

Executive Government

In 1948 the Government Organization Act specified that the Korean government should be divided into 11 executive ministries: Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Justice, National Defense, Finance, Education, Agriculture and Forestry, Commerce and Industry, Transportation, Social Affairs, and Postal Services. It also called for the formation of four non-executive ministries – Government Administration, Government Legislation, Planning, and the Bureau of Public Information – along with the formation of three committees: Inspection, Examination, and General Accounting. Since its inception in 1948, the structure of the Korean government has changed through the subsequent decades.

The election of President Park Guen-hye in 2013 ushered in what was called “A New Era of Hope and Happiness.” During the launch of the new administration in February, 2013, four key policy objectives were announced: Economic Revival (3 strategies, 42 goals), the People’s Happiness (4 strategies, 64 goals), Cultural Enrichment (3 strategies, 10 goals), and the Laying of the Foundation for Peaceful Unification (3 strategies, 13 goals). The Park government has also promoted an efficient governmental system which can support what it terms as a “creative economy,” and this has served as a guiding theme for economic revival, especially through the convergence of science and information and communications technologies. The New Era has also established that public safety is a matter of the highest priority in domestic affairs.

The current government has been organized into 17 Executive Ministries, 3 Ministries and 17 Offices according to the revised Government Organization Act amended in 2014 (Act no. 12844).

• **Ministry of Strategy and Finance:** This ministry administers “the establishment of mid- and long-term strategies for national development, formulation, overall control and coordination of economic

and financial policies, formulation, execution and performance management of budgets and funds, currency, foreign exchange, National Treasury, government accounting, internal tax system, customs, international finance, management of public institutions, economic cooperation, State property, private investment, and national debts.”

• **Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning:** This ministry takes charge of “the formulation, overall control and coordination of policies on science and technology, research, development and promotion of science and technology and cooperation therein, training of science and technology personnel, research, development, production and utilization of nuclear energy, planning of national informatization, protection of information, information culture, fusion and promotion of broadcasting and communications, management of radio waves, information and communications industry, postal service, postal money orders, and postal transfers.”

• **Ministry of Education:** This ministry is in charge of “policies on the development of human resources, school education, lifelong education, and sciences.”

• **Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** This ministry oversees “diplomacy, economic diplomacy, diplomacy for international economic cooperation, coordination of duties regarding international relations, treaties and other international agreements, protection of and support for Korean nationals abroad, formulation of policies on overseas Koreans and research and analysis of international circumstances.”

• **Ministry of Unification:** This ministry is in charge of “policies on unification, and dialogue, exchanges and cooperation between the South and North, education on unification, and other duties on unification.”

• **Ministry of Justice:** This ministry takes care of “prosecution, enforcement of sentences, protection of human rights, control of entry and departure into/from Korea, and other legal matters.”

• **Ministry of National Defense:** “The Minister of National Defense shall administer military administration, military command and other military duties,” and the Ministry is in charge of “enlistment, mobilization, and other duties of military administration.”

• **Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs:** This ministry assumes responsibility for “the formulation, overall management and coordination of policies on security and disaster, systems of emergency preparedness and civil defense, general affairs of the State Council, promulgation of Acts, subordinate statutes and treaties, government organization and prescribed number of public officials, personnel management, ethics, services and pension of public officials, awards and decorations, government reformation, administrative efficiency, electronic government, protection of personal information, maintenance of government buildings, local government systems, support for business, finance and taxation of local governments, support for underdeveloped regions, mediation of disputes among local governments, elections and referendums.”

• **Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism:** “The Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism shall administer duties concerning culture, arts, video, advertisement, publishing, publications, sports, tourism, publicity of State affairs and Government announcements.”

• **Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs:** This ministry oversees “agriculture, livestock farming, foods, farmland, irrigation, promotion of food industry, development of farming villages and distribution of agricultural products.”

• **Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy:** This ministry supervises “commerce, trade, industry, trade relations, trade negotiations, overall management and coordination of trade negotiations, foreign investment, policies on the research and development of industrial technology, energy and underground resources.”

• **Ministry of Health and Welfare:** This ministry is in charge of “health, sanitation, prevention of epidemics, medical administration, pharmaceutical administration, relief of the needy, support for self-sufficiency, social security, children (including infant care), elderly persons, and disabled persons.”

• **Ministry of Environment:** This ministry is devoted to “the conservation of natural and living environment and the prevention of environmental pollution.”

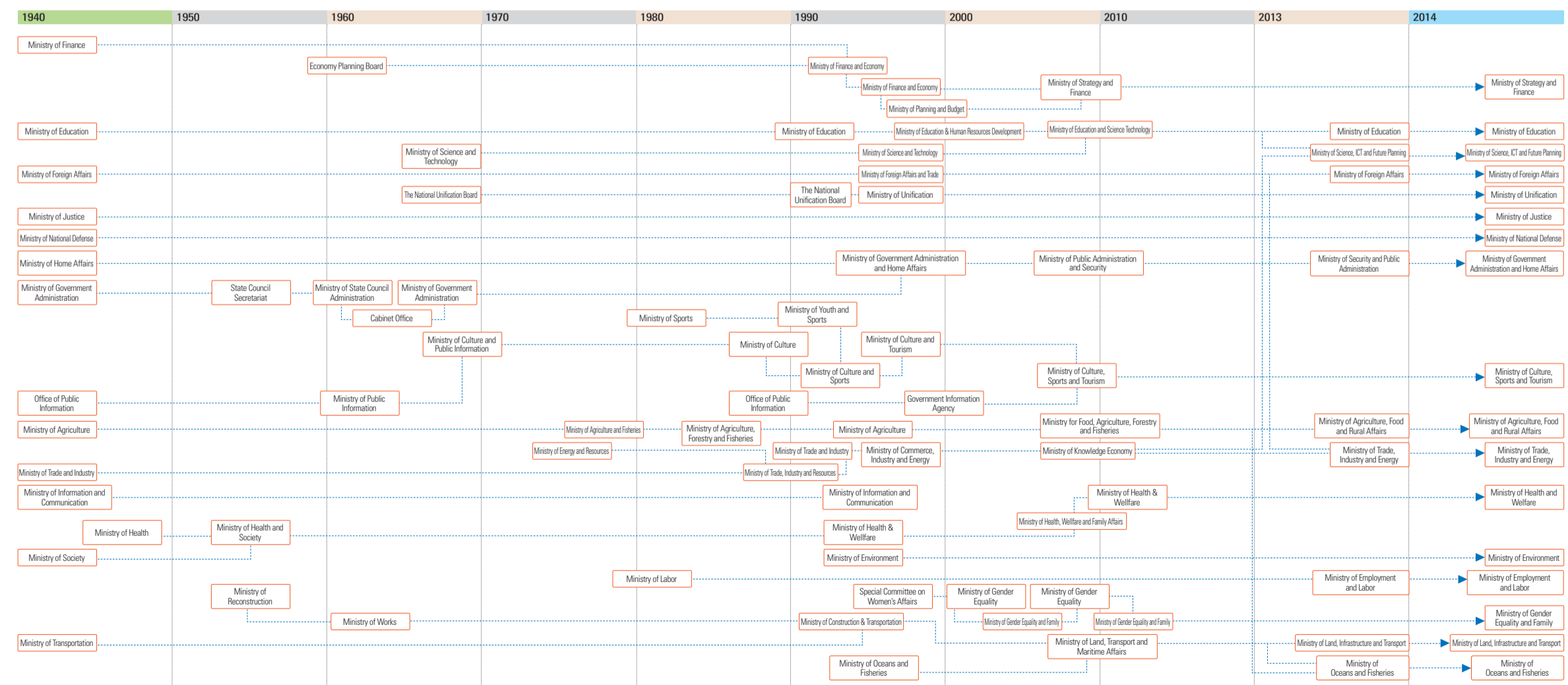
• **Ministry of Employment and Labor:** This ministry oversees “overall employment policies, employment insurance, development and training of occupational capability, standards for working conditions, workers’ welfare, coordination of labor-management relations, industrial safety and health, industrial accident compensation insurance, and other duties concerning employment and labor.”

