Ministry of Data and Statistics

Press Release

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Local Area Labour Force Survey in the First Half of 2026 (Major employment indicators of Si, Gun & Gu)

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Local Area Labour Force Survey in the First Half of 2026

(Major employment indicators of Si, Gun & Gu)

□ Employed persons and employment-population ratio

❍ Regarding cities in 9 provinces, the number of employed persons was 14.271 million persons in the first half of 2026, going up by 96 thousand persons from the first half of 2025. The employment-population ratio of cities stood at 62.5%, down 0.1%p from the first half of 2025.

- Among a total of 77 cities in 9 provinces, Seogwipo-si, Jeju (73.3%) recorded the highest employment-population ratio, which was followed by Dangjin-si, Chungnam (71.8%) and Yeongcheon-si, Gyeongbuk (68.7%).

❍ Regarding counties in 9 provinces, the number of employed persons was 2.13 million persons in the first half of 2026, going up by 26 thousand persons from the first half of 2025. The employment-population ratio of counties stood at 69.4%, up 0.2%p from the first half of 2025.

- Among a total of 76 counties in 9 provinces, Ulleung-gun, Gyeongbuk (84.3%) recorded the highest employment-population ratio, which was followed by Sinan-gun, Jeonnam (80.4%) and Hadong-gun, Gyeongnam (78.1%).

❍ Regarding 'gu' regions in 7 metropolitan cities, the number of employed persons was 11.565 million persons in the first half of 2026, falling by 25 thousand persons from the first half of 2025. The employment-population ratio of 'gu' regions stood at 58.6%, down 0.2%p from the first half of 2025.

- Among a total of 75 'gu' regions, Ongjin-gun, Incheon (79.7%) recorded the highest employment-population ratio, which was followed by Gunwi-gun, Daegu (76.6%) and Gangseo-gu, Busan (70.8%).

< Employed persons and employment-population ratio >

(Unit: thousand persons, %, %p)

		First half of 2025		First half of 2026		Change	
			Employment-population ratio		Employment-population ratio		Employment-population ratio
77 cities	▸ Employed persons	14,175	62.6	14,271	62.5	96	-0.1
	• Males	8,094	71.3	8,114	70.9	20	-0.4
	• Females	6,081	53.8	6,157	54.1	76	0.3
76 counties	▸ Employed persons	2,103	69.2	2,130	69.4	26	0.2
	• Males	1,170	76.0	1,186	75.8	16	-0.2
	• Females	933	62.3	944	62.8	11	0.5
75 'gu' regions	▸ Employed persons	11,589	58.8	11,565	58.6	-25	-0.2
	• Males	6,347	66.8	6,285	66.0	-62	-0.8
	• Females	5,243	51.4	5,280	51.7	37	0.3

□ Unemployed persons and unemployment rate

○ Regarding cities in 9 provinces, the number of unemployed persons was 417 thousand persons in the first half of 2026, dropping by 23 thousand persons from the first half of 2025. The unemployment rate of cities stood at 2.8%, down 0.2%p from the first half of 2025.

- Among a total of 77 cities in 9 provinces, Uijeongbu-si, Gyeonggi (5.0%) recorded the highest unemployment rate, which was followed by Tongyeong-si, Gyeongnam (3.9%) and Gumi-si, Gyeongbuk (3.9%).

○ Regarding counties in 9 provinces, the number of unemployed persons was 27 thousand persons in the first half of 2026, which fell by 1 thousand persons from the first half of 2025. The unemployment rate of counties stood at 1.3%, which remained the same as the first half of 2025.

- Among a total of 76 counties in 9 provinces, Hwasun-gun, Jeonnam (3.9%) recorded the highest unemployment rate, which was followed by Yeoncheon-gun, Gyeonggi (2.8%) and Chilgok-gun, Gyeongbuk (2.8%).

○ Regarding 'gu' regions in 7 metropolitan cities, the number of unemployed persons was 442 thousand persons in the first half of 2026, falling by 26 thousand persons from the first half of 2025. The unemployment rate of 'gu' regions stood at 3.7%, down 0.2%p from the first half of 2025.

