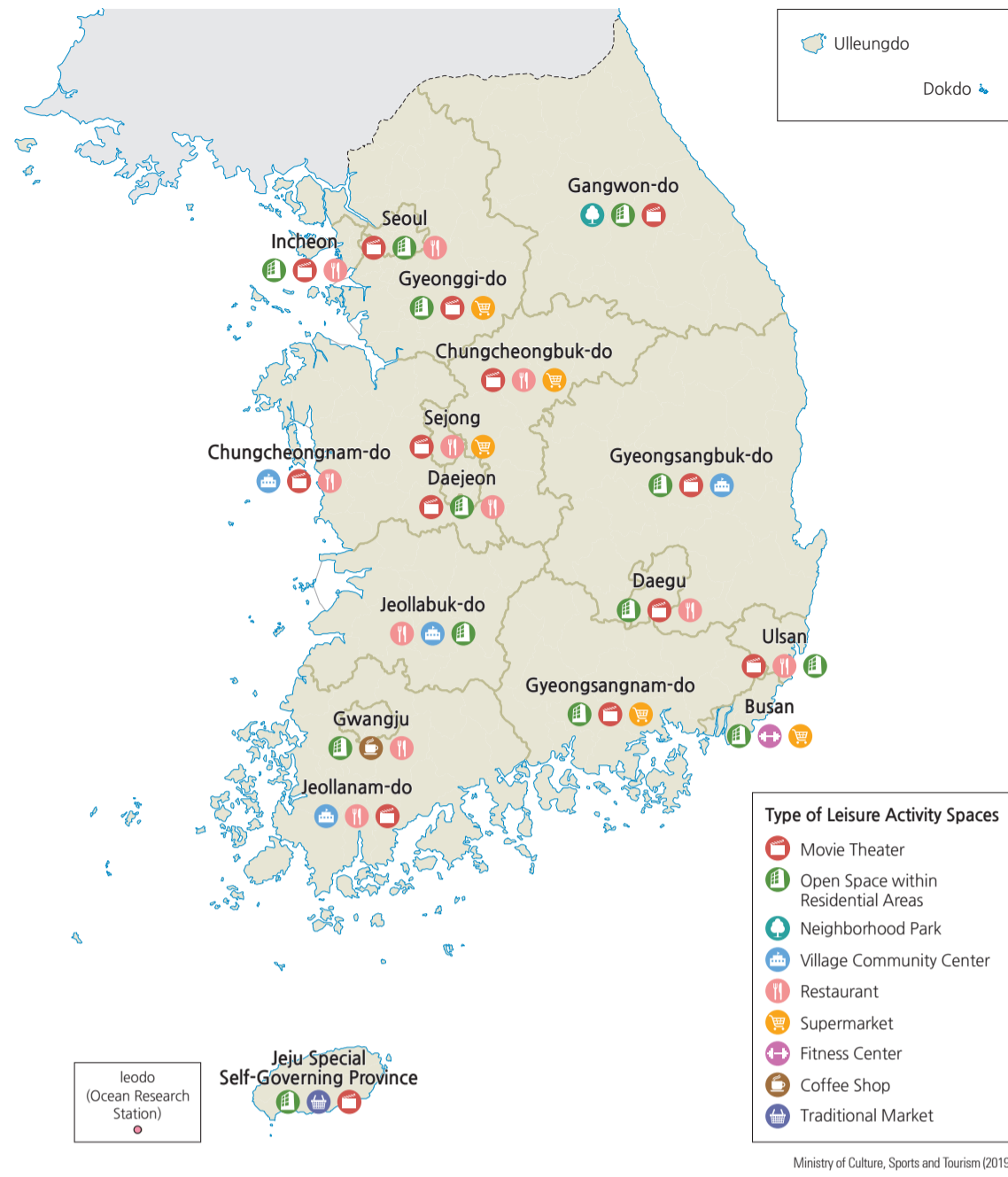
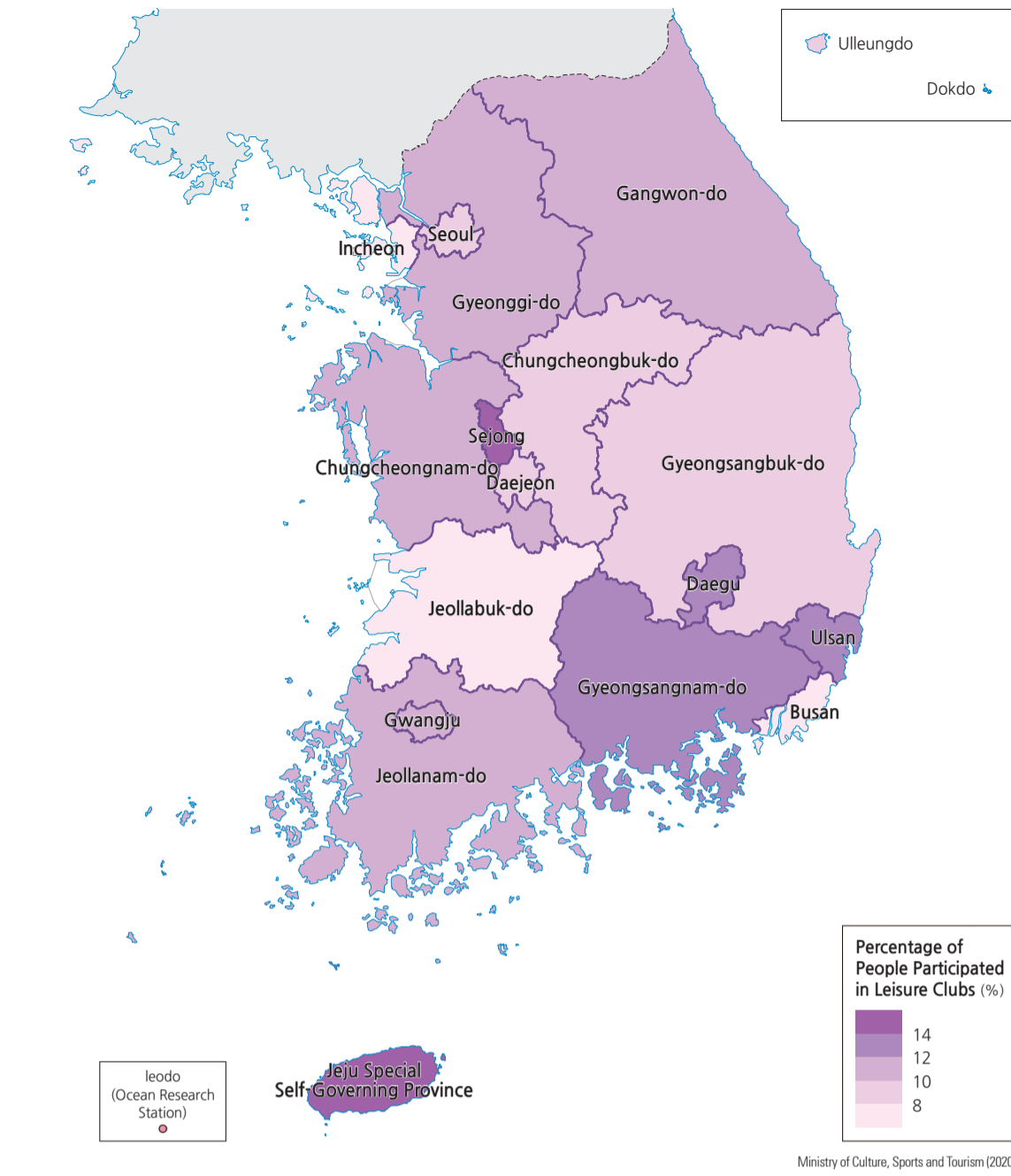




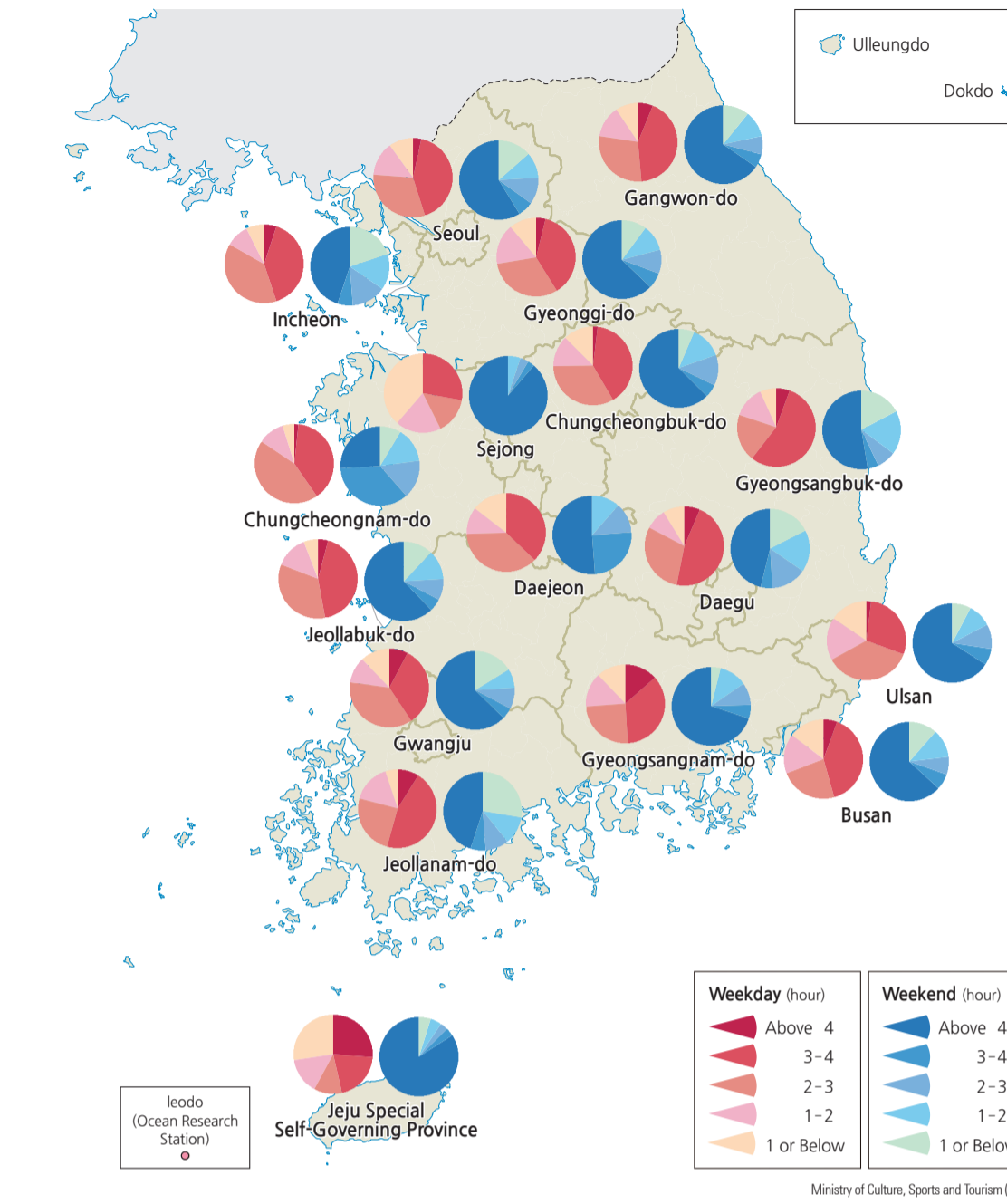
Top 3 Leisure Activity Spaces (2019)



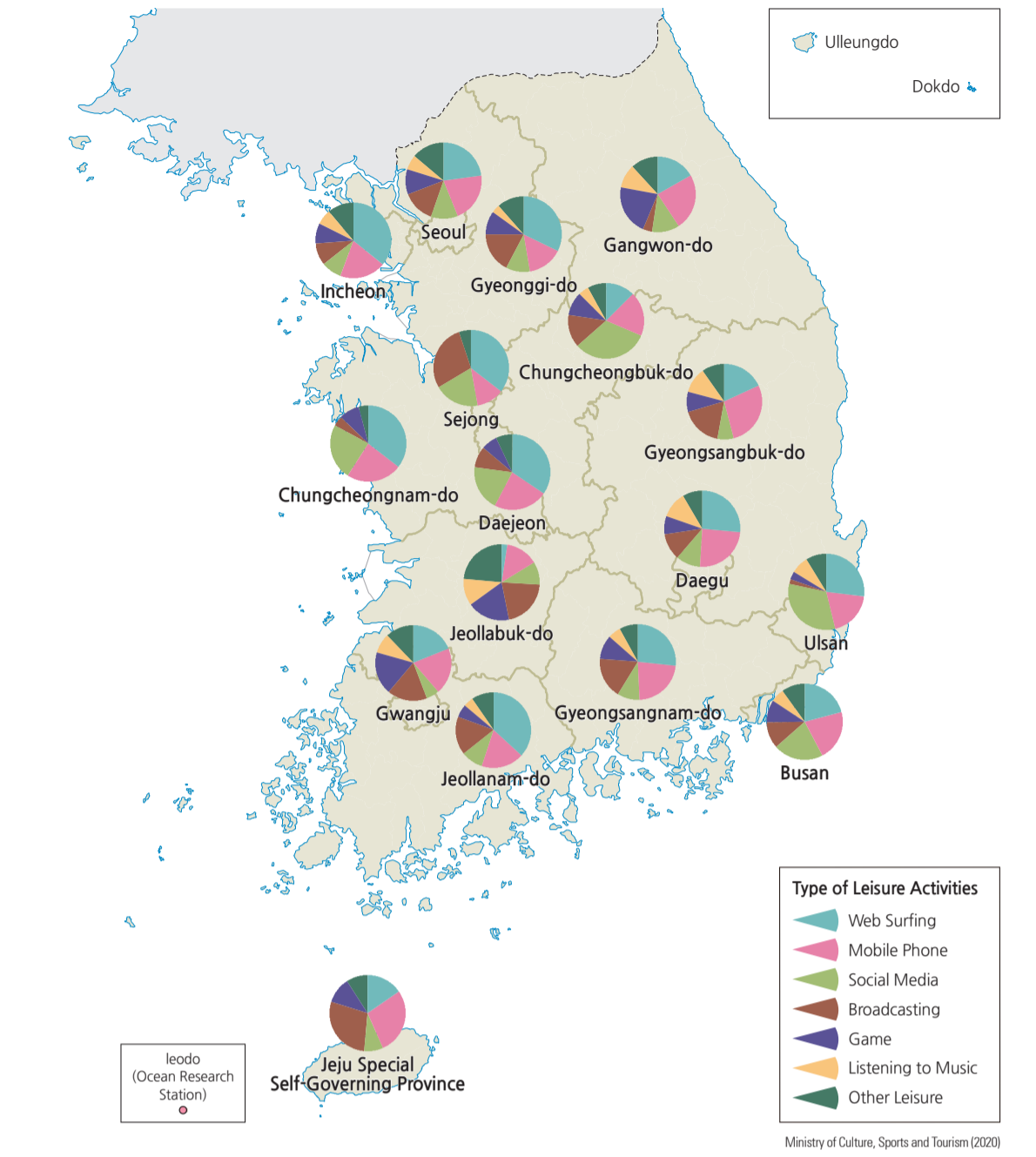
Participation in Leisure Clubs (2020)



Time Spent for Using Smart Devices (2020)



Leisure Activities by Using Smart Devices (2020)



Koreans enjoy leisure in movie theaters, spaces around the house and neighborhood parks for light exercise, and restaurants and cafes for gatherings and chats. In addition, they enjoy hiking on weekends. Also, regional differences in leisure space can be found. For example, movie theaters are often recognized as the primary space for leisure in urban areas. On the other hand, village community centers are the primary space for leisure in non-urban regions where the elderly population is dominant, including Chungcheongnam-do, Jeollanam-do, Jeollabuk-do, and Gyeongsangbuk-do. Regardless of gender, the primary purpose of leisure participation is for personal pleasure; a relatively lower proportion of Korean people participate in leisure for health, socializing, and personal

development. Females are more likely than males to pursue emotional balance and rest in their leisure time. On the other hand, males are more likely to see leisure as an aim to relieve stress. Reflecting such purposes, males participate in hobbies, entertainment, and sports-related activities; females participate in relaxing, socializing, or culture and art-related activities. By age groups, the proportion of people participating in leisure activities increases for younger people in personal pleasure, relieving stress, and emotional stability and for older people in resting and health-related activities. Recently, the proportion to watch broadcasts with TVs and smartphones by using video-on-demand (VOD) services and leisure activities by using mobile devices also are emerging.