• **Ministry of Gender Equality and Family:** This ministry focuses on “the planning and consolidation of policies on women, improvement of women’s status, such as promotion of women’s rights and interests, juveniles and families (including duties concerning multi-cultural families and children for healthy family projects).”

• **Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport:** This ministry controls “the formulation and coordination of comprehensive plans for national land, conservation, utilization, and development of national land and water resources, construction of cities, roads and houses, coasts, rivers reclamation, overland transportation, railroads, and aviation.”

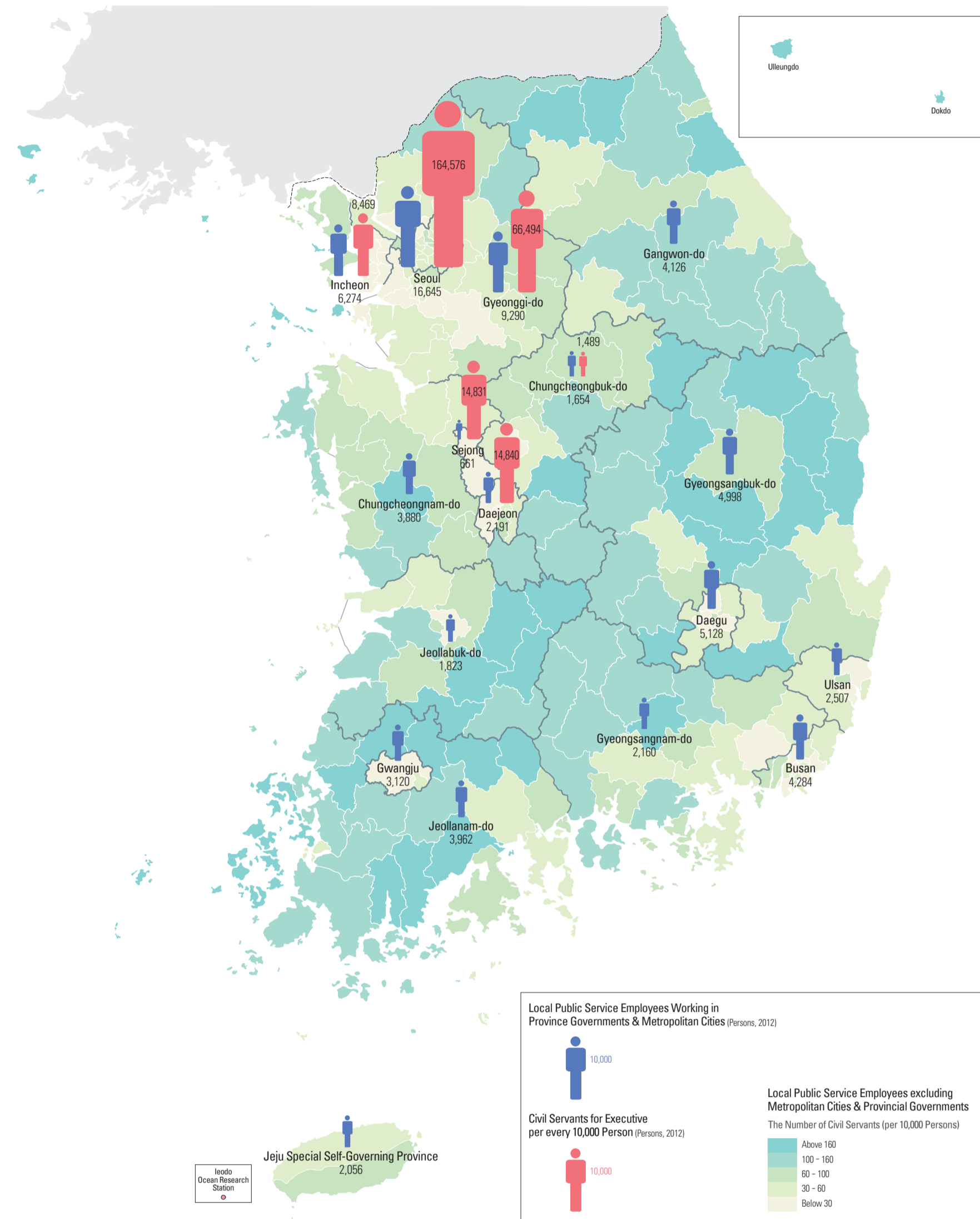
• **Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries:** This ministry oversees all matters “maritime policies, fisheries, development of fishing villages, distribution of marine products, maritime transportation, harbors, marine environment, ocean surveys, development of marine resources, research and development of marine science and technology, and adjudication on cases of maritime safety.”

