



Ministry of Data
and Statistics

Press Release



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Living Population in the First Quarter of 2026

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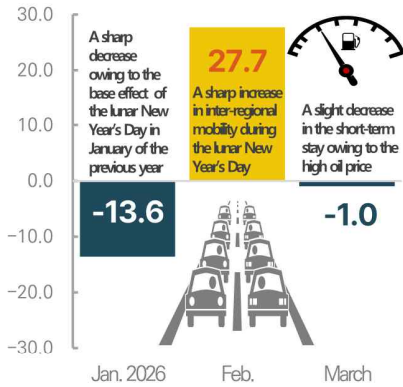
1Q 2026

Overview of the Living Population



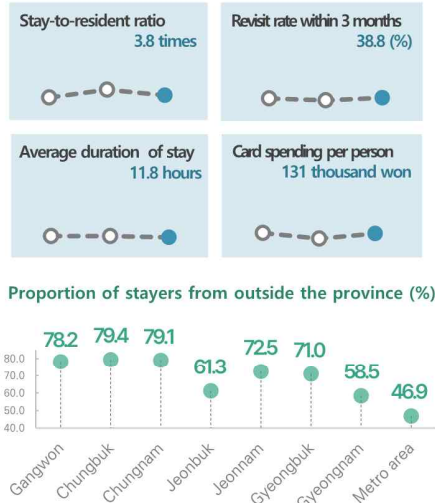
Ministry of Data and Statistics and
Ministry of Interior and Safety

1. Size of the living population Year-on-year percent change (%)

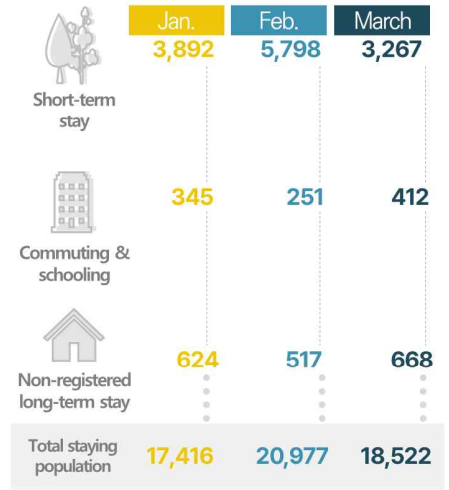


Living population (thousand persons) **22,262** **25,818** **23,366**

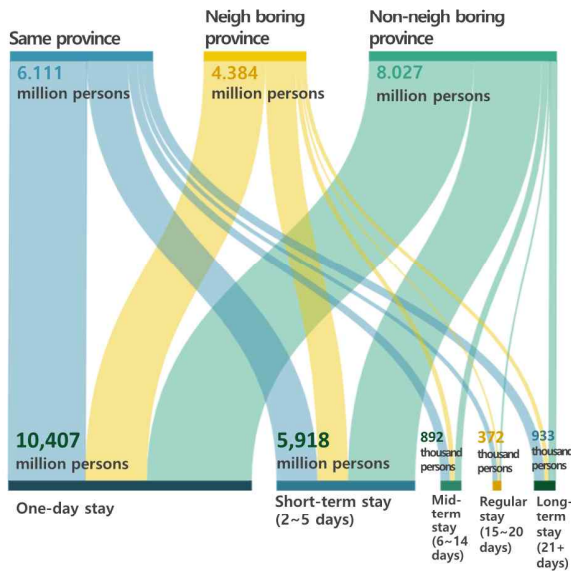
2. Characteristics of the staying population (March)



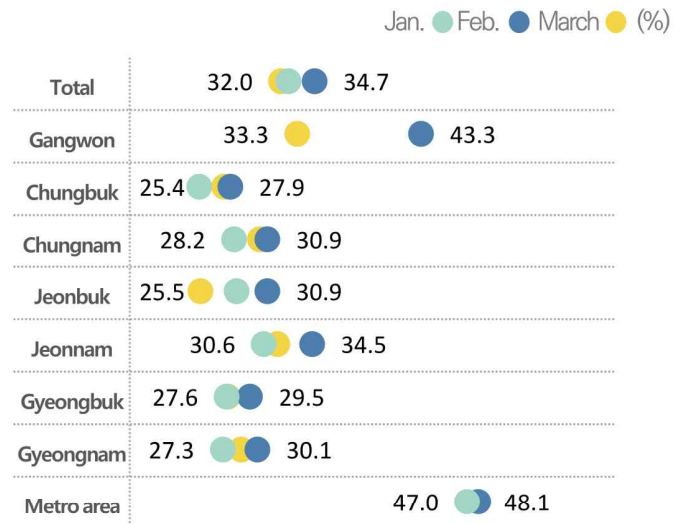
3. Staying population by stay type (thousand persons)



