



SDG IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA: PROGRESS REPORT 2026



Ministry of Data and Statistics
Data and Statistics Research
Institute

SDG in the Republic of Korea: Progress Report



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“What we measure shapes what we achieve.”

Advancing Toward a New Leap Forward for Data-Driven Sustainable Development

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a shared global commitment targeted for completion by 2030, have now entered their final phase of implementation. Amid the intensifying climate crisis and the rapid acceleration of digital transformation, countries around the world are seeking effective pathways toward sustainable development. In this context, the SDGs in the Republic of Korea: Progress Report 2026 serve as a critical foundation providing a data-driven assessment of Korea's present and guiding our preparation for the future.

The year 2026 marks a pivotal turning point in Korea's data policy landscape. In October of last year, the government elevated Statistics Korea to the status of Ministry of Data and Statistics, thereby strengthening Korea's government-wide data governance. Furthermore, at the United Nations Statistical Commission this March, Korea shared its experience in establishing data governance frameworks, including the development of AI-ready metadata and the enactment of a comprehensive Data Framework Act. These efforts represent meaningful steps toward enhancing alignment with international standards.

The portrait of our society presented in this report reveals both notable achievements and pressing challenges. Korea continues to demonstrate a high level of performance across multiple domains, including education, digitalization, and public health. However, a closer examination highlights persistent disparities across gender, age, and regions, as well as the ongoing difficulties faced by socially vulnerable groups. In addition, demographic shifts driven by the low birth rate and population ageing, together with the urgent need to respond to climate change, call for timely and decisive action.

In this context, the Government of the Republic of Korea is preparing its Voluntary National Review (VNR), led by the Office for Government Policy Coordination. As a member of the inter-ministerial working group, the Ministry of Data and Statistics will contribute to data-driven monitoring and analysis of SDG implementation. The findings presented in this report are expected to serve as a robust evidence base for future VNRs, facilitating the effective communication of Korea's progress and policy efforts to the international community.

The Data and Statistics Research Institute (DSRI) will further advance its research capabilities to underpin the Ministry of Data and Statistics in fulfilling its role as a central data hub. It will continue to strengthen the quality data of governance and provide strategic policy support to enable more effective, government-wide data utilization. Above all, DSRI remains committed to ensuring that data is leveraged as a transformative foundation for enhancing the quality of life for all citizens.

It is our sincere hope that this report will serve as a valuable reference in advancing sustainable development in the Republic of Korea, supported by robust, data-driven policy capabilities.

Thank you.

Jin Kim

Director General

Data and Statistics Research Institute

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SDG Progress Assessment on a Global Scale

Five years ahead of the 2030 deadline for achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs), global SDGs implementation has been assessed as being “severely off track” from achieving the targets (UN 2025a). According to the United Nations’ analysis of progress to date, only 18% of SDG targets are forecast to be achieved by 2030. Besides them, 17% of targets have shown moderate progress, while 48% have exhibited limited progress or stagnation, and the remaining 18% have even regressed below the 2015 baseline (UN 2025b).

The world has yet to overcome inequalities driven by multiple factors, including gender- and race-based discrimination, chronic poverty, hunger and malnutrition and unemployment. Amid the intensifying impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and the digital divide, global sustainable development is also being significantly hindered by growing economic uncertainties, disruptions in global supply chains and geopolitical conflicts.

Between 2024 and 2025, 9.9% of the global population suffered from extreme poverty, while 8.2% faced hunger. Women, who bear a disproportionate burden of care and domestic work, have been marginalized from public decision-making and leadership. With the intensifying climate change, the year 2024 was marked as the hottest year on record, with global temperatures once again exceeding the 1.5°C limit set by the Paris Agreement. Carbon dioxide absorbed by the oceans acidifies seawater, further exacerbating extinction risks for major biological species, including corals, amphibians and cycads. Furthermore, civilian fatalities have soared due to armed conflicts, with children and women heavily affected. Meanwhile, the scale of assistance to developing countries has recently decreased.

Faced with such multifaceted challenges and complex crises, countries around the world have once again agreed on the need for an inclusive and coordinated global response, highlighting the urgency to accelerate the SDG implementation through bold and ambitious action over the remaining five years. Alongside a global response based on international cooperation,

multilateralism and global solidarity, support for the poorest and fragile states and developing countries is required. In addition, investment in data infrastructure to address the limitations of SDG monitoring has also been emphasized, combined with support to bridge digital and technological divides.

Key Findings of Korea’s SDG Progress Report 2026

Korea has refurbished its institutional framework for the implementation of national sustainable development based on the Framework Act on Sustainable Development enacted in January 2022. It has also advanced detailed policies, including the establishment of the basic strategies for sustainable development at the national and local levels and the implementation of sustainability assessments. In 2026, it is also scheduled to publish its 5th National Basic Strategy for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, Korea has also contributed to global efforts to achieve the SDGs by regularly monitoring its progress based on global SDG indicators.

The SDG in the Republic of Korea: Progress Report 2026, to be published this year, analyzes Korea’s implementation progress based on a total of 71 SDG indicators. A series of analyses have been conducted for each indicator, including trend analysis based on domestic time-series data, analysis of vulnerable groups using disaggregated data, and international comparative analysis with major countries, such as OECD members. Korea’s SDG progress in 2026 can be summarized as follows based on the five pillars (5Ps) of the SDGs: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

People: The proportion of female managers in government and public institutions has steadily increased, and sexual harassment in the workplace has decreased. However, the burden of care and housework remains concentrated on women, hindering their participation in social activities. The take-up rate of public transfer benefits among persons with disabilities, women and poor households has increased, while public transfer income and savings have also risen among low-income households;

however, the relative poverty rate has recently worsened. The concentration of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) reached a record low in 2024, indicating an improvement in air quality. However, there are issues related to housing quality and housing affordability in the Seoul metropolitan area. The lifelong learning participation rate has gradually increased toward pre-pandemic levels, and the level of universal health coverage remains high. Although alcohol consumption and smoking have declined, there are multiple challenges, still requiring further analysis and policy responses, such as the use of electronic cigarettes, rising alcohol consumption among women, a decline in agricultural labor productivity and worsening adult literacy as observed in international assessments. In addition, regional disparities are evident in the share of low-floor buses introduced for persons with disabilities and in the availability of healthcare personnel.

Planet: The total greenhouse gas emissions continued to decline in 2023, and the production of new and renewable energy steadily increased, with the share of renewable energy exceeding 9% in 2024. There have also been steady improvements in water supply and sewerage coverage rates nationwide, as well as water-use efficiency. However, progress remains slow in expanding protected areas for the conservation of biodiversity, both terrestrial and marine. In addition, national energy efficiency, as measured by energy intensity, has recently shown little improvement, and the number of deaths and missing persons due to natural disasters has recently increased.

Prosperity: The growth rate of real GDP per capita, rose to 1.9% in 2024, showing an improvement from the previous year. The unemployment rate also remains at a low level, and the relative wage levels of women and older workers have also improved. Although income and expenditure among low-income households have rapidly grown, a closer look at their structure reveals clear gaps across income groups. The share of manufacturing in total employment has continued to decline,

highlighting the need to pay closer attention to employment changes in this era of industrial transformation. The share of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and micro enterprises in total manufacturing sales has recently decreased as well. While domestic material consumption has declined, the recycling rate has remained stagnant, with no improvement. Data monitoring frameworks have been strengthened, with statistics being produced separately material recycling rates.

Peace and Partnership: The proportion of the population experiencing corruption and discrimination by public servants has noticeably declined, along with improvements in communication between the public and national agencies. However, the homicide rate has recently stagnated. Political efficacy remains low among women, individuals with lower levels of education and low-income groups, underscoring the need to pay keen attention to groups excluded from access to political systems. Official development assistance to developing countries has increased significantly, with ODA as a percentage of GNI reaching a record high of 0.21% in 2024. More than 30% of bilateral aid is allocated to least developed countries and fragile states, focusing on those most in need of support.



Key Findings of Korea's SDG Progress Report 2026

1 NO POVERTY



The relative poverty rate based on disposable income has reversed its downward trend, showing a recent uptick. While the poverty gap among the elderly and persons with disabilities requires further improvement. Meanwhile, the take-up rate of public transfer benefits among persons with disabilities, women and poor households has increased noticeably compared to 2016. In addition, public transfer income and savings have also increased among low-income households.

2 ZERO HUNGER



The prevalence of undernourishment and its disparity across income levels have slightly narrowed, and the anemia prevalence rate among women has also decreased from the previous year. With the ageing population, agricultural labor productivity has declined, and the proportion of local livestock breeds at risk of extinction remains high, emphasizing the need to strengthen agricultural sustainability.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



While alcohol consumption and smoking have declined, the use of electronic cigarettes and women's alcohol consumption have risen. Although the level of universal health coverage (UHC) remains high, further improvements are needed to address non-communicable diseases. In addition, the number of health workers has increased; however, it is necessary to resolve regional disparities.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



The decline in the rate of underachievement in basic academic skills among secondary school students remains marginal. The international assessments show that adult literacy has declined compared to a decade earlier, underscoring the need for greater attention. The lifelong learning participation rate has been gradually increasing toward pre-pandemic levels, and overall ICT capacities have improved; however, further efforts are needed to enhance safety.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



The gender gap in unpaid domestic work has narrowed, but the burden of such work remains concentrated on women. The proportion of female managers in the national and local governments and public institutions has steadily increased. While the prevalence of sexual harassment in the workplace has declined, there is a need to address emerging types of harassment, such as online harassment.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Korea has recorded a relatively high proportion of water bodies achieving "good water quality" compared to major countries, while water supply and sewerage service coverage rates, as well as water-use efficiency, have steadily improved nationwide. However, greater efforts are needed to address regional disparities in water infrastructure and the sectors where improvements in water-use efficiency have been slow.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



With the continued increase in the production and supply of new and renewable energy, the shares of renewable and new energy in power generation surpassed 9% and 10%, respectively, in 2024. However, the energy intensity, indicating the level of national energy efficiency, has recently shown little improvement.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Korea's growth rate of real GDP per capita has remained strong compared to major countries, with a relatively low unemployment rate. Hourly wages have increased more rapidly than those in major economies, and the relative wage levels of women and older workers have also improved. Meanwhile, greater attention is needed to industrial accidents among aged workers and to employment recovery in the tourism industry.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



As the share of manufacturing in total employment has continued to decline, the proportion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and micro enterprises in manufacturing sales has also recently decreased. The scale of R&D investment and research workforce remained at a global level until 2023; however, the share of female researchers stood at only 23.7%. It is also necessary to strengthen the sustainability of road transport, which accounts for the majority of passenger and freight transport.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



While income and expenditure among low-income households have rapidly grown, disparities across income groups have been evident. The labor income share of GDP has remained stable in the upper-middle tier among OECD countries. Although financial soundness ranks on the lower end within OECD countries, it remains resilient and compliant with international standards. In addition, further discussions are needed on the inclusion of a rapidly growing number of asylum seekers.

Key Findings of Korea's SDG Progress Report 2026



Improvements are needed in housing quality and cost burden in the Seoul metropolitan area, where the proportion of households living below minimum residential standards and the rent-to-income ratio (RIR) are high. The growth in per-capita area of urban parks has recently slowed, and there are regional disparities in the share of low-floor buses introduced for persons with disabilities. The concentration of fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) recorded an all-time low in 2024.



Both domestic material consumption (DMC) and food waste generation have declined. However, the total recycling rate of municipal, business and designated waste has stagnated, while per-capita hazardous waste generation has increased. Meanwhile, improved statistics have been produced, such as separate data on material recycling rates and domestic material consumption, strengthening the groundwork for monitoring.



As the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continued to decline in 2023, Korea has developed its second nationally determined contribution (NDC) to cut net emissions by 53% to 61% by 2035. Human casualties and property damage from natural disasters have been on the rise, with a significant share of casualties attributed to heat waves and property damage largely driven by heavy rainfall.



The proportion of marine protected areas remains relatively low, and the production of coastal and offshore fisheries and the share of sustainable fishery resources in the Northwest Pacific have declined. Meanwhile, institutional efforts are underway to restore marine sustainability, including the crackdown on illegal fishing, the total allowable catch (TAC) system to ensure the recovery of fishery resources and the implementation of the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).



Among Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in terrestrial, freshwater and mountain ecosystems, the proportion of protected areas is lower than the OECD and global averages, and its growth rate is also relatively slow, highlighting the need for policy efforts. Meanwhile, there are ongoing efforts to mainstream biodiversity policies and establish accounting systems in line with international requirements. The scale of biodiversity-related ODA has sharply expanded up to 2023.



With the declining rate of the population experiencing corruption and discrimination by public servants, communication between the public and national agencies has improved, while political efficacy among women, individuals with low levels of education and low-income groups remains low, underscoring the need to pay attention to politically marginalized groups. In addition, the decline in the homicide rate has recently stagnated, while institutional systems are being established to address human trafficking.

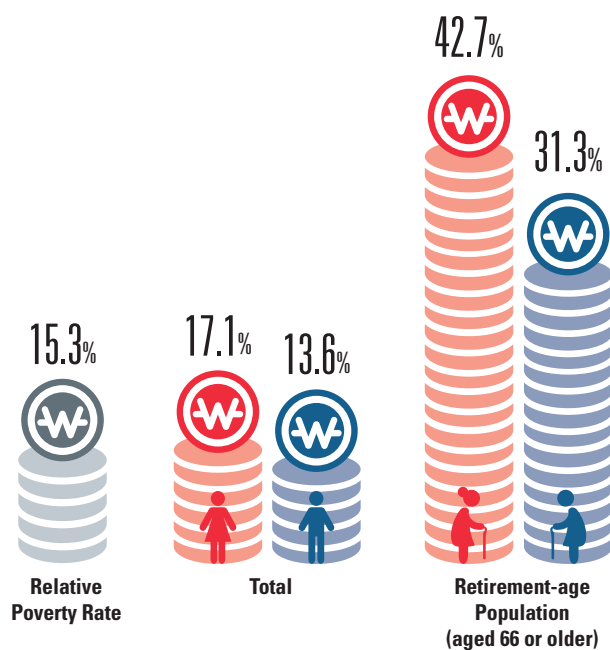


The ODA as a percentage of GNI recorded the highest of 0.21% in 2024, allocating over 30% each to support least developed countries and fragile states out of bilateral aid. The total government revenue as a proportion of GDP has gradually grown, and institutional attention is also needed for the remittance flows sent by migrant workers to their home countries.

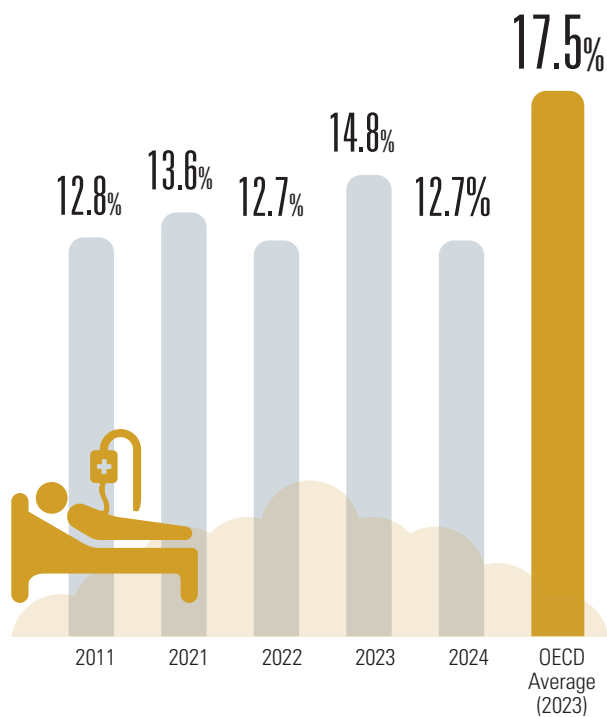
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



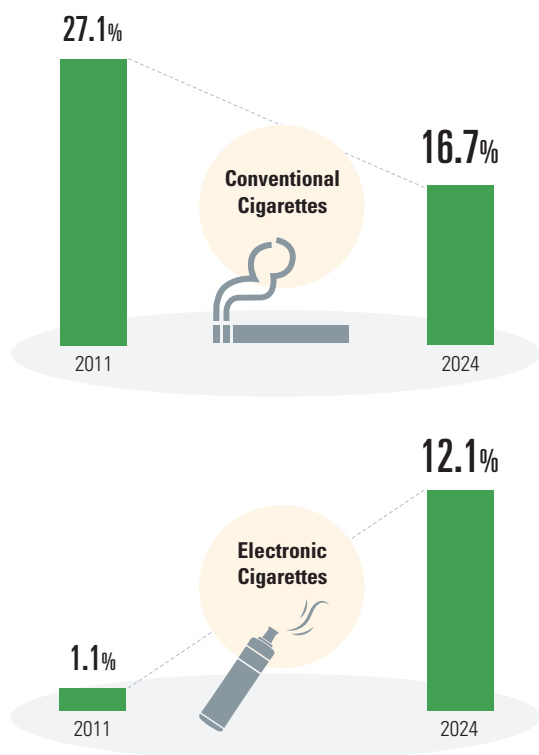
A higher relative poverty rate among women than men



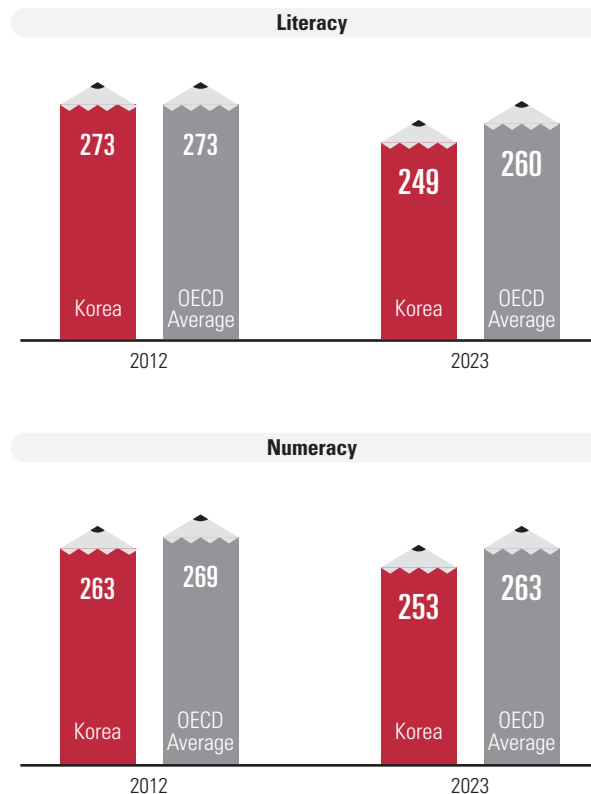
The prevalence of anemia : lower than OECD average



Declining smoking rates, but increasing use of electronic cigarettes

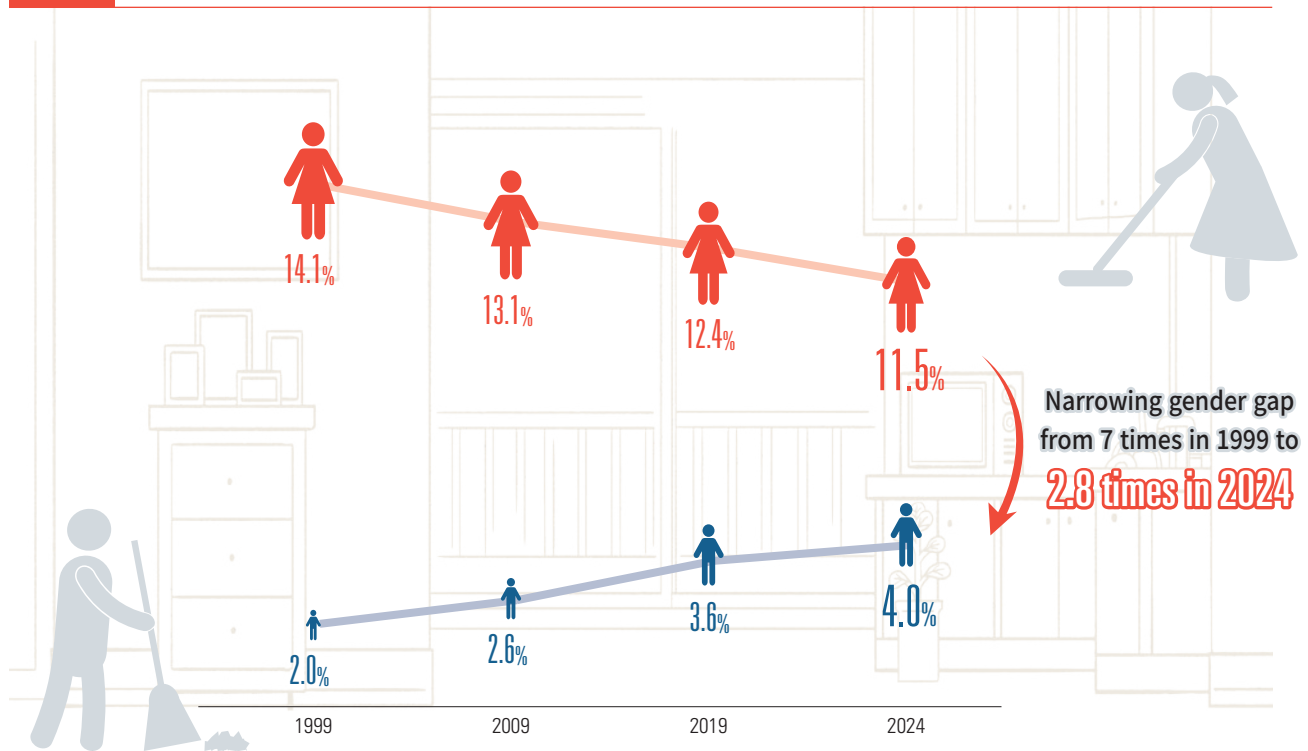


Declining literacy among Korean adults in the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)





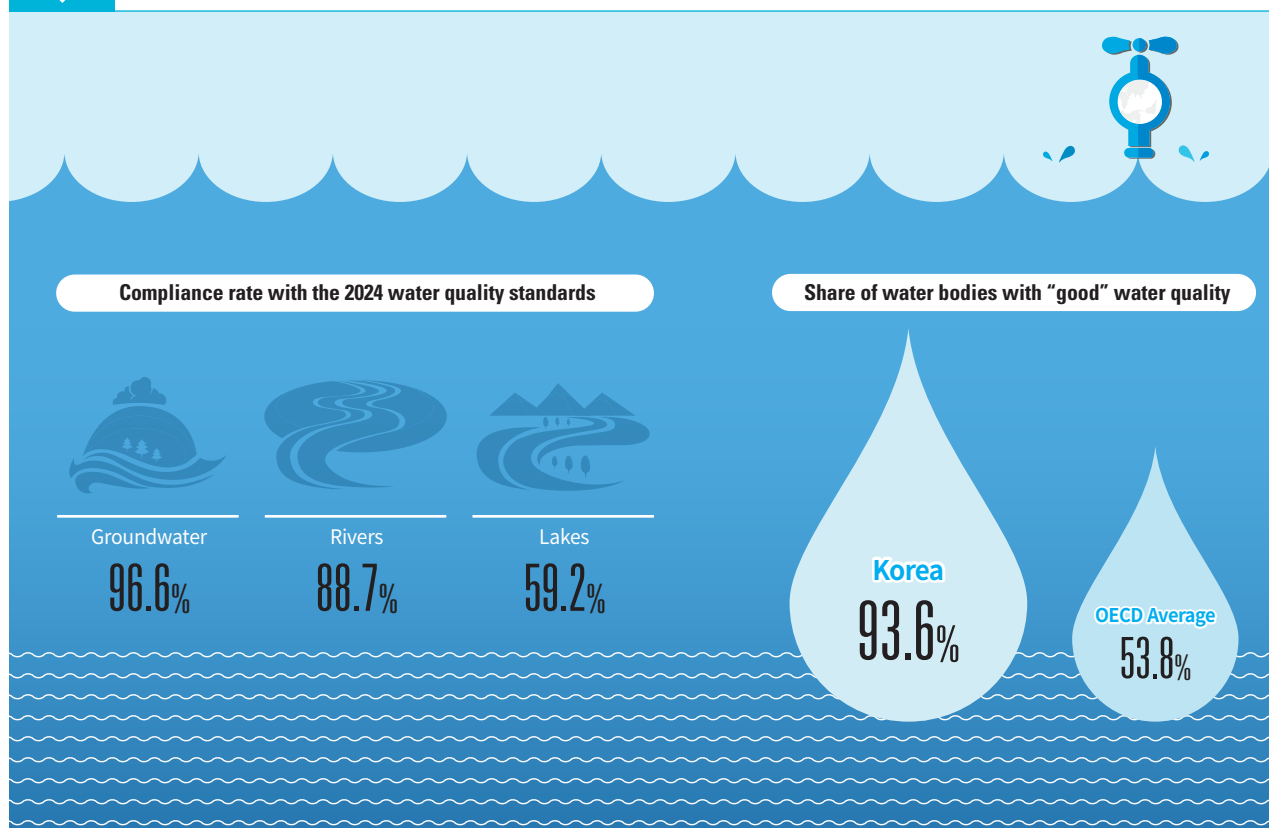
A downward trend in gender gap in the time spent on domestic work



11

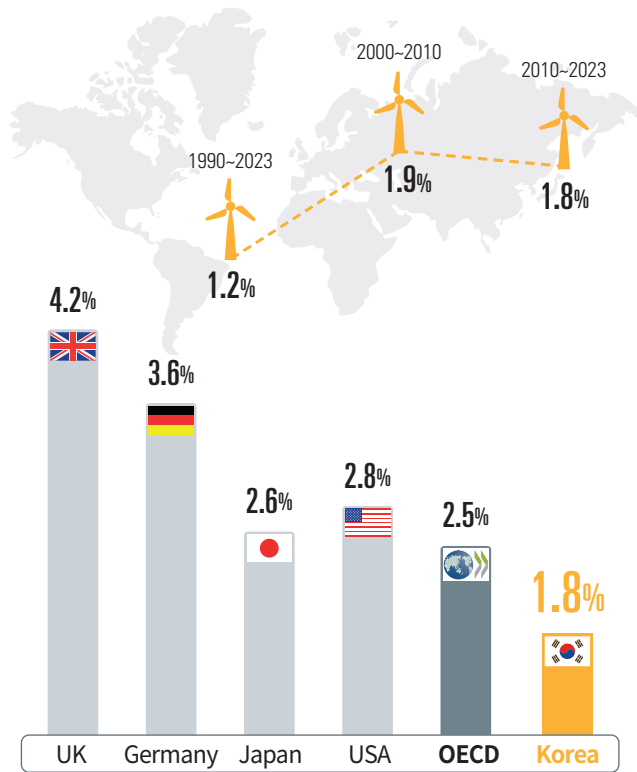


The proportion of water bodies with "good" water quality, 2nd among OECD countries

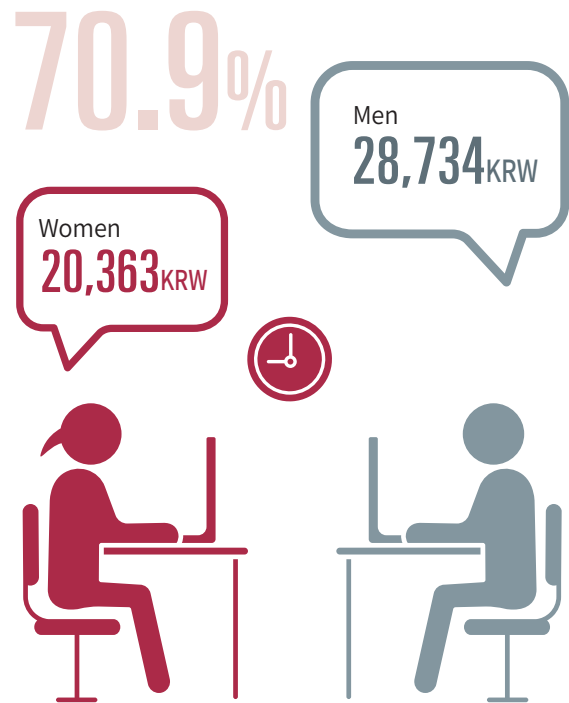




Energy intensity improving, yet still low compared to major economies



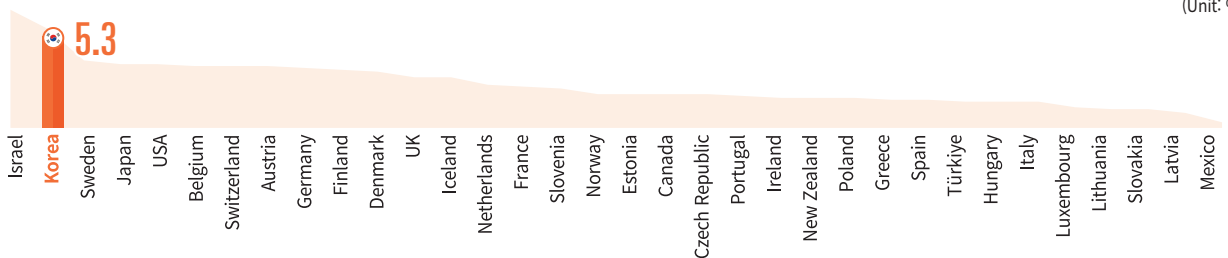
Women's wages accounting for 70.9% of men's in 2024



World-class R&D investment and human resources

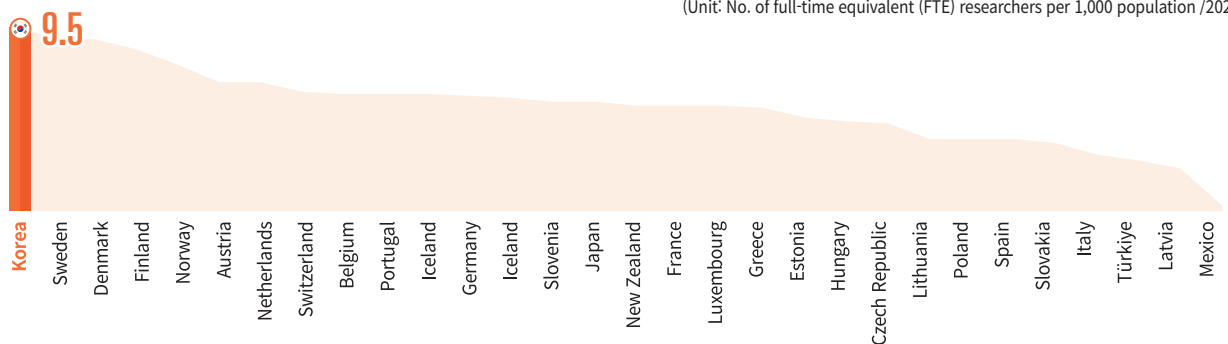
R&D expenditure as a proportion of GDP / 2023

(Unit: %)

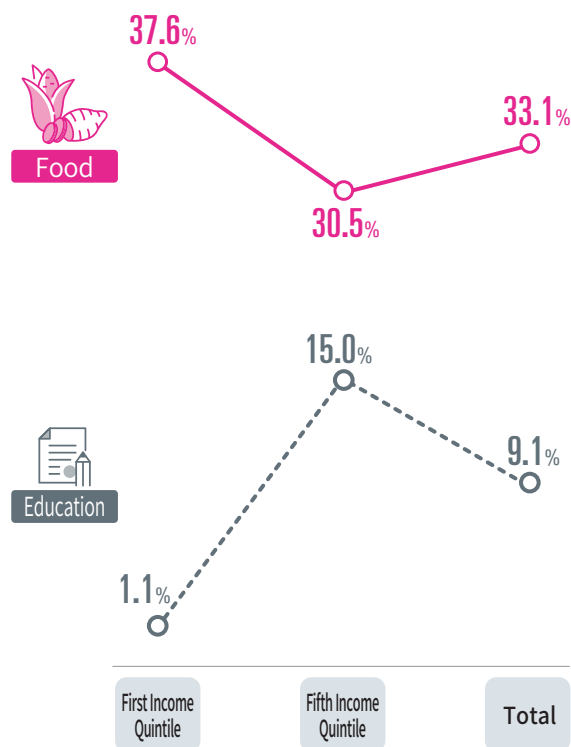


R&D workforce density

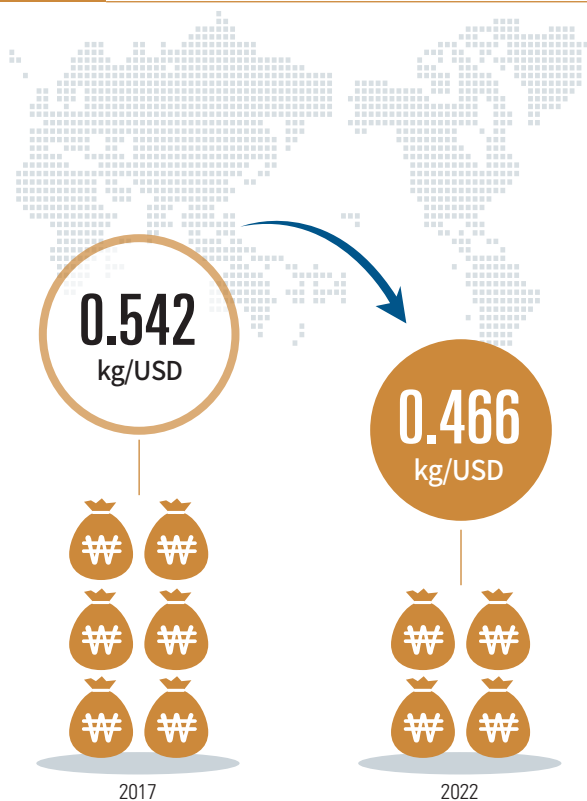
(Unit: No. of full-time equivalent (FTE) researchers per 1,000 population / 2023)



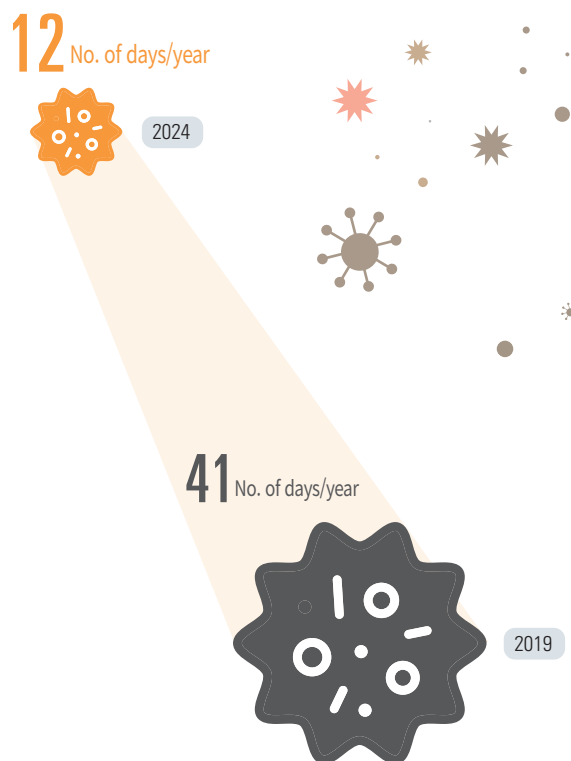
Different spending patterns across income groups



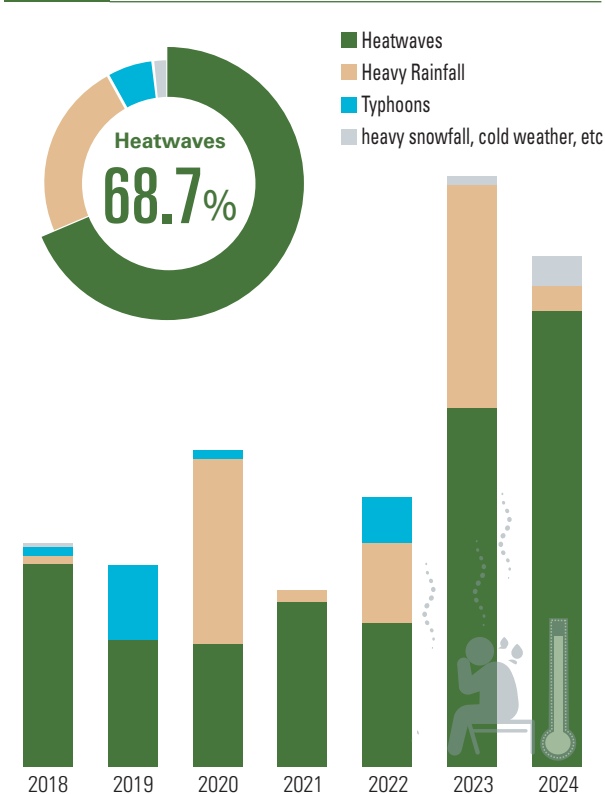
Declining domestic material consumption per GDP



Record low number of days with "bad" PM_{2.5} alerts



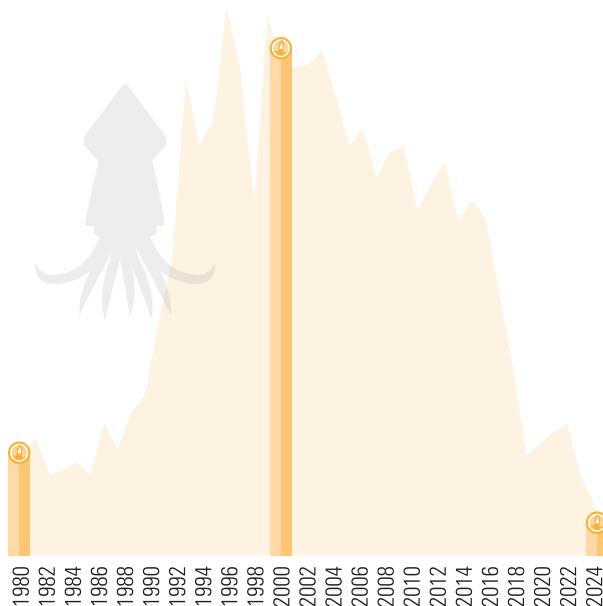
68.7% of natural disaster deaths and missing persons due to heatwaves (2018 to 2024)





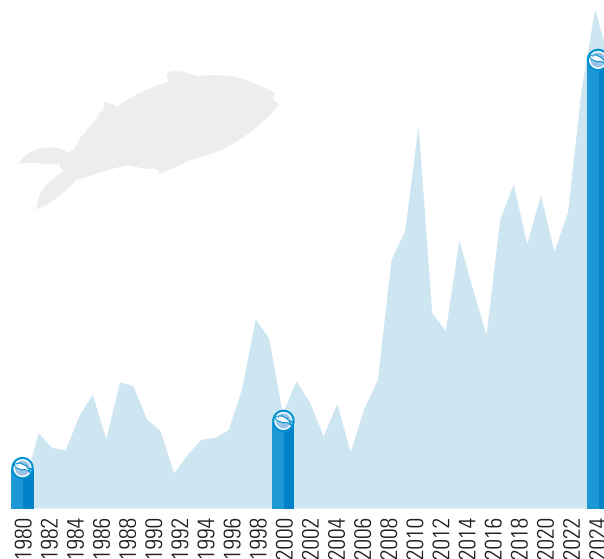
Declining commercial fish species and increasing catches of warm-water fish species

Commercial Fish Species



Japanese Common Squid

Warm-water Fish Species

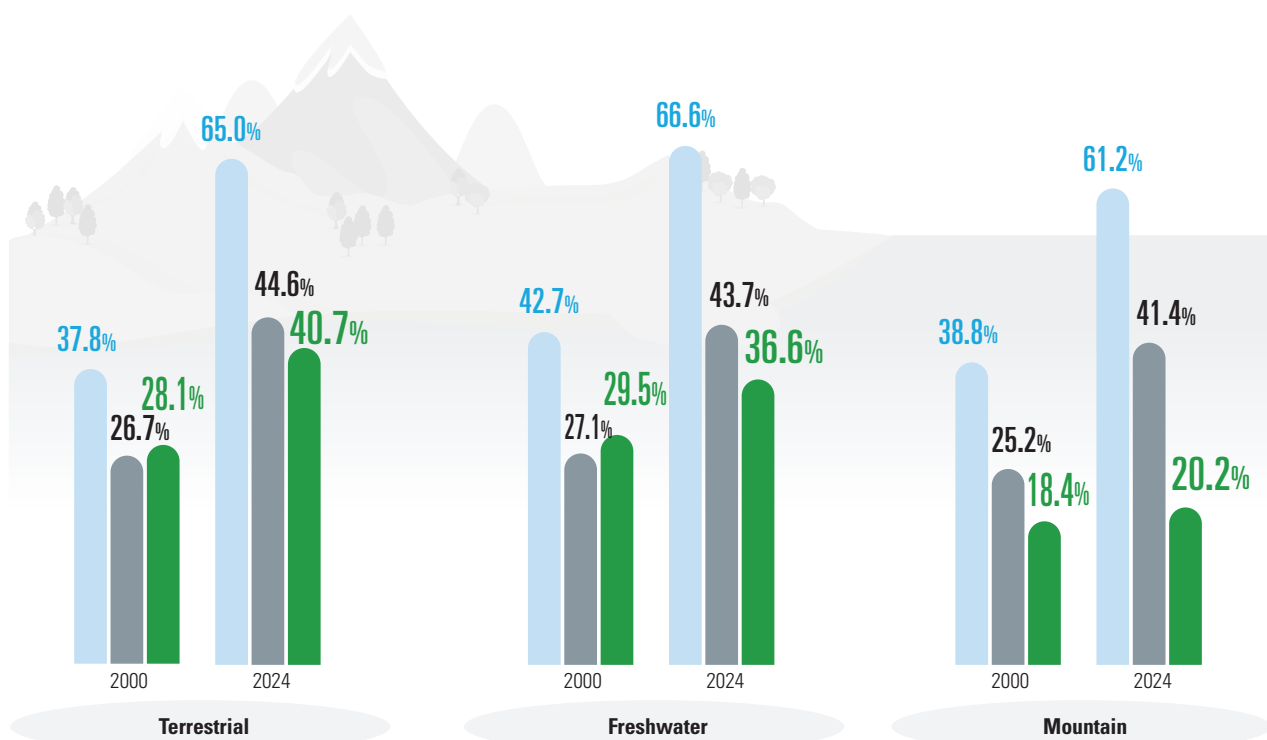


Yellowtails



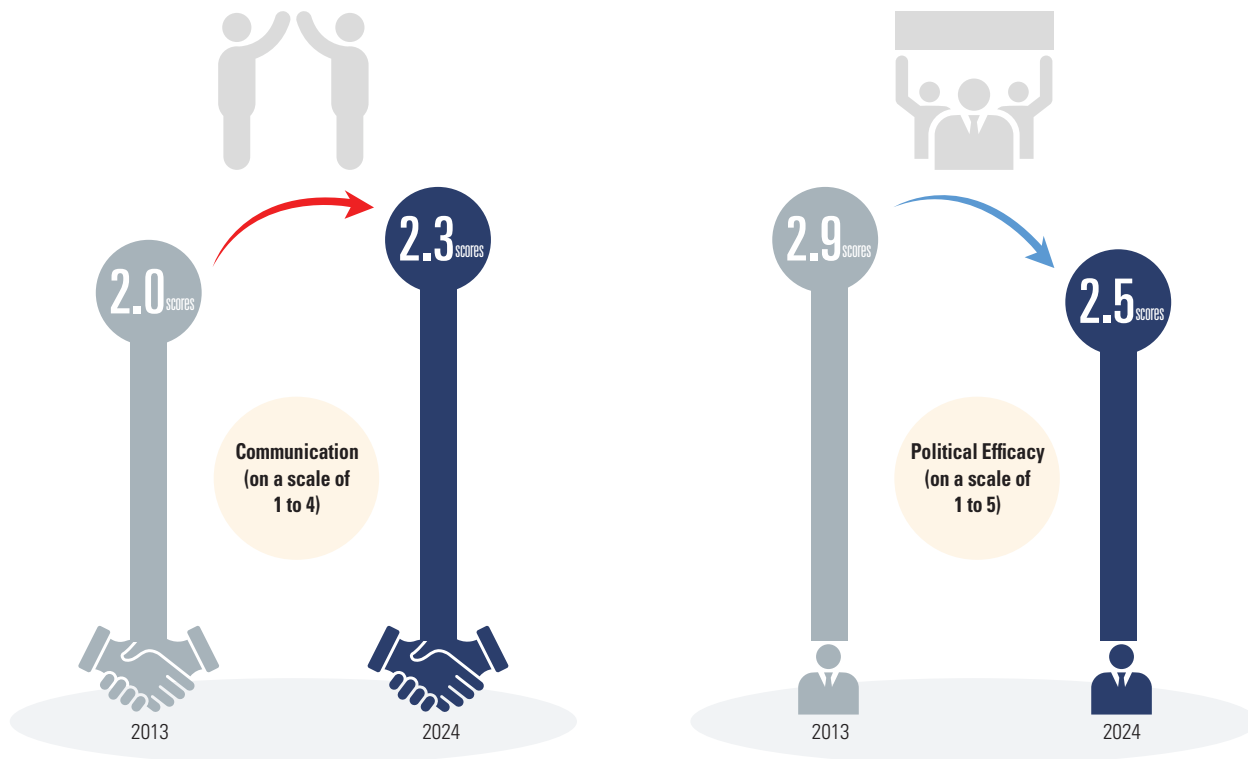
Need to increase the share of protected areas in Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

OECD Worldwide Korea





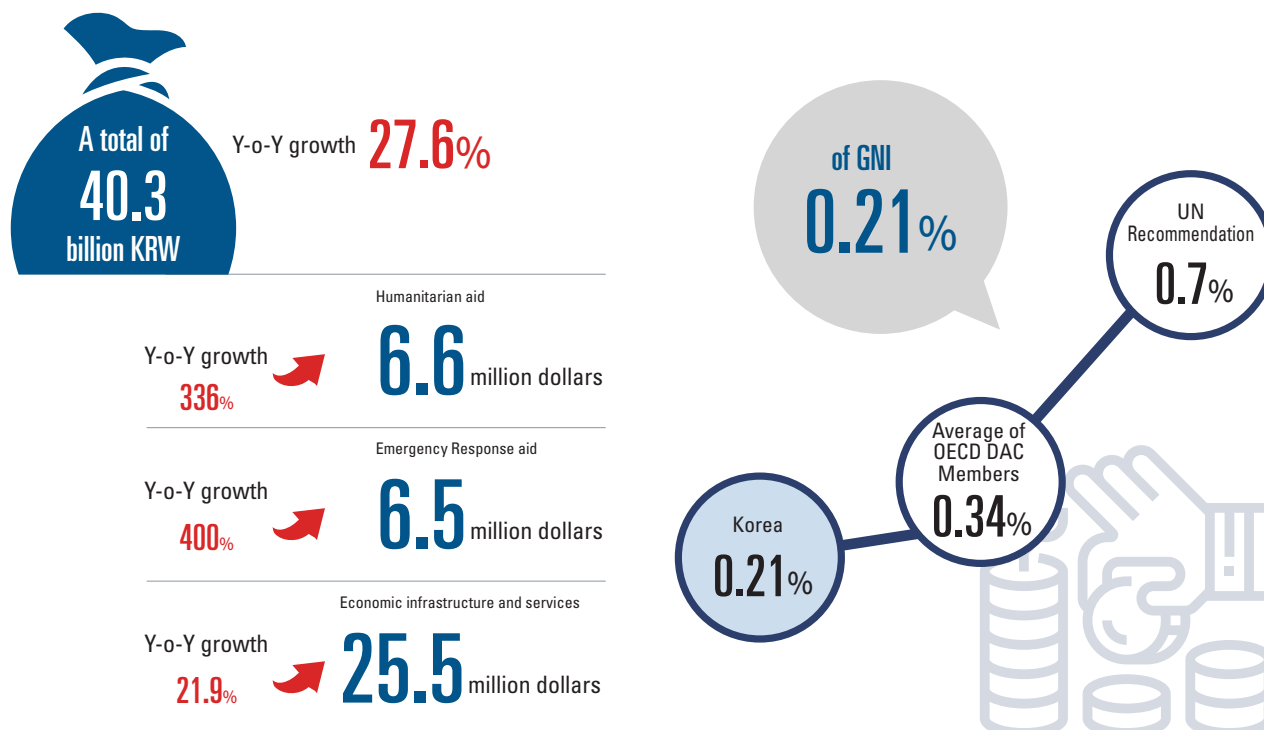
Improving communication with the public, but declining political efficacy



15



Steady growth in ODA





1 NO POVERTY



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

SDG 1 aims to end poverty in all its forms everywhere by monitoring multidimensional poverty, establishing social protection systems, strengthening resilience to disasters, ensuring access to economic resources and promoting anti-poverty policies around the globe. Globally, approximately 8.9% of the world's population is still projected to live in extreme poverty in 2030 as progress in poverty reduction has been delayed due to the impacts of COVID-19, global economic instability and the climate crisis. With the growing coverage of social protection, more than half of the global population are covered by at least one social protection benefit; however, the figure remains as low as 9.7% in low-income countries, showing wide disparities. In the Republic of Korea, although protection for the poor and vulnerable groups has been reinforced through public income transfers, challenges still remain, such as a recent increase in the poverty rate and poverty among the elderly.

» The relative poverty rate based on disposable income decreased from 18.5% in 2011 to 15.3% in 2024.

- The poverty rate among the population aged 66 to 75 showed significant progress, falling from 43.6% in 2011 to 26.6% in 2024, while that of the population aged 76 years and over achieved only a slight improvement, declining from 55.5% to 53.8% over the same period.
- In 2022, Korea's poverty rate (14.9%) ranked 9th among the 37 OECD countries, and the poverty rate among the retirement-age population (aged 66 or older) was also very high at 39.7%.
- In 2024, the gap (3.5%p) between the poverty rates of men (13.6%) and women (17.1%) showed little change compared to 2011. The gender gap in the working-age population (aged 18 to 65) declined to 0.1%p in 2024, whereas the gap among the retirement-age population (aged 66 or older) widened from 7.8%p in 2011 to 11.4%p in 2024.
- The poverty rate among individuals with disabilities decreased from 37.5% in 2016 to 35.4% in 2024, but it remained 2.5 times higher than the poverty rate among persons without disabilities (14.2%) in 2024.

» The take-up rate of public transfer income among persons with disabilities, women and poor household vulnerable to or at risk of poverty rose by more than 10%p each from 2016 to 2024.

- During the period between 2016 and 2024, the take-up rate among members of poor households rose by 18.0%p, reaching 65.8% in 2024. Over the same period, the take-up rate among persons with disabilities and women also increased by 10.1%p and 10.7%p, respectively, amounting to 78.0% and 31.5% in 2024.

» The savings of households in the first income quintile rose from 17.13 million KRW in 2017 to 23.94 million KRW in 2025, accounting for 24.0% of the average savings of all households in 2025.

» The public transfer income of households in the first income quintile increased by 78.7% from 3.8 million KRW in 2016 to 6.79 million KRW in 2024. The share of public transfer income in recurring income also grew from 37.4% to 43.8% over the same period.

» The ODA expenditures, aiming to reduce poverty, amounted to USD 310 million in 2023, representing 11.7% of bilateral aid.

- The proportion of anti-poverty ODA relative to GNI was equal to 0.017% in 2023, placing Korea 17th in the middle tier among the 34 OECD countries.

The poverty rate among the elderly improved in

2024 (📍 SDG 1.2.1)

The relative poverty rate is defined as the proportion of the population with an equivalized disposable income below 50% of the median (the poverty line). The poverty line in 2024 was calculated at 19.66 million KRW. The relative poverty rate decreased from 18.5% in 2011 to 14.8% in 2021, indicating an improving trend; however, it plateaued

at 14.9% for two consecutive years in 2022 and 2023. Subsequently, the situation deteriorated to 15.3% in 2024, an increase of 0.4 percentage points.

Looking at age groups, the relative poverty rate showed a downward trend in most age groups from 2011 to 2021; however, since 2022, the trends have varied by age group. First, the poverty rate among the population aged 18-25, 51-65 and 76 or older followed a trend similar to the overall



population, reaching the lowest in 2021 and generally increased thereafter. The poverty rate among those aged 18-25 and 51-65 gradually increased from 8.4% and 12.3% in 2021 to 9.3% and 13.1% in 2024, respectively. For those aged 76 years and over who have the highest relative poverty rate, it rose from 51.9% in 2021 to 54.0% in 2022, further increasing to 54.6% in 2023 before slightly declining to 53.8% in 2024. The rate among those aged 0-17 and 26-40 continued to improve somewhat even after 2021, decreasing from 9.6% and 8.5% in 2021 to 8.5% and 7.0% in 2023, respectively. However, it increased again to 9.5% and 8.0% in 2024. Meanwhile, the relative poverty rate among those aged 41-50 and 66-75 maintained an improving trend through 2024, decreasing from 9.6% and 30.1% in 2021 to 9.3% and 26.6% in 2024, respectively.

In 2024, the relative poverty increased or remained nearly unchanged in most age groups compared to the previous year, while the population aged 66 or older saw a considerable improvement. The poverty rate among those aged 0-17 and 26-40 each rose by 1.0%p year on year, and the rate among the population aged 51-65 also increased by 0.5%p compared to the last year. The rate among those aged 18-25 remained at the same level as the previous year,

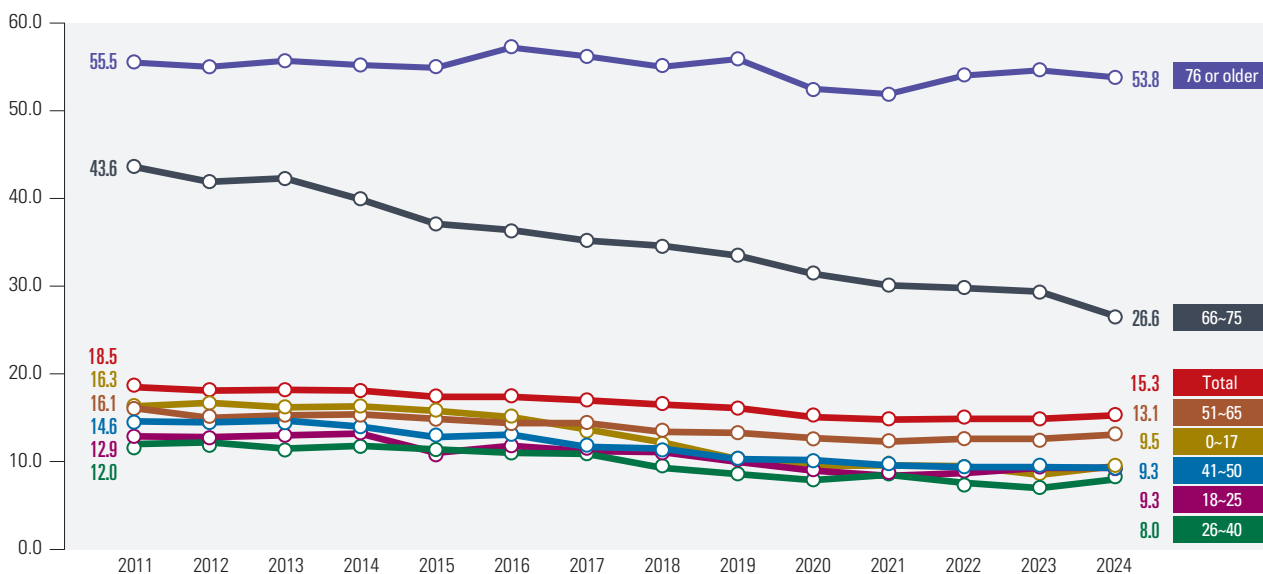
whereas that among those aged 41-50 showed only a slight improvement, decreasing by 0.1%p year on year. On the other hand, the poverty rate among the population aged 66-75 and 76 or older improved by a relatively large margin, decreasing by 2.8%p and 0.8%p, respectively, compared to the previous year.

After 2021, the relative poverty rate among those aged 66-75 recorded the most noticeable decline. The improvement in the poverty rate among this age group can be attributed to increased pension benefits as the public pension system has gradually matured, as well as to greater participation in the labor market among the elderly. The equivalized disposable income of the population aged 66-75 has shown steady growth, standing at 28.11 million KRW in 2021 (up 7.3% year on year), 30.00 million KRW in 2022 (up 6.7%), 33.23 million KRW in 2023 (up 10.8%) and 35.96 million KRW in 2024 (up 8.2%).

Although the relative poverty rate remains the highest among the retirement-age population aged 66 or older, the poverty rate for those aged 66 to 75 declined significantly from 43.6% in 2011 to 26.6% in 2024, while the rate among those aged 76 years and over improved only slightly from 55.5% to 53.8% over the same period. Moreover,

Relative Poverty Rate by Age Group, 2011-2024

(Unit: %)

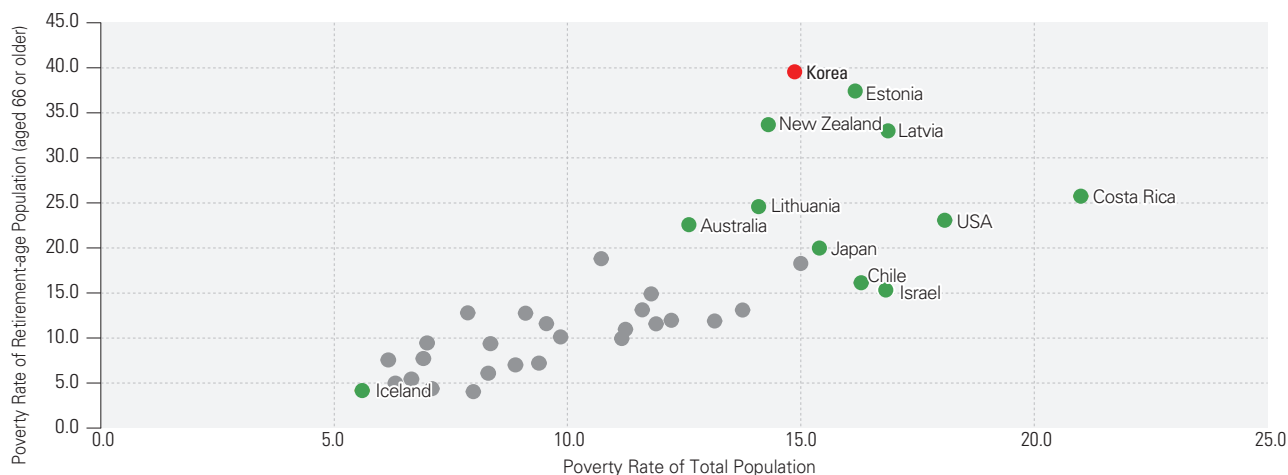


Source: Ministry of Data and Statistics-Bank of Korea-Financial Supervisory Service, Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Dec 22, 2025)

Note : This is based on disposable income.

Relative Poverty Rate in OECD Countries, 2022

(Unit: %)

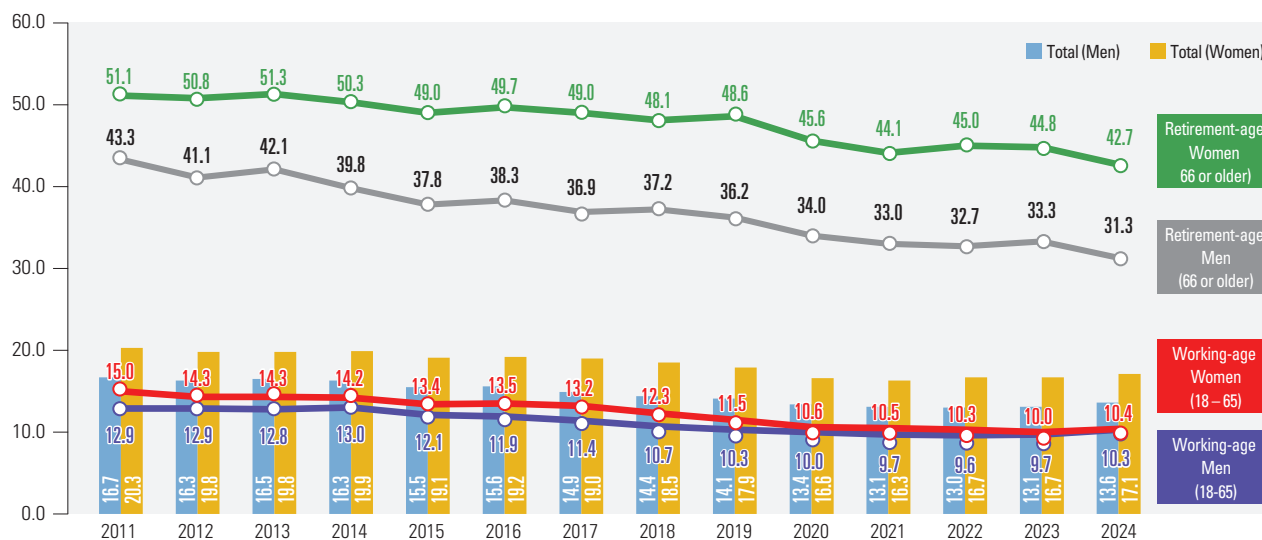


Source: OECD, Income Distribution Database(<https://data-explorer.oecd.org>, retrieved on Dec 22, 2025)

Note : This is based on 2019 data for Iceland, 2020 data for Australia and 2021 data for Japan. Colombia is excluded due to data unavailability.

Relative Poverty Rate by Gender, 2011-2024

(Unit: %)



Source: Ministry of Data and Statistics-Bank of Korea-Financial Supervisory Service, Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Dec 22, 2025)

Note : This is based on disposable income.

between 2011 and 2024, the relative poverty rate in all age groups from 0 to 50 fell from 12.0%-16.3% to single-digit levels of 8.0%-9.5%, while the rate among the population aged 51 to 65 decreased only modestly from 16.1% to 13.1%, remaining in double digits.

In 2022, the relative poverty rate in Korea stood at 14.9%, ranking 9th among the 37 OECD countries for which data are available. Korea not only recorded a high relative poverty rate among the total population, but also showed a very high poverty rate among the retirement-

age population aged 66 or older at 39.7%. Countries with a similar pattern include Estonia (16.2% and 37.4% respectively), Latvia (16.9% and 33.0%) and New Zealand (14.3% and 33.7%). In contrast, Iceland (5.6% and 4.2% in 2019) the Czech Republic (6.2% and 7.6%), Denmark (6.3% and 5.0%) and Finland (6.7% and 5.5%) have low poverty rates both for the total population and the retirement-age population aged 66 or older.

The relative poverty rate is higher among women than men. The poverty rate among men showed an improving



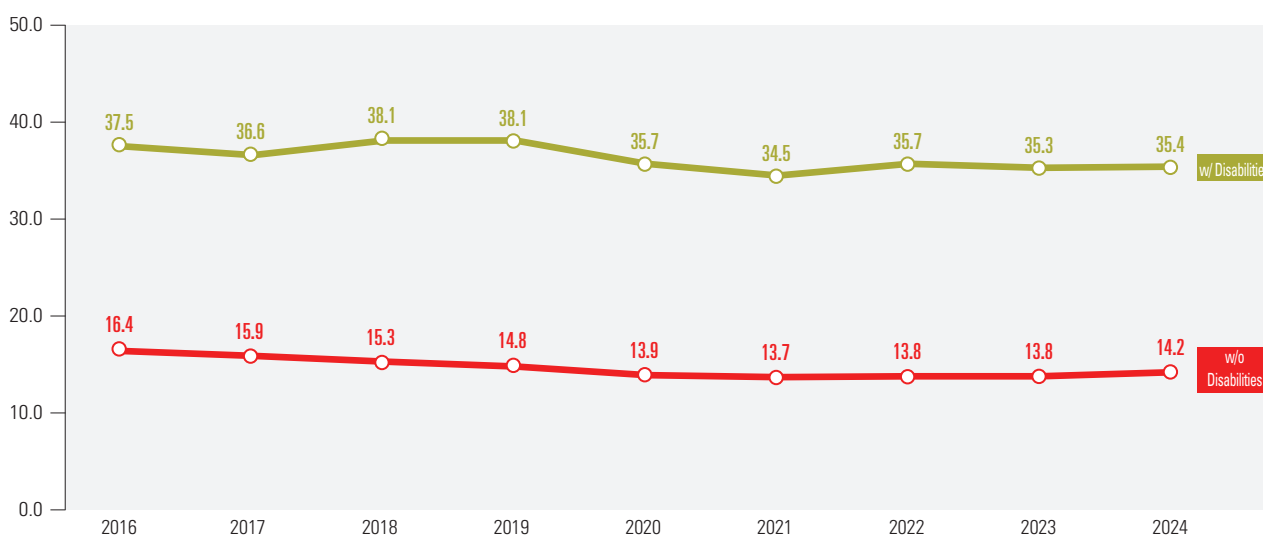
trend from 16.7% in 2011 to 13.0% in 2022, followed by an increase to 13.6% in 2024. The relative poverty rate among women also posted a downward trend from 20.3% in 2011 to 16.3% in 2021; however, it increased to 17.1% in 2024. The gender gap in the relative poverty rate remained almost unchanged from 3.6%p in 2011 to 3.5%p in 2024.

The gender gap in the relative poverty rate varies across age groups. The poverty rate for the working-age population (ages 18 to 65) stood at 12.9% for men and 15.0% for

women in 2011, both decreasing to 10.3% and 10.4%, respectively, in 2024, with the gender gap narrowing significantly from 2.1%p in 2011 to 0.1%p in 2024. For the poverty rate among the retirement-age population (aged 66 or older), both men and women saw a dramatic decline from 43.3% and 51.1% in 2011 to 31.3% and 42.7% in 2024, respectively; however, the gender gap in this age group further widened from 7.8%p in 2011 to 11.4%p in 2024. This indicates that the gender gap in the relative poverty

Relative Poverty Rates among Persons with Disabilities and Those without Disabilities, 2016-2024

(Unit: %)



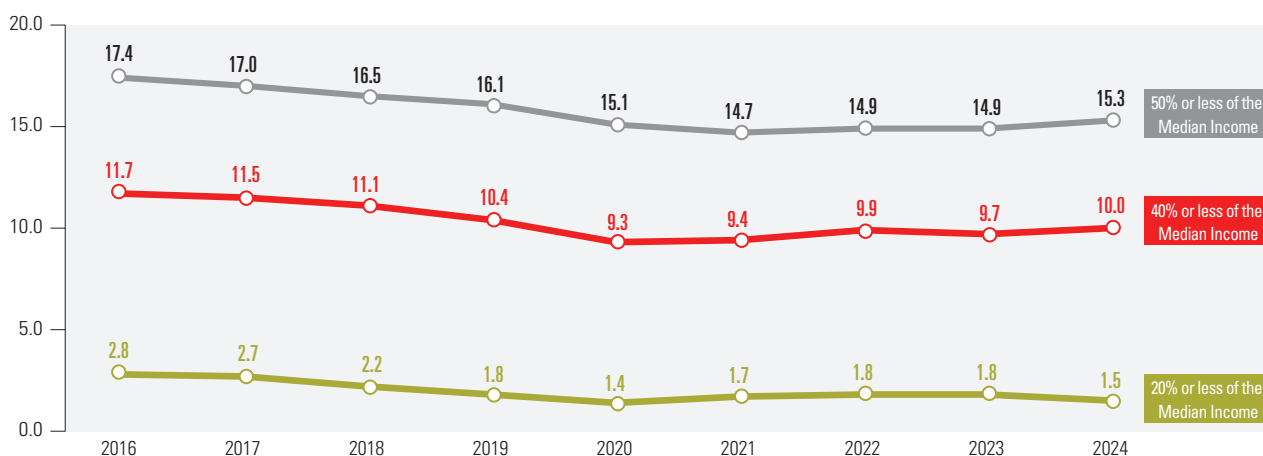
Source: Ministry of Data and Statistics-Bank of Korea-Financial Supervisory Service, Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Dec 22, 2025)

Note 1: This is based on disposable income.

Note 2: The results are based on raw data analysis.

Relative Poverty Rate by Median Income Threshold, 2016-2024

(Unit: %)



Source: Ministry of Data and Statistics-Bank of Korea-Financial Supervisory Service, Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Dec 22, 2025)

Note 1: This is based on disposable income.

Note 2: The results are based on raw data analysis.

rate, which stood at 3.5%p in 2024, is largely driven by the retirement-age population.

There is a distinct difference in the relative poverty rate between individuals with disabilities and those without disabilities. The poverty rate among persons with disabilities rose from 37.5% in 2016 to 38.1% in 2018 and 2019 before declining to 34.5% in 2021. However, it slightly fluctuated around the 35% level between 2022 and 2024. In 2024, the poverty rate among those with disabilities (35.4%) was 2.5 times higher than that of persons without disabilities (14.2%).

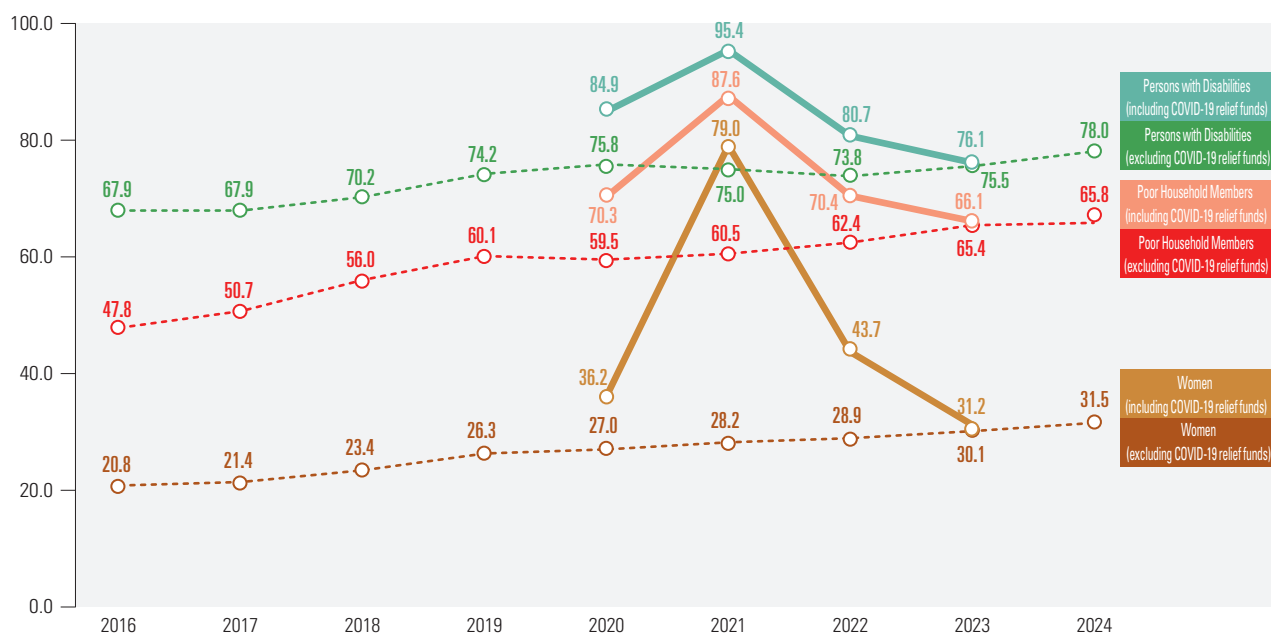
As the relative poverty rate is normally measured at 50% or less of the median equivalized disposable income, it is difficult to identify in detail the income status of the poor below the poverty line based on this figure alone. To better capture the reality of poorer groups, poverty rates based on 40% or less and 20% or less of the median equivalized disposable income are also examined. In 2024, the proportion of the poor population whose equivalized disposable income was 40% or less of the median (15.74 million KRW or less per year) stood at 10.0%, while the

proportion whose equivalized disposable income was 20% or less of the median (7.86 million KRW per year) was 1.5%. These figures decreased from 11.7% and 2.8% in 2016. However, mirroring the trend of the relative poverty rate (50% of the median income), these indicators have generally stagnated or deteriorated since 2020.