Changes in Government Organization

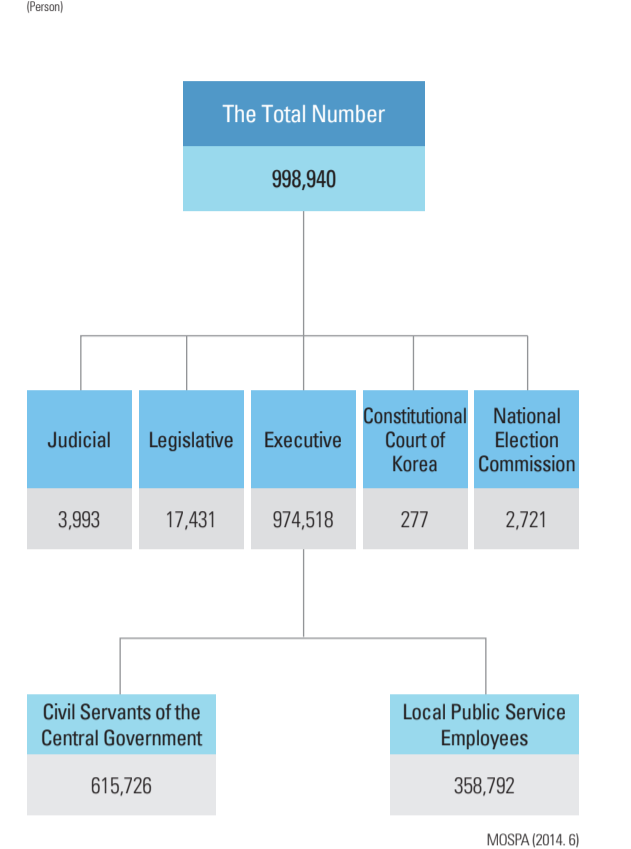


Civil Servants

Civil Servants of the Central and Local Governments



Number of Civil Servants



Civil Servants for Executive Government

Ministry	Number of Civil Servants
Ministry of Strategy and Finance	963
Ministry of Education	352,538
Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning	33,285
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2,483
Ministry of Unification	515
Ministry of Justice	21,071
Ministry of National Defense	935
Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs (former Ministry of Security and Public Administration)	3,314
Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism	2,705
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs	3,213
Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy	1,257
Ministry of Health and Welfare	3,023
Ministry of Environment	1,856
Ministry of Employment and Labor	5,747
Ministry of Gender Equality and Family	234
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport	3,899
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries	3,807
Other National Public Officials	174,881

Civil servants in Korea serve in one of five main groups: the Legislature, the Judiciary, the Administration, the Constitutional Court of Korea, and the National Election Commission. In 2013, the total number of civil servants was close to a million people (998,940). While the majority (97.6%: 974,518) of these serve the Administration, others are working in the Legislature (0.4%: 3,993), and the Judiciary (1.7%: 17,431). The National Election Commission and the Constitutional Court of Korea are staffed by only 0.3% (2,721) and 0.03% (277) respectively.

All civil servants also fall into one of two categories: national public officials and local public service employees. The former (63.2%: 615,726) are appointed by the President and the heads of each

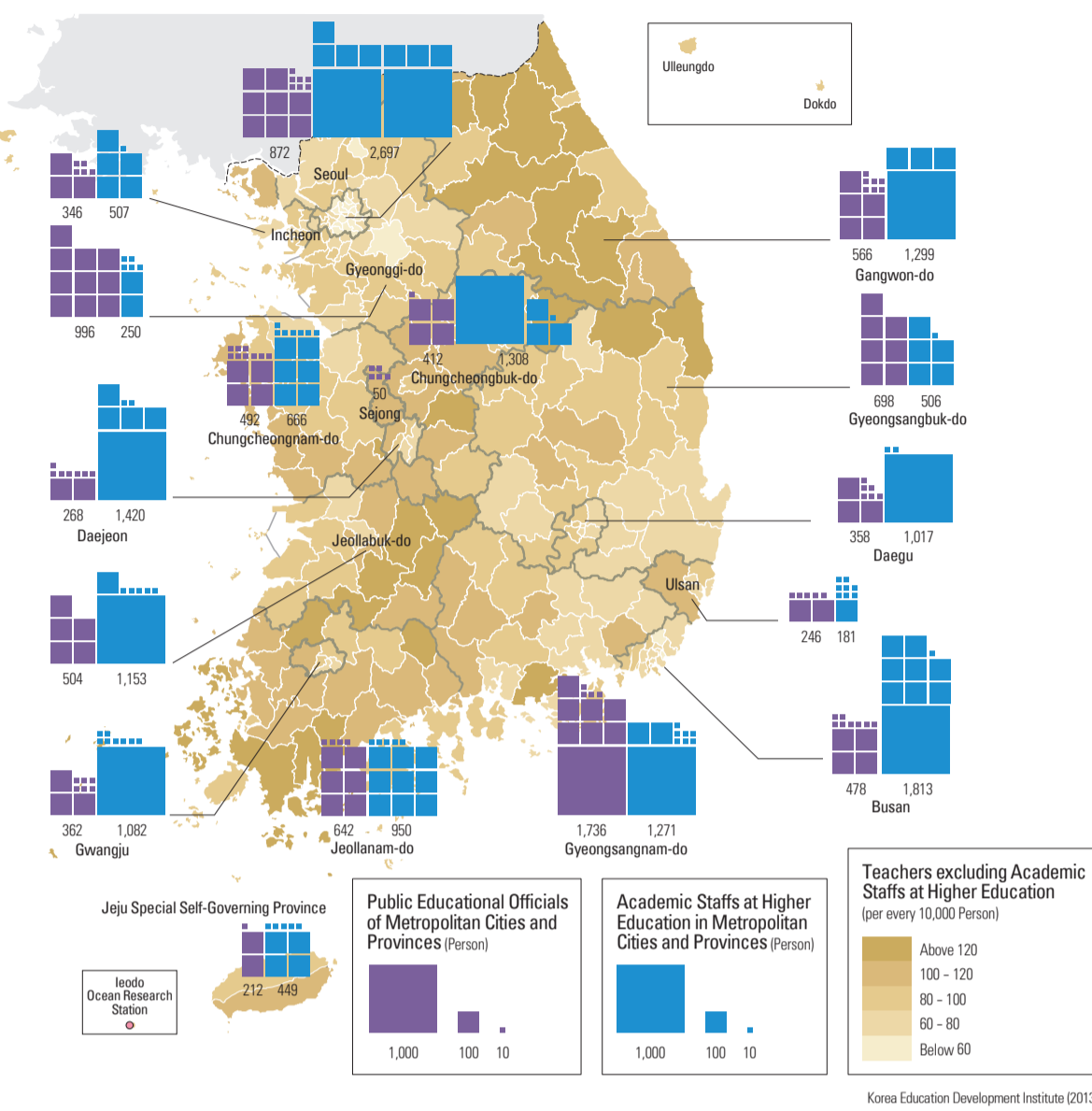
ministry; the latter (26.8%: 358,792) are called to office by the head of the local government according to the Local Officials Act (Ministry of Security and Public Administration, 2014).

