

Oman

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor²⁸⁹⁰

Population, children, 5-14 years:	-
Working children, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working boys, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working girls, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	Not compulsory
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	80.3
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2007:	72.7
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 1999:	69.2
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2006:	98.5
ILO Convention 138:	7/21/2005
ILO Convention 182:	6/11/2001
CRC:	12/9/1996*
CRCOPAC:	9/17/2004*
CRCOPSC:	9/17/2004*
Palermo:	5/13/2005*
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

*Accession

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Oman work in family businesses and informal occupations involving agriculture and fishing.²⁸⁹¹ Camel racing is part of the Bedouin cultural heritage; children as young as 7 years reportedly participate in competitive races.²⁸⁹²

Because of limited data, it is difficult to ascertain whether child prostitution, pornography, or trafficking exists in Oman. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has noted that a large number of migrant workers enter Oman each year; trafficked children may be among them.²⁸⁹³

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for admission to work in Oman is 15 years; however, for certain hazardous occupations the minimum age is 18 years.²⁸⁹⁴ The minimum age provision and other child labor laws do not apply to children working in family businesses.²⁸⁹⁵ Minors 15 to 18 years are only permitted to work 6 hours per day and no more than 4 consecutive hours without a break. They are only permitted to work between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. and may not work overtime, on holidays, or on rest days.²⁸⁹⁶ Workplaces that employ minors are required to post certain items for display, including a copy of the provisions of the law regulating the employment of children; an updated log with the names, ages, and dates of employment of minors employed in the workplace; and a work schedule showing work hours, rest periods, and weekly holidays.²⁸⁹⁷ A royal decree sets the maximum prison term at 1 month and/or a fine for employers who repeatedly use child labor.²⁸⁹⁸ In August 2005, the Government began raising annually by 1 year the minimum legal age to work as a camel jockey. As of January 2009, the current minimum legal age was 17 years.²⁸⁹⁹

Forced labor by children is prohibited by law.²⁹⁰⁰ The crime of inciting a minor under 18 years into prostitution is punishable by not less than 5 years of imprisonment.²⁹⁰¹ Pornography, including the production, possession, or distribution of pornographic material in general, is punishable by up to 1 year of imprisonment and a fine. However, there is no explicit prohibition on child pornography.²⁹⁰²

The 2008 Law Combating Human Trafficking stipulates 7 to 15 years of imprisonment and a fine for traffickers if the victim is less than 18 years.²⁹⁰³ The crime of enslaving a person carries a prison sentence between 3 and 15 years.²⁹⁰⁴ Similarly, the crimes of receiving, possessing, acquiring, maintaining, or causing a person to enter or exit Oman in a state of servitude or slavery are punishable by 3 to 5 years of imprisonment.²⁹⁰⁵ Between April 2007 and March

2008, the Government of Oman did not report any prosecutions for offenses related to acts of trafficking.²⁹⁰⁶ It is illegal to engage a minor in illicit activities such as drug production or trafficking, or any other activity linked with narcotic drugs; such offenses are punishable by death.²⁹⁰⁷

The minimum age for voluntary military recruitment is 18 years.²⁹⁰⁸

The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) is responsible for the enforcement of child labor laws; however, USDOS reports that enforcement does not often extend to some small businesses, especially those engaged in agriculture and fishing.²⁹⁰⁹ In 2008, MOM increased its capacity for monitoring labor practices by hiring approximately 100 new labor inspectors.²⁹¹⁰ In practice, most employers ask each prospective employee for a certificate indicating that he or she has completed basic education through grade 10. Considering that children usually begin their basic education at 6 years, this means that workers, in most cases, will be at least 16 years when they begin work.²⁹¹¹

Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government operates a 24-hour hotline to allow citizens to report claims of labor abuses, including trafficking.²⁹¹² In 2008, ILO trained 100 MOM inspectors on the requirements of core ILO conventions, as well as on how to recognize signs of trafficking.²⁹¹³

²⁸⁹⁰ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For minimum age for admission to work, age to which education is compulsory, and free public education, see Government of Oman, *Royal Decree No. 35/2003: Oman Labour Law*, (May 3, 2003), article 75. See also U.S. Department of State, "Oman," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, sections 5 and 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/nea/119124.htm>.

²⁸⁹¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Oman," section 6d. See also UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted*

by States Parties Under Article 44 of the Convention: Concluding Observations: Oman, CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, Geneva, September 29, 2006; available from http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/co/CRC_C_OMN_CO_2.pdf.

²⁸⁹² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Oman," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Muscat, *reporting*, March 3, 2008.