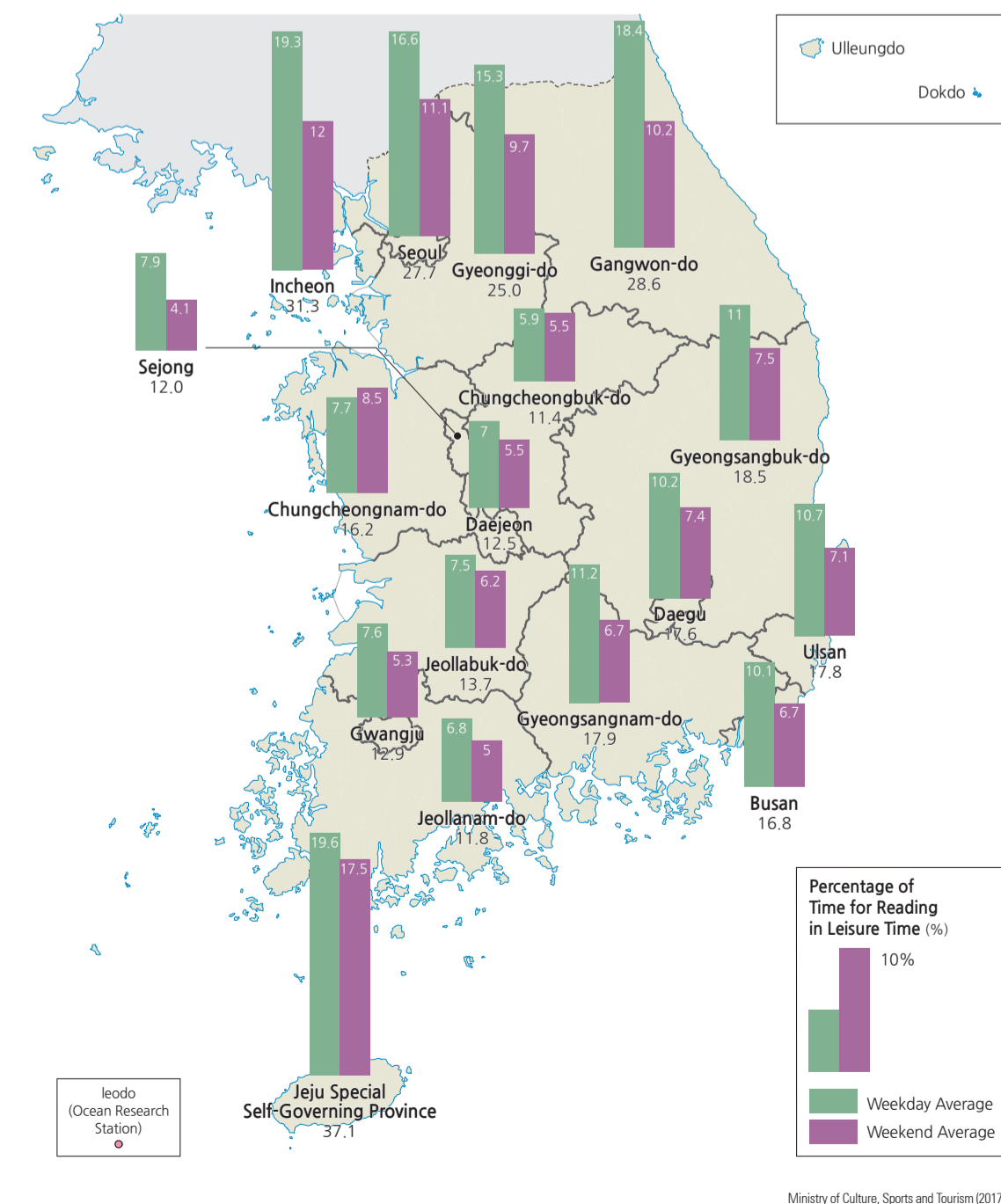
People allocate 5 to 20% of their leisure time to reading, depending on the region. For example, people in Jeju-do allocate the longest time on reading; on the other hand, people from Chungcheongbuk-do allocate the shortest time. Gwangju, Jeollanam-do, and Sejong are the regions where people allocate the least time for reading on weekends or holidays. The use of e-books and audiobooks increases as people rely less on traditional printed books. However, users of e-books and audiobooks are still lower than hardcopy users.

Understanding the recent walking and cycling craze is an important part of the Korean leisure culture. In the past, the common tourism pattern was arriving to tourism destinations quickly and enjoying the cultural heritage, tourism, and entertainment facilities. However, the new socio-cultural trend is to understand the region by meditating and feeling the environment while walking slowly. The socio-cultural trend has changed the travel patterns of Koreans. Following the walking craze, many walking routes have been created and used across the country. These routes reflect the characteristics and the history of the regions. The underlying themes for the creation of such routes are many. Diverse routes are gaining popularity in order to be able to enjoy the culture, ecology, beautiful coastal landscape, forests, and wildflowers. For example, Nuri-gil, a scenic stroll to enjoy an urban conservation area, has become popular nationally. Also, diverse routes were designed to enjoy unique

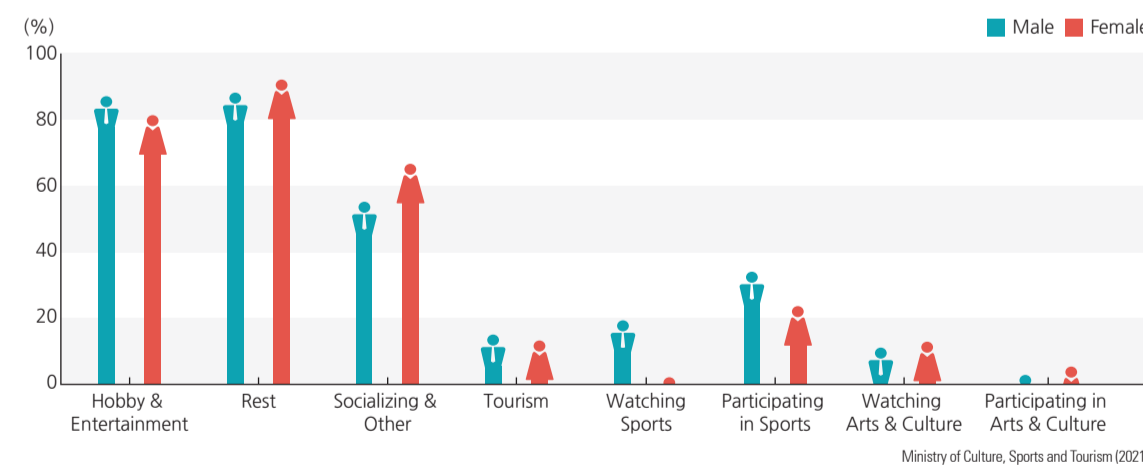
themes within the city, including ecological and historical resources such as Chunggyo-gil in Seoul. In most cities and provinces, public bicycles—commissioned and/or directly managed—are operated.

People can rent bicycles at rental stations by using transportation cards or mobile applications. In the past, people could not cross the country by riding a bicycle because of its mountainous terrain. However, in recent years, many bicycle trails have been created along major rivers such as the Han River, Geum River, Nakdong River, Yeongsan River, and coasts such as the east coast of the peninsula and the Jeju Island coast. Local governments have also built bicycle trails themed on history, nature, and culture. As a result, touring these bicycle trails and crossing the Korean territory using bicycle roads has become popular.

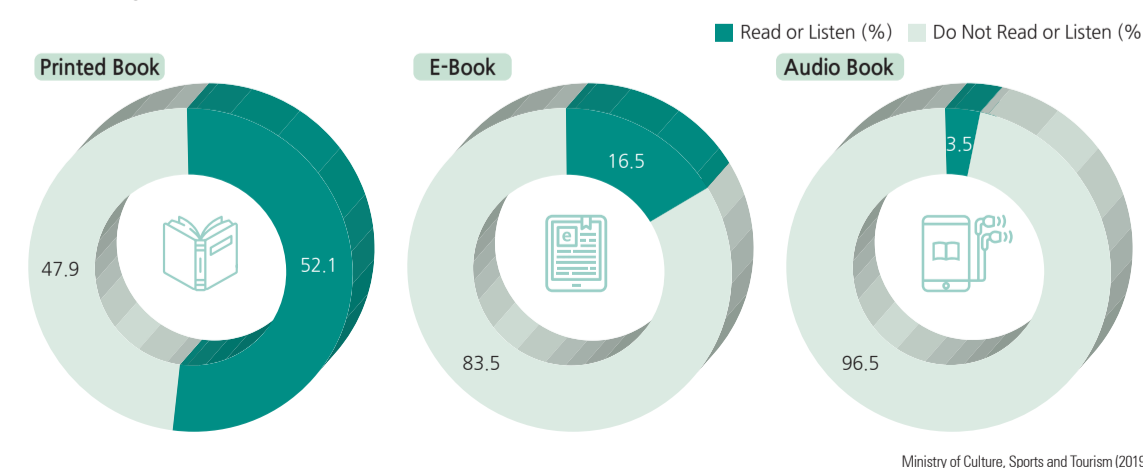
Percentage of Time for Reading in Leisure Time (2017)



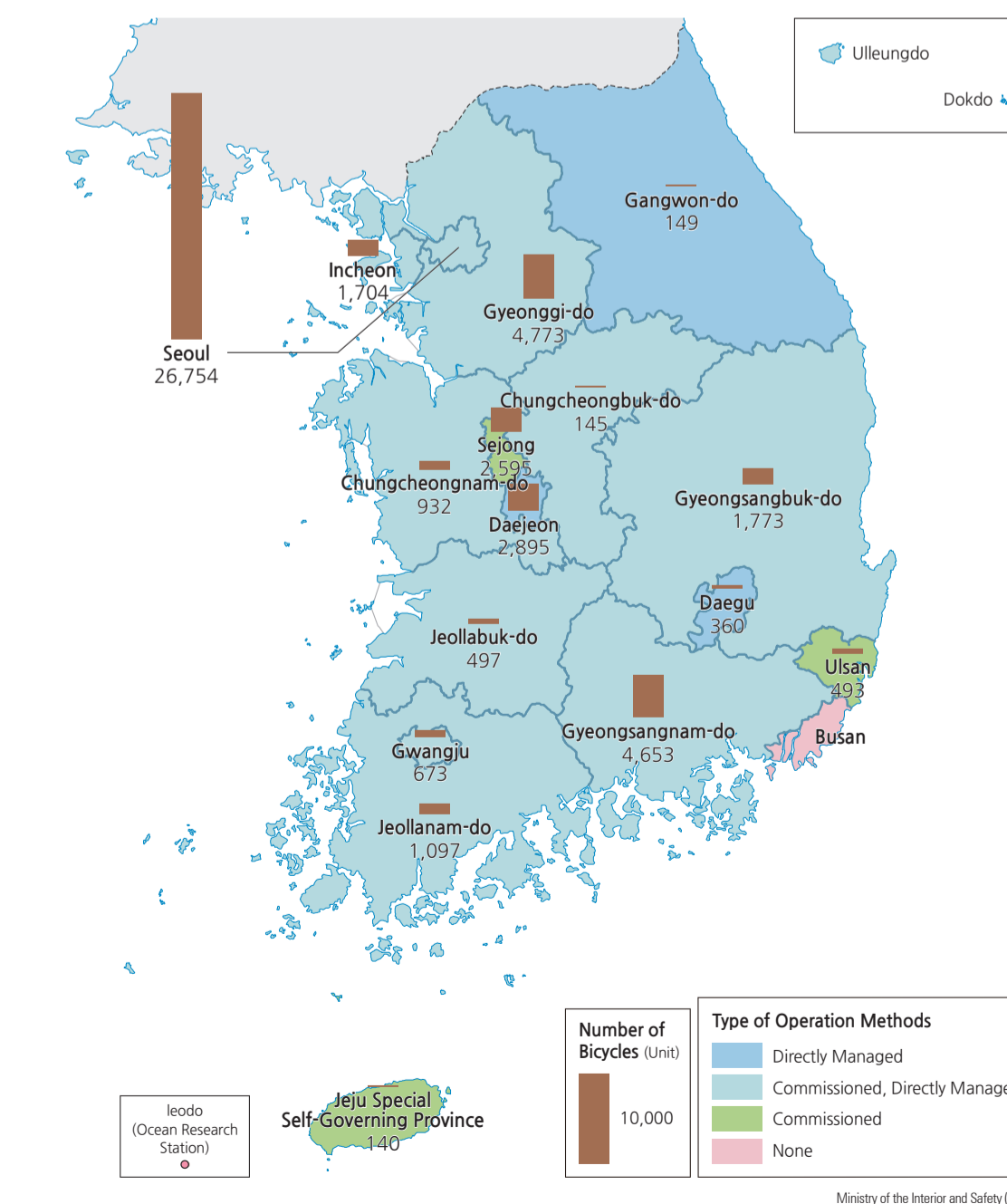
Types of Most Actively-Participating Leisure Activities by Gender (2020)



