

Population and Human Settlement

Population affects the characteristics of a nation's politics, economy, culture, and infrastructure. The key characteristics of the population of a country or region include population distribution, population structure, and population migration. Population distribution is the population sizes of regions at a particular time. Population structure is the composition of the population of a region that denotes particular demographic attributes, including such important variables as age, sex, income, and household composition. Migration is the population movement between regions over a particular time period. Changes in population distribution come from natural increase and decrease (births and deaths)

and migration. Natural increases and decreases of the population are monitored with statistics on total fertility and mortality rates. Migration, on the other hand, is affected by the geographical distribution of the political, economic, social, cultural, and spatial characteristics. Such influences function as determining factors for population influxes and outflows between regions; as a result, the socio-spatial process of migration takes place. Population migration includes regional in-migration and out-migration domestically and international migrations. Domestic migration is classified as the migration between urban and rural areas, between city and city, and among rural areas. In general, economic, demographic, and geographic

factors jointly affect migration patterns.

The following maps illustrate population distributions at the national level in Korea for every ten years since 1980. Each dot represents 1,000 persons at the city, county and district (si-gun-gu) levels. These maps enable one to identify both over-populated and under-populated areas. Population distribution patterns differ over time and they can be used to identify the growth or decline of population spatially. Understanding population distribution is of paramount importance since it is a synopsis of political, economic, social, cultural, and spatial patterns of the country at the national and regional levels. Over the past several decades the population of Korea has moved up to the north of the country and more recently into the north-

west region, which suggests that the importance of the Seoul region has been growing.

A centroid is the center of a distribution of population; it is a point from which the sum of distances to all people of the country is minimized. The changing position of this centroid indicates the characteristics of population distribution change over time. As clearly shown on the map showing Korea's centroids over the decades, the centroids shifted to the north and in particular to northwest more recently. This again implies that the importance of the Capital Region has been growing.

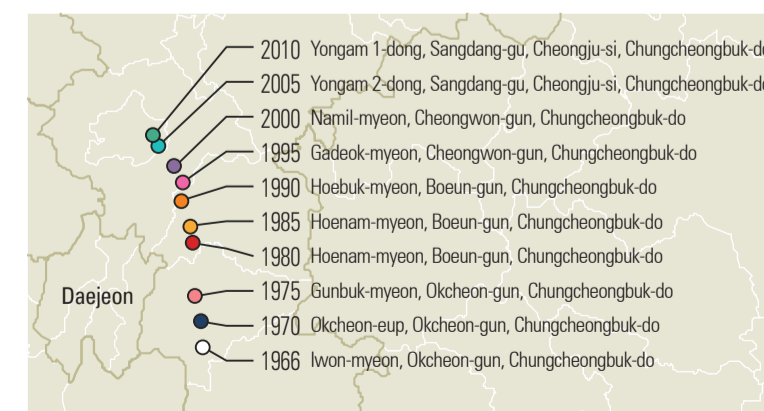


Urban Area



Rural Area

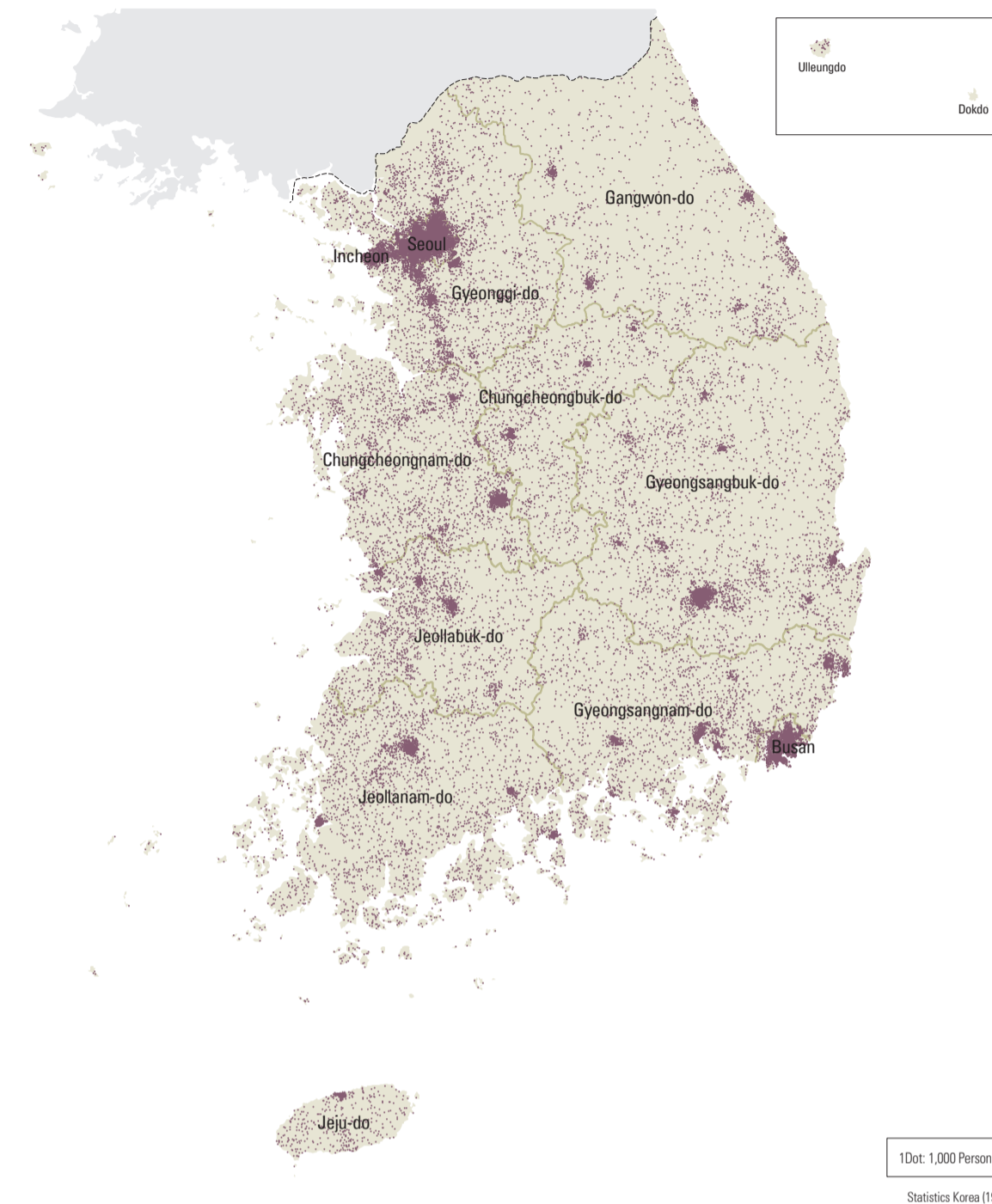
Geographic Centers of Population in Years



Statistics Korea (2013)

