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Supplementary Results of the Economically Active Population Survey for Non-wage Workers in August 2025

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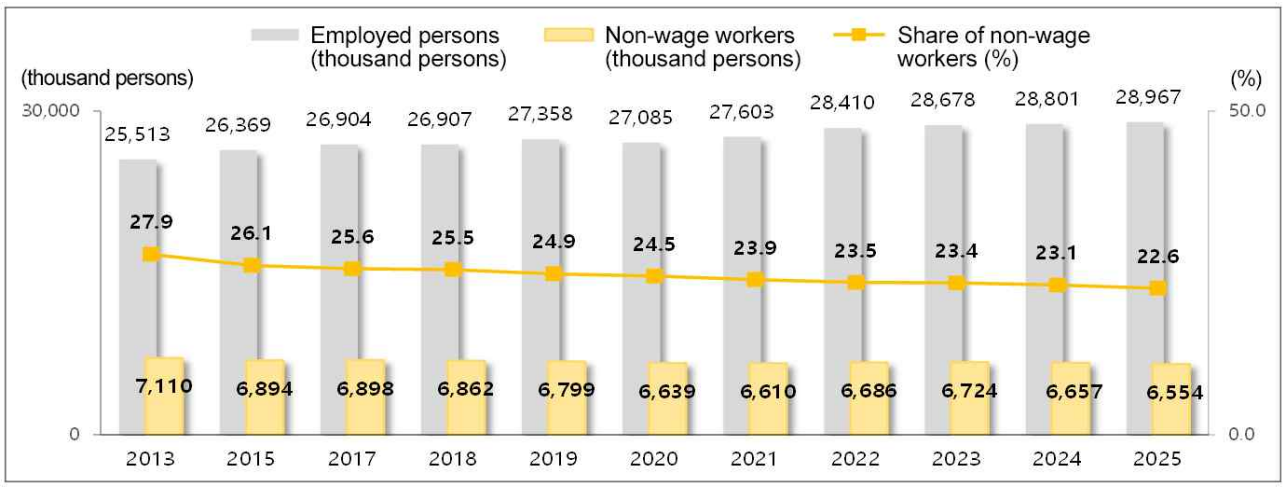
Supplementary Results of the Economically Active Population Survey for Non-wage Workers in August 2025

☐ The non-wage workers amounted to 6.554 million persons in August 2025, which fell by 103 thousand persons from August 2024. The non-wage workers accounted for 22.6% of the total employed persons, down 0.5%p from August 2024.

❍ The self-employed persons with employees recorded 1.435 million persons, which went down by 5 thousand persons from August 2024. The self-employed persons without employees recorded 4.241 million persons, which went down by 65 thousand persons from August 2024.

< Trends in employed persons and non-wage workers >



※ Survey reference period: Every August

< Non-wage workers >

(Unit: thousand persons, %, %p)

	Aug. 2024		Aug. 2025		Change	
		Compo-sition		Compo-sition		Compo-sition
< Employed persons >	28,801	100.0	28,967	100.0	166	-
Non-wage workers	6,657	23.1 (100.0)	6,554	22.6 (100.0)	-103	-0.5
- Self-employed persons with employees	1,439	(21.6)	1,435	(21.9)	-5	(+0.3)
Self-employed persons without employees	4,306	(64.7)	4,241	(64.7)	-65	(0.0)
- Unpaid family workers	912	(13.7)	879	(13.4)	-33	(-0.3)

❍ As for non-wage workers by age group, the non-wage workers aged '60 or more' grew by 80 thousand persons from August 2024. In the meantime, the non-wage workers aged '50~59', '15~29', '40~49' and '30~39' declined by 66 thousand persons, 59 thousand persons, 31 thousand persons and 27 thousand persons, respectively, from August 2024.

