



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.

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