Ministry of Data and Statistics

Press Release

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2025 Statistical Indicators of North Korea

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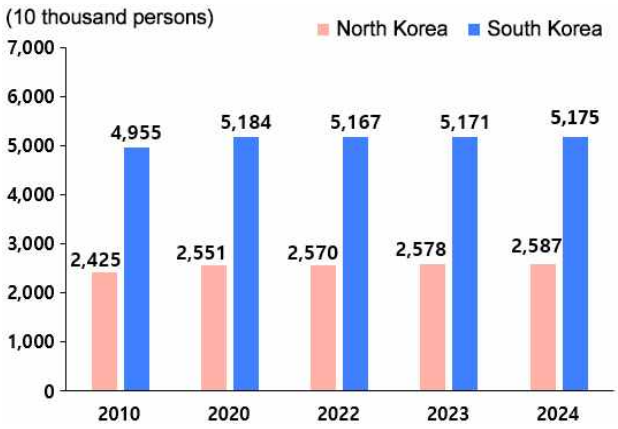
2025 Statistical Indicators of North Korea

□ (Population)

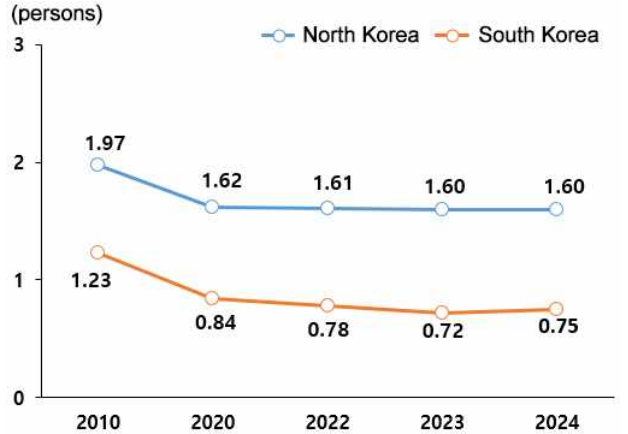
In 2024, the population of North Korea was 25.87 million persons, recording half of that of South Korea (51.75 million persons). The total population of two Koreas stood at 77.62 million persons.

○ In 2024, the total fertility rate of North Korea stood at 1.60 per woman, which was 0.85

【Population】



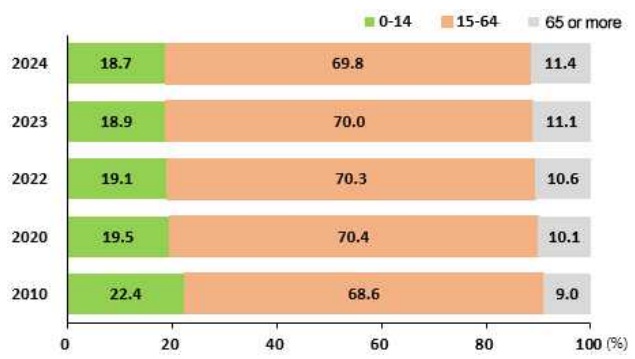
【Total fertility rate】



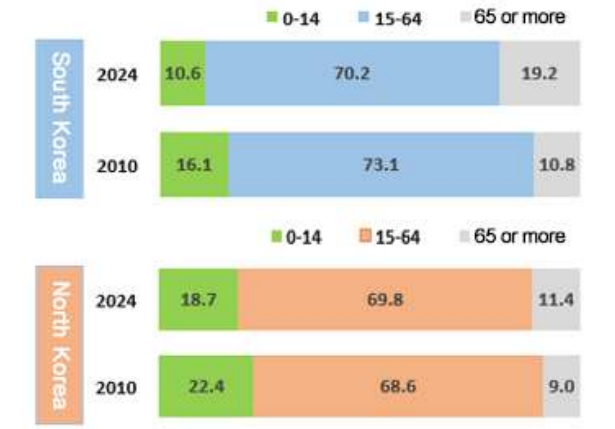
○ In 2024, people aged 0~14 occupied 18.7% of the total population of North Korea. People aged '15~64' and '65 or more' occupied 69.8% and 11.4% of the total population of North Korea, respectively.

