

Population Growth and Distribution

Population is a fundamental unit of measure in the formation of a nation, and represents a nation's political, social, economic, and cultural characteristics concisely. The Population Census indicates that Korea's population increased rapidly from approximately 20.2 million in 1949 to 48.6 million in 2010. The population density in 2010 reached 486 persons/km², one of the highest in the world. When examined by administrative districts, about 73% of the total population

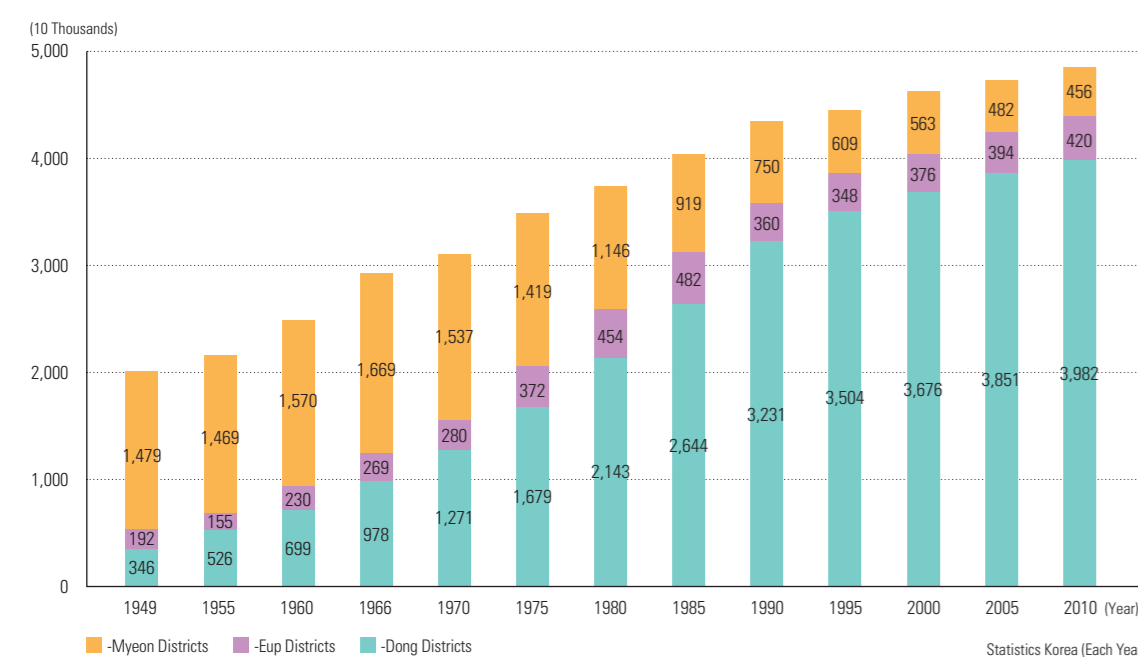
(14.8 million) lived in -myeon districts in 1949. In 2010, the ratio dropped to 9% (4.6 million). Simultaneously, the population living in -dong districts increased from 18% (3.5 million) in 1949 to 82% (39.8 million) in 2010, reflecting a rapid urbanization process over the past decades.

Geographically, population is concentrated in the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area. In 1949, the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area had 21% (4.2 million) of the total population. By 2010, this

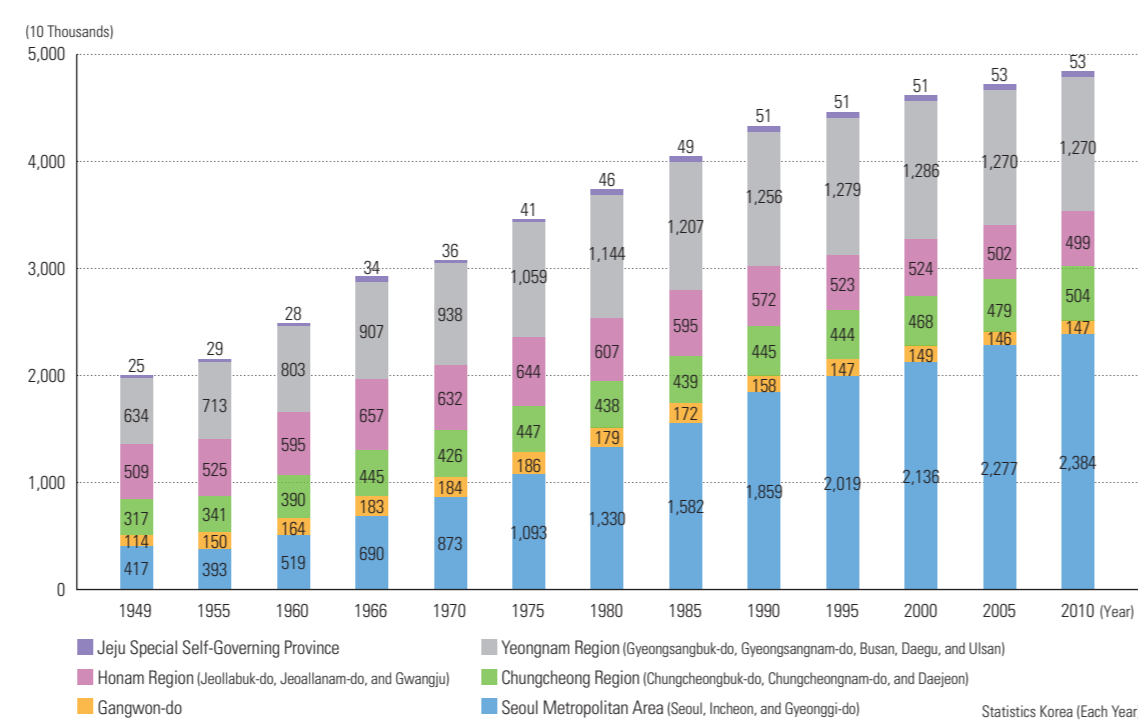
increased to 49% (23.8 million). The population percentages in all other regions declined during this period. Particularly, the Honam region, with a shrinking population, experienced the highest drop. Between 1949 and 2010, the population of Korea grew by about 28.4 million. The Greater Seoul Metropolitan area gained approximately 19.7 million, followed by 6.4 million in the Yeongnam area. These two areas account for about 92% of the total population increase during this

period. This indicates that the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area and the Yeongnam area led Korea's economic growth, and that resources such as capital, technology, and labor have been concentrated in these two regions during the period of Korea's economic development.

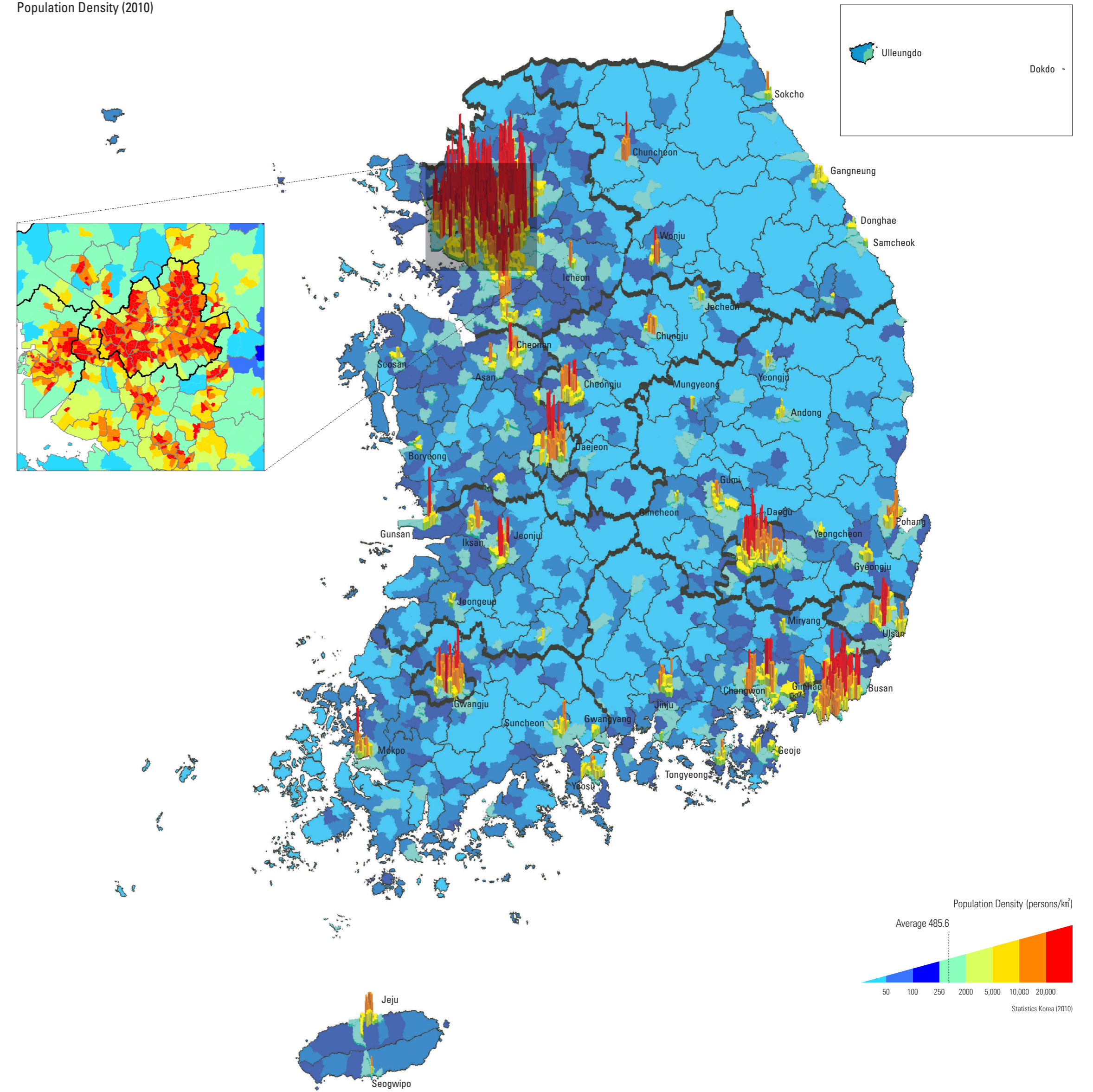
Population of -Dong/-Eup/-Myeon Districts



Population of Regions



Population in Korea
Population Density (2010)



Resident Registration Population, Estimated Population, and Census Population of Korea

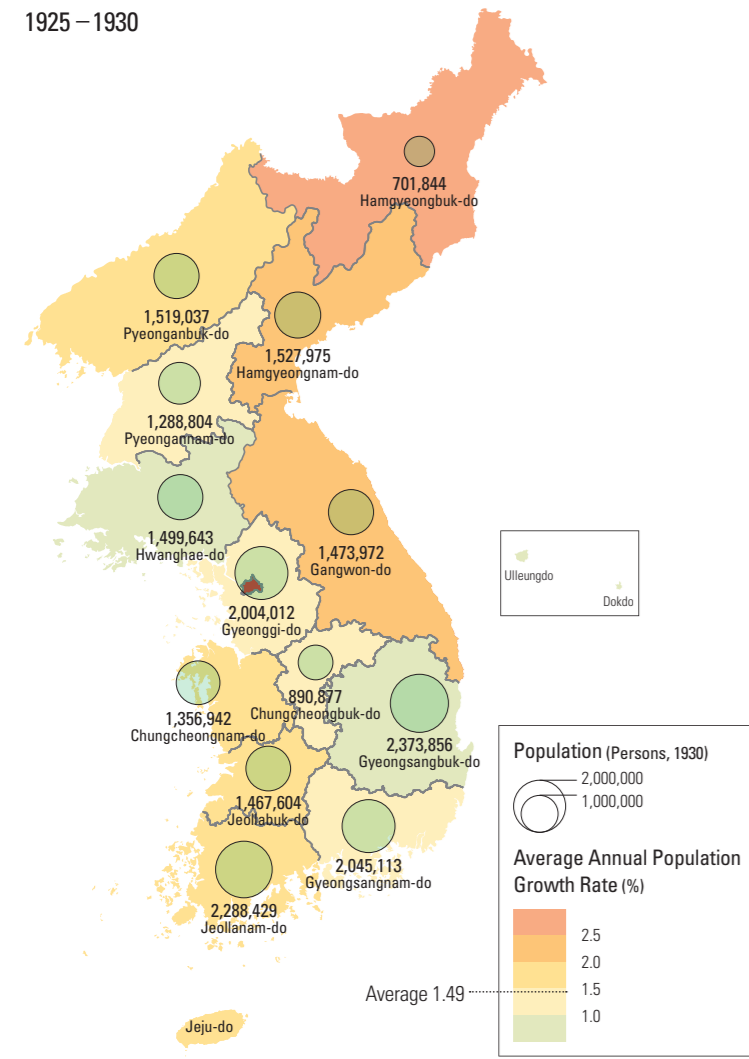
Year	Resident Registration Population*	Estimated Population**	Census Population			(Resident Registration Population - Census Population)
			Koreans	Foreigners	Total	
1970	-	32,240,827	30,851,984	30,402	30,882,386	-
1975	-	35,280,725	34,678,972	27,648	34,706,620	-
1980	-	38,123,775	37,406,815	29,500	37,436,315	-
1985	-	40,805,744	40,419,652	28,834	40,448,486	-
1990	-	42,869,283	43,390,374	20,525	43,410,899	-
1995	45,858,029	45,092,991	44,553,710	55,016	44,608,726	1,304,319
2000	47,732,558	47,008,111	45,985,289	150,812	46,136,101	1,747,269
2005	48,782,274	48,138,077	47,041,434	237,517	47,278,951	1,740,840
2010	50,515,666	49,410,366	47,990,761	589,532	48,580,293	2,524,905
2014	51,327,916	50,423,955	-	-	-	-

* Resident Registration Population - by Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs, Not Including Foreigners.
** Estimated Population - by Statistics Korea

