

Foreign Residents and Multicultural Households

The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety, and Statistics Korea collect statistics on foreigners. The Ministry of Justice compiles the "Statistics of Foreign Residents" to manage the immigration of foreigners. The Ministry of the Interior and Safety obtains the "Statistics of Foreign Residents in Local Governments" to develop policies that support foreign migrants settling in local communities. Statistics Korea compiles the "Statistics of Foreigners Residing or Staying in Korea" as a part of the census to understand the current status of foreigners. However, the results of the respective statistics are not necessarily consistent since the categories of foreigners included in these statistics do not perfectly align with the other agencies.

Statistics on the arrival and departures of foreign nationals include short-term residents for tourism and other purposes. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the number of arrivals and departures of foreign nationals in 2020 sharply decreased.

The number of foreigners included in the Statistics of Foreign Residents by the Ministry of Justice is the largest since it includes illegal immigrants as well. The number of foreign residents included in the Statistics of Foreign Resident in Local Governments

is the second largest since it includes foreign nationals, foreigners with Korean citizenship, and the children of foreign residents. Finally, the number in the Statistics of Foreigners, which only includes foreign nationals, is the smallest.

According to the Ministry of the Interior and Safety's Statistics of Foreign Residents in Local Governments, there were 540 thousand foreign residents in 2006, accounting for 1.1% of the total population. However, the number increased to 2.22 million in 2019, accounting for 4.3% of the total population. In 2019, foreigners with a foreign nationality made up 80.2% (1.78 million) of the foreign residents. They are foreign workers, foreign nationals, marriage immigrants, and international students. Marriage immigrants are foreigners residing in Korea who have been married to Korean citizens or are in a marital relationship with a Korean citizen. Most foreign workers are men, while most marriage immigrants are women. Foreigners who acquired Korean citizenship through marriage or naturalization accounted for 8.4% (190,000) of the foreign residents. Most of them are women who acquired Korean citizenship through marriage. 11.4% (250,000) of foreign residents were children of foreign residents who were born

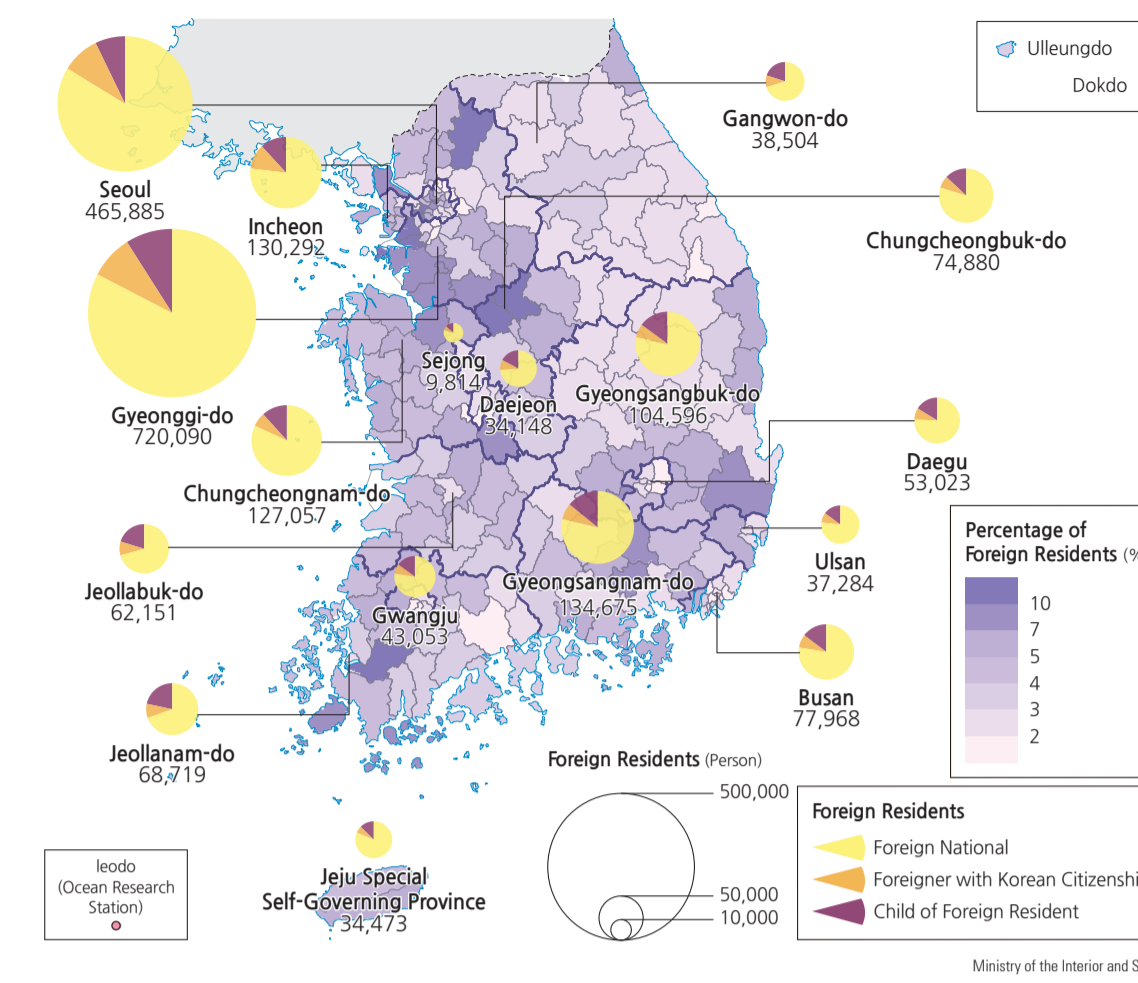
in Korea.

Regarding the number of households, as of 2020, the number of foreign households made up only of foreigners is 540 thousand households (1.1 million household members), and the number of multicultural households made up of marriages with Koreans is 370 thousand households (1.1 million household members). The definition of a multicultural household has changed over time. Until the 2010 census, it was defined as a household with at least one foreigner. Since 2015, it has been defined as a household with naturalized persons, a household in which a Korean (including a naturalized person) married a foreigner, or a household with their children. Through this definition, multicultural households were separated from foreign households. The number of multicultural households has increased significantly through international marriages. The rate of children born in multicultural households is 5.9% of the total number of children born in 2019. Multicultural households have become one of the typical family types in Korea.

Since the mid-1990s, the number of foreigners has increased rapidly with the influx of foreign workers, foreign nationals, and marriage immigrants. Accordingly, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety has compiled the Statistics on Foreign Residents since the mid-2000s. Foreign residents are divided into foreign nationals and Korean nationals. Korean nationals are divided into those who acquired Korean citizenship and children of foreign residents who acquired Korean citizenship by birth. In 2019, the number of foreign residents increased by 95% when compared to 2010, resulting in a total of 2.22 million foreign residents, accounting for 4.3% of Korea's total population. The proportions of foreign nationals, Korean nationals, and children of foreign residents accounted for 80.2%, 8.4%, and 11.4%, respectively.