- The share of people aged 0~14 of North Korea was 8.1%p higher than that of South Korea. In the meantime, the share of people aged 65 or more of North Korea was 7.8%p lower than that of South Korea.

【Age structure of the population of North Korea】



【Age structure of the population of North and South Korea】

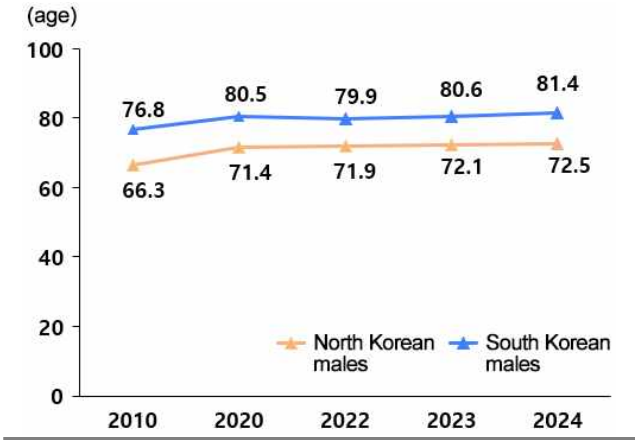


□ **(Health)**

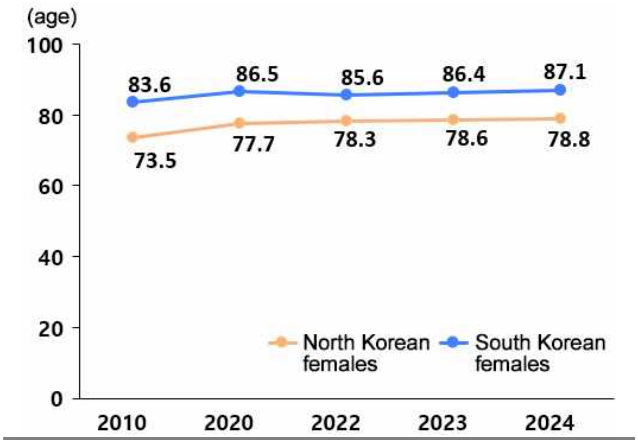
In 2024, the life expectancy at birth of North Korean males was 72.5 years, which rose by 0.4 year from 2023. The life expectancy at birth of North Korean females was 78.8 years, which rose by 0.2 year from 2023.

○ In 2024, the life expectancy at birth of North Korean males was 8.9 years shorter than that of South Korean males (81.4 years). The life expectancy at birth of North Korean females was 8.3 years shorter than that of South Korean females (87.1 years).

【Life expectancy at birth of males)】



【Life expectancy at birth of females】



□ **(Agriculture and forestry)**

In 2024, the crop production (including rice and barley) of North Korea recorded 4.78 million tons, falling by 0.8% from 2023. This figure was 590 thousand tons higher than the crop production of South Korea (4.19 million tons).

○ Among crops*, the rice production of North Korea recorded 2.15 million tons in 2024, rising by 1.8% from 2023. This figure stood at 59.9% of the rice production of South Korea (3.59 million tons).