(Unit: thousand persons, %, %p)

		Aug. 2024				Aug. 2025				Change			
		Non-wage workers	Self-employed persons with employees	Self-employed persons without employees	Unpaid family workers	Non-wage workers	Self-employed persons with employees	Self-employed persons without employees	Unpaid family workers	Non-wage workers	Self-employed persons with employees	Self-employed persons without employees	Unpaid family workers
	<Total>	6,657	1,439	4,306	912	6,554	1,435	4,241	879	-103	-5	-65	-33
Size	15~29	241	43	155	43	182	29	110	43	-59	-14	-45	-1
	30~39	732	204	468	61	705	189	461	54	-27	-14	-7	-6
	40~49	1,280	384	780	115	1,249	382	763	104	-31	-2	-17	-12
	50~59	1,788	477	1,087	224	1,722	459	1,062	201	-66	-18	-25	-23
	60 or more	2,617	332	1,816	469	2,697	375	1,845	477	80	43	29	8
	· 60~69	1,726	287	1,132	307	1,754	317	1,136	301	28	29	4	-6
	· 70 or more	891	45	684	162	943	58	709	176	52	13	25	14
Composition	<Total>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	-	-	-
	15~29	3.6	3.0	3.6	4.7	2.8	2.0	2.6	4.8	-0.8	-1.0	-1.0	0.1
	30~39	11.0	14.1	10.9	6.6	10.8	13.2	10.9	6.2	-0.2	-0.9	0.0	-0.4
	40~49	19.2	26.7	18.1	12.6	19.1	26.6	18.0	11.8	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.8
	50~59	26.9	33.1	25.2	24.6	26.3	32.0	25.0	22.9	-0.6	-1.1	-0.2	-1.7
	60 or more	39.3	23.1	42.2	51.4	41.1	26.1	43.5	54.3	1.8	3.0	1.3	2.9
	· 60~69	25.9	20.0	26.3	33.7	26.8	22.1	26.8	34.3	0.9	2.1	0.5	0.6
	· 70 or more	13.4	3.1	15.9	17.7	14.4	4.0	16.7	20.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	2.3

❍ As for non-wage workers by industry, non-wage workers in 'Accommodation and food service activities', ‘Education’ and 'Membership organizations, repair and other personal services' grew by 32 thousand persons, 31 thousand persons and 31 thousand persons, respectively, year-on-year. Whereas, non-wage workers in ‘Agriculture, forestry and fishing’ and ‘Transportation and storage’ fell by 131 thousand persons and 41 thousand persons, respectively, year-on-year.

< Non-wage workers by industry >

(Unit: thousand persons, %, %p)

		Aug. 2024				Aug. 2025				Aug. 2024			
		Non-wage workers	Self-employed persons with employees	Self-employed persons without employees	Unpaid family workers	Non-wage workers	Self-employed persons with employees	Self-employed persons without employees	Unpaid family workers	Non-wage workers	Self-employed persons with employees	Self-employed persons without employees	Unpaid family workers
	<Total>	6,657	1,439	4,306	912	6,554	1,435	4,241	879	-103	-5	-65	-33
Size	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,497	58	1,014	426	1,367	54	914	399	-131	-4	-99	-27
	Manufacturing	443	190	197	57	447	192	201	54	3	2	5	-3
	Construction	405	120	268	17	396	122	260	14	-9	2	-8	-3
	Wholesale and retail trade	1,074	291	653	129	1,093	287	662	144	19	-5	9	15
	Transportation and storage	744	36	700	9*	703	23	673	7*	-41	-13	-27	-2
	Accommodation and food service activities	852	324	333	195	883	340	355	188	32	16	23	-7
	Professional,	199	79	116	5*	201	71	126	3*	1	-8	11	-2

