achieve social support, the Ministry of Social Development is implementing a program for securing alternative families to provide care for the elderly with no relatives to support them.
- 3- In October 2011 the National Program of Home Care for the Elderly was launched with the aim of providing social and health care services for the elderly within their social surrounding. This program is the outcome of cooperation and partnership between the ministries of Health and Social development.

The Elderly from Statistical Facts

- 3- In October 2011 the National Program of Home Care for the Elderly was launched with the aim of providing social and health care services for the elderly within their social surrounding. This program is the outcome of cooperation and partnership between the ministries of Health and Social development.
- 4- The first Omani Society with the name of (Elderly Friends Society) in Wilayat Al Hamrah in Ad Dakhiliyah Governorate was promulgated on 17th January, 2010.
- 5- The Ministry of Social Development implements Income Generating Projects for the purpose of improving the income of the families of the elderly.
- 6- There are (11) pension funds in the Sultanate providing social protection for Omanis retired from different institutions. Nine of them are governmental funds covering workers in various fields of the public and private sectors and two funds cover employees of two companies operating in the oil field.

Figure (7) : Percentage Distribution of Welfare cases and amounts paid by type of cases in 2010



Source: Ministry of Civil Service, Ministry of National Economy , Statistical year book 2011

- Elderly cases constituted around one third of the social welfare cases in 2010. These cases received around 35% of the total welfare funds.