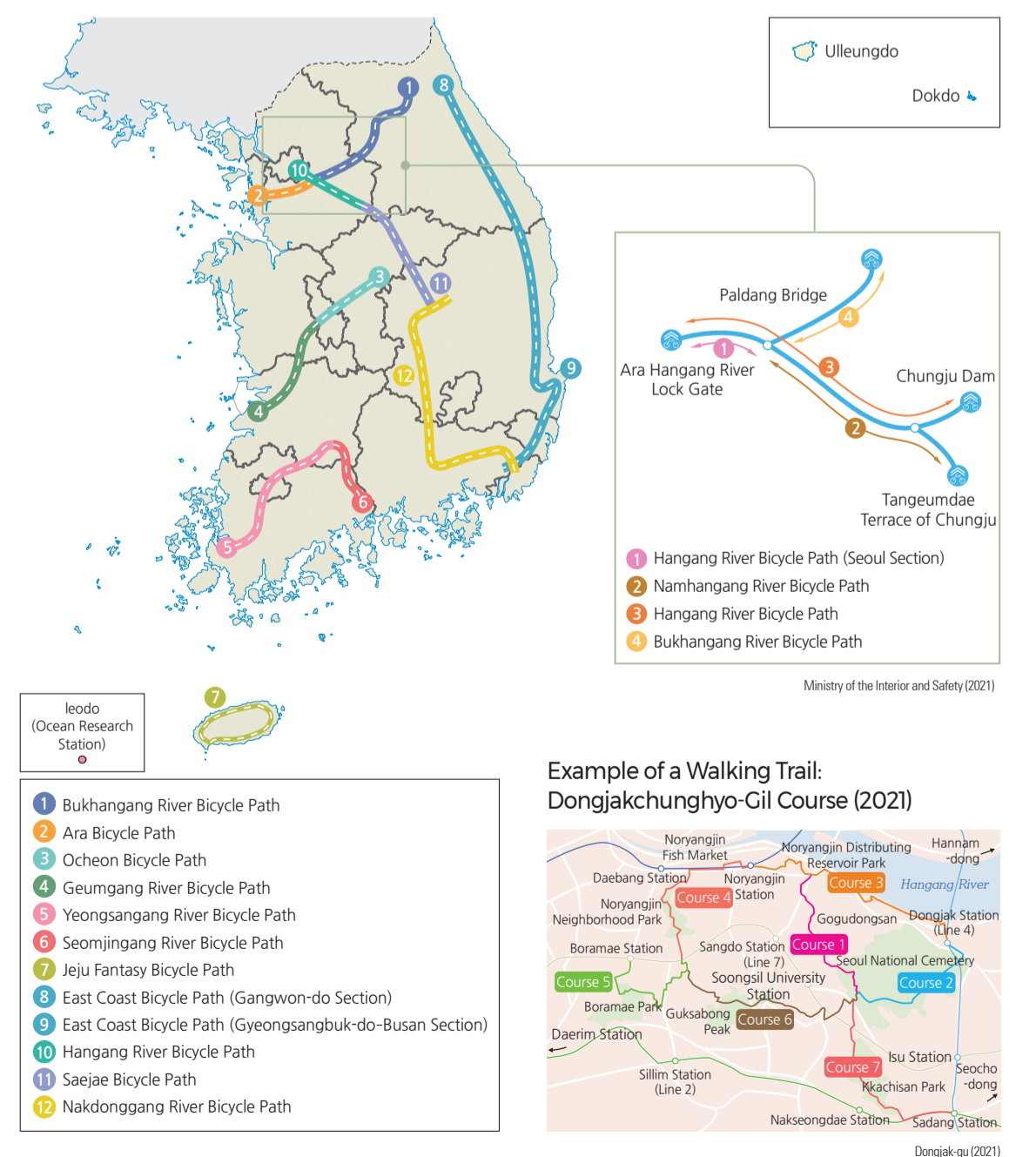
Percentage of Users of Printed Books, E-books, and Audio Books (2019)



Public Bicycle Services (2021)



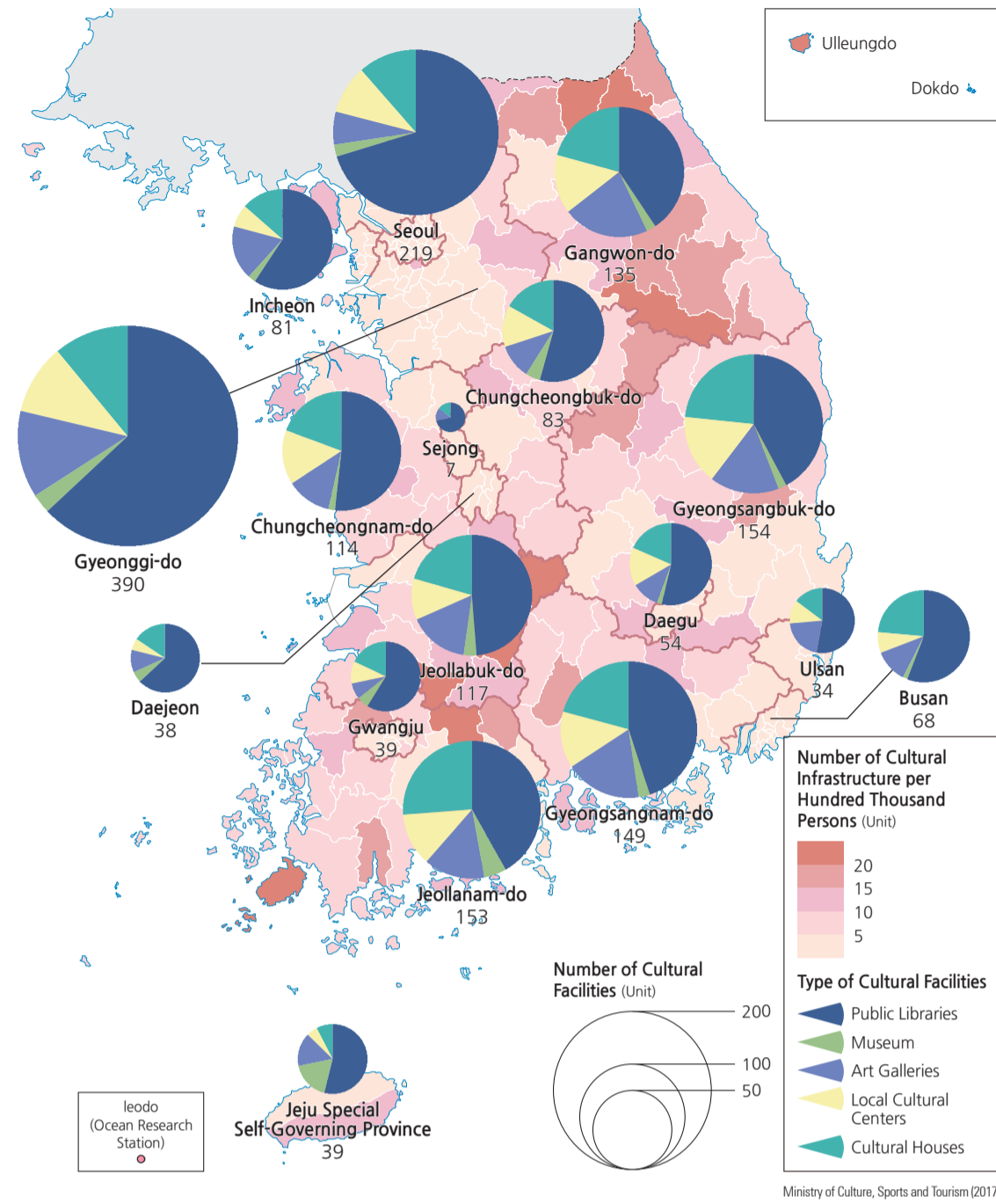
Distribution of Bike Trails (2021)



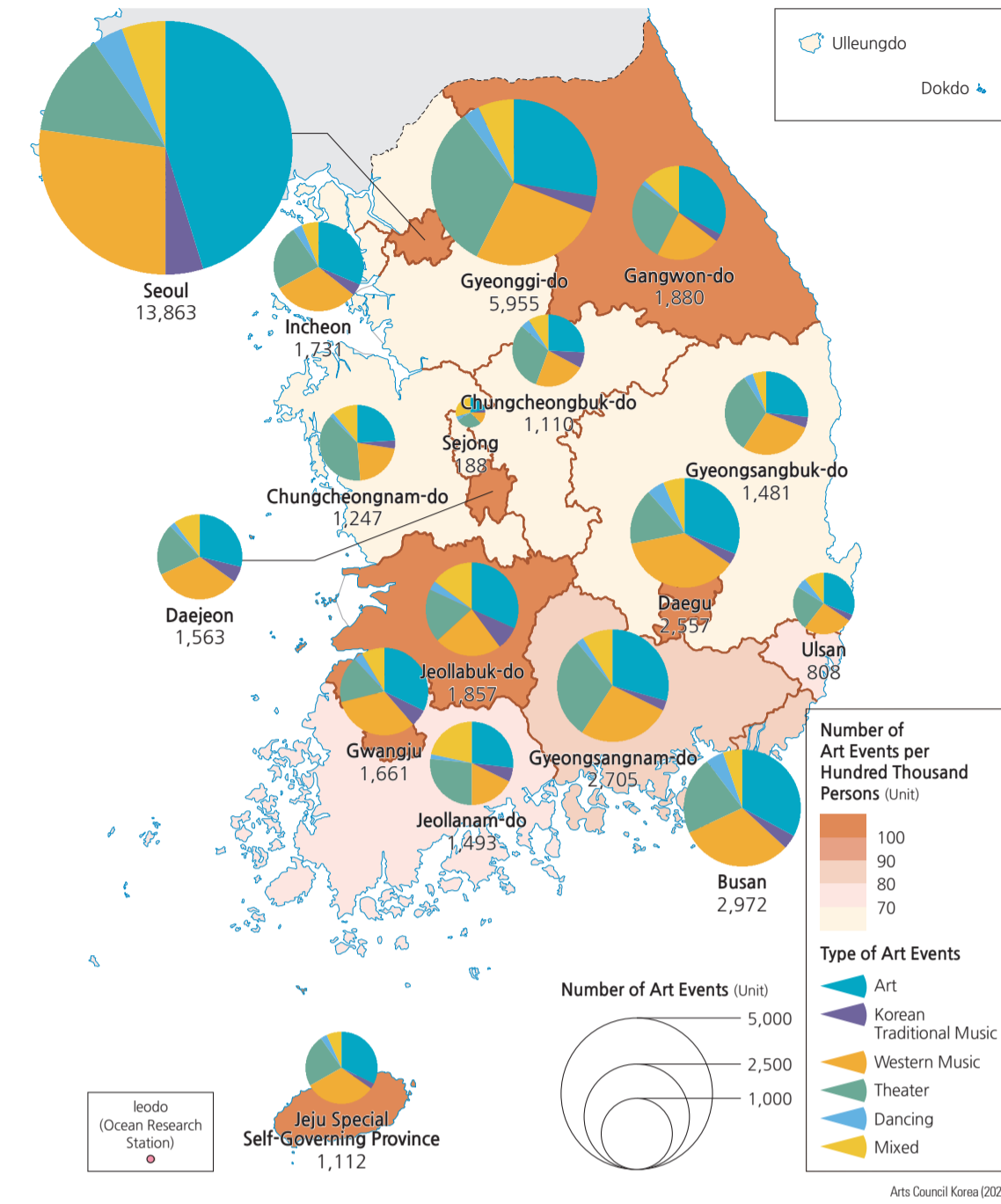


**Cultural Facilities**

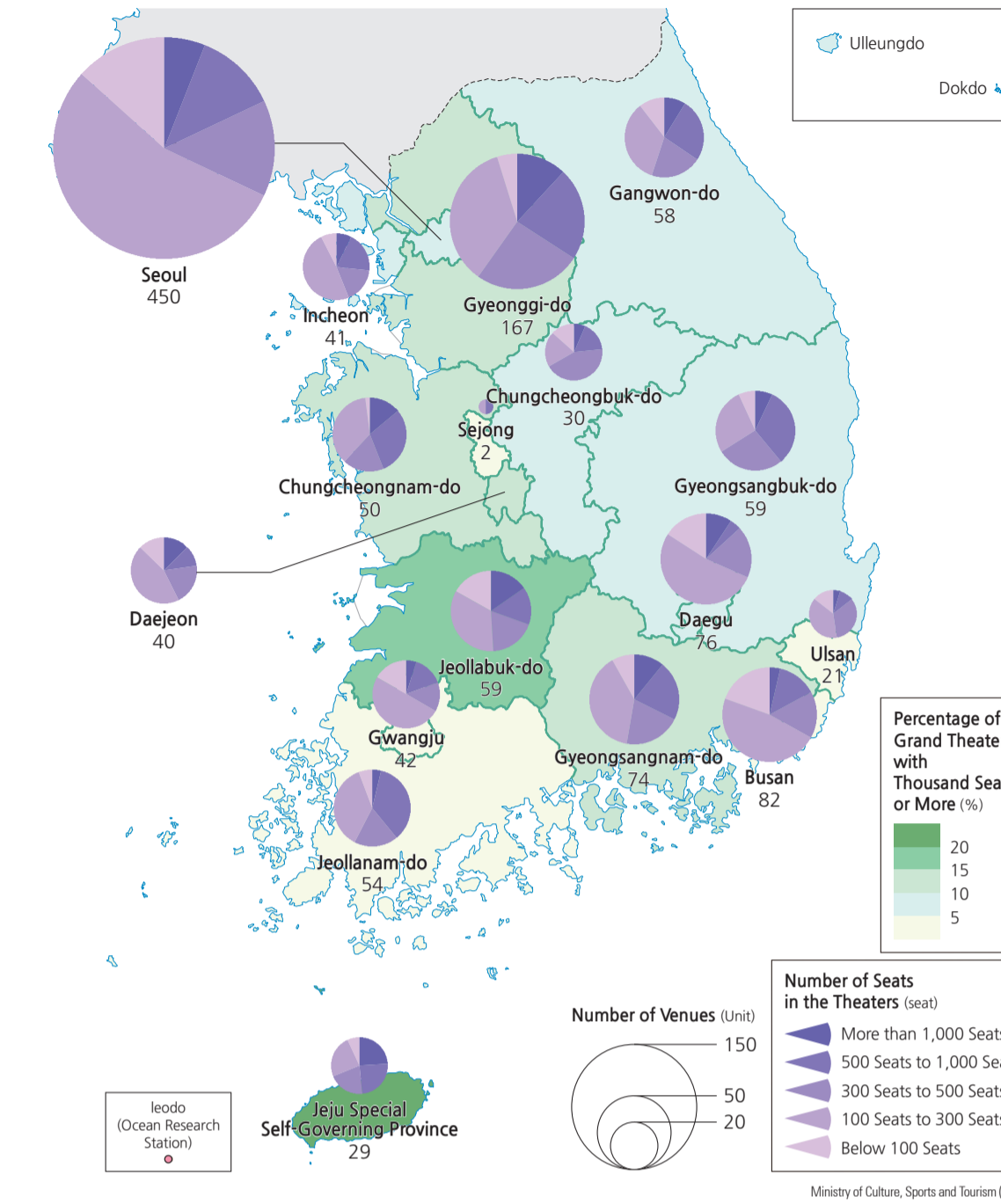
Number of Cultural Facilities (2017)