* Crop production: 1.61 million tons (corn), 540 thousand tons (potatoes), 180 thousand tons (pulses), 280 thousand tons (barley and wheat), 20 thousand tons (miscellaneous grains)

【Crop and rice production】

(Unit: thousand tons)

	Crop			Rice		
	North Korea	South Korea	South Korea / North Korea (times)	North Korea	South Korea	South Korea / North Korea (times)
2015	4,512	4,846	1.1	2,016	4,327	2.1
2022	4,505	4,332	1.0	2,074	3,764	1.8
2023	4,820	4,299	0.9	2,110	3,702	1.8
2024	**4,780**	**4,190**	**0.9**	**2,149**	**3,585**	**1.7**
Compared to 2023 (%)	-0.8	-2.5	-	1.8	-3.2	-

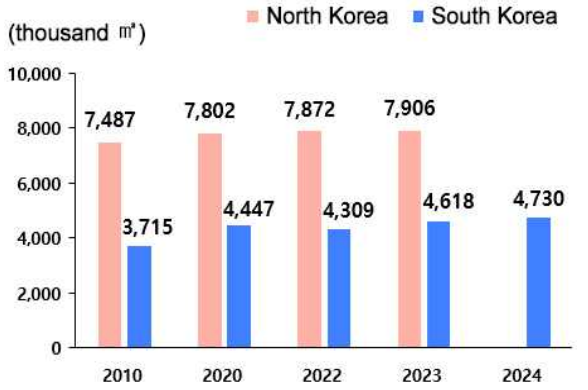
Note) Crops include rice, corns, potatoes (regular and sweet potatoes), barley & wheat, pulses (beans, red beans, etc.), miscellaneous grains (millet, sorghum, etc.).

❍ In 2023, the roundwood production of North Korea marked 7.91 million ㎥, rising by 0.4% from 2023. This figure was 1.7 times higher than that of South Korea (4.62 million ㎥).

【Roundwood production】

(Unit: thousand ㎥)

	Roundwood		
	North Korea	South Korea	South Korea / North Korea (times)
2010	7,487	3,715	0.5
2020	7,802	4,447	0.6
2022	7,872	4,309	0.5
2023	7,906	4,618	0.6
2024	**-**	**4,730**	**-**
Compared to 2023 (%)	-	2.4	-
Compared to 2010 (%)	-	27.3	-



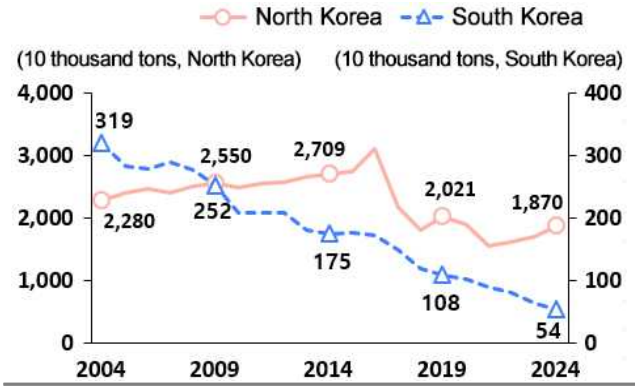
Note) The figures of South Korea are based on supply.

□ (Mining and manufacturing)

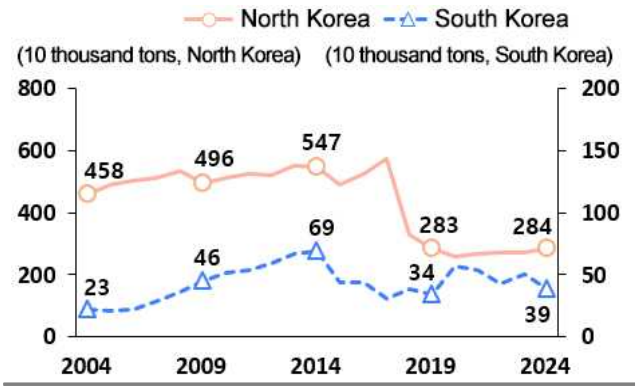
In 2024, the coal production of North Korea totaled 18.70 million tons, which grew by 9.4% from 2023. The iron production of North Korea totaled 2.84 million tons, which grew by 4.1% from 2023.

* The coal production of North Korea was 34.4 times higher than that of South Korea (540 thousand tons). The iron production of North Korea was 7.3 times higher than that of South Korea (390 thousand tons).

