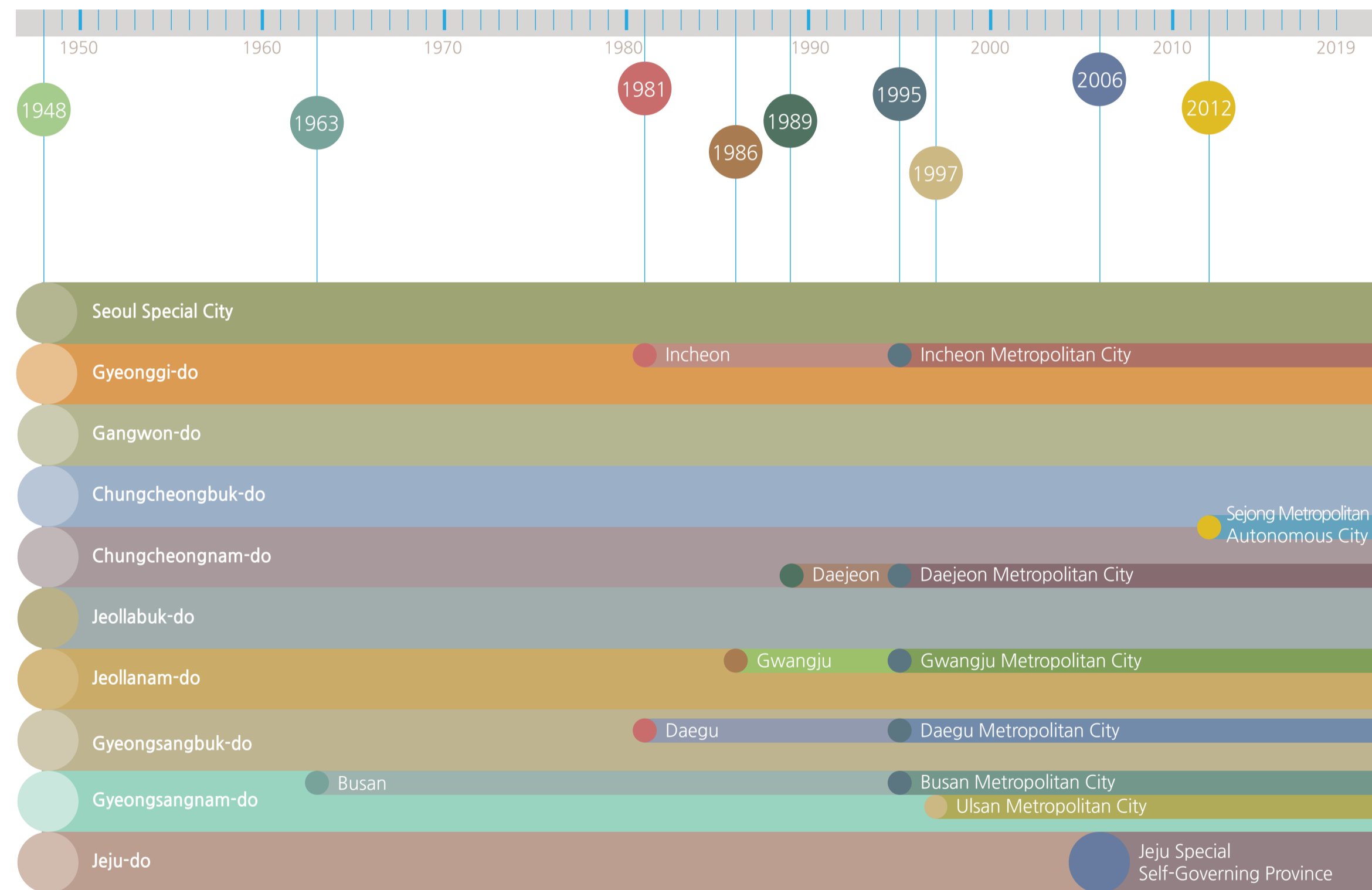


Administrative Regions

Changes in Metropolitan Administrative Areas



Administrative districts are governmental units for local administration, but at the same time, they define regional and local identity. Since the nation's founding, Korea has promoted administrative efficiency and aligned living spaces and administrative units through many administrative reorganizations. During these changes, the do-oriented (province-oriented) administrative district system used during the Joseon Dynasty became the basis for Korea's modern metropolitan administrative system. The administrative system was comprised of one special city, 15 dos (provinces), 23 bus (cities), and 218 guns (counties) in 1945. The following year, Jeju Island was separated from Jeollanam-do, and in 1948, the term "bu" was replaced by "si."

In 1962, the Korean government carried out a comprehensive reform to harmonize the living spaces and administrative districts. For example, Geumsan-gun in Jeollabuk-do was transferred to Chungcheongnam-do, and Uljin-gun in Gangwon-do was merged into Gyeongsangbuk-do. Reforms after 1960 mainly took place due to urban expansion and the associated suburbanization. Small

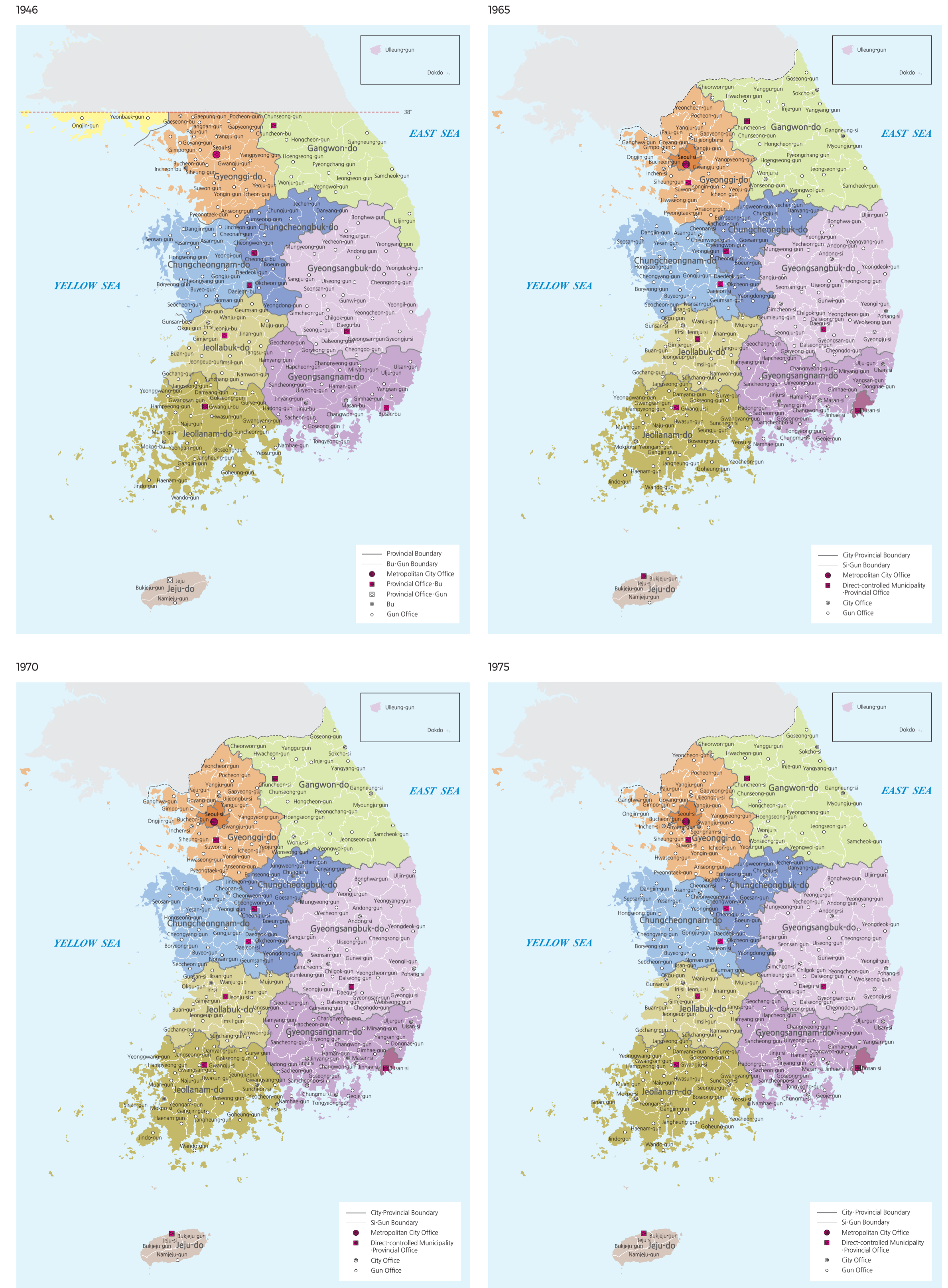
towns attained cityhood as population increased, and major cities were promoted to directly-controlled municipalities so that the central government could manage them directly. During the 1960s, as Busan was promoted to a directly-controlled city, Korea consisted of 1 special city (Seoul), 1 directly controlled city (Busan Directly-Controlled City), 9 dos (Gyeonggi-do, Gangwon-do, Chungcheongbuk-do, Chungcheongnam-do, Jeollabuk-do, Jeollanam-do, Gyeongsangbuk-do, Gyeongsangnam-do, and Jeju-do), 30 sis (cities), and 140 guns (counties). In the 1980s, large provincial cities, like Incheon, Daegu, Gwangju, and Daejeon, became directly-controlled cities.

In 1995, an overall provincial administrative reform was carried out. This reshuffling integrated cities and counties, aimed to balance development between growing urban and declining rural areas, secured land for urban development, promoted administrative efficiency, and addressed inconsistencies between spaces of daily life and administrative districts. Since 1995, cities merged with neighboring counties and directly-controlled municipalities have

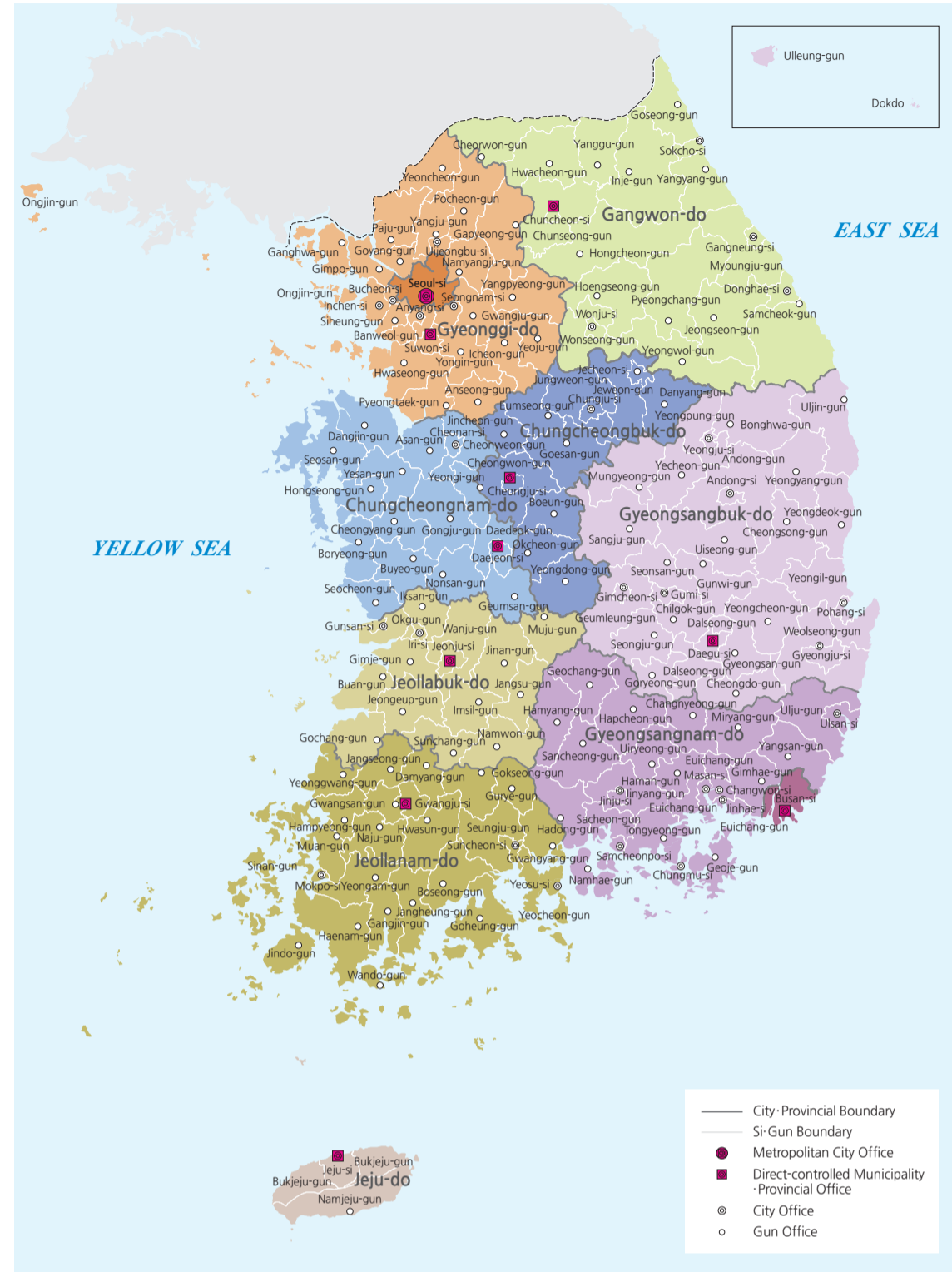
been reorganized into metropolitan cities by combining neighboring areas. In 1995, forty urban-rural integration cities were established, and the following four metropolitan cities were created: Busan, Daegu, Incheon, and Daejeon. In 1997, Ulsan attained metropolitan city status.

After 2000, a continuous merging of cities and counties took place, and Jeju Island was raised to the status of a lowercase special self-governing province in 2006. Sejong, a multifunctional administrative city, became the Sejong Metropolitan Autonomous City in 2012. Now, the Republic of Korea has 17 metropolitan units, which include one teukbyeol-si (special city), six gwangyeok-sis (metropolitan cities: Gwangju, Daegu, Daejeon, Busan, Ulsan, and Incheon), one teukbyeol jachi-si (special autonomous city: Sejong), eight dos (provinces: Gangwon-do, Gyeonggi-do, Gyeongsangnam-do, Gyeongsangbuk-do, Jeollanam-do, Jeollabuk-do, Chungcheongnam-do, and Chungcheongbuk-do), and one teukbyeol jachi-do (special self-governing autonomous province: Jeju).

