



Statistics Korea

Press Release

다시, 대한민국!
새로운 국민의 나라

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International Migration Statistics in 2023

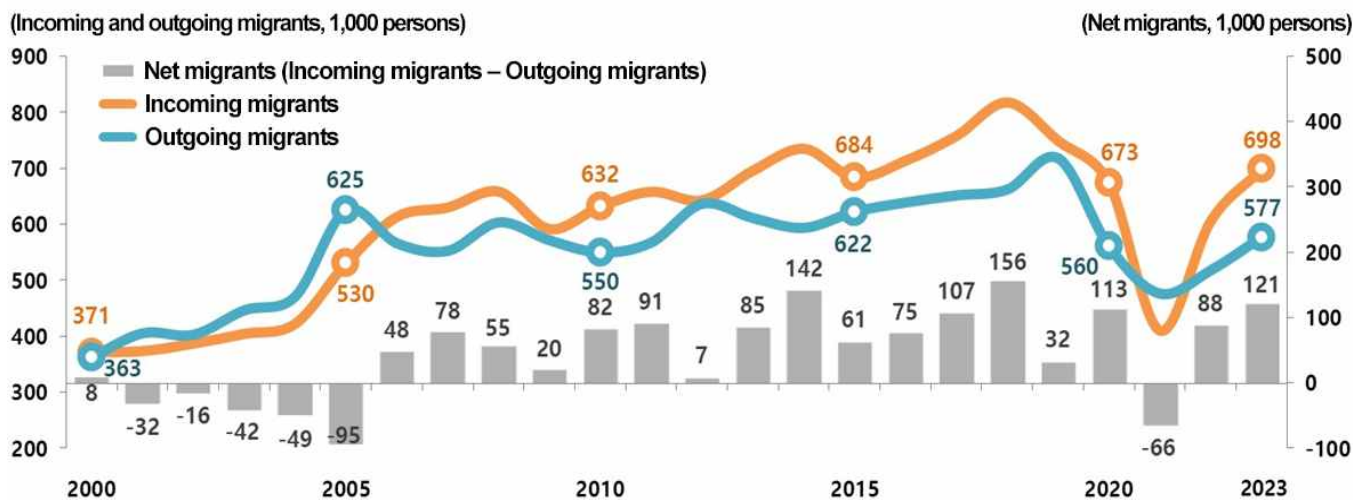
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International Migration Statistics in 2023

In 2023, South Korea recorded a positive international net migration (Incoming migrants - Outgoing migrants) of 121 thousand persons, which grew by 33 thousand persons from 2022.

- The number of international migrants (referring to those who stay more than 91 days, Incoming migrants + Outgoing migrants) was 1.276 million persons in 2023, which rose by 151 thousand persons (13.5%) from 2022.
- Incoming migrants totaled 698 thousand persons in 2023, which grew by 92 thousand persons (15.2%) from 2022.
- Outgoing migrants totaled 577 thousand persons in 2023, which rose by 59 thousand persons (11.4%) from 2022.
- In 2023, South Korea recorded a positive international net migration (Incoming migrants - Outgoing migrants) of 121 thousand persons, which grew by 33 thousand persons from 2022.

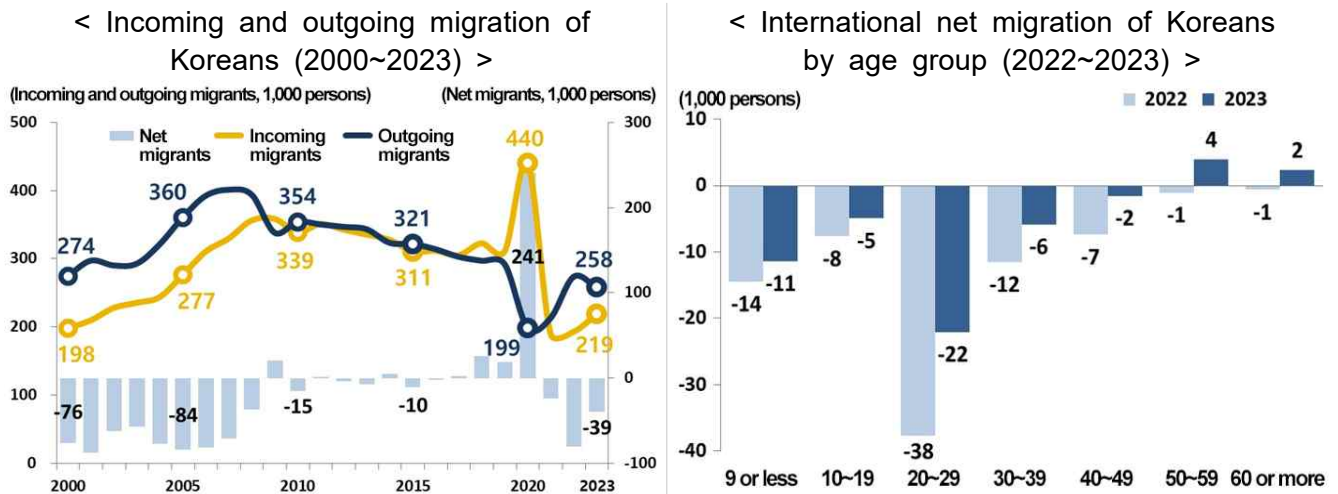
< International migration (2000~2023) >



Compared to 2022, the incoming migration of Koreans rose by 13.2%. Whereas, the outgoing migration of Koreans fell by 5.6%. Koreans showed a negative international net migration for the past three years consecutively.

