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Employment Positions of Wage Workers in the Third Quarter of 2025

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Employment Positions of Wage Workers in the Third Quarter of 2025

◆ In the third quarter of 2025, the number of employment positions of wage workers rose by 139 thousand compared to the third quarter of 2024.

◆ As for employment positions by industry, 'Human health and social work activities'* and 'Professional, scientific and technical activities'** recorded a year-on-year increase.

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

** 'Professional services', 'Architectural, engineering and other scientific services', 'Research and development' and 'Other professional, scientific and technical services' marked a year-on-year increase.

Overview

- In the third quarter of 2025, the number of employment positions of wage workers was 20.927 million, which increased by 139 thousand compared to the third quarter of 2024.
- The number of sustainable employment positions, which the same workers occupied in the same quarter of the previous year, was 15.349 million. This figure accounted for 73.3% of the total employment positions. The number of replaced employment positions, which resulted from retirement or job change, was 3.272 million. This figure accounted for 15.6% of the total employment positions.
- The number of new employment positions, which resulted from enterprise foundation or business expansion, marked 2.306 million. This figure occupied 11.0% of the total employment positions. The number of extinct employment positions, which resulted from enterprise closure or business reduction, marked 2.167 million.

< Total employment positions of wage workers >

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

	3Q 2024	Change	2Q 2025	Change	3Q 2025	Change	Percent change
○ Total employment positions	2,078.8	24.6	2,095.0	11.1	2,092.7	13.9	0.7

< 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	
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
2Q 2025	2,095.0	1,530.8	332.1	232.0	220.9	11.1
3Q 2025	2,092.7	1,534.9	327.2	230.6	216.7	13.9

Employment positions by industry

- As for employment positions by industry section, 'Human health and social work activities', 'Professional, scientific and technical activities' and 'Membership organizations, repair and other personal services' rose by 129 thousand, 31 thousand and 29 thousand, respectively, compared to the third 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 83 thousand and 47 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' rose by 19 thousand and 6 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 25 thousand and 3 thousand, respectively.

< Employment positions of wage workers by industry section1) >

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

	3Q 2024		2Q 2025		3Q 2025			
		Change		Change		Compo- sition	Change	Percent change
○ Total employment positions	2,078.8	24.6	2,095.0	11.1	2,092.7	100.0	13.9	0.7
A. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	8.5	0.4	8.8	0.3	8.7	0.4	0.2	2.6
B. Mining and quarrying	1.1	0.0	1.1	-0.1	1.0	0.0	-0.1	-6.0
C. Manufacturing	430.9	2.1	430.1	-1.3	429.4	20.5	-1.5	-0.3
D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	8.1	0.0	8.0	-0.1	8.1	0.4	0.0	0.4
E. Water supply; sewage, waste management, materials recovery	11.1	0.1	11.2	0.1	11.2	0.5	0.1	0.8
F. Construction	188.2	-4.7	180.5	-14.1	175.4	8.4	-12.8	-6.8
G. Wholesale and retail trade	216.7	0.4	217.2	0.5	217.4	10.4	0.7	0.3
H. Transportation and storage	76.7	3.1	77.6	2.3	79.5	3.8	2.9	3.7
I. Accommodation and food service activities	95.4	1.8	96.5	1.5	97.4	4.7	2.0	2.1
J. Information and communication	87.4	-0.1	86.0	-1.2	86.6	4.1	-0.8	-1.0
K. Financial and insurance activities	57.5	0.5	57.5	0.4	58.0	2.8	0.5	0.8
L. Real estate activities	44.5	-0.8	44.2	-0.4	44.3	2.1	-0.2	-0.4
M. Professional, scientific and technical activities	108.4	1.0	110.6	2.8	111.6	5.3	3.1	2.9
N. Business facilities management and business support services; rental and leasing activities	144.4	3.0	146.2	2.1	146.5	7.0	2.0	1.4
O. Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	136.5	0.2	139.2	0.8	137.1	6.6	0.6	0.4
P. Education	132.2	0.6	134.3	0.9	133.5	6.4	1.3	1.0
Q. Human health and social work activities	260.6	13.8	272.5	13.4	273.5	13.1	12.9	5.0
R. Arts, sports and recreation related services	16.2	-0.1	16.2	0.2	16.4	0.8	0.1	0.8
S. Membership organizations, repair and other personal services	53.0	3.2	55.9	3.0	55.9	2.7	2.9	5.4
Others ²⁾	1.3	0.0	1.3	0.0	1.3	0.1	0.0	-0.4