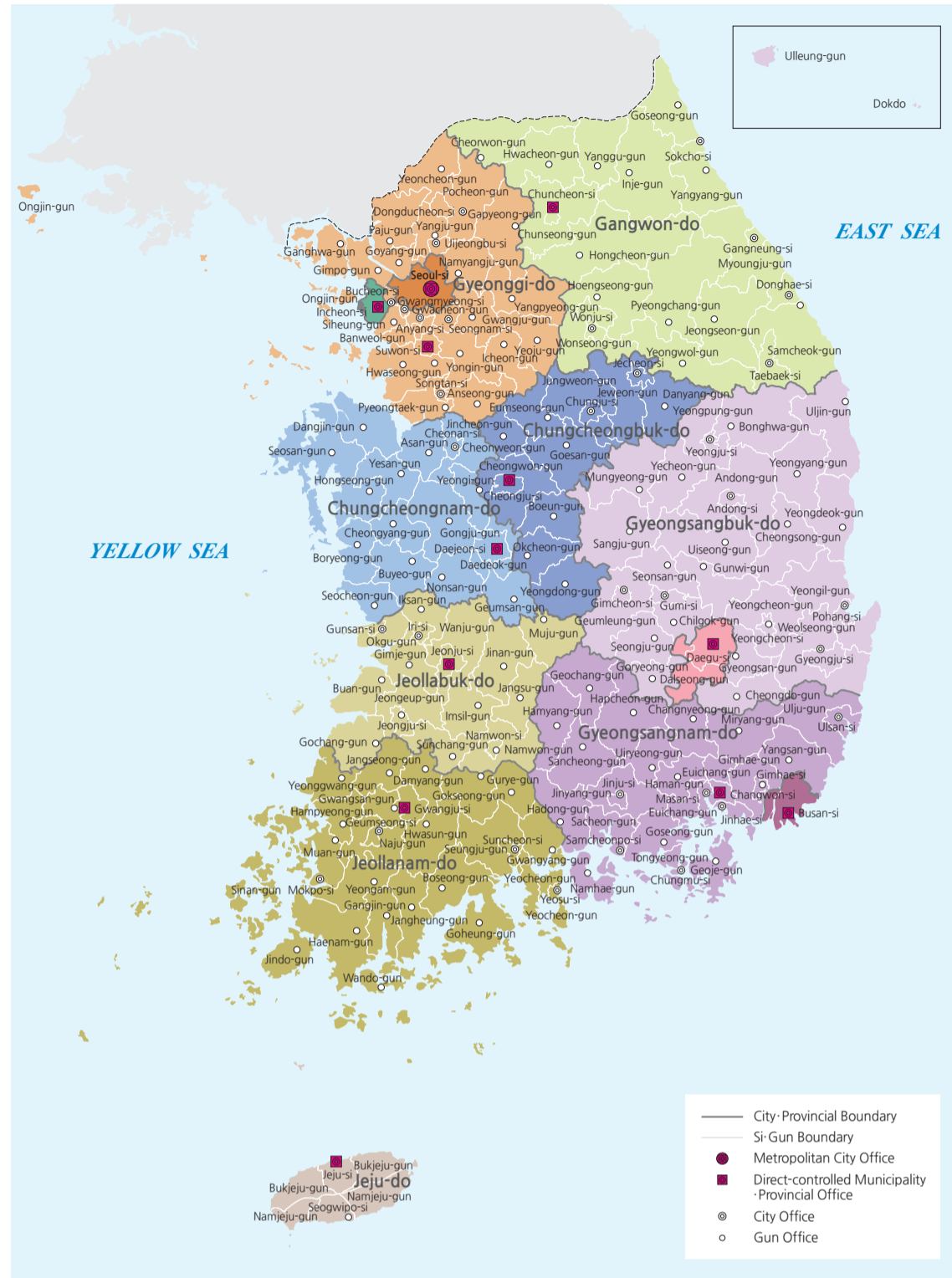
Changes in Administrative Regions since Independence