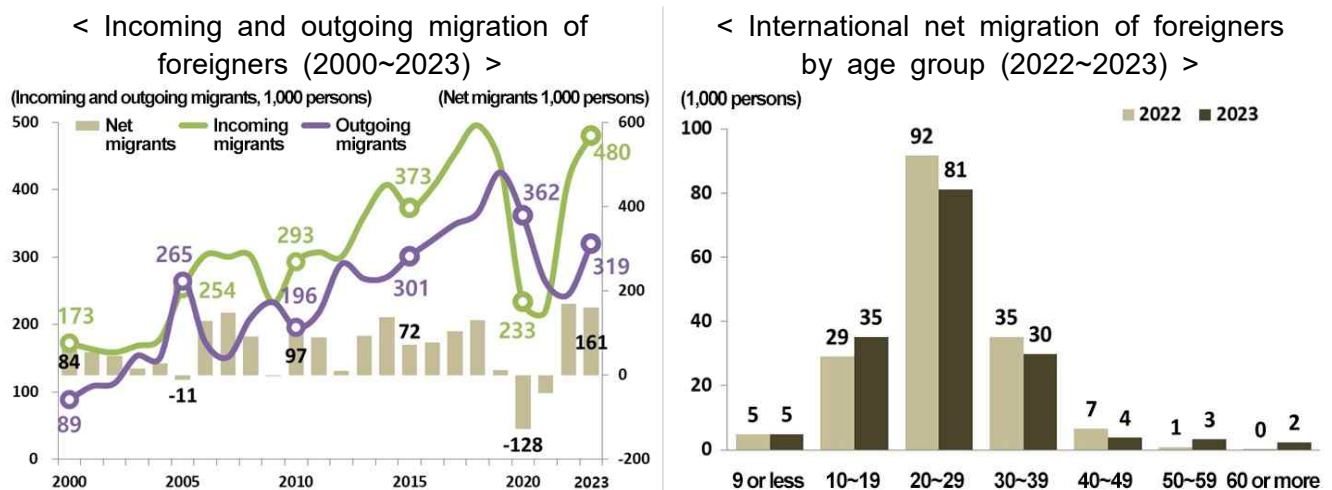
- The incoming migration of Koreans marked 219 thousand persons in 2023, which rose by 26 thousand persons (13.2%) from 2022. The outgoing migration of Koreans marked 258 thousand persons in 2023, which fell by 15 thousand persons (-5.6%) from 2022.
- Koreans recorded a negative net migration of 39 thousand persons in 2023, which fell by 41 thousand persons from 2022.

- As for the net migration by age group, Koreans aged 49 or less showed a negative net migration. In particular, Koreans aged 20~29 showed the highest negative net migration of 22 thousand persons.



Compared to 2022, the incoming and outgoing migration of foreigners grew by 16.2% and 30.5%, respectively. Compared to 2022, the positive international net migration of foreigners dropped by 8 thousand persons.

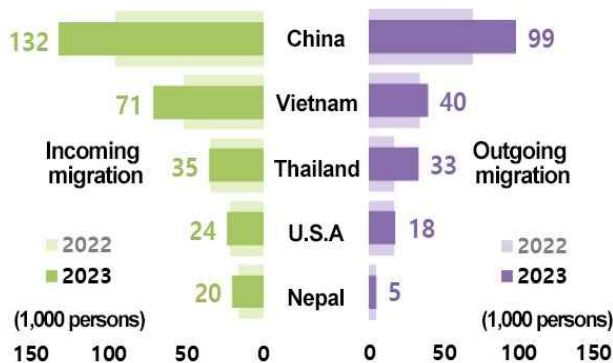
- Compared to 2022, the incoming migration of foreigners marked 480 thousand persons, which rose by 67 thousand persons (16.2%). The outgoing migration of foreigners marked 319 thousand persons, which rose by 75 thousand persons (30.5%).
- Foreigners showed a positive net migration of 161 thousand persons in 2023, which declined by 8 thousand persons from 2022.
- As for the net migration by age group, foreigners showed a positive net migration in all age groups. In particular, foreigners aged 20~29 showed the highest positive net migration of 81 thousand persons.



