

# KOREA IN THE WORLD

## International Relations

In the era of globalization, a time that truly tests all countries politically, economically, and culturally, Korea has risen to the challenges on all fronts, both at home and abroad. Not only has the Korean government continued to expand its diplomatic ties with other countries for the purpose of deepening political, economic, social, and cultural exchanges, but it has also entered the international sphere through the fostering of important treaties with other countries such as the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements and the Assistance in Criminal Matters Act. Korean diplomatic establishments continue to expand worldwide with embassies, missions, and consulate generals opening across the globe. The

Korean government has also successfully developed bilateral or regional Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to complement the existing multinational trading system, which has allowed Korea to overcome the economic challenges presented by an unbalanced domestic distribution of wealth and population as well as the stark realities of an aging populace and an overall low birth rate. Korea is now a key player on the world political stage. With its entry into the United Nations and other UN-affiliated organizations, Korea now joins other nations in the pursuit of peacekeeping, human rights, economic development, and environmental protection.

## Diplomatic Relations and Treaties

A treaty of amity establishes diplomatic relations with other countries, and in the forging of such a relationship, the two countries enter into formal cooperation on political, economic, social, and cultural issues. As of July 2024, the Republic of Korea maintained diplomatic relations with 190 countries among the 191 United Nations member states as well as with two non-UN member countries, the Cook Islands and the Vatican. UN member countries that still do not have a treaty with South Korea include Syria.

The map shows the timeline when Korea established diplomatic relations with other countries. From 1948 to the early 1960s, only 16 countries had diplomatic ties to Korea. By the end of that decade, the number rose dramatically to 65. Half of these new ties were with non-allied nations that were less developed countries (also known as Third World countries at that time) in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Korea worked to build practical and cooperative relationships with many of these developing countries in large part because of their significant ties to the international community via organizations such as the United Nations. The Republic of Korea established diplomatic relations with 30 additional countries during the 1970s and another 22 countries in the 1980s. During the Cold War, the Republic of Korea

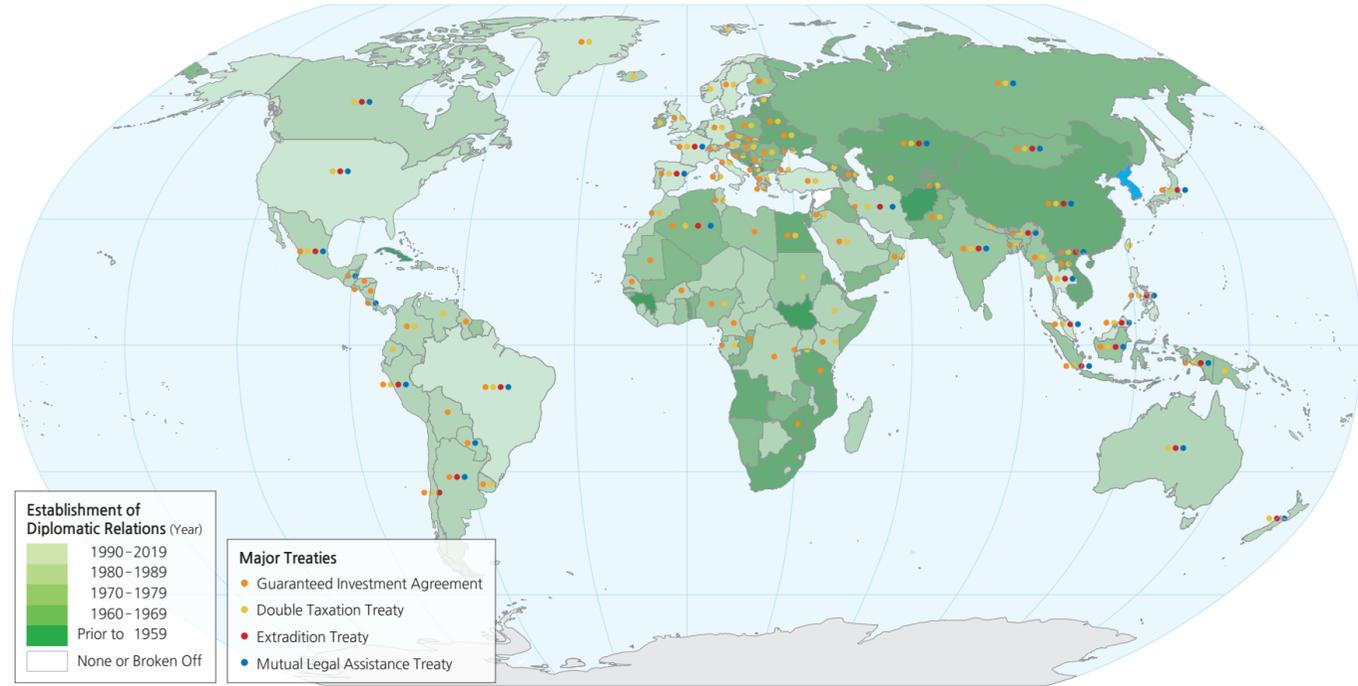
upheld the Hallstein Doctrine and did not develop diplomatic ties with countries that had official ties to North Korea. It also adhered to a policy that excluded North Korea's participation in international conferences. In 1973, that policy was withdrawn officially as part of a joint agreement with North Korea regarding peaceful reunification. In the mid-1980s, the Soviet Union adopted a reform-oriented open-door policy, and the tensions of the Cold War era have gradually dissolved into an atmosphere of mitigation and reconciliation. In 1989, the U.S.-Soviet Union Malta Summit was held, and the two countries agreed to end the Cold War. In the same year, a democratic revolution took place in the Eastern Bloc countries, and in the following year, East Germany and West Germany were united. As the Soviet Union was officially dissolved in December 1991, the Cold War eventually ended. Along with the changing international situation, the government of the Republic of Korea pursued the so-called Northern Diplomacy and established diplomatic relations with Eastern European countries, starting with Hungary in 1989. It was followed by the historic formation of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union in 1990 and China in 1992.

Republic of Korea's History of Signing Diplomatic Relations



Region Classification by the Ministry: North America, Europe, Russia - Central Asia, Northeast Asia, Southern Asia-Pacific Ocean, Latin America, Middle East, Africa

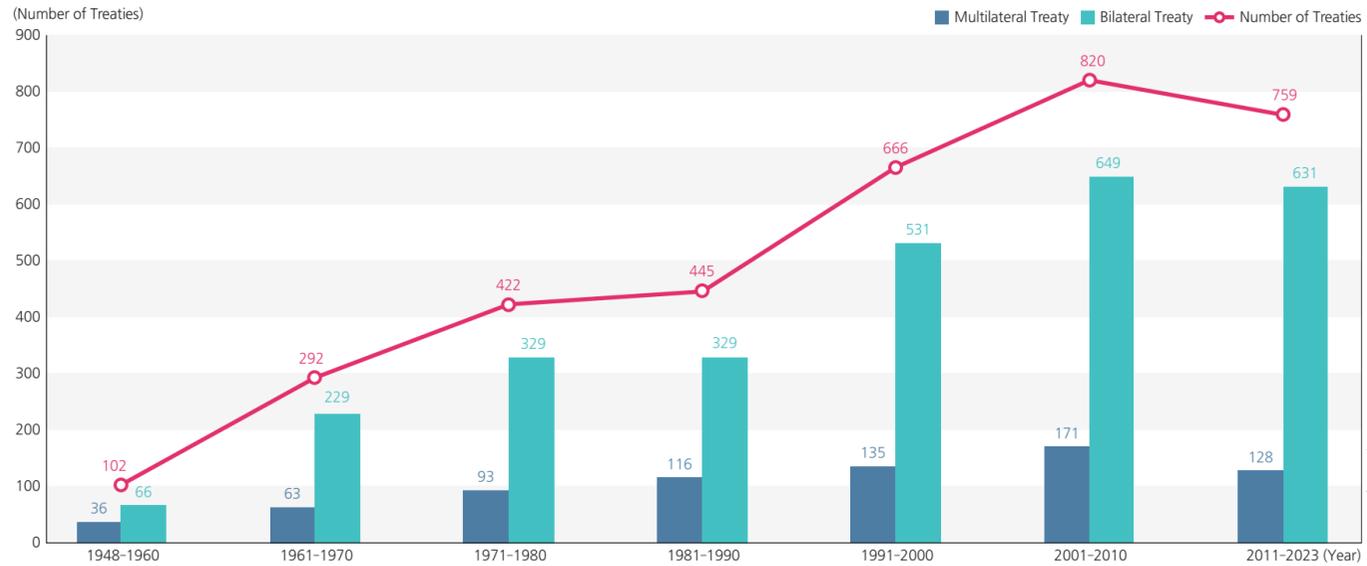
Diplomatic Ties and Major Treaties



A treaty refers to an “international agreement concluded between States in written form and governed by international law, whether embodied in a single instrument or in two or more related instruments and whatever its particular designation” (Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties – Article 2, Section 1 (a)). Although the above

definition pertains to the nations, generally speaking, a treaty includes international agreements between national and international organizations or between international organizations.

Number of Signed Treaties

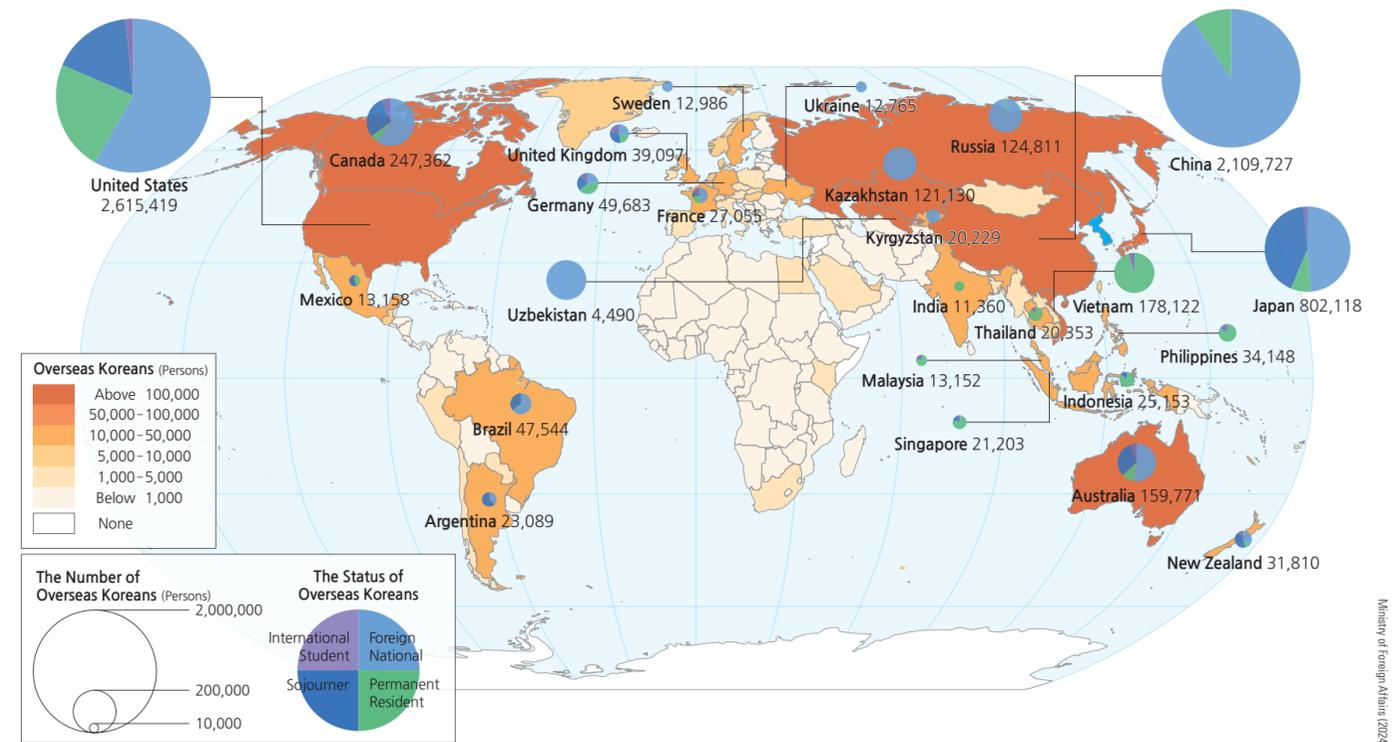


The map shows the countries that signed treaties with the Republic of Korea regarding matters such as guaranteed investment agreements, double taxation treaties, extradition treaties, mutual legal assistance treaties, and so forth. Specifically, 100 countries signed investment guarantee agreements, 99 signed double taxation agreements, 35 signed extradition treaties, and 33 countries signed criminal judicial cooperation treaties. Among these, 25 countries, including the

U.S., China, and Japan, signed all of these treaties. The graph shows the number of treaties signed by year. It indicates that as the number of countries with diplomatic ties with South Korea has increased, the number of countries with bilateral treaties signed has increased as well. Multilateral treaties, which are more difficult to establish than bilateral treaties, have also increased steadily.

Overseas Koreans and Diplomatic Missions Overseas

The World Distribution of Overseas Koreans

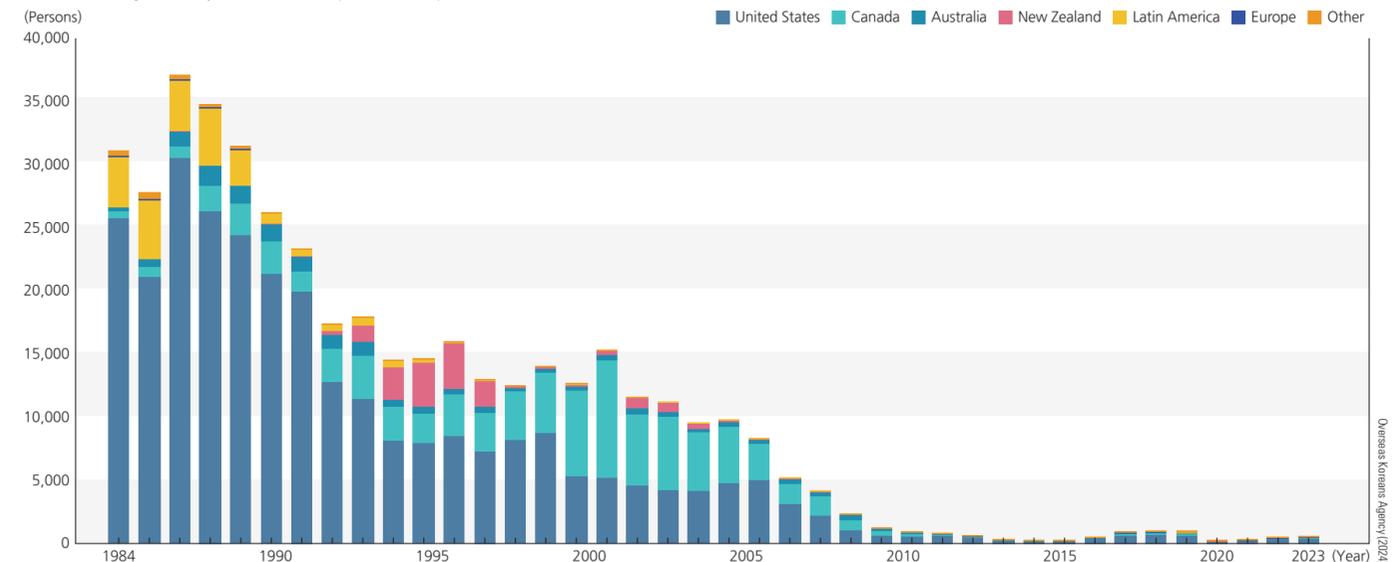


The map also presents the geographic distribution of Koreans living overseas according to data collected by Korean diplomatic missions overseas. They are divided into Korean nationals who have Korean citizenship and foreign nationals who have foreign citizenship. The Korean nationals overseas are further divided into permanent residents, international students, and sojourners. The number of Koreans overseas increased sharply in 1991 because the government started to count the Korean-Chinese population for the first time. A gradual increase appears after 1991. Currently, the number of Koreans overseas is close to 7.1 million; of that, 1 million are permanent residents, 1.3 million are sojourners, 0.2 million are international

students, and 4.6 million are foreign nationals.

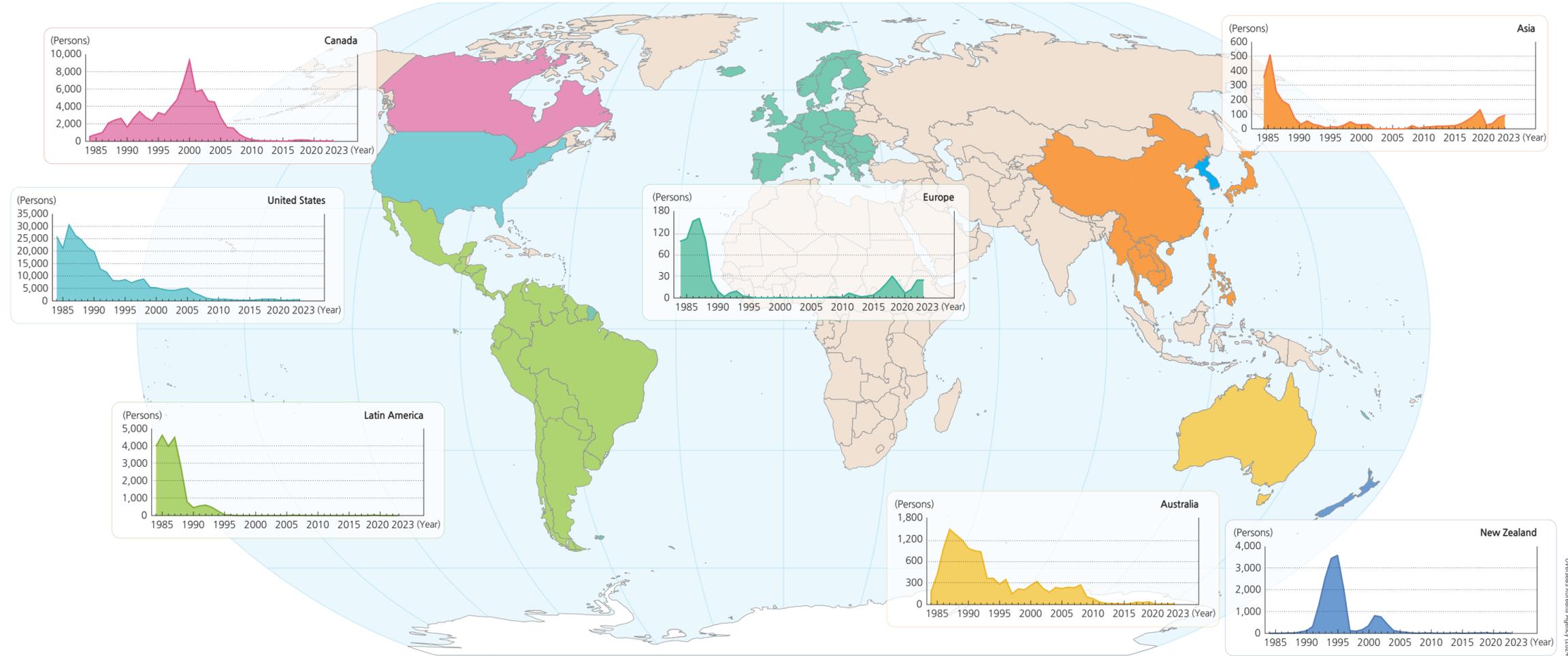
The graph shows the temporal changes in self-reporting Korean emigrants in terms of their destinations and goals. The number of emigrants decreased dramatically from 1984 to 2023 due to economic growth and democratization. Until the late 1980s, most emigrants moved to the U.S., but many also moved to Latin American countries. After the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988, emigration to Latin America decreased while emigration to English-speaking countries such as Canada, Australia, and New Zealand increased, resulting in an increasingly diverse distribution.

Korean Emigrants by Destination (1984-2023)

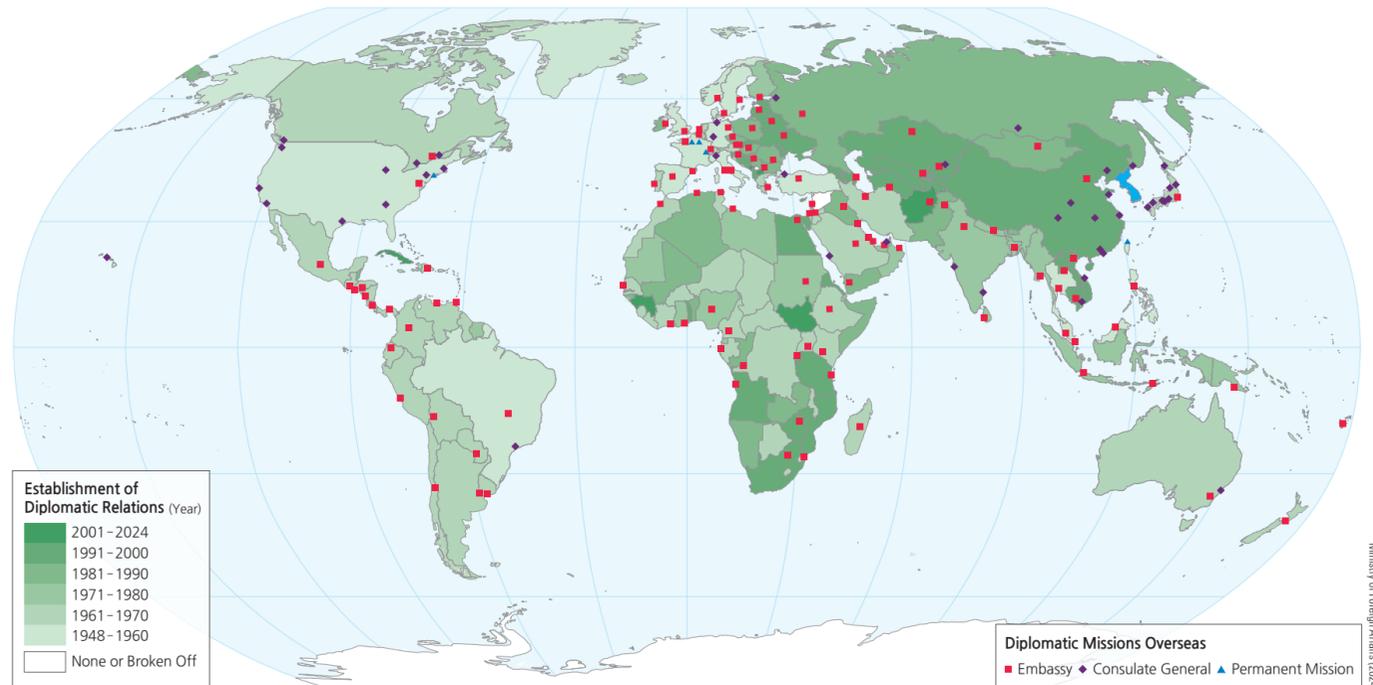


The map shows the worldwide distribution of Korean diplomatic missions overseas. The diplomatic missions overseas are grouped into embassies, missions, and consulate generals. Embassies are set up in the capital of a country with whom Korea has established diplomatic relations. Permanent missions are set up within an international organization that Korea joins. Consulate generals are opened wherever a large number of Koreans reside overseas. At present, the Korean government manages 116 resident embassies, five permanent missions, and 46 consulate generals across the 191 countries with whom Korea maintains diplomatic relations. Many consulate generals are found in North America and Asia because of close relationships, particularly with the U.S., Japan, and China, and because many Koreans live in those regions. The number of diplomatic missions abroad has steadily increased. The Asian financial crisis in 1997, however, forced South Korea to close 22 such establishments. Later, the number rebounded back to the previous levels as the economy recovered. This indicates that the number of diplomatic missions overseas is dependent on socioeconomic conditions. North Korea, on the other hand, has 39 resident embassies, three permanent missions, and two consulate generals.

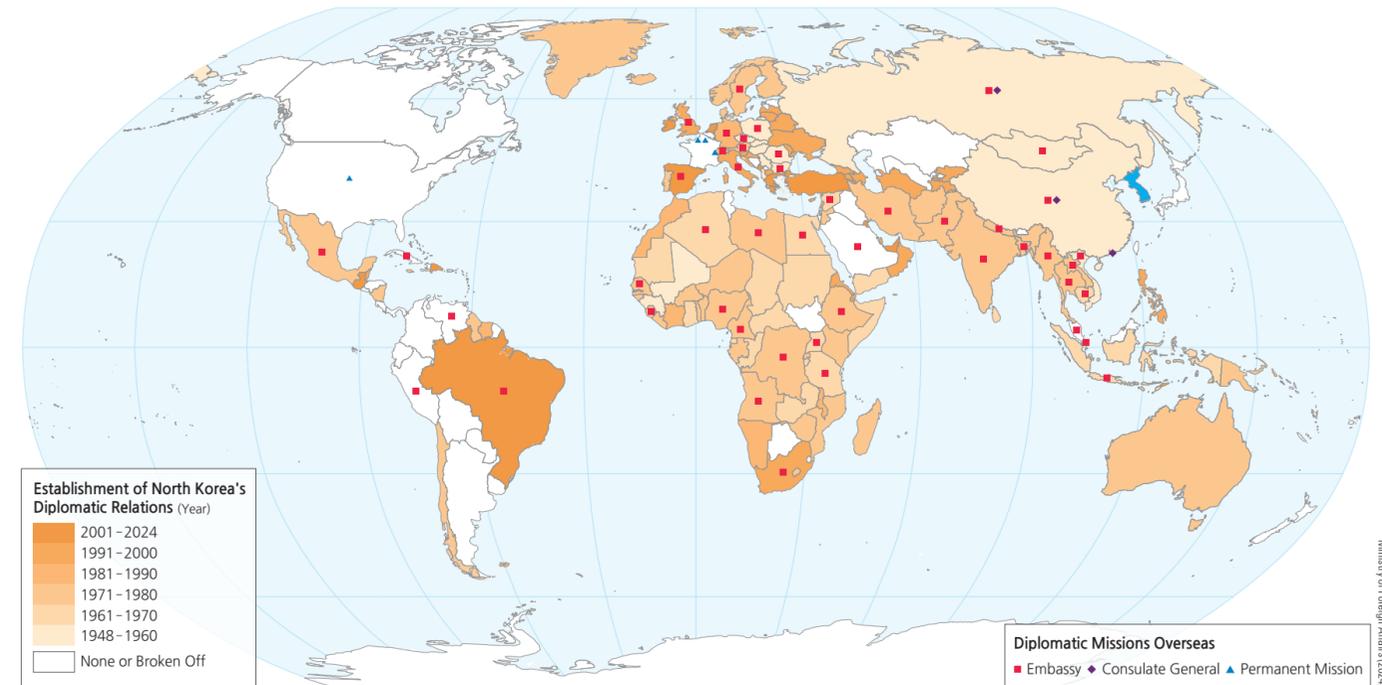
Korean Emigrants by Destination (1984-2023)



Republic of Korea's Diplomatic Relations and Missions Overseas

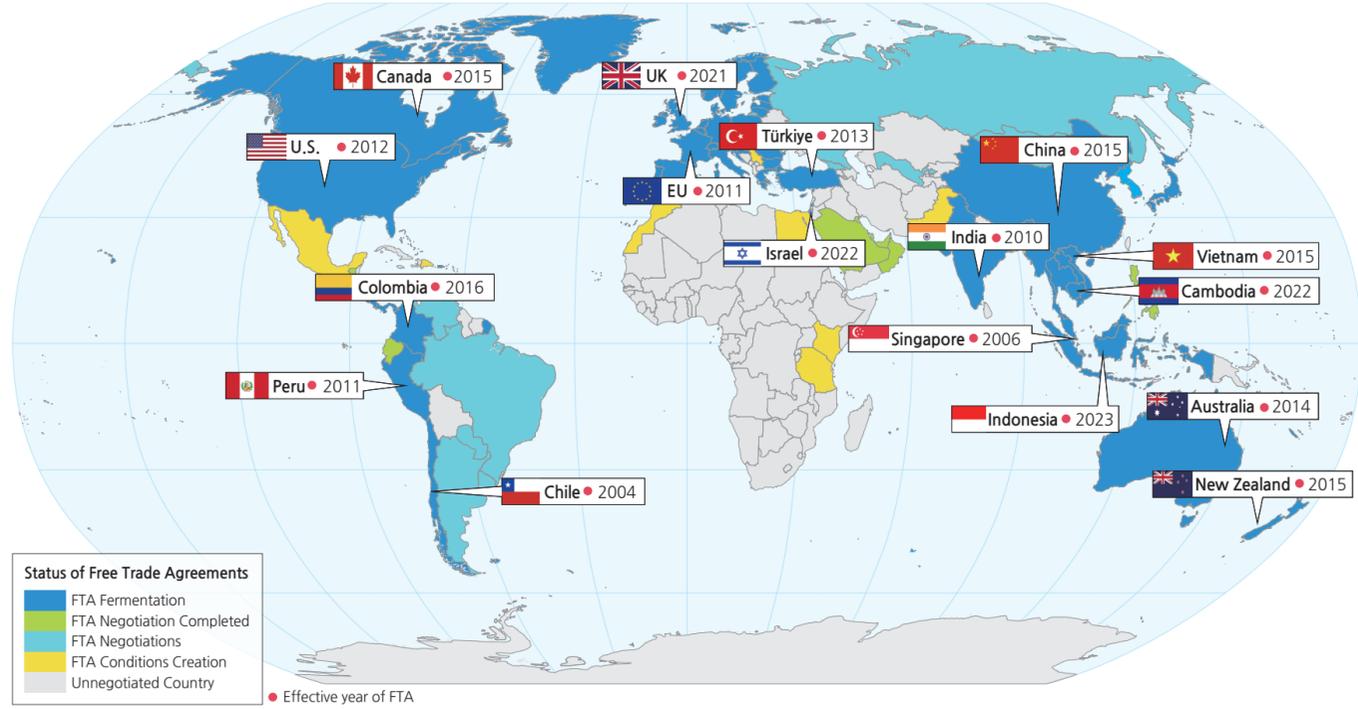


North Korea's Diplomatic Relations and Missions Overseas

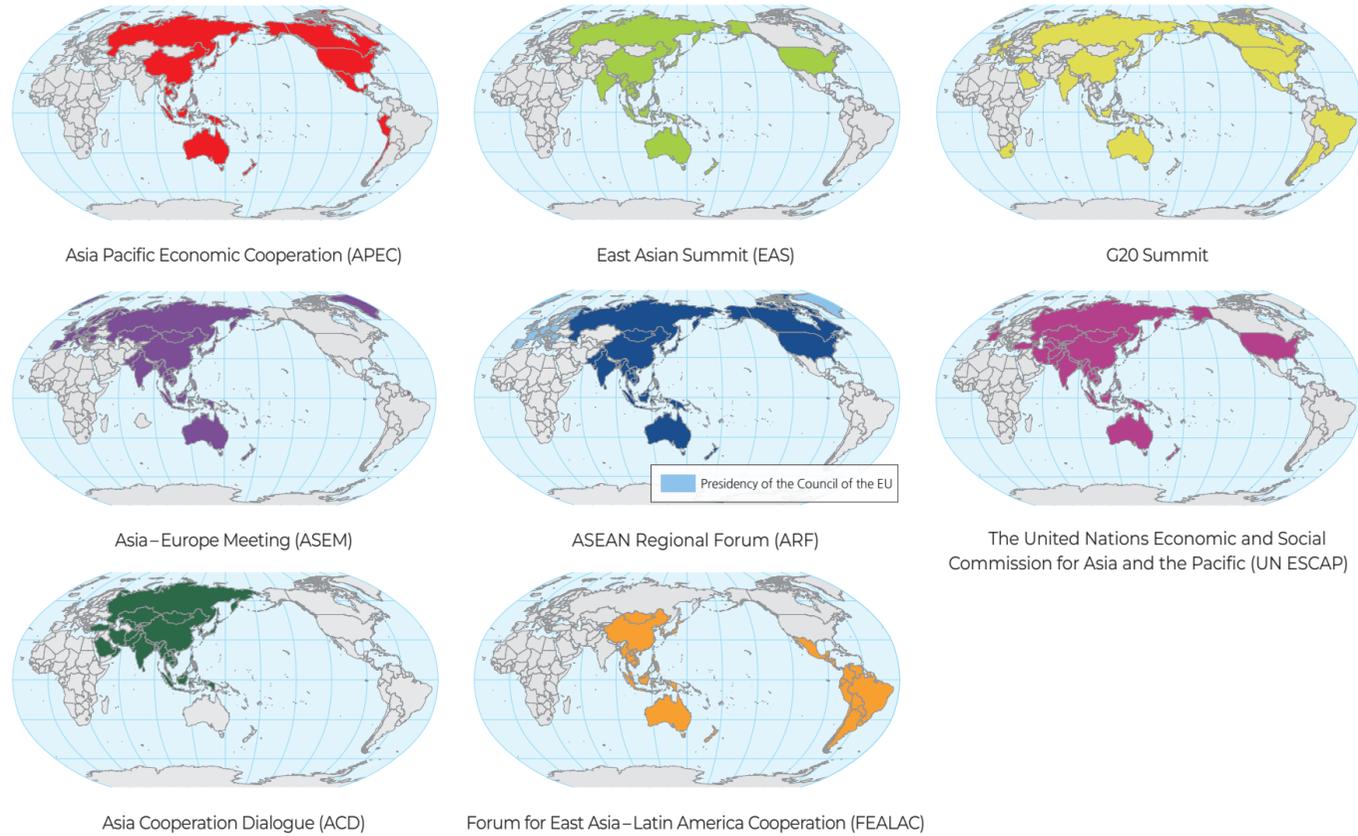


## Free Trade Agreement and Regional Collaboration System

### Establishment of Korea's Free Trade Agreements



### Korea's Participation in Regional Collaboration Systems



The map presents the regional collaboration systems that Korea has participated in, including the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Forum for East Asia – Latin America

Cooperation (FEALAC), Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), East Asian Summit (EAS), the G20 Summit, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP).

After the 1997 Asian financial crisis, the Korean government began to initiate the bilateral or regional Free Trade Agreement (FTA) process to complement the multinational trade system. They believed that the FTAs would help Korea respond to the global expansion of regional economic blocs externally and would help mitigate the sluggish domestic economic growth stemming from the aging Korean population, the decreasing birth rate, and the uneven distribution of wealth and population within the country.

The Korean government negotiated its first FTA with Chile, and after five years an agreement was reached in February 2003. Subsequently, Korea reached similar agreements with Singapore and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in 2005 and these remain in effect. As of April 2024, FTAs are in effect between Korea and the ten countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), India, 28 countries in the European Union (EU), Peru, the US, Türkiye, Australia, Canada, China, New Zealand, Vietnam, Columbia, the 5 Central American countries, the United Kingdom, the 15 countries of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Israel, Cambodia, and Indonesia, totaling 59 countries.

The FTAs with 9 countries including the Philippines, Guatemala, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Ecuador, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have been agreed upon. FTAs are also under negotiation with Korea-China-Japan, the 4

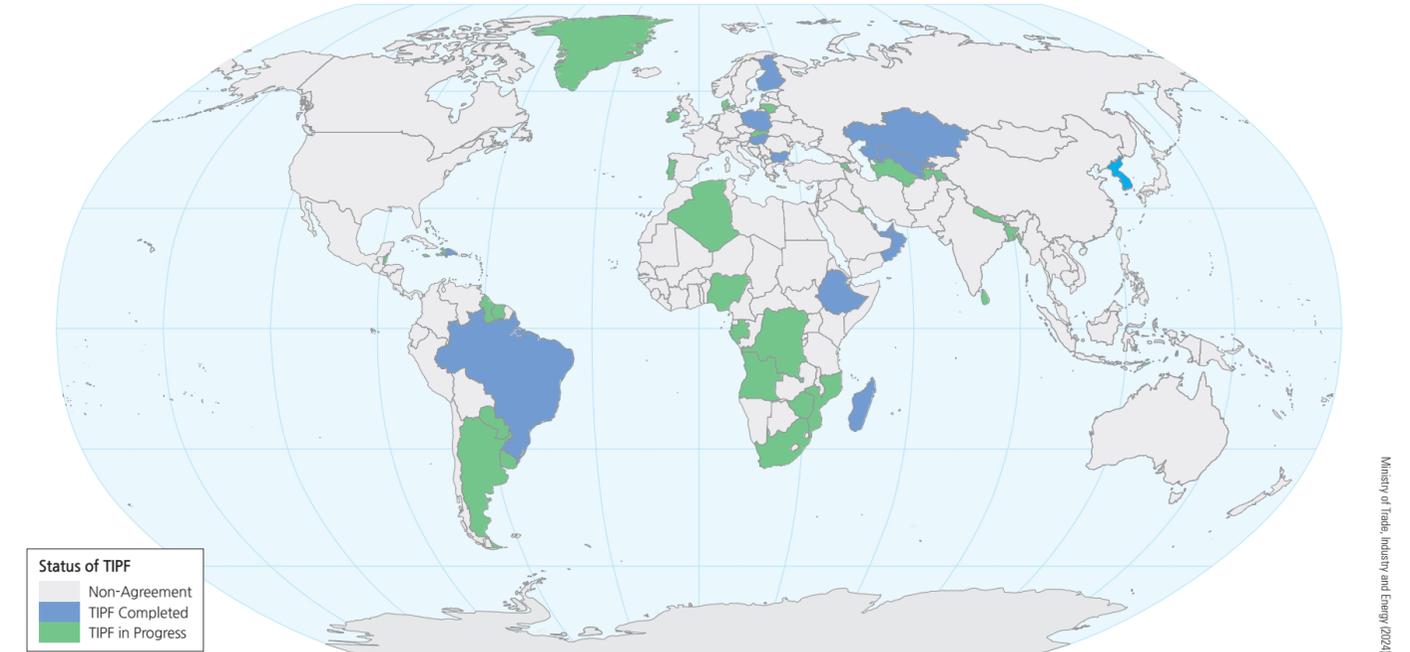
countries, the five countries in Mercosur, Mongolia, and Georgia. The Korean government has prepared to resume negotiations with the four countries in the Pacific Alliance (PA), Tanzania, Egypt, Morocco, and 13 other countries.