1980



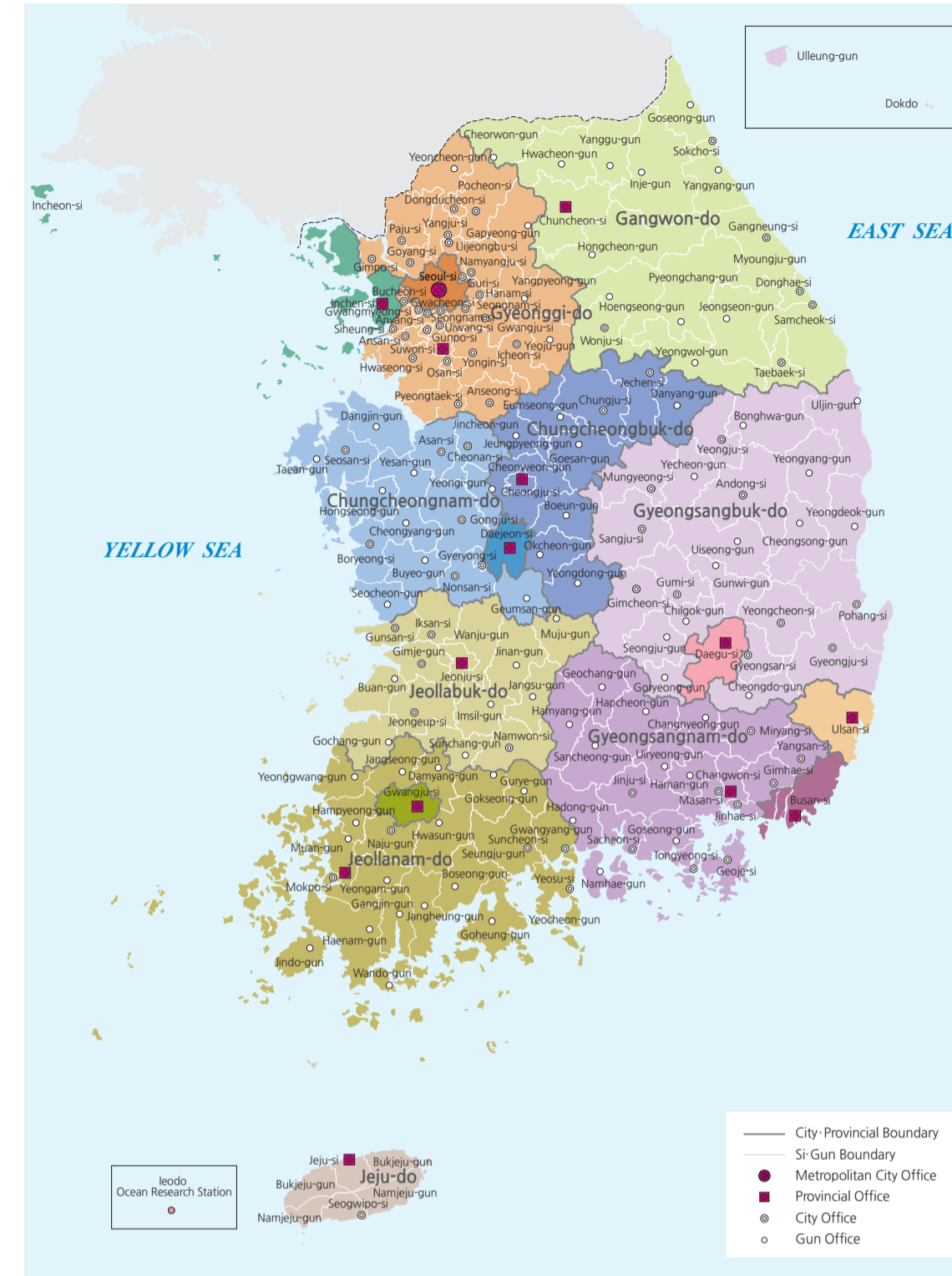
1985



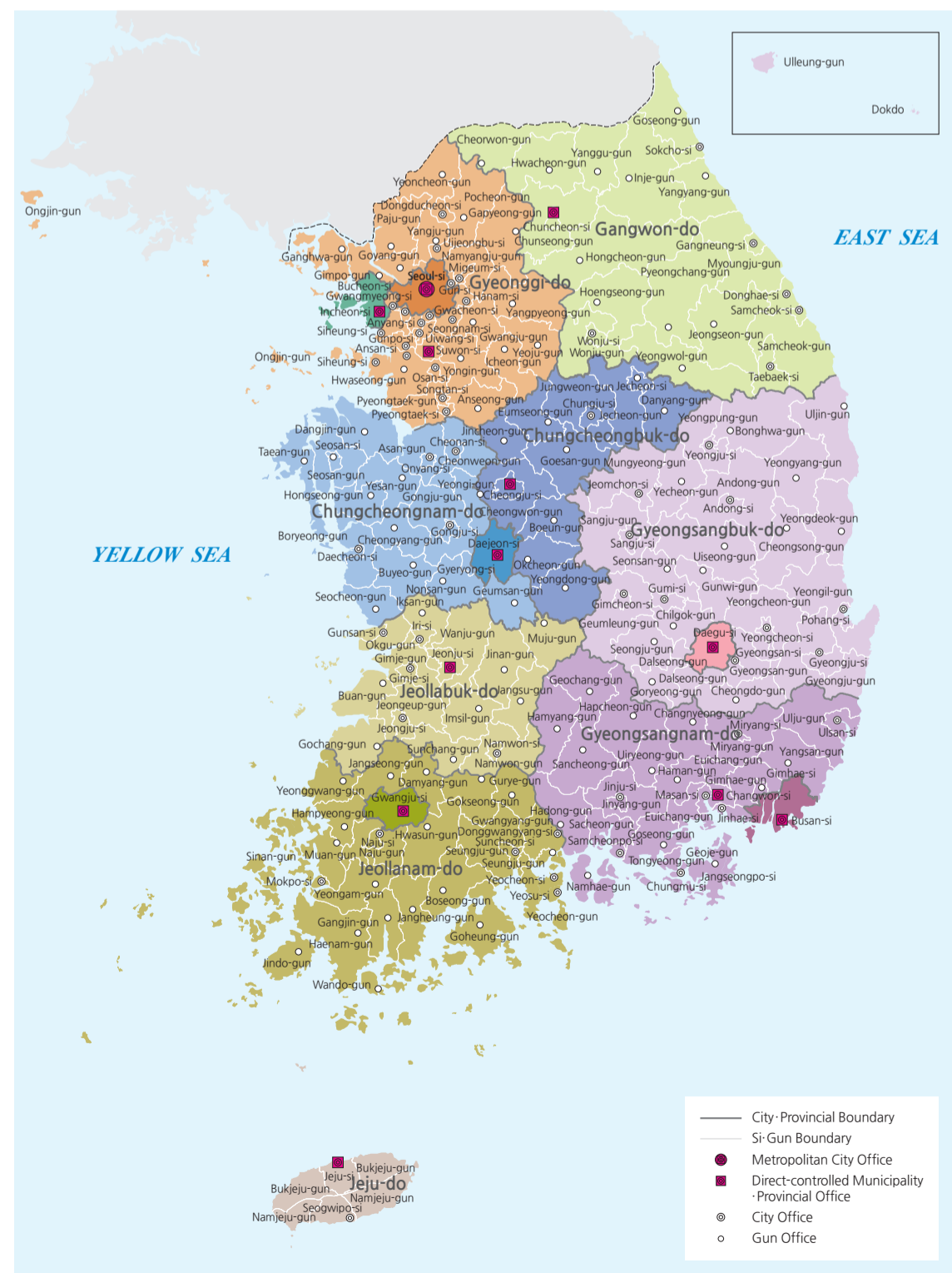
2000



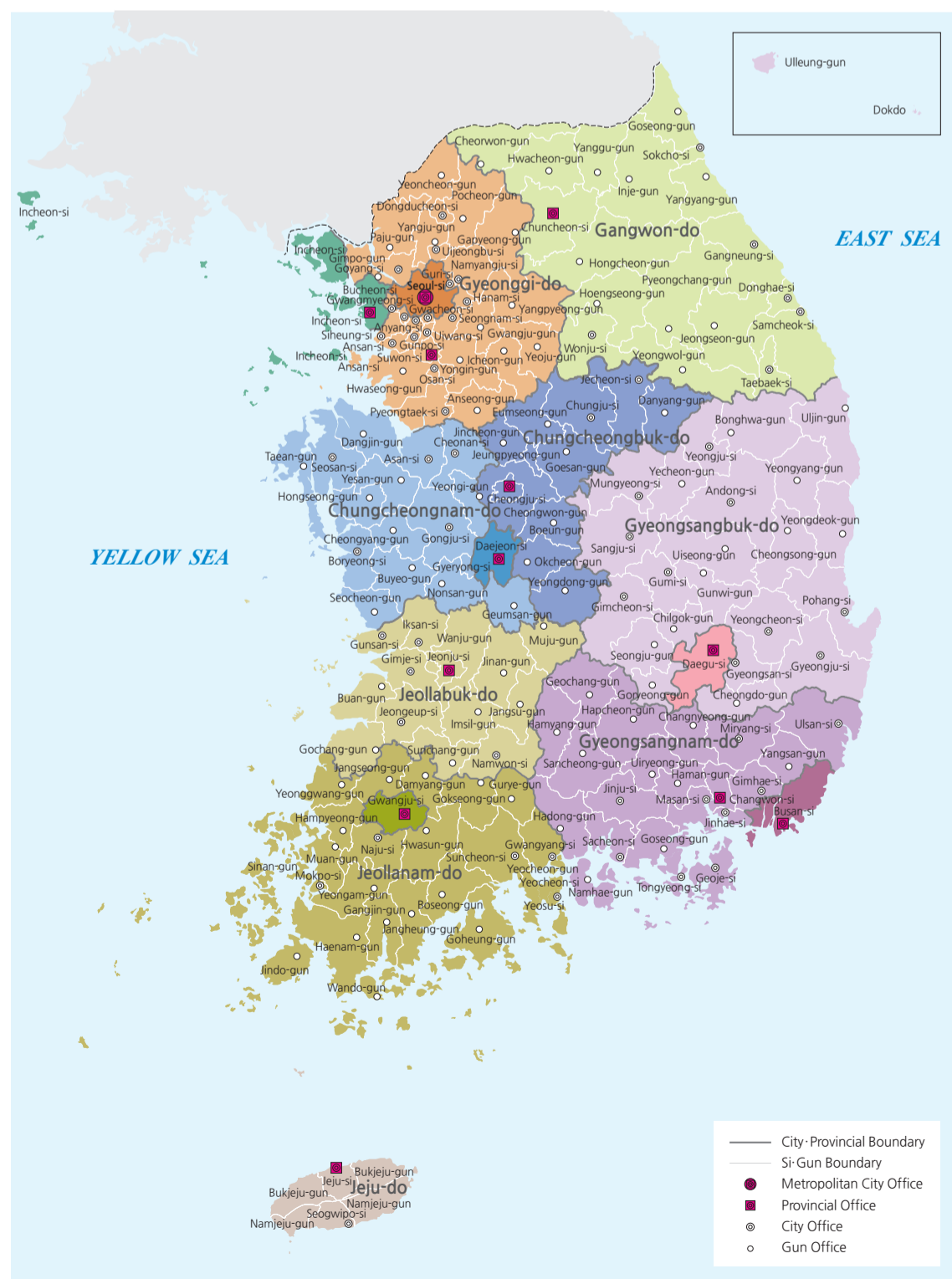
2005



1990



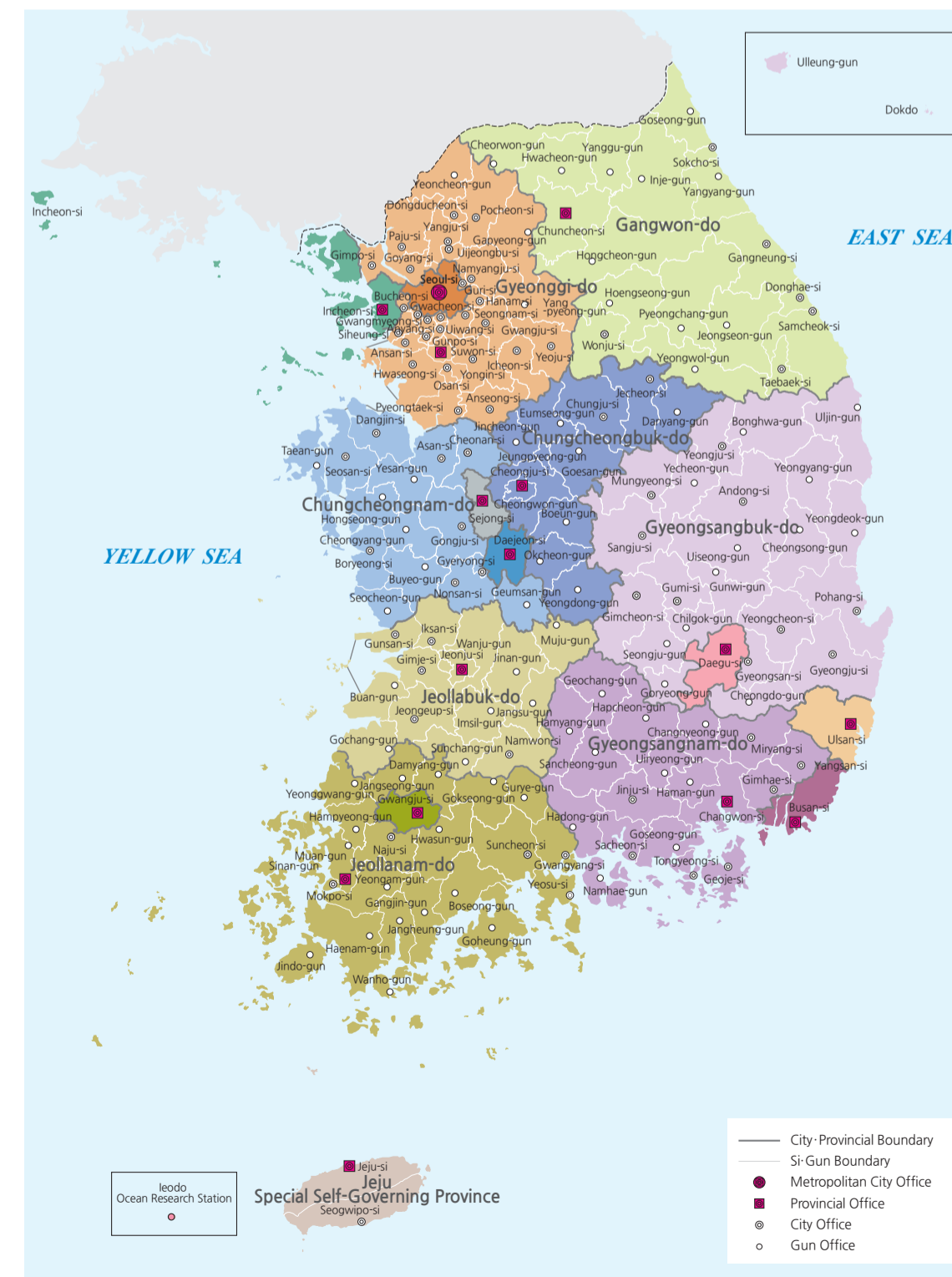
1995



2010



2019



Expansion of Large Cities

Seoul has experienced a rapid increase both in population and land area in modern times. During the Joseon Dynasty (1392–1897), Seoul was surrounded by a fortress wall and consisted of Hanseong and five bus, which together formed the political and administrative center, its inner districts, and outer districts (Seongjeosimni). The outer districts stretched approximately 4 km beyond the city wall. By the end of the 19th century, the city's population hovered above 200,000. From the end of the Joseon Dynasty through Japanese

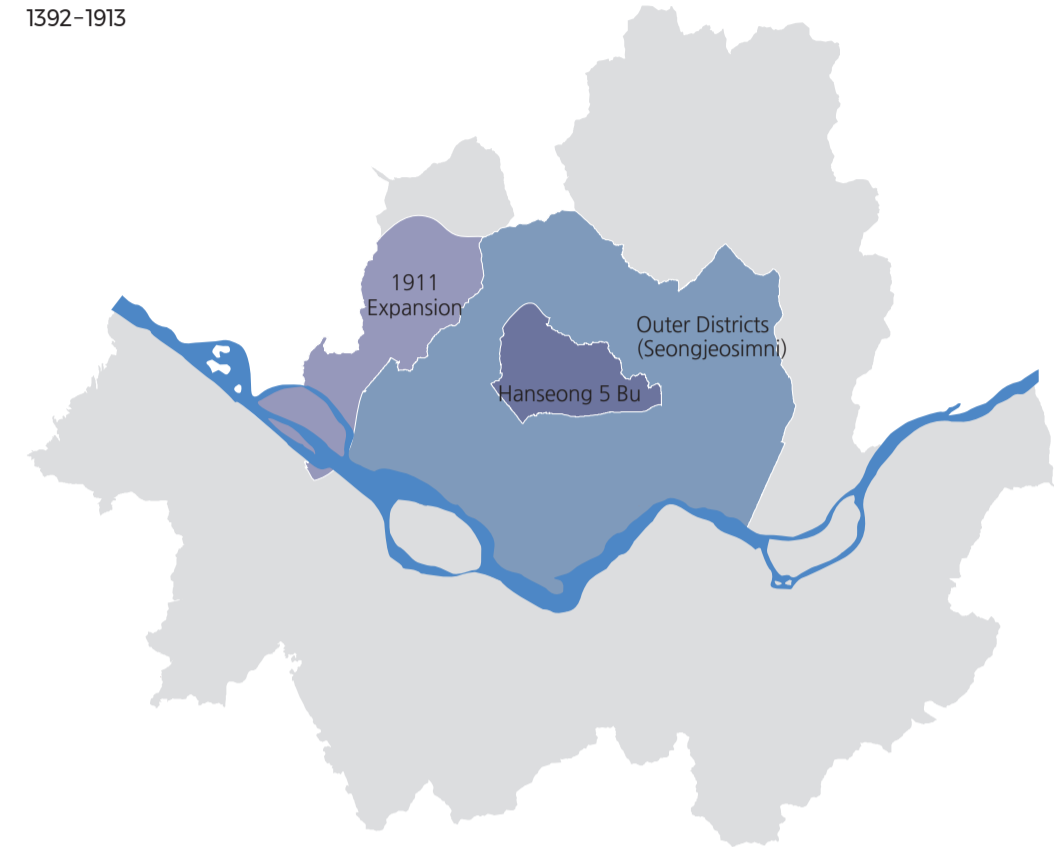
colonial rule, the city's boundaries grew as railroads and streetcar routes were constructed. A massive residential area was built to house Japanese immigrants and farmers who migrated to the city during this period. Following its liberation from Japan, Seoul's population was close to 900,000 and grew to 1,700,000 before the Korean War, as overseas Koreans returned home.

Seoul has modified administrative areas eight times since the confirmation and announcement of the first urban plan in 1936,

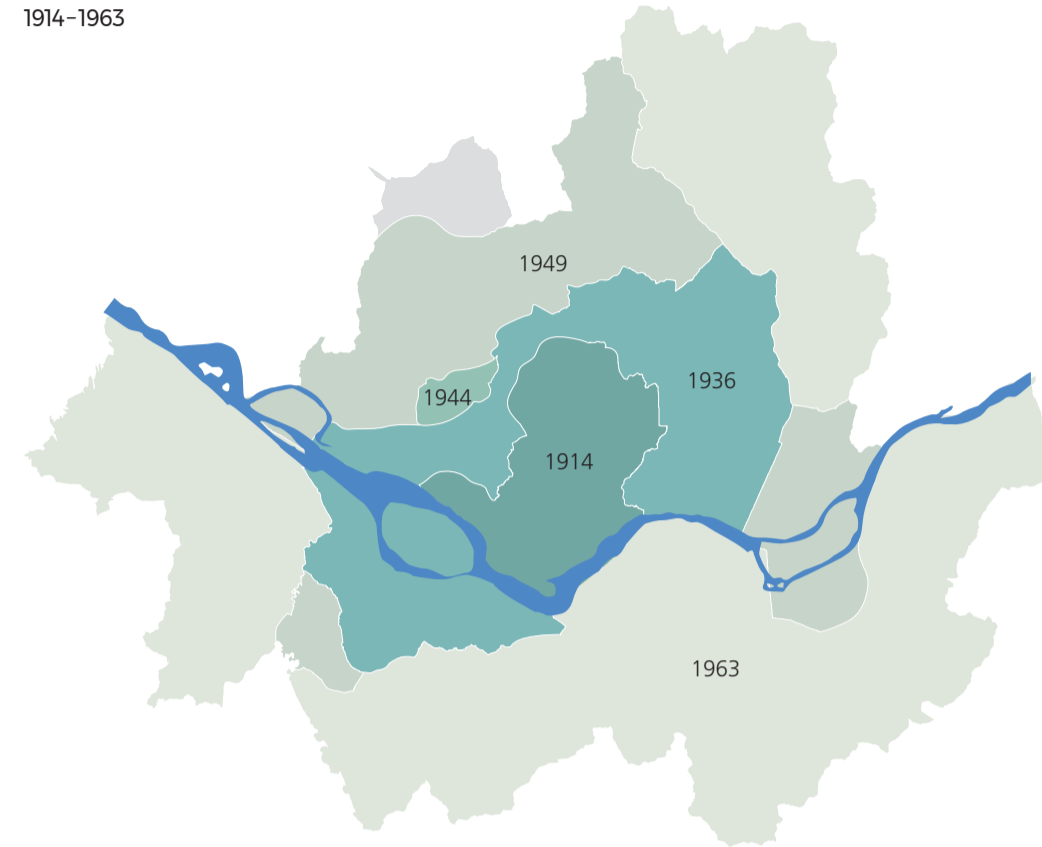
including the expansion of urban districts and administrative independence of the surrounding cities. Starting with the organization of the seven gus in 1943, Seoul's population increased sharply before industrialization, and the rise in population density accelerated as industrialization rapidly grew after the 1960s. The concentration of the population resulted in the development of the outskirts of the city, and the opening of subways further facilitated urban expansion.