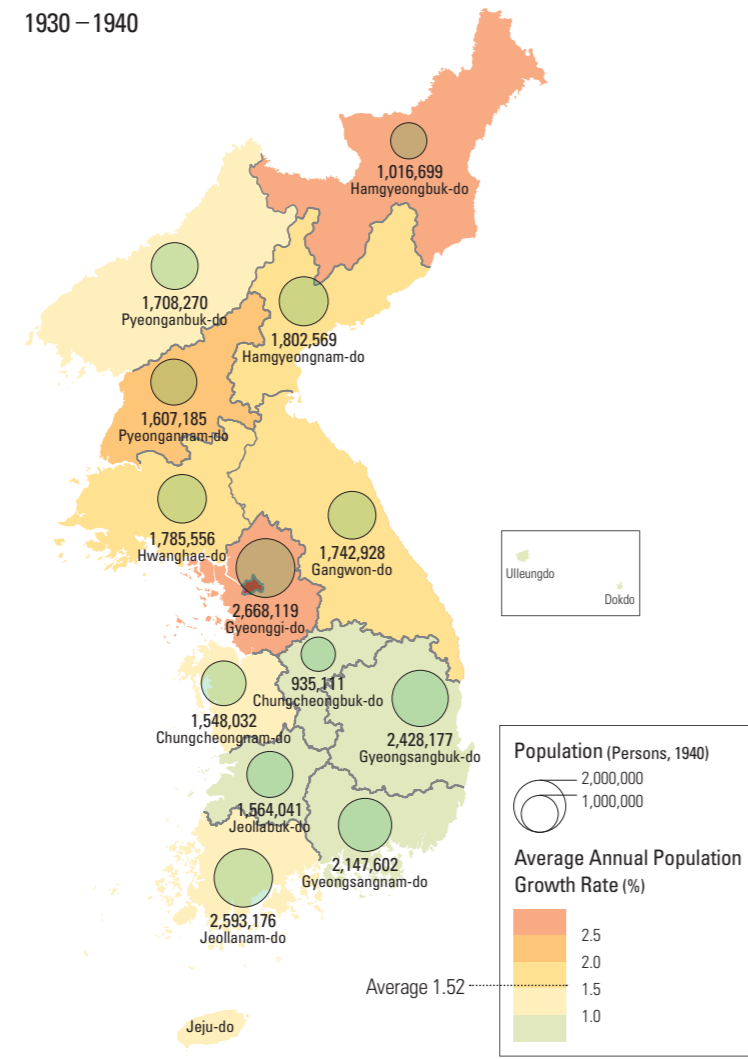
Population Growth

Population of -Si/-Do Districts

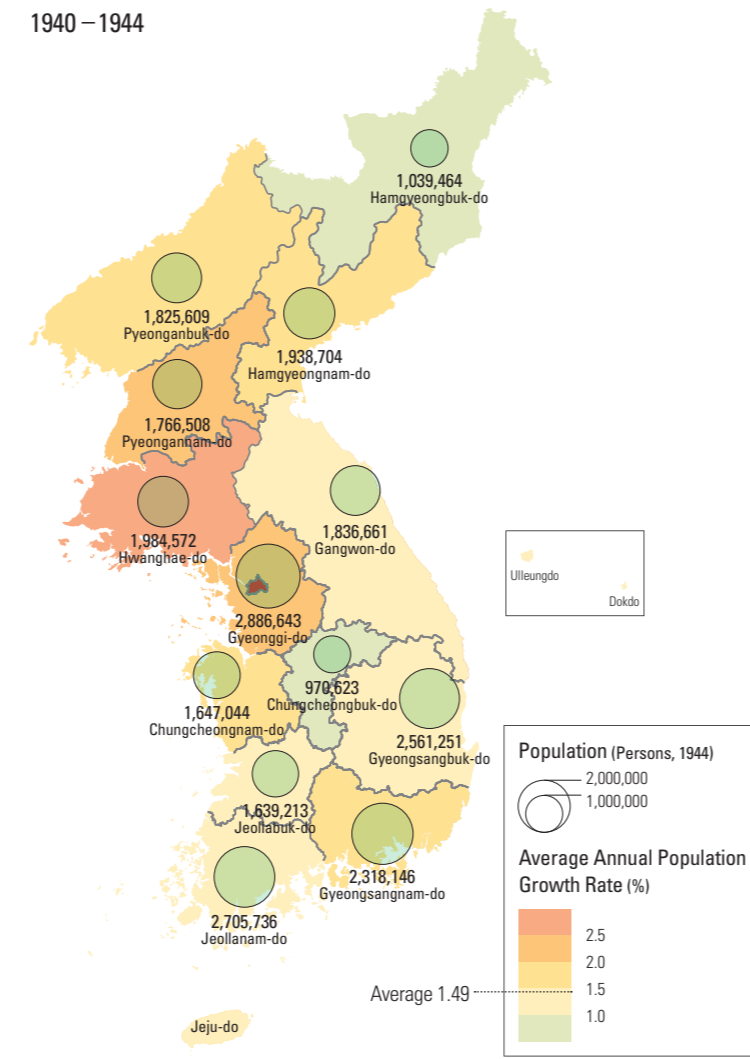
1925 - 1930



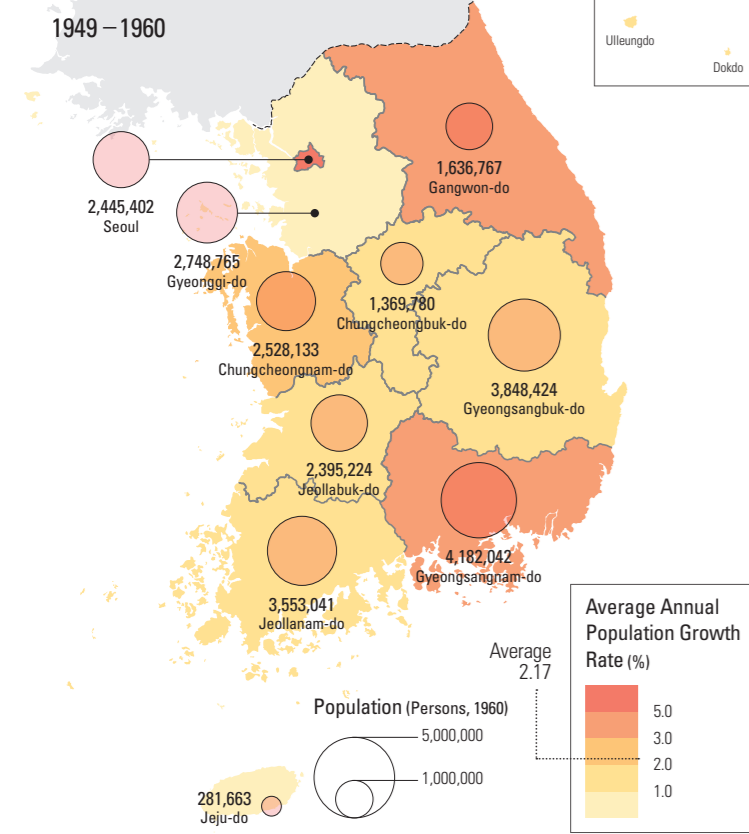
1930 - 1940



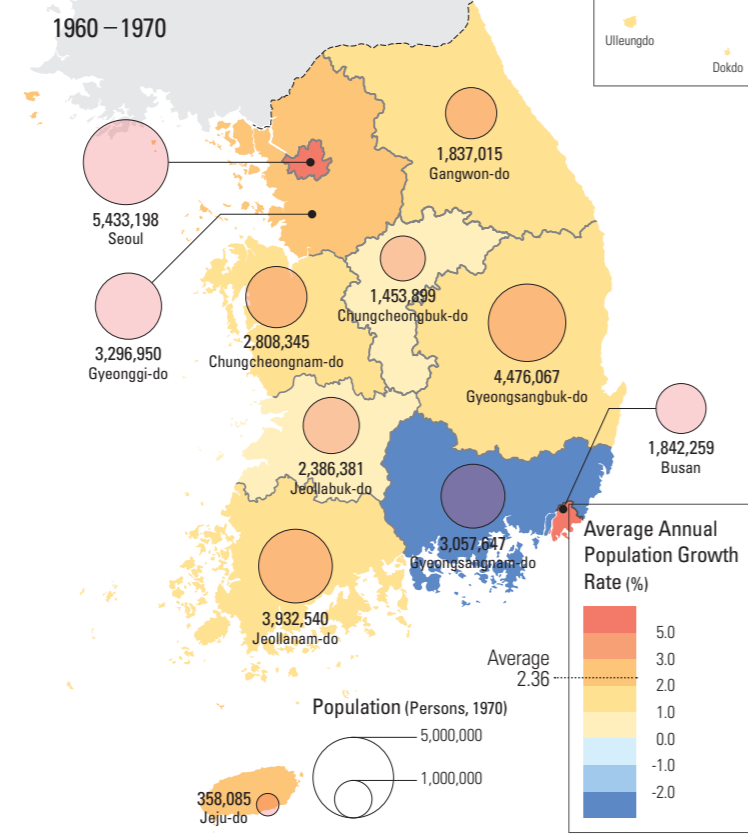
1940 - 1944



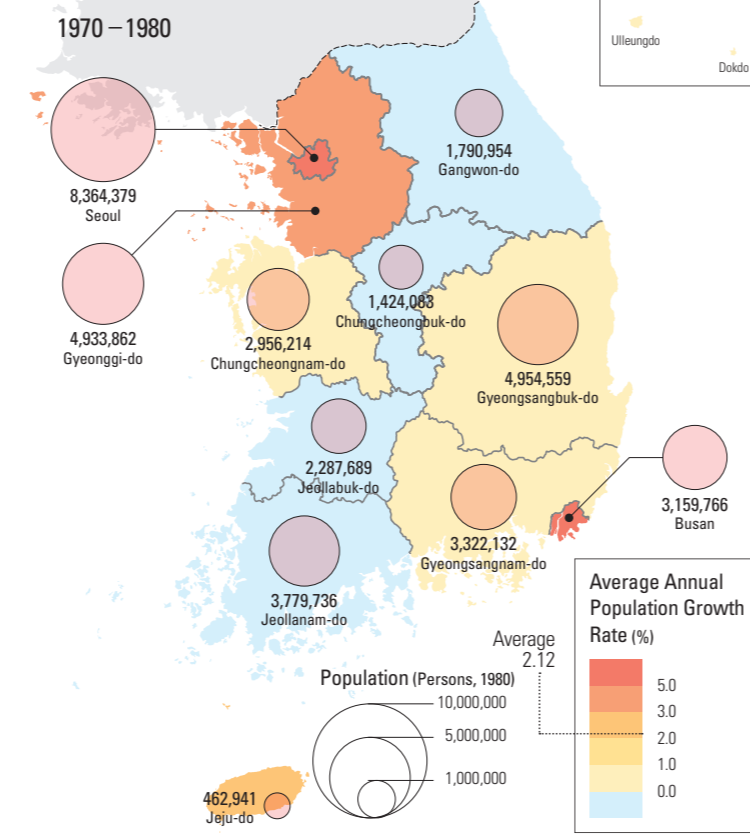
1949 - 1960



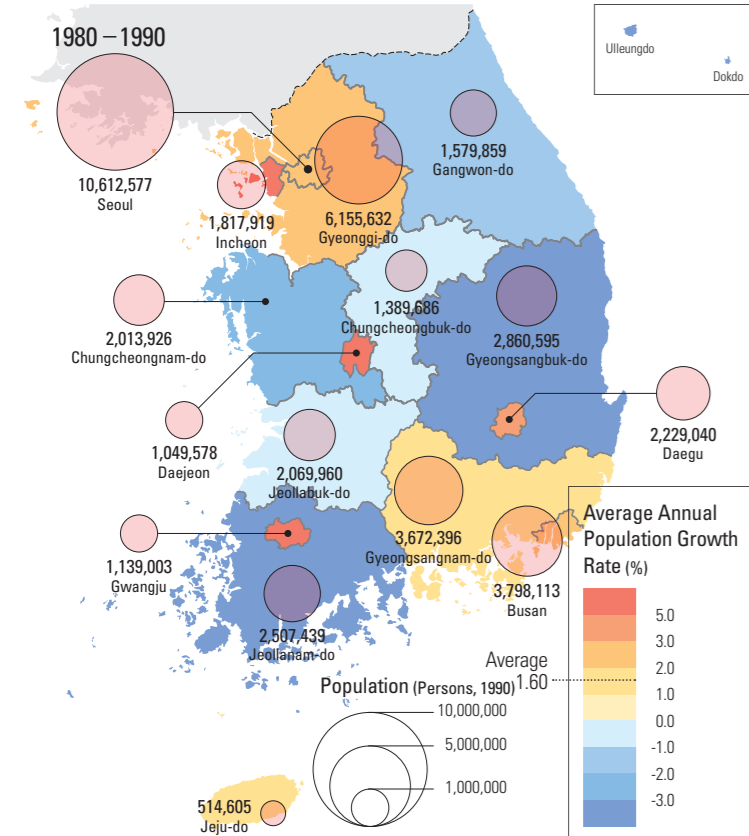
1960 - 1970



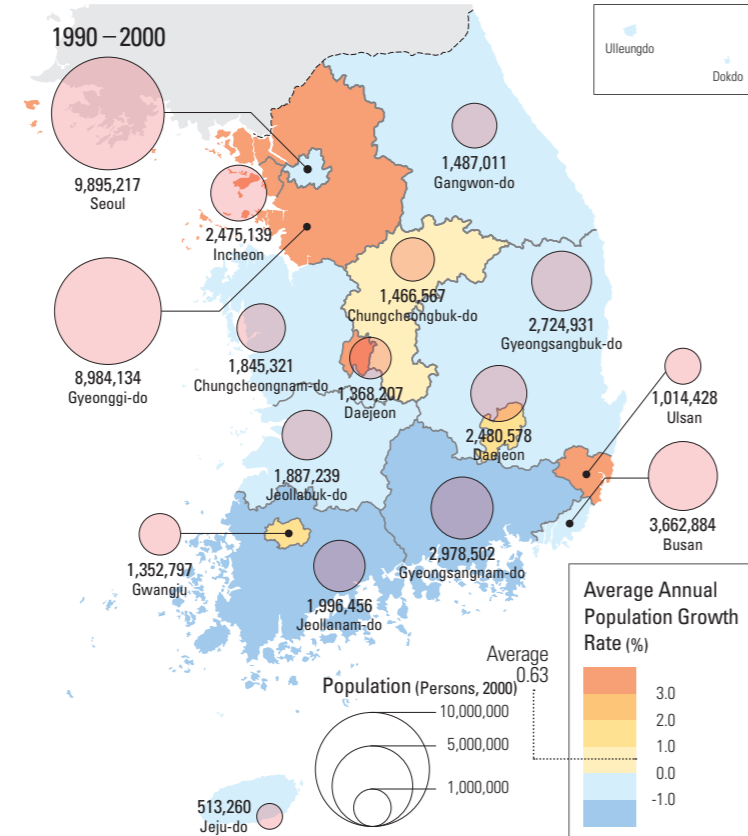
1970 - 1980



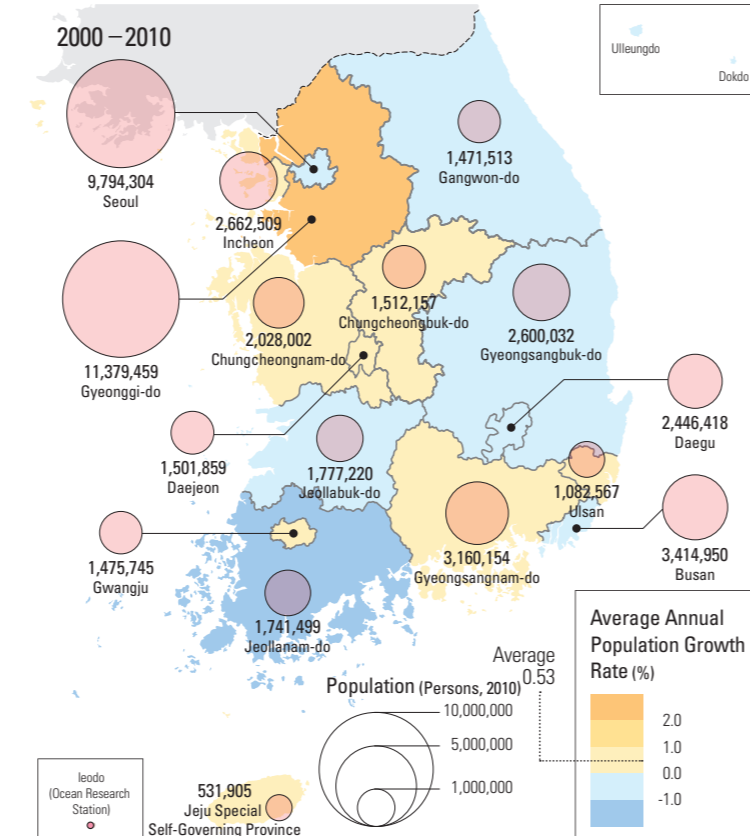
1980 - 1990



1990 - 2000



2000 - 2010



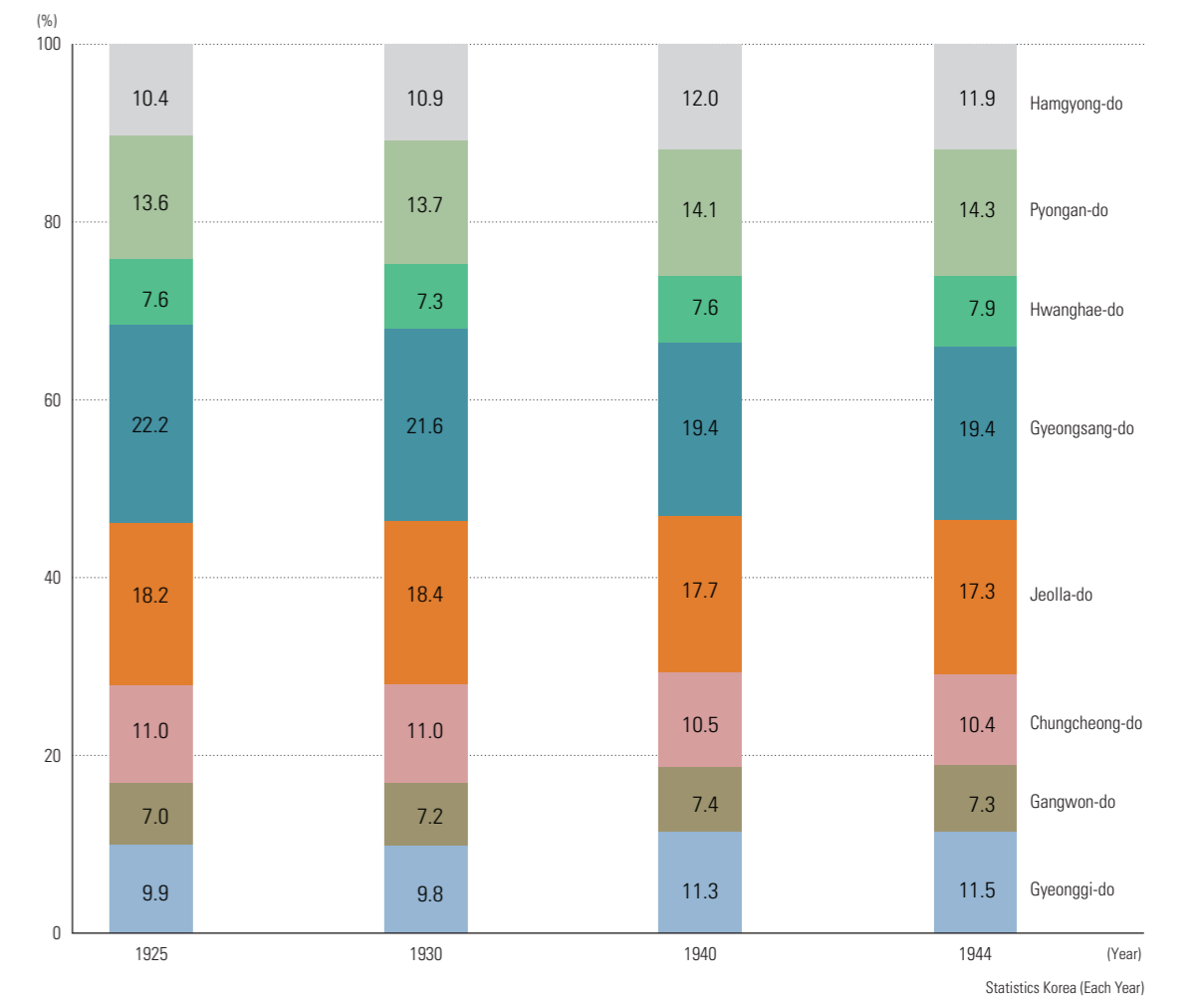
The first modern population census was conducted on October 1, 1925 during the Japanese colonial era. Thereafter, Japanese authorities conducted a census every five years for a total of five censuses through 1944. Between 1925 and 1944, Korea's population increased by six million, from approximately 19 million to 25 million. All regions gained population during the period. The Hamgyeong-do and Pyeongan-do regions gained

one million each, which accounted for 33% of the total population increase. This is related to the Japanese strategy of establishing various industrial facilities in Korea's northern provinces to serve as advanced logistics bases to invade China. The population increase rates of the central and northern provinces were also higher than the national average.