Foreign Residents

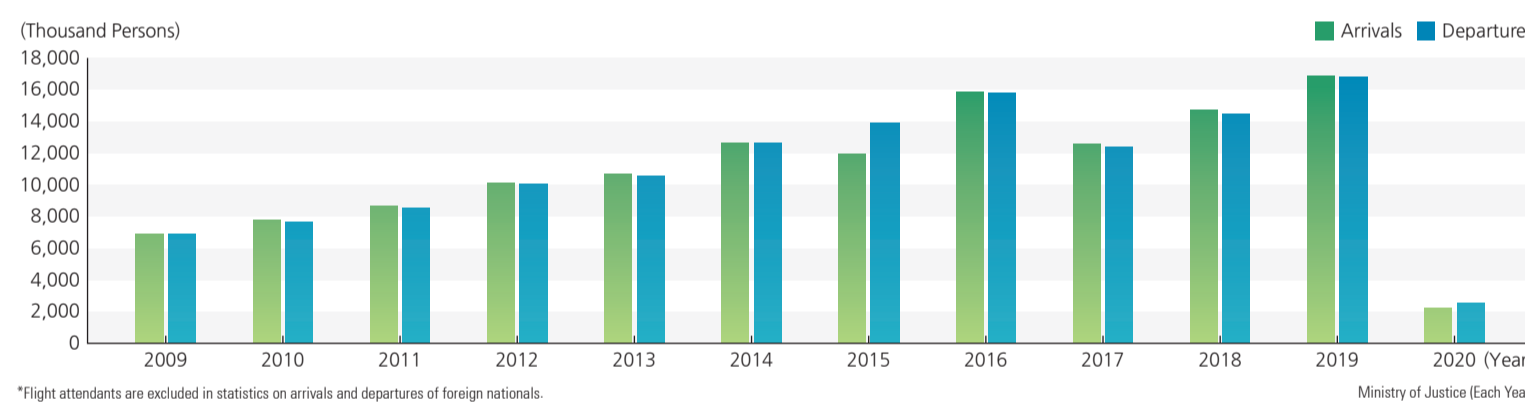
Foreign Residents (2019)



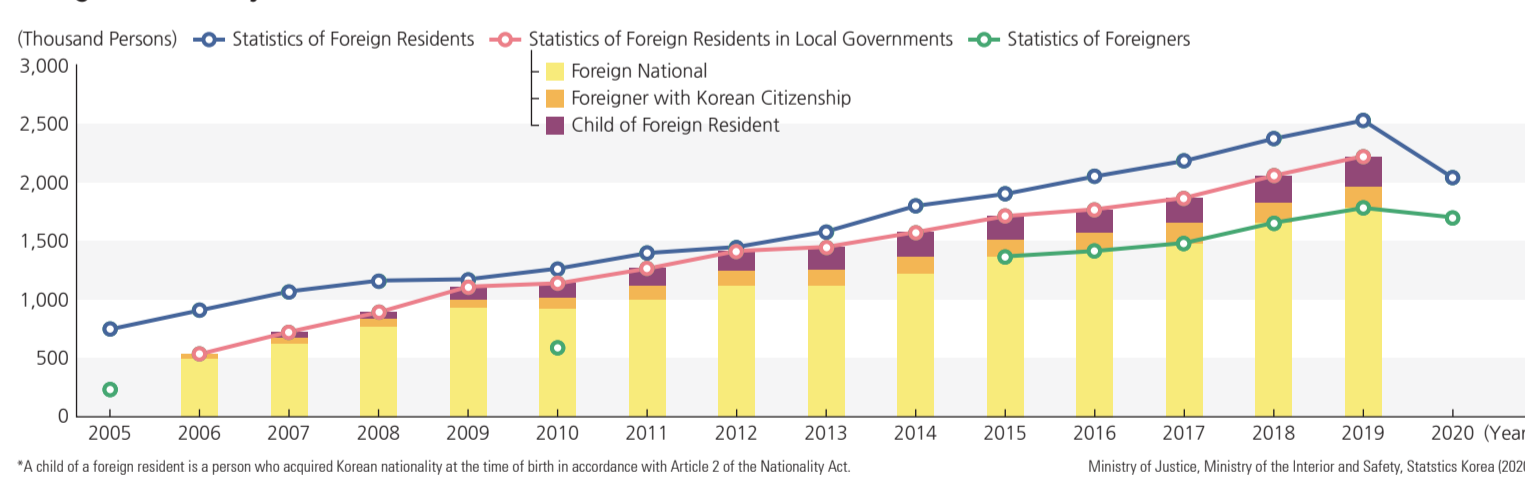
Foreign Residents by Provinces (2010, 2019)

Province	2010			2019			Changes in 2010-2019	
	Foreign Residents	Ratio of Foreign Residents	Foreign National	Foreign Residents	Ratio of Foreign Residents	Foreign National	Foreign Residents	Ratio of Foreign Residents
National Total	1,139.3	2.3	920.9	2,216.6	4.3	1,778.9	1,077	94.6
Seoul	336.2	3.3	283.3	465.9	4.8	390.2	130	38.6
Busan	41.4	1.2	32.8	78.0	2.3	60.5	37	88.5
Daegu	26.0	1.0	20.3	53.0	2.2	40.1	8.6	103.9
Incheon	63.6	2.3	49.7	130.3	4.4	100.2	15.5	104.9
Gwangju	16.6	1.2	12.7	43.1	2.9	33.3	6.5	158.9
Daejeon	19.7	1.3	15.6	34.1	2.3	25.1	5.9	73.3
Ulsan	19.4	1.7	15.1	37.3	3.3	28.6	3.1	92.6
Sejong	4.3	2.8	3.2	9.8	2.9	7.8	0.7	128.1
Gyeonggi-do	337.8	2.9	279.0	720.1	5.4	594.8	64.9	113.2
Gangwon-do	19.0	1.3	13.4	38.5	2.5	27.0	3.8	102.2
Chungcheongbuk-do	30.1	2.0	23.2	74.9	4.6	59.8	9.7	148.5
Chungcheongnam-do	48.9	2.4	38.4	127.1	5.8	104.0	8.2	160.0
Jeollabuk-do	28.5	1.5	20.5	62.2	3.4	44.0	5.6	118.5
Jeollanam-do	31.3	1.6	21.5	68.7	3.8	47.8	6.0	119.5
Gyeongbuk-do	46.7	1.7	36.0	104.6	3.9	81.8	7.1	124.2
Gyeongnam-do	66.8	2.1	53.9	134.7	4.0	105.9	19.1	101.6
Jeju	7.3	1.3	5.5	34.5	5.2	28.0	4.3	369.1

