



Statistics Korea

Press Release

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International Migration Statistics in 2024

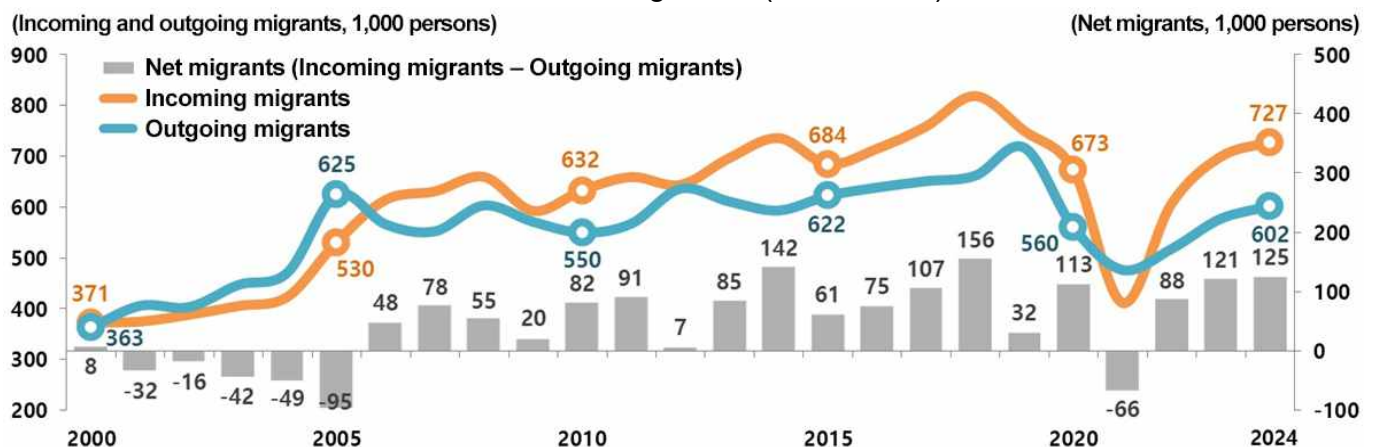
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International Migration Statistics in 2024

In 2024, South Korea recorded a positive international net migration (Incoming migrants - Outgoing migrants) of 125 thousand persons, which grew by 4 thousand persons from 2023.

- The number of international migrants (referring to those who stay more than 91 days, Incoming migrants + Outgoing migrants) was 1.329 million persons in 2024, which rose by 54 thousand persons (4.2%) from 2023.
- Incoming migrants totaled 727 thousand persons in 2024, which grew by 29 thousand persons (4.1%) from 2023.
- Outgoing migrants totaled 602 thousand persons in 2024, which rose by 25 thousand persons (4.3%) from 2023.
- In 2024, South Korea recorded a positive international net migration (Incoming migrants - Outgoing migrants) of 125 thousand persons, which grew by 4 thousand persons from 2023.

< International migration (2000~2024) >

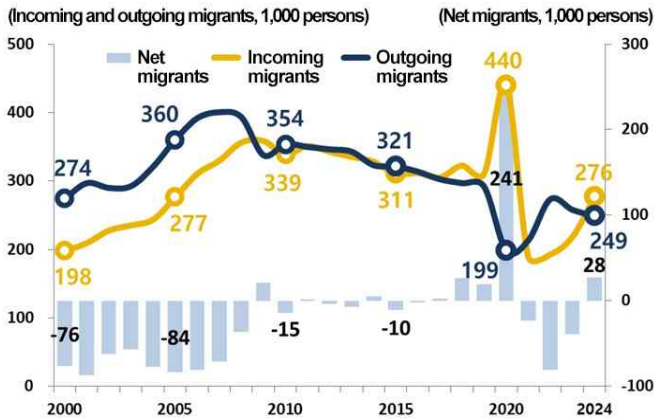


Compared to 2023, the incoming migration of Koreans rose by 26.5%. Whereas, the outgoing migration of Koreans fell by 3.5%. The international migration of Koreans changed from a negative net migration to a positive net migration.

- The incoming migration of Koreans marked 276 thousand persons in 2024, which rose by 58 thousand persons (26.5%) from 2023. The outgoing migration of Koreans marked 249 thousand persons in 2024, which fell by 9 thousand persons (-3.5%) from 2023.
- Koreans recorded a positive net migration of 28 thousand persons in 2024, which changed from a negative net migration in 2023.

- As for the net migration by age group, Koreans aged 30 or more showed a positive net migration. In particular, Koreans aged 50~59 showed the highest positive net migration of 13 thousand persons.

< Incoming and outgoing migration of Koreans (2000~2024) >



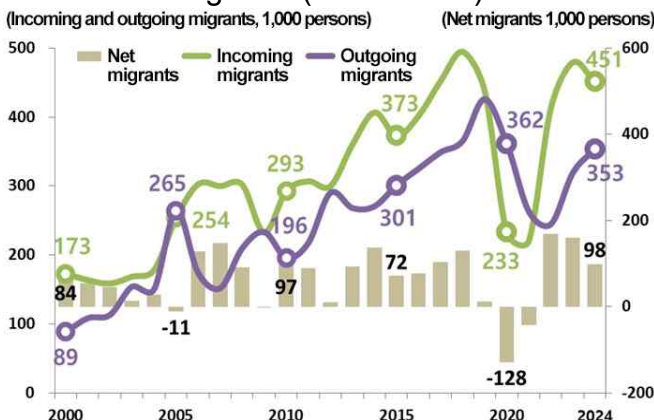
< International net migration of Koreans by age group (2023~2024) >