Regional Population before 1945

Regions	1925	1930	1940	1944	Population Growth (1925 - 1944)	
					Population Growth	Growth Rate
Nation	19,020,030	20,438,108	23,547,465	25,120,174	6,100,144	32.1
Gyeonggi-do	1,889,899	2,004,012	2,668,119	2,886,643	996,744	52.7
Gangwon-do	1,322,331	1,473,972	1,742,928	1,836,661	514,330	38.9
Chungcheong-do	2,098,446	2,247,819	2,483,143	2,617,667	519,221	24.7
Jeolla-do	3,463,969	3,756,033	4,157,217	4,344,949	880,980	25.4
Gyeongsang-do	4,231,286	4,418,969	4,575,779	4,879,397	648,111	15.3
Hwanghae-do	1,442,943	1,499,643	1,785,556	1,994,572	541,629	37.5
Pyeongan-do	2,582,646	2,807,841	3,215,455	3,582,117	999,471	38.6
Hamgyeong-do	1,978,510	2,229,819	2,619,268	2,978,168	999,658	50.5

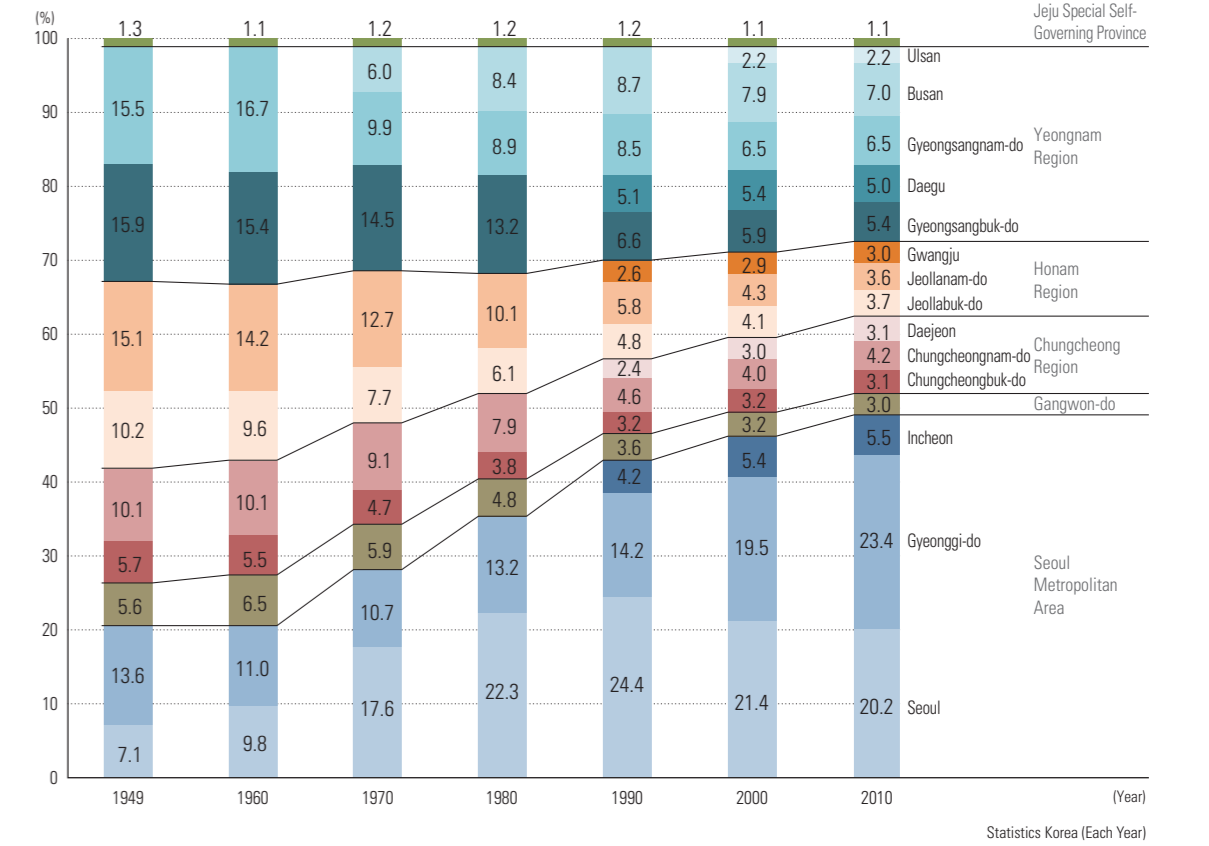
Regional Population Changes before 1945



Since independence from Japanese occupation in 1945, a national population census has been conducted approximately every five years, starting in 1949 (1949, 1955, 1966, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015). Yeongnam had the largest population in 1960, followed by Honam and the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area. In the 1970 census, the ranking changed to Yeongnam, the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area, and then Honam. The Greater Seoul Metropolitan area became the most populous area in 1980, and its population exceeded 40% of the national population in 1990. Seoul's population began to decline in 1990. However, the population of Gyeonggi-do located inside the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area approached Seoul's population in the 2000 census. Since 1985, Gyeonggi-do has had the highest population gains. In

2010, the population of the Chungcheong province surpassed that of the Honam province. Since 1949, the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area, Yeongnam, and the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province have consistently gained population with the exception of the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area's slight population loss in 1955 compared to 1949 due to the Korean War. Gangwon-do's population peaked in 1975, and Honam's population peaked in 1966. Chungcheong's population peaked in 1966, gradually decreased until 1995, and began to increase after 1995. When the annual average population growth rates are examined every ten years, a peak appears during the 1960-1970 period with 2.36% growth and the 10-year rates gradually decrease to 0.53% during the 2000-2010 period.

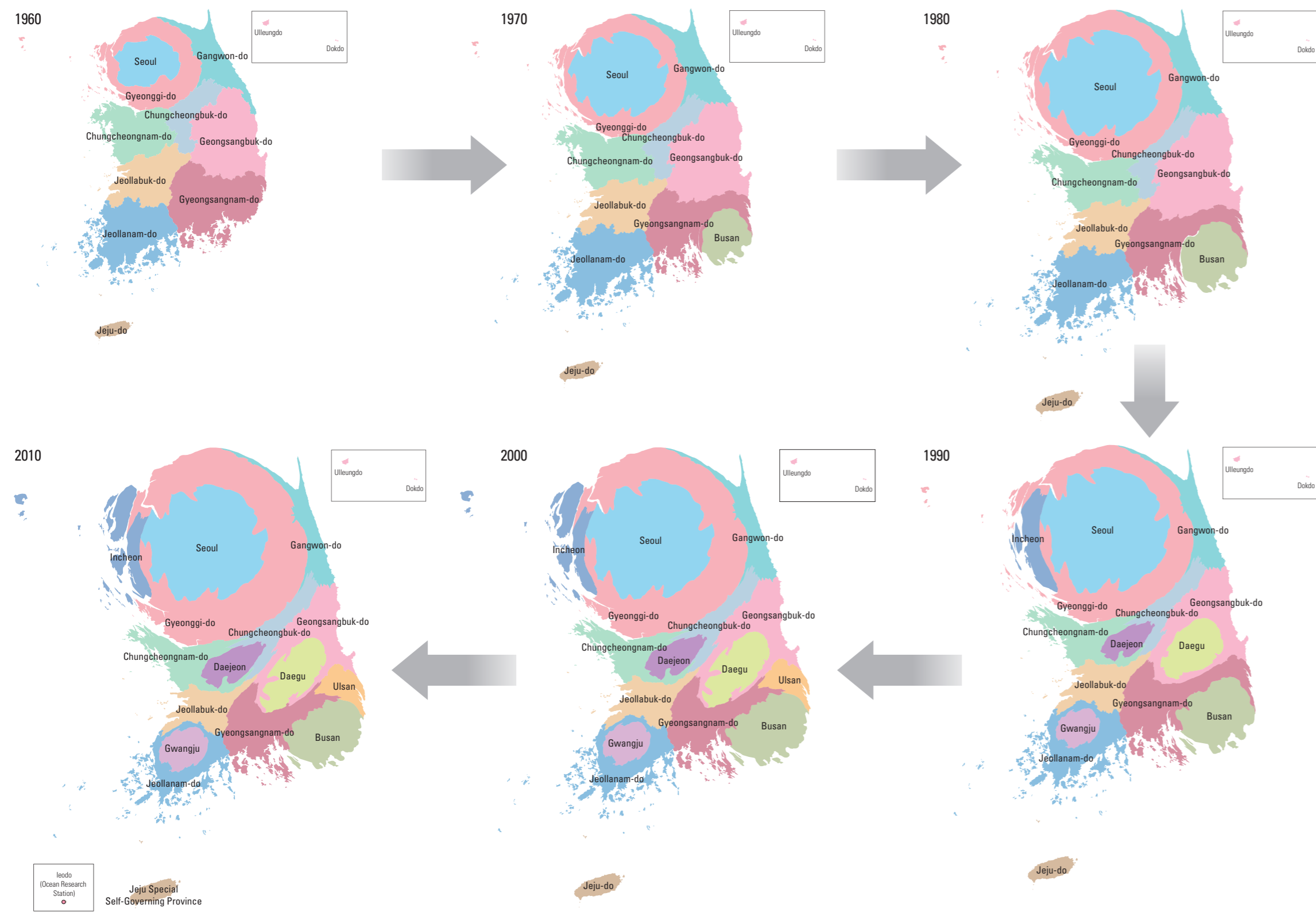
Regional Population Changes after 1949



Regional Population after 1949

Regions	1949		1960		1970		1980		1990		2000		2010		50 Years (1960 - 2010) Population Growth	30 Years (1980 - 2010) Population Growth	10 Years (2000 - 2010) Population Growth
	Population	Ratio (%)	Population	Ratio (%)	Population	Ratio (%)	Population	Ratio (%)	Population	Ratio (%)	Population	Ratio (%)	Population	Ratio (%)			
National Total	20,166,756	100.0	24,989,241	100.0	30,882,386	100.0	37,436,315	100.0	43,410,899	100.0	46,136,101	100.0	48,580,293	100.0	23,591,052	11,143,978	2,444,192
Seoul Metropolitan Area	4,171,614	20.7	5,194,167	20.8	8,730,148	28.3	13,298,241	35.5	18,586,128	42.8	21,354,490	46.3	23,836,272	49.1	18,642,105	10,538,031	2,481,782
Seoul	1,437,670	7.1	2,445,402	9.8	5,433,198	17.6	8,364,379	22.3	10,612,577	24.4	9,794,304	21.4	9,794,304	20.2	7,348,902	1,429,925	-100,913
Gyeonggi-do	2,733,944	13.6	2,748,765	11.0	3,296,950	10.7	4,933,862	13.2	6,155,632	14.2	8,984,134	19.5	11,378,459	23.4	8,630,694	6,445,597	2,395,325
Incheon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,817,919	4.2	2,475,139	5.4	2,662,509	5.5	-	-	187,370
Gangwon-do	1,138,435	5.6	1,636,767	6.5	1,837,015	5.9	1,790,954	4.8	1,580,430	3.6	1,487,011	3.2	1,471,513	3.0	-165,254	-319,441	-15,498
Chungcheong region	3,172,801	15.7	3,897,913	15.6	4,262,244	13.8	4,380,297	11.7	4,453,190	10.3	4,680,095	10.1	5,042,018	10.4	1,144,105	661,721	361,923
Chungcheongbuk-do	1,145,964	5.7	1,369,780	5.5	1,453,899	4.7	1,424,083	3.8	1,389,686	3.2	1,466,567	3.2	1,512,157	3.1	142,377	88,074	45,590
Chungcheongnam-do	2,026,837	10.1	2,528,133	10.1	2,808,345	9.1	2,956,214	7.9	2,013,926	4.6	1,845,321	4.0	2,028,002	4.2	-500,131	-928,212	182,681
Daejeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,049,578	2.4	1,368,207	3.0	1,501,859	3.1	-	-	133,652
Honam region	5,090,442	25.2	5,948,285	23.8	6,318,921	20.5	6,067,425	16.2	5,716,402	13.2	5,239,922	11.4	4,994,464	10.3	-953,801	-1,072,961	-245,458
Jeollabuk-do	2,048,951	10.2	2,395,224	9.6	2,386,381	7.7	2,287,689	6.1	2,069,960	4.8	1,890,669	4.1	1,777,220	3.7	-618,004	-510,469	-113,449
Jeollanam-do	3,041,491	15.1	3,553,041	14.2	3,932,540	12.7	3,779,736	10.1	2,507,439	5.8	1,996,456	4.3	1,741,499	3.6	-1,811,542	-2,038,237	-254,957
Gwangju	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,139,003	2.6	1,352,797	2.9	1,475,745	3.0	-	-	122,948
Yeongnam region	6,338,937	31.4	8,030,466	32.1	9,375,973	30.4	11,436,457	30.5	12,560,144	28.9	12,861,323	27.9	12,704,121	26.2	4,673,655	1,267,664	-113,449
Gyeongsangbuk-do	3,205,240	15.9	3,848,424	15.4	4,476,067	14.5	4,954,559	13.2	2,860,595	6.6	2,724,931	5.9	2,600,332	5.4	-1,248,392	-2,354,527	-124,899
Daegu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,228,040	5.1	2,480,578	5.4	2,446,418	5.0	-	-	-34,160
Gyeongsangnam-do	3,133,697	15.5	4,182,042	16.7	3,057,647	9.9	3,322,132	8.9	3,672,396	8.5	2,978,502	6.5	3,160,154	6.5	-1,021,888	-161,978	181,652
Busan	-	-	-	-	1,842,259	6.0	3,159,766	8.4	3,798,113	8.7	3,662,884	7.9	3,414,950	7.0	-	255,184	-247,934
Ulsan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,014,428	2.2	1,082,567	2.2	-	68,139
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province	254,527	1.3	281,663	1.1	358,085	1.2	462,941	1.2	514,605	1.2	513,260	1.1	531,905	1.1	250,242	68,964	18,645

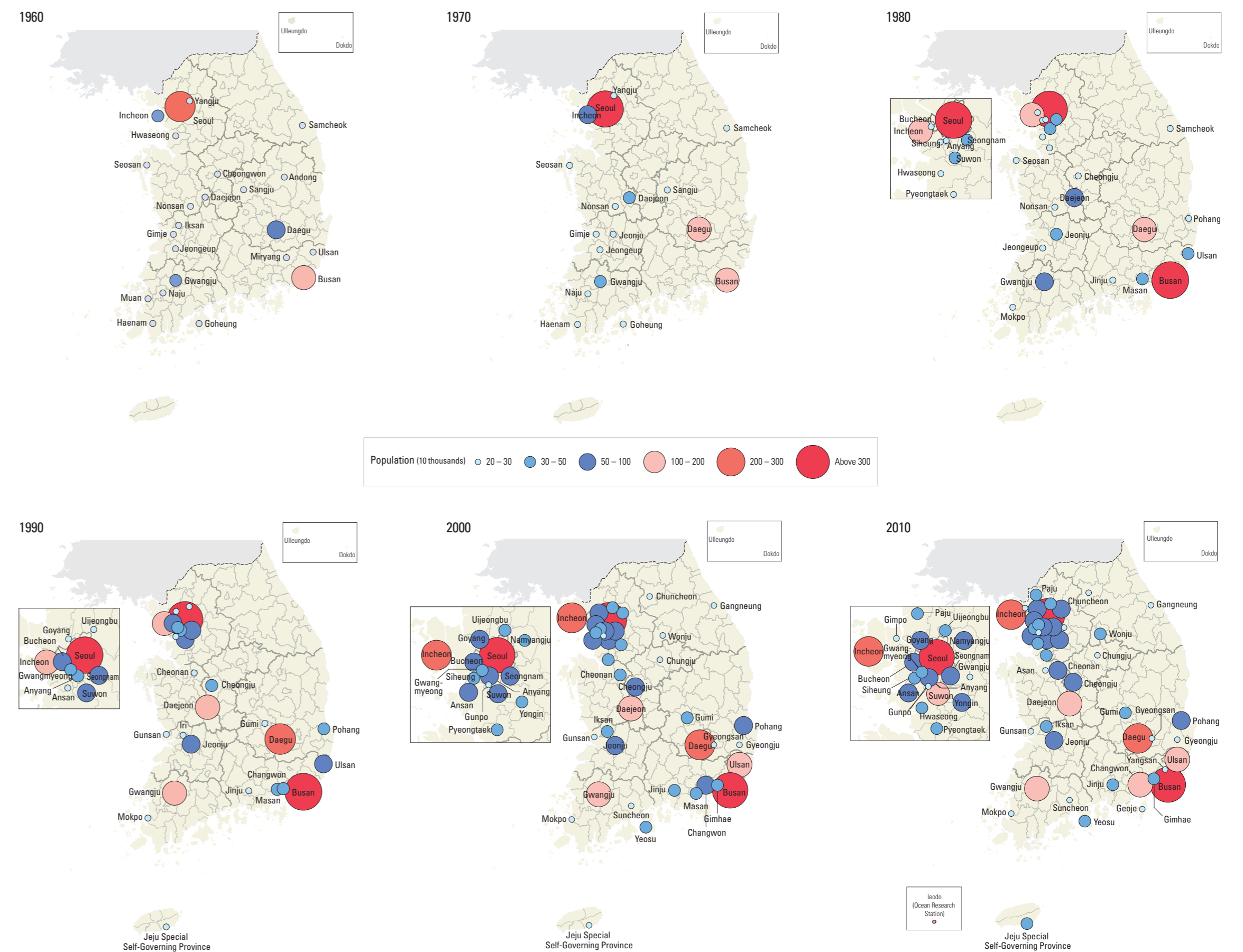
Population Growth



	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Population	24,989,241	30,882,386	37,436,315	43,410,899	46,136,101	48,580,293
Relative size to 1960 (%)	100	111.2	122.4	131.8	135.9	139.4

* Area of districts are relatively calculated in proportion to 1960's population. Right table shows relative map size of each year.

Cities with a Population Over 200,000



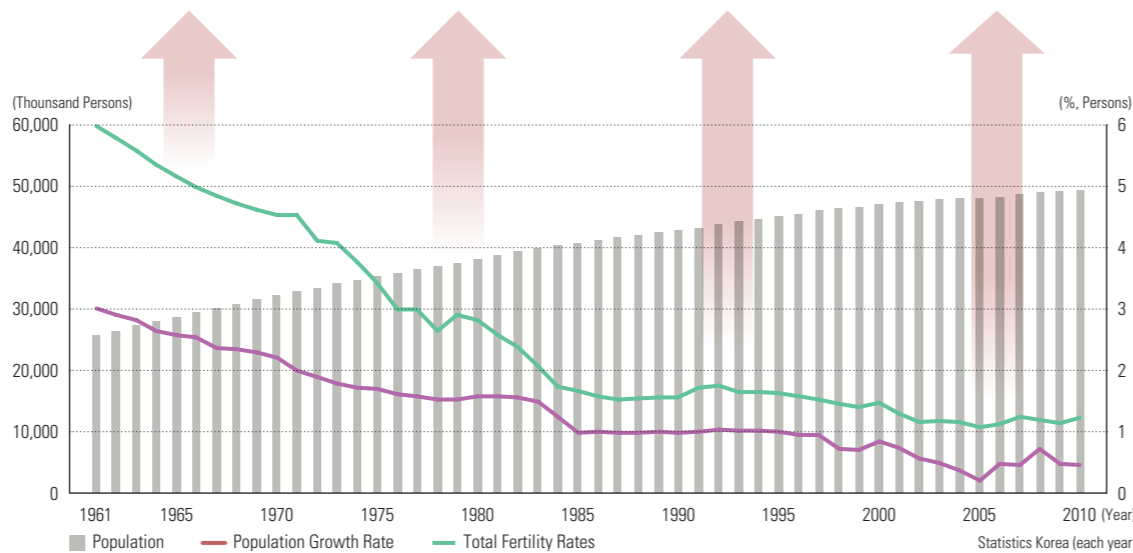
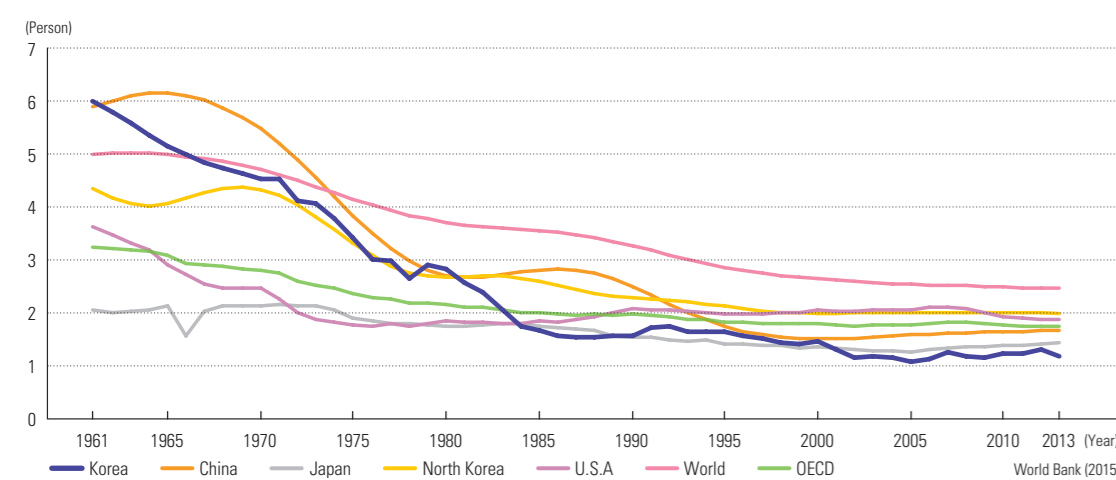
Cartograms effectively present the trends in Korea's population by showing total population as geographically proportional sizes. The population proportion of the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area was 21% of the national total in 1960, but reached 49% in 2010. Other metropolitan cities accounts for another 20% of the total national population; these include Busan, Daegu, Gwangju, Daejeon, and Ulsan.