Arrivals and Departures of Foreign Nationals



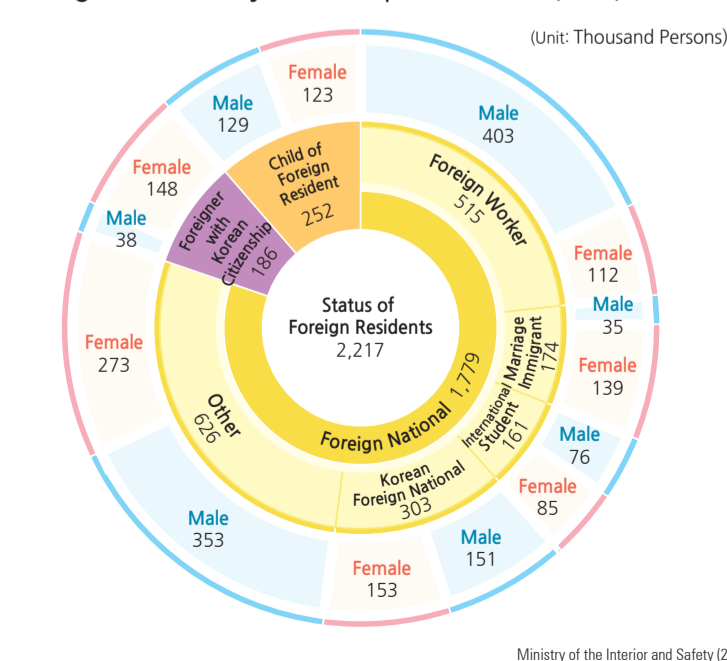
Foreign Residents by Ministries' Statistics



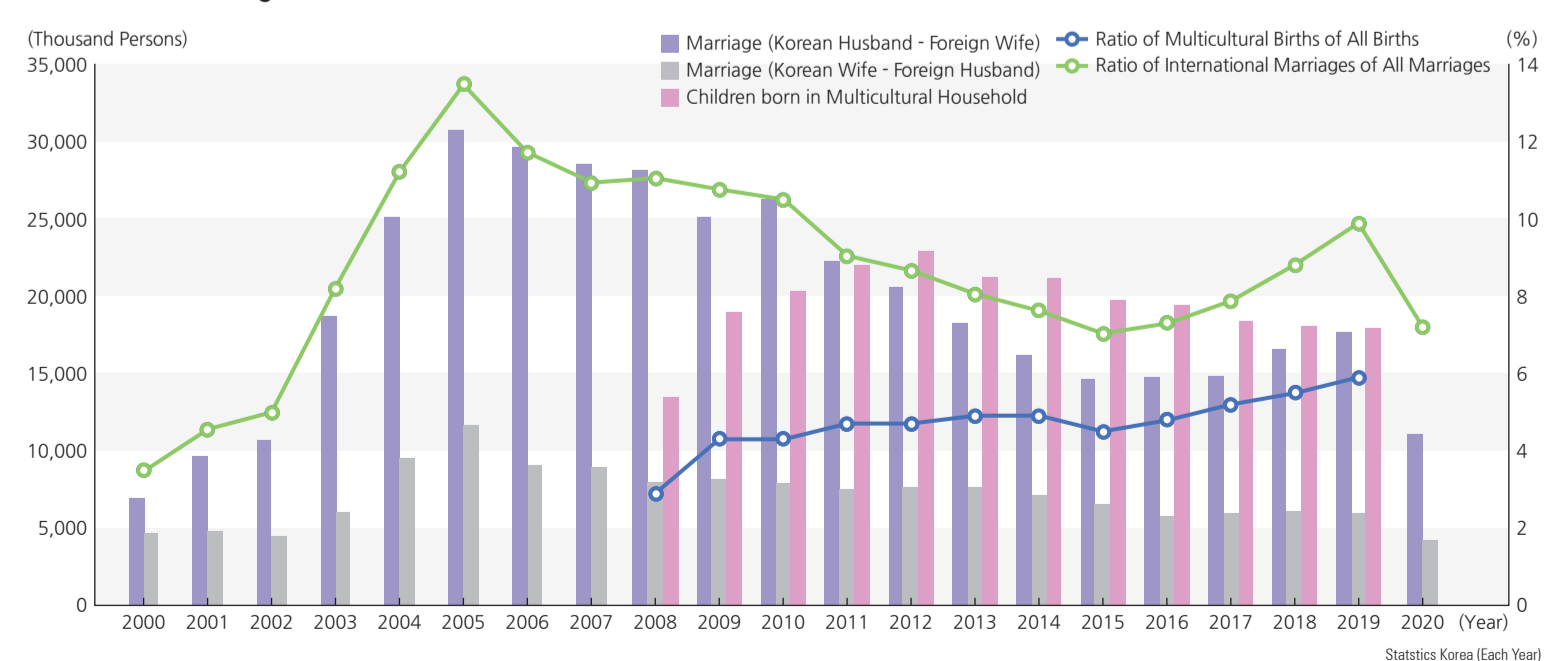
Statistics on Foreigners

Statistics	Agency	Target	Period
Statistics on Arrivals and Departures of Foreign Nationals	Ministry of Justice	Foreign Nationals	Every Year
Statistics of Foreign Residents	Ministry of Justice	Foreign Nationals	Every Year
Statistics of Foreign Residents in Local Governments	Ministry of the Interior and Safety	Foreign Nationals, Foreigners with Korean citizenship, Children of Foreign Residents	Every Year (After 2006)
Statistics of Foreigners	Statistics Korea	Foreign Nationals	5 Years (Before 2015), Every Year (After 2016)

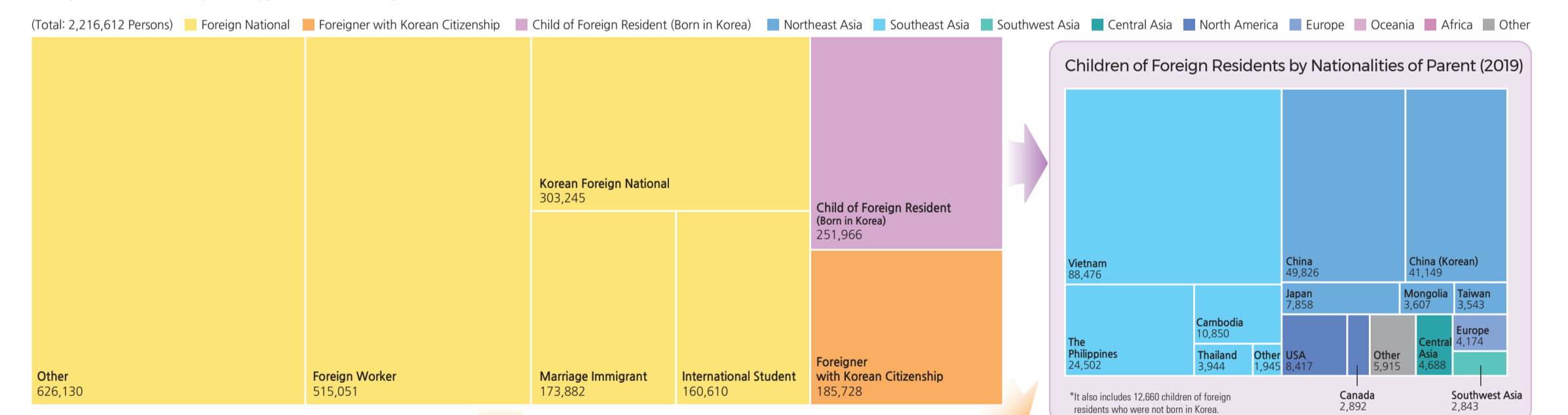
Foreign Residents by Citizenship and Gender (2019)



