

Bahrain

Location:	Bahrain is an island state situated just off the shorelines of Saudi Arabia and Qatar in the Arabian Gulf.	
Geography:	The State of Bahrain consists of thirty-three islands. It was identified as a site of the ancient civilization of Dilmun. Major cities: Manama and Muharraq.	Constitution:
Population:	373,000 in (1980). ⁽¹⁾	A new 108 - article constitution was ratified in June 1973, and states that " all citizens shall be equal before the law" and guarantees freedom of speech, of the press, of conscience and religious beliefs.
Capital:	Manama.	Currency:
Languages:	Arabic.	Production:
Religions:	Islam, divided relatively evenly between Sunni and Shiah sects in the indigenous population, the Ruling Family belonging to the Sunnis.	Equal Pay Policy:
Education:	Education is free in Bahrain. Among the higher educational establishments is a Women's Teacher Training College and the Gulf Polytechnic College which has revised and upgraded its programmes. The newly established University College for Arts, Sciences and Education has initiated the first bachelors degree programme in Bahrain. The Arab Gulf University, is under construction in Bahrain. Literacy rate is 80 per cent.	Economy:
Birth Rate:	per 1000 pop. (1976-81): 31.0	Bahrain was the focal point for a pearl diving industry until 1930, Bahrain was the first producer of oil in the Gulf region. Oil in commercial quantity was found in 1932. Bahrain has 65 Offshore Banking Units (OBU) including some of the biggest US and UK banks. Three major industries: Aluminium, ship repair and engineering and petrochemicals.
Death Rate:	per 1000 pop. (1976-81): 6.0	Welfare:
Government:	Bahrain was proclaimed fully independent on August 14th 1971. Bahrain was a British protectorate for over 100 years. On August 17th, Sheikh Issa Bin Sulman al-Khalifa took the title of Amir. In September Bahrain became a member of the United Nations and the Arab League. In December 1972, 22 members were elected to seats in the 44 - member Constituent Council.	27 kindergartens and nurseries (1984).
		GDP:
		Budget:
		\$ 2.5 Billion. Finance Ministry figures show allocations for educational sector as BD 7.2 million (\$ 18.9 million) & BD 11.6 million (\$ 30.4 million). ⁽²⁾

(1) Al-Ebraheem, Hassan, Kuwait and the Gulf. Croom Helm, London 1984. p.75.

(2) MEED, Vol, 30, No.5, 1-7 February 1986. p. 7