Korea's population increased rapidly in the past, with the total fertility rate above 3 persons until the 1970s. Then the Korean government implemented aggressive birth control policies. These policies lasted until the 1990s, making the population growth rate drop below 1% after the mid-1980s. The total fertility rate has fallen below 1.5 children since the late 1990s, and since the 2000s the Korean government policy has been reversed to actively encourage people to have children.

Changes in Fertility Rates and Birth Control Policy Posters



Total Fertility Rates



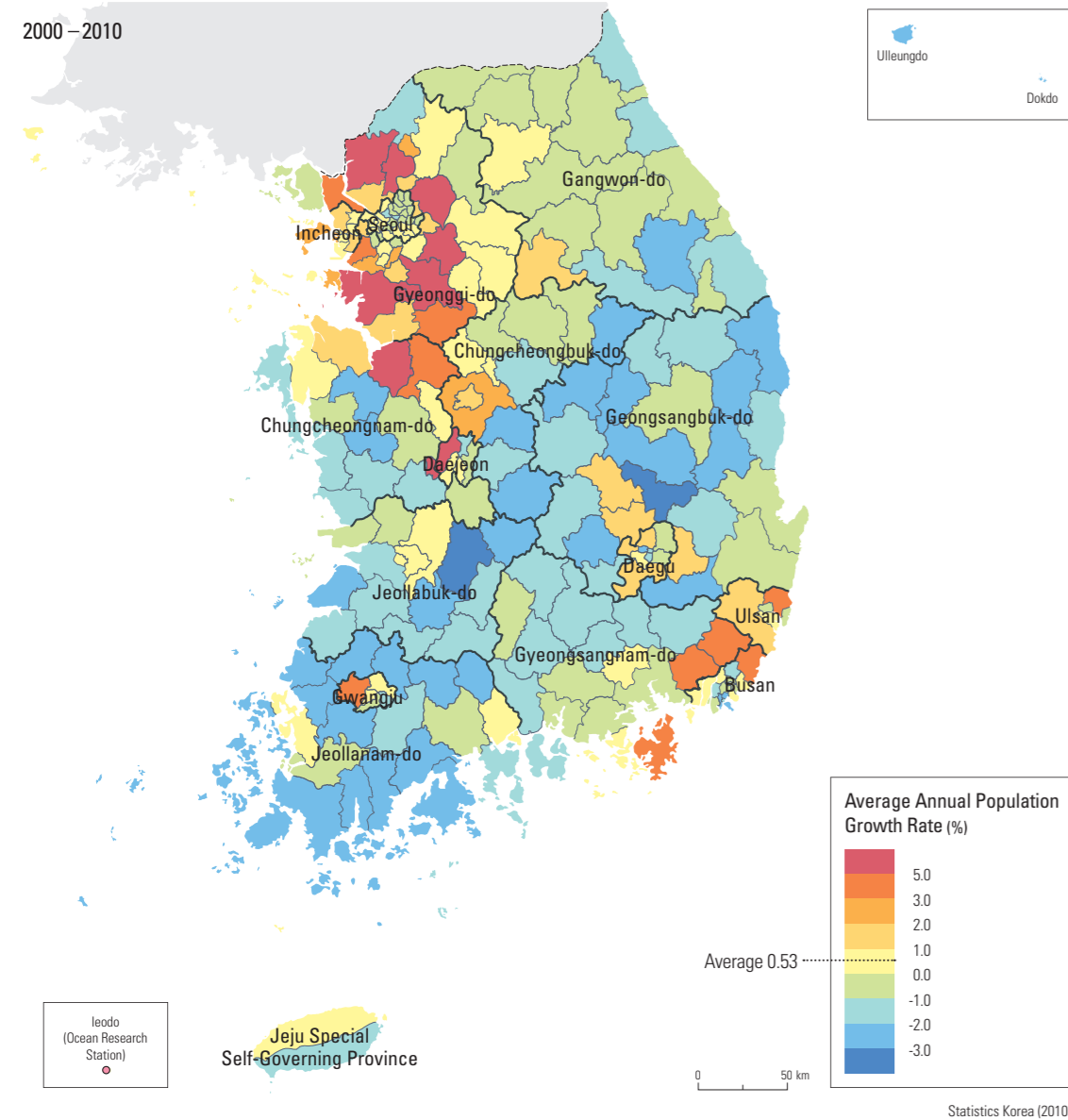
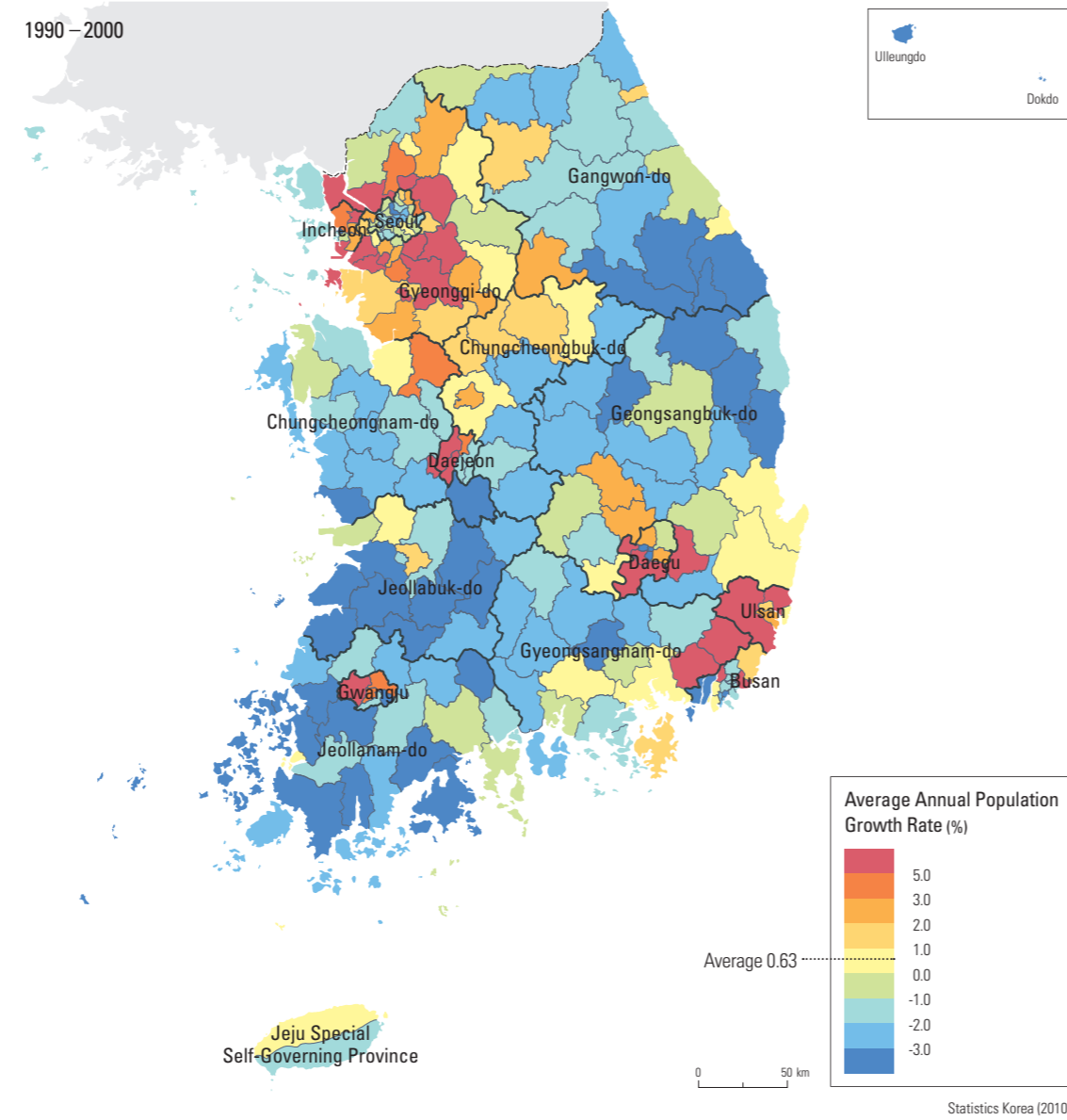
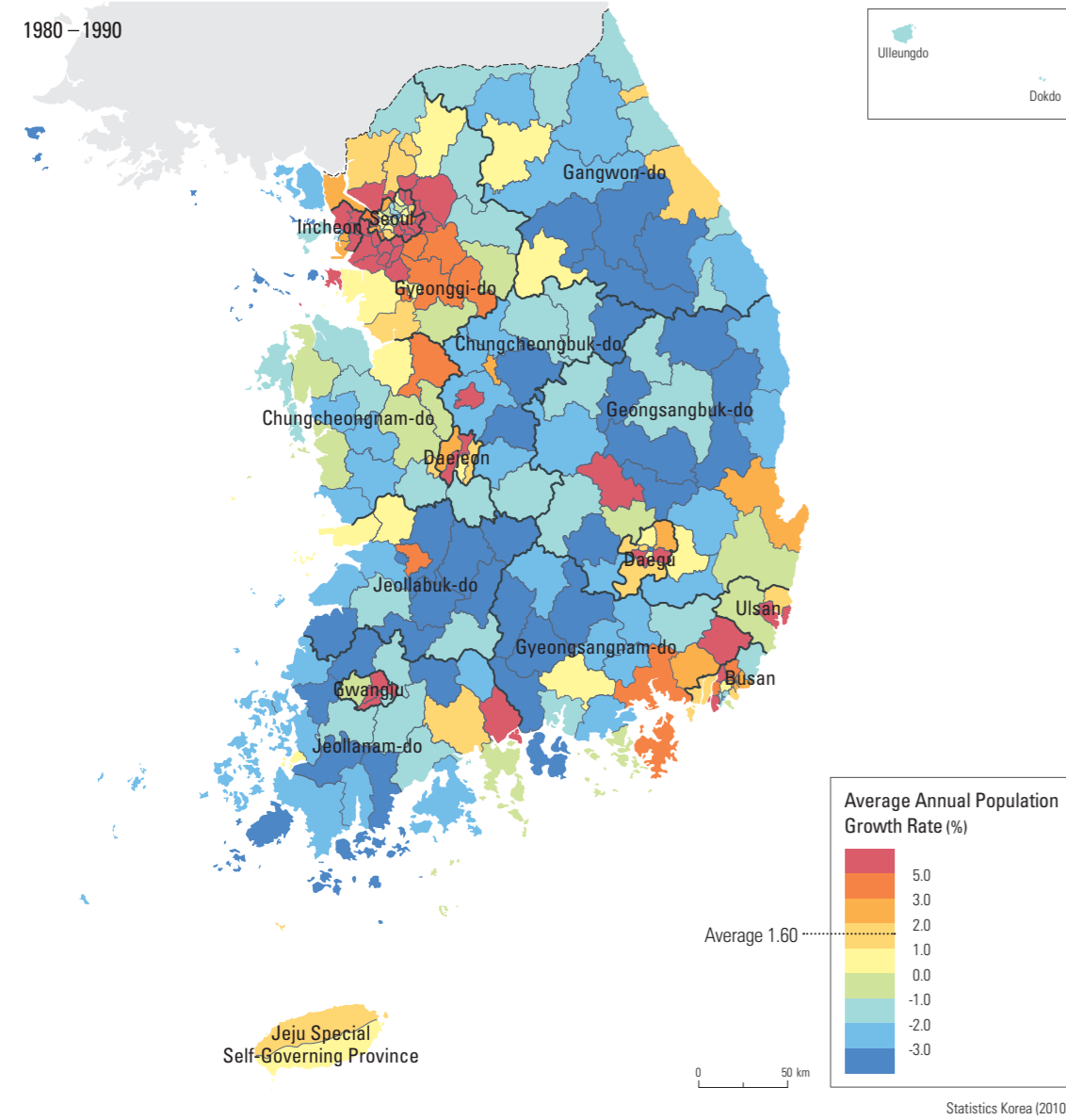
Population Rank of -Si/-Gun Districts

Rank	1960		1970		1980		1990		2000		2010	
	-Si/-Gun	Population	-Si/-Gun	Population	-Si/-Gun	Population	-Si/-Gun	Population	-Si/-Gun	Population	-Si/-Gun	Population
1	Seoul	2,445,402	Seoul	5,433,198	Seoul	8,364,379	Seoul	10,612,577	Seoul	9,895,217	Seoul	9,794,304
2	Busan-si	1,163,671	Busan-si	1,842,259	Busan-si	3,159,766	Busan-si	3,798,113	Busan-si	3,662,884	Busan-si	3,414,950
3	Daegu-si	676,892	Daegu-si	1,063,553	Daegu-si	1,604,934	Daegu-si	2,229,040	Daegu-si	2,480,578	Incheon-si	2,662,509
4	Incheon-si	401,473	Incheon-si	634,046	Incheon-si	1,083,906	Incheon-si	1,817,919	Incheon-si	2,475,139	Daegu-si	2,446,418
5	Gwangju-si	314,420	Gwangju-si	493,634	Gwangju-si	727,600	Gwangju-si	1,139,003	Daejeon-si	1,368,207	Daejeon-si	1,501,859
6	Muan-gun	293,388	Daejeon-si	406,810	Daejeon-si	651,792	Daejeon-si	1,049,578	Gwangju-si	1,352,797	Gwangju-si	1,475,745
7	Yangju-gun	253,719	Samcheok-gun	272,879	Ulsan-si	418,326	Ulsan-si	682,411	Ulsan-si	1,014,428	Ulsan-si	1,082,567
8	Jeongup-gun	252,190	Seosan-gun	259,339	Masan-si	386,751	Busan-si	667,993	Suwon-si	946,704	Suwon-si	1,071,913
9	Seosan-gun	243,965	Jeonju-si	257,530	Seongnam-si	376,840	Suwon-si	644,805	Seongnam-si	914,590	Changwon-si	1,058,021
10	Sangju-gun	239,680	Jeongup-gun	253,671	Jeonju-si	367,161	Seongnam-si	540,754	Goyang-si	763,971	Seongnam-si	949,964
11	Gimje-gun	234,187	Yangju-gun	244,722	Suwon-si	310,476	Jeonju-si	517,059	Bucheon-si	761,389	Goyang-si	905,076
12	Andong-gun	232,446	Nonsan-gun	238,488	Siheung-gun	288,913	Masan-si	493,731	Jeonju-si	616,468	Yongin-si	856,765
13	Nonsan-gun	231,243	Sangju-gun	230,120	Anyang-si	253,560	Anyang-si	481,291	Cheongju-si	586,700	Bucheon-si	853,039
14	Daejeon-si	228,987	Gimje-gun	228,749	Cheongju-si	253,192	Cheongju-si	477,783	Anyang-si	560,544	Ansan-si	728,775
15	Cheongwon-gun	224,352	Goheung-gun	225,065	Samcheok-gun	251,452	Gwangmyeong-si	540,754	Goyang-si	562,920	Cheongju-si	666,924
16	Naju-gun	222,808	Naju-gun	222,452	Seosan-gun	249,281	Changwon-si	323,223	Changwon-si	517,410	Jeonju-si	649,728
17	Iksan-gun	218,706	Haenam-gun	210,323	Pyeongtaek-gun	234,356	Pohang-si	317,768	Pohang-si	515,714	Anyang-si	602,122
18	Hwaseong-gun	216,024	Cheongwon-gun	199,860	Mokpo-si	221,814	Jirju-si	255,895	Masan-si	434,371	Cheonan-si	574,623
19	Samcheok-gun	209,456	Pyeongtaek-gun	199,700	Bucheon-si	199,700	Ansan-si	252,418	Cheonan-si	417,835	Namyangju-si	529,898
20	Goheung-gun	209,199	Yeongil-gun	195,256	Jeongup-gun	220,950	Goyang-gun	244,975	Yongin-si	386,124	Pohang-si	511,390

In the 1960s and 1970s, many -gun districts across the country had populations larger than 200,000. By 2010, 31 urban areas (or 66% of the total) among the 47 urban areas with populations exceeding 200,000 were concentrated in either the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area (19) or the Yeongnam area (12). The other 16 urban areas were in Chungcheong (5), Honam (7), Gangwon-do (3), and the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (1).

The concentration of population in two regions—the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area and Yeongnam—is once again confirmed when the top-20 populated areas are examined over time. In 1960, 14 -gun districts were in the top 20 most populated areas; the other most populated areas included Seoul, Busan, Daegu, Incheon, Gwangju, and Daejeon. Even in 1970, a significant number of top-20 populated areas were -gun districts, but currently all have been replaced by Seoul, metropolitan cities, and the cities in the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area and Yeongnam. Decades of urbanization led to large population decreases in -gun districts, and, consequently, city populations continue to increase, particularly in the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area.