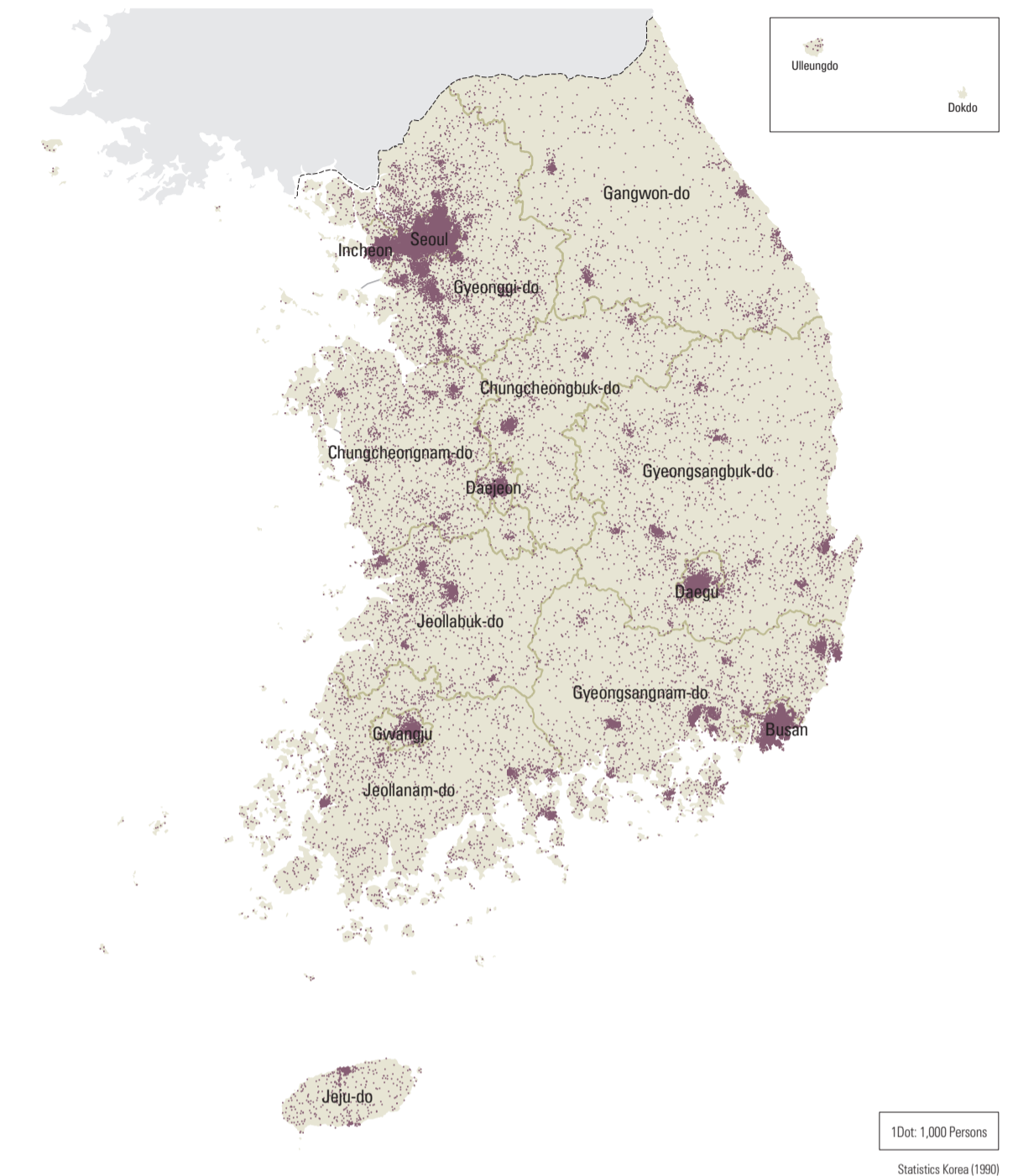
Population Distribution

1980



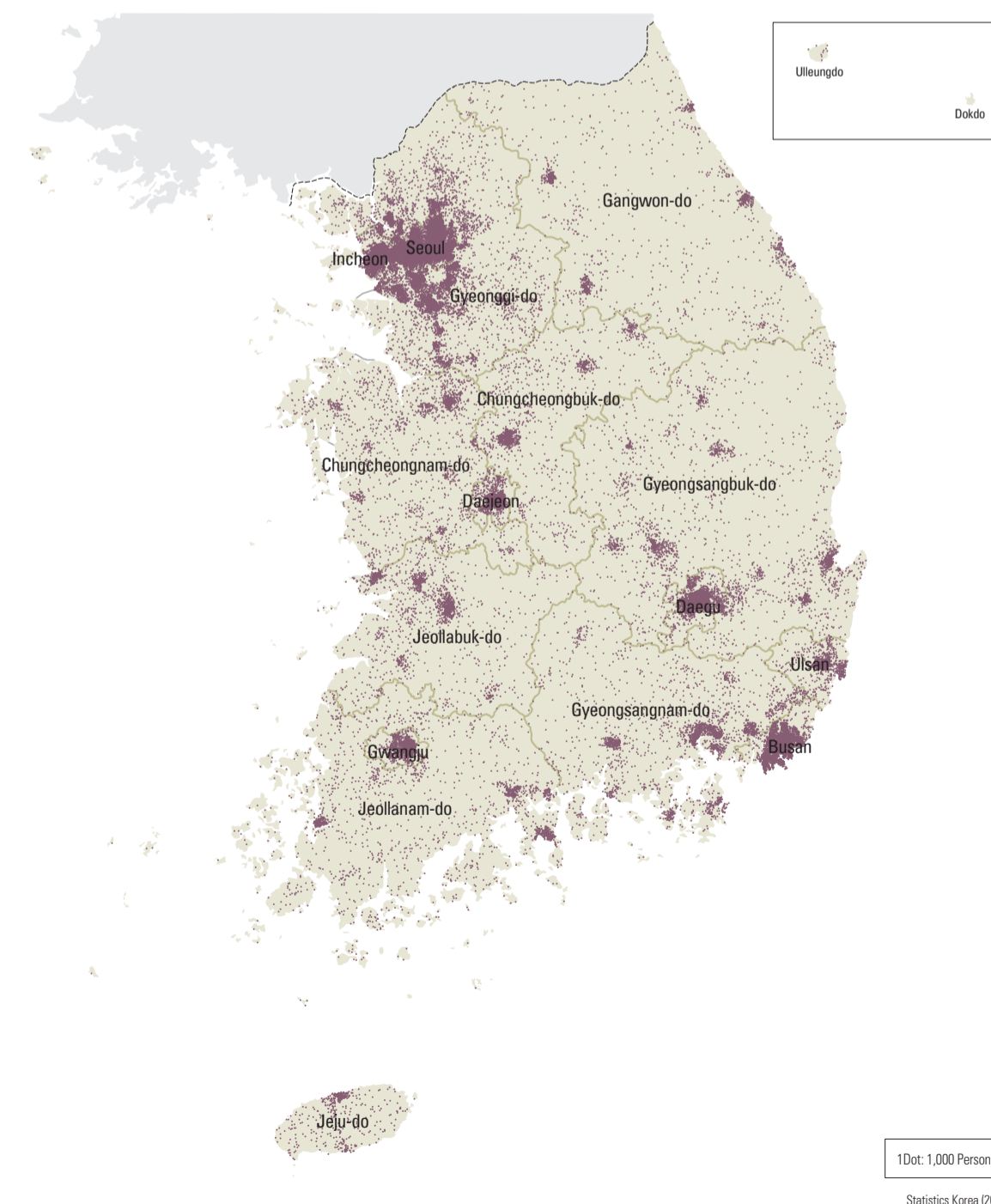
1Dot: 1,000 Persons
Statistics Korea (1980)

1990



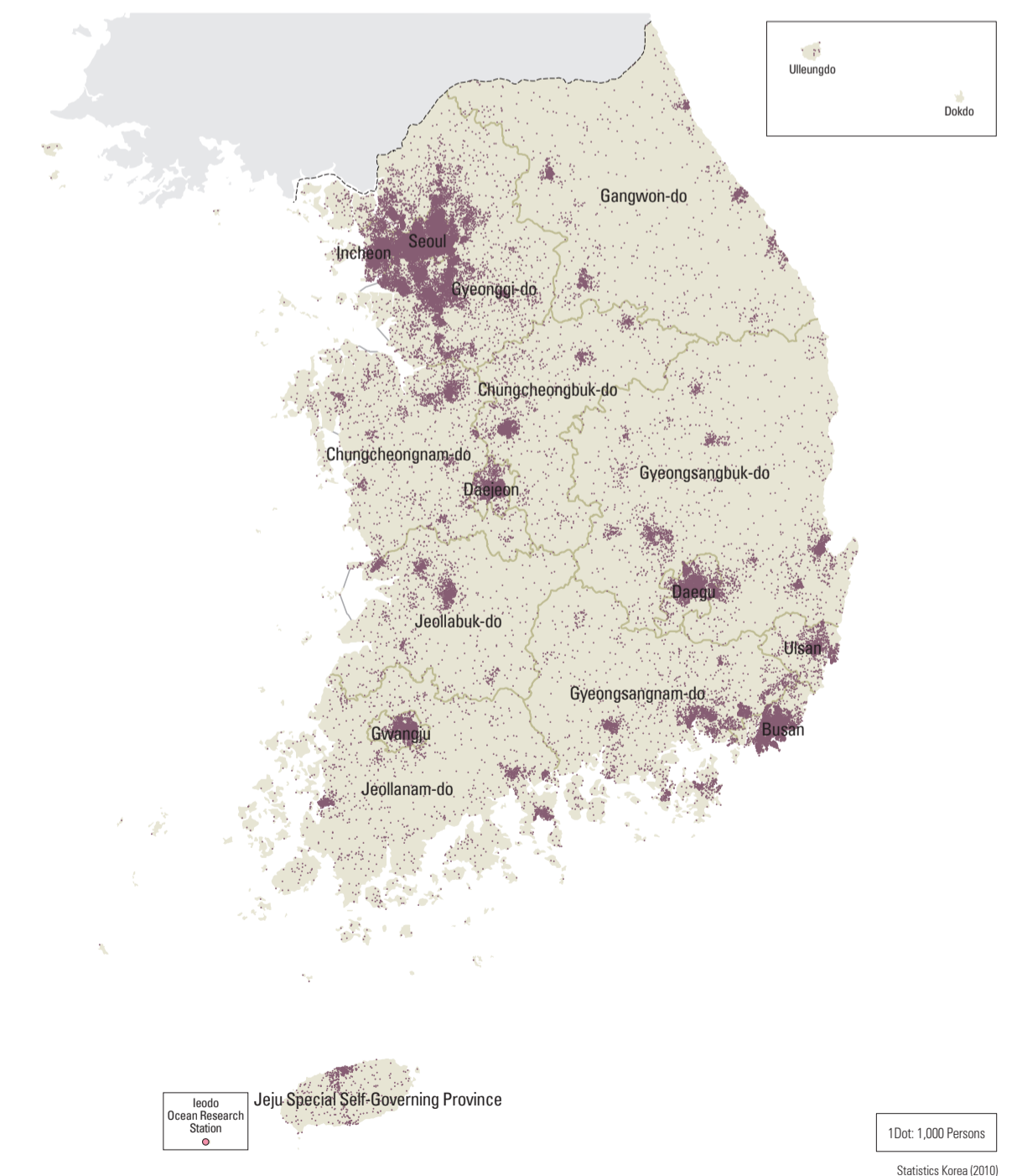
1Dot: 1,000 Persons
Statistics Korea (1990)

2000



1Dot: 1,000 Persons
Statistics Korea (2000)