Almost 44.1% (440,845) of national public officials work for one of the 17 Executive Ministries. The Ministry of Education has the highest percentage (35.3%) with 352,538 officials. Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning and the Ministry of Justice take up 3.3% (33,285) and 2.1% (21,071) each. The percentage of those who do not belong to governmental agencies other than the 17 Ministries is 17.5% (174,881).

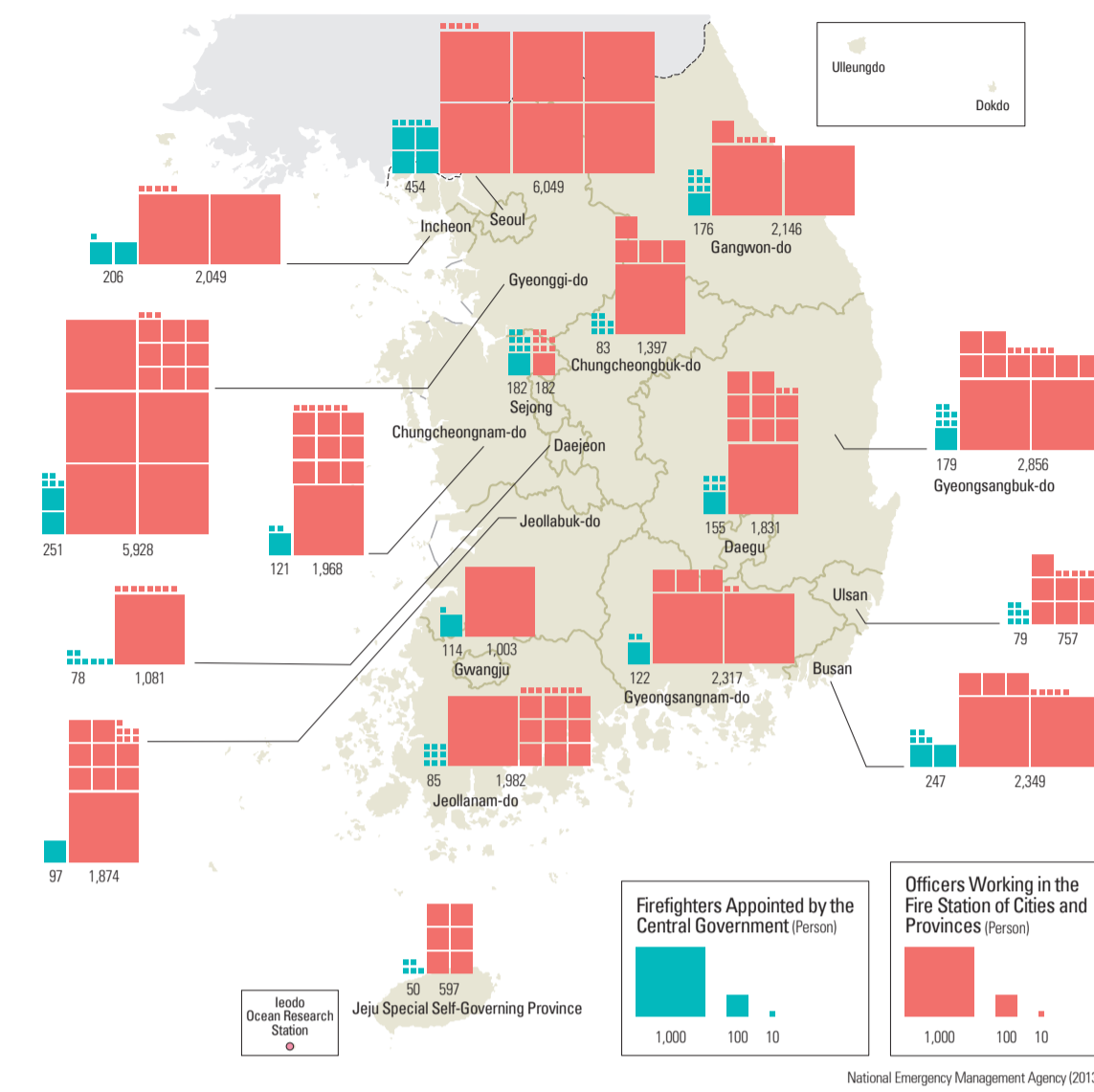
The Civil Service map presents the ratio of national public officials and local public service employees per

every 10 thousand people by region. In terms of the regional distribution of the former, they are concentrated in Seoul (32.3), Gyeonggi-do (13.1), the Sejong Special Autonomous City (2.9) and Daejeon (2.9), respectively. The Sejong Special Autonomous City in particular has the highest rate (58.4) of the latter as a percentage of the population, which is three times higher in ratio than the average (20.8). It is followed by the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (35.2), Gangwon-do (26.8), Incheon (22.1), Gwangju (21.1), Jeollanam-do, and Daegu. Gyeongsangnam-do has the lowest in ratio (6.5). Ulleung-gun (385.1) and Yeongyang-gun (308.7) in Gyeongsangbuk-do contain the highest ratios in the sub-areas while the Bupyeong-gu (17.2) and the Seo-gu (17.7) in Incheon contain the lowest.

