



# Global Immigration alert

September 2024

## Oman

Oman implements new restrictions on professions available to foreign nationals

### Executive summary

On 1 September 2024, the Omani Ministry of Labor published [Ministerial Decree No. 501/2024](#) ("Decree") in the Official Gazette restricting additional categories of professions for foreign nationals, effective as of the day following the date of its publication (with certain exceptions). On 13 August 2024, the Ministry also published [Ministerial Decision No. 452/2024](#) ("Decision") suspending for six months the issuance of permits to foreign nationals working in specific professions, effective 1 September 2024.

### Restricted professions

The Decree amends several provisions of [Ministerial Resolution No. 235/2022](#) and will come into force in phases. Under the Decree, certain new professions, in addition to the pre-existing list of restricted professions, will be restricted for foreign nationals. These include the following:

- ▶ Effective 2 September 2024: marketing specialists, tourist and travel agents, quality officers, quality control managers and mechanical technicians, among others
- ▶ Effective 1 January 2025: systems analysts, information systems networks specialists, marine controllers, ship traffic controllers and computer maintenance technicians
- ▶ Effective 1 January 2026: computer programmers, electronic computer engineers and electronic computer operators
- ▶ Effective 1 January 2027: website designers and operations analysts

### Temporary suspension of permits

According to the Decision, effective 1 September 2024, the issuance of trading permits for the temporary employment of foreign nationals in several professions in private sector establishments is suspended for six months. Impacted professions include construction workers, chefs, electricians and tailors, among others. The authorities may issue permits to individuals employed in these professions if they submit the request for renewal or transfer of services within Oman. The Decision is based on the Labor Law issued by [Royal Decree No. 53/2023](#) and the service guidelines issued by the Ministry of Labor.

### Impact on employers

Employers may review their workforce composition and restructure their talent management strategies as required to comply with the new legislation.

### Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

## EY | Building a better working world

EY exists to build a better working world, helping create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via [ey.com/privacy](https://ey.com/privacy). EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit [ey.com](https://ey.com).

Ernst & Young LLP is a client-serving member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited operating in the US.

© 2024 Ernst & Young LLP.  
All Rights Reserved.

EYG no. 008001-24Gbl

2101-3682263  
ED None

**[ey.com](https://ey.com)**

### **Roman Gusev**

Partner - People Advisory Services Tax, MENA Immigration  
Tel: +973 3365 1121  
Email: [roman.gusev@bh.ey.com](mailto:roman.gusev@bh.ey.com)

### **Sana Sheikh**

Director - People Advisory Services Tax, MENA Immigration  
Tel: +971 5593 88963  
Email: [sana.sheikh@ae.ey.com](mailto:sana.sheikh@ae.ey.com)

### **Fabia Fernandes**

Senior Consultant - People Advisory Services Tax, MENA Immigration  
Tel: +971 4701 0858  
Email: [fabia.fernandes@ae.ey.com](mailto:fabia.fernandes@ae.ey.com)

### **Ben Willis**

Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEIA Immigration Leader  
Tel: +44 20 7951 9589  
Email: [ben.willis@uk.ey.com](mailto:ben.willis@uk.ey.com)

### **Seema Farazi**

Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEIA Immigration Leader  
Tel: +44 20 7951 7122  
Email: [seema.farazi@uk.ey.com](mailto:seema.farazi@uk.ey.com)