2010

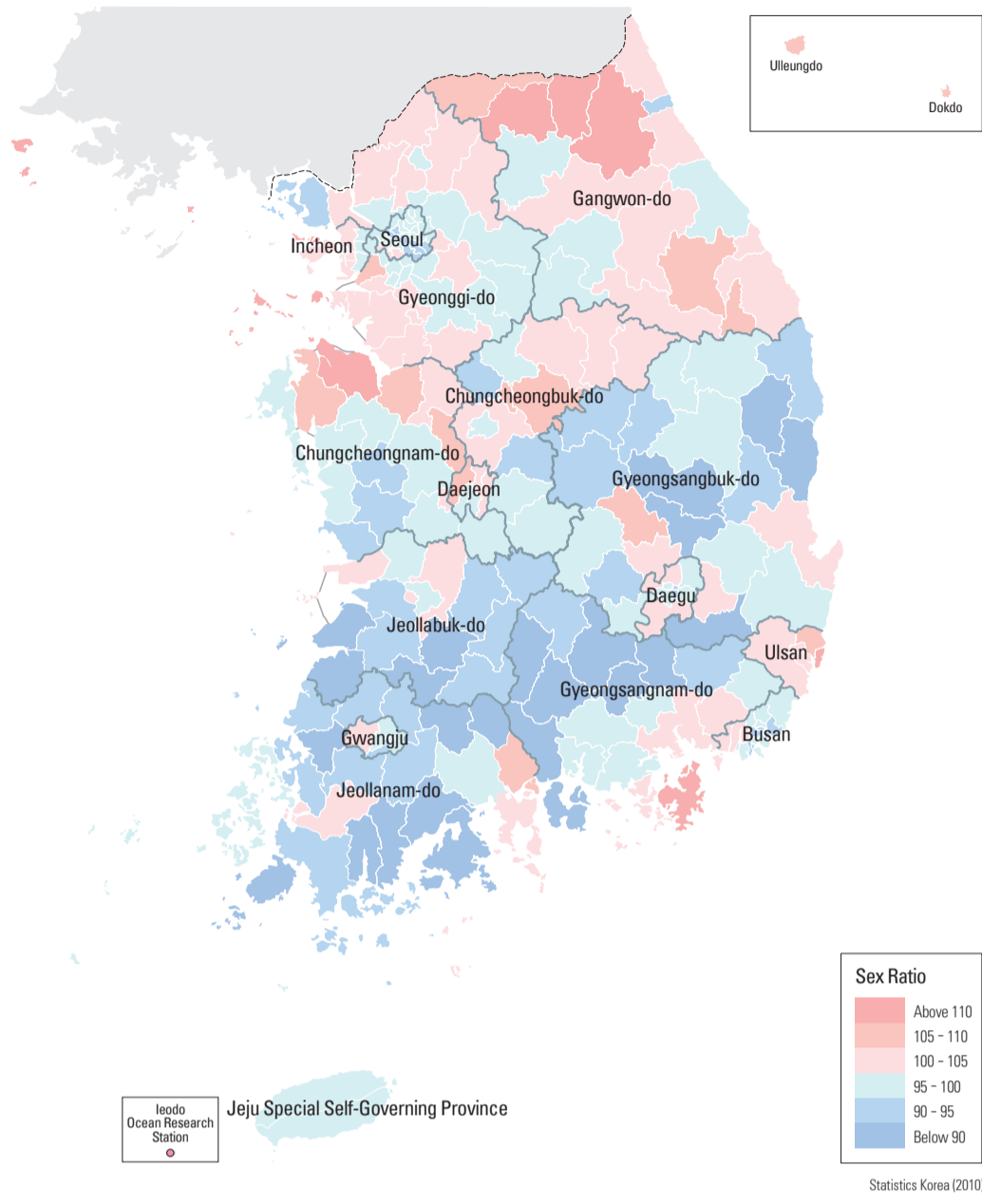


Jeju Special Self-Governing Province

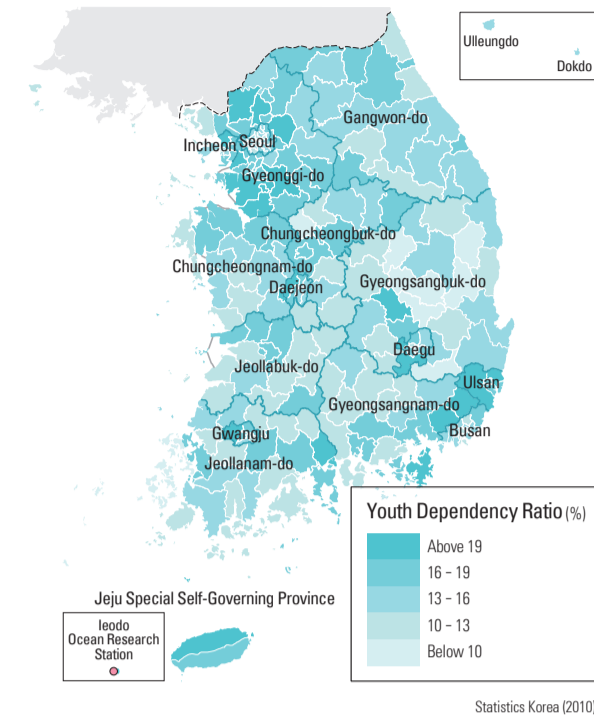
1Dot: 1,000 Persons
Statistics Korea (2010)