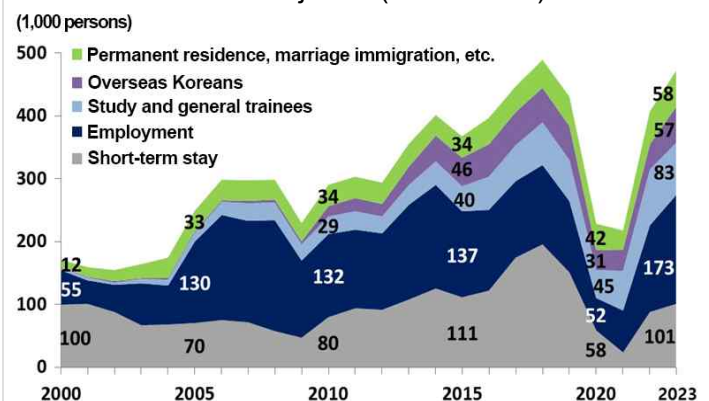
The incoming migration of Chinese, Vietnamese and Thai nationals occupied 49.6% of the total incoming migration of foreigners.

- The incoming migration of Chinese (132 thousand persons), Vietnamese (71 thousand persons) and Thai nationals (35 thousand persons) occupied 49.6% of the total incoming migration of foreigners. Compared to 2022, the incoming migration of Chinese nationals showed the highest increase, which was followed by Vietnamese nationals and Russian Federation nationals.
- The outgoing migration of Chinese (99 thousand persons), Vietnamese (40 thousand persons) and Thai nationals (33 thousand persons) occupied 53.7% of the total outgoing migration of foreigners. Compared to 2022, the outgoing migration of Chinese nationals showed the highest increase, which was followed by Thai nationals and Vietnamese nationals.
- As for the incoming migration of foreigners by status of sojourn, 'Employment' took up the largest share at 36.1%, which was followed by 'Short-term stay' (21.0%), 'Study and general trainees' (17.3%) and 'Permanent residence, marriage immigration, etc.' (12.1%).
- Compared to 2022, 'Employment' showed the highest increase of 35 thousand persons (25.5%), which was followed by 'Overseas Koreans' (17 thousand persons, 43.9%) and 'Short-term stay' (12 thousand persons, 14.1%).

< Incoming and outgoing migration of foreigners by nationality (2022~2023) >



< Incoming migration of foreigners by status of sojourn (2000~2023) >



1. Purpose

- International migration statistics are produced to provide basic data for the compilation of the current population and population projections, and international migration-related policy making by identifying the size and flow of international migration, and the characteristics of migrants, which are components of population variations.

2. History

- 1998: Carried out researches on the methods of producing migration statistics of Koreans and foreigners who have migrated for the purpose of residence by considering their duration of stay, according to 『Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration (1998)』
- 2000: Produced International Migration Statistics for migrants whose duration of stay is longer than 90 days by using data from immigration inspection and immigration forms

* A 90-day period of stay, which is a benchmark of international migration, was decided under the article of the Immigration Act by the Ministry of Justice in relation of the registration of foreigners who want to stay for 91 days or more in Korea, the timeliness of statistics < * Data can be published 2 years after the survey reference period when following the UN standards of migrants who stay more than 1 year. > and statistical practices of Japan, Germany, and some Eastern European countries.

- 2005: Discontinued the items including the characteristics of arrival of Koreans and departure of foreigners upon the abolition of arrival card to be filled out by Koreans and departure card to be filled out by foreigners (Nov.)
- 2006: Discontinued the items including the purpose and destination of departure, and occupation upon the abolition of departure card to be filled out by Koreans (Aug.). Statistics are produced by using arrival and departure data generated through the automatic passport reading system.
- 2010: Revised time-series data from 2000 at a time by improving matching keys and compilation methodology of international migration
- 2013: Changed publication frequency (annual → monthly)

3. Source: Data of Korean Immigration Service, the Ministry of Justice

4. Methodology: Compile data of international migrants who stay more than 91 days on the basis of immigration records of Koreans and foreigners

5. Legal basis: General statistics (Approval No. 101064) according to Article 18 of the Statistics Act

6. Statistical terms

☐ Foreigner

- Foreigners are defined as any person who is not a national of the Republic of Korea under subparagraph 2 of Article 2 of the Immigration Act. Foreigners can stay in Korea within their status of sojourn and duration of stay.

☐ International migration

- Migrants who leave their origin state to stay for 91 days or more in their destination

☐ Immigration

- Migrants who move to Korea to stay for 91 days or more

☐ Emigration

- Migrants who move from Korea to stay for 91 days or more

☐ International net migration

- Gap between incoming migrants and outgoing migrants (International net migration = Incoming migrants - Outgoing migrants)
- Positive net migration: More incoming migrants than outgoing migrants
- Negative net migration: More outgoing migrants than incoming migrants