

EU-OMAN RELATIONS



European Union (EU27)

- Area: 4.2 million km²
- Population: 447 million (M)
- GDP: 14.5 trillion euros (€)



Sultanate of Oman

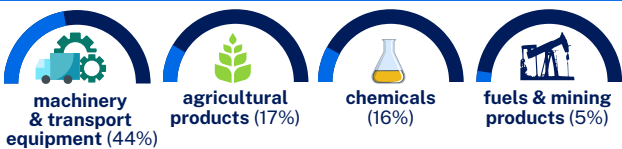
- Area: 309,500 km²
- Population: 4.6 M
- GDP: US\$ 74 billion (€70 B)

Oman's Embassy in Brussels also acts as a representation to the EU.

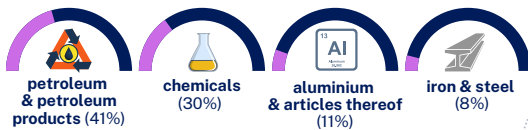
The EU delegation in Riyadh is accredited to Oman. The EU plans to open a Delegation in Muscat in 2023.

Over 10 years, Oman-EU trade in goods increased by 0.8%, totalling €3.2 B in 2021.

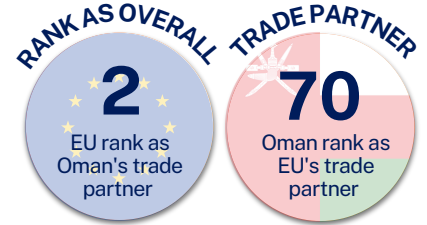
EU exports to Oman (76%)



Omani exports to the EU (24%)



Oman is strategically located on the southeastern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, near global shipping lanes connecting the Asian, African, and European markets.



(European Commission, 2022)

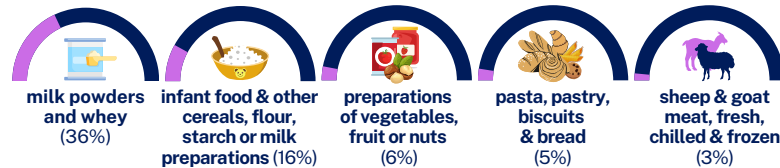


Oman ranked 57th among the EU's agri-food trade partners (2021).

Growth of EU agri-food exports to Oman:



EU'S MAIN AGRI-FOOD EXPORTS TO OMAN:



(Source: European Commission, UN Comtrade, 2022)



Oman exports to the EU (25%)



EU exports to Oman (75%)



(Eurostat, 2022)

STUDENT EXCHANGES

(UNESCO)

Oman participates in ERASMUS+



INVESTMENTS

(Eurostat, EEAS)

- +4% The stock of Omani investment (FDI) in the EU increased from €1.26 B (2019) to €1.31 B (2020).
- 51% EU FDI in Oman fell from €9.8 B (2019) to €4.7 B (2020).



MILESTONES



- 1990: Oman hosted the 1st Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting between the EC and the GCC (European Communities and Gulf Cooperation Council).
- 1994: The EC, GCC and Oman co-organised the first EC-GCC Energy Policy Symposium to strengthen Euro-Gulf energy links.
- 1995: Muscat hosted the 3rd EC-GCC Industrial Conference aiming to boost EU investment and joint venture creation in the GCC region.
- 1996: The 6th Joint EU-GCC Council agreed to establish the EU-GCC Technology Information Centre in Oman.
- 1998: The European Commission was authorised to launch negotiations on the EC's accession to the Middle East Desalination Research Centre established in Muscat in 1996 as part of the Middle East Peace Process.
- 2004: The EU opened a Delegation in Riyadh accredited to Oman and the rest of the GCC.
- 2009: Oman began to provide logistical support to EU's naval Operation Atalanta, which has since then frequented ports of Muscat, Duqm and Salalah.
- 2009: Belgium's Antwerp Port and Oman's Government formed a joint venture, the Port of Duqm Company (PDC), which received a 28-year concession to operate, develop and manage Oman's Duqm Port in 2015.
- 2010: Oman's Global Connections Center (Tawasul) won second place in the annual EU Chaillot Prize for its capacity building programme on women participation in elections.

- 2014: Oman hosted high-level talks between the EU, US and Iran on the latter's nuclear programme.
- 2014: The EU and Oman co-organised a Blue Economy conference in Muscat.
- 2018: The European External Action Service (EEAS) and Oman's Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed a Cooperation Agreement.
- 2019: Oman hosted the 4th EU-GCC Business Forum and the 1st EU-GCC Regional Workshop on Energy-Water Nexus.
- 2019: The 1st EU-Oman Senior Officials Meeting convened in Brussels.
- 2021: Oman exempted nationals of 103 countries, including the 27 EU member states, from an entry visa for a stay of up to 14 days.
- 2021: Oman became the second GCC country to initial a comprehensive air transport agreement with the EU.
- 2021: The EU, Oman and South Korea conducted their first joint naval and information exchange exercise in the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea.
- 2022: Oman and the European Commission continue discussions on EU Schengen visa waivers for Omani citizens.
- September 2022: Oman became the last GCC country to initiate a human rights dialogue with the EEAS.
- 2023: Planned opening of an EU Delegation in Oman.