Expansion of Seoul

1392–1913



1914–1963



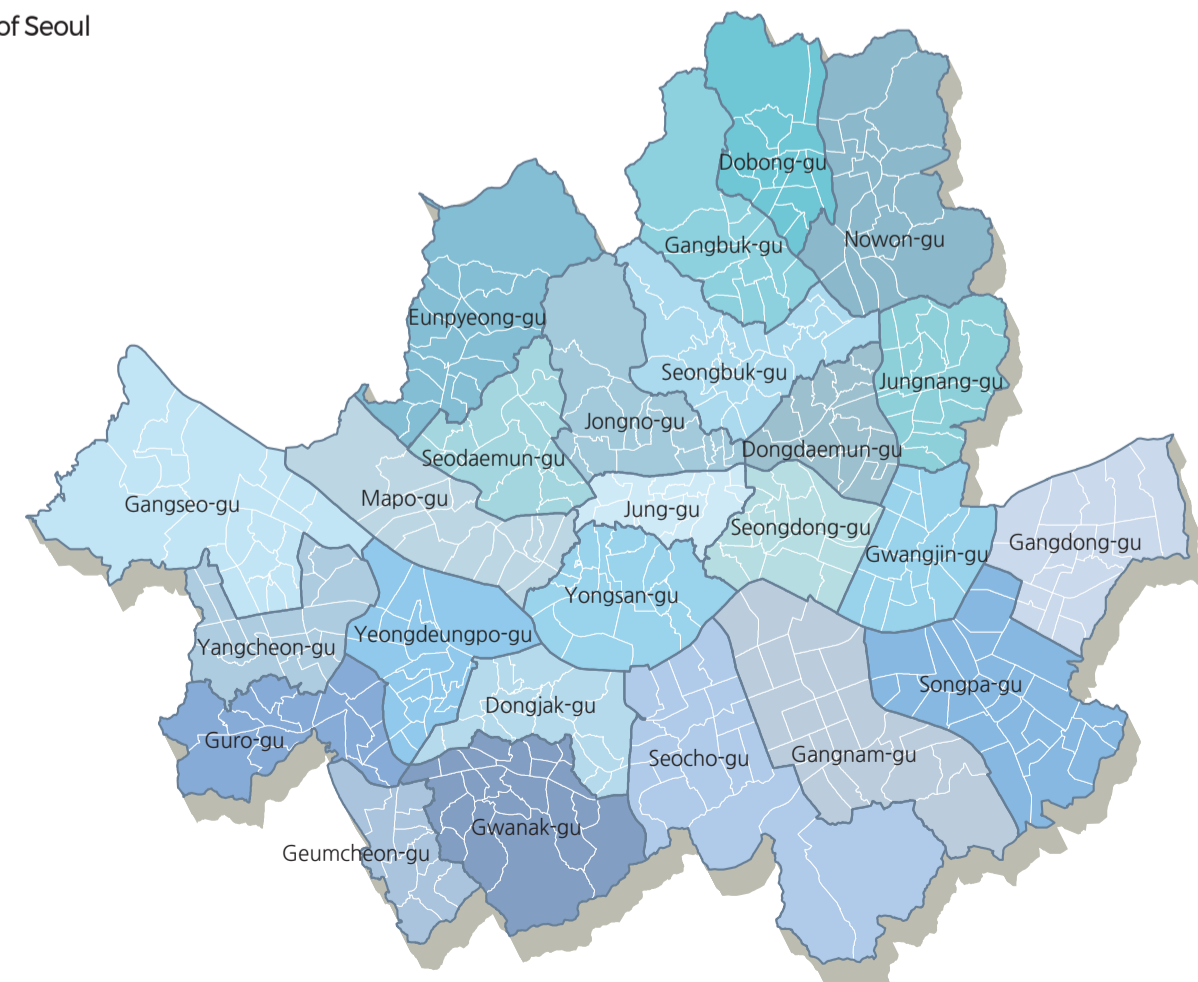
1973



2005



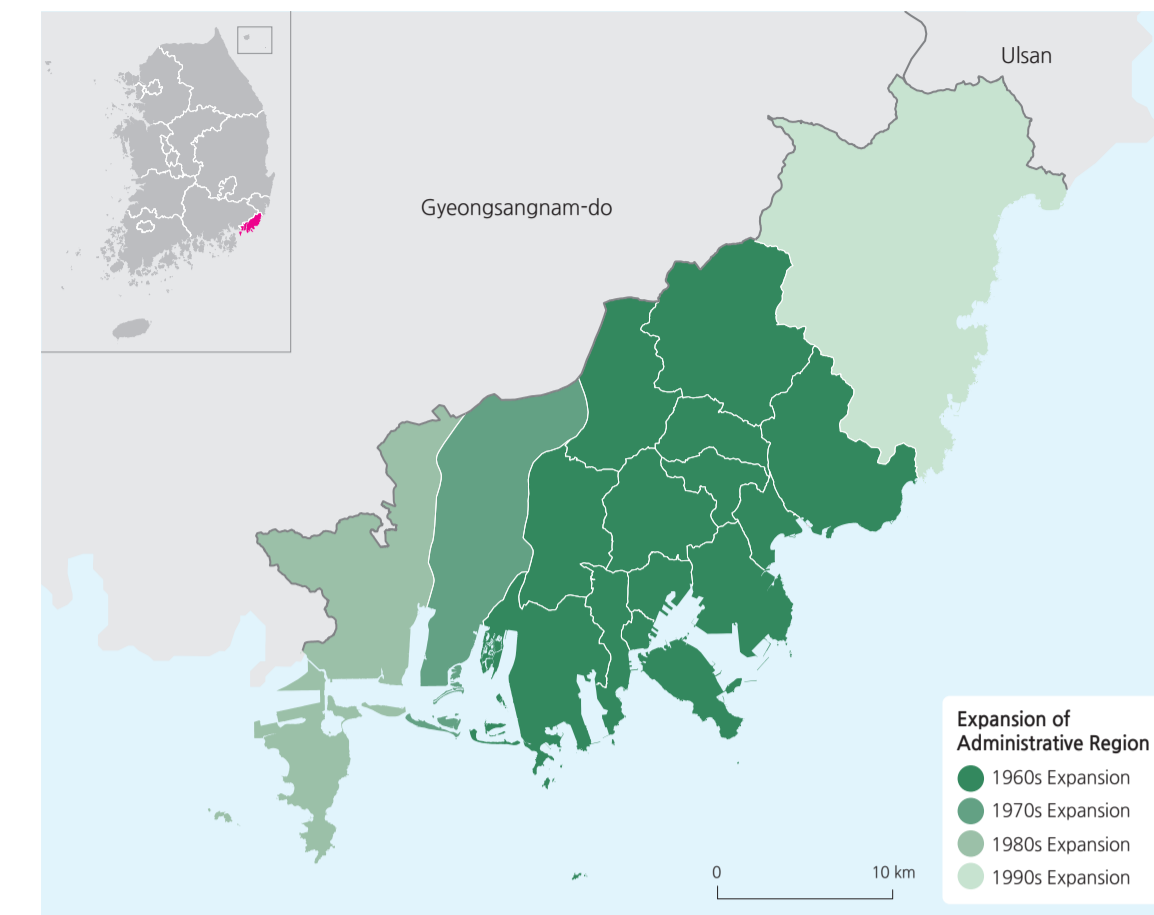
Administrative Map of Seoul



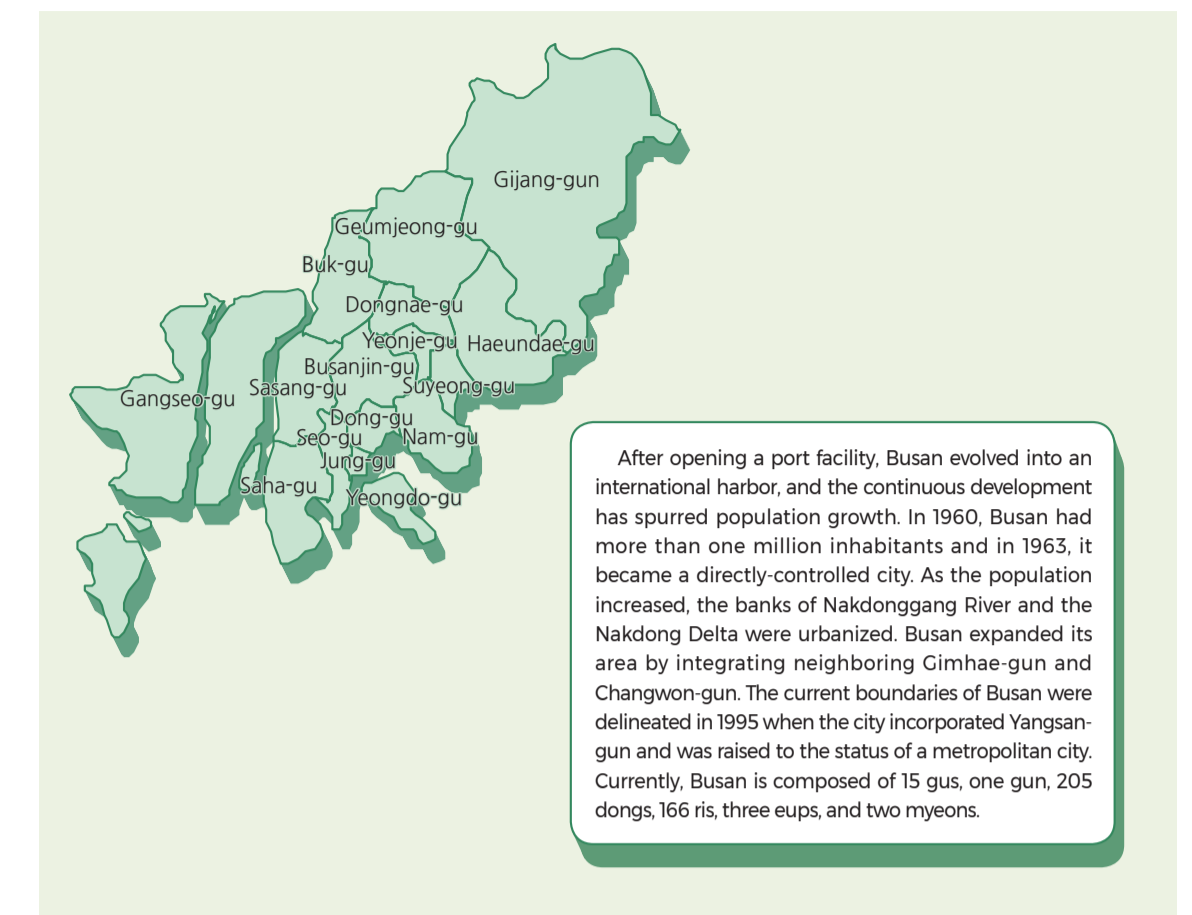
The land area of Seoul city was 135 km² in 1936, which was doubled to 269 km² by integrating the four districts of Sungin, Eunpyeong, Guro, and Ddukdo. In 1963, the urban plan was widely adopted across the nation and Seoul experienced one more land expansion by additionally integrating Shindo-myeon, Gwacheon-myeon, Ojeong-myeon of Gyeonggi Province and Cheolsan-ri (Seo-myeon), Haan-ri, and Gwangmyeong-ri, thus expanding its land area to 713 km². In 1970, the planned population was modified, and Hwajeop-ri, Yangju-gun, Gyeonggi-do, Galmae-ri, Guri-gun, and other surrounding regions were integrated into Seoul to increase the land area to 720 km². However, in 1982, Gwangmyeong-si was separated from Seoul as it became a new city, and in 1991, Gwacheon-si and Bucheon-si were also separated from Seoul, in accordance with the Seoul urban plan. Therefore, the land area of Seoul has been 605 km² since 1995. Seoul takes up 0.6% of the national territory and is composed of 25 autonomous gus and 424 administrative dong areas as of 2019.

Like Seoul, six other metropolitan cities have gone through increases in population and have expanded their administrative areas. In 1995, metropolitan cities, serving as hub cities in the local area, were reorganized by integrating surrounding areas and became directly-controlled municipalities.

Expansion of Busan

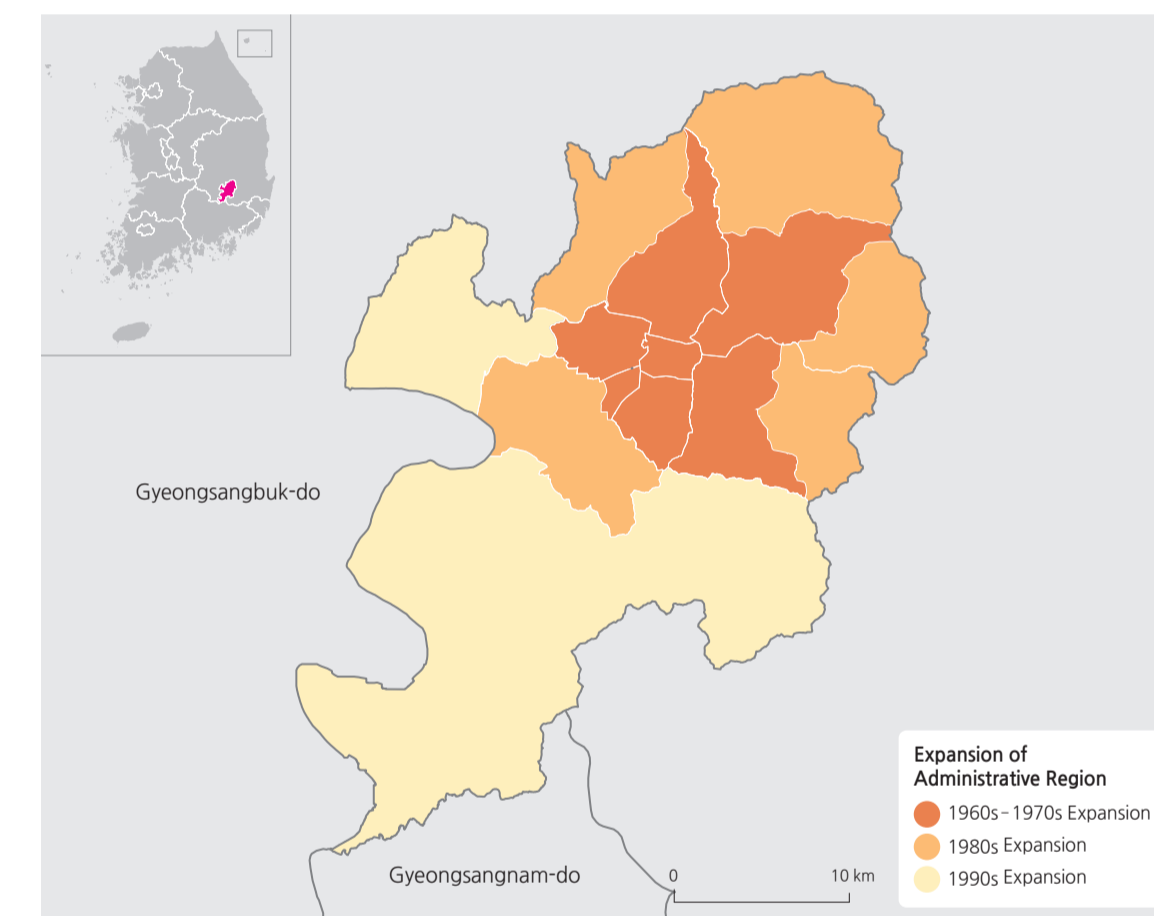


Administrative Map of Busan

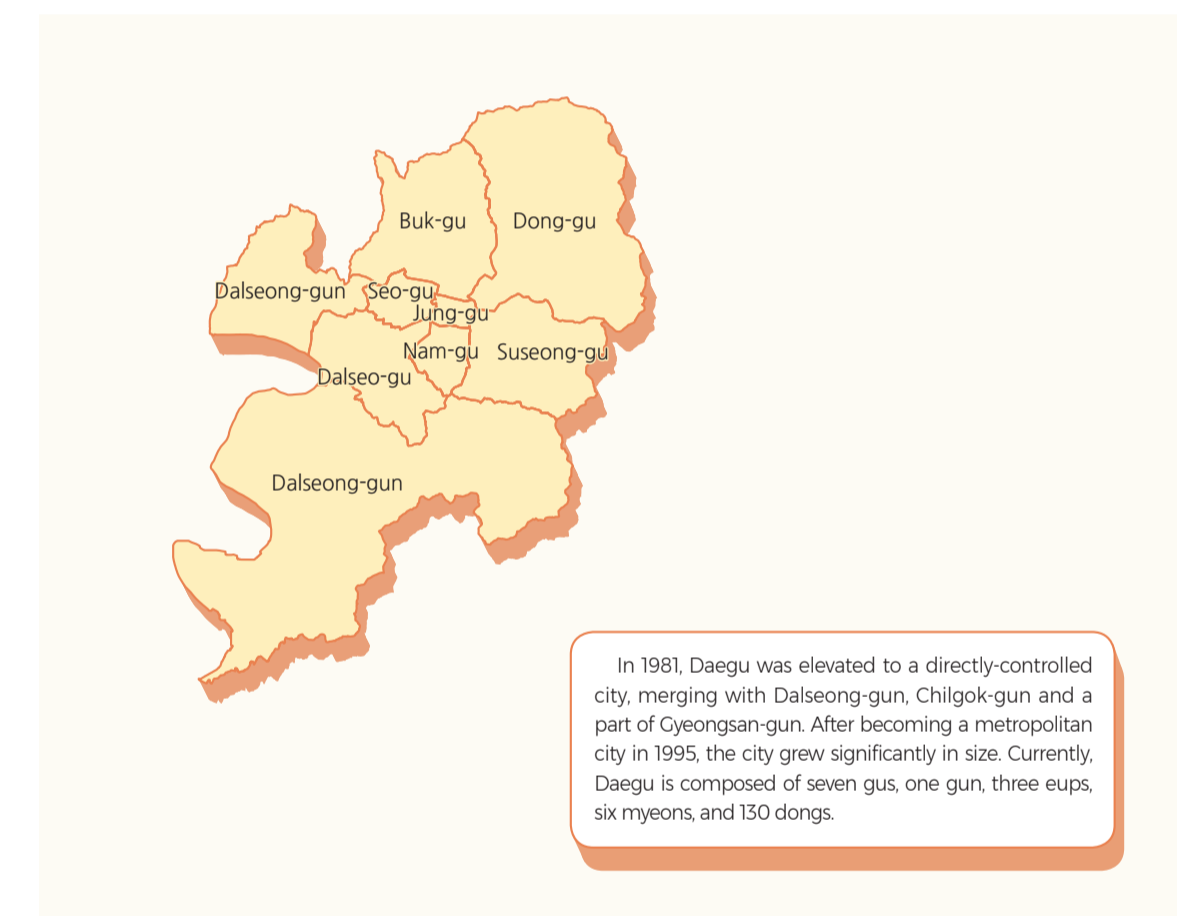


After opening a port facility, Busan evolved into an international harbor, and the continuous development has spurred population growth. In 1960, Busan had more than one million inhabitants and in 1963, it became a directly-controlled city. As the population increased, the banks of Nakdonggang River and the Nakdong Delta were urbanized. Busan expanded its area by integrating neighboring Gimhae-gun and Changwon-gun. The current boundaries of Busan were delineated in 1995 when the city incorporated Yangsan-gun and was raised to the status of a metropolitan city. Currently, Busan is composed of 15 gus, one gun, 205 dong areas, 166 ri areas, three eup areas, and two myeon areas.