²⁸⁹³ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations: Oman*, sections 65 and 66(a). See also UNODC, *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns*, Vienna, 2006, 19-20; available from http://www.unodc.org/pdf/traffickinginpersons_report_2006ver2.pdf. See also UN Human Rights Council, *Implementation of General Assembly Resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 Entitled Human Rights Council. Report of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, Sigma Huda*, A/HRC/4/23/Add.2, Geneva, April 25, 2007, para 35; available from <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/466d6231e.html>.

²⁸⁹⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Oman," section 6d.

²⁸⁹⁵ Government of Oman, *Labour Law*, (2003), article 2; available from <http://www.directory-oman.com/labourlaw.htm>.

²⁸⁹⁶ Government of Oman, *Oman Labour Law*, articles 75-77.

²⁸⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, article 78.

²⁸⁹⁸ U.S. Embassy- Muscat, *reporting*, November 7, 2006.

²⁸⁹⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Oman," section 6d. See also U.S. Embassy- Muscat, *reporting*, March 3, 2008. See also U.S. Embassy- Muscat official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, April 15, 2009.

²⁹⁰⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Oman," section 6d.

²⁹⁰¹ Government of Oman, *Penal Code*, (1974), article 220; available from <http://www.interpol.int/public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws/csaOman.asp>.

²⁹⁰² ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Oman (ratification: 2001)*, [online] 2007 [cited January 28, 2009]; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/appl-displayAllComments.cfm?conv=C182&ctry=2790&hdroff=1&lang=EN>. See also Government of Oman, *Penal Code*, articles 34 and 224. See also Government of Oman, *Written Communication*, submitted in response to U.S. Department of Labor Federal Register Notice (December 19, 2008) "Request for Information on Efforts by Certain Countries to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor.", Washington, DC, January 23, 2009.

²⁹⁰³ Government of Oman, *Royal Decree No. 126/2008: Law Combating Trafficking in Persons*, (November 23, 2008), article 9. See also U.S. Embassy- Muscat, *reporting*, January 21, 2009, para 3. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Oman," section 6d.

²⁹⁰⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Oman (Tier 3)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/index.htm>.

²⁹⁰⁵ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labor*.

²⁹⁰⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Oman." See also U.S. Embassy- Muscat, *reporting, March 3, 2008*.

²⁹⁰⁷ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labor*.

²⁹⁰⁸ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Oman," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.childsoldiers>

globalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf. See also Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook - Oman*, [online] January 22, 2009 [cited January 29, 2009]; available from <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/files/2024.html>.

²⁹⁰⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Oman," section 6d.

²⁹¹⁰ U.S. Embassy- Muscat, *reporting*, January 21, 2009, para. 6.

²⁹¹¹ U.S. Embassy- Muscat, *reporting*, August 23, 2004.

²⁹¹² Sultanate of Oman- Ministry of Education, *National Report on Quality Education in Oman*, Muscat, 2004, 16, 25-28, 41; available from <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/International/ICE47/English/Natrep/ports/oman.pdf>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Oman." See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Oman," section 5.

²⁹¹³ U.S. Embassy- Muscat, *reporting, January 21, 2009*, para 6.

Pakistan

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Pakistan work in agriculture, manufacturing, construction, transport, and domestic service.²⁹¹⁴ Children of Afghan refugees, who live along the borders of Pakistan, are especially susceptible to hazardous child labor.²⁹¹⁵

Many of the activities in which children are employed are hazardous, including rag picking, leather tanning, coal mining, deep-sea fishing, brick making, carpet weaving, and manufacturing surgical instruments and glass bangles.²⁹¹⁶ Children working in the glass bangle sector are exposed to high temperatures, unstable material, fumes, and sharp objects.²⁹¹⁷ Children working in the tannery sector are exposed to toxic chemicals, and those working in the brick sector lift heavy loads.²⁹¹⁸ Children working in carpet-weaving suffer eye and lung diseases due to unsafe working conditions.²⁹¹⁹ Child miners, child domestics, and other working children who are far from their families are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse.²⁹²⁰

Bonded child labor reportedly exists in the coal, brick, and carpet industries.²⁹²¹ Some children working in mining, domestic service, and agriculture are from families who are bonded or indebted to their employers.²⁹²² Commercial sexual exploitation of children continues to be a problem.²⁹²³ Children are trafficked within Pakistan for the purposes of sexual exploitation and bonded labor.²⁹²⁴ Girls are trafficked internationally for forced labor.²⁹²⁵

There are reports of children being kidnapped, maimed, and forced to work as beggars.²⁹²⁶ There also reports of children under the minimum voluntary recruitment age of 17 years being involved in armed conflict.²⁹²⁷

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

In Pakistan, children of any age may be employed, provided that employers adhere to restrictions. It is illegal to employ children under 14 years in mines or other hazardous occupations or processes.²⁹²⁸ Among the 4 occupations and 34 processes considered illegal for children to work are mixing and manufacturing pesticides and