The take-up rate of public transfer income has gradually increased among vulnerable groups, especially with a significant increase among poor households (📌 SDG 1.3.1)

There are various types of public transfer income, including social allowance benefits targeting specific age groups (e.g., child allowance), public assistance benefits granted to individuals who meet certain income and asset criteria (e.g., National Basic Livelihood Security benefits), and social insurance benefits granted in response to the occurrence of social risks (e.g., industrial accident insurance benefits). These systems are mainly designed to reduce poverty while addressing the risks of income loss or low income.

Take-up Rates of Public Transfer Income among Persons with Disabilities, Women and Poor Household Members, 2016-2024 (Unit: %)



Source: Ministry of Data and Statistics-Bank of Korea-Financial Supervisory Service, Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Dec 22, 2025)

Note 1: This represents the share of household members who received public transfer income in the corresponding year. Some funds granted at the household level may be excluded from the calculation of the take-up rate.

Note 2: The emergency relief funds were granted between 2020 and 2023 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Note 3: The results are based on raw data analysis.



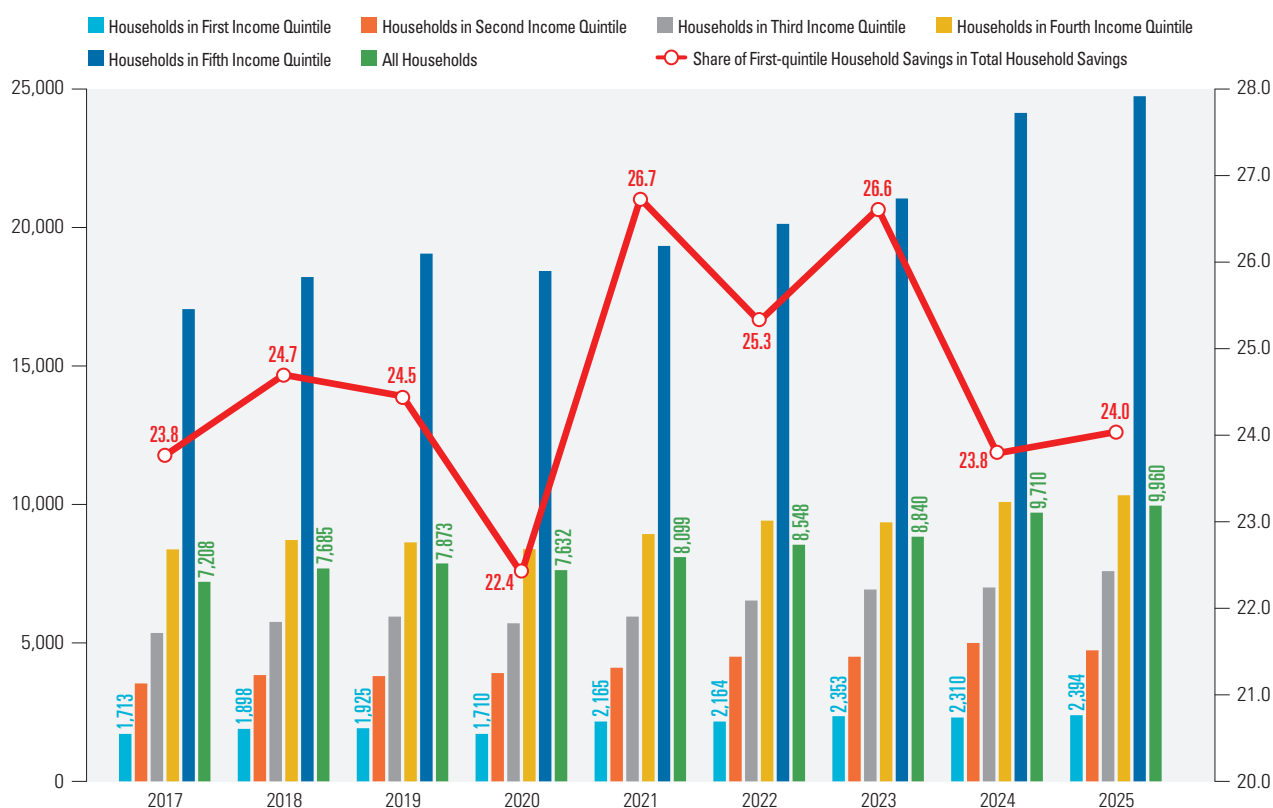
The take-up rate of public transfer income among population groups vulnerable or exposed to poverty risks, including persons with disabilities, women and poor households, increased by more than 10%p between 2016 and 2024. The take-up rate of public transfer income among individuals with disabilities rose by 10.1%p from 67.9% in 2016 to 78.0% in 2024. Women saw an increase of 10.7%p from 20.8% to 31.5% over the same period. In particular, the take-up rate among members of poor households grew by 18.0%p from 47.8% in 2016 to 65.8% in 2024.

Starting in 2020, COVID-19 emergency relief funds were granted to address unemployment arising from the pandemic. Including these funds, the take-up rate of public transfer income in 2021 was very high, reaching 95.4% for persons with disabilities, 79.0% for women and 87.6% for poor household members. Since then, the take-up rate of the emergency relief funds has gradually decreased as the pandemic subsided, and there were no beneficiaries in 2024.

The savings of households in the first income quintile accounted for 24% of the average savings of all households (SDG 1.4.1)

SDG 1.4 aims to ensure equitable access to economic resources and basic and financial services for all, including the poor and vulnerable groups. Although savings are not part of the official SDG 1.4.1 indicator, they are used here as a complementary measure to assess access to economic resources. Savings can be regarded as an essential economic resource for sustaining the lives of the poor and the vulnerable. Along with stable income, assets serve as crucial resources for securing household resilience during urgent economic crises. Household assets can be divided into financial assets and real assets. As financial assets, the Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions compiles savings, including installment and time deposits, as well as housing deposits for rent at the current place of residence. In a comparison of changes in savings between households in the first income quintile, which correspond to the low-income

Savings by Income Quintile and Share of First-quintile Household Savings in Total Household Savings, 2017-2025 (Unit: 10,000 KRW, %)



Source: Ministry of Data and Statistics-Bank of Korea-Financial Supervisory Service, Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Dec 22, 2025)
 Note : Savings include installment and time deposits, savings/protection-type insurance products, stocks/bonds/funds and other savings.

class, and all households, the savings amount of households in the first income quintile increased by 39.8% from 17.13 million KRW in 2017 to 23.94 million KRW in 2025. Over the same period, the average savings of all households also rose by 38.2% from 72.08 million KRW to 99.60 million KRW. That said, there was no noticeable difference in the savings growth rate between households in the first income quintile and all households.

In 2020 when the nation was hit hard by COVID-19, the savings of entire households declined by only 3.1% compared to the previous year, while the savings of households in the first quintile decreased by 11.2% year on year. This indicates that the low-income households used some of these assets to maintain their level of spending in response to urgent economic difficulties. In the following year, 2021, the savings of all households rebounded by 6.1% compared to the previous year, while those of households in the first quintile increased the most by 26.6% year on year. Given the trends over the past three years, the savings of households in the first quintile rose by 8.7% year on year to 23.53 million KRW

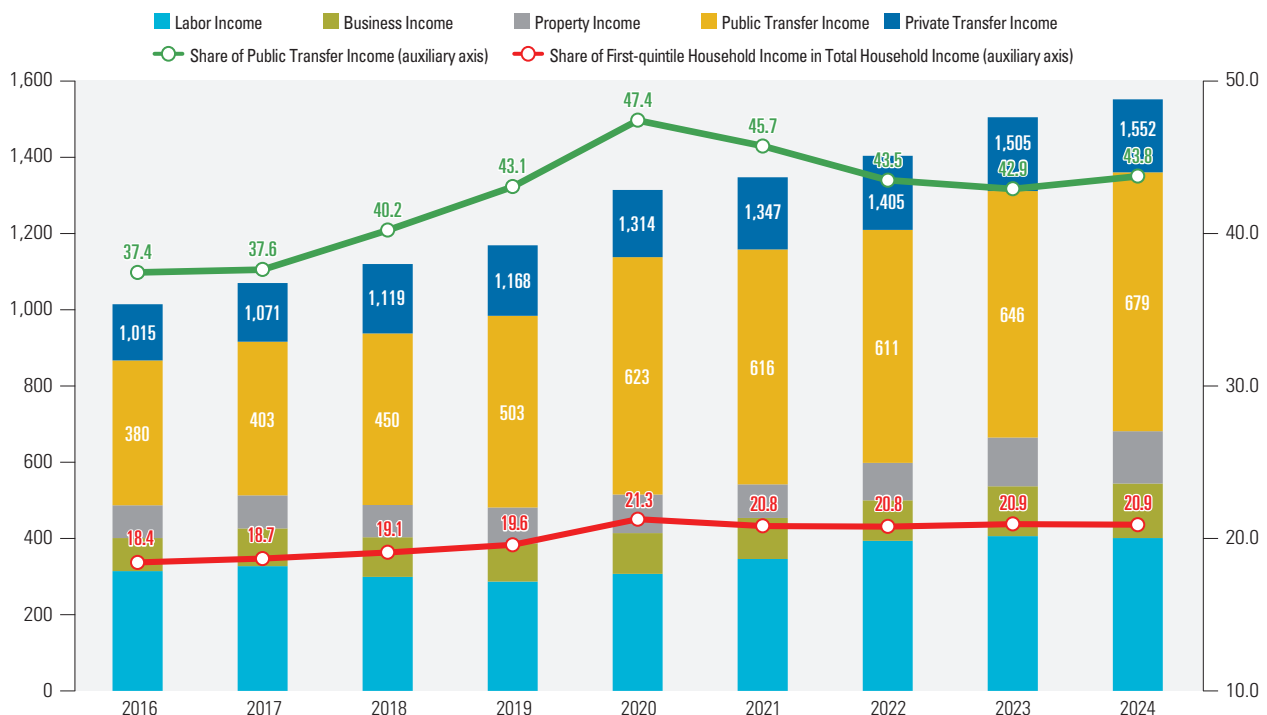
in 2023 and then declined by 1.8% to 23.10 million KRW in 2024. In 2025, they rose again by 3.6% to 23.94 million KRW. This contrasts with the steady growth in the average savings of all households, which increased by 3.4%, 9.8% and 2.6% year on year over the same period.

The proportion of the savings of households in the first income quintile relative to the average savings of all households indicates the relative scale of savings among low-income groups. In 2017, the savings of households in the first quintile accounted for only 23.8% of the average savings and increased to 26.7% in 2021 and 26.6% in 2023, respectively. However, it declined again to 24.0% in 2025.

The public transfer income of households in the first income quintile rose by 78.7% from 3.80 million KRW in 2016 to 6.79 million KRW in 2024 (🔄 SDG 1.b.1)

The recurring income of households in the first income quintile rose by 52.9% from 10.15 million KRW in 2016 to 15.52 million in 2024. The income of households in the first quintile saw a significant year-on-year increase of

Household Income by Source & Share of Public Transfer Income for Households in First Income Quintile, 2016-2024 (Unit: 10,000 KRW, %)



Source: Ministry of Data and Statistics-Bank of Korea-Financial Supervisory Service, Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Dec 22, 2025)



12.5% in 2020 when emergency relief funds were granted in response to COVID-19. During that year, public transfer income increased even more, rising by 23.9% compared to the previous year. Meanwhile, the recurring income of all households rose by 34.8% from 55.10 million KRW in 2016 to 74.27 million KRW in 2024. In 2020, its year-on-year growth rate was 3.6%, which was close to the average level. Compared with the average income growth of all households, the recurring income of households in the first quintile also increased. In 2016, the income of households in the first quintile accounted for only 18.4% of the average income of all households; however, the ratio rose to 20.9% in 2024 and reached 21.3% in 2020.

The public transfer income of households in the first income quintile increased by 78.7% from 3.80 million KRW in 2016 to 6.79 million KRW in 2024, which was higher than the growth rates of business income (64.4%), property income (59.3%), private transfer income (30.6%) and labor income (27.7%) over the same period. The public

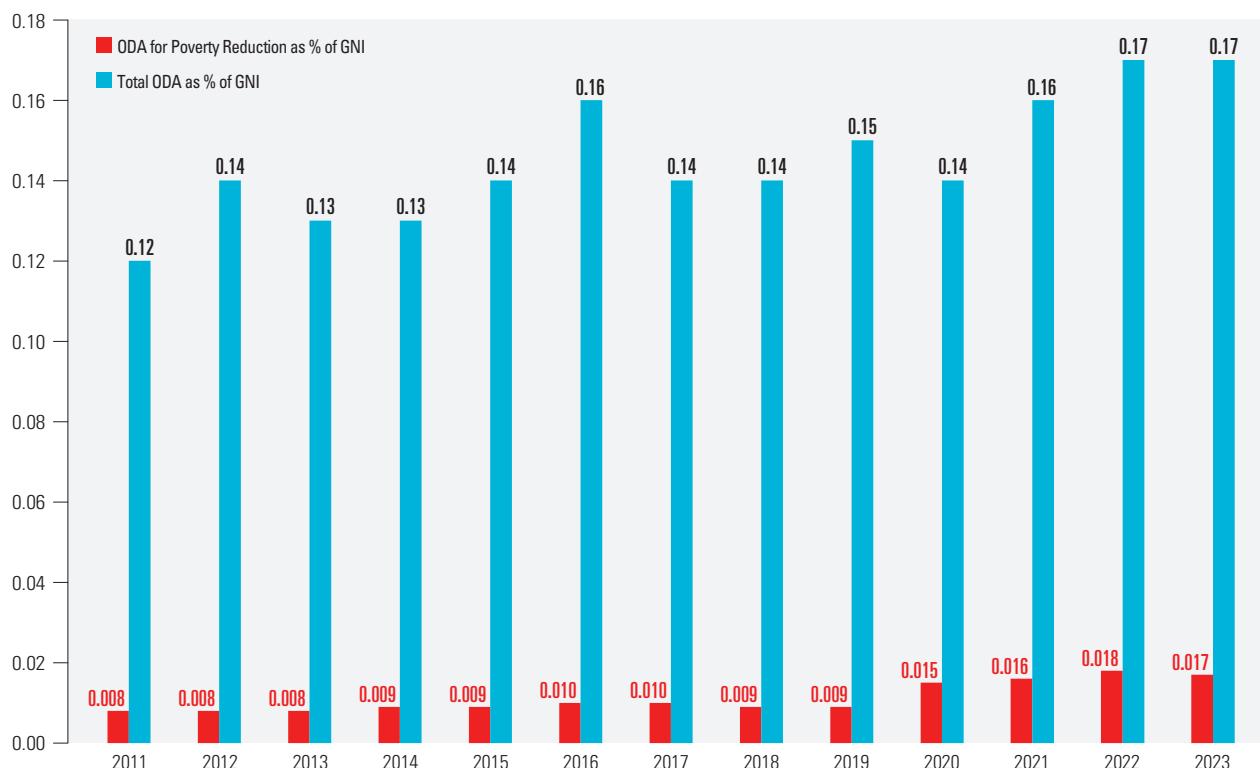
transfer income of households in the first income quintile increased by 23.9% in 2020 compared to the previous year, followed by slight declines for two consecutive years. In 2023 and 2024, it rose again by 5.7% and 5.1% year on year, respectively. With the increasing amount of public transfer income targeting retirees or the unemployed, the proportion of public transfer income in the recurring income of households in the first quintile has also been on the rise. Public transfer income of households in the first quintile accounted for 37.4% of the recurring income in 2016; however, the proportion increased to 47.4% in 2020. Afterwards, it slightly decreased, but it stood at 43.8% in 2024, which was still higher than the figure in 2016.

Korea's ODA spending for reducing poverty accounted for 0.017% of GNI (SDG 1.a.1)

Official development assistance (ODA) refers to funds or technical cooperation provided by governments to support economic development and improve welfare in developing

ODA for Poverty Reduction as Share of GNI, 2011-2023

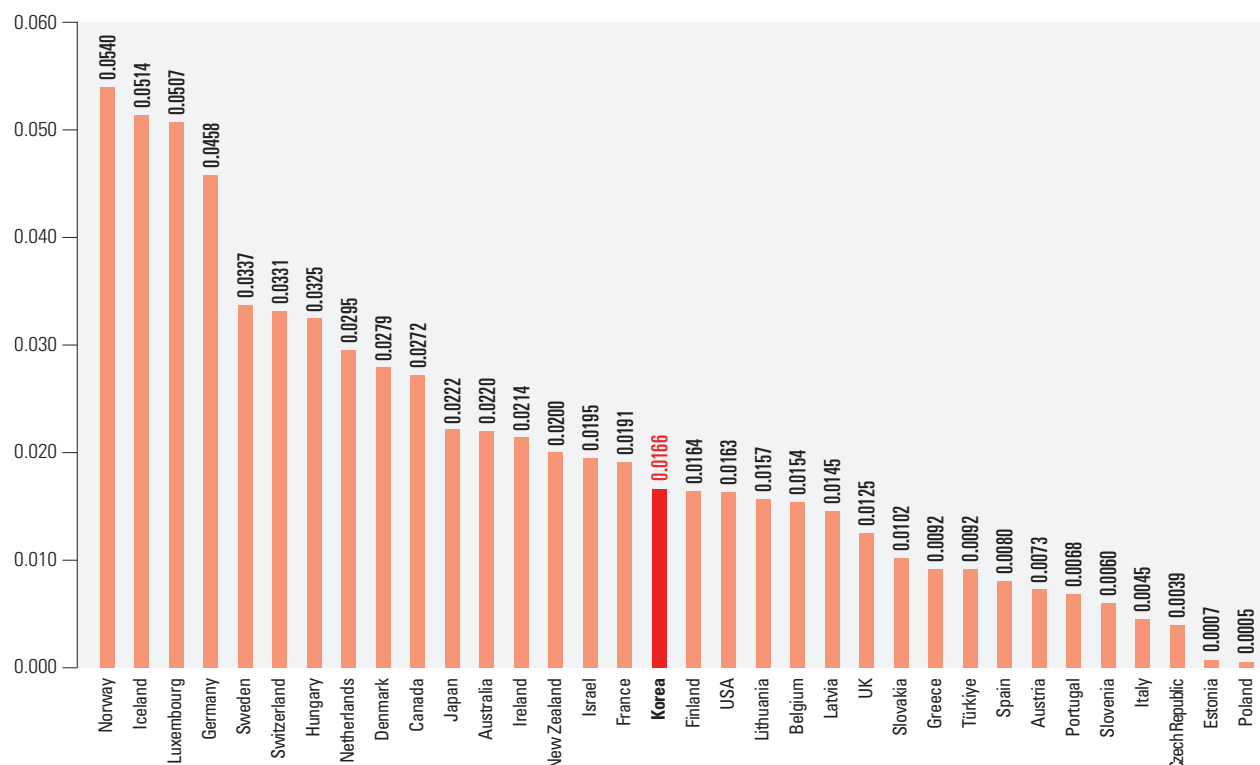
(Unit: %)



Source: Ministry of Data and Statistics, Index Portal (<https://www.index.go.kr>, retrieved on Sep 15, 2025)

ODA for Poverty Reduction as Share of GNI in OECD Countries, 2023

(Unit: %)



Source: UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Sep 15, 2025)

Note 1: This is based on 2022 data for Greece.

Note 2: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico are excluded due to data unavailability.

countries. SDG 1.a.1 (total official development assistance grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income) measures the extent to which ODA focuses on poverty reduction initiatives essential for eradicating poverty worldwide. The ODA programs aimed at reducing poverty in recipient countries are mainly comprised of the following five core areas: basic education that improves educational environments so that all children can attend school and learn to read and write; basic health which protects the lives of residents in developing countries through the prevention of infectious diseases and the provision of essential medical services; water supply and sanitation which creates safe environments from water-borne diseases by supplying clean drinking water and installing sanitation facilities; food assistance for development which provides nutritious food and enhance agricultural productivity to alleviate hunger; and multisectoral assistance for basic social services which

supports integrated services across various areas, such as housing and employment, to improve the basic life quality of the poor.

As a responsible member of the international community, the Republic of Korea has continued to provide various assistance to support the self-reliance of developing countries. In 2023, Korea's ODA for poverty reduction in developing countries amounted to \$311.30 million, accounting for 11.7% of bilateral assistance. The share of ODA for poverty reduction when measured against Korea's GNI remained stable at around 0.008% to 0.010% between 2011 and 2019. It then increased to 0.015% in 2020 and continued to rise slightly thereafter, reaching 0.017% in 2023.

In 2023, Korea's ODA for reducing poverty as a share of GNI ranked 17th among the 34 OECD countries for which data are available, placing it in the middle tier. Norway recorded the highest share at 0.054%, followed by Iceland and Luxembourg at 0.051% each.



2 ZERO HUNGER



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG 2 aims not only to end hunger worldwide but also to promote sustainable food production systems that ensure sufficient food supply and high-quality nutrition. As of 2024, about 8.2% of the global population still faces hunger, with hundreds of millions of people, particularly children and women suffering from malnutrition. In Korea, the prevalence of undernourishment and that of anemia among women slightly decreased year on year in 2024; however, both remained higher than a decade earlier. Greater attention is also needed to agricultural productivity and the genetic diversity of livestock resources in Korea.

» The prevalence of undernourishment stood at 16.7% in 2024, down 1.2%p year-on-year.

- The proportion of the undernourished population in the low-income class declined by 1.5%p, slightly narrowing the gap between income levels.
- Undernourishment was observed to be relatively higher among the following age groups: young adults in their 20s (22.3%), teenagers (21.0%) and persons aged 70 and over (19.4%), indicating the need for analysis of underlying causes and improvement measures.

» Since the mid-2010s, the prevalence of anemia among women has increased, reaching 12.7% in 2024, which places Korea in the middle range among the OECD countries.

- By age group, the prevalence was particularly high among the elderly aged 70 or older (19.7%) and those in their 40s (19.3%).

» After a long-term upward trend, agricultural labor productivity has declined since 2017 due to aging population, reaching 15,496 KRW per hour in 2024.

- The productivity per hour reached 25,000 KRW for large-scale, professional farms; however, it significantly fell to 7,000 KRW for ordinary farms, to 5,000 KRW for part-time farms, and to 1,000 KRW for subsistence farms.
- It is necessary to ensure stable food productivity by further enhancing the management capacities of professional farms while delivering customized support that reflects the needs of different farm types and diverse functions of agriculture and rural areas.

» The proportion of local livestock breeds at risk of extinction amounted to 94% in 2024, ranking 8th highest among the 34 OECD countries. This highlights the need to ensure the conservation of genetic diversity of livestock resources.

- The ratio of transboundary breeds at risk of extinction reached 29%, putting Korea in the middle of OECD countries.

Narrowing gaps in the prevalence of undernourishment between income levels

(📍 SDG 2.1.1)

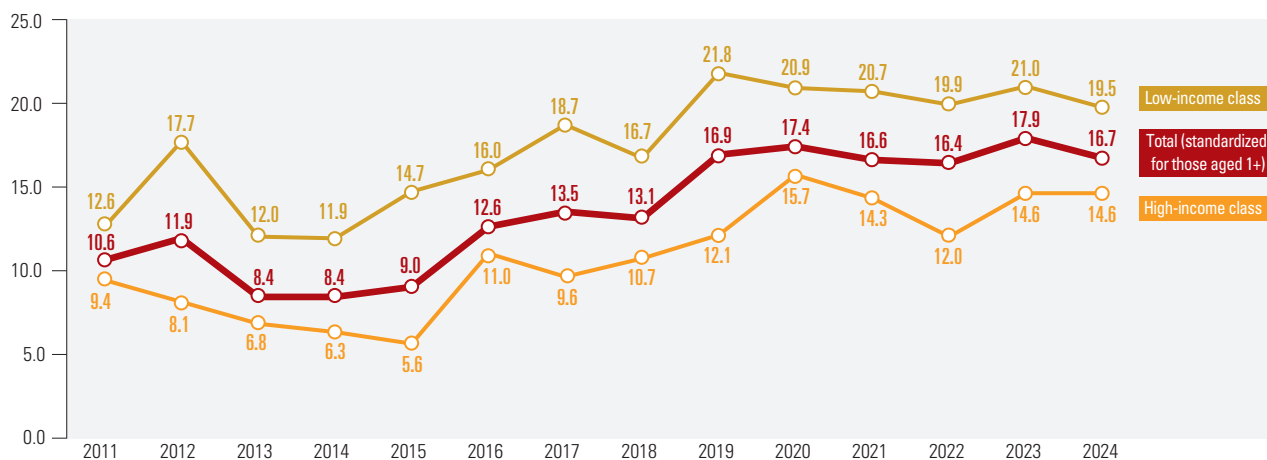
Undernourishment has significantly decreased in Korea due to economic growth, rising incomes and the development of food trade and the food industry. However, undernourishment still persists because of income gaps and changes in dietary lifestyles. In Korean domestic statistics, Undernourishment refers to a condition in which energy intake is less than 75% of the required amount, and the intake of calcium, iron, vitamin A and riboflavin is below the average requirement.

According to the the Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (KNHANES) conducted by the Korea

Disease Control and Prevention Agency, the prevalence of undernourishment (standardized for those aged 1 or older) stood at 16.7% in 2024. This figure decreased to around 8.4% in 2013–2014, before increasing again, staying above 16% since 2019. After rising to 17.9% in 2023, it hit the highest level since the 2010s, but decreased by 1.2%p year-on-year to 16.7% in 2024. In particular, the proportion of the undernourished population in the low-income class declined by 1.5%p to 19.5% in 2024 compared to the previous year whereas the prevalence in the high-income class remained unchanged at 14.6%, indicating that the gaps between the low-income and high-income classes narrowed to 4.9%p in 2024, the second smallest gap after 3.2%p recorded in 2011.

**Prevalence of Undernourishment by Income Level, 2011-2024**

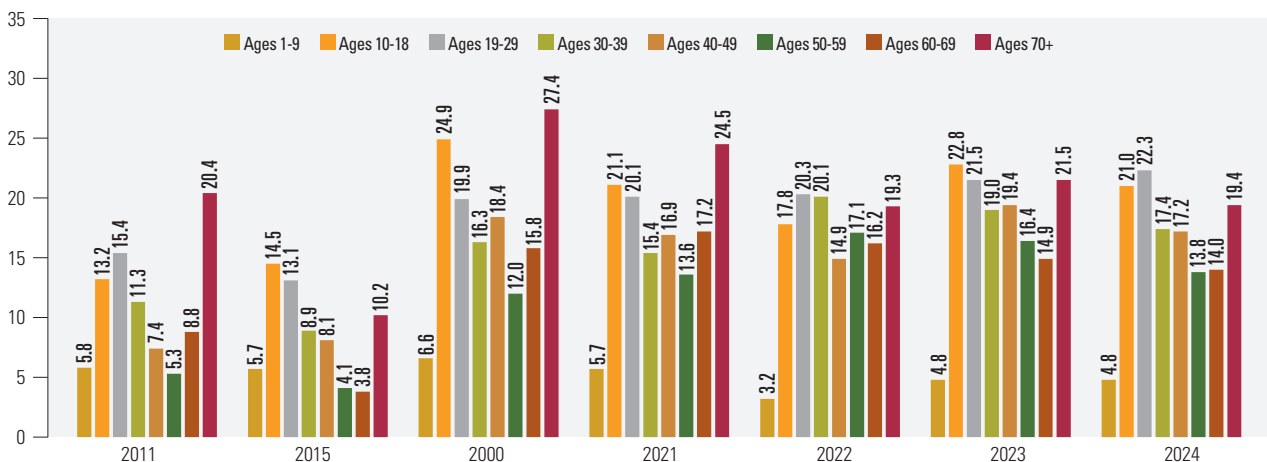
(Unit: %)

Source: Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, the Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey(<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Mar 5, 2026)

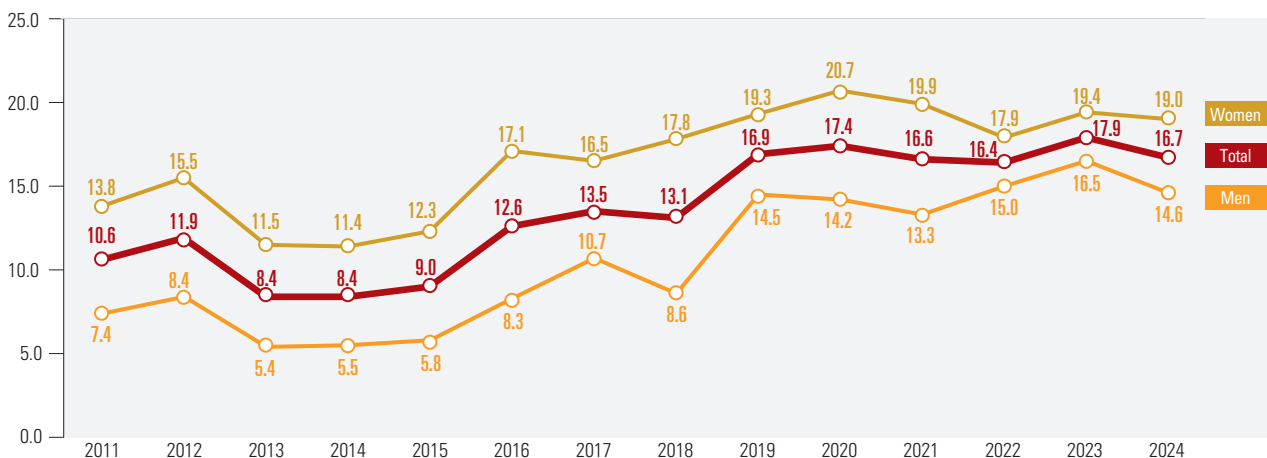
Note 1: Age is standardized based on the projected population in 2005.

Note 2: Income levels are classified in quintiles (high/medium-high/medium/medium-low/low) of equivalized monthly household income (monthly household income÷ $\sqrt{\text{No. of household members}}$) by sex and age (in an interval of 5 years).**Prevalence of Undernourishment by Age Group, 2011-2024**

(Unit: %)

Source: Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, the Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey(<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Mar 5, 2026)

Note : Age is standardized based on the projected population in 2005.

Prevalence of Undernourishment by Gender, 2011-2024Source: Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, the Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey(<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Mar 5, 2026)

Note: Age is standardized (age 1+) based on the projected population in 2005.

By age group, the prevalence of undernourishment was relatively higher among those in their 20s (22.3%) and teenagers (21.0%) in 2024. It was also high among the elderly aged 70 or higher at 19.4% while it was recorded at around 17% for the population in their 30s and 40s. Given the fact that sufficient nutritional intake is essential for teenagers who are still in the process of physical development and for young adults who need to focus on self-development at this stage of the life cycle, it is necessary to identify the causes of undernourishment and make nutritional improvements. The prevalence of undernourishment decreased by more than 2%p year-on-year among those in their 40s and 50s as well as aged 70 and over, showing some nutritional improvements in the middle-aged and elderly groups. Meanwhile, compared to 2015 when the prevalence of undernourishment was relatively low, the proportion in 2024 rose by more than 5%p in all age groups, except for those aged 10 or under. By gender, women showed a higher percentage of undernourishment. Gender gaps narrowed to 2.9%p in 2022 and 2023, but it widened again to 4.4%p in 2024 as the proportion of undernourished men declined more sharply than that of women.

The prevalence of undernourishment has seen an overall increase since 2015. In particular, more attention is needed to the dietary lifestyles and nutrition of teenagers, young adults

in their 20s and persons aged 70 and over. Such an increase in the undernourished population is attributable to changes in social conditions and lifestyles, such as a rise in single-person households, social isolation, dieting and inadequate meals. This requires an analysis of the causes and the development of countermeasures based on stages of the life cycle and household characteristics. Furthermore, preventative measures are also needed to promote public health through the provision of education and information on healthy nutritional intake.

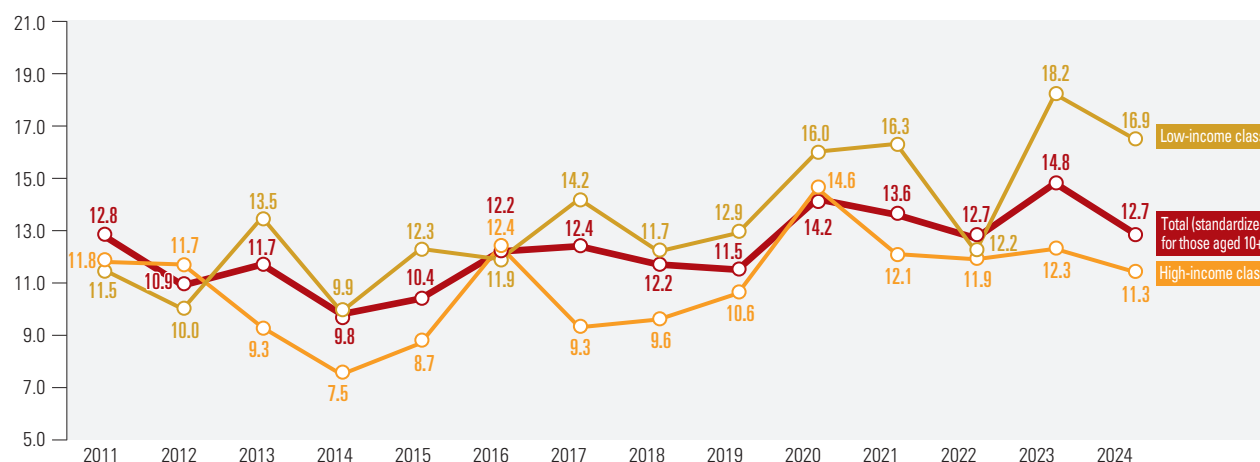
The prevalence of anemia among women stood at 12.7%, lower than OECD average (SDG 2.2.3)

Anemia deprives body tissues of an adequate oxygen supply, causing general weakness, fatigue, reduced concentration and lower productivity. In general, women are more susceptible to developing anemia due to menstruation. In particular, anemia among women of reproductive age increases the risk of complications associated with pregnancy and, in severe cases, leads to serious health problems, such as heart failure.

In 2024, 12.7% of Korean women aged 10 or older (age-standardized) suffered from anemia. By income level, women in low-income groups tended to have a higher prevalence than those in high-income brackets. In 2023, the prevalence of anemia among women in the low-income class stood at

Prevalence of Anemia among Women by Income Level, 2011-2024

(Unit: %)



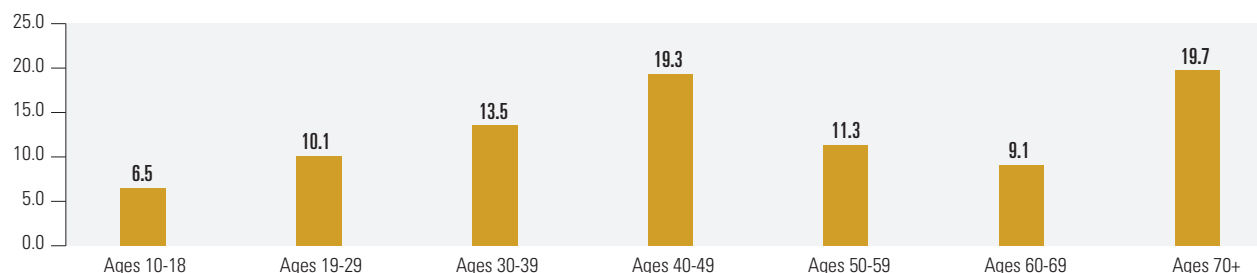
Source: Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, the Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Aug 26, 2025)

Note 1: This is based on women aged 10 or older (age-standardized).

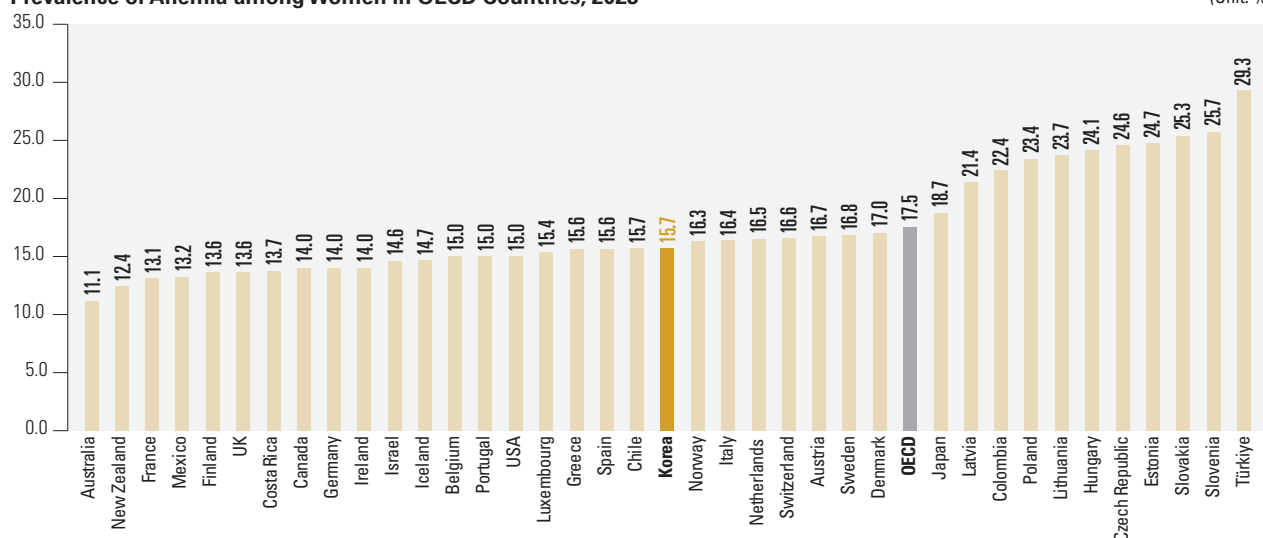
Note 2: Income levels are classified into quintile (high/medium-high/medium/medium-low/low) of monthly equivalized household income (monthly household income ÷ No. of household members) by sex and age (in an interval of 5 years).

**Prevalence of Anemia among Women by Age Group, 2024**

(Unit: %)

Source: Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, the Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Aug 26, 2025)**Prevalence of Anemia among Women in OECD Countries, 2023**

(Unit: %)

Source: UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Jan 12, 2026)

Note : This is based on women aged 15 to 49.

16.9%, widening the gap between income groups to 5.6%p. By age group, the prevalence was relatively higher among the elderly aged 70 or older (19.7%), individuals in their 40s (19.3%) and those in their 30s (13.5%).

Compared with the prevalence of anemia among women aged 15 to 49 in OECD countries in 2023, Korea recorded a rate of 15.7%, slightly lower than the OECD average (17.5%), placing it in the middle tier. The countries with the lowest prevalence were Australia (11.1%) and New Zealand (12.4%), while Türkiye recorded the highest rate at 29.3%.

Anemia can cause health problems, such as chronic fatigue, and may also threaten the health of both the fetus and the mother during pregnancy. Especially for women of their reproductive age, anemia may be caused by gynecological conditions that lead to excessive menstrual bleeding. If proper

treatment is not provided, anemia can recur repeatedly, increasing the risk of infertility or problems during the perinatal period. It is therefore necessary to identify the causes of anemia in each age group and to reduce its socioeconomic costs by reinforcing preventive measures including nutritional education.

Need to strengthen management capacities depending on farm types amid an overall decline in agricultural labor productivity (🔄 SDG 2.3.1)

As one of the indicators used to assess farms' management capacities, agricultural labor productivity refers to the volume of production obtained as output relative to labor input. In general, labor productivity can be enhanced by increasing the amount of physical capital input per worker through investment

expenditures, by improving the quality of labor and thus increasing human capital through training or by developing new technologies and taking advantage of technological progress.

The average labor productivity in agriculture was surveyed at 15,496 KRW per hour in 2024. It increased by nearly tenfold from 1,220 KRW per hour in 1980 to 11,778 KRW in 2000, and generally maintained an upward trend thereafter, setting a record high of 21,444 KRW in 2017. However, it has been on the decrease in recent years. In the past, productivity increased as agricultural physical and human capital expanded and agricultural technologies also advanced. More recently, however, productivity appears to have declined due to the ageing agricultural labor force, which has resulted in less investment in agriculture, diminished human capital and fewer efforts to adopt new technologies.

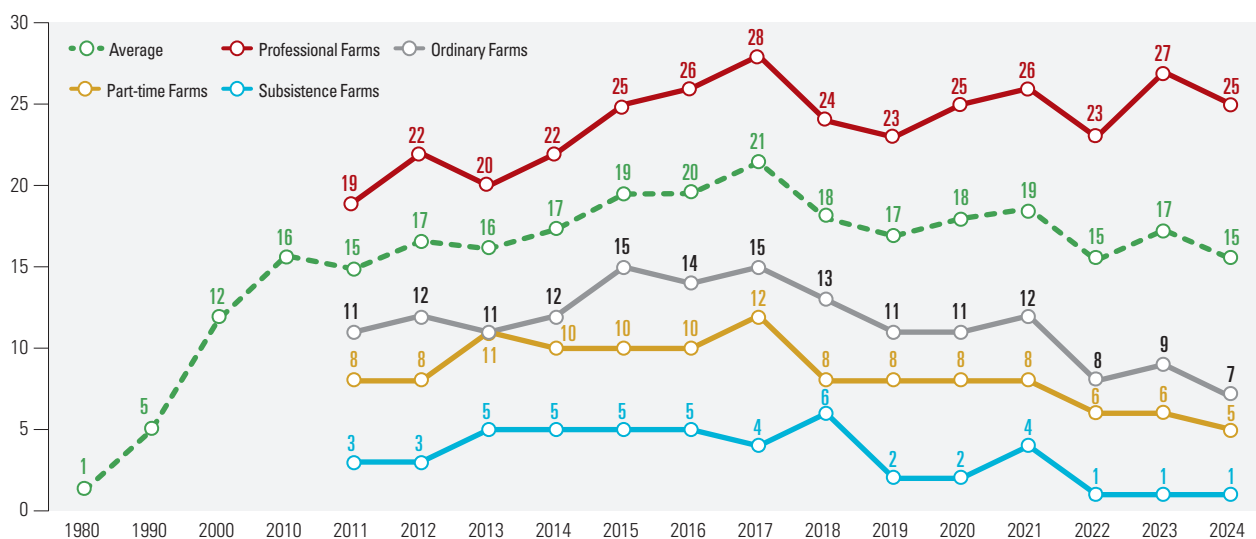
To grasp the reality of farms' production capacities, analysis has to be conducted depending on farm types, such as full-time farms, part-time farms, professional farms and subsistence farms. Labor productivity at large-scale, full-time professional farms stood at around 25,000 KRW per hour, about 10,000 KRW higher than the overall farm average. Hourly productivity was only at around 7,000 KRW, about

half of the overall average, for relatively small-scale ordinary farms, at 5,000 KRW for part-time farms and at 1,000 KRW for subsistence farms. In 2011, average agricultural labor productivity was recorded at about 15,000 KRW per hour, similar to that of today. However, by farm type, productivity stood at 19,000 KRW for professional farms, 11,000 KRW for ordinary farms, 8,000 KRW for part-time farms and 3,000 KRW for subsistence farms, indicating that the gaps between farm types were smaller than they are now.

To ensure a stable supply of essential food, it is necessary to ensure the sustainable growth of agriculture in Korea and strengthen its competitiveness. To this end, greater efforts are needed to promote farms' management capacities, enhance productivity and increase farm scale. An analysis of agricultural labor productivity shows that productivity of professional farms is significantly higher and that the gap with other farms is widening further. For agricultural growth and a stable supply, policy support should be expanded in ways that strengthen the management capacities of highly productive professional farms, further increase their productivity and facilitate scale-up. In addition, policy support tailored to various farm types is also needed to

Agricultural Labor Productivity, 1980-2024

(Unit: 1,000 KRW per hour)



Source: Ministry of Data and Statistics, Farms' Economic Survey (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Aug 26, 2025)

- Note : 1. Full-time farms refer to farms whose total agricultural income exceeds non-agricultural income among those with farmland of 30a or larger or with total agricultural income of at least 2 million KRW.
 - Professional farms refer to farms with farmland of 3 ha or larger or with total agricultural income of at least 20 million KRW among full-time farms.
 - Ordinary farms refer to farms with farmland of less than 3 ha and with total agricultural income of at least 20 million KRW among full-time farms.
 2. Part-time farms refer to farms whose non-agricultural income exceeds total agricultural income among those with farmland of 30a or larger or with total agricultural income of at least 2 million KRW.
 3. Subsistence farms refer to farms that have no farmland or whose total agricultural income is less than 2 million KRW among those with farmland of less than 30a.



enhance their management capacities and create multi-functional roles of agriculture and rural areas.

About 94% of local livestock breeds at risk of extinction (SDG 2.5.2)

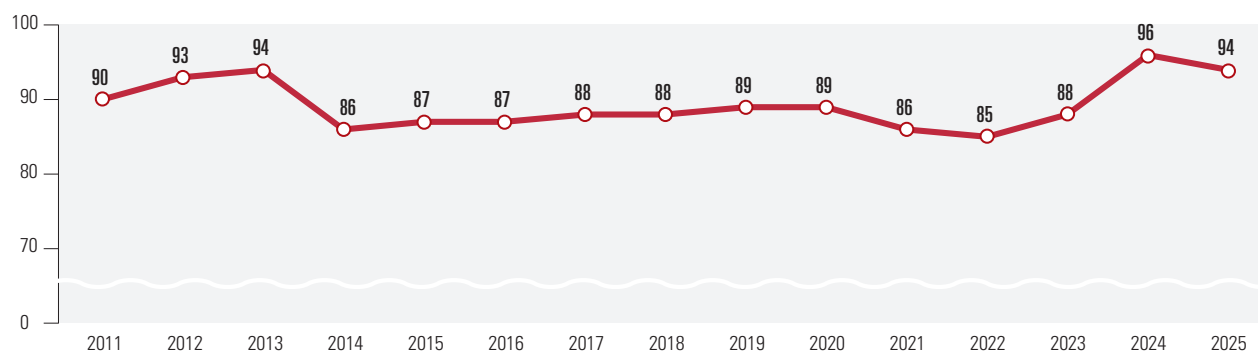
The stable production and supply of food are closely connected to securing the genetic diversity of animal and plant resources. The protection of endangered species is an essential element in maintaining the health of ecosystems and safeguarding food security for mankind. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provides the country-specific proportions of livestock breeds classified as being at risk of extinction through the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS), based on data submitted by each national government. Of over 8,800 breeds registered to the DAD-IS, about 7,700 are local breeds reported only in one country

while the remaining 1,100 are classified as transboundary breeds. Each livestock breed is classified as “at risk”, “not at risk” or “unknown.” Except for breeds with unknown status, the proportion of breeds classified as being at risk among those with known extinction status is presented as the at-risk ratio.

In 2025, the ratio of local livestock breeds at risk of extinction reached 94% in Korea. This appears to reflect the fact that most indigenous livestock are raised on a very small scale, as well as the presence of sophisticated data management systems that well capture the actual level of risk. The proportion of breeds at risk of extinction may also vary when the risk status of breeds is reclassified or when extinction status becomes available for breeds whose extinction information was previously unknown. Since 2014 when extinction information became available for more than 20 breeds, the at-risk ratio of local breeds has remained in the 80% range. However, the

Proportion of Local Livestock Breeds at Risk of Extinction in Korea, 2011-2025

(Unit: %)

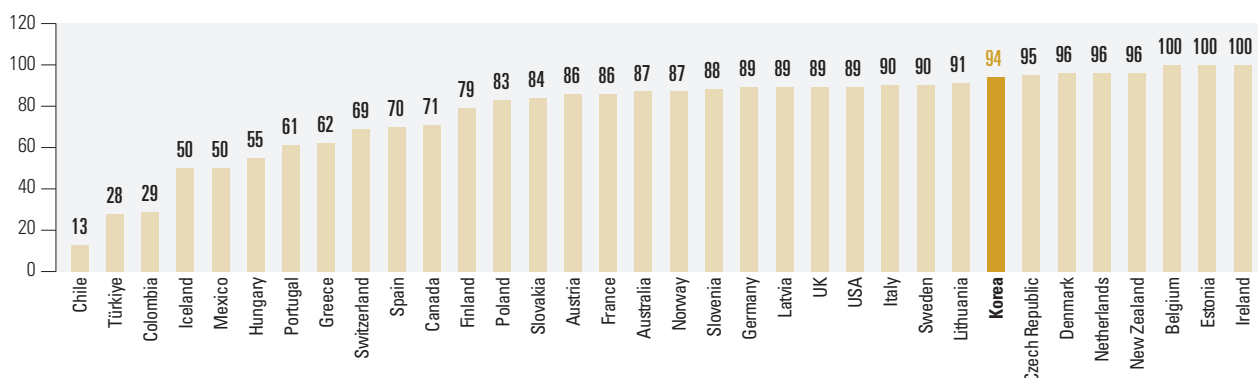


Source: UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Mar 6, 2026)

Note : This refers to the ratio of breeds classified as being at risk of extinction among breeds whose extinction status is known.

Proportion of Local Livestock Breeds at Risk of Extinction in OECD Countries, 2025

(Unit: %)



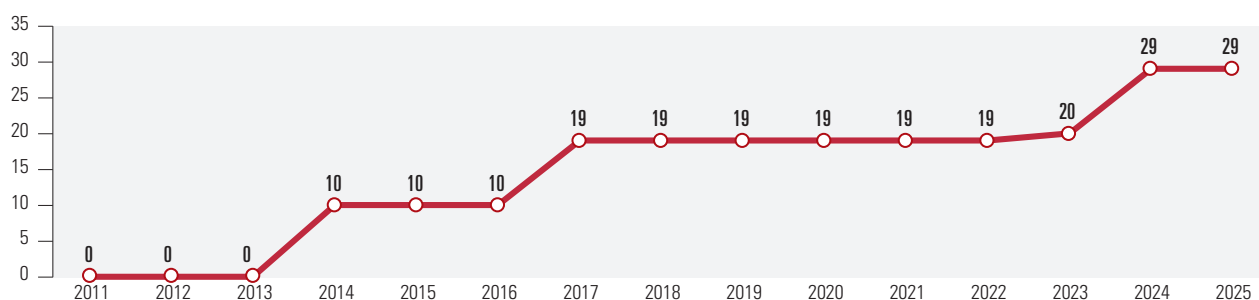
Source: UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Mar 6, 2026)

Note 1: This refers to the ratio of breeds classified as being at risk of extinction among breeds whose extinction status is known.

Note 2: Costa Rica, Israel, Luxembourg and Japan are excluded due to data unavailability.

Proportion of Transboundary Livestock Breeds at Risk of Extinction in Korea, 2011-2025

(Unit: %)

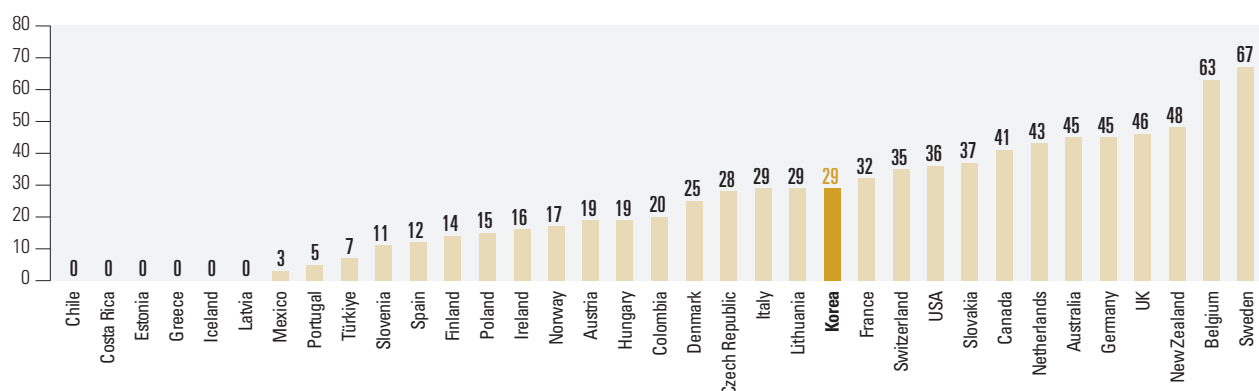


Source: UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Mar 6, 2026)

Note : This refers to the ratio of breeds classified as being at risk of extinction among breeds whose extinction status is known.

Proportion of Transboundary Livestock Breeds at Risk of Extinction in OECD Countries, 2025

(Unit: %)



Source: UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Mar 6, 2026)

Note 1: This refers to the ratio of breeds classified as being at risk of extinction among breeds whose extinction status is known.

Note 2: Israel, Luxembourg and Japan are excluded due to data unavailability.

ratio further increased to over 90% in 2024 as the number of breeds with known extinction status rose significantly. It is therefore necessary to pay greater attention to securing the genetic diversity of livestock resources among local breeds and to make further improvements.

Of the 34 OECD countries for which the 2025 data were available, the at-risk ratio was particularly low in Chile (13%), Türkiye (28%) and Colombia (29%). Moreover, in nine countries including Iceland and Mexico (50% each), the ratios fell within the 50% to 70% range, while another eleven countries, including Poland (83%), recorded the proportions in the 80% range. Only the following seven countries had ratios comparable to or higher than that of Korea: Czech Republic (95%), Denmark, the Netherlands and New Zealand (96% each), Belgium, Estonia and Ireland (100% each).

As for transboundary breeds, they started to be newly

included in the SDGs following the regular update of SDG indicators in 2025. As of 2025, the extinction status is known for 34 out of 49 Korean transboundary breeds registered to the FAO. Of these, 10 breeds have been classified as being at risk, thereby placing the at-risk ratio of transboundary breeds at 29%. The proportion of transboundary livestock breeds at risk of extinction in Korea remained at 0% through 2013, then gradually increased after 2014, reaching 29% in 2025. In other OECD countries as well, the at-risk ratio of transboundary breeds tends to be lower than that of local breeds. Countries with the highest at-risk ratios include Sweden (67%) and Belgium (63%) while no transboundary breeds are classified as being at risk in six countries (Chile, Costa Rica, Estonia, Greece, Iceland and Latvia). Among the 35 countries for which data are available, Korea ranked 13th together with Italy and Lithuania (29%), in terms of the at-risk ratio of transboundary breeds.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, including achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and access to quality essential health-care services. Globally, significant progress has been made in the 21st century, including reductions in maternal and child mortality and HIV incidence, as well as improvements in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy. However, a series of risk factors, such as infectious diseases including malaria and tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases, smoking, air pollution, and unhealthy dietary habits still continue to threaten the health of humankind and sustainable development. In the Republic of Korea, overall levels of alcohol consumption and smoking have declined; however, challenges remain, including rising alcohol consumption among women, increased use of electronic cigarettes, management of NCDs, and shortages and regional disparities in the health workforce.

» While drinking and smoking, which are major causes of chronic diseases, have declined overall, further analysis of and responses to various population groups and patterns are needed.

- The per-capita alcohol consumption fell from 8.9 L in 2011 to 7.8 L in 2023, dropping below the OECD average (8.5 L); however, women's drinking rate has increased compared to 2011.
- The (current) smoking rate of adults aged 19 or older stood at 16.7% in 2024, showing a significant decrease from 27.1% in 2011. However, the use of electronic cigarettes posted a record high of 12.1% in 2024 since the relevant statistics were first complied.

» The density of major health workers, including physicians (including oriental doctors), dentists, nurses and physiotherapists, rose to 9.3 per 1,000 population in 2023 from 5.5 in 2011; however, it still fell short of the OECD average (14.4).

- The number of physicians (including oriental doctors) in special and metropolitan cities reached 3.4 per 1,000 population whereas the number stood at only 2.1 in provinces, indicating regional disparities.

» Korea's Universal Health Coverage Service Coverage Index (UHC SCI) was rated at 89 in 2021, ranking second among the OECD countries. However, further improvement is needed in the area of non-communicable diseases, such as smoking and hypertension (score: 76).

- Multi-faceted efforts, such as the promotion of maternal and child health, the management of communicable and non-communicable diseases and the improvement of health service capacities and accessibility, are needed to achieve universal health coverage and ensure the rights to a high standard of health for all.

» Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), such as leprosy, dengue fever, chikungunya and rabies, are managed as statutory communicable diseases. There has been almost no domestic infection, except for imported cases of dengue fever.

- As the prevalence of NTDs is heavily concentrated in low-income countries in tropical regions, they place a disproportionate burden on vulnerable and marginalized groups, highlighting the need for comprehensive responses through international cooperation.

The per-capita alcohol consumption has declined, but women's drinking rate has risen (🔄 SDG 3.5.2)

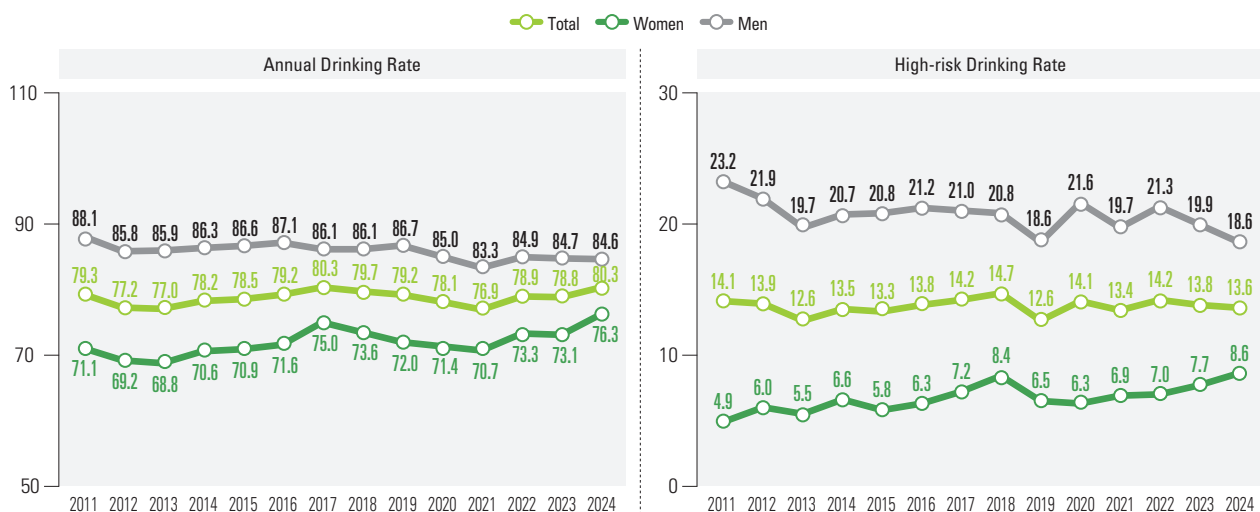
Alcohol consumption is a causal factor in more than 200 diseases and injuries, posing negative impacts on health. In particular, it increases the risk of developing liver diseases, cardiovascular diseases, cancers as well as mental disorders, including depression and anxiety, or behavior disorders (WHO, 2024b). According to the Global Burden of Disease (GBD), about 2.8 million people died from alcohol consumption in 2016 (5.3% of total deaths), resulting in the loss of 130 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs).

Alcohol consumption has also been considered as a major risk factor across multiple dimensions of sustainable development. Most directly, it is associated with SDG 3.5 which aims to prevent the abuse of substances, including drugs and alcohol. In addition, excessive drinking can lead to violence (SDG 16), further deteriorate the unfavorable circumstances of marginalized groups (SDG 10) and undermine sustainable consumption (SDG 12) and economic growth (SDG 8) (Sperkova et al., 2022). In this sense, the World Health Organization calls for sustained efforts to improve behavior, given the view that drinking



Annual Drinking Rate & High-risk Drinking Rate, 2011-2024

(Unit: %)



Source: Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey(<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Jan 15, 2026)

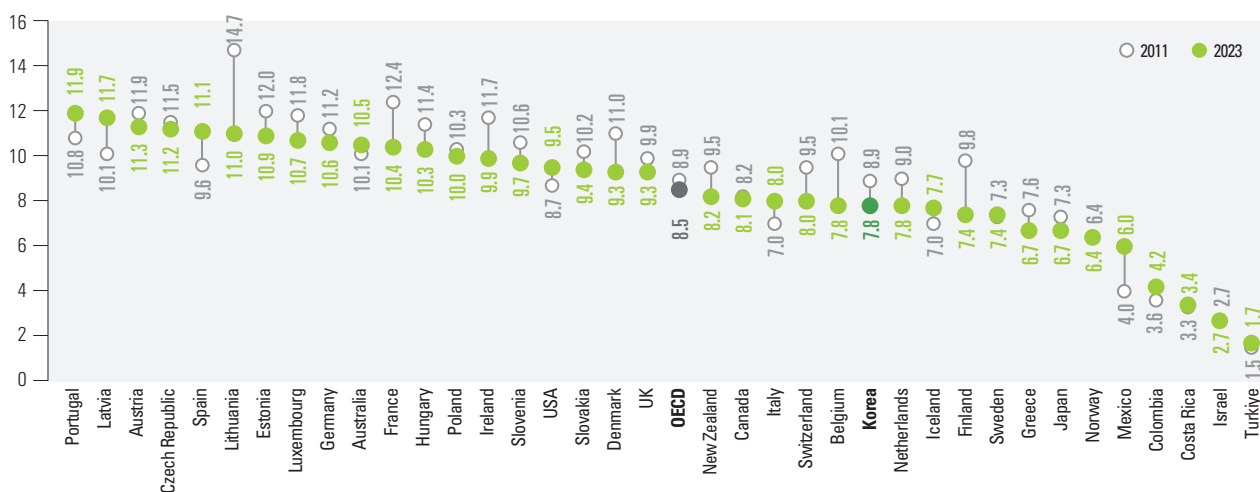
Note 1: The annual drinking rate refers to the proportion of the population who drank at least once over the previous year.

Note 2: The high-risk drinking rate refers to the proportion of men who drank 7 glasses or more and that of women who drank 5 glasses or more per occasion at least twice a week over the previous year.

Note 3: This is based on the population aged 19 or older, and age is standardized based on the projected population in 2005.

Per-capita Alcohol Consumption in OECD Countries, 2011, 2023

(Unit: L)



Source: OECD, OECD Data Explorer(<https://data-explorer.oecd.org>, retrieved on Sep 22, 2025)

Note : This is based on 2022 data for Portugal, Luxembourg, Germany, Australia, the United States, Canada, Italy, Belgium, Greece, Colombia and Israel. The OECD average includes Chile in 2011, but excludes it in 2023.

increases health risks and the risk of injuries and is also a major risk factor for chronic diseases (WHO, 2025b).

The annual drinking rate is measured as the proportion of people who drank at least once during the past year. It stood at 80.3% in 2024, showing an increase of 1.0%p from 79.3% in 2011. Men's annual drinking rate declined from 88.1% in 2011 to 84.6% in 2024, whereas women's rate rose by 5.2%p from 71.1% to 76.3% over the same period. The gender gap in the annual drinking rates reached 17.0%p in 2011, narrowing down to 8.3%p in 2024.

Meanwhile, the high-risk drinking rate, characterized by a high volume and frequency of drinking, stood at 13.6% in 2024, a slight decline from 2011. Similar to the annual drinking rate, different trends have been observed by gender. Men's high-risk drinking rate declined by 4.6%p from 23.2% in 2011 to 18.6% in 2024. However, over the same period, the rate increased by 3.7%p from 4.9% to 8.6% for women. This is the result from women's growing participation in economic activities, changes in gender roles and expanding positive expectations regarding drinking driven by the media. Alcohol

consumption is often used as a coping mechanism for stress arising from work and childcare responsibilities (Gwanggi Kim et al., 2018). In fact, the rate of Korean women (aged 15 to 64) participating in economic activities increased from 54.9% in 2011 to 64.7% in 2025.

SDG 3.5.2 regarding alcohol consumption measures the per-capita annual alcohol consumption of the population aged 15 or older. Korea's per-capita annual alcohol consumption stood at 7.8 L in 2023, lower than the OECD average (8.5 L). Countries with high levels of alcohol consumption are mostly European countries, such as Portugal (11.9 L), Latvia (11.7 L), Austria (11.3 L), the Czech Republic (11.2 L) and Spain (11.1 L). On the other hand, countries with relatively low levels of alcohol consumption include Türkiye (1.7 L) and Israel (2.7 L) as well as some Latin American countries like Costa Rica (3.4 L), Colombia (4.2 L) and Mexico (6.0 L). Compared to 2011, alcohol consumption declined in 23 countries among the 37 OECD member states in 2023, with the OECD average decreasing from 8.9 L in 2011 to 8.5 L in 2023. Alcohol consumption in Korea stood at 8.9 L in 2011, comparable to the OECD average; however, it declined at a faster pace to 7.8 L in 2023.

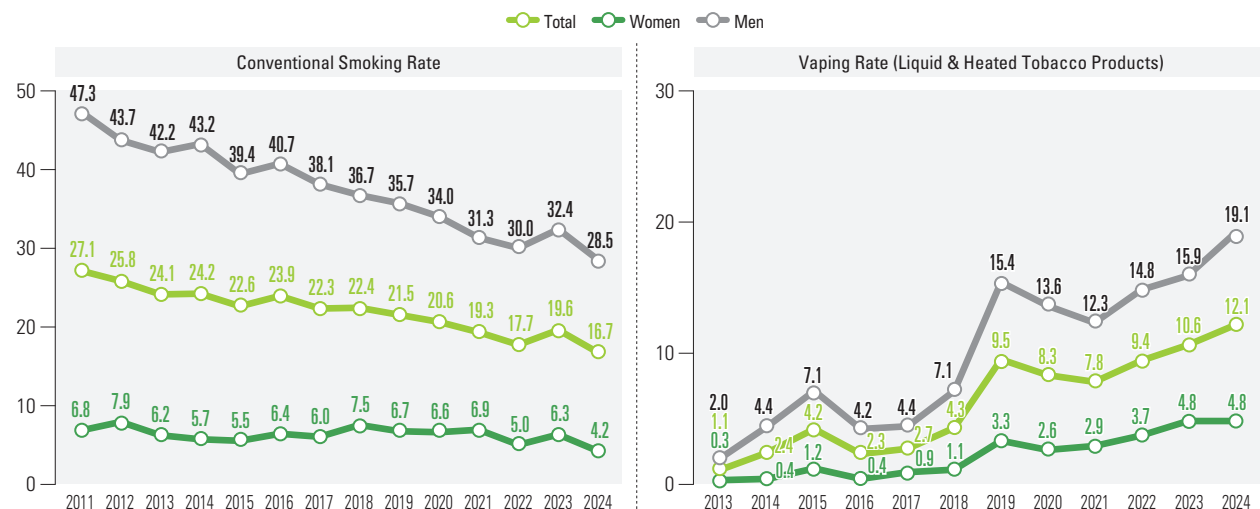
The smoking rate has declined, but vaping is on the rise (SDG 3.a.1)

Smoking is one of the biggest leading preventable causes of death globally. Annually, more than 7 million people die from smoking. Among them, about 1 million are non-smokers exposed to second-hand smoke (PAHO, 2025). People also suffer from a wide range of diseases and long-term pain due to smoking. Smoking-related diseases and deaths cause not only harm to individual smokers but also losses to economic and human capital at the societal level (WHO, 2025c). There is no conclusive evidence that heated tobacco products and electronic cigarettes are less harmful than conventional tobacco products than conventional tobacco products, certain toxic substances arising from their aerosols have been classified as carcinogenic. As e-cigarettes also emit nicotine and other harmful substances, they pose harm to users as well as those exposed to second-hand aerosols (WHO, 2025c). The global consensus on the harmful effects of smoking led to the adoption of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in 2005, serving as a global strategy to reduce tobacco consumption and smoking-related health risks.

The smoking rate among adults aged 19 or older

(Current) Smoking and Vaping Rates, 2011-2024

(Unit: %)



Source: Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey(<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Jan 15, 2026)

Note 1: The (current) smoking rate refers to the proportion of individuals who have smoked at least five packs (100 cigarettes) of conventional cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke conventional cigarettes.

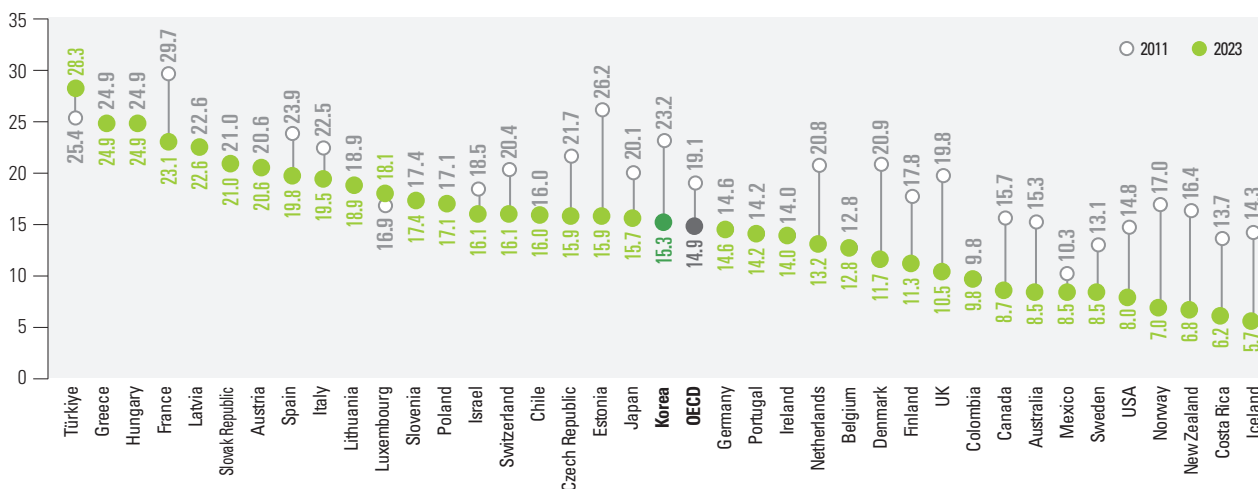
Note 2: The vaping rate refers to the combination of the liquid type (the term has been changed since 2019 from the previous 'e-cigarettes' to 'liquid-type') and heated tobacco products (compiled starting in 2019).

Note 3: This is based on the population aged 19 or older, and age is standardized based on the projected population in 2005.



(Daily) Smoking Rate in OECD Countries, 2011, 2023

(Unit: %)



Source: OECD, OECD Data Explorer(<https://data-explorer.oecd.org>, retrieved on Jan 15, 2026)

Note 1: This refers to the proportion of the population who smoke everyday.