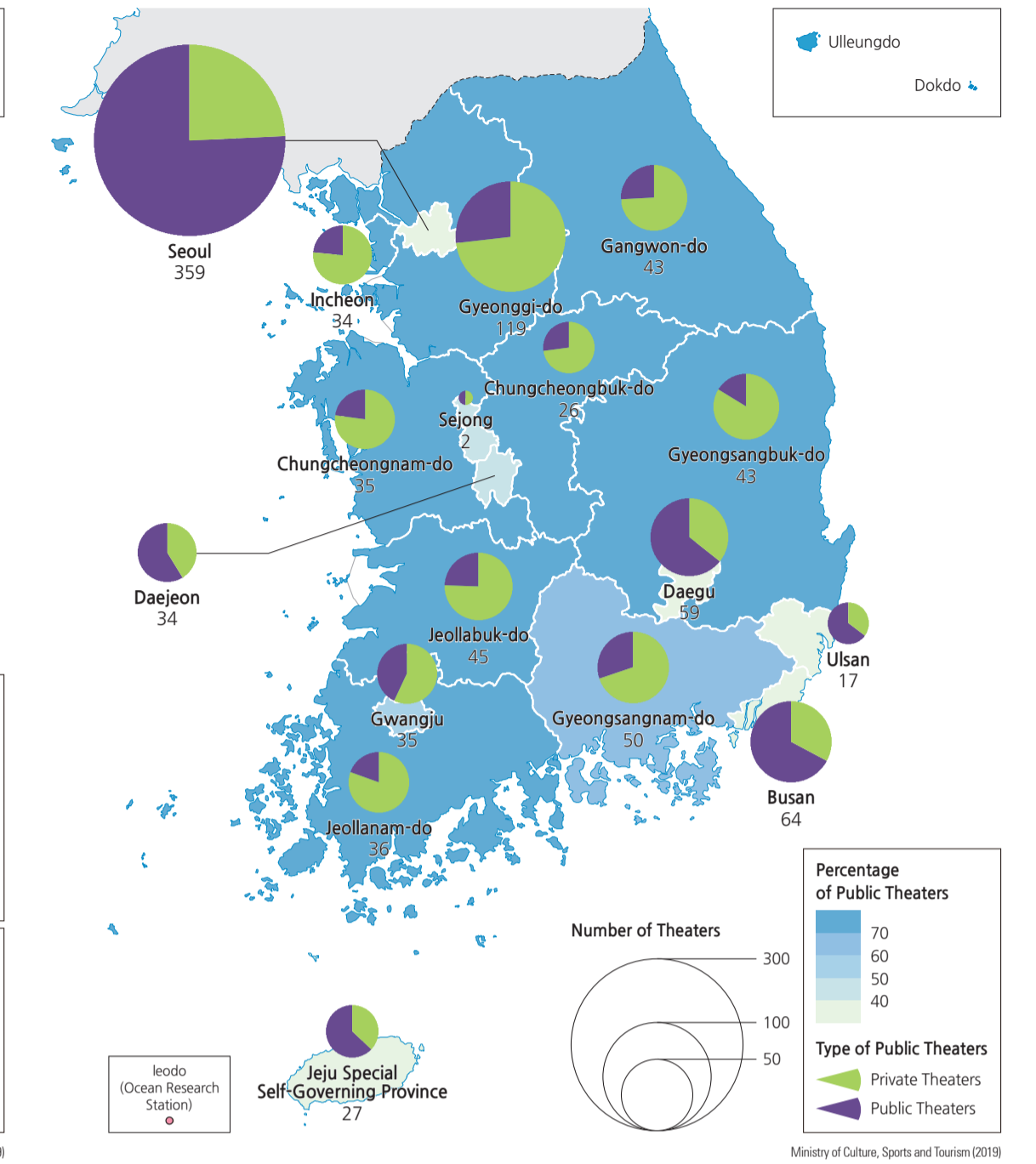
Annual Art Events (2021)



Distribution of Theaters by Number of Seats (2019)



Distribution of Public and Private Theaters by Founding Entity (2019)



Enjoying and participating in a variety of cultural activities are important to life in contemporary Korean society. Cultural infrastructures are the facilities run by the entities in each region to allow the local residents to enjoy cultural life more easily and conveniently. Cultural infrastructures include public libraries, museums, art galleries, cultural and art halls, local cultural centers, and cultural houses. These facilities are designed to meet the basic cultural demands of the local population; such facilities have been

the foundation of local cultural activities. In addition, the cultural infrastructure carries significant meaning in terms of the cultural rights of people. Facilities such as museums, theaters, art galleries, and libraries have been steadily increasing in number and enhancing and expanding in size and diversity. Also, based on cooperation with local communities, various programs are operated regionally. In the case of museums and libraries, collections and exhibitions

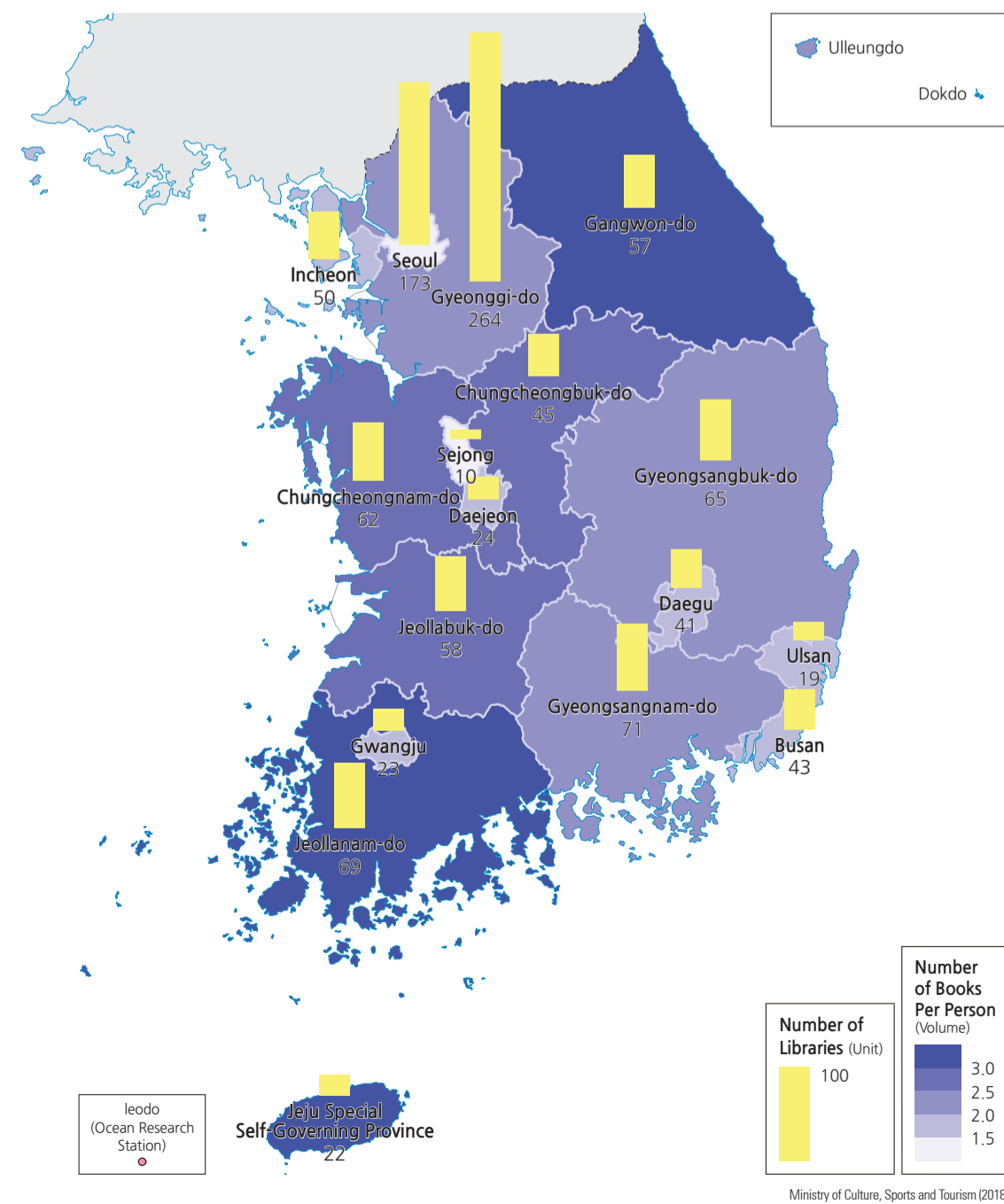
have been expanded. Theaters and art galleries where various art events are held, such as painting, music, theater, and dancing, are distributed across the country. In museums and art galleries, visitors can enjoy historical relics and works of art, and docent tour guide services and various educational programs are also offered. Cultural centers across the country enable people to enjoy art performances, participate in art-related activities, and discover and cultivate the local cultures. Such cultural events are

concentrated more in Seoul and the metropolitan areas. However, many exhibitions and performances are being held in the rest of the country to fulfill the cultural demand. Public libraries are also preferred cultural spaces for many people. Libraries recently have been transformed into complex cultural venues for local community education, performances, and cultural events while maintaining their traditional role for studying and book lending. They play significant roles as the center of cultural activities in each local community.

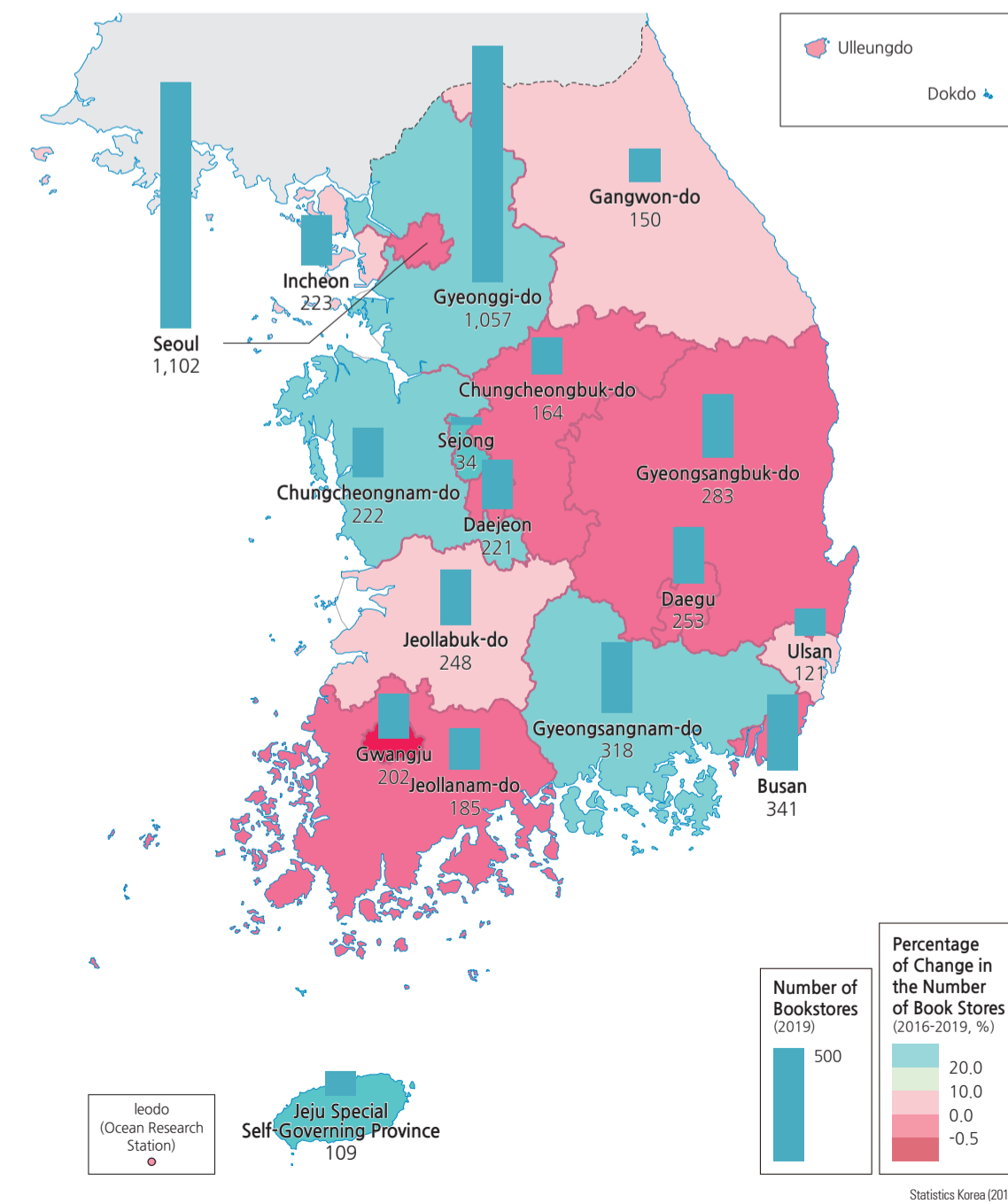
Large theme parks with more than 500,000 annual visitors fulfill the demands for leisure of the region and function as an important leisure space for domestic visitors from other regions as well as international tourists. As of 2019, popular theme parks such as Everland and Lotte World had annual visitors exceeding 5 million people. However, the operation of these theme parks was stricken the most by the COVID-19 pandemic. Especially indoor theme parks suffered from a rapid decrease in the number of visitors due to COVID-19. Local festivals are major events that reflect the rich cultural and natural heritage of the region and discover and promote newly-developed tourism resources.

Many regions have succeeded in sustaining local festivals, such as hosting traditional cultural festivals, tourism festivals, industrial festivals, and special interest festivals. In particular, many such festivals have emerged since the 1990s. Local festivals, which were designed to maintain the cultural heritage and unity of the local community, have increased in size and been combined with tourism and city marketing as a way of attracting tourists from all over the country and rejuvenating the regional economy. Every year, approximately 1,000 local festivals are held nationwide. Some festivals have become major local tourist attractions, attracting a large number of people. The festivals offer a diverse array of culture, art, nature and ecology, history, and local specialties. They have been established as an essential part of enhancing local tourism and cultural heritage by sparking the imagination about facets of the unique culture of that local place. Since 1995, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism has designated and supported cultural tourism festivals every year, including the best culture and tourism festivals, the most outstanding festivals, outstanding festivals, and promising festivals. As of 2019, the best culture and tourism festivals selected for five consecutive years are Hwacheon Sancheon Ice Festival, Gimje Horizon Festival, Boryeong Mud Festival, Jinju Namgang Yudeung (Lantern) Festival, and Andong Mask Dance Festival. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism supports promoting these festivals to become global festivals.