Expansion of Daegu

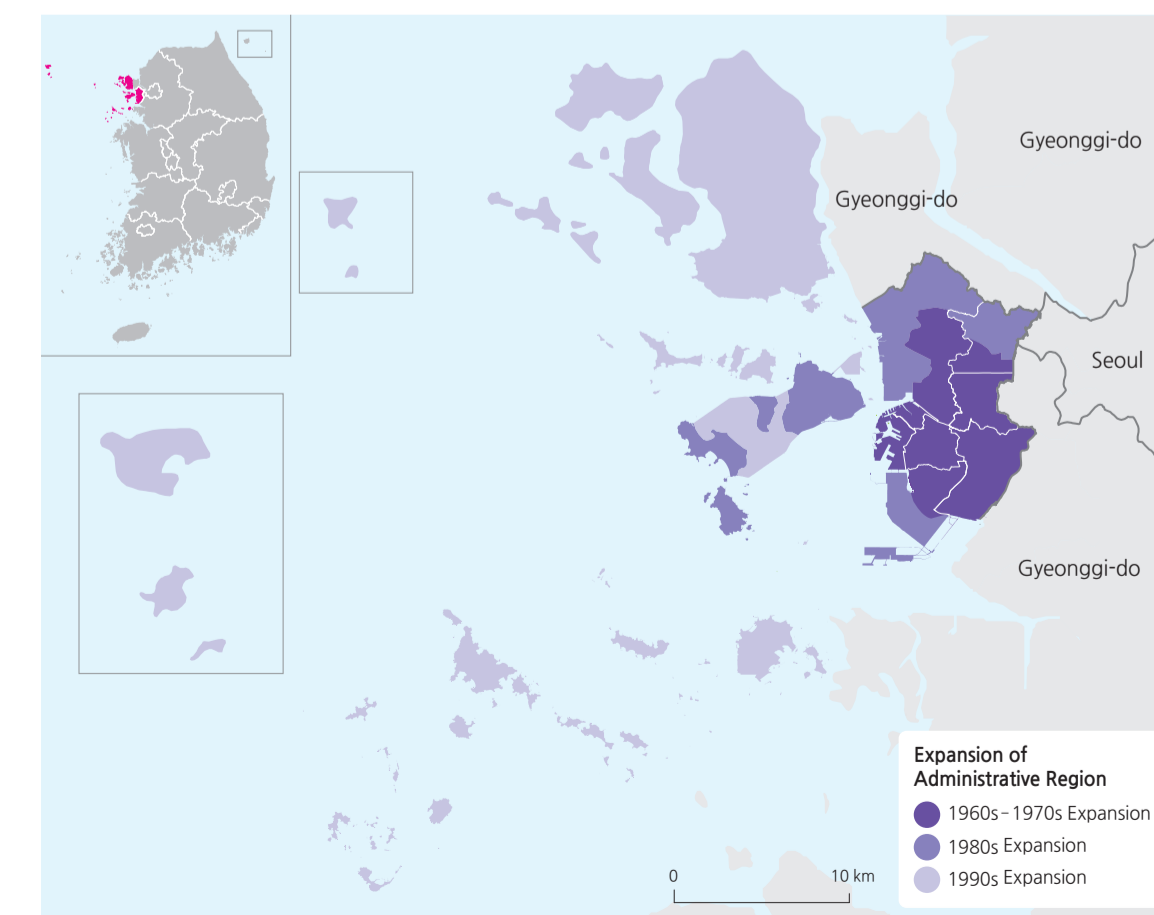


Administrative Map of Daegu

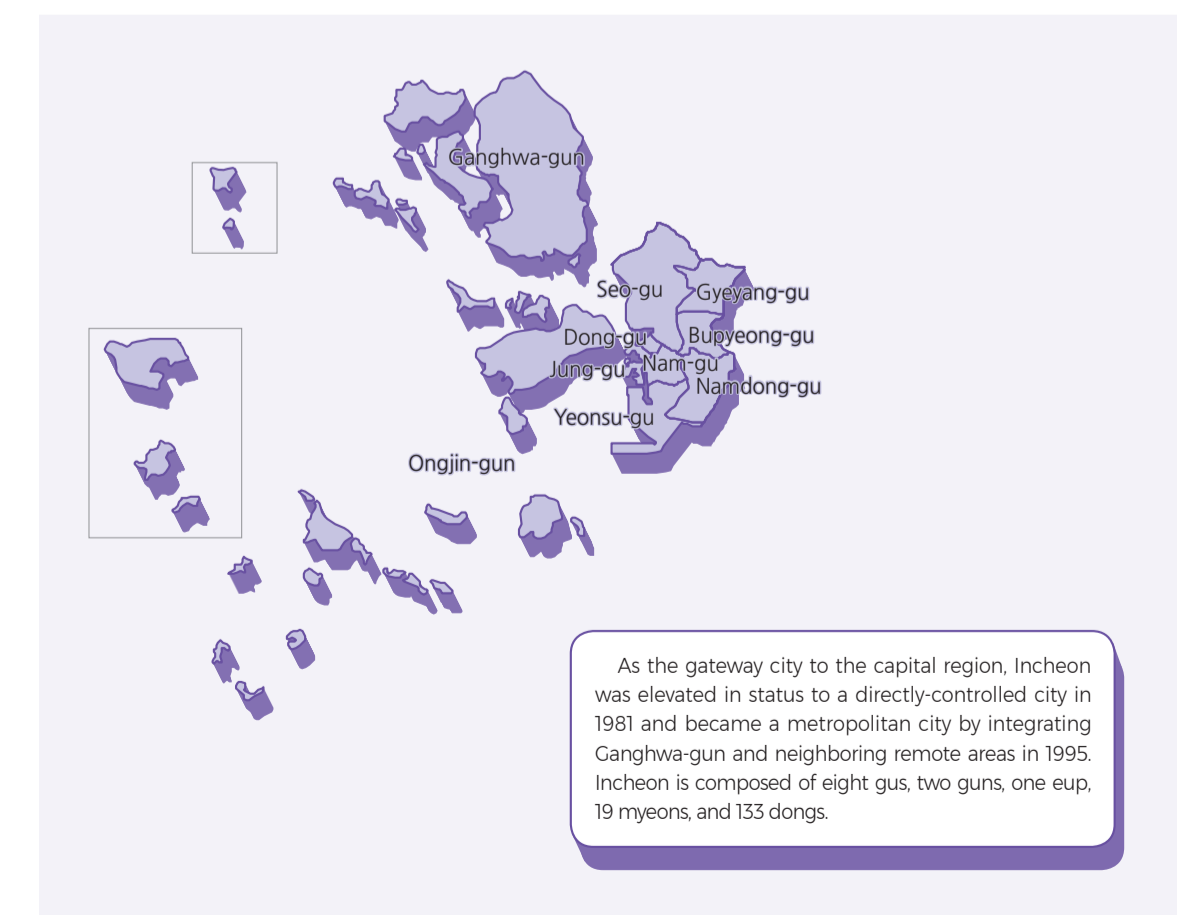


In 1981, Daegu was elevated to a directly-controlled city, merging with Dalseong-gun, Chilgok-gun and a part of Gyeongsang-gun. After becoming a metropolitan city in 1995, the city grew significantly in size. Currently, Daegu is composed of seven gus, one gun, three eup areas, six myeon areas, and 130 dong areas.

Expansion of Incheon

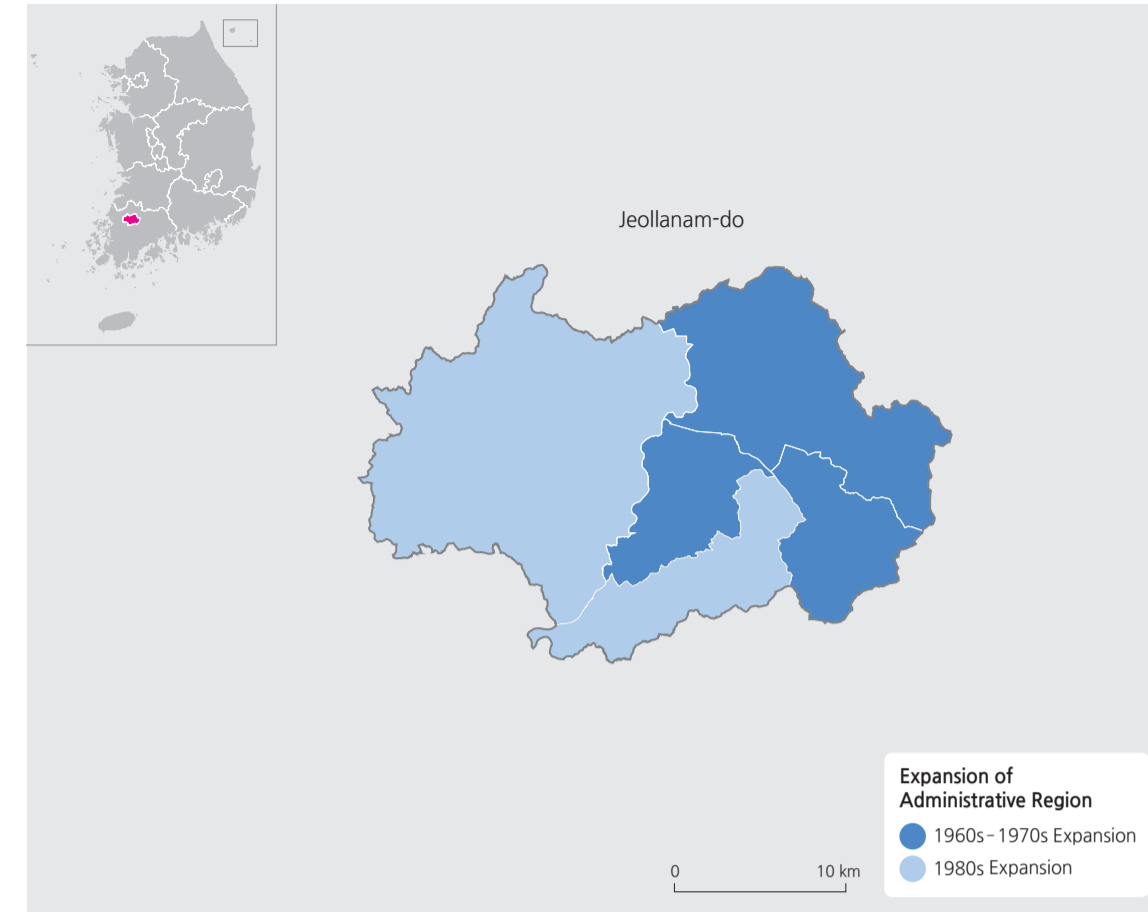


Administrative Map of Incheon

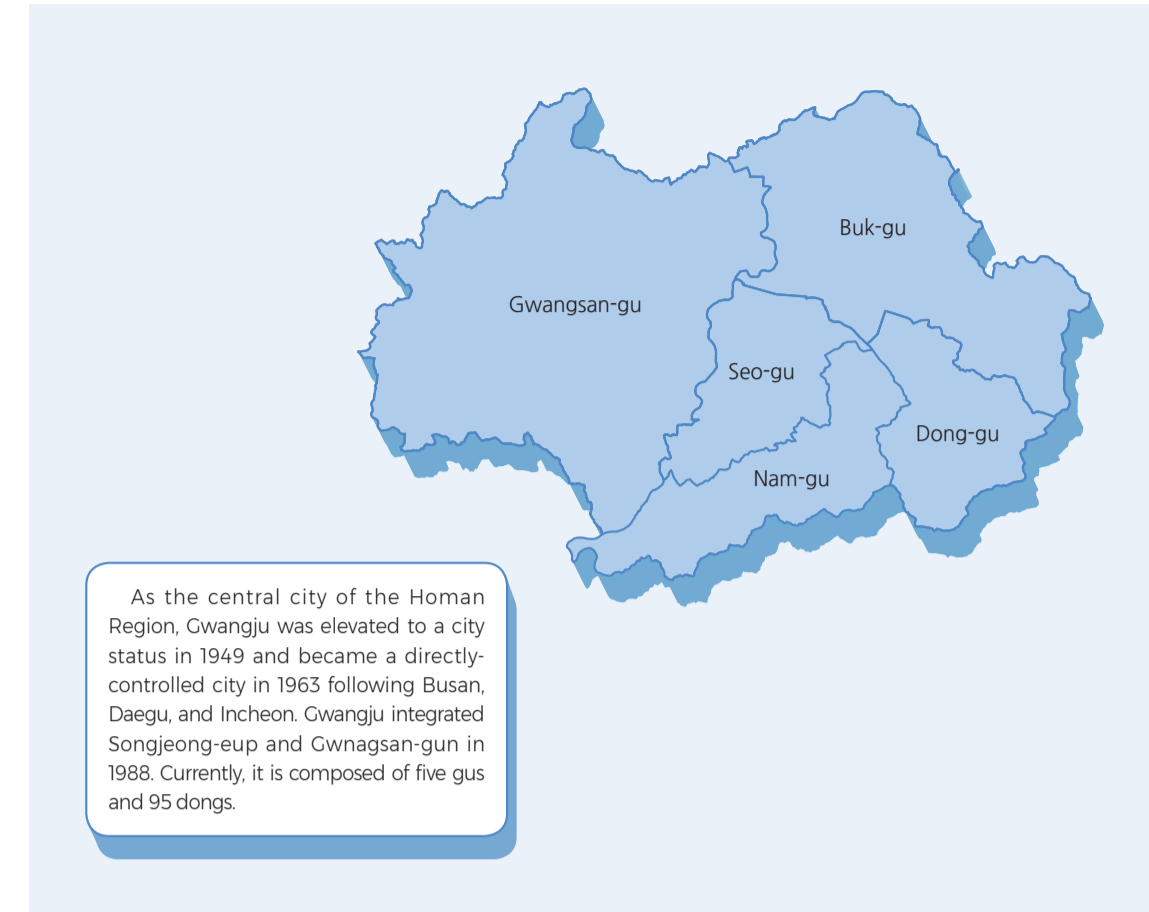


As the gateway city to the capital region, Incheon was elevated in status to a directly-controlled city in 1981 and became a metropolitan city by integrating Ganghwa-gun and neighboring remote areas in 1995. Incheon is composed of eight gus, two guns, one eup area, 19 myeon areas, and 133 dong areas.