Recently, the TIPF (Trade and Investment Promotion Framework) and EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement) are expanding in the global trade environments. TIPF and EPA are new trade agreements that arose in the expansion of globalization and the focus toward supply chains and resources, after the advent of FTAs. Korea has been expanding its economic territory by cooperating with more countries through various forms, including TIPF and EPA.

TIPF is a type of MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) that does not address trade cooperation or market opening between countries. As of April 2024, TIPFs have been signed with 14 countries, including Bulgaria and Oman, starting with the United Arab Emirates in January 2023. The Korean government is conducting negotiations with 26 countries, including Ireland and Portugal.

Compared to FTAs, EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement) involves a lighter level of market opening but places greater emphasis on industrial cooperation, such as energy supply chain collaboration. negotiations are underway with Mongolia and Georgia as of 2024, and talks are expected to expand with 8 other countries, including Thailand, Morocco, and Bangladesh.

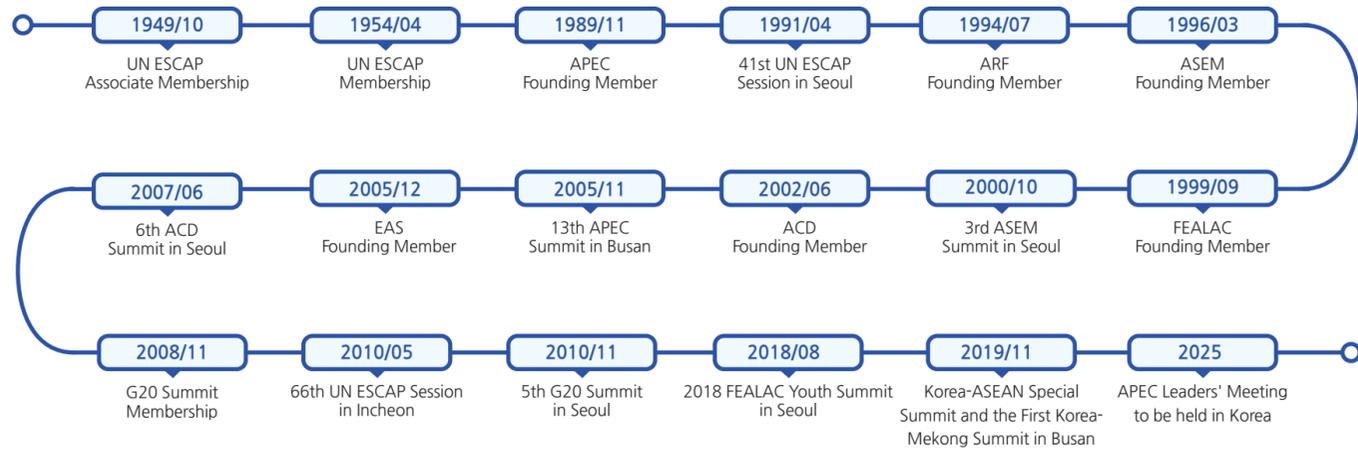
### Korea's Trade and Investment Promotion Framework (TIPF)



### Economic Contributions by FTA Partner Countries

	U.S.	EU	China	EFTA	ASEAN	India	Chile	Australia
GDP Growth (%)	1.82	0.77	0.49	0.29	0.20	0.20	0.10	0.06
Production Effect (USD)	19.8 billion	8 billion	6.2 billion	1.7 billion	2.5 billion	11 billion	400 million	400 million
Consumer Benefits (Won)	9.9 trillion	6.7 trillion	10.6 trillion	7.4 trillion	7.9 trillion	1.8 trillion	485.5 billion	1.9 trillion
Job Creation (Persons)	99,929	6,245	93,913	37,782	45,731	22,144	278	11,179

### History of Regional Collaboration

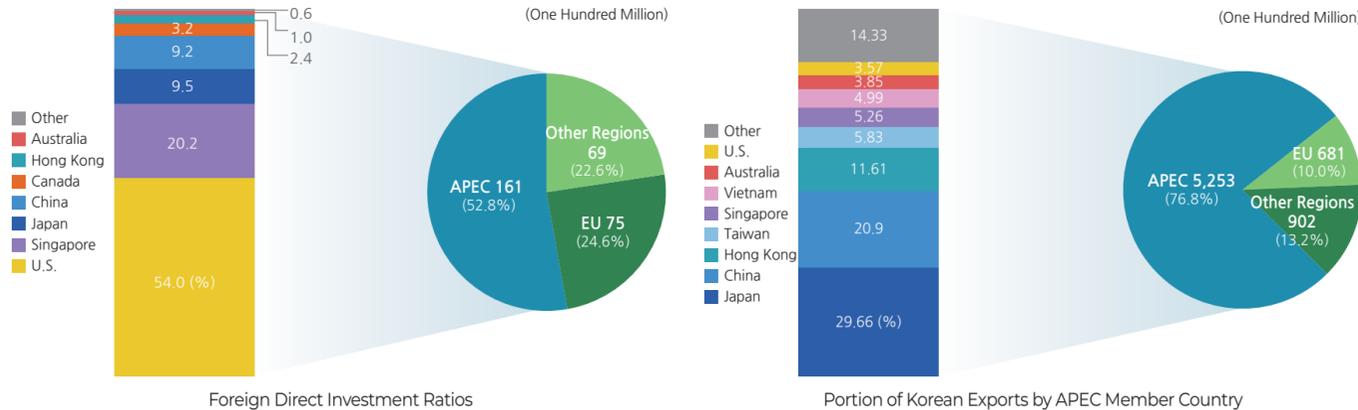


Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2024)

Korea is one of the founding members of APEC, which was established in 1989. Korea has also participated in ARF, which was established in 1994 to keep peace in Asia and the Pacific regions after the Cold War. Korea has also joined ASEM, which was formalized in 1996 with the goal of helping to forge closer economic relationships between Asia and Europe. Through ASEM, Korea has contributed to economic, social, political, and cultural collaborations. As a member of FEALAC, which was established in 1999, Korea has promoted mutual understandings between

East Asia and Latin America. Korea has also worked closely with China, Japan, and ASEAN member countries through the EAS to build an East Asian community. Korea joined the ACD to facilitate international cooperation among Asian countries. Korea has also participated in the G20 Summit, whose members include the G7 and Australia, with the intention of helping to restore international order after the financial crisis triggered by the US subprime mortgage sector. Korea has also participated in the UN ESCAP, which was established after World War II.

### Korea and APEC



Statistics Korea (2022)

APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) is the only regional economic cooperation system that Korea participates in, making it Korea's largest economic cooperation partner. Trade with APEC member countries accounts for more than half of Korea's total exports and imports. APEC is the world's largest regional cooperation system, accounting for about 40% of the global population, approximately 60% of global GDP, and around 50% of global trade. Its main focus is facilitating smooth policy dialogue and consultations among Asia-Pacific nations, and it was upgraded to a summit-level meeting in 1993.

As of 2022, Korea's export share to APEC stands at 76.8%, which is significantly higher compared to the EU's 10%. APEC also accounts for 67.4% of Korea's total imports, and in terms of investment, APEC represents 52.8% of foreign investment inflows and 58.6% of Korea's overseas investment destinations. The high economic share of APEC is due to the inclusion of Korea's major trade and investment partners—the United States, China, and the 7 ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, and Brunei)—within APEC.

### International Organization

#### Status of International Organizations in Seoul

Seoul Metropolitan Government

- Seoul International Dispute Resolution Center (KCAB)
- International Bar Association (IBA) Asia Office
- International Vaccine Institute (IVI) Headquarters
- World Food Programme (WFP Korea)
- International IP ADR Center (IIPAC)
- UNESCO APCEIU
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- UNICEF Seoul Office
- TEIN Cooperation Center
- Metropolis International Training Institute (MITI)
- Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AfoCo)
- International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP)
- Local Governments for Sustainability East Asia Secretariat (ICLEI)
- Citynet Secretariat
- Association of Asian Constitutional Courts & Equivalent Institutions Secretariat for Research and Development (AACC SRD)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- ASEM Global Aging Center (AGAC)
- Global Social Economy Forum (Gsef)
- Karl Polanyi Institute Asia (KPIA)
- ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC)
- OECD Korea Policy Centre
- OECD Korea Policy Centre
- Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
- International Finance Corporation, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (IFC, MIGA)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- WHO Asia-Pacific Center for Environment and Health in Western Pacific Region
- World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- United Nations Development Programme Strengthened Parliament and Commission (UNDP SPC)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- World Federation of United Nations Association (WFUNA)
- Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum Secretariat
- Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS)

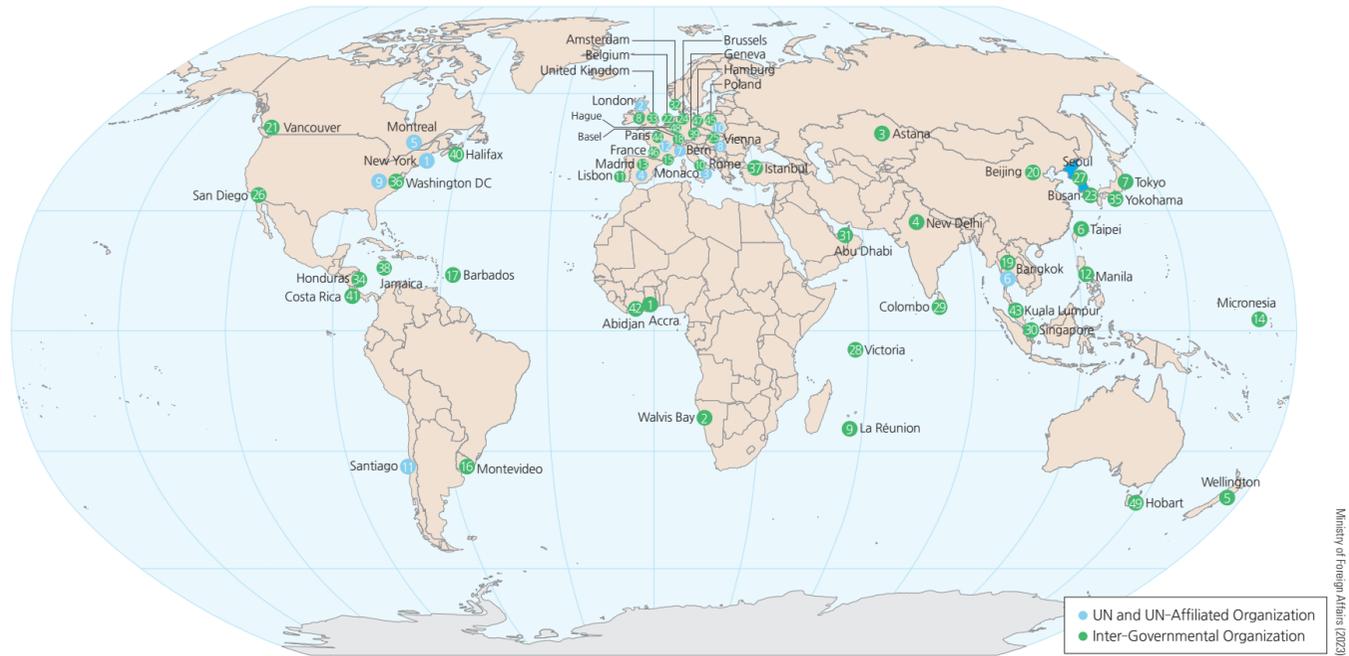
Seoul Metropolitan Government (2023)

The increasing transnational movement of people, goods, and information demands that all countries work together. Korea has promoted hosting international organizations, resulting in many headquarters or branch offices.

Seoul, Korea's capital, hosts approximately 34 international organization headquarters, secretariats, and offices. Among these, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and International Vaccine Institute (IVI) deserve attention for the vital role they play in the world. GGGI is the first international organization initiated by the Korean government. It was established in 2010 to help less developed

countries to integrate economic growth with environmental sustainability. It located its branch offices in the major world cities in 2011 and was officially approved during the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). In addition, IVI was established as a nonprofit international organization in Seoul in 1997. It dedicates itself to vaccine research and development, which in turn enables more efficient and affordable distribution of immunizations in less developed countries

## UN and UN-Affiliated Organization Participation



### Korea's Participation in International Organizations

No.	Headquarter	International Organization	Year of Membership
1	New York	United Nations (UN)	1991
2	London	International Maritime Organization (IMO)	1962
3	Rome	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	1949
		International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	1978
4	Madrid	World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	1957
5	Montreal	International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	1952
6	Bangkok	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	1954
7	Bern	Universal Postal Union (UPU)	1949
8	Vienna	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	1957
		United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	1967
		United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)	1994
9	Washington DC	International Monetary Fund (IMF)	1955
		International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	1955
		International Development Association (IDA)	1961

The United Nations (UN) has played an important role in Korea's diplomacy since the Korean government was established in 1948. In 1949, Korea joined the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), and the World Health Organization (WHO). As shown on the map, the number of UN or UN-affiliated organizations that Korea has joined has reached 26.

When Korea became a member of the United Nations in 1991, the nation found itself in a better position for international cooperation. Korea has also served as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and as a member of the

No.	Headquarter	International Organization	Year of Membership
9	Washington DC	International Finance Corporation (IFC)	1964
		International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)	1967
		Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)	1988
10	Geneva	World Health Organization (WHO)	1949
		International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	1952
		World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	1956
		United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	1965
		World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	1979
		International Labour Organization (ILO)	1991
		World Trade Organization (WTO)	1995
11	Chile	Conference on Disarmament (CD)	1996
		Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	2007
12	Paris	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	1950

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In addition, Korea served as the chair of the 56th UN General Assembly. In 2007, Ban Ki-moon from Korea was inaugurated as the 8th secretary-general of the United Nations.

As of 2023, Korea has also joined 95 intergovernmental organizations for multilateral collaboration to deal with international issues in the global economy, resource development, international cooperation and development, disease control, and environmental protection.

### Intergovernmental Organization Membership

No.	Headquarter	International Organization	Year of Membership
1	Accra	Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic Fishery (CECAF)	1968
2	Walvis Bay	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO)	2011
3	Astana	Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA)	2006
4	New Delhi	African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO)	1963
5	Wellington	New Zealand	1970
6	Taipei	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO)	2012
7	Dokyo	Food and Fertilizer Technology Center (FFTC)	1970
8	London	Asian Productivity Organization (APO)	1961
		International Grains Council (IGC)	2015
		International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)	1953
		International Sugar Organization (ISO)	1993
9	La Réunion	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	1991
		Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	2014
		The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)	1968
		International Lead and Zinc Study Group (ILZSG)	1987
10	Rome	International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)	1968
		Lisbon	1971
		Manila	1973
		Madrid	1981
11	Micronesia	International Lead and Zinc Study Group (ILZSG)	1987
12	Monaco	Eastern Regional Organization For Public Administration (EROPA)	1962
13	Madrid	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)	1970
14	Micronesia	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	2004
15	Monaco	International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)	1957
16	Montevideo	Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI)	2014
17	Barbados	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)	1974
18	Basel	Bank for International Settlements (BIS)	1997
		Bangkok	2009
19	Vancouver	Beijing	2009
		Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC)	1950
		Belgium	1962
20	Beijing	Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC)	1950
		Busan	1979
		Brussels	1981
21	Vancouver	Vienna	2005
		North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)	2003
		European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)	2006
22	Belgium	European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)	2006
23	Busan	United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea (UNMCK)	1959
24	Brussels	World Customs Organization (WCO)	1968
25	Vienna	World Customs Organization (WCO)	1968
26	San Diego	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)	1999
27	Seoul	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)	2005
		International Vaccine Institute (IVI)	1997
		Seychelles	2011
28	Seychelles	Sri Lanka	2012
		Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFCO)	2018
29	Sri Lanka	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	1996
30	Singapore	Colombo Plan	1962

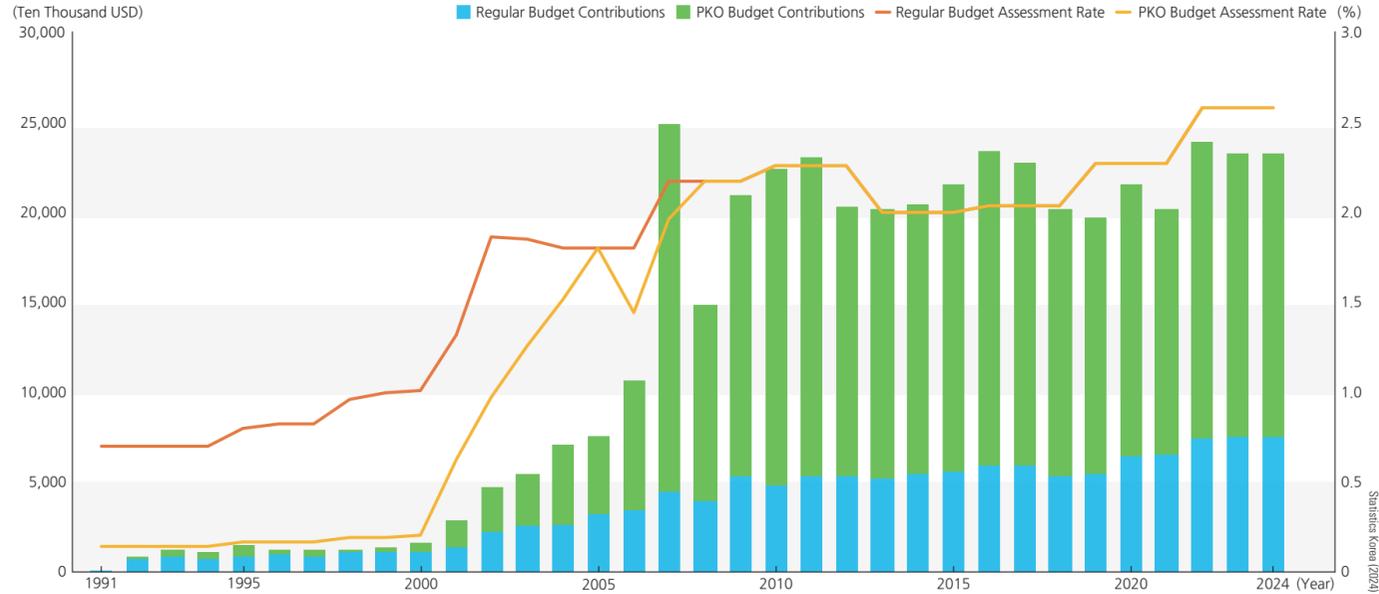
No.	Headquarter	International Organization	Year of Membership
30	Singapore	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)	1989
31	Amsterdam	United Arab Emirates	2006
32	United Kingdom	International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)	2011
33	Honduras	Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)	1982
34	Yokohama	International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds)	1998
35	Istanbul	Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)	2020
36	Jamaica	Washington DC	1978
		International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)	1985
		International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)	1954
37	Istanbul	International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO)	1967
		Global Environment Facility (GEF)	1994
38	Jamaica	Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	2005
		Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)	2011
39	Geneva	International Seabed Authority (ISA)	1996
		International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)	1963
		Canada	1964
		Costa Rica	1988
40	Kuala Lumpur	Abidjan	2002
		Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)	1993
41	Costa Rica	North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)	1995
		Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	1981
42	Abidjan	African Development Fund (ADF)	1980
		Kuala Lumpur	1982
		Asia-Pacific Institute of Broadcasting Development (AIBD)	1978
43	Kuala Lumpur	Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC)	1982
		South East Asian Central Banks (SEACEN)	1990
44	Paris	World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)	1953
		Poland	1978
		France	1987
		Hamburg	1991
		The Hague	1996
45	Poland	Australia	2002
		International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)	2003
		International Transport Forum (ITF)	2007
		The Financial Action Task Force (FATF)	2009
46	France	OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)	2009
		Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)	2016
47	The Hague	Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD)	2018
		International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM)	1959
48	Australia	Hamburg	1993
		International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)	1996
		Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)	1997
49	Australia	Hague Conference on Private International Law (Hcch)	1997
		Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)	2000
50	Australia	International Criminal Court (ICC)	2003
		South East Asia, New Zealand, Australia (SEANZA)	1966
		Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)	1985
51	Australia	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)	2001

## Korea's Activities at the United Nations

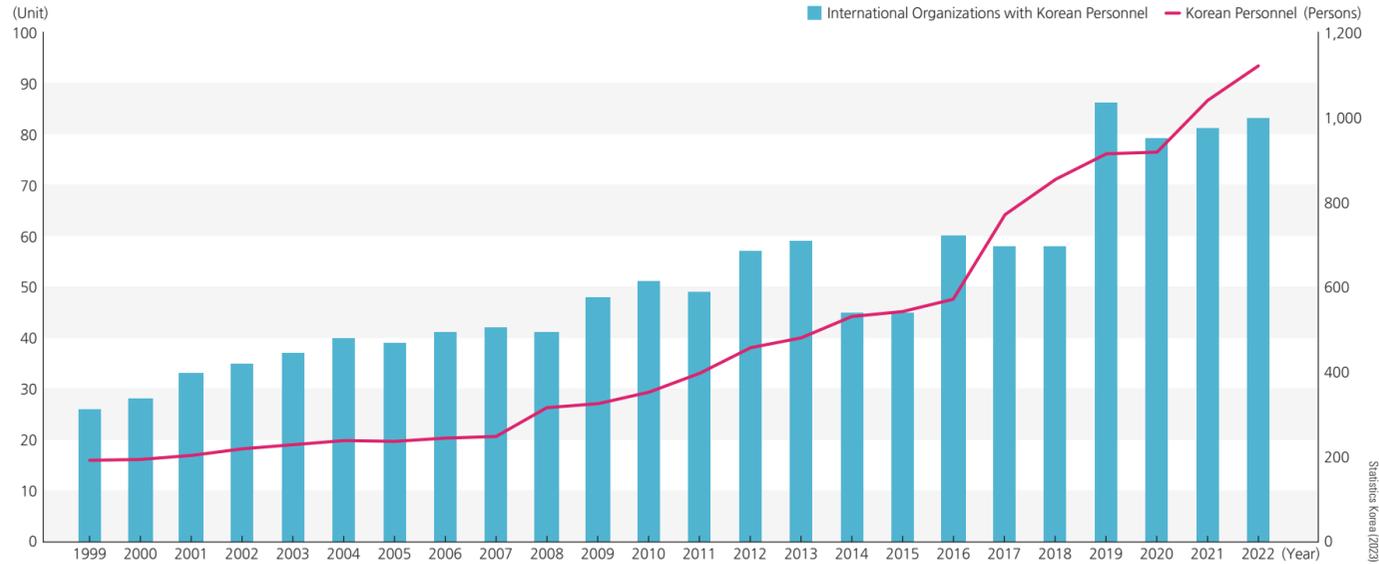
As a member state of the United Nations, Republic of Korea contributes to the UN Regular Budget. The UN Regular Budget is prepared every two years and approved by the General Assembly and is funded by contributions from member states. The assessment rate for each member state is determined every three years by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, based on recommendations from the Committee on Contributions, which consists of 18 countries. The assessment rate is primarily proportional to each country's Gross National Income (GNI), but

adjustments are made for countries with significant external debt by reducing their annual national income by the amount of debt repayments. Furthermore, each country's assessment rate is subject to a ceiling of 22% and a floor of 0.001%. As our economy has grown rapidly, our assessment rate has significantly increased from 0.69% in 1990 to 2.574% in 2023. This places us at 9th in the world, and it is expected that the amount we contribute will continue to increase proportionally with our economic growth.

### Korea's UN Assessments



### Number of International Organizations with Korean Personnel



The number of our citizens joining international organizations and the variety of organizations they are joining have been steadily increasing. To secure an international standing commensurate with our increased financial contributions, the government is actively promoting the entry of Korean nationals into senior positions in major international organizations, as well as expanding the presence of Korean personnel in various international organization secretariats. As part of efforts to increase the presence of our citizens in international organizations, the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs established the International Organizations Recruitment Center in 1996. The center strengthens the foundation for our citizens to enter international organizations through various initiatives, including the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) program, dispatching volunteers through the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) program, holding informational sessions about international organizations, and operating a website that provides information on job opportunities in international organizations.

Republic of Korea actively contributes to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) to peacefully resolve conflicts and address human rights violations occurring around the world. These operations are conducted based on resolutions by the UN Security Council or the General Assembly. When parties involved in a conflict agree to resolution efforts, UN member states without vested interests in the conflict region voluntarily send military and civilian forces at the request of the UN Secretary-General. These personnel maintain political and military neutrality while the UN leads efforts to peacefully manage and resolve the conflict.

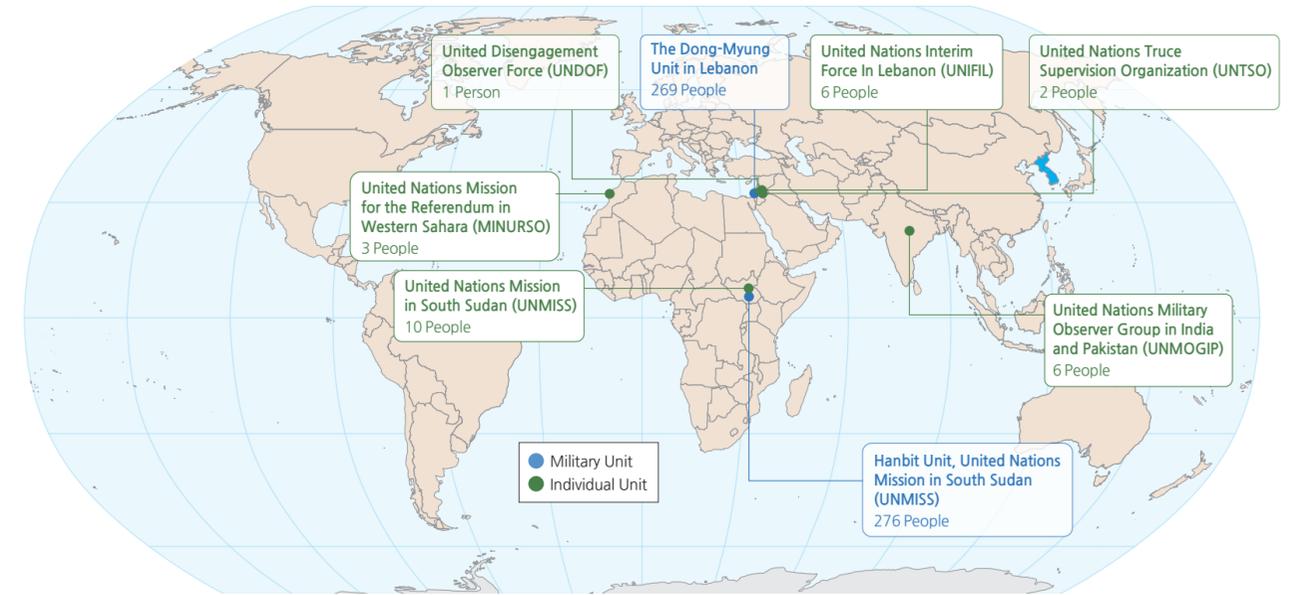
As of 2023, Korea has deployed a total of 545 personnel to six UN peacekeeping missions. Specifically, these include 266 staffs to the Hanbit Unit in South Sudan, 252 to the Dongmyeong Unit in Lebanon, 12 to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), 6 to the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan

(UNMOGIP), 6 to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and 3 to the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). These deployments are involved in activities such as peacekeeping, ceasefire monitoring, reconstruction support, and implementation of peace agreements.

In South Sudan, the Hanbit Unit, the largest contingent, has recently prevented disruptions in the supply of food and materials to key locations by expanding airport runways and improving roads. They have also engaged in civil-military operations and community outreach activities, bringing hope to the local community. In other regions, Korean personnel continue to engage in peacekeeping, ceasefire monitoring, reconstruction support, and the implementation of peace agreements.

Korea's contribution rate to the PKO budget, similar to its regular budget assessment rate, is 2.574%, ranking 9th among UN member states.

### Korean UN PKO Forces

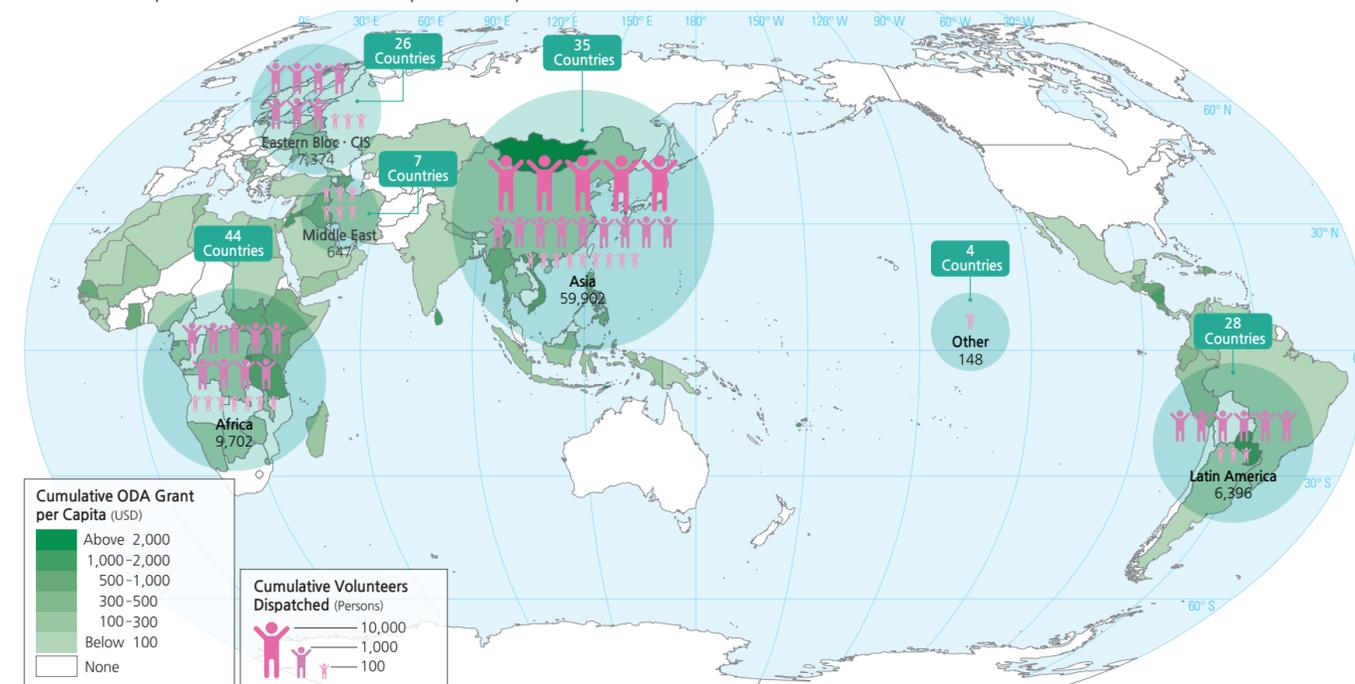


Republic of Korea South Sudanese Reconstruction Assistance Force – UNMISS (Hanbit Unit)

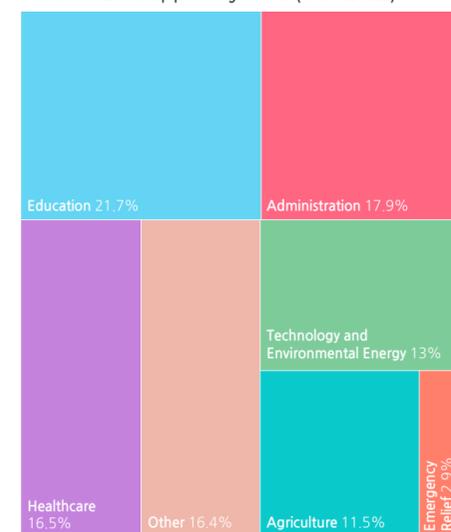
# International Development and Cooperation

## Official Development Assistance

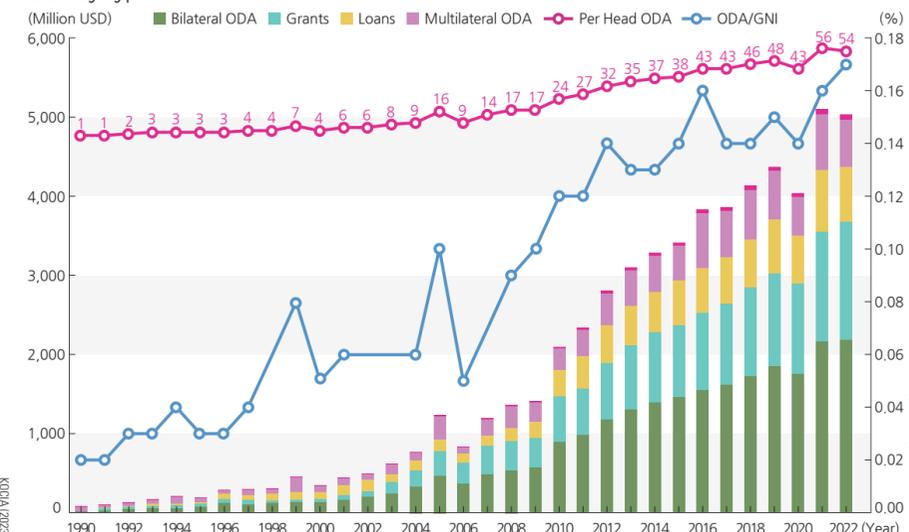
Official Development Assistance of Korea (2000–2022)



KOICA ODA Support by Field (1991–2022)



ODA by Type



As the international reputation of Korea continues to grow, the Korean government continues to play active roles on the world stage. Even though colonization and war pushed the nation to the periphery for the first half of the 20th century, Korea rapidly emerged to distinguish itself as an economically stable democracy. One truly symbolic event that highlights Korea's emergence in world affairs was the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. Another one of Korea's benchmark accomplishments is joining the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1996. Korea's development path is quite different from those of many other Western countries, and it may serve as a role model for many of today's developing countries.

In terms of international development cooperation, Korea has been a recipient country for over 40 years. The government received KRW 1,270 million in aid to promote industrialization after the Korean War. The aid was reduced as the economy grew and foreign capital from developed countries was attracted to Korean

investments. As a result, Korea was formally removed from the list of recipient countries by the World Bank in 1995 and the list of recipients of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in 2000.

Korea's participation in international cooperation and development has been visible since the late 1980s. The Korean government established the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) in 1987 to offer international loans. In 1991, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) was set up to provide grants and volunteers for a wide range of collaborative projects worldwide. Korea also joined the DAC in the OECD in January 2010, strengthening its role as an active donor to global development. Korean Overseas Volunteers (KOV) have been dispatched to many parts of the world. Thus far, Korea's effort to provide international assistance has focused on the following regions: Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Africa, and Latin America.

The Official Development Assistance (ODA) of the Korean government provides grants or loans for promoting economic development and welfare of developing countries on concessional terms. Korea, as a member of the DAC of the OECD, has provided grants and loans to many developing countries all around the world.