【Coal production】



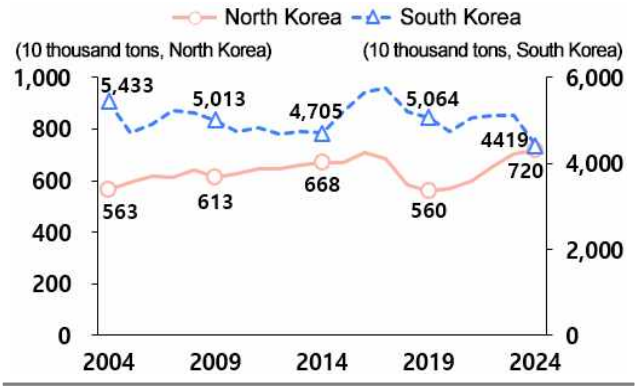
【Iron production】



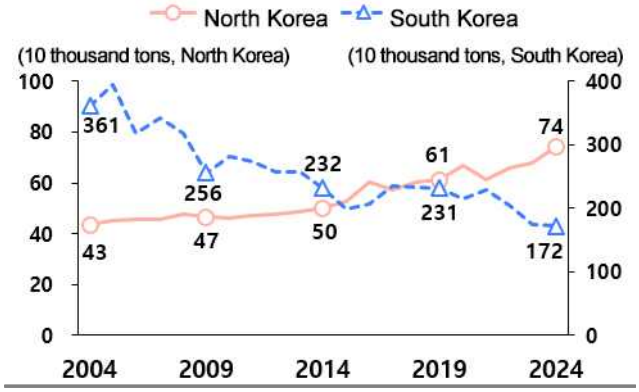
❍ In 2024, the crude steel production of North Korea marked 510 thousand tons, which rose by 46.7% from 2023. The cement production of North Korea marked 7.20 million tons, which rose by 2.1% from 2023. The chemical fertilizer production of North Korea marked 740 thousand tons, which rose by 9.3% from 2023.

* The crude steel production of North Korea stood at one 125th (0.8%) of that of South Korea (63.65 million tons). The cement production of North Korea stood at one 6th (16.3%) of that of South Korea (44.19 million tons). The chemical fertilizer production of North Korea stood at one 2nd (43.1%) of that of South Korea (1.72 million tons).

【Cement production】



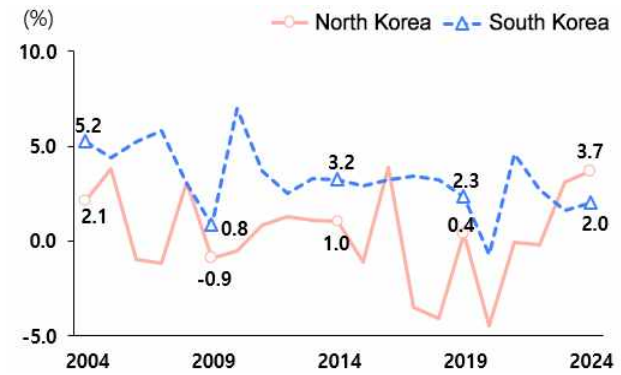
【Chemical fertilizer production】



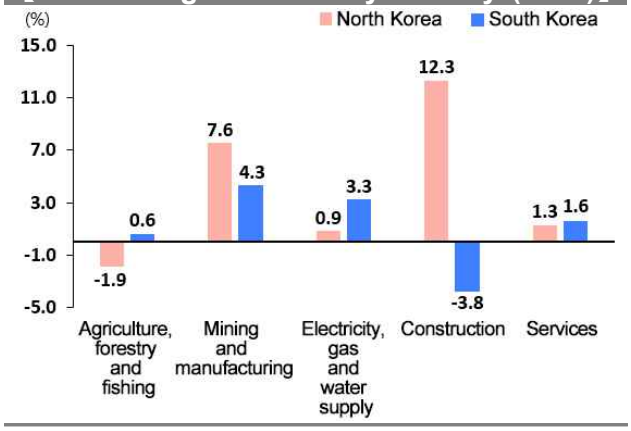
☐ **(National account)**

In 2024, Gross Domestic Product (at constant prices) of North Korea grew by 3.7% from 2023 owing to an increase in ‘Construction' and 'Mining and manufacturing' despite a decrease in 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing'.