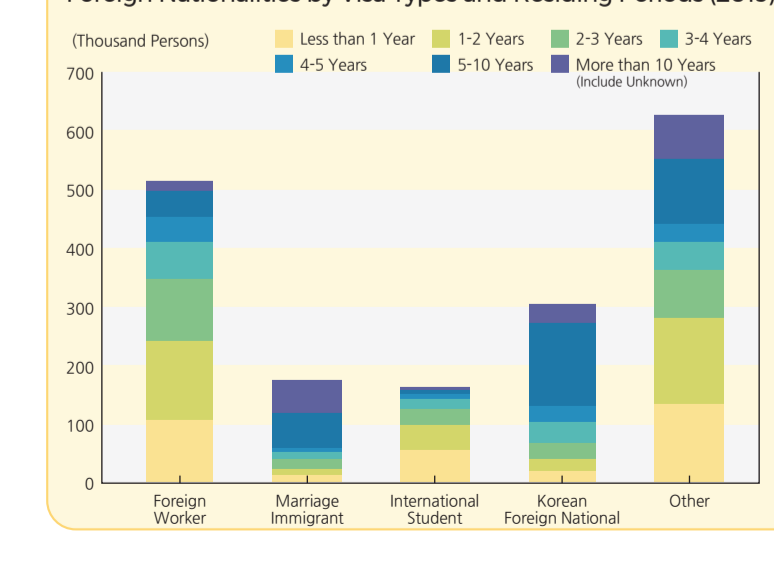
International Marriage and Children Born in Multicultural Households



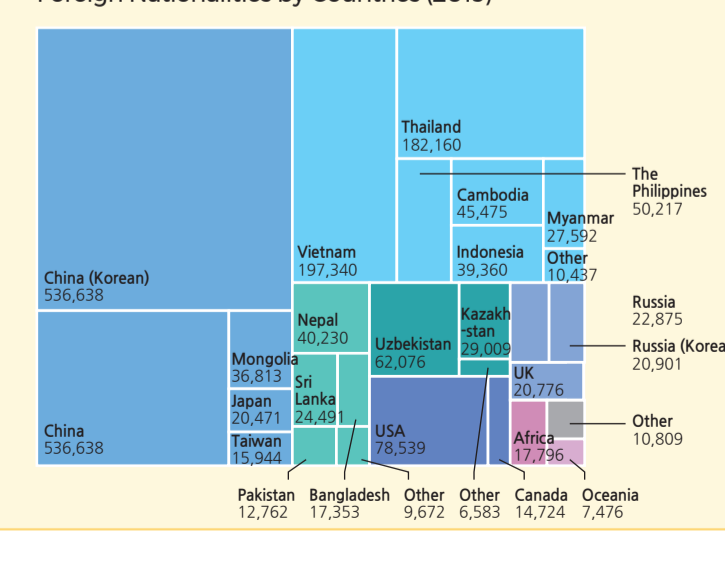
Foreign Nationalities by Visa Types and Residing Periods (2019)



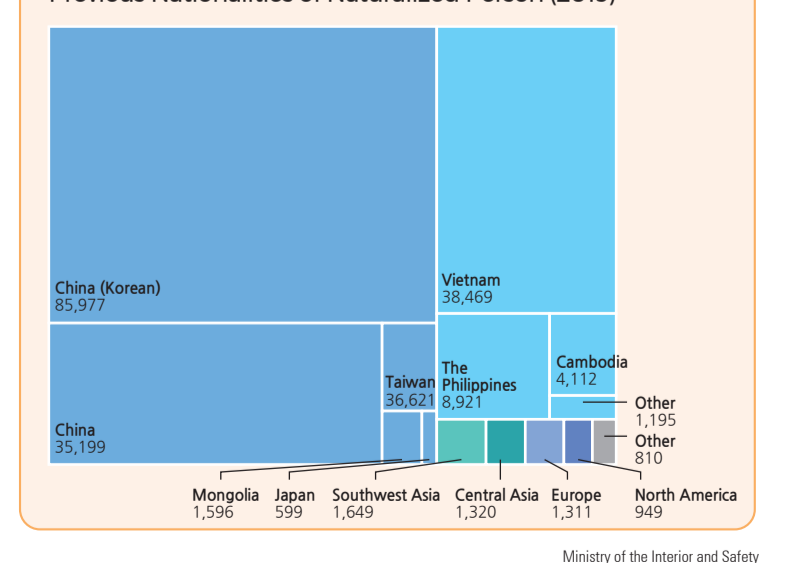
Foreign Nationalities by Visa Types and Residing Periods (2019)



Foreign Nationalities by Countries (2019)