The map shows the cumulative amount of Korea's grants from 2000 to 2022, normalized by the population of the receiving country. It also shows the number of Korean volunteers with which they are engaged within each country. The tree map shows the fields Korea has supported. This illustrates how Korea is expanding its global assistance across various fields such as education, public administration, and health.

The graph presents the ratio of ODA to Gross National Income (GNI). We can see that the ratio has increased continuously since 1990. An exceptionally high value was observed in 2005 due to the tsunami disaster in South Asia. The ODA per capita

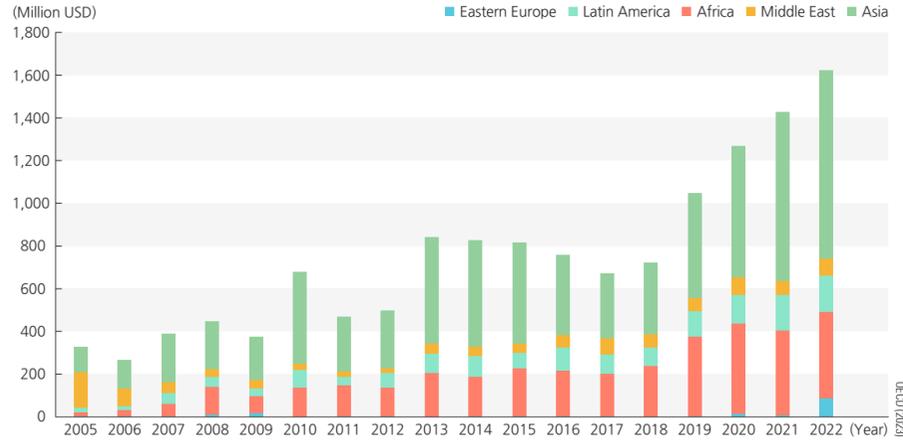
shows how much an individual in the donor country pays for ODA. Korea's ODA per capita was just USD 1 in 1990 but dramatically increased to USD 54 in 2022.

Korea's ODA may be classified into two categories: bilateral and multilateral. Bilateral assistance can be further divided into grants with 100% donation and loans with a grant rate of 25% or more but less than 100%. Multilateral assistance is subdivided into loans, contributions, and concessional loans. The graph shows that Korea has increased assistance in all types of ODA. Bilateral aid, which was USD 12 million in 1990, was about USD 2.19 billion in 2022, and multilateral aid, which was USD 49 million, surged to roughly USD 600 million in the same period. For reference, in 2022, the ratio of grants to loans in the bilateral aid was two to one. All in all, the data show that Korea has expanded its role as an active donor for global development.

## Grants by Region

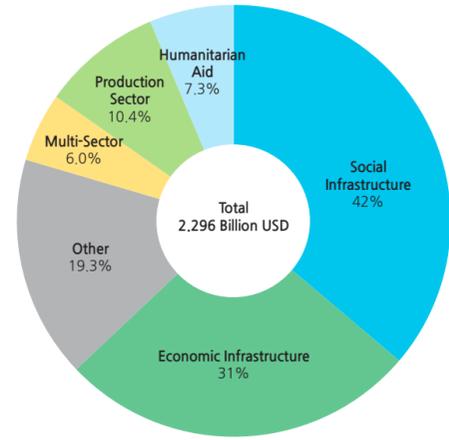
The graph shows the trend of Korea's bilateral grants to Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Latin America, and Africa. The total amounts of grant monies awarded have increased dramatically since 2010. In the mid-2000s, the aid mostly targeted the Middle East, but the regions receiving the aid have now expanded to include Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Korea's Grants by Region

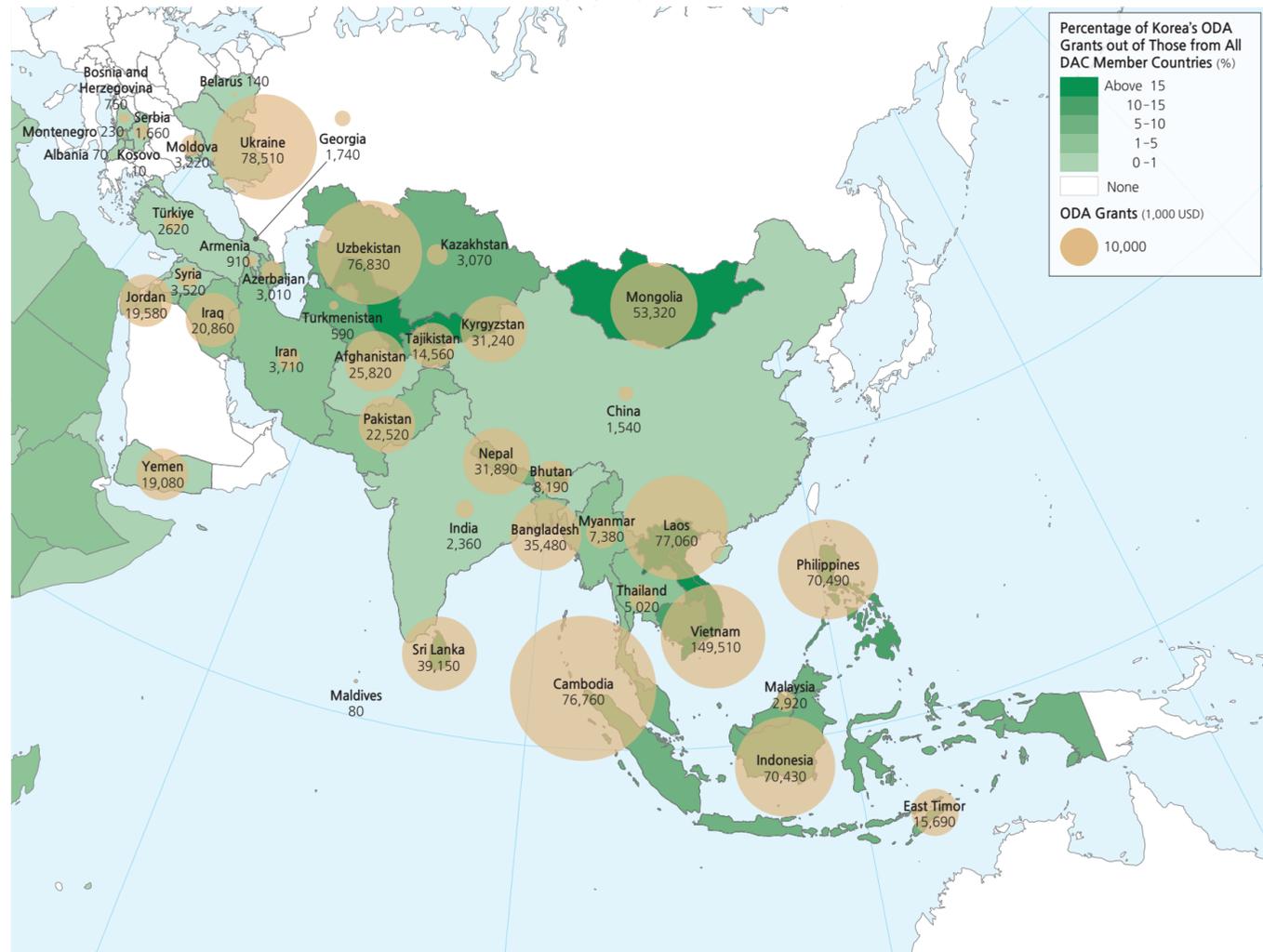


As illustrated in the pie chart, Korea's Official Development Assistance (ODA) is directed towards social infrastructure and services (education, health, reproductive health, water supply, and sanitation), economic infrastructure and services (transportation, storage, communications, energy, banking, and financial services), and the production sectors (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, industry, mining, construction, trade policies and regulations, and tourism).

Korea's ODA Support by Field (2022)



Korea's Grants in Asia, the Middle East, the CIS, and Eastern Europe (2022)



The map shows Korea's bilateral ODA for Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in 2022. The darker colors represent the countries that received larger grants from Korea than other DAC member countries. What becomes clear is that Korea provides more contributions to Asian countries such as Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Vietnam, Laos, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Mongolia than do the other Development Assistance Committee (DAC) member countries. The map also shows that a significant amount of Korean aid goes to Cambodia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Vietnam, Mongolia, Laos, and Pakistan.

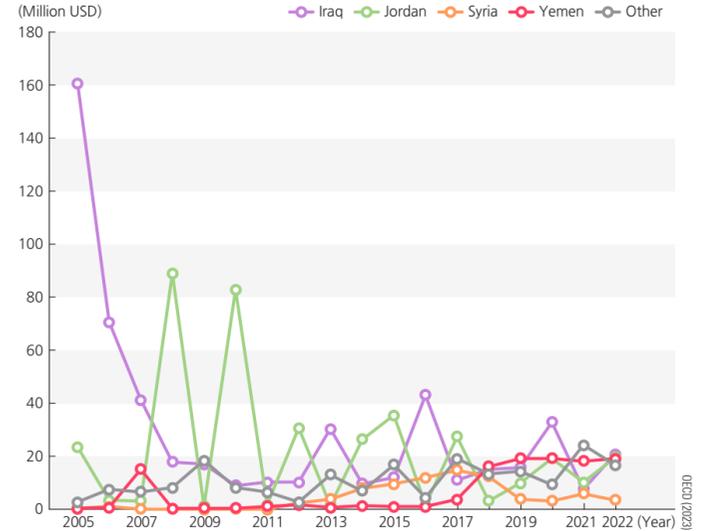
Since 1998, the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) has partnered with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to support the modernization of meteorological services in developing countries through various ODA projects. Korea is actively working on projects such as the Cheollian-2A satellite system and a typhoon monitoring platform to address global meteorological issues, particularly in Asia. Notably, KMA has collaborated with the Mongolian Meteorological Agency on dust storm monitoring and has enhanced observation infrastructure around Ulaanbaatar to strengthen disaster prevention.

Beneficiary Countries of KMA ODA

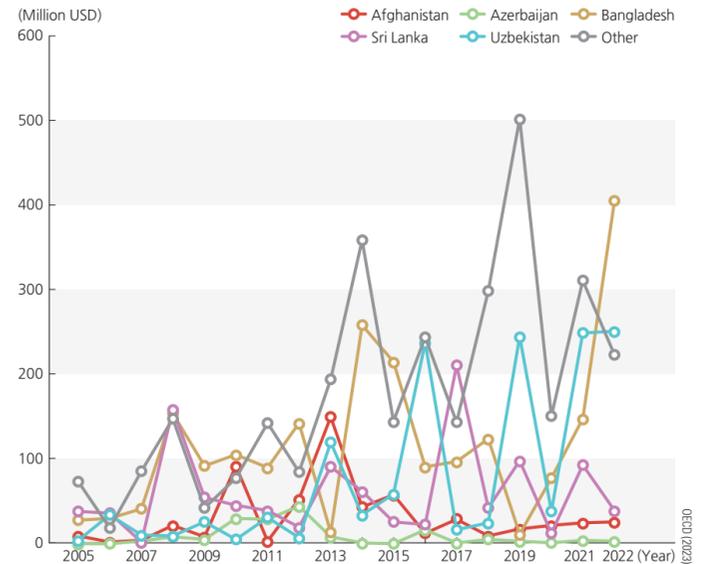


Mongolia Automatic Weather Station (AWS)

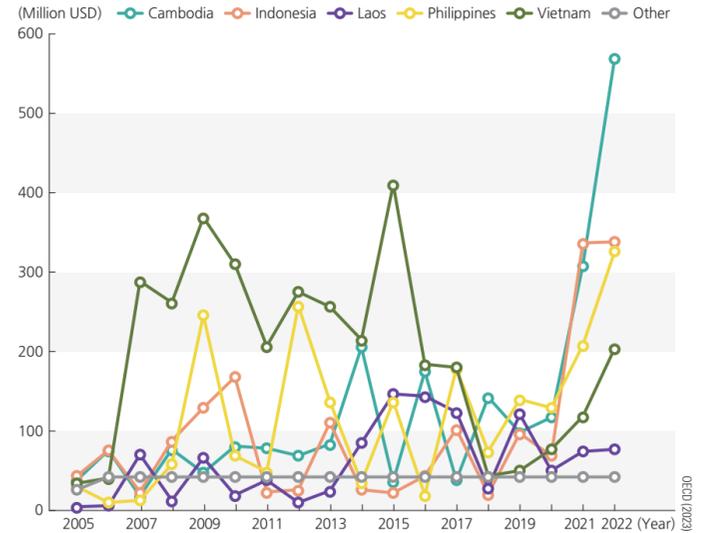
Korea's Grants in the Middle East



Korea's Grants in South Asia, Eastern Europe, and the CIS



Korea's Grants in East Asia and Southeast Asia

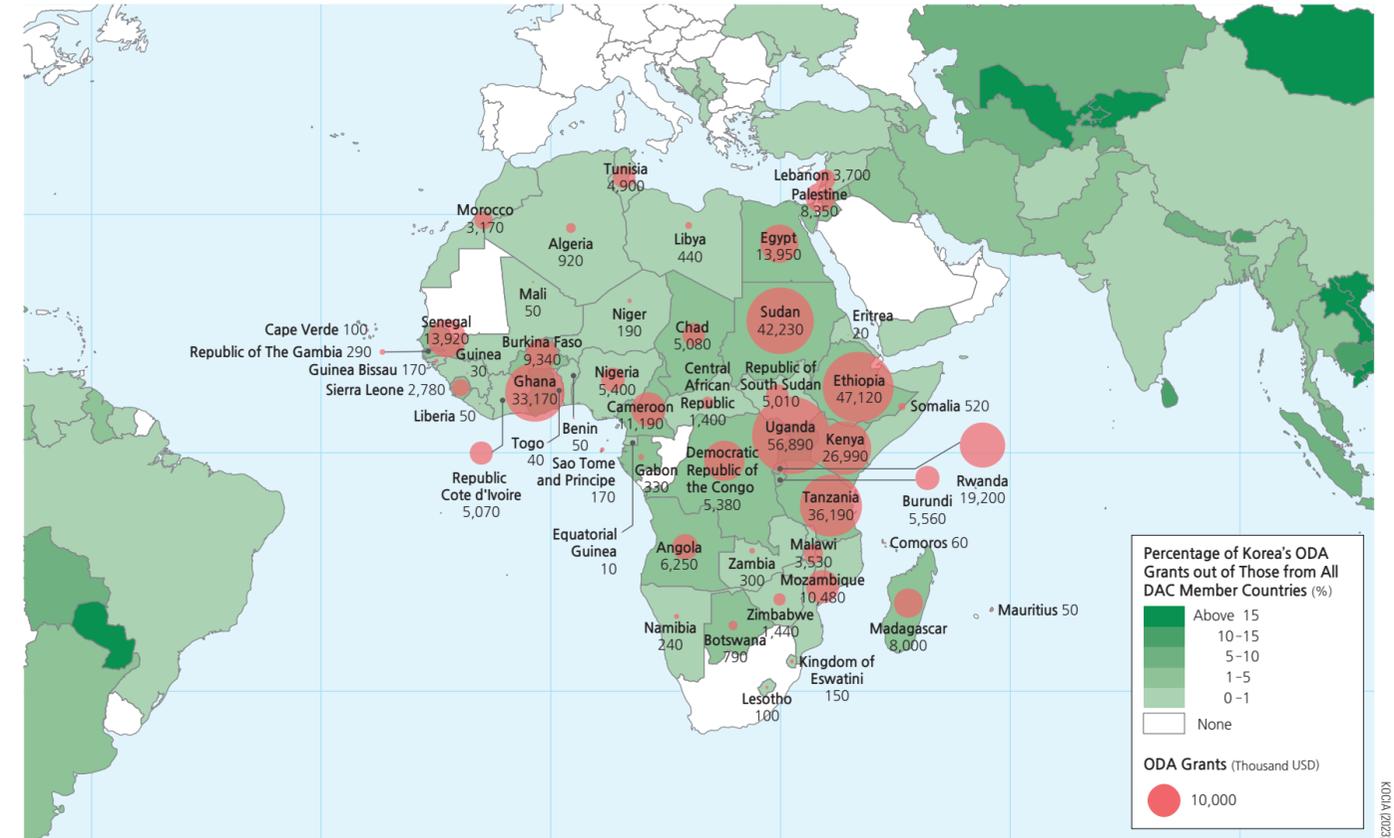


Korea's Grants in Latin America



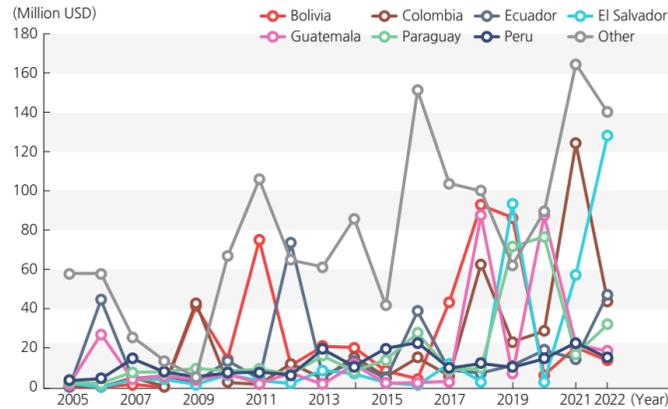
KOICA (2023)

Korea's Grants in Africa, South-West Asia



KOICA (2023)

Korea's Grants in Latin America



Korea Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (KOV) Activity in Peru

The map displays Korea's bilateral ODA to Latin America in 2022. More specifically, it represents the proportion of Korea's grants out of the total grants from all the DAC members. The countries that are more dependent on assistance from South Korea are represented in darker colors. Those countries include many in Central America (excluding Mexico), as well as the eastern coastal regions of South America. Particularly high proportions of South Korean aid appear in Paraguay, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic. The circle symbol shows the size and sector of the grants by recipient. In terms of size, the largest recipients of Korean aid are the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Paraguay, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Bolivia. These grants primarily target social infrastructure and services, but the economic infrastructure and production sectors also receive assistance in several countries.

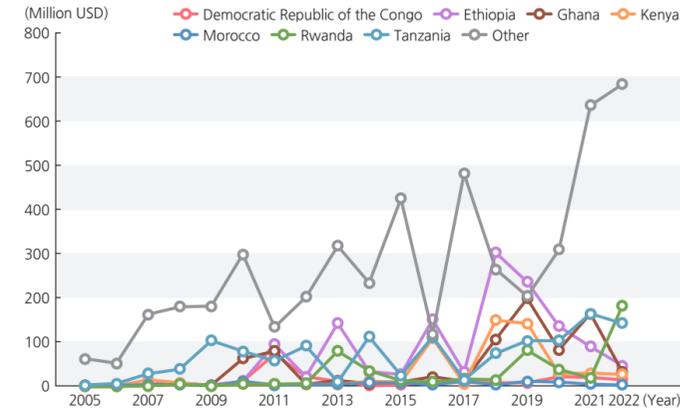
First Korea-Peru Health Center Construction Project. The total amount of the grant was about USD 2.4 million, which was distributed from 1992 to 2010. This project has helped to improve public health and medical services in the region.

Another case is the Santo Domingo Water Supply Expansion Project in Ecuador, which utilized Korea's advanced water treatment technology and provided USD 44 million to expand new water distribution pipelines in Santo Domingo. The project addressed the city's chronic water shortage, improving public health and hygiene.

Colombia, with potential in shipbuilding, has been benefiting from the Colombian Shipbuilding Industry Revitalization Project since 2021, which shares Korea's development expertise to support the industry's growth.

A good example of the social infrastructure and services sector support is The

Korea's Grants in Africa



Facility Aid (ICT Building at the University of Rwanda)

The map shows Korea's bilateral foreign aid for African countries in 2022. The dark colors represent those countries where Korean grants occupy larger proportions among the total DAC grants. Contrary to the clustered geographical pattern of the aid distribution in Latin America, Korea's grants are relatively evenly distributed to most African countries. The circle symbols of Korean aid represent countries, U.S. dollar amounts, and sectors that received Korean aid. The largest grant recipients in Africa are Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Tanzania, and Ghana. Also, the amounts given to those countries have increased gradually (see the graph). Korea is actively working to expand the social infrastructure of beneficiary countries and supports the economic and production infrastructure of nations devastated by civil wars or famines. An example of the projects in the social infrastructure and services sector is found in Ethiopia. Korea has supplied USD 2.8 million to help prevent tuberculosis, particularly in the city of Addis Ababa. Korea has also helped Rwanda with a variety

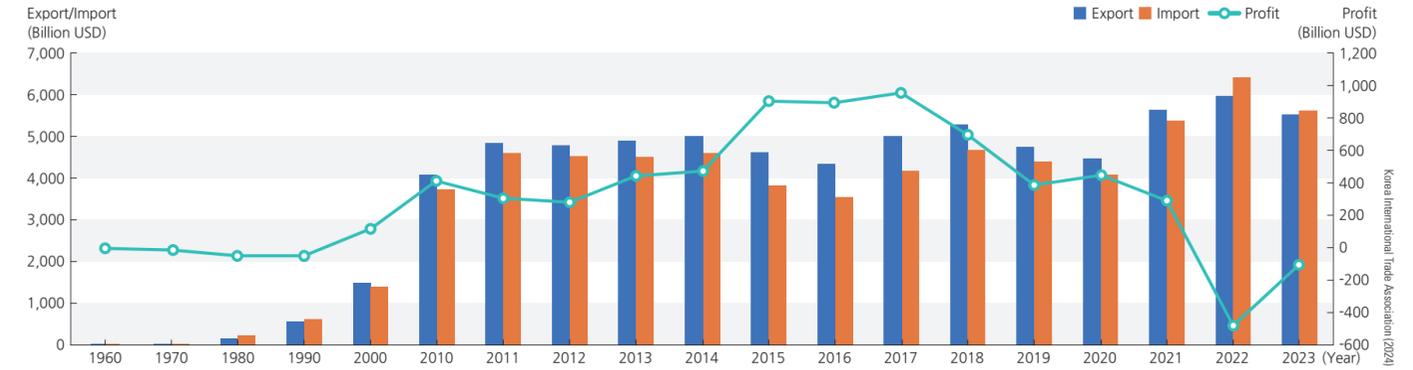
of education and training programs. An example of these efforts is constructing the ICT innovation center in the Kigali Special Economic Zone.

Korea has invested USD 244 million since 2018 to supply 256 electric train cars to Cairo, Egypt, as part of efforts to improve the city's transportation infrastructure. This initiative includes the refurbishment of aging metro and railway systems, the expansion of new facilities, and the enhancement of technical personnel capacity. Another example is the Ethiopia Southern National Power Grid Expansion Project, which involves constructing transmission lines and substations in the Omo Kuraz and Arba Minch areas of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR). This project aims to provide a stable power supply in regions with low electricity access or where reliable power is needed, promoting balanced regional development through expanded electricity access.

# International Trade and Investment

## Korea's Exports and Imports

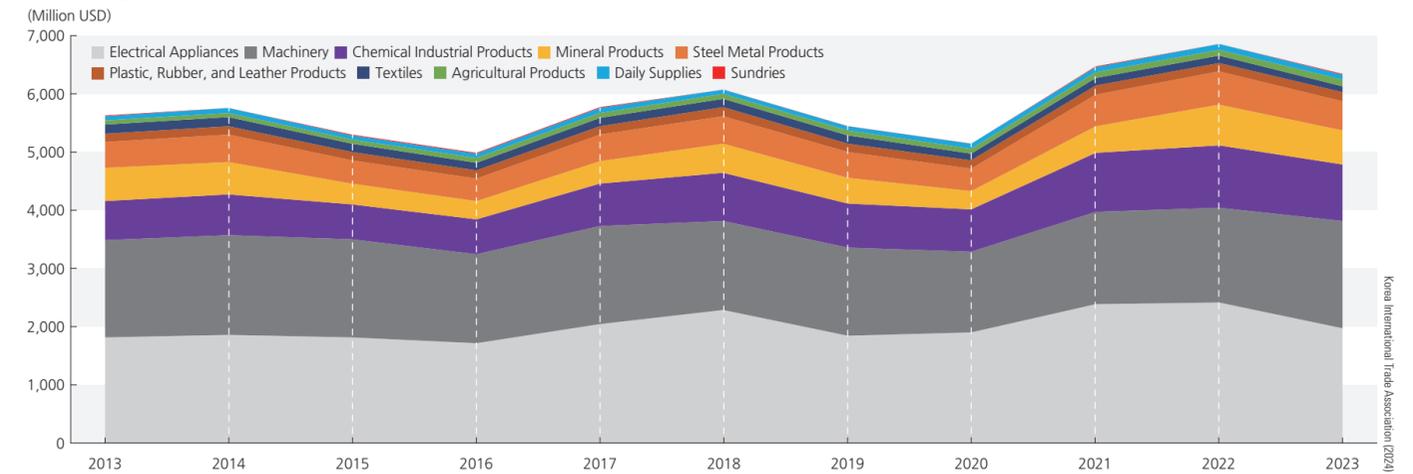
Korea's Annual Trade Volume



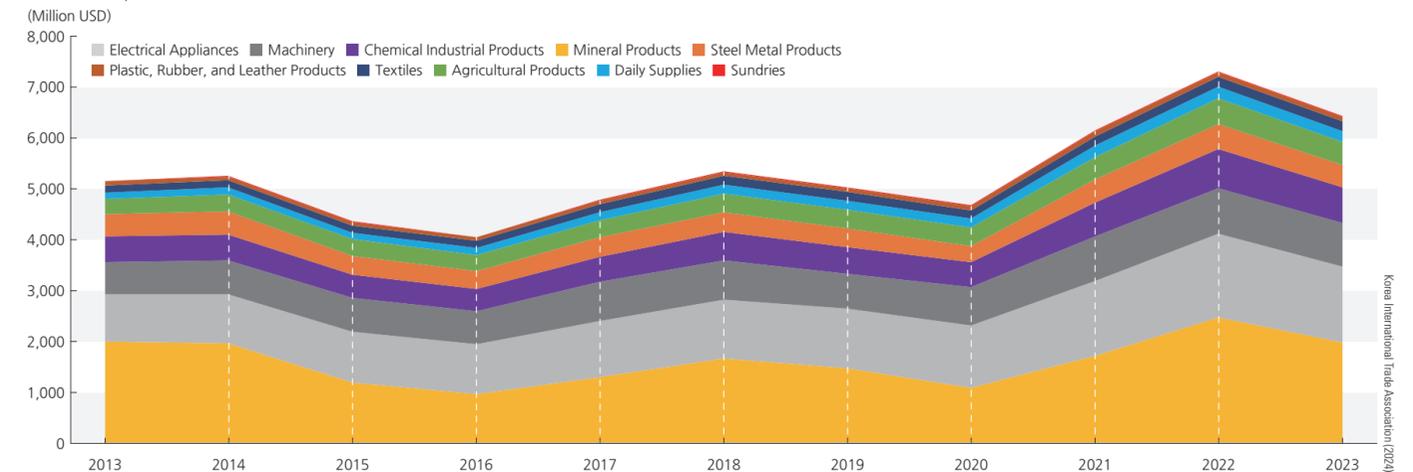
Korea's export value has been steadily increasing. In 2003, the export value was approximately USD 190 billion, but by 2023, it had significantly risen to USD 630 billion. Korea's main export items include electrical and electronic products, machinery, and chemical products. In particular, electrical and electronic products, along with machinery, account for more than half of the total export value. Following these are minerals, steel and metal products, plastic, rubber, leather goods, textiles, agricultural and fishery products, daily necessities, and miscellaneous goods.

Korea's import value has also been on the rise. In 2003, the import value was approximately USD 180 billion, but by 2023, it had increased to USD 640 billion, roughly 3.6 times higher. Korea's main import items include minerals, electrical and electronic products, and machinery. The import value of minerals and electrical and electronic products accounts for more than half of the total imports. Following these are chemical products, steel and metal products, agricultural and fishery products, daily necessities, textiles, and miscellaneous goods.

Korea's Export Amounts and Items



Korea's Import Amounts and Items



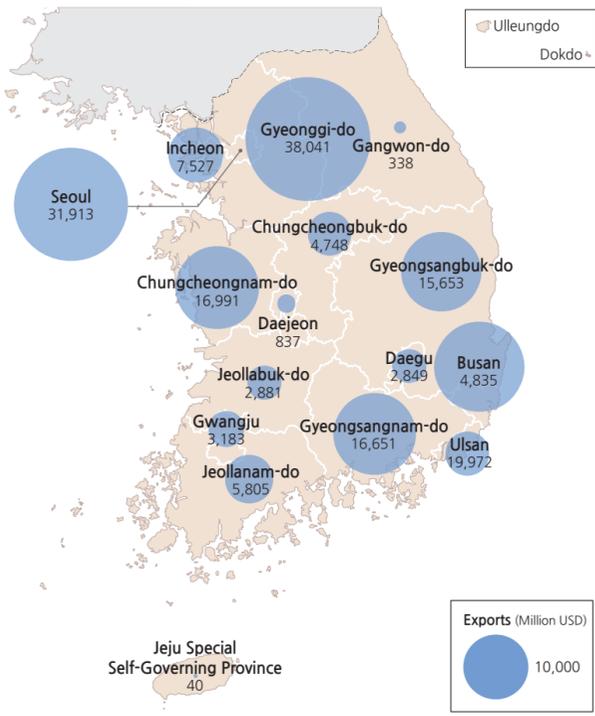
Korea's annual trade volume was only about USD 400 million in 1956, but it surpassed USD 1 billion in 1967, USD 10 billion in 1974, USD 100 billion in 1988, and USD 1 trillion in 2011. In 2011, Korea became the ninth country in the world to achieve a trade volume of over USD 1 trillion, following the United States, Germany, China, Japan, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Italy. Additionally, Korea was the first country to surpass USD 1 trillion in trade volume after the 2007–2008 global financial crisis.

Although global trade stagnated during 2019–2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Korea was able to respond quickly to the downturn, thanks to its

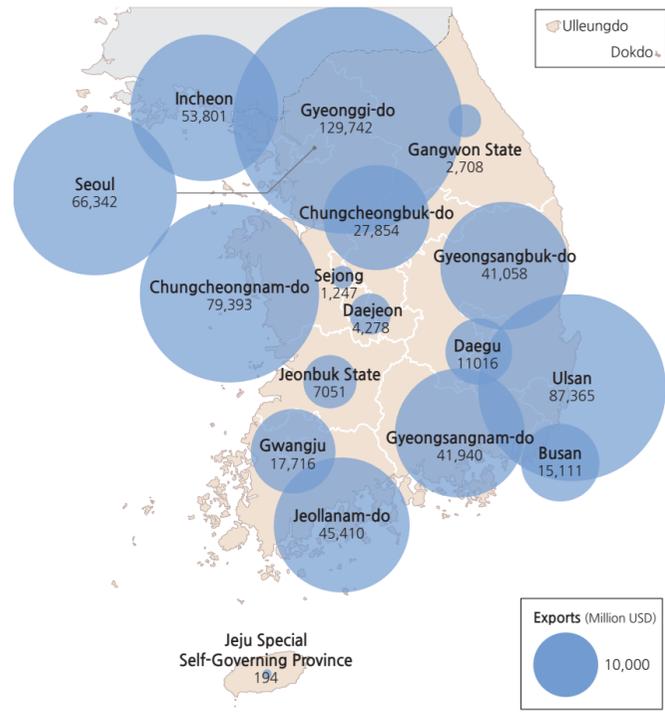
excellent quarantine system and competitive manufacturing industry. As of 2023, Korea's export value is USD 632.2 billion, and its import value is USD 642.6 billion, resulting in an annual trade volume of about USD 1.3 trillion.

From 1998 to 2021, Korea has consistently maintained a trade surplus. While the country experienced a brief deficit in 2008 due to the sharp rise in raw material prices such as oil, Korea continued to achieve a trade surplus even during the global economic slowdown in 2012. Although the country recorded surpluses during 2020 and 2021 despite the impact of COVID-19, it has experienced a trade deficit since 2022.

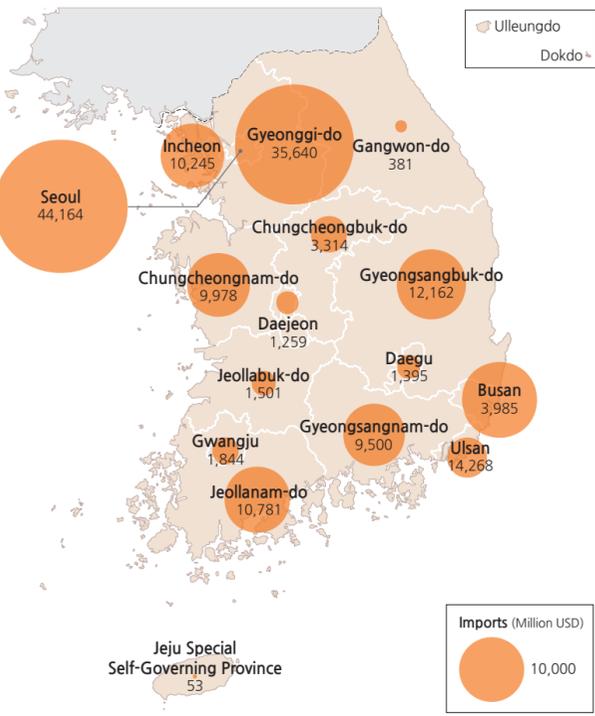
Export Amounts by Local Governments in Korea  
2000



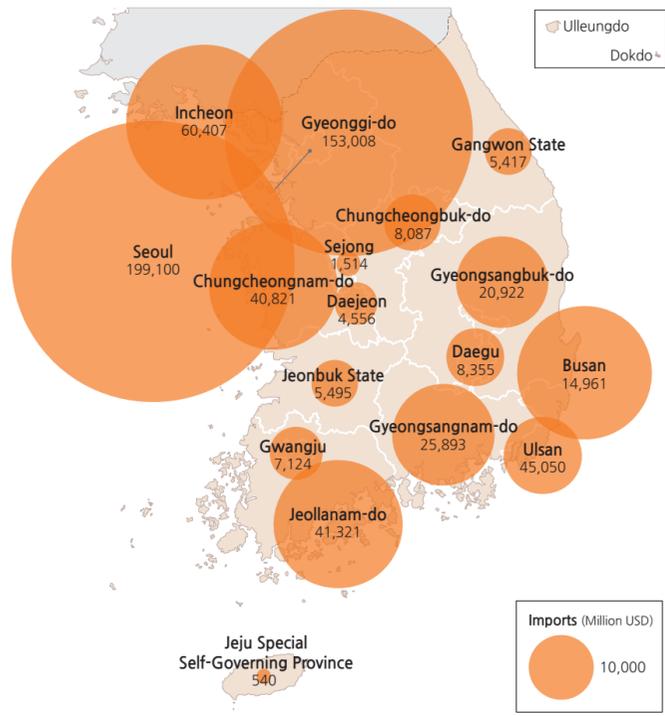
2023



Import Amounts by Local Governments in Korea  
2000



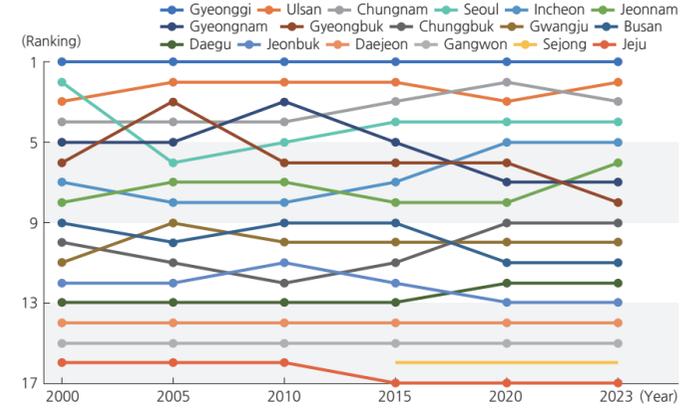
2023



As of 2023, the ranking of annual export amounts by region in Korea is as follows: Gyeonggi, Ulsan, Chungnam, Seoul, Incheon, Jeonnam, Gyeongnam, Gyeongbuk, Chungbuk, Gwangju, Busan, Daegu, Jeonbuk, Daejeon, Gangwon, Sejong, and Jeju. Notably, Gyeonggi accounts for about 20% of the country's total

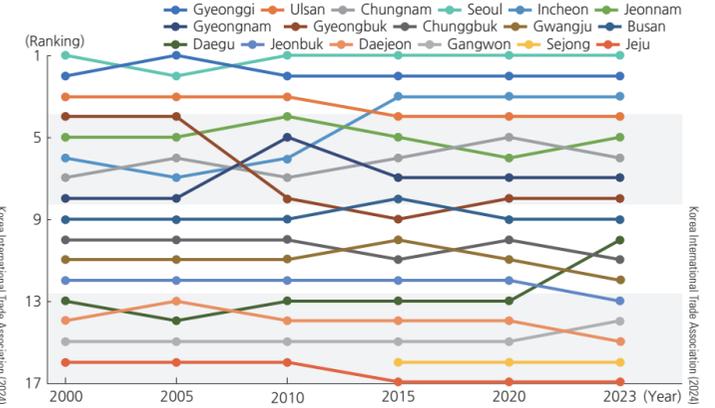
export value. The combined export value of Gyeonggi, Ulsan, Chungnam, and Seoul makes up approximately 55% of the total exports. Gyeonggi, Ulsan, Seoul, and Chungnam have consistently ranked among the top four regions in export value from 2000 to 2023.