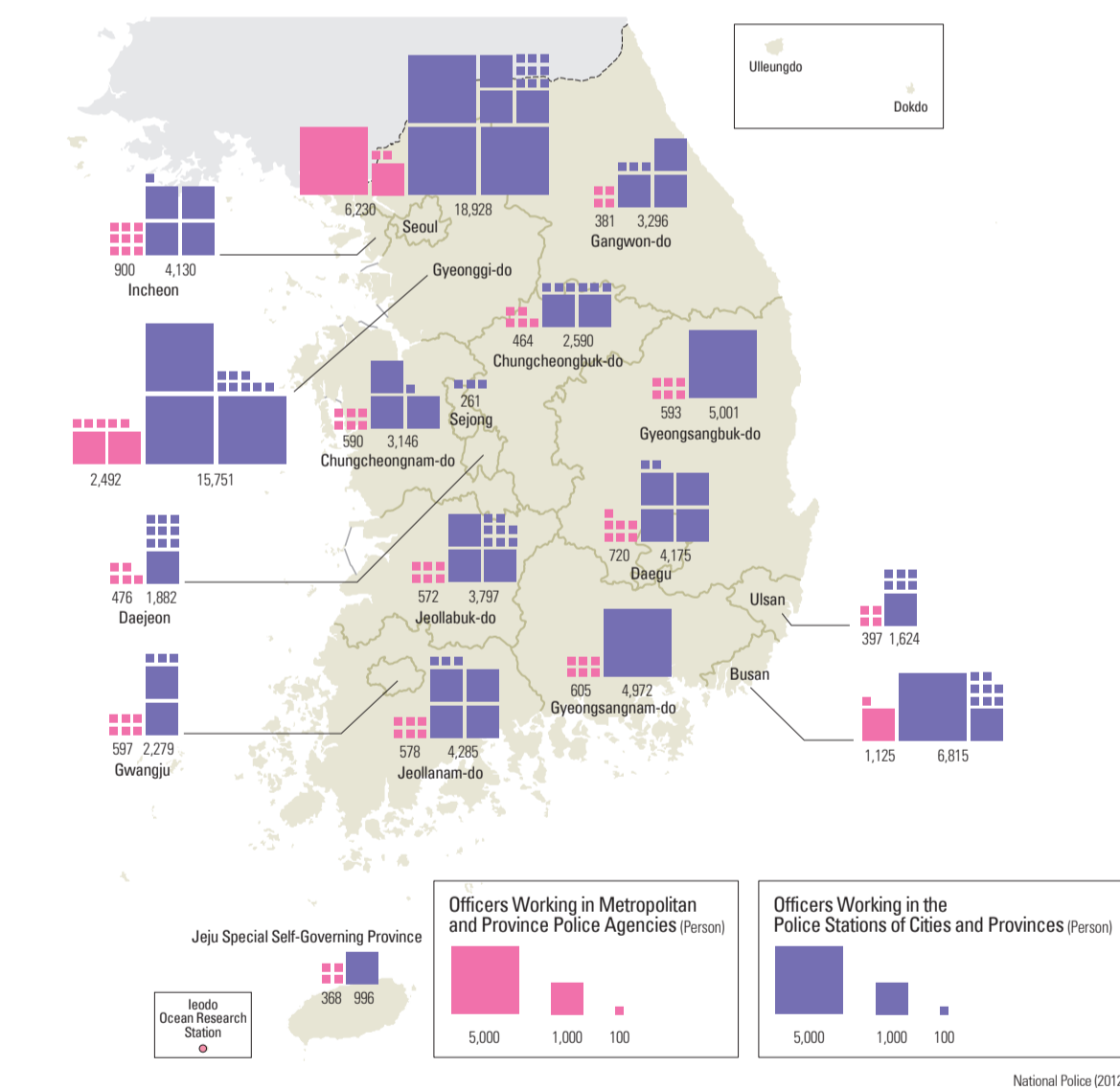
Public Educational Officials



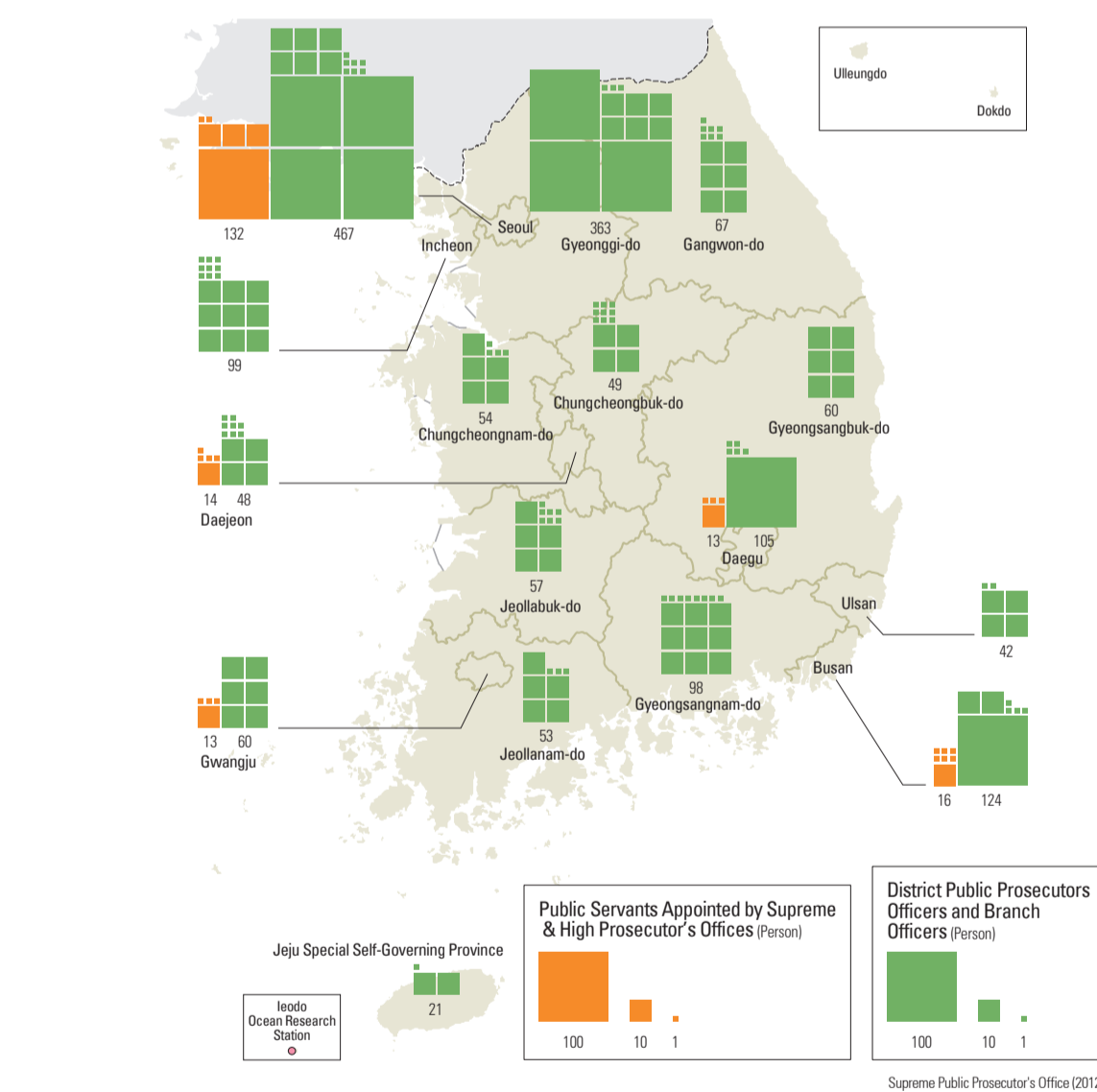
