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Press Release



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Employment Positions of Wage Workers in the First Quarter of 2025

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Employment Positions of Wage Workers in the First Quarter of 2025

◆ In the first quarter of 2025, the number of employment positions of wage workers rose by 15 thousand compared to the first quarter of 2024.

◆ As for employment positions by industry, 'Human health and social work activities'* and 'Membership organizations, repair and other personal services'** recorded a year-on-year increase.

* 'Social work activities' and 'Human health activities' marked a year-on-year increase.

** 'Membership organizations', 'Other personal services activities' and 'Maintenance and repair services of personal and household goods' marked a year-on-year increase.

Overview

- In the first quarter of 2025, the number of employment positions of wage workers was 20.536 million, which increased by 15 thousand compared to the first quarter of 2024.
- The number of sustainable employment positions, which the same workers occupied in the same quarter of the previous year, was 15.070 million. This figure accounted for 73.4% of the total employment positions. The number of replaced employment positions, which resulted from retirement or job change, was 3.254 million. This figure accounted for 15.8% of the total employment positions.
- The number of new employment positions, which resulted from enterprise foundation or business expansion, marked 2.212 million. This figure occupied 10.8% of the total employment positions. The number of extinct employment positions, which resulted from enterprise closure or business reduction, marked 2.197 million.

< Total employment positions of wage workers >

(Unit: ten thousand, %, year-on-year)

	1Q 2024	Change	4Q 2024	Change	1Q 2025	Change	Percent change
○ Total employment positions	2,052.1	31.4	2,090.2	15.3	2,053.6	1.5	0.1

< Employment positions of wage workers by type >



Note: The figures in parentheses represent the share among the total employment positions.

< Size and change in employment positions of wage workers >

(Unit: ten thousand)

	Employment positions of wage workers					Change (Year-on-year)
	Total	Sustainable employment positions	Replaced employment positions	New employment positions	Extinct employment positions	
1Q 2024	2,052.1	1,470.1	333.2	248.9	217.5	31.4
2Q 2024	2,083.9	1,494.1	344.4	245.4	219.9	25.4
3Q 2024	2,078.8	1,495.9	335.4	247.5	222.9	24.6
4Q 2024	2,090.2	1,509.6	336.2	244.4	229.2	15.3
1Q 2025	2,053.6	1,507.0	325.4	221.2	219.7	1.5

Employment positions by industry

- As for employment positions by industry section, 'Human health and social work activities', 'Membership organizations, repair and other personal services' and 'Professional, scientific and technical activities' rose by 109 thousand, 25 thousand and 24 thousand, respectively, compared to the first quarter of 2024.
- As for employment positions by industry division of 'Human health and social work activities', 'Social work activities' and 'Human health activities' grew by 73 thousand and 36 thousand, respectively.
- As for employment positions by industry division of 'Membership organizations, repair and other personal services', 'Membership organizations' and 'Other personal services activities' grew by 21 thousand and 3 thousand, respectively.

- As for employment positions by industry division of 'Professional, scientific and technical activities, 'Professional services' and 'Architectural, engineering and other scientific technical services' grew by 15 thousand and 6 thousand, respectively.

< Employment positions of wage workers by industry section¹⁾ >

(Unit: ten thousand, %, year-on-year)

	1Q 2024		4Q 2024		1Q 2025			
		Change		Change		Compo- sition	Change	Percent change
○ Total employment positions	2,052.1	31.4	2,090.2	15.3	2,053.6	100.0	1.5	0.1
A. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	8.1	0.4	8.9	0.4	8.3	0.4	0.2	2.7
B. Mining and quarrying	1.1	0.0	1.1	-0.1	1.1	0.1	-0.1	-5.9
C. Manufacturing	430.7	3.1	432.1	0.9	429.5	20.9	-1.2	-0.3
D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	8.0	0.0	8.0	0.0	8.0	0.4	0.0	-0.4
E. Water supply; sewage, waste management, materials recovery	11.0	0.1	11.2	0.1	11.1	0.5	0.1	0.6
F. Construction	184.4	-4.8	189.2	-10.9	169.0	8.2	-15.4	-8.3
G. Wholesale and retail trade	216.9	1.5	217.3	0.0	216.1	10.5	-0.8	-0.4
H. Transportation and storage	74.9	4.3	76.6	2.6	77.0	3.8	2.1	2.8
I. Accommodation and food service activities	94.3	4.0	95.6	2.1	94.8	4.6	0.5	0.5
J. Information and communication	87.0	0.4	86.9	-0.6	85.8	4.2	-1.2	-1.4
K. Financial and insurance activities	57.0	0.5	57.5	0.4	57.1	2.8	0.1	0.2
L. Real estate activities	44.6	-0.9	44.4	-0.9	44.1	2.1	-0.5	-1.1
M. Professional, scientific and technical activities	106.6	1.3	109.3	0.8	109.0	5.3	2.4	2.3
N. Business facilities management and business support services; rental and leasing activities	142.2	3.7	145.0	2.6	143.2	7.0	1.0	0.7
O. Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	132.9	0.6	137.7	0.1	132.9	6.5	-0.1	-0.1
P. Education	128.3	0.4	133.9	0.9	129.3	6.3	0.9	0.7
Q. Human health and social work activities	255.5	13.9	264.7	14.0	266.4	13.0	10.9	4.3
R. Arts, sports and recreation related services	15.6	0.1	16.1	-0.1	15.6	0.8	0.0	0.2
S. Membership organizations, repair and other personal services	51.5	3.0	53.3	2.9	53.9	2.6	2.5	4.8
Others ²⁾	1.3	0.0	1.3	0.0	1.3	0.1	0.0	-0.9

Note 1) Refer to the Korean Standard Industrial Classification

2) Including 'T. Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods-and services-producing activities of households for own use' and 'U. Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies'

- As for the employment positions by industry group of 'Manufacturing', which occupied the highest share of the total employment positions, 'Manufacture of electronic components', 'Manufacture of structural metal products' and 'Manufacture of other fabricated metal products; metalworking service activities' fell by 7 thousand, 5 thousand and 3 thousand, respectively.