Ranking of Export Amounts by Local Governments



In contrast, the ranking of annual import amounts by region in Korea is as follows: Seoul, Gyeonggi, Incheon, Ulsan, Jeonnam, Chungnam, Gyeongnam, Gyeongbuk, Busan, Daegu, Chungbuk, Gwangju, Jeonbuk, Gangwon, Daejeon, Sejong, and Jeju. Seoul and Gyeonggi together account for about 53% of the country's total

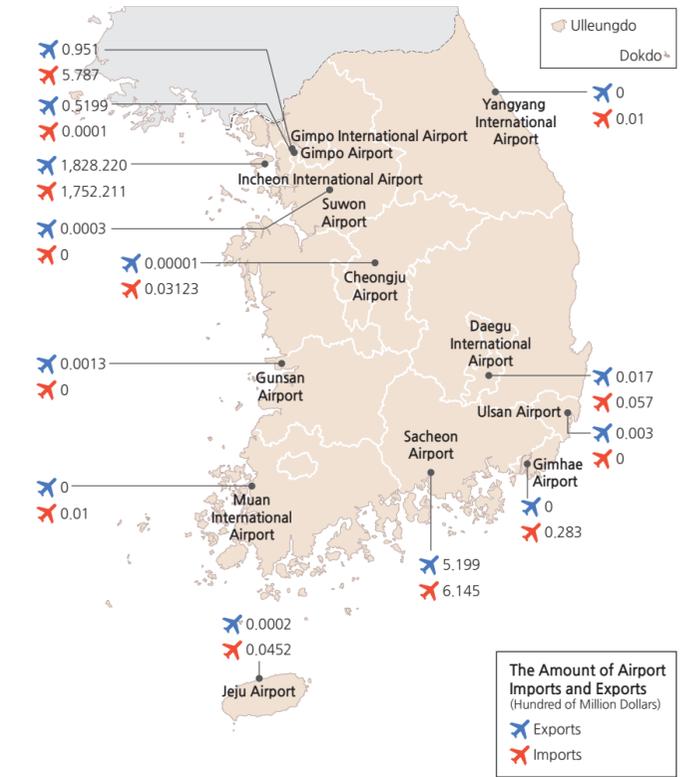
Ranking of Import Amounts by Local Governments



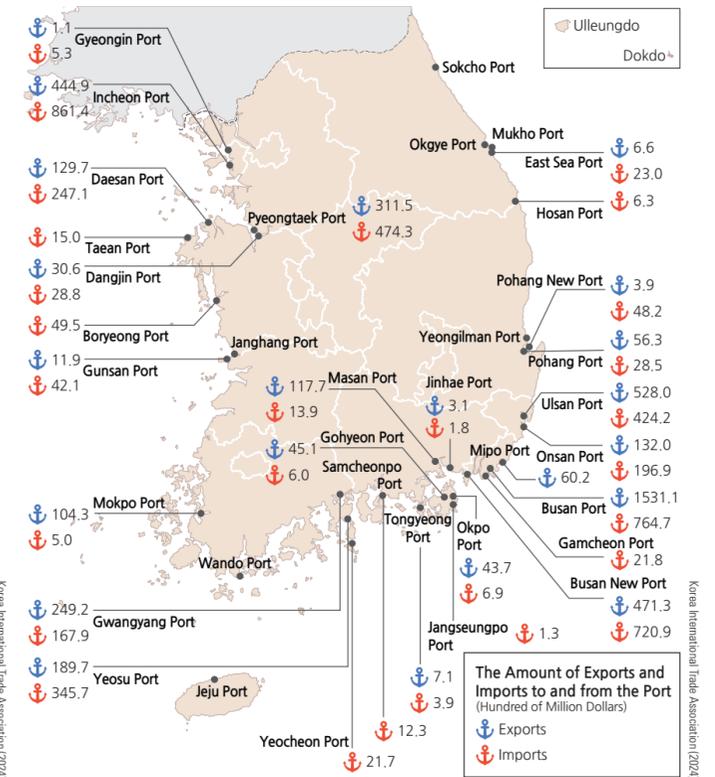
import value. Seoul, Gyeonggi, and Ulsan have consistently ranked among the top four regions in import value from 2000 to 2023. Incheon, previously ranked sixth or seventh in import value, has recently surged to the third position.

Export and Import Value Ratios of Airports and Ports in Korea

Export and Import Value Ratios of Airports



Export and Import Value Ratios of Ports



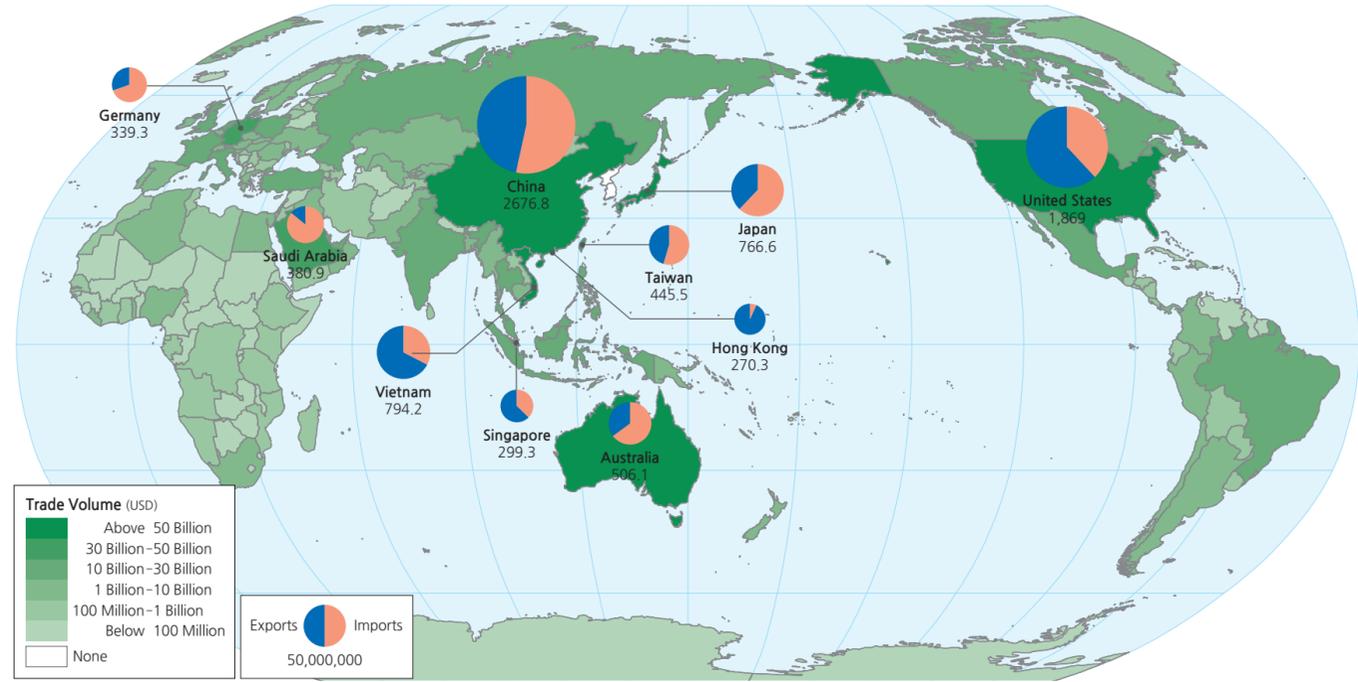
Most of Korea's exports and imports are conducted through ports. As of 2023, 71% of export value and 73% of import value occurred at ports. Among the major ports, Busan Port handles the largest share, with USD 153.1 billion, accounting for about 34% of the total port export value. Following Busan Port are Ulsan Port (USD 52.8 billion, 12%), Busan New Port (USD 47.1 billion, 11%), Incheon Port (USD 44.5 billion, 10%), and Pyeongtaek Port (USD 31.2 billion, 7%). In terms of import value, Incheon Port leads with USD 86.2 billion, representing about 18% of the total. It is followed by Busan Port (USD 76.5 billion, 16%), Busan New Port (USD

72.1 billion, 15%), Pyeongtaek Port (USD 47.4 billion, 10%), and Ulsan Port (USD 42.4 billion, 9%).

Airports account for about 29% of export value and 27% of import value. Incheon Airport is the dominant player, handling 99.6% of the total airport export value with USD 182.8 billion, and 99.3% of the total airport import value with USD 175.2 billion. Gimhae Airport records 0.3% of the total with USD 5.2 billion in exports and USD 6.1 billion in imports. Overall, Incheon Airport holds an absolute share in exports and imports, while other airports remain at a minimal level.

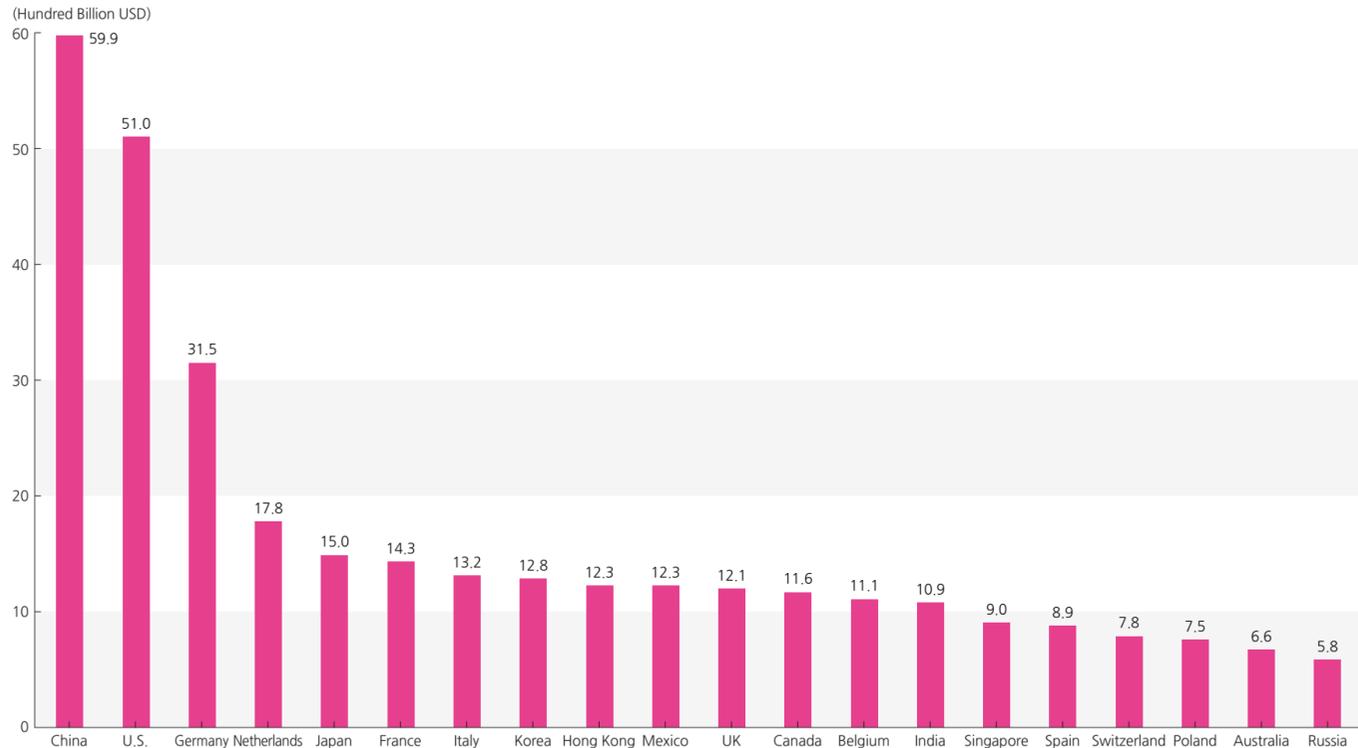
# Global Exports and Imports

## Korea's Top Export Destinations



As of 2023, the global trade volume is approximately USD 47.2 trillion. The largest trading countries are China, the United States, and Germany, with China accounting for about 12% of the total and the United States for about 10%. Korea maintains the eighth position in global trade rankings, accounting for 3% of the total trade volume.

## Global Trade Volume



Korea maintains trade relations with approximately 250 countries. As of 2023, the top countries for Korean exports are China, the United States, Vietnam, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, India, Australia, and Mexico, in that order. China and the United States, with the highest export amounts, each account for about 20% of Korea's total export value in 2023.

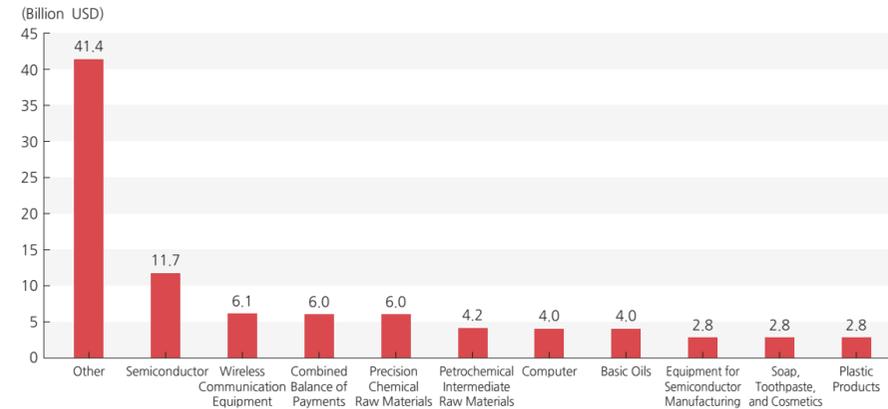
As of 2023, Korea exported approximately USD 124.8 billion worth of goods to China. The largest export item was semiconductors, valued at about USD 11.7 billion. Following semiconductors, significant exports included wireless communication devices (USD 6.1 billion) and synthetic resins (USD 6.0 billion). Key export items to China are semiconductors and computers. China's top three export partners are the United States, Hong Kong, and Japan, while its top three import partners are Taiwan, Korea, and the United States.

As of 2023, Korea exported approximately USD 115.7 billion worth of goods to the United States. The largest export items were automobiles and automotive parts. Automobiles accounted for about USD 22.3 billion in exports, while automotive parts were valued at USD 7.3 billion. Key export items with positive trends include automobiles and general machinery, while textiles and semiconductors

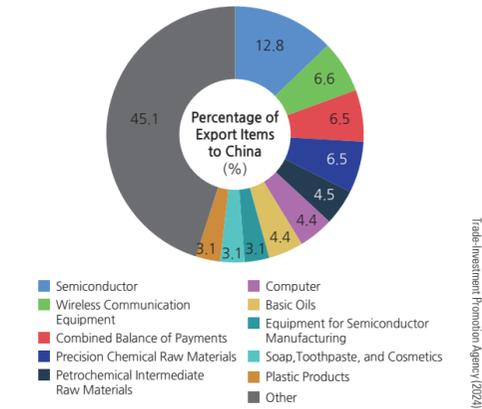
have experienced weaker export performance. The top three export partners of the United States are Canada, Mexico, and China, while its top three import partners are Canada, Mexico, and China.

As of 2023, Korea achieved approximately USD 29 billion in exports to Japan. The largest export items were petroleum products and steel plates. Petroleum products accounted for about USD 3 billion in exports, while steel plates were valued at USD 2.5 billion. Major export items to Japan include petroleum products and petrochemicals, whereas textiles and computers have experienced weaker export performance. Japan's top three export partners are China, the United States, and Australia, while its top three import partners are the United States, China, and Korea.

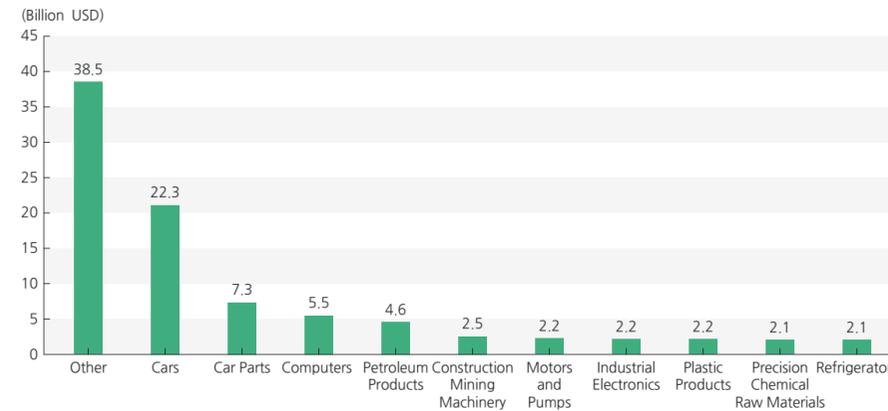
## Export Value and Items to China



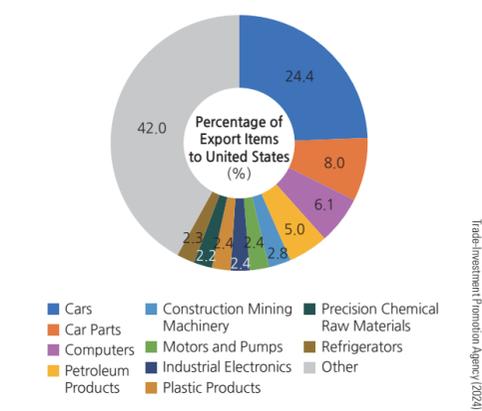
## Percentage of Export Items to China



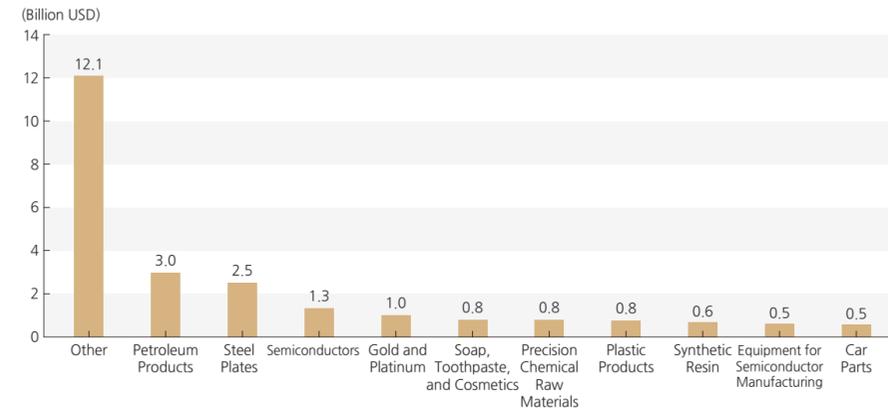
## Export Value and Items to the United States



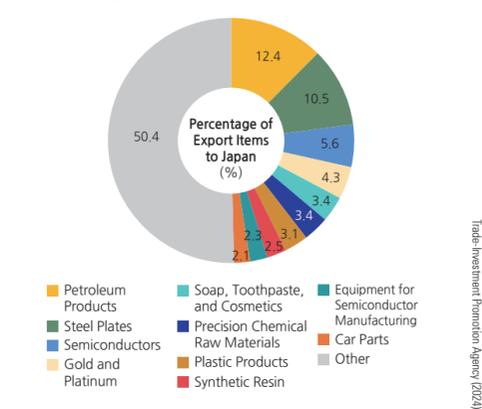
## Percentage of Export Items to United States



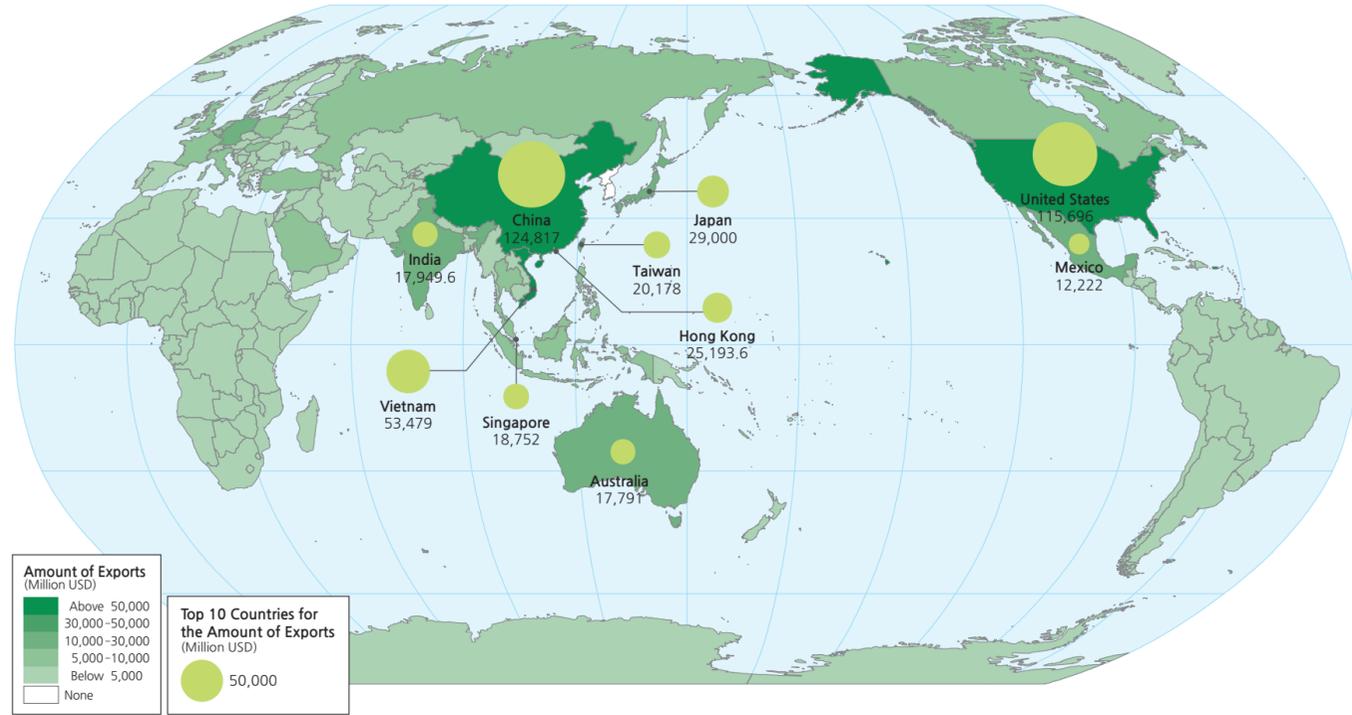
## Export Value and Items to Japan



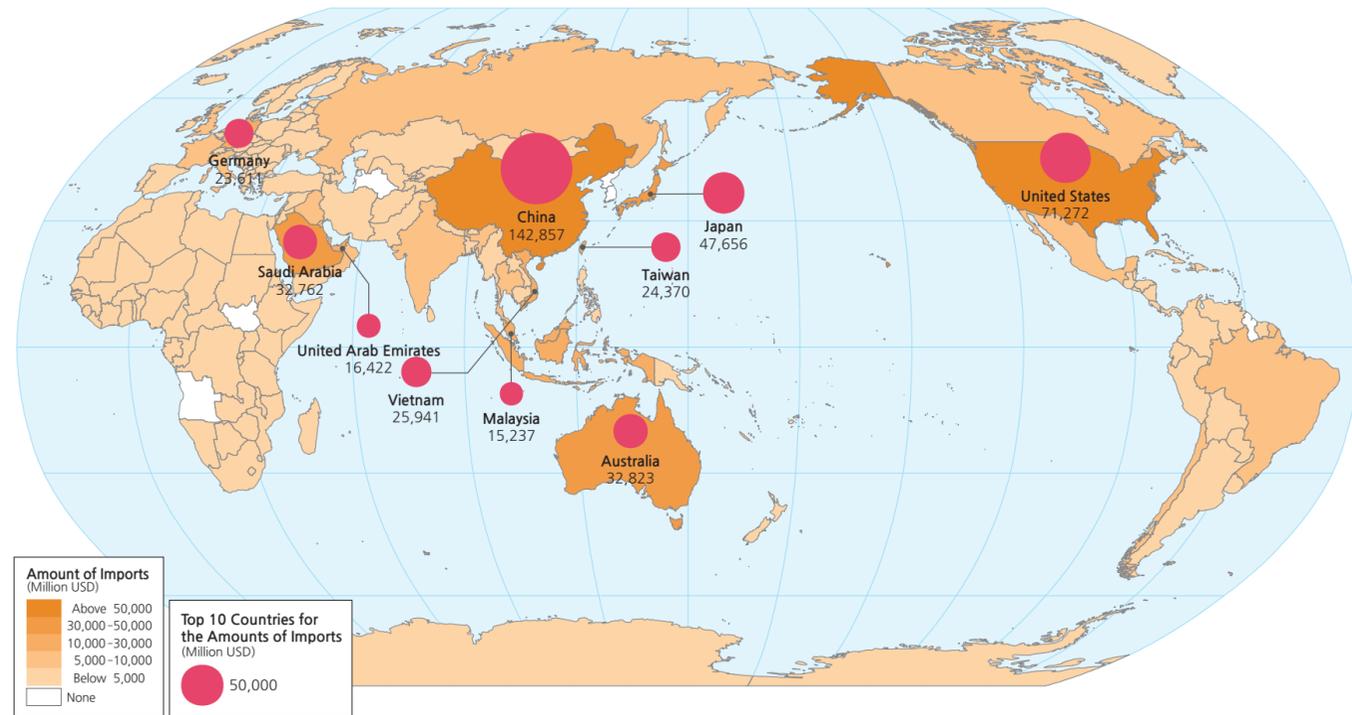
## Percentage of Export Items to Japan



Korea's Top Export Sources



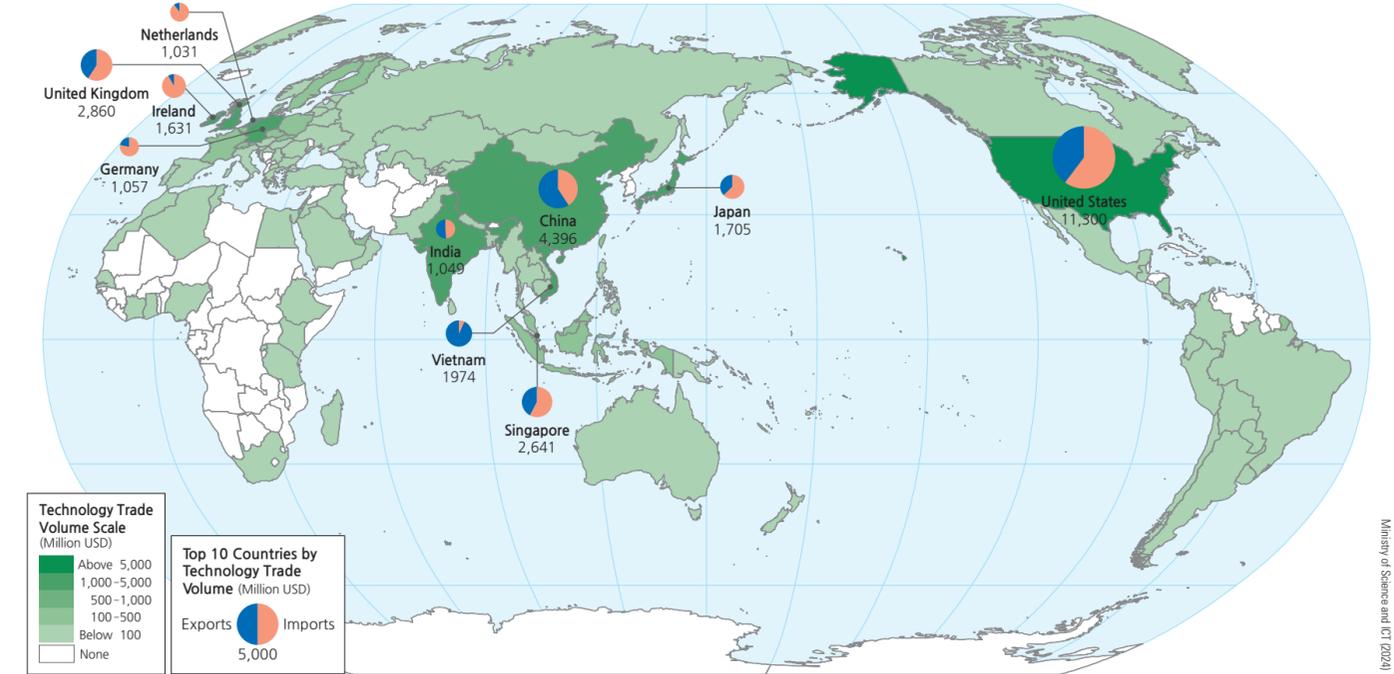
Korea's Top Import Sources



Korea's import value is highest from the following countries: China, the United States, Japan, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Germany, the United Arab Emirates, and Malaysia. China, with the highest import value, accounts for about 20% of the total annual import value, while the United States accounts for

approximately 10%. When examining by continent, Asia accounts for half of Korea's export and import values, followed by North America, Europe, Central and South America, Oceania, the Middle East, Africa, and other regions.

Technology Trade Volume by Country



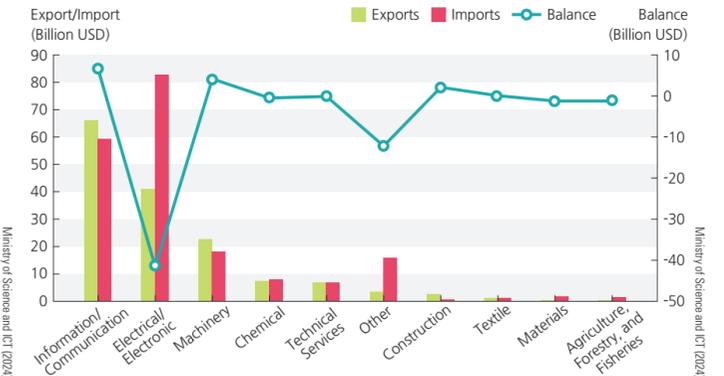
Korea's Technology Trade Volume



Top 10 Countries by Technology Trade Volume

Ranking	Country	Export	Country	Import	Country	Scale
1	U.S.	44.8	U.S.	68.2	U.S.	113
2	China	26	China	17.9	China	44
3	Vietnam	18.4	UK	16.8	UK	28.6
4	UK	11.8	Singapore	15.2	Singapore	26.4
5	Singapore	11.2	Ireland	15	Vietnam	19.8
6	Japan	6.4	Japan	10.7	Japan	17.1
7	India	5.4	Netherlands	9.3	Ireland	16.3
8	Hong Kong	3.1	Germany	8.3	Germany	10.6
9	Taiwan	2.6	India	5.1	India	10.5
10	Czech Republic	2.5	Hong Kong	3.9	Netherlands	10.3

Technology Trade Volume by Industry

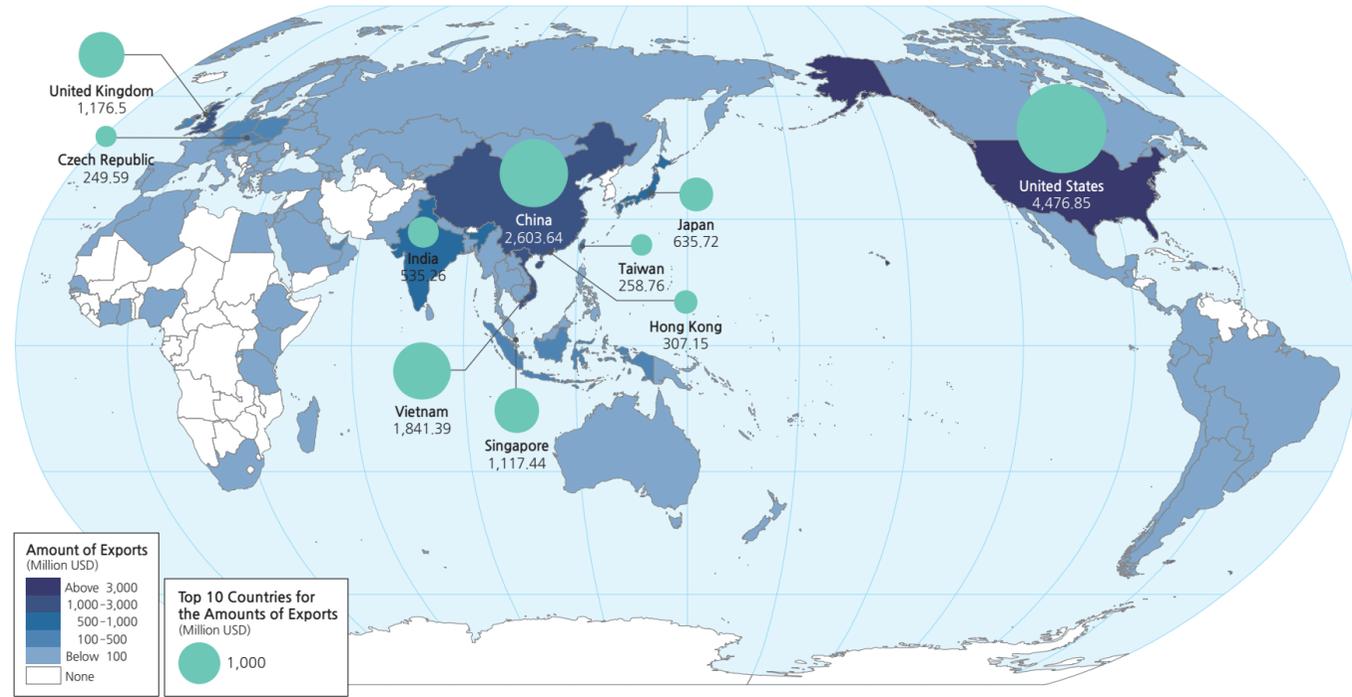


Korea is actively engaged in technology trade with other countries. Technology trade refers to the international export and import of technology through various means such as technology sales and licensing, provision of technology services, and more. This includes the international transfer and sale of technology or patents, knowledge transfer, technology consulting, and engineering services.

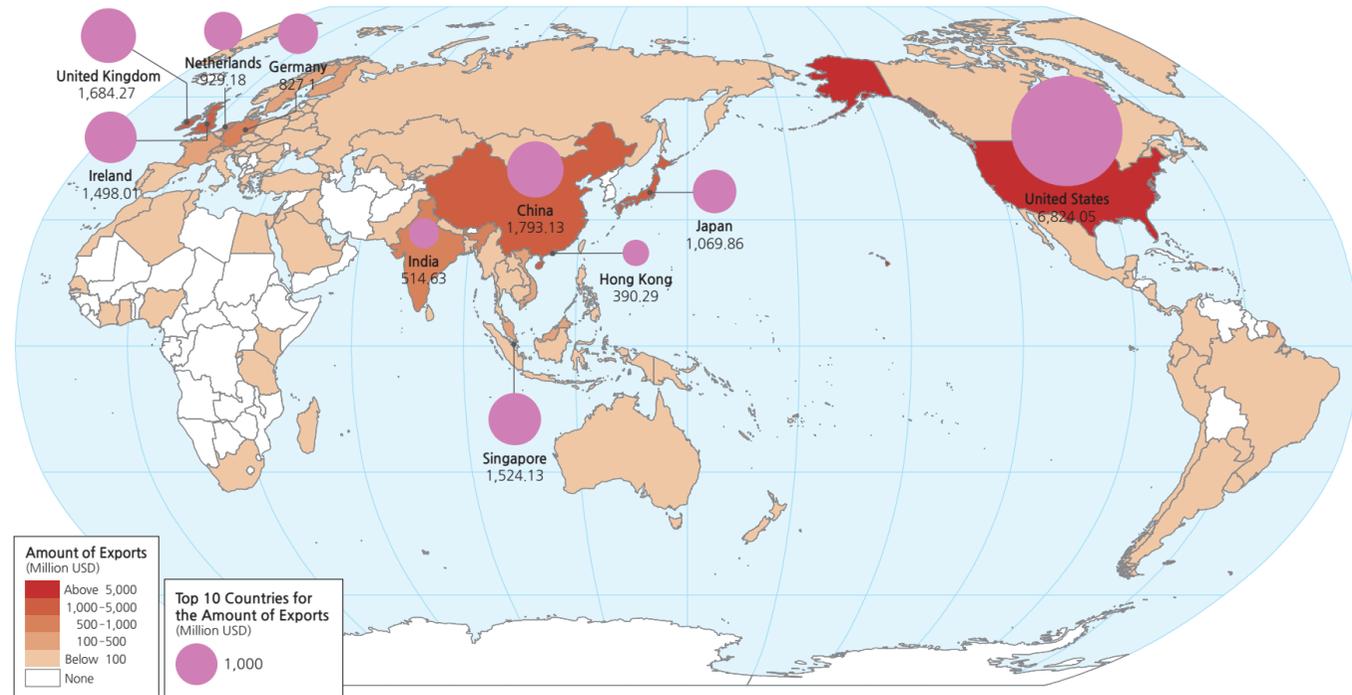
Technology trade is an important indicator of international technology exchange and reflects changes in technology and industrial structures among countries.