Population Structure

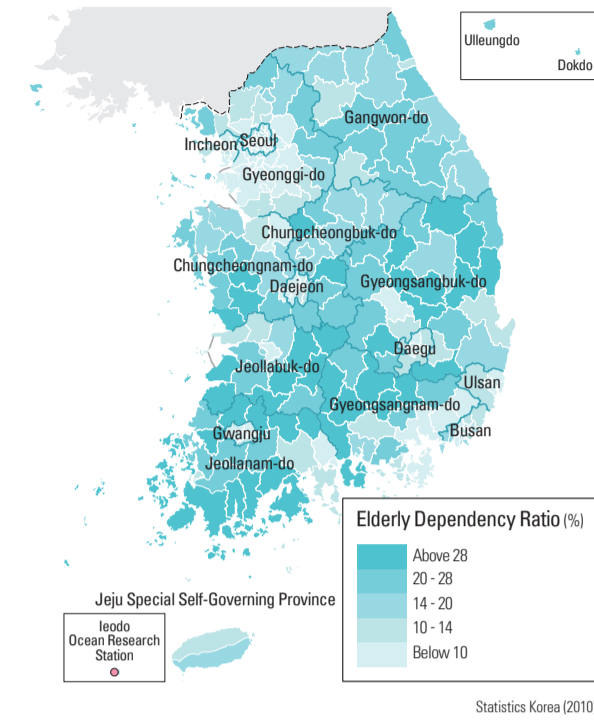
Sex Ratio



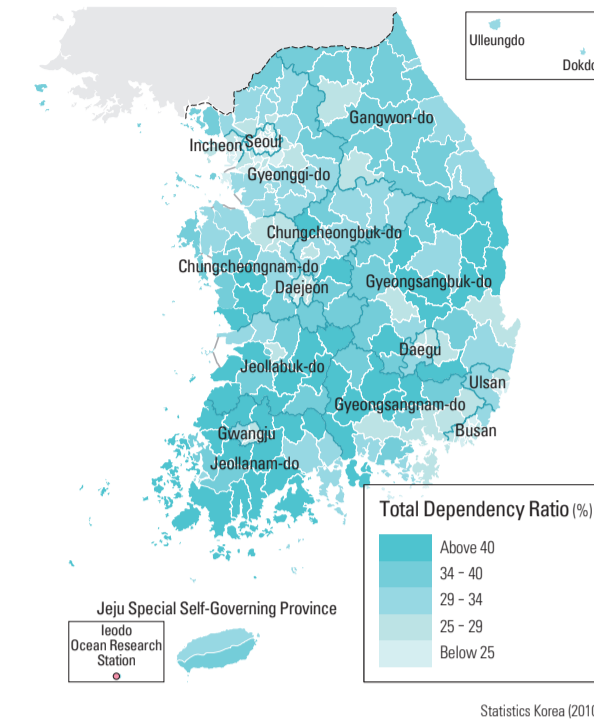
Youth Dependency Ratio



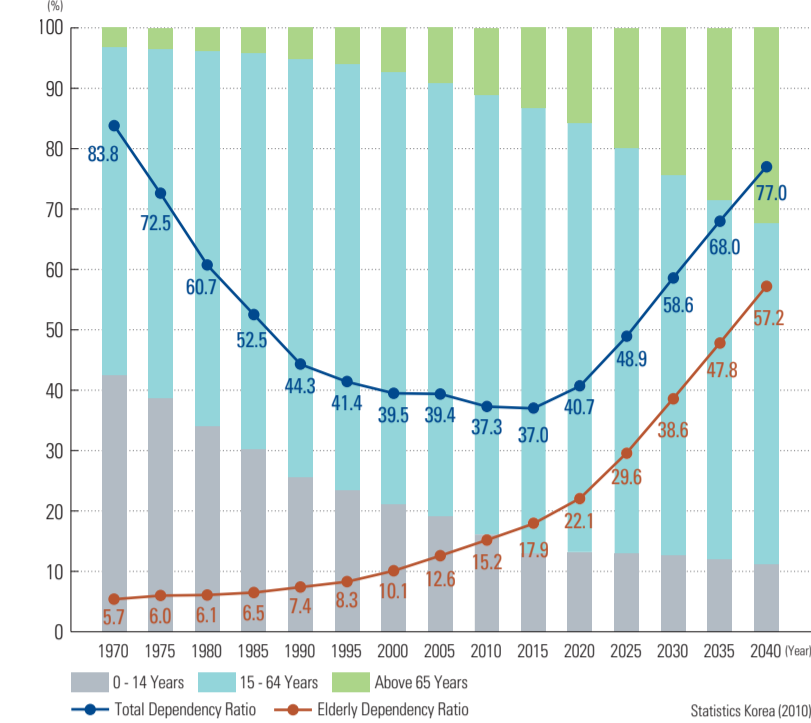
Elderly Dependency Ratio



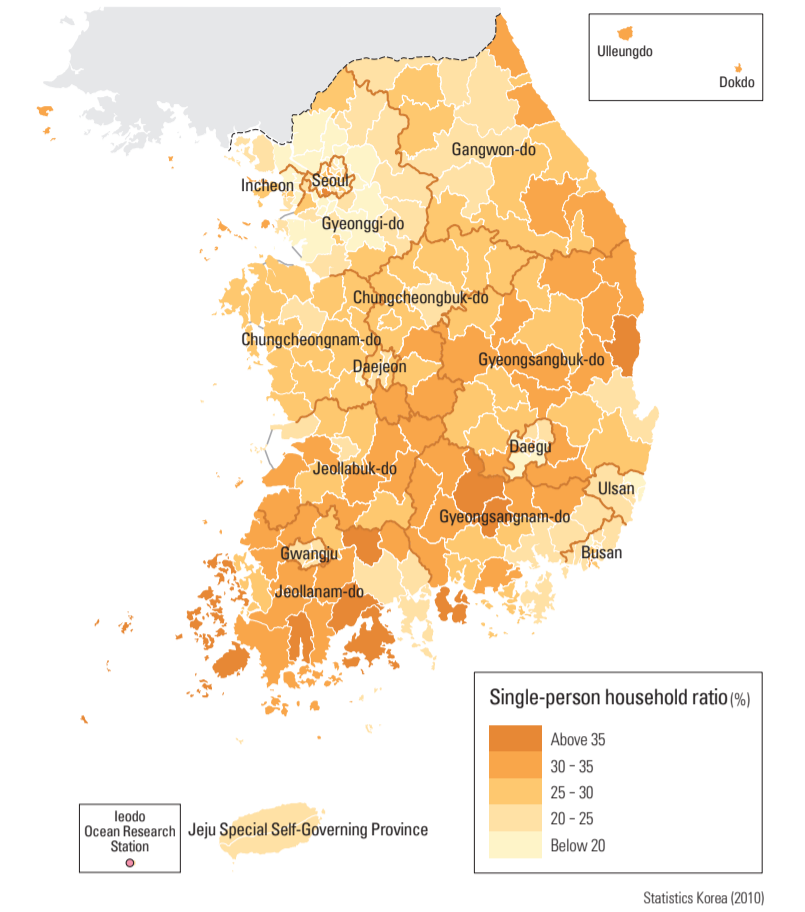
Total Dependency Ratio



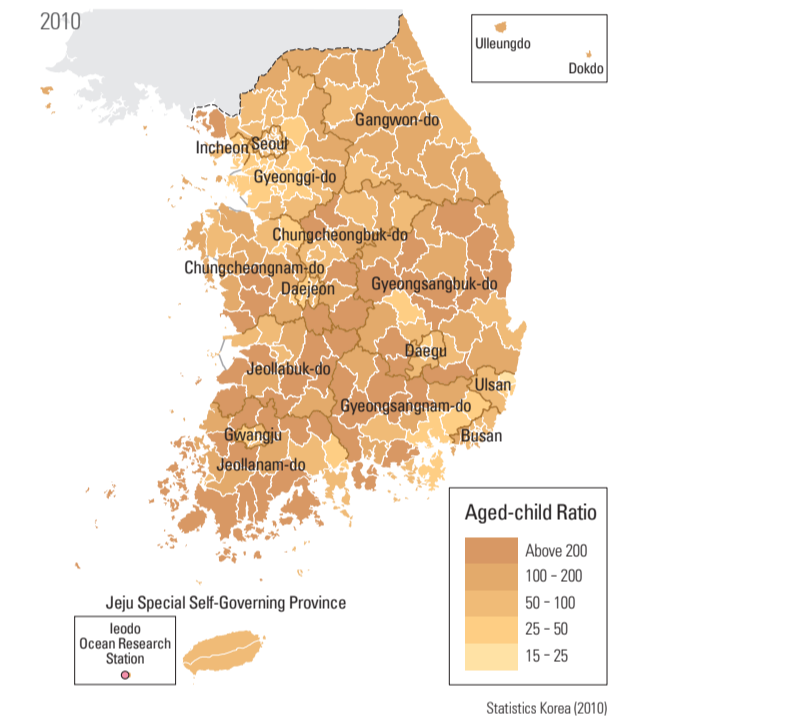
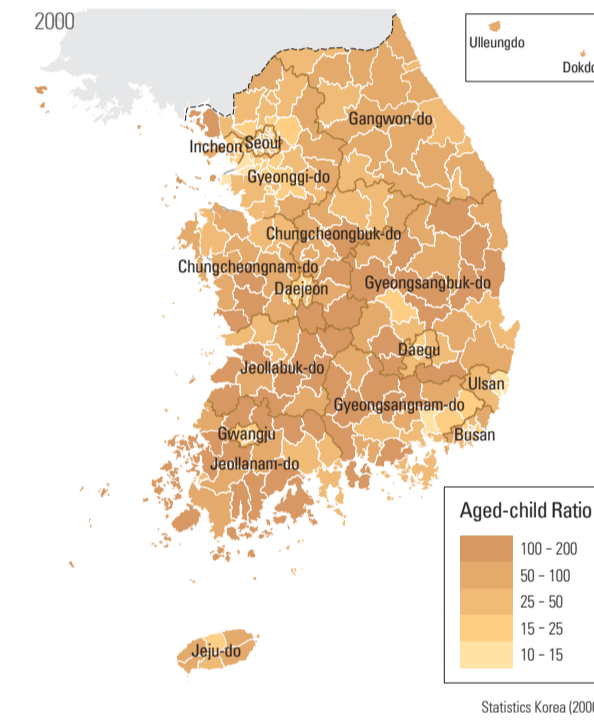
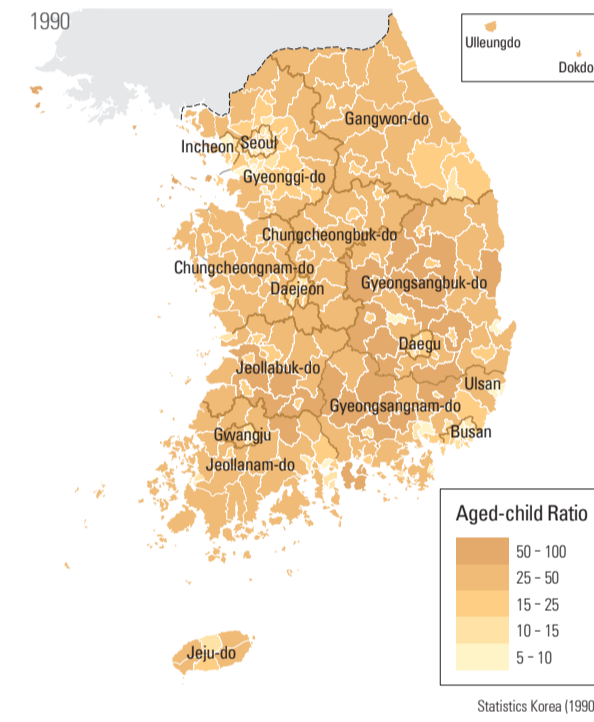
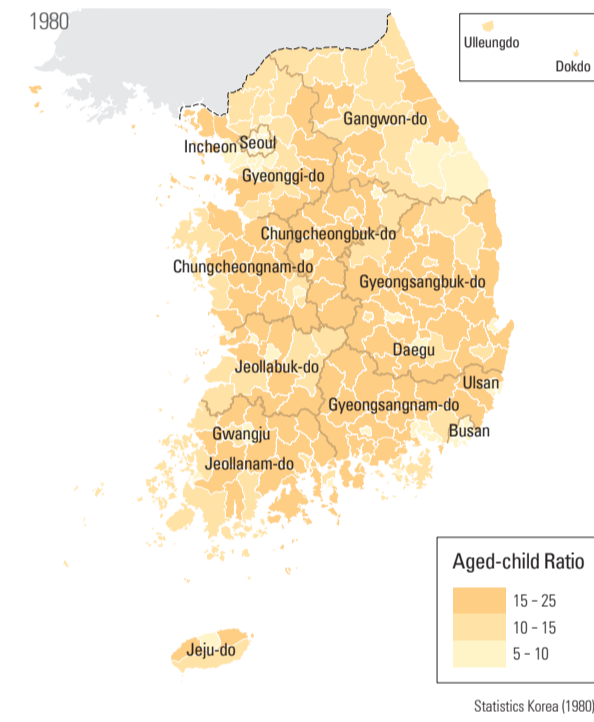
Dependency Rate of Population