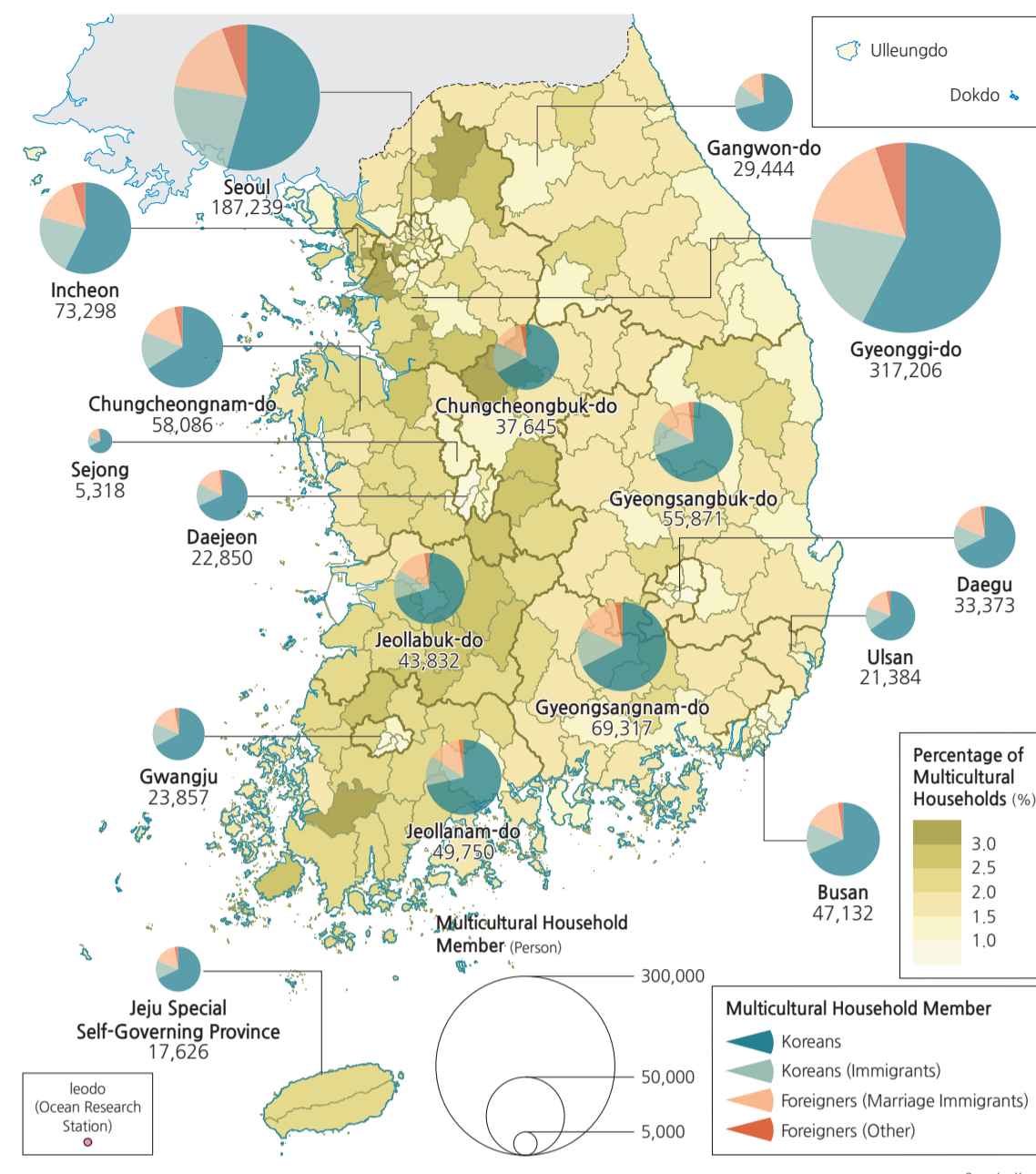


Previous Nationalities of Naturalized Person (2019)



Growth of Multicultural Households

Multicultural Household (2020)



Multicultural households are defined as households consisting of naturalized foreign immigrants or marriage immigrants and their children. Multicultural households are different from foreign households, which consist only of foreigners. As of 2020, there were 370 thousand multicultural households, accounting for 1.8% of general households. Compared to 2015, the number of multicultural families increased by 22.9% in 2020, and the rate of increase was 2.4 times that of general households. Furthermore, 56% of multicultural households are located in the Seoul Metropolitan Area, indicating that multicultural households are also concentrated in the Seoul Metropolitan Area. The -si/-gun areas where the ratio of multicultural households is 3% or higher are Guro-gu, Geumcheon-gu, and Yeongdeungpo-gu in Seoul, Ansan-si, Siheung-si, Osan-si, Bucheon-si, Pocheon-si in Gyeonggi-

Multicultural Household by Provinces (2015, 2020)

	General Households		Multicultural Households		Ratio of Multicultural Households to General Households		2015-2020 Growth Rate	
	2015	2020	2015	2020	2015	2020	General Households	Multicultural Households
National Total	19,111	20,927	299	368	1.6	1.8	9.5	22.9
-Eup	1,696	2,022	33	45	1.9	2.2	19.2	38.1
-Myeon	1,928	2,008	37	39	1.9	2.0	4.2	5.6
-Dong	15,488	16,897	229	284	1.5	1.7	9.1	23.6
Seoul	3,784	3,982	64	70	1.7	1.8	5.2	9.0
Busan	1,336	1,405	13	15	1.0	1.1	5.2	18.2
Daegu	929	986	9	11	0.9	1.1	6.2	27.6
Incheon	1,045	1,147	18	25	1.8	2.2	9.7	38.4
Gwangju	567	599	6	8	1.1	1.3	5.7	25.2
Daejeon	583	631	6	7	1.0	1.2	8.4	21.1
Ulsan	423	444	6	7	1.4	1.6	4.9	16.5
Sejong	75	139	1	2	1.2	1.2	84.9	80.2
Gyeonggi-do	4,385	5,098	84	111	1.9	2.2	16.3	31.2
Gangwon-do	606	661	7	9	1.2	1.4	9.1	22.3
Chungcheongbuk-do	602	679	9	12	1.6	1.8	12.8	28.4
Chungcheongnam-do	796	892	15	19	1.8	2.1	12.1	25.8
Jeollabuk-do	717	756	11	13	1.6	1.7	5.3	17.0
Jeollanam-do	721	762	13	15	1.8	1.9	5.7	14.7
Gyeongsangbuk-do	1,063	1,132	14	17	1.3	1.5	6.5	20.8
Gyeongsangnam-do	1,258	1,350	18	22	1.4	1.6	7.3	20.9
Jeju	220	263	4	5	1.8	2.1	19.4	37.5

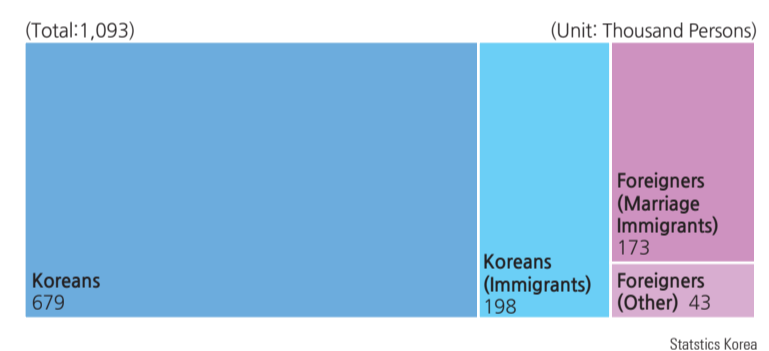
do, Bupyeong-gu in Incheon, Eumseong-gun and Jincheon-gun in Chungcheongbuk-do, and Yeongam-gun in Jeollanam-do. The ratio of multicultural households is high in the Seoul Metropolitan Area and in the Chungcheong region, where many

foreigners live. The ratio of multicultural households is also high in the rural areas of the Chungcheong and Honam regions due to the influence of international marriage. There are 1.09 million multicultural household members, of which 680 thousand are

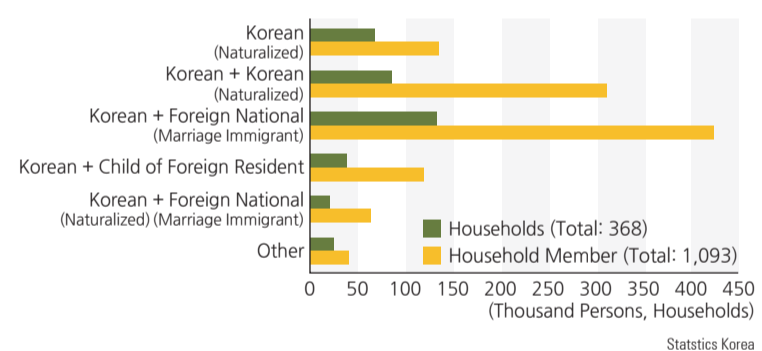
Koreans (including births), 200 thousand naturalized Koreans, 170 thousand marriage immigrants, and 40 thousand foreigners. Areas with a high proportion of foreigners among multicultural household members are the Seoul Metropolitan Area, including Seoul, Incheon, and Gyeonggi-do. According to the composition of multicultural households, 220 thousand households (59%) are households of a Korean national and a naturalized foreign resident by marriage or households of a Korean national and a marriage immigrant.

The main reason for the formation of multicultural households is marriage. However, the spatial distribution of naturalized foreign residents by marriage and marriage immigrants differs depending on their country of origin. For example, those from Northeast Asia are mainly distributed in the Seoul Metropolitan Area, while those from Southeast Asia are distributed in rural areas of other provinces.