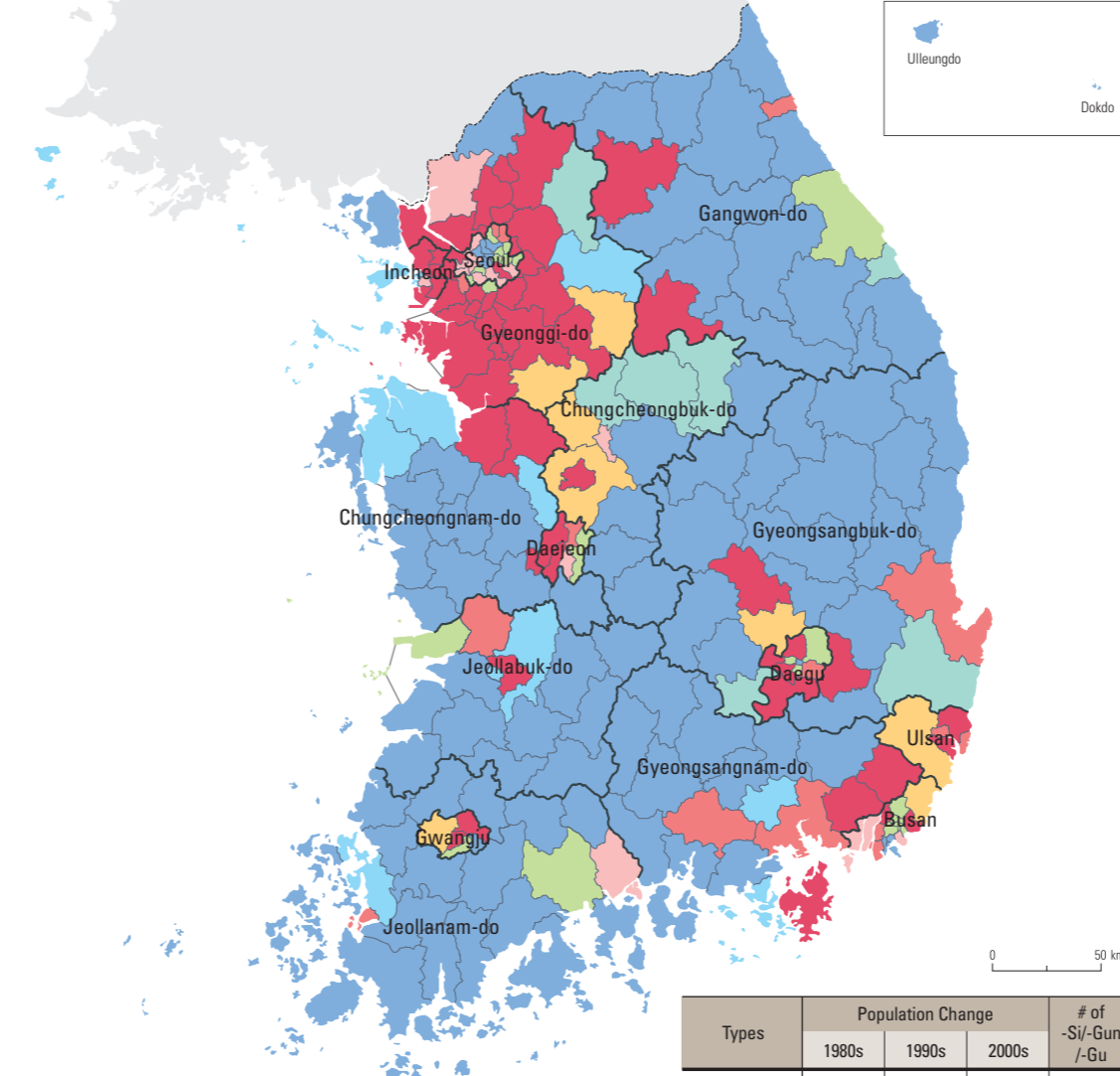
Population Growth Rates



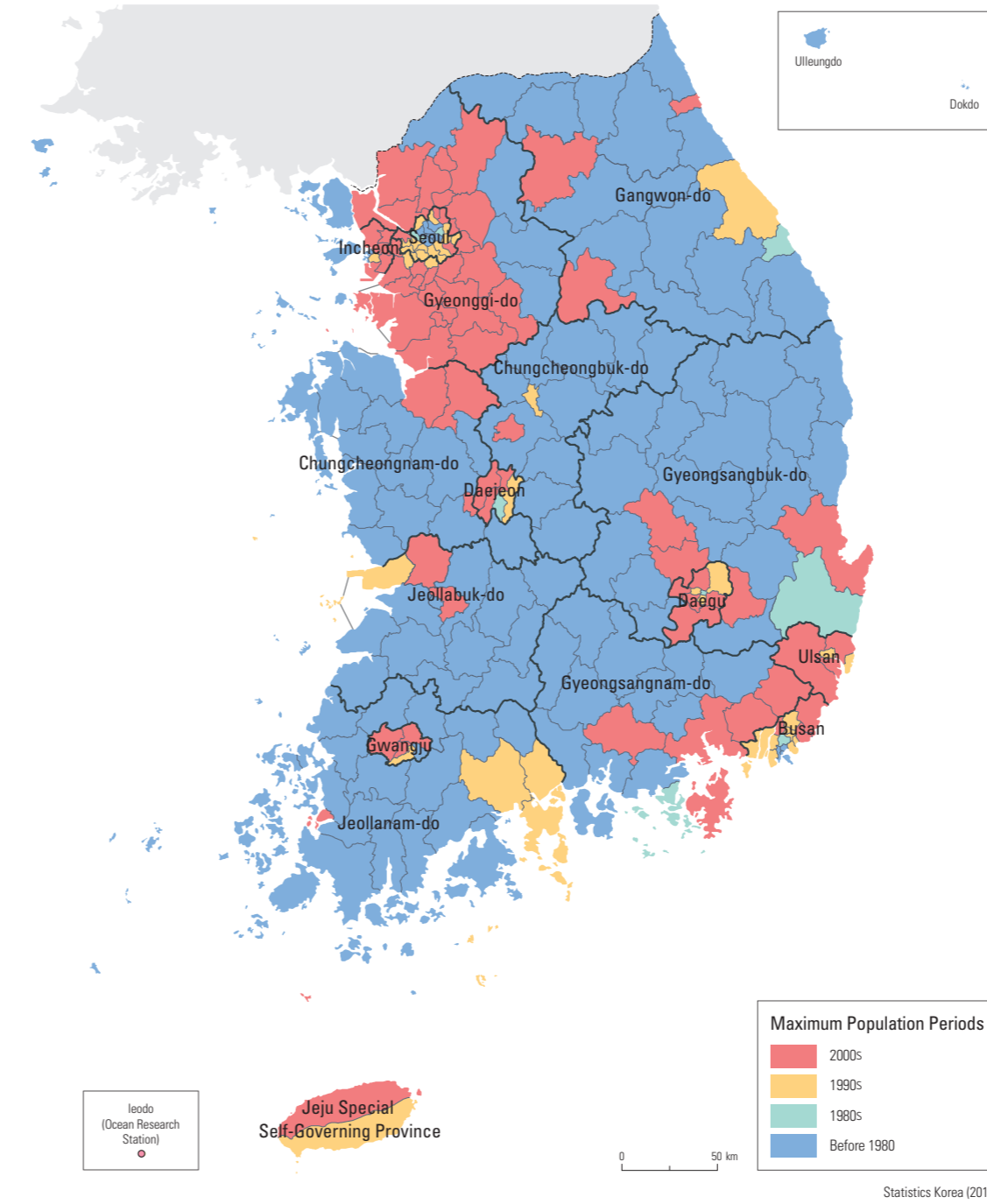
The population change between 1980 and 2010 shows that higher population growth rates occurred in the -si/-gun/-gu districts inside the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area. High population decline rates are shown mostly in the rural -gun districts in Jeollanam-do, Jeollabuk-do, and Gyeongsangbuk-do. Examining metropolitan areas in detail reveals that the Seoul and Busan

metros show population losses to suburbs, while the -si and -gu districts, particularly in the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area, show high population growth. The population decline rates in the 2000s are lower than those in the 1980s because rural -gun districts had been depopulated during the earlier periods.

Population Change by Period



Maximum Population Periods



Population Change Type by Period

	Population Change Type of -Si/-Do	# of -Si/-Gun/-Gu								Sum
		Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4	Type 5	Type 6	Type 7	Type 8	
National Total	+++	54	8	15	15	11	7	23	97	230
Seoul	+++	2		8	2			8	5	25
Busan	+++	2	1	2	2			5	4	16
Daegu	+++	3			1			3	1	8
Incheon	+++	5		1		3			1	10
Gwangju	+++	2	1					1	1	5
Daejeon	+++	2		1	1			1		5
Ulsan	+++	2	1		2					5
Gyeonggi-do	+++	23	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	31
Gangwon-do	---	2			1		1	1	13	18
Chungcheongbuk-do	---	1	2	1			3		5	12
Chungcheongnam-do	---	3				3			10	16
Jeollabuk-do	---	1			1	1		1	10	14
Jeollanam-do	---			1	1	1		1	18	22
Gyeongsangbuk-do	---	2	1		1		2		17	23
Gyeongsangnam-do	+++	3			2	2			11	18
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province	+++	1						1		2

Statistics Korea (2010)

During the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s, Gyeonggi-do had the most -si/-gun/-gu districts that gained population. Among the 25 -gu districts in Seoul, only two districts gained population during all three decades. In the 2000s, the City of Seoul continued to lose significant population to Gyeonggi-do, and population decreased in its 15 -gus in the 2000s. On the other hand, many areas in -do districts Gangwon-do, Chungcheongbuk-do, Chungcheongnam-do, Jeollabuk-do, Jeollanam-do, Gyeongsangbuk-do, and Gyeongsangnam-do lost population through all three time periods. In Jeollanam-do, the loss of population was the most serious and no district gained population in any of the three periods. In Chungcheongnam-do, six out of 16 -si/-gun districts gained population during the 2000s, reflecting the

recent growth in the area. When examining the population climax in the 2000s, only four -gus in Seoul reached their largest population sizes. A similar trend of losing population to suburban areas occurred in Busan. In Daegu and Incheon, the suburbanization process has been strong, as evidenced by the fact that half of the -gus (four in Daegu and five in Incheon) had their largest population prior to 2000. On the contrary, 25 out of Gyeonggi-do's 31 -si/-gun districts reached their largest population sizes after 2000, and Gyeonggi-do's population growth rate has been the largest among all -si/-do districts. In the other provinces (i.e., -dos), the population of many -si/-gun districts peaked before the 1970s. Since then, they have steadily lost population.

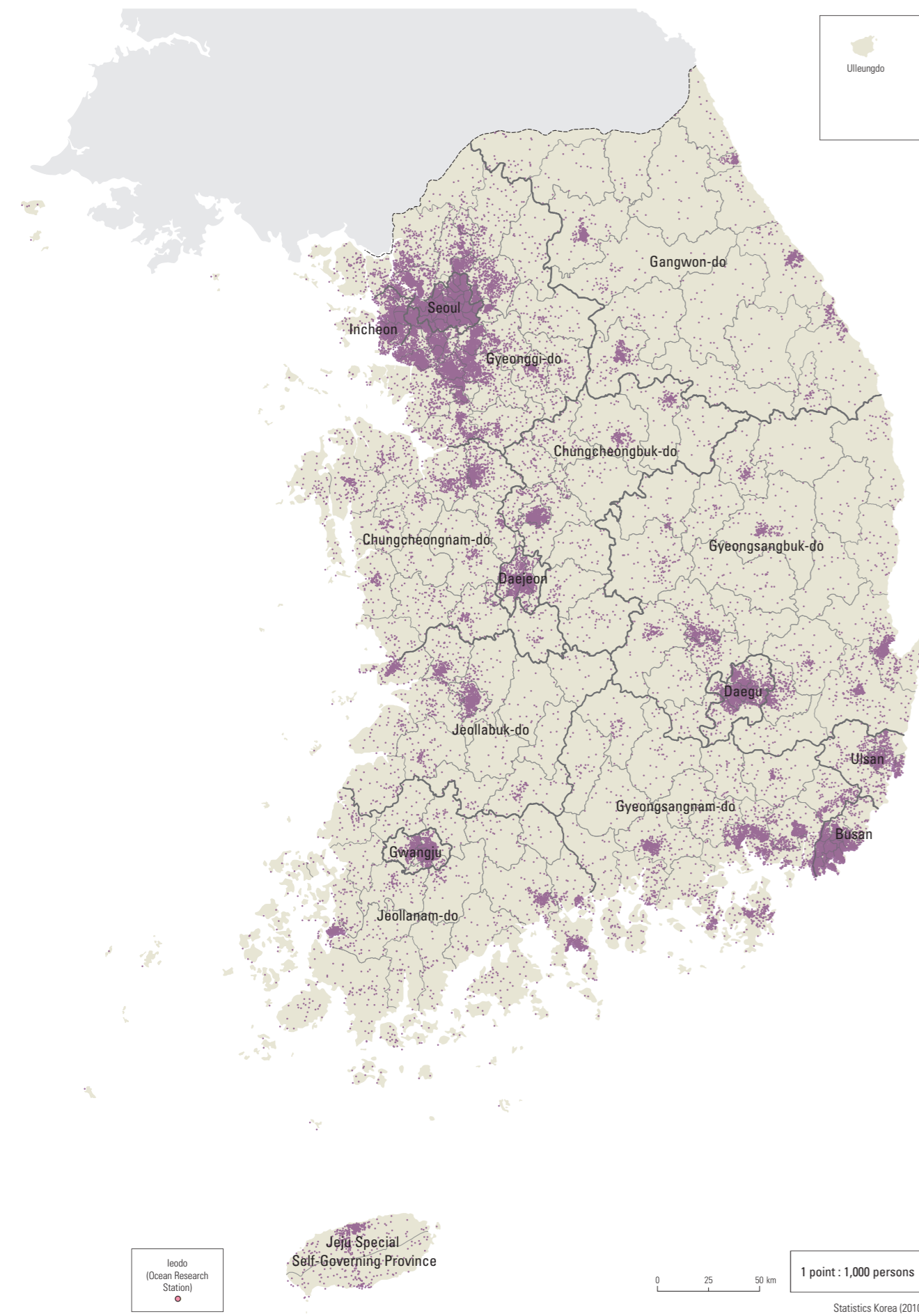
Maximum Population Periods of Administrative Districts

	Maximum Population Periods	# of -Si/-Gun/-Gu with Maximum Population				Sum
		Before 1980	1980s	1990s	2000s	
National Total	2000	114	8	38	70	230
Seoul	1990s	6	2	13	4	25
Busan	1990s	4	1	8	3	16
Daegu	2000s	0	1	3	4	8
Incheon	2000s	4	0	1	5	10
Gwangju	2000s	1	0	1	3	5
Daejeon	2000s	0	1	1	3	5
Ulsan	2000s	0	0	2	3	5
Gyeonggi-do	2000s	4	0	2	25	31
Gangwon-do	1970s	13	1	1	3	18
Chungcheongbuk-do	1970s	10	0	1	1	12
Chungcheongnam-do	1970s	13	0	0	3	16
Jeollabuk-do	before 1970	11	0	1	2	14
Jeollanam-do	before 1970	18	0	3	1	22
Gyeongsangbuk-do	before 1970	18	1	0	4	23
Gyeongsangnam-do	after 2000	12	1	0	5	18
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province	2000	0	0	1	1	2

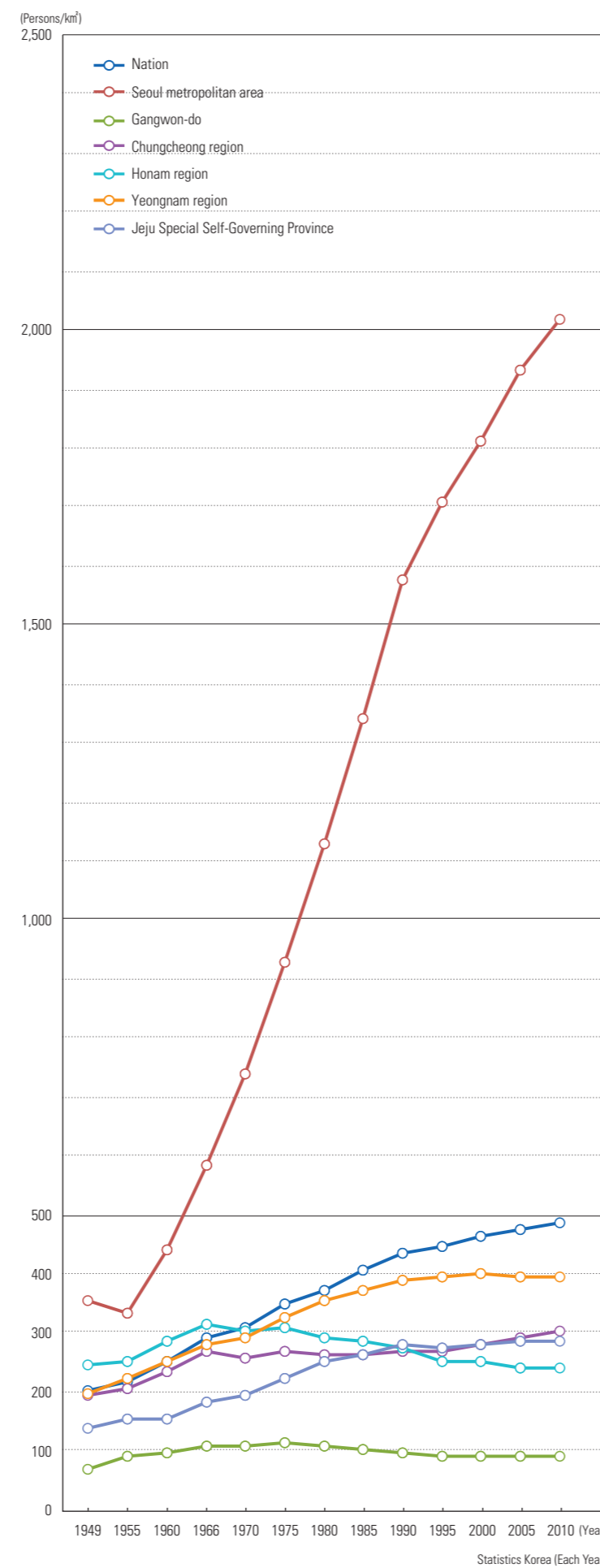
Statistics Korea (2010)