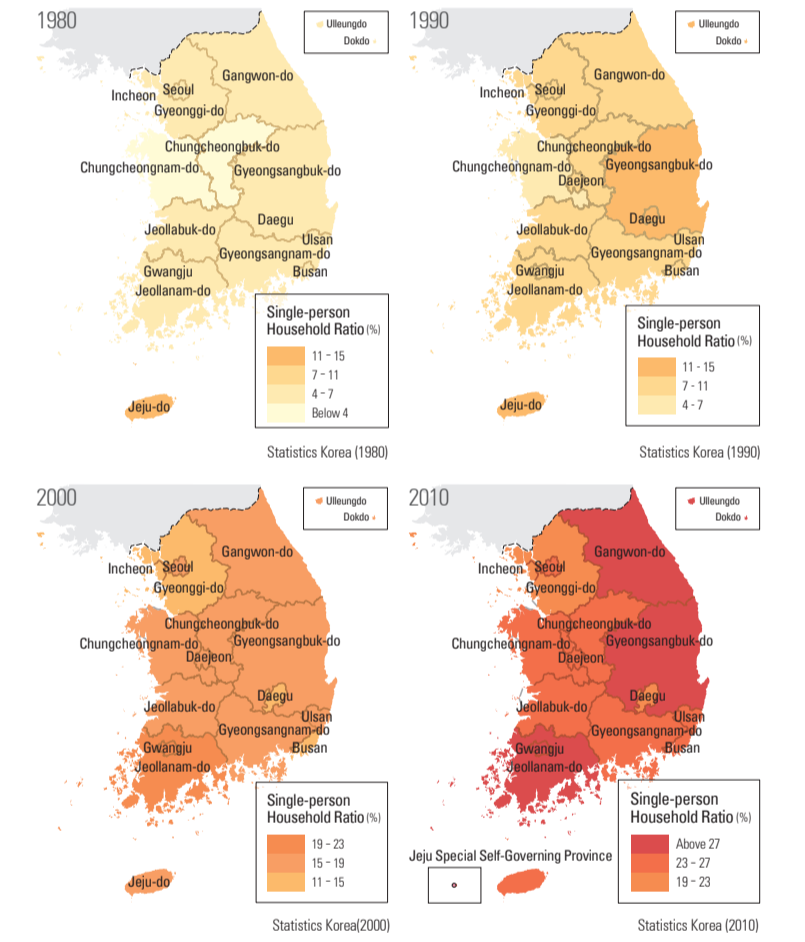
Single-person Household Ratio



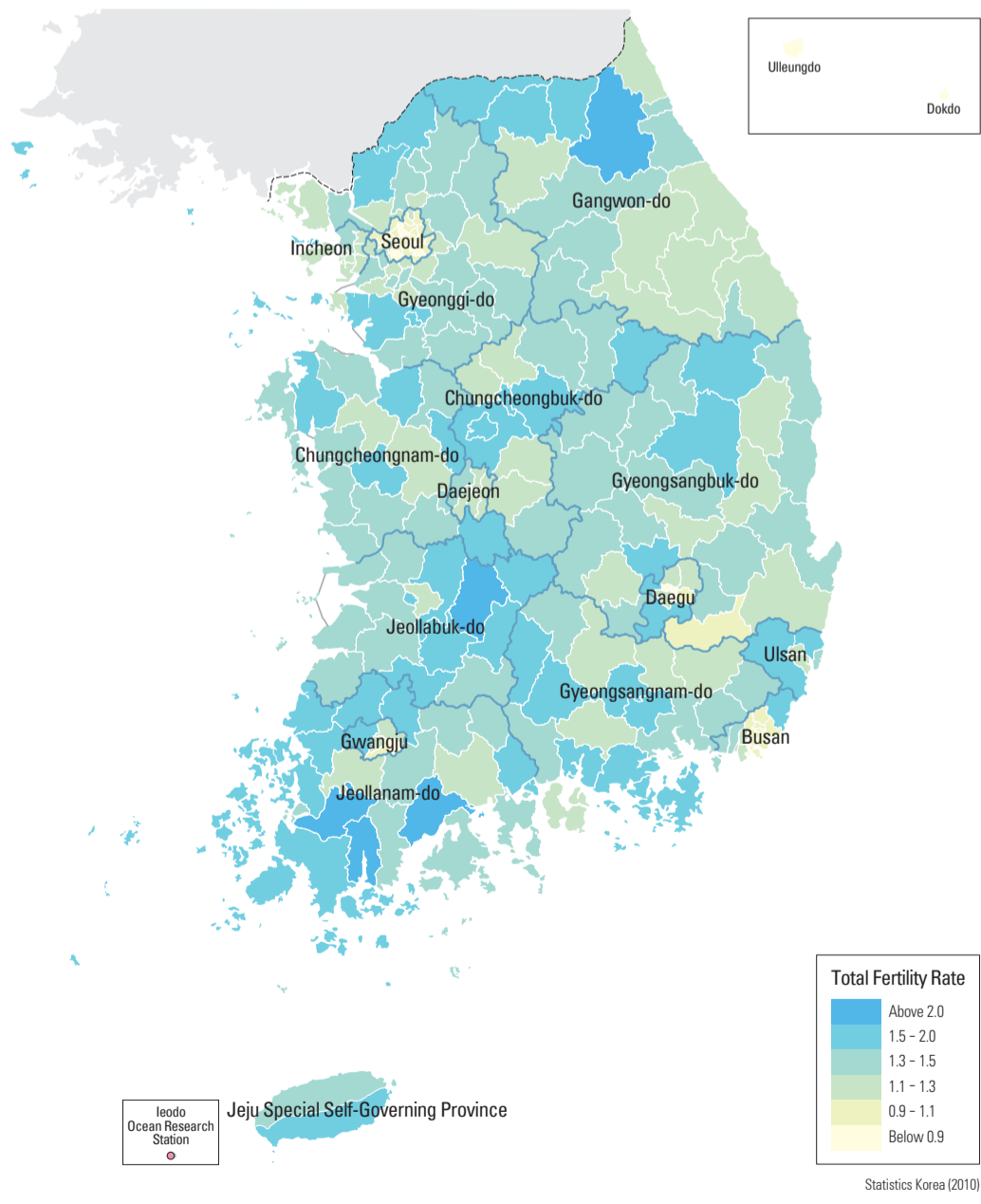
Aged-child Ratio



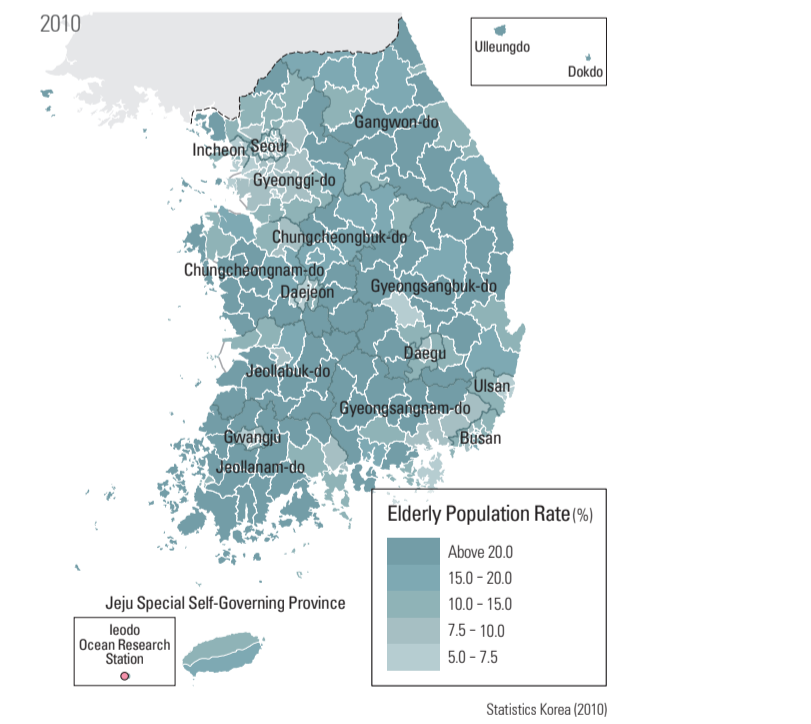
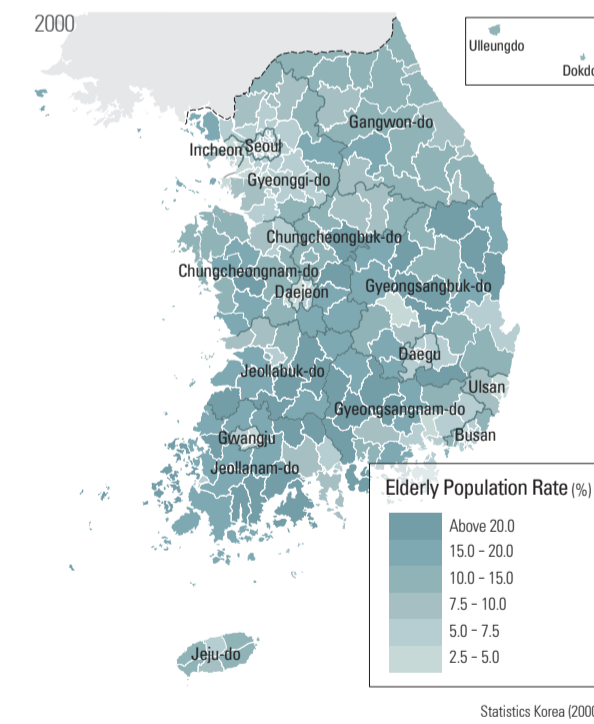
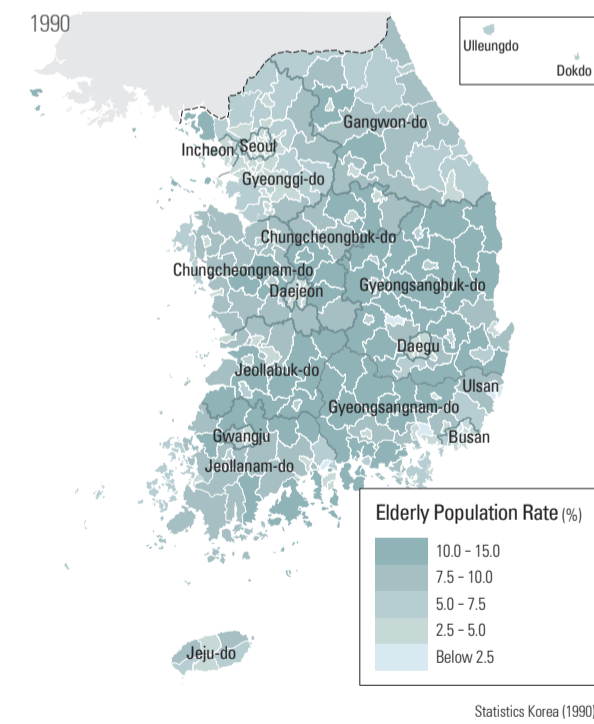
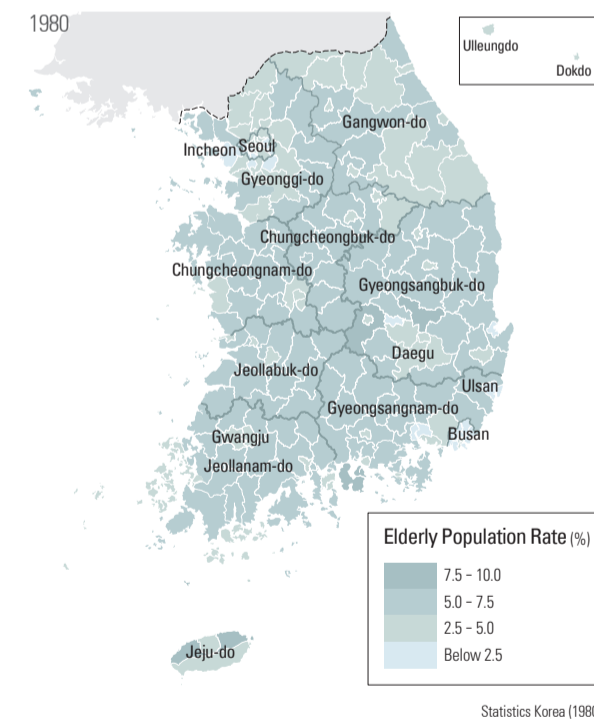
Change in Single-person Household Ratio



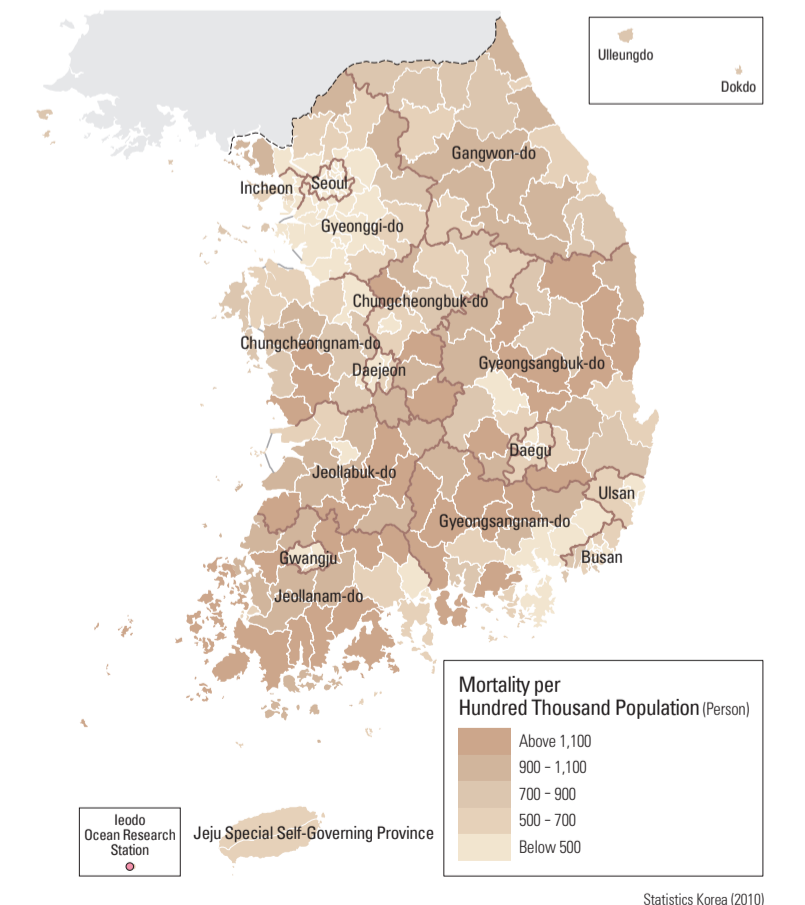
Total Fertility Rate (2010)