- Among a total of 75 'gu' regions, Gwanak-gu, Seoul (5.6%) recorded the highest unemployment rate, which was followed by Bupyeong-gu, Incheon (5.0%) and Seo-gu, Daegu (4.8%).

< Unemployed persons and unemployment rate >

(Unit: thousand persons, %, %p)

		First half of 2025		First half of 2026		Change	
			Unemployment rate		Unemployment rate		Unemployment rate
77 cities	▸Unemployed persons	440	3.0	417	2.8	-23	-0.2
	⋆Males	250	3.0	240	2.9	-9	-0.1
	⋆Females	190	3.0	177	2.8	-13	-0.2
76 counties	▸Unemployed persons	28	1.3	27	1.3	-1	0.0
	⋆Males	17	1.5	17	1.4	0	-0.1
	⋆Females	11	1.1	10	1.0	-1	-0.1
75 'gu' regions	▸Unemployed persons	467	3.9	442	3.7	-26	-0.2
	⋆Males	264	4.0	246	3.8	-18	-0.2
	⋆Females	203	3.7	196	3.6	-7	-0.1

□ Locally active population

○ Regarding cities in 9 provinces, the locally active population was 22.064 million persons in the first half of 2026, which rose by 145 thousand persons from the first half of 2025. The locally active population stood at 96.7% compared to the total resident population aged 15 or more, which remained the same as the first half of 2025.

- Among a total of 77 cities in 9 provinces, Gwacheon-si, Gyeonggi (144.9%) recorded the highest share of the locally active population compared to the resident population aged 15 or more, which was followed by Gimje-si, Jeonbuk (114.4%) and Sacheon-si, Gyeongnam (113.3%).

❍ Regarding counties in 9 provinces, the locally active population was 3.347 million persons in the first half of 2026, which rose by 14 thousand persons from the first half of 2025. The locally active population stood at 109.1% compared to the resident population aged 15 or more, down 0.6%p from the first half of 2025.

- Among a total of 76 counties in 9 provinces, Yeongam-gun, Jeonnam (134.9%) recorded the highest share of the locally active population compared to the resident population aged 15 or more, which was followed by Goryeong-gun, Gyeongbuk (130.3%) and Haman-gun, Gyeongnam (128.4%).

❍ Regarding 'gu' regions in 7 metropolitan cities, the locally active population was 20.248 million persons in the first half of 2026, which rose by 77 thousand persons from the first half of 2025. The locally active population stood at 102.5% compared to the resident population aged 15 or more, up 0.1%p from the first half of 2025.

- Among a total of 75 'gu' regions, Jung-gu, Seoul (363.8%) recorded the highest share of the locally active population compared to the resident population aged 15 or more, which was followed by Jung-gu, Busan (217.0%) and Jung-gu, Incheon (143.6%).

□ Employed persons commuting within the residential area

❍ Regarding the share of employed persons commuting within their residential area of cities in 9 provinces, Yeosu-si, Jeonnam recorded the highest figure of 98.1%, which was followed by Boryeong-si, Chungnam (97.6%).

- Whereas, Uiwang-si, Gyeonggi (21.7%) recorded the lowest share of employed persons commuting within their residential area, which was followed by Mokpo-si, Jeonnam (69.7%).

❍ Regarding the share of employed persons commuting within their residential area of counties in 9 provinces, Ulleung-gun, Gyeongbuk recorded the highest figure of 100.0%, which was followed by Jindo-gun, Jeonnam (99.0%).