Firefighters



Police Officers

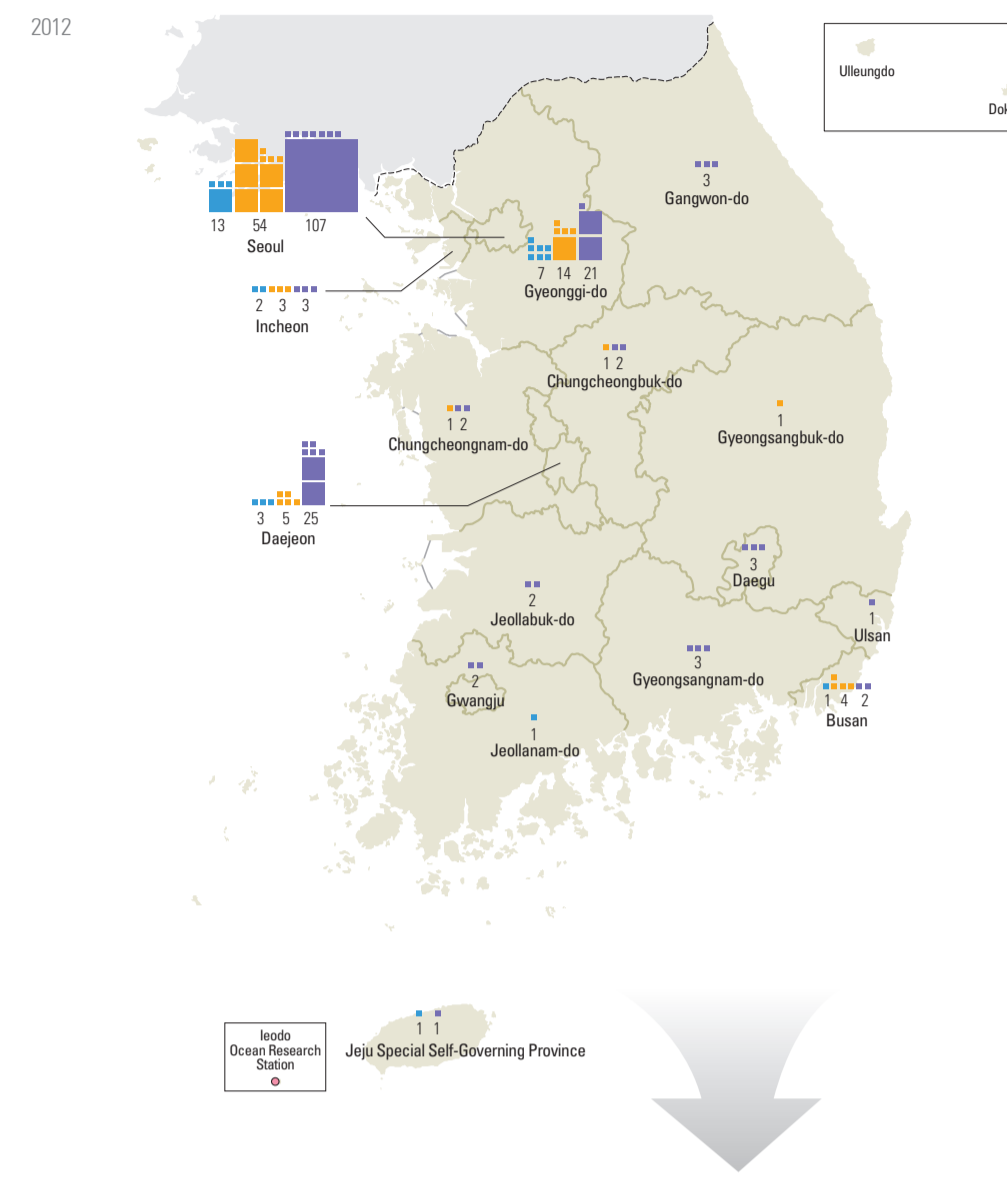


Prosecutors