Note 2: This is based on 2010 or 2012 data for countries for which 2011 data are not available, and based on 2019 to 2022 data for those with 2023 data unavailable.

declined dramatically from 27.1% in 2011 to 16.7% in 2024, with a significant gender gap. Men's smoking rate reached 47.3% in 2011, but it decreased to 28.5% in 2024. However, women's smoking rate fluctuated between 5% and 8%, standing at 4.2% in 2024, the lowest level since 2011. Meanwhile, it is worthwhile to pay attention to a new type of tobacco products, namely e-cigarettes. The use of e-cigarettes, including liquid and heated tobacco products, reached 12.1% in 2024, recording the highest level since such statistics began to be compiled.

In Korea, the proportion of the population aged 15 or older, who have smoked 100 cigarettes or more in their lifetime and currently smoke on a daily basis, was equal to 15.3% in 2023, slightly higher than the OECD average (14.9%). Countries with high daily smoking rates are Türkiye (28.3%), Greece (24.9%), Hungary (24.9%) and France (23.1%). Countries with low daily rates include Iceland (5.7%), Costa Rica (6.2%), New Zealand (6.8%), Norway (7.0%) and the United States (8.0%). It is noteworthy that, with the exception of France, countries where the price for a pack of cigarettes is 15,000 KRW or higher, such as Ireland (14.0%), the United Kingdom (10.5%), Australia (8.5%), Norway (7.0%) and New Zealand (6.8%), have relatively low rates of daily smoking. All OECD countries, excluding

Türkiye and Luxembourg, saw a decline in their daily smoking rates in 2023 compared to 2011. In Korea, over the same period, the rate dropped by 7.9%p from 23.2% to 15.3%.

Need to address shortages and regional disparities of health workers (SDG 3.c.1)

Health workers serve as an essential element in operating the healthcare system. The World Health Organization diagnoses that universal health coverage (UHC), one of the goals pursued by the SDGs, can be accelerated by strengthening the healthcare system and ensuring equitable access to health workers (WHO, 2025d). Amid the rapid ageing of the population and unexpected healthcare crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, shortages of health workers have emerged as a major challenge worldwide. In particular, the growing elderly population and the shrinking working-age population have affected the demographic composition of the health workforce, forewarning chronic shortages of the human resources. Along with this, the imbalanced distribution of health workers has also been raised as an issue. The World Health Organization points out that about 50% of the global population resides in rural or suburban areas while most health workers are concentrated in urban areas (WHO, 2025e). The OECD (2016) also shed light on the imbalanced geographic distribution of physicians, indicating

that the OECD countries should address the issue of health workers as a priority policy agenda.

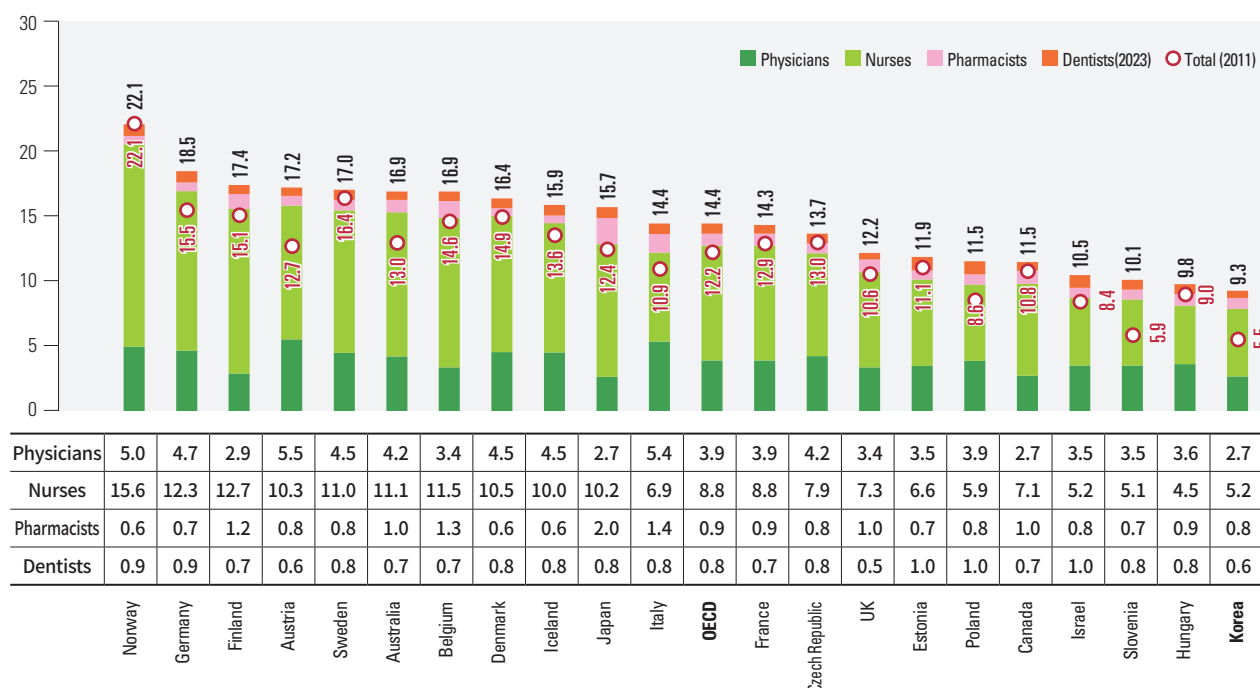
Korea is also facing the both an overall shortage and regional imbalance of health workers. The density of health workers, including physicians (including oriental doctors), dentists, nurses and pharmacists, stood at 9.3 per 1,000 population in 2023, which was an increase from 5.5 in 2011, but still fell short of the OECD average of 14.4. In particular, this substantial gap is attributable to physicians and nurses. The number of physicians (including oriental doctors) was 2.7 per 1,000 population, 1.2 fewer than the OECD average of 3.9 while that of nurses reached 5.2, representing 3.6 fewer than the OECD average of 8.8. Although there are limitations in international comparisons due to differences in national systems, the number of assistant nurses, who also play a crucial role in patient care and safety management in medical institutions, was 4.3 per 1,000 population, accounting for 45.3% of nursing

workforce in Korea (Ministry of Health and Welfare & Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, 2025).

The regional disparities are also evident. Although it is hard to directly compare cities and rural areas, a clear disparity in the distribution of physicians and nurses can be observed between special and metropolitan cities, such as Seoul, Busan, Daegu, Incheon, Gwangju, Daejeon, Ulsan and Sejong, and other provincial areas. In 2023, the number of physicians (including oriental doctors) per 1,000 population stood at 3.4 in special and metropolitan cities, whereas the figure was just 2.1 in provincial areas. In the same year, the number of nurses per 1,000 population reached 6.4 in special and metropolitan cities and 4.3 in provincial areas. Even in neighboring regions, there is a huge difference between large cities and non-metropolitan areas. For instance, in Daegu, there are 3.2 physicians and 6.9 nurses practicing per 1,000 while the figures are just 1.8 and 4.2 for physicians and nurses, respectively in Gyeongbuk area.

Density of Health Workers in OECD Countries, 2011, 2023

(Unit: per 1,000 population)



Source: OECD, OECD Data Explorer(<https://data-explorer.oecd.org>, retrieved on Sep 23, 2025)

Note 1: According to the criteria of international comparisons, physicians (including oriental doctors), nurses, pharmacists and dentists are presented as major health workers.

Note 2: The figures refer to personnel engaged in clinical practice, and physicians include oriental doctors in accordance with international standards.

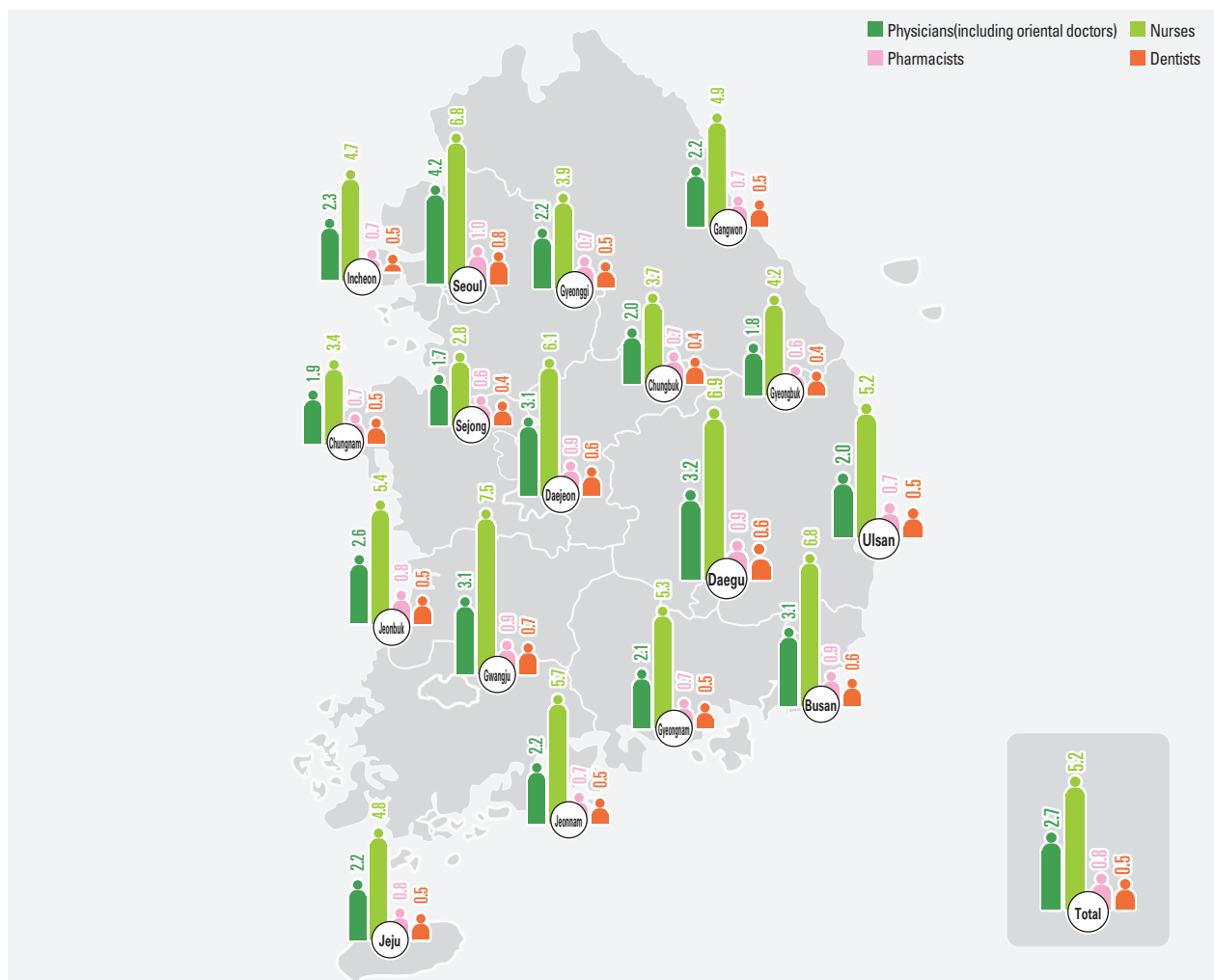
Note 3: This excludes 17 countries (Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Türkiye and the United States) for which data for at least one of physicians, nurses, pharmacists or dentists were not available.

Note 4: This is based on 2022 data for Japan, Belgium (nurses) and Denmark (pharmacists), on 2021 data for France (nurses), on 2012 data for Japan, Sweden and Canada (pharmacists) and on 2013 data for France (nurses) and Italy (dentists and pharmacists).



Density of Health Workers by Region, 2023

(Unit: per 1,000 population)



Source: National Health Insurance Service, Statistics on Regional Healthcare Utilization (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Jan 2, 2026)

Note 1: Major health workers refer to physicians (including oriental doctors), nurses, pharmacists and dentists.

Note 2: This refers to the number of health workers per 1,000 population, using the estimated population.

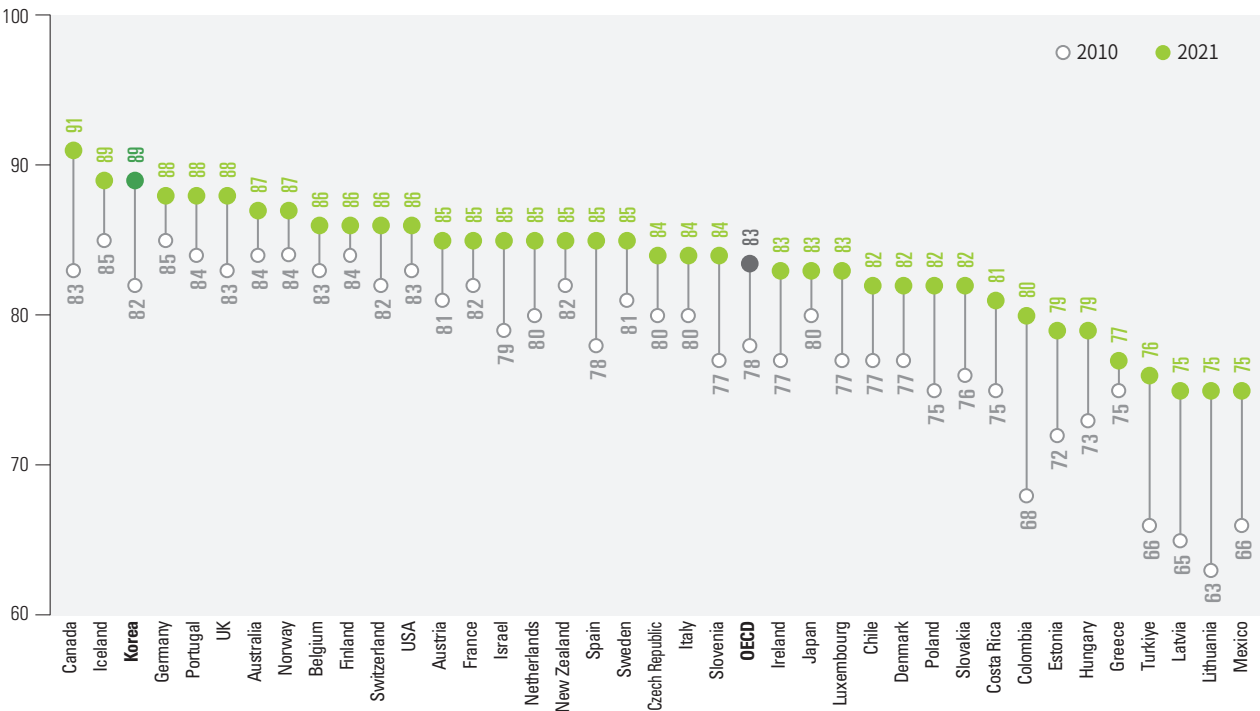
The level of Universal Health Coverage has remained high, but further efforts are needed to address non-communicable diseases (SDG 3.8.1)

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) refers to ensuring that all people have access to the quality and comprehensive health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship (WHO, 2025b). This is a concept that encompasses essential health services across the lifecycle, including health promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care. Health is also associated with other SDGs, serving as a prerequisite in social, economic and environmental aspects. According to global monitoring conducted by WHO and the IBRD (2023),

more than 4.5 billion people across the world had no access to essential health services in 2021.

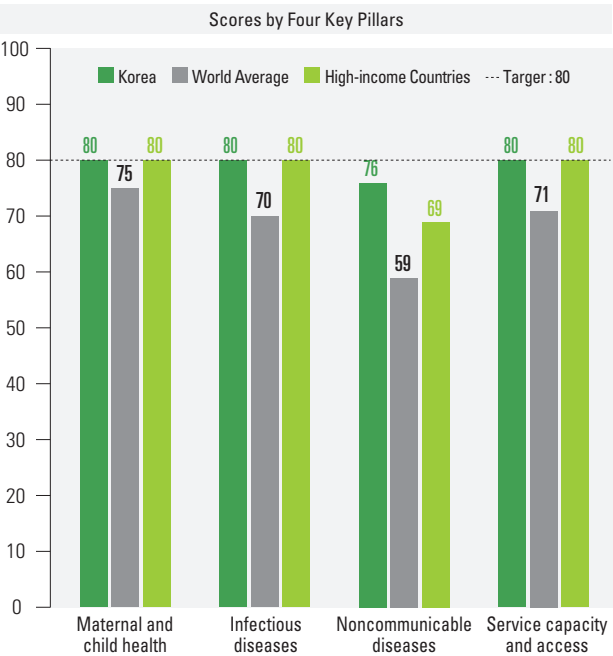
The Universal Health Coverage Service Coverage Index (UHC SCI) is calculated based on the standardized values of 14 tracer indicators across four key pillars. The area of 'Maternal and Child Health' includes ① family planning, ② pregnancy care, ③ child immunization and ④ child treatment. The "Infectious Diseases" area includes ① tuberculosis treatment, ② HIV/AIDS treatment, ③ malaria prevention and ④ water, sanitation and hygiene. The "Non-communicable diseases" domain includes ① hypertension, ② diabetes and ③ tobacco control. Last but not least, the "Service Capacity and Access" section encompasses ① hospital accessibility, ② health

Universal Health Coverage Service Coverage Index (UHC SCI) in OECD Countries, 2010, 2021



Source: UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrived on Sep 20, 2025)

Domain-specific Scores of Universal Health Coverage Service Coverage Index (UHC SCI), 2021

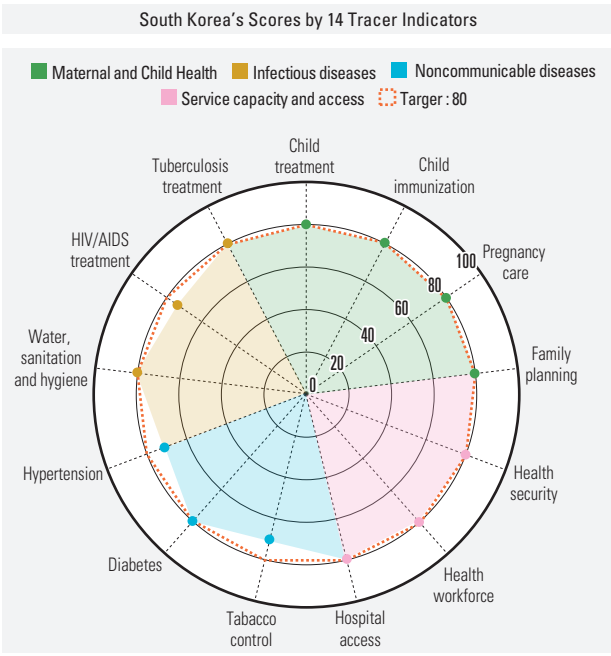


Source: WHO-IBRD(2023)

Note 1: A score of 80 or higher is presented as “≥80.”

Note 2: The classification of high-income countries is based on the World Bank (2022)’s criteria.

Note 3: Among the 14 indicators, the ‘infectious diseases’ category’s malaria prevention statistics apply only to malaria-endemic regions in sub-Saharan Africa; data for Korea are not available.



workforce and ③ health security capacity.

Korea’s UHC SCI was scored at 89 in 2021, ranking second highest together with Iceland (89) after Canada

(91). This is an even more outstanding result compared to countries with social insurance systems similar to Korea, such as Germany (88), Belgium (86), France (85) and Japan (83).



Korea's score went up by 2 points compared to 87 in 2019, which also represents an increase of 7 points from 82 in 2010. During this period, the levels of the UHC SCI also improved overall in the OECD countries. The results ranged from the lowest score of 63 (Lithuania) to the highest of 85 (Germany and Iceland) in 2010; however, they increased to a range from the lowest of 75 (Latvia, Lithuania and Mexico) to the highest of 91 (Canada). As a result, the average of the 38 OECD countries also rose from 78.0 to 83.5. In 2021, Korea was highly rated, exceeding the reference score of 80 in most areas, except for the sub-sections of smoking and hypertension which received only 70 and 71, respectively. This indicates the need for further improvement in the domain of non-communicable diseases (76).

Global cooperation needed to eradicate neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), which are concentrated among marginalized groups (SDG 3.3.5)

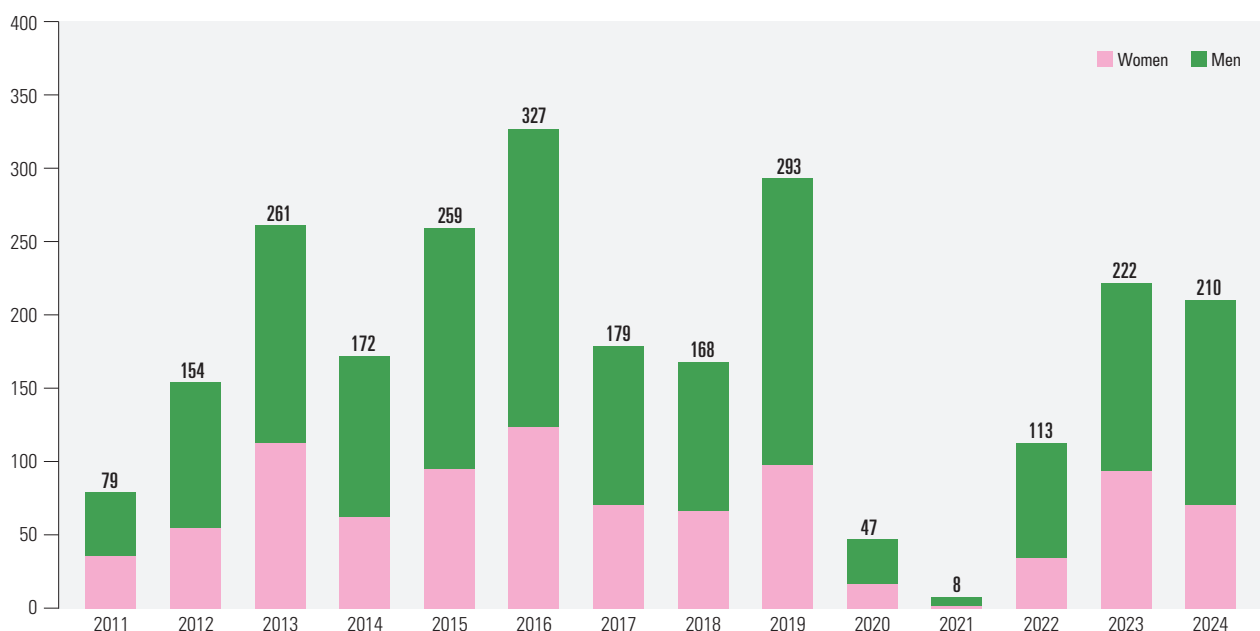
Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) refer to over 20 types of diseases that primarily occur in low-income countries in tropical regions, such as Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease, dengue

and chikungunya fever, dracunculiasis, echinococcosis, foodborne trematodiasis, human African trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis, leprosy (Hansen's disease), lymphatic filariasis, mycetoma, chromoblastomycosis and other deep mycoses, noma, onchocerciasis, rabies, scabies and other ectoparasitic diseases, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, snakebite envenoming, taeniasis/cysticercosis, trachoma, and yaws. They disproportionately affect marginalized groups in impoverished countries and have historically received insufficient attention in the global health agenda, which runs counter to the fairness pursued by the SDGs and also causes complex ripple effects in association with various socioeconomic aspects, including welfare, education, sanitation, and economic growth.

Among these diseases, Korea monitors the prevalence of leprosy, dengue fever, chikungunya fever and rabies through the Integrated Disease and Health Management System of the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency. As of 2025, leprosy has been designated as a Tier 2 statutory infectious disease while dengue fever, chikungunya fever, and rabies are classified as Tier 3. Given the domestic prevalence of

Prevalence of NTDs, 2011-2024

(Unit: cases)

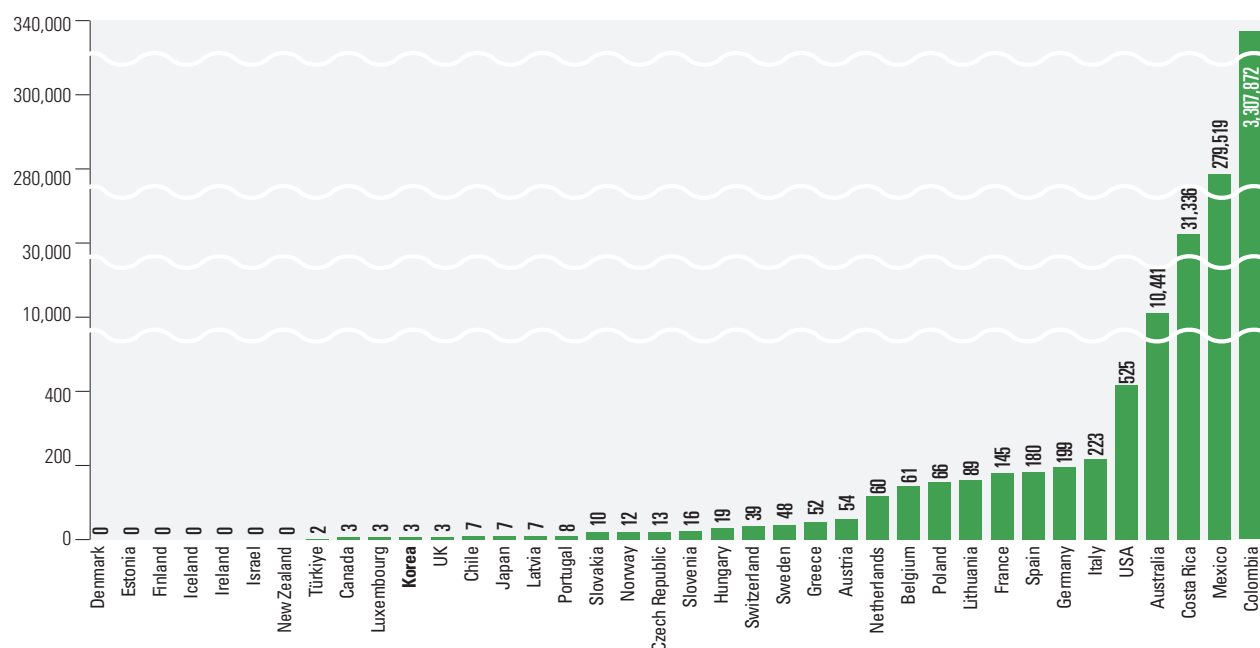


Source: Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, Statutory Infectious Disease Report (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Jan 18, 2026)

Note : This is based on the combined number of reported cases of leprosy, dengue fever, chikungunya fever, and rabies.

Number of Population Requiring Medical Interventions for NTDs in OECD Countries, 2023

(Unit: Persons)



Source: UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Sep 20, 2025)

Note : Since 2016, the WHO has used the same methodology for all countries to calculate estimates for international comparisons, which may result in some differences from domestic figures.

these four diseases, the number of cases fluctuated in a range of 100 to 300 per year, except for 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic; however, there were almost no domestic infections. Of these, dengue fever accounted for the majority of cases. Even in these cases, except for a single domestically acquired infection caused by a syringe puncture wound, all the cases since 2020 have been imported infections. The number of cases of leprosy and chikungunya fever never exceeded 20 per year from 2011 to 2024, while there was not even a single case of rabies for the same period.

The World Health Organization compiles country-specific data on the population requiring medical interventions for NTDs. In 2023, this population was disproportionately concentrated, even among OECD countries, in those with tropical or subtropical regions, such as Colombia (3.31 million), Mexico (280,000), Costa Rica (30,000) and Australia (10,000). Except for nine countries including the United States (525), Italy (223), Germany (199), Spain (180) and France (145), the annual figure stood at 100 or fewer in all the remaining member states.

The dynamics of NTDs are complex and often

related to environmental conditions. In general, they are transmitted through vectors and have animal hosts, making public health control even more difficult (WHO, 2025a). This causes various issues, including rising medical costs, the loss of productivity and diminished socioeconomic and educational achievement in developing countries. In addition, this can also lead to other consequences, such as disabilities, stigma, social isolation and discrimination, aggravating the burden on patients and their families. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2024a) estimated the number of people suffering from NTDs to be more than 1 billion and reported that the population requiring healthcare interventions, such as prevention and treatment services, amounted to 1,495 million in 2023. Moving forward, the World Health Organization has adopted the Roadmap for NTDs (2021-2030), endeavoring to set prevention, management and eradication goals and to alleviate the health and socioeconomic burdens concentrated among vulnerable and marginalized groups. For this purpose, international cooperation and comprehensive responses are required to eradicate neglected tropical diseases.



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable education while expanding opportunities to access quality learning at all levels of education. Education is considered an investment in the future, as it provides the creative and skilled workforce required for the labor market, as well as the next generation of leaders for humanity. However, since the outbreak of COVID-19, declines in academic performance at the compulsory education level have become a global phenomenon. In Korea as well, there is a pressing need for in-depth analysis and improvement in academic achievements among middle and high school students and in adult literacy. While ICT skills required in the digital era are improving in general, digital safety has been found to remain vulnerable.

» While there has been no stark decline in the proportion of middle and high school students performing below the minimum proficiency level since 2022, Korea's trends before and after the COVID-19 pandemic remain relatively favorable compared with those of major countries.

- In the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Achievement, there was no clear decline observed in the proportion of students performing below the minimum proficiency level, except in high school mathematics (−4.0% year-on-year).
- In the 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment, reading and mathematics scores fell sharply in most major countries compared to 2018. However, Korea recorded a one-point increase in both subjects.

» The participation rate in lifelong learning continued to rise in the 2024 survey; however, it remains below 41.7%, the highest level recorded in the pre-COVID-19 era.

- The participation rate in lifelong learning among adults aged from 25 to 79 reached 33.1% in 2024, an increase of 0.8%p year-on-year.
- The participation rate among the population with a middle school education or below saw a rapid recovery in the aftermath of the pandemic, slightly narrowing the gap with those with a university degree or higher from 23.1%p in 2020 to 17.8%p in 2024.

» Overall ICT skills among youth and adults have enhanced; however, competencies in the area of safety remain weak.

- The proportion of the population able to “send emails with file attachments” rose significantly from 57.4% in 2017 to 97.3% in 2024.
- In most domains, 79% to 91% of the population demonstrated the “basic-level competencies or higher,” while only 25.1% did so in the safety domain.

» According to the 2023 Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (2nd round) announced in 2024, literacy and numeracy skills among Korean adults dropped compared to those in the first round conducted in 2012.

- Literacy and numeracy scores only reached 249 and 253 points respectively, showing a sharp decline from 273 and 263 points in the first round.
- The proportion of adults rated as “Level 1 or below (low proficiency)” stood at 30.8% for literacy and 27.6% for numeracy, slightly higher than the OECD averages (26.1% and 24.8% respectively).

A decline in the proportion of students below the minimum proficiency level has not been prominent, but it remains favorable compared to major countries(📍 SDG 4.1.1)

There are various indicators to monitor different sub-areas in education. Among them, one of the primary indicators is academic achievement, given that the fundamental purpose of education is to “acquire knowledge and skills.” For this

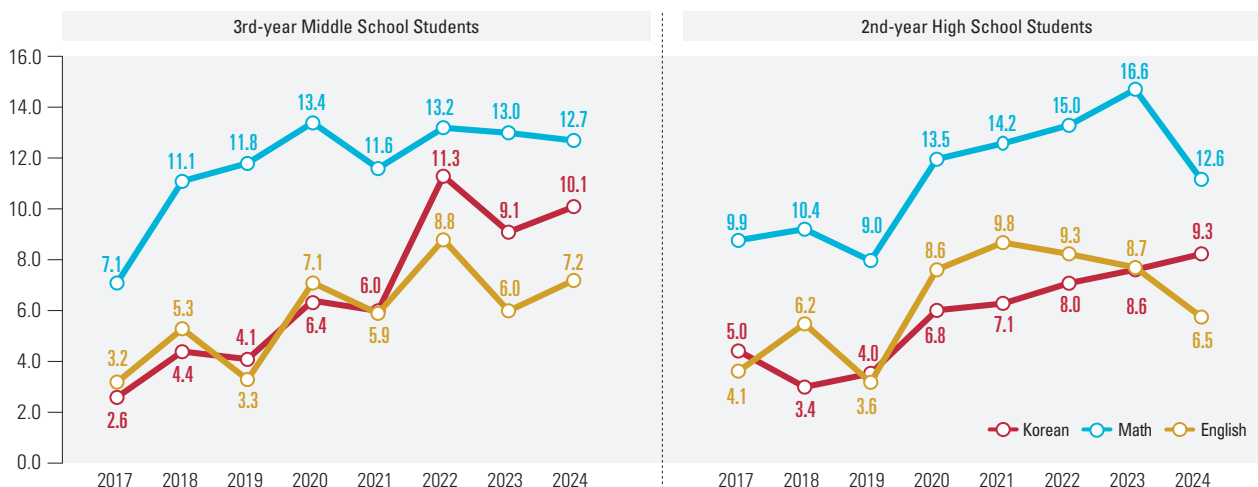
reason, academic achievement at the elementary, middle and high school levels is addressed first among various indicators under SDG 4.

Each year, the Ministry of Education administers the National Assessment of Academic Achievement on a sample of third-year middle school students and second-year high school students. In this assessment, proficiency in Korean, mathematics and English is classified into four levels. The



Proportion of Students Below Minimum Proficiency Level (Level 1) in Korean, Math and English, 2017-2024

(Unit: %)

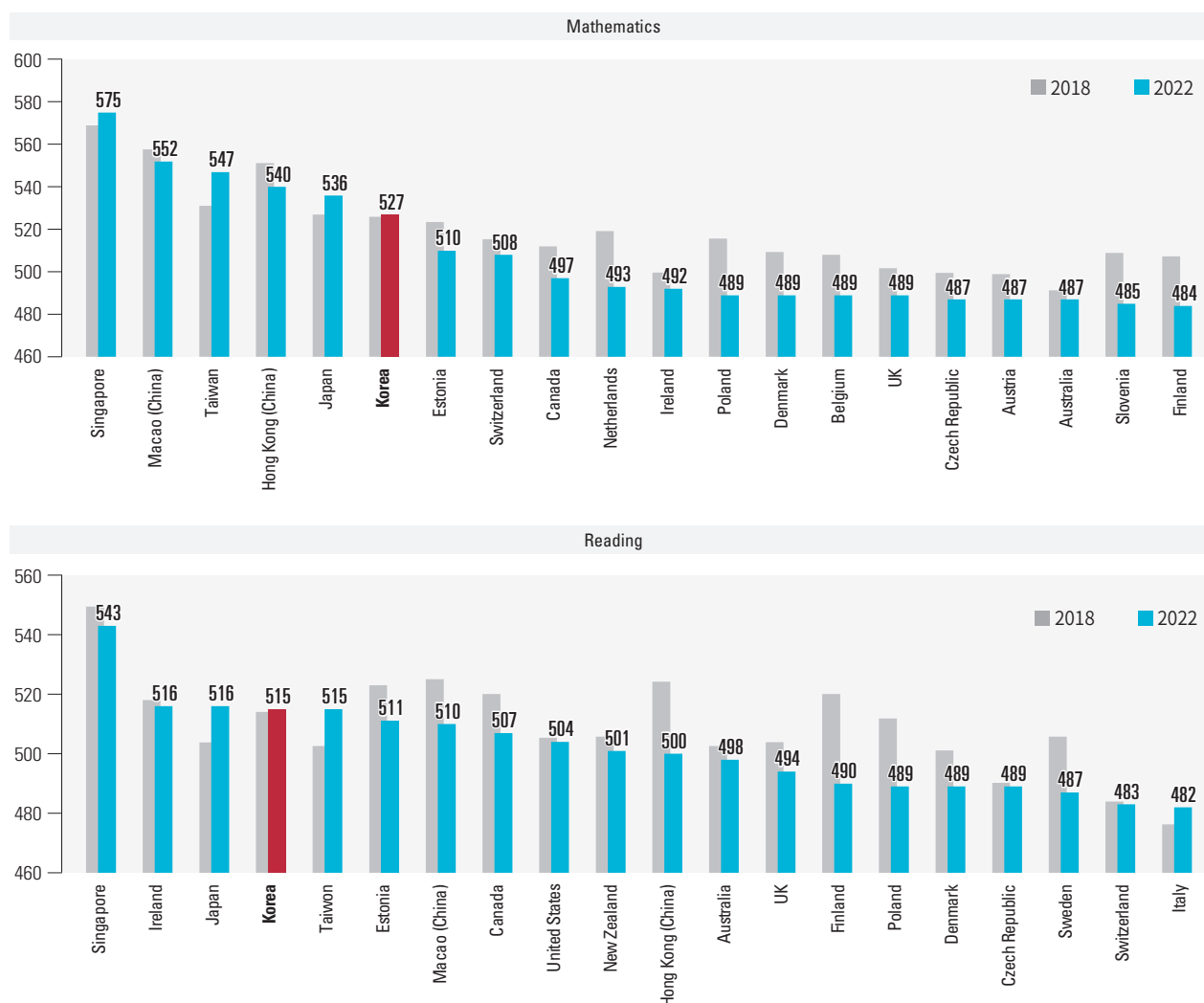


Source: Ministry of Education-Korea Institute for Curriculum and Evaluation, National Assessment of Academic Achievement

Note : Since 2022, computer-based testing (CBT) has been introduced, making it difficult to directly compare with the previous year

Scores of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in Major Countries, 2018 & 2022

(Unit: points)



Source: OECD, PISA 2018 Results(<https://doi.org/10.1787/5f07c754-en>); PISA 2022 Results(<https://doi.org/10.1787/53f23881-en>)

Note : This shows the top 20 countries in 2022 out of the 38 OECD countries and major Asian countries (Hong Kong, Macao, Singapore and Taiwan).

lowest category (Level 1) refers to students falling short of the basic achievement standards expected through educational programs (i.e., below the minimum proficiency level). Students falling into this category require special and close attention. Since 2022, this assessment has been conducted as a computer-based test (CBT), making it difficult to directly compare with the earlier results.

What is the most striking in the 2024 results is the statistically significant year-on-year decline of 4.0%p in the proportion of second-year high school students performing below the minimum proficiency level in mathematics (12.6%). In English, the proportion of second-year high school students below the minimum proficiency level also dropped by 2.2%p to 6.5% compared to the previous year. Although not statistically significant, this is considered a positive signal as the decline has been observed for two consecutive years since the assessment method changed in 2022. In mathematics, the proportion of third-year middle school students below the minimum proficiency level fell slightly each year from 13.2% in 2022 to 12.7% in 2024. Meanwhile, the proportion of both middle and high schoolers below the minimum proficiency level in Korean rose year-on-year, reaching 10.1% and 9.3% respectively. In particular, the share of second-year high school students falling short of the minimum proficiency level in Korean increased for two consecutive years from 8.0% in 2022. Among third-year middle school students, the proportions below minimum proficiency in Korean and English saw a decline in 2023 compared to the previous year, but they rose again in 2024 by 1.0%p and 1.2%p respectively.

Looking at the overall trends since 2017 when the assessment was changed into a sample-based survey, the proportion of students below the minimum proficiency level increased in 2021 compared to 2017 across all school levels and subjects, despite some annual fluctuations. This also includes the year 2020 when a decline in academic performance was extensively observed due to the pandemic. Although clear improvements have been seen in high school

mathematics, it is still too early to confirm overall academic improvements.

Meanwhile, in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), an academic achievement assessment conducted every three years by the OECD among 15-year-old students in reading, mathematics and science, Korean students' academic performance in 2022 was very favorable compared to other countries relative to 2018. In PISA 2022, average scores in mathematics and reading among participating countries fell significantly compared to 2018, with the OECD average dropping by 17 points in mathematics and by 11 points in reading. Among the 38 OECD countries and four major Asian countries (Hong Kong, Macao, Singapore and Taiwan), scores were maintained without a decline in only four countries (Taiwan, Japan, Singapore and Korea) for mathematics and in five countries (Japan, Taiwan, Italy, Israel and Korea) for reading during this period. In PISA 2022, Korea recorded scores of 527 in mathematics and 515 in reading, representing an increase of 1 point compared to 2018. This can be regarded as highly favorable when compared with the trends of major countries over the same period.

The lifelong learning participation rate is showing a slow recovery toward its pre-COVID-19 level

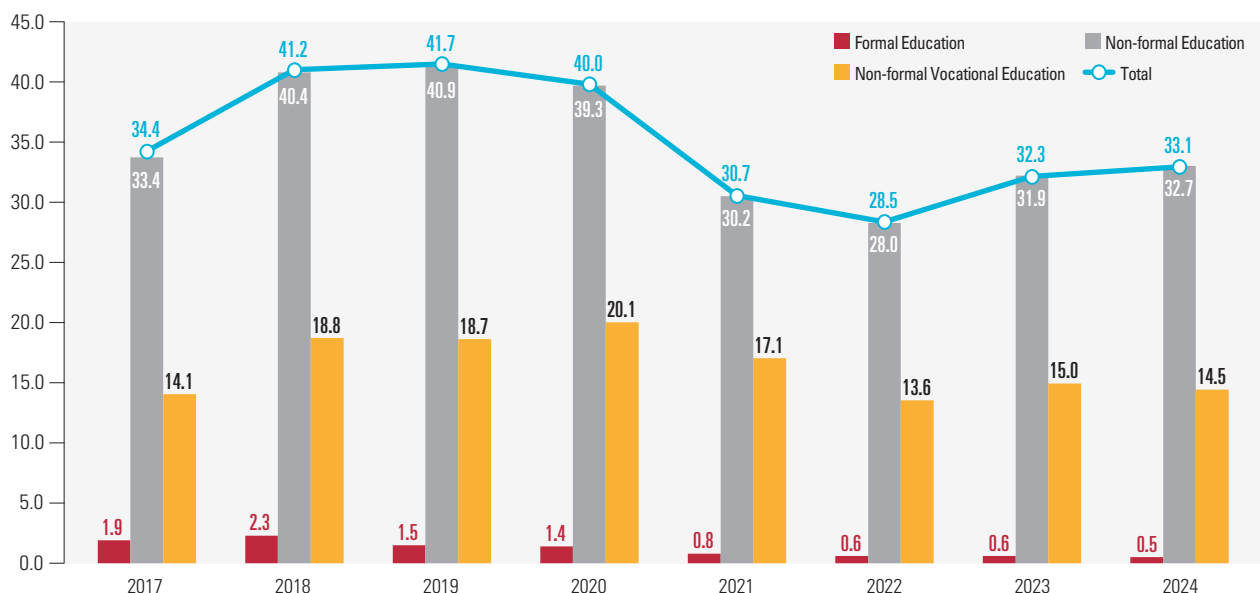
🔄 SDG 4.3.1

SDG 4.3.1 measures learning participation, focusing not only on the school-age population but also on all age groups, thereby best representing the SDG 4 goal of “promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.” The National Lifelong Learning Survey for Individual Learners annually measures lifelong learning participation among the population aged 25 to 79 over the previous year. According to this survey, the participation rate among adults in Korea increased by 0.8%p to 33.1% in 2024 compared to the last year. This marks the two consecutive years of increase since the rate reached its all-time low of 28.5% in 2022 during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it is still lower than the pre-COVID-19 level of 41.7% in 2019.



Lifelong Learning Participation Rate, 2017-2024

(Unit: %)



Source: Korean Educational Development Institute, Survey on Individuals' Lifelong Learning (<https://kess.kedi.re.kr>, retrieved on Aug 25, 2025)

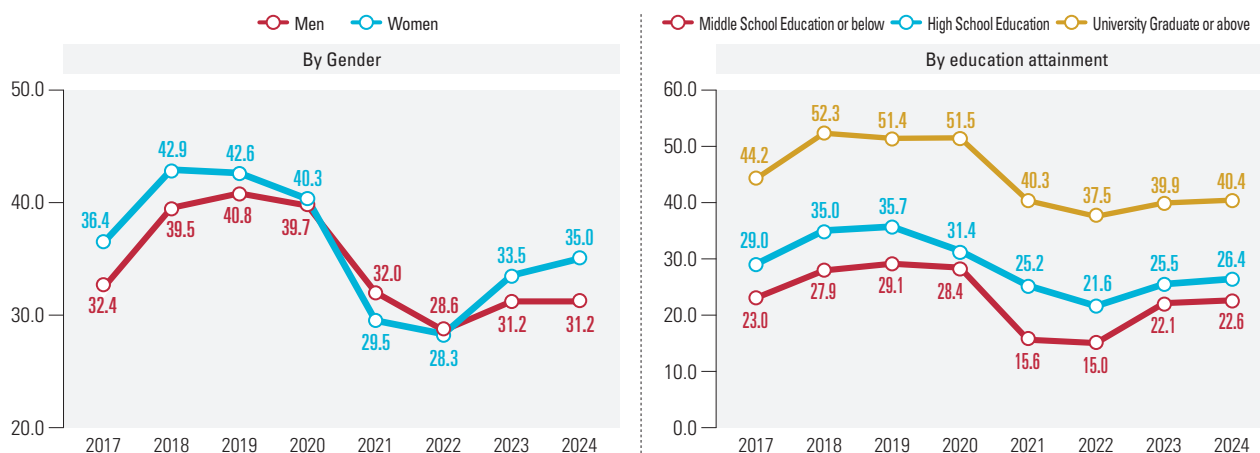
Note 1: As the survey subject was changed from the population aged 25 to 64 to those aged 25 to 79 in 2017, data prior to 2016 are not presented here.

Note 2: Until 2020, the survey was conducted over a one-year period from July of the previous year to June of the survey year. Since 2021, it has been conducted over a one-year period from Jan to Dec of the previous year.

Note 3: Formal education refers to education through which diplomas or degrees are obtained via regular courses, such as elementary/middle/high schools, universities or graduate schools whereas non-formal education is structured learning activities other than regular courses, conducted through programs or courses operated by lifelong learning institutions.

Lifelong Learning Participation Rate by Gender and Educational Attainment, 2017-2024

(Unit: %)



Source: Korean Educational Development Institute, Survey on Individuals' Lifelong Learning (<https://kess.kedi.re.kr>, retrieved on Aug 25, 2025)

Note : Until 2020, the survey was conducted over a one-year period from July of the previous year to June of the survey year. Since 2021, it has been conducted over a one-year period from Jan to Dec of the previous year.

Lifelong learning is divided into formal education through which diplomas or degrees are obtained via regular courses, such as elementary/middle/high schools, universities or graduate schools, and non-formal education conducted in lifelong learning institutions. Of the two, non-formal education accounts for the largest share of lifelong learning. Even in the aftermath of the pandemic, participation in formal education

has not recovered; rather, it declined further in 2024, with only 0.5% of adults participating in lifelong learning. After declining sharply from 20.1% in 2020 to 13.6% in 2022, the participation rate in non-formal vocational education slightly rose to 15.0% in 2023 and 14.5% in 2024 respectively, showing no clear signs of stable recovery.

A similar trend is observed for both sexes. Participation

in lifelong learning has shown some recovery among both women and men since 2023; however, it still falls short of the pre-pandemic levels. In the 2024 survey, the participation rate among women rose by 1.5%p compared to the previous year while there was no change observed among men. During the period when the country was under the direct influence of COVID-19, women experienced a faster decline in participation than their male counterparts, but they have showed a faster recovery than men after the pandemic.

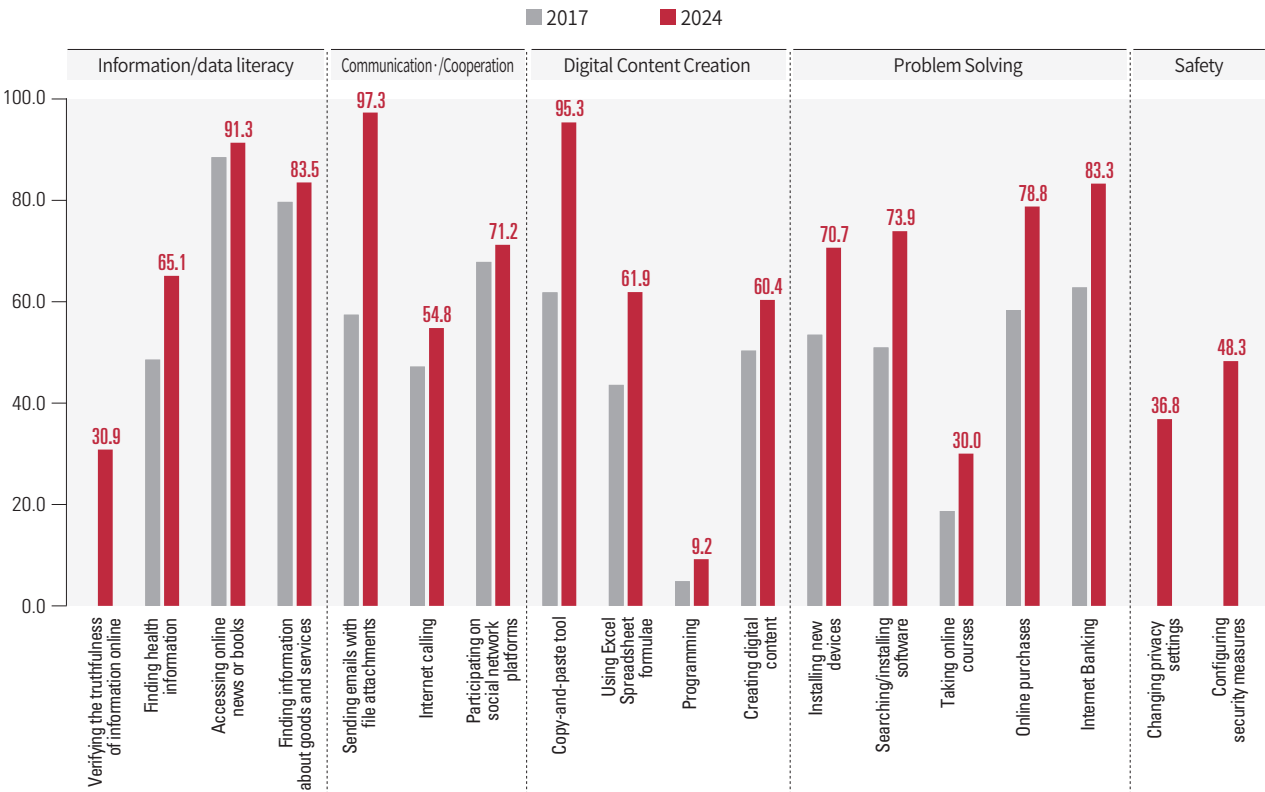
Looking at the changes in participation rates by educational attainment, the sharpest decline occurred among the “population with a middle school education or below” during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, over the past 2 years, participation among the “population with a middle school education or below” has shown a relatively faster recovery, slightly bridging the gap with “those holding a university degree or higher” compared to the pre-pandemic era.

Vulnerabilities in digital safety have been revealed amid overall improvements in individuals’ ICT skills(🔄 SDG 4.4.1)

In modern society, information and communications technologies (ICT) is among the most rapidly growing sectors and are also considered an important pillar of the megatrends transforming future society.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) provides data on the proportion of individuals holding ICT skills across five areas. Out of the 18 skill areas for which data are available for Korea as of 2024, the following have become fundamental skills for most Koreans: ‘sending emails with file attachments’ (97.3%) in the area of communication and collaboration, ‘using copy-and-paste tools’ (95.3%) in digital content creation, and ‘accessing or downloading newspapers, magazines or books’ (91.3%) in information/data literacy. In addition, more than 80% of the population possesses

Share of the Population with ICT Skills by Type in 2024 (Unit: %)

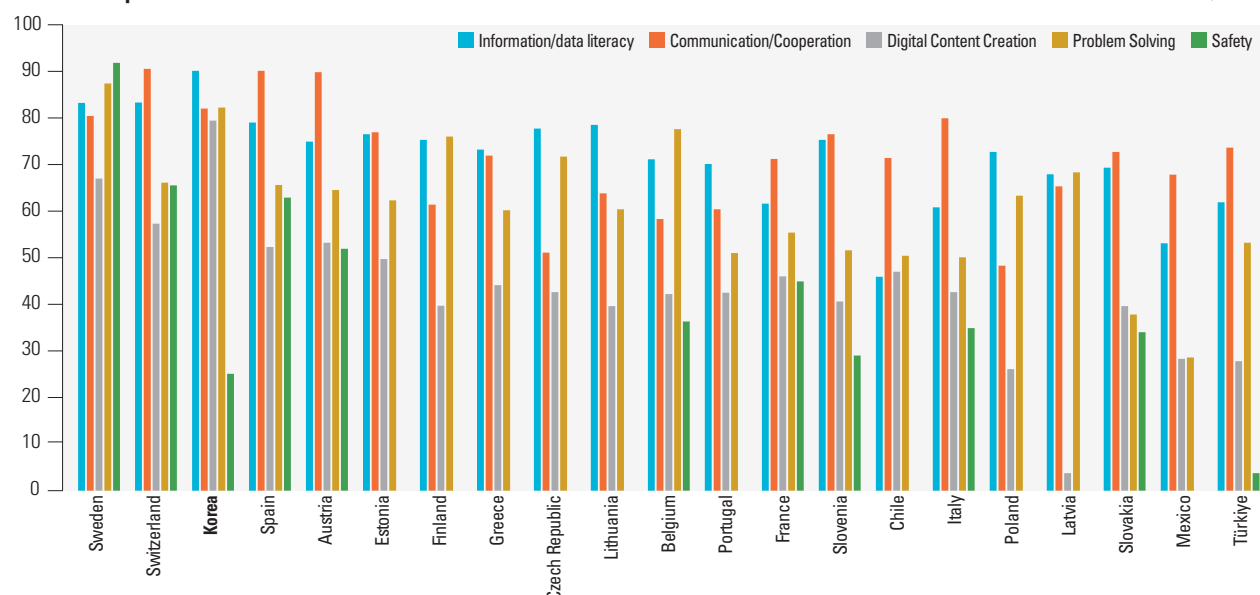


Source: ITU, DataHub(<https://datahub.itu.int>, retrieved on Dec 16, 2025)
 Note 1: Proficiency is measured as the share of the population who conducted the corresponding ICT activities over the past three months.
 Note 2: If data are not available for Korea in 2024, they are not presented.



Share of Population with ICT Skills across OECD Countries in 2023

(Unit: %)

Source: UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Dec 15, 2025)

Note : This shows the share of the population with "above basic" skills in each area.

skills such as ‘finding information about goods and services’ (83.5%) and ‘internet banking’ (83.3%).

By contrast, fewer than 10% of the population are capable of ‘writing programs using a programming language’ (9.2%), a skill that requires specialized expertise. The proportions of the population equipped with skills, such as ‘taking online courses’ (30.0%), ‘verifying the truthfulness of information found online’ (30.9%) and ‘changing privacy settings on devices, accounts and apps’ (36.8%) are also relatively low, remaining at around the 30% level.

Compared to the skills possessed in 2017, improvements have been observed across all skill areas for which data are available. Back in 2017, skills such as ‘sending emails with file attachments’ and ‘using the copy-and-paste tools’ were at the 60% level; however, they showed significant improvements, reaching over 95% in 2024.

Based on individual skill data, the survey also presents the proportion of the population holding “above basic” skills across the five ICT domains. According to the 2023 survey, Korea demonstrated high levels of ICT competencies, including 90.1% in information/data literacy, 82.0% in communication and collaboration, 79.4% in digital content creation and 82.2% in problem solving. In the safety

domain, however, only 25.1% of the population was found to possess the relevant skills above the basic level. While Korea ranked first in information/data literacy and digital content creation, second in problem solving and fourth in communication and collaboration out of the 21 OECD countries, it placed 10th in terms of safety among the 11 OECD countries for which data are available.

Although individuals’ capacities are evolving alongside rapid developments in ICT technologies, it is necessary to further enhance digital safety skills, such as changing privacy settings on devices, accounts and apps or configuring security measures.

A decline in literacy among adults in Korea as measured by the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) (SDG 4.6.1)

SDG 4.6 aims to ensure the achievement of literacy and numeracy skills among all youth and a considerable number of adults by 2030. The indicator “literacy rates among youth and adults” is used to monitor progress toward this goal. Surveys assessing adult literacy include the Adult Literacy Survey domestically administered by the National Institutes for Lifelong Education in Korea and, at the global level, the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of

Adult Competencies (PIAAC), which is conducted at ten-year intervals.

The second cycle of PIAAC (2023), the results of which were released in 2024, indicated that literacy and numeracy scores among Korean adults declined compared to those of the first cycle conducted in 2012. For literacy, Korea recorded a score of 273 during the first cycle, equal to the OECD average (273 points); however, it fell dramatically to 249 points, far below the OECD average (260 points). For numeracy, Korea's score also declined from 263 in the first cycle to 253 in the second, widening the gap with the OECD average (269 points in the first cycle and 263 points in the second).

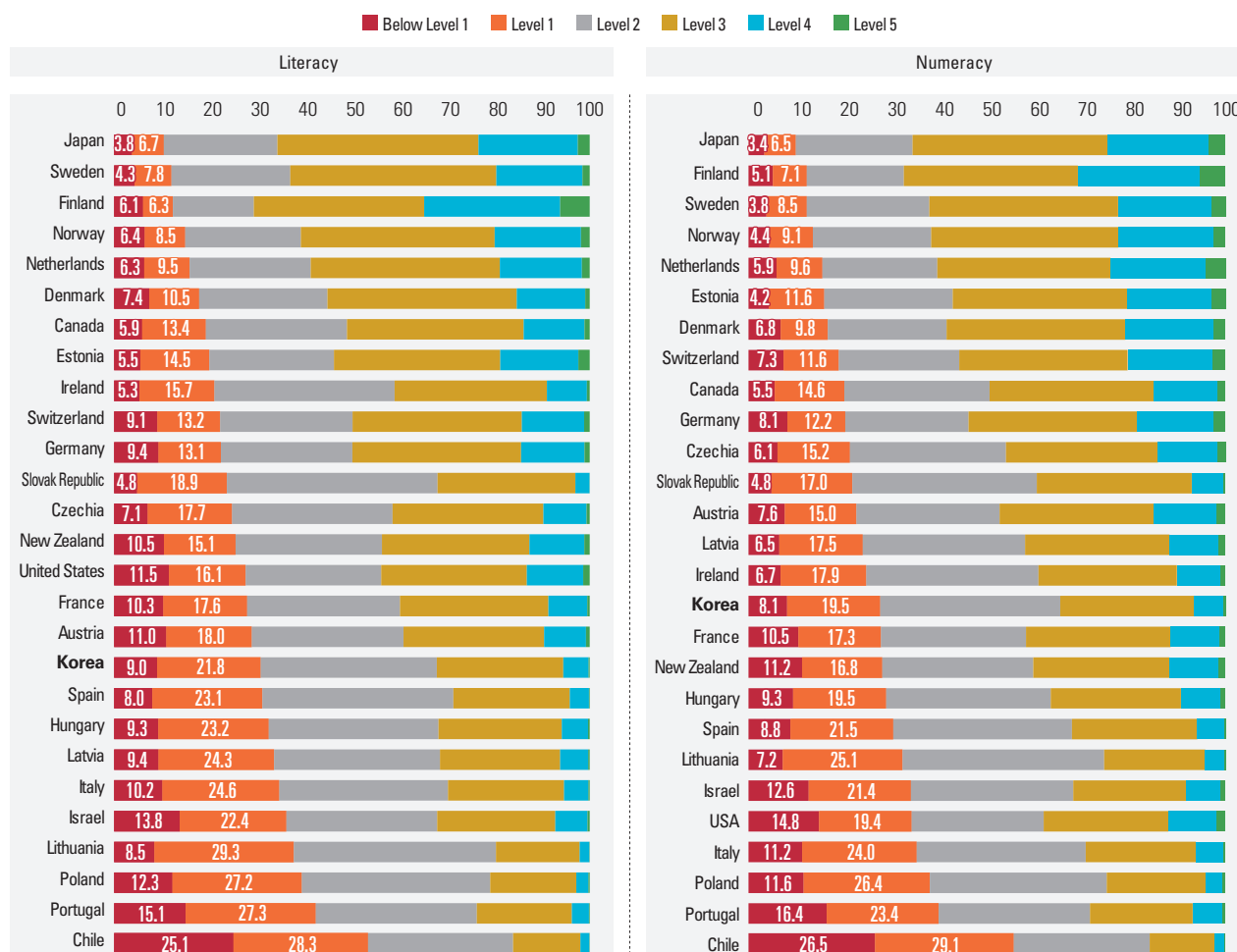
According to PIAAC scores, proficiency is classified into 6 levels. Individuals assessed at the lowest levels, such as Level

1 or below, are regarded as low performers. In this survey, the proportion of Korean adults classified as low performers stood at 30.8% in literacy (9.0% below Level 1 and 21.8% at Level 1) and 27.6% in numeracy (8.1% below Level 1 and 19.5% at Level 1). These are slightly higher than the OECD average participating in the second round (26.1% in literacy and 24.8% in numeracy) and about three times higher than those of Japan whose share of low performers was the lowest (10.4% in literacy and 9.9% in numeracy).

Further in-depth analysis is required, as this outcome contrasts with the fact that Japan and Estonia, which ranked at the top alongside Korea in PISA conducted among middle and high school students, have also maintained top or high rankings in PIAAC.

Adult Proficiency Levels by OECD Country in 2023

(Unit: %)



Source: OECD, PIAAC(<https://doi.org/10.1787/b263dc5d-en>)

Note 1: The survey is conducted among adults aged 16 to 65, using a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 indicating the highest proficiency.

Note 2: OECD member countries out of those participating in the second cycle.



5 GENDER EQUALITY



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

With the adoption of the 1995 Beijing Declaration, efforts to enhance women's rights have continued. However, SDG 5 on gender equality remains a major global challenge. On a global scale, there are still discriminatory laws and practices persisting barriers to gender equality. Common issues identified include the unequal division of unpaid domestic and care work, gender gaps in wages and employment in the labor market, underrepresentation of women in decision-making and leadership. Korea has endeavored to promote gender equality in various areas by establishing laws and regulations for gender equality, such as the Framework Act on Gender Equality. Despite some mitigation of gender gaps in domestic and care work, the burden still falls largely on women, limiting their participation in economic and public life and their opportunities for self-realization.

» Korea has made institutional improvements in various areas to achieve gender equality, including the enactment of the Framework Act on Gender Equality (2015) and the Framework Act on Prevention of Violence against Women (2019), as well as the development of plans to enhance women's representation in the public sector.

- According to an assessment conducted by UN Women, Korea performed strongly in its legal frameworks and public life out of OECD countries, but remained insufficient in the areas of employment and economic benefits.

» The prevalence of sexual harassment in the workplace declined from 8.1% in 2018 to 4.3% in 2024, and the proportion of women employees experiencing it also dropped from 14.2% to 6.1%.

- However, the rate of secondary victimization accounted for 12.3% in 2024, highlighting the need to put an effective victim protection system in place.
- Although typical forms of sexual harassment, including sexual harassment by superiors (61.1% → 50.4%) or harassment during after-work company dinners (43.7% → 28.6%) declined, new types of sexual harassment have emerged, such as technology-facilitated sexual harassment (7.8% in 2024), requiring appropriate response.

» In 2024, women spent 11.5% of their day on household management and family care while men spent only 4.0%. This indicates that women dedicate 2.8 times more time to these tasks than men.

- The gender gap in unpaid domestic and care work hours narrowed from 7-fold in 1999 to 2.8-fold in 2024, indicating that women continue to bear a disproportionate burden of unpaid domestic and care work.
- In 2024, wives' unpaid domestic and care work hours were 2.9 times longer than those of husbands in dual-income households, and even in households where the wife is the sole breadwinner, the wife (11.1%) spent more time on unpaid domestic and care work than the husband (7.4%).

» The proportion of women in managerial positions in national and local governments steadily increased, reaching 24.5% and 34.7% in 2024, respectively. The share of women in managerial positions in public organizations also reached 25.4%.

- Although the proportion of women in managerial positions in local public enterprises rose, it remained low at only 13.8%. In the private sector, the share of women in managerial positions increased only modestly, from 19.2% in 2014 to 22.7% in 2024, indicating that the effects of gender equality policies in private companies and local public enterprises have been limited.

Various institutional enhancements implemented to achieve gender equality (SDG 5.1.1)

Across the globe, there has been some progress in the expansion of women's rights. Under SDG 5.1.1, whether legal frameworks are in place to promote gender equality is evaluated in the following four areas: (1) legal frameworks and public life, (2) violence against women, (3) employment and economic benefits, and (4) marriage and family.

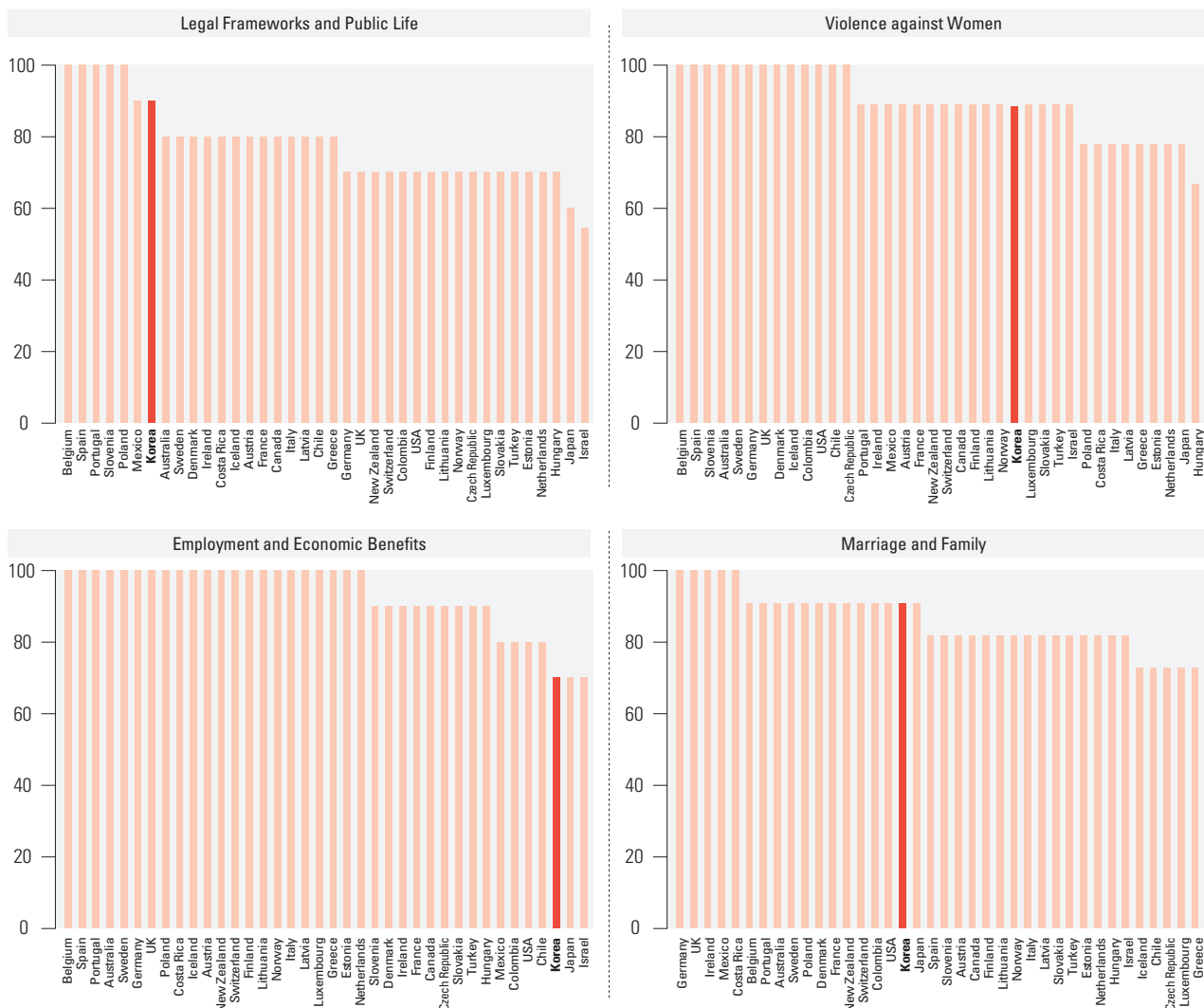
In the first domain (legal frameworks and public life), Korea

scored 90, tying with Mexico. This placed Korea among the top tier of the 38 OECD countries, trailing only five nations that achieved perfect scores. In the second domain (violence against women), Korea ranked in the middle tier with 88.9 points along with another 15 countries while thirteen countries received full scores. In the third domain (employment and economic benefits) with 22 countries obtaining full scores, Korea recorded a score of 70, ranking at the bottom together with Japan and Israel. In the fourth domain (marriage and family), Korea ranked in the upper-



Legal Systems Established for Gender Equality in OECD Countries, 2024

(Unit: score)

Source : UN, Women Data Hub(<https://data.unwomen.org/data-portal>, retrieved on Dec 21, 2025)

middle tier with 90.9 points together with 12 other countries, following five countries with full scores. Considering all this, Korea is considered to be ahead in establishing legal frameworks for gender equality, but still needs to alleviate inequality in terms of women's employment and economic activities.

Looking at the efforts to establish major laws and regulations for gender equality in Korea, the nation has continuously pursued changes in laws and systems needed to achieve gender equality since the 1948 Constitution which emphasizes the right of equality and proclaims that "all the people are equal before the law and shall not be discriminated against due to their gender, religion or social status" as a core principle. In 1994, Korea formulated the Act on the Punishment of Sexual Crimes and

Protection of Victims, strengthening penalties for sexual violence crimes and establishing procedures to protect victims. In 1995, it also enacted the Framework Act on Women's Development, the first fundamental law to enhance women's status and ensure their rights. To emphasize women's labor rights, it also formulated the Equal Employment Act in 1987 and amended it into the Equal Employment Opportunity and Work-Family Balance Assistance Act in 2005, promoting the ban on gender-based discrimination in recruitment and promotion, the expansion of parental leave, maternity protection and support for work-family balance.

Since 2000, Korea has continued to enact laws to promote women's rights and economic activities. As a result, various legal foundations have been in place, including laws

prohibiting gender discrimination and providing remedies for victims, systems to promote women's economic activities, welfare programs to support single-parent households and the framework act addressing the ban on discrimination and the prevention of violence against women.

In its 2024 deliberation on Korea's 9th national report, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) positively assessed the nation's enactment of the Single-parent Family Support Act (2019) and the Framework Act on Prevention of Violence against Women (2019), as well as the establishment of various plans, including the Plan to Enhance Women's Representation in the Public Sector (2023-2027), the Basic Plan on Low Fertility and Aging Society (2021-2025), the Comprehensive Plan on National Health Promotion (2021-2030), the Measures for the Prevention of Webhard Cartel Cartels (2019), the Digital Sexual Crime Prevention Measures (2020), the Basic Plan for Gender Equality Policies (2023-2027), the Basic Plan on Prevention of Violence against Women (2020-2024), the Comprehensive Plan on the Prevention of Human Trafficking (2023-2027). At the same time, it also expressed recommendations and concerns on several issues, including the absence of comprehensive legislation to prohibit discrimination.