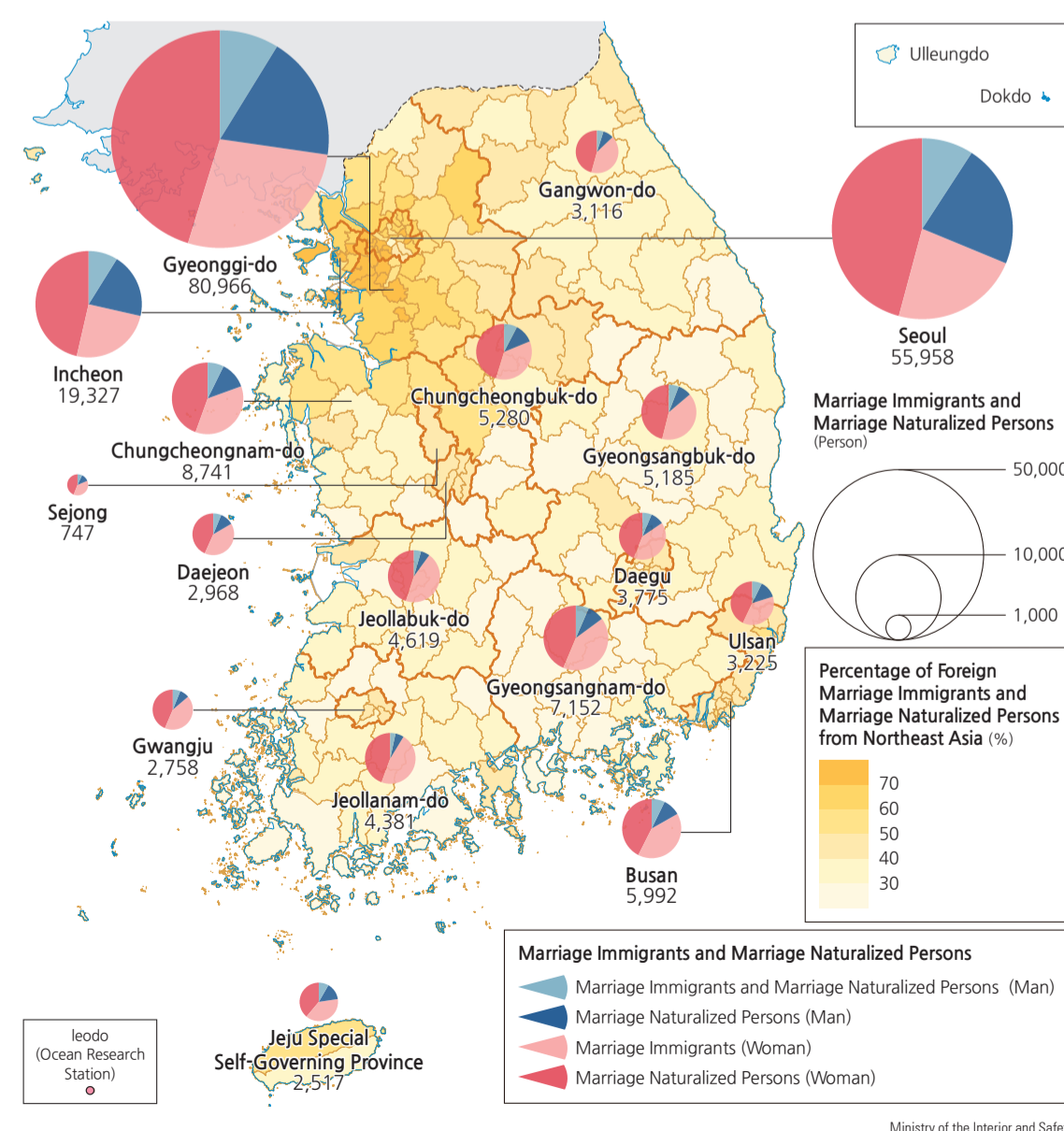
Household Members of Multicultural Households (2020)



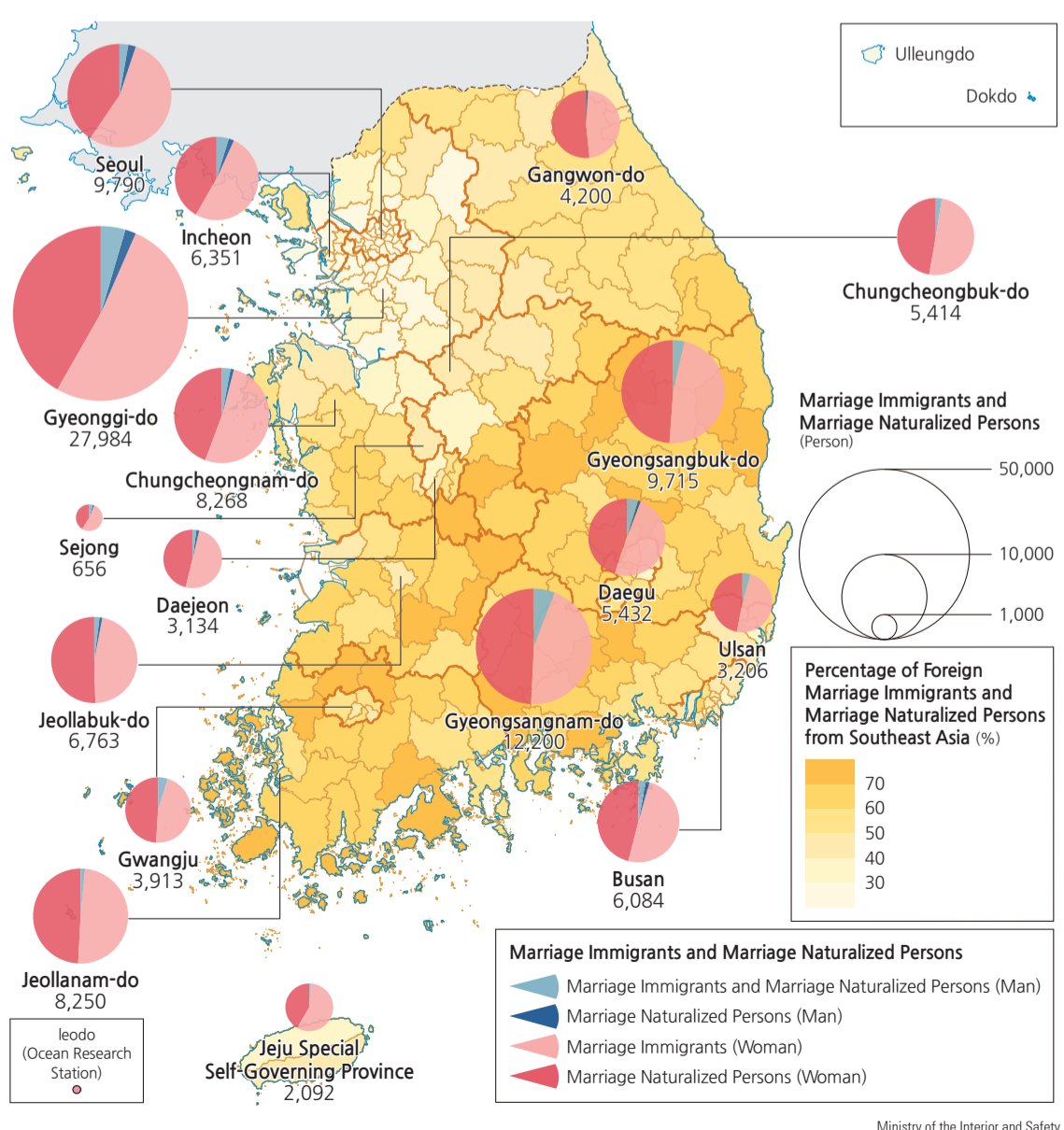
Type of Multicultural Households (2020)