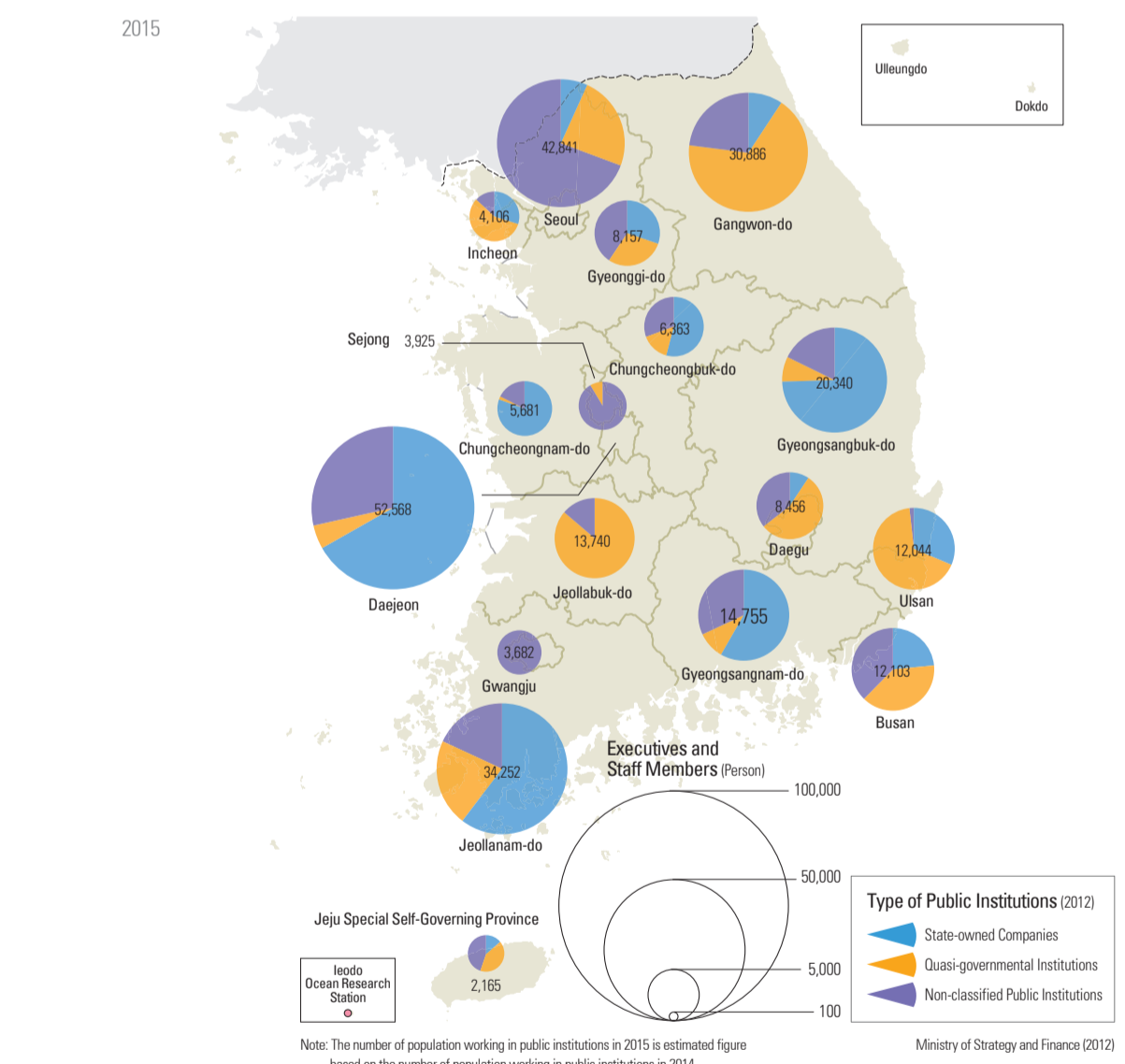
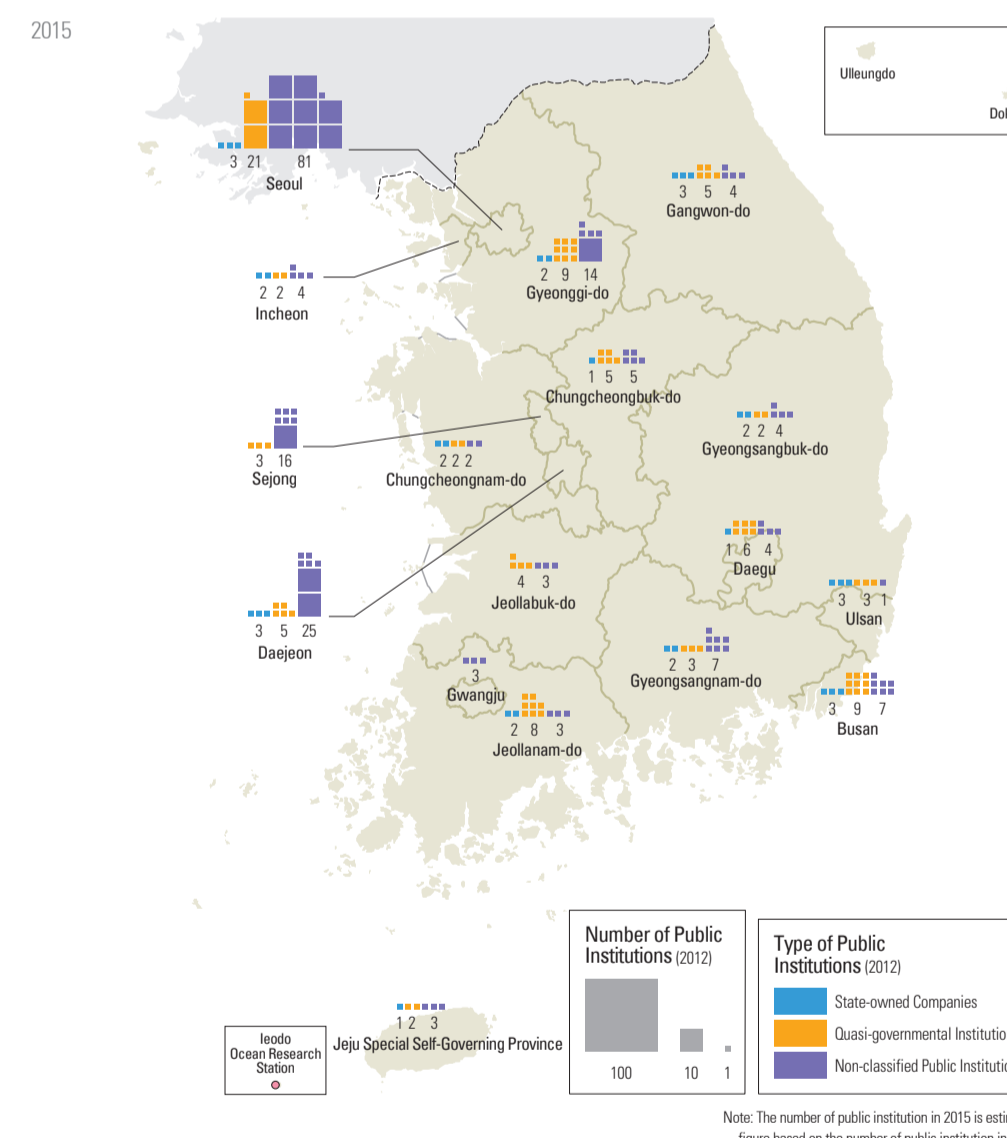
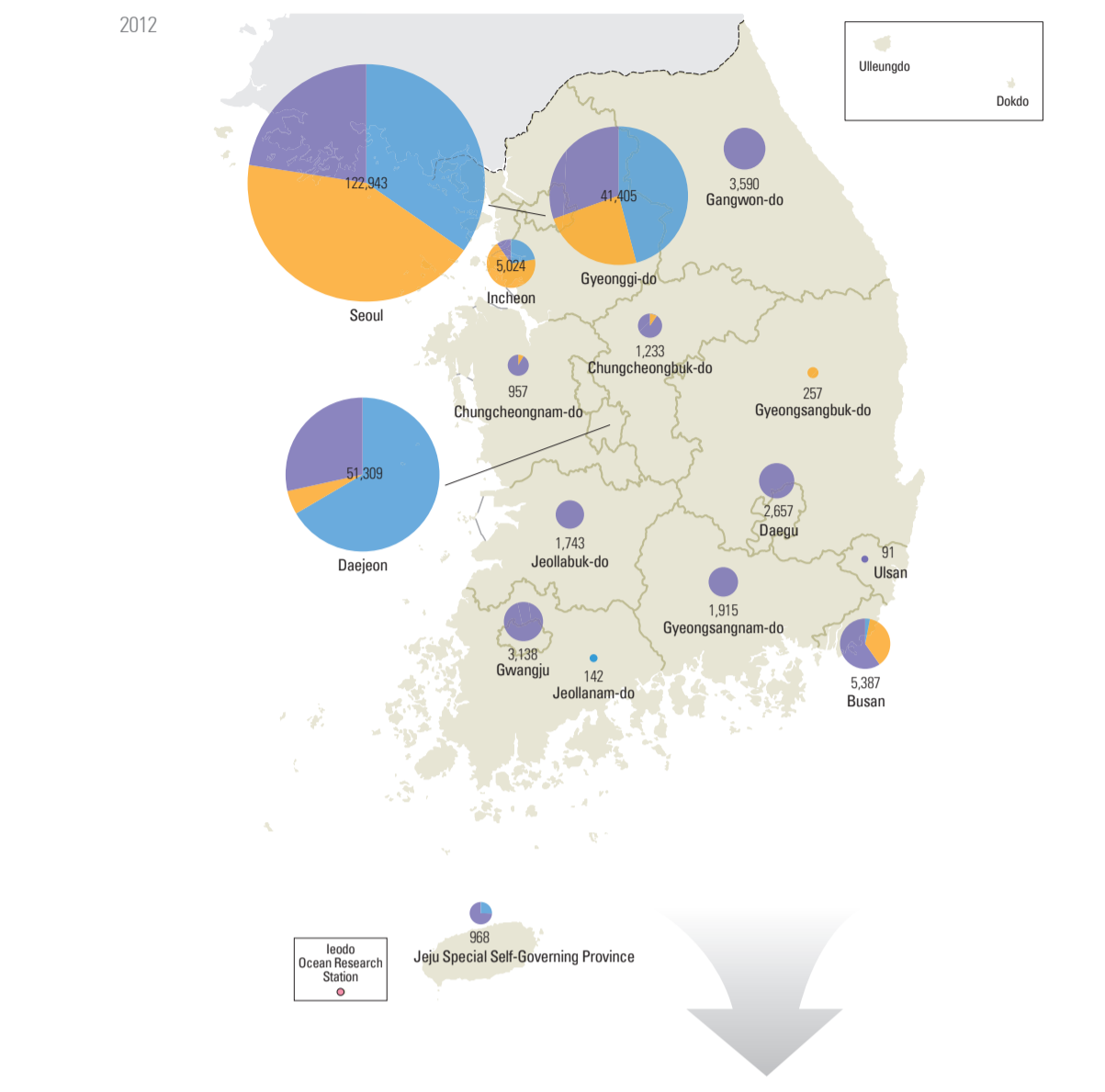