Declining sexual harassment in the workplace

(🌐 SDG 5.2.2)

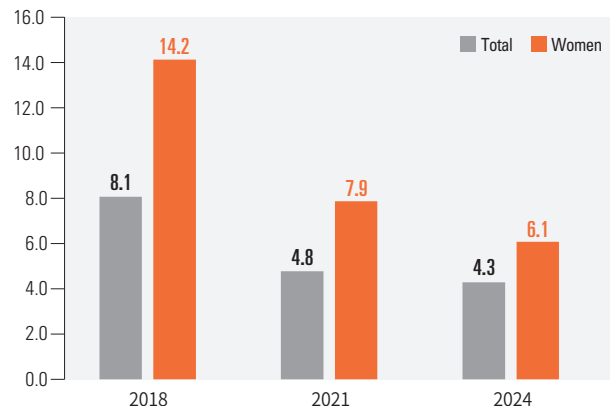
SDG Indicator 5.2.2 measures sexual violence against women and girls perpetrated by persons other than an intimate partner, encompassing a broad range of acts, including sexual harassment. In this year's report, the scope of analysis has been expanded to include workplace sexual harassment. This expansion aims to provide a more comprehensive assessment of progress in implementing policies to prevent sexual violence and to ensure safe working environments for women.

In a gender-equal society, it remains a key policy priority to help women establish their identities, achieve economic independence and realize social empowerment through social engagement. Furthermore, promoting women's participation in economic activities is also a national strategy to secure a productive

population in this low-fertility and aging society. As workplace sexual harassment and sexual violence are factors that hinder women's social engagement and impede gender equality, this section examines the current state of sexual harassment victimization.

According to the Survey on Sexual Harassment conducted by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, as of 2024, 4.3% of respondents reported having experienced sexual harassment in the workplace over the past three years. This figure declined by about half from 8.1% in 2018 when the nation was in the midst of the '#MeToo' movement. The share of women employees experiencing it dropped from 14.2% in 2018 to 6.1%

Prevalence of Sexual Harassment, 2018-2024 (Unit: %)

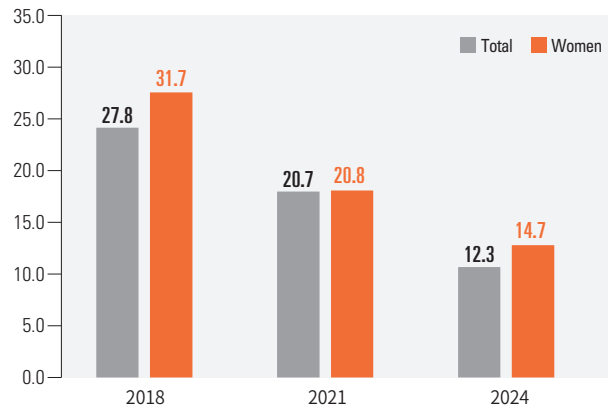


Source : Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, Survey on Sexual Harassment (www.kosis.kr, retrieved on Dec 20, 2025)

Note 1 : The survey was conducted on regular employees of public organizations and private companies with 30 full-time employees or more.

Note 2 : The prevalence of sexual harassment refers to the ratio of respondents who reported having experienced at least one of 13 harassment types in the 2018 survey, of 14 types in the 2021 survey and 15 types in the 2024 survey over the past three years.

Prevalence of Secondary Victimization, 2018-2024 (Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, Survey on Sexual Harassment (www.kosis.kr, retrieved on Dec 20, 2025)

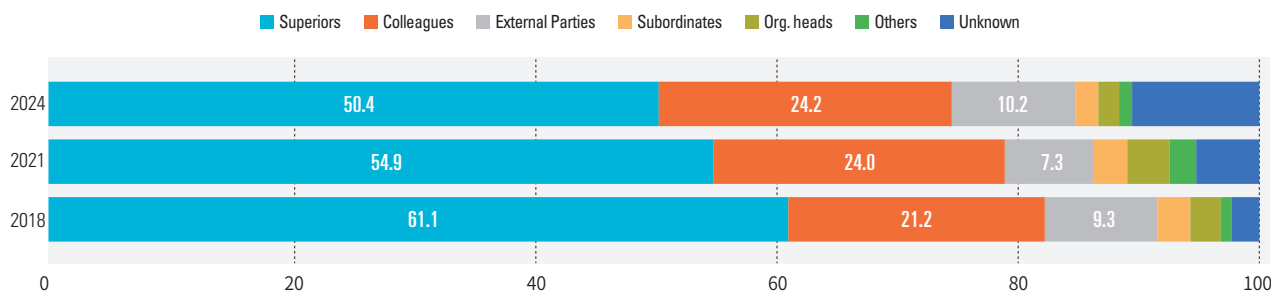
Note 1 : The survey was conducted on regular employees of public organizations and private companies with 30 full-time employees or more.

Note 2 : The prevalence of secondary victimization refers to the ratio of respondents who reported having experienced at least one of 9 types in the 2018 survey and 14 types in the 2021 and 2024 surveys.



Breakdown of Sexual Harassment Perpetrators, 2018-2024

(Unit: %)

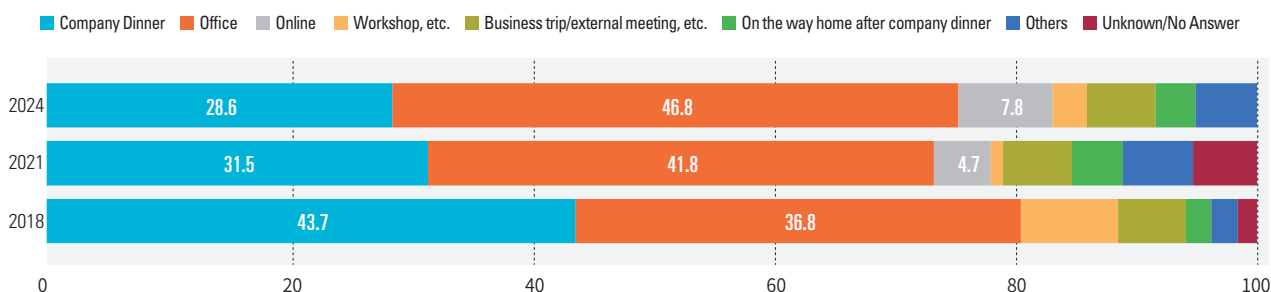


Source : Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, Survey on Sexual Harassment (www.kosis.kr, retrieved on Dec 20, 2025)

Note : "Unknown" means "Don't Know" or "No Answer" in the 2018 and 2021 surveys and refers to "Don't Know Who" in the 2024 survey.

Breakdown of Sexual Harassment cases by Location, 2018-2024

(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, Survey on Sexual Harassment (www.kosis.kr, retrieved on Dec 20, 2025)

Note : The option "Online (group chatting rooms, social networks, messengers, etc.)" was newly added to the 2021 survey. "Don't Know/No Answer" was excluded from the 2024 survey.

in 2024. This is partially due to fewer company dinners under the influence of COVID-19 social distancing, but it can also be interpreted as reflecting positive changes resulting from shifts in social awareness and culture, supported by relevant policies. The prevalence of secondary victimization also decreased by more than half from 27.8% in 2018 to 12.3% in 2024.

When looking at the relationship with the sexual harassment perpetrators, sexual harassment by superiors declined from 61.1% in 2018 to 50.4% in 2024 while harassment by colleagues slightly increased from 21.2% to 24.2% for the same period. Sexual harassment by external parties, such as customers, civil petitioners or clients, has also been continuously reported at around 10%. This indicates that sexual harassment offenders have diversified from those with power to colleagues or external parties.

The locations where sexual harassment takes place have also changed. Sexual harassment during company dinners, which accounted for 43.7% in 2018, dropped significantly to 28.6% in 2024. This is due to fewer company dinners following the implementation of 52-hour workweek as well as the growing

need to change company dinner culture to prevent sexual harassment. Meanwhile, the prevalence of sexual harassment in offices increased from 36.8% to 46.8% over the same period. In 2024, sexual harassment in online spaces also stood at 7.8%.

Workplace sexual harassment has been decreasing. The typical forms of sexual harassment during company dinners have declined sharply. However, sexual harassment by superiors, which accounts for about half of the entire cases, and workplace sexual harassment are still remaining issues to be addressed. New types of sexual harassment occurring in online spaces are also considered another issue. It is necessary to improve corporate culture vulnerable to sexual harassment, reinforce measures to protect victims and urgently put a system in place to respond to technology-facilitated sexual harassment.

Mitigating gender imbalance despite the concentration of domestic and care work on women (🌐 SDG 5.4.1)

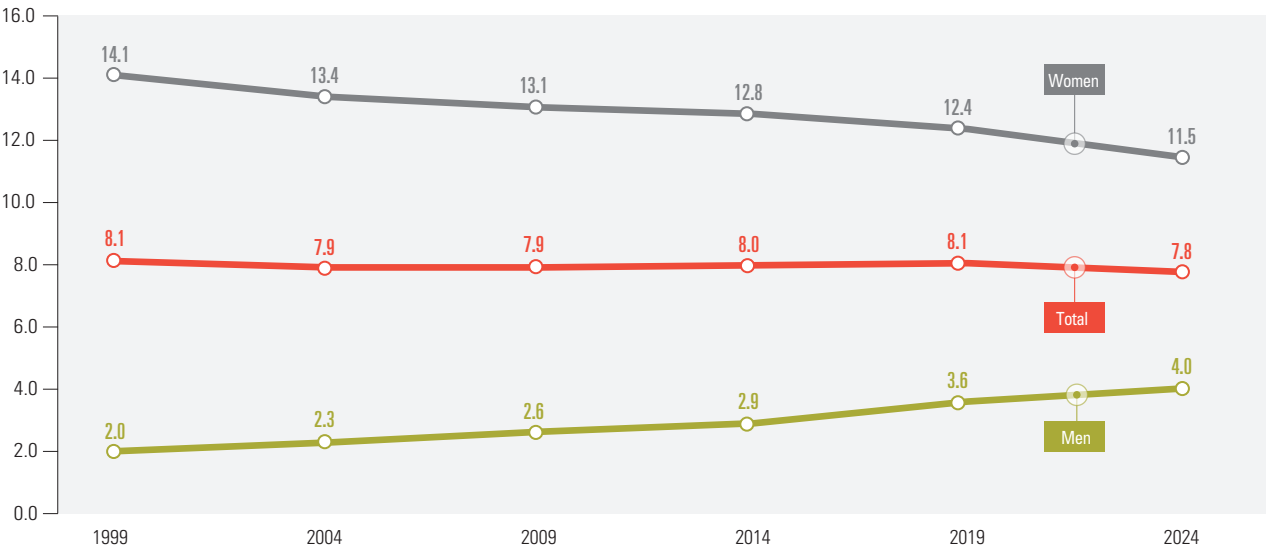
The degree to which Korean men and women participate in unpaid domestic and care work and the gender gap between

them can be examined using data from the Survey on Time Use conducted by the Ministry of Data and Statistics. In general, the proportion of daily time that Koreans spend on domestic and care work has shown a declining trend from 1999 to 2024. In 1999, women used 14.1% of their daily time for unpaid

domestic and care work, but the figure decreased to 11.5% in 2024. Over the same period, men's time spent on unpaid domestic and care work rose from 2.0% to 4.0%; however, this represents only a third of the time spent by women, indicating that the burden on women is still greater. Nevertheless,

Proportion of Unpaid Domestic and Care work Time by Gender, 1999-2024

(Unit: %)

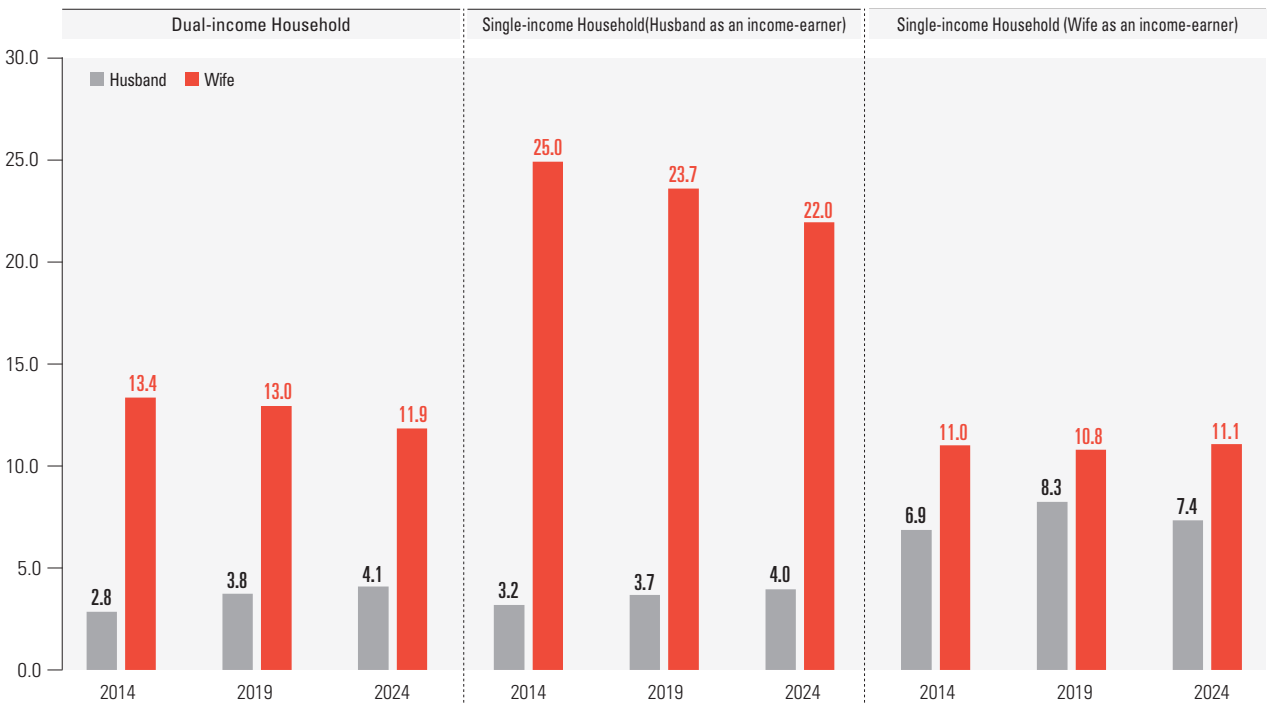


Source : Ministry of Data and Statistics, Survey on Time Use (www.kosis.kr, retrieved on Dec 21, 2025)

Note : This refers to the proportion of daily time spent by men and women aged 10 years and over on household management and care for family and household members.

Proportion of Unpaid Domestic and Care work Time by Household Characteristic, 2014-2024

(Unit: %)

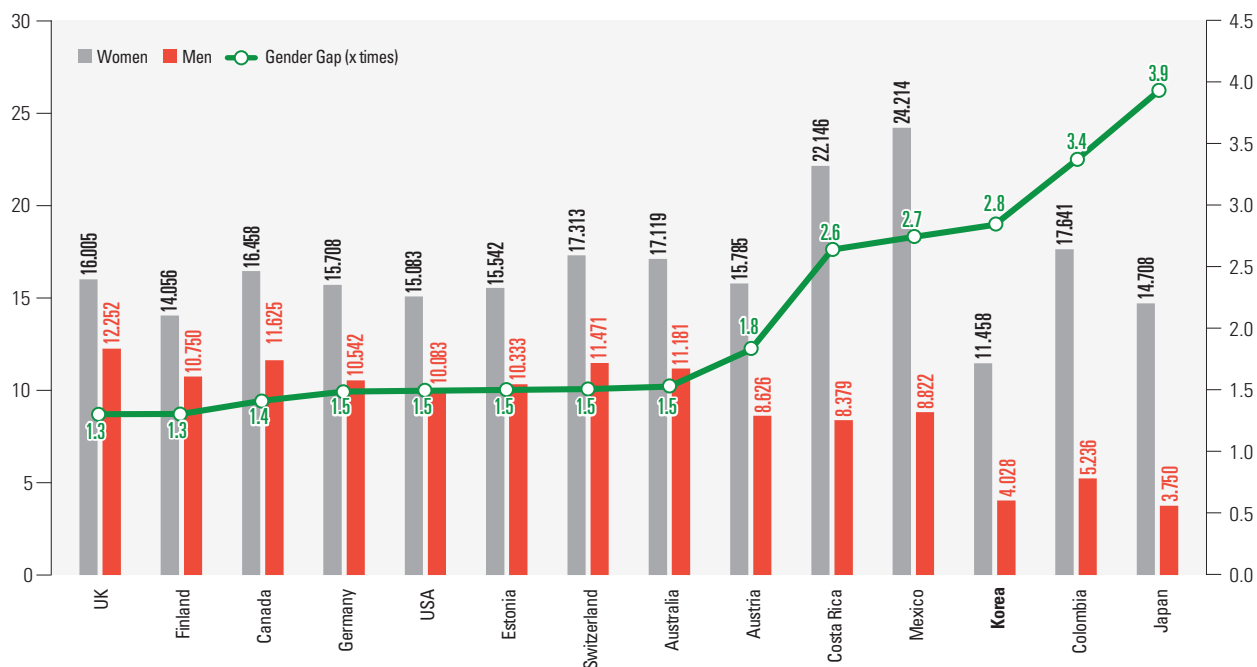


Source : Ministry of Data and Statistics, Survey on Time Use (www.kosis.kr, retrieved on Dec 21, 2025)

Note : This refers to the proportion of daily time spent by men and women aged 10 years and over on household management and care for family and household members.



Proportion of Unpaid Domestic and Care Work between Men and Women and Gender Gaps in OECD countries (Unit: %, times)



Source : World Bank, Gender data portal(<https://genderdata.worldbank.org>, retrieved on Jan 14, 2026.; Ministry of Data and Statistics, Survey on Time Use (www.kosis.kr, retrieved on Dec 21, 2025)
Note : The survey was based on the 2024 data (Survey on Time Use) for Korea; the 2023 data for Canada, the 2022 data for the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States and Austria; the 2021 data for Finland, Estonia, Australia, Colombia and Japan; the 2020 data for Switzerland; the 2019 data for Mexico; and the 2017 data for Costa Rica.

compared to 1999 when women spent seven times as much time on unpaid domestic and care work as men, the gender gap in domestic work has narrowed. This can be interpreted as reflecting a weakening of traditional perceptions of gender roles.

By household characteristics, in dual-income households, wives spent 11.9% of their time on unpaid domestic and care work in 2024, which is 2.9 times higher than the 4.1% spent by husbands. Compared to the past, nonetheless, wives' time on unpaid domestic and care work has gradually decreased, while husbands' time has shown a slight increase. A similar trend is also observed in single-income households, with the husband as the sole breadwinner. Even in single-income households where the wife is the sole income-earner, however, wives (11.1%) still spent more time on unpaid domestic and care work than husbands (7.4%).

Over the past 25 years, women's burden has shrunk with men's growing participation in domestic and care work. However, the burden that women have to assume is still greater than that of men. Thus, policy responses are needed to achieve gender equality in the division of unpaid domestic and care work.

The imbalance in unpaid domestic and care work between

men and women in households can be used as a measure to compare gender equality across countries. According to the 2024 Survey on Time Use, in Korea, women spent 165 minutes per day on unpaid domestic labor, which is 2.8 times longer than that of men. In other OECD countries as well, women's unpaid domestic labor hours are longer than men's. That said, in terms of gender inequality in unpaid domestic labor, Korea ranked third after Japan and Colombia among the 14 OECD countries for which statistics are reported to the World Bank.

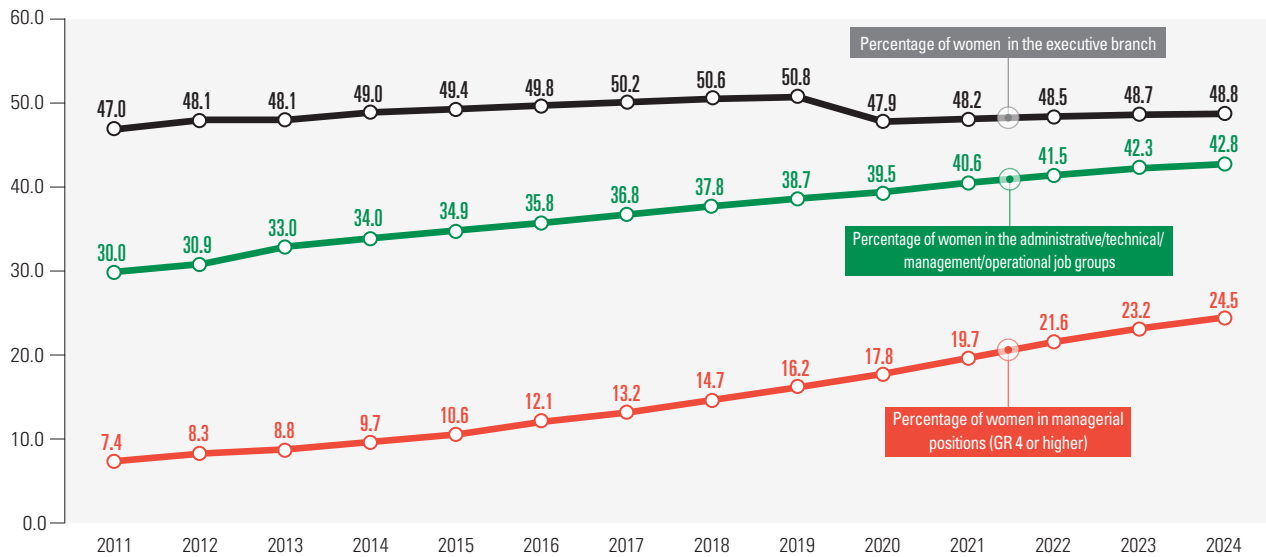
Despite improvements in women's representation in managerial positions across national and local governments and public organizations, structural barriers, including the glass ceiling, remain
(🔄 SDG 5.5.2)

The proportion of women among public officials has steadily increased since 2011. The share of female public officials across the executive branch stood at 48.8% in 2024, approaching gender parity. The share of female public officials in general

administrative positions (administrative, technical, management/operational job groups) also rose significantly from 30.0% in 2011 to 42.8% in 2024, excluding special positions, such as police, fire-fighting, education, postal, specialized/research and fixed-term positions. Among them, the proportion of women in

managerial positions (Grade 4 or higher) more than tripled from 7.4% to 24.5% over the same period. However, considering the overall proportion of women in these job groups, the number of women reaching managerial positions is still noticeably low. This indicates that the glass ceiling remains a persistent challenge that

Share of Women in Managerial Positions (GR 4 or higher) out of Public Officials in National Government, 2011-2024 (Unit: %)



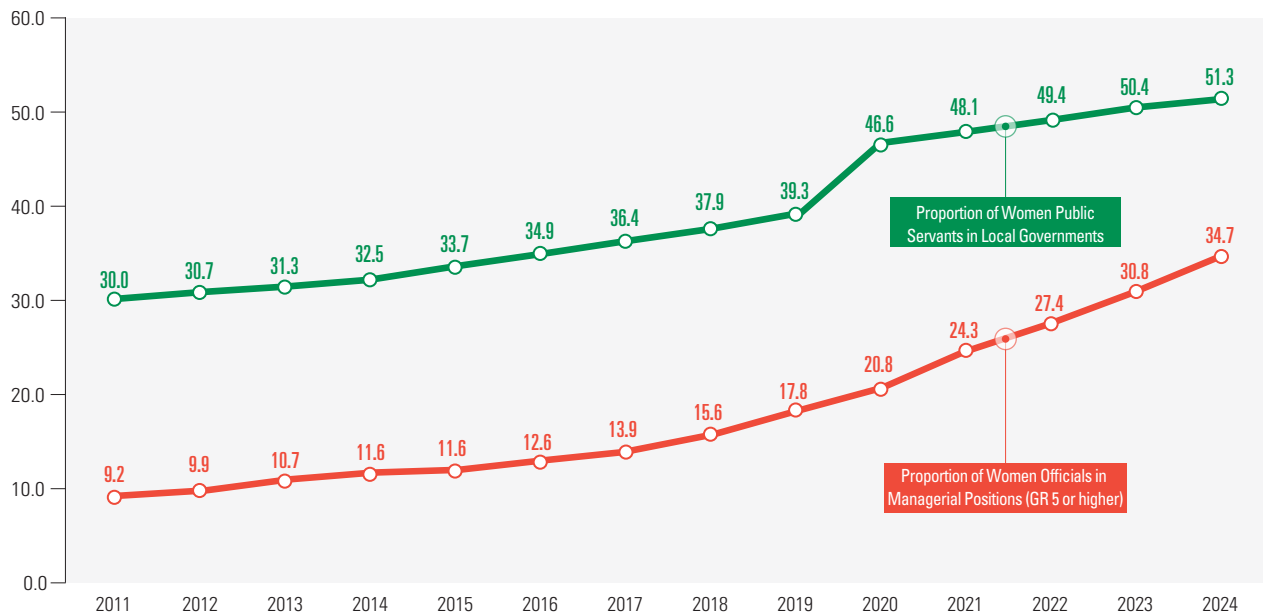
Source : Ministry of Personnel Management, 2025 Statistical Yearbook for Personnel Innovation; Korean Women's Development Institute, Gender Statistics (<https://gsis.kwdi.re.kr/gsis/kr/main.html>, retrieved on Dec 21, 2025)

Note 1 : This is based on public officials in the executive branch, excluding those in the legislative branch, the judiciary, the Constitutional Court and the National Election Commission.

Note 2 : Administrative/technical/management/operational job groups exclude those in special positions (foreign affairs, police, fire-fighting, inspection, training), political positions and privileged government positions. Out of public officials in general-service positions, excluded are those in specialized, research, technical, postal positions; specialized officials and those under flex-time and normal/special/temporary-term schemes.

Note 3 : The share of women in managerial position (GR 4 or higher) is based on administrative/technical/management/operational job groups with figures available for female share in each rank.

Share of Women in Managerial Positions (GR 5 or higher) out of Public Officials in Local Governments, 2011-2024 (Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of the Interior and Safety, Statistics of Female Public officials in Local Governments (as of Dec 31, 2024)

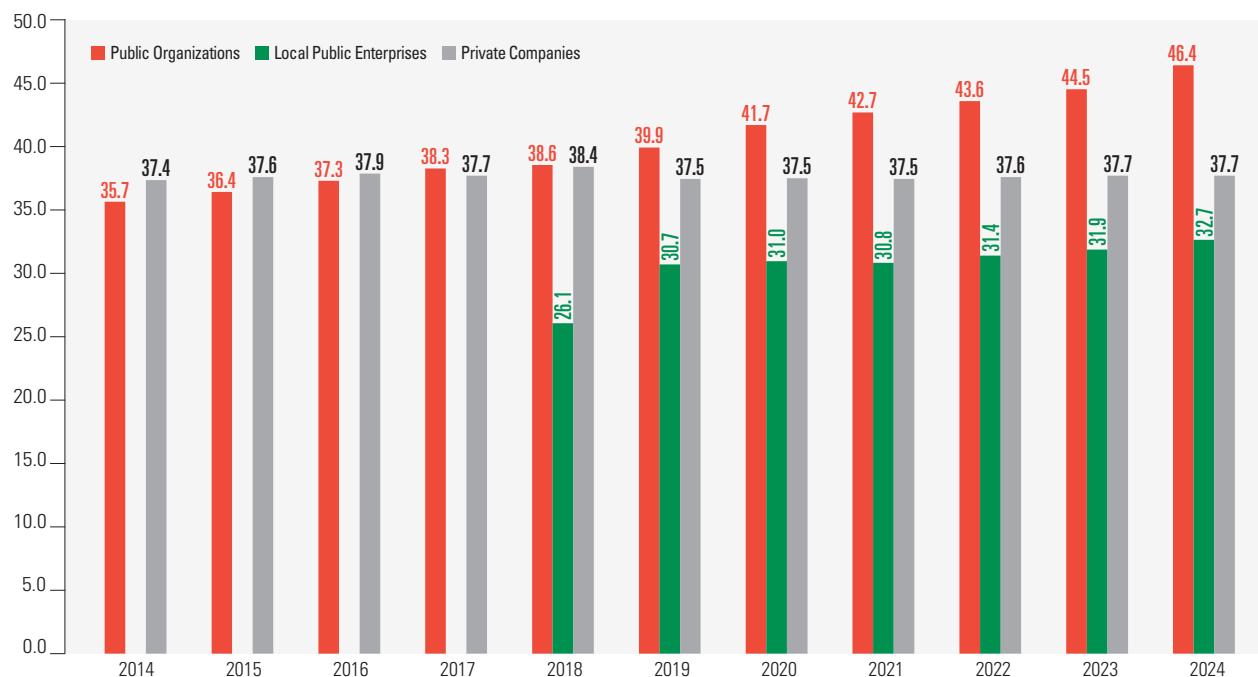
Note 1 : This is based on the number of public officials in local governments, excluding local education authorities.

Note 2 : Public officials in managerial positions (GR 5 or higher) include high-level officials, those in general services (incl. ordinary-term system) on GR 1 to 5, those in the ordinary-term system on GR 5, researchers and senior technical advisors, those in privileged government positions equivalent to GR 1 to 5, special career officials on Group A and those in the exclusive positions on GR 5 or higher.



Share of Women Employees in Public Organizations, Local Public Enterprises and Private Companies, 2014-2024

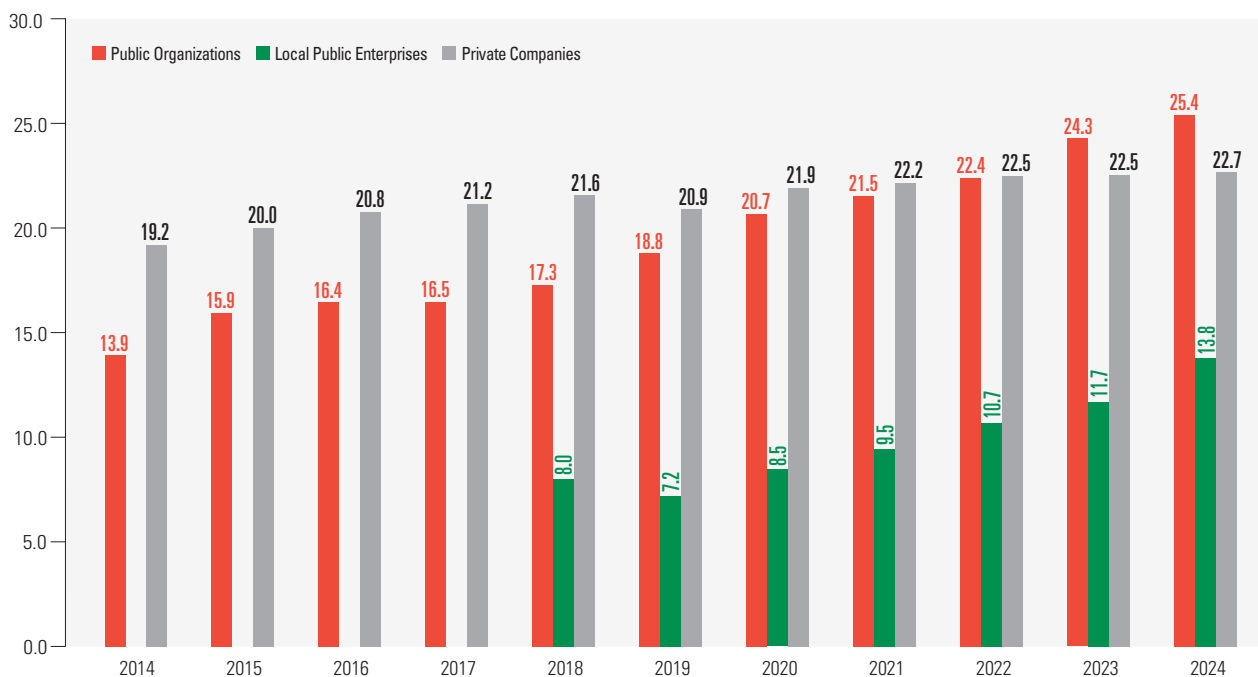
(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Employment and Labor, Employment & Labor White Paper

Share of Women in Managerial Positions in Public Organizations, Local Public Enterprises and Private Companies, 2014-2024

(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Employment and Labor, Employment & Labor White Paper

Note : Local public enterprises refer to public corporations and public service organizations established by local governments to ensure the efficient performance of their functions.

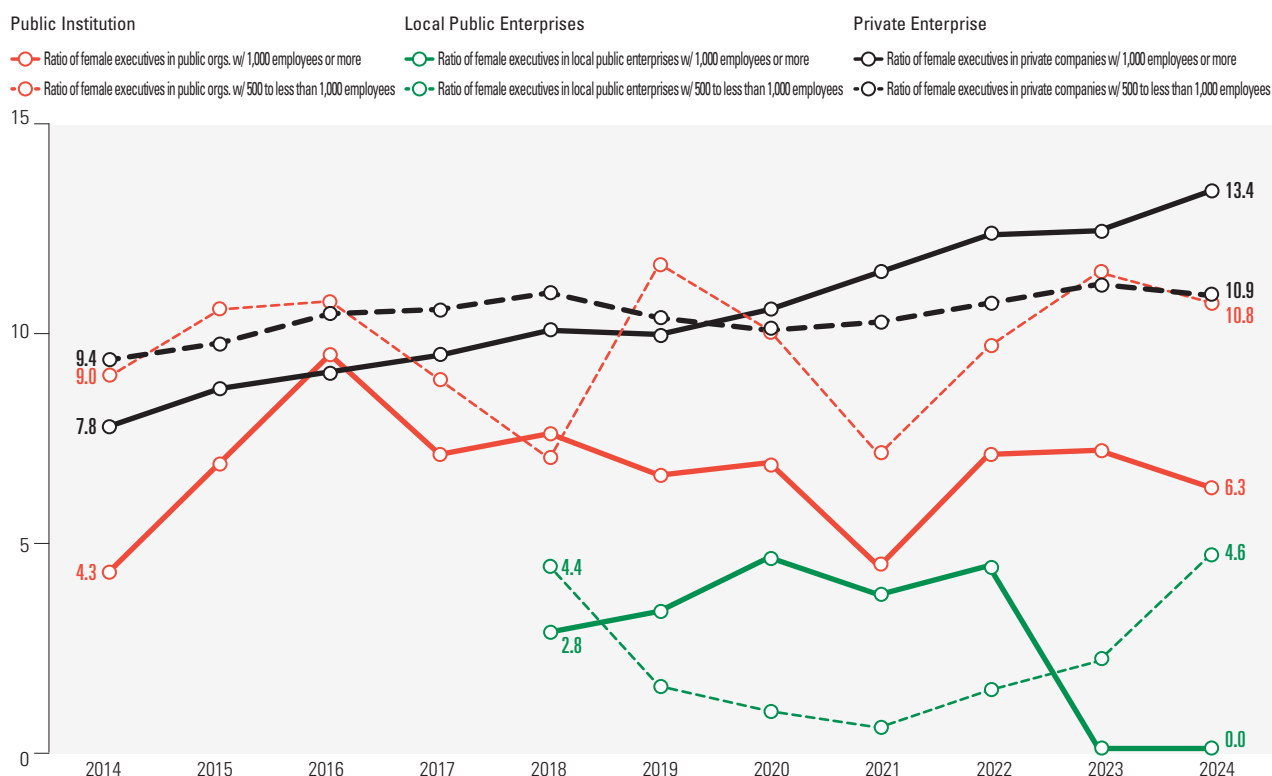
has to be addressed.

The proportion of female public officials in local governments has steadily increased as well to 51.3% in 2024, achieving overall gender balance. The share of women in

managerial positions (Grade 5 or higher) rose from 9.2% in 2011 to 34.7% in 2024. In particular, it has rapidly increased since 2020, with an annual rise of 3%p or higher. This increase in the number of women in managerial positions clearly shows

Share of Female Executives in Public Organizations, Local Public Enterprises and Private Companies, 2014-2024

(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Employment and Labor, Employment & Labor White Paper; Ministry of Employment and Labor, Analysis Report on Labor Status of Male and Female Workers under the Affirmative Action
 Note : Local Public enterprises refer to public corporations and public service organizations established by local governments to ensure the efficient delivery of public services.

that gender-equality policies have become more effective. However, gender gaps still exist, indicating the need for continuous efforts to expand women's involvement in policy decision-making.

Since the 'Affirmative Action' was introduced in 2006, there has been a gradual increase in the proportions of women employment and women in managerial positions in public organizations and local public enterprises. The share of women employees in public organizations stood at 35.7% in 2014, which significantly grew to 46.4% in 2024, almost reaching gender balance. Such an increase has also been observed in local public enterprises, with the share of women employees growing from 26.1% in 2018 to 32.7% in 2024. Meanwhile, female employment in the private sector has remained stagnant at around 37%.

There has been a clear improvement in the share of women in managerial positions in public organizations. The proportion of women in managerial positions in public organizations rose from 13.9% in 2014 to 25.4% in 2024. Over the same period, however, the share of women in managerial positions in private

companies grew only from 19.2% to 22.7%, showing a steady but modest increase. As for local public enterprises, the share rose from 8.0% in 2018 to 13.8% in 2024, indicating that female representation still remains low. Amid the overall growing share of women in managerial positions, there are noticeable variations across types of institutions. Therefore, it is necessary to further expand women's leadership in local public enterprises and the private sector.

When comparing companies with 1,000 employees or more, the proportion of female executives was the highest in private companies. The share of female executives in private enterprises stood at only 7.8% in 2014, but grew to 13.4% in 2024. In contrast, the share of female executives in public organizations remained at around 6% for the same period, with considerable fluctuations, and it also remained below 5% in local public enterprises. This indicates that a glass ceiling still persists despite some progress toward gender equality in employment and promotion, highlighting the need for further policy efforts to get rid of the glass ceiling.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

SDG 6 aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, including universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, reducing water pollution, and improving water-use efficiency. Globally, there has been steady improvement in access to drinking water and sanitation services over the past 10 years; however, 2.2 billion people still lacked access to safely managed drinking water services in 2024. Korea has focused its policy efforts on alleviating regional disparities and enhancing the quality and sustainability of services, going beyond the expansion of waterworks and wastewater facilities.

- **In 2024, the water supply coverage rate reached 99.5% nationwide and even stood at 96.5% in rural areas.**
 - The gap in the water supply rate between the national average and rural areas narrowed from 10.8%p in 2011 to 3.0%p in 2024.
 - Efforts are being made to reduce regional disparities in waterworks services, including the strengthened management of small-scale water supply facilities used by approximately 12% of the rural population.
- **The national sewerage coverage rate was recorded at 95.6% in 2024, an increase of 4.7%p compared to 2011.**
 - The sewerage coverage rate in special/metropolitan cities and Gyeonggi province exceeded the national average (95.6%), but other provinces, except for Gyeonggi, fell short of the national average, indicating the need to address regional disparities.
 - Of the 7.48 billion tonnes of wastewater treated in 2024, 15.6% was reused. In the future, it is planned to expand the amount of off-site reuse from 0.65 billion tonnes in 2024 to 1.32 billion tonnes by 2030.
- **In 2024, 88.7% of rivers (BOD), 59.2% of lakes (TOC) and 96.6% of groundwater met the national water quality standards.**
 - The ratio of water bodies including rivers, lakes and groundwater assessed as having “good ambient water quality” stood at 93.6% in 2023, placing Korea second among the OECD countries.
- **The water-use efficiency was 58.27 dollars/m³ in 2022, representing a 1.36-fold increase from 2011.**
 - The water-use efficiency in the industrial and service sectors has steadily improved, while in 2022 the agriculture sector remained at a relatively low level of water-use efficiency at 1.01 dollars/m³, remaining below the 2011 level.

Alleviating the urban-rural gap in the water supply rate (SDG 6.1.1)

The water supply rate, which indicates the proportion of the population with access to drinking water through the waterworks system, serves as a key indicator to assess the achievement of SDG 6.1 aiming to ensure universal access to safely managed drinking water services for all at an affordable price. Encompassing metropolitan and local water supply, village water systems and small-scale water facilities, the nationwide water supply rate reached 99.5% in 2024. The water supply rate in rural areas, which was 87.1% in 2011, rapidly rose to 96.5%

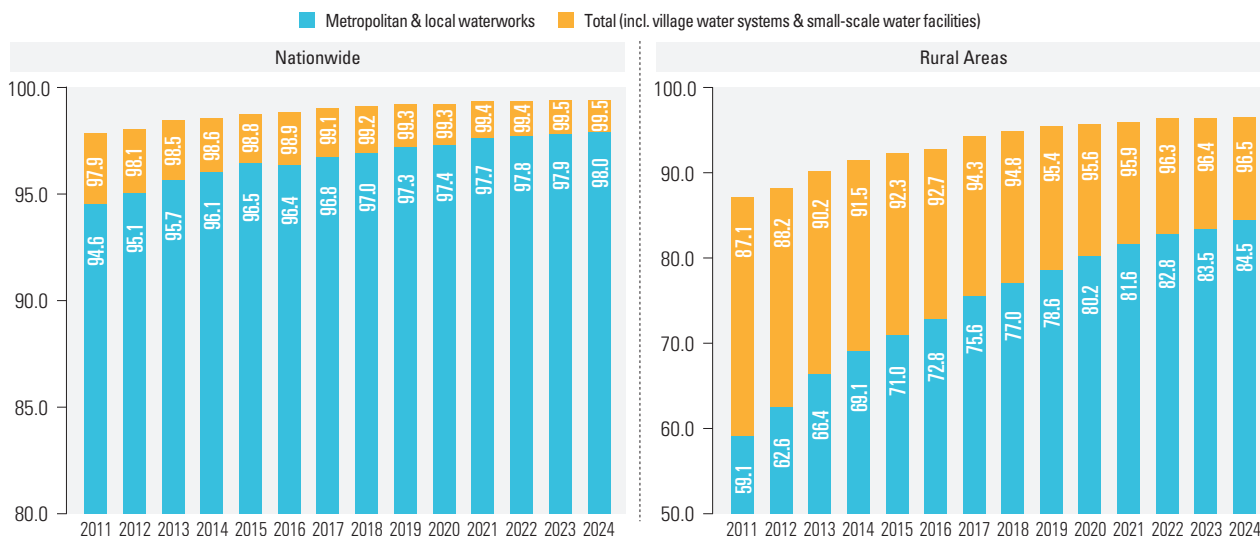
in 2024. Over the years, alleviating the urban-rural gap in the water supply rate has been one of the national water policy agendas, and the gap between the national average and rural areas significantly reduced from 10.8%p in 2011 to 3.0%p in 2024.

In many cases, it is often challenging to expand water supply systems in rural areas with low population density. Existing national waterworks policies have focused mainly on expanding water supply facilities in local and metropolitan areas; however, the 2022 Basic Plan for National Waterworks aims to strengthen water welfare in vulnerable areas with limited access to water



Water Supply Rates, 2011-2024

(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, Waterworks Statistics(<https://www.waternow.go.kr/>, retrieved on Feb 6, 2026)

Note : The water supply rate in rural areas is based on regions (-myeon) nationwide.

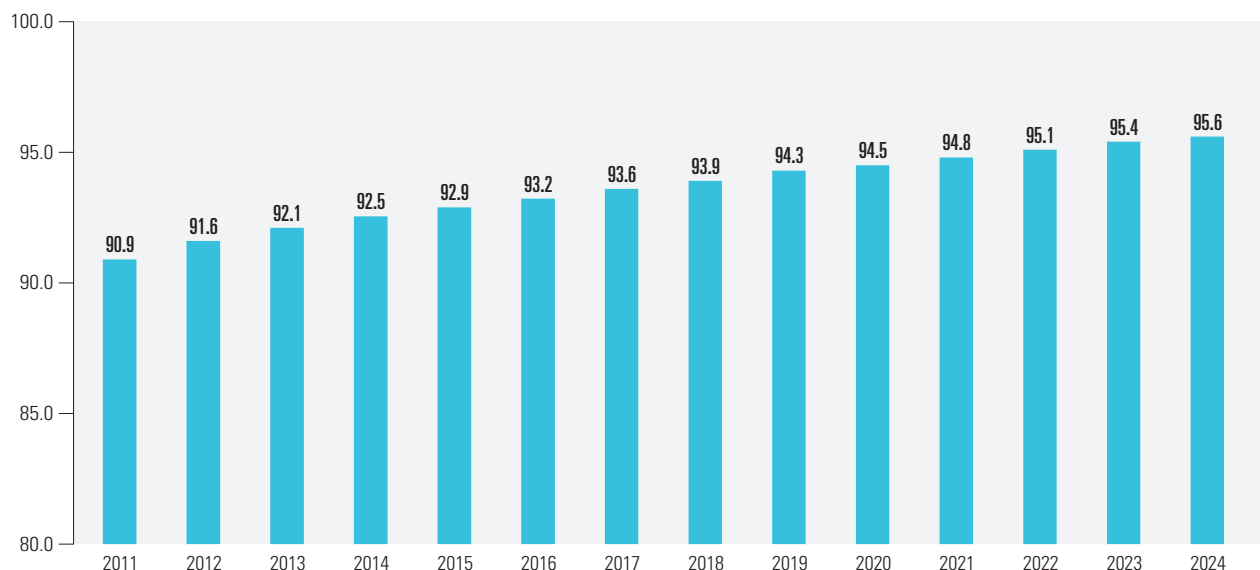
services by establishing a system for improving, maintaining and managing small-scale water facilities (village water systems and small-scale water facilities) used in areas where water supply is challenging. As of 2024, about 12.0% of the rural population has access to water through village water systems and small-scale water facilities. This policy has played a crucial role in reducing regional disparities in waterworks services and enabling rural residents to safely access drinking water.

Need to address regional disparities in the sewerage service coverage and expand water reuse (🌐 SDG 6.3.1)

SDG 6.3 aims to prevent water pollution by properly treating wastewater generated in domestic and industrial sectors, safely reusing it and reducing the release of hazardous substances. Indicator 6.3.1 measures the achievement of this target based on the proportion of wastewater safely treated. The sewerage service

Sewerage service coverage Rates, 2011-2024

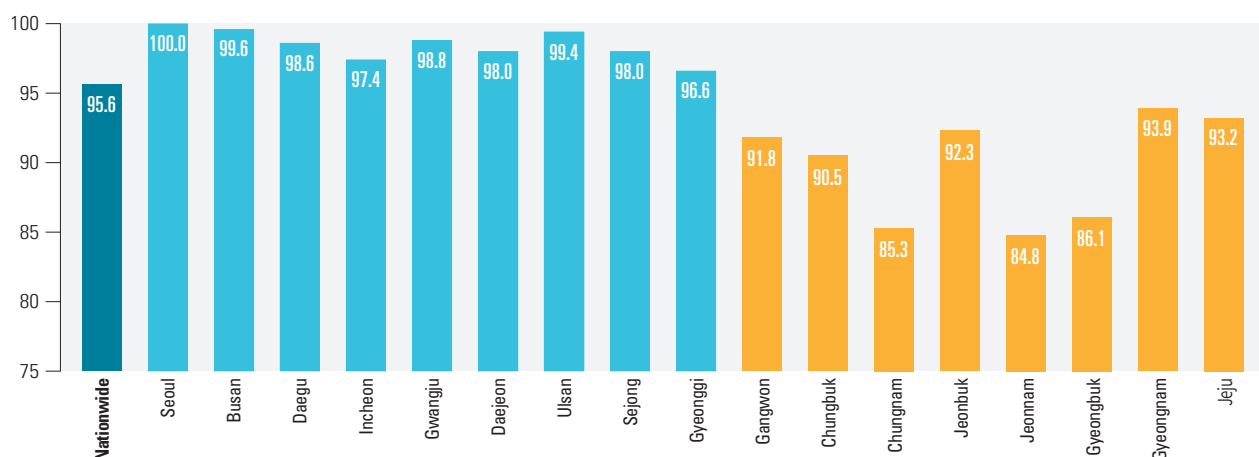
(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, Sewerage Statistics (<https://hasudoinfo.or.kr/>, retrieved on Feb 6, 2026)

Sewerage Service Coverage Rates by Region, 2024

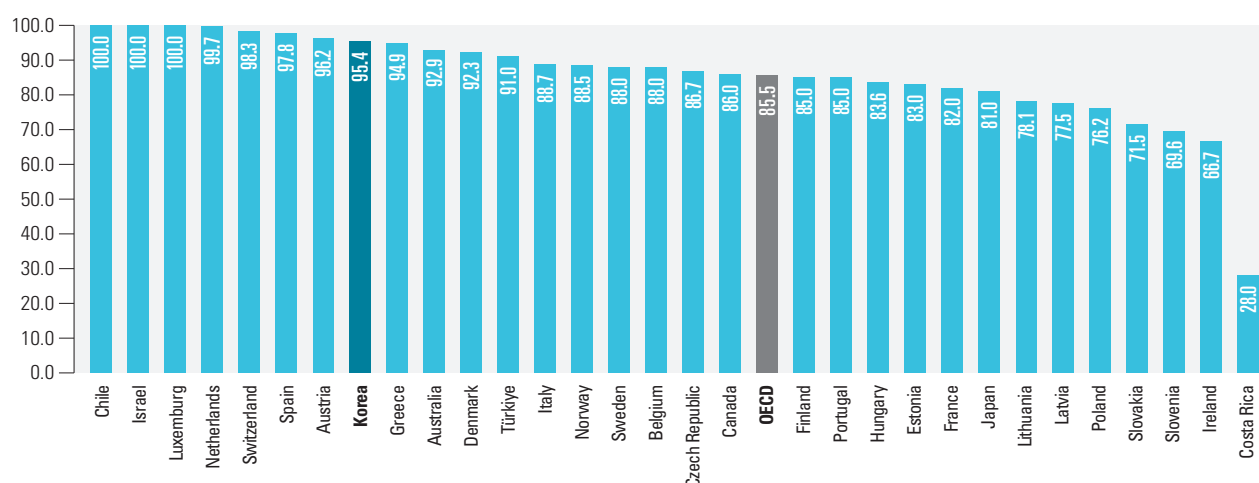
(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, Sewerage Statistics (<https://hasudoinfo.or.kr/>, retrieved on Feb 6, 2026)

Sewerage Service Coverage Rates in OECD Countries, 2023

(Unit: %)



Source : OECD, OECD Data Explorer(<https://data-explorer.oecd.org>, retrieved on Feb 6, 2026)

Note : This is based on 2020 data for Portugal, 2021 data for Spain, and 2022 data for Canada, Chile, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Sweden and Türkiye. No data are available for Colombia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany.

coverage rate refers to the proportion of the population residing in wastewater service areas where wastewater is collected and treated through public sewerage systems. On the back of steady investments in expanding these public sewerage systems, the sewerage coverage rate rose by 4.7%p from 90.9% in 2011 to 95.6% in 2024.

By region, the sewerage service coverage rate of special/metropolitan cities, including Seoul (100.0%), and Gyeonggi Province (96.6%), exceeded the national average (95.6%). Except for Gyeonggi Province, other provinces fell short of the national average. In particular, Jeonnam (84.8%), Chungnam

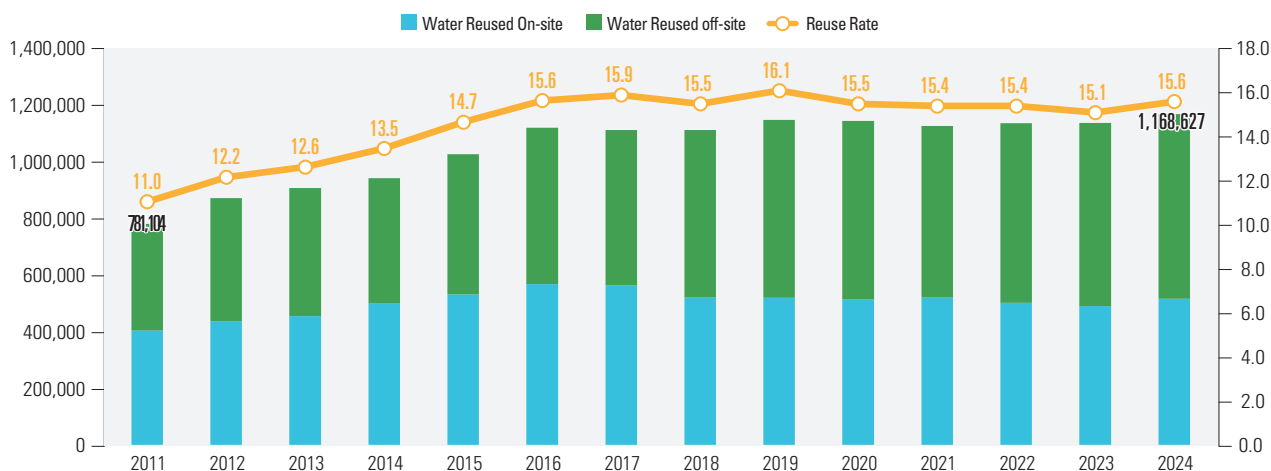
(85.3%) and Gyeongbuk (86.1%) failed to even reach the 90% level. Therefore, it is necessary to reduce regional disparities by expanding sewerage coverage and improving facilities mainly in rural areas.

Among the OECD countries, the average sewerage service coverage rate in the 31 countries for which data from 2020 to 2023 are available stood at 85.5%. The sewerage service coverage rates of the top-ranking countries, including Chile, Israel and Luxembourg, reached 100.0%. Korea recorded 95.4% in 2023, ranking 8th among the 31 countries with available data.

SDG 6.3 also includes the reuse of wastewater. Rather than

**Reuse Amount and Reuse Rate of Treated Wastewater, 2011-2024**

(Unit: 1,000 tonnes/year, %)

Source : Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, Sewerage Statistics (<https://hasudoinfo.or.kr/>, retrieved on Feb 6, 2026)

being discharged, reusing treated wastewater for appropriate purposes is a way to efficiently utilize water resources and effectively respond to water shortages that are intensifying due to climate change. The wastewater reuse rate refers to the proportion of treated wastewater that is reused and supplied for purposes such as industrial processes, agriculture, environmental flows, rather than being discharged into rivers or the sea. In 2024, out of 7,479.14 million tonnes of wastewater treated, 1,168.63 million tonnes or 15.6% were reused on-site or off-site. This represents an increase in the reuse rate by 4.6%p from 11.0% in 2011. Out of the amount reused in 2024, 44.1% was used for washing, cooling, and cleaning inside wastewater treatment facilities, while the rest was transferred off-site and used as instream flow (40.9%), industrial water (11.7%) and agricultural water (1.1%). The 2nd Basic Plan for Water Reuse (2021-2030) has also established a goal to increase the amount of wastewater reused to 1,898.00 million tonnes by 2030. In particular, it plans to significantly expand the off-site reuse, which was just 650 million tonnes in 2024, to 1,320 million tonnes by 2030.

Relatively high proportion of water bodies with “good water quality” (SDG 6.3.2)

To diagnose the water quality of rivers, lakes and groundwater, it is necessary to examine whether statutory water quality standards are met. The Water Environment Conservation

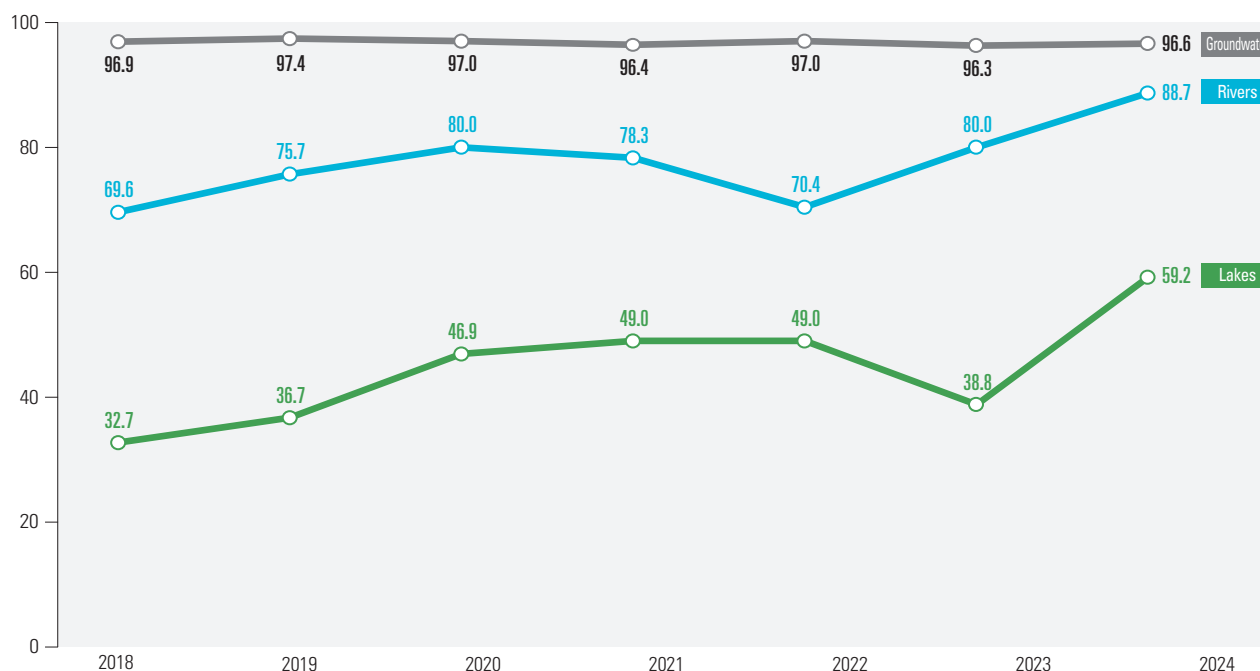
Act prescribes and manages target water quality standards to be achieved in rivers and lakes. About 20 items for health protection, including heavy metals and hazardous substances, are applicable to all basins, while items for living environments associated with water quality and aquatic ecosystems have basin-specific target standards. From 2018 to 2024, the target standards were achieved for all the 20 health protection items each year. For items for living environments, among 115 sub-basins of rivers, only 80 (69.6%) met the target standards in 2018, whereas the 102 sub-basins (88.7%) satisfied the standards in 2024. As for lakes, the ratio of sub-basins meeting the target standards was relatively low, with 16 (32.7%) in 2018 and 29 (59.2%) in 2024 out of a total of 49. The rate of meeting water environment target standards varies depending on weather conditions; however, it has shown an improving trend over the period.

In the case of groundwater, water quality standards are determined for each purpose, such as drinking water, domestic water, agricultural/fishery water and industrial water, in accordance with the Groundwater Act, and the water quality of groundwater facilities is inspected on a regular basis. During the period from 2018 to 2024, conformity with water quality standards was maintained at a high level of 96% to 98%.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) compiles the proportion of water bodies, including rivers, lakes

Rate of Meeting Target Water Quality Standards, 2018-2024

(Unit: %)

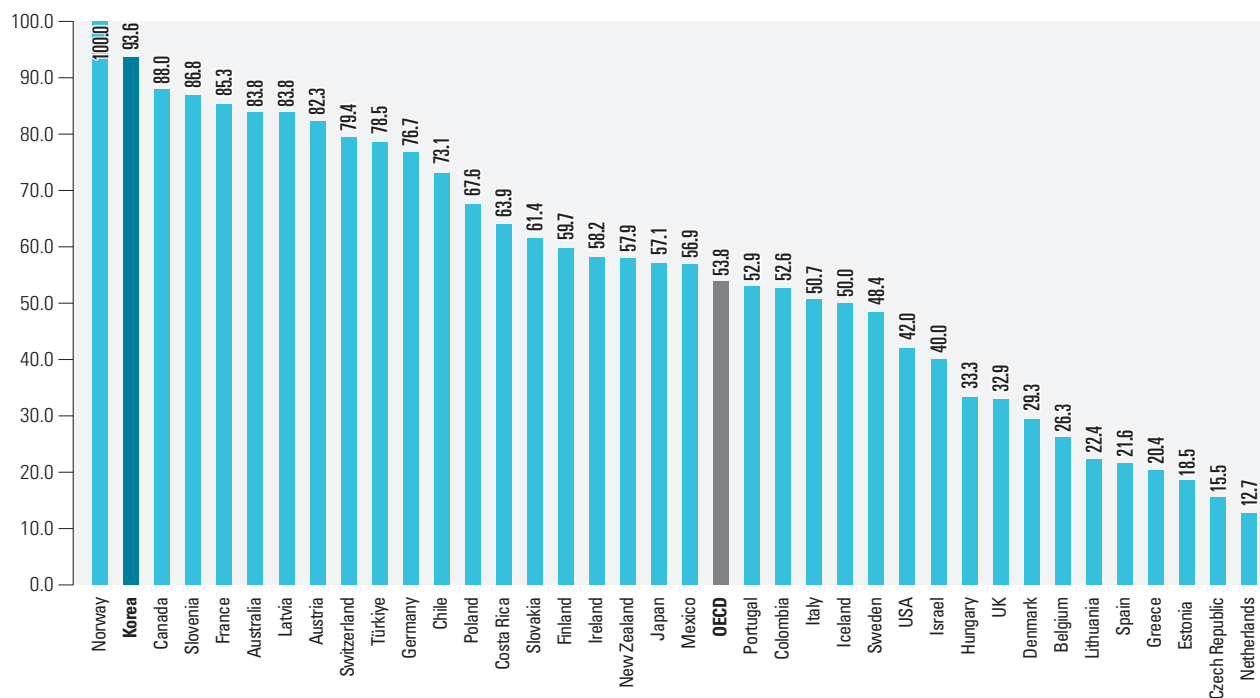


Source : Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, Assessment Results for National Water Environment Target Standards; Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, 2025 Groundwater Survey Yearbook

Note : For rivers and lakes, this graph represents the rate of meeting basin-specific target standards (living environment items: BOD for rivers and TOC for lakes) in accordance with the Water Environment Conservation Act while, for groundwater, it refers to the conformity rate to water quality standards by groundwater development and use facilities for each purpose according to the Groundwater Act.

Proportion of Water Bodies with “Good Water Quality” in OECD Countries, 2023

(Unit: %)



Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Feb 24, 2026)

Note : This graph is based on all water bodies encompassing rivers, lakes and groundwater.

and groundwater in each nation, assessed as having “good water quality.” According to UNEP, in 2023 Korea had 86.3% of rivers, 92.5% of lakes, 95.2% of groundwater and 93.6% of

all water bodies evaluated as having good water quality, which ranked second after Norway (100.0%) out of the 37 OECD countries for which data are available.



Water-use efficiency has improved overall, but it declined in the agricultural sector (SDG 6.4.1)

SDG 6.4 aims to enhance water-use efficiency in all industrial sectors to alleviate water shortages. As an indicator of SDG 6.4.1, water-use efficiency serves as an integrated economy-environment indicator that measures the ratio of value added generated by economic activities to the amount of water used. Higher water-use efficiency means that more value added is created from the same amount of water used, thereby contributing more efficiently to economic prosperity.

In 2022, water-use efficiency across all industries was 58.27 dollars/m³, a 1.36-fold increase from 42.81 dollars/m³ in 2011. Over the past decade, water-use efficiency steadily increased from 2011 to 2022, driven by the advancement of the industrial

structure, process improvements and expanded water reuse, except for 2020 when the economy was hit hard by COVID-19.

Water-use efficiency varies considerably depending on sectors. In 2022, water-use efficiency in the service and industrial sectors reached 153.51 dollars/m³ and 120.80 dollars/m³, respectively, whereas it was only 1.01 dollars/m³ in the agricultural sector. In addition, it has increased by 1.5-fold and 1.26-fold in the service and industrial sectors, respectively, since 2011, while it has remained below the 2011 level (1.02 dollars/m³) in the agricultural sector. After hitting a record low of 0.97 dollars/m³ in 2019, however, water-use efficiency in agriculture rose for two consecutive years to 1.11 dollars/m³ in 2021 before declining again to 1.01 dollars/m³ in 2022. Meanwhile, water-use efficiency in the service and industrial sectors has steadily improved, increasing by

Water-use Efficiency by Industry, 2011-2022

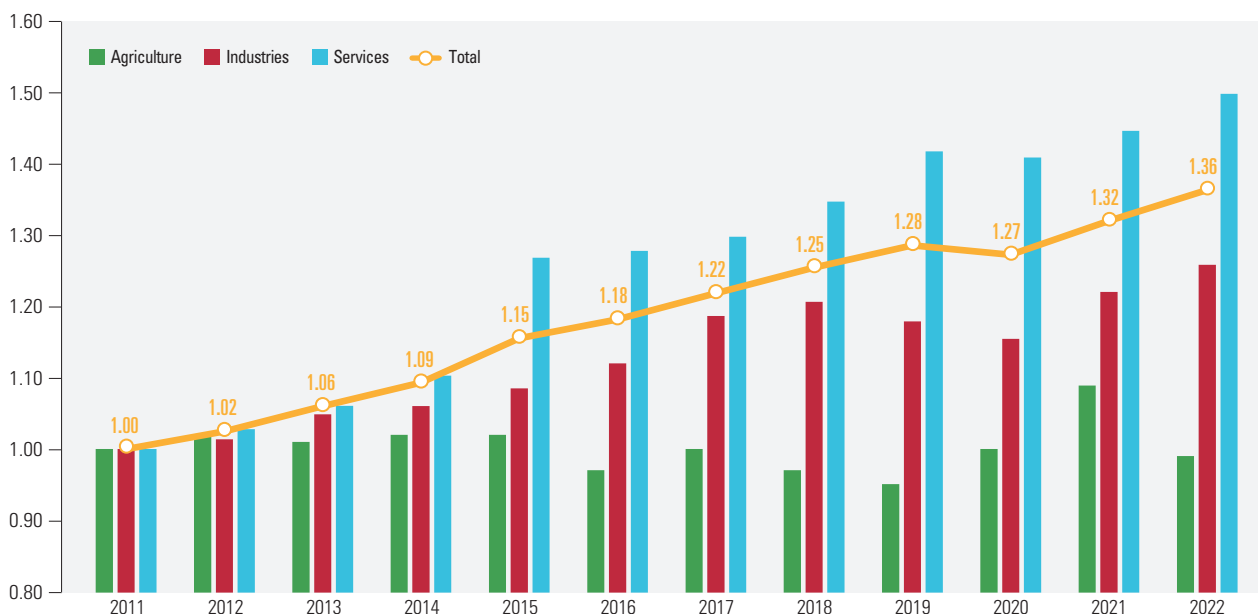
(Unit: Dollars/m³)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
All	42.81	43.86	45.36	46.77	49.42	50.54	52.10	53.64	54.96	54.39	56.42	58.27
Agriculture	1.02	1.04	1.03	1.04	1.04	0.99	1.02	0.99	0.97	1.02	1.11	1.01
Industrial	96.14	97.45	100.78	101.88	104.27	107.60	113.95	115.84	113.23	110.90	117.18	120.80
Services	102.68	105.52	108.86	113.16	130.04	131.01	133.04	138.09	145.25	144.38	148.20	153.51

Source : FAO, FAOSTAT(<https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/SDGB>, retrieved on Feb 6, 2026)

Changes in Water-use Efficiency by Industry (compared to 2011), 2012-2022

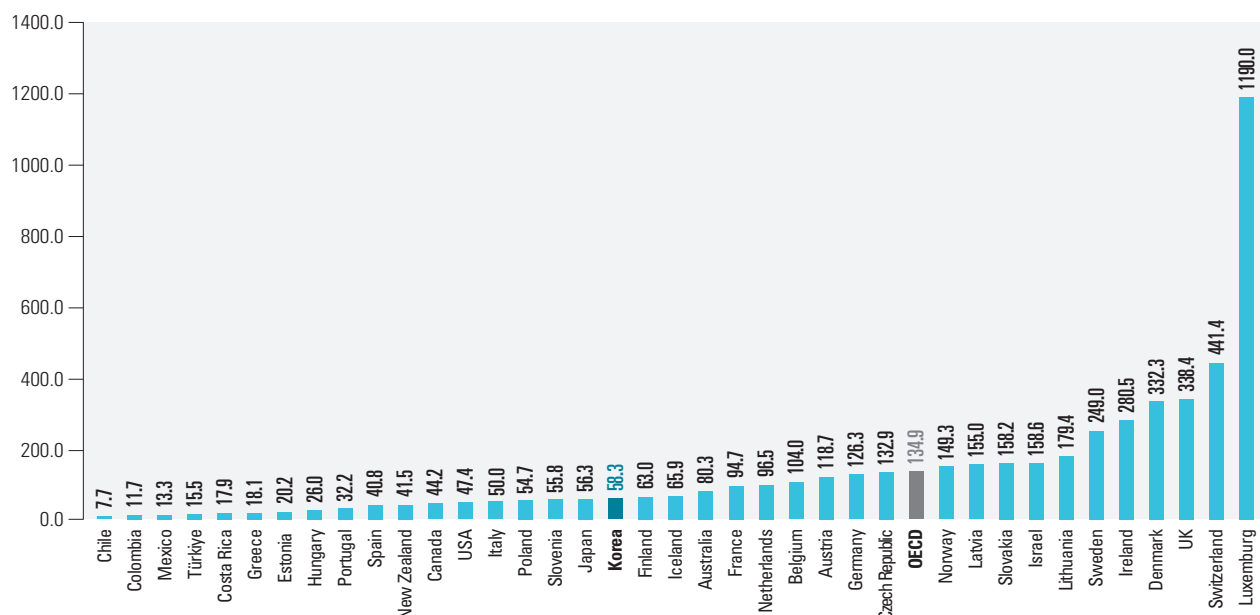
(Unit: Year 2011=1)



Source : FAO, FAOSTAT(<https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/SDGB>, retrieved on Feb 6, 2026)

Water-use Efficiency in OECD Countries, 2022

(Unit: Dollars/m³)

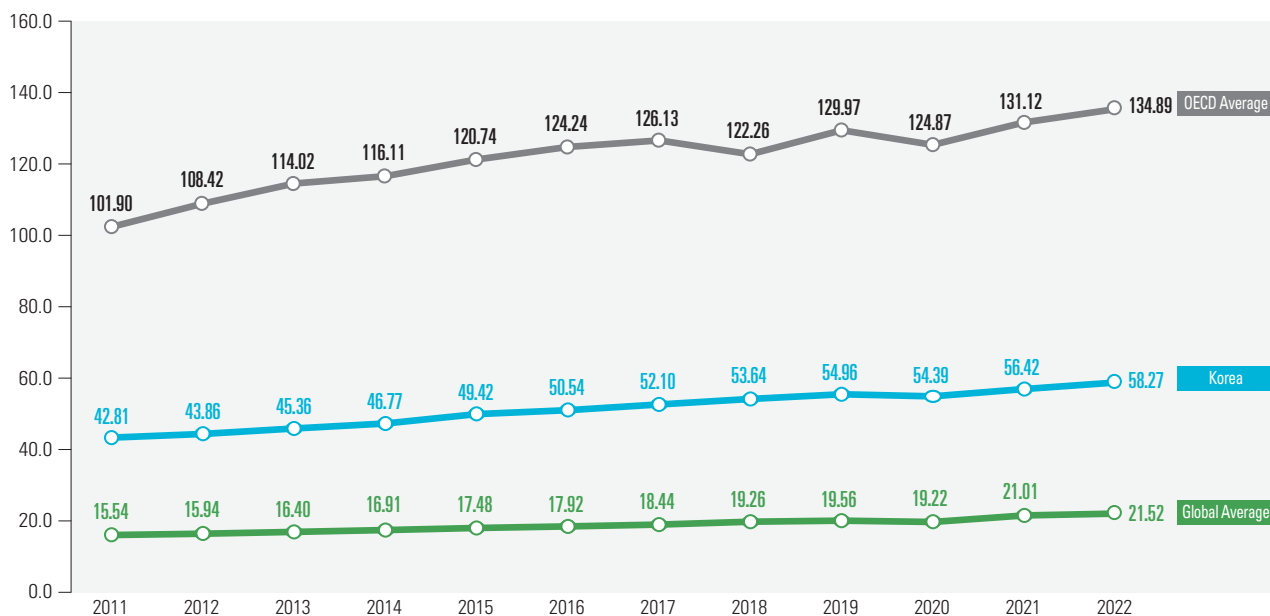


Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Feb 24, 2026)

Note : For 2011, this represents the average excluding Costa Rica, Iceland and Switzerland.