【Economic growth rate】

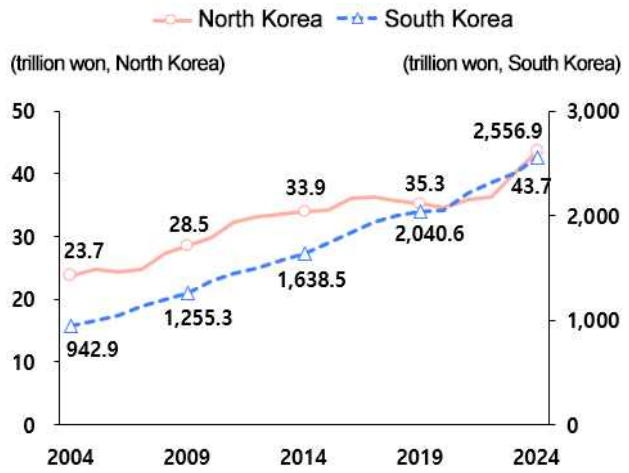


【Economic growth rate by industry (2024)】

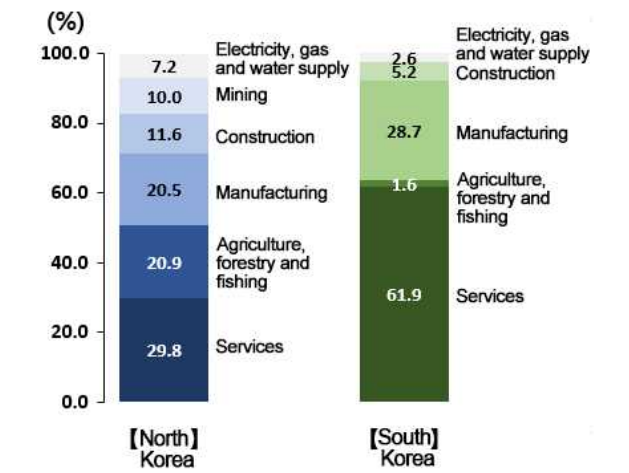


❍ In 2024, Gross Domestic Product (at current prices) of North Korea recorded 43.7 trillion won, which was one 59th (1.7%) of that of South Korea (2,556.9 trillion won).