< Size and change in employment positions of wage workers by industry >

(Unit: ten thousand)

	Employment positions of wage workers					Change (Year-on-year)
	Total	Sustainable employment positions	Replaced employment positions	New employment positions	Extinct employment positions	
Human health and social work activities	266.4	182.2	54.0	30.3	19.3	10.9
Membership organizations, repair and other personal services	53.9	38.0	8.6	7.4	4.9	2.5
Manufacturing	429.5	348.8	46.2	34.6	35.7	-1.2
Construction	169.0	91.1	43.4	34.5	49.9	-15.4

Employment positions by characteristics of workers and enterprises

- As for employment positions by sex, the employment positions of males fell by 115 thousand, while those of females grew by 130 thousand compared to the first quarter of 2024.
- The employment positions of males showed a year-on-year decrease in 'Construction' (-133 thousand), 'Information and communication' (-10 thousand) and 'Public administration and defence; compulsory social security' (-7 thousand).
 - The employment positions of females showed a year-on-year increase in 'Human health and social work activities' (93 thousand), 'Membership organizations, repair and other personal services' (18 thousand) and 'Education' (13 thousand).

< Employment positions by sex >

(Unit: ten thousand, %, year-on-year)

		1Q 2024			4Q 2024			1Q 2025			
			Compo- sition	Change		Compo- sition	Change		Compo- sition	Change	Percent change
○ Total employment positions		2,052.1	100.0	31.4	2,090.2	100.0	15.3	2,053.6	100.0	1.5	0.1
By sex	Males	1,153.0	56.2	6.5	1,168.4	55.9	-3.5	1,141.5	55.6	-11.5	-1.0
	Females	899.1	43.8	24.9	921.8	44.1	18.7	912.1	44.4	13.0	1.4

- As for employment positions by age group, 'Workers aged 29 or less' and 'Workers aged 40 ~ 49' dropped by 168 thousand and 100 thousand, respectively, year-on-year. Whereas, 'Workers aged 60 or more', 'Workers aged 30 ~ 39' and 'Workers aged 50 ~ 59' rose by 197 thousand, 64 thousand and 21 thousand, respectively, year-on-year.
- The employment positions of 'Workers aged 60 or more' marked a year-on-year increase in 'Human health and social work activities' (78 thousand), 'Manufacturing' (25 thousand) and 'Business facilities management and business support services; rental and leasing activities' (22 thousand).
- The employment positions of 'Workers aged 29 or less' marked a year-on-year decrease in 'Wholesale and retail trade' (-24 thousand), 'Construction' (-24 thousand) and 'Information and communication' (-21 thousand).

< Employment positions by age group >

(Unit: ten thousand, %, year-on-year)

		1Q 2024			4Q 2024			1Q 2025			
			Compo- sition	Change		Compo- sition	Change		Compo- sition	Change	Percent change
○ Total employment positions		2,052.1	100.0	31.4	2,090.2	100.0	15.3	2,053.6	100.0	1.5	0.1
By age group	Workers aged 29 or less	308.6	15.0	-10.2	297.8	14.2	-14.8	291.9	14.2	-16.8	-5.4
	Workers aged 30 ~ 39	438.9	21.4	5.7	449.1	21.5	6.7	445.3	21.7	6.4	1.5
	Workers aged 40 ~ 49	473.4	23.1	-3.2	471.7	22.6	-8.4	463.5	22.6	-10.0	-2.1
	Workers aged 50 ~ 59	473.3	23.1	12.8	484.4	23.2	7.0	475.4	23.1	2.1	0.5
	Workers aged 60 or more	357.9	17.4	26.3	387.2	18.5	24.8	377.6	18.4	19.7	5.5

- As for employment positions by type of legal organization, 'Non-business corporations' and 'Government and unincorporated associations' grew by 71 thousand and 44 thousand, respectively, year-on-year. Whereas, 'Incorporated companies' and 'Sole proprietorship' fell by 71 thousand and 28 thousand, respectively, year-on-year.

< Employment positions by type of legal organization >

(Unit: ten thousand, %, year-on-year)

		1Q 2024			4Q 2024			1Q 2025			
			Compo- sition	Change		Compo- sition	Change		Compo- sition	Change	Percent change
○ Total employment positions		2,052.1	100.0	31.4	2,090.2	100.0	15.3	2,053.6	100.0	1.5	0.1
By type of legal organization	Incorporated company	1,157.0	56.4	13.0	1,172.3	56.1	-0.2	1,149.9	56.0	-7.1	-0.6
	Non-business corporation	279.9	13.6	13.3	289.4	13.8	11.5	287.0	14.0	7.1	2.5
	Government & unincorporated association	291.4	14.2	4.2	302.5	14.5	4.5	295.8	14.4	4.4	1.5
	Sole proprietorship	323.8	15.8	0.9	326.0	15.6	-0.5	321.0	15.6	-2.8	-0.9