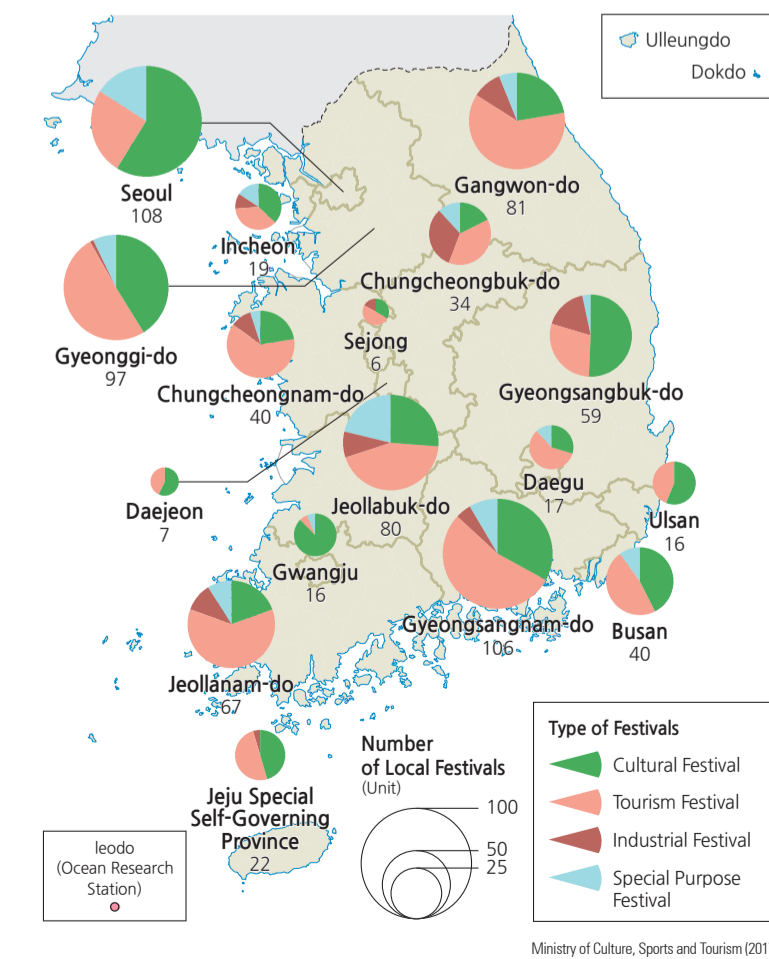
Number of Libraries and Number of Books per Person (2018)



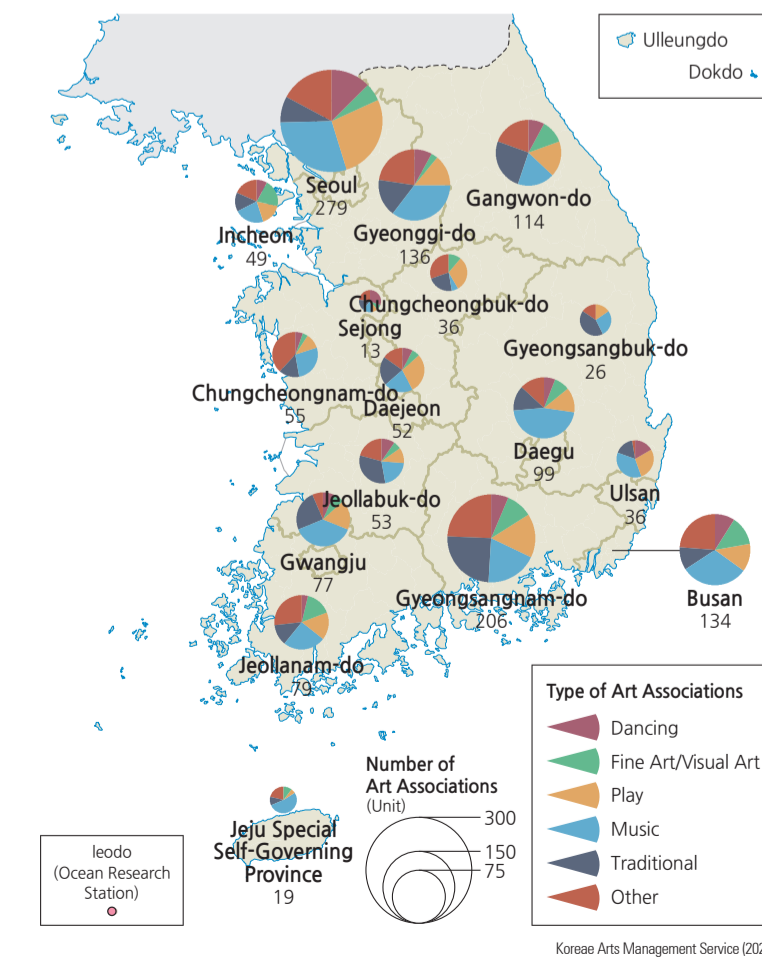
Distribution and Change in the Number of Book Stores (2019)



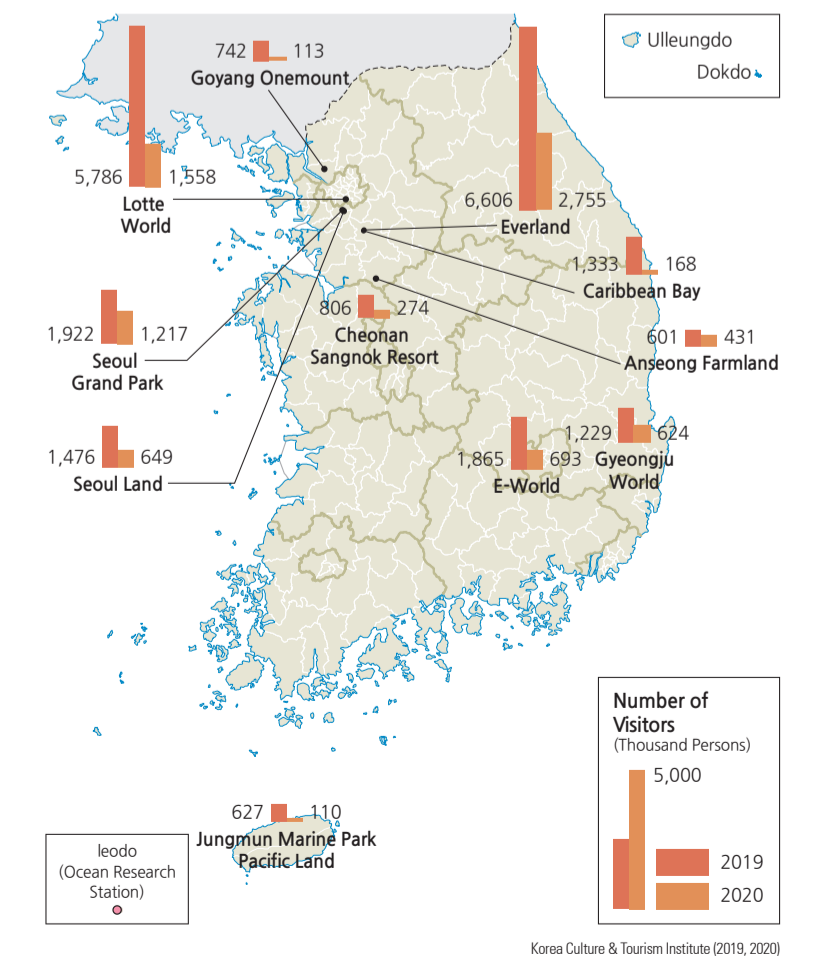
Local Festivals (2017)



Art Associations (2021)

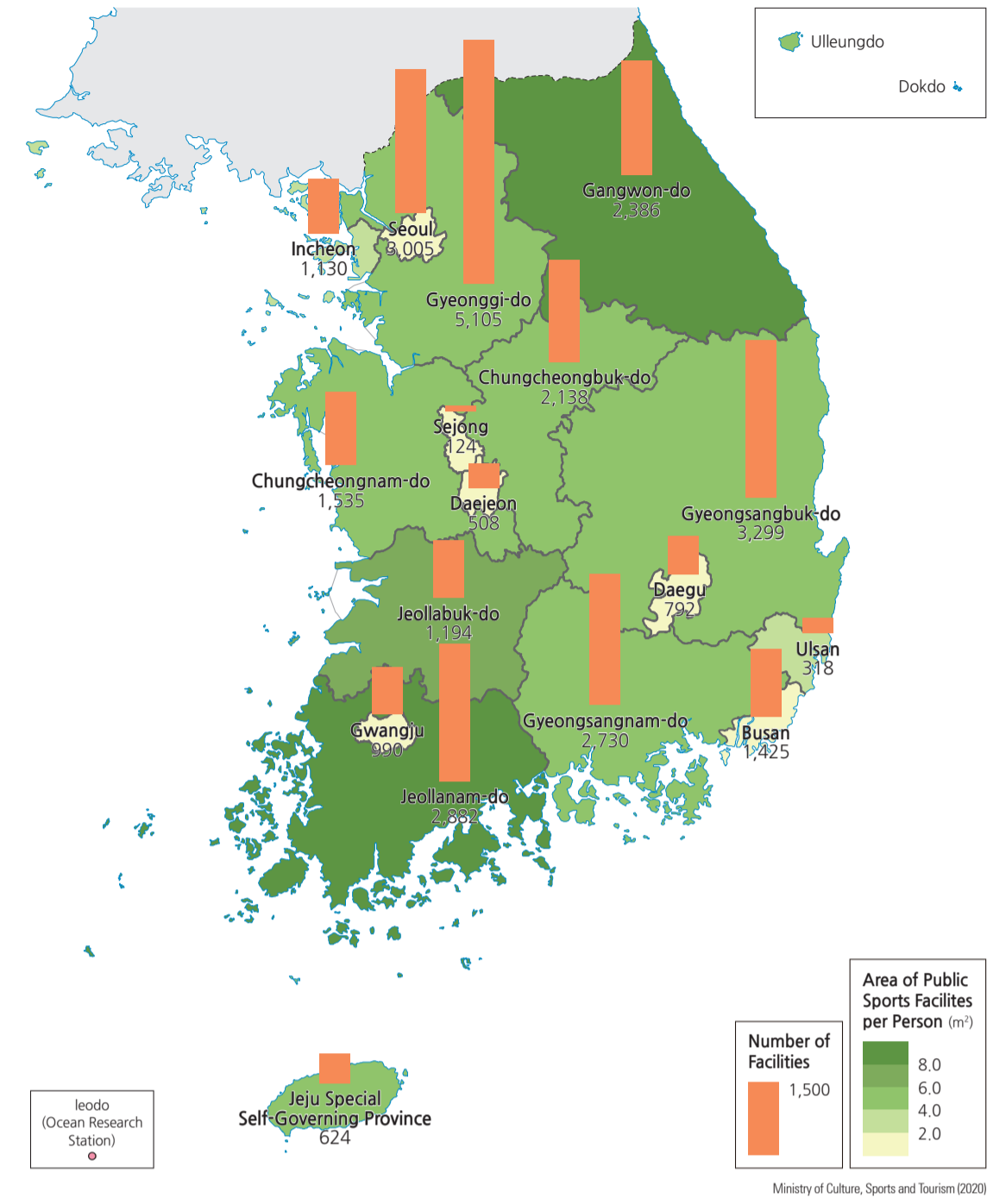


Number of Visitors of Theme Parks (2019-2020)

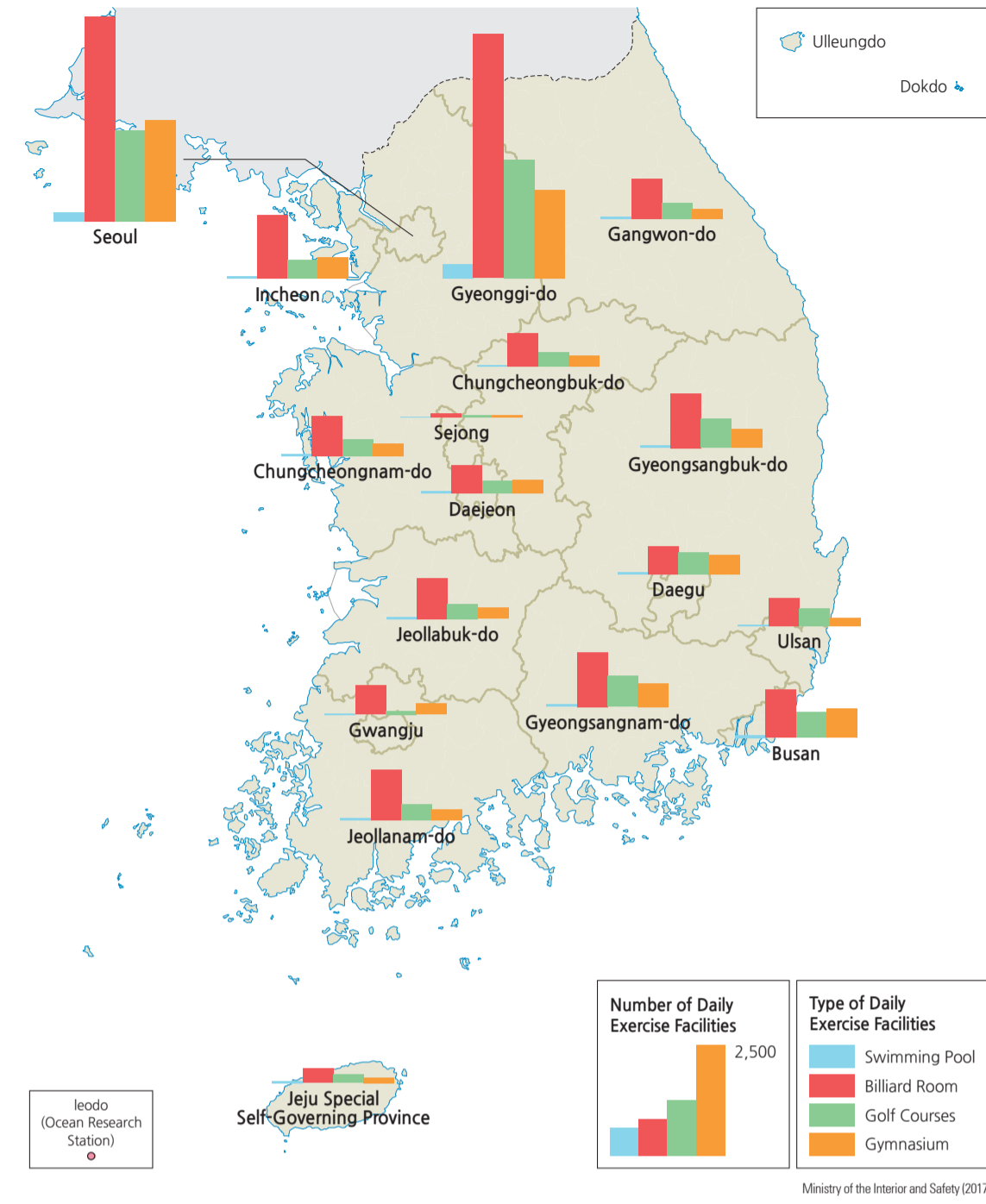


**Sports Activities**

Public Sports Facilities (2019)