【Gross Domestic Product (nominal)】

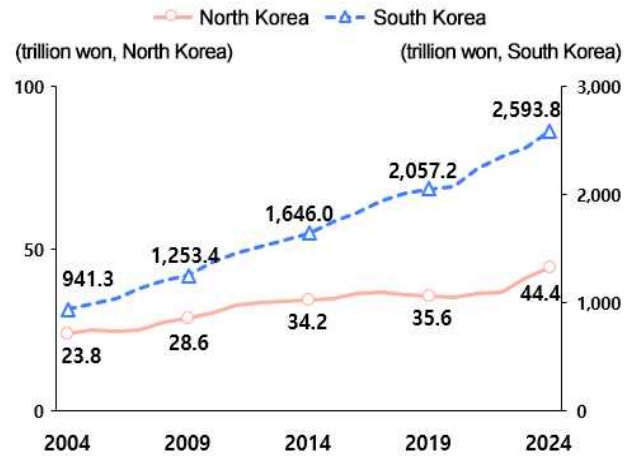


【Industry structure (2024)】

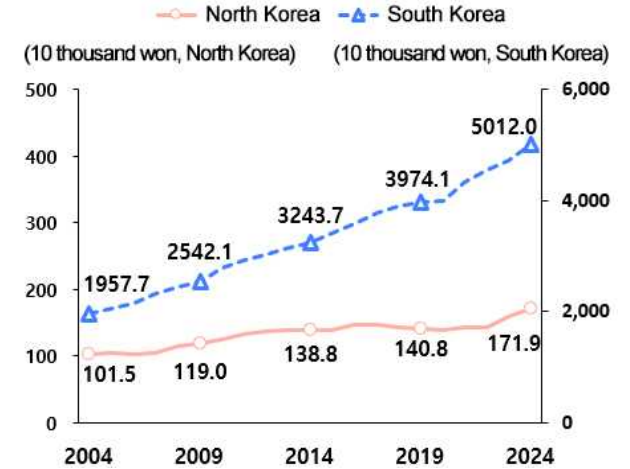


○ In 2024, per-capita Gross National Income of North Korea recorded 1.719 million won, which was one 29th (3.4%) of that of South Korea (50.12 million won).

【Gross National Income (nominal)】



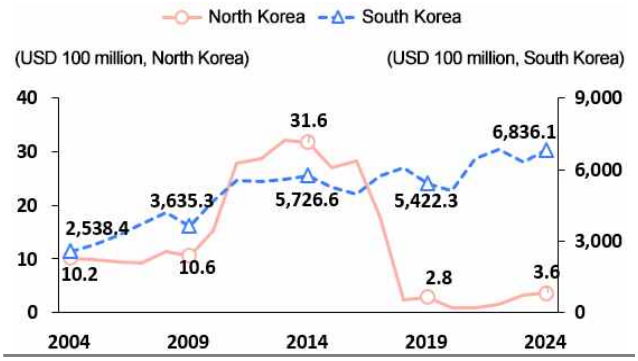
【Per-capita Gross National Income】



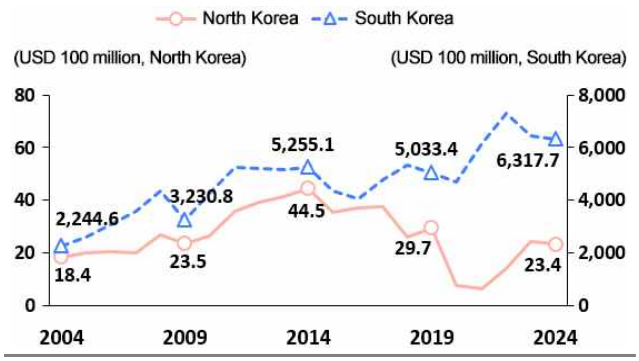
□ (Foreign trade)

In 2024, foreign trade of North Korea stood at 2.7 billion US dollars, which fell by 2.6% from 2023. This figure recorded one 488th (0.2%) of foreign trade of South Korea (1,315.4 billion US dollars).

【Exports】



【Imports】



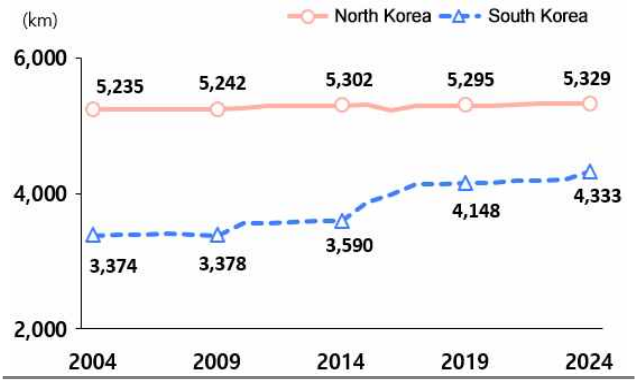
○ In 2024, the exports of ‘Skins and other parts of birds with their feathers or down’ occupied the largest share at 52.5% of the total exports. The imports of 'mineral fuels and mineral oils' occupied the largest share at 19.1% of the total imports.