Changes in Water-use Efficiency, 2011-2022

(Unit: Dollars/m³)



Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Feb 7, 2026)

3.6% and 3.1% year on year in 2022.

Korea's water-use efficiency ranked 21st among the 38 OECD countries, placing it in the lower-middle tier. In 2022, the average water-use efficiency of the OECD countries stood at 134.89 dollars/m³, about 2.3 times higher than that of Korea.

In terms of improvement in water-use efficiency, the OECD average increased 1.32 times in 2022 compared to 2011 (101.9 dollars/m³) while Korea saw an increase of 1.36 times over the same period. This shows that the pace of improvement in Korea was slightly faster than the OECD average.



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



70



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Under SDG 7, the goal is to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, while promoting sustainable patterns of energy production and consumption. Globally, renewable energy continues to expand and access to energy services is improving. Investment in low-carbon energy is projected to exceed twice that of fossil fuels by 2025. At the same time, new challenges are emerging, including rising energy demand associated with advances in artificial intelligence. In Korea, renewable energy has continued to expand; however, further efforts are required to meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for climate action and to address structural constraints stemming from an energy-intensive industrial base.

» Despite the continued expansion in the supply of new and renewable energy, the share of renewables in final energy consumption remains among the lowest in the OECD.

- The production of renewable energy (excluding non-renewable waste) increased 4.8-fold, from 3.51 million TOE in 2011 to 16.76 million TOE in 2024.
- The share of renewable energy in total primary energy supply (TPES) rose from 1.30% in 2011 to 5.52% in 2024, while the share of new and renewable energy increased from 1.33% to 6.19% over the same period.
- Within new and renewable energy, solar power accounted for 42.8% in 2024, reflecting substantial growth, whereas wind power remained at 4.2%.
- The share of renewable energy in electricity generation reached 9.18% in 2024. In the same year, new and renewable energy accounted for 10.69% of total electricity generation, surpassing 10% for the first time.
- The share of renewable electricity generation (excluding hydropower) is the third lowest among OECD countries, and the share of renewables in final energy consumption remains the lowest among OECD members.

» Energy intensity has steadily declined since the 1990s, indicating gradual improvement; however, progress has recently slowed.

- In 2024, energy intensity was recorded at 0.133 TOE per KRW 1 million, unchanged from the previous year.
- In 2023, Korea recorded the fourth highest energy intensity among OECD member countries, at 0.099 TOE per USD 1,000. Since 2010, the average annual rate of improvement has been limited to 1.8%, lagging behind the performance of the United Kingdom (4.2%), Germany (3.6%), the United States (2.6%), Japan (2.8%), and the OECD average (2.5%).

Renewable energy production and share continue to increase (🔄 SDG 7.2.1)

Renewable energy includes solar, wind, hydropower, marine, geothermal, hydrothermal, bioenergy, and waste energy. In the Korean context, these are often grouped together with 'new energy' sources, such as fuel cells and Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC), and referred to as 'new and renewable energy'.

The supply of new and renewable energy has steadily increased since 2011, driven by the establishment and implementation of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), and the growing uptake of the RE100 initiative.

Primary energy refers to energy in its natural, unprocessed form. Based on primary energy, the production of renewable energy (excluding non-renewable waste) amounted to 3.507

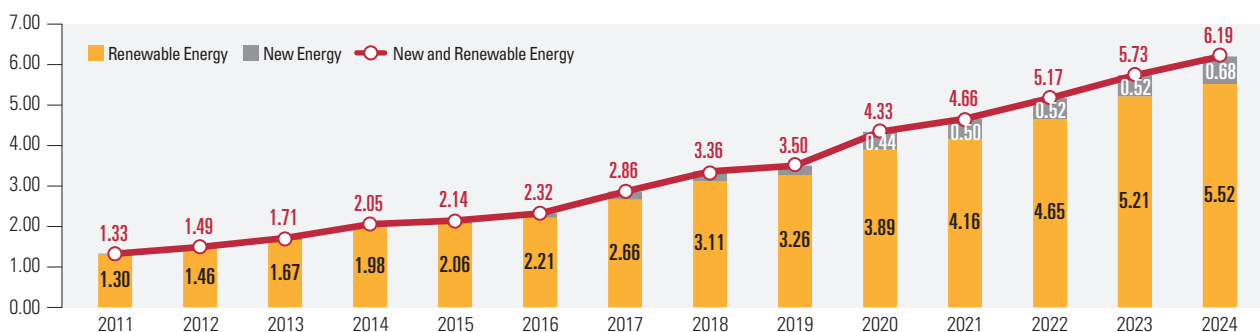
million TOE in 2011, accounting for only 1.30% of total primary energy supply. By 2024, it had increased nearly fivefold to 16.755 million TOE, representing 5.52% of total primary energy supply. When new energy sources are included, total production of new and renewable energy rose from 3.57 million TOE (1.33%) in 2011 to 18.813 million TOE (6.19%) in 2024, reflecting an increase of more than fivefold.

The composition by energy source has changed significantly. Solar power, which accounted for 5.6% of total new and renewable energy production in 2011, expanded markedly to 42.8% in 2024. Wind power remained relatively unchanged at 4.2% in 2024. Meanwhile, the shares of waste (excluding non-renewable waste) and hydropower, which accounted for 31.0% and 27.0% respectively in 2011, declined to 7.3% and 4.9% in 2024. The share of fuel cells, classified as new energy, increased from 1.8% of total new and



Share of new and renewable energy in total primary energy supply, 2011-2024

(Unit: %)

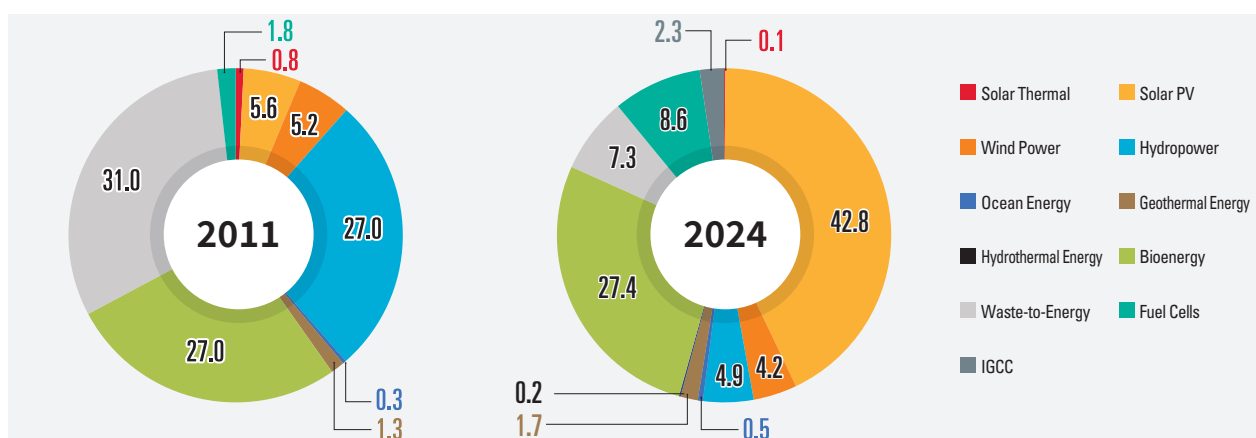


Source : Korea Energy Agency, New and Renewable Energy Statistics (<https://www.knrec.or.kr>, retrieved on Dec 31, 2025); Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources and Korea Energy Economics Institute, 2024 Energy Statistics Yearbook (<https://kesis.keei.re.kr/>, retrieved on Dec 31, 2025)

Note : Following the amendment to the New and Renewable Energy Act, which entered into force on October 1, 2019, non-renewable waste has been excluded from renewable energy statistics beginning in the fourth quarter of 2019. The revised classification standard for separating non-renewable waste established in 2019 has been applied to 2011 for consistency

Production of new and renewable energy by source, 2011 and 2024

(Unit: 1,000 TOE)



Source : Korea Energy Agency, New and Renewable Energy Statistics; Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources and Korea Energy Economics Institute, 2024 Energy Statistics Yearbook (<https://kesis.keei.re.kr/>, retrieved on Dec 31, 2025)

Note : Following the amendment to the New and Renewable Energy Act, which entered into force on October 1, 2019, non-renewable waste has been excluded from renewable energy statistics beginning in the fourth quarter of 2019. The revised classification standard for separating non-renewable waste established in 2019 has been applied to 2011 for consistency.

renewable energy production in 2011 to 8.6% in 2024.

The supply of new and renewable energy is more concentrated in the power sector. The share of renewable energy in total electricity generation rose steadily from 2.52% in 2015 to 9.18% in 2024. When including new energy sources, the share increased from 2.72% in 2015 to 10.69% in 2024, surpassing 10% for the first time.

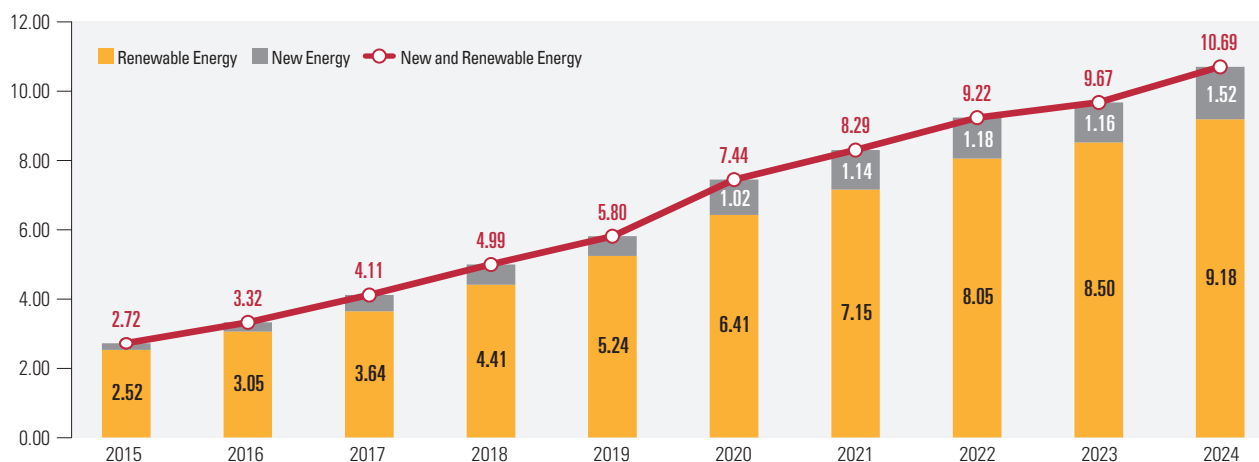
Under the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), obligated suppliers are required to generate 14.0% of their total electricity output from new and renewable energy sources as of 2025. The mandatory share is set to increase incrementally each year, reaching 25.0% by 2030. Obligated suppliers may meet this requirement either by directly generating new and renewable energy or by purchasing Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)

in the market. This mechanism enables renewable energy producers to secure additional revenue streams through REC transactions, thereby providing a strong incentive for investment and participation in renewable energy projects. In response to structural complexities in the REC trading market, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources (MOTIR) has announced plans to reform the system and transition toward a government-led competitive bidding framework. Under the revised framework, annual auction-based tenders will be undertaken in alignment with the government's capacity deployment targets for new installations. Selected projects will be granted 20-year long-term fixed-price contracts to ensure stable revenue streams.

In international comparison, the share of renewable electricity generation in Korea remains relatively low. According to World

Share of new and renewable energy in electricity generation, 2015-2024

(Unit: %)



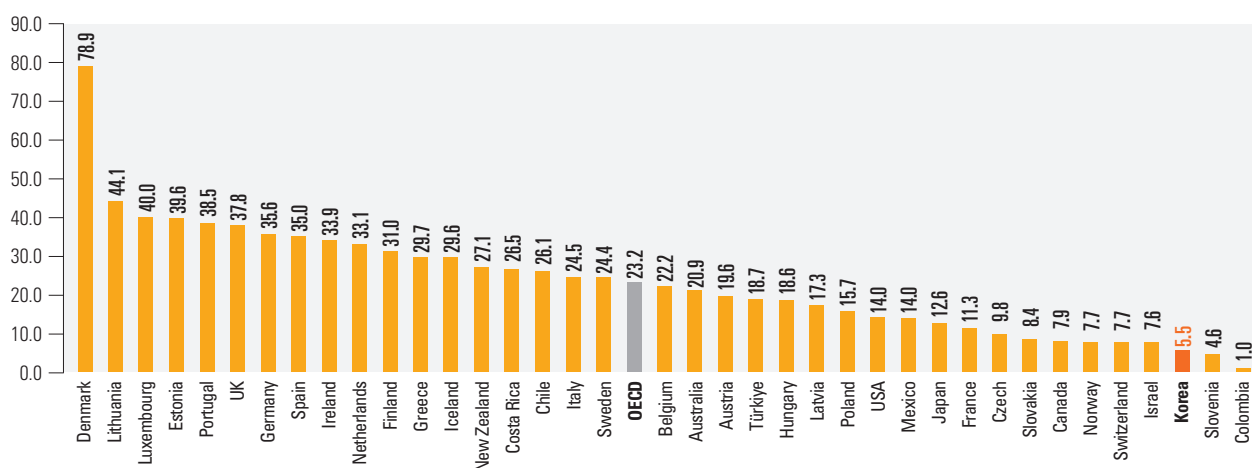
Source : Korea Energy Agency, New and Renewable Energy Statistics (<https://www.knrec.or.kr>, retrieved on Dec 31, 2025)

Note 1 : Shares are calculated based on total electricity generation, including pumped-storage hydropower. New and renewable energy includes hydropower.

Note 2 : Following the amendment to the New and Renewable Energy Act, which entered into force on October 1, 2019, non-renewable waste has been excluded from renewable energy statistics beginning in the fourth quarter of 2019. The revised classification standard for separating non-renewable waste established in 2019 has been applied to 2011 for consistency.

Share of renewable energy in electricity generation by OECD country, 2021

(Unit: %)

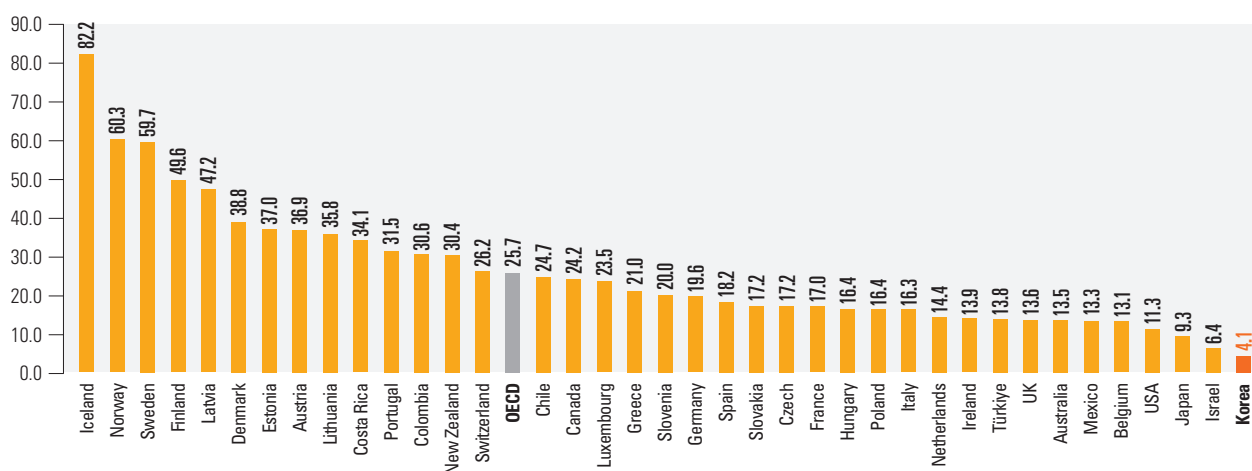


Source : World Bank Group, World Bank Open Data (<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.RNW.XS>, retrieved on Jan 29, 2026)

Note : Hydropower is excluded from renewable energy.

Share of renewable energy in final energy consumption by OECD country, 2022

(Unit: %)



Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Jan 30, 2026)



Bank data, which exclude hydropower from the calculation, Korea's share of renewable electricity generation stood at 5.5% in 2021, ranking as the third lowest among OECD countries. This figure falls significantly short of the OECD average of 23.2%. By contrast, Denmark recorded a renewable electricity share of 78.9%, approaching 80% of total generation. When measured on the basis of total final energy consumption, Korea's renewable energy share amounted to only 4.1% in 2022, placing it at the lowest level among OECD countries.

Slowing progress in reducing energy intensity

(SDG 7.3.1)

Energy intensity, an indicator that reflects the efficiency of energy use within the national economy, is defined as the ratio of total primary energy supply (TPES) to gross domestic product, expressed as tonnes of oil equivalent per KRW 1 million of GDP. A decline in energy intensity indicates that less energy is consumed relative to the value added produced, signifying improvements in energy efficiency. Energy intensity is closely associated with a country's industrial structure. In Korea, energy-intensive manufacturing sectors, such as steel and petrochemicals, account for a substantial share of industrial output. This structure acts as a structural constraint on decoupling, limiting the extent to which economic growth can be decoupled from energy consumption.

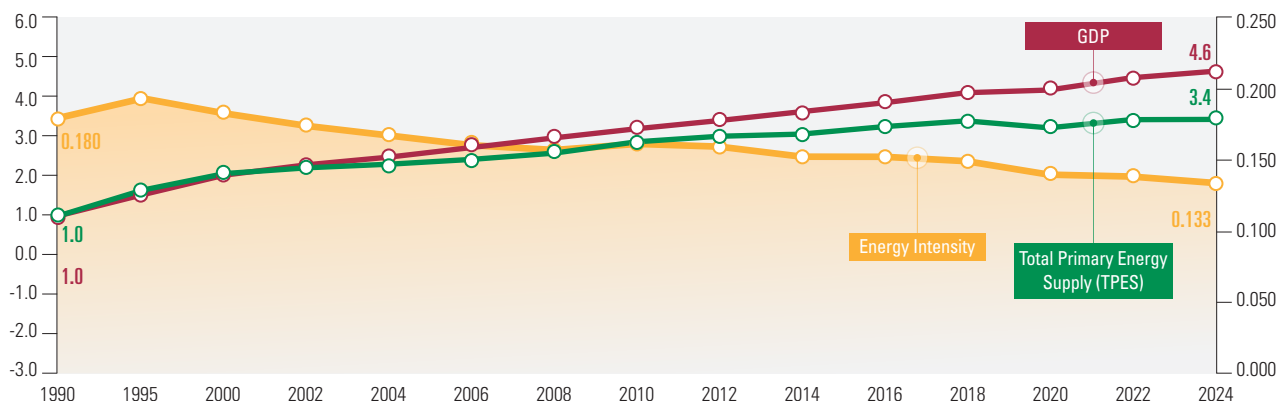
As of 2024, the industrial sector accounted for 61.6% of total final energy consumption in Korea. Industrial energy consumption increased steadily from the 1990s but has shown moderated growth and fluctuations since 2017. Final energy consumption in the industrial sector reached a peak of 133.54 million TOE in 2021, declined somewhat thereafter, and is provisionally estimated at 130.72 million TOE in 2024, representing a 3.4% increase from the previous year. The transport and buildings sectors, including residential and public and commercial buildings, accounted for 16.5% and 22.0% of total final energy consumption in 2024, respectively.

Energy intensity, defined as the ratio of total primary energy supply to gross domestic product, reached a peak of 0.200 TOE per KRW 1 million in 1993. It subsequently declined gradually, indicating steady improvements, but progress has recently slowed. The provisional estimate for 2024 stands at 0.133 TOE per KRW 1 million, unchanged from the previous year.

Despite earlier improvements, Korea's energy intensity remains among the highest in the OECD, indicating relatively low energy efficiency. In 2023, Korea recorded an energy intensity of 0.099 TOE per USD 1,000, ranking as the fourth highest among the 38 OECD member countries. A comparison of the pace of improvement over time further underscores this gap. Between 1990 and 2023, the average annual rate of improvement in energy intensity was 3.1% in the United Kingdom, 2.5% in

Energy intensity, 1990-2024

(Unit: Year1990=1, TOE/KRW 1 million)



Source : Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources and Korea Energy Economics Institute, Monthly Energy Statistics, January 2026 (<https://kesis.keeil.re.kr>, retrieved on Feb 10, 2026)

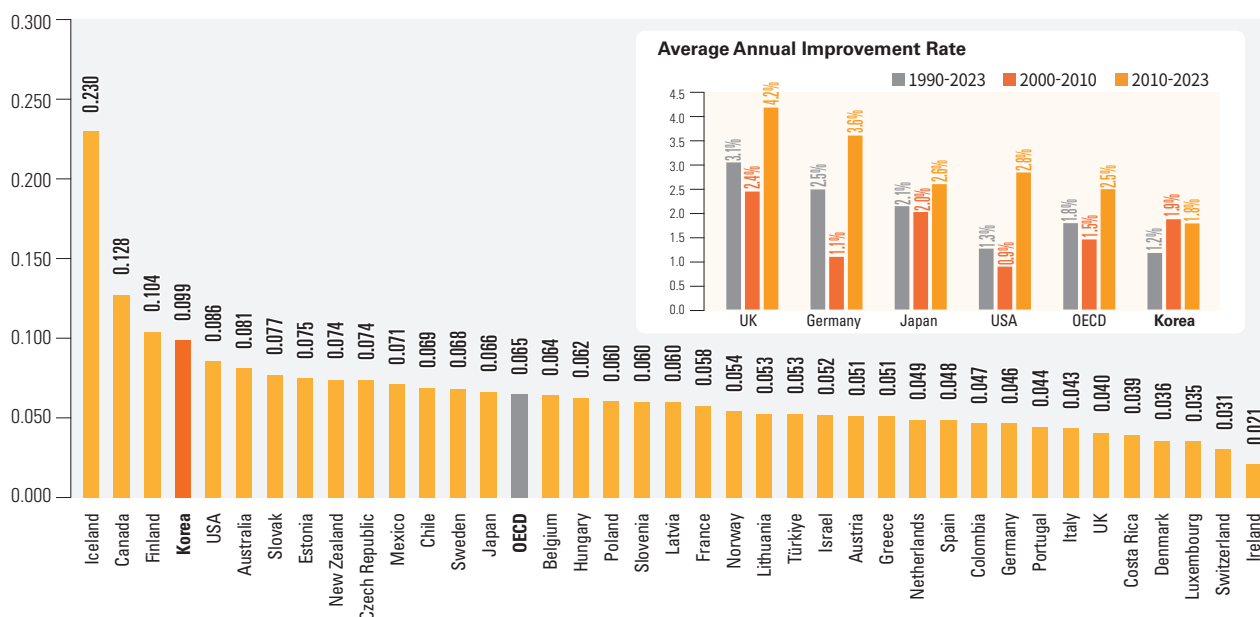
Note 1 : Energy intensity is defined as the ratio of total primary energy supply to gross domestic product (GDP)

Note 2 : Data for 2024 are provisional

Note 3 : GDP and Total Primary Energy Supply (TPES) indexed to 1990 (1990=1)

Energy intensity by OECD country, 2023

(Unit: TOE/USD 1,000, at 2021 PPP)



Source : World Bank Group, Data 360(https://data360.worldbank.org/en/indicator/WB_WDI_EG_USE_COMM_GD_PP_KD, retrieved on Jan 31, 2026)

Germany, 2.1% in the United States, 1.3% in Japan, and 1.8% for the OECD as a whole, compared with 1.2% in Korea over the same period. During 2000-2010, Korea's average annual improvement rate of 1.9% was broadly comparable to that of the aforementioned major economies, which ranged from 0.9% to 2.4%. However, a more pronounced divergence has emerged in recent years. Between 2010 and 2023, the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States, Japan, and the OECD average recorded average annual improvements of 4.2%, 3.6%, 2.6%, 2.8%, and 2.5%, respectively, whereas Korea achieved only 1.8% over the same period. As of 2024, manufacturing value added accounted for 26.6% of GDP in Korea. This share is substantially higher than that observed in advanced economies such as the United Kingdom at 8.0%, Germany at 18.0%, the United States

at 10.7% in 2021, and Japan at 20.6% in 2023. Addressing the structural constraints embedded in a manufacturing-oriented and energy-intensive economy will require sustained and strategically coordinated efforts to advance energy efficiency.

The Government of Korea has introduced a voluntary energy efficiency target scheme for energy-intensive enterprises, providing support for target setting and technical assistance. In addition, the government has established the Korea Energy Efficiency Partnership 30 (KEEP30) with the country's 30 largest energy-consuming corporations to promote efficiency improvements. Companies participating in KEEP30 achieved an average 2.6% improvement in energy intensity per firm in 2024. Among them, the six top-performing companies recorded an average improvement rate of 8%.

Definition

- **RE100** : A voluntary global corporate initiative under which companies commit to sourcing 100% of their electricity consumption from renewable energy (Renewable Energy 100)
- **primary energy** : Energy obtained directly from natural resources, such as coal, oil, and renewable sources, in its unprocessed form
- **final energy** : Energy that has undergone transformation from primary energy and is delivered for direct use in end-use sectors such as industry, transport, residential, and commercial activities
- **energy intensity** : The ratio of total primary energy supply (TPES) to gross domestic product (GDP)
- **KEEP30** : Korea Energy Efficiency Partnership 30, a voluntary agreement between the government and 30 major energy-intensive business sites with annual energy consumption surpassing 200,000 TOE, aimed at improving energy intensity through structured target setting and incentive mechanisms
- **PPP** : Purchasing Power Parity, a method of calculating currency conversion rates that equalizes the purchasing power of different currencies by comparing the relative prices of identical goods and services across countries



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 8 aims to promote decent jobs for all through inclusive and sustainable growth. Across the globe, an economic slowdown is forecast due to trade tensions and policy uncertainties, and challenges persist, including the informal sector, child labor, the protection of workers' rights, particularly for youth and women, and structural gaps in the labor market. Although Korea's economic recovery and labour market conditions remain relatively favourable, it is necessary to improve employment conditions and the quality of jobs for women, youth and old-age workers.

» The growth rate of real GDP per capita stood at 1.9% in 2024, showing improvement compared to the previous year (1.5%); however, the recovery was limited compared to the rates observed from 2013 to 2018 (2.4% to 3.1%).

- Korea's growth rate was favorable compared to Germany and the United Kingdom, which experienced negative growth or grew by only 0.1% in 2023 and 2024. Still, sluggish economic growth is expected in the long run owing to an ageing population.

» The hourly earnings were recorded at 25,156 KRW in 2024, maintaining an overall upward trend.

- In 2024, women's wages were 70.9% of men's, narrowing the gender gap. By age group, the relative level of wages for those aged 60 or older rose from 72.5% in 2011 to 82.1% in 2024.
- By type of occupation, managers' wages were significantly higher at 314.7% of the overall average, increasing at the fastest pace compared to 2011.
- Korea's hourly wage (27.3 dollars, PPP) in 2024 was lower than those of Germany (52.1 dollars), the United States (46.2 dollars), the United Kingdom (42.1 dollars), France (40.7 dollars) and Japan (30.6 dollars); however, it grew at the fastest pace from the 2011 level (33.9% increase).

» The unemployment rate (2.8% in 2025) remained at a low level of 2.7% to 2.9% from 2022 to 2025, alongside a higher employment rate (62.9% in 2025) compared to the mid-2010s, indicating favorable employment conditions.

- The unemployment rate among young adults in their 20s (6.1% in 2025) was the highest, but it declined by 2.9%p between 2020 and 2025, showing a clear downward trend. The employment rate for the elderly aged 60 or older has continued to rise since 2011.

» The accident rate of workers affected by occupational injuries increased from 0.48% in 2017 to 0.67% in 2024 due to expanded coverage of industrial accident insurance, whereas the fatality rate (0.98‰ in 2024) and the accidental death rate (0.39‰) showed a declining trend.

- In 2024, elderly workers aged 60 or older accounted for 38.2% of the total number of accidents and 52.8% of accident-related deaths.

» The number of employees working in key tourism sectors classified as the special tourism industry reached about 450,000 in 2024. They were engaged in sectors, such as culture, entertainment, leisure sports (24.9%) and tourist transportation (22.2%).

- In 2024, sales of the tourism industry (according to the Tourism Promotion Act) recovered to the pre-pandemic level; however, the number of employees remained at 79.5% of the 2019 level.

The growth rate of real GDP per capita has shown limited recovery (🔄 SDG 8.1.1)

The per capita real GDP serves as an indicator to show the average standards of living, and its annual growth rate reflects the pace of improvement. The annual growth rate of real GDP per capita remained in the mid-2% to low-3% range from 2013 to 2018. However, it declined to 2.0% in 2019 right

before the onset of COVID-19 and contracted in 2020 when the pandemic began. Starting from 2021, it started to grow again; however, the growth rate stayed in the 1% range in 2023 and 2024 when the base effects from the sudden decline disappeared, falling short of the recovery seen in the past. In 2024, the growth rate of real GDP per capita stood at 1.9%, higher than 1.5% in 2023 due to the recovery in exports, but



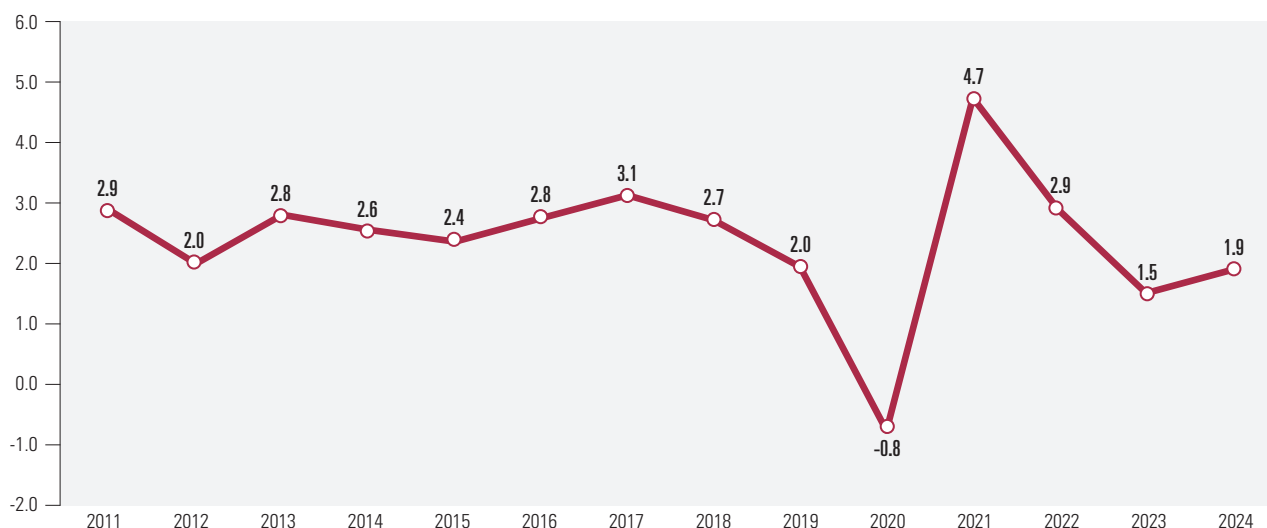
the overall recovery remained limited owing to sluggish private consumption and investment.

Looking at circumstances in OECD countries, Germany and the United Kingdom still showed considerably lower growth rates than before 2020, even after severe economic slowdowns in 2020 due to COVID-19 and sharp growth in 2021 derived from the base effects. Germany recorded negative growth for two consecutive years in 2023 and 2024 while the United

Kingdom posted a growth rate of only 0.1% in 2024 after negative growth in 2023. The United States recorded growth rates of 1.9% to 2.1% in 2023 and 2024, which is considered as favorable growth, considering the average growth rate at 1.6% for the period from 2011 to 2019. Japan grew at rates of 2.0% and 0.5% in 2023 and 2024 respectively, fluctuating around the past average of 1.0% from 2011 to 2019. France also recorded growth rates of 1.2% and 0.9% respectively in 2023 and 2024,

Growth Rate of Real GDP per capita, 2011-2024

(Unit: %)

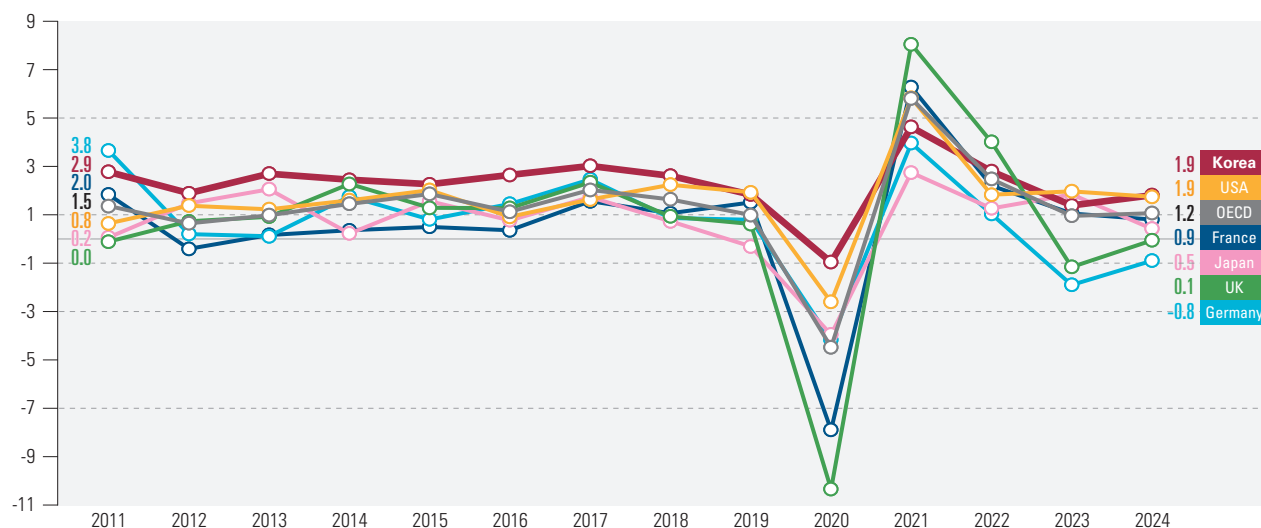


Source : Bank of Korea, National Account (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Aug 28, 2025)

Note : This refers to the growth rate of real GDP per capita compared to the previous year, by dividing nominal GDP per capita (based on KRW) by GDP deflator (2020=100).

Growth Rate of Real GDP per capita in OECD Countries, 2011-2024

(Unit: %)



Source : OECD, OECD Data Explorer(<https://data-explorer.oecd.org>, retrieved on Sep 19, 2025)

Note 1 : This is based on PPP exchange rate (fixed USD price in 2020).

Note 2 : This graph shows growth rates of real GDP per capita compared to the previous year.

showing a gradual recovery to previous levels.

Compared to major economies, including Germany or the United Kingdom, whose real growth rates have not recovered, Korea has improved its living standards in a relatively favorable manner. However, the pace of improvement has slowed compared to before. In the future, Korea's growth rate of real GDP per capita is expected to significantly drop compared to other countries due to its rapid population ageing, requiring adequate policy responses. The Korea Development Institute (2025) also predicted that Korea's growth rate of real GDP per capita would gradually decline to 1.6% in the second half of the 2020s, 1.0% in the 2030s and further to 0.7% in the 2040s.

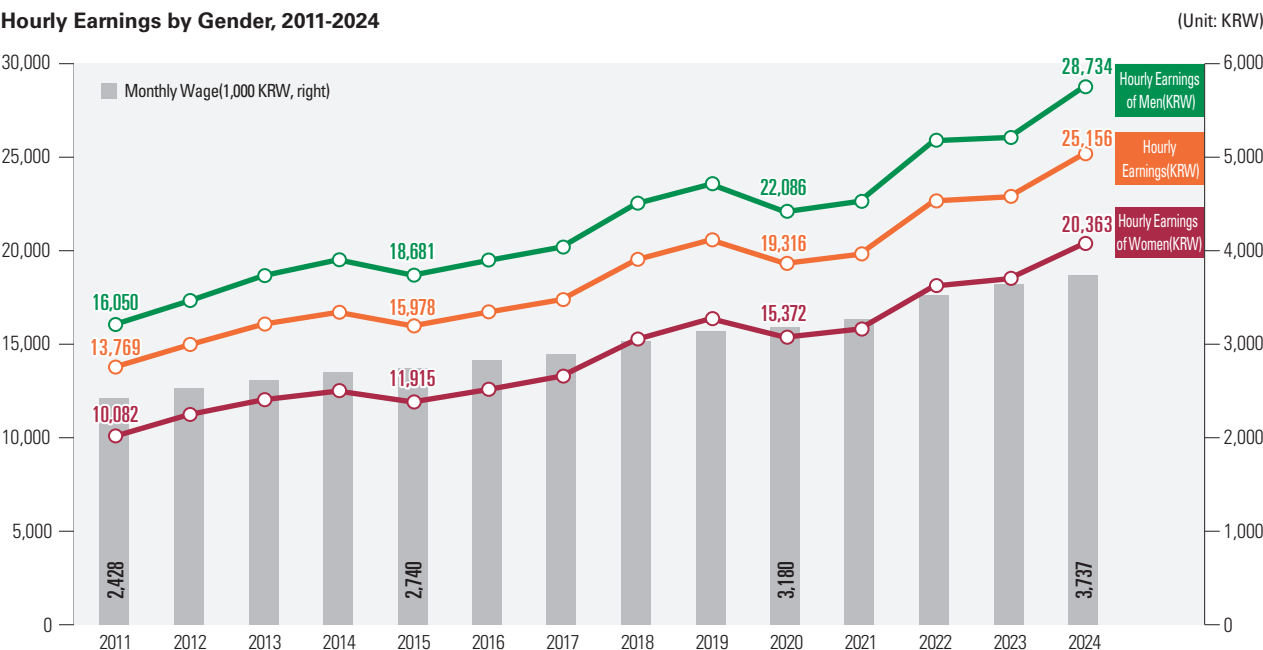
The gender gap in hourly earnings has narrowed while wages for the elderly have grown at a faster pace (SDG 8.5.1)

Average hourly earnings refer to the compensation received per hour of work by employees serving as a major indicator to show the job quality of wage workers. Therefore, it is a commonly used indicator to assess disparities in job quality depending on workforce or enterprise characteristics. In Korea, the hourly

earnings of workers repeatedly fluctuated around 13,769 KRW in 2011 and then experienced an overall increase, reaching 25,156 KRW in 2024. The decline in hourly earnings in 2020 was heavily attributed to prolonged working hours as the number of working days in the surveyed month increased by 1.5 days compared to the previous year. During this period, it was difficult to expect improvements in working conditions due to the influence of COVID-19; however, it is hard to conclude that a year-on-year decline in hourly earnings necessarily indicates a decrease in the level of labor compensation that reflects the quality of jobs. The total monthly incomes for workers increased each year from 2011 to 2024.

Among the OECD countries, Korea tends to have a severe gender wage gap. In 2024, the hourly earnings of female workers stood at 20,363 KRW, which is only 70.9% of those of male workers (28,734 KRW). This gender wage gap has narrowed in recent years. The hourly earnings of female workers vis-à-vis their male counterparts rose by 8.1%p from 2011 (62.8%) to 2024, narrowing the gender gap.

By age group, in 2011, the hourly earnings of workers in their 40s (16,171 KRW) were higher than those in their 30s

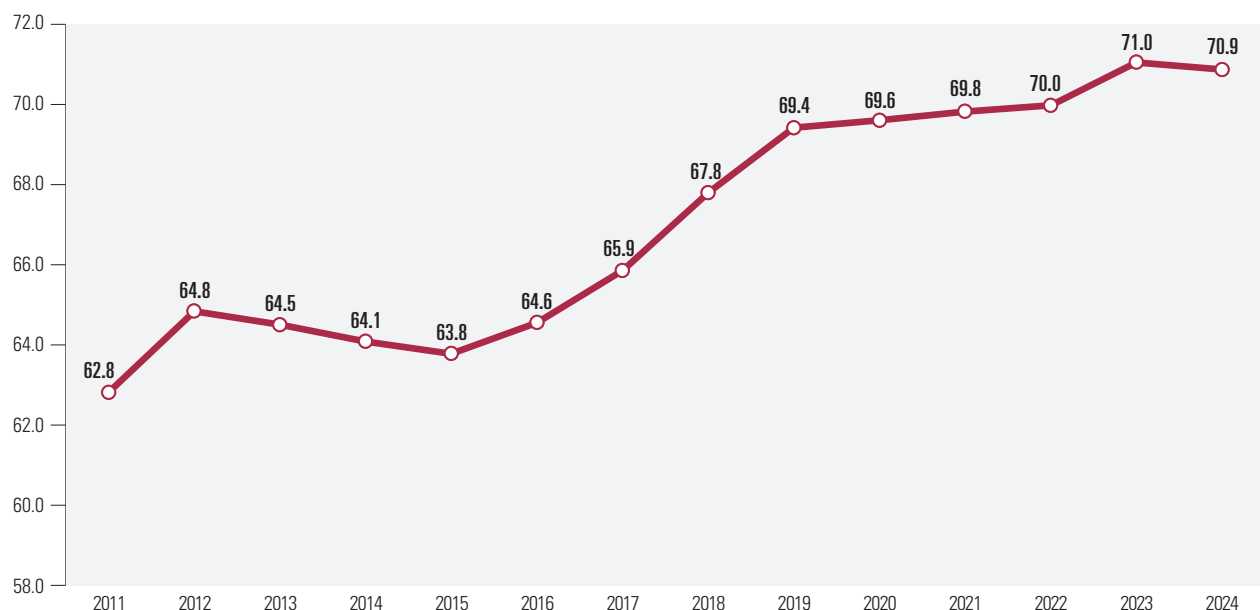


Source : Ministry of Employment and Labor, Survey Report on Labor Conditions by Employment Type (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Aug 28, 2025)
 Note : The decline in hourly earnings in 2020 is attributable to an increase of 1.5 days in the number of working days in the surveyed month (June) compared to the previous year.



Relative Wage Levels of Women, 2011-2024

(Unit: %, men=100)



Source : Ministry of Employment and Labor, Survey Report on Labor Conditions by Employment Type (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Aug 28, 2025)

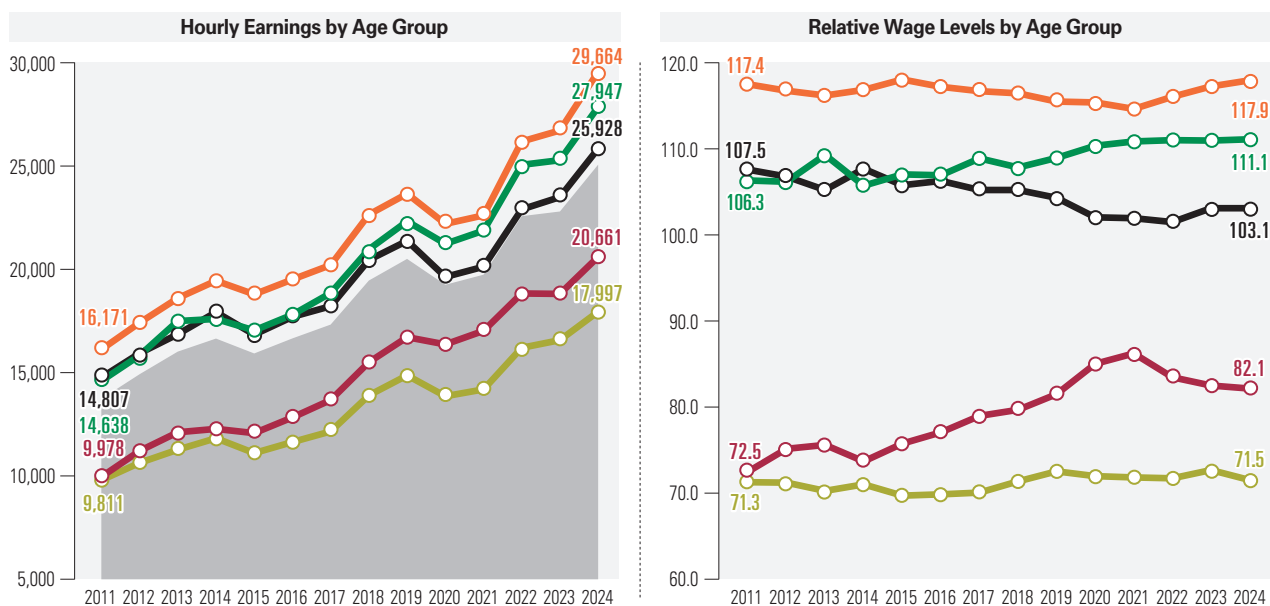
Note 1 : This refers to the ratio of women's wages to men's based on total hourly earnings.

Note 2 : The decline in hourly earnings in 2020 is attributable to an increase of 1.5 days in the number of working days in the surveyed month (June) compared to the previous year.

Hourly Earnings and Relative Wage Levels by Age Group, 2011-2024

(Unit: KRW, %, Total average=100)

■ Total — Ages 29 or younger — Ages 30 to 39 — Ages 40 to 49 — Ages 50 to 59 — Ages 60 or above



Source : Ministry of Employment and Labor, Survey Report on Labor Conditions by Employment Type (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Aug 28, 2025)

Note 1 : This graph shows wages by age group relative to the hourly earnings of total workforce.

Note 2 : The decline in hourly earnings in 2020 is attributable to an increase of 1.5 days in the number of working days in the surveyed month (June) compared to the previous year.

(14,807 KRW) and 50s (14,638 KRW), while those of youth aged 29 or younger (9,811 KRW) and old-age workers aged 60 or above (9,978 KRW) were lower than theirs. However, almost 15 years later in 2024, significant changes were observed. With a

considerably slower pace of wage increase among workers below 40 compared to those in their 40s or older, wage levels have become differentiated across age groups. The wages for those in their 40s still topped the list with 29,664 KRW while wages

Hourly Earnings by Type of Occupation, 2011-2024

	Manager	Professional	Office	Services	Sales	Agriculture/ Forestry/ Fishery	Technical	Operation/ Assembly	Simple Labor
2011	33,458	17,856	16,202	7,436	11,887	11,126	12,897	12,292	7,804
2015	44,002	20,335	18,473	8,792	12,678	11,917	15,328	14,278	9,358
2020	59,024	23,446	21,777	11,837	16,131	15,447	19,495	17,904	13,131
2021	62,043	23,898	22,441	12,295	16,398	15,962	20,226	18,074	13,074
2022	73,158	27,328	25,786	13,378	18,625	16,875	22,345	20,322	14,530
2023	71,349	28,006	25,677	13,929	18,512	16,816	22,634	20,937	15,433
2024	79,155	30,843	28,776	15,117	20,426	19,185	24,920	22,848	16,011

Relative Wage Levels by Type of Occupation, 2011-2024

	Manager	Professional	Office	Services	Sales	Agriculture/ Forestry/ Fishery	Technical	Operation/ Assembly	Simple Labor
2011	243.0	129.7	117.7	54.0	86.3	80.8	93.7	89.3	56.7
2015	275.4	127.3	115.6	55.0	79.3	74.6	95.9	89.4	58.6
2020	305.6	121.4	112.7	61.3	83.5	80.0	100.9	92.7	68.0
2021	313.3	120.7	113.3	62.1	82.8	80.6	102.1	91.3	66.0
2022	323.0	120.6	113.8	59.1	82.2	74.5	98.6	89.7	64.1
2023	311.9	122.4	112.2	60.9	80.9	73.5	98.9	91.5	67.5
2024	314.7	122.6	114.4	60.1	81.2	76.3	99.1	90.8	63.6

Source : Ministry of Employment and Labor, Survey Report on Labor Conditions by Employment Type (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Aug 28, 2025)

Note : This shows wages by type of occupation relative to the hourly earnings of total workforce.

of those in their 30s (25,928 KRW) were clearly lower than those of workers in their 50s (27,947 KRW), and so were the wages of youth (17,997 KRW) compared to the elderly (20,661 KRW). Such a trend has been also observed in the relative levels compared to the overall average wage. Compared to all workers, the relative wage level of the workers aged 60 or older increased by 9.7%p from 72.5% in 2011 to 82.1% in 2024, but that of workers in their 30s fell by 4.5%p from 107.5% to 103.1% over the same period.

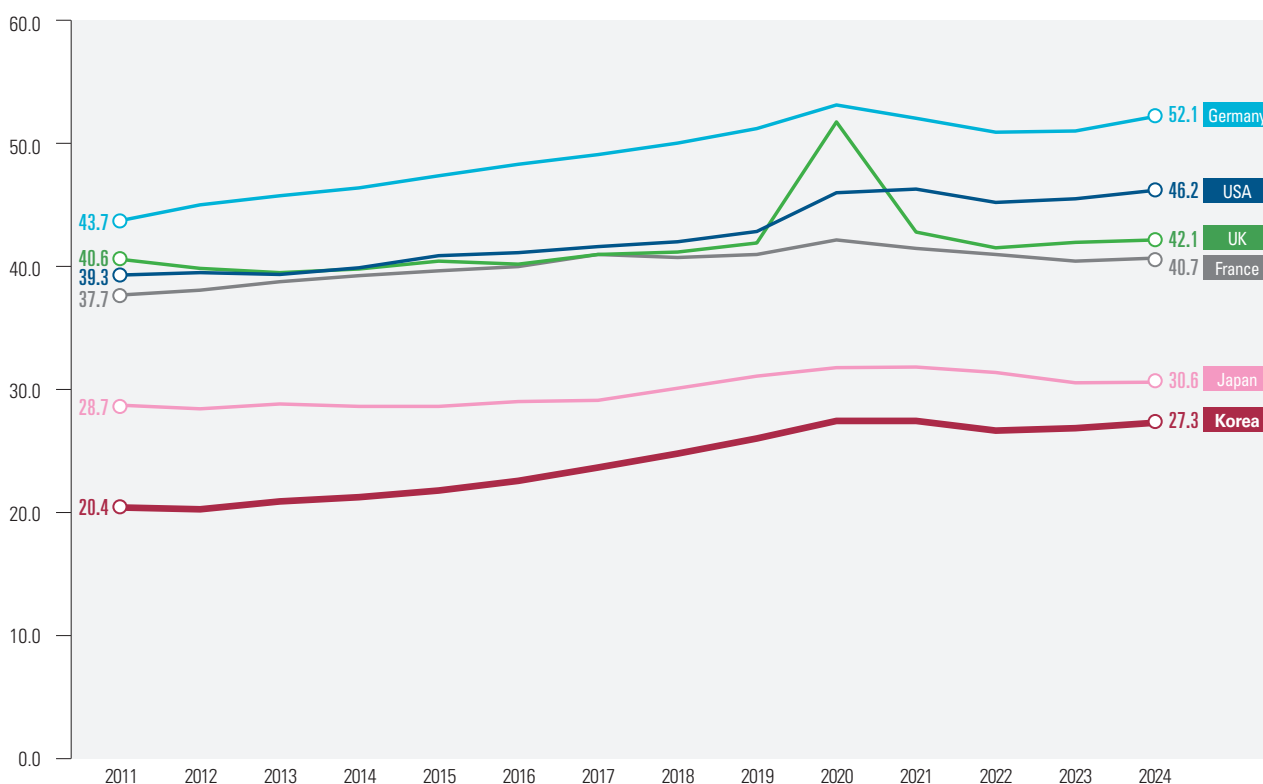
By type of occupation, in 2024 the hourly earnings of managers stood at 79,155 KRW, an increase of 136.6% compared to 2011, showing a significantly higher growth rate vis-à-vis other types of occupations (71.8 to 105.2%). In particular, the relative wage level of managers compared to the total workforce increased from 243.0% in 2011 to 314.7% in 2024, further widening the gap. However, excluding managers, the wage gap between different types of occupations has

narrowed overall. For service and simple labor occupations with low hourly earnings, their relative wage levels vis-à-vis total workforce reached 54.0% and 56.7%, respectively, in 2011; however, they rose to 60.1% and 63.6% in 2024, slightly narrowing the gap. There was also a considerable wage differentiation in the following types of occupations whose relative wage levels were similar in 2011: agriculture, forestry and fishery workers (80.8%), sales workers (86.3%), operators & assemblers (89.3%) and technical workers (93.7%). In 2024, the relative wage levels of agriculture, forestry and fishery workers and sales workers stood at 76.3% and 81.2%, showing a decline compared to 2011 and further widening the gap. In the same year, the relative wage level of technical workers rose to 99.1%, reaching almost the average of total workforce. As for operators and assemblers, there was no noticeable change at 90.8%. The relative wage levels of office workers and professionals, whose income levels tend to be higher, went



Hourly Earnings in Major OECD Countries, 2011-2024

(Unit: USD)



Source : OECD, OECD Data Explorer(<https://data-explorer.oecd.org>, retrieved on Sep 19, 2025)

Note 1 : This is calculated by dividing annual wages by annual working hours, based on constant prices (PPP) in 2024.

Note 2 : In 2020, the sharp increase in hourly earnings in the United Kingdom was due to a sudden decline in annual working hours in that year (1,509 hours in 2019, 1,207 hours in 2020 and 1,486 hours in 2021), whereas France saw its annual working hours decrease by more than 100 hours, together with a significant decline in annual wages, resulting in no sharp spike in hourly earnings.

slightly down from 117.7% and 129.7% in 2011 to 114.4% and 122.6% in 2024. As a large proportion of workers in their 30s engage in professional and office work, the decline in the relative wage level among those in their 30s appears to have something to do with the drop in the relative wage levels of professionals and office workers.

If the hourly earnings (constant prices in 2024, PPP) are calculated by dividing annual wages by annual working hours in major OECD countries, in 2011 there was no big difference among Germany (43.7 dollars), the United Kingdom (40.6 dollars), the United States (39.3 dollars) and France (37.7 dollars); however, there was a considerable gap observed in 2024. Among these countries, Germany and the United States saw their hourly earnings increase by 19.3% and 17.5% respectively, from 2011 to 2024, reaching 52.1 dollars and 46.2 dollars in 2024. Over the same period, France and the United Kingdom grew by only 7.9% and 3.8%, leaving hourly earnings at 40.7

dollars and 42.1 dollars in 2024. The hourly earnings of Korea and Japan in 2011 were 20.4 dollars and 28.7 dollars; however, they rose to 33.9% and 6.5% respectively, narrowing the gap to some degree and reaching 27.3 dollars and 30.6 dollars in 2024. Korea's relatively low hourly earnings are also attributable to longer annual working hours. In 2024, the annual working hours in Korea stood at 1,865 hours, which were longer than 1,796 hours in the United States and 1,617 hours in Japan, and showed an even significant gap from 1,512 hours in the United Kingdom, 1,491 hours in France and 1,331 hours in Germany.

The unemployment rate maintained a low level of 2.8% in 2025 while the employment rate of the elderly aged 60 or older continued to rise (SDG 8.5.2)

The unemployment rate measures the extent to which labour supply is underutilised. It is also an indicator that reflects labor market conditions when decent jobs are not available to job

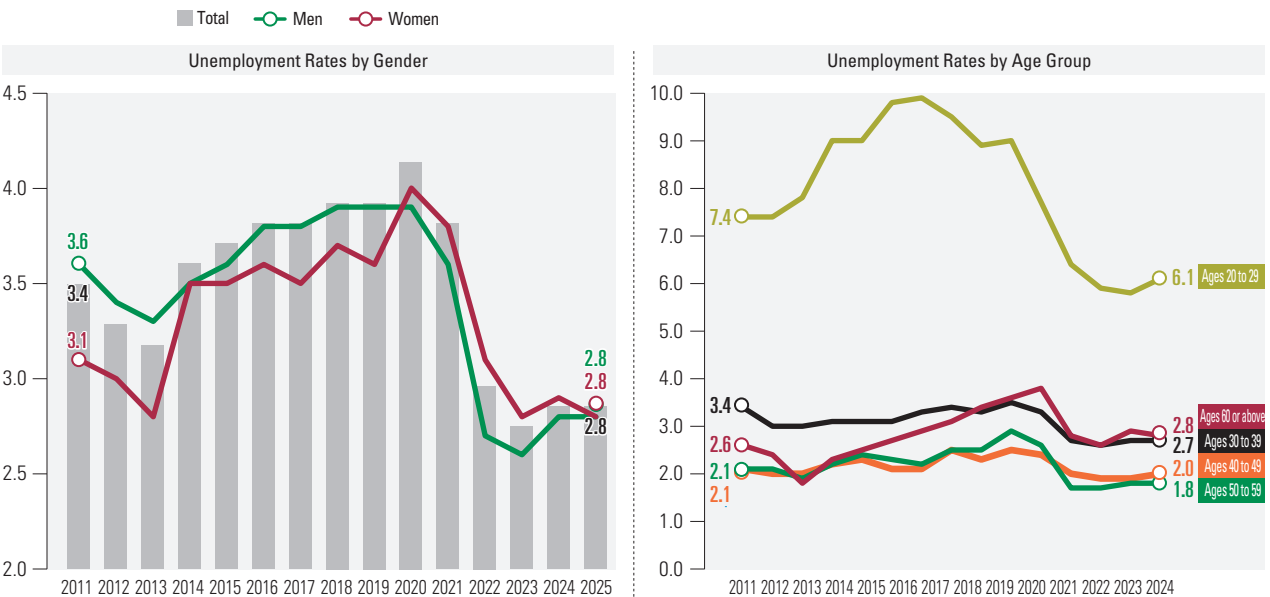
seekers. However, the unemployment rate can go up due to a growing entry of previously inactive persons into the labour force, even when overall labor market conditions are favorable, and vice versa. As the unemployment rate has limitations in reflecting labor market conditions, the employment rate is also examined for supplementary purposes.

In 2025, the unemployment rate of Korea was recorded

at 2.8%, continuing from the previous year. It declined to the 2% range from 2022, immediately after the COVID-19 pandemic, and remained between 2.7% and 2.9% through 2025. The employment rate also ranged from 62.1% to 62.9% between 2022 and 2025, which is an increase of more than 1%p compared to the 60% range seen from 2014 to 2021. Considering these employment rates, it is reasonable to conclude

Unemployment Rates by Gender and Age Group, 2011-2025

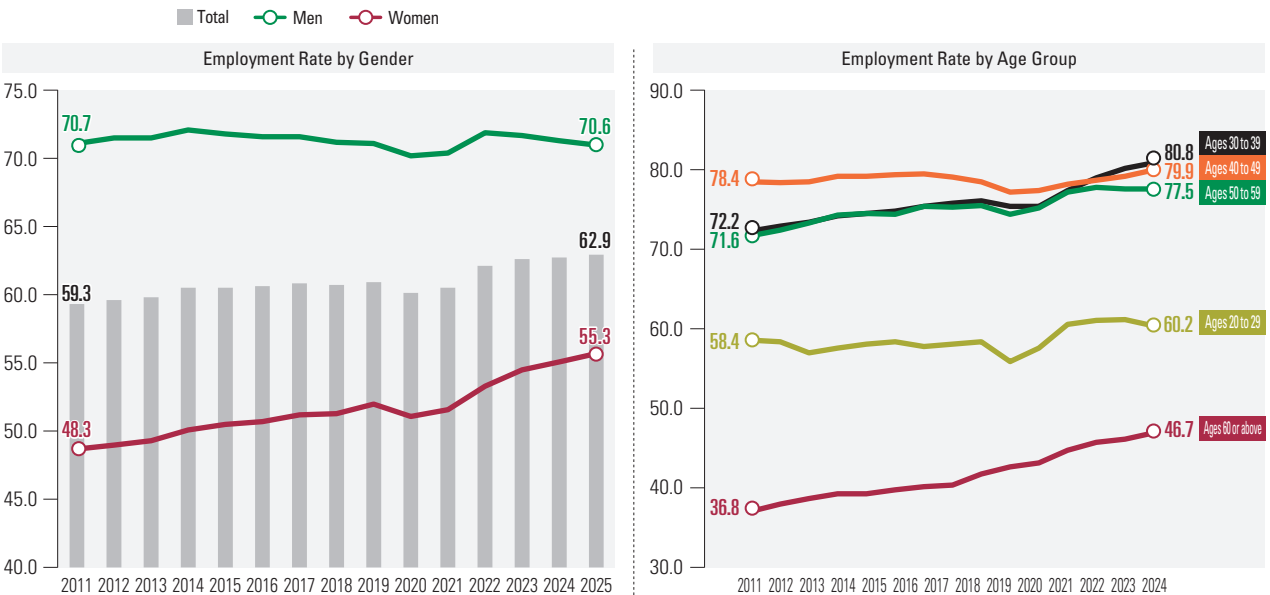
(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Data and Statistics, Economically Active Population Survey (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Jan 31, 2026)

Employment Rate by Gender and Age Group, 2011-2025

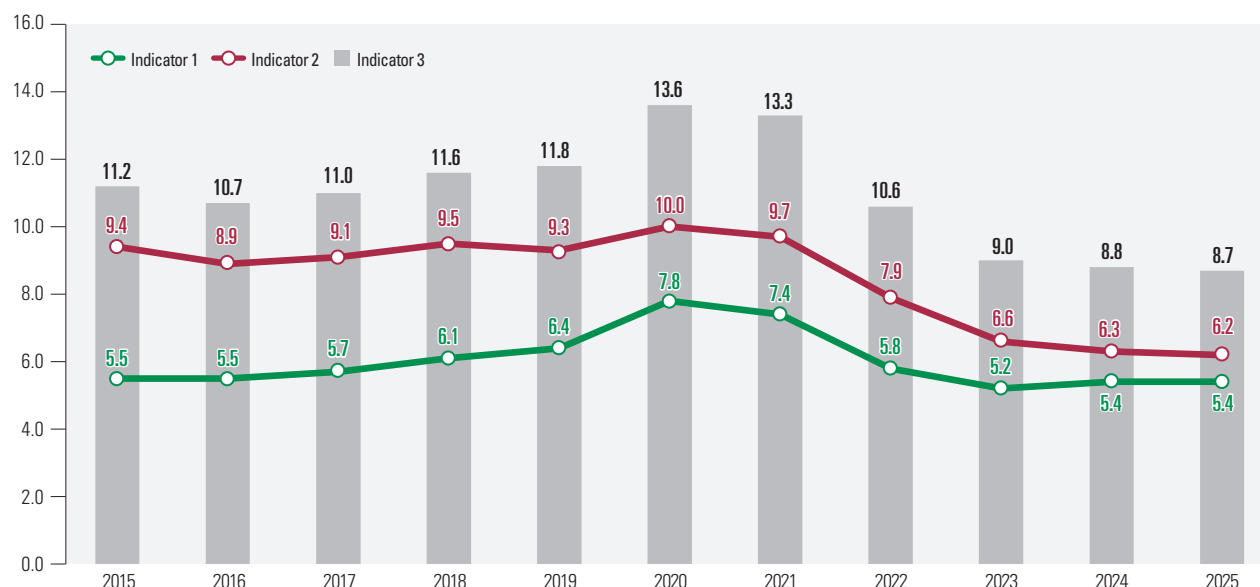
(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Data and Statistics, Economically Active Population Survey (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Aug 28, 2025)

**Labor Underutilization Indicators, 2015-2025**

(Unit: %)

Source : Ministry of Data and Statistics, Economically Active Population Survey (<https://kosis.kr>, 2025)

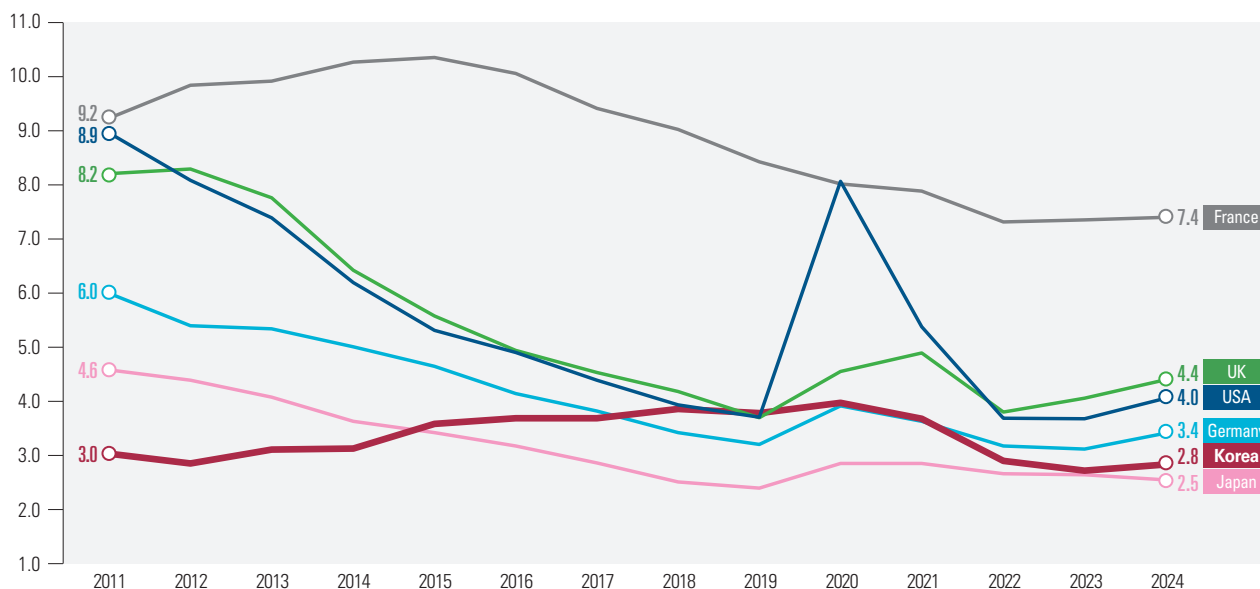
Note : Labor Underutilization Indicator 1=((Time-related underemployed+Unemployed)-Labor force)×100

Labor Underutilization Indicator 2=((Unemployed+Potential labor force)-Expanded labor force)×100

Labor Underutilization Indicator 3=((Time-related underemployed+Unemployed+Potential labor force)-Expanded labor force)×100

Unemployment Rates in OECD Countries, 2011-2024

(Unit: %)

Source : ILO, ILOSTAT(<https://ilostat ilo.org/topics/sdg>, retrieved on Sep 19, 2025)

that the recent low unemployment rates reflect the favorable conditions of the labor market.

By gender, in 2020 the unemployment rate of women surpassed that of men by 0.1%p, further widening the gap to 0.4%p in 2022. Then, the unemployment rates became equal for both men and women in 2025. The rise in women's unemployment is not due to a decline in jobs for women

compared to the past, but rather to the growing number of women seeking employment. This phenomenon can also be observed in the more rapidly rising employment rate of women compared to men. The employment of men ranged between 69.8% and 71.5% from 2020 to 2025, whereas the employment rate of women rose to 55.3% from 50.7% over the same period.

By age group, the unemployment rate of individuals in their

20s, which stood at 6.1% in 2025, remains overwhelmingly high compared to other age groups, but it fell by 2.9%p from 2020 to 2025 following the onset of COVID-19, showing a clear downward trend. For young adults in their 20s, the employment rate had been rising recently, but it declined by 0.8%p year-on-year in 2025. On the other hand, the employment rate of the elderly aged 60 or above has continued to rise since 2011 even during the pandemic, increasing by 0.8%p in 2025 compared to the previous year.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the favorable labor market conditions can also be confirmed through labor underutilization indicators, in addition to the unemployment and employment rates. There has been a rapid decline in Labor Underutilization Indicator 1, which counts as unemployed those who wish to work more than their current working hours, and Labor Underutilization Indicator 2, which counts as unemployed those who are unable to work immediately despite seeking a job or those who can start working immediately but are not currently seeking a job. Labor Underutilization Indicator 1 fell from 7.8% in 2020 to 5.4% in 2025 while Indicator 2 declined from 10.0% to 6.2% over the same period.

Compared to major OECD countries, Korea has

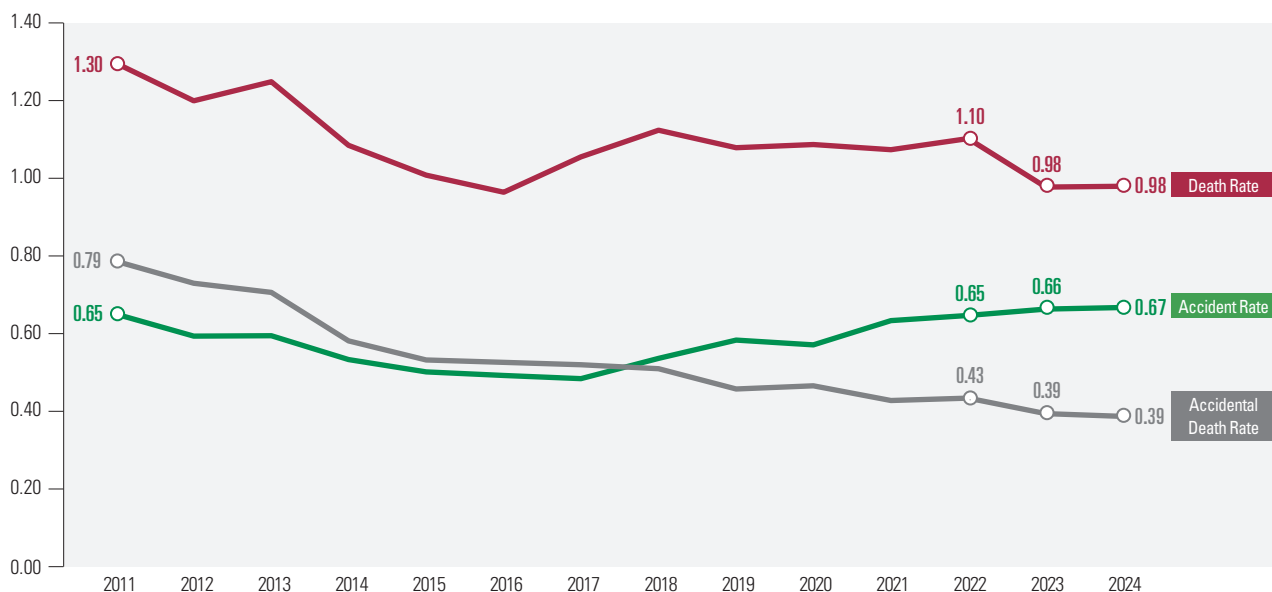
maintained a relatively low level of unemployment. In 2024, the unemployment rate in Korea was 2.8%, which was significantly lower than 7.4% in France, 4.4% in the United Kingdom, 4.0% in the United States and 3.4% in Germany. For Japan, its unemployment rate (2.5%) has continued to remain lower than Korea's since 2015. The unemployment rates in major economies had steadily declined since 2011 before temporarily rising during COVID-19, and then they stabilized, recently showing a slight increase again. In the United States, a sharp rise in the unemployment rate during the COVID-19 pandemic is largely attributable to its focus on support for operating costs, including labor costs, for businesses in limited sectors, unlike other countries that emphasized support to maintain employment.