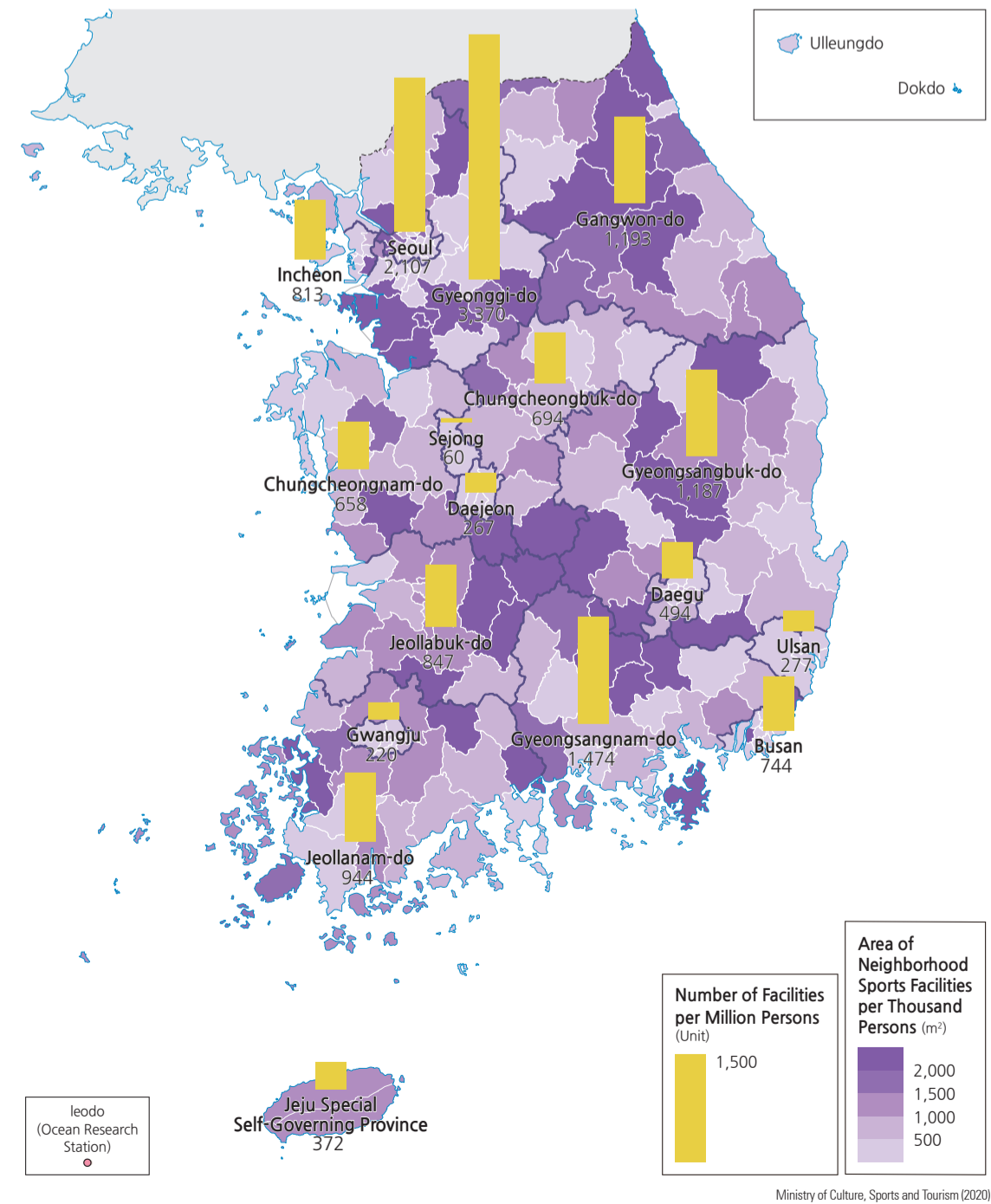
Daily Exercise Facilities (2017)



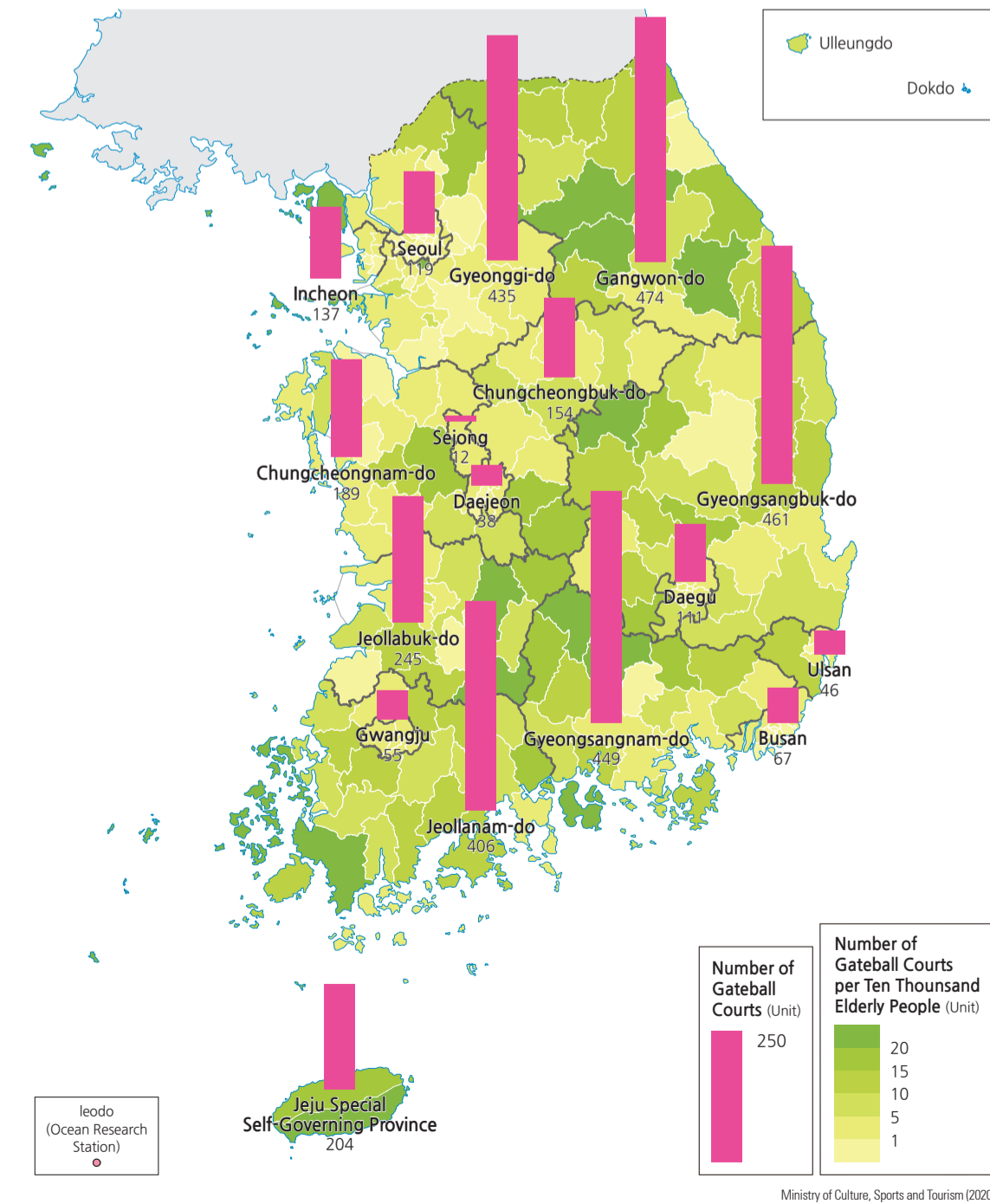
Increasing interest in health and quality of life has been accompanied by the demand for exercise facilities and space. Daily exercises can be pursued in solitude and do not require much equipment. However, in recent years, various organized daily exercise-related clubs and professional sports clubs, such as baseball and marine clubs, are increasing. Public sports facilities play a significant role in such a physical environment where daily physical activities are promoted. In particular, multi-sports complexes are growing in popularity because they facilitate diverse sports activities in many parts

of the community. In addition, smaller village sports facilities for simple walking and stretching are available for those who prefer to engage in activities closer to home. The neighborhood units of sports facilities are especially important for elderly people with limited mobility and disposable income. Elderly people especially enjoy widely available gateball courts for slow walking and conversation rather than strenuous exercise. Rural areas heavily populated by the elderly feature these amenities.

Neighborhood Sports Facilities (2019)



Sports Facilities for Elderly People: Gateball Courts (2019)



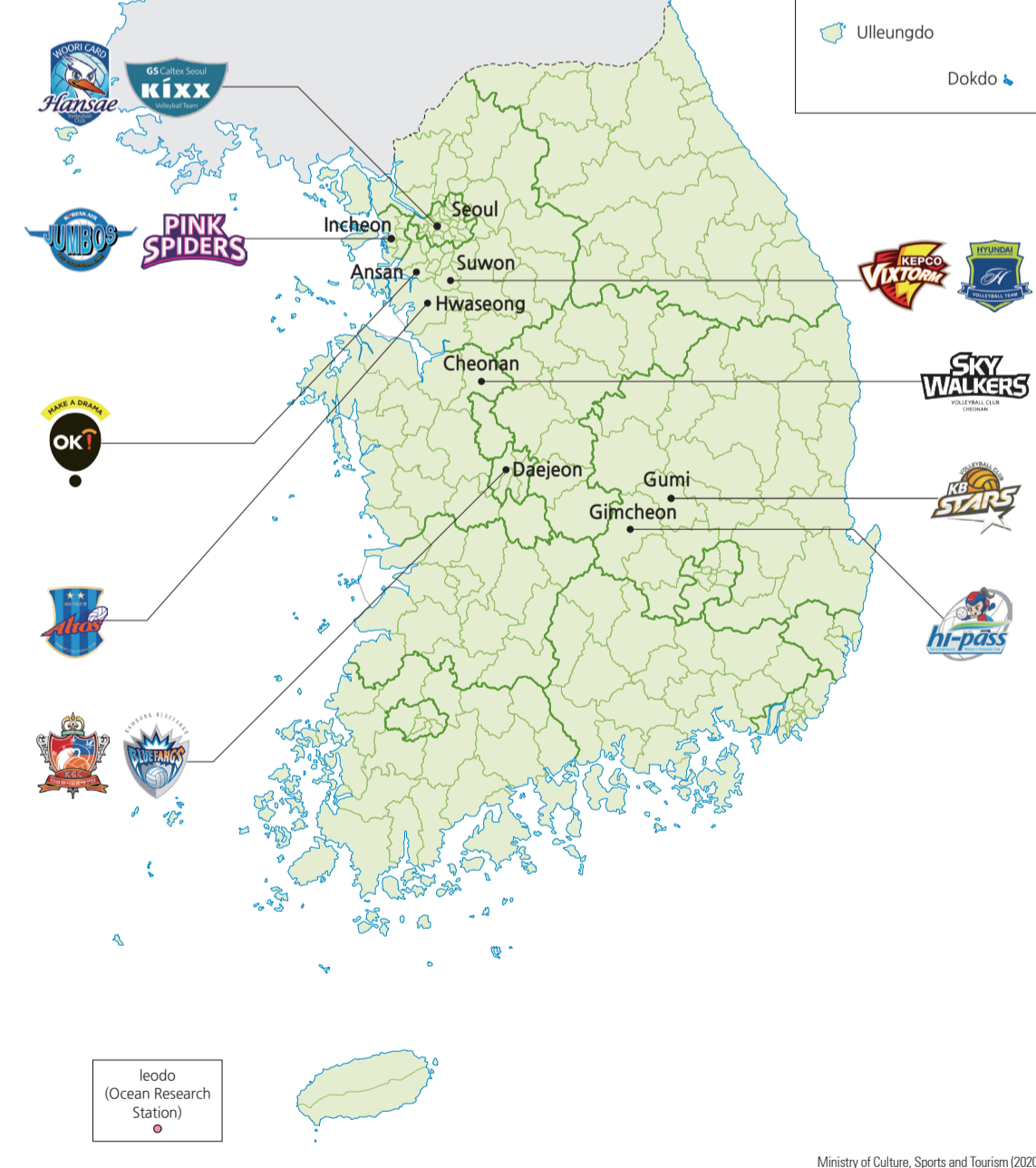
Professional Sports (2020)



Professional Basketball



Professional Volleyball

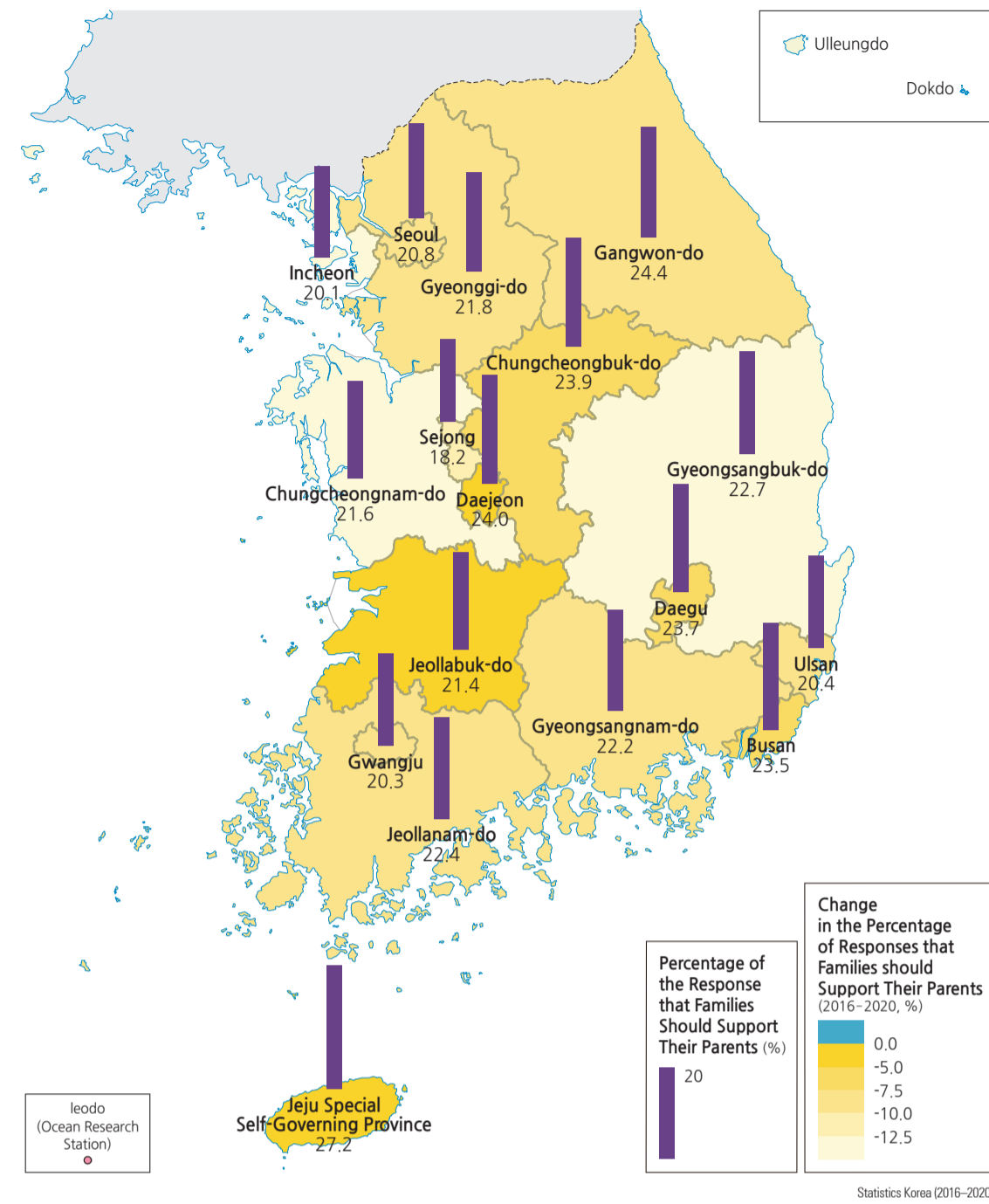


Since the launch of professional baseball in 1982, professional sports such as soccer, basketball, and volleyball have steadily followed, becoming a popular part of leisure life and attracting the interest of many people. Professional sports are part of leisure life and the basis for the sports industry. However, they also have a deep association with local civic pride identity through community connections. Especially, baseball has become the representative professional sport, attracting millions of spectators every year, with the team rankings and player statistics occupying media time and daily conversation.