Population Distribution

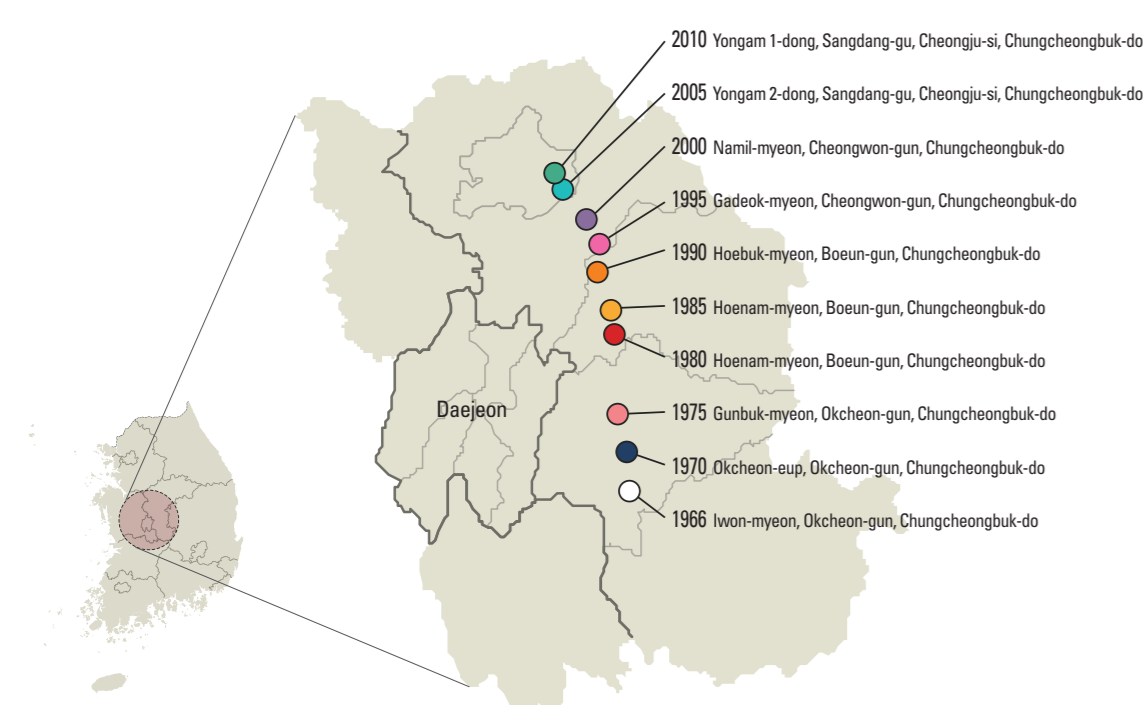
Population Distribution (2010)



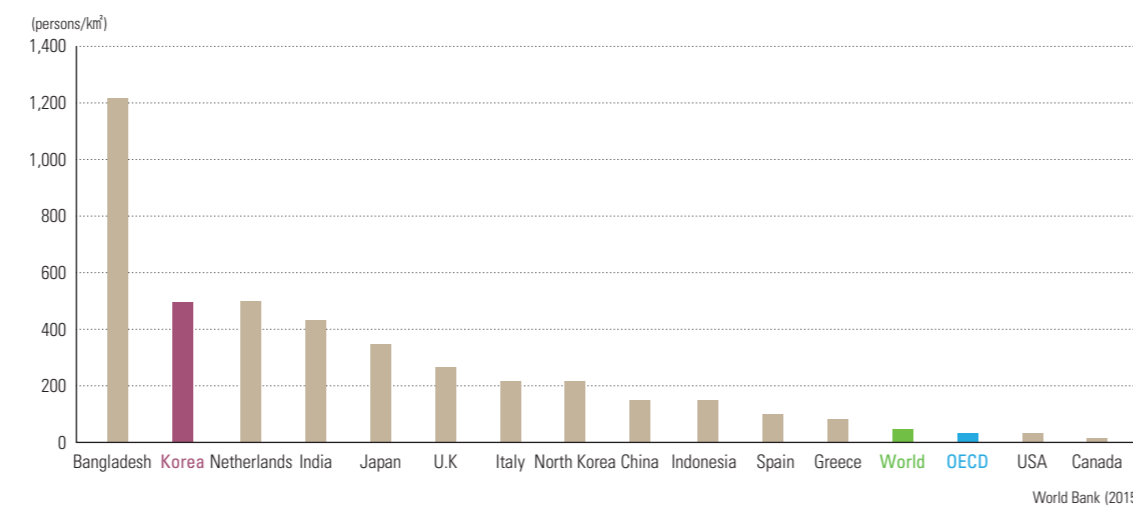
Population Density by Region (1949 – 2010)



Geographic Population Centers (1966–2010)

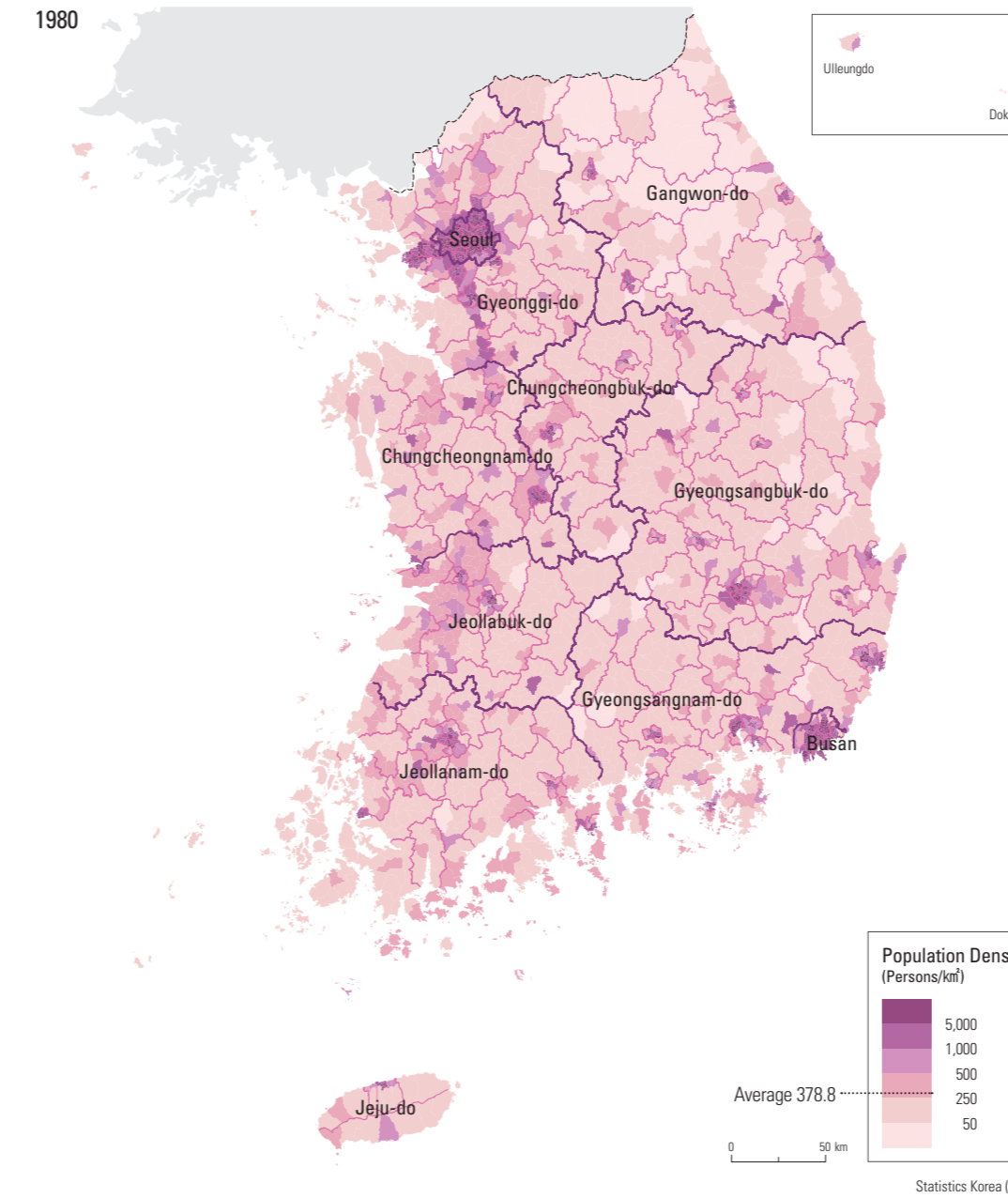


Population Density Comparison for Selected Countries

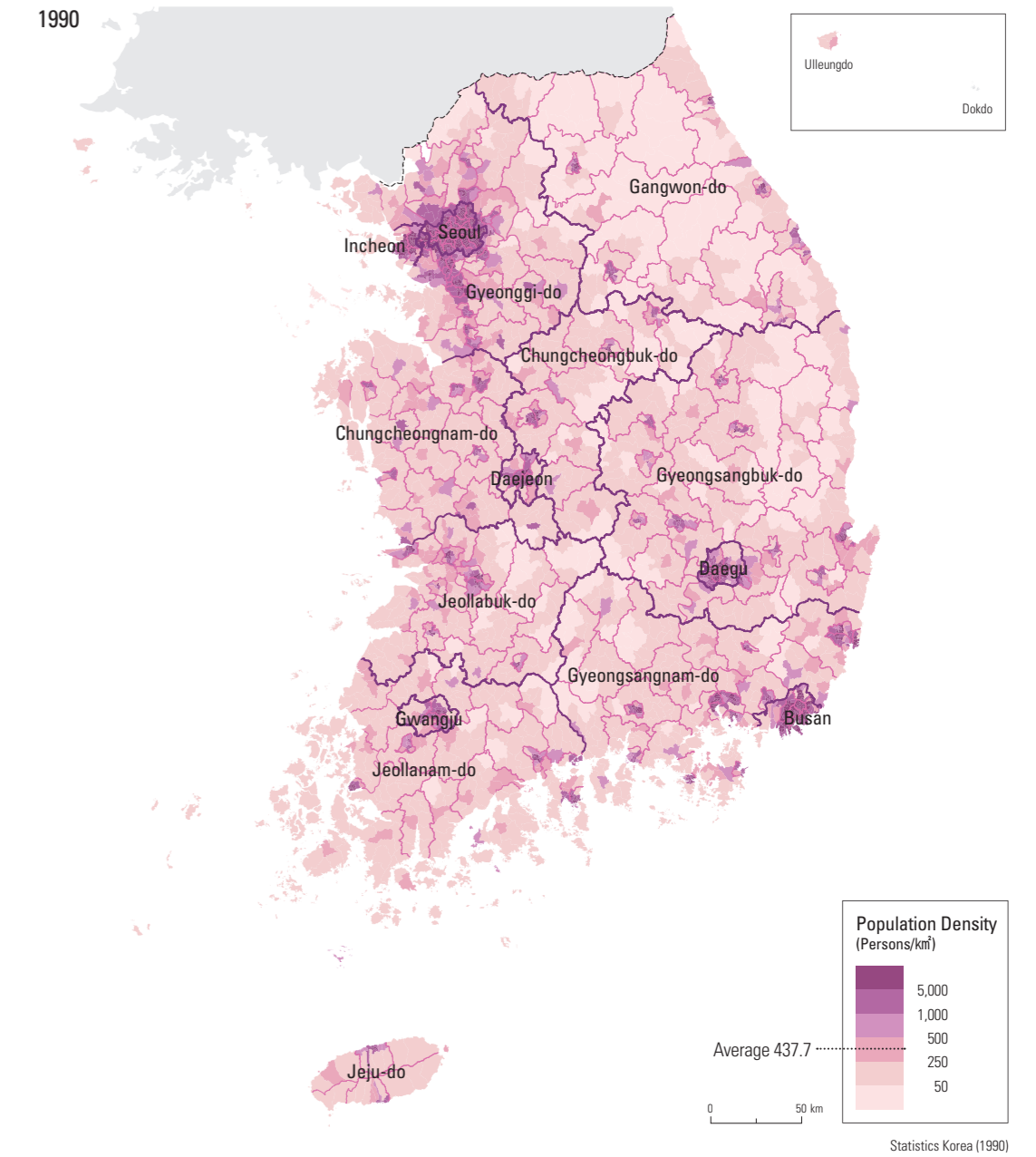


Korea's population density increased from approximately 210 persons/km² in 1949 to 470 persons/km² in 2010. Except for Bangladesh and some city states, Korea has one of the highest population densities in the world. Until 1966, both the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area and the Honam area had higher population densities than the national average, but currently only the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area exceeds the national average. The population density of the Great-

Population Density by -Dong-/Eup-/Myeon District

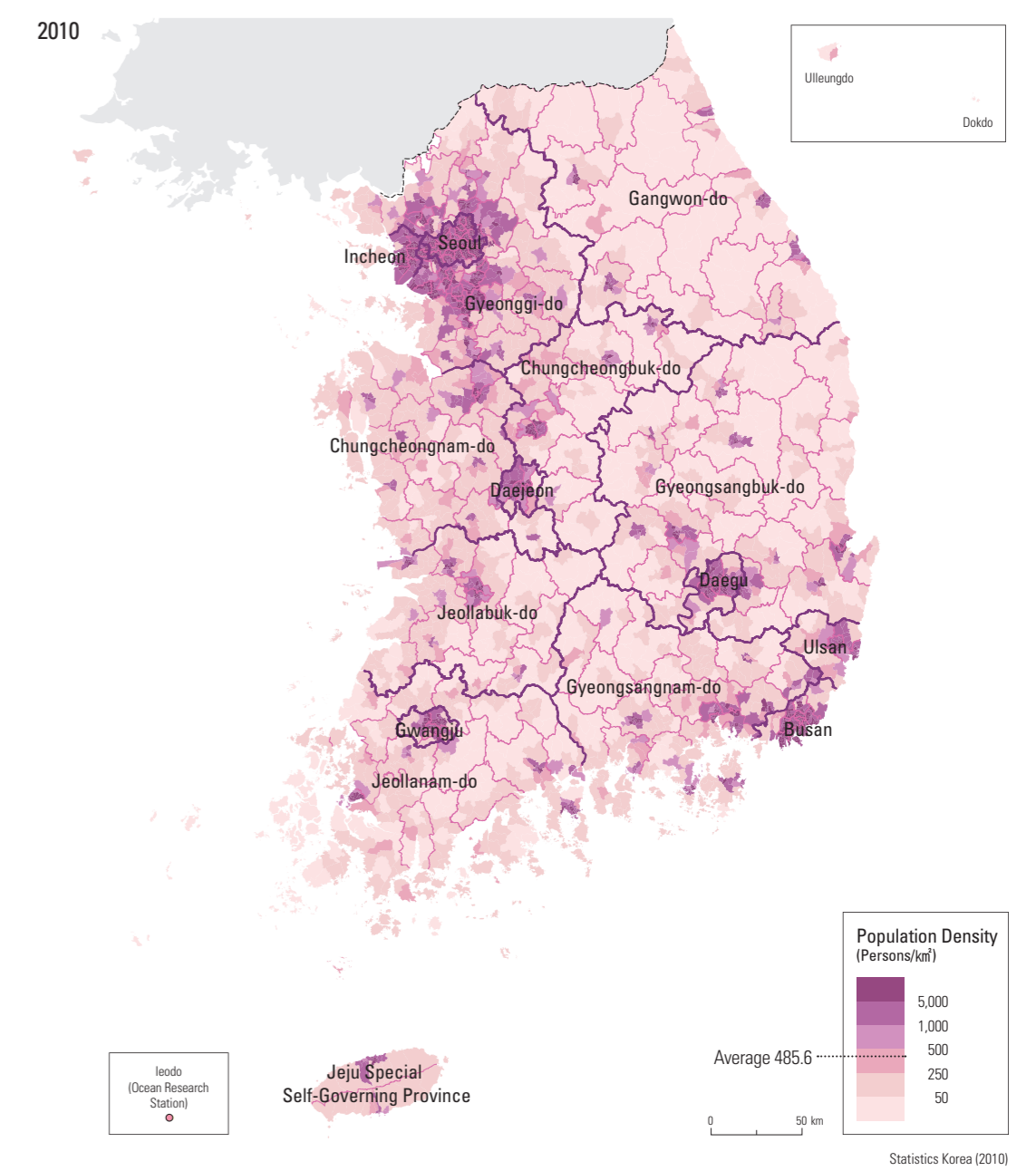
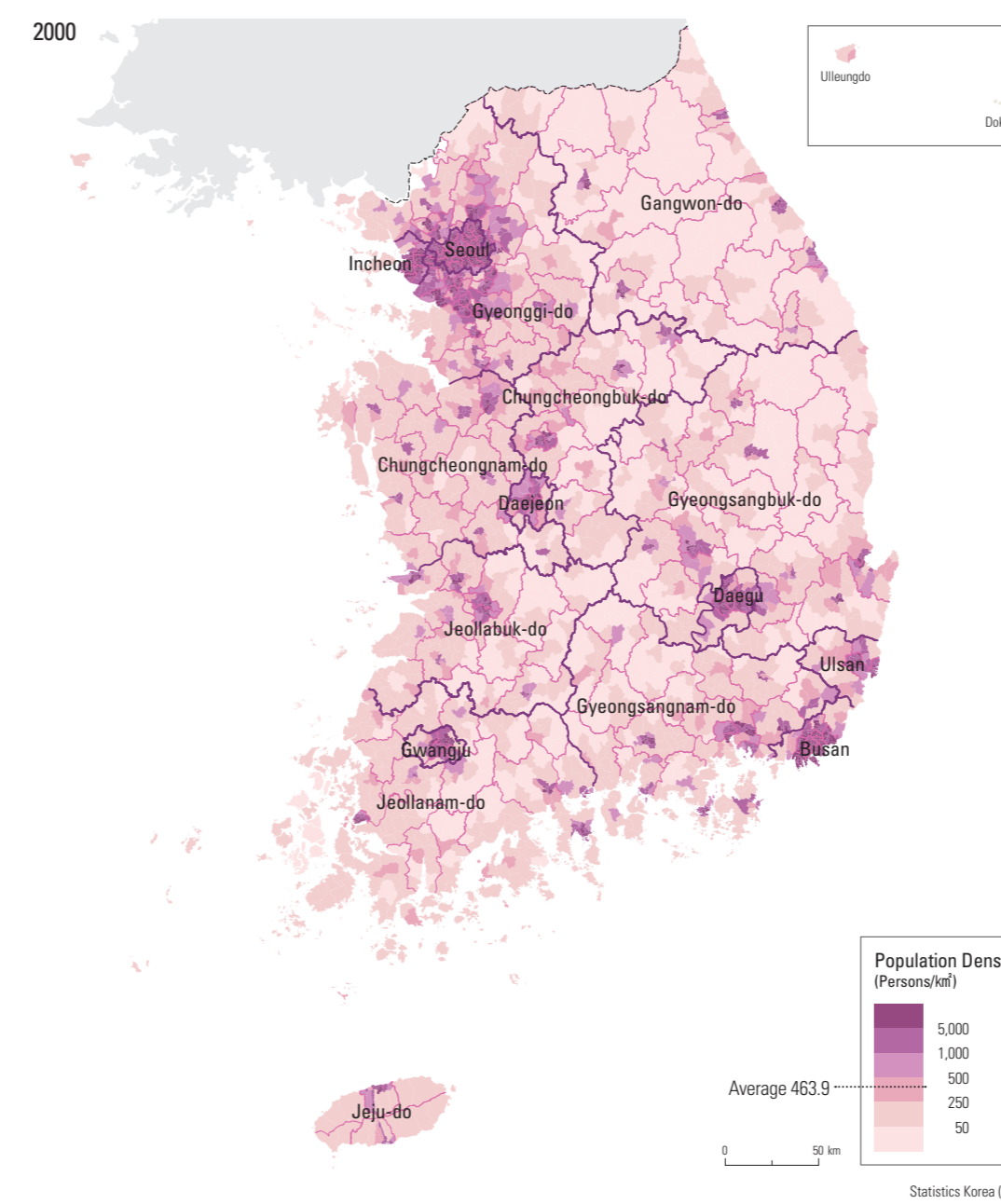