Need to reinforce efforts to prevent occupational injuries in vulnerable sectors despite a decline in the accidental fatality rate from occupational injuries (🔄 SDG 8.8.1)

Indicating the ratio of workers experiencing occupational injuries to workers covered by industrial accident insurance, the accident rate decreased to 0.48% in 2017 before showing an upward trend. In January 2018, the system to confirm

Accident Rate and Fatality Rate among Workers, 2011-2024

(Unit: %, ‰)



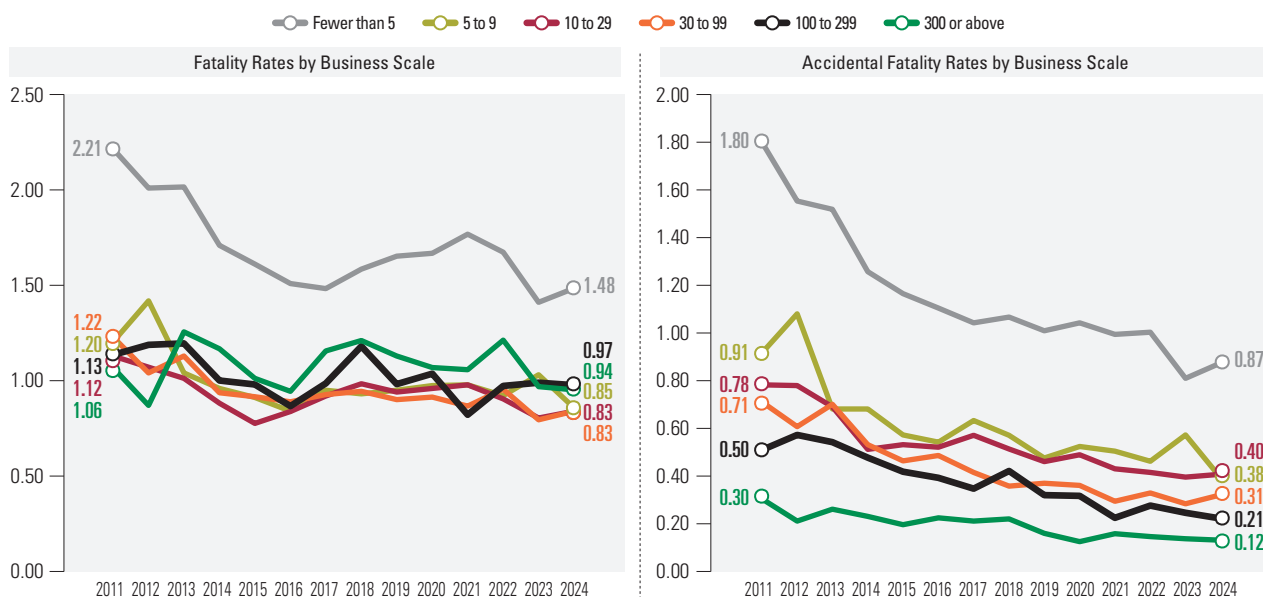
Source : Ministry of Employment and Labor, Current Status of Occupational Injuries (<https://www.index.go.kr>, retrieved on Oct 20, 2025)

Note : Deaths from traffic accidents outside business sites, sports events, violent behaviors and deaths that occurred one year or more after the date of the accident are excluded from deaths from accidents compiled since 2012 (including deaths from traffic accidents outside business sites in the transportation and food/accommodation sectors).



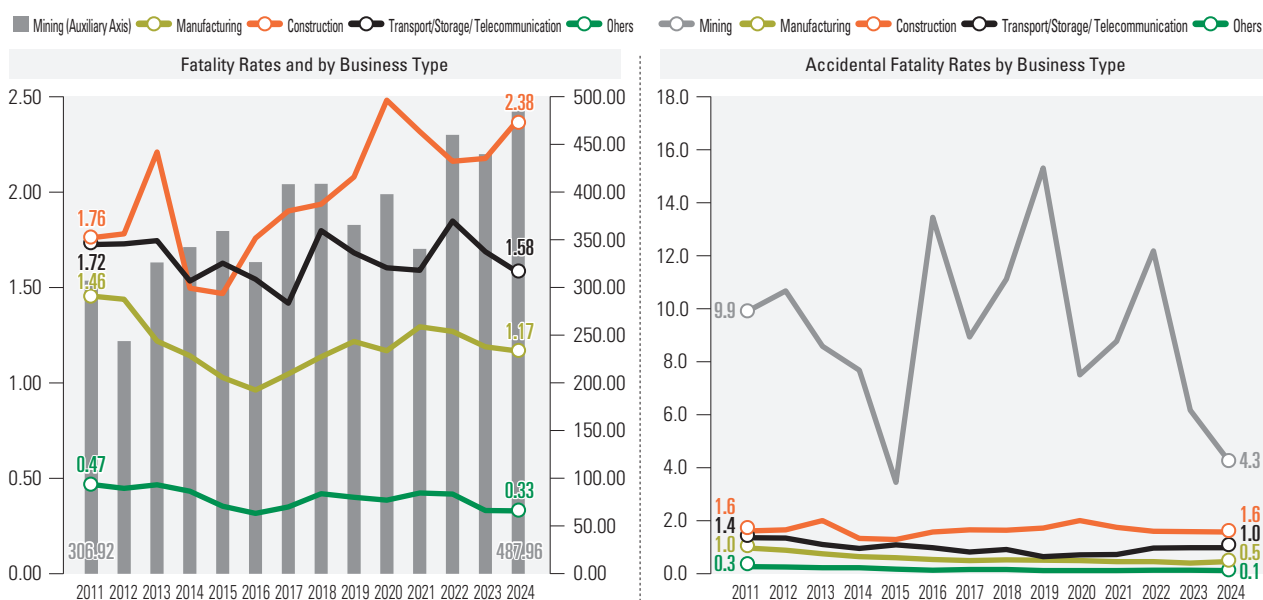
Fatality Rates and Accidental Fatality Rates by Business Scale, 2011-2024

(Unit: ‰)



Fatality Rates and Accidental Fatality Rates by Business Type, 2011-2024

(Unit: ‰)

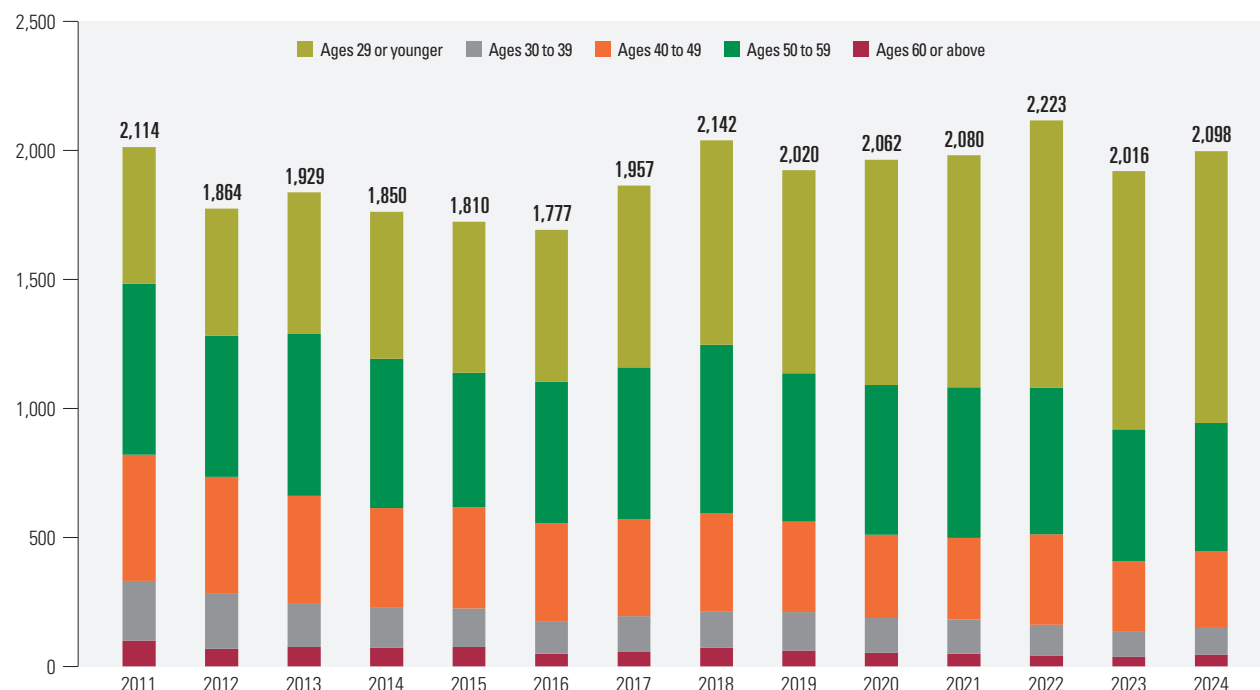


insurance policyholders was introduced, enabling applications for industrial accident compensation without the approval of business owners, and the principle of presumption was stated in the Enforcement Decree, allowing certain occupational injuries to be presumed without verification through reports filled out by business owners. Besides, the scope of industrial accident

insurance coverage has been expanded several times, including the expansion of occupations covered. In July 2021, the criteria for applying for exclusion, which had contributed to the low coverage rate among special-type workers, were strengthened, ensuring insurance coverage unless they fall under exceptional cases. In July 2023, the exclusivity requirements for special-

Number of Deaths from Accidents by Age Group, 2011-2024

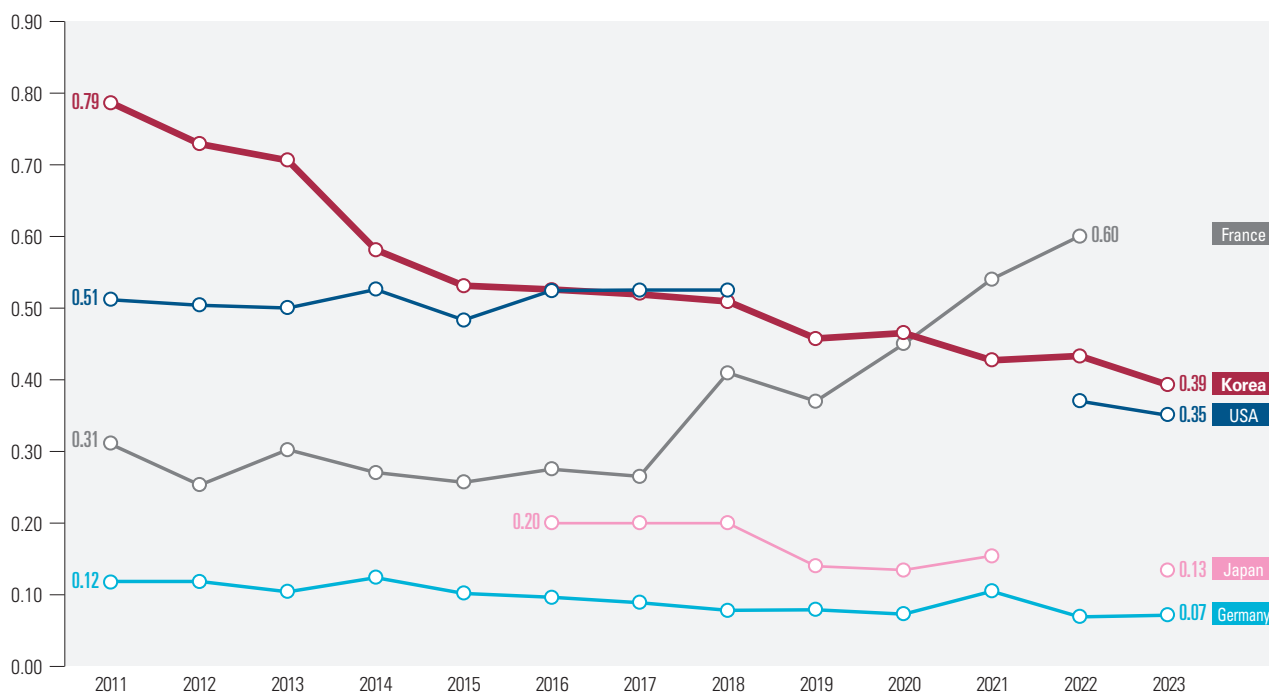
(Unit: No. of persons)



Source : Ministry of Employment and Labor, Current Status of Occupational Injuries (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Feb 12, 2026)

Accidental Fatality Rate in Major OECD Countries, 2011-2023

(Unit: ‰)



Source : ILO, ILOSTAT(<https://ilostat ilo.org/topics/sdg>, retrieved on Sep 19, 2025)

Note : It is difficult to directly compare since data sources vary depending on countries. Korea, France and Germany are based on industrial accident compensation records, while Japan relies on inspection records since 2020, and the United States and Japan through 2019 are based on survey results.

type workers, which required them to satisfy criteria, such as a certain level of income or working hours in a single company, were abolished, and the concept of special-type workers was

changed to labor providers, largely expanding the types of occupations covered. With the expanded coverage of industrial accident insurance, coverage and protection for workers were



strengthened, but the accident rate increased as the number of workers included in the statistics also grew, including those in relatively vulnerable sectors, reaching 0.67‰ in 2024. Despite the increase in the reported incidence of occupational injuries, the fatality rate, which measures the number of deaths from accidents per 10,000 workers, showed a downward trend, recording 0.98‰ in 2024. In particular, the accidental fatality rate continued to decline from 0.79‰ in 2011 to 0.39‰ in 2024.

By business scale, in 2024 the fatality rate stood at 1.48‰ among businesses with fewer than five employees, whereas it remained below 1‰ in other businesses. The accidental fatality rate also reached 0.87‰ among businesses with no more than five employees while it was 0.4‰ or less in other businesses. Among businesses with fewer than five employees, the fatality rate increased from 2018, but it has declined since 2022. In addition, the accidental fatality rate among businesses with fewer than five employees has steadily decreased since 2011.

Looking at business types, mining had an overwhelmingly high fatality rate of 487.96‰ in 2024. Other businesses, such as manufacturing and transport/storage/telecommunication, recorded fatality rate below 3‰. The accidental fatality rate in mining heavily fluctuated between 3.4‰ and 15.3‰ from

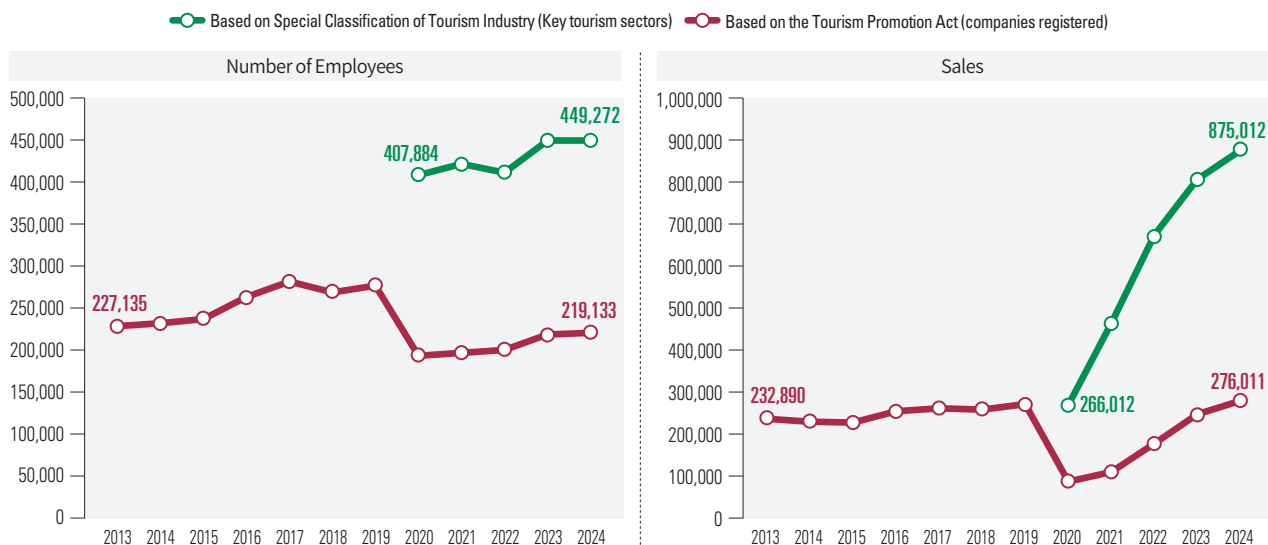
2011 to 2024. Especially in 2024, it was 4.3‰, reaching close to the levels of other businesses (below 2‰). Most deaths in the mining industry were caused by diseases, and fewer than 5% resulted from accidents.

One of the issues noteworthy in recent occupational injuries is an increase in injured older workers and deaths resulting from the accidents as the number of aged workers has risen. In 2024, out of a total of 142,771 accidents, the elderly aged 60 or above accounted for 38.2% (54,573 workers). It is even more worrisome in the case of deaths from occupational injuries. In 2024, more than half of the total 2,098 deaths from occupational injuries were elderly aged 60 or older (1,107 deaths). Considering the current ageing trends, occupational injuries among old-age workers are expected to further increase.

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), the fatality rate from serious accidents in Korea was compiled at 0.79‰ in 2011, much higher than 0.51‰ in the United States, 0.31‰ in France and 0.12‰ in Germany. However, since then, it has rapidly declined and reached 0.39‰ in 2023. This is lower than that of France, which increased to 0.60‰ (in 2022) over the same period, and is comparable to that of the United States (0.35‰), while it is still higher than that of Germany (0.07‰) and Japan (0.13‰).

Number of Employees and Sales in Tourism Industry, 2013-2024

(Unit: Number of employees, 100 million KRW)



Source : Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Tourism Industry Survey (<https://know.tour.go.kr>, retrieved on Feb 3, 2026)

Note 1 : This is based on key tourism sectors according to the special classification of the tourism industry or on businesses registered/permitted/reported/designated in accordance with the Tourism Promotion Act.

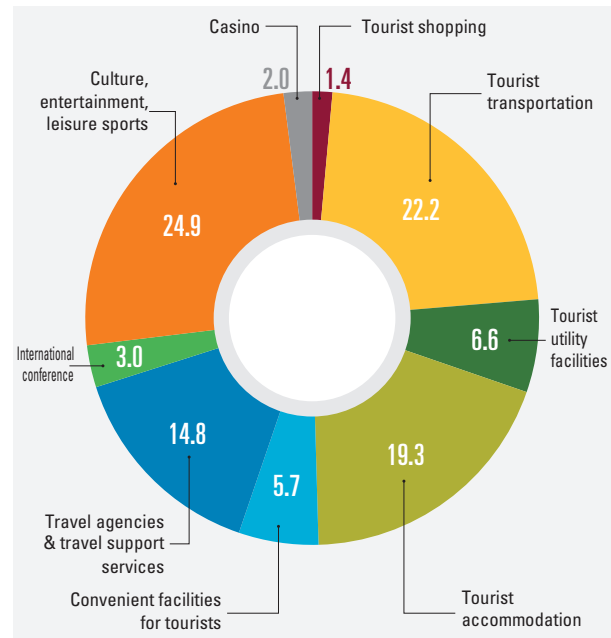
Sales in the tourism industry have recovered to pre-pandemic levels, but the number of employees is still recovering (🔄 SDG 8.9.2)

As a sustainable tourism industry can contribute to local economic development through employment and income created by tourism while preserving regions' natural or cultural assets without causing damage, it is recognised as a key drive of sustainable development that connects the environment, society and economy. Through the number of employees in the tourism industry as an indicator, SDG 8.9.2 measures the scale of the tourism industry that promotes local culture and products and creates jobs.

Based on the special classification of the tourism industry, in 2024 the number of employees in key tourism sectors amounted to 449,272, and the annual sales were compiled at a total of 87,501.2 billion KRW. Employees in the tourism industry are mostly engaged in culture/entertainment/leisure sports (24.9%), tourist transportation (22.2%), tourist accommodation (19.3%) and travel agencies and travel support services (14.8%).

The impacts of COVID-19 can be confirmed based on statistics according to the Tourism Promotion Act, rather than statistics of the tourism industry under the special classification compiled since 2020. The number of employees in the tourism industry plummeted to 69.5% year on year in 2020 when

Breakdown of Employees in Tourism Industry by Sector, 2024 (Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Tourism Industry Survey (<https://know.tour.go.kr>, retrieved on Feb 3, 2026)

Note : This is based on key tourism sectors according to the special classification of the tourism industry.

COVID-19 wreaked havoc on the nation in full swing. In the same year, sales were even hit harder, significantly dropping to 30.6% compared to the previous year. Since then, the number of employees and sales have both been recovering, but they have shown slightly different patterns. In 2024, sales exceeded the level of 2019, achieving rapid recovery; however, the number of employees remained at 79.5% of the 2019 level.

Definition

- **Time-related Underemployed** : Individuals who actually work less than 36 hours during the reference week, desire additional work and are able to perform additional work
- **Unavailable Jobseekers** : Individuals who have searched for a job in the past 4 weeks, but are not able to work during the reference week, among economically active population
- **Available Potential Jobseekers** : Individuals who have not searched for a job for the past 4 week, but wish to get a job and are able to work during the reference week, among economically inactive population
- **Potential Labor Force** : Potential labor force = potential economically active individuals + potential job seekers
- **Extended Labor Force** : Expanded labor force = economically active population + potential labor force
- **Labor Underutilization Indicator 1** : $((\text{time-related underemployed} + \text{unemployed}) \div \text{labor force}) \times 100$
- **Labor Underutilization Indicator 2** : $((\text{unemployed} + \text{potential labor force}) \div \text{expanded labor force}) \times 100$
- **Labor Underutilization Indicator 3** : $((\text{time-related underemployed} + \text{unemployed} + \text{potential labor force}) \div \text{expanded labor force}) \times 100$
- **Accident Rate** : $(\text{number of accidents} \div \text{number of workers}) \times 100$
- **Fatality Rate** : $(\text{number of deaths} \div \text{number of workers}) \times 10,000$
- **Accidental Fatality Rate** : $(\text{number of accidental deaths} \div \text{number of workers}) \times 10,000$



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

SDG 9 aims to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation, alongside resilient infrastructure. Globally, while per-capita manufacturing value added has increased, manufacturing employment has seen a slight decline. Amid the pandemic, supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions, the industrial capacity and resilience have also weakened in many countries. Similarly, in Korea, the share of manufacturing employment has trend downward in recent years. Although the R&D investment and the number of researchers remain at a world-class level, there is a growing need for sustainable innovation and industrial ecosystems that better integrate female researchers and small-sized manufacturers. Furthermore, greater attention is required to ensure the environmental and social sustainability of transport infrastructure, which remains heavily centered on road networks.

» Manufacturing employment accounted for 15.2% of total employment in 2025, continuing its decline from a peak of 17.6% in 2015. The share of women in manufacturing employment declined more rapidly, reaching 9.5% in 2025.

- In 2023, the share of manufacturing employment was higher than the OECD average (13.0%), but both the proportion of manufacturing employment and OECD ranking declined compared to the previous year, indicating the need for monitoring and response to employment shifts in the era of industrial transition.

» In 2023, the shares of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and micro-enterprises in total manufacturing sales were 32.1% and 8.6%, respectively, both showing a declining trend in recent years.

- The share of small-scale industries (with fewer than 20 employees) in total manufacturing value added declined for two consecutive years, reaching 7.9% in 2022. Korea ranked 15th among 22 OECD countries, indicating a relatively low position.

» The volume of R&D investment and the number of researchers continued to rise through 2023, maintaining a globally competitive level.

- In 2023, Korea ranked second among 34 OECD member states, in terms of the R&D expenditure relative to GDP. In the same year, it also recorded the highest number of full-time equivalent (FTE) researchers (9.5 per 1,000 population) among 30 OECD countries.
- By source of funds, the private sector accounted for 76.1% of total R&D expenditure, and 79.2% of the R&D activities were also conducted by enterprises, indicating that R&D activities are primarily driven by the private sector and industries.
- The proportion of female FTE researchers continued to increase from 2011, reaching 23.7% in 2023. However, it remained at a low level.

» The passenger traffic volume amounted to 527.8 billion passenger-kilometers in 2023, recovering to its pre-COVID-19 level. However, the freight volume slightly declined from 2.05 billion tonnes in 2018 to 1.89 billion tonnes in 2023.

- In 2023, 79.8% of passenger traffic and 92.7% of freight volume relied on road transport, raising sustainability challenges, such as the deployment of eco-friendly vehicles and the improvement of working environments for transport workers.

Need for employment policies befitting this era of industrial transition, amid a declining share of manufacturing employment (🔄 SDG 9.2.2)

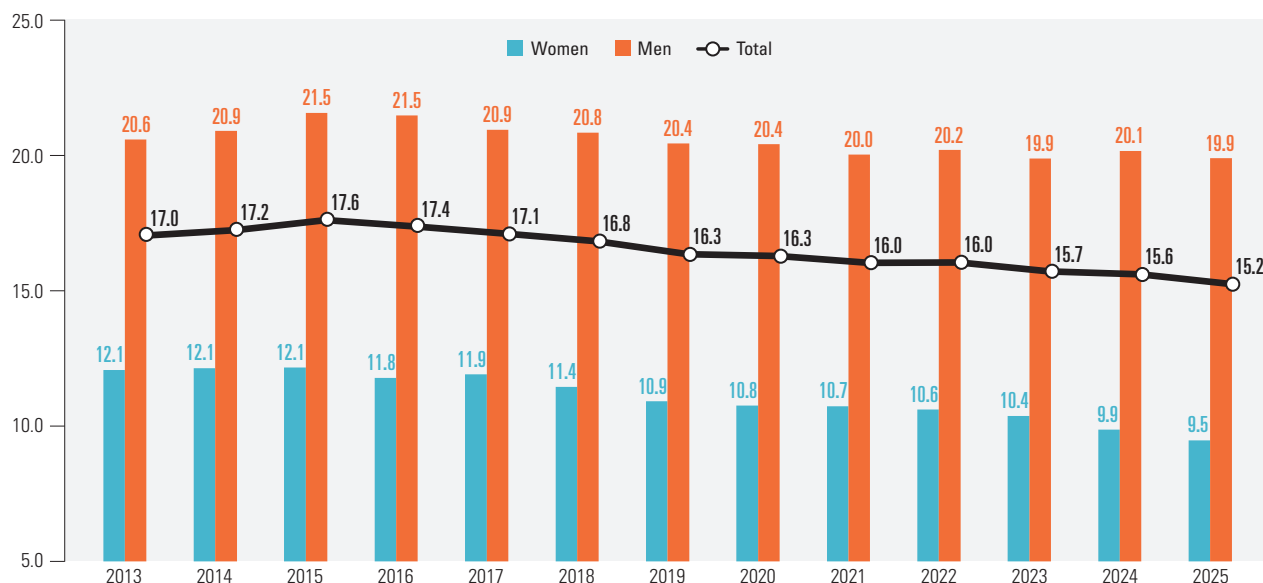
In countries that drive export-led economic growth, manufacturing serves as a driving engine for growth and innovation. Manufacturing should be further advanced and developed to ensure sustainable economic growth. Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment refers to the share of employed persons working in the manufacturing sector relative to total employment.

Across the globe, particularly in advanced countries, the share of manufacturing employment has gradually declined. Korea has also experienced a drop in the share of manufacturing employment after peaking at 17.6% in 2015. In 2025, it decreased by 0.4%p year on year, reaching 15.2%.

The share of manufacturing employment differs significantly by gender, and its shifting trends over time also vary depending on gender. In 2025, the share of women employed in manufacturing out of total employment stood at 9.5%, which is almost half of the corresponding share for men (19.9%) in

**Share of Manufacturing Employment by Gender, 2013-2025**

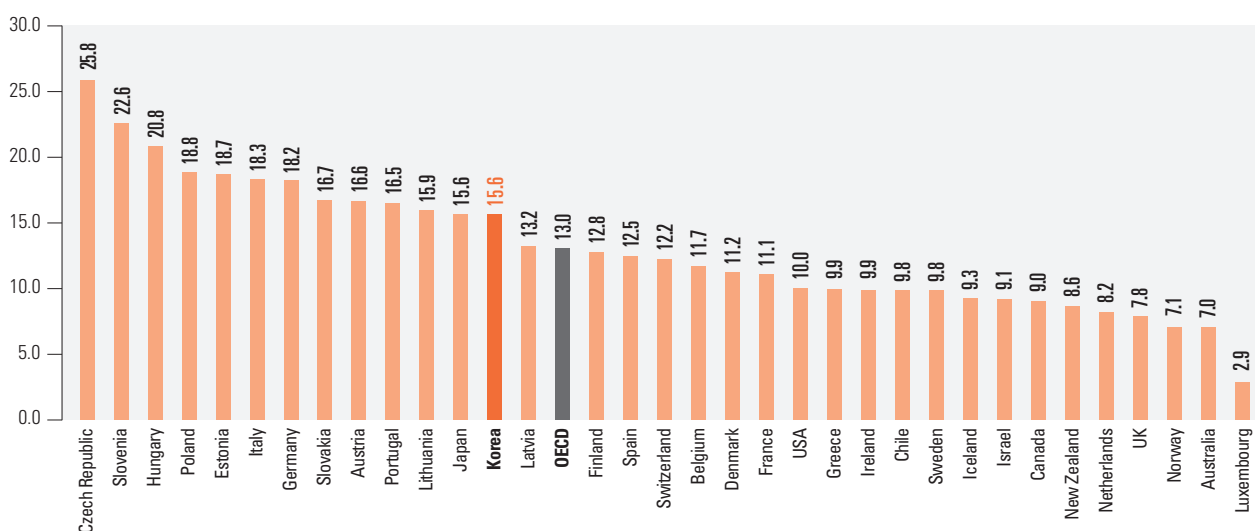
(Unit: %)

Source : Ministry of Data and Statistics, Economically Active Population Survey (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Jan 24)

Note : This refers to the proportion of manufacturing workers in total employment.

Share of Manufacturing Employment in OECD Countries, 2023

(Unit: %)

Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Aug 18, 2025)

Note 1 : This refers to the proportion of manufacturing workers in total employment.

Note 2 : Four countries, namely Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Türkiye are excluded from the 38 OECD countries since data are unavailable.

the same year. The share of women employed in manufacturing reached 12.1% in 2015, followed by a decline of 2.7%p by 2025. For the same period, the proportion of manufacturing employment for men dropped by 1.7%p from 21.5%.

As of 2023, the top five countries with the highest proportions of manufacturing employment among the OECD countries are Eastern European countries, namely the Czech Republic (25.8%), Slovenia (22.6%), Hungary (20.8%), Poland (18.8%) and Estonia

(18.7%). In 2023, Korea's manufacturing employment remained at a relatively high level compared to the OECD average (13.0%). Korea ranked 12th, together with Japan, among the 34 OECD countries for which data were available, which is one notch down from 11th in the previous year.

Manufacturing provides relatively stable employment opportunities and contributes to income generation, particularly for workers with lower levels of formal education or limited

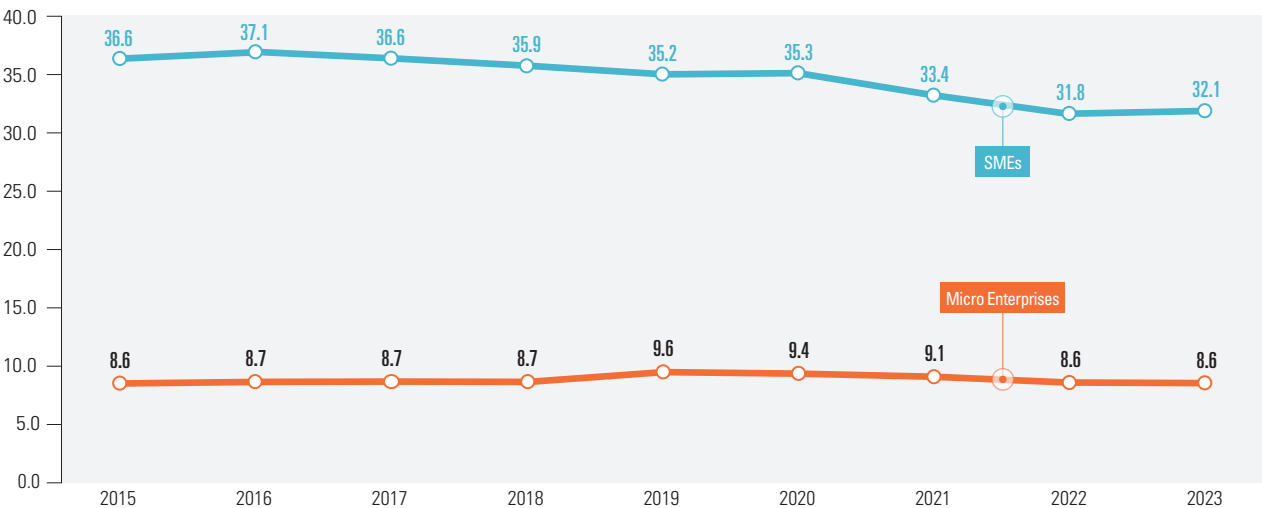
work experience. In addition, it plays a buffer role by absorbing short-term production shocks, such as COVID-19, and preventing them from being immediately transmitted into workforce reductions (Eunseon Gil, 2021). In this era of a reshaping global economic order and rapid industrial transition, close monitoring and policy measures are required regarding employment shifts in the manufacturing sector that has laid the foundation of the Korean economy.

A declining proportion of small-scale industries in the manufacturing sector (🔄 SDG 9.3.1)

Target 9.3 aims to ensure that small-scale industries have proper access to financial services and can be integrated into value chains and markets. These small-scale industries play an important role in achieving inclusive and sustainable industrialization. They are also capable of generating employment with a relatively low levels of investment, strengthening local economic foundations,

Proportion of Small-scale Industries in Total Manufacturing Sales, 2015-2023

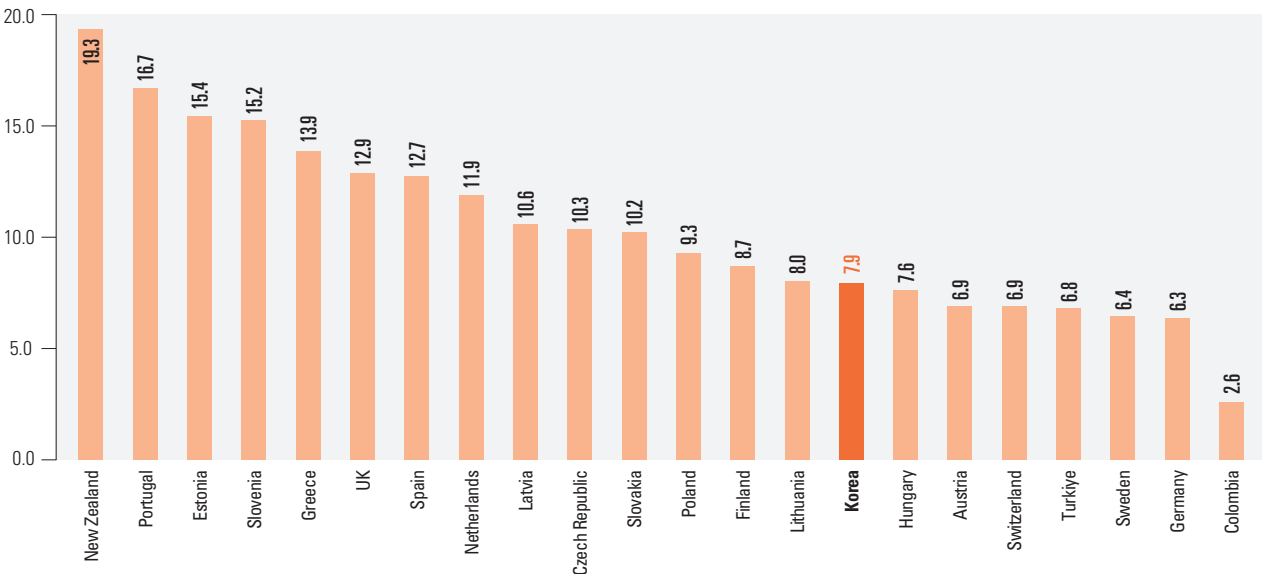
(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of SMEs and Startups, Basic Statistics on SMEs (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Jan 24, 2026)

Proportion of Small-scale Industries in Total Manufacturing Value Added in OECD Countries, 2022

(Unit: %)



Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Aug 18, 2025)

Note 1 : Small-scale industries refer to firms with an average employment of fewer than 20 employees during the reference period, according to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Note 2 : This represents the 22 countries for which 2022 data are available.



and fostering industrial diversity and innovation. In particular, SDG 9.3.1 measures the contribution of economic value created by small-scale enterprises at or below a certain size threshold.

Out of the total sales in manufacturing, the proportions of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and micro enterprises were recorded at 32.1% and 8.6%, respectively, in 2023. Micro enterprises refer to companies with fewer than 10 full-time employees among small enterprises in accordance with the Framework Act on Small and Medium Enterprises. In the manufacturing sector, the sales share of SMEs has declined overall from 36.6% in 2015, while that of micro enterprises has also decreased from 9.6% in 2019.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) defines firms with an average employment of fewer than 20 employees as small-scale industries. In Korea, the proportion of small-scale industries in total manufacturing value added has declined for two consecutive years, standing at 8.9% in 2020 and 7.9% in 2022. Among the 22 OECD countries for which 2022 data are available, Korea ranked 15th, indicating a relatively low ranking compared to major economies. Countries with high shares of small-scale industries in manufacturing value added include New Zealand (19.3%), Portugal (16.7%), Estonia (15.4%) and Slovenia (15.2%). In these countries, manufacturing is largely centered on small-scale industries, where diverse small enterprises,

including local craft shops, actively engage in creative activities.

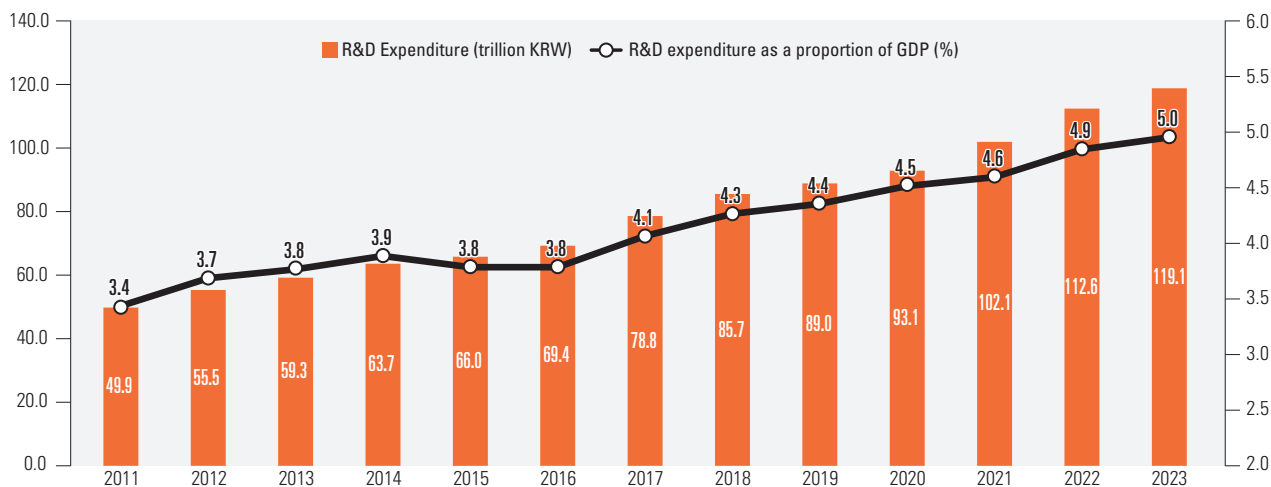
The fact that the proportion of small-scale industries in manufacturing value added is not high in the Korean economy implies that economic activities are primarily led by large companies. This may be attributable to low productivity of small enterprises. It has been assessed that the productivity gap between large companies and SMEs in Korea significantly exceeds the OECD average (OECD, 2024). Small-scale industries not only reinforce the foundations of the economy, but also serve as a source to boost diversity in economic systems. In order to enhance the nation's industrial competitiveness, therefore, it is necessary to conduct an in-depth assessment of small-scale industries and come up with proper policy measures.

With world-class R&D investment and researcher capacity, the proportion of female researchers has increased while the gender gap has persisted
(🔄 SDG 9.5.1 / 9.5.2)

In 2023, the scale of research and development (R&D) investment and research workforce in Korea also remained at a high level by global standards. The nation's R&D expenditure, which amounted to 49.9 trillion KRW in 2011, more than doubled to 119.1 trillion KRW in 2023. The R&D expenditure as a proportion of GDP also rose from 3.4% to 5.0% over the

Total R&D Expenditure & Share of R&D Expenditure relative to GDP, 2011-2023

(Unit: trillion KRW, %)

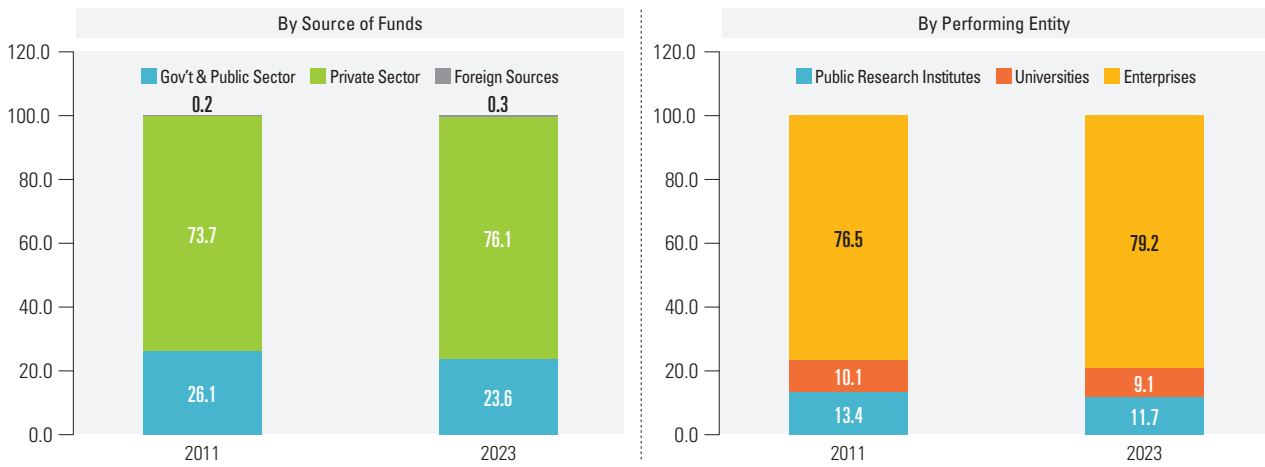


Source : Ministry of Science and ICT, Survey of Research and Development (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Aug 27, 2025)

Note : As the national accounts statistics of the Bank of Korea have been revised, the R&D expenditure relative to GDP may differ from the previous figures.

Proportion of R&D Expenditure by Source of Funds and Performing Entity, 2011, 2023

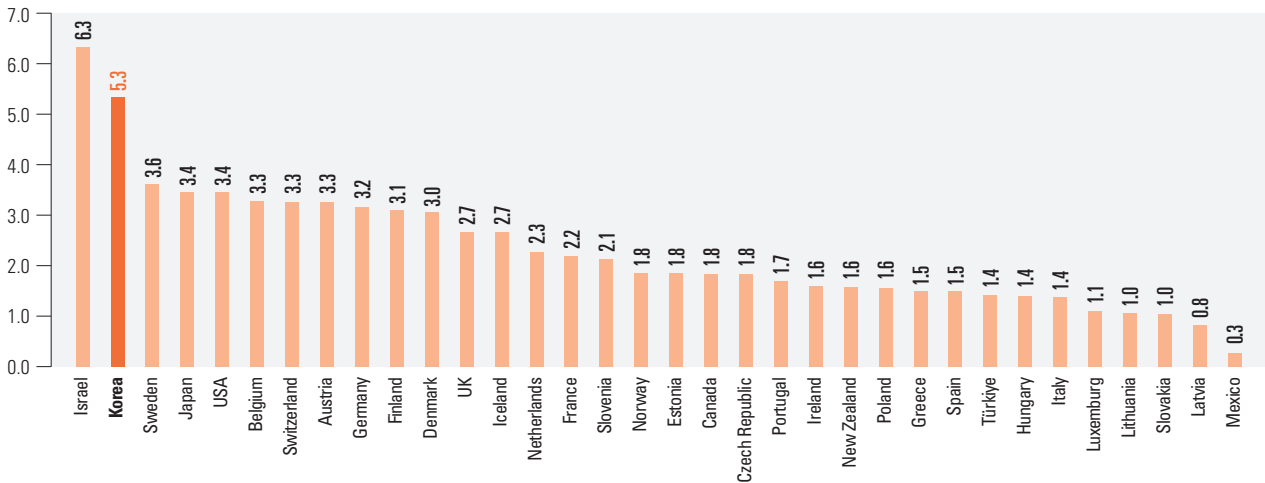
(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Science and ICT, Survey of Research and Development (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Aug 27, 2025)

Share of R&D Expenditure relative to GDP in OECD Countries, 2023

(Unit: %)

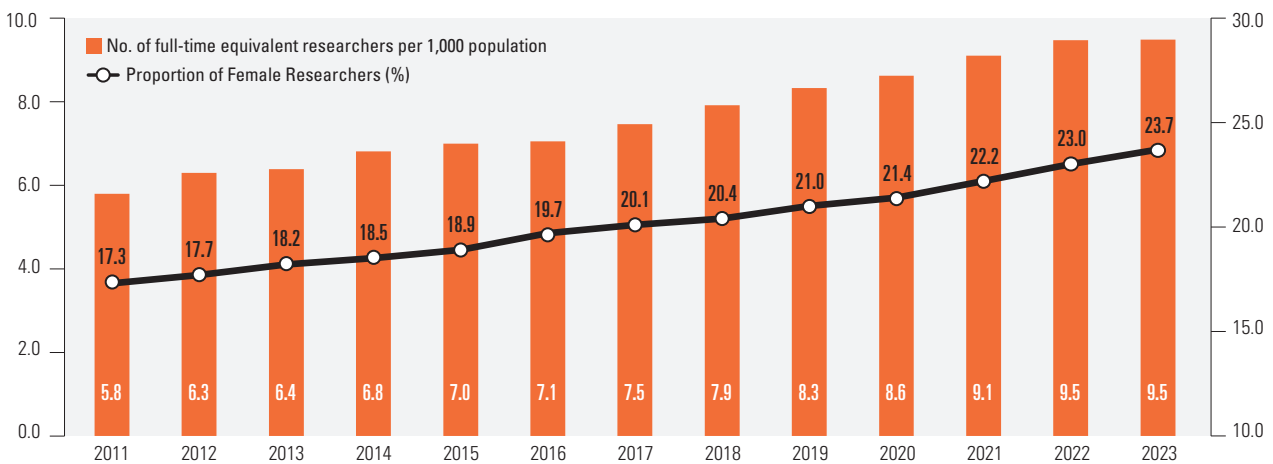


Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Jan 24, 2026)

Note : Four nations, namely Australia, Chile, Colombia and Costa Rica, are excluded from the 38 OECD countries for which data are unavailable.

Researchers (FTE per 1,000 population) and Share of Female Researchers, 2011-2023

(Unit: per 1,000 population, %)



Source : Ministry of Science and ICT, Survey of Research and Development (<https://kosis.kr>, Aug 28, 2025)



same period. This indicates that R&D investment has increased remarkably, even considering economic growth.

In 2023, Korea ranked second among OECD countries in terms of R&D expenditure as a proportion of GDP, following Israel (6.3%), and ahead of Sweden (3.6%).

In 2023, R&D expenditure consisted of 76.1% from the private sector, 23.6% from the government and the public sector and 0.3% from other foreign sources, which shows a higher proportion of the private sector in total R&D expenditure. In addition, R&D activities are mainly conducted in the following order: enterprises, public research institutes and universities. In 2023, enterprises conducted most of the research corresponding to 79.2% of R&D expenditure, followed by public research institutes (11.7%) and universities (9.1%). The share of research carried out by enterprises increased from 76.5% in 2011 while the shares of research done by public research institutes and universities decreased compared to 2011, highlighting the growing prominence of industries in R&D activities.

The size of human resources deployed in R&D is calculated on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis by converting R&D

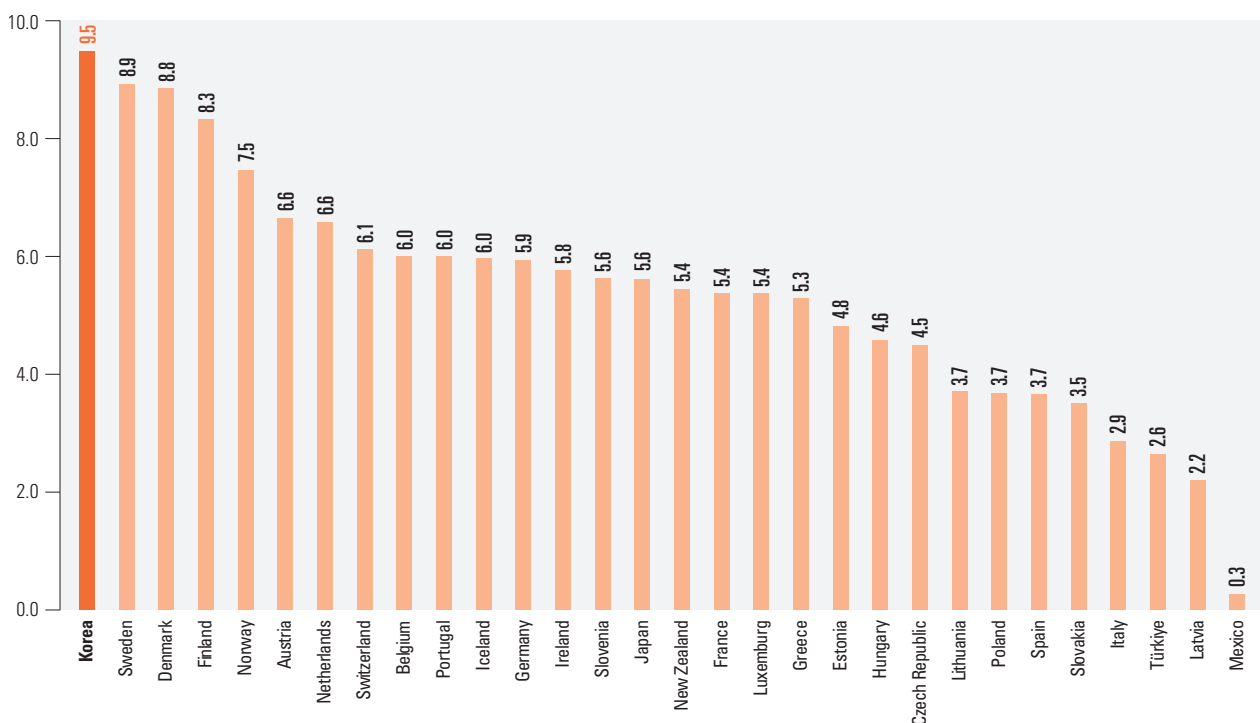
working hours to reflect the extent to which researchers are actually committed to research and development activities. The number of researchers (in full-time equivalent, FTE) per 1,000 population reached 9.5 in 2023, maintaining the highest level among OECD countries. What is striking is that there has been a clear increase in the proportion of female researchers out of research workforce. The share of female FTE researchers has steadily risen each year from 17.3% in 2011, recording 23.7% in 2023. With the increase in female researchers, the gender gap in the R&D sector has narrowed; however, the share of female researchers still falls short of a quarter of the total.

Korea's researcher capacity has maintained a high level by global standards. In 2023, Korea recorded the highest density of research workforce compiled on a full-time equivalent basis per 1,000 population, among the 30 OECD countries for which data were available. Following Korea, Northern European countries also ranked among the top nations, including Sweden (8.9), Denmark (8.8), Finland (8.3), Norway (7.5), Austria (6.6), Netherlands (6.6), Switzerland (6.1), Belgium (6.0), Portugal (6.0), Iceland (6.0), Germany (5.9), Ireland (5.8), Slovenia (5.6), Japan (5.6), New Zealand (5.4), France (5.4), Luxembourg (5.4), Greece (5.3), Estonia (4.8), Hungary (4.6), Czech Republic (4.5), Lithuania (3.7), Poland (3.7), Spain (3.7), Slovakia (3.5), Italy (2.9), Türkiye (2.6), Latvia (2.2), and Mexico (0.3).

Korea has shown steady growth in R&D investment and researcher capacity, maintaining a globally competitive level.

Researchers (FTE per 1,000 population) in OECD Countries, 2023

(Unit: No. of full-time equivalent researchers per 1,000 population)

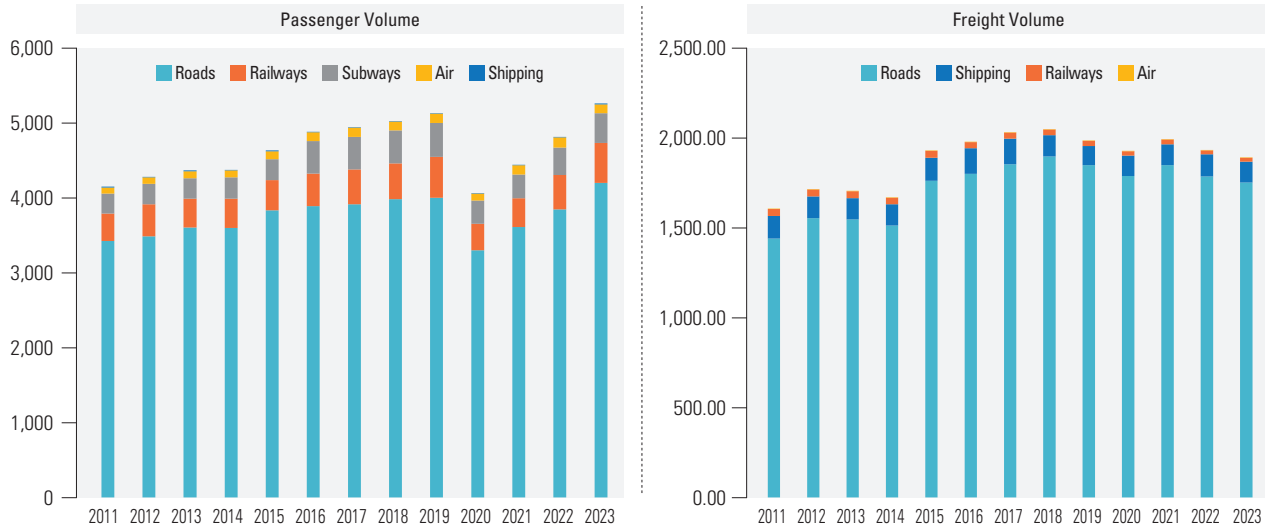


Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Jan 24, 2026)

Note : Eight nations, namely Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Israel, the United Kingdom and the United States are excluded from the 38 OECD countries for which data are unavailable.

Passenger and Freight Volumes, 2011-2023

(Unit: 100 million passenger-kilometers, million tonnes)



Source : Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Performance of Transport Sector(<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Aug 29, 2025)

That said, as the nation's R&D budget decreased by 14.8% in 2024, compared to the previous year (Ministry of Science and ICT, 2025), it is necessary to closely monitor the impact of fluctuations in R&D budgets on national innovation and to ensure the stability of the research workforce and infrastructure.

The passenger traffic volume has recovered to pre-COVID-19 levels; however, sustainability needs to be enhanced in transport systems heavily concentrated on road transport (🔄 SDG 9.1.2)

Passenger traffic volume, measured in passenger-kilometers, continued to increase from 416.3 billion passenger-kilometers in 2011 and fell significantly in 2020 when the nation was struck by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, it has shown signs of recovery, returning back to the pre-COVID-19 level of 527.8 billion passenger-kilometers in 2023. By mode of transport, road passenger transport accounted for 79.8% or 421.3 billion passenger-kilometers in 2023, followed by railways (53.9 billion passenger-kilometers or 10.2%), subways (39.6 billion passenger-kilometers or 7.5%), air transport (12.2 billion

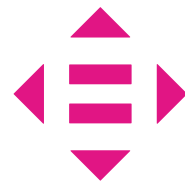
passenger-kilometers or 2.3%) and shipping (800 million passenger-kilometers or 0.2%).

Albeit fluctuating, freight volume increased from 1,605.51 million tonnes in 2011 to 2,047.2 million tonnes in 2018, before slightly decreasing to 1,888.63 million tonnes in 2023. The impact of COVID-19 in 2020 was not as evident as in passenger transport. In freight transport, road transport took up the overwhelming majority, reaching 1,751.67 million tonnes or 92.7% in 2023, followed by shipping (115.5 million tonnes or 6.1%), railways (21.26 million tonnes or 1.1%) and air transport (0.21 million tonnes or 0.0%).

In Korea, both passenger and freight traffic heavily rely on road transport. Excluding road transport, the only modes of transport accounting for 5% of traffic or more are railways and subways in passenger transport and shipping in freight transport. As the transport burden is disproportionately concentrated on road systems, several challenges need to be addressed, such as the deployment of eco-friendly vehicles and the improvement in working conditions for transport workers to ensure sustainability.



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG 10 aims to reduce inequality within and among countries by ensuring that the benefits of economic growth are shared by all. Although the growth rate of income and expenditure among the bottom 40 per cent of the population has exceeded the national average since 2015, significant challenges remain in reducing inequality due to the stagnation of the labor income share, intensifying discrimination, a rapidly growing number of refugees and uncertainties in development aid. Korea has experienced relatively rapid growth in household income and expenditure among lower-income groups and its labor income share and financial soundness have been maintained at a stable level; however, structural disparities in income and expenditure across income groups persist. Moreover, there is a need to strengthen the protection and inclusion of the increasing number of asylum seekers.

» Despite the rapid growth in household income and expenditure among low-income groups, significant disparities remain in the structure of income and expenditure among income groups.

- From 2016 to 2024, the real income of the entire households grew by 13.1%, while the real income of households in the first and second income quintiles increased by 28.3% and 16.1% respectively, indicating that the income of low-income households grew faster than the total average.
- The lower the income, the smaller the labor income share, leading to greater reliance on transfer income. In 2024, the shares of labor income (69.2%) and property income (10.0%) in the fifth income quintile were the highest among all income groups.
- During the period from 2019 to 2024, the real expenditure of all households increased by 2.5%, while the real expenditure of households in the first income quintile grew by 11.2%, showing significantly faster growth in expenditure among households in the first quintile.
- Higher-income households tend to spend more on education and other expenses, highlighting a noticeable gap in the consumption structure, where expenditure on capacity building, leisure and services is markedly higher.

» The labor income share of GDP remained stable in the range of 58% to 59% from 2021 to 2024.

- In 2024, it exceeded the OECD average (55.0%), ranking in the upper-middle tier.

» The ratio of Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets, which indicates the level of financial soundness, was 11.1% in 2011 and further increased to the 14% range from 2020 to 2023.

- Although it is relatively low among OECD countries, it meets international standards(6.0%) and remains at a sound level.
- In 2023, the ratio of Tier 1 capital to total assets stood at 6.3%, slightly lower than the OECD average (7.5%), placing Korea in the lower-middle tier.

» The number of asylum seekers increased from 2,896 in 2014 to 18,336 in 2024.

- As of 2024, the cumulative refugee recognition rate stood at 2.7% among those who had completed the examination process. When including those granted humanitarian stay permits, the figure reached 7.4%.
- In 2024 alone, about 3.6% of applicants were granted refugee protection among those whose examinations were completed.

The growth rate of household income in the bottom 40% was higher than the average from 2016 to 2024, but gaps in the income and expenditure structure were evident among income groups (📍 SDG 10.1.1)

To reduce inequality as pursued by SDG 10, Target 10.1 aims to mitigate income inequality within a country by maintaining the income growth rate of the bottom 40% higher than the national average by 2030. To monitor this, Indicator 10.1.1 measures the

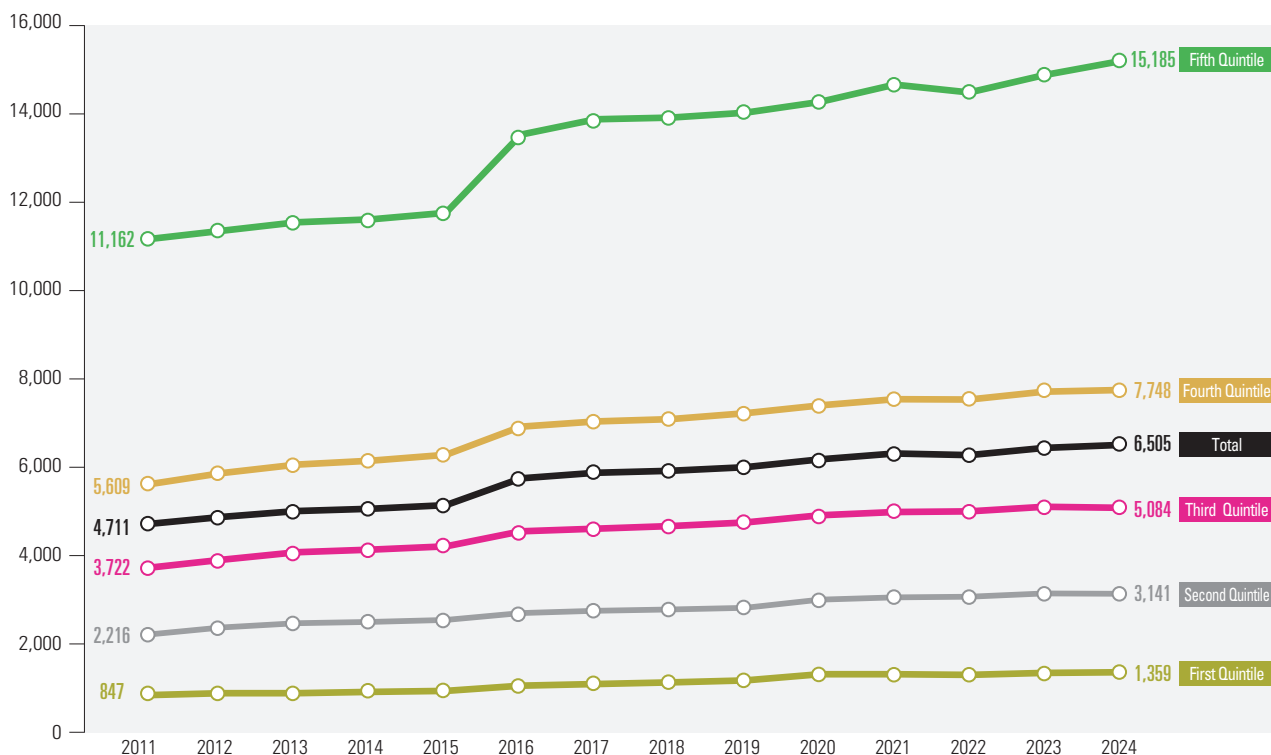
growth rates of household income or expenditure per capita

In 2024, the real income of households in Korea (at 2020 constant prices) averaged 65.05 million KRW, up 1.0% from the previous year and 13.1% from 2016. The gaps among income groups can be identified from the average income of each income quintile as follows: 13.59 million KRW in the first quintile, 31.41 million KRW in the second quintile, 50.84 million KRW in the third quintile, 77.48 million KRW in the



Real Household Income by Income Quintile, 2011-2024

(Unit: 10,000 KRW)



Source : Ministry of Data and Statistics, Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Jan 5, 2026)

Note 1 : This is based on real income (at 2020 constant prices) by applying the consumer price index (year 2020 = 100) to nominal income.

Note 2 : It is difficult to directly compare with data prior to 2015 since data from 2016 has been supplemented with administrative data and interviews from the National Tax Service and Ministry of Health and Welfare.

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Share of Household Income by Income Source across Income Quintiles, 2024

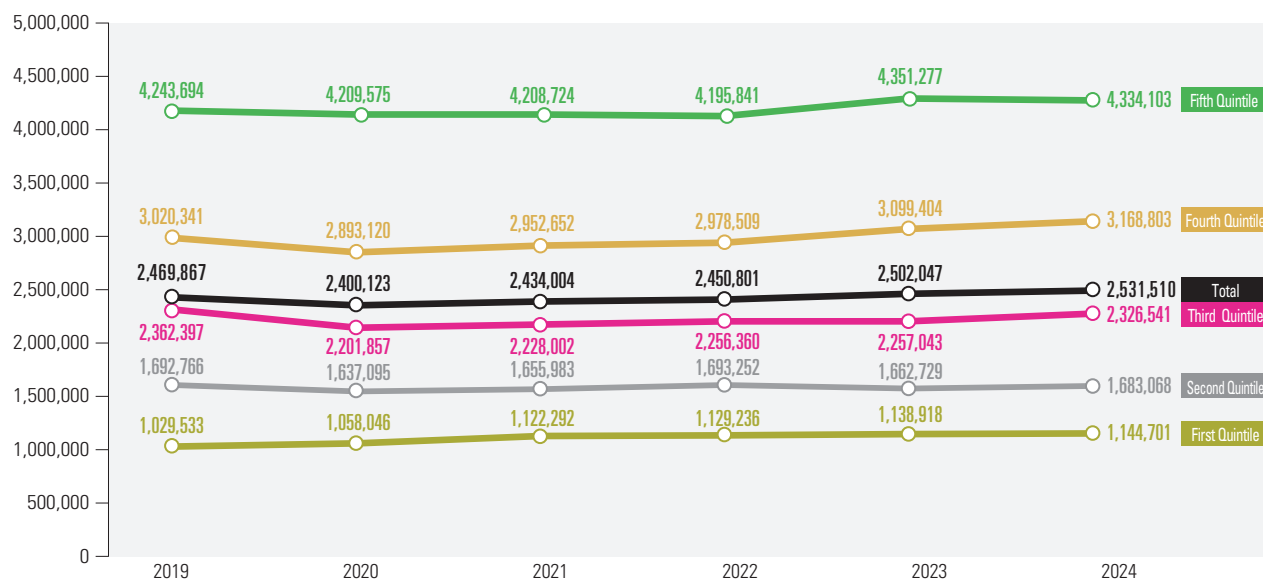
(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Data and Statistics, Survey of Households Finances and Living Conditions (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Jan 5, 2026)

Average Monthly Household Consumption Expenditure by Income Quintile, 2019-2024

(Unit: KRW)

Source : Ministry of Data and Statistics, Survey of Households Finances and Living Conditions (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Jan 5, 2026)

Note : Real consumption expenditure is at 2020 constant prices.

fourth quintile and 151.85 million KRW in the fifth quintile. Each income quintile has a different pace of growth. From 2016 to 2024, the growth rate of real income in the first and second quintiles stood at 28.3% and 16.1%, respectively, while the growth rates of relatively higher-income groups (the third, fourth and fifth quintiles) were below the average at 11.7%, 11.9% and 12.3%. This suggests a narrowing of income inequality. It can be interpreted that Target 10.1, aiming to maintain the income growth rate among the bottom 40% at a level higher than the national average, appears to have been achieved in Korea during this period. However, it is necessary to keep closely monitoring more specific trends in income growth, as the year-on-year growth rate in 2024 was the highest in the fifth income quintile (2.1%).

In 2024, household income consisted of labor income (63.9%), business income (17.5%), public transfer income (8.9%), property income (8.3%) and private transfer income (1.5%). The composition of income varies across income quintiles. The lower the income, the smaller the share of labor income and the larger the share of transfer income, both public and private. In the fifth quintile, labor income accounted for 69.2%, while public and private transfer income represented only 3.5% and 0.3%, respectively. However, in the first quintile,

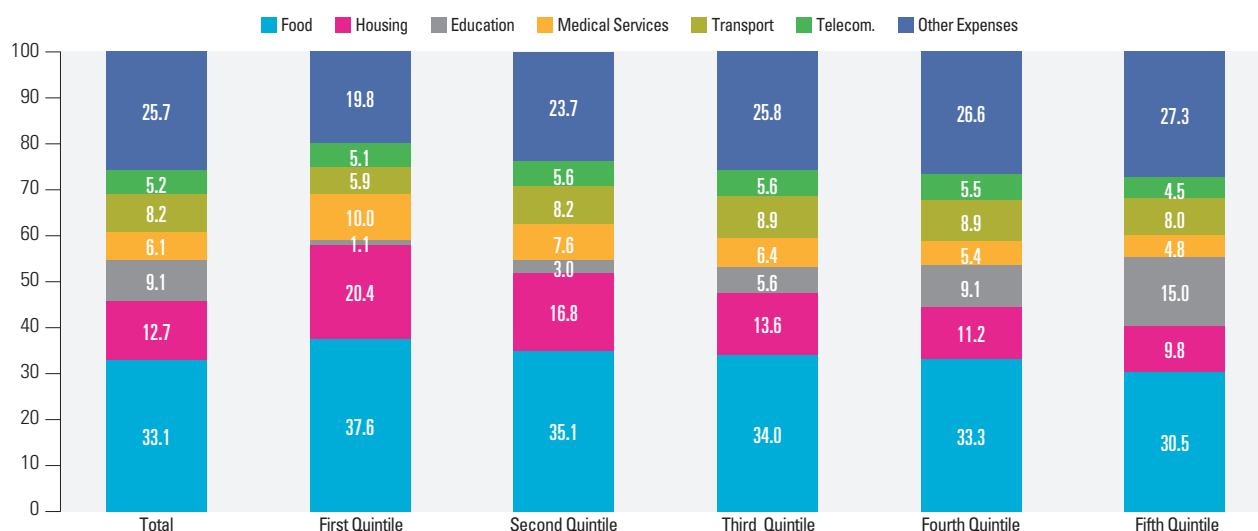
labor income accounted for only 25.8%, whereas the public and private transfer income reached 43.8% and 12.4%, respectively. Business income ranged from 17% to 21% in the second to fifth quintiles, but the figure was only 9.2% in the first quintile. The share of property income declined as it moved from the first (8.8%) to the fourth quintile (6.3%), and rose sharply to 10.0% in the fifth quintile. This suggests that the income from capital and assets contributes relatively more to the income of higher-income groups. These results indicate that low-income groups tend to rely more on transfer income, while high-income groups have a stronger foundation of market income based on labor, business and property income.

In 2024, the monthly real expenditure of households with one or more members nationwide (at 2020 constant prices) stood at 2.53 million KRW, up 1.2% from the previous year and 2.5% from 2019. Disparities in spending capacity across income groups are evident from different levels of real expenditure by quintile: 1.14 million KRW in the first quintile, 1.68 million KRW in the second quintile, 2.33 million KRW in the third quintile, 3.17 million KRW in the fourth quintile and 4.33 million KRW in the fifth quintile. During the period from 2019 to 2024, the growth rate of real expenditure was significantly higher in the first income quintile at 11.2%. Over



Share of Consumption Expenditure by Item across Income Quintiles, 2024

(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Data and Statistics, Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Jan 5, 2026)

the same period, the second and third quintiles did not fully recover from the decline observed in 2020, showing negative growth of -0.6% and -1.5% , respectively. The fourth and fifth quintiles grew by 4.9% and 2.1% . To be specific, the expenditure in the first quintile increased year-on-year by 2.8% in 2020 and by 6.1% in 2021, meaning that most of the growth occurred during these two years. Since 2022, the growth rate has remained below 1% , falling below the national average.

