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Oman inflation rises to 3.4% as food prices climb 7% in August

Vegetable prices surged 19% year-on-year, while fruits rose 16.3% and meat 9.8%, adding pressure to household food costs.

The average inflation rate during the January-August 2026 period stood at 2.9 percent.

Transport recorded the sharpest year-on-year increase among the main expenditure groups, rising 8.5 percent, followed by food and non-alcoholic beverages at 7 percent and miscellaneous personal goods and services at 6.1 percent.

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Oman urges citizens, students travelling to India to secure comprehensive health insurance

Oman's Consulate General in Mumbai has urged Omani citizens travelling to India, particularly students, to ensure they have comprehensive health insurance covering the full duration of their stay.

The advisory, issued on September 12, comes amid an increase in cases



requiring medical care and hospital treatment, the consulate said.

Oman's Labour Ministry offers 2,538 government jobs, moves to replace 110 expat trainers in vocational colleges

The opportunities included 1,681 positions in the first announcement and 757 in the second, alongside 100 positions allocated for people with disabilities, bringing the total opportunities offered through the three recruitment tracks to 2,538.

Abdullah bin Sultan Al Sunaidi, Director of the Employment and Replacement Department in the Government Sector at the Ministry of Labour, said the first-half results reflected the ministry's continued implemen-

tation of government employment plans based on the actual workforce needs of government entities.



Oman cracks down on unlicensed crypto mining, warns equipment suppliers of legal penalties

Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion has warned companies and individuals against selling or supplying cryptocurrency mining equipment to unauthorised operators.

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The ministry said it had observed cases in which cryptocurrency mining equipment was being sold or supplied to individuals and entities that had not obtained the licences, permits and approvals required to carry out such activities.

Under the ministry's notice, sellers are prohibited from completing transactions involving cryptocurrency mining equipment unless the purchaser is legally authorised to conduct cryptocurrency mining activities.



Oman Air creates first-ever Chief Guest Experience Officer role

Oman Air has announced the recruitment of its first-ever Chief Guest Experience Officer (CGXO), reinforcing the airline's commitment to delivering a more seamless, personalized and smart experience across every stage of the guest journey.

The Chief Guest Experience Officer will lead the airline's guest experience strategy, driving enhancements across products, services and touchpoints, from booking and airport services to onboard meals and loyalty, while championing a culture of customer-centricity throughout the business.

The appointment comes as Oman Air continues its transformation journey and follows the recent appointment of Chief Executive Officer, Nasser Al Sharji, who has outlined a clear vision focused on strengthening operational excellence, commercial performance and guest satisfaction.



Oman Tax Authority sets benchmark prices for tobacco products under new excise tax rules

Oman's Tax Authority has issued Decision No. 206/2026 establishing a benchmark pricing mechanism for tobacco and tobacco products to determine the value on which excise tax is calculated.

Under the decision, the benchmark price will be set by the Tax Authority for goods subject to excise tax and will represent the minimum value used as the basis for calculating the levy, depending on the type and quantity of the product.

Oman's Royal Hospital opens nominations for community representative on its board



Royal Hospital has opened nominations for a community representative to join its Board of Directors to strengthen community participation and ensure the voices of patients and the wider community are reflected in the hospital's services.

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The hospital said the selected representative will serve a voluntary two-year term and contribute to improving healthcare services, enhancing the patient experience and strengthening engagement with the community. One community representative will be selected.

Al Buraimi backs rural women in Oman with new income-generating projects

Around 90 women registered as agricultural and livestock initiatives aim to create sustainable income and strengthen food security.

Programs and initiatives implemented by the Directorate General of Agricultural Wealth and Water Resources in Al Buraimi Governorate are helping rural women transform household activities into productive ventures that generate sustainable income and contribute to food security.

Engineer Sheikha bint Hamad Al Kindi, Head of the Rural Development Department at the Directorate General, said around 90 rural women are currently registered in productive projects across the governorate.