A comparison of Korea's population distributions in -dong-/eup-/myeon districts reveals that the population of -myeon districts has decreased while the population of -dong districts has increased. As of 2010, the share of population in -dong districts was approximately 82% of the

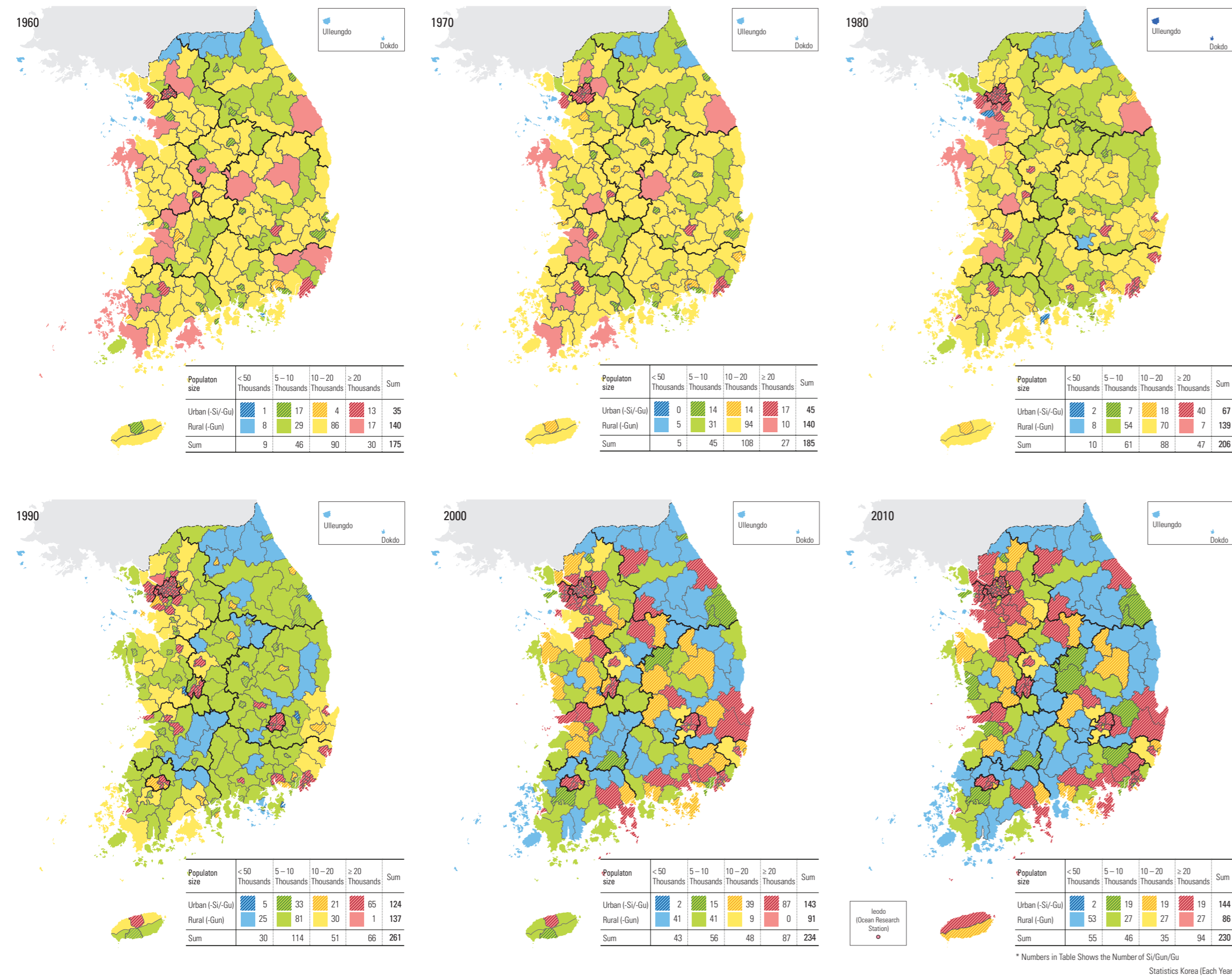


Population Percentage by -Dong-/Eup-/Myeon District (%)

Districts	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
-Dong	27.99	41.15	57.25	74.43	79.67	81.97
-Eup	9.20	9.07	12.13	8.30	8.14	8.65
-Myeon	62.81	49.78	30.62	17.27	12.19	9.38



Population Change for -Si-/Gun-/Gu Districts



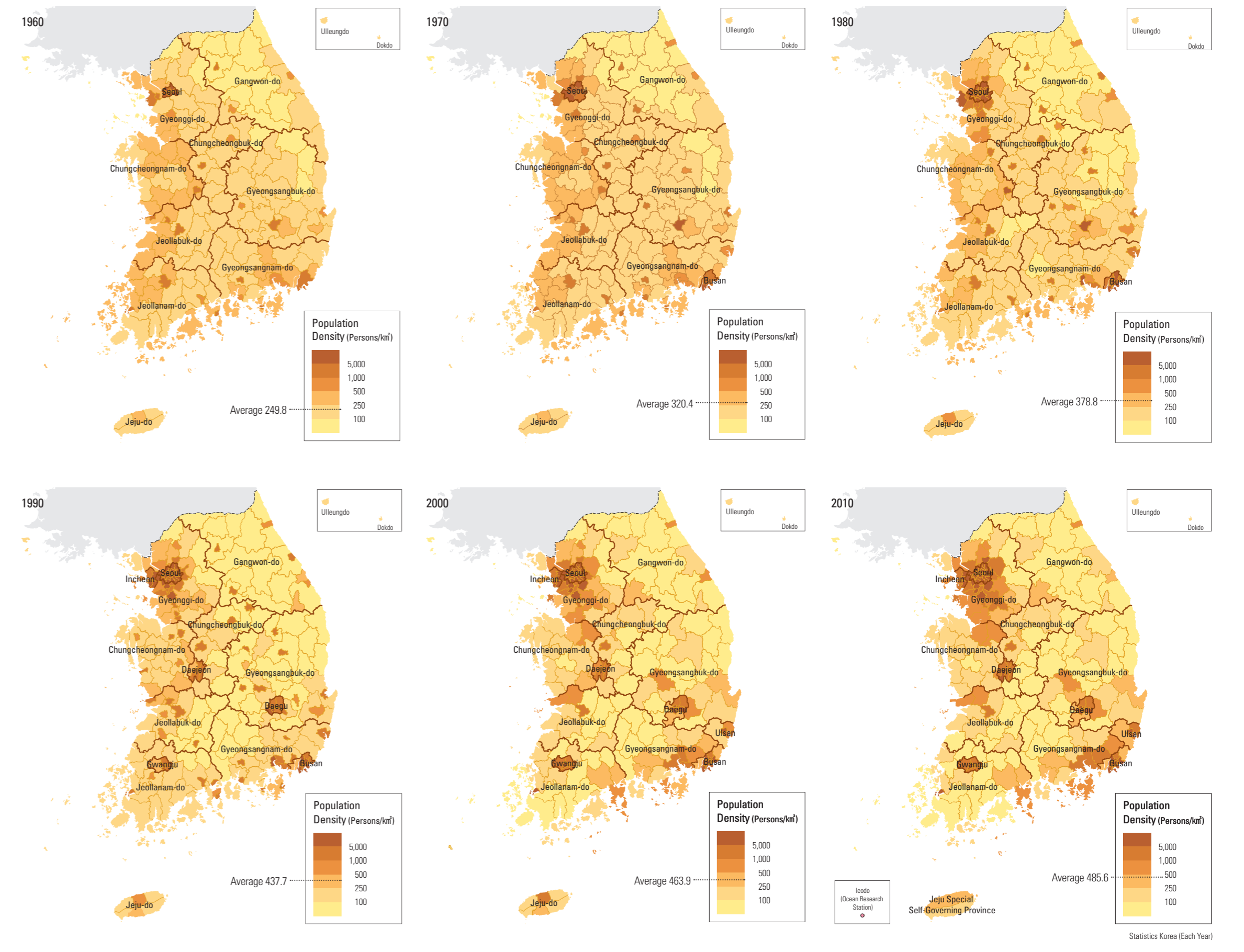
The population maps of -si-/gun-/gu districts present the patterns of urban concentration very clearly. In 1960, the -si-/gun-/gu districts that had populations exceeding 100,000 were distributed across the country, except in parts of Gangwon-do and the Taebaeksanmaek/Sobaeksanmaek. In 2010, these high populations were only found around metropolitan areas. The administrative reforms of the 1980s that defined urban and rural boundaries in more detail increased the number of -si-/gun-/gu districts from 206 in 1980 to 261 in 1990, resulting in temporary decreases in -si-/gun-/gu district population sizes. The number of -si-/gun-/gu districts with populations less than 50,000 or more than 200,000 increased significantly during 1960-2010. Nine -si-/gun-/gu districts had population less than 50,000 in 1960, and the number increased to 55 districts in 2010. The districts with more than 200,000 people also increased from 30 in 1960 to 94 in 2010. The population decline in rural areas led to increases in the -si-/gun-/gu districts with less than 50,000 people. The increase of the -si-/gun-/gu districts with more than 200,000 people was attributed to the population increases in the metropolitan areas and regional major cities.

Population Size for -Si-/Gun-/Gu Districts

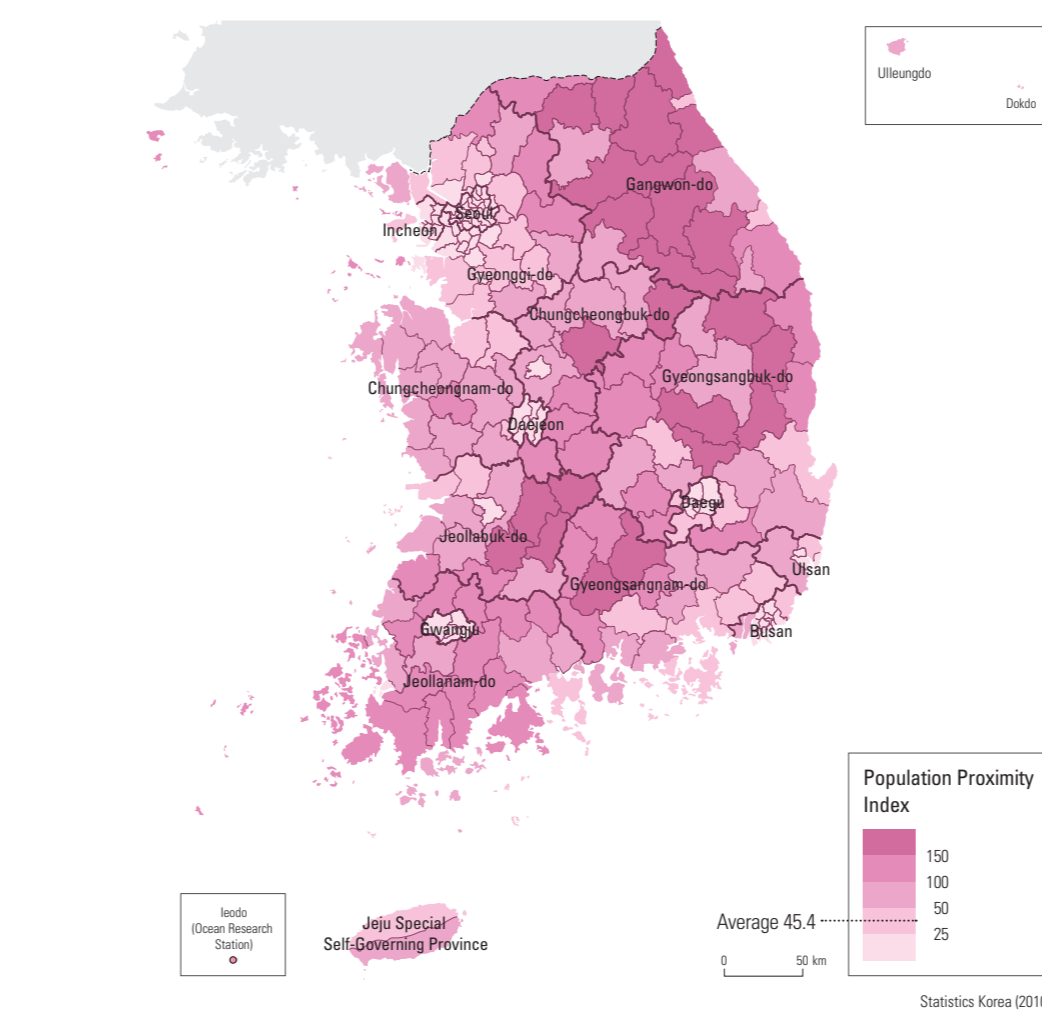
	1960					1985					2010				
	<50 Thousands	5-10 Thousands	10-20 Thousands	>20 Thousands	Sum	<50 Thousands	5-10 Thousands	10-20 Thousands	>20 Thousands	Sum	<50 Thousands	5-10 Thousands	10-20 Thousands	>20 Thousands	Sum
National Total	9	46	90	30	175	15	89	72	50	226	55	46	35	94	230
Seoul Metropolitan Area	2	4	13	11	30	1	11	12	26	50	2	7	11	46	66
Seoul	0	0	1	8	9	0	0	0	17	17	0	0	2	23	25
Gyeonggi-do	2	4	12	3	21	1	10	11	7	29	1	4	9	17	31
Incheon	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	1	2	4	1	3	0	6	10
Gangwon-do	5	9	5	1	20	6	9	6	0	21	10	5	0	3	18
Chungcheong region	0	4	19	4	27	1	11	15	3	30	8	10	6	9	33
Chungcheongbuk-do	0	4	7	1	12	1	7	4	1	13	6	2	2	2	12
Chungcheongnam-do	0	0	12	3	15	0	4	11	2	17	2	8	4	2	16
Daejeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	5	5
Honam region	0	12	22	8	42	3	20	20	3	46	17	11	3	10	41
Jeollabuk-do	0	6	8	3	17	2	7	8	1	18	5	5	1	3	14
Jeollanam-do	0	6	14	5	25	1	13	12	2	28	12	6	1	3	22
Gwangju	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	1	4	5
Yeongnam region	2	16	29	6	53	4	36	18	17	75	18	13	14	25	70
Gyeongsangbuk-do	1	8	15	3	27	4	16	10	1	31	11	4	4	4	23
Daegu	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	1	5	6	0	1	2	5	8
Gyeongsangnam-do	1	8	14	3	26	0	18	6	3	27	6	5	2	5	18
Busan	-	-	-	-	-	0	2	1	8	11	1	3	3	9	16
Ulsan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	3	2	5
Jeju Special Self-governing Province	0	1	2	0	3	0	2	1	1	4	0	0	1	1	2

Statistics Korea (Each Year)