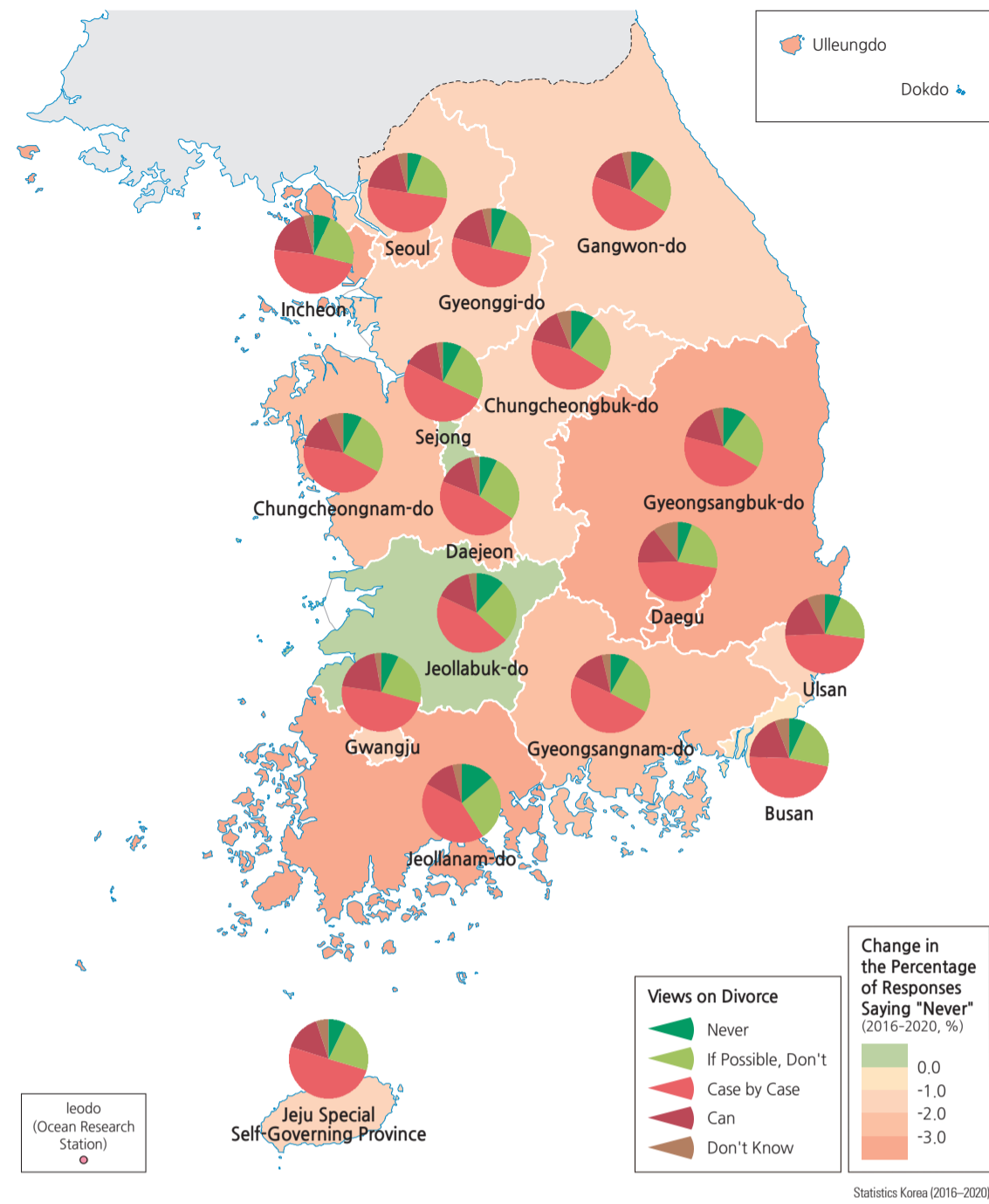
Clubs to support professional soccer, basketball, and volleyball teams have moved beyond mere spectator status. Regionally-based professional teams are beloved by the regional population. Business enterprises promote and brand themselves through professional sports teams. As a new feature, in addition to the conglomerate-oriented professional sports teams, a variety of citizen sports clubs, maintained by the participation and support of citizens, have been organized.

## Social Relations and Religion

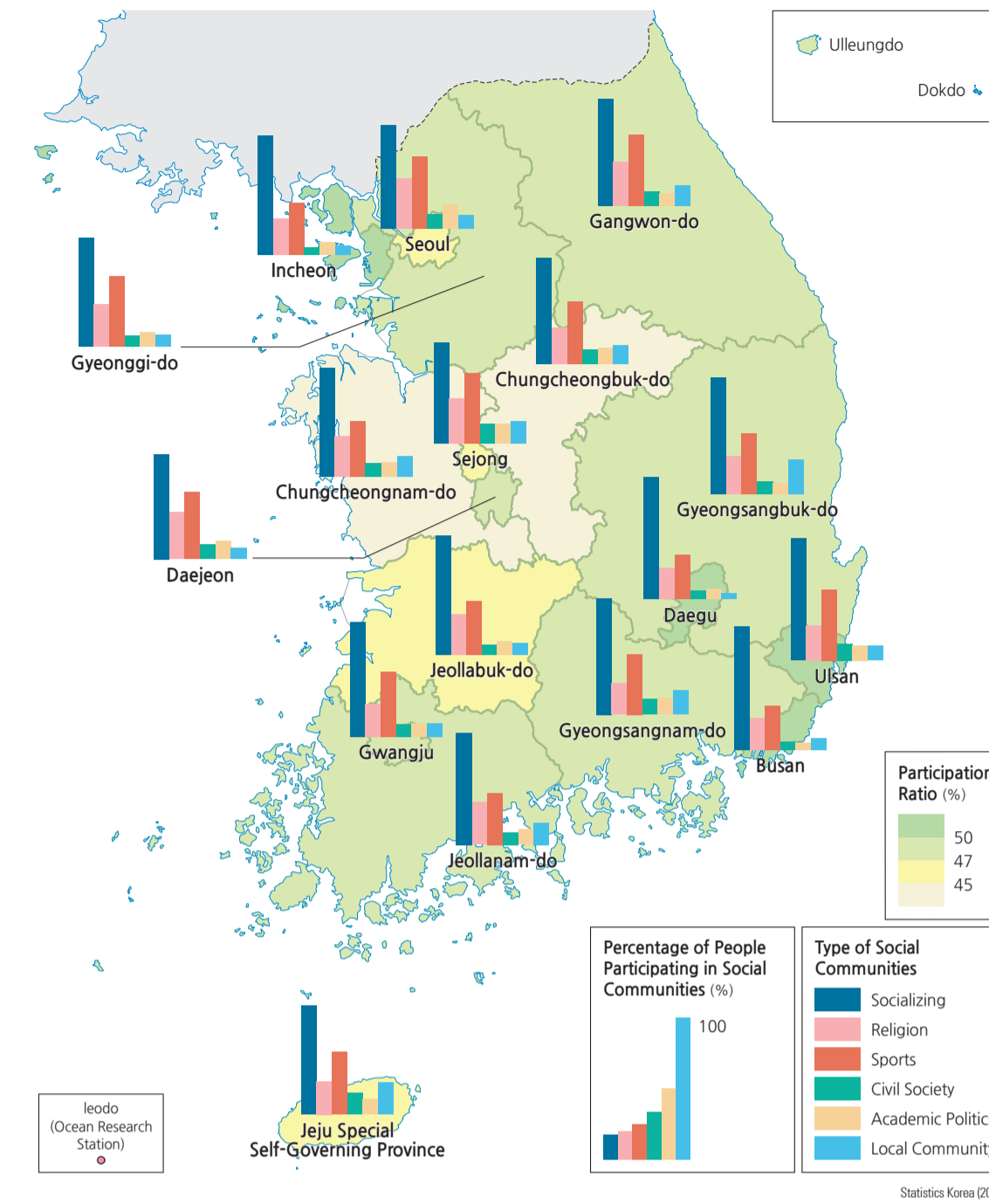
### Perception on Supporting Parents (2016-2020)



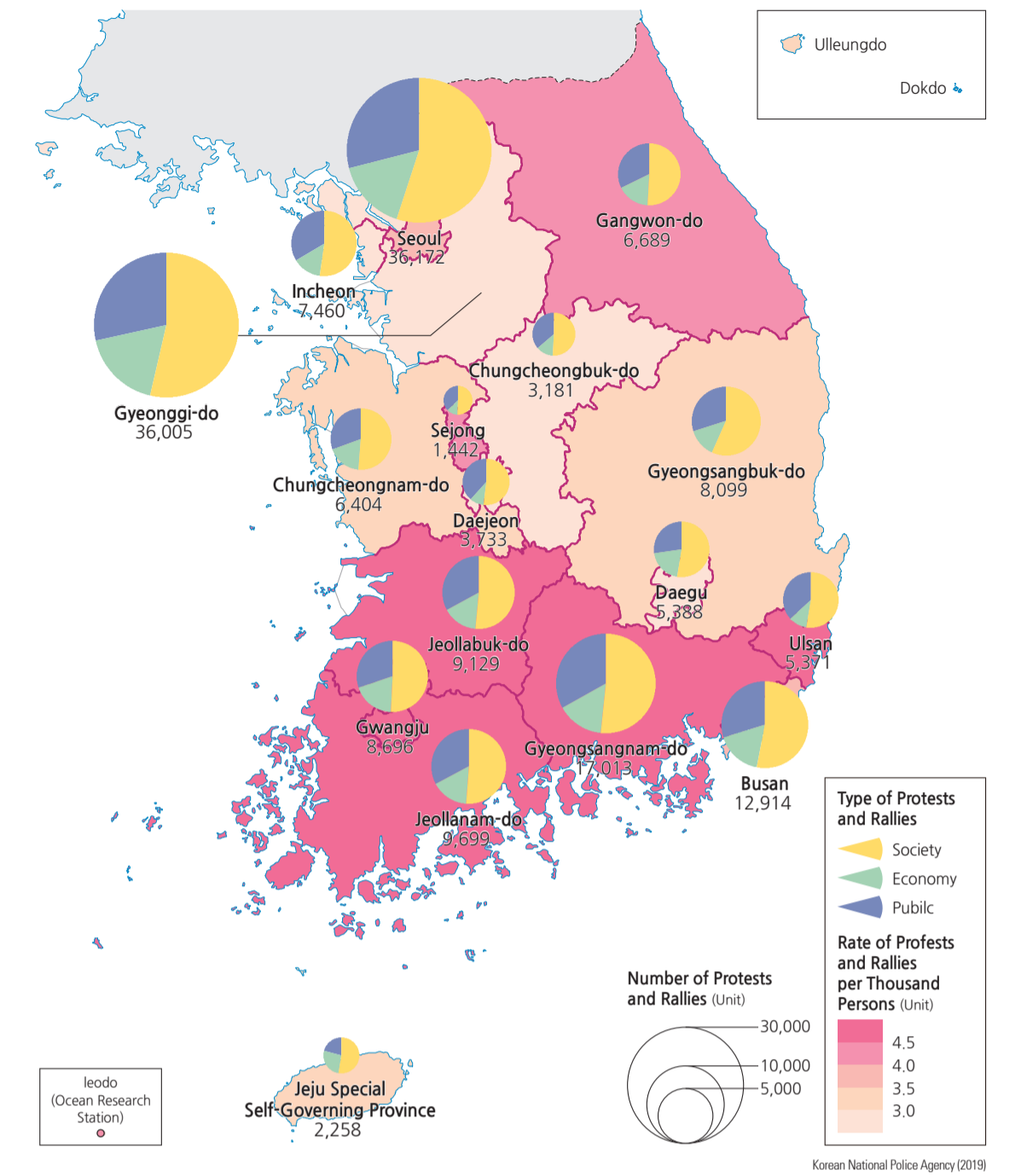
### Perception on Divorce (2016-2020)



### Participation in Social Communities (2017)



### Rallies and Demonstrations (2019)



Korean society has undergone rapid changes, which are reflected in the social perceptions and behaviors of its people. For example, attitudes towards supporting parents have also changed rapidly. In recent years, there has been an increasing notion that parents should be supported by a combination of family members, the government, and the society, away from the traditional Confucian culture where family members support their parents. As a result, only 20 to 30% of the people think that family members should support their parents, and such perceptions have rapidly diffused to all cities and provinces from 2016 to 2020.

The Confucian culture that led to the negative perception about divorce is also changing rapidly. The proportion of people who are advocates of divorce spans from 13 to 20%, depending on the cities and provinces. The proportion of people who believe that no one should get divorced for any reason spans from 6 to 14%. From 2016 to 2020, the proportions have decreased from 1 to 4% in most cities and provinces. Opinions on marriage are similar to that. 46 to 59% of people think that one must get married or it is better to get married, depending on the cities and provinces. Those who think that it is fine not to get married or that one should not get married account for 2.4 to 5.1%, and the percentage

has increased up to 3% from 2016 to 2020 in most regions.