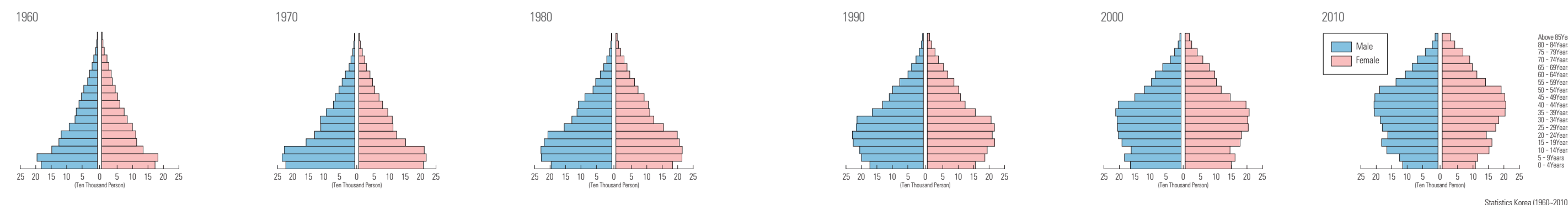
Elderly Population Rate



Mortality

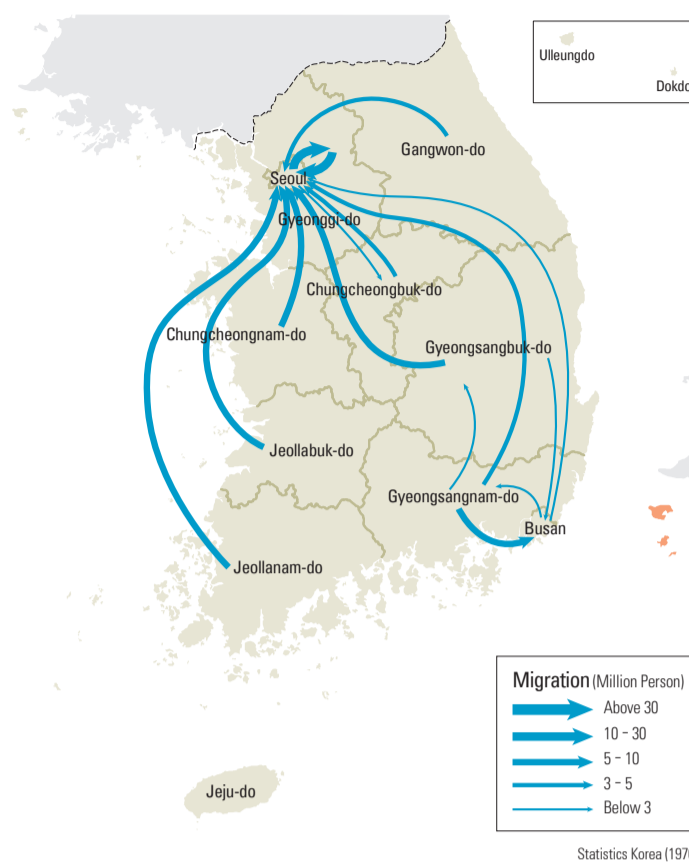


Change in Population Structure

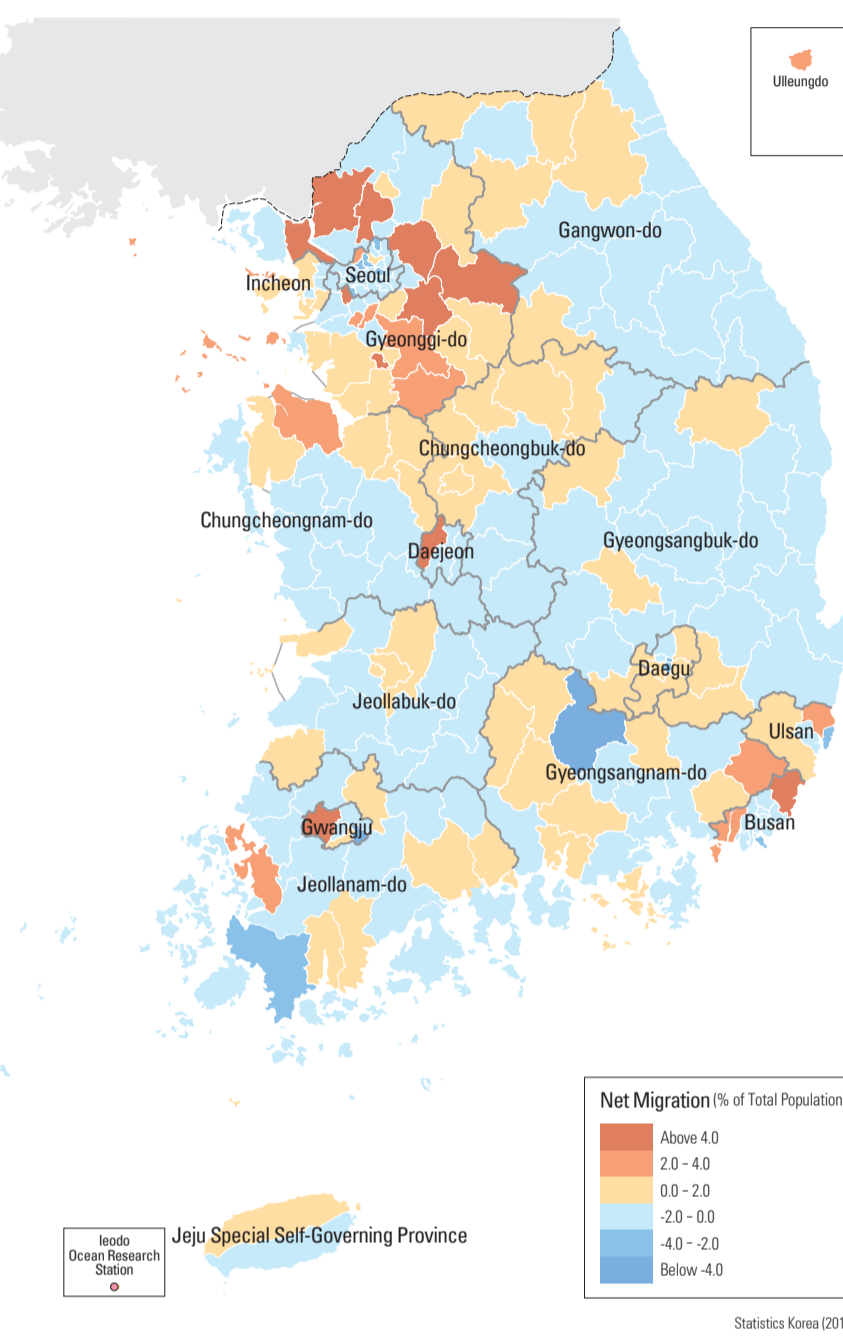


Migration

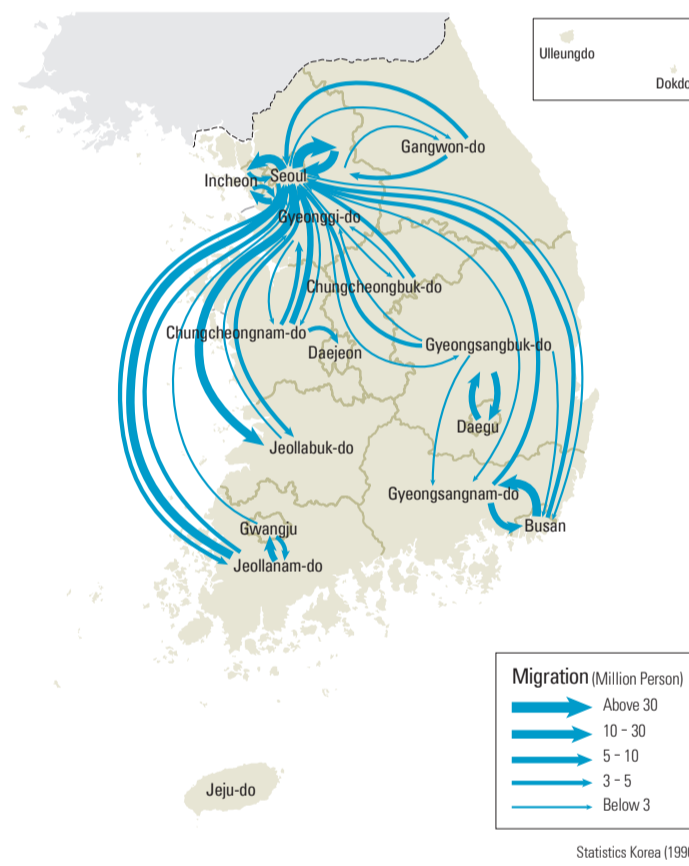
Migration (1970)



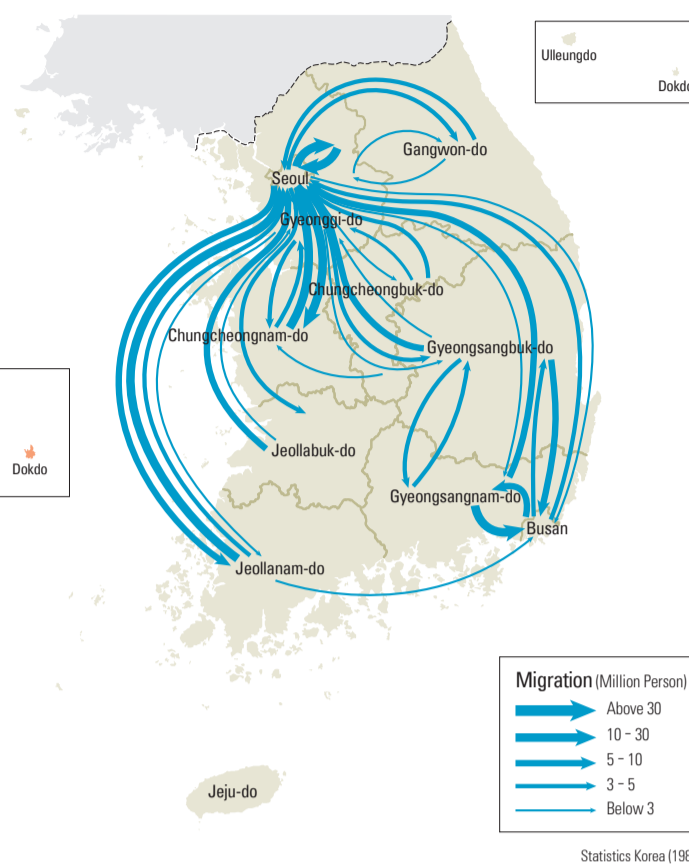
Net Migration (2010)



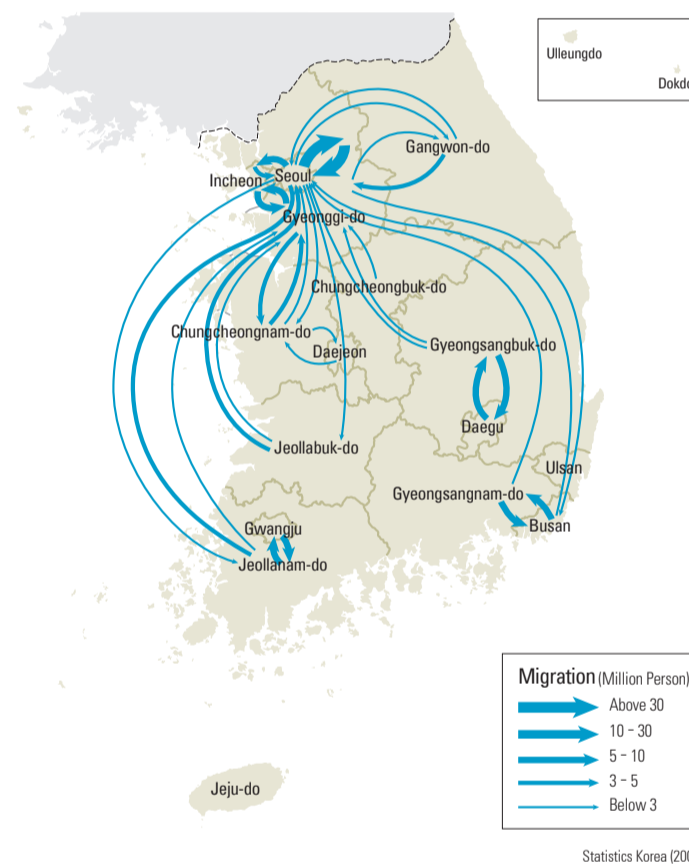
Migration (1990)