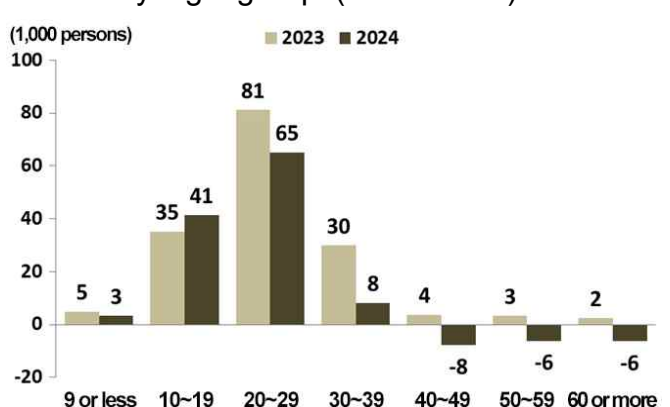
Compared to 2023, the incoming migration of foreigners fell by 6.0%, while the outgoing migration of foreigners grew by 10.7%. Compared to 2023, the positive international net migration of foreigners dropped by 63 thousand persons.

- Compared to 2023, the incoming migration of foreigners marked 451 thousand persons, which fell by 29 thousand persons (-6.0%). The outgoing migration of foreigners marked 353 thousand persons, which rose by 34 thousand persons (10.7%).
- Foreigners showed a positive net migration of 98 thousand persons in 2024, which declined by 63 thousand persons from 2023.
- As for the net migration by age group, foreigners showed a positive net migration in the groups aged 39 or less. In particular, foreigners aged 20~29 showed the highest positive net migration of 65 thousand persons.

< Incoming and outgoing migration of foreigners (2000~2024) >



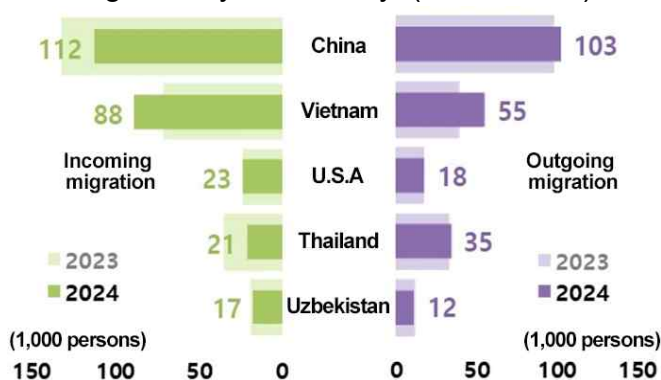
< International net migration of foreigners by age group (2023~2024) >



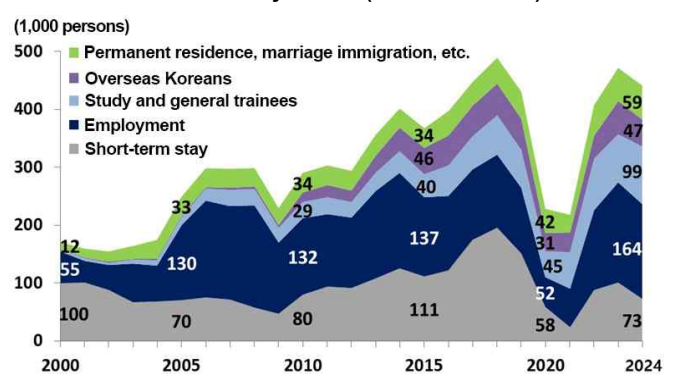
The incoming migration of Chinese, Vietnamese and American nationals occupied 49.6% of the total incoming migration of foreigners.

- The incoming migration of Chinese (112 thousand persons), Vietnamese (88 thousand persons) and American nationals (23 thousand persons) occupied 49.6% of the total incoming migration of foreigners. Compared to 2023, the incoming migration of Chinese nationals showed the highest decrease, which was followed by Thai nationals and Russian Federation nationals.
- The outgoing migration of Chinese (103 thousand persons), Vietnamese (55 thousand persons) and Thai nationals (35 thousand persons) occupied 54.7% of the total outgoing migration of foreigners. Compared to 2023, the outgoing migration of Vietnamese nationals showed the highest increase, which was followed by Chinese nationals and Laotian nationals.
- As for the incoming migration of foreigners by status of sojourn, 'Employment' took up the largest share at 36.4%, which was followed by 'Study and general trainees' (21.9%), 'Short-term stay' (16.1%) and 'Permanent residence, marriage immigration, etc.' (13.1%).
- Compared to 2023, 'Short-term stay' showed the highest decrease of 28 thousand persons (-27.9%), which was followed by 'Overseas Koreans' (-10 thousand persons, -18.1%) and 'Employment' (-9 thousand persons, -5.1%).

< Incoming and outgoing migration of foreigners by nationality (2023~2024) >



< Incoming migration of foreigners by status of sojourn (2000~2024) >



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, used as a benchmark for international migration statistics, was established under the Immigration Act by the Ministry of Justice of Korea. This threshold is related to the registration requirement for foreigners intending to stay in Korea for 91 days or more. It also reflects the timeliness of statistical dissemination—<data may be published up to two years after the survey reference period if following UN standards, which define migrants as those staying more than one year>—as well as the statistical practices of countries such as Japan, Germany, and some Eastern European nations.

- 2005: Discontinued the survey 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 survey 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)
- 2025: Updated time series after improving the editing method

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