Public Institutions in Korea

Distribution of Public Institutions



Executives and Staff Members of Public Institutions



The current number of public educational officials is 346,488 (Ministry of Security and Public Administration, 2013). The national average of those who teach at kindergarten, elementary, and middle/high school levels is 78.88, but the rate of academic staff in higher education is 4.49 per every 10,000 people. Non-teaching officials make up only 1.1.

Since the introduction of the Local Municipal Police System in 2006, police officers are appointed by both national and local governments. In 2012, the majority, 110,284 officers, belong to the central government, and the rest work for the

local authorities. There are 4,936.9 officers on average working in the police stations of cities and provinces. On average, some agencies in major cities and local provinces – Seoul, Busan, Gyeonggi-do, Gyeongsangbuk-do, and Gyeongsangnam-do – have more officers than other regions. Also, the average number of officers working in Metropolitan and Province Agency is 1,005.2. The average number of police officers is above the national average in Seoul, Busan, and Gyeonggi-do.

While the majority of firefighters are hired by the central government, most firefighters belong to local

governments. Only 39,197 work for the National Emergency Management Agency and the National 119 Rescue Headquarters (National Emergency Management Agency, 2014). On average, 157.6 staff members work in each local emergency management agency. Some agencies in Seoul, Gyeonggi-do, Busan, Incheon, the Sejong Special Autonomous City, Gyeongsangbuk-do, and Gangwon-do exceed the average. Regionally, there are 2139.2 firefighters on average working in the field. They are also more concentrated in the following cities and provinces such as Seoul, Busan, Gyeonggi-do,

Gyeongsangnam-do, and Gangwon-do.

As of 2012 the number of prosecutors was 2,012 in Korea (Prosecutor's Office), and these were also divided by where they work: Ministry of Justice or the Prosecutor's Office. On average, 11.1 prosecutors work at Supreme Prosecutor's Office in Seoul and the High Prosecutors' Offices in Seoul, Daejeon, Gwangju, and Daegu. There are 103.9 prosecutors on average in district public prosecutors' offices and branch offices. On average, more prosecutors are in Seoul, Gyeonggi-do, Busan, and Daegu than other regions.

Public Institutions are categorized by type: state-owned companies (market-based public corporations and quasi-market-based public corporations); quasi-governmental institutions (fund-management-based quasi-governmental institutions and commissioned-service-based quasi-governmental institutions), and finally non-classified public institutions. Among 288 institutions in total, 28 state-owned companies and 83 quasi-governmental institutions account for 9.7% and 28.8% of the public institutions, respectively. The number of non-classified institutions is 177 (61.5%).

In terms of regional distribution, the Seoul metropolitan area was once home to three quarters (224: 77.8%) of Korean public institutions: 174 (60.4%), 8 (2.8%) and 42 (14.6%) in Seoul, Incheon and Gyeonggi-do, respectively. While there are 35 (11.5%) institutions in Daejeon, the other regions account for no more than 3%. Such distribution between the two regions is evidence of a highly polarized pattern that had emerged by the early 2010s.

For the last five decades, South Korea has followed

an economic development strategy that concentrated primarily on the capital area. However, this approach has been replaced more recently by a governmental strategy based on the relocation of public institutions in a manner that will ideally result in more balanced national development.

A total of 154 public institutions have been subject to relocation to either the Sejong Special Autonomous City, ten other innovative cities, or other regions up to November 2014. Each destination was designated by the regional characteristics.

As of November 2014, 73 public institutions have already been relocated, and the transfer will be mostly completed in 2015. The two maps above show the change from the unipolar structure to a more balanced regional distribution. Once completed, the concentration ratio of the agencies in the central capital area will decrease from 77.8% (224 of 288) to 45.6% (138 of 302). Therefore, it seems clear that the relocation of public institutions is a key factor in helping to resolve the longstanding regional economic imbalance.