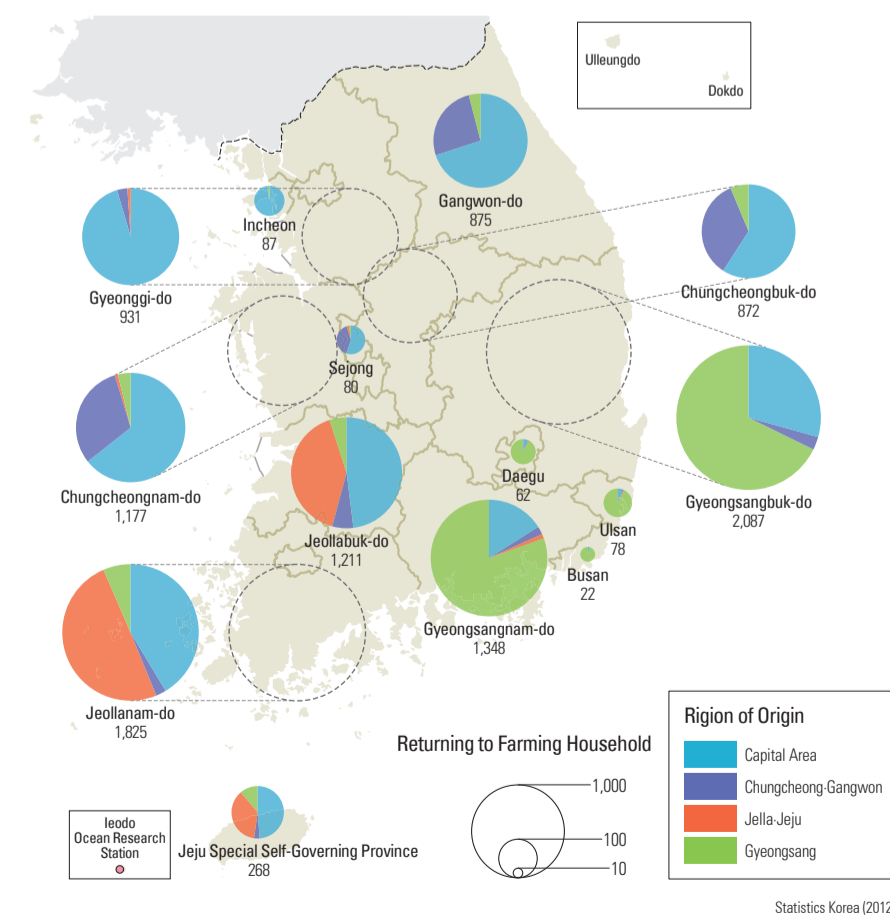
Migration (1980)



Migration (2000)

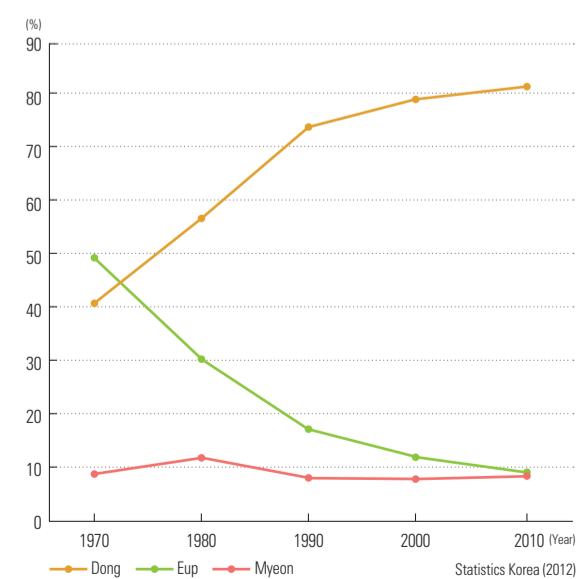


Number of People Returning to Farming



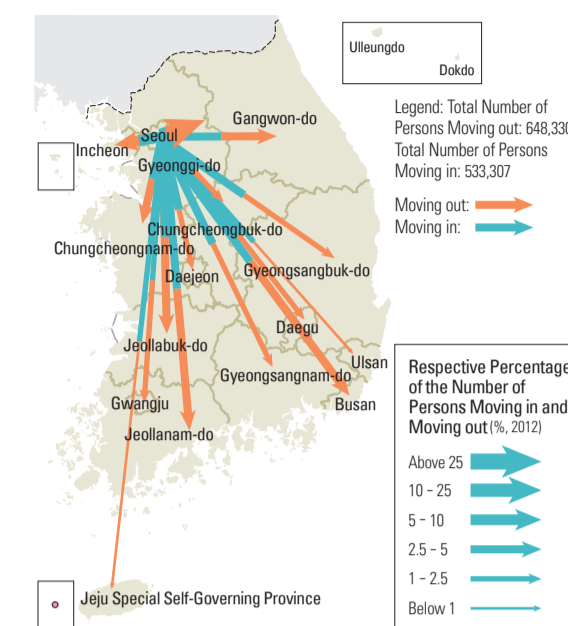
now heading the call of local rural governments who are attempting to attract them to migrate to their territories.

Change of Urban-Rural Population Share

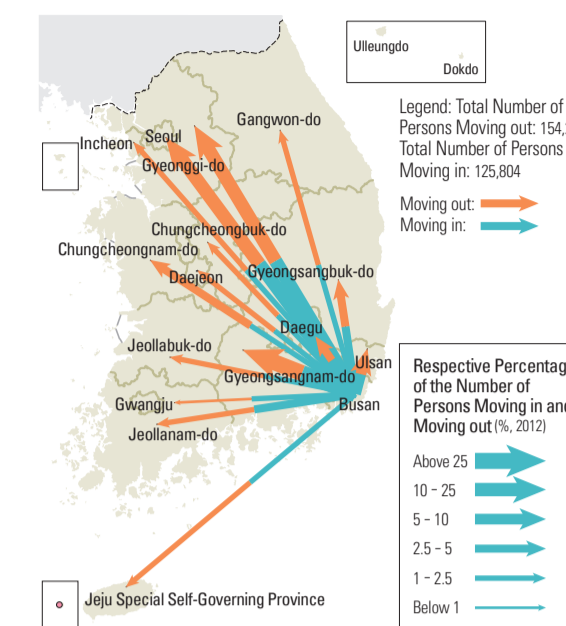


The observation of the nationwide population migration pattern in Korea shows that the size of migration increased rapidly from 1970 to 1980; this trend decreased a bit in 1990, and finally the absolute number of migrations has decreased since 2000. Since 1990 the data indicate that the population has settled down and become stabilized. The direction of migration, or origin and destination distributions, often reflects distance decay (a concept that the closer the destination from the origin, the higher the volume of migration and vice versa). The population migration patterns observed in Korea over the last half century reflects the characteristics of urbanization more than distance decay in the 1970s and 1980s. Distance decay characteristics became much more prominent from the 1990s onward. The suburbanization/counter-urbanization frequently appeared locally from 2000. Additionally, the percentage of the population returning to farming is on the increase due to retirement of the baby boomer generation. Many new retirees are