By spending item, food accounted for the largest share at 33.1% in 2024, followed by other expenses (25.7%), housing (12.7%), education (9.1%), transport (8.2%), medical services (6.1%) and telecommunications (5.2%). Similar to income composition, expenditure composition also varies depending on the income quintile. There is a clear tendency where the lower the income, the higher the shares of food, housing and medical costs, which clearly captures the spending structure of low-income groups focusing on essential goods. In the first quintile, the shares of food, housing and medical costs stood at 37.6% , 20.4% and 10.0% , respectively, whereas the figures were only 30.5% , 9.8% and 4.8% in the fifth quintile. That said, the absolute level of spending, i.e., the actual amount spent, on these items was also higher among high-income groups. Households in the first quintile spent 4.95 million KRW per year on food, while the amount reached 17.31 million KRW in the fifth quintile. For

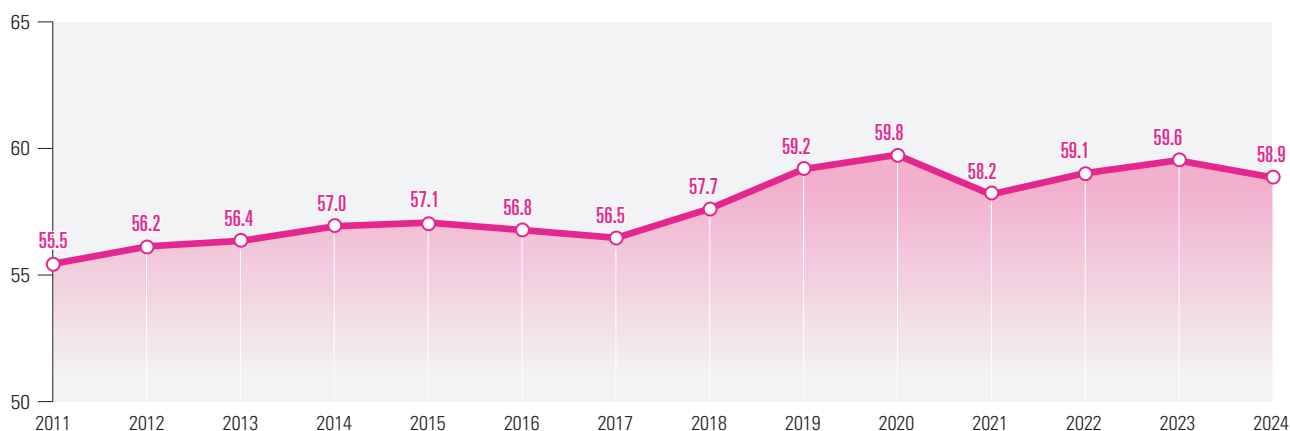
housing and medical costs, households in the first quintile spent 2.69 million KRW and 1.32 million KRW, respectively, while those in the fifth quintile spent 5.57 million KRW and 2.74 million KRW, respectively. Meanwhile, spending on education increases significantly as income rises. Education expenditure represented only 1.1% in the first quintile ($150,000$ KRW per year), but it accounted for 15.0% of total expenditure in the fifth quintile, reaching 8.51 million KRW. These disparities in educational investment may hinder social mobility and further deepen inequality. The share of other expenses also increases as income rises, suggesting a higher proportion of spending on relatively discretionary items, such as leisure and services. These results reflect gaps in spending structures among income groups, as higher-income households spend less on essential goods and focus more on diverse and discretionary consumption.

The labor income share of GDP remained between 58% and 59% from 2021 to 2024 (SDG 10.4.1)

The labor income share of GDP refers to the ratio of the remuneration of employees and the labor income of the self-employed to gross domestic product (GDP) in a country. It is a key indicator of how value added is distributed between labour and capital through which economic output is allocated to labor. The higher this indicator, the larger the share of value added generated in

Labor Income Share of GDP, 2011-2024

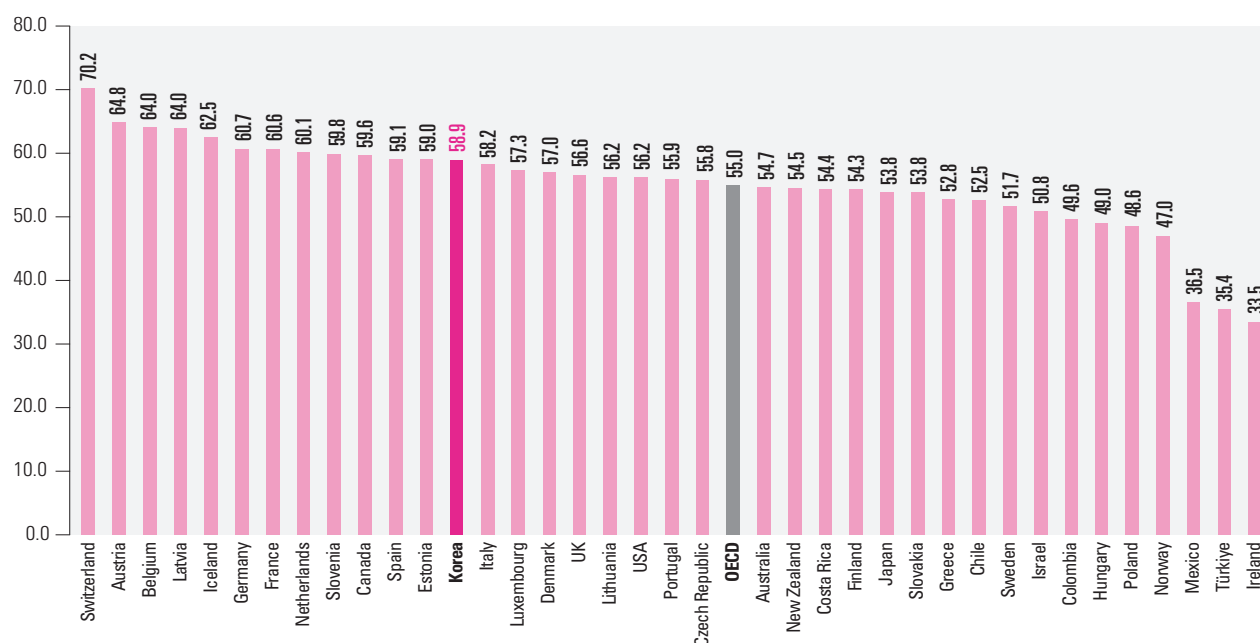
(Unit: %)



Source : ILO, Labour statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals(<https://ilostat ilo.org/topics/sdg>, retrieved on Feb 26, 2026)

Labor Income Share of GDP in OECD Countries, 2024

(Unit: %)



Source : ILO, Labour statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals(<https://ilostat ilo.org/topics/sdg>, retrieved on Feb 26, 2026)

production activities that goes to labor. As a large share of household income is derived from wages, the labor income share is closely linked to the stability of household livelihoods of the majority of the people. In addition, as capital income tends to be concentrated within certain groups, a higher labor income share also indicates a relatively balanced income distribution.

The labor income share of GDP remained in the range of 55.5% to 57.1% from 2011 to 2017; however, it started to rise in 2018 and reached 59.8% in 2020. Since 2021, it has fluctuated in the 58% to 59% range. The peak recorded in 2020

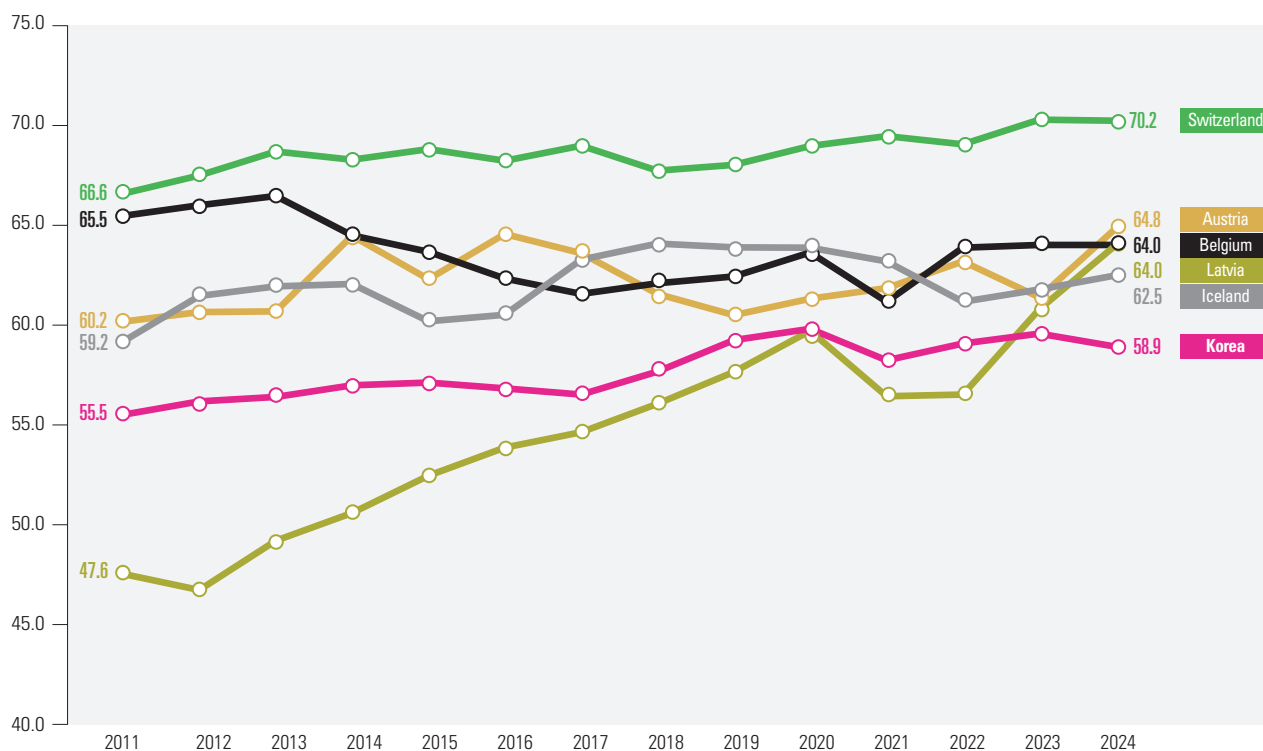
may have been affected by a decrease in capital income and the government policies to support employment stabilization during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2024, the labor income share of GDP in OECD countries ranged from a minimum of 33.5% (Ireland) to a maximum of 70.2% (Switzerland). Countries with relatively high labor income shares include those in Northern and Western Europe, such as Switzerland (70.2%), Austria (64.8%), Belgium and Latvia (64.0% each), Iceland (62.5%). This reflects that labor accounts for a relatively large share of value added in these



Labor Income Share of GDP in Top Five Countries and Korea, 2011-2024

(Unit: %)



Source : ILO, Labour statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals(<https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/sdg>, retrieved on Feb 26, 2026)

Note 1 : This represents the labor income share of GDP for the top five countries and Korea (13th) in 2024.

countries. On the other hand, the figure fell short of 40% in the following three countries: Ireland (33.5%), Türkiye (35.4%), and Mexico (36.5%), indicating that capital income represents a dominant share in these countries. In Korea, the labor income share of GDP stood at 58.9% in 2024, which is higher than the average (55.0%) among the 38 OECD countries, placing it in the upper-middle tier.

Among the top five countries with the highest labor income share of GDP, Switzerland has remained at a high level since 2011, maintaining a leading position. In Switzerland, the labor income share gradually increased from 66.6% in 2011 and has remained above 70% since 2023. This can be interpreted as reflecting that Switzerland's stable high-wage structure and robust labor market have sustained its high labor income share. In contrast, the labor income share in Latvia stood at only 46.7% in 2012, but afterwards it rose rapidly and reached 64.0% in 2024, ranking third jointly with Belgium. This may have been driven by several factors, such as the recovery of the labor market, wage hikes and changes in the labor cost structure in Latvia.

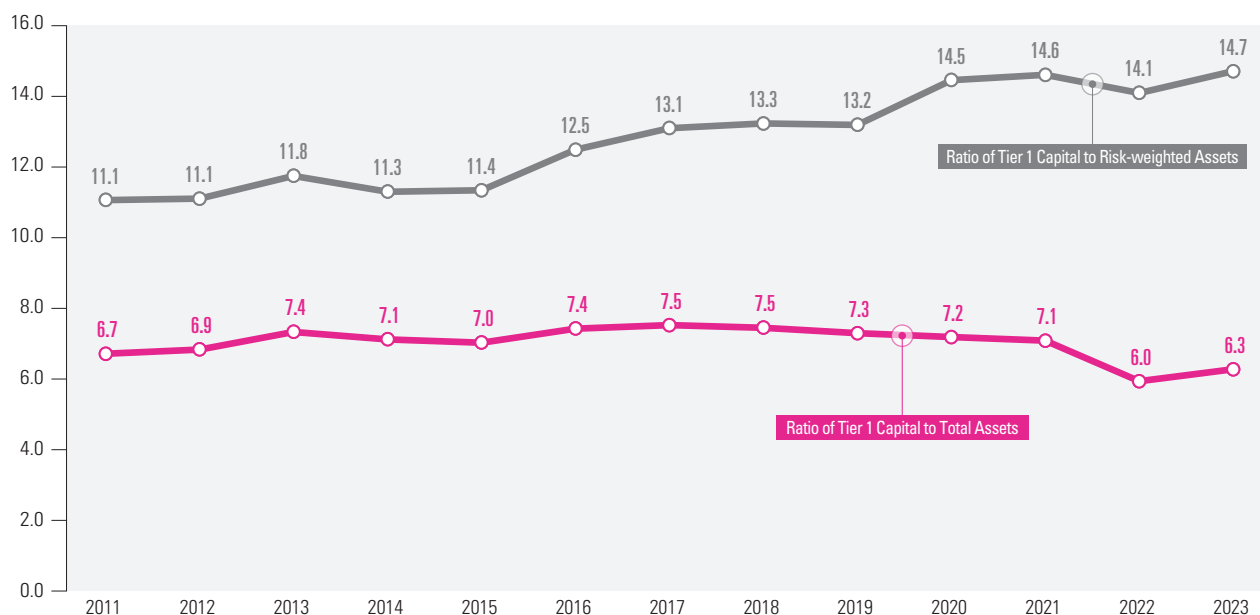
Although financial soundness is relatively low among the OECD countries, it meets international standard and remains at the favorable level (SDG 10.5.1)

Among indicators used to assess financial soundness, the ratio of Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets is a key indicator of how effectively a financial institution's core capital can support its risk-weighted assets (RWAs). The higher this figure, the greater the ability of a financial institution to respond to crises. Meanwhile, the ratio of Tier 1 capital to total assets measures the proportion of core capital within a financial institution's total assets, showing the level of capital adequacy without considering risk weightings.

First of all, the ratio of Tier 1 capital to total assets, which stood at 6.7% in 2011, maintained a level of 7.0% to 7.5% from 2013 to 2021. It fell to 6.0% in 2022, followed by a slight rebound to 6.3% in 2023. Given that this indicator does not account for risk-weighted adjustments, a decline means that the total assets of financial institutions are growing fast while Tier 1 capital to support them is not expanding at the same pace, indicating that capital expansion lags behind asset growth. In

Financial Soundness Indicators, 2011-2023

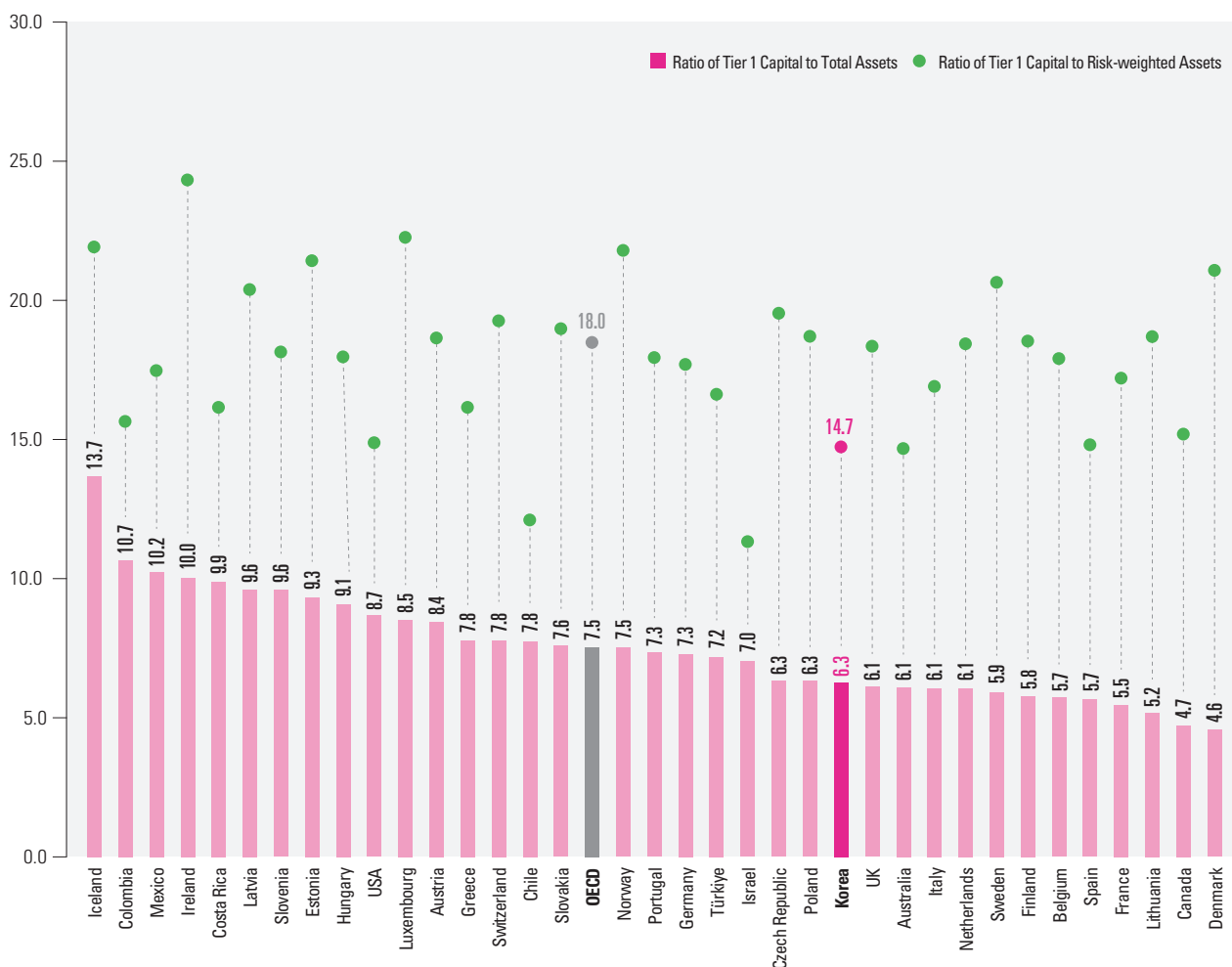
(Unit: %)



Source : IMF, IMF Data(<https://data.imf.org>, retrieved on Feb 14, 2026)

Financial Soundness Indicators in OECD Countries, 2023

(Unit: %)



Source : IMF, IMF Data(<https://data.imf.org>, retrieved on Feb 14, 2026)

Note : Japan and New Zealand are excluded due to data unavailability.

**Korea's Financial Soundness Indicators (2022)**

Indicator	Value(%)
Non-performing loans to total gross loans	0.24
Return on assets	0.48
Regulatory capital to assets	5.95
Non-performing loans net of provisions to capital	1.22
Regulatory Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets	14.12
Liquid assets to short-term liabilities	97.51
Net open position in foreign exchange to capital	3.77

Source : UN SDG DB(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, 2026.3.13.)

Note : Financial Soundness Indicators (FSIs) are a set of metrics developed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to comprehensively assess the capital adequacy, asset quality, profitability, liquidity, and market risk exposure of financial institutions."

2022, the total assets of financial institutions rose by 20.1% from the previous year, showing exceptional fluctuations due to factors, such as foreign exchange rates; however, Tier 1 capital grew by only 0.7% over the same period.

The ratio of Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets remained in the 11% range from 2011 to 2015, but it started to rise in 2016 and exceeded 13% in 2017. With an increase to the 14% level in 2020, it has maintained this level in recent years, indicating generally sound conditions. Various factors may affect fluctuations of this indicator, such as financial institutions' expansion of Tier 1 capital, changes in interest rates and exchange rates and government policies, i.e., the expansion of government-backed loans to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Looking at the Tier 1 capital ratio to risk-weighted assets in OECD countries, it ranged from 10% to 25% across all 36 countries compared in 2023, significantly exceeding the international standard of 6.0% set by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS). This indicates that the soundness of financial systems is overall stable. Countries with relatively high ratios included Ireland (24.5%), Luxembourg (22.3%), Iceland (21.9%) and Norway (21.8%), while those with relatively low ratios included Israel (11.3%) and Chile (12.1%). Korea and Australia (14.7% each), Spain (14.8%) and the United States (14.9%) also ranked in the lower tier. Korea's ratio (14.7%) was below the OECD average of 18.0%, but far exceeded the international standard, showing an adequate level of financial soundness. Meanwhile, the ratio of Tier 1 capital

to total assets in OECD countries varied from 4% to 14% in 2023. Among them, Iceland (13.7%), Colombia (10.7%) and Mexico (10.2%) surpassed 10%. Korea stood at 6.3%, below the OECD average of 7.5%.

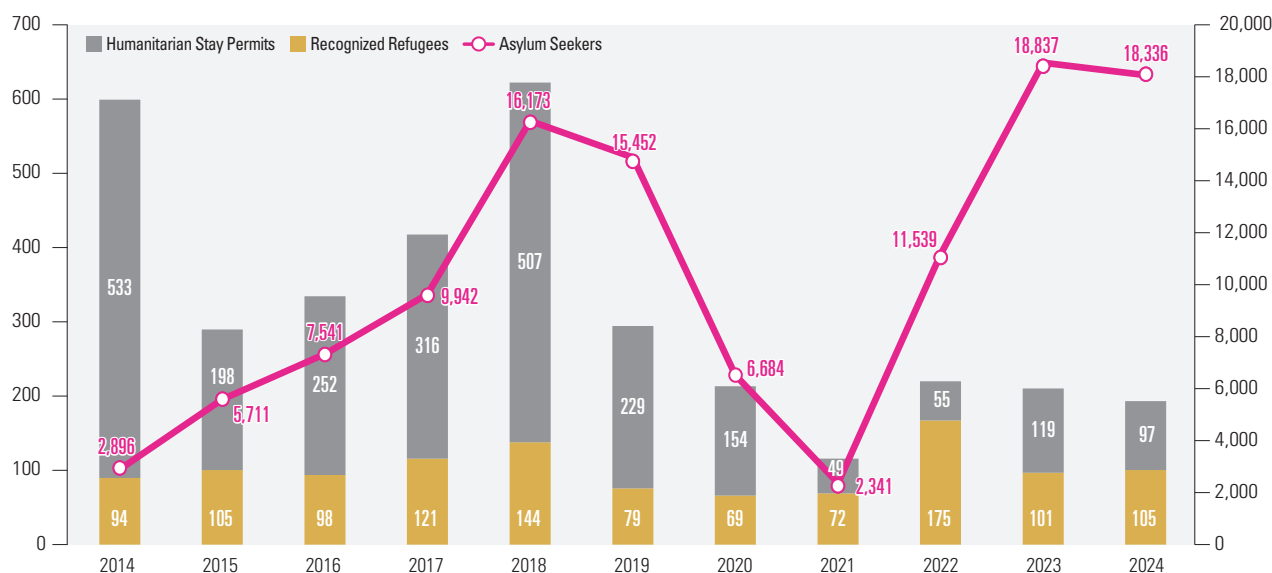
Meanwhile, other indicators of financial soundness demonstrate that the non-performing loan (NPL) ratio remained at a very low level of 0.24% as of 2022. The ratio of liquid assets to short-term liabilities (97.5%) further indicates that financial institutions maintain a high capacity for short-term liquidity management. Additionally, the foreign exchange position relative to capital (3.8%) remains low, suggesting that exposure to risks from exchange rate fluctuations is limited. Overall, the financial soundness indicators of Korean financial institutions are assessed to be maintaining a stable level relative to international standards.

The number of asylum seekers in 2024 reached over 18,000, with the protection rate of refugees at 3.6% (🔄 SDG 10.7.4)

In Korea, applications for refugee status have significantly increased as the refugee protection system has been reformed in the nation, including the accession to the Refugee Convention in 1992, the first refugee recognition in 2001 and the enforcement of the Refugee Act in 2013. The number of asylum seekers steadily rose from 2,896 in 2014 to 16,173 in 2018. The number once plummeted to 6,684 in 2020 and 2,341 in 2021 when cross-border movement was restricted due to COVID-19.

Number of Asylum Seekers, Recognized Refugees and Humanitarian Stay Permits, 2014-2024

(Unit: No. of persons)



Source : Ministry of Justice, Statistical Yearbook on Immigration and Foreigner Policy

However, it recovered and posted a record high of 18,837 in 2023. The number of asylum seekers in 2024 was compiled at 18,836, slightly down from the previous year.

Compared to the number of refugee applications, refugee status has not been often granted. In 2015, the number of recognized refugees exceeded 100 for the first time and even rose to 144 in 2018; however, since then, it has fluctuated without noticeable growth. During 2020 and 2021, when the number of asylum seekers declined sharply due to the pandemic, the number of recognized refugees also decreased to between 69 and 72. The figure later recorded an all-time high of 175 in 2022. However, despite the sharp increase in asylum seekers to over 18,000 in 2023 and 2024, the number of recognized refugees declined to a range between 101 and 105. From 1994, when refugee-related process began, to 2024, the cumulative number of completed refugee examinations reached 57,090. Among these, only 1,544 cases (2.7%) were granted refugee status.

Even if refugee status is not granted, humanitarian stay may be permitted until concerns about serious violations of the right to life or physical safety are resolved, including torture, inhumane treatment or punishment. According to the results of refugee examinations, from 2014 to 2024, about 49 to 533 applicants were granted humanitarian stay permits each year.

The proportion of those recognized as refugees or granted humanitarian stay permits relative to the total number of completed examinations is referred to as the 'refugee protection rate.' Combining the cumulative total of 1,544 refugees recognized and 2,686 applicants granted humanitarian stay permits through 2024, the refugee protection rate stood at 7.4%. While the number of humanitarian stay permits surpassed 500 per year from 2014 to 2018, it declined to approximately 100 per year in 2023 and 2024. Of the 5,610 cases completed in 2024 alone, 105 were recognized as refugees and 97 were granted humanitarian stay permits, bringing the refugee protection rate to only 3.6% for the year. Notably, refugee statistics may vary slightly depending on the results of appeals reviewed after the reference point in time.

The number of asylum seekers to Korea has increased as political instability has intensified in many countries and the refugee system in Korea has evolved alongside the country's rising international status. However, significant barriers remain to obtaining refugee status or being granted humanitarian stay permits. Given that the refugee protection rate in EU+ countries stood at 42% in 2024, it is necessary to discuss ways to overcome the limitations of the Korean refugee system and promote greater inclusiveness.



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



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Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 11 aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Amid rapid urbanization and increasing population concentration worldwide, about 3 billion people face the burden of housing costs, and more than 1.1 billion people live in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing, often lacking adequate access to basic services. The limited capacity of cities to adapt to the worsening climate crises and respond to disasters; the lack of green areas; and limited public participation have also been identified as factors undermining the sustainability of cities. That said, in Korea, positive progress has been observed, including improvements in air quality, the expansion of urban parks and greater inclusiveness of public transit for individuals with disabilities.

» In 2024, the proportion of households falling below the minimum residential standards (3.8%) increased from the previous year, and it has been higher in the Seoul Metropolitan Area (4.4%) than metropolitan cities (2.8%) and provinces (3.4%) since 2016.

- The home ownership rate hit a record high of 58.4% in 2024, with a noticeable increase in the Seoul Metropolitan Area (52.7%), where the home ownership rate has generally been lower than those in other areas.
- Since 2014, there has been a clear growth in the home ownership rate among the high-income households (74.8% in 2024) and middle-income households (63.6%), further widening the gap with the low-income groups (46.7%).
- A clear gap was also observed in the rent-to-income ratio (RIR) between the Seoul Metropolitan Area (18.4%), metropolitan cities (15.2%) and provinces (12.7%).

» In 2024, the (population-weighted average) concentration of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) reached 16µg/m³, the lowest level on record. Both the compliance rate with air quality standards and the number of days with “bad” air quality alerts also improved.

- However, it still remains above the national standards (15µg/m³) and the WHO guideline (5µg/m³).

» The per capita area of urban parks grew by 54.2% from 8.3m² in 2011 to 12.8m² in 2024. However, in 2024, it grew by only 1.6% year on year.

- Local governments actively pushed forward with park development projects in an attempt to address long-term, unexecuted urban park plans, in preparation for the Urban Park Sunset system (2020), significantly increasing the per capita-capita area of urban parks.
- The per capita area of urban parks is significantly large in Sejong (62.2m²), Jeonnam (26.6m²) and Jeonbuk (26.0m²), while it is relatively small in Seoul (4.7m²) and Daegu (9.8m²).

» In 2024, 57.2% of the population had access to public transit within 10 minutes, and 94.2% of the population had access within 20 minutes.

- The share of low-floor buses stood at 44.4% in 2024, which was significantly higher in Seoul (71.0%) and Sejong (58.3%) and especially lower in Ulsan (18.7%) and Jeju (22.5%), indicating clear regional disparities.

Need to promote housing welfare in the Seoul Metropolitan Area, where the home ownership rate is low, the rent burden is high and the proportion of households below the minimum residential standards is high (🔄 SDG 11.1.1)

The proportion of households below the minimum residential standards is used as a proxy indicator for inadequate housing conditions in Korea and serves as an indicator for identifying the size of vulnerable groups. The ratio of households falling short of the minimum residential standards nationwide was estimated at 3.8% in 2024, increasing by 0.2%p from the previous year

after showing a gradual decline since 2018.

From 2006 to the mid-2010s, the ratio of households falling below the minimum residential standards rapidly decreased nationwide. The pace of improvement was especially rapid in provinces and metropolitan cities, where the proportion of households below the standards had previously been high. In 2006, the ratio of households below the minimum residential standards was 12.8% in the Seoul Metropolitan Area, 17.7% in metropolitan cities outside the Seoul Metropolitan Area, 21.6% in provinces, while these figures declined to 5.8%, 5.0% and 5.1% respectively in 2016, almost eliminating



regional disparities. Although regional disparities have narrowed compared to the past, the Seoul Metropolitan Area has shown the highest ratio of households below the standards since 2016, and this trend has continued to the present. In 2024, the proportion of households below the minimum residential standards stood at 4.4% in the Seoul Metropolitan Area, higher than 2.8% in metropolitan cities and 3.4% in provinces. Despite the significant improvement in housing conditions and the narrowing of regional disparities, more attention needs to be paid to the recent stagnation in the housing improvement pace and the relatively poor housing conditions in the Seoul Metropolitan Area.

The home ownership rate gradually increased from 55.6% in 2006 to 58.4% in 2024. It remained stagnant, ranging from 56.8% to 58.0% from 2016 to 2023. In 2024, it rose by 1.0%p from the previous year to 58.4%, reaching an all-time high.

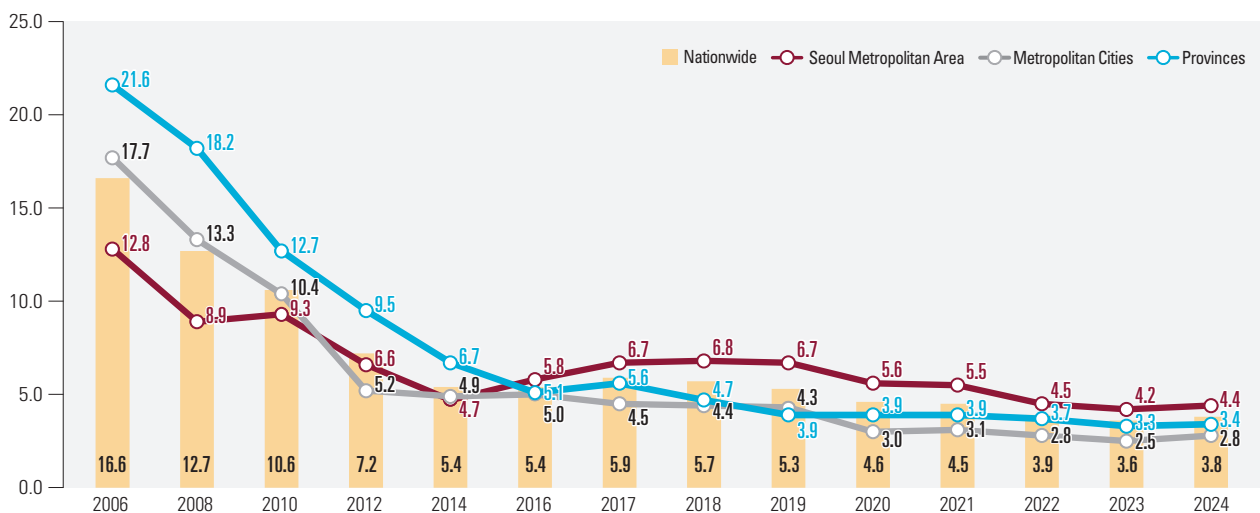
There has been a clear gap in the home ownership rate among income groups, and this gap has intensified compared to the past. From 2006 to 2014, the home ownership rates were recorded at 64 to 70% for high-income groups, 51 to

56% for middle-income classes and 46 to 52% for low-income households. Since then, the home ownership rates of high-income and middle-income households have risen to the mid-70% range and the low-60% range respectively, while the rate for the low-income classes has slightly decreased to the mid-40% range. In 2024, the home ownership rate among middle-income households grew by 3.4%p from the previous year, showing noticeable progress. The gap in the home ownership rate between high-income and low-income groups widened from 17.3%p in 2006 to 28.1%p in 2024. The gap between middle-income and low-income households also widened from 5.6%p to 16.9%p over the same period.

Meanwhile, considering the home ownership rate by region, it was the highest in provinces, followed by metropolitan cities and the Seoul Metropolitan Area. As the home ownership rate decreased in provinces and increased in the Seoul Metropolitan Area in the 2020s, regional disparities narrowed compared to the past. In particular, the home ownership rate in the Seoul Metropolitan Area maintained the level of 48% to 50% from 2016 to 2020, and it rose to 51.3% in 2021 and 52.7% in

Proportion of Households Below Minimum Residential Standards by Region, 2006-2024

(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Korea Housing Survey

Note 1 : Households below the minimum residential standards refer to those falling short of any of the following criteria under the Housing Act: area standard (the usable area is less than 14m² for one person, 26m² for two people, 36m² for three people, 43m² for four people, 46m² for five people and 55m² for six people depending on the number of household members); facility standard (at least one of the following essential facilities, such as a dedicated stand-up kitchen, flush toilet(s) and bathing facility, is not equipped); and bedroom standard (the number of rooms is fewer than one for one person, one for two people, two for three people, three for four people or five people, or four for six people depending on the number of household members.)

Note 2 : This survey was conducted on a biennial basis until 2016, but it has been changed to an annual survey since 2017.

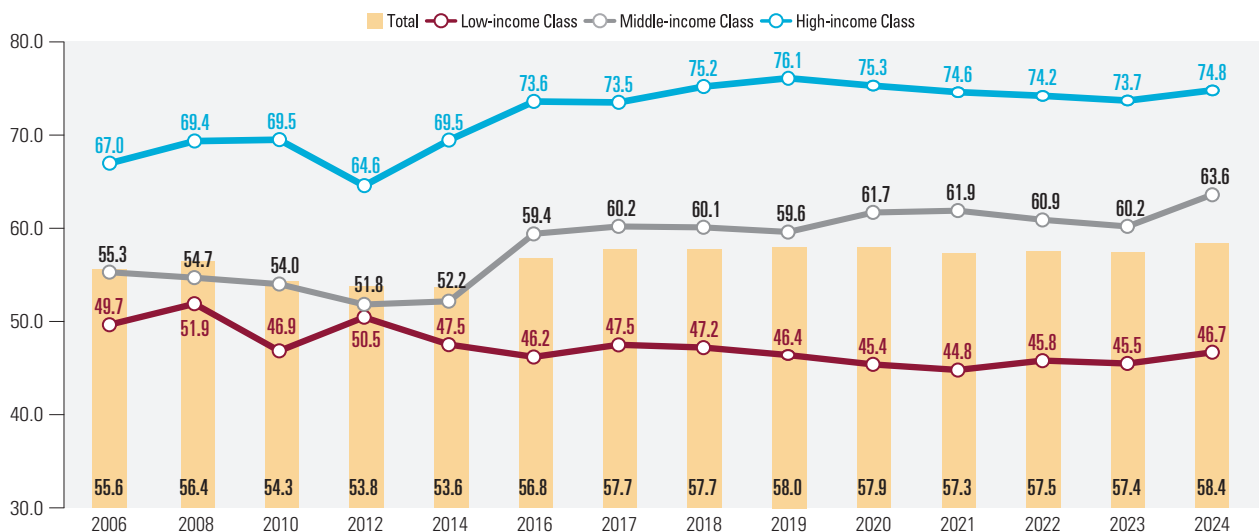
Note 3 : Starting from the 2017 Housing Survey, administrative data have been used to estimate the residential area of multi-unit housing.

Note 4 : Regions to be analyzed are divided into the Seoul Metropolitan Area (Seoul, Incheon and Gyeonggi), metropolitan cities (Busan, Daegu, Gwangju, Daejeon, Ulsan and Sejong) and provinces (Gangwon, Chungbuk, Chungnam, Jeonbuk, Jeonnam, Gyeongbuk, Gyeongnam and Jeju).

Note 5 : Since 2018, Sejong has been included in the analysis of metropolitan cities, and before that it was included in Chungnam.

Home Ownership Rate by Income Group, 2006-2024

(Unit: %)



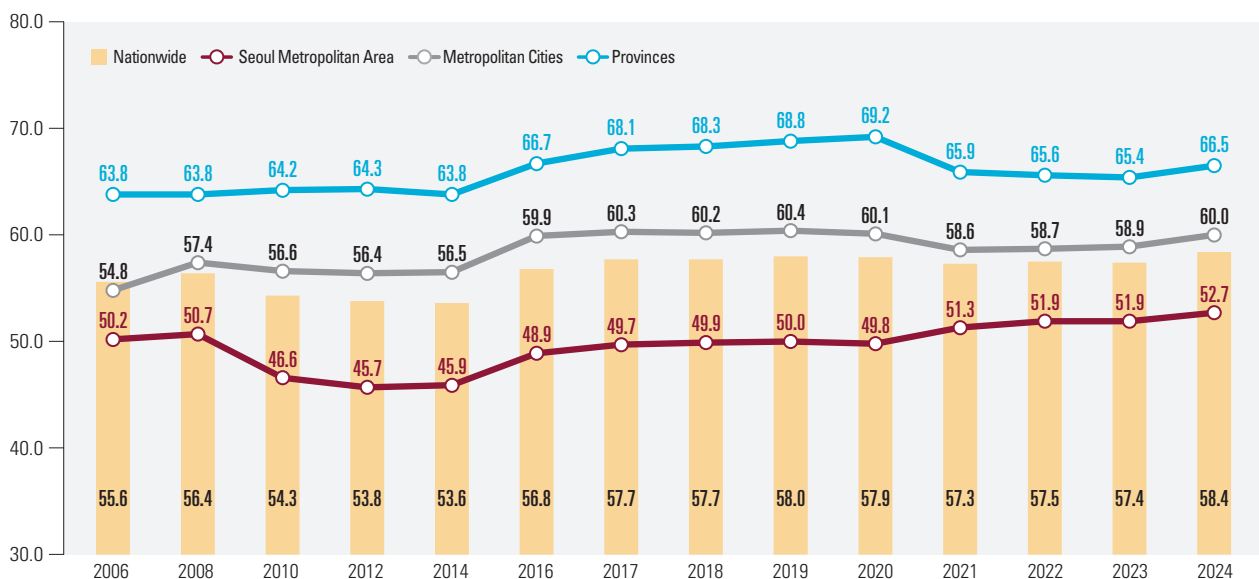
Source : Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Korea Housing Survey

Note 1 : The home ownership rate refers to the proportion of households living in homes they own out of the total number of households.

Note 2 : Based on the income deciles of households surveyed in the Housing Survey, the low-income class corresponds to the first to fourth deciles, the middle-income class to the fifth to eighth deciles, and the high-income class to the ninth to tenth deciles.

Home Ownership Rate by Region, 2006-2024

(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Korea Housing Survey

Note : The home ownership rate refers to the proportion of households living in homes they own out of the total number of households.

2024, reaching the highest on record. From 2017 to 2020, the home ownership rate in provinces ranged from 68% to 70%, which then fell to the 65% range from 2021 to 2023. In 2024, it slightly increased to 66.5%. The rate in metropolitan cities remained stable at 58% to 61% with no major fluctuations from 2016 to 2024. Despite limitations in housing supply concentrated in urban areas and rising housing prices, the home ownership rate in the Seoul Metropolitan Area has recently

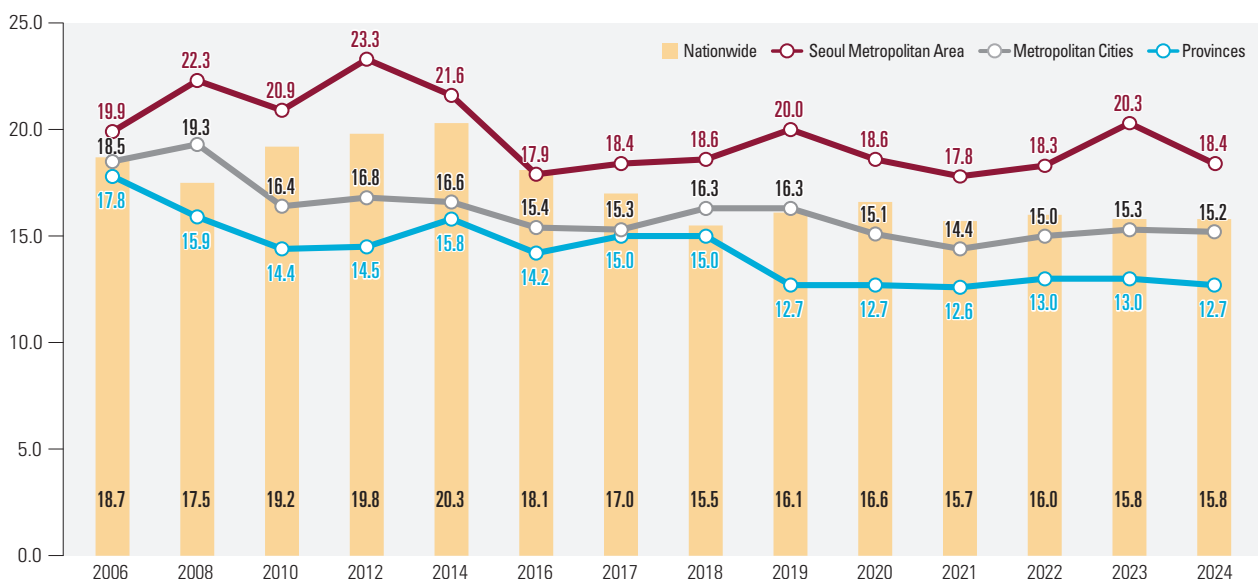
increased. In spite of the recent increase, it is still necessary to pay attention to the relatively low home ownership rate in the Seoul Metropolitan Area as well as home ownership in provinces, which has seen a clear decline in the 2020s.

The rent-to-income ratio (RIR) indicates the level of housing cost burden of renting households. The median rent-to-income ratio of households nationwide increased from 18.7% in 2006 to 20.3% in 2014, then fell to the lowest level of 15.5% in 2018.



Rent-to-income Ratio (RIR) by Region, 2006-2024

(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Korea Housing Survey

Note : Rent-to-income Ratio (RIR) = (monthly median rent ÷ monthly median household income) × 100

Afterwards, it remained stagnant at 15.7% to 16.0% from 2021 to 2024. During the period from 2006 to 2012, the RIR rose due to several factors, such as rising housing prices and growing demand for rental housing. In particular, the RIR in the Seoul Metropolitan Area reached the highest level of 23.3% in 2012. From 2014 to 2018, the expansion of public rental housing and the stabilized market for lump-sum deposits with no monthly rent alleviated the burden of housing rents in the Seoul Metropolitan Area, where the burden had been particularly high. The RIR tends to be the highest in the Seoul Metropolitan Area and lowest in provinces. In 2024, regional disparities were evident, with 18.4% in the Seoul Metropolitan Area, 15.2% in metropolitan cities and 12.7% in provinces. The RIR in the Seoul Metropolitan Area was not only higher than other areas but also showed greater fluctuations. Even from 2021 to 2024, when the nationwide RIR fluctuated only slightly between 15.7% and 16.0%, the variation in the Seoul Metropolitan Area was relatively large, ranging from 17.8% to 20.3%. Therefore, inclusive housing welfare policies are needed to alleviate the burden of housing costs in the rental market of the Seoul Metropolitan Area, where young and vulnerable populations are densely concentrated, and to enhance housing security.

The concentration of fine particulate matter reached $16\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, a record low in 2024

(SDG 11.6.2)

The population-weighted concentration of fine particulate matter ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$) nationwide decreased by $3\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ from the previous year to $16\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2024, recording the lowest level since 2015 when the monitoring began. A gradual decline was observed from $26\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2015, followed by a sudden drop to $19\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2020 partly due to reduced economic and transport activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Afterwards, there was no further improvement, remaining at around 18 to $19\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ until 2023. That said, as the concentration improved, the compliance rate of air quality standards also increased significantly. The ratio of measuring stations meeting the annual standards for fine particulate matter had never surpassed 30% until 2023 since the air quality standards were strengthened in 2018. However, in 2024, 48.3% of measuring stations nationwide met the annual standards. The number of days with a “bad” air quality forecast also recorded the lowest level, with 12 days in 2024. There was not even a single day when a “very bad” alert was issued.

The recent analysis shows that such an improvement in air quality was driven by multiple factors, such as the effects of

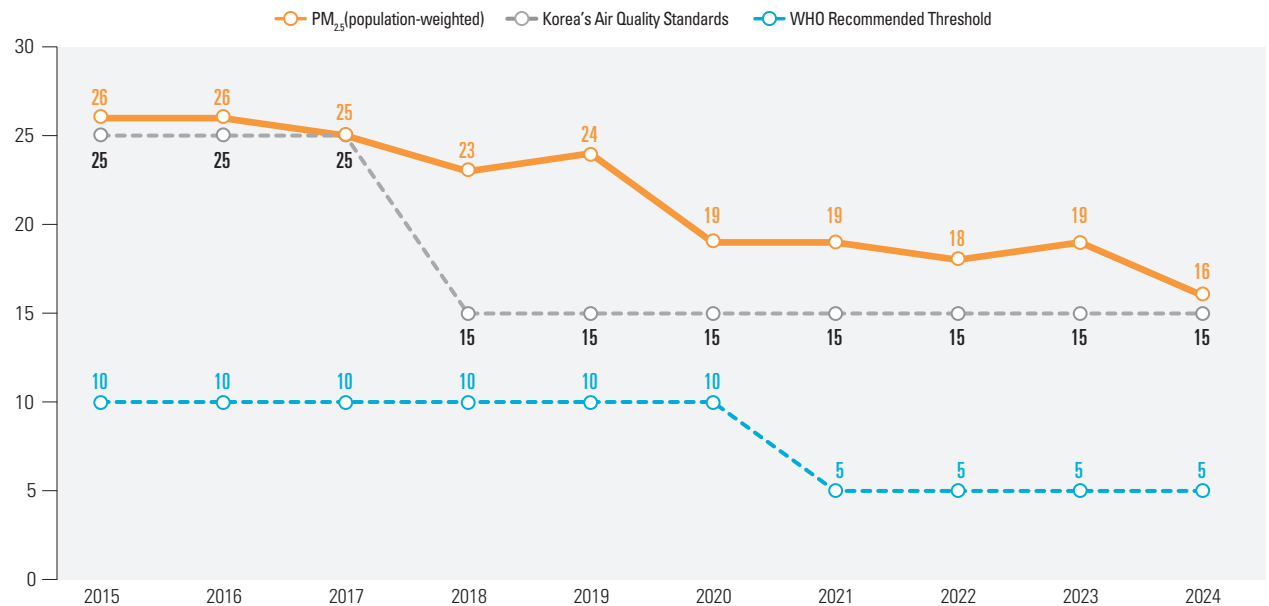
overarching mitigation policies, including the total emission control system in air quality management districts, support for installing air pollution prevention facilities and providing technical diagnostics for small-scale businesses, early scrappage subsidies for old diesel vehicles, the deployment of eco-friendly household boilers and the prevention of illegal burning of agricultural waste, along with a reduction in transboundary pollution inflows and favorable weather conditions. Despite the

recent improvement in air quality, however, air quality fell short of the domestic air quality standards ($15\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) and the WHO Air Quality Guidelines (AQG level, $5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). In comparison with the population-weighted annual average exposure to fine particulate matter ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$) estimated using satellite imagery by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), Korea, ranked fourth among OECD countries in 2023.

In 2024, the concentration of fine particulate matter was

Annual Average Concentration of Fine Particulate Matter ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$), 2015-2024

(Unit: $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)



Source : National Institute of Environmental Research, Annual Report of Air Quality in Korea 2024

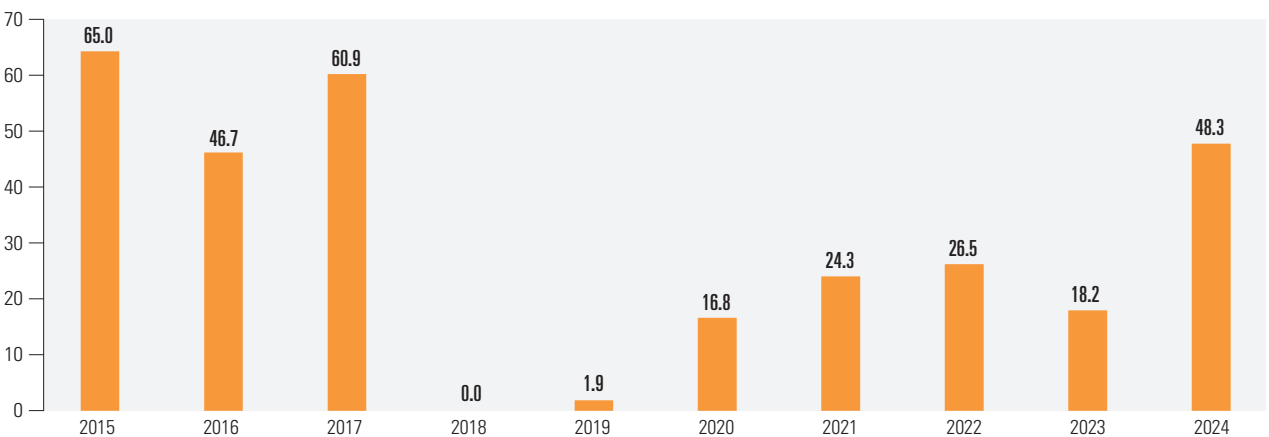
Note 1 : This is the annual population-weighted average concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) of fine particulate matter ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$) in 17 cities and provinces nationwide.

Note 2 : Korea's air quality standards are based on the annual average concentration of fine particulate matter in accordance with the Clean Air Conservation Act, and the threshold has been reinforced from $25\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to $15\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ since March 2018.

Note 3 : The WHO recommended threshold is based on the annual average concentration of fine particulate matter in accordance with the WHO 'Air Quality Guidelines (AQG),' and the threshold has been reinforced from $10\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to $5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ since 2021.

Compliance Rate of Air Quality Standards for Fine Particulate Matter ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$), 2015-2024

(Unit: %)



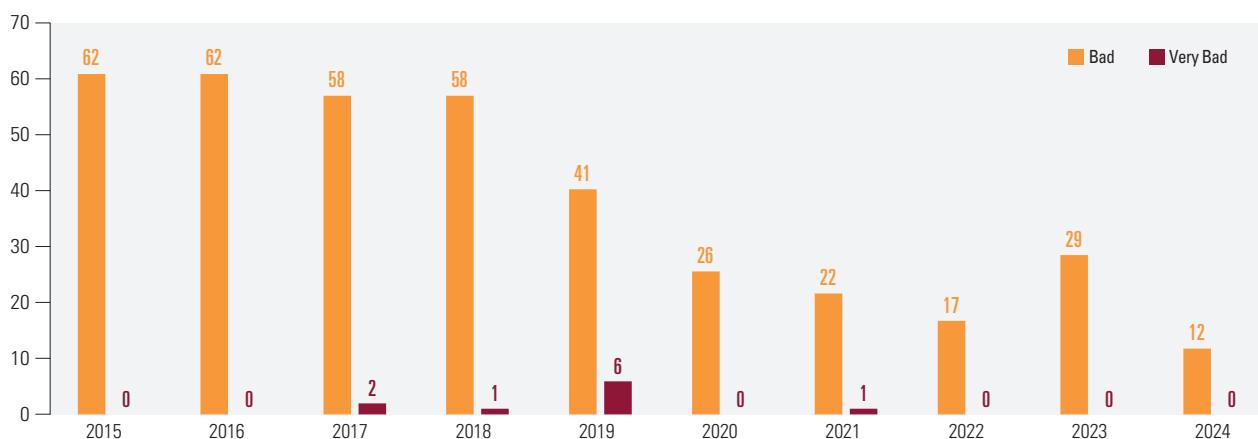
Source : National Institute of Environmental Research, Annual Report of Air Quality in Korea 2024

Note 1 : This refers to the ratio of measuring stations meeting the air quality standards for fine particulate matter ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$, annual average) to the total number of valid measuring stations.

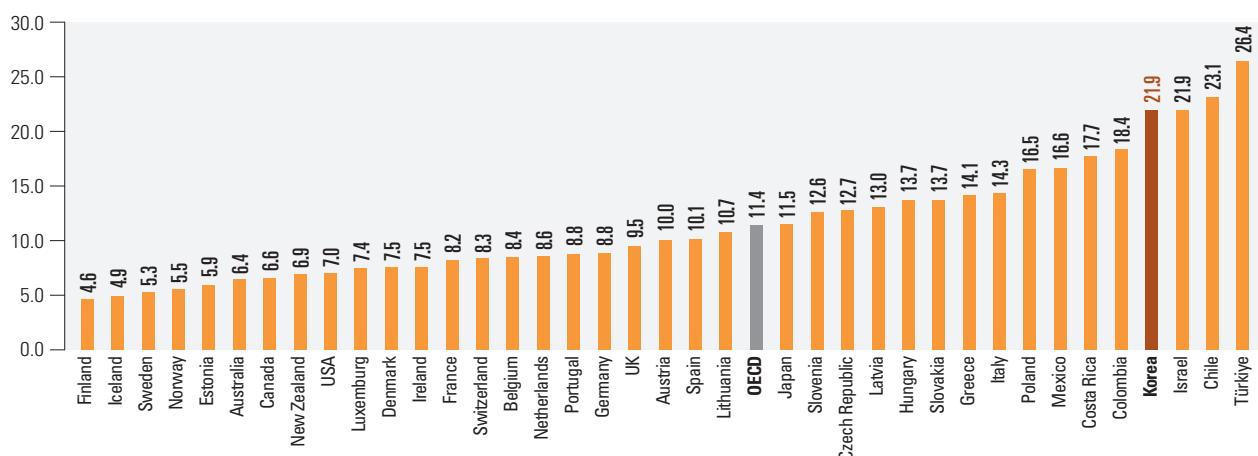
Note 2 : The threshold for the air quality standards ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$, annual average) has been reinforced from $25\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to $15\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ since March 2018.

**Number of Days with “Bad” and “Very Bad” Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) Alerts, 2015-2024**

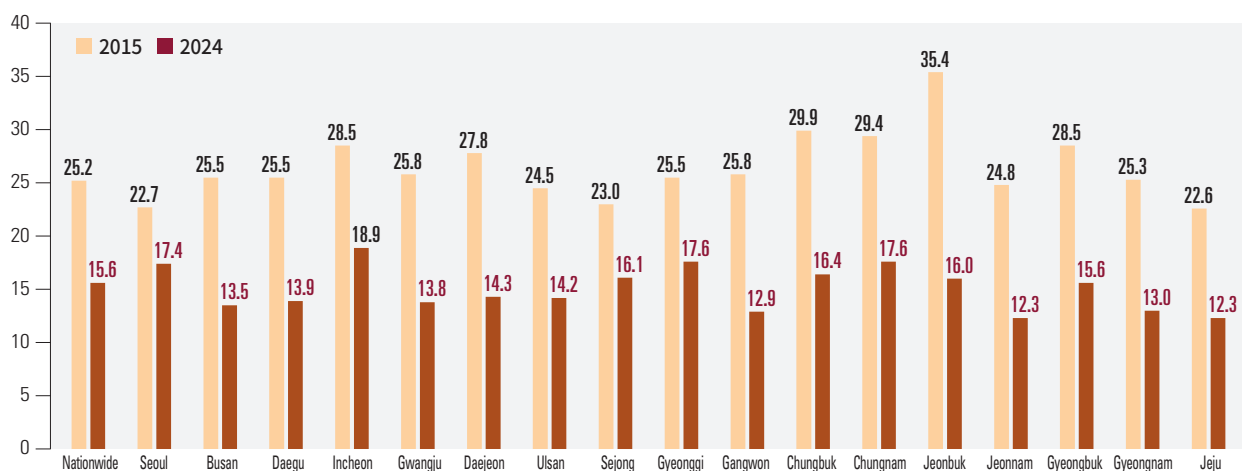
(Unit: No. of days/year)



Source : National Institute of Environmental Research, Annual Report of Air Quality in Korea 2024

Note 1 : The threshold for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}, 24 hours) ranges from 36 to 75µg/m³ for 'bad', exceeds 75µg/m³ for 'very bad.' Until March 2018, the threshold used to be 51 to 100µg/m³ for 'bad' and 101µg/m³ or higher for 'very bad.'**Population-weighted Annual Average Exposure to Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) in OECD Countries, 2023**(Unit: µg/m³)Source : IHME, GBD 2023 Air Pollution Exposure Estimates (2026).(<https://ghdx.healthdata.org/record/ihme-data/gbd-2023-air-pollution-exposure-estimates-1990-2023>, retrieved on Mar 3, 2026)

Note : This represents estimates based on satellite imagery.

Annual Average Concentration of Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) by Region, 2015, 2024(Unit: µg/m³)Source : Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, Press Release (Feb 11, 2025), "Last year's sky was the clearest, with the concentration of fine particulate matter in 2024 at 15.6µg/m³, the lowest level on record"

Note 1 : Data for Sejong are based on 2016 data as the measuring network was not installed in 2015.

Note 2 : The concentration, excluding yellow dust, was used, and the concentration level in 2024 is based on preliminary figures.

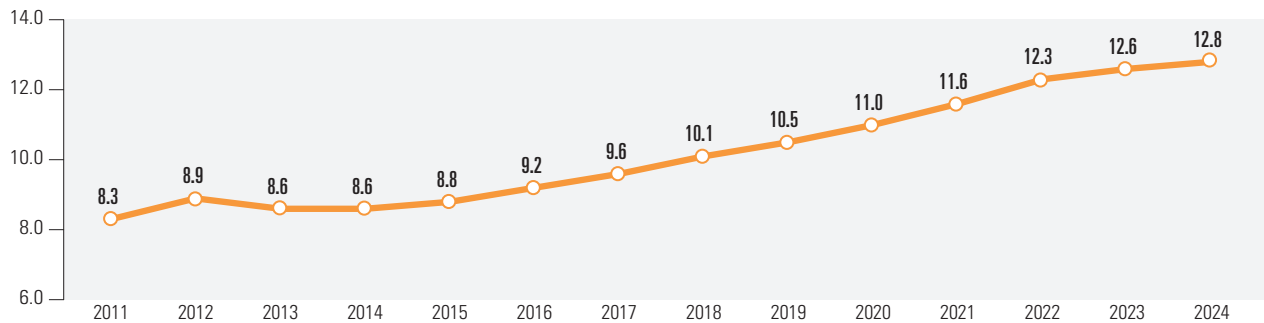
observed to be high in the following order: Incheon ($18.9\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), Gyeonggi and Chungnam ($17.6\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ each), Seoul ($17.4\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), Chungbuk ($16.4\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), and Sejong ($16.1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), indicating that air pollution was concentrated in the Seoul Metropolitan Area as well as Chungnam and Chungbuk. In 2015, it was Jeonbuk that recorded the highest concentration of fine particulate matter at $35.4\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$; however, it declined to $16.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2024 with significant improvement, falling to 7th place. Gyeongbuk also fell from fourth place ($28.5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) in 2015 to 8th place ($15.6\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) in 2024. Gangwon ranked 7th ($25.8\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) in 2015, but dropped to 15th ($12.9\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) in 2024, becoming one of the regions with relatively low concentrations. On the other hand, Seoul recorded $22.7\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2015, a relatively low level comparable to Jeju ($22.6\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). However, there has not been much improvement since then, placing Seoul fourth in 2024 with a concentration of $17.4\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

The per capita area of urban parks has steadily increased, while regional disparities still remain (SDG 11.7.1)

The area created for urban parks in Korea, has generally increased since 2011. The per capita area of urban parks rose by 54.2% from 8.3m^2 in 2011 to 12.8m^2 in 2024. During this period, local governments actively carried out park development projects to address park plans that had remained unexecuted for a long time, in preparation for the Urban Park Sunset system in 2020, under which long-term unexecuted plans for urban facilities automatically became invalid. After 2020, large-scale park projects and neighborhood parks, included in the Urban and County Management Plans, have been implemented in full swing. The per capita area of urban parks has increased each year since 2015, but this growth trend slowed somewhat in 2024, increasing by only 1.6% year on year from the previous year, which is the lowest

Per capita Area of Urban Parks, 2011-2024

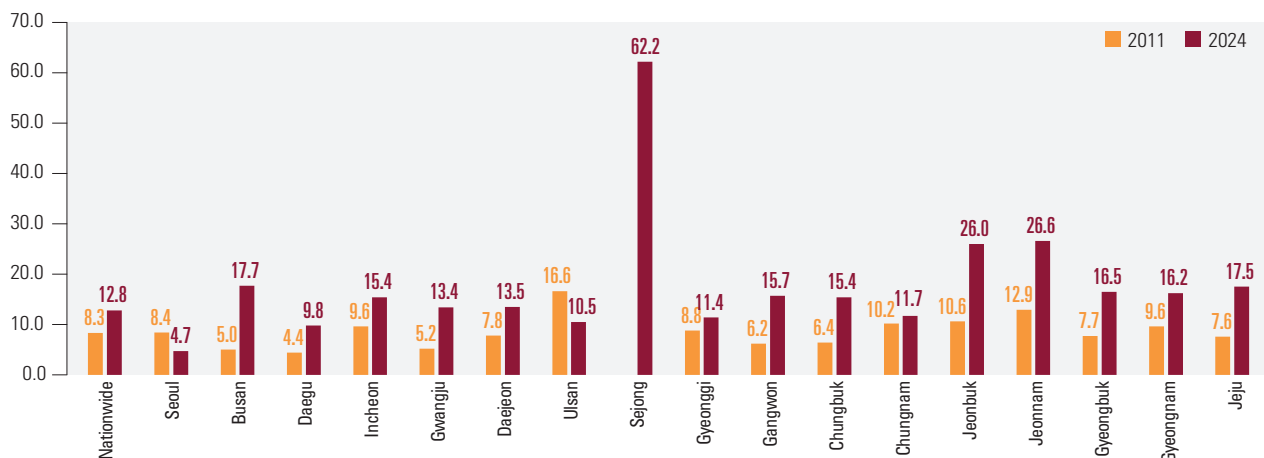
(Unit: m^2)



Source : LX (Korea Land and Geospatial Informatix Corporation), Urban Planning Status (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Feb 16, 2026)

Per capita Area of Urban Parks by City and Province, 2011, 2024

(Unit: m^2)



Source : LX (Korea Land and Geospatial Informatix Corporation), Urban Planning Status (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Feb 16, 2026)

Note : Since Sejong was inaugurated in 2012, 2011 data are unavailable.



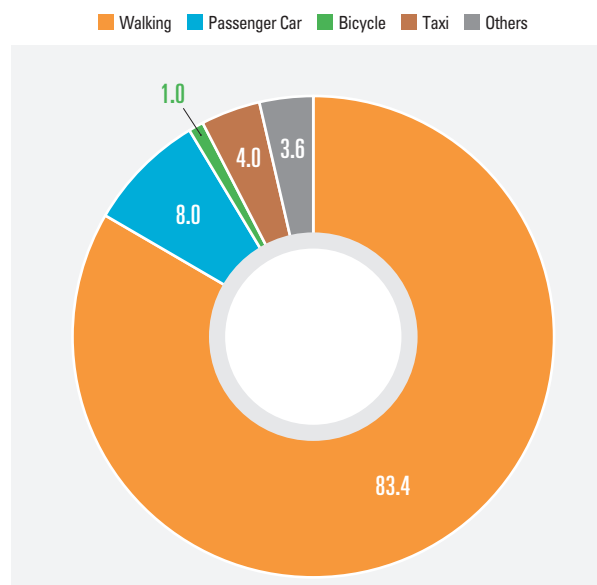
growth rate since 2015.

The per capita area of urban parks varies significantly by region. In Sejong, which is a newly planned city, the per capita urban park area was exceptionally high at 62.2m² in 2024. The figure was also significantly high in Jeonnam (26.6m²) and Jeonbuk (26.0m²). On the other hand, it was less than 10m² in Seoul (4.7m²) and Daegu (9.8m²). Other cities and provinces ranged from 10 to 18m². Due to high population density and development pressures, it is challenging for Seoul to secure park areas. In 2024, the per capita area in Seoul not only fell short of half of the national average, but also declined compared to 8.4 m² in 2011. Out of 16 cities and provinces, excluding Sejong, Ulsan was the only city other than Seoul to see its per capita area of urban parks decrease compared to 2011 (16.6m² in 2011 vs. 10.5m² in 2024). Combined with efforts to secure green and ecological rest areas that overcome the limitations of urban areas, it is necessary to pay more attention to the quality and functionality of parks, citizen access and management efficiency.

The share of low-floor buses reached 44.4%, with significant regional disparities (SDG 11.2.1)

Among the population aged 15 or older, the proportion of those who can access public transit in less than 5 minutes was recorded at 13.0% in 2024. The proportion increases to 57.2% for the population able to access public transit in less than 10

Breakdown of Access Modes to Public Transit, 2024 (Unit: %)

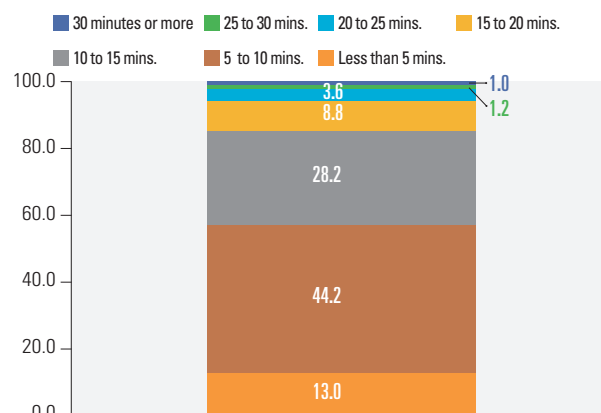


Source : Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Public Transit Survey (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Feb 15, 2026)

Note : This survey targets users who use public transit four times a week among the population aged 15 or older.

minutes, 85.4% in less than 15 minutes, 94.2% in less than 20 minutes, and 99.0% in less than 30 minutes. This indicates that more than half of the population can access public transit within 10 minutes, and almost the entire population can access it within 20 to 30 minutes. Such a distribution has been maintained without significant fluctuations since 2014. The share of the population paying a monthly public transit fare of less than 20,000 KRW accounted for 8.1% in 2024. Including

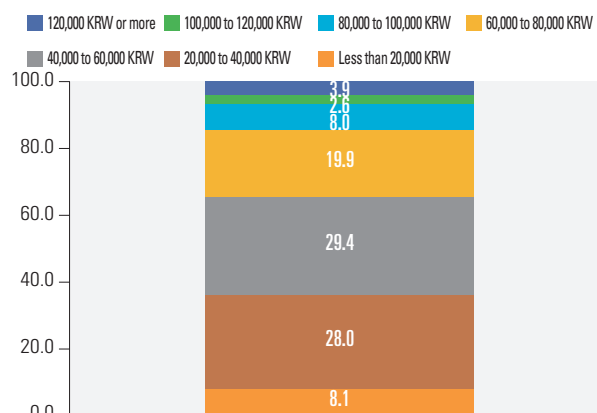
Breakdown of Access Time to Public Transit, 2024 (Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Public Transportation Survey (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Feb 15, 2026)

Note : This survey targets users who use public transit at least four times a week among the population aged 15 or older.