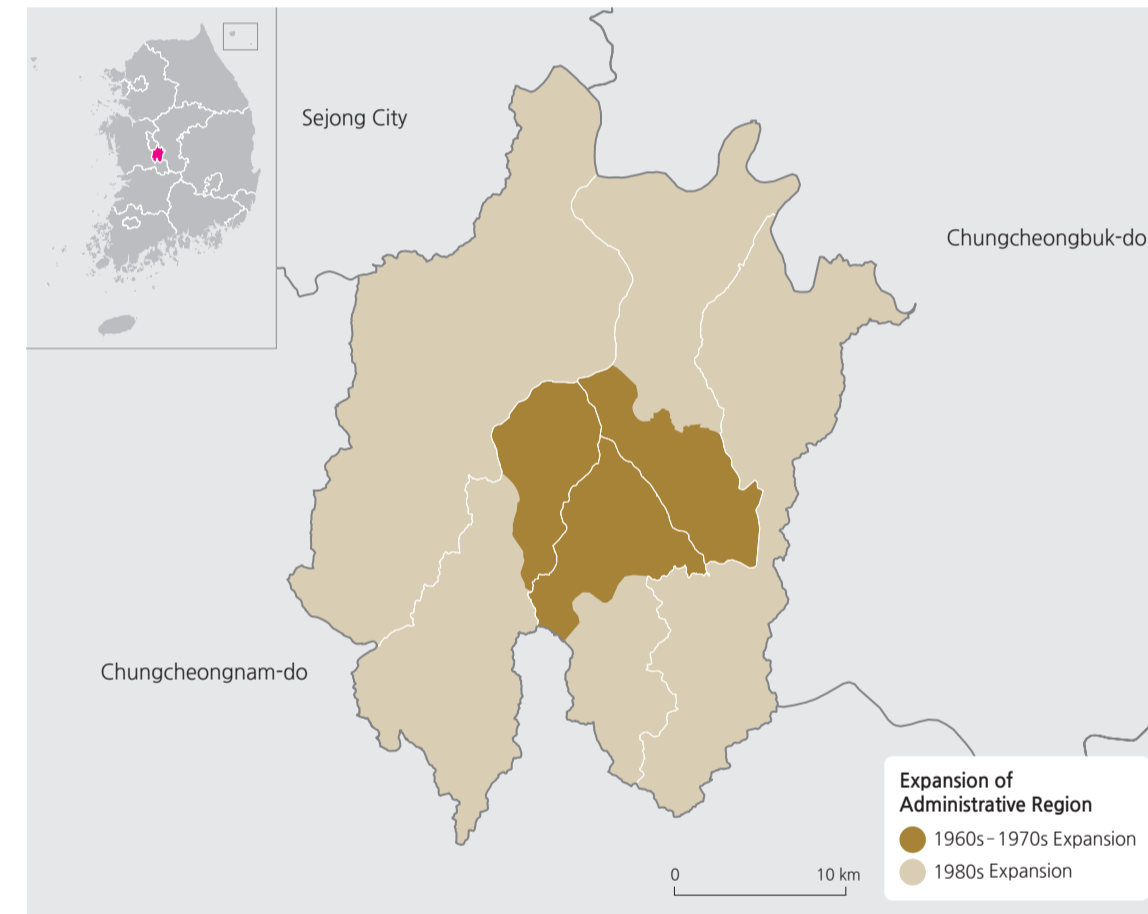
Expansion of Gwangju



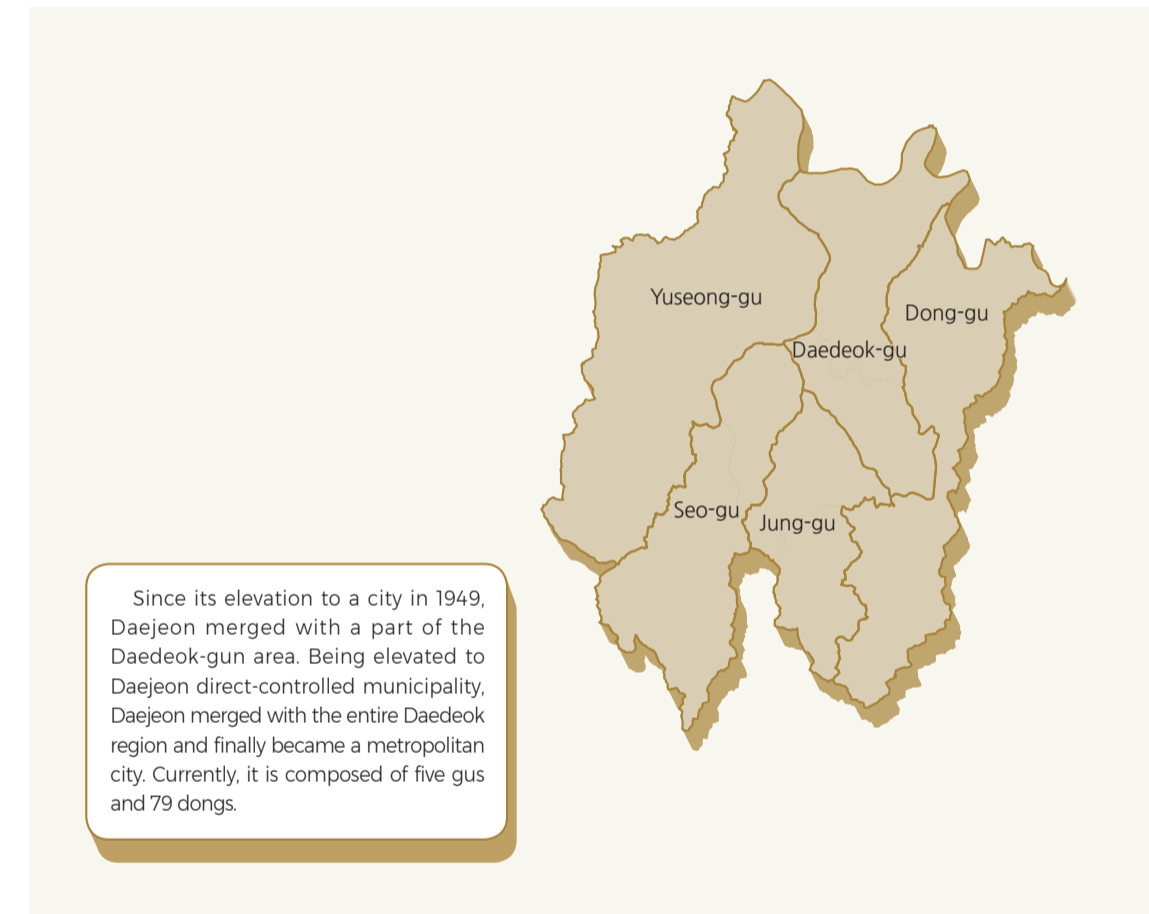
Administrative Map of Gwangju



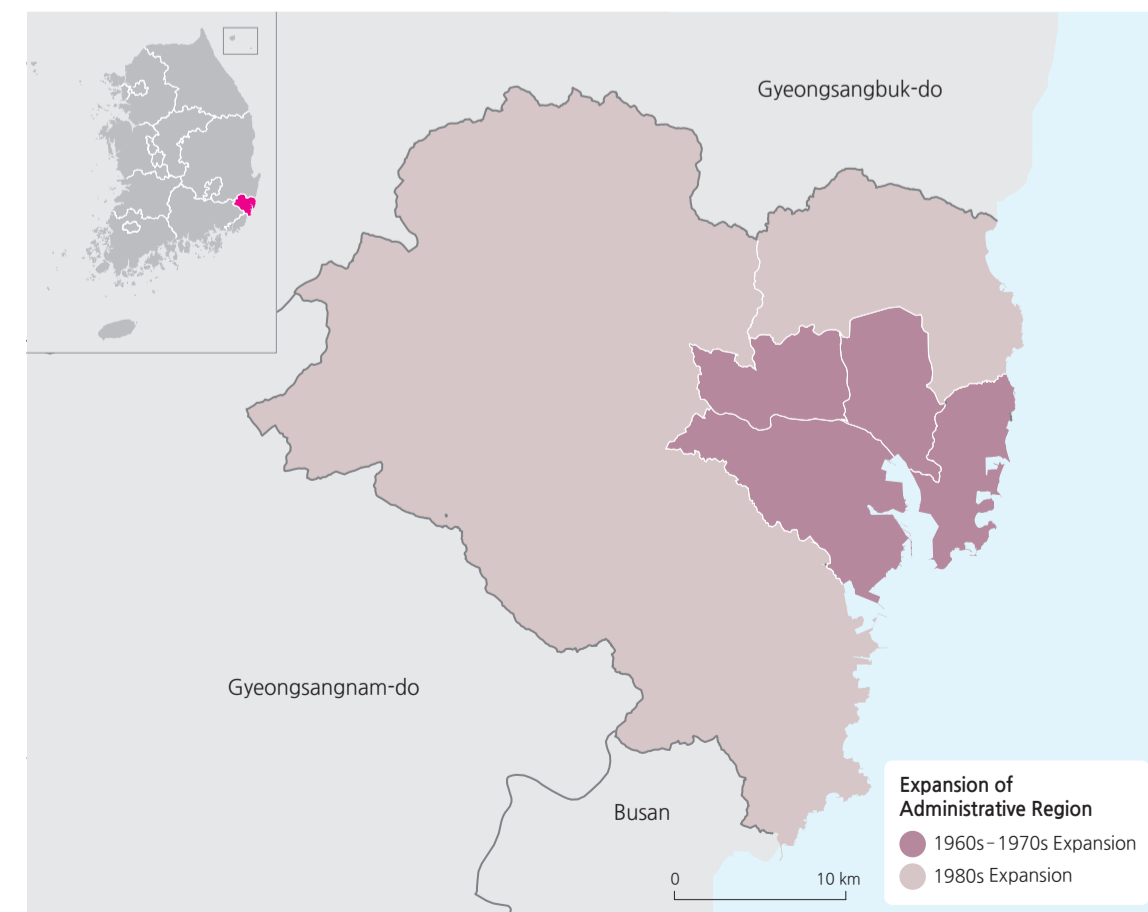
Expansion of Daejeon



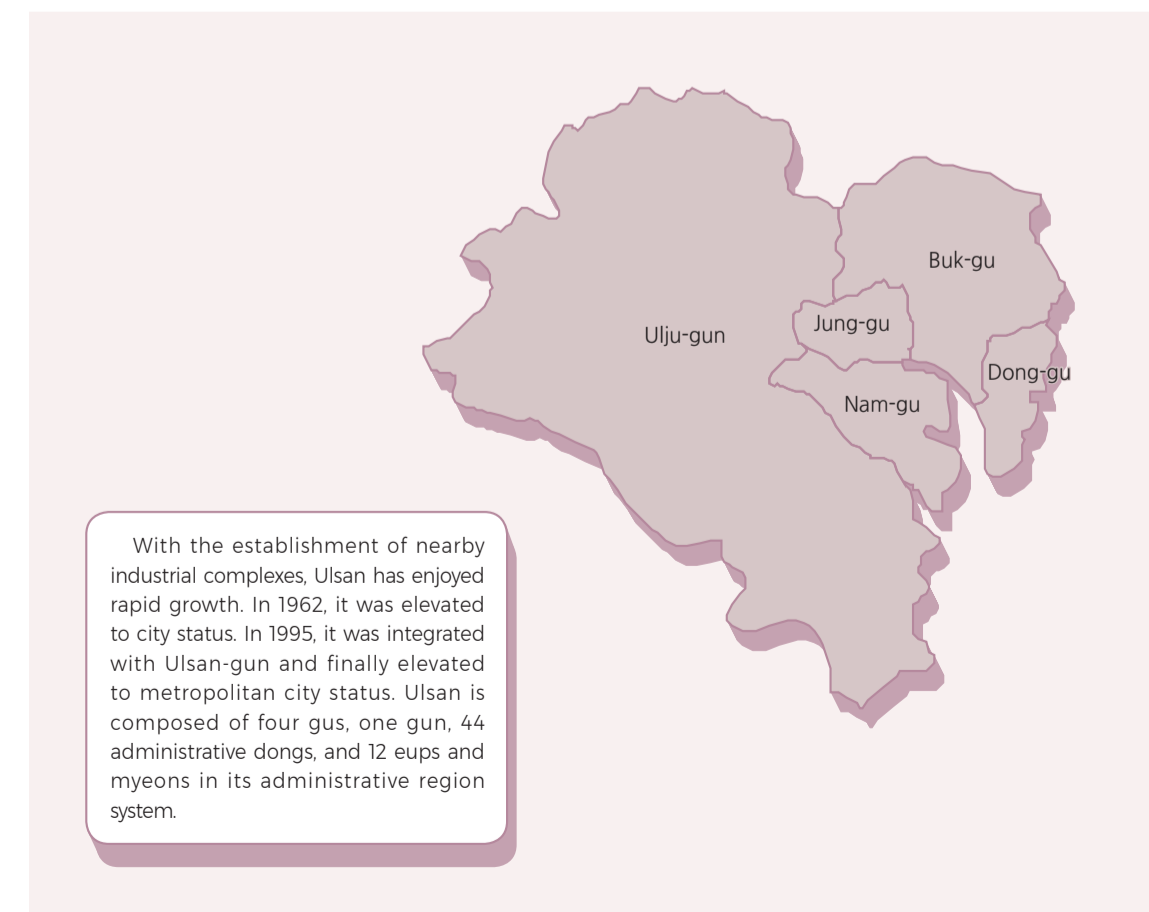
Administrative Map of Daejeon



Expansion of Ulsan



Administrative Map of Ulsan



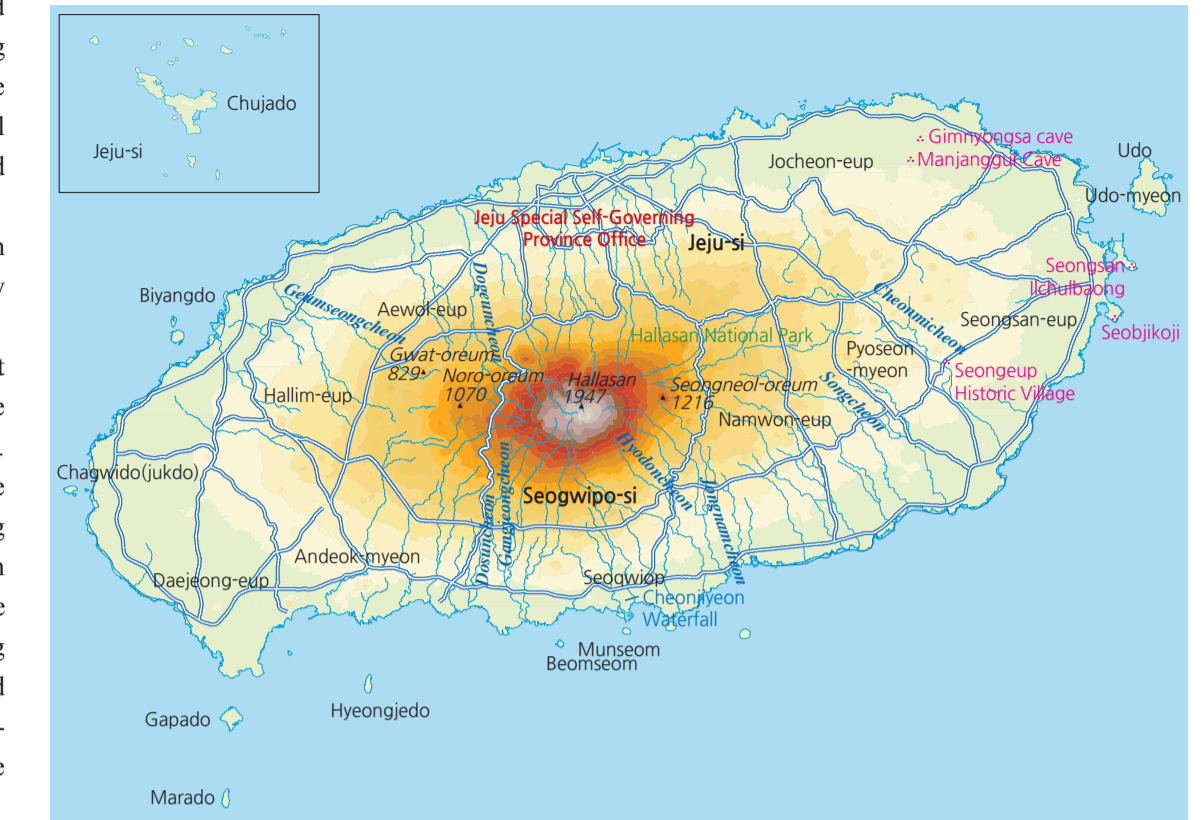
Special Administrative Region: Jeju

Jeju is Korea's largest island and is known for its beautiful natural landscape and unique cultural heritage, which attracts many tourists. Jeju Island was created by volcanic action and is characterized by volcanic topography, such as Hallasan Mountain, which is located at the heart of the island along with numerous parasitic cones and caves surrounding it. Jeju was designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2002 and as a World Natural Heritage Site in 2007. Jeju was also certified as a Global Geopark in 2010, which made it part of the natural heritage the entire world should protect and conserve.

Jeju's well-preserved natural environment, unique ecosystem, and cultural background made it an ideal location for various leisure and recreational facilities. As numerous tourists visit the island every year, the Seoul (Gimpo)-Jeju airline route has become one of the busiest air routes in the world.

In 2006, Jeju became the first Special Self-Governing Province to facilitate regional development that focuses upon unique regional attributes. The plan to build an international city of Jeju to facilitate free trade has been established and announced. Jeju is one of the metropolitan cities and provinces. However, unlike any other metropolitan cities and provinces, the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province has a high level of autonomy in education, legislation, and finance. Specifically, the island is attracting foreign visitors, investors, and immigrants, as the autonomy implemented administrative deregulation and introduced international standards while setting up various policies ensuring free enterprise. One policy makes a 30-day non-visa stay possible in Jeju. After the launch of this Special Self-Governing Province, foreign investment increased, and many foreign educational institutes have been established thanks to streamlined regulations. At the same time, Bukjeju-gun was merged into Jeju-si, and Namjeju-gun was integrated into Seogwipo-si. Jeju's population has increased by around 1% every year since 2010. The current population is 669,771.