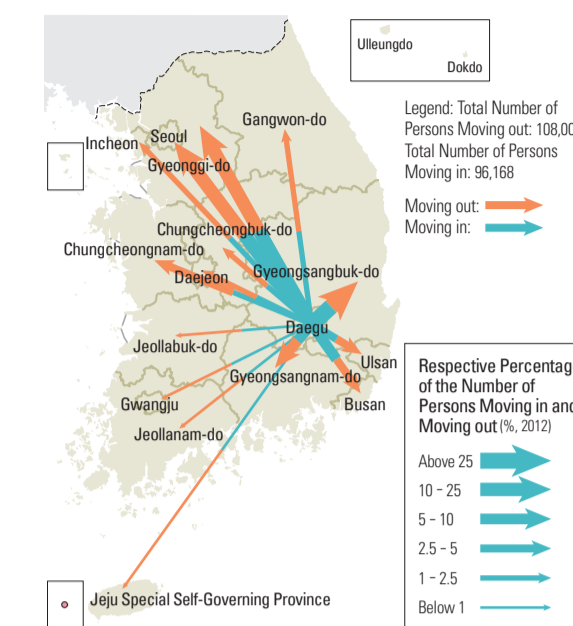
Seoul's Move in and Move out



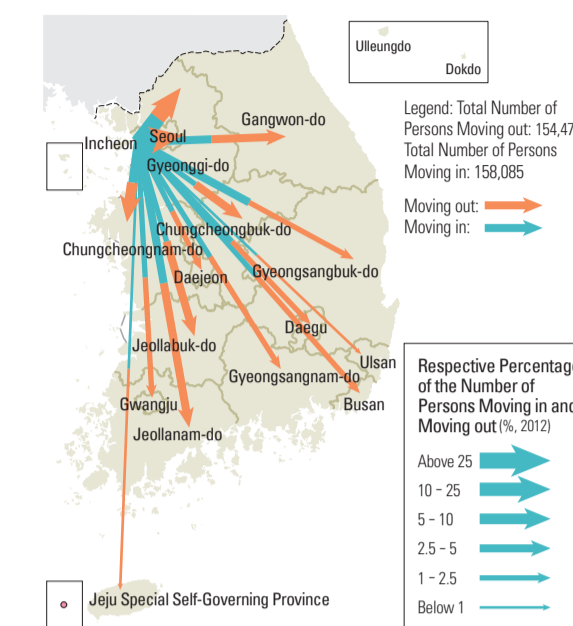
Busan's Move in and Move out



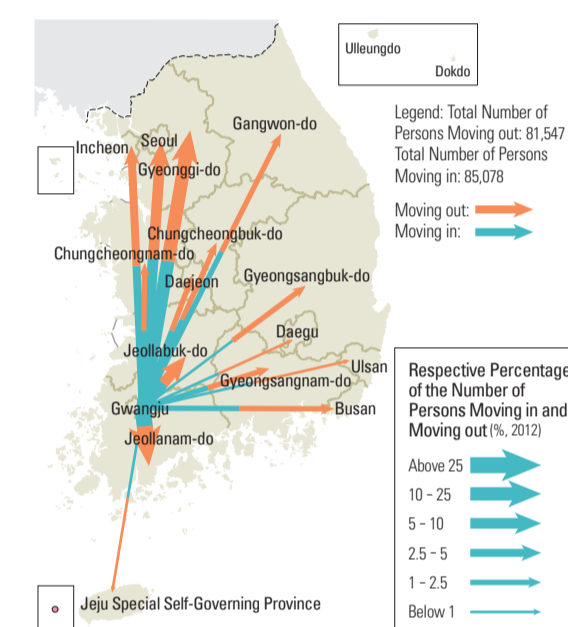
Daegu's Move in and Move out



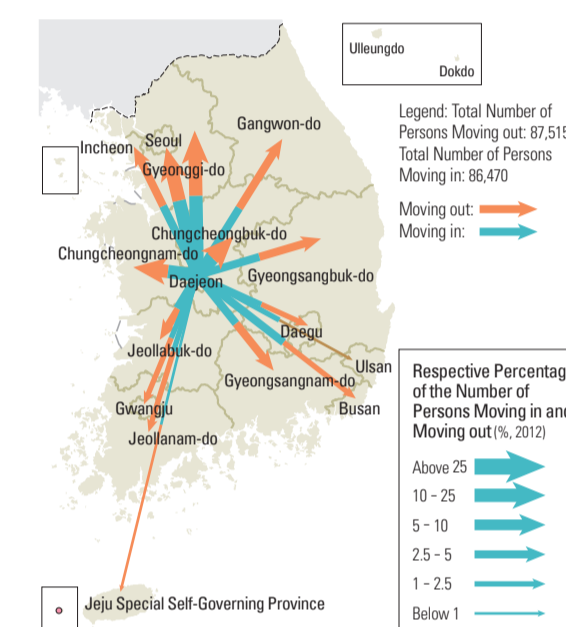
Incheon's Move in and Move out



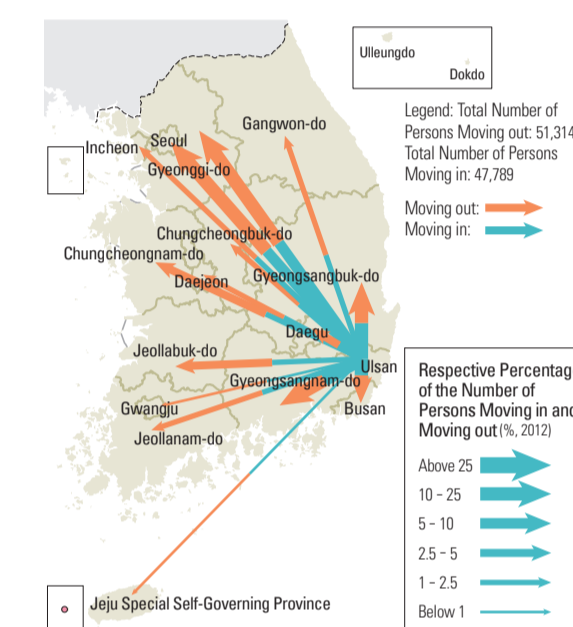
Gwangju's Move in and Move out



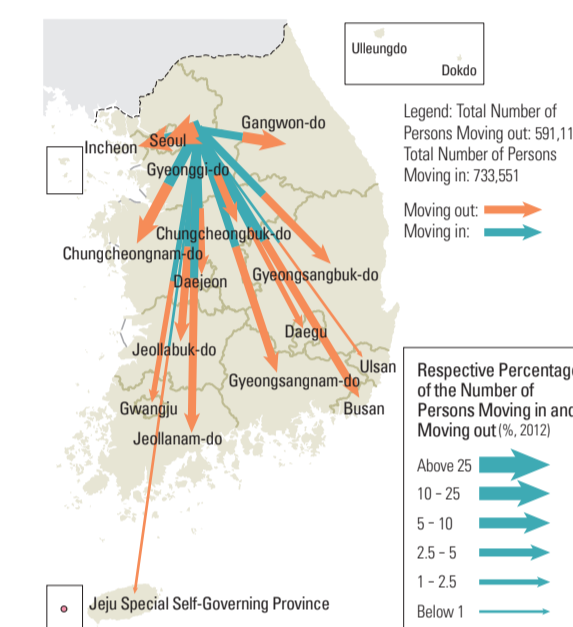
Daejeon's Move in and Move out



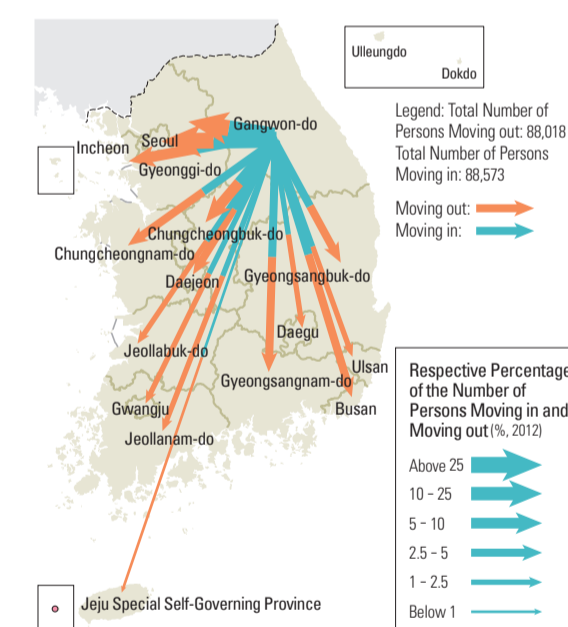
Ulsan's Move in and Move out



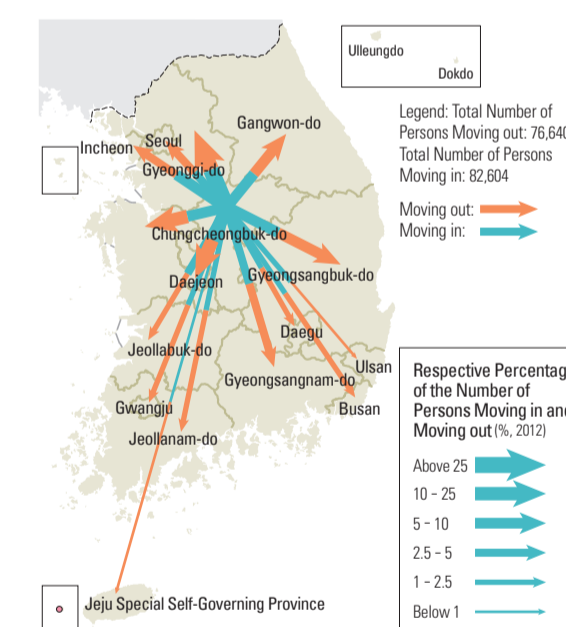
Gyeonggi-do's Move in and Move out



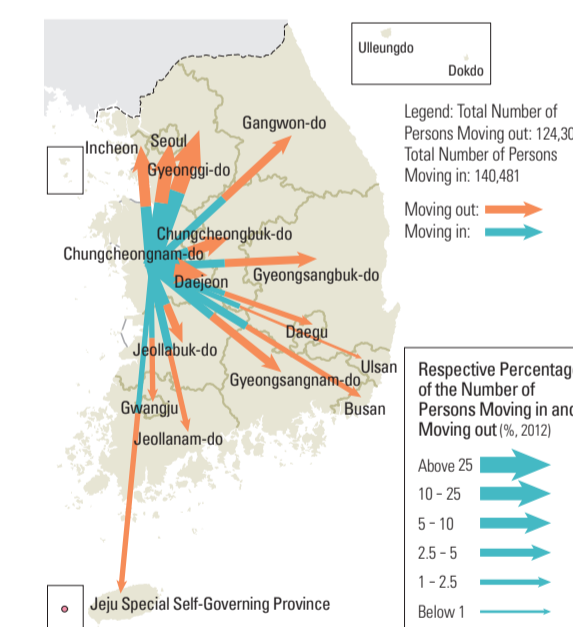
Gangwon-do's Move in and Move out



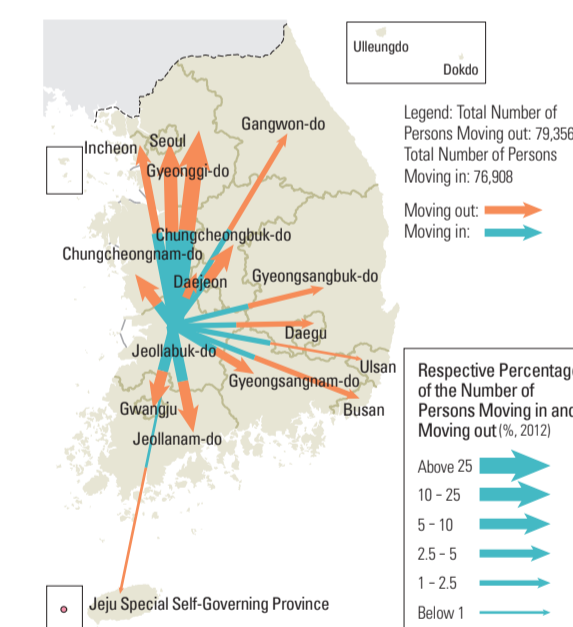
Chungcheongbuk-do's Move in and Move out



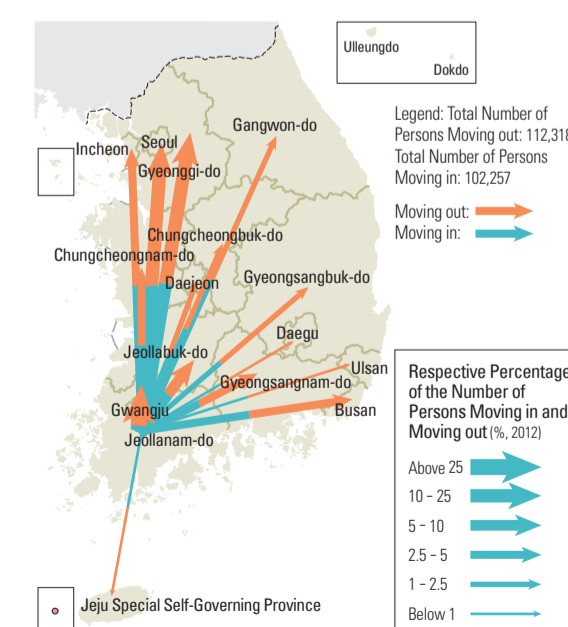
Chungcheongnam-do's Move in and Move out



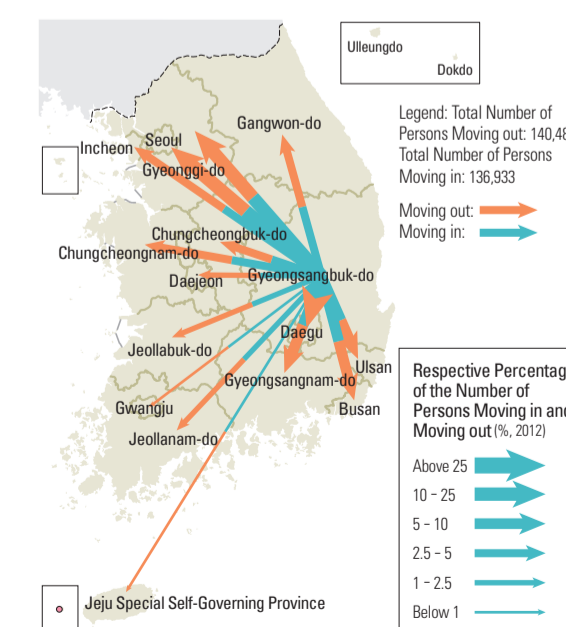
Jeollabuk-do's Move in and Move out



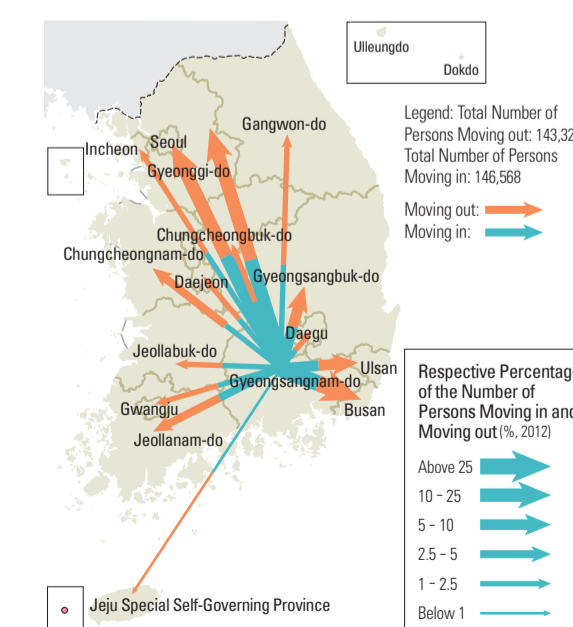
Jeollanam-do's Move in and Move out



Gyeonggangbuk-do's Move in and Move out



Gyeongsangnam-do's Move in and Move out



Jeju Special Self-Governing Province's Move in and Move out