North Al Sharqiyah expands housing projects as urban growth gathers pace in Oman

North Al Sharqiyah Governorate is witnessing a major expansion in housing and urban development in 2026, with new residential land, social housing projects, integrated neighbourhoods and digital services being rolled out to support population growth and improve quality of life.



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Prices also increased in restaurants and hotels by 3.6 percent, furniture, household equipment and routine maintenance by 3.1 percent, education by 2.2 percent, health by 1.7 percent, culture and entertainment by 0.4 percent, and clothing and footwear by 0.1 percent.

Meanwhile, prices in the communications and tobacco groups remained unchanged from August 2025, while the housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels category recorded a 0.6 percent decline.

At the governorate level, Al Dhahirah recorded the highest inflation rate at 4.8 percent, followed by Muscat at 3.9 percent, Al Dakhiliyah at 3.8 percent, and Al Wusta at 3.4 percent.

Inflation stood at 3.3 percent each in Musandam and Al Buraimi, followed by South Al Sharqiyah at 3.1 percent, South Al Batinah at 2.7 percent, North Al Batinah at 2.5 percent, North Al Sharqiyah at 2.2 percent, while Dhofar recorded the lowest rate at 2.1 percent.

Ooredoo Oman wins 'Best in Network Innovation' at fifth TAS Oman Business Awards

The recognition highlights Ooredoo Oman's continued investment in network innovation, advanced connectivity and digital infrastructure across the Sultanate.

Ooredoo Oman has been named 'Best in Network Innovation' at the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards, recognising the telecommunications company's efforts to advance connectivity and strengthen digital infrastructure across the Sultanate.

The award was presented during the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards ceremony at IntercityHotel Muscat, which brought together leading companies, executives, entrepreneurs and achievers from across Oman's business community.



Azza Jewels wins 'Best Jewellery Manufacturer of the Year' at fifth TAS Oman Business Awards

The recognition celebrates Azza Jewels for its craftsmanship, distinctive designs and contribution to Oman's growing jewellery industry.



Azza Jewels has been named 'Best Jewellery Manufacturer of the Year' at the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards, recognising the company's commitment to craftsmanship, design excellence and quality in Oman's jewellery sector.

The award was presented during the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards ceremony at IntercityHotel Muscat, which brought together prominent companies, entrepreneurs, executives and achievers from across the Sultanate.

Azza Jewels has built its presence in the jewellery market through a focus on design, craftsmanship and the creation of pieces that combine contemporary aesthetics with attention to detail.

The Best Jewellery Manufacturer of the Year award recognises the company's efforts to maintain high standards across jewellery design and manufacturing while building a distinctive presence in an increasingly competitive market.

Al Nab'a Services named 'Integrated Facilities Management Company of the Year' at fifth TAS Oman Business Awards

The company was recognised for its integrated approach to facilities management, operational excellence and commitment to quality, safety and sustainability in Oman.



Al Nab'a Services LLC has been named 'Integrated Facilities Management Company of the Year' at the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards, recognising its contribution to Oman's facilities management sector and its focus on delivering integrated, reliable and sustainable services.

The award was presented during the TAS Oman Business Awards ceremony at IntercityHotel Muscat, which brought together leading businesses, entrepreneurs and executives from across the Sultanate.

Al Nab'a Services is one of Oman's established integrated facilities management companies, providing services spanning cleaning and housekeeping, pest control and disinfection, landscaping and irrigation, MEP maintenance, waste management and recycling.

Art of Fragrance wins 'Perfume Manufacturer of the Year' at TAS Oman Business Awards

The recognition celebrates Art of Fragrance for its commitment to craftsmanship, creativity and quality in Oman's growing fragrance industry.

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Art of Fragrance has been named 'Perfume Manufacturer of the Year' at the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards, recognising the company's contribution to Oman's fragrance industry and its focus on craftsmanship, product quality and innovation.

The award was presented during the TAS Oman Business Awards ceremony at IntercityHotel Muscat, which brought together leading businesses, entrepreneurs, executives and achievers from across the Sultanate.