The technology trade balance, which is the ratio of technology export value to import value, serves as a benchmark for assessing a country's technological competitiveness. Korea's technology trade volume surpassed USD 10 billion in 2009 and reached approximately USD 34.9 billion in 2022. This includes technology exports valued at USD 15.2 billion and technology imports valued at USD 19.6 billion.

Technology Trade Exports by Country



Technology Trade Import by Country



As of 2022, Korea engaged in technology trade with approximately 110 countries. The top countries for technology exports were the United States (USD 4.48 billion), China (USD 2.60 billion), and Vietnam (USD 1.84 billion). The leading countries for technology imports were the United States (USD 6.82 billion), China (USD 1.79 billion), and the United Kingdom (USD 1.68 billion). The largest technology trade volumes were with the United States, China, and the United Kingdom.

In 2022, industries with high technology export and import volumes include information and communication technology (ICT) and electronics. The technology export volume in the ICT sector increased by 2.8% compared to the previous year. However, the technology import volume decreased by 19.7%, resulting in a shift from a deficit of USD 540 million to a surplus of USD 930 million.

## Direct Investment

Overseas direct investment occurs when a country's businesses invest capital in another country by establishing subsidiaries or branches, acquiring existing local companies, or setting up joint ventures.

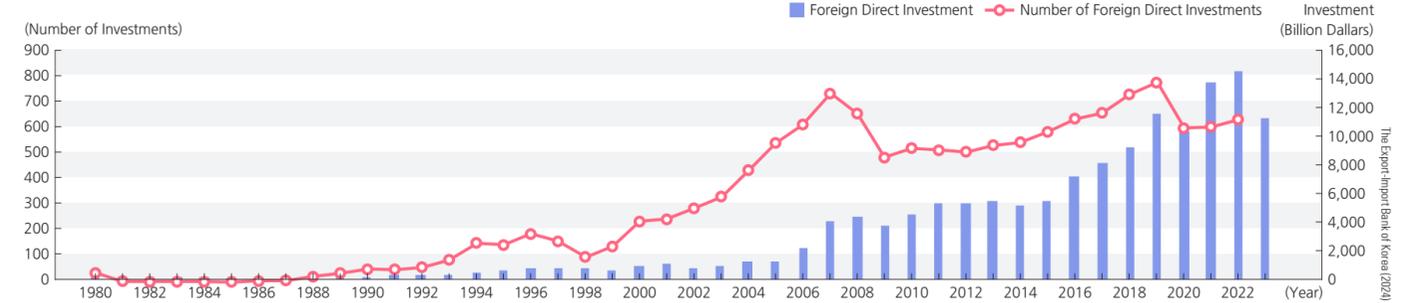
As of 2023, the total investment amounted to USD 63.38 billion, with the largest scale reaching USD 81.50 billion in 2022. Despite a slight decrease in overseas direct investment in 2023 due to the ongoing high-interest rate environment globally, investments continue to be strong, particularly in advanced industries such as semiconductors and batteries, with a focus on the United States.

The top 10 countries for foreign direct investment are the United States (USD 27.72 billion), the Cayman Islands (USD 6.17 billion), Luxembourg (USD 4.95

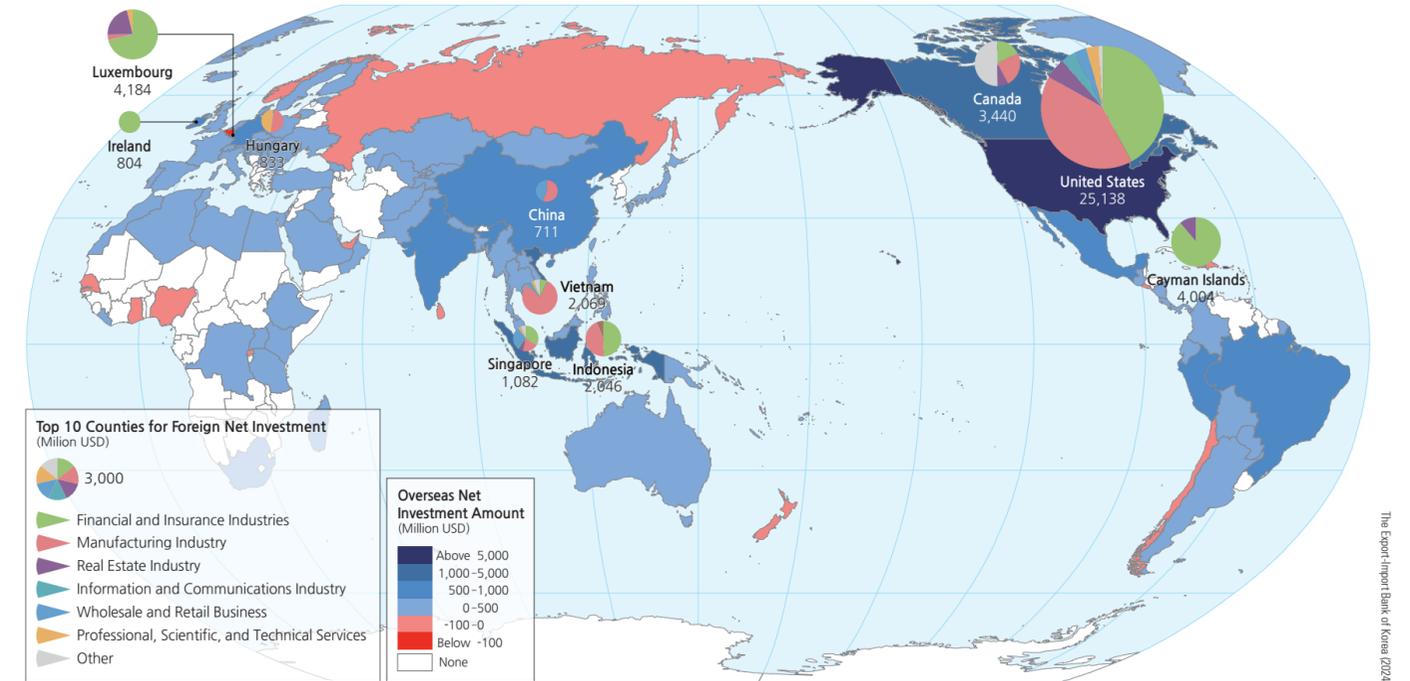
billion), Canada (USD 3.60 billion), Vietnam (USD 2.64 billion), Indonesia (USD 2.09 billion), China (USD 1.87 billion), Singapore (USD 1.24 billion), Brazil (USD 1.18 billion), and Ireland (USD 870 million).

Since 1980, the industry with the highest cumulative foreign direct investment has been manufacturing. In 2023, the amount of foreign direct investment in manufacturing reached USD 20.25 billion, accounting for approximately 32% of the total foreign direct investment for the year. Since 2007, investment in finance and insurance has significantly increased, and by 2023, it constitutes the largest share, representing about 41% of total investment.

Trends in Foreign Direct Investment



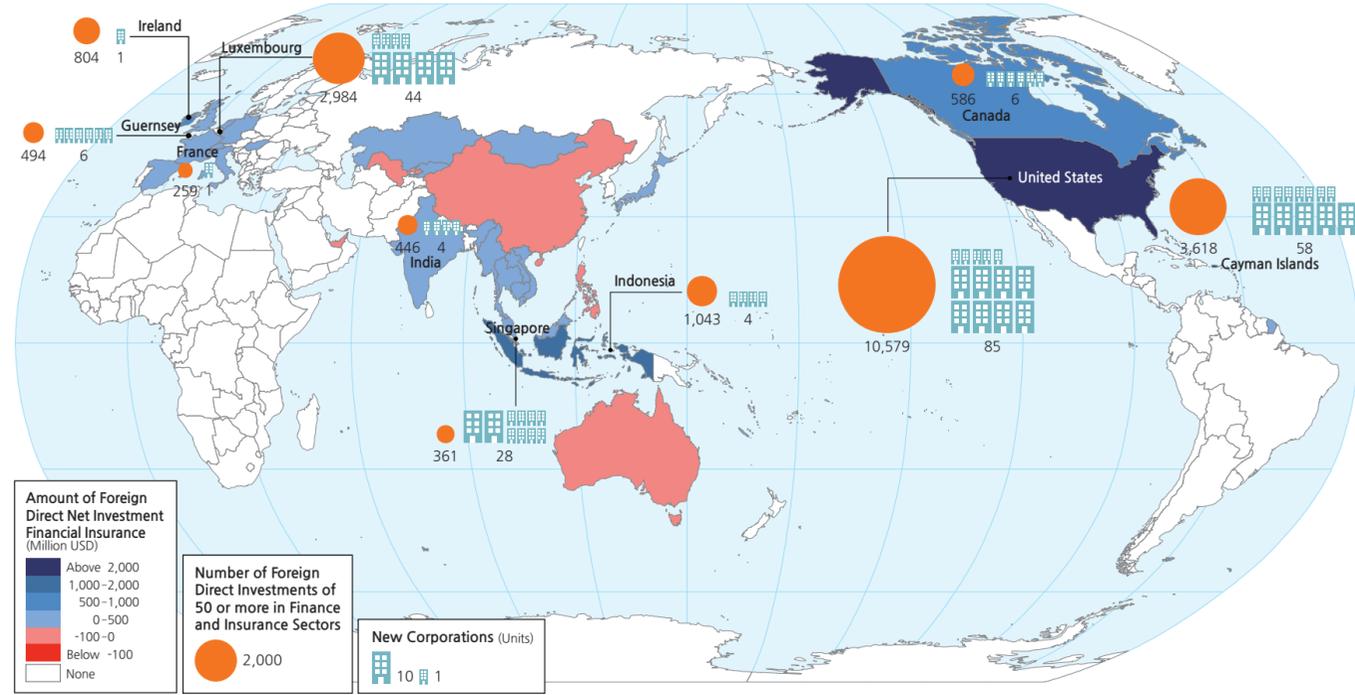
Foreign Direct Net Investment by Country



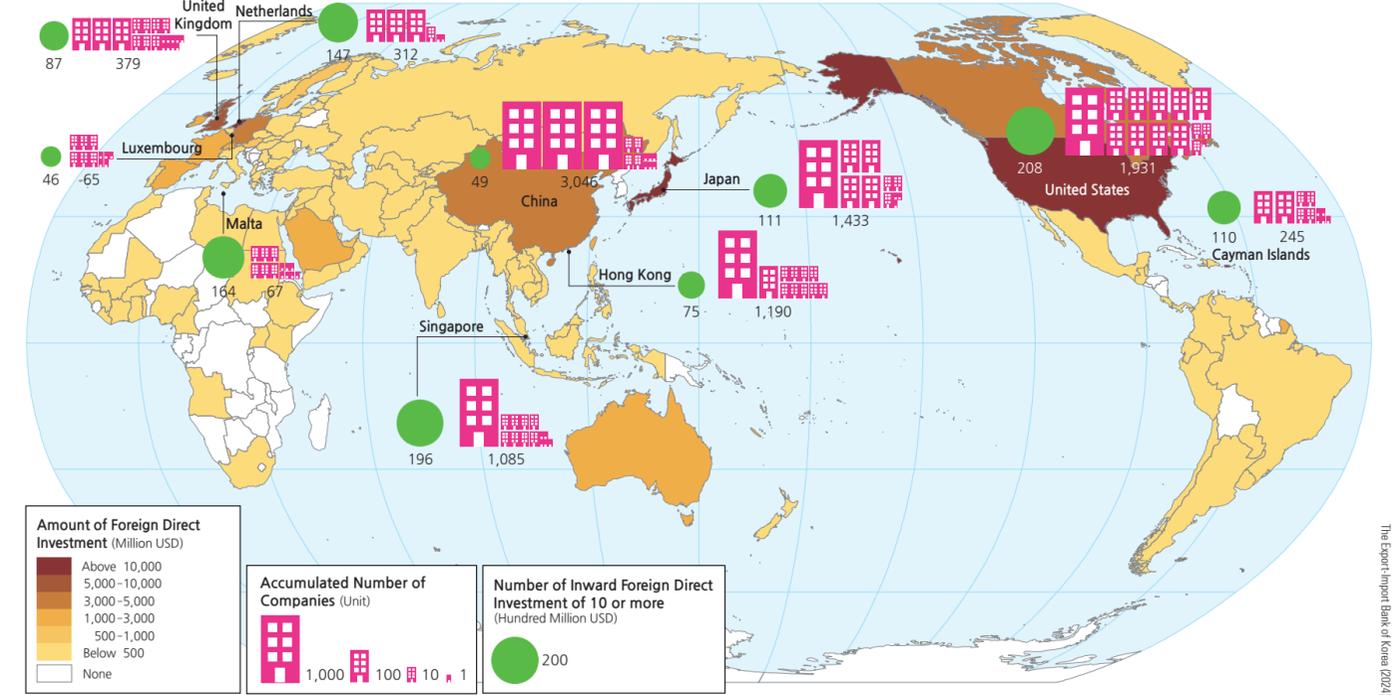
Top 10 Industries by Cumulative Foreign Direct Investment from 2000 to 2023



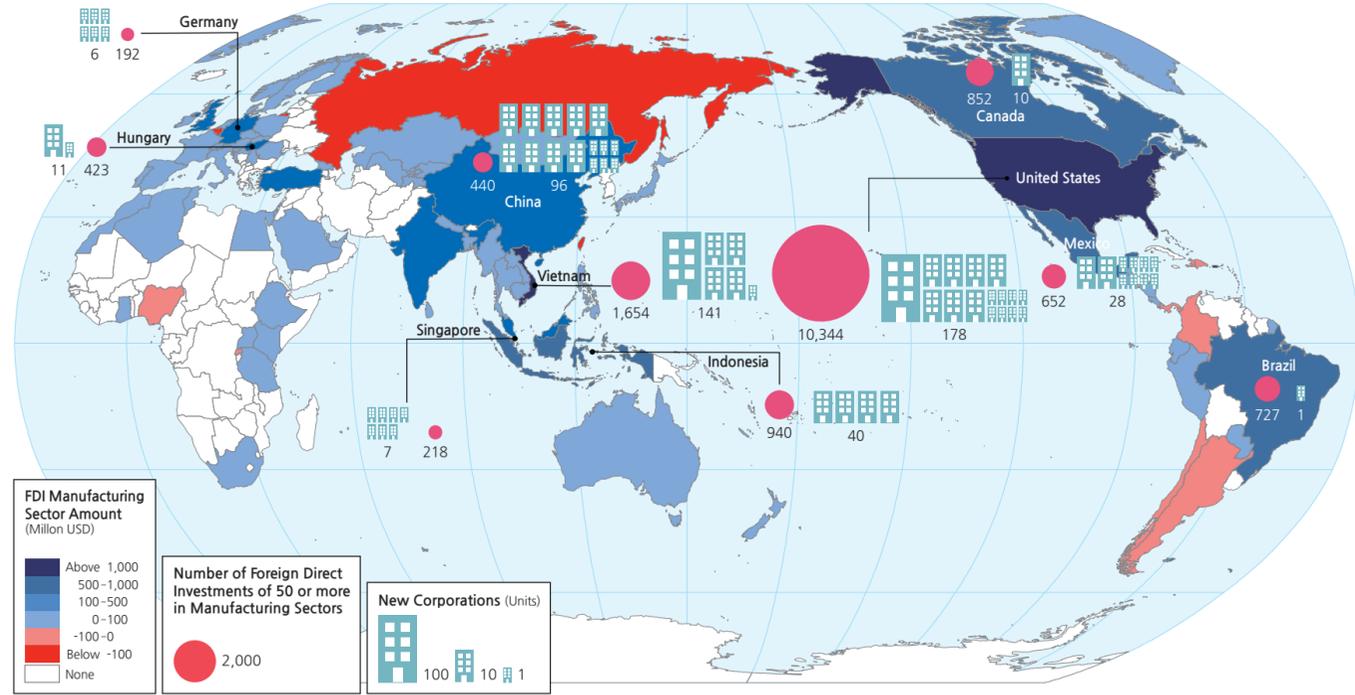
Scale of Foreign Direct Net Investment in the Finance and Insurance Sector by Country



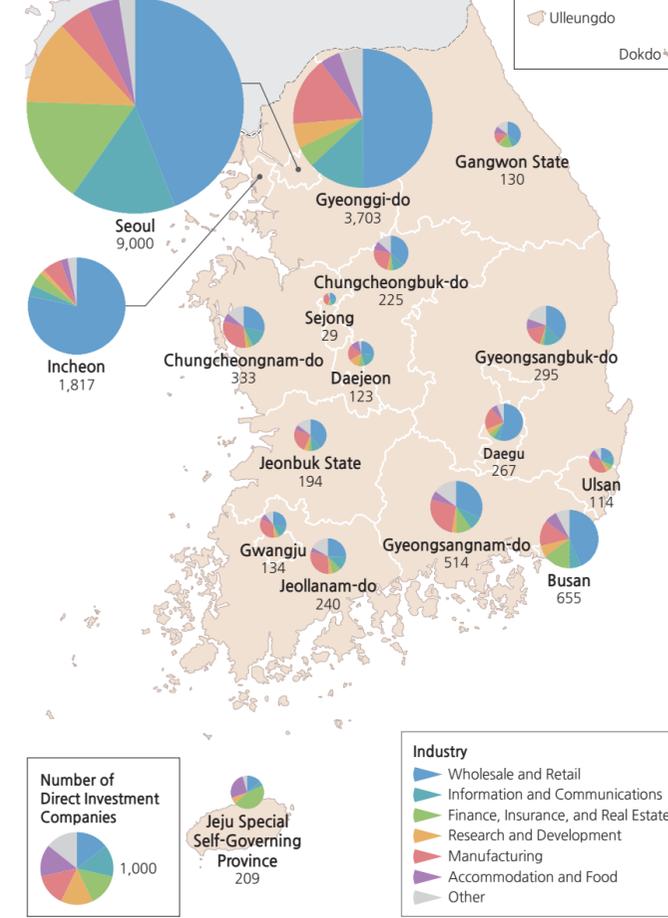
Amount of Inward Foreign Direct Investment by Country



Scale of Foreign Direct Net Investment in the Manufacturing Sector by Country



Distribution of Inward Foreign Direct Investment Companies



As of 2023, the countries with the highest foreign direct investment in the finance and insurance sector are the United States with approximately USD 12 billion and 426 filings; followed by the Cayman Islands (USD 5.3 billion, 518 filings), Luxembourg (USD 3.6 billion, 310 filings), and Indonesia (USD 1 billion, 17 filings).

For the manufacturing sector, the leading countries in terms of foreign direct investment are the United States (USD 10 billion, 744 filings), Vietnam (USD 2 billion, 930 filings), China (USD 1.4 billion, 393 filings), Brazil (USD 1.2 billion, 13 filings), and Indonesia (USD 1 billion, 206 filings).

Inward Foreign Direct Investment occurs when companies from other countries invest capital in our country by establishing subsidiaries or branches, acquiring existing companies, or forming joint ventures. In September 1998, the Korean government revised the Foreign Investment and Foreign Capital Introduction Act to introduce the Foreign Investment Promotion Act, simplifying the reporting system and converting it from a notification system to a simple reporting system, while offering various incentives to foreign-invested companies. In 2010, the Foreign Investment Promotion Act was further amended to establish a system allowing local governments and central administrative agencies to attract foreign investment. Externally, improvements in the investment environment, such as upgrades in national credit ratings and the signing of free trade agreements (FTAs), have increased Korea's investment attractiveness.

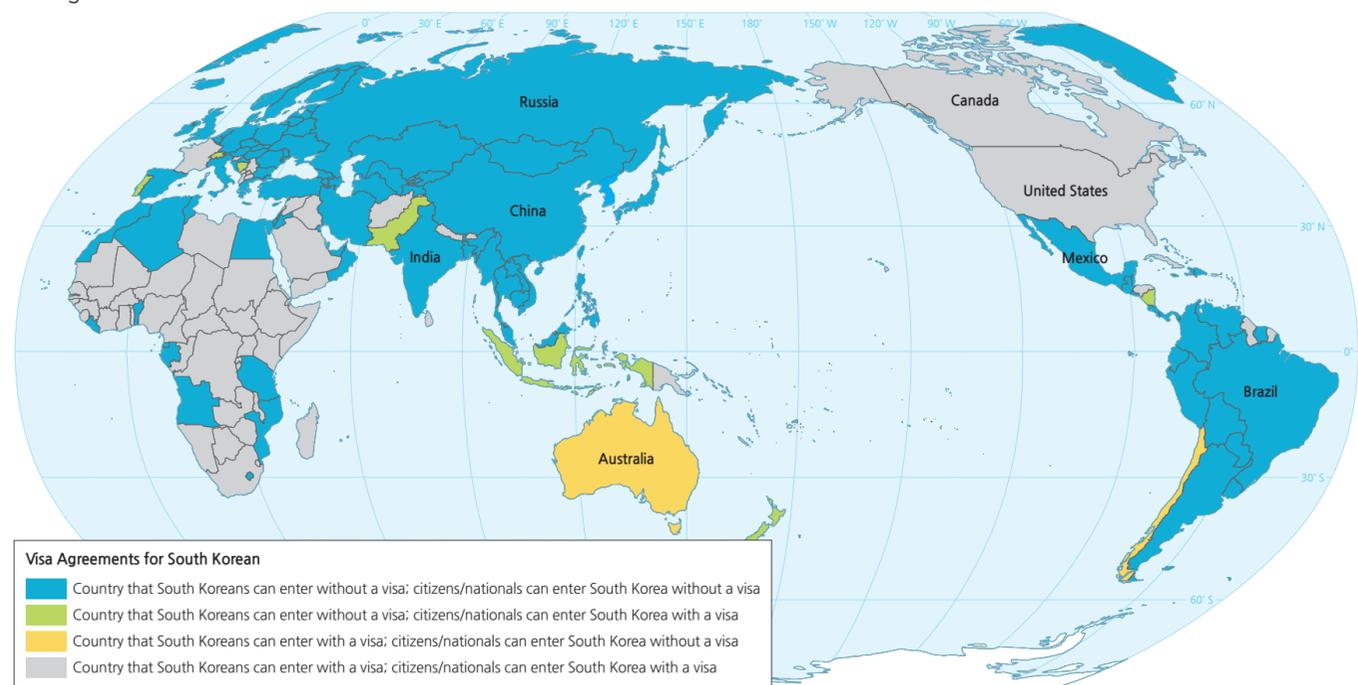
As of 2023, the total amount of Inward Foreign Direct Investment into Korea is USD 19.1 billion, with a total of 2,480 investing companies. The top countries by Inward Foreign Direct Investment, based on the amount received, are the Cayman Islands (USD 3.88 billion), the United States (USD 2.39 billion), Singapore (USD 2.10 billion), Malta (USD 1.65 billion), the United Kingdom (USD 1.64 billion), Luxembourg (USD 1.28 billion), the Netherlands (USD 980 million), France (USD 930 million), Japan (USD 860 million), and Saudi Arabia (USD 450 million).

According to the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy, as of June 2024, there are approximately 18,000 foreign-invested companies registered. Of these, 50% or around 9,000 companies are located in Seoul, with 3,697 in Gyeonggi-do, 1,817 in Incheon, and 654 in Busan.

By industry, the largest number of companies is in general wholesale trade, with 2,684 companies. This is followed by used car sales (1,203 companies), management consulting (544 companies), system software development and supply (456 companies), general brokerage (349 companies), and wholesale of cosmetics and personal care products (321 companies).

# Human Exchange

Visa Agreements for South Korea



## Globalization

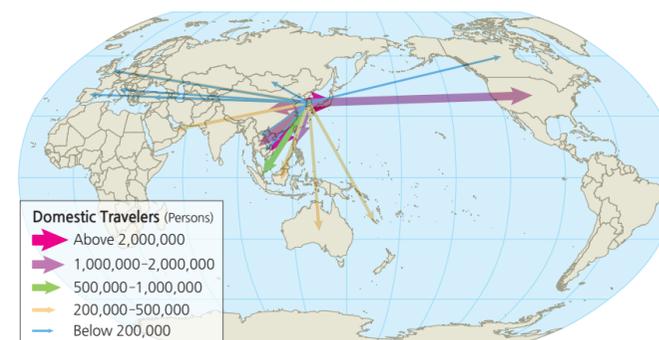
In the era of globalization, goods, capital, information, and technology are moving transnationally, and people are actively crossing borders. In the past, only a select few experienced life abroad, but now, people from diverse backgrounds are crossing borders and exploring new lives. Previously, foreigners staying long-term in South Korea were limited to diplomats, foreign business representatives, U.S. military personnel, and Chinese nationals. However, now the category has expanded to include foreign workers, marriage immigrants, and international students, among others. The number of foreign residents has been continuously increasing, with many expressing their intention to settle, leading South Korea to rapidly transition into a multicultural society.

In response to the flow of globalization and to facilitate smoother human exchanges across borders, the government has signed visa waiver agreements with 115 countries as of the end of 2023. Among these, there are 91 countries that have

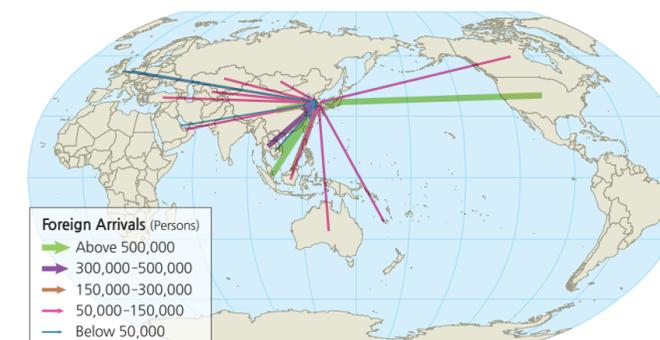
agreements allowing visa exemption for holders of ordinary passports. Although some agreements are limited to diplomatic or official passports or set specific stay durations, the number of countries where South Korean passport holders can enter without a visa has increased compared to 2017. This includes 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific, 29 in the Americas, 46 in Europe, and 20 in Africa and the Middle East, totaling 115 countries. Furthermore, South Korea designates visa-free entry based on international customs, reciprocity, and national interests. While some countries require diplomatic or official passports or impose different stay periods, 151 countries or regions allow visa-free entry for their nationals. Ordinary passport holders from nine countries in the Asia-Pacific, 32 in the Americas, 43 in Europe, 16 in Africa and the Middle East, and 13 in the Atlantic regions are eligible for visa-free entry, whereas 45 countries are open to diplomatic or official passport holders, and 40 additional countries have other visa-related agreements.

## Departure and Entry

Koreans Leaving the Country by Destination



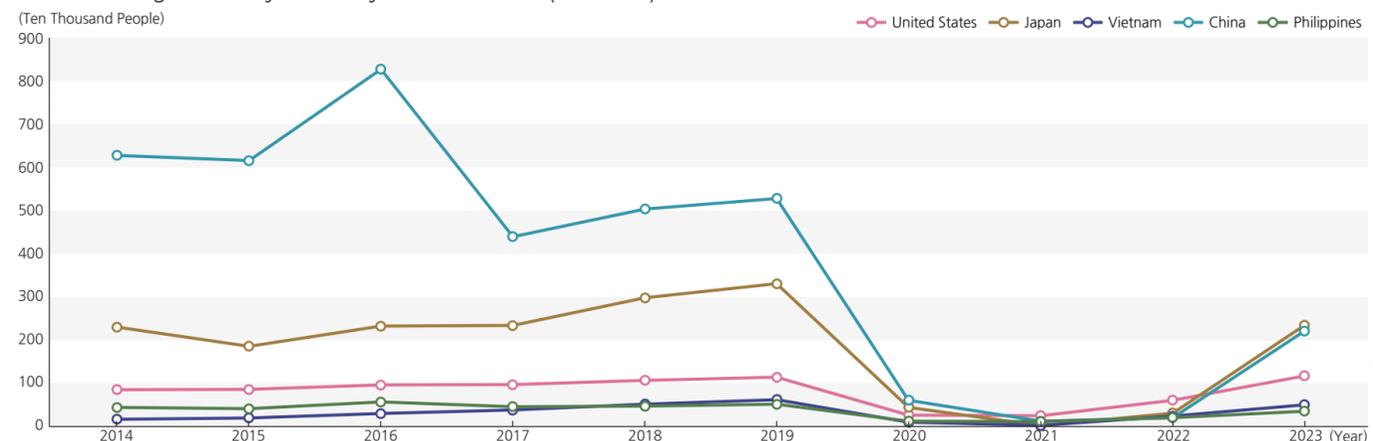
Foreign Arrivals by Origin



The map illustrates the status of both South Korean and foreign entries into South Korea for the year 2023, displayed in terms of departure and arrival points. Foreigners primarily departed from Japan, China, Taiwan, the United States, and Vietnam to enter South Korea. South Korean citizens, on the other hand, departed from South Korea to visit Japan, Vietnam, Taiwan, the Philippines, and China. Exchanges with the United States have been active due to the friendly relations established during the Cold War after Korea's liberation. Additionally, the entry of foreigners from neighboring regions such as East Asia and Southeast Asia into South Korea has been notably vigorous.

The numbers for foreign arrivals from the United States, Japan, Vietnam, China, and the Philippines from 2014 to 2023 show a sharp decline starting in 2020. Due to intensified COVID-19 restrictions on international travel, the number of foreign arrivals from these five countries dropped dramatically from approximately 12.42 million in 2016 to around 530,000 in 2021, a 96% decrease. However, with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in 2022, the number of foreign arrivals began to increase again, reaching about 6.59 million in 2023.

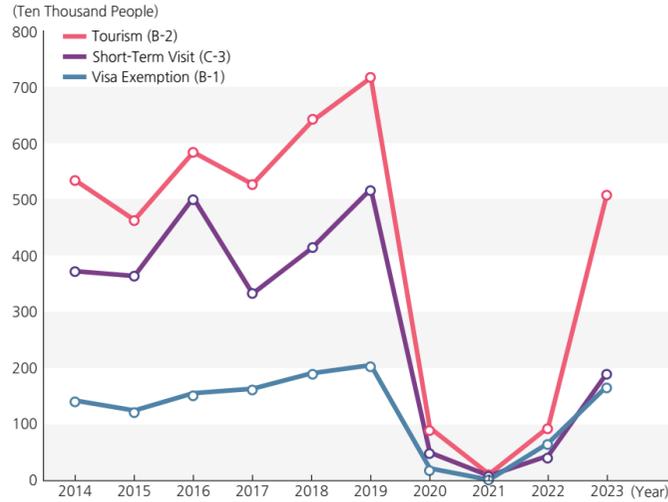
Trends in Foreign Arrivals by Nationality for Five Countries (2014-2023)



Scenes of Arrival and Departure at Incheon Airport

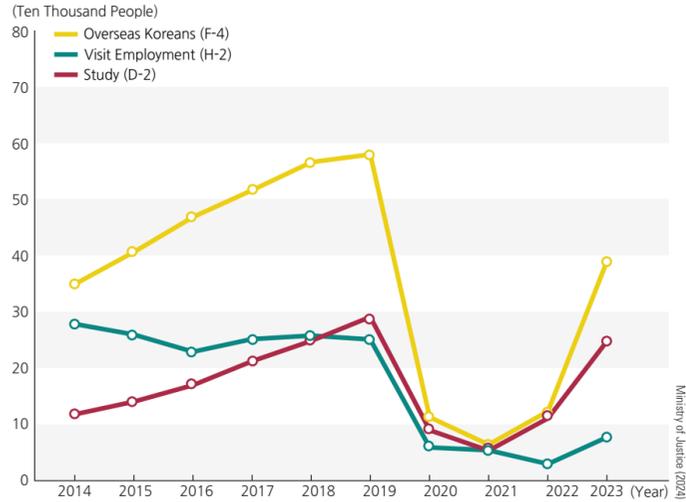


Trends in Foreign Arrivals by Residence Status



**Immigration and Emigration**

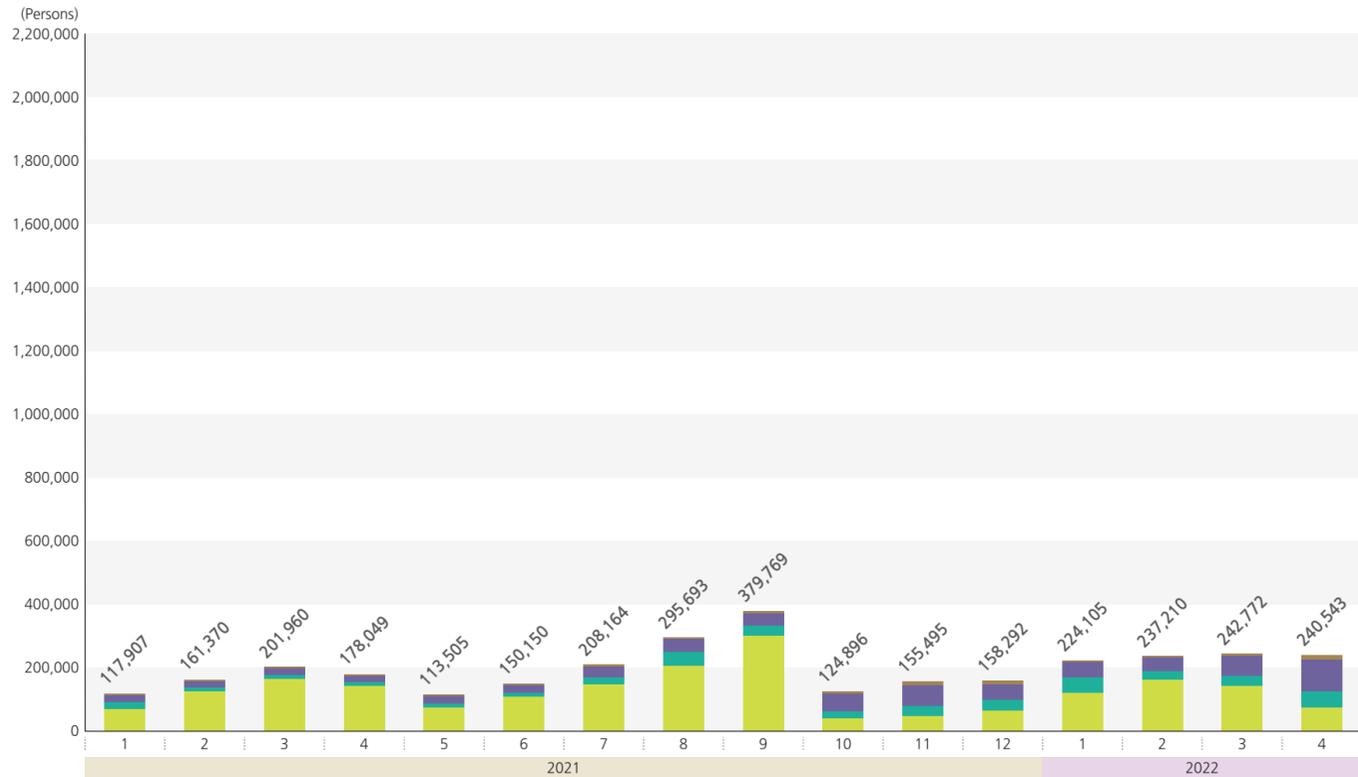
The graph shows the 10-year trends for the top six residence statuses of foreigners entering South Korea. The purpose of residence can be identified by the type of visa, which can be categorized into eight types: Type A (diplomatic, official, and agreement), Type B (visa exemption and tourism), Type C (temporary visit, short-term visit, and short-term employment), Type D (culture and arts, study, technical training, general training, media coverage, religion, business, investment, trade management, and job-seeking), Type E (professorship, teaching art, research, technical guidance, professional occupation, artistic performance, specific activities, non-specialized employment, and maritime employment), Type F (visiting, residency, accompanying family, overseas Koreans, permanent residency, and marriage immigration), Type G (other), Type H (employment for tourism and visit).