Foreign Marriage Immigrants and Marriage Naturalized Persons from Northeast Asia (2020)



Foreign Marriage Immigrants and Marriage Naturalized Persons from Southeast Asia (2020)

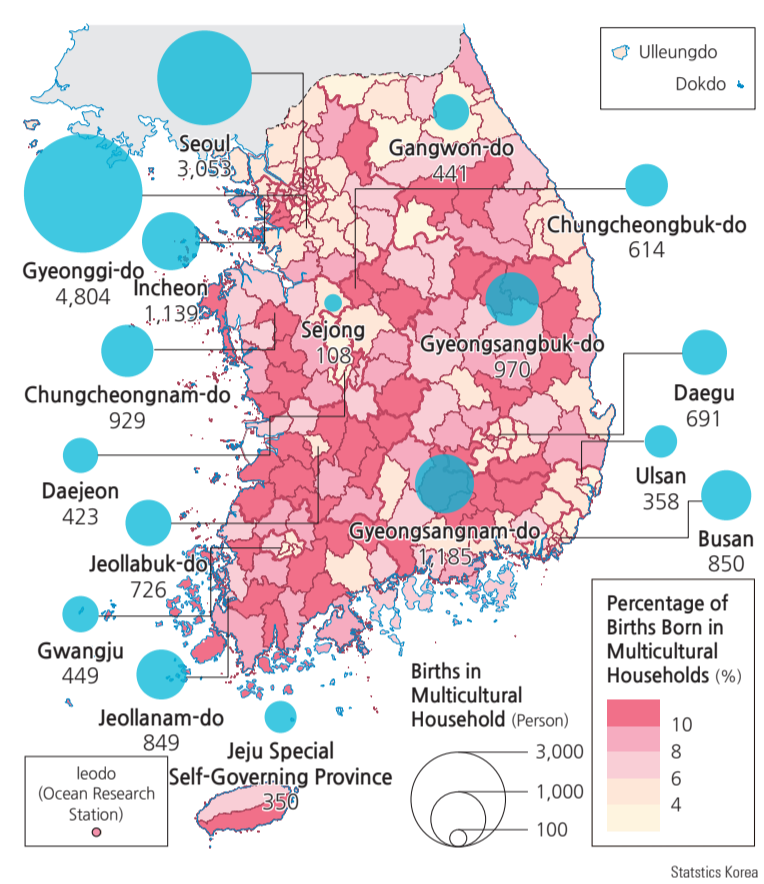


Vital Statistics of Multicultural Households

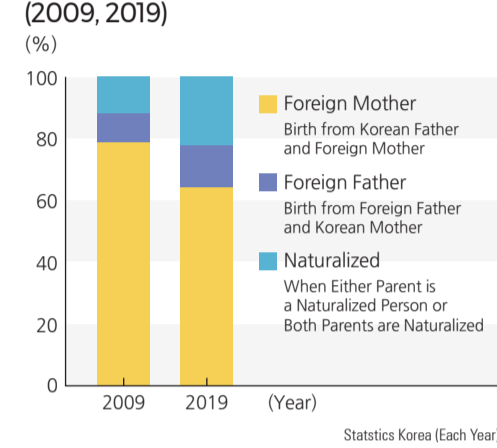
Vital Statistics of Multicultural Households

Year	Total Households				Multicultural Households				Ratio of Multicultural Households to Total Households			
	Birth	Death	Marriage	Divorce	Birth	Death	Marriage	Divorce	Birth	Death	Marriage	Divorce
2008	465.9	246.1	327.7	116.5	13.4	1.0	36.6	12.4	2.9	0.4	11.2	10.7
2009	444.8	246.9	309.8	124.0	19.0	1.3	33.9	13.7	4.3	0.5	10.9	11
2010	470.2	255.4	326.1	116.9	20.3	1.5	35.1	14.3	4.3	0.6	10.8	12.3
2011	471.3	257.4	329.1	114.3	22.0	1.6	30.7	14.5	4.7	0.6	9.3	12.6
2012	484.6	267.2	327.1	114.3	22.9	1.6	29.2	13.7	4.7	0.6	8.9	12
2013	436.5	266.3	322.8	115.3	21.3	1.6	26.9	13.5	4.9	0.6	8.3	11.7
2014	435.4	267.7	305.5	115.5	21.2	1.6	24.4	12.9	4.9	0.6	8	11.2
2015	438.4	275.9	302.8	109.2	19.7	1.7	22.5	11.3	4.5	0.6	7.4	10.3
2016	406.2	280.8	281.6	107.3	19.4	1.9	21.7	10.6	4.8	0.7	7.7	9.9
2017	357.8	285.5	264.5	106.0	18.4	2.0	21.9	10.3	5.2	0.7	8.3	9.7
2018	326.8	298.8	257.6	108.7	18.1	2.2	23.8	10.3	5.5	0.7	9.2	9.4
2019	302.7	295.1	239.2	110.8	17.9	2.6	24.7	9.9	5.9	0.9	10.3	8.9

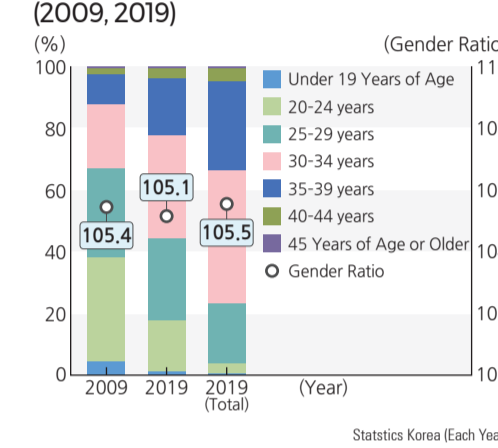
Births in Multicultural Households (2019)



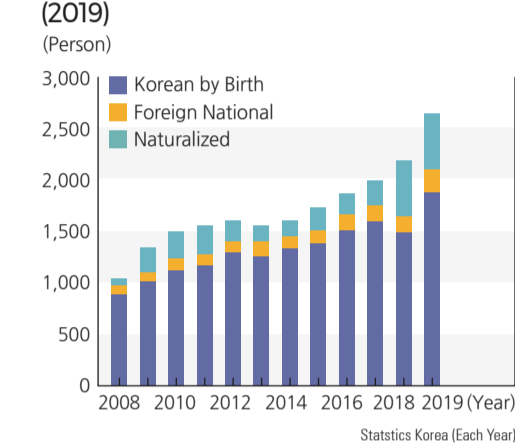
Parents of Multicultural Births (2009, 2019)