Passenger ship carrying over 241 people missing in Java Sea



Indonesian rescuers launched a major search operation on Sunday after losing contact with a passenger ship carrying more than 240 people in the Java Sea.

Indonesian search and rescue teams have been deployed after the Virgo Transport 8 lost contact while travelling from Surabaya in East Java to Banjarmasin in South Kalimantan, authorities said.

The vessel was reported to have encountered severe weather before communication was lost early on Sunday. Its last known position was in the Java Sea, around 148 kilometres from Banjarmasin.

The Banjarmasin Search and Rescue Office said it received information about the missing vessel in the early hours of Sunday and immediately dispatched personnel and rescue assets towards its last known location.

Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency, Basarnas, said the ship was carrying 243 passengers and crew, although earlier reports had placed the number on board at 241.

BRICS urges dialogue, restraint amid escalating Middle East conflict

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Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and the five other BRICS members have expressed grave concern over escalating tensions in the Middle East and West Asia, urging all sides to avoid actions that could further aggravate the situation.



Yemen displacement crisis deepens as 76,000 flee conflict

Yemen's displacement crisis is worsening rapidly, with at least 76,000 people forced to flee their homes since July amid escalating conflict, according to the International Organization for Migration.

The UN migration agency said the number has risen sharply in recent days, with around 46,000 people displaced during the latest escalation alone. The figures are expected to climb further as fighting continues along Yemen's West Coast and southern Taiz frontlines.

Taiz has been the hardest-hit governorate, where around 8,300 households, nearly 50,000 people, have been displaced from districts including Jabal Habashy, Al Ma'afer, Maqbanah, Mawza and Al Wazi'iyah.



In neighbouring Lahj, another 2,819 households, or close to 17,000 people, have been displaced, most of them from Al-Mudharibah district. More than 8,100 people have also fled parts of Al Hodeidah, while over 1,100 have been displaced in Aden.

Lando Norris secures 19th career pole at Spanish Grand Prix

Reigning Formula 1 world champion Lando Norris claimed pole position for the Spanish Grand Prix after edging championship leader Kimi Antonelli by just 0.011 seconds.

McLaren's Lando Norris produced a stunning final lap to secure his third pole position of the 2026 Formula 1 season and become the first driver to take pole at Madrid's new Mading circuit.

The British driver clocked a fastest lap of 1 minute 31.824 seconds, narrowly beating Mercedes' Italian championship leader Andrea Kimi Antonelli, who finished just 0.011 seconds behind.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen secured third place, finishing 0.140 seconds off Norris' pace, while Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton qualified fourth, 0.189 seconds behind the pole-sitter.

Hamilton's teammate Charles Leclerc completed the top five, just 0.195 seconds slower than Norris. George Russell will start sixth, followed by Oscar Piastri, Liam Lawson, Franco Colapinto and Arvid Lindblad in the top 10.

The result marked a strong comeback for Norris after gearbox trouble significantly limited his running during Friday practice.



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cantly limited his running during Friday practice.

His decisive Q3 lap also gave the 26-year-old the 19th pole position of his Formula 1 career and his third of the current season.

Norris described the effort as one of the finest qualifying laps of his career as he celebrated taking the top starting spot for Formula 1's inaugural race at Mading.

Rybakina crowned US Open champion after epic final

Elena Rybakina captured her maiden US Open title on Saturday after defeating two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 in a gripping women's singles final at Flushing Meadows.

The victory gave the 27-year-old Kazakh her third Grand Slam singles title, adding the US Open crown to her 2022 Wimbledon triumph and the Australian Open title she won earlier this year.



UTSC Global members meet Kerala Sports Minister in Muscat, discuss hockey development



Members of UTSC Global held discussions with Kerala Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Adv. O. J. Janeesh during his visit to Muscat, with a special focus on the development of hockey and improving sport-

ing facilities in the state. During the meeting, the UTSC delegation put forward suggestions aimed at strengthening hockey at the grass-roots level and providing players with better infrastructure.