Foreigners entered South Korea with the following residence statuses: tourism (B-2), short-term visit (C-3), visa exemption (B-1), overseas Koreans (F-4), visit employment (H-2), and study (D-2). As of 2023, the number of foreign arrivals by residence status was approximately 5.12 million for tourism, 1.92 million for short-term visits, 1.69 million for visa exemptions, 390,000 for overseas Koreans, 80,000 for visit employment, and 250,000 for study. Recently, the number of foreigners visiting for study purposes has surpassed those visiting for employment, indicating a growing interest in South Korea's academic sector.

The graph shows trends in the number of South Korean nationals departing by age group from January 2021 to July 2023. In January 2021, there were 50,000 departures, which increased to 2.03 million by July 2023, indicating a continuous upward trend. The primary age group for departures was the middle-aged adults,

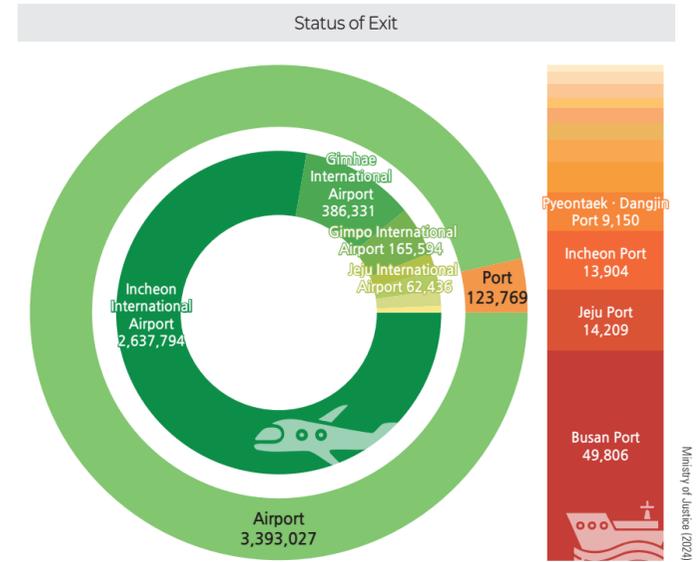
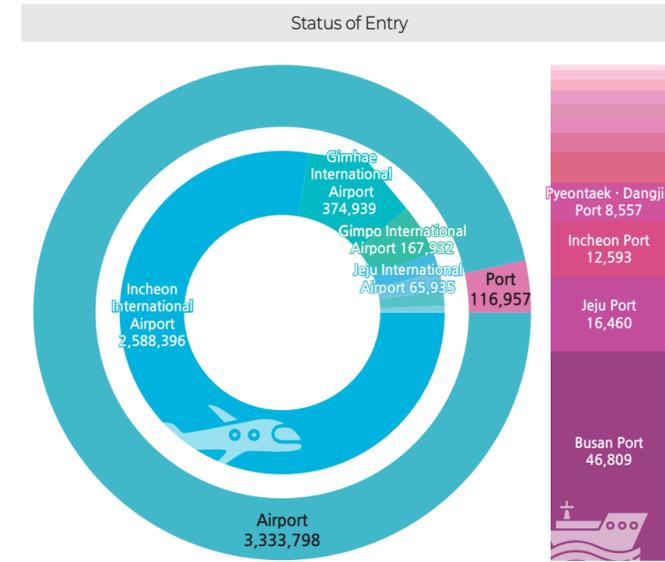
Trends in Departures by Age Group for South Korean Nationals



which showed the most active movement among South Korean nationals. This was followed by the young adults, older adults, and children/adolescents, all of which also showed significant levels of activity. The high number of departures among the

middle-aged is attributed to increased demand for overseas travel within this age group, coupled with greater temporal and financial flexibility.

Status of Entry and Exit by Mode of Transportation

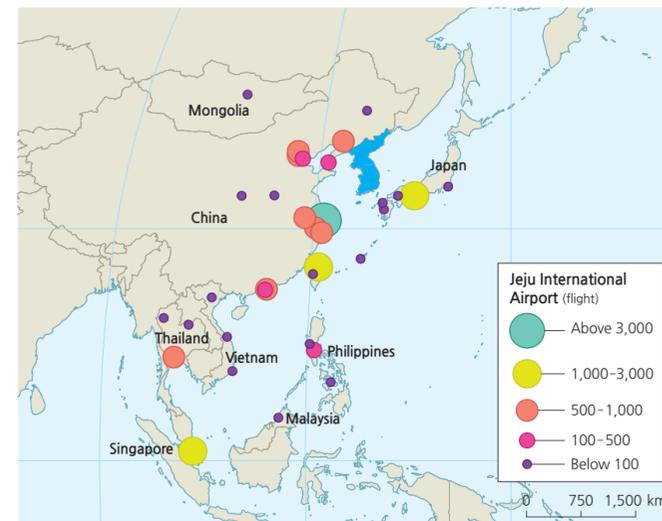
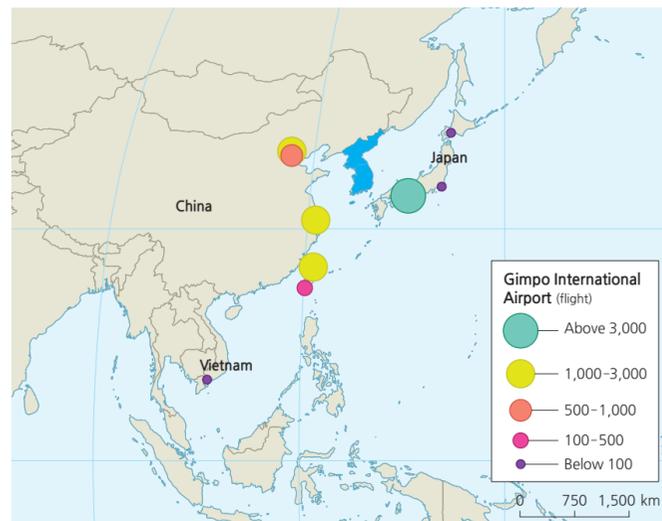
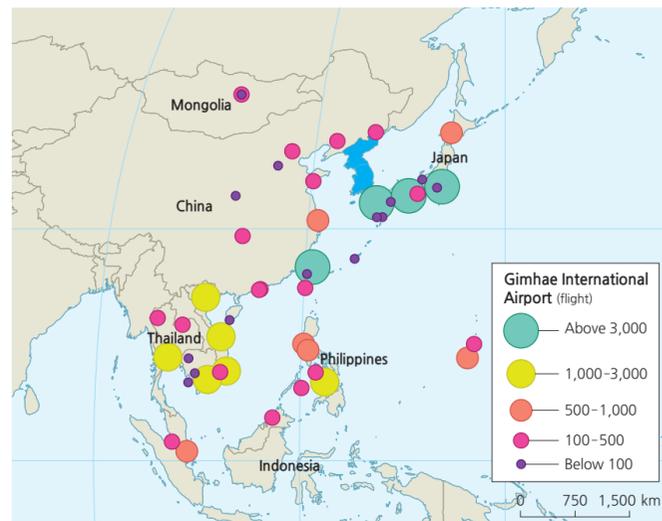
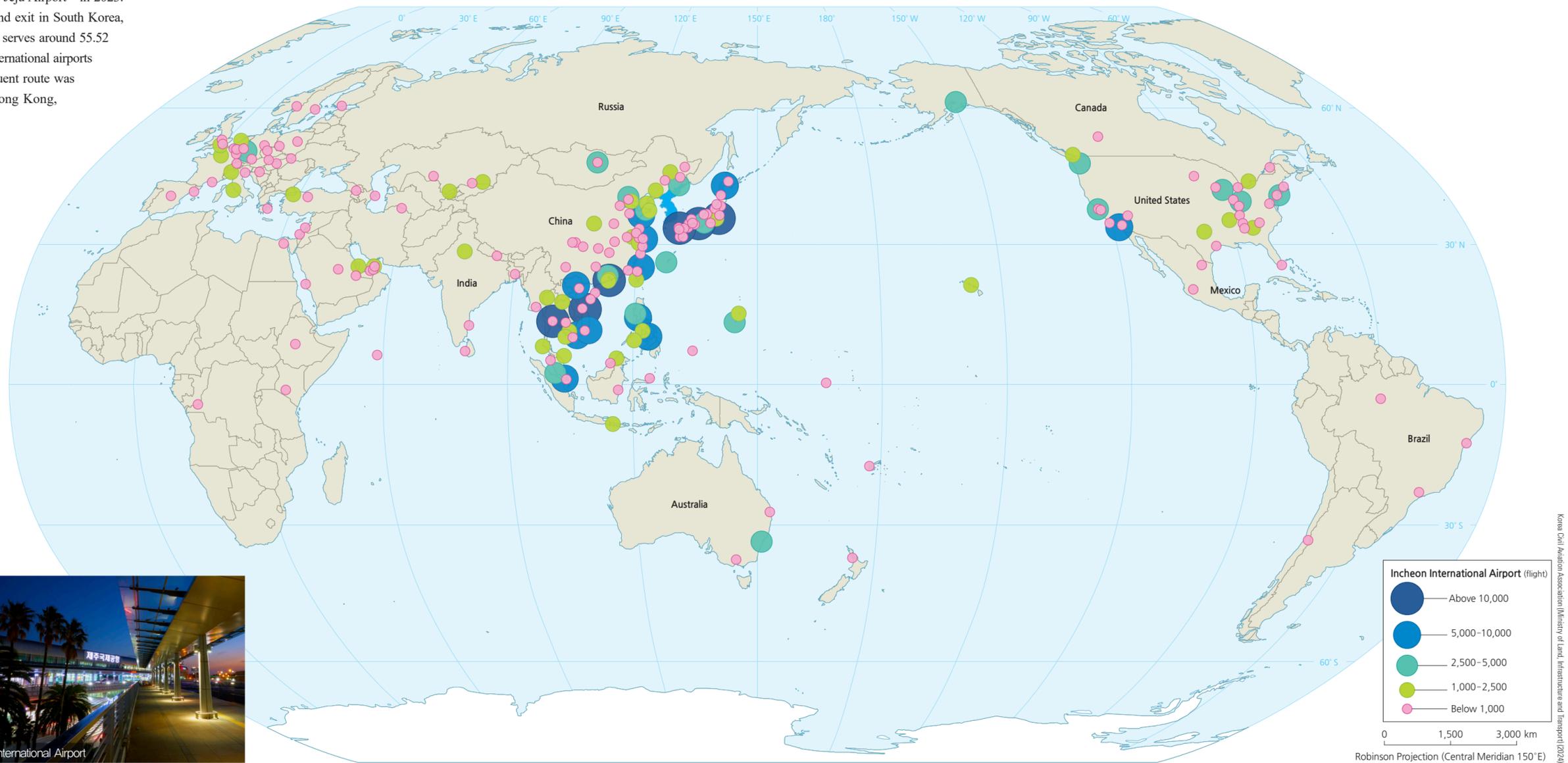


The graph shows the modes of transportation used by foreigners and South Korean nationals for entry and exit in December 2023. Approximately 3.33 million individuals entered the country by air, while 110,000 entered through ports. For departures, about 3.39 million individuals left by air, and 120,000 departed through ports. Both foreigners and South Korean nationals primarily used air travel for their

entries and exits. Incheon Airport was the main entry and exit point for both groups, followed by Gimhae Airport, Gimpo Airport, and Jeju Airport. When exiting through ports, most traveled through Busan Port, followed by Jeju Port, Incheon Port, and Pyeongtaek Port.

The map displays information on the number of flights departing from the top four airports—Incheon Airport, Gimhae Airport, Gimpo Airport, and Jeju Airport—in 2023. Incheon Airport, the most heavily used airport for both entry and exit in South Korea, has approximately 215 international routes, 330,000 flights, and serves around 55.52 million passengers. Incheon Airport offers numerous routes to international airports worldwide and has the highest passenger traffic. The most frequent route was to Narita Airport, followed by routes to Kansai, Fukuoka, Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Da Nang.

Status of Flight Frequencies by Route for the Top Four Airports



Gimhae Airport, the second busiest in terms of passengers, has around 50 international routes, 40,000 flights, and serves about 6.49 million passengers. Most of its routes are to East Asia and Southeast Asia. The route with the most flights was to Fukuoka Airport, followed by routes to Kansai, Da Nang, Narita, and Bangkok. Gimpo Airport has about 10 international routes, 20,000 flights, and serves approximately 3.20 million passengers. Gimpo Airport only provides routes to Japan, China, Taiwan, and Vietnam. The route with the most flights was to Haneda Airport, followed by routes to Kansai, Hongqiao, Songshan, and Beijing. Jeju Airport has around 35 international routes, 8,000 flights, and serves about 1.19 million passengers. Most of its routes are to East Asia and Southeast Asia. The route with the most flights was to Pudong Airport, followed by routes to Da Nang, Kansai, Singapore, Hangzhou, and Ningbo.

## Foreign Residents

### Foreign Residents in South Korea

In 2022, the number of foreign residents in South Korea reached approximately 2.26 million, accounting for about 4.4% of the total population. This represents a significant increase from about 65,000, or 0.15%, in 1990. However, the geographic distribution of foreign residents within the country is uneven. Examining the ratio of foreign residents to the total population by city and district, it is evident that foreign residents are concentrated in areas such as Ansan, Eumseong County, Yeongam County, Jincheon County, Yeongdeungpo District, Guro District, and Geumcheon District. By province, Gyeonggi-do has the largest number of foreign residents, approximately 750,000, followed by Seoul with 440,000, Incheon with 150,000, Chungcheongnam-do with 140,000, Gyeongsangnam-do with 130,000, and Gyeongsangbuk-do with 100,000. Foreign residents are predominantly concentrated in the metropolitan area, with about 59.4% of the total foreign population residing there.

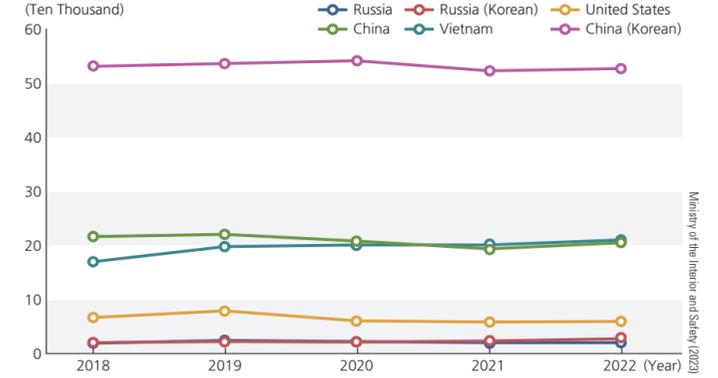
Among the types of foreign residents in South Korea, foreign workers constitute

the largest group, followed by foreign nationals of Korean descent, international students, and marriage immigrants. Foreign workers, foreign nationals of Korean descent, international students, and marriage immigrants are mainly concentrated in the metropolitan areas of Seoul, Incheon, and Gyeonggi-do.

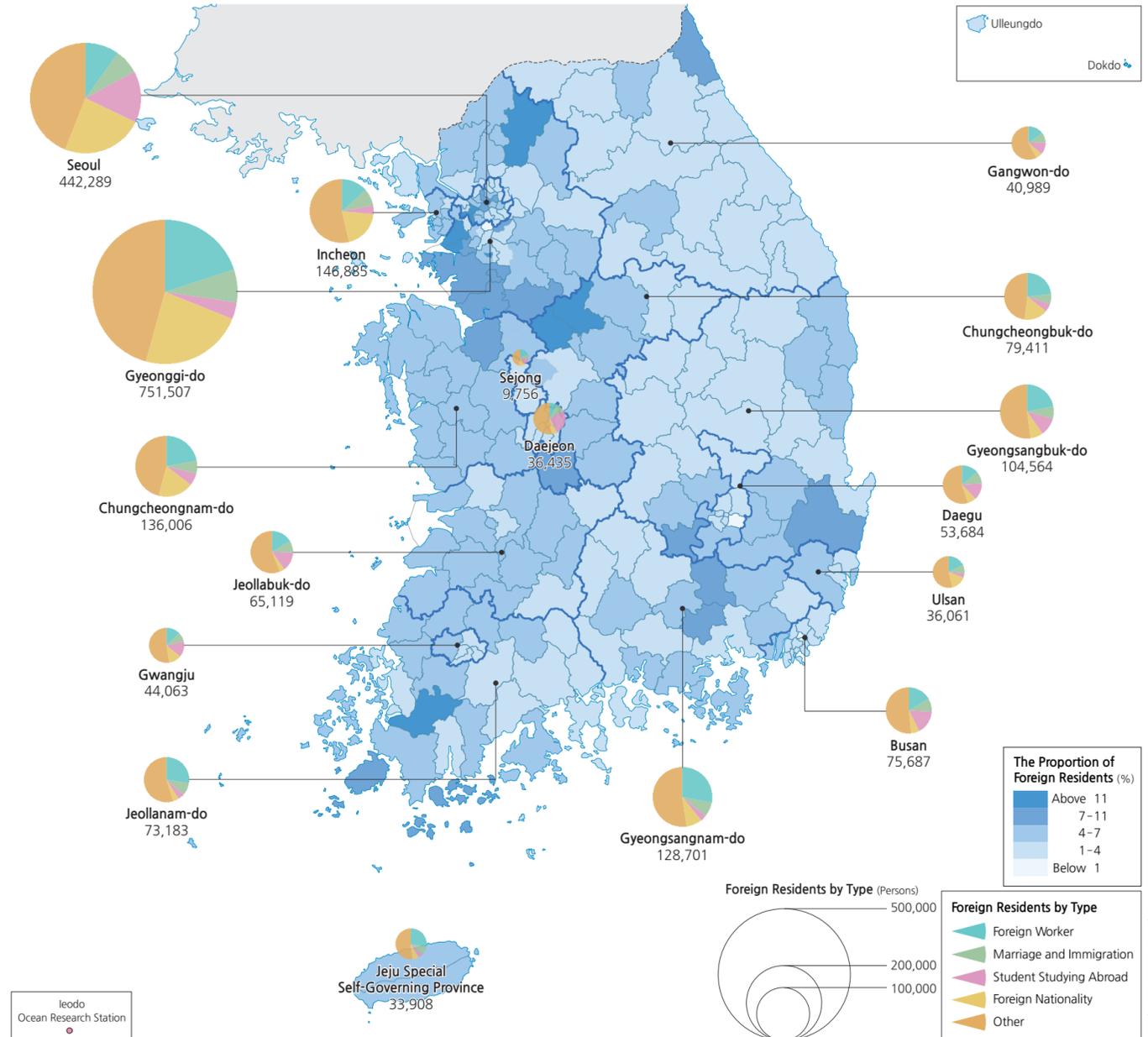
The graph shows the distribution of foreign residents by nationality, with a significant number from Asia, including East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Central Asia. Among them, Korean-Chinese make up approximately 530,000 individuals, or about 31% of the total. This is followed by Vietnamese with 210,000 (12%), Chinese with 200,000 (12%), Thai with 160,000 (10%), and Uzbek with 70,000 (4%). The high proportion of Chinese nationals, mainly of Korean descent (Chosonjok), is attributed to policies encouraging the dispatch of labor due to China's reform and opening up since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and China in 1992, combined with South Korea's preferential hiring policies for overseas Koreans to address labor shortages in production sectors.

The graph shows the five-year trends for foreign residents from the top six countries. Among foreign residents in South Korea, the largest proportion is of Chinese nationality (Korean-Chinese), followed by Chinese nationals and Vietnamese. Since 2018, the number of Korean-Chinese residents has been around 530,000, while Chinese nationals total approximately 200,000. The number of Vietnamese residents increased from about 170,000 in 2018 to 210,000 in 2022. The United States has around 60,000 residents in South Korea. Russian nationals of Korean descent increased from approximately 19,000 in 2018 to 26,000 in 2022, a 38% rise. Russian nationals, in general, have maintained a number around 20,000.

Trends in Foreign Residents by Nationality Over Five Years



Distribution of Foreign Residents by Type Nationwide



Foreign Residents by Nationality



### Foreign Workers

In 2022, the number of foreign workers residing in South Korea was approximately 460,000, accounting for 22% of the total foreign resident population. Foreign workers are most commonly found in Gyeonggi-do, followed by Seoul, Gyeongsangnam-do, Chungcheongnam-do, and Gyeongsangbuk-do. When examining the ratio of foreign workers to the total foreign resident population by city and district, the highest percentages were observed in Uljin County, Wando County, Busan Gangseo District, Ongjin County, and Jindo County. Notably, Uljin County and Wando County are regions with high influxes of foreign workers engaged in agriculture and fisheries, with more than half of the foreign residents in these areas being foreign workers.

Looking at the nationalities of foreign workers, the largest groups are from China (Korean-Chinese), Vietnam, Nepal, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, and the Philippines. Foreign workers from China (Korean-Chinese) tend to be concentrated

in Gyeonggi-do and Seoul. Vietnamese and Indonesian foreign workers primarily reside in Gyeonggi-do, Gyeongsangnam-do, Gyeongsangbuk-do, and Jeollanam-do. Foreign workers from Nepal and Cambodia are largely found in Gyeonggi-do and Chungcheongnam-do, while those from the Philippines are mainly located in Gyeonggi-do and Gyeongsangnam-do.

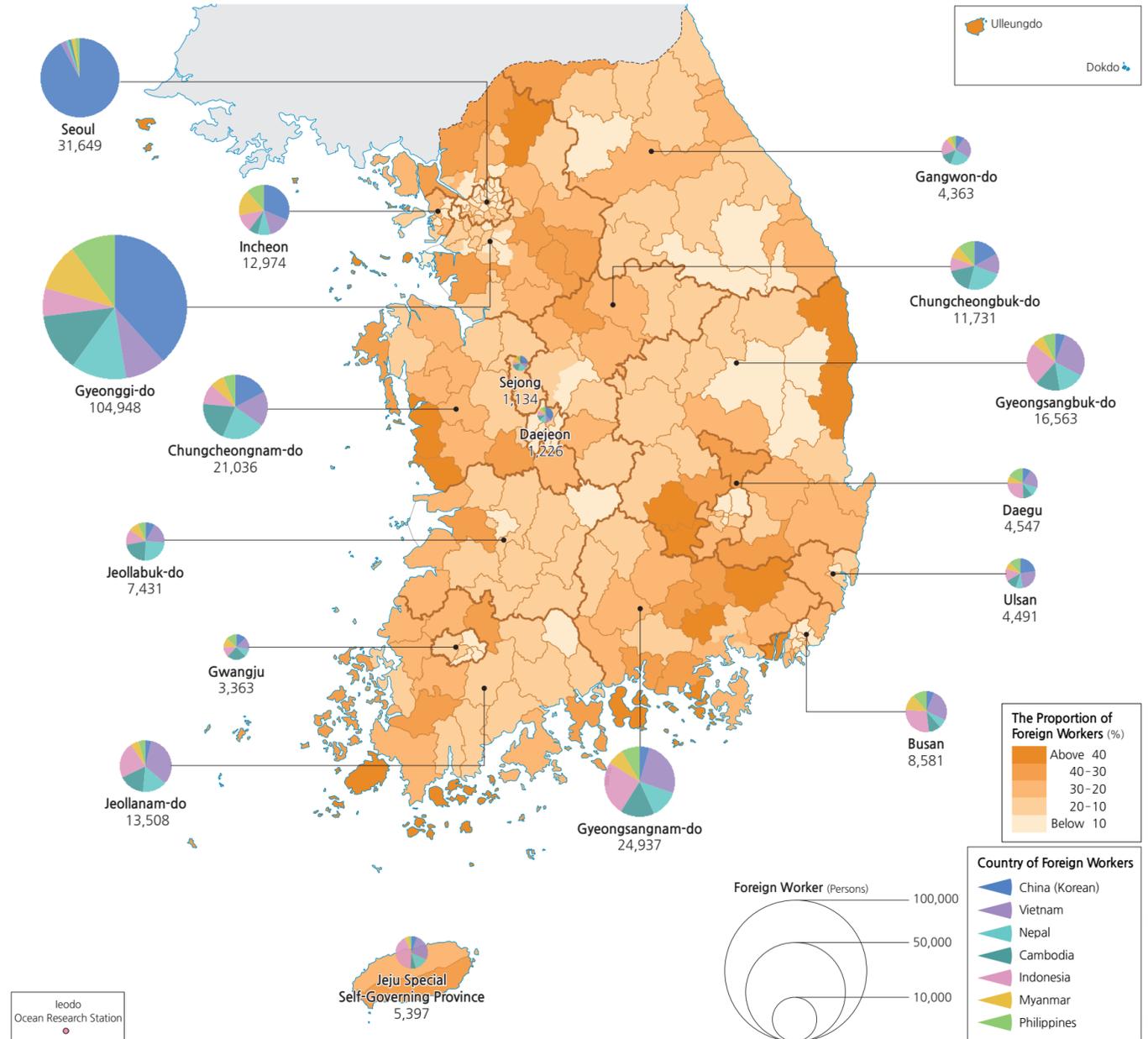
Foreign workers are predominantly male, and they are most commonly found residing in Gyeonggi-do. Notable areas with concentrated foreign worker populations include Woon-gok-dong in Ansan, Magok District in Namyangju, and Jeongwang-dong in Siheung, forming significant residential clusters within Gyeonggi-do.

In South Korea, foreign workers are employed under various professional categories, including Specific Activities (E-7), Language Instruction (E-2), Research (E-3), Arts and Performance (E-6), Professorship (E-1), and Short-term Employment (C-4). From January 2022 to December 2023, there was an increase

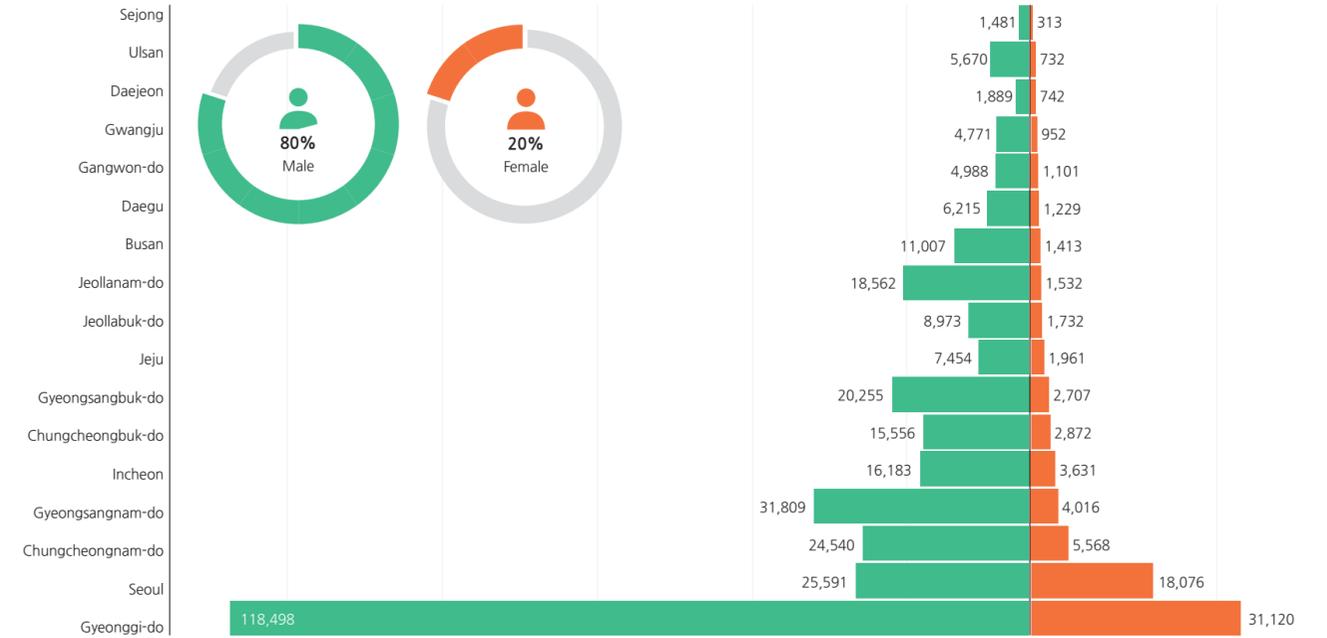
in the influx of foreign workers. Among the various employment categories, foreign workers in the Specific Activities (E-7) visa category, engaged in activities designated by the Minister of Justice through contracts with public institutions and private organizations, constitute a significant proportion. This is followed by foreign

professionals involved in language instruction (E-2) at foreign language institutes, educational institutions at the elementary level and above, language research institutes, and language training centers affiliated with broadcasting companies and businesses.

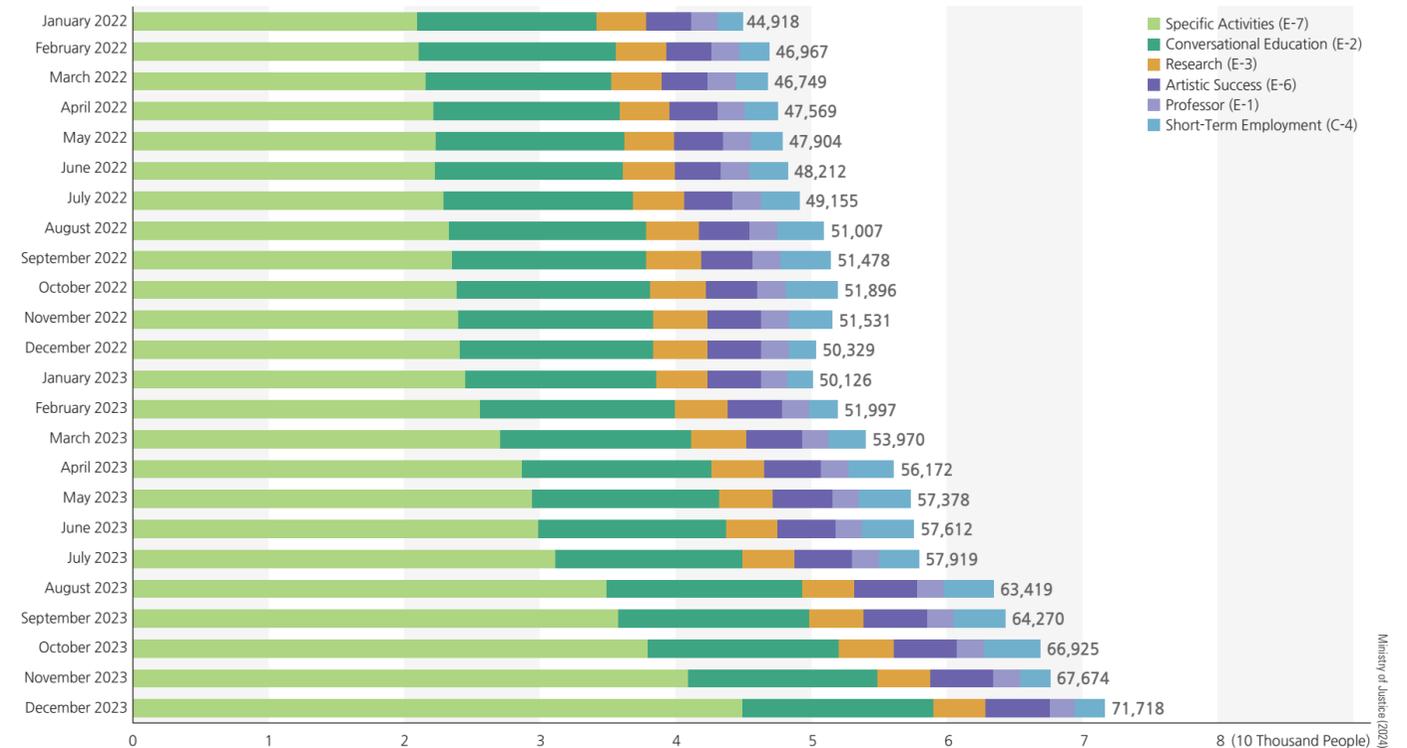
Distribution of Foreign Workers by Nationality Nationwide



Gender Distribution of Foreign Workers by Province



Trends of Professional Foreign Workers by Employment Status



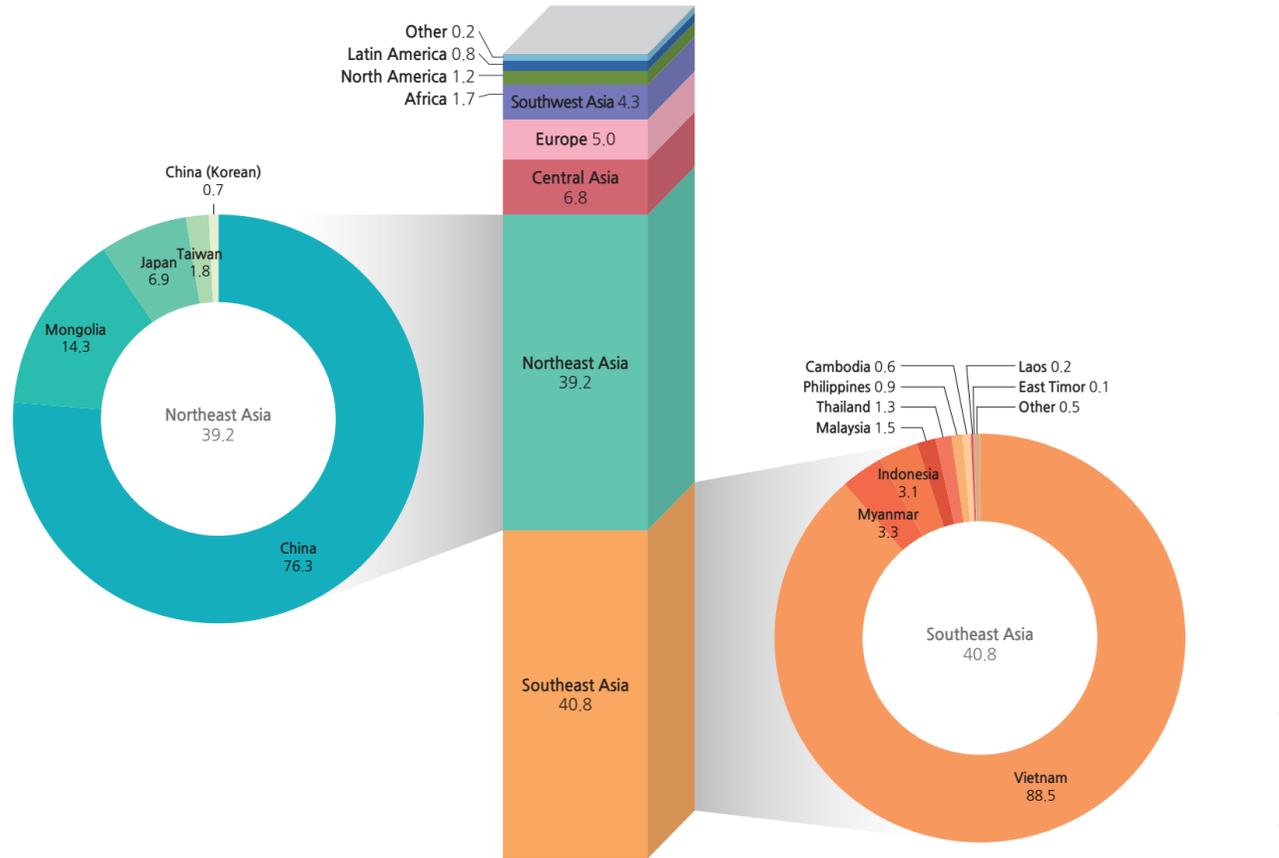
### International Students

In 2022, the number of international students residing in South Korea was approximately 190,000, accounting for 10% of the total foreign resident population. The majority of international students come from Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia, with each region representing 42% and 40%, respectively. Central Asia, Europe, and South Asia follow. Among Southeast Asian countries, Vietnam has the highest number of international students, followed by Myanmar, Indonesia, and Malaysia. In Northeast Asia, international students primarily come from China, Mongolia, Japan, and Taiwan. Vietnamese students make up about 70,000, or 37% of the total international student population, while Chinese students account for

around 60,000, or 30%.