○ In 2024, the trade value of North Korea with China recorded the highest share at 98%, which was followed by Argentina (0.6%) and Vietnam (0.5%).

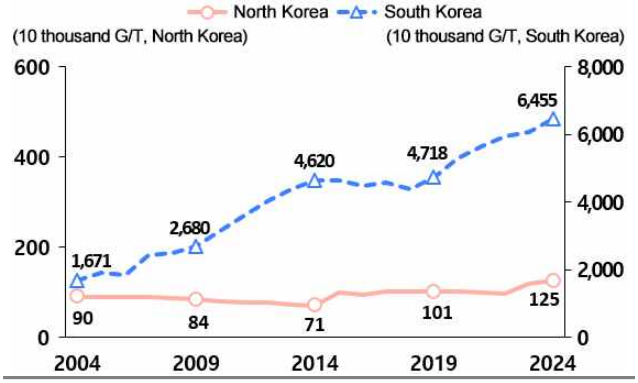
□ (Transport and logistics)

In 2024, the total length of railway of North Korea marked 5,329km, which was 1.2 times longer than that of South Korea (4,333km). The port cargo handling capacity of North Korea marked 44 million tons, which stood at one 33rd (3.1%) of that of South Korea. The tonnage of vessels of North Korea marked 1.25 million G/T (Gross Tonnage), which stood at one 52nd (1.9%) of that of South Korea.

【Total length of railway 】



【Tonnage of vessels】

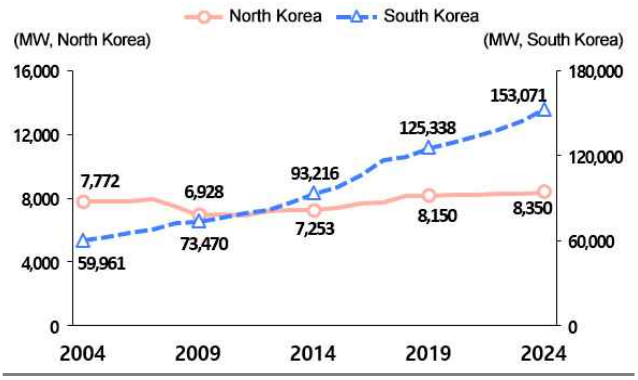


☐ **(Energy)**

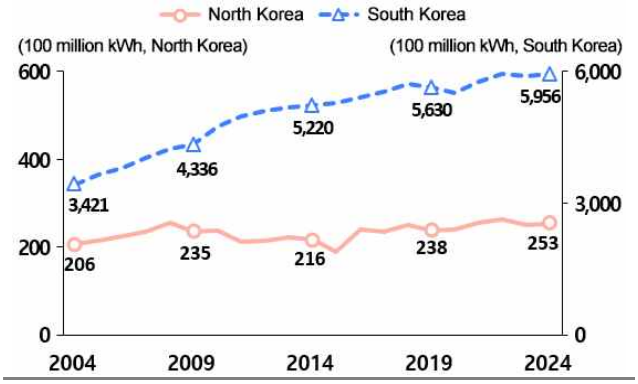
In 2024, the capacities of power generators of North Korea totaled 8,350MW, rising by 0.7% from 2023. This figure stood at one 18th (5.5%) of that of South Korea (153 thousand MW).

❍ In 2024, the gross generation of North Korea totaled 25.3 billion kWh, which stood at one 24th (4.2%) of that of South Korea (595.6 billion kWh).

【Capacities of power generators】



【Gross generation】



☐ **(Education and diplomacy)**

In 2024, the number of university students of North Korea was 208.0 persons per 10,000 population, which stood at 40.1% of that of South Korea (518.9 persons per 10,000 population).

❍ As of December 2024, North Korea maintained diplomatic relations with 159 countries. As of July 2025, North Korea maintained memberships in 32 international organizations.