	scientific and technical activities												
	Education	323	61	251	12*	354	75	264	15*	31	14	13	4
	Arts, sports and recreation related services	181	40	129	12*	179	44	126	8*	-2	5	-3	-4
	Membership organizations, repair and other personal services	432	70	330	31	463	75	354	34	31	5	24	3
	Others**	508	171	316	20	468	152	304	12*	-39	-19	-12	-8
Compo-sition	<Total>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	-	-	-
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	22.5	4.0	23.5	46.7	20.9	3.7	21.6	45.4	-1.6	-0.3	-1.9	-1.3
	Manufacturing	6.7	13.2	4.6	6.2	6.8	13.4	4.7	6.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	-0.1
	Construction	6.1	8.3	6.2	1.9	6.0	8.5	6.1	1.6	-0.1	0.2	-0.1	-0.3
	Wholesale and retail trade	16.1	20.2	15.2	14.1	16.7	20.0	15.6	16.4	0.6	-0.2	0.4	2.3
	Transportation and storage	11.2	2.5	16.2	1.0*	10.7	1.6	15.9	0.8*	-0.5	-0.9	-0.3	-0.2
	Accommodation and food service activities	12.8	22.5	7.7	21.4	13.5	23.7	8.4	21.4	0.7	1.2	0.7	0.0
	Professional, scientific and technical activities	3.0	5.5	2.7	0.5*	3.1	5.0	3.0	0.4*	0.1	-0.5	0.3	-0.1
	Education	4.9	4.2	5.8	1.3*	5.4	5.2	6.2	1.7*	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.4
	Arts, sports and recreation related services	2.7	2.7	3.0	1.3*	2.7	3.1	3.0	0.9*	0.0	0.4	0.0	-0.4
	Membership organizations, repair and other personal services	6.5	4.9	7.7	3.4	7.1	5.2	8.4	3.8	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.4
	Others**	7.6	11.9	7.3	2.2	7.1	10.6	7.2	1.4*	-0.5	-1.3	-0.1	-0.8

1) ‘Others’ includes industrial sections of ‘B, D, E, J, K, L, N, Q and T’.
Note) Be cautious when using data with an asterisk due to its high relative standard error (25% or more).

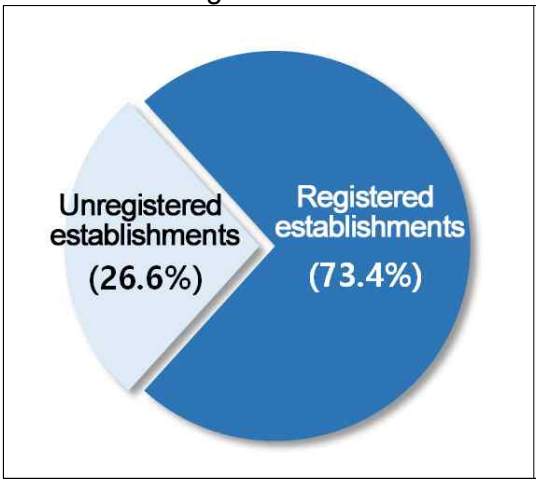
□ Year-on-year changes in the working conditions of non-wage workers

❍ The average operation (service) period of non-wage workers marked 15 years and 5 months, which rose by 1 month from August 2024.

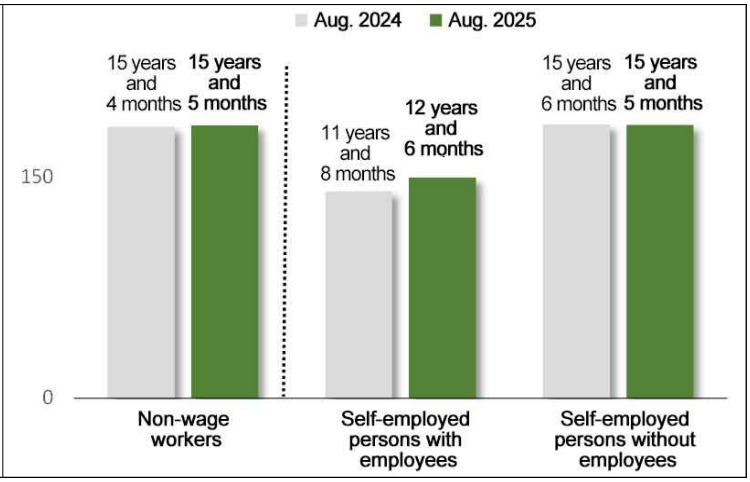
- The average operation (service) period of the self-employed persons with employees increased by 10 months year-on-year. In the meantime, the average operation (service) period of the self-employed persons without employees and the unpaid family workers decreased by 1 month and 3 months, respectively, year-on-year.