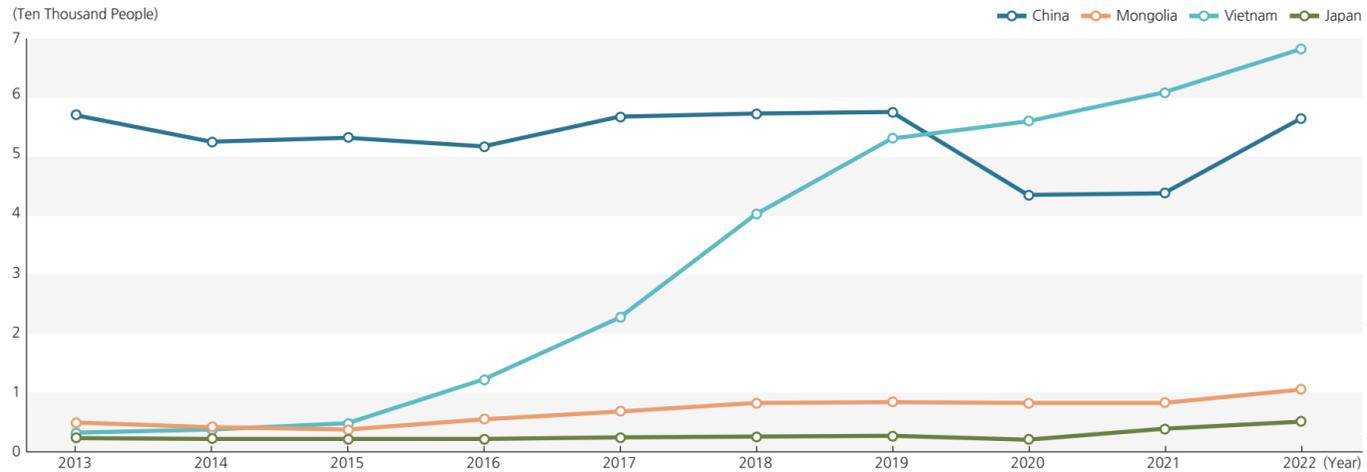
The graph illustrates the changes in international students from the top four countries from 2013 to 2022. The number of students from China was about 60,000 in 2013. Although there was a decrease due to COVID-19, the number remained at a similar level in 2022. Students from Vietnam, who numbered around 3,000 in 2013, showed a continuous increase, reaching approximately 70,000 in 2022. Similarly, international students from Mongolia and Japan also exhibited steady growth from 2013 to 2022. Mongolia's students increased from about 5,000 in 2013 to around 10,000 in 2022, while students from Japan grew from approximately 2,000 in 2013 to about 5,000 in 2022.

Distribution of International Students by Nationality Nationwide



Ministry of the Interior and Safety (2023)

10-Year Trends of International Students from the Top Four Countries



Ministry of the Interior and Safety (2023)

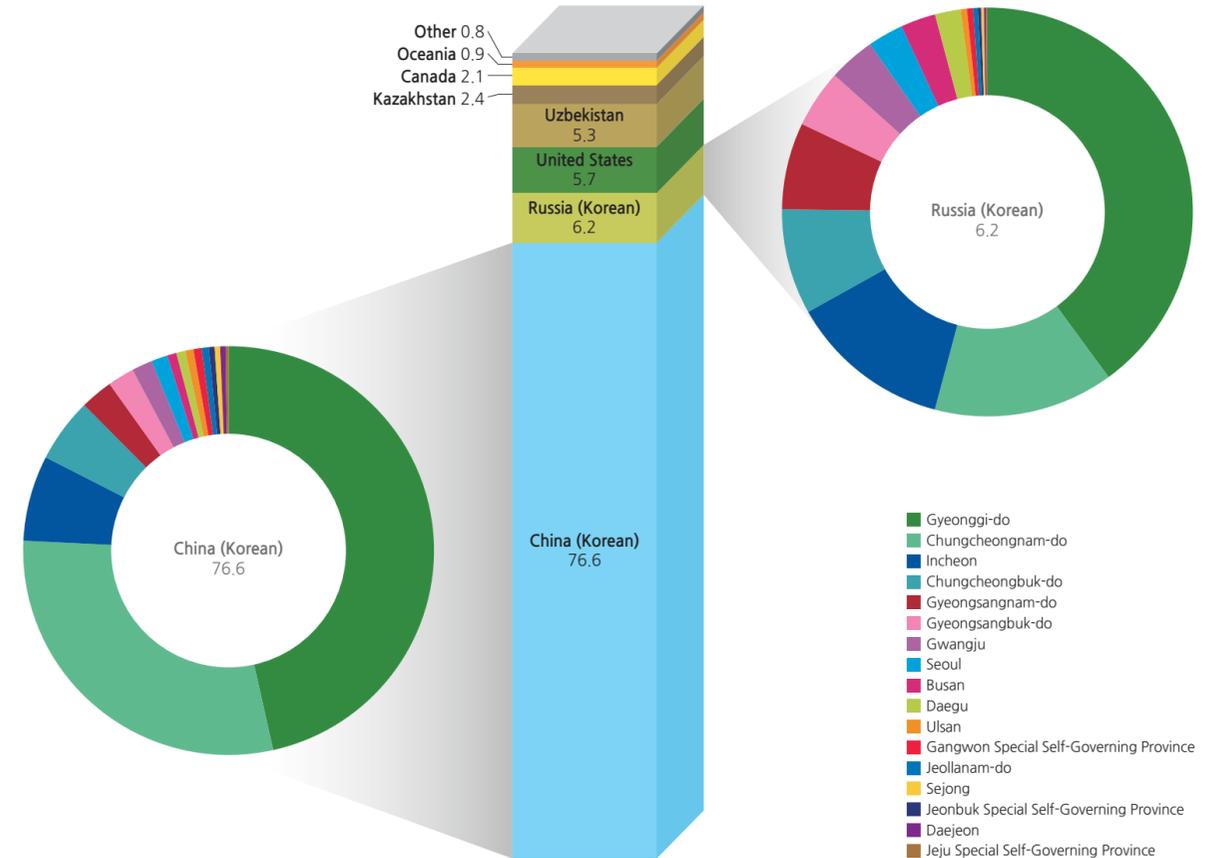
### Foreign Nationals of Korean Descent

In 2022, the number of foreign nationals of Korean descent residing in South Korea was approximately 400,000, accounting for 23% of the total foreign resident population. Of these, about 77% are Korean-Chinese, followed by Korean-Russians (6%), Americans (6%), and Uzbeks (5%). The largest group, Korean-Chinese, is predominantly located in Gyeonggi-do, with significant populations also in Seoul, Incheon, Chungcheongnam-do, Chungcheongbuk-do, and Gyeongsangnam-do. Korean-Russians are mainly found in Gyeonggi-do, Chungcheongnam-do, Incheon,

Chungcheongbuk-do, Gyeongsangnam-do, Gyeongsangbuk-do, and Gwangju.

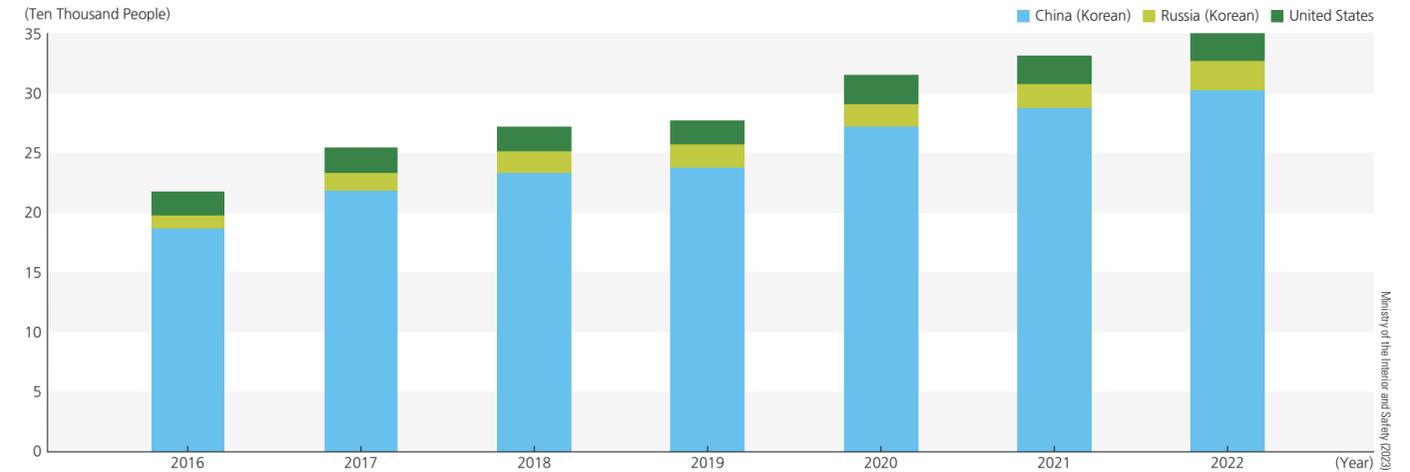
The graph shows changes in the top three countries of origin for foreign nationals of Korean descent from 2016 to 2022. The number of foreign nationals of Korean descent residing in South Korea has steadily increased from 2013 to 2022. Notably, the largest group, Korean-Chinese, increased from approximately 190,000 in 2013 to 300,000 in 2022, marking a rise of 110,000.

Distribution of Foreign Nationals of Korean Descent Nationwide



Ministry of the Interior and Safety (2023)

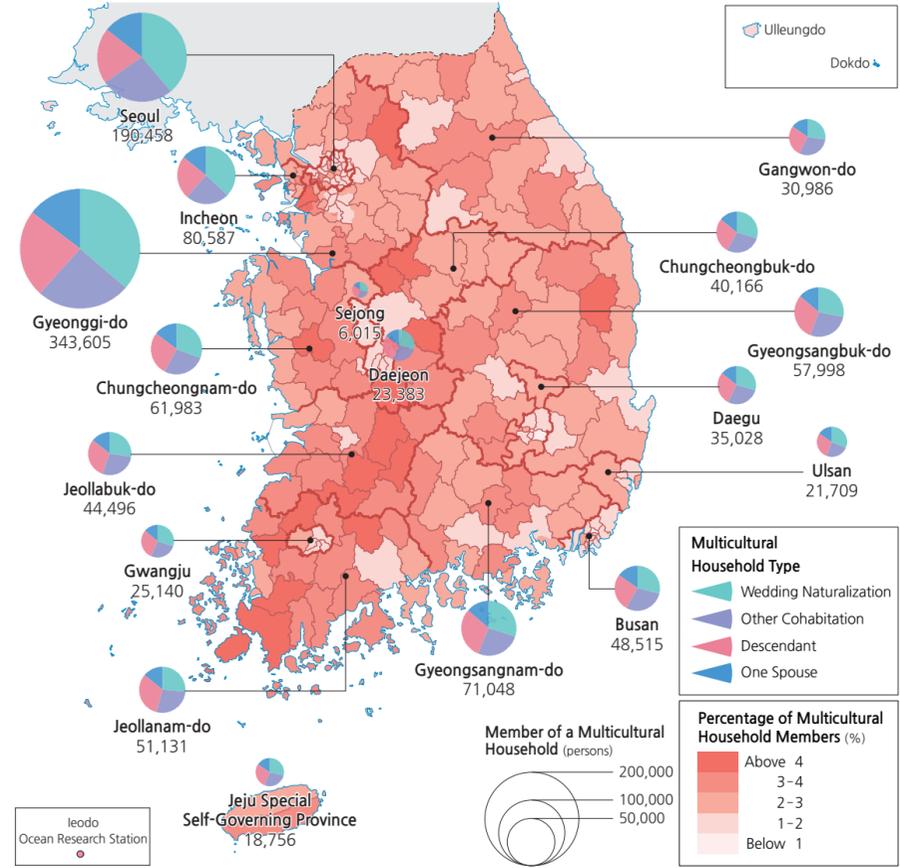
Trends of Foreign Nationals of Korean Descent by Country of Origin



Ministry of the Interior and Safety (2023)

## Multicultural Households

Distribution of Multicultural Household Members by Type Nationwide

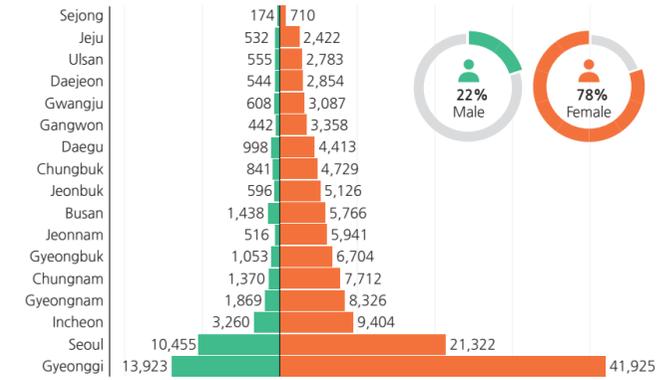


## Multicultural Households

In South Korea, the total number of multicultural household members is approximately 1.15 million, making up about 2% of the total population. The highest percentage of multicultural household members relative to the total population is found in Jeollanam-do, at around 3%, followed by Chungcheongnam-do, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Incheon, and Jeollabuk-do. When further examining the ratio of multicultural household members relative to the total population by city, county, and district, the highest percentages are found in Ansan City, Jeongseon-gun in Jeollabuk-do, Yeongam-gun in Jeollanam-do, Jin-an-gun in Jeollabuk-do, and Sunchang-gun in Jeollabuk-do.

Multicultural households can be categorized into marriage immigrants and naturalized citizens, Korean spouses, children, and other cohabitants. The most significant category is marriage immigrants and naturalized citizens. In Jeollanam-do, where the proportion of multicultural household members is highest, multicultural children are the largest group, followed by other cohabitants, marriage immigrants and naturalized citizens, and Korean spouses. In Chungcheongnam-do, marriage immigrants and naturalized citizens are the largest group, followed by multicultural children, other cohabitants, and Korean spouses.

Gender Distribution of Marriage Immigrants by Region

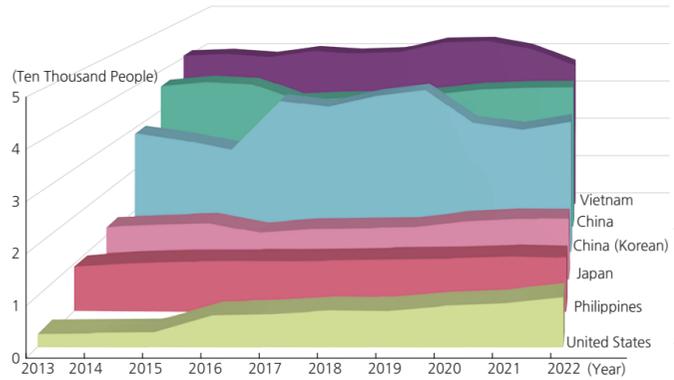


## Marriage Immigrants

Marriage immigrants not only change family structures and establish multicultural households but also settle and naturalize in South Korea, which is significant for the transition to a multicultural society. The graph illustrates the gender distribution of marriage immigrants residing in various regions of South Korea. There are approximately 170,000 marriage immigrants, with women being about three times more numerous than men. Marriage immigrants are predominantly concentrated in the metropolitan area, with significant numbers also in Gyeongsangnam-do, Chungcheongnam-do, and Gyeongsangbuk-do. About 50% of marriage immigrants live in Gyeonggi-do and Seoul, with 36% of female marriage immigrants residing in these areas.

The graph shows the trends of marriage immigrants from the top six countries from 2013 to 2022. In 2022, the largest number of marriage immigrants came from

10-Year Trend of Marriage Immigrants from the Top Six Countries



Vietnam, followed by China, ethnic Koreans from China, Japan, the Philippines, and the United States. Marriage immigrants from Vietnam numbered around 40,000, making it the largest group, while China and ethnic Koreans from China each had about 30,000. Japan, the Philippines, and the United States had approximately 10,000 each.

Vietnamese marriage immigrants have consistently been the largest group over the past decade. China maintained a relatively steady number of immigrants, except for a slight decrease between 2015 and 2016. Ethnic Koreans from China had a relatively high number of marriage immigrants from 2015 to 2019, with a decrease from 2019 to 2021. Japanese and Filipino marriage immigrants maintained a stable level, while the number of American marriage immigrants showed a continuous increase.

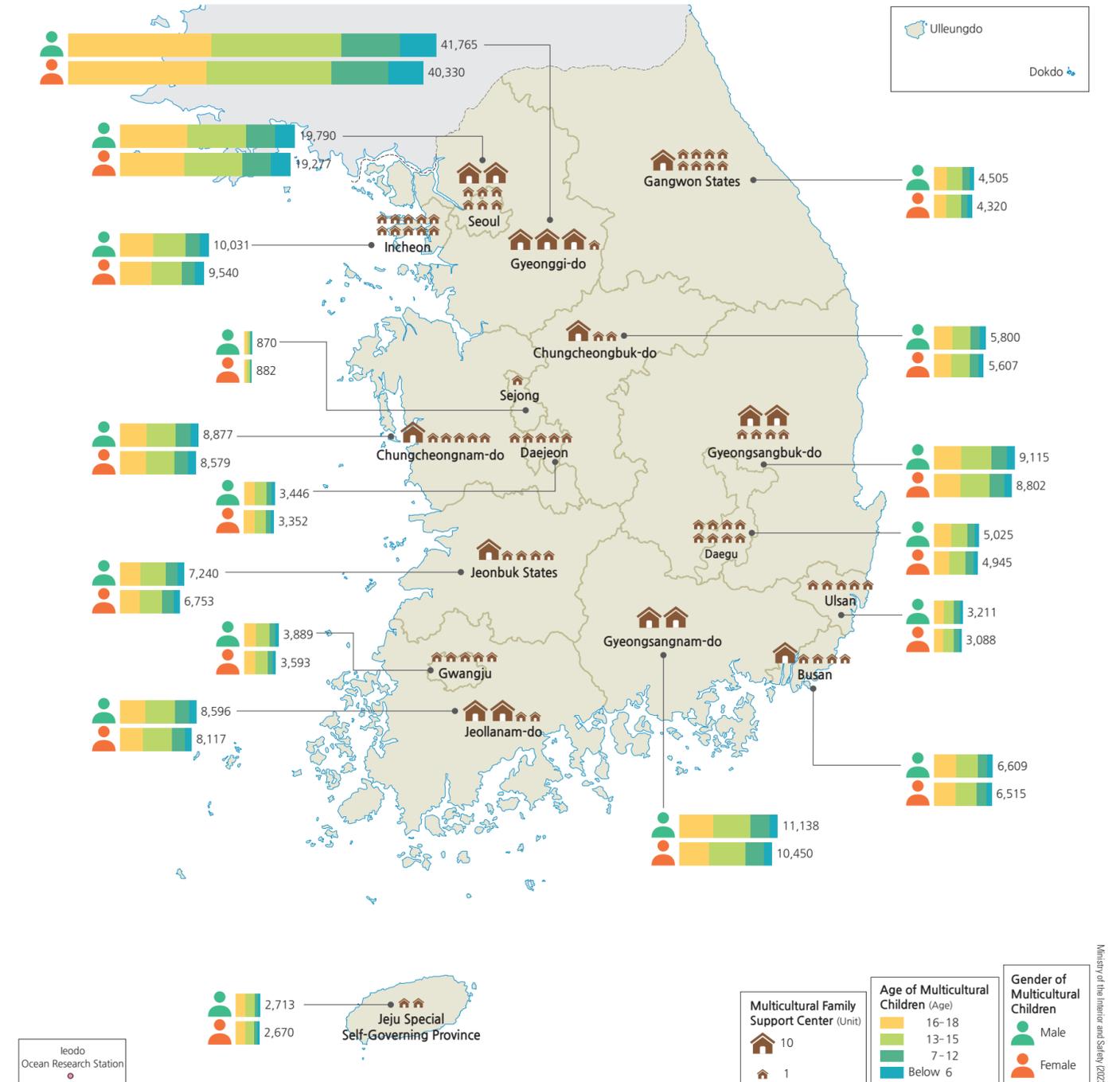
## Multicultural Children

In 2022, the number of children of foreign residents in South Korea reached approximately 300,000. Of these, about 20,000 are children of naturalized citizens or foreign nationals who came to South Korea, while the remainder were born within the country. The gender ratio of these foreign resident children is 51% male and 49% female. Their distribution by region shows that approximately 27% live in Gyeonggi Province, 13% in Seoul, 7% in Gyeongsangnam-do, 7% in Incheon, and 6% in Gyeongsangbuk-do, indicating that nearly half are concentrated in the metropolitan area. By age group, 37% are elementary school-aged children (7-12 years), and 36% are under the age of six. Middle school-aged children (13-15 years) make up 17%, while high school-aged children (16-18 years) account for 10%.

Compared to 48% in the school age range in 2017, the proportion of school-aged children has increased.

To support the settlement and naturalization of multicultural families as South Korea transitions to a multicultural society, the government has established 232 Multicultural Family Support Centers nationwide. These centers provide various programs such as Korean language education, interpretation services, and cultural events to ensure the stable settlement, well-being, and social integration of multicultural families. There are 57 centers in Gyeonggi Province and Seoul, followed by 24 in Gyeongsangbuk-do, 22 in Jeollanam-do, 20 in Gyeongsangnam-do, and 18 in Gangwon-do.

Nationwide Distribution of Multicultural Children by Gender and Age Group, and Multicultural Family Support Centers



## World Heritage Sites

World Heritage Sites are places of significant historical or scholarly value that humanity collectively aims to preserve. These sites are categorized into cultural heritage, natural heritage, and mixed heritage. South Korea has 16 World Heritage Sites (including those in North Korea), of which 14 are cultural heritage sites, and two are natural heritage sites.

In South Korea, World Heritage Sites are mostly located in the Seoul Metropolitan Area (five sites) and Gyeongsangbuk-do (three sites). Seoul, which has served as the capital for over 600 years since the founding of the Joseon dynasty in 1392, is home to numerous royal tombs, palaces, and Confucian shrines. Suwon houses Hwaseong Fortress, while Namhansanseong Fortress is located in Gwangju. Gyeongju, the capital of the Silla dynasty, hosts Bulguksa Temple, Seokguram Grotto, and the Gyeongju historic areas, where one can trace the history of Silla. The Korean historical village of Yangdong in Gyeongju also provides insights into the aristocratic culture that flourished during the Joseon period. The Hahoe Folk

Village, a representative clan village and aristocratic settlement in Korea, is located in Andong, Gyeongsangbuk-do. Two are located in Gyeongsangnam-do (Haeinsa Temple Janggyeong Panjeon, Depositories for the Tripitaka Koreana, and Gaya Tumuli) and one in Jeollanam-do, Jeollabuk-do, and Incheon Metropolitan City (the Dolmen Sites of Gochang, Hwasun, and Ganghwa). Jeju Special Self-Governing Province hosts one site (the Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes), which is divided into three zones: Hallasan Natural Reserve, Geomunoreum Lava Tube System, and Seongsan Ilchulbong Tuff Cone. Furthermore, Chungcheong-do and Jeolla-do have two sites (the Baekje Historic Areas and the Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats), while Gyeongsang-do, Jeolla-do, and Chungcheong-do have two sites (the Sansa, Buddhist Mountain Monasteries in Korea, and the Seowon, Korean Neo-Confucian Academies).

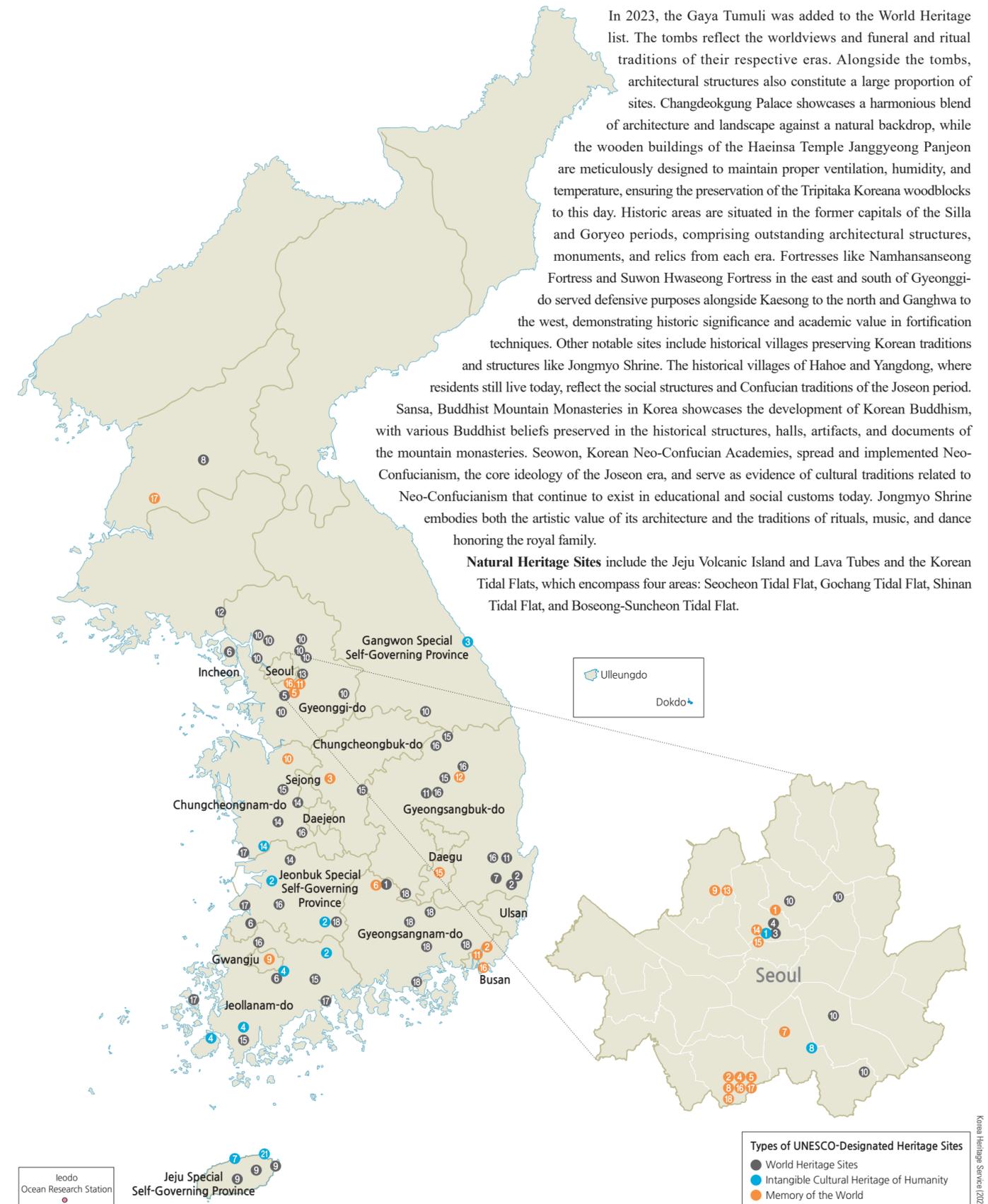
When categorized by type, burial mounds represent a significant proportion of World Heritage Sites. These include dolmen sites from the Bronze Age, stone mound tombs from the Goguryeo period, and royal tombs from the Silla and Joseon periods.

## Korean Heritage Items and Registration

Registration	World Heritage Sites	Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity	Memory of the World
1995	1 Haeinsa Janggyeong Panjeon 2 Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple 3 Jongmyo (Shrine)		
1997	4 Changdeokgung Palace Complex 5 Hwaseong Fortress		1 Hunminjeongeum Manuscript 2 Joseon Wangjo Sillok
2000	6 Gochang, Hwasun, and Ganghwa Dolmen Sites 7 Gyeongju Historic Areas		
2001		1 Royal Ancestral Ritual in the Jongmyo Shrine and its Music 2 Pansori Epic Chant	
2003			
2004	8 Koguryo Ancient Tombs (North Korea)		
2005		3 Gangneung Danoje Festival	
2007	9 Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes		3 Uigwe 4 Daejanggyeong in the Haeinsa Temple
2009	10 Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty	4 Ganggangsullae Circle Dance 5 Namsadang Vagabond Clowns' Play 6 Yeongsanjae 7 Jeju Chilmeoridang Yeongdeunggut 8 Cheoyongmu	7 Donguibogam
2010	11 Historic Villages of Korea Hahoe · Yangdong	9 Gagok 10 Daemokjang 11 Maesanyang	
2011		12 Jultagi 13 Taekkyeon 14 Hansan Mosi	3 Ilseongnok 4 Human Rights Documentary Heritage 1980 Archives for the May 18th Democratic Uprising against Military Regime, in Gwangju
2012		15 Arirang	
2013	12 Gaeseong Historic Site District (North Korea)	16 Kimjang	10 Nanjung Ilgi 11 Archives of Saemaeul Undong
2014	13 Namhansanseong Fortress	17 Arirang Folk Song (North Korea) 18 Nongak	
2015	14 Baekje Historic Areas	19 Tradition of Kimchi-Making (North Korea) 20 Tugging Rituals and Games	12 Confucian Printing Woodblocks in Korea 13 The Archives of KBS Special Live Broadcasting "Finding Dispersed Families"
2016		21 Culture of Jeju Haenyeo	
2017			14 Royal Seal and Investiture Book Collection of the Joseon Dynasty 15 The Archives of the National Debt Redemption Movement 16 Documents on Joseon Tongsinsa 17 Muyeodobotongji (North Korea)
2018	15 Sansa, Buddhist Mountain Monasteries in Korea	22 Traditional Korean Wrestling	
2019	16 Seowon, Korean Neo-Confucian Academies		
2020		23 Yeondeunghoe, Lantern Lighting Festival	
2021	17 Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats		
2022		24 Talchum, Korean Mask Dance Drama	18 Donghak Peasant Revolution Records
2023	18 Gaya Tumuli		19 April 19th Revolution Records
2024		25 Knowledge, Beliefs and Practices Related to Jang-Making in the Republic of Korea	

## UNESCO World Heritage Sites

UNESCO-Designated Heritage of South Korea



## World Heritage Sites



1 Haeinsa Temple Janggyeong Panjeon (inscribed in 1995)

Hapcheon-gun, Gyeongsangnam-do

This storage building, as the oldest annex of Haeinsa Temple, preserves a total of 81,240 Tripitaka Koreana woodblocks completed in 1251. This building was designed with ingenuity and craftsmanship to ensure ventilation and moisture resistance, maintain an appropriate indoor temperature, and display the woodblocks, which has allowed the Tripitaka Koreana to be preserved intact to this day.



2 Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple (inscribed in 1995)

Gyeongju-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do

Bulguksa Temple is located on the west side of Tohamsan Mountain and is paired with Seokguram Grotto on the east side of the mountain. It is a symbolic building of Gyeongju, the capital of the Silla dynasty. Seokguram Grotto is a monumental masterpiece in that advanced geometric, architectural, and esthetic senses, along with religious passion, are holistically realized.



3 Jongmyo Shrine (inscribed in 1995)

Jongno-gu, Seoul

This royal ancestral shrine is dedicated to memorial services for the deceased kings and queens of the Joseon dynasty. It was built in the east wing of the palace. There are also several buildings attached to the shrine: Yeongryeongjeon, Gongsindang, and Chilsadang.



4 Changdeokgung Palace Complex (inscribed in 1997)

Jongno-gu, Seoul

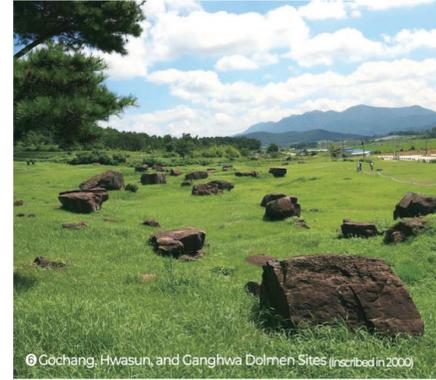
Changdeokgung Palace was built as a secondary palace of Gyeongbokgung Palace in the 5th year of King Taejong's reign (1405). After being destroyed by fire during the Imjin War, it was rebuilt in the 40th year of King Seonjo's reign (1607) and was rebuilt again in the 5th year of King Gwanghaegun's reign (1613). It served as the main palace where successive kings managed state affairs for 258 years, from the time it was used as the main palace during the reign of King Gwanghaegun in 1610 until the reconstruction of Gyeongbokgung Palace by King Gojong in 1868.



5 Hwaseong Fortress (inscribed in 1997)

Suwon-si, Gyeonggi-do

This fortress was built by the order of King Jeongjo (1776-1800). The main function was to defend Seoul from the southern side and to protect the temporary palace in the fortress. It is considered to be an outstanding work of military architecture making excellent use of military construction techniques from both the East and West.



6 Gochang, Hwasun, and Ganghwa Dolmen Sites (inscribed in 2000)

Gochang-gun, Jeollabuk-do; Hwasun-gun, Jeonllanam-do; Ganghwa-gun, Incheon

Dolmens, stone tombs in burial sites representative of the Bronze Age, are widely distributed on the Korean Peninsula, which holds more of these sites than anywhere else in the world. In addition, dolmens are important relics for the study of prehistoric times, as they provide insight into prehistoric cultural aspects, social structures, political systems, and even the spiritual world of the people of that time.



7 Gyeongju Historic Areas (inscribed in 2000)

Gyeongju-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do

The protected areas contain the history and culture of Gyeongju, the ancient capital of Silla for a thousand years. They are grouped in accordance with the nature of their historic remains: Namsan, a renowned treasure trove of Buddhist art; the Moon Fortress, a royal palace site of a thousand-year-old dynasty; the Great Tumuli Park, a cluster of burial mounds; the ruins of Hwangryongsa, a state temple representative of the essence of Silla Buddhism; and the Mountain Fortress, the royal capital's defense strongholds.



8 Complex of Goguryeo Tombs (inscribed in 2004)

Pyeongannam-do, Pyeongyang, Nampo, and Hwanghaenam-do

The complex consists of 63 tombs from the Goguryeo Kingdom. The tombs are grouped into eight clusters and are spread on both banks of the lower reaches of the Daedonggang River. The styles of the tombs and the mural frescos inside them reflect the culture and customs of the people of Goguryeo.



9 Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes (inscribed in 2007)

Jeju Special Self-Governing Province

Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes together consist of three sections: Geomunoreum lava tube system (Gimnyeonggul, Manjanggul, Yongcheondonggul, Dangcheomuldonggul, and Bemdwigul), which is considered one of the most beautiful cave systems anywhere; the fortress-like Seongsan Ilchulbong tuff cone, which rises from the sea to create a dramatic spectacle; and Hallasan, which has waterfalls, variously shaped rocks, and numerous oreums (lava cones). These sites, of outstanding aesthetic beauty, also bear testimony to the history of the planet, its features and processes.



10 The Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty (inscribed in 2009)

Seoul, Gyeonggi-do, and Gangwon-do

The Royal Tombs of the Joseon dynasty are scattered over 18 locations in Seoul, its vicinity, and Gangwon-do. They are unique examples where the royal tombs of a dynasty have been preserved and managed with an integrated management system. These royal tombs embody the history, culture, and value system of the dynasty, which lasted for 500 years.



11 Historic Villages of Korea: Hahoe and Yangdong (inscribed in 2010)

Andong-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do

These villages, established in the 14th and 15th centuries, are representative clan villages of Korea. They maintain the form of villages in the early Joseon dynasty, and the location and layout of the villages exemplify the Confucian culture and yangban culture of the Joseon dynasty. Hahoe Village, which got its name from the Nakdonggang flowing around the village in an "S" shape, is mainly inhabited by the Pungsan Ryu clan, and the yangban and commoners coexist in this community. Yangdong Village, formed by the two clans of Wolseong Son and Yeogang Lee, has beautiful tile-roofed and thatched houses that are hundreds of years old and paths with low stone walls.



12 Historic Monuments and Sites in Gaecheon (inscribed in 2013)

Gaeseong-si, Hwanghaenam-do

These historic monuments and sites are located in Gaeseong, the capital of the Goryeo dynasty. Gaeseong has many historical ruins, including the Gaeseong Namdaemun, Gaeseong Cheomseongdae, Manwoldae Palace, Goryeo Seonggyungwan, Sungyangseowon, Seonjuk Bridge, and Pyocheung Monuments, as well as a cluster of seven royal tombs, including Wanggeonneung, Gongminwangneung, and Myeongneung.



13 Namhansanseong (inscribed in 2014)

Gwangju-si, Gyeonggi-do

This fortress, a large-scale mountain fortress constructed in the 17th century, helped to defend the capital of the Joseon dynasty, currently Seoul, from attacks on the eastern side. Its location in the rugged terrain made the fortress easier to defend. It is also famous because it is where a fierce battle took place against the army of the Manchu Qing dynasty during the Second Manchu Invasion of Joseon.