Maternal Age of Multicultural Births (2009, 2019)



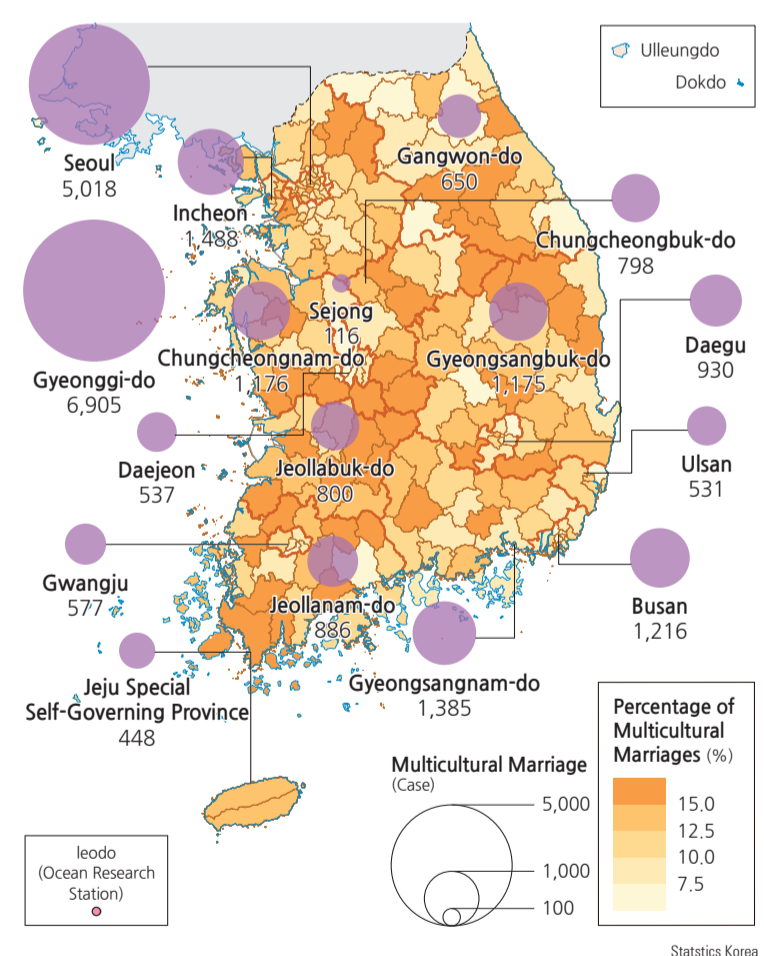
Deaths in Multicultural Households (2019)



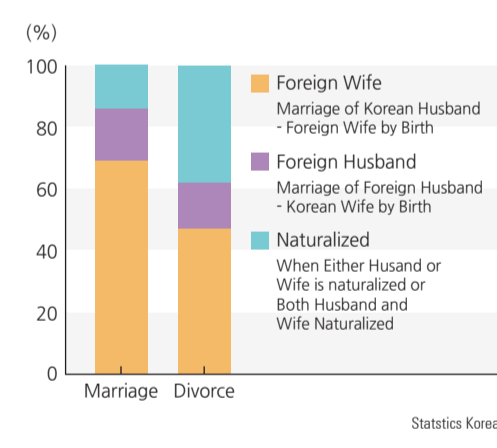
residents by marriage increased in 2019. It is because marriage immigrants became naturalized foreign residents by marriage. The age range that accounts for the largest proportion of mothers of children born in multicultural households in 2009 was between the ages of 20 and 24. In 2019, the age range became between 30 and 34, indicating that the maternal age had increased. Nevertheless, in 2019, the maternal age of multicultural households was lower than the maternal age of all households. The male-to-female sex ratio of all the newborns of multicultural households was not significantly different from that of all households. In 2019, there were 55 -si/-

gun-gu areas where the ratio of the newborns of multicultural households to the total newborns exceeded 10%, including Geumcheon-gu in Seoul, Ansan-si and Siheung-si in Gyeonggi-do, and rural districts in other provinces. By province, Gyeonggi-do had the highest number of newborns among multicultural households, followed by Seoul, Gyeongsangnam-do, and Incheon. Jeollabuk-do had the highest proportion of newborns of multicultural households (8.1%) compared to the total number of newborns. Regarding the deaths in multicultural households, Koreans accounted for the largest number, and the number of naturalized foreign residents by marriage

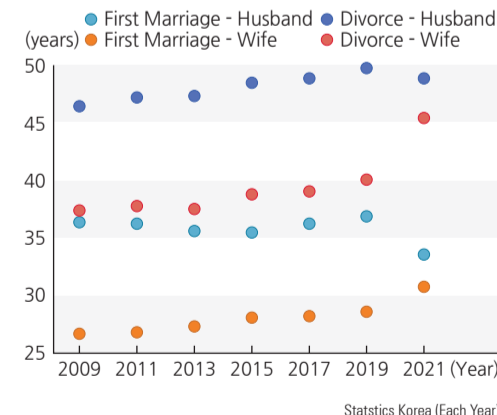
Multicultural Marriage (2019)



Multicultural Marriage and Divorce (2019)



Age of First Marriage and Divorce of Multicultural Household (2019)



was rapidly increasing. In 2019, the ratio of foreign wives and Korean husbands was the highest at 69.3%, followed by foreign husbands and Korean wives at 17.2%, and either husband or wife was a naturalized foreign resident or both were naturalized foreign residents at 13.5%. There were 48 -si/-gun-gu areas where the ratio of the marriages of multicultural households to total marriages exceeded 15%. Their distribution is similar to that of regions with a high ratio of newborns in multicultural households. By province, Gyeonggi-do had the highest number of multicultural marriages, followed by Seoul and Incheon. On the other hand, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (13.2%) had the highest proportion of multicultural marriages, followed by Jeollanam-do (11.8%), Chungcheongnam-do (11.8%), and Jeollabuk-

do (11.2%). The age of first marriage for foreign wives was 28.4 years, which is 2.2 years lower than that for all wives, at 30.6 years. However, the age for first marriage for foreign wives is continuously increasing. On the contrary, the age of first marriage for husbands of multicultural marriages is higher than that for all husbands. The country with the highest percentage of a husband's nationality in multicultural marriages is Korea, followed by China, the United States, and Vietnam. The percentage of Japanese husbands in multicultural marriages decreased significantly compared to 2009. In multicultural marriages, Vietnam has the highest percentage of wives' nationality, followed by Korea and China. Among Southeastern Asian countries, the countries with the highest percentage of wives' nationality were Vietnam, the Philippines, and Cambodia in that

order in 2009, but as of 2019, Vietnam, Thai, and the Philippines were in that order. In 2019, the ratio of divorce in multicultural households was 47.1% for foreign wives, 37.3% for either husband or wife being a naturalized foreign resident or both being naturalized foreign residents, and 15.6% for foreign husbands. The age of divorce for multicultural households is increasing for both men and women. The country with the highest percentage of husbands' nationality in divorces for multicultural households was Korea, followed by China, Japan, and the United States. The countries with the highest percentage of wives' nationalities were China, Vietnam, and the Philippines, in that order.