❍ The establishments with business registration occupied 73.4% of the total establishments of non-wage workers. This percentage went up by 2.0%p from August 2024.

< Establishments with business registration >



< Average operation (service) period >

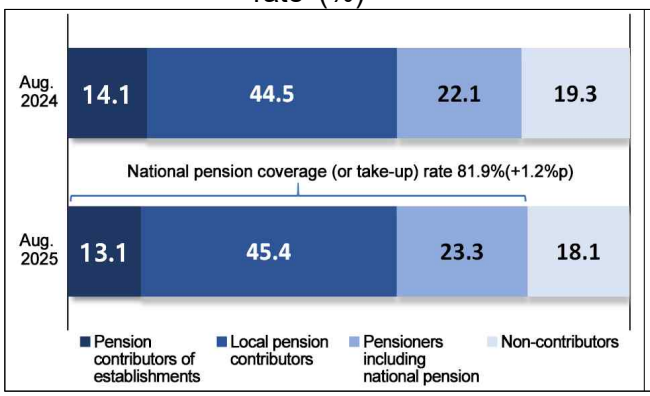


❍ 86.5% of non-wage workers planned to continue their current business, down 0.1%p from August 2024.

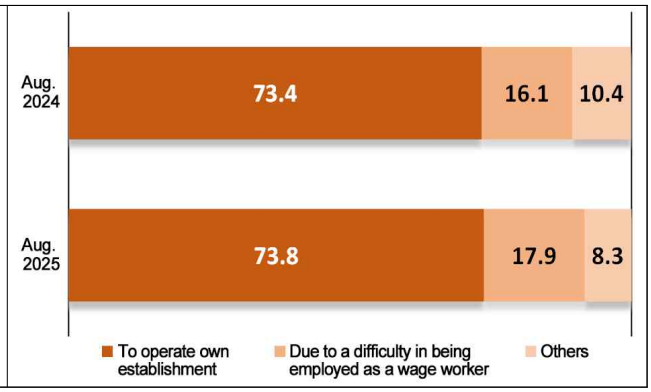
❍ The national pension coverage rate of self-employed persons (including national pensioners) stood at 81.9%, up 1.2%p from August 2024.

- In August 2025, the self-employed persons joining an industrial accident insurance stood at 65.1% of the total self-employed persons with employees, down 2.7%p from August 2024.

< National pension coverage (or take-up) rate (%) >



< Motivation to start a business (%) >



☐ As for the business preparation period of self-employed persons who started their business for the past 1 year by period, ‘1 ~ less than 3 months’ occupied 44.8%, up 1.8%p year-on-year.

❍ As for the motivation to start a business of self-employed persons who started their business for the past 1 year, 'To operate their own establishment' occupied the largest share at 73.8%. This share was followed by ‘Due to a difficulty in being employed as a wage worker’ (17.9%). As for the difficulty in starting a business, 'Financing business fund' occupied the highest share at 27.0%, which was followed by 'Securing sales channels and promoting goods (or services)' (26.3%).

❍ As for the business fund, 'Less than 5 million won' occupied the largest share at 31.9%, which was followed by '5 million won ~ less than 20 million won' (22.2%). As for the way to raise a business fund, 'Raised by self-employed persons or their family members' occupied the highest share at 68.6%, which was followed by 'Banks, insurance companies, mutual savings banks' (21.3%).