Map of Jeju Island



Jeju International Airport

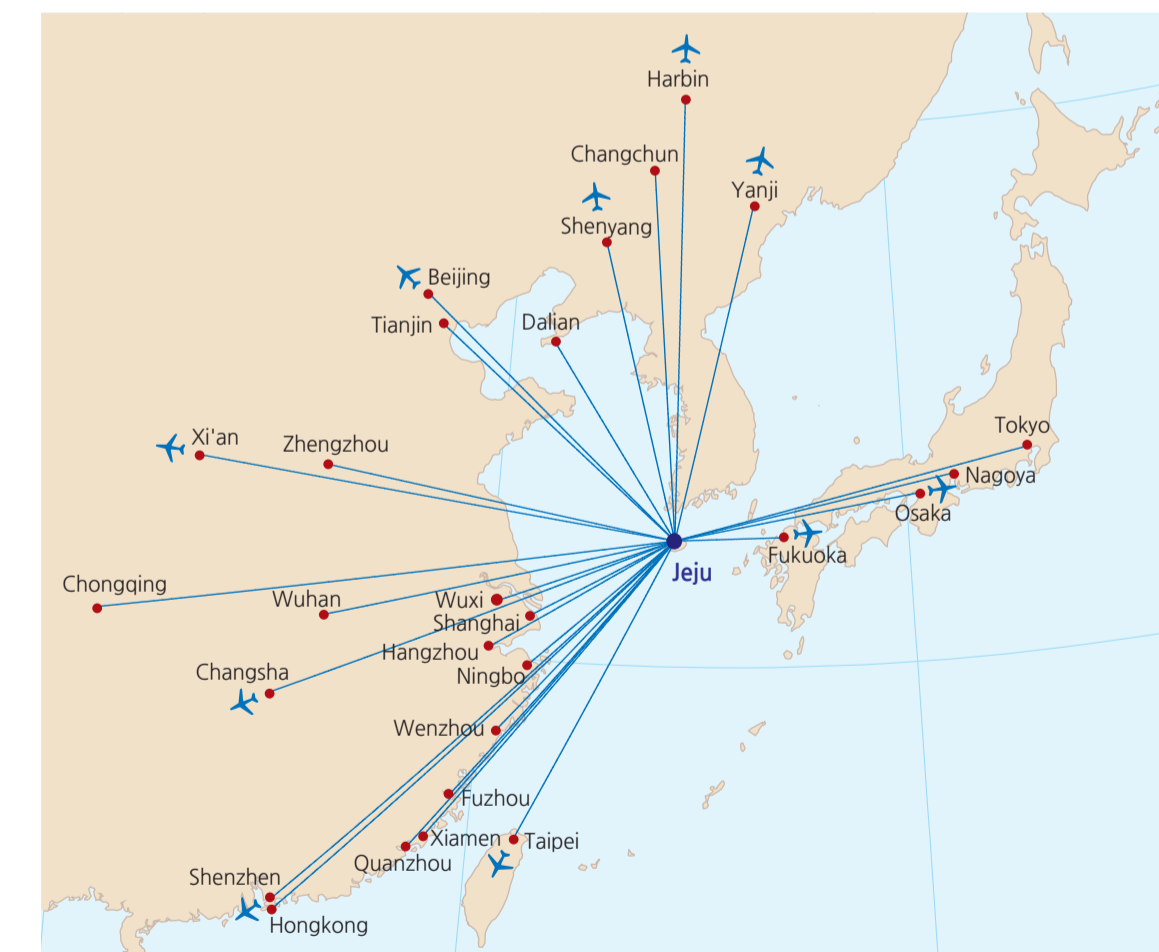


Hallasan Mountain

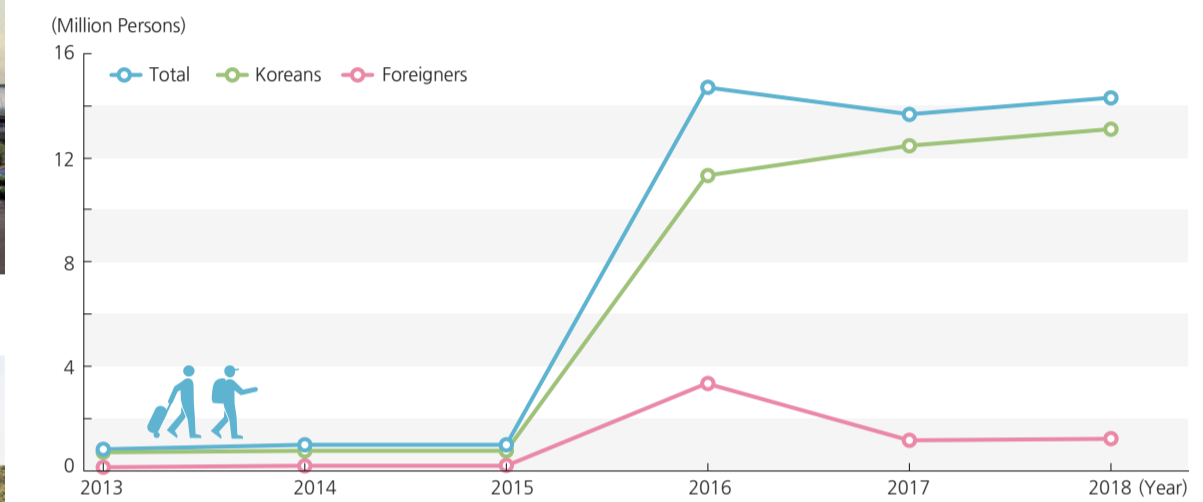


Baengnokdam Crater

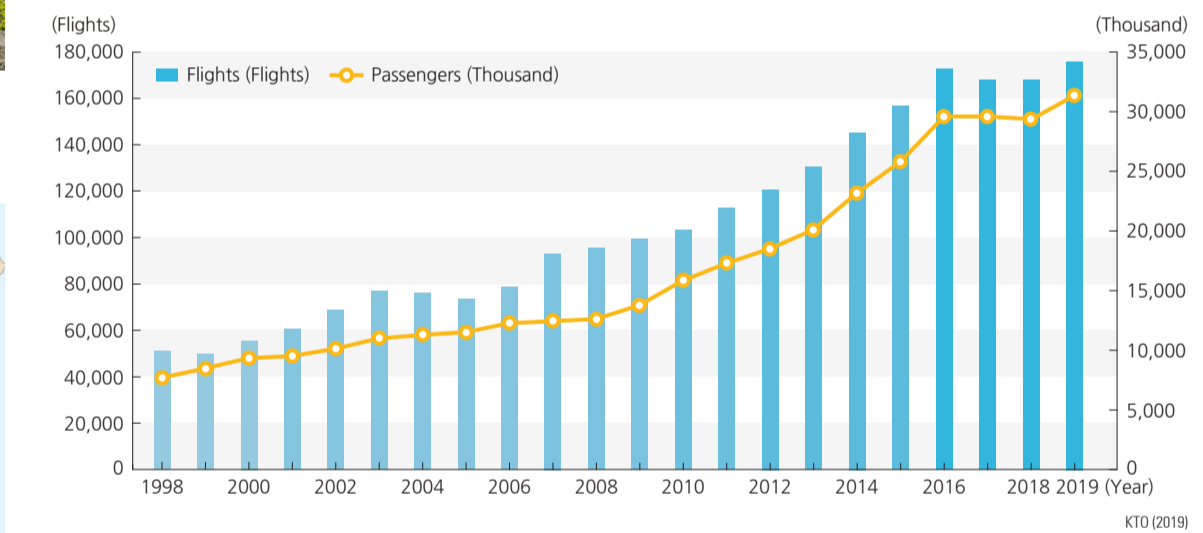
International Air Route of Jeju



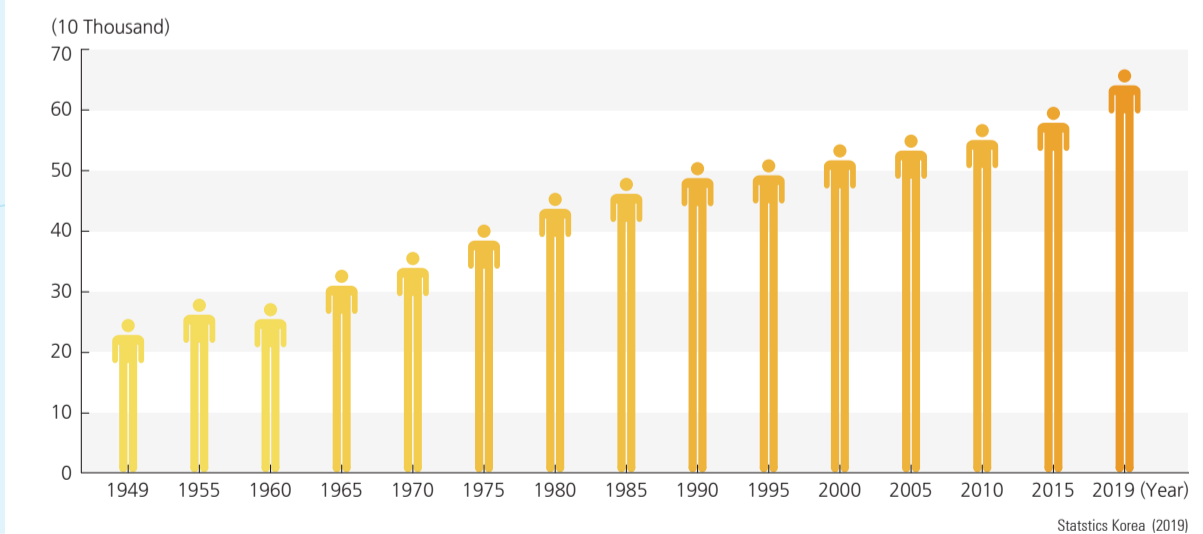
Number of Tourists to Jeju



Passengers of Jeju Airport



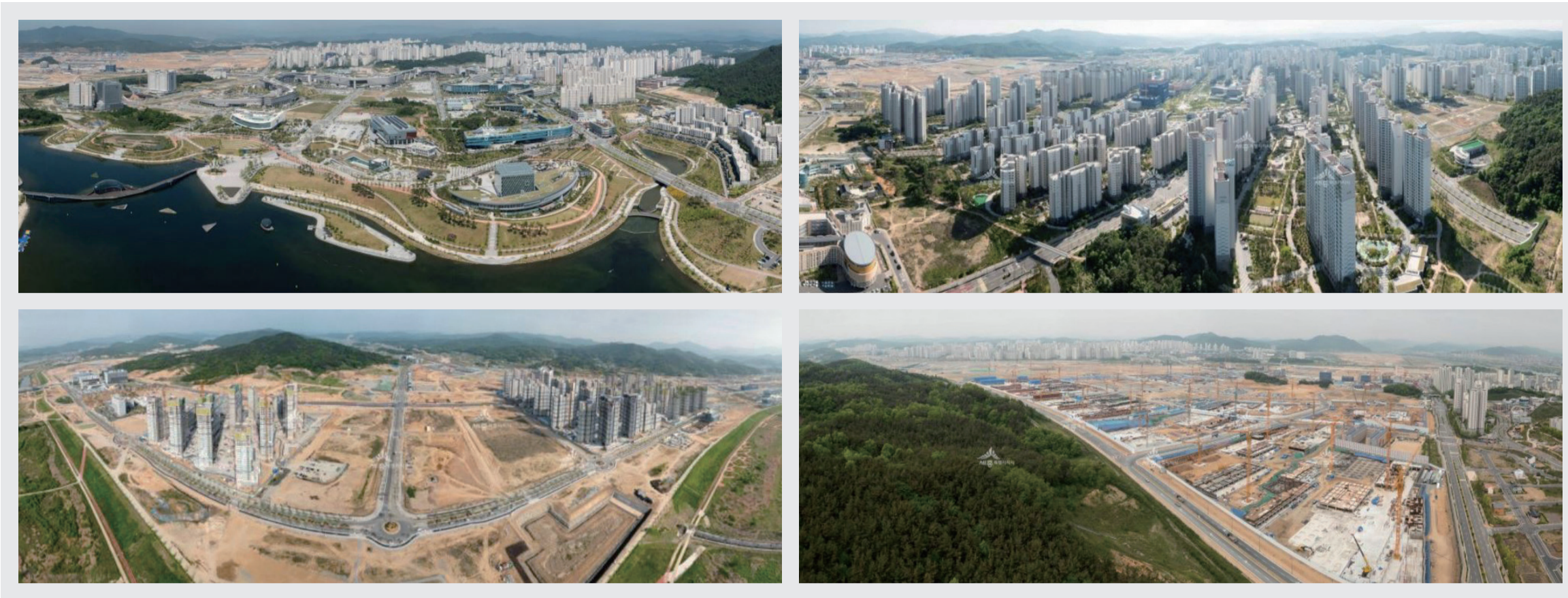
Population Trend in Jeju



Changes in Administrative Areas of Jeju

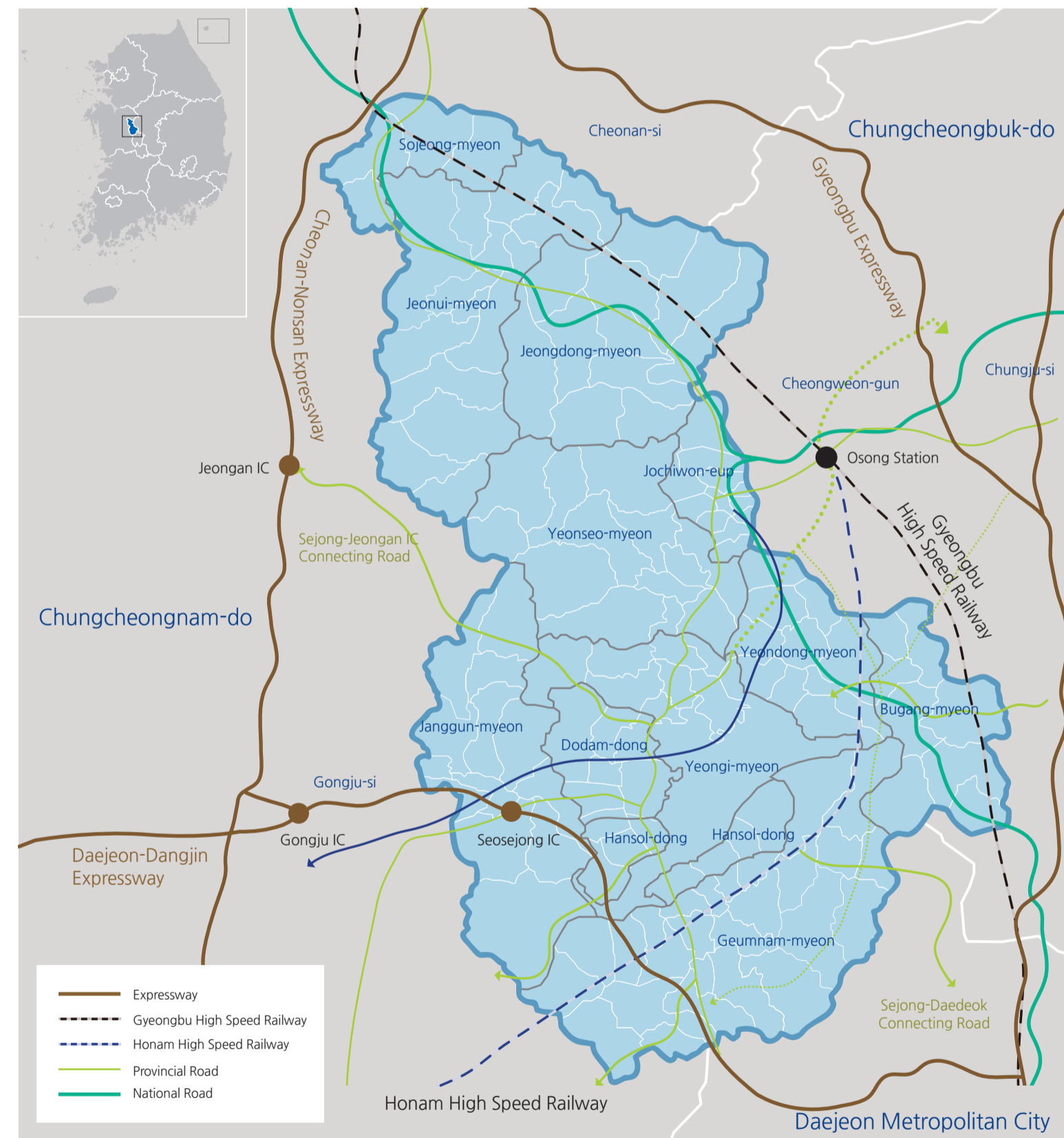


Special Administrative Region: Sejong



Aerial Photos of Sejong Special Self-Governing City (2015)

Detailed Map of Sejong



Rooftop Garden on Government Building



Sejong Lake Park



Presidential Archives



Construction Sites of Sejong Special Autonomous City

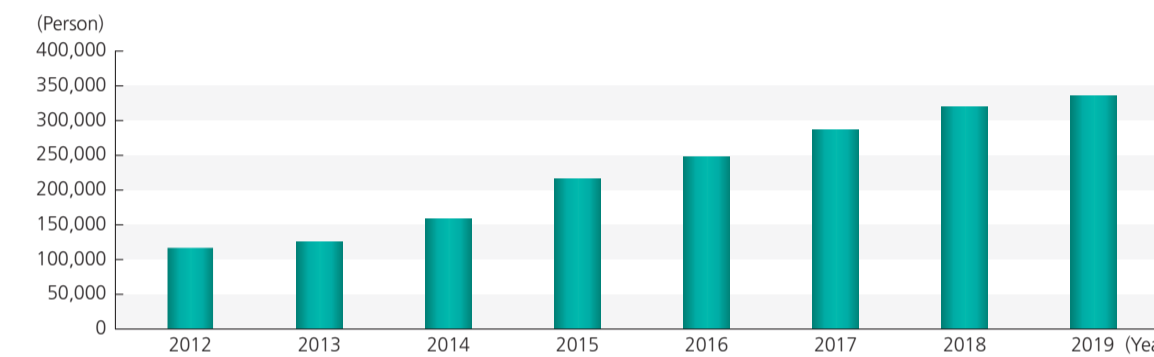


Aerial Photo of Sejong Special Self-Governing City (2014)

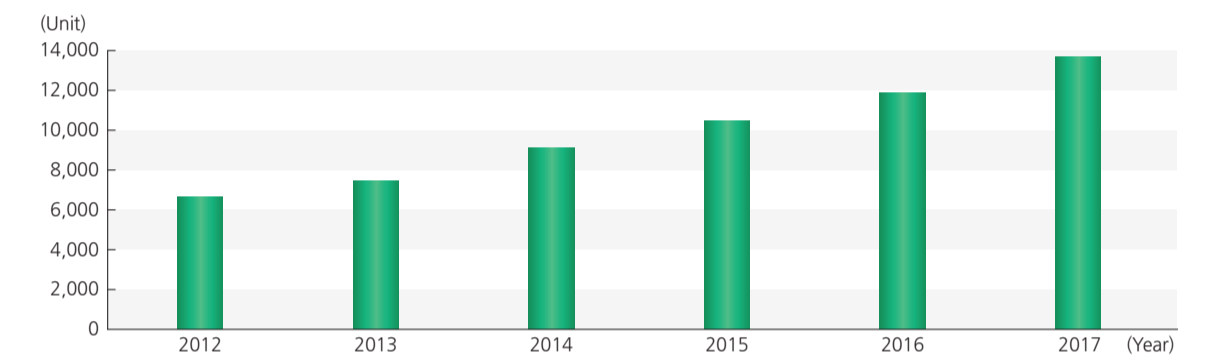


Panoramic View of Sejong Government Building (2018)

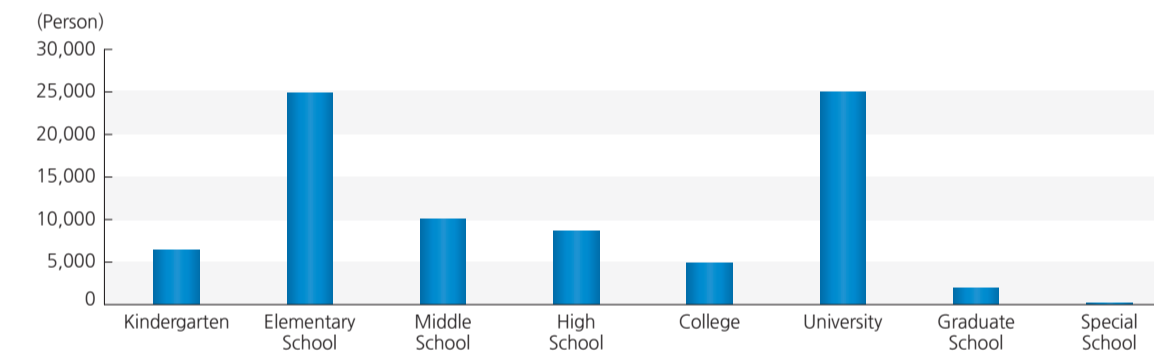
Population Growth in Sejong



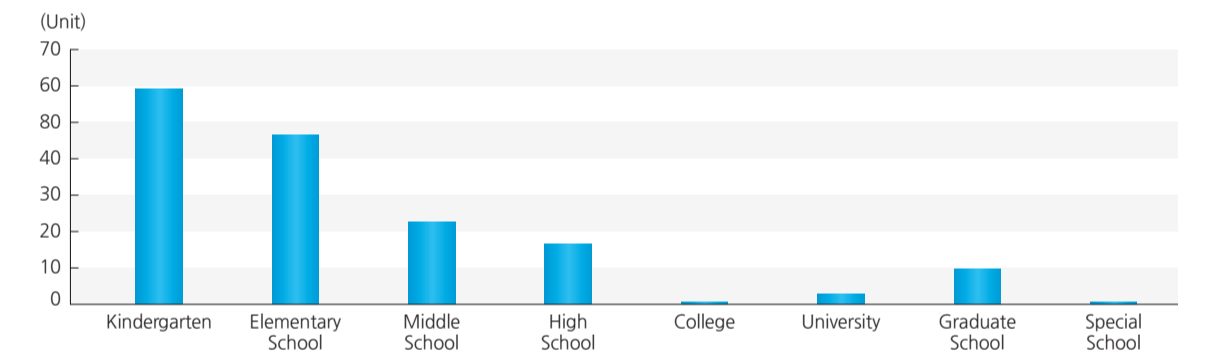
Businesses in Sejong



Students in Sejong



Schools in Sejong



Government Offices Relocation Plan

Stage	Ministries	Affiliated Institutions	Stage	Ministries	Affiliated Institutions	Stage	Ministries	Affiliated Institutions
Stage 1 (2012)	Prime Minister's Secretariat	Tax Tribunal	Stage 2 (2013)	Ministry of Education	Appeal Commission for Teachers	Stage 3 (2014)	Ministry of Government Legislation	
	Ministry of Strategy and Finance	Secretariat of the Lottery Commission		Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism	Korean Culture and Information Service		Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission of Korea	
	Fair Trade Commission			Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy			National Tax Service	
	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport	Central Land Tribunal, Aviation and Railway Accident Investigation Board, Korea Maritime Safety Tribunal		Ministry of Health and Welfare	Korean Free Trade Economic Zones, Office of Regional Economic Development, Korea Trade Commission, Electricity Regulatory Commission, Mine Registration Office, Daedeok Innopolis Headquarters		Korea Post	
	Ministry of Environment	Central Environmental Disputes Coordination Commission		Ministry of Employment and Labor	National Labor Relations Commission, Minimum Wage Council, The Review Committee of Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance		KTV (Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism)	
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs		Patriots and Veterans Affairs	Board of Patriots and Veterans Entitlement	Stage 4 (2016)	Ministry of Personnel Management	Appeals Commission		
				Stage 5 (2019)	Ministry of the Interior and Safety			
					Ministry of Science and ICT			

