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Social Indicators in 2025

Contact Division	Social Statistics Planning Division, Social Statistics Bureau	Contact Person	Kim, Seo young (042-481-2233)
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Social Indicators in 2025

◆ Population, household and family

In 2025, the total population of South Korea recorded 51.68 million persons. The total fertility rate stood at 0.80p, recording a year-on-year increase.

○ (Population change)

The total population of South Korea is projected to decrease from 51.68 million in 2025 to 36.22 million in 2072. The share of Koreans aged 65 or older is projected to increase from 20.3% in 2025 to 47.7% in 2072.

○ (Household change)

In 2024, the total number of households was 23.00 million, rising by 270 thousand from 2023. The elderly households with a household head aged 65 or older amounted to 5.99 million in 2024, rising by 340 thousand from 2023.

○ (Foreigners)

The number of long-term foreign residents in Korea was 2.159 million in 2025, rising by 117 thousand from 2024.

○ (Birth status)

In 2025, the total fertility rate stood at 0.80p. The number of live births was 254.5 thousandp. These two indicators marked a year-on-year increase.

◆ Health and living environment

Life expectancy at birth increased by 0.2 year from 83.5 years in 2023 to 83.7 years in 2024.

○ (Life expectancy at birth)

Life expectancy at birth rose by 0.2 year from 83.5 years in 2023 to 83.7 years in 2024. The gender gap in life expectancy at birth remained at 5.8 years for the 2022-2024 period.

○ (Crude death rate)

In 2025, the number of deaths was 7.1 deathsp per 1,000 population, rising by 0.1 death from 7.0 deaths in 2024. In 2024, malignant neoplasm (cancer) was the leading cause of death. The death rate of malignant neoplasm (cancer) stood at 174.3 deaths per 100,000 population.

○ (Green environment)

In 2024, 59.0% of Koreans were satisfied with their green environment, up 17.0%p compared to a decade ago. The urban green space per capita stood at 12.8m², which increased by 4.4m² compared to a decade ago.

◆ Education & training and labour

In 2025, the private education participation rate showed a year-on-year decrease. The employment-to-population ratio marked a record high since the beginning of statistical production.

○ (Educational opportunity)

In 2025, the school enrollment rate for elementary schools stood at 99.9%, which was followed by middle schools (97.3%), high schools (94.4%) and tertiary education institutions (76.3%). Compared to 2024, the private education participation rate decreased to 75.7% in 2025.

○ (Students with an immigrant background)

In 2025, elementary, middle and high school students with an immigrant background amounted to 202 thousand persons. The share of students with an immigrant background stood at 4.0%, showing an increasing trend.

○ (Employment and unemployment)

In 2025, the employment-to-population ratio of Koreans aged 15 or older stood at 62.9%, up 0.2%p from 62.7% in 2024. This figure marked the highest figure after the beginning of statistical production. The unemployment rate stood at 2.8% in 2025, remaining the same as 2024.

◆ Income, consumption, & assets, and leisure

In 2025, the Gross National Income per capita showed a year-on-year increase. The figures for leisure activities showed an increase compared to two years ago.

○ (National account)

In 2025, the Gross Domestic Product at nominal prices recorded 2,663.3 trillion wonp. The real GDP growth rate was 1.0%p. The Gross National Income per capita stood at US\$36,855p. All these indicators marked a year-on-year increase.

○ (Household income and income distribution)

In 2024, the annual average household income recorded 74.27 million won, rising by 2.42 million won from 2023. The Gini coefficient (based on equivalized disposable income) recorded 0.325 in 2024, rising by 0.002 from 2023.

○ (Consumption life)

In 2025, the share of Koreans satisfied with their consumption life stood at 24.6%, showing an ever-increasing trend from 2011. In 2025, the monthly average household consumption expenditures recorded 2.939 million won, showing a year-on-year increase.

○ (Leisure activity)

In 2025, 57.7% of Koreans aged 13 or older watched cultural, artistic and sports events. 73.5% of them used leisure facilities. 70.2% of them traveled domestically, and 31.5% traveled abroad. All these figures showed an increase compared to 2023.

◆ Housing, and crime & safety

In 2024, the rent-to-income ratio (RIR) remained the same as 2023. The number of crimes per 100,000 population showed a year-on-year increase.

○ (Housing supply)

In 2024, the number of housing units per 1,000 population stood at 442.8 units, which grew by 5.8 units from 437.0 units in 2023. In 2024, the housing supply ratio stood at 102.9%, up 0.4%p from 102.5% in 2023.

○ (Housing expenditures)

In 2024, the house price to income ratio (PIR) stood at 6.3 times, which remained the same as 2023. In 2024, the rent to income ratio (RIR) stood at 15.8%, which remained the same as 2023.

○ (Crime and accident)

In 2024, the number of crimes recorded 3,343 cases per 100,000 population, rising by 222 cases from 2023. In 2024, the death rate of road traffic accidents stood at 4.9 deaths per 100,000 population, remaining the same as 2023.

◆ Social integration and subjective well-being

In 2025, the share of Koreans satisfied with their life went up by 5.2%p from 2024.

○ (Social conflicts)

Compared to 2024, Koreans perceived stronger social conflicts between conservatives and progressives, as well as between employees and employers. Whereas, Koreans perceived social conflicts between the poor and the middle & high class and between development and environmental conservation less strongly.

○ (Social isolation)

In 2025, 16.9% of Koreans aged 19 or older felt lonely, showing a decrease from 2024. 15.1% of Koreans aged 19 or older felt that hardly anyone truly knew them, showing a decrease from 2024.

○ (Subjective well-being)

In 2025, 80.8% of Koreans thought that they were satisfied with their life, up 5.2%p from 2024. In 2025, 79.4% of Koreans thought that what they did was worthwhile, up 3.1%p from 2024.