4. Duration of stay by type of registered area (March)

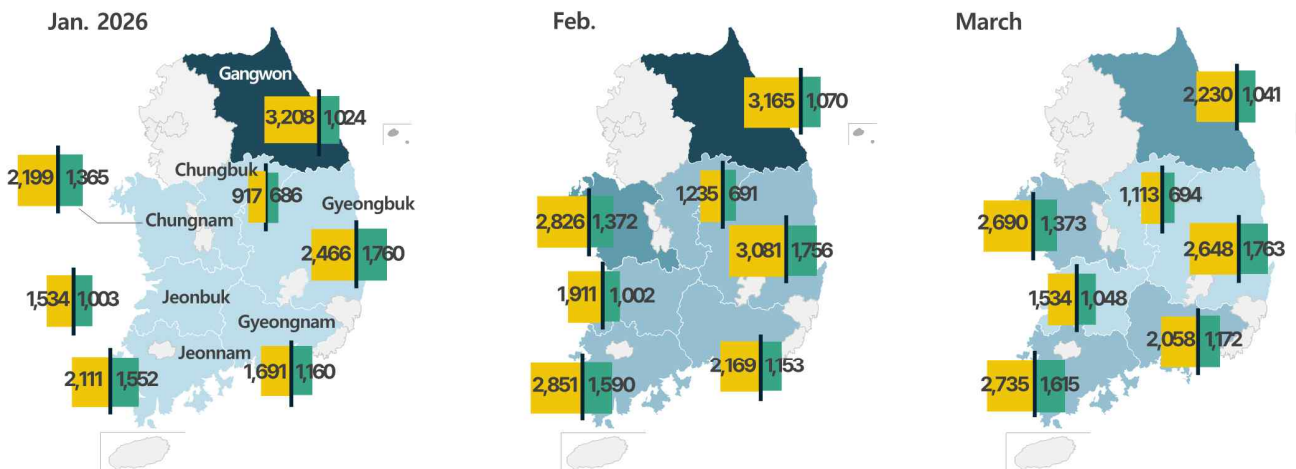


5. Share of card spending by the staying population



6. Inbound vs outbound population (thousand persons)

Ratio = **Inbound** / **Outbound** (As of Q1 2026) Min 1.3 Max 3.1



Living Population in the First Quarter of 2026

☐ Status of the living population

- In February 2026, the living population of 89 depopulation regions was 25.82 million persons. The staying population in depopulation regions was 20.98 million persons, which was 4.3 times higher than the resident population in these regions.
- In February 2026, the living population in depopulation regions rose by 5.60 million persons year-on-year. On the other hand, the living population dropped by 3.51 million persons in January and 250 thousand persons in March, year-on-year.

(Unit: thousand persons, times)

	Jan. 2026			Feb. 2026			March 2026		
		Year-on-year change*	Month-on-month change*		Year-on-year change	Month-on-month change		Year-on-year change	Month-on-month change
Living population	22,262	-3,512	744	25,818	5,599	3,556	23,366	-246	-2,452
Resident population (A)	4,847	-13	-3	4,841	-9	-6	4,844	-6	3
Koreans	4,686	-35	-2	4,681	-29	-5	4,682	-28	0
Foreigners	161	21	-1	160	20	-1	163	21	3
Staying population in depopulation regions (B)	17,416	-3,498	747	20,977	5,608	3,561	18,522	-239	-2,455
Ratio (B/A)	3.6	-0.7	0.2	4.3	1.2	0.7	3.8	0.0	-0.5

* Year-on-year changes and month-on-month changes

☐ Characteristics of the staying population in depopulation regions

- In the first quarter of 2026, the average length of stay (in days) was 3.4 days (3.5 days in January, 3.1 days in February and 3.5 days in March). The average length of stay (in hours) was 12.1 hours (12.2 hours in January, 12.3 hours in February and 11.8 hours in March). The average number of nights stayed was 3.9 nights (4.1 nights in January, 3.2 nights in February and 4.4 nights in March).
- In the first quarter of 2026, the staying population coming from outside the province occupied 68.7%. In particular, Gangwon (82.1%) showed the largest proportion of the staying population coming from outside the province.
- Among the types of the staying population in depopulation regions, the proportion of short-term accommodation users (for tourism or leisure) was relatively higher among females, those 'aged 29 or less' to 'aged 40~49', and residents of non-neighboring cities or provinces, compared to the total staying population in depopulation regions.
- Among the types of the staying population in depopulation regions, the proportion of commuters (to school or work) was relatively higher among males and those aged 30 ~ 59, compared to the total staying population in depopulation regions. The proportion of non-registered long-term stayers was relatively higher among males and those aged

29 or less, compared to the total staying population in depopulation regions.

- Regarding the ratio of the staying population in depopulation regions in comparison with the resident population, foreigners stood at 2.1 times in the first quarter of 2026 (2.0 times in January, 2.2 times in February and 2.1 times in March). The average length of stay (in days) of foreigners was 4.7 days in the first quarter of 2026 (5.0 days in January, 4.2 days in February and 4.9 days in March). The average length of stay (in hours) of foreigners was 14.5 hours in the first quarter of 2026 (14.9 hours in January, 14.4 hours in February and 14.3 hours in March). Compared to Koreans, foreigners tended to show less mobility, but to stay longer.

☐ **Characteristics of consumption**

- In the first quarter of 2026, the average card spending per capita in depopulation regions stood at 127 thousand won (132 thousand won in January, 119 thousand won in February and 131 thousand won in March). Card spending tended to increase with age.

- (Consumption by stay type)

The short-term accommodation users showed the highest average per-capita card spending in health and medical care. The commuters showed the highest average per-capita card spending in education. The non-registered long-term stayers showed the highest average per-capita card spending in education and accommodation.

- In comparison with the resident population, the card spending of the staying population in depopulation regions occupied around 33% of the total card spending. In particular, this figure in the depopulation regions of metropolitan cities stood at more than 47% of the total card spending.