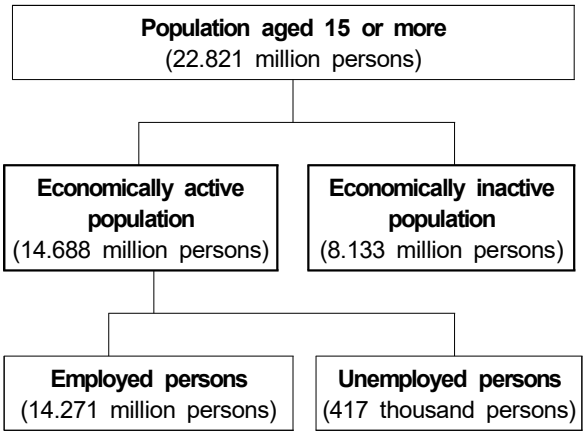
- Whereas, Chilgok-gun, Gyeongbuk (64.6%) recorded the lowest share of employed persons commuting within their residential area, which was followed by Muan-gun, Jeonnam (64.7%).

❍ Regarding the share of employed persons commuting within their residential area of 'gu' regions in 7 metropolitan cities, Ongjin-gun, Incheon recorded the highest figure of 94.5%, which was followed by Gunwi-gun, Daegu (93.6%).

- Whereas, Gwanak-gu, Seoul (25.2%) recorded the lowest share of employed persons commuting within their residential area, which was followed by Suyeong-gu, Busan (34.7%).

【 Composition of the labor force by area 】

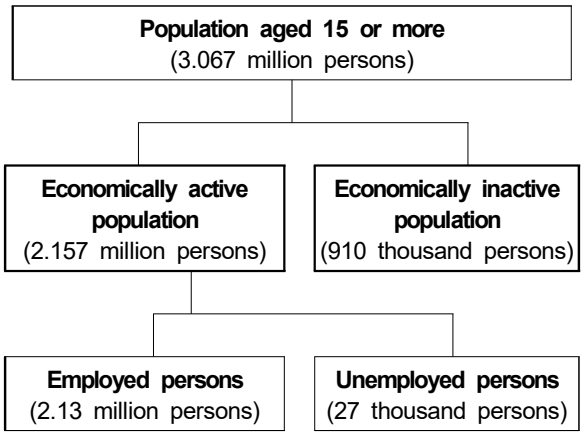
【77 cities in 9 provinces】



(Unit: thousand persons, %, %p)

	First half of 2025	First half of 2026	Change
Population aged 15 or more	22,656	22,821	165
Labor force participation rate	64.5	64.4	-0.1
Employed persons	14,175	14,271	96
Employment-population ratio	62.6	62.5	-0.1
Unemployed persons	440	417	-23
Unemployment rate	3.0	2.8	-0.2

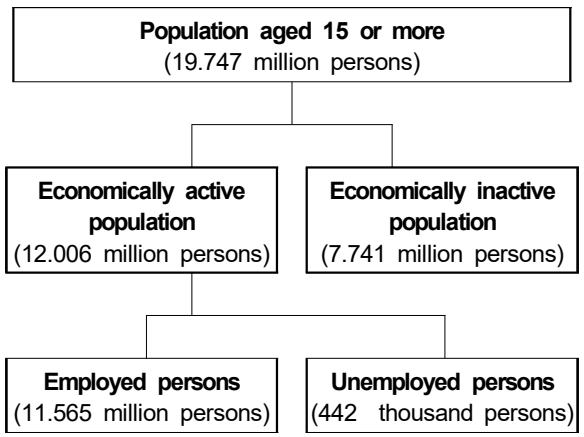
【76 counties in 9 provinces】



(Unit: thousand persons, %, %p)

	First half of 2025	First half of 2026	Change
Population aged 15 or more	3,038	3,067	29
Labor force participation rate	70.2	70.3	0.1
Employed persons	2,103	2,130	26
Employment-population ratio	69.2	69.4	0.2
Unemployed persons	28	27	-1
Unemployment rate	1.3	1.3	0.0

【75 'gu' regions in 7 metropolitan cities】



(Unit: thousand persons, %, %p)

	First half of 2025	First half of 2026	Change
Population aged 15 or more	19,701	19,747	46
Labor force participation rate	61.2	60.8	-0.4
Employed persons	11,589	11,565	-25
Employment-population ratio	58.8	58.6	-0.2
Unemployed persons	467	442	-26
Unemployment rate	3.9	3.7	-0.2