Population Density for -Si-/Gun-/Gu Districts



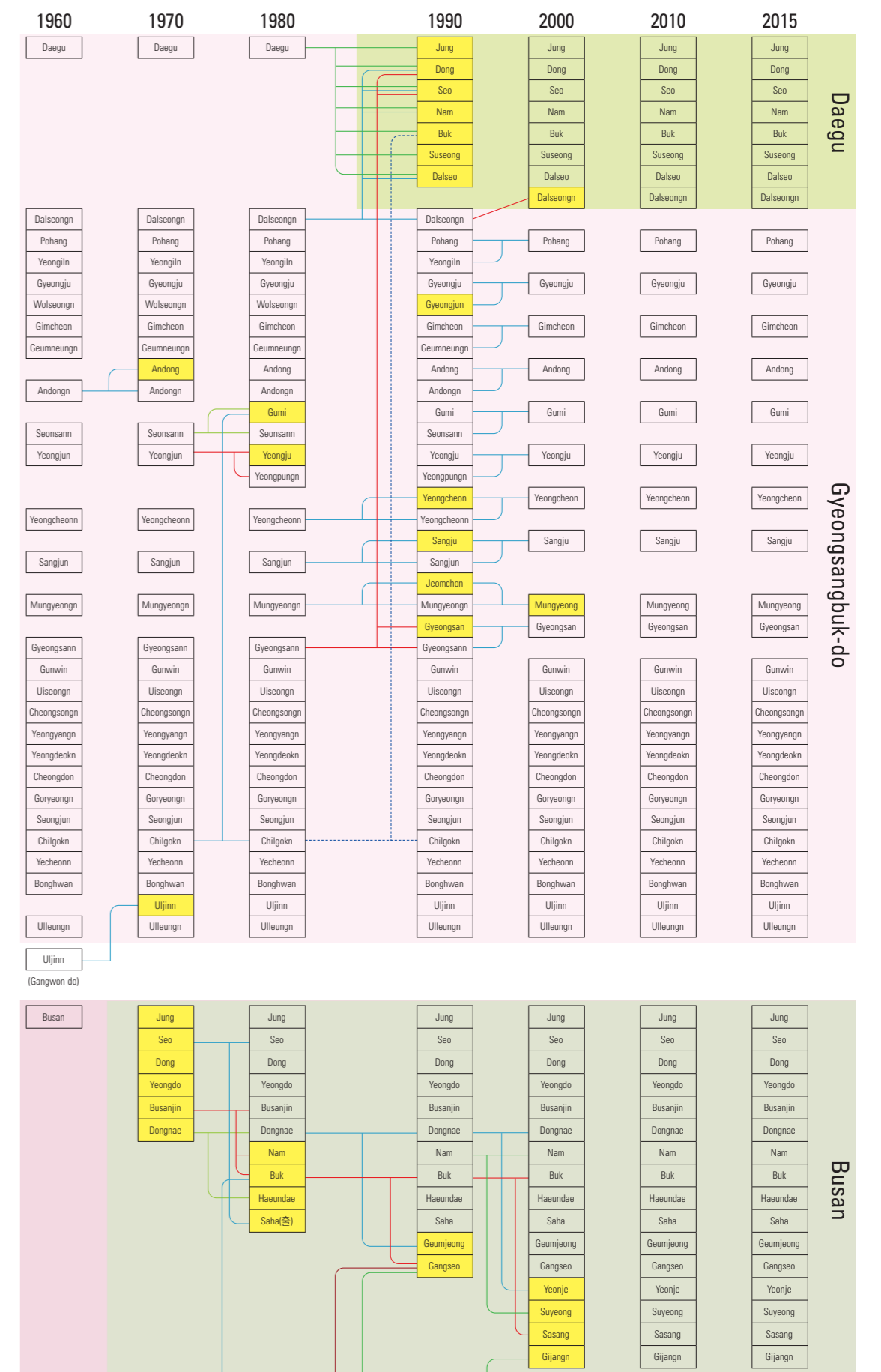
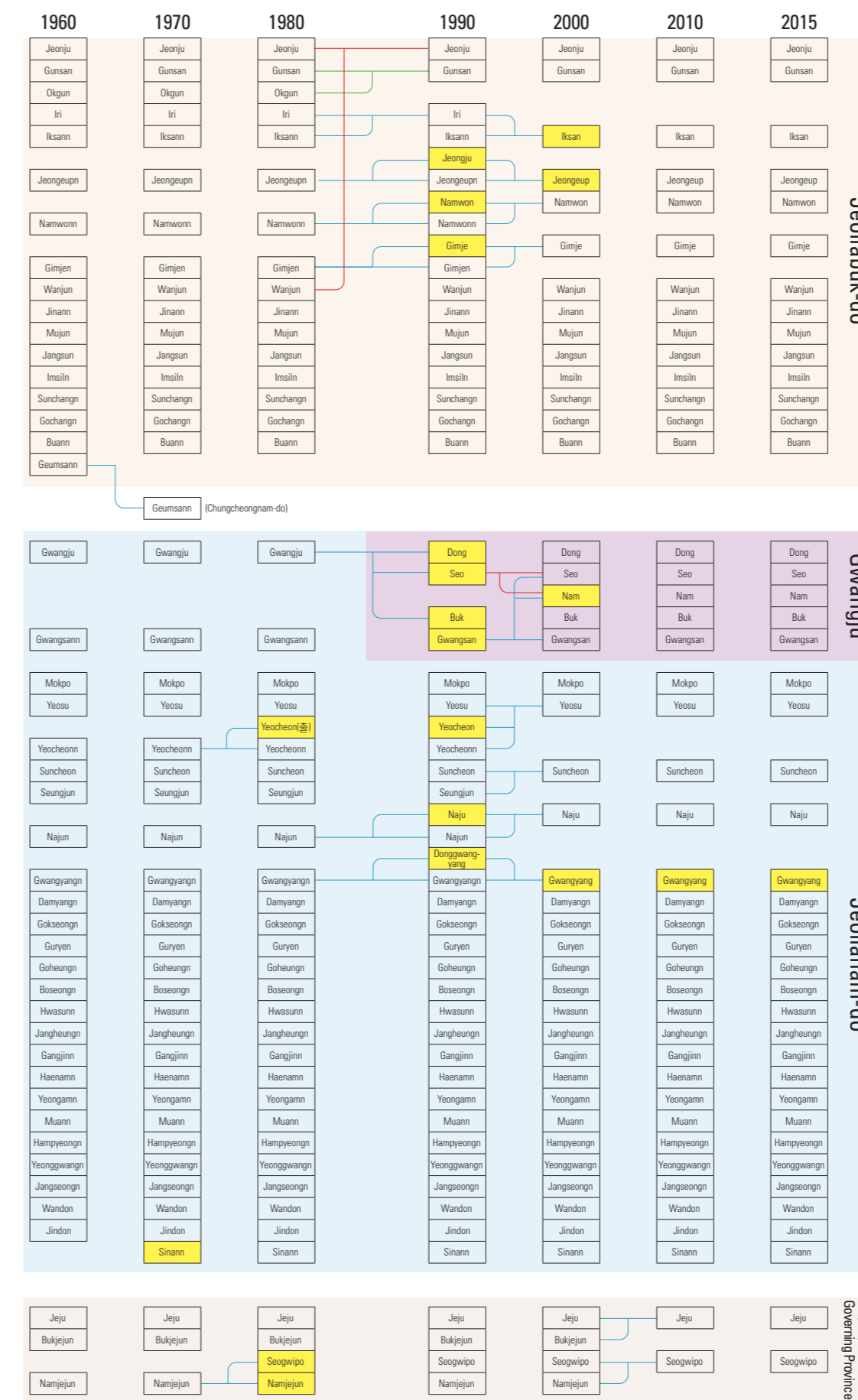
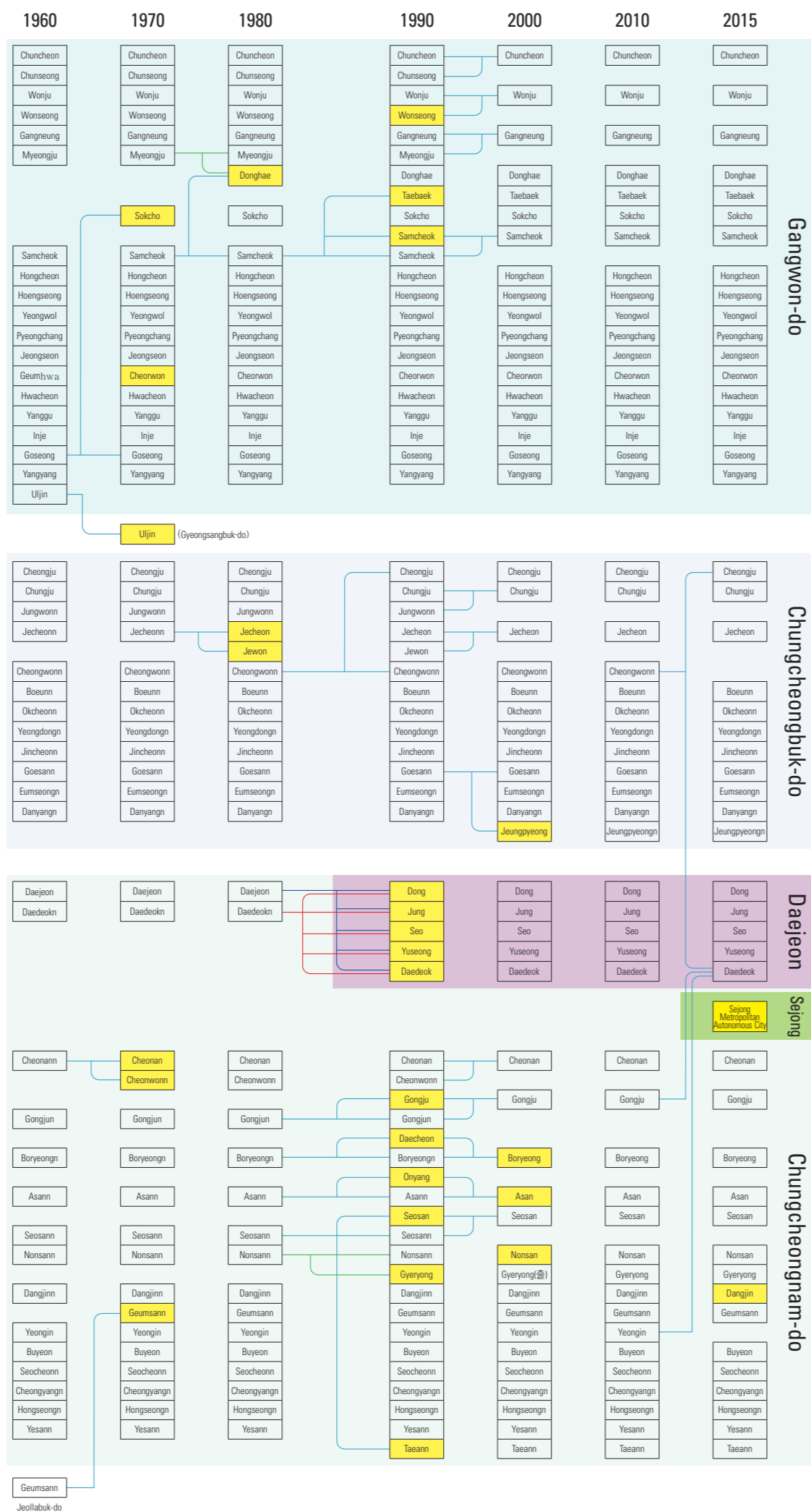
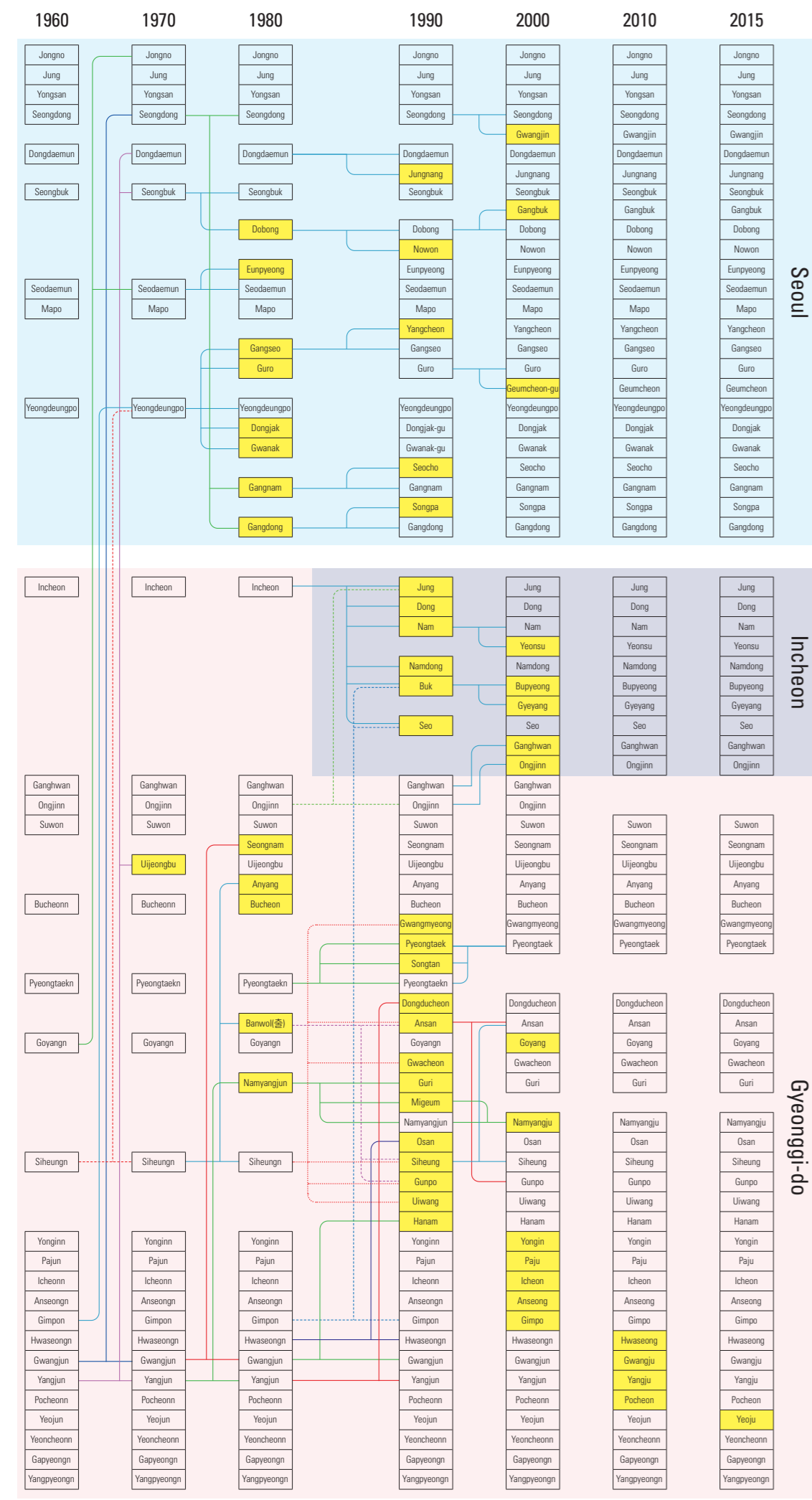
Population Proximity Index (2010)



Korea's population density almost doubled from about 250 persons/km² in 1960 to 490 persons/km² in 2010. The geographic pattern of population density changed dramatically during this period. In the 1960s and 1970s, the highest population densities (except major cities) occurred at the western coastal area, followed by the interior regions, and finally the Taebaeksanmaek. In particular, the western regions of Chungcheongnam-do, Jeollabuk-do, and Jeollanam-do had high population densities, particularly along the western coast. Beginning in the 1960s rural-to-urban migration occurred at a massive scale, and it continued through the 1980s and even into the 1990s. Due to the administrative reforms in the 1980s that defined urban and rural boundaries in more detail, many small cities had high population densities in the 1990 map. Since 2000, the population densities in the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area and other metropolitan cities have remained generally high, while the population densities in -gun districts have decreased. Particularly, the population densities

in the Taebaeksanmaek/Sobaeksanmaek and the Jeollanam-do area have fallen. Overall, Korea's population density almost doubled between 1960 and 2010, yet the number of low population density areas (less than 100 persons/km²) has actually increased as shown on the map, which is a consequence of population concentration in the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area and other major cities. The population proximity index is another way to represent the degree of population concentration that differs from population density. The population proximity index indicates the average distance between neighboring persons, and it is calculated as $\sqrt{\text{Area}/\text{Population}}$ (unit: m). If a population density is high, the population proximity index becomes small, whereas if a population density is small, the population proximity index becomes large. The Korean population proximity index is 45.4 m. The -si-/gun-/gu district with the highest population proximity index is Inje-gun of Gangwon-do with 237.7 m. The district with the smallest population proximity index is Yangcheon-gu of Seoul with 6.1 m.

Modification of Administrative Districts



Modification of Administrative Districts by Period

	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s
Characteristics	Expansion of Seoul	Increase of Cities in Seoul Metropolitan Area Expansion of Busan	Increase of Cities in Seoul Metropolitan Area Increase of Cities in Youngnam Area - Si-/Gun Separation	- Si-/Gun Unification (1995)		
Establishments of -Si/-Do Districts	Busan Directly Controlled City (1963)		Daegu Directly Controlled City (1981) Incheon Directly Controlled City (1981) Gwangju Directly Controlled City (1988) Daejeon Directly Controlled City (1989)	Directly Controlled City → Metropolitan City Ulsan Metropolitan City (1997)	Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (2006)	Sejong Special Self-Governing City (2012)
Relocations of Provincial Government Buildings	Gyeonggi-do Provincial Government Building (Seoul → Suwon, 1967)		Gyeongsangnam-do Provincial Government Building (Busan → Changwon, 1983)		Jeollanam-do Provincial Government Building (Gwangju → Muan, 2005)	Gyeonggi-do Provincial Government Building (Daejeon → Andong, 2016)
-Si/-Do Modifications of -Si/-Gun	Kaumsan-gun (Jeollabuk-do → Chungcheongnam-do, 1962) Ulsan-gun (Gangwon-do → Gyeongsangbuk-do, 1962)		Gwangsan-gun, Songjeong-si (Jeollanam-do → Gwangju, 1988) Daedeok-gun (Chungcheongnam-do → Daejeon, 1989)	Dalseong-gun (Gyeongsangbuk-do → Daegu, 1995) Ganghwa-gun, Ongjin-gun (Gyeonggi-do → Incheon, 1995)		Yeongi-gun (Chungcheongnam-do → Sejong, 2012)

The modification of Korea's administrative districts since the 1960s reveals the spatial change of various regions. In the 1960s and 1970s, many new -gus were established in Seoul and Busan due to the expansion of urban areas and the need to accommodate the new migrants moving into the cities. In particular, the -si/-gun districts in the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area continued to be separated to make new cities in the 1980s. The urban areas in the Yeongnam area expanded considerably during this period as well.

In the 1980s, Daegu, Incheon, Gwangju, and Daejeon were elevated to "directly controlled city" status (now called metropolitan city), which included annexation of their surrounding -si/-gun districts. In 1997, Ulsan became a metropolitan city. In the 2000s, Jeju-do was given the status of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, and more recently, the Sejong Metropolitan Autonomous City was established in 2012.

The Number of -Si/-Gun/-Gu in -Si/-Do Districts

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015
National Total	175	185	206	261	234	230	229
Seoul Metropolitan Area	30	31	43	64	66	66	66
Seoul	9	9	17	22	25	25	25
Gyeonggi-do	21	22	26	36	31	31	31
Incheon				6	10	10	10
Gangwon-do	20	19	20	22	18	18	18
Chungcheong region	27	29	30	39	33	33	32
Chungcheongbuk-do	12	12	13	13	12	12	11
Chungcheongnam-do	15	17	17	21	16	16	15
Daejeon				5	5	5	5
Honam region	42	42	43	50	41	41	41
Jeollabuk-do	17	16	16	19	14	14	14
Jeollanam-do	25	26	27	27	22	22	22
Gwangju				4	5	5	5
Yeongnam region	53	61	67	82	72	70	70
Gyeongsangbuk-do	27	29	31	34	23	23	23
Daegu				7	8	8	8
Gyeongsangnam-do	26	26	26	29	20	18	18
Busan		6	10	12	16	16	16
Ulsan					5	5	5
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province	3	3	3	4	4	2	2

* Yellow Rectangles Mean Changes of Geographical Names Owing to Establishment, Separation, and Union of Administrative Districts.