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 5 thousand, 3 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	273.5	188.4	54.2	30.8	17.9	12.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	111.6	83.9	15.1	12.6	9.5	3.1
Membership organizations, repair and other personal services	55.9	39.4	8.8	7.7	4.8	2.9
Manufacturing	429.4	352.2	43.7	33.5	35.0	-1.5
Construction	175.4	91.8	43.7	39.9	52.7	-12.8

Employment positions by characteristics of workers and enterprises

- ☐ As for employment positions by sex, the employment positions of males fell by 40 thousand, while those of females grew by 179 thousand compared to the third quarter of 2024.
- ☐ The employment positions of males showed a year-on-year decrease in 'Construction' (-107 thousand), 'Information and communication' (-7 thousand) and 'Manufacturing' (-6 thousand).
- ☐ The employment positions of females showed a year-on-year increase in 'Human health and social work activities' (104 thousand), 'Membership organizations, repair and other personal services' (21 thousand) and 'Professional, scientific and technical activities' (17 thousand).

< Employment positions by sex >

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

		3Q 2024			2Q 2025			3Q 2025		
			Compo- sition	Change		Compo- sition	Chang e		Compo- sition	Change Percent change
○ Total employment positions		2,078.8	100.0	24.6	2,095.0	100.0	11.1	2,092.7	100.0	13.9 0.7
By sex	Males	1,164.1	56.0	3.2	1,163.3	55.5	-6.6	1,160.1	55.4	-4.0 -0.3
	Females	914.7	44.0	21.4	931.7	44.5	17.7	932.6	44.6	17.9 2.0

- ☐ As for employment positions by age group, 'Workers aged 29 or less' and 'Workers aged 40 ~ 49' fell by 127 thousand and 59 thousand, respectively, year-on-year. Whereas, 'Workers aged 60 or more', 'Workers aged 30 ~ 39' and 'Workers aged 50 ~ 59' grew by 223 thousand, 85 thousand and 18 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' (89 thousand), 'Business facilities management and business support services; rental and leasing activities' (26 thousand) and 'Manufacturing' (25 thousand).
- The employment positions of 'Workers aged 29 or less' marked a year-on-year decrease in 'Manufacturing' (-27 thousand), 'Construction' (-20 thousand) and 'Information and communication' (-19 thousand).

< Employment positions by age group >

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

		3Q 2024			2Q 2025			3Q 2025			
			Compo- sition	Change		Compo- sition	Change		Compo- sition	Change	Percent change
○ Total employment positions		2,078.8	100.0	24.6	2,095.0	100.0	11.1	2,092.7	100.0	13.9	0.7
By age group	Workers aged 29 or less	305.2	14.7	-14.6	292.4	14.0	-13.5	292.5	14.0	-12.7	-4.2
	Workers aged 30 ~ 39	445.3	21.4	6.6	451.9	21.6	7.6	453.8	21.7	8.5	1.9
	Workers aged 40 ~ 49	470.2	22.6	-6.7	466.0	22.2	-8.0	464.3	22.2	-5.9	-1.3
	Workers aged 50 ~ 59	480.6	23.1	11.9	482.8	23.0	1.5	482.4	23.1	1.8	0.4
	Workers aged 60 or more	377.5	18.2	27.4	401.9	19.2	23.5	399.8	19.1	22.3	5.9

- As for employment positions by type of legal organization, 'Non-business corporations' and 'Government and unincorporated associations' grew by 114 thousand and 52 thousand, respectively, year-on-year. Whereas, 'Incorporated companies' and 'Sole proprietorship' fell by 23 thousand and 3 thousand, respectively, year-on-year.

< Employment positions by type of legal organization >

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

		3Q 2024			2Q 2025			3Q 2025			
			Compo- sition	Change		Compo- sition	Change		Compo- sition	Change	Percent change
○ Total employment positions		2,078.8	100.0	24.6	2,095.0	100.0	11.1	2,092.7	100.0	13.9	0.7
By type of legal organization	Incorporated company	1,169.1	56.2	8.4	1,167.2	55.7	-4.7	1,166.7	55.8	-2.3	-0.2
	Non-business corporation	286.8	13.8	12.1	299.1	14.3	10.7	298.1	14.2	11.4	4.0
	Government & unincorporated association	298.6	14.4	4.7	304.3	14.5	5.5	303.8	14.5	5.2	1.7
	Sole proprietorship	324.3	15.6	-0.6	324.3	15.5	-0.5	324.0	15.5	-0.3	-0.1