Since the 1960s, Korea has experienced rapid economic growth. One of the factors behind the success has been a state-led development plan that controlled the speed and direction of industrialization and urbanization. The two major pillars were the National Development Plan and a five-year Economic Development Plan, which focused human and material resources on Seoul, the Seoul Metropolitan Area (SMA), and the Southeastern Coastal Region. Uneven development between these regions, in particular the metropolitan areas, has become one of the most urgent challenges that Korea needs to address.

Many strategies to address over-population in the capital area and to promote balanced land development have been implemented. An effort to address these issues through the relocation of the national capital dates back to the late 1970s. Former President Park Chung-Hee made a plan to relocate the capital to Gongju-si as Seoul's proximity to North Korea could cause a security concern along with overcrowding. In 2002, then-presidential candidate Roh Moo-hyun pledged to relocate the capital for balanced national

development. After his inauguration, President Roh supported a special law for the construction of a new administrative capital, and the National Assembly passed the legislation relocating and building a new administrative capital in the Yeongi-Gongju area in Chungcheongnam-do.

Some argued that the administration could not solely make a decision on capital relocation and suggested that a constitutional revision be required via a national referendum. Under these circumstances, the administration changed the plan from building a "new administrative capital" to building a "multifunctional administrative city" by relocating a portion of the administrative functions. In 2006, the new city was named "Sejong." Sejong-si is responsible for partial national administrative functions, so it became a metropolitan autonomous city, which is not under the jurisdiction of a province. Sejong Metropolitan Autonomous City was formally created on July 1, 2012. Sejong is located in the central part of the Chungcheong Region and borders Cheongju-si, Chungcheongbuk-do to the east, Gongju-si, Chungcheongnam-do

to the west, Daejeon metropolitan city to the south, and Cheonan-si, Chungcheongnam-do to the north. Currently, the city is comprised of one eup, nine myeons, and 14 dong.

The relocation of administrative branches resulted in many massive projects, such as new city development and the construction of government buildings, as well as developing the city's infrastructure. At the beginning, administrative branches announced their respective relocation plans except for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Unification, the Ministry of National Defense, and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family. As of 2019, 18 central government branches and 20 government-led organizations have moved into the city. Thanks to the relocation of some administrative branches of government, the population flowing into Sejong has increased continuously, and as of July 2019, it reached 335,826: 330,298 Koreans and 5,528 foreigners. The population is expected to reach 800,000 by 2030.