14 Baekje Historic Areas (inscribed in 2015)

Gongju-si and Buyeo-gun, Chungcheongnam-do; Iksan-si, Jeollabuk-do

The relics of the three capitals collectively represent the later period of the Baekje Kingdom as it reached its peak in terms of cultural development, involving frequent communication with neighboring regions such as China and Japan. Together these sites testify to the adoption by the Baekje of Chinese principles of city planning, construction technology, arts, and religion, their refinement by the Baekje, and subsequent distribution to Japan and East Asia.



15 Sansa, Buddhist Mountain Monasteries in Korea (inscribed in 2018)

Chungcheongbuk-do, Chungcheongnam-do, Gyeongsangbuk-do, Gyeongsangnam-do, Jeollabuk-do, and Jeollanam-do

Sansa consists of seven Buddhist mountain monasteries (Tongdosa, Buseoksa, Bongjeonsa, Beopjusa, Magoksa, Seonamsa, and Daehaeungs). The seven monasteries established from the 7th to the 9th centuries have functioned as centers of religious belief, spiritual practice, and daily living of monastic communities, reflecting the historical development of Korean Buddhism.



16 Seowon, Korean Neo-Confucian Academies (inscribed in 2019)

Daegu, Chungcheongnam-do, Gyeongsangbuk-do, Gyeongsangnam-do, Jeollabuk-do, Jeollanam-do

The Seowon, Korean Neo-Confucian Academies, is a serial property that comprises nine seowons, such as Sosu-seowon and Byeongsan-seowon, representing a type of Neo-Confucian academy of the Joseon dynasty. It is an exceptional testimony to cultural traditions associated with Neo-Confucianism in Korea.



17 Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats (inscribed in 2021)

Chungcheongnam-do, Jeollabuk-do, and Jeollanam-do

These tidal flats are located along the southwest coast of the Republic of Korea and on the east side of the Yellow Sea. They comprise four tidal flats: Seocheon Getbol, Gochang Getbol, Shinan Getbol, and Boseong-Suncheon Getbol. They are one of the most important habitats for conserving biodiversity and a major stopover site for globally endangered migratory waterbirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.



18 Gaya Tumuli (inscribed in 2023)

Gyeongsangbuk-do, Gyeongsangnam-do, and Jeollabuk-do

The Gaya Tumuli is a serial property consisting of seven cemeteries created by members of the Gaya Confederacy, which persisted from the 1st through the mid-6th century in the southern part of the Korean Peninsula. The distribution, location, system, and burial goods of high-status tombs in each cemetery bear exceptional testimony to Gaya, a unique ancient East Asian civilization that maintained a distinct confederated political system of multiple equally powerful and mutually autonomous polities living under the influence of the same culture.

## Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Intangible Cultural Heritage represents a traditional culture that is still alive and practiced. According to UNESCO, intangible cultural heritage encompasses knowledge, skills, performing arts, and cultural expressions that communities and groups have continuously recreated in response to their environment, nature, and

history.

Since 2001 (and as of 2024), 23 items from South Korea have been inscribed as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Intangible Cultural Heritage includes various cultural elements to maintain cultural diversity and creativity, making it

valuable for understanding the universality of Korean culture.

Categorized by type, there are five items related to rituals or ceremonies, six to games, and four to songs. Additionally, there is one each for Daemokjang (traditional wooden architecture), falconry, tightrope walking, Taekkyeon (a traditional martial

art), Hansan ramie weaving, kimchi-making culture, and Jeju Haenyeo (women divers).



1 Royal Ancestral Ritual in the Jongmyo Shrine and Its Music (inscribed in 2001)

This is the royal ritual held in Jongmyo for worshipping the spirits of royal ancestors of the Joseon dynasty, and it includes music, song, and dance.



2 Pansori Epic Chant (inscribed in 2003)

Pansori is a genre of traditional musical storytelling with expressive singing, stylized speech, and a repertoire of narrative and gesture performed by a vocalist and drummer.



3 Gangneung Dandje Festival (inscribed in 2005)

This traditional event combines jubilant recreation with a holy ritual, held in Gangneung-si, Gangwon-do on the fifth day of the fifth month according to the lunar calendar. A village ritual was performed to pray for a bountiful harvest and ward off disasters; various folk games were also played.



4 Ganggangsullae (Women's Circle Dance) (inscribed in 2009)

A form of historical Korean group dance that incorporates singing, dancing, and playing during the first full moon in the lunar New Year and the harvest full moon that rises in the eighth lunar month during the Korean Thanksgiving holidays. This circle dance is exclusively performed by women and is prevalent in the southern provinces.



5 Namsadang Vagabond Clowns' Play (inscribed in 2009)

This play is performed by nomadic troupes of entertainers, consisting of actors who present various arts such as singing, dancing, acrobatics, mask dances, and puppet plays. It was popular among commoners who seldom had an opportunity for entertainment or an outlet to relieve the weariness of their hardworking lives.



6 Yeongsanjae (The Rites of Culture Peak) (inscribed in 2009)

These rites are Buddhist memorial services for the deceased to guide their souls in cleansing the sins they committed in this world and to help them be reincarnated into Buddhist paradise by believing in and relying on Buddhism.



7 Jeju Chilmoridang Yeongdeunggut (Yeongdeung Rites for the Goddess of Wind) (inscribed in 2009)

A series of shamanistic rituals indigenous to Jeju Island, during which people wish for calm at sea and in the villages as well as plentiful sea catches.



8 Cheoyongmu (The Dance of Cheoyong) (inscribed in 2009)

The traditional court dance is performed by dancers wearing Cheoyong masks to drive off evil spirits at the end of the year.



9 Gagok (Slow Lyrical Songs of Poetry) (inscribed in 2010)

Gagok refers to a genre of Korean vocal music composed of traditional three-line poetry and accompanied by an ensemble of native musical instruments.



10 Daemokjang (inscribed in 2010)

A person who works with wood is traditionally called Mokjang, Mokgong, or Moku. The work related to constructing palaces, temples, and houses with skillful carpentry techniques is called Daemok. Daemokjang is a master carpenter with superb expertise responsible for the work.



11 Maesaryang (Falconry) (inscribed in 2010)

This traditional falconry is the practice of hunting pheasants and other small animals using trained falcons.



12 Jultagi (inscribed in 2011)

Korean tightrope walking is performed on national holidays such as Dano and Chuseok. The performance is conducted with music and witty conversations between a tightrope walker and the crowds.



13 Taekkyeon (inscribed in 2011)

This traditional martial art makes use of fluid, rhythmic footwork and a variety of kicks to overpower opponents and defend one's body.



14 Hansan Mosi (Weaving of Mosi in Hansan) (inscribed in 2011)

The weaving of ramie fabric in Hansan, Chungcheongnam-do is done by middle-aged women.



15 Arirang (Lyrical Folk Song) (inscribed in 2012)  
16 Arirang Folk Song in North Korea (inscribed in 2014)

This popular form of Korean folk songs originated in various sites across Korea. In South Korea, Jeongseon and Jindo Arirang are famous, and in North Korea, Arirang exists throughout the country, including Pyongyang.



17 Culture of Jeju Haenyeo (Women Divers) (inscribed in 2013)

Jeju Haenyeo is an important culture that shows the identity of Jeju residents. This way of life contributed to improving the status of women within the community, and its eco-friendly fishing activities and community-based fisheries management have increased the sustainability of the fishing industry.



18 Traditional Korean Wrestling (inscribed in 2016)

Ssireum, or traditional Korean wrestling, is a popular form of entertainment widely enjoyed in Korea. It is a type of wrestling in which two players, each wearing a long fabric belt around their waist and one thigh, grip their opponents' belts and deploy various techniques to send them to the ground. It is characterized by the use of a fabric belt and the awarding of a bull, symbolizing a good harvest, to the winner, and strengthens solidarity and cooperation within the community.



19 Yeondeunghoe (Lantern Lighting Festival) (inscribed in 2020)

Yeondeunghoe, a lantern lighting festival, takes place throughout the Republic of Korea. As the eighth day of the fourth lunar month (Buddha's birthday) approaches, streets are hung with colorful lotus lanterns and crowds holding handmade lanterns gather for a celebratory parade. Originally a religious ritual to celebrate Buddha's birthday, it is now a national spring festival that can be participated in regardless of race, generation, or religion.



20 Kimjang (Making and Sharing Kimchi) (inscribed in 2013)  
21 Tradition of Kimchi-Making (inscribed in 2015)

Kimjang refers to the traditional practice of making large quantities of kimchi at once to prepare for a long harsh winter, or the kimchi made in this way. Kimjang is one of the important food traditions that reveals the unique identity of the Korean people. Through Kimjang, people work together and share information about the ingredients and methods of kimchi making. This promotes cooperative relationships between families, neighbors, and communities, and strengthens the social solidarity of these groups.



22 Nongak (Community Band Music, Dances, and Rituals) (inscribed in 2014)

This form of dance and song is accompanied by musical instruments intended to liven up the mood of collective farming activities or festivals.



23 Tugging Rituals and Games (inscribed in 2015)

Juldari, or Tugging Rituals, is a traditional performance originating in the East and Southeastern Asian rice-farming cultures that has been practiced in connection with prayers and blessings for plenty and abundance for harvests. It is an event that promotes strong solidarity among neighbors and announces the start of a new agricultural cycle.



24 Talchum (inscribed in 2022)

Talchum, a mask dance drama in the Republic of Korea, is a performing art in which masked performers humorously explore social issues through dramatic combinations of dances, songs, movements, and dialogue accompanied by an ensemble of six to ten musicians. Talchum conveys its underlying appeal to universal equality and criticism of social hierarchy by comically depicting everyday characters.



25 Knowledge, Beliefs, and Practices Related to Jang-Making in the Republic of Korea (inscribed in 2024)

Jang-making has played a major role in the community culture of Korea. In particular, Jang (paste) reflects the identity of the family, promotes solidarity among family members, and creates peace and a sense of belonging in the community through the joint act of making Jang.

## Memory of the World

Memory of the World is a UNESCO program that has been selecting documents of global value every two years since 1997 to preserve and utilize valuable records worldwide. Memory of the World includes various types of records such as books, documents, and letters.

Most of South Korea's Memory of the World items are books, with some diaries and records. Since the first two inscriptions in 1997, the number has steadily

increased every two years, with Donghak Peasant Revolution Records and April 19th Revolution Records added in 2023. As of 2024, there are 18 items inscribed. This number ranks first in Asia and fifth globally, demonstrating South Korea's stature as a leading country in record culture. Among these, the *Hunminjeongeum*, Annals of the Joseon Dynasty, Diaries of the Royal Secretariat, Haeinsa Temple's Tripitaka Koreana Woodblocks and Miscellaneous Buddhist Scriptures, *Ilseongnok*,

and War Diary of Admiral Yi Sun-sin are designated as National Treasures, while the Donguibogam is designated as a Treasure.

Some Memory of the World items, such as the *Uigwe*, Royal Protocols of the Joseon Dynasty, Records of the May 18th Democratic Uprising, and Records of the Saemaul Undong (New Community Movement), are preserved in multiple locations. The *Jikji*, the world's oldest extant book printed with movable metal type,

was taken overseas during the reign of King Gojong and is now kept at the National Library of France. North Korea's UNESCO Memory of the World item is the *Muye Dobo Tongji* (Comprehensive Illustrated Manual of Martial Arts), inscribed in 2017, and is preserved in Pyongyang and Seoul.

### 1 Hunminjeongeum Manuscript (Inscribed in 1997)



National Treasure No. 70; housed in the Kansong Art Museum

This is the original woodblock print produced when King Sejong the Great invented the 28 letters of Hunminjeongeum, the original name of Korea's official script, and promulgated them to the world in 1446. This manuscript explains the reasons for inventing new letters and the scientific principle behind the invention.

### 2 Joseon Wangjo sillok (The Annals of the Joseon Dynasty; inscribed in 1997)



National Treasure No. 151; housed in the Kyujanggak, Seoul National University

The Annals cover 472 years of the history of the dynasty (1392-1865), containing a wide range of topics about this period such as politics, military affairs, the social system, law, foreign relations, economics, industry, communications, customary arts, crafts, religion, and daily court records. They provide a general understanding of the dynasty and its external relationships with its neighbors.

### 3 Jikji simche jojeol (Anthology of Great Buddhist Priests' Zen Teachings; inscribed in 2001)



Housed in the National Library of France  
This book contains the essentials of Zen Buddhism compiled by Priest Baegun in 1372 and printed in 1377. The book was exhibited at the "International Book Year" hosted by UNESCO in 1972 and was recognized as the world's first available evidence of moveable metal type printing.

### 4 Seungjeongwon ilgi (The Diaries of the Royal Secretariat; inscribed in 2001)



National Treasure No. 303; housed in the Kyujanggak, Seoul National University  
Seungjeongwon was the Royal Secretariat during the Joseon dynasty and was responsible for receiving and delivering the King's orders. The diaries recorded daily events and official schedules of the court of all Kings of the Joseon dynasty through the vicissitudes of time. They also became the primary source materials for editing Joseon wangjo sillok.

### 5 Uigwe (The Royal Protocols of the Joseon Dynasty; inscribed in 2007)



Housed in the Kyujanggak, Seoul National University and the Jangseogak, The Academy of Korean Studies

The Uigwe is a collection of 3,895 books about the Royal Protocols of the Joseon dynasty. Each volume presents the special state ceremonies or major royal rituals in a manner that combines prose and detailed illustrations. It is a valuable resource that allows us to visually understand the lifestyle of 600 years during the Joseon dynasty.

### 6 Daejanggyeong in Haeinsa Temple (Printing woodblocks of the Tripitaka Koreana and miscellaneous Buddhist scriptures; inscribed in 2007)



National Treasure No. 303; housed in the Kyujanggak, Seoul National University

As the world's most comprehensive and oldest intact collection of the Tripitaka (Buddhist scripture) without any errors, it was made during the Goryeo dynasty in the 13th century. It also was widely referred to as the Palman Daejanggyeong (Eighty-thousand Tripitaka) because it consists of 81,258 wooden printing blocks. It possesses high cultural value as an example of the best printing and publishing techniques of the period.

### 7 Donguibogam (Principles and Practice of Eastern Medicine; inscribed in 2009)



Treasure No. 1085, Housed in the National Library of Korea  
An encyclopedic textbook published in 1613. The title literally means "Principles and Practice of Eastern Medicine." With the King's support, Heo Jun edited it by synthesizing medical knowledge and prescriptions. It is the world's first public health book compiled for easy use by common people.

### 8 Ilseongnok (Records of Daily Reflections; inscribed in 2011)



National Treasure No. 153; housed in the Kyujanggak, Seoul National University  
This chronicle written by the kings from 1760 to 1910 details the king's activities at the royal court and the general state affairs on a daily basis. Although the kings wrote this diary for self-reflection, it was an official record of the government.

### 9 Human Rights Documentary Heritage 1980 Archives for the May 18th Democratic Uprising against the Military Regime in Owanju, Republic of Korea (inscribed in 2011)



Housed in the National Archives of Korea, Republic of Korea Army Headquarters, and Owanju City Hall

The archives contain a variety of materials about the May 18th Democratic Uprising, ranging from governmental records and civil society documents to papers produced by the United States. This incident influenced the democratization movements in many Asian countries. The archives include the processes of uncovering the truth of this incident and cases of compensation for victims.

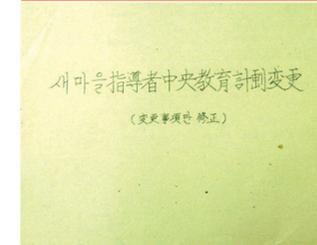
### 10 Nanjung ilgi (War Diary of Admiral Yi Sun-sin; inscribed in 2013)



National Treasure No. 76; housed in the Heongchungsa Shrine

The handwritten diary of Admiral Yi Sun-sin consists of eight volumes and focuses on the Japanese invasions of Korea (1592-1598). The diary covers a period of seven years from the start of the invasion until days before he was killed in the last sea battle of the war. The diary contains specific details of combat situations and his strategies, his personal views and feelings, and the lives of common people.

### 11 Archives of Saemaul Undong (New Community Movement; inscribed in 2013)



Housed in the National Archives of Korea and Korea Saemaul Undong Center  
The archives include approximately 22,000 artifacts representing a wide range of materials such as presidential speeches, government documents, village documents, personal letters, photographs, and video clips related to this government-led movement that was conducted between 1970 and 1979. This movement is a model for national development to eradicate poverty and a successful example of public-private partnerships.

### 12 Confucian Printing Woodblocks in Korea (inscribed in 2015)



Housed in the Korean Studies Institute  
This documentary heritage, collectively named the "Confucian Printing Woodblocks in Korea," comprises 64,226 hand-carved blocks used for printing 718 titles of works written during the Joseon dynasty. They have been entrusted by 305 family clans and Confucian academies. These woodblocks have global value because they are the result of 550 years of collective intelligence, created by public opinion of the intellectual class and published in a community-based style.

### 13 The Archives of KBS Special Live Broadcasting "Finding Dispersed Families" (inscribed in 2015)



Housed in the Korean Broadcasting System, the National Archives of Korea, and Gallop Korea

This is the record of live broadcasts by the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) of war-dispersed families from June 30 through November 14, 1983. This broadcast led to the first reunion of war-dispersed families between North and South Korea in 1985 and also contributed to easing tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

### 14 Royal Seal and Investiture Book Collection of the Joseon Dynasty (inscribed in 2017)



Housed in the National Palace Museum of Korea  
Royal seals and investiture include royal seals engraved with beautiful titles on gold, silver, and jade; royal edicts written on five-colored silk to admonish and enlighten kings and queens to fulfill their responsibilities; jade books and bamboo books engraved with texts bestowing beautiful titles; and gold books engraved with the contents of investiture on the gilt-bronze plates. They ensure the legitimacy of the king's reign during his lifetime and assure his timeless authority after death, thus contributing to the stability of the state. They are valuable assets to study the politics, society, and culture of the Joseon dynasty.

### 15 The Archives of the National Debt Redemption Movement (inscribed in 2017)



Housed in the Korea Museum of Financial History  
In the late 19th century, imperialist powers imposed enormous amounts of debt on colonial countries and used this as an excuse to strengthen their rule. The Archives of the National Debt Redemption Movement is a documentary heritage chronicling the entire process and history of a nationwide movement undertaken by the Korean public from 1907 to 1910 to overcome the national crisis by fulfilling the obligation to repay the Japanese foreign debt and thereby protect their national sovereignty. This movement became an outstanding example to other colonized countries suffering from foreign debt.

### 16 Documents on Joseon Tongjinsa/Chosen Tsushinshi (The History of Peace Building and Cultural Exchanges between Korea and Japan from the 17th to 19th Century; inscribed in 2017)



Housed in the Kyujanggak, Seoul National University  
These documents comprise materials related to 12 diplomatic missions dispatched from Korea to Japan between 1607 and 1811 at the request of Japan's Shogunate government. These documents have universal significance in fostering permanent peace and cross-cultural communication.

### 17 Muyeodobotongji (North Korea) (Comprehensive Illustrated Manual of Martial Arts; inscribed in 2017)



Housed in the Grand People's Study House, Pyongyang and the Kyujanggak, Seoul National University

The manual is a collection of comprehensive martial arts books that explains, with respective illustrations, the Korean traditional martial arts that became the origin of Taekwondo. It was compiled by the order of King Jongjo (1777-1800), the 22nd King of the Joseon dynasty. It also includes Chinese and Japanese martial arts, making it an invaluable resource for studying East Asian martial arts, which boast a long history and superiority as the cradle of martial arts.

### 18 Archives of the Donghak Peasant Revolution (inscribed in 2023)



Housed in the National Palace Museum of Korea

These archives are a collection of 185 documents associated with the Donghak Peasant Revolution (1894-1895). The Donghak revolution was a popular uprising against both corruption in the ruling class and encroachment on Korea by foreign powers, demanding the establishment of a more just and equal society.

### 19 Archives of the April 19th Revolution (inscribed in 2023)



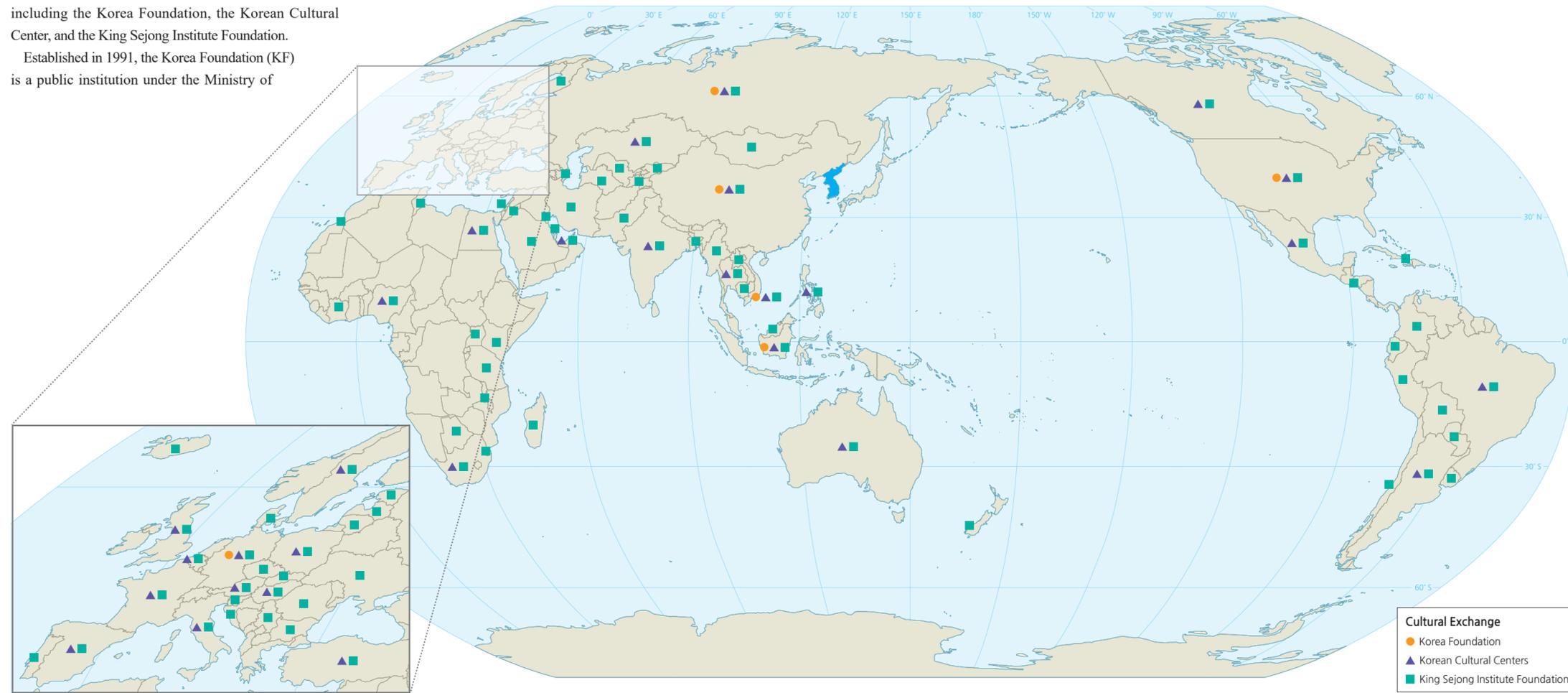
Housed in the National Archives of Korea  
These archives are an extensive collection of documentary materials about the student-initiated, pro-democracy movement that occurred in the spring of 1960. The archives cover the backgrounds and developments of the revolution leading to the downfall of the authoritarian government from a student rally in Daegu on February 28 to large-scale demonstrations in Seoul on April 19 to oppose the rigging of the March 15 presidential election, as well as post-revolution, fact-finding efforts, punishments of those who were accountable, and reparations for victims.

## Cultural Exchange

Our country actively engages in cultural exchange with other nations through various international exchange organizations, including the Korea Foundation, the Korean Cultural Center, and the King Sejong Institute Foundation.

Established in 1991, the Korea Foundation (KF) is a public institution under the Ministry of

### International Exchange



Foreign Affairs dedicated to enhancing the international community's understanding of Korea through cultural, academic, and people-to-people exchanges. The foundation has eight overseas offices in seven countries: the United States, China, Germany, Russia, Vietnam, Japan, and Indonesia. It promotes Korean culture worldwide through support for Korean studies research, cultural events, performances, and public diplomacy activities. As of 2023, the foundation has established a total of 161 professorships in Korean studies at overseas universities, supported Korean research for 12,254 scholars, and organized 185 exhibitions

related to Korea in overseas museums.

Korean Cultural Centers are institutions under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, established in major cities around the world to introduce Korean culture and promote cultural exchange with local communities. Currently, there are 35 Korean Cultural Centers operating in 30 countries. These centers offer a variety of programs, including exhibitions, performances, film screenings, Korean language education, and Korean cooking classes, to help locals experience Korean culture firsthand.

Founded in 2012, the King Sejong Institute Foundation is an organization under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism established to promote Korean language and culture worldwide. The King Sejong Institutes offer Korean language education and cultural experience opportunities to foreigners, enhancing their understanding and interest in Korea. There are 248 Sejong Institutes in 85 countries around the world, with 117,636 students enrolled in 2022. The number of Korean language teachers dispatched abroad through the Sejong Institutes has significantly increased from 14 locations in 11 countries in 2012 to 133 locations in 61 countries in 2022.

### Korea Foundation



Korean Fusion Gugak Tour Performance in Romania



Korean Traditional Percussion Performance in Canberra and Melbourne, Australia

### King Sejong Institute Foundation



Korean Culture (Hanji Craft) One Day Workshop in France



Calligraphy Class at the King Sejong Institute in Tainan, Taiwan

### Korean Cultural Center



Korean Traditional Hoops Experience at Chiang Mai University in Thailand



Korean Traditional Drum Dance Class at the k-pop Academy, South African Cultural Center

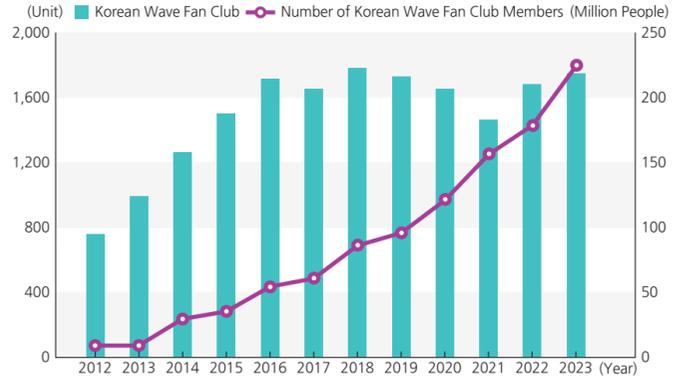


Taekwondo Class at the Korean Cultural Center in Nigeria

## The Korean Wave

The Korean Wave, which began in the late 1990s, refers to the global spread of Korean popular culture and has garnered numerous fans worldwide. Initially, the term mainly referred to Korean dramas and music, but it has now expanded to include various fields such as film, fashion, beauty, and food. As of 2023, there are a total of 1,748 Korean Wave fan clubs in 114 countries, with approximately 230 million members. The distribution of fan clubs is highest in Thailand (123), Russia

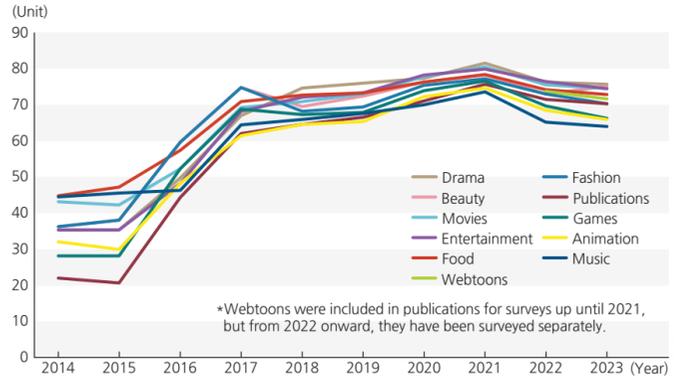
Korean Wave Fan Club, Membership Count



(120), China (102), and the United States (91). In terms of membership numbers, China leads with 100 million members, followed by Mexico with 28 million, Thailand with 20 million, the United States with 17 million, and Vietnam with 12 million.

According to the 2024 Overseas Korean Wave Survey by the Korea Foundation for International Cultural Exchange, the popularity of the Korean Wave is highest

Korean Wave Popularity

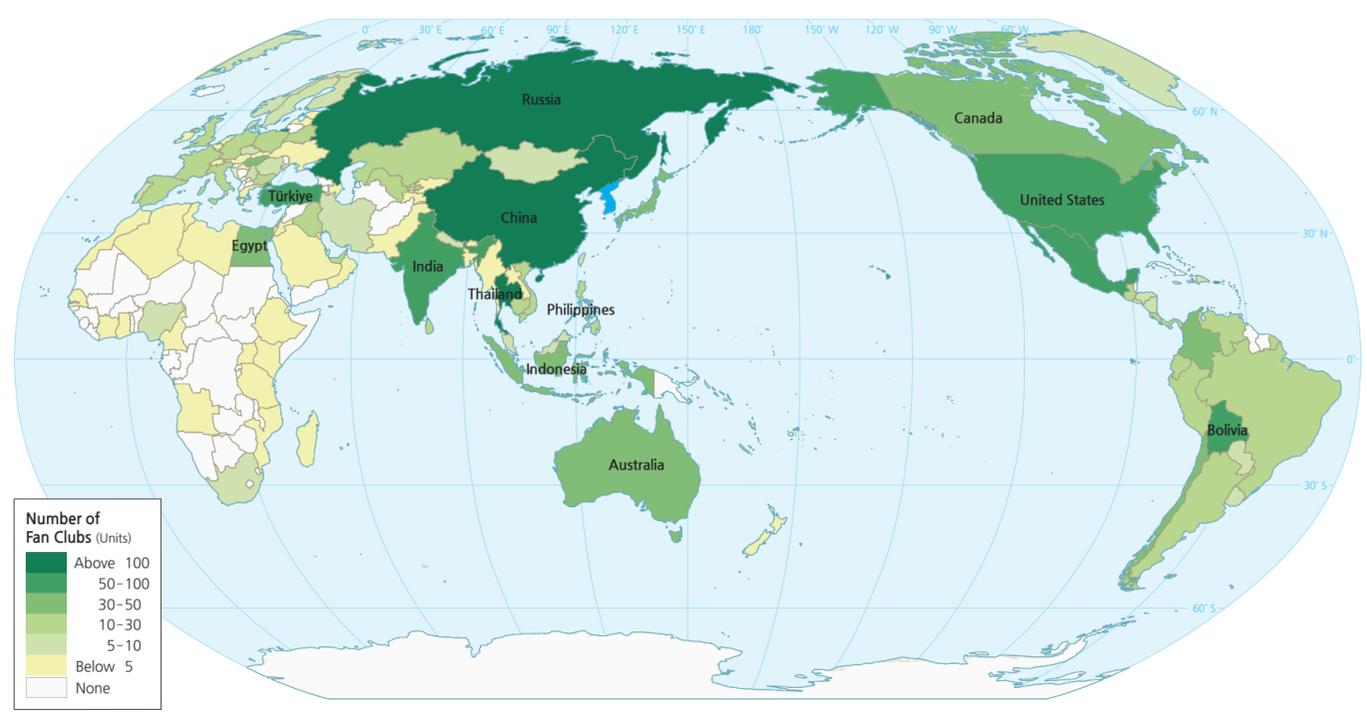


in the following order: drama, beauty, film, variety shows, and food. Over the past seven years, the most prominent associative image of Korea has consistently been K-pop, followed by Korean cuisine, dramas, IT products, and beauty products. K-pop enjoys widespread popularity in many countries. On average, individuals who experience Korean music listen to it for 11.4 hours per month, with countries like India and Thailand having listening times close to 20 hours per month. Among K-pop artists, BTS and Blackpink are particularly favored. BTS, in particular, has made a significant impact by representing the youth and future generations in speeches at the UN General Assembly, bringing hope to young

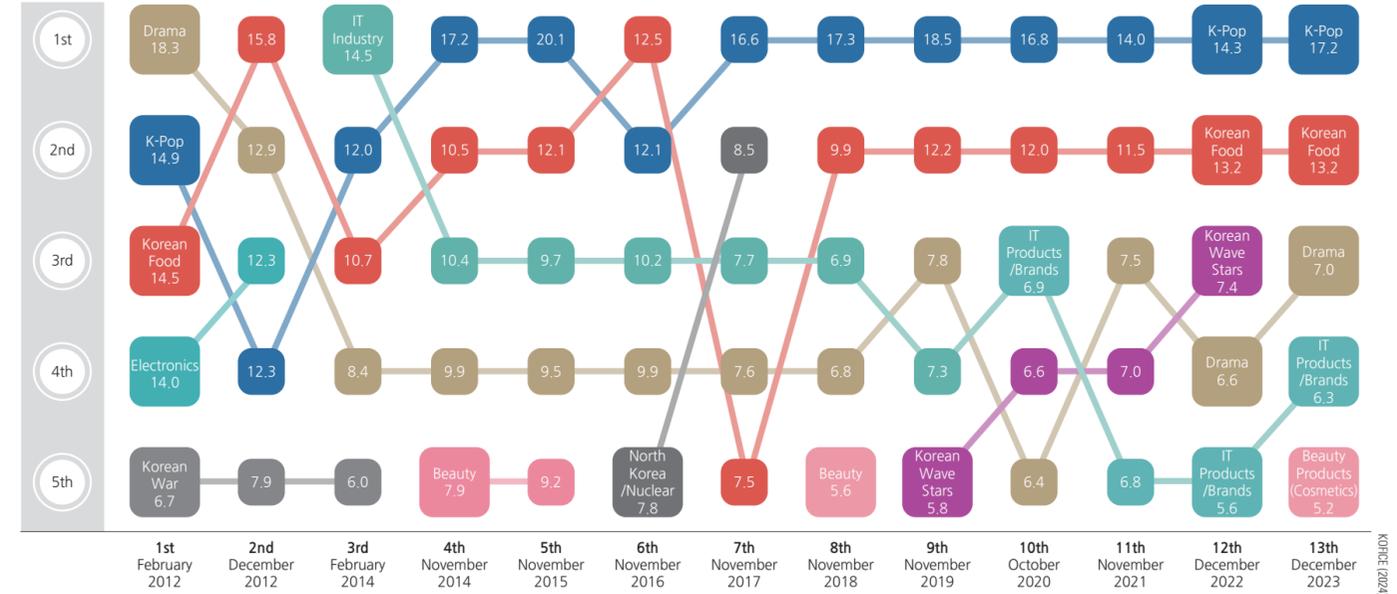
people around the world.

The Korean Wave has also made significant strides in the field of esports. Korea is recognized as a global powerhouse in esports, achieving excellent results in various games such as League of Legends (LoL), StarCraft, and Overwatch. The country participated in the Hangzhou Asian Games, where esports was officially included as a sport, and won two gold medals, one silver medal, and one bronze medal. In Korea, there are currently 398 professional esports players, and 403 professional players have ventured abroad. As of 2022, the domestic esports industry has a scale of approximately KRW 150 billion with its size growing annually. The

Distribution of Korean Wave Fan Clubs



Korean Associative Images



League of Legends World Championship held in Korea in 2023 attracted numerous international fans, and the event is estimated to have generated an economic impact of around KRW 200 billion. With the global increase in the esports industry and consumer market, revenue from esports is expected to continue rising.

Director Bong Joon-ho's film Parasite made history as the first foreign-language film to win both the Palme d'Or and the Academy Award, showcasing the artistic quality of Korean cinema to the world. Based on this excellence, Korea's film and video market has generated substantial global revenue. As of 2023, the global box office revenue is approximately USD 36 billion, with Korea ranking ninth with a

revenue of USD 1.24 billion. Koreans have an average of 2.44 movie viewings per person per year (eighth in the world). In 2019, Korea ranked first globally with 4.4 viewings per person per year. As of 2023, the revenue of Korea's video market is about KRW 130 billion. Starting with Netflix's Kingdom and Persona in 2019, a total of nine over-the-top (OTT) platforms have produced original Korean films and series. A total of 34 films and 156 series have been produced and released. Notably, as of 2024, Squid Game holds records for the longest viewing time with 2.2 billion hours and the most plays with 265.2 million among Netflix content.

Distribution of Korean Wave Fan Club Members