A survey regarding unsettling factors in Korean society also reveals the difference between generations. The younger generation has higher anxiety about crime. In comparison, the older generation believes that national security, natural disaster, and new diseases are worrisome. Among those in the 20s to 50s-age range who are the most active participants in economic activities, the gap between the rich and the poor and economic risk is considered the most problematic social unsettling factor.

The degree to which those at higher educational institutions, such as college or high school students, prefer large companies was lower than middle school students. On the other hand, the degree of preference on the employment in public enterprises, those who attended college or higher education showed higher preferences than those at lower education. Also, most young adults and adolescents preferred to get a job at government organizations, and especially females preferred to work for government organizations or public enterprises. The fact that nearly half prefer to work for government organizations or public

enterprises reflects people's anxiety about the Korean economy that has entered a phase of low economic growth.

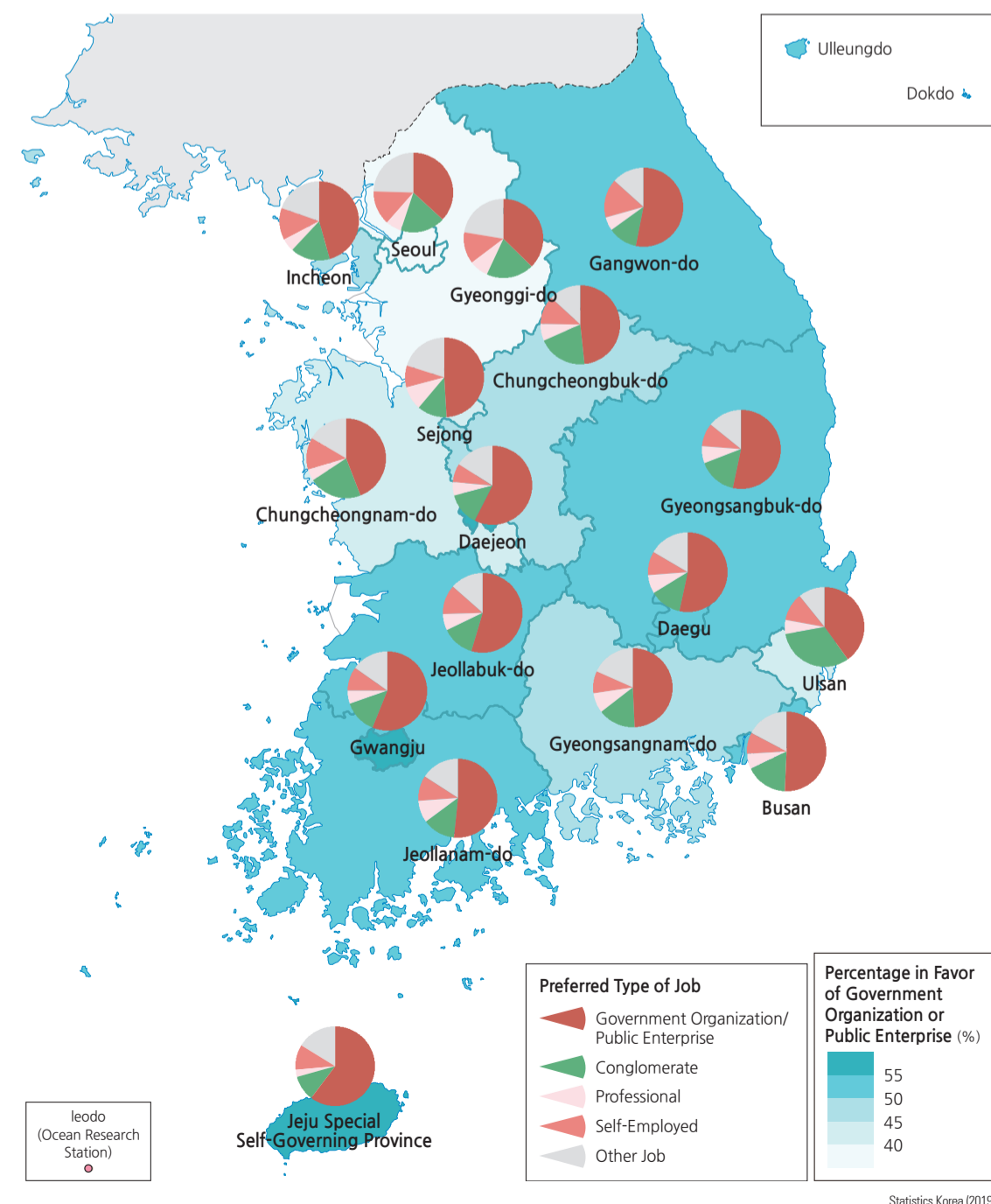
The social life of Koreans has rapidly shifted from the family and village-oriented communities of the past to a more urban way of life. This change in the social fabric carries with it a variety of forms of social participation. Fraternal societies and social clubs and religious and hobbies-based activities are increasing. Many Koreans work in non-governmental organizations and join political parties and interest groups. Community activity is increasing as well.

In addition to institutionalized political activities such as voting and joining political parties as a way of expressing civil rights and opinions, Koreans are raising their voices in protests or participating in rallies in greater numbers. The focus of rallies and demonstrations, which had been on achieving democracy and securing labor rights, has diversified into concern about the environment, women's rights, and regional development. In addition, the types of rallies have grown to include demonstrations, marches, and cultural festivals. Rallies and

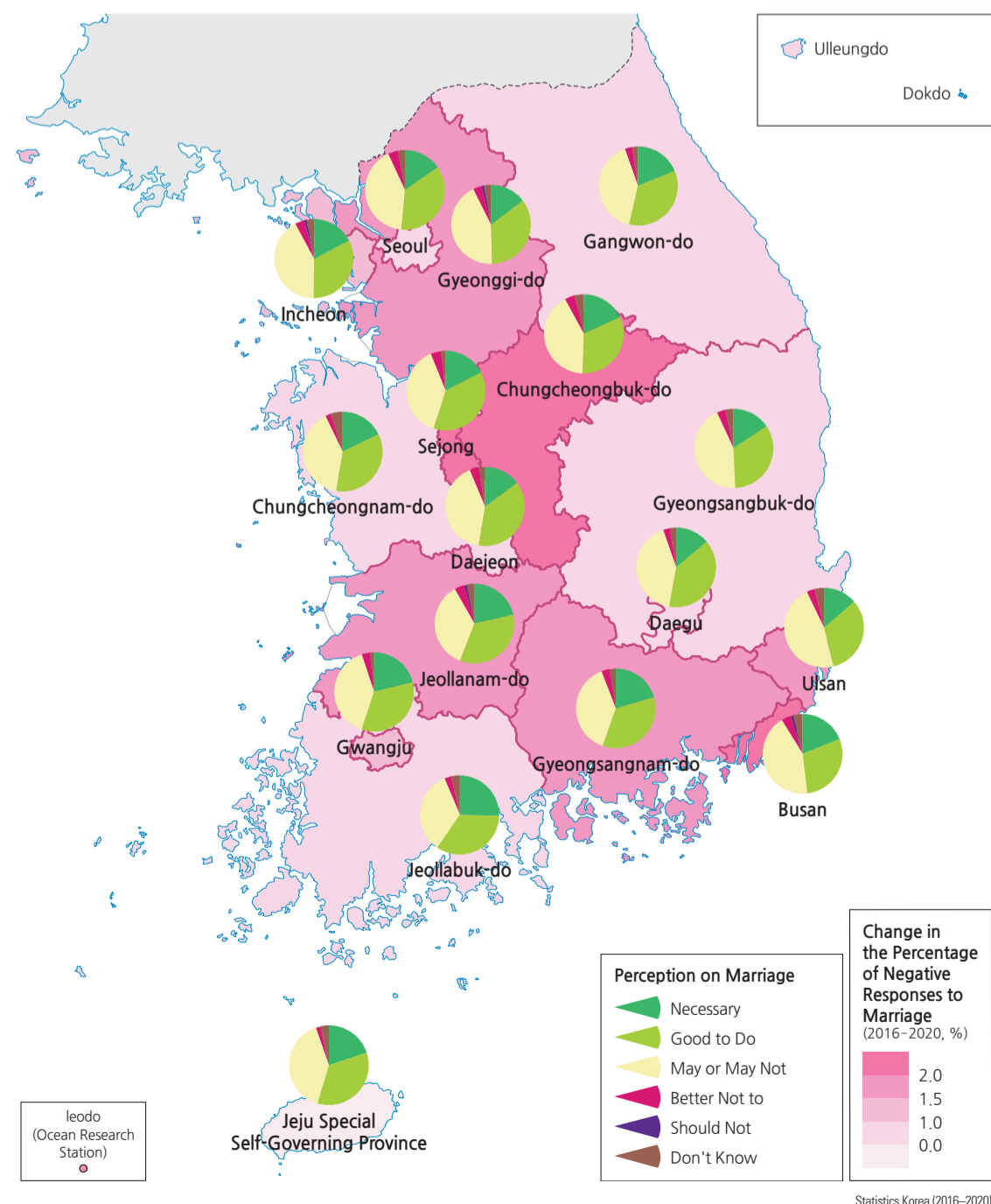
demonstrations mainly target government or government agencies that are concentrated in the Seoul area.

Korean religion has undergone radical modernization. Confucianism and Buddhism influenced values and attitudes toward life in the past, and traditional religions were widely practiced in the daily lives of the Korean people. Christianity introduced by missionaries during the late Joseon Dynasty has rapidly expanded with the modernization of Korea, and Protestantism and Roman Catholicism have gained parity with Buddhism. Christian congregations rapidly expanded until 1995, but the number has stagnated since the 2010s. Roman Catholic and Buddhist populations have decreased recently. The most remarkable change in types of religion is the rapid increase of atheists, reflecting an increased negative notion about religious groups and religious life. The religious population also varies by region. For example, the proportion of Christians is higher in Seoul and the southwestern part of Korea, while the proportion of Buddhists is higher in the southeastern part of Korea.

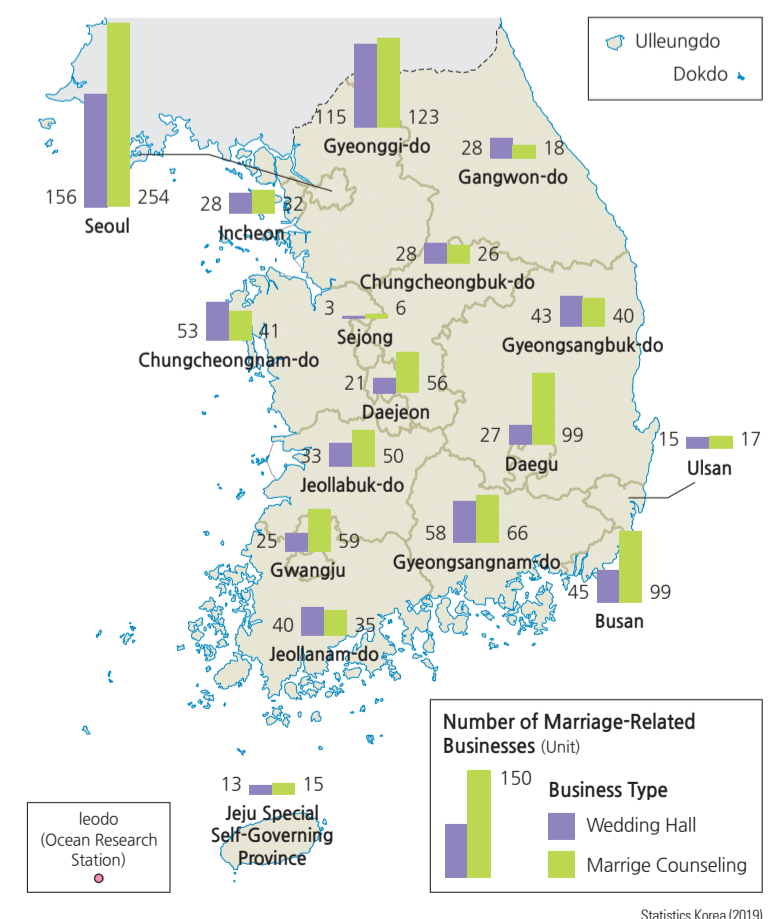
### Youth's Preferred Career Paths (2019)



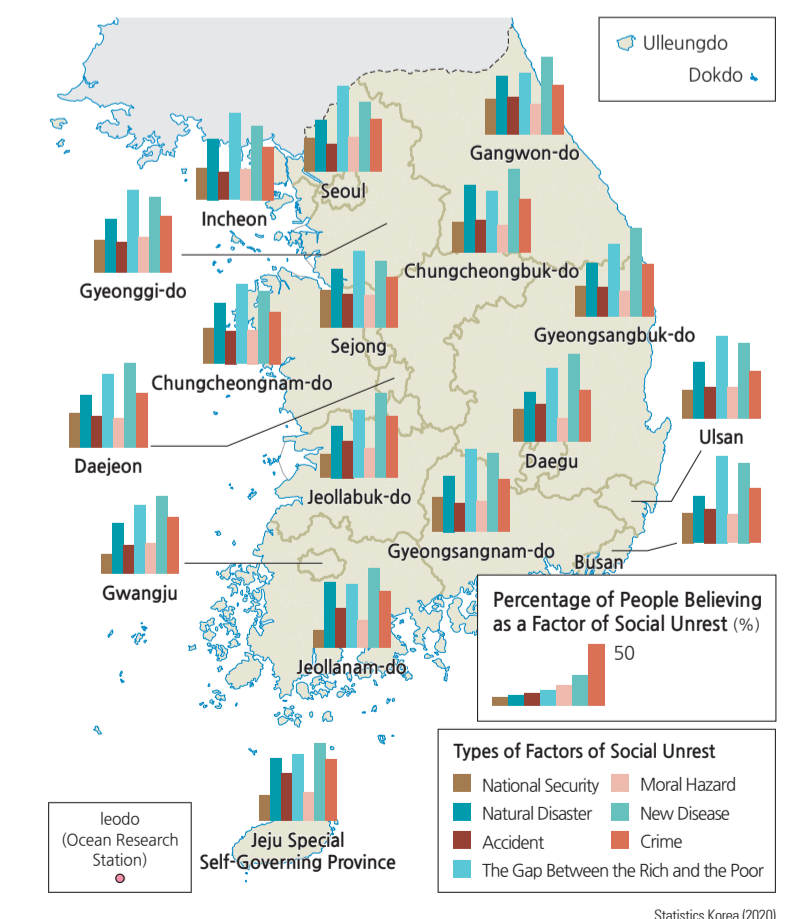
### Perception on Marriage (2016-2020)



### Marriage-Related Businesses (2019)



### Factors of Social Unrest (2020)



### Religions (2015)