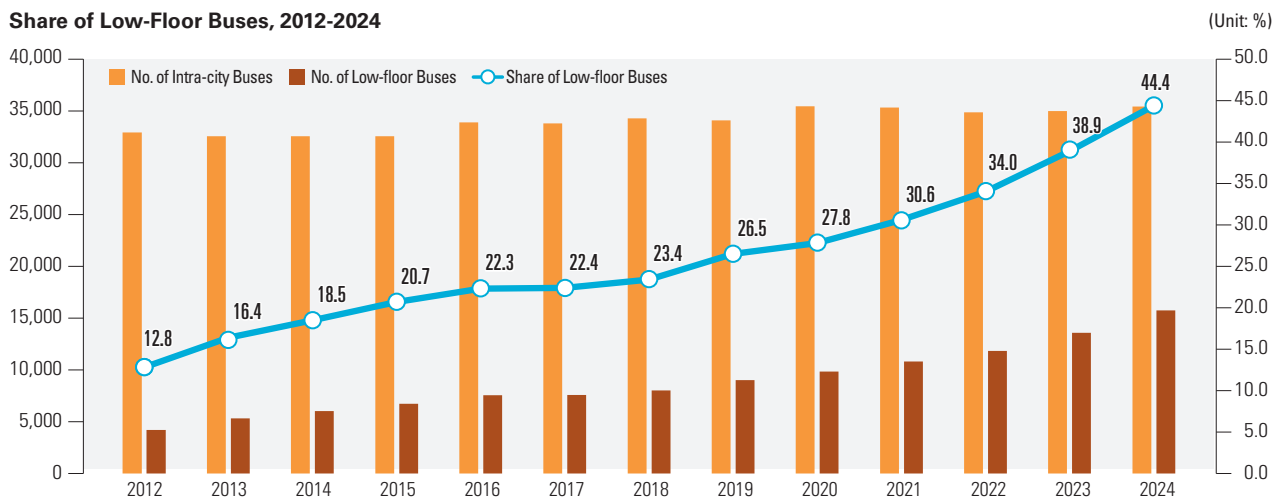
Breakdown of Monthly Public Transit Fare, 2024 (Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Public Transportation Survey (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Feb 15, 2026)

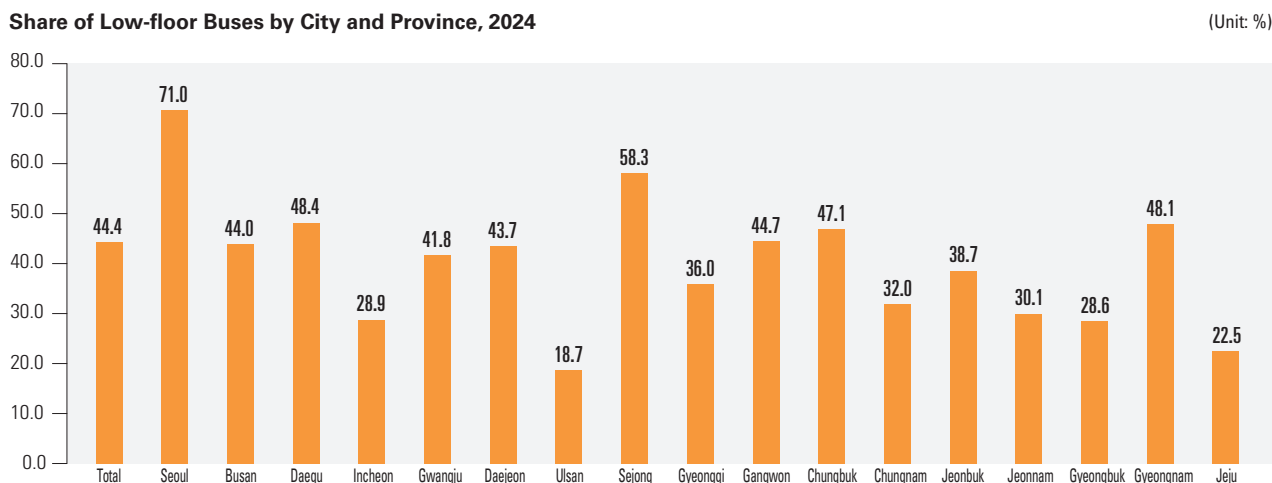
Note : This survey targets users who use public transit at least four times a week among the population aged 15 or older.

Share of Low-Floor Buses, 2012-2024



Source : Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Introduction of Low-floor Buses (<https://stat.molit.go.kr>, retrieved on Feb 16, 2026)

Share of Low-floor Buses by City and Province, 2024



Source : Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Introduction of Low-floor Buses (<https://stat.molit.go.kr>, retrieved on Feb 16, 2026)

those, the proportion reached 36.1% for less than 40,000 KRW, 65.5% for less than 60,000 KRW, 85.4% for less than 80,000 KRW, 93.4% for less than 100,000 KRW and 96.0% for less than 120,000 KRW.

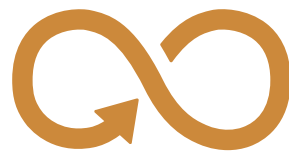
Among access modes to public transit, walking accounts for the majority of access modes. The share of the population accessing public transit on foot accounted for 83.4% in 2024. Besides walking, the share of the population using passenger cars, taxis and others reached 8.0%, 4.0% and 3.6%, respectively. Those going to public transit by bicycle stood at only 1.0%. This suggests that access to public transit is relatively favorable in residential areas, which are well equipped with infrastructure for pedestrians. That said, further efforts are

required to realize the potential of transit modes linked with public transit by improving transport infrastructure, such as environments for bicycle use or park-and-ride facilities for passenger cars.

The share of low-floor buses, which indicates access to public transit for individuals with disabilities, gradually increased from 12.8% in 2012, reaching 44.4% in 2024. The growth trend has been even faster in recent years. In 2024, the number of low-floor buses stood at 15,743 among 35,432 intra-city buses nationwide. However, there are wide regional disparities. The share of low-floor buses was significantly high in Seoul (71.0%) and Sejong (58.3%), while it fell short of 50% in other areas. In particular, Ulsan (18.7%) and Jeju (22.5%) were only around 20%.



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

SDG 12 aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, including a transition towards a circular economy that promotes resource efficiency and reduces environmental impacts. Still, across the globe, large amounts of food are wasted at the retail, food services and households, as well as during the stages of production, processing and wholesale. Domestic material consumption (DMC) worldwide increased by 23.3% in 2022 compared with 2017, indicating that the sustainability of material consumption has not yet been achieved. In Korea, domestic material consumption relative to GDP has declined, indicating a pattern of decoupling from economic growth, and a foundation for further policy advancement is being established, such as the establishment of separate statistics on material recycling.

» Domestic material consumption (DMC), which indicates the amount of natural resources consumed within the national territory, decreased from 0.89 billion tonnes in 2017 to 0.86 billion tonnes in 2022, along with a decline in the per capita DMC to 16.7 tonnes in 2022.

- Domestic material consumption per unit of GDP (USD, constant prices) decreased from 0.542 kg in 2017 to 0.466 kg in 2022, confirming a decoupling in which material consumption is reduced despite economic growth.

» The annual food waste generation ranged from 5.5 million to 6 million tonnes between 2015 and 2020 and decreased to between 5.3 million and 5.7 million tonnes during the period from 2020 to 2023. The per capita waste generation reached 104.6 kg in 2023, the lowest level since 2015.

- The per capita waste generation was high in Jeju Island (146.4 kg) while it was lower in Gyeonggi (93.5 kg) and Seoul (98.4 kg). In provinces, except for Gyeonggi and Jeju, the per capita waste generation in 2023 increased by 24% to 80% compared with 2012, indicating a relatively higher growth rate in rural areas.

» The recycling rate, combining municipal waste, business waste and designated waste, stood at 78.1% in 2023. It has remained stagnant since 2020 after the growth trend came to a halt.

- Since 2023, statistics have been compiled and published separately for material recycling and energy recovery. Of the total recycling rate of 78.1%, only 68.5% corresponded to the material recycling rate.
- The material recycling rate of regulated business waste, which accounted for 74.5% of the total waste, was the highest at 76.2%, whereas the material recycling rate of municipal waste, accounting for 14.9% of total waste generation, was relatively low at 46.2%.
- The recycling rate of municipal waste ranked 3rd among the 32 OECD countries; however, further efforts are needed to improve recycling statistics based on the amount of waste received by treatment facilities.

» The per capita generation of hazardous waste rose from 72.1 kg in 2011 to 119.6 kg in 2023, while the recycling rate has declined since 2021.

- The recycling rate of hazardous waste stood at 63.8% in 2023, which is higher than the average of 26 OECD countries (56.4% in 2022). However, the material recycling rate (42.1% in 2023) was slightly lower than the OECD average (43.8% in 2022).

Domestic material consumption (DMC) relative to GDP decreased until 2022, showing a pattern of decoupling from economic growth (🔄 SDG 12.2.2)

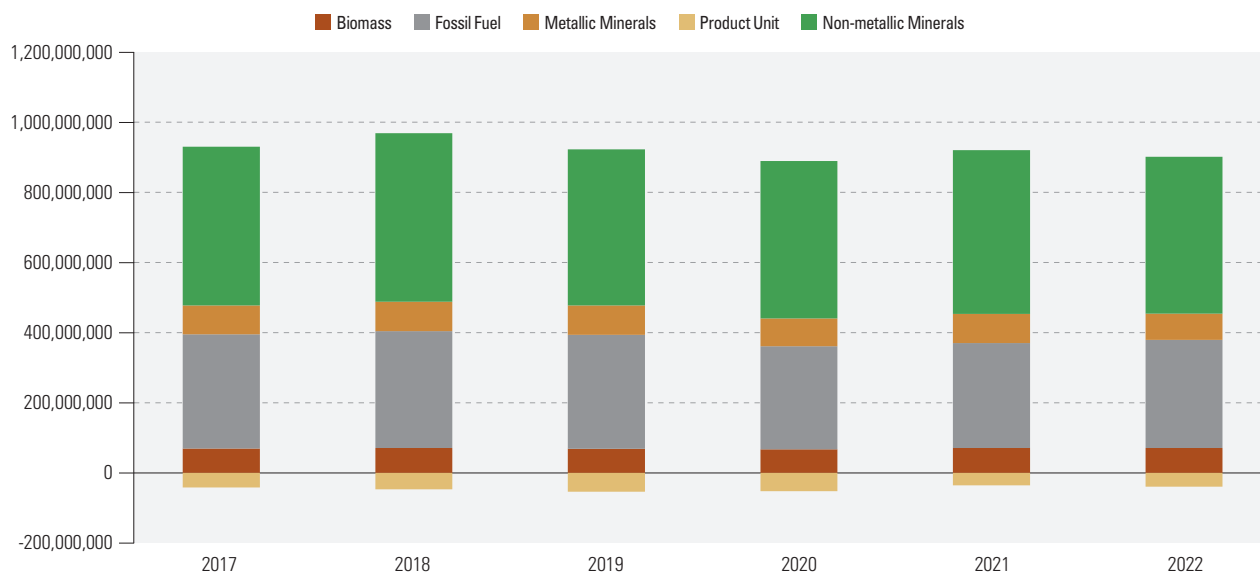
SDG 12.2 aims at the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources and uses the following two indicators to measure this: material footprint (Indicator 12.2.1) and domestic material consumption (Indicator 12.2.2). Material footprint (MF) refers to the total amount of natural resources consumed by a country, including material consumption generated overseas due

to imported products. Domestic material consumption (DMC) refers to the amount of natural resources consumed within the territory of a country. It reflects resources domestically extracted as well as import or export volumes, but does not include material flows indirectly used in the production processes of imported products. While the UN SDG Global Database does not provide data on material footprint (MF), it provides internationally comparable estimates of domestic material consumption (DMC), including those produced by UNEP. Domestic material



National Resource Consumption (DMC), 2017-2022

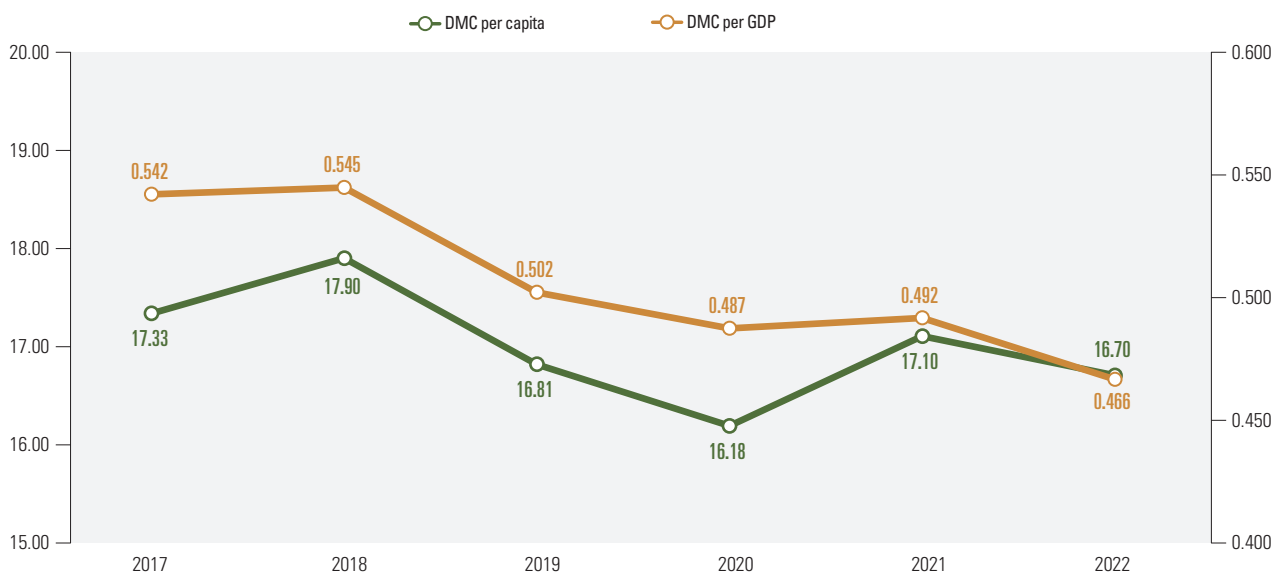
(Unit: tonne/year)



Source : Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources, Korea Institute of Industrial Technology, 「2025 National Resource Productivity Index」

National Resource Consumption per capita and per GDP, 2017-2022

(Unit: tonne/person/year, kg/dollar)



Source : Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources, Korea Institute of Industrial Technology, 「2025 National Resource Productivity Index」

Note : This represents domestic material consumption per capita based on the mid-year population (future population projections) and per USD of GDP (base year: 2015).

consumption (DMC) is calculated by adding direct imports to domestic extraction and subtracting direct exports. While internationally comparable estimates of DMC are available(e.g. from UNEP), no official national statistics had been compiled in Korea until recently. However, as the National Resource Productivity Index was published as approved statistics at the end of 2025, statistics on domestic material consumption have been compiled under the name of “national resource consumption”

and are expected to be published regularly in the future.

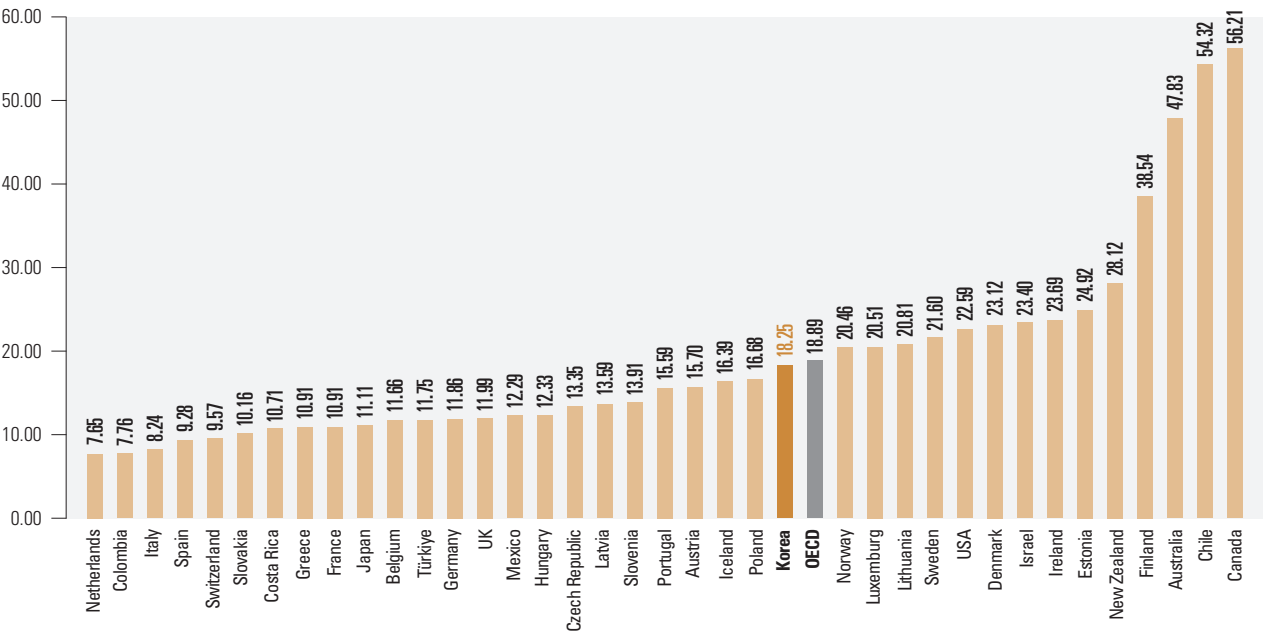
According to the 2025 National Resource Productivity Index, national resource consumption in Korea fell sharply from 890.28 million tonnes in 2017 to 838.93 million tonnes in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic began, and then rose again to 862.95 million kg per USD in 2022. By material group, in 2022, non-metallic minerals accounted for the largest share at 447.38 million tonnes, followed by fossil fuels (308.61 million tonnes), metallic

minerals (74.79 million tonnes) and biomass (71.42 million tonnes). Other mixed and composite products (-39.24 million tonnes), for which exports exceeded imports, were subtracted from the national resource consumption.

The per capita national resource consumption also decreased from 17.33 tonnes in 2017 to 16.70 tonnes in 2022. The national resource consumption relative to GDP is also referred to as material intensity, and the national resources consumption

Per capita Domestic Material Consumption in OECD Countries, 2024

(Unit: tonne/person/year)



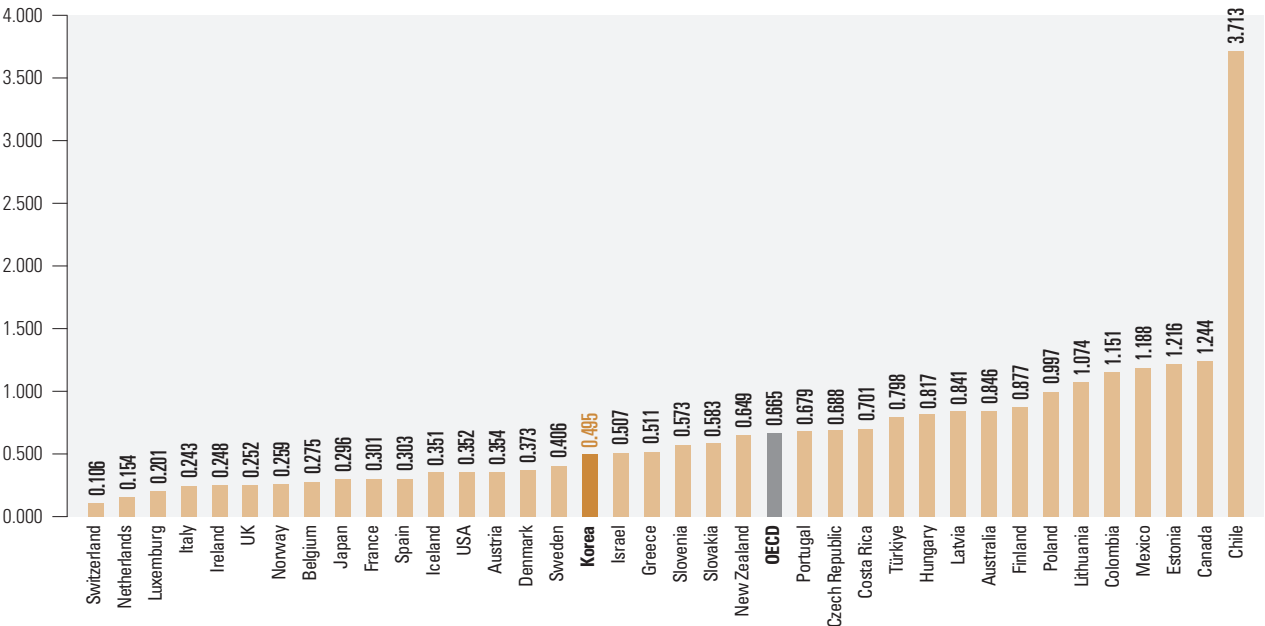
Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Feb 11, 2026)

Note 1 : This is based on 2023 data for Norway and Türkiye.

Note 2 : Korea's domestic material consumption in 2023 and 2024 may differ from the figures for national resource consumption (approved national statistics) which are expected to be published in the future.

Domestic Material Consumption per GDP in OECD Countries, 2023

(Unit: kg/USD)



Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Feb 11, 2026)

Note 1 : Germany is excluded due to data unavailability.

Note 2 : Korea's domestic material consumption in 2023 and 2024 may differ from the figures for national resource consumption (approved national statistics) which are expected to be published in the future.



per unit of GDP (USD, constant prices) declined from 0.542 kg per USD in 2017 to 0.466 kg per USD in 2022. Considering that Korea's real GDP continued to grow at an annual rate of 2% to 5% during the period from 2017 to 2022, except for 2020 (-0.7%), a relative decoupling has been observed, where material consumption grows more slowly than economic output.

In 2024, the per capita domestic material consumption estimated by UNEP averaged 18.89 tonnes across OECD countries, which was comparable to that of Korea (18.25 tonnes). Countries with relatively low per capita domestic material consumption include the Netherlands (7.65 tonnes), Colombia (7.76 tonnes), Italy (8.24 tonnes), Spain (9.28 tonnes) and Switzerland (9.57 tonnes). A significant gap exists with Canada (56.21 tonnes) and Chile (54.32 tonnes), where per capita domestic material consumption is high. Domestic material consumption normally varies depending on a country's industrial structure, the production and export of natural resources and the degree to which a circular economy is established. In 2023, domestic material consumption per unit of GDP (USD, constant prices) in OECD countries averaged 0.665 kg per USD. Korea's figure (0.495 kg per USD) was slightly lower than the average,

indicating relatively favorable economic efficiency in material consumption. The countries with the lowest domestic material consumption per GDP are Switzerland (0.106 kg per USD), the Netherlands (0.154 kg per USD) and Luxembourg (0.201 kg per USD). However, it should be noted that, Korea's domestic material consumption in 2023 and 2024 may differ from the figures for national resource consumption (approved national statistics) to be published in the future.

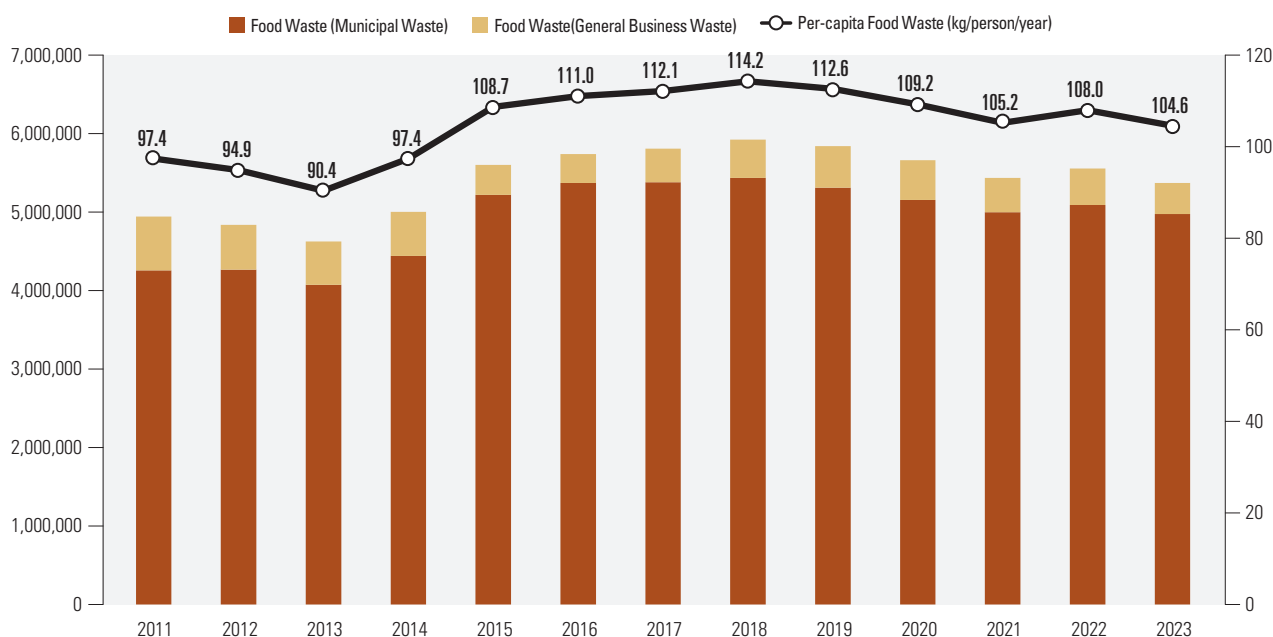
Declining food waste with large regional disparities (SDG 12.3.1)

SDG 12.3.1 measures the extent of food loss and waste (FLW), but no official Food Loss Index or Food Waste Index has yet been compiled in Korea. Instead, as food waste in waste statistics corresponds to the amount of food discarded, it is analyzed accordingly. Under the SDG framework, food waste refers to food discarded at the retail and consumption stages, such as in households, food services and retail. In Korea's waste statistics, the amount of food discarded corresponds to "food waste" among municipal (e.g. households) waste and general business waste.

Combining municipal waste and general business waste,

Total and per capita Generation of Food Waste, 2011-2023

(Unit: tonne/year, kg/person/year)



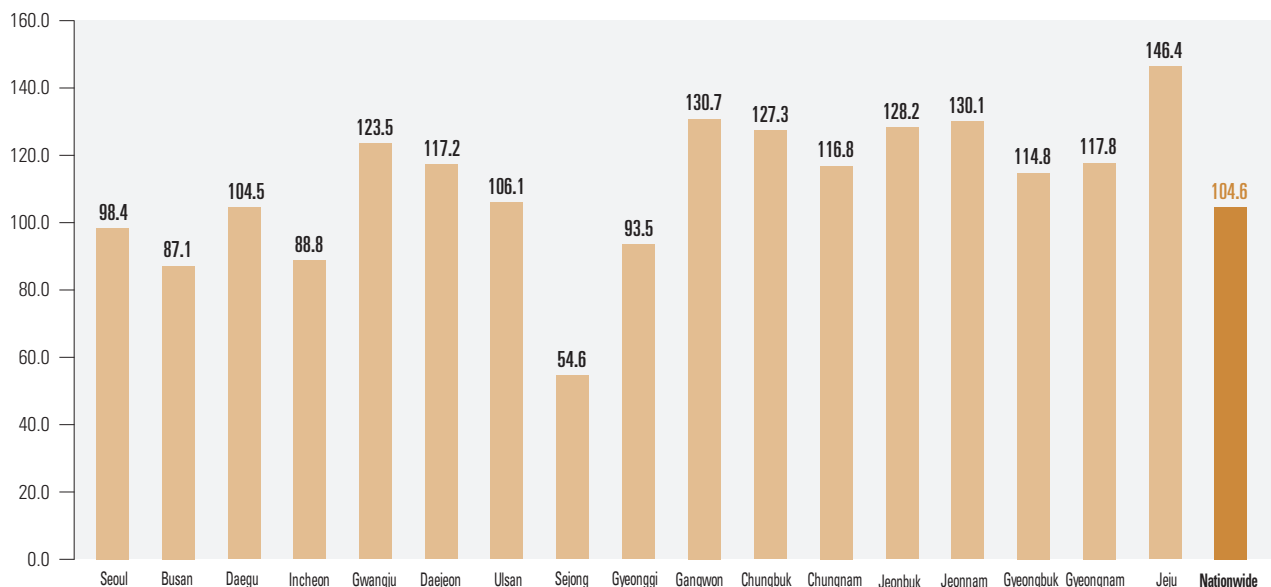
Source : Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, National Waste Generation and Treatment Status (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Nov 12, 2025)

Note 1 : Food waste combines municipal (household) waste and general business waste, and the per capita generation is calculated by dividing by the registered resident population.

Note 2 : Municipal waste also includes waste from small restaurants (less than 300kg per day).

Per capita Food Waste Generation by Region, 2023

(Unit:kg/person/year)



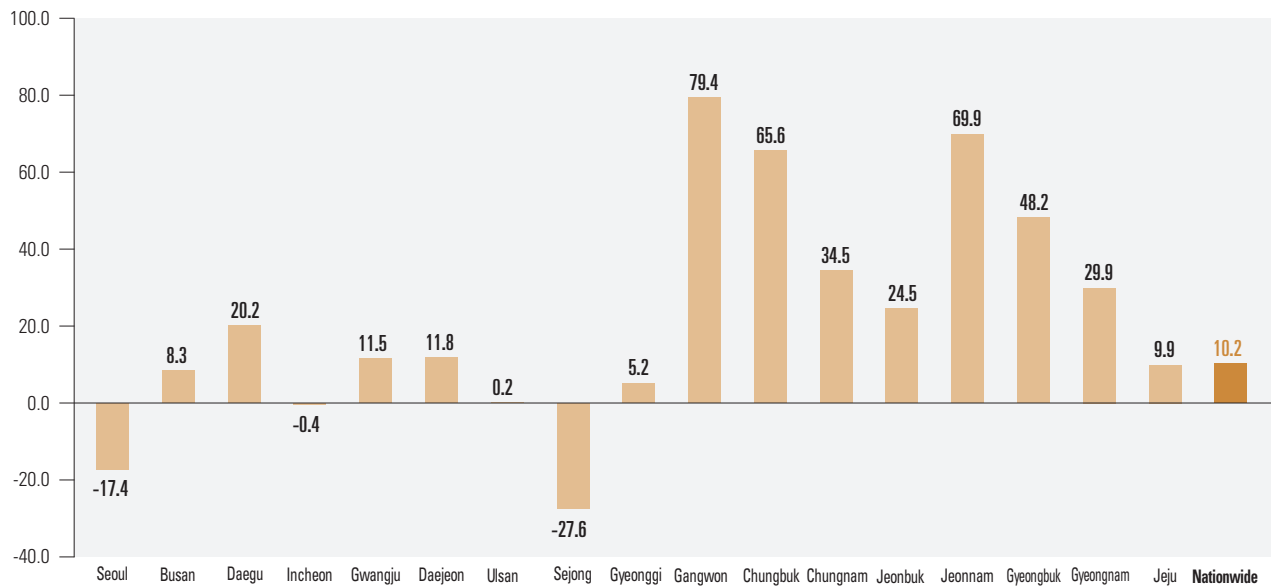
Source : Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, National Waste Generation and Treatment Status (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Nov 2, 2025)

Note 1 : Food waste combines municipal (household) waste and general business waste, and the per capita generation is calculated by dividing by the registered resident population.

Note 2 : Municipal waste also includes waste from small restaurants (less than 300kg per day).

Changes in per capita Food Waste Generation by Region in 2023 compared to 2012

(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, National Waste Generation and Treatment Status (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Nov 2, 2025)

Note 1 : Food waste combines municipal (household) waste and general business waste, and the per capita generation is calculated by dividing by the registered resident population.

Note 2 : Municipal waste also includes waste from small restaurants (less than 300kg per day).

the annual generation of food waste amounted to a total of 5.37 million tonnes in 2023, which can be translated into the per capita waste of 104.6 kg. The annual food waste generation increased from 4.6 to 5 million tonnes during the period from 2011 to 2014 to 5.5 to 6 million tonnes between 2015 and 2020. However, it slightly declined to a level of 5.3 to 5.7 million tonnes

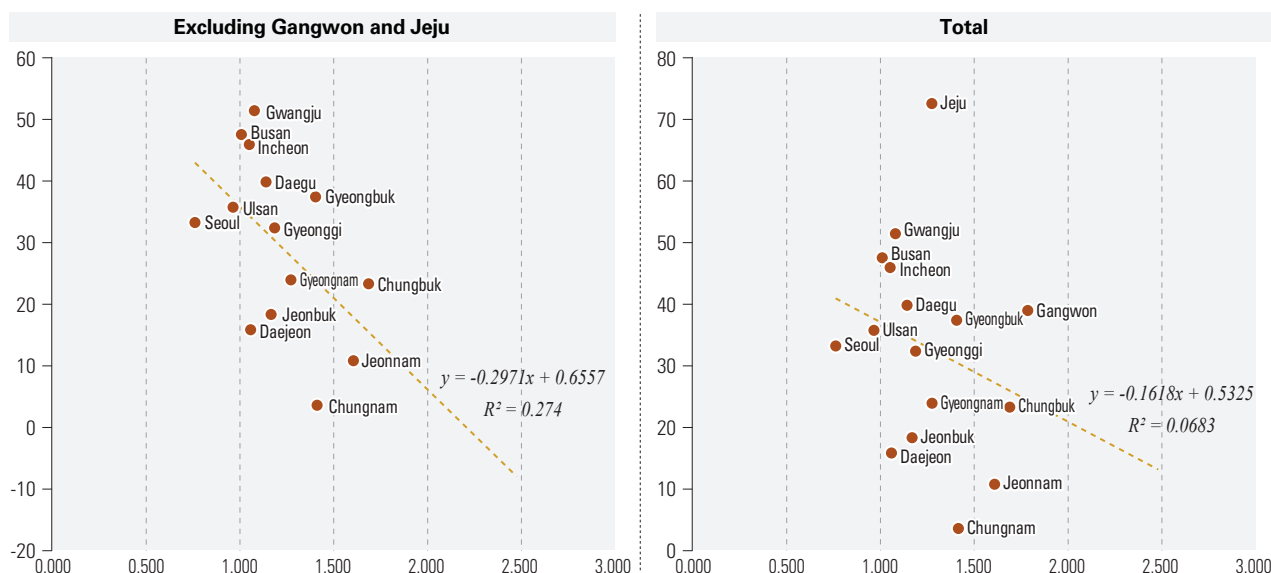
starting in 2020. In 2023, the annual waste generation and per capita generation stood at 5.37 million tonnes and 104.6 kg, respectively, marking the lowest levels since 2015, which indicates a recent downward trend in food waste.

Comparing food waste generation by region, Gyeonggi (23.7%) and Seoul (17.2%) accounted for 40.9% of the total



RFID Bin Installation Rate & Food Waste Generation Index, 2023 (2012=100)

(Unit: %)



	Seoul	Busan	Daegu	Incheon	Gwangju	Daejeon	Ulsan	Sejong	Gyeonggi	Gangwon	Chungbuk	Chungnam	Jeonbuk	Jeonnam	Gyeongbuk	Gyeongnam	Jeju
Food Waste Generation Index (2012=100)	76.0	100.8	113.9	105.0	107.7	105.7	96.4	247.5	118.5	178.1	168.6	141.2	116.6	160.5	140.3	127.2	127.1
RFID Bin Installation Rate (%)	33.3	47.5	39.8	45.9	51.4	15.9	35.8	0.0	32.4	39.0	23.3	3.6	18.3	10.8	37.4	23.9	72.6

Source : Open Data Portal, 「Korean Environment Corporation_Status of RFID-based Food Waste Bin Installation by Local Government (2023)」, (<https://www.data.go.kr/data/15061767/fileData.do>, retrieved on Nov 1, 2025)

Note : A cross-sectional analysis of provinces shows a negative correlation between the RFID bin installation rate and reductions in food waste generation. However, when all provinces are included, the explanatory power is limited ($R^2=0.07$), but it increases to $R^2=0.27$ when Jeju and Gangwon, which are heavily affected by the floating population, are excluded. This indicates that the expanded deployment of RFID bins can contribute to food waste reduction to some degree.

generation nationwide in 2023. However, in terms of per capita generation, Gyeonggi (93.5 kg) and Seoul (98.4 kg) were below the national average (104.6 kg). Regions exceeding the national average include Jeju (146.4 kg), Gangwon (130.7 kg), Jeonnam (130.1 kg), Jeonbuk (128.2 kg) and Chungbuk (127.3 kg). Given the changes in per capita generation from 2012 to 2023, growth trends were more noticeable in provinces, which are rural areas, compared to urban areas (special metropolitan cities). During the same period, excluding Seoul, which recorded a distinct decline in per capita generation (-17.4%) and Sejong with severe population fluctuations (-27.6%), metropolitan cities exhibited stagnant or gradual growth of no more than 20%. On the other hand, in provinces other than Gyeonggi (5.2%) and Jeju (9.9%), the growth rate reached 24% to 80%. The significant decline in food waste generation in Seoul is regarded as attributable to the deployment of small-scale disposers and dehydrators, the expanded installation of

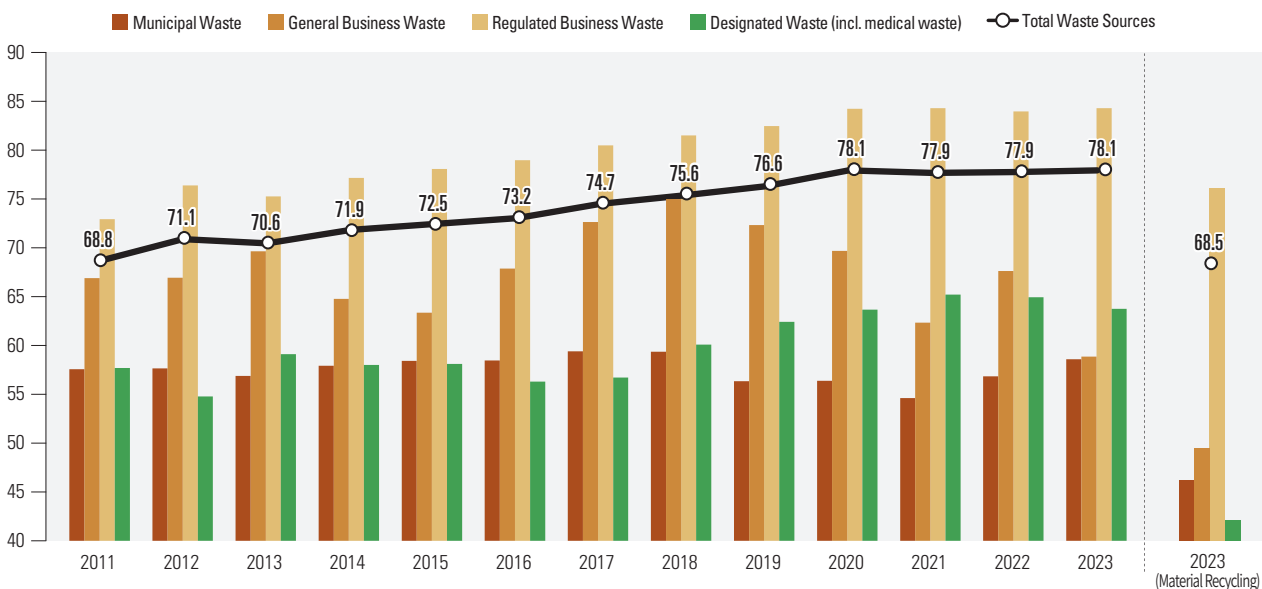
RFID bins that charge fees based on the amount of food waste generated and the operation of waste reduction advisory groups tailored by business sector. Combined with these policy efforts, the per capita food waste may also be affected by differences in consumption patterns between cities and rural areas; the types of reduction policies and their financial conditions, resulting in different implementation rates; and changes in resident and tourist populations, highlighting the need to develop reduction policies considering regional characteristics.

The material recycling rate has begun to be compiled in accordance with international standards, and the recycling rate remains at a high level (SDG 12.5.1)

The overall recycling rate, covering municipal, business and designated waste streams, (including medical waste), the recycling rate in Korea was calculated at 78.1% (including

Recycling Rates by Major Waste Source, 2011-2023

(Unit: %)



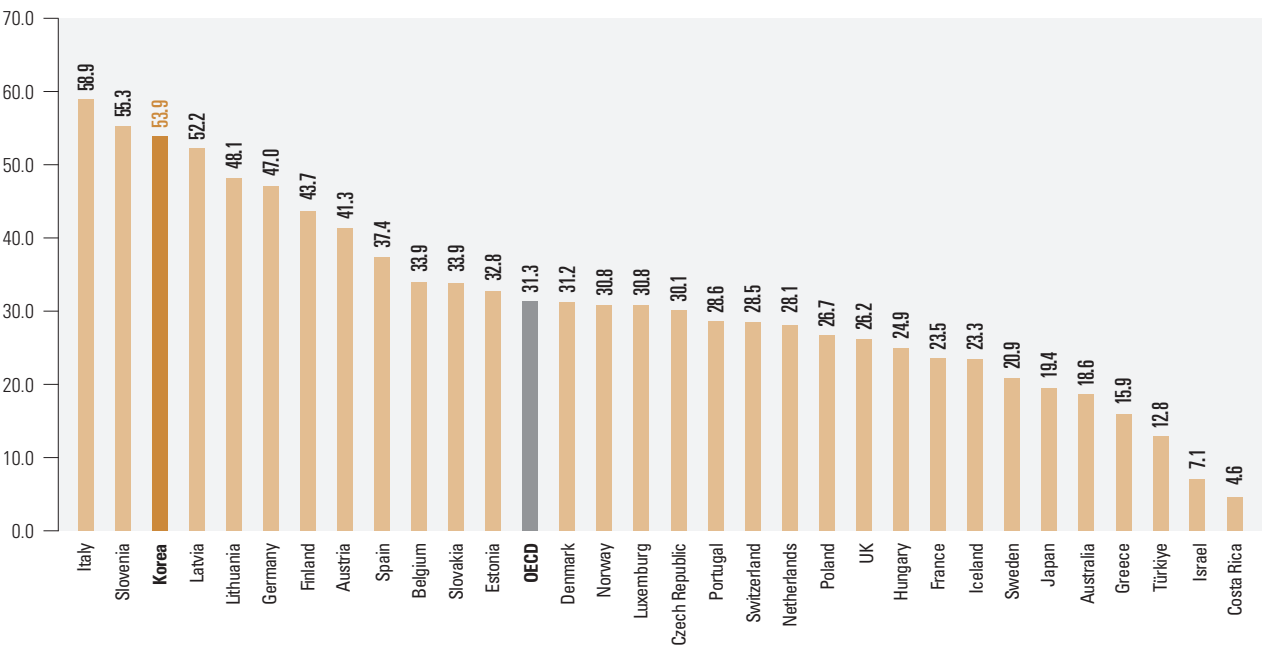
Source : Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, National Waste Generation and Treatment Status (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Sep 22, 2025)

Note 1 : This represents recycling rates including material recycling and energy recovery, and the material recycling rate is also presented for 2023, when statistics for material recycling and energy recovery were compiled separately.

Note 2 : Among waste sources, construction waste is excluded.

Recycling Rates of Municipal Waste in OECD Countries, 2022

(Unit: %)



Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Feb 12, 2026)

Note 1 : This is based on 2021 data for Korea, Austria, the Czech Republic, Japan, Australia, Greece and Türkiye.

Note 2 : Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ireland, Mexico, the United States and New Zealand are excluded due to data unavailability.

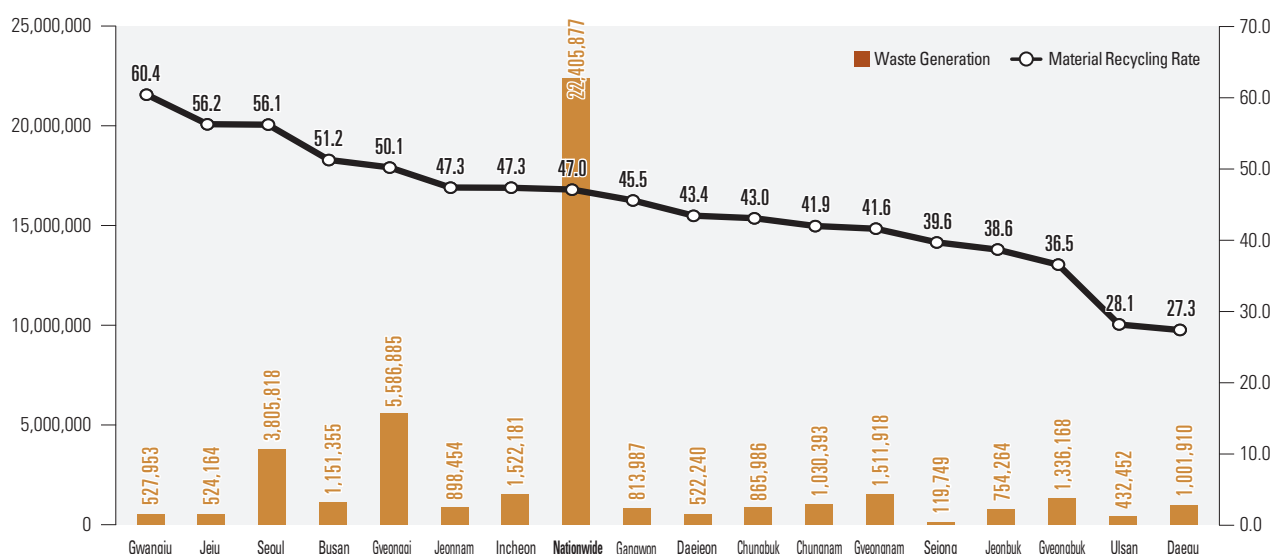
energy recovery) in 2023. It generally increased from 68.8% in 2011, but remained stagnant at 77.9% to 78.1% for four years. from 2020. Starting in 2023, recycling statistics began to be published separately for material recycling and energy recovery. According to these statistics, out of the 78.1% recycling rate,

only 68.5% corresponded to material recycling, while the remaining 9.6% was derived from energy recovery.

By major waste source, in 2023, regulated business waste, which accounted for 74.5% of total waste generation, had the highest material recycling rate of 76.2%. When combined with

**Municipal Waste Generation and Material Recycling Rate by City & Province, 2023**

(Unit: tonne/year, %)

Source : Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, National Waste Generation and Treatment Status (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Sep 22, 2025)

Note : Municipal Waste = household waste + general business waste

energy recovery, the recycling rate reached 84.4%. For municipal waste, which accounted for 14.9% of the total, the material recycling rate stood at 46.2% and the recycling rate including energy recovery reached 58.6%. The recycling rate of municipal waste (including energy recovery) fell significantly to 54.7% in 2021 after recording 59.5% in 2017. Then, it rose again for two consecutive years, reaching 58.6% in 2023. Besides, the material recycling rates of general business waste and designated waste (including medical waste), each accounting for about 5% of total waste, were 49.5% and 42.1%, respectively. In particular, designated waste, including medical waste, had the lowest material recycling rate among waste sources; however, when energy recovery is included (as high as 21.7%), the recycling rate amounted to 63.8%.

In Korea, the recycling rate of municipal waste generated from households and commercial facilities and institutions, stood at 53.9% in 2021, higher than the average of 32 OECD countries (31.3% in 2022). However, as Korea compiles the recycling rate based on the amount of waste received at recycling facilities, the rate could be lower if residual waste, which is not recycled, are excluded. The material recycling rate, excluding energy recovery, may be even lower.

The material recycling rate of municipal waste, combining

household waste and general business waste, was compiled at 47.0% in 2023. By cities and provinces, the recycling rates were relatively high in Gwangju (60.4%), Jeju (56.2%), Seoul (56.1%) whereas they fell below 30% in Daegu (27.3%) and Ulsan (28.1%). Regions with high municipal waste generation include metropolitan areas, such as Gyeonggi (5.59 million tonnes), Seoul (3.81 million tonnes), Incheon (1.52 million tonnes), as well as Gyeongnam (1.51 million tonnes), Gyeongbuk (1.34 million tonnes) and Busan (1.15 million tonnes). Among these cities and provinces, the material recycling rates were relatively high in Seoul (56.1%), Busan (51.2%) and Gyeonggi (50.1%). However, the rates in Gyeongnam (41.6%) and Gyeongbuk (36.5%) even fell short of the average. In Incheon, although general business waste accounts for a higher proportion of municipal waste, its material recycling rate (38.8%) is significantly lower than that of household waste (54.2%). This is largely attributable to the fact that the sorting and separation of waste generated in schools and commercial facilities are not as rigorous as for household waste. Moving forward, further efforts are needed to expand sorting and separation for general business waste and to reduce disposal amounts, which requires attention and institutional support from both the national and local governments.

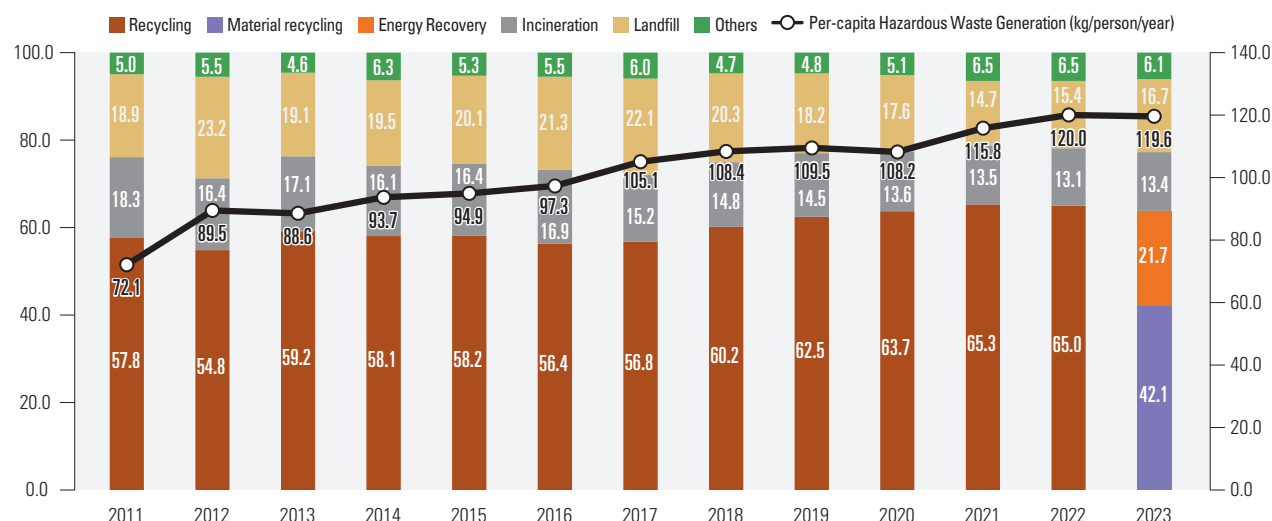
The recycling rate of hazardous waste has recently declined, while the material recycling rate has remained at the OECD average (SDG 12.4.2)

Hazardous waste is managed as “designated waste” under domestic law. This includes designated business waste and medical waste. The annual generation of hazardous waste rose by 67.8% from 3.66 million tonnes in 2011 to 6.14 million tonnes in 2023. It increased year on year by 6.6% in 2021

and by 3.3% in 2022. However, in 2023 it decreased by 0.6% compared to the previous year, indicating a slowdown in the growth trend. The per capita generation of hazardous waste also increased from 72.1 kg in 2011 to 119.6 kg in 2023.

By type of treatment, in 2023, hazardous waste was treated as follows: recycling (63.8%), landfill (16.7%), incineration (13.4%) and others (6.1%). The recycling rate, which had been on the rise, decreased for two consecutive years after peaking at 65.3%

Per capita Hazardous Waste Generation and Proportion of Hazardous Waste by Treatment Method, 2011-2023 (Unit: kg/person/year, %)

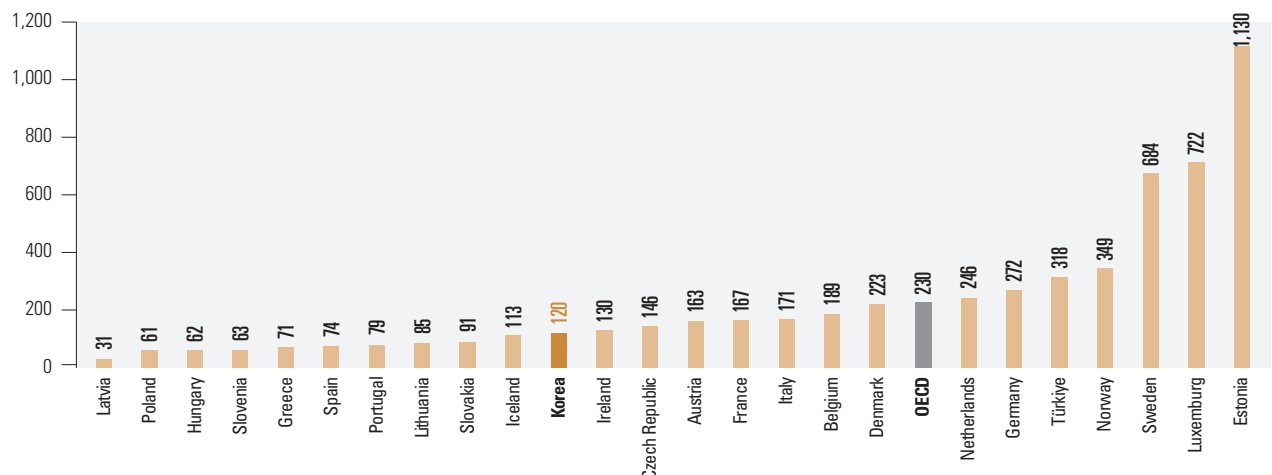


Source : Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, National Waste Generation and Treatment Status (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Sep 22, 2025)

Note 1 : Hazardous waste combines designated business waste and medical waste, and the per capita waste generation is calculated by dividing by the registered resident population.

Note 2 : From 2011 to 2022, material recycling was not distinguished from energy recovery, and both were compiled as “recycling”. However, since 2023, recycling statistics have been compiled and published separately for material recycling and energy recovery.

Per capita Hazardous Waste Generation in OECD Countries, 2022 (Unit: kg/person/year)



Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Nov 2, 2025)

Note 1 : Data for Korea are based on domestic statistics (Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment; National Waste Generation and Treatment Status), and the OECD average is calculated, including Korea.

Note 2 : This is based on 2020 data for Iceland.

Note 3 : Finland is excluded as it is considered an outlier (5,267 kg/person/year: 9.0 times higher than the previous year)

Note 4 : Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Israel, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Switzerland, the UK and the United States are excluded due to data unavailability.



in 2021. In contrast, the landfill rate, which had declined, rose for two years in a row from 14.7% in 2021. Since 2023, recycling statistics have been published separately for material recycling and energy recovery. In 2023, out of the recycling rate recorded at 63.8%, the material recycling rate stood at 42.1% while the remaining 21.7% corresponded to energy recovery.

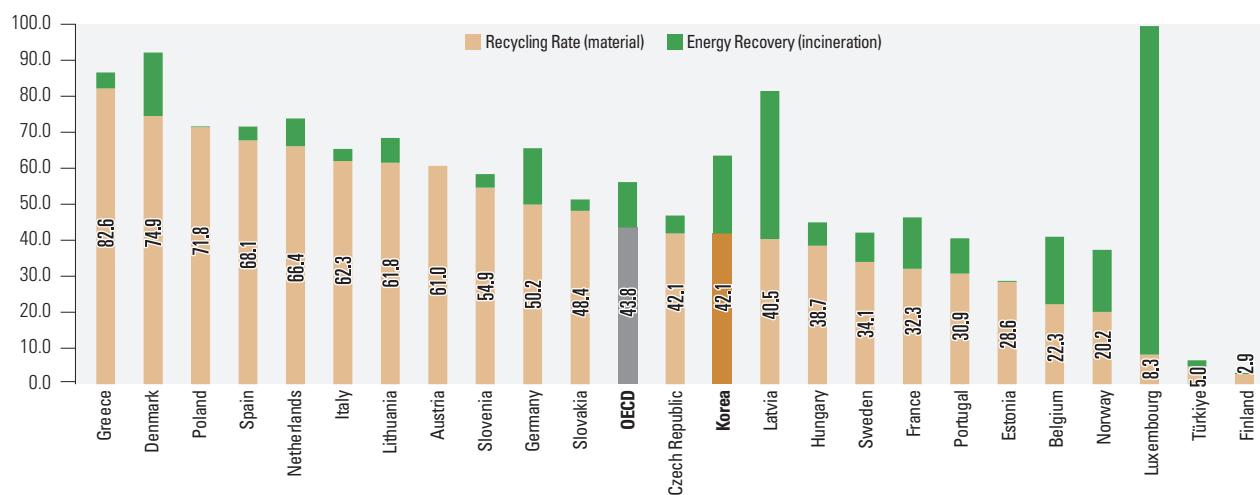
The per capita generation of hazardous waste in Korea reached 120 kg in 2022, placing Korea in the upper-middle tier

(11th) among the 26 OECD countries. Korea's recycling rate of hazardous waste, including both material recycling and energy recovery, stood at 63.8% in 2023, 7.4%p higher than the OECD average (56.4%) in 2022. However, when compared with the material recycling rate newly published (42.1% in 2023), it was slightly lower than the OECD average (43.8%) in 2022.

Of hazardous waste, the generation and treatment of designated business waste excluding medical waste vary depending on business

Material Recycling Rate of Hazardous Waste and Incineration Rate for Energy Recovery in OECD Countries, 2022

(Unit: %)



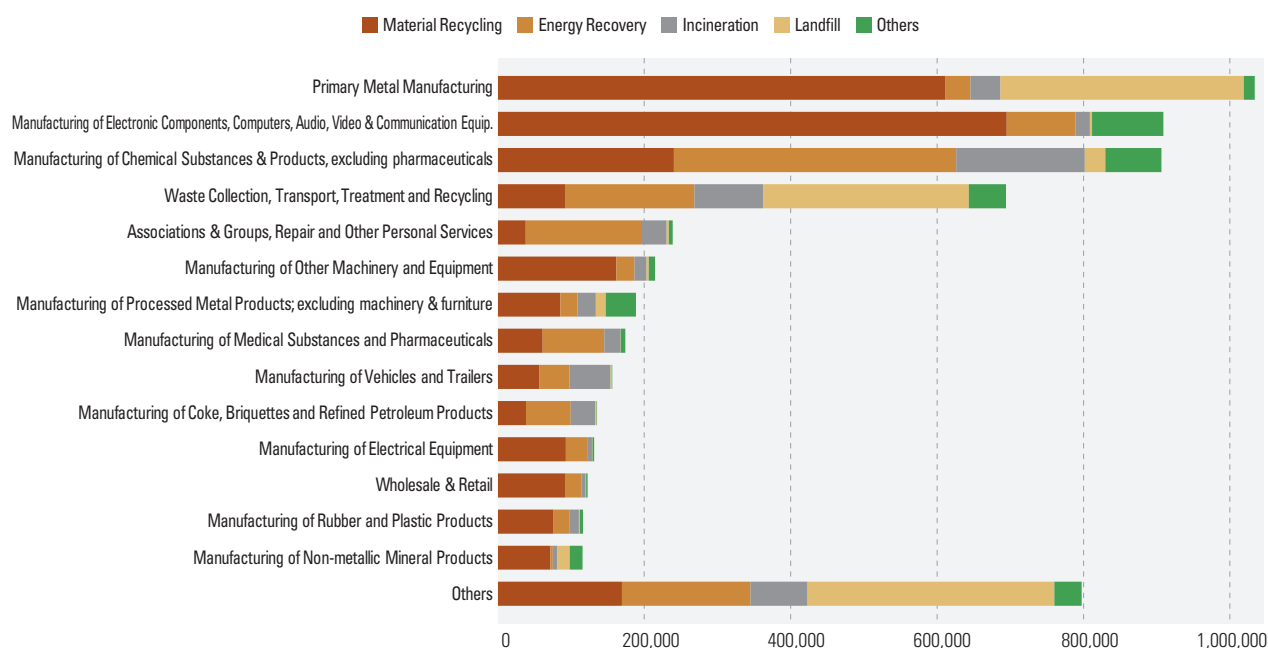
Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Nov 2, 2025)

Note 1 : Data for Korea are based on domestic statistics (Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment; National Waste Generation and Treatment Status), and the OECD average is calculated, including Korea.

Note 2 : Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Switzerland, the UK and the United States are excluded due to data unavailability.

Amount of Designated Business Waste Treated by Business Sector, 2023

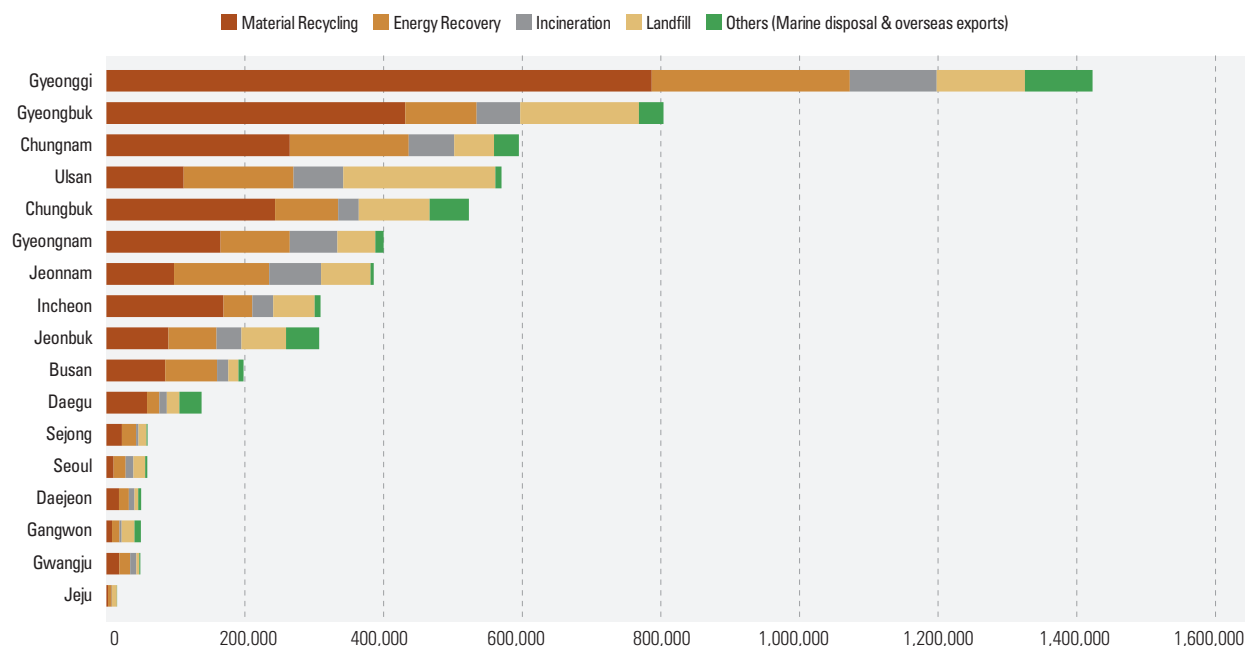
(Unit: tonne/year)



Source : Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, National Waste Generation and Treatment Status (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Nov 2, 2025)

Amount of Designated Business Waste Treated by City & Province, 2023

(Unit: tonne/year)



Source : Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, National Waste Generation and Treatment Status (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Nov 2, 2025)

types and regions. According to 2023 data, the two business sectors dealing with metals, namely primary metal manufacturing and the manufacturing of electronic components, ranked first and second in terms of designated waste generated. These two sectors also recorded higher material recycling rates at 59.2% and 76.5% respectively. More than half of the total material recycling of designated waste was also treated in these two sectors. Meanwhile, in the manufacturing of chemical substances and products, ranking third in waste generation, the proportion treated through energy recovery (42.6%) was higher than that of material recycling (26.5%), and the incineration rate (19.4%) was also relatively high. Among cities and provinces, Gyeonggi (1.42 million tonnes) generated the largest amount of designated waste, followed by Gyeongbuk

(800,000 tonnes), Chungnam (600,000 tonnes), Ulsan (570,000 tonnes), Chungbuk (520,000 tonnes). In most regions, the material recycling rate is higher than the energy recovery rate. In particular, Gyeonggi and Gyeongbuk, where waste generation is relatively high, also have higher material recycling rates (55.3% and 53.7% respectively). That said, as these statistics are compiled based on the regions where designated waste is generated, the regions where the waste is actually treated may differ. Business waste is generally treated under the responsibility of business operators; however, policy measures and support from the national and local governments are needed to expand material recycling and reduce landfill, in response to the recent decline in the recycling rate of hazardous waste and the increase in the landfill rate.

- **Food Loss Index** : An index that converts losses generated during the production, processing and wholesale distribution stages of food into economic value (the loss rate is measured for 10 food items selected in each country)
- **Food Waste Index** : An index calculated by comparing the per capita waste generated at the food retail distribution and consumption stages with that of the base year
- **Municipal Waste** : Waste generated from everyday activities in households or small-scale businesses with an average daily generation of less than 300 kg
- **Business Waste** : Waste generated from businesses with an average daily generation of 300 kg or more
- **General Business Waste** : Waste generated from businesses that is similar in nature to household waste
- **Regulated Business Waste** : Business waste generated in connection with the installation and operation of discharge facilities
- **Hazardous Waste** : A subset of business waste that includes hazardous materials, such as waste oil, waste acids, and medical waste, which may contaminate the surrounding environment or pose harm to human health (defined as designated waste in Korea)
- **Designated Business Waste** : Designated waste, excluding medical waste



13 CLIMATE ACTION



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Urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

SDG 13 seeks to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, encompassing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to minimize the loss of life and property caused by climate-related disasters. As global average temperatures continue to rise and extreme weather events intensify, climate summits have focused on efforts to correct the current trajectory through the fulfillment of climate finance commitments and the strengthening of multilateral cooperation. Korea's greenhouse gas emissions have continued on a downward trend, and the country has recently established more ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. However, as the climate change becomes increasingly evident, loss of life and economic losses resulting from extreme heat, heavy rainfall, and other climate-related hazards are rising.

» The number of deaths and missing persons caused by natural disasters reached 121 in 2024 (0.24 per 100,000 population).

- From 2004 to 2022, the rate remained below 0.15 per 100,000 population, but it rose to 0.27 in 2023 and 0.24 in 2024.
- Heat-wave impacts have been recorded since 2018. Between 2018 and 2024, they accounted for 68.7% of all disaster-related deaths and missing persons, reaching 85 in 2023 and 108 in 2024, both record highs.

» Between 2015 and 2024, property damage caused by natural disasters averaged KRW 519.1 billion per year (in 2024 constant prices). Losses have increased further in the 2020s, reaching KRW 910.7 billion in 2024.

- During this period, 60.5% of total damages were caused by heavy rainfall, 23.3% by typhoons, and 10.3% by heavy snowfall.
- Direct economic losses from disasters as a share of GDP stood at 0.03% in 2022, which is relatively low compared with OECD countries.

» In line with the Paris Agreement on climate change, Korea is implementing key policy frameworks, including the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), the National Adaptation Plans (NAP), and Adaptation Communications.

- Korea has also prepared an updated NDC that sets a target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by 53–61% by 2035.

» Total greenhouse gas emissions in Korea amounted to 707.2 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂eq) in 2023, representing a 2.1% decrease from the previous year.

- Since reaching a peak in 2018, emissions have continued to decline each year except for 2021, recording a 9.3% reduction compared with 2018 levels.
- Despite real GDP growth of 1.6%, total emissions fell by 2.1%, resulting in a 3.6% decline in greenhouse gas emissions intensity (emissions per unit of GDP)
- Emissions reductions in the industrial sector, which accounts for 40.3% of total emissions, remained marginal at 0.1%. In contrast, the energy transformation sector (32.8%), encompassing electricity and heat generation, recorded a 4.3% decline, driving overall emissions reductions in 2023. The buildings sector (6.3%) also achieved a 6.0% reduction, while carbon removals increased by 4.1%.
- In 2022, Korea's total greenhouse gas emissions ranked fifth among OECD countries, following the United States, Japan, Mexico, and Germany.

Record-high number of heatwave-related deaths in 2024 (🔗 SDG 13.1.1)

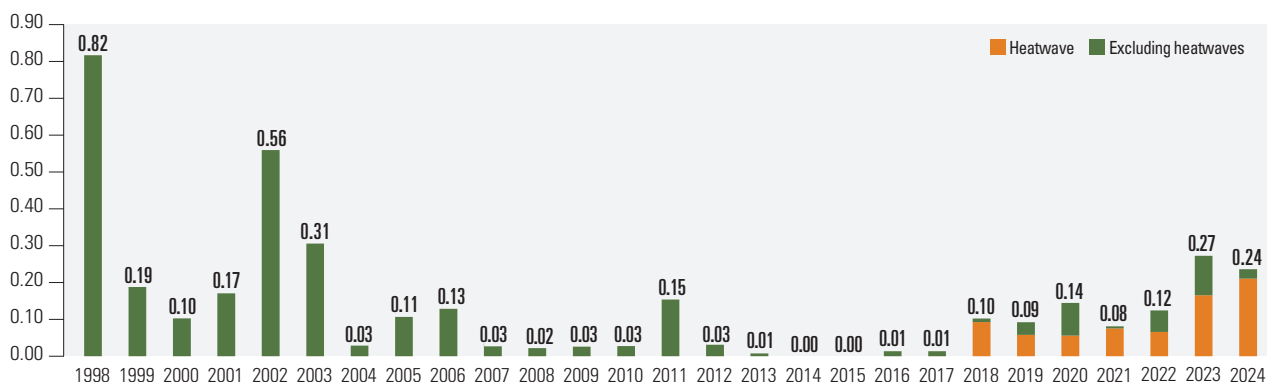
SDG Target 13.1 aims to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters. Compared with the past, improvements in early warning systems and advances in rapid rescue operations have contributed to an overall decline in disaster-related casualties. Since 1998, the annual number of deaths and missing persons

attributed to natural disasters reached 384 in 1998, 270 in 2002, and 148 in 2003, corresponding to 0.82, 0.56, and 0.31 per 100,000 population, respectively. These figures subsequently declined, and during the 2004–2022 period the annual number of deaths and missing persons was limited to no more than 78, equivalent to 0.15 per 100,000 population.

Since 2018, when heatwave-related impacts began to be officially recorded, the number of disaster-related casualties

**Number of deaths and missing persons attributed to natural disasters per 100,000 population, 1998–2024**

(Unit: persons / 100,000 population)



Source : Ministry of the Interior and Safety, Disaster Yearbook 2024

Note 1 : Calculated by dividing the annual number of deaths and missing persons attributed to natural disasters by the total population

Note 2 : Casualties related to heatwaves have been recorded since 2018, and those related to cold waves since 2023.

Number of deaths and missing persons by type of natural disaster, 2015–2024

(Unit: persons)

Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Annual Average
Heatwave	Not recorded			48	30	29	39	34	85	108	53.3
Heavy Rainfall	-	1	7	2	-	44	3	19	53	6	13.5
Typhoon	-	6	-	2	18	2	-	11	-	-	3.9
Heavy Snowfall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	0.7
Cold Wave	Not recorded								2	-	1.0
Typhoon · Heavy Rainfall	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1
Total	0	7	7	53	48	75	42	64	140	121	55.7

Source : Ministry of the Interior and Safety, Disaster Yearbook 2024

Note 1 : Casualties related to heatwaves have been recorded since 2018, and those related to cold waves since 2023.

has increased again. In 2023 and 2024, the number of deaths and missing persons attributed to natural disasters rose to 140 and 121, respectively, corresponding to 0.27 and 0.24 per 100,000 population, both higher than in previous years. Of these, heatwave-related victims accounted for 85 (60.7%) and 108 (89.3%), respectively. Between 2018 and 2024, the share of heatwave victims among disaster-related deaths and missing persons ranged from a minimum of 38.7% to a maximum of 92.9% (averaging 68.7%). These figures indicate that in recent years disaster-related casualties have been increasingly concentrated in heatwave events. Since 2023, cold-wave-related fatalities have also been recorded. Two deaths were reported in 2023, while none occurred in 2024.

The number of heatwave-related deaths and missing persons remained relatively stable at 29–48 cases per year between 2018

and 2022, but rose sharply to 85 in 2023 and 108 in 2024, marking two consecutive record highs. The increase in heatwave-related casualties is closely associated with rising summer temperatures and worsening heat-related conditions linked to climate change, including more frequent heatwaves and tropical nights. In 2024, the nationwide average summer temperature reached 25.6°C, making it the hottest summer on record since 1973. Similarly, in 2023 and 2018, which recorded the second- and third-highest numbers of heatwave-related deaths (85 and 48, respectively), the average summer temperatures were 24.7°C and 25.3°C, ranking fifth and second highest on record. In terms of heatwave days, 2018 and 2024 recorded nationwide averages of 31.0 days and 24.0 days, ranking first and third highest on record, respectively. These same years also recorded the highest numbers of tropical nights, with 20.2 days in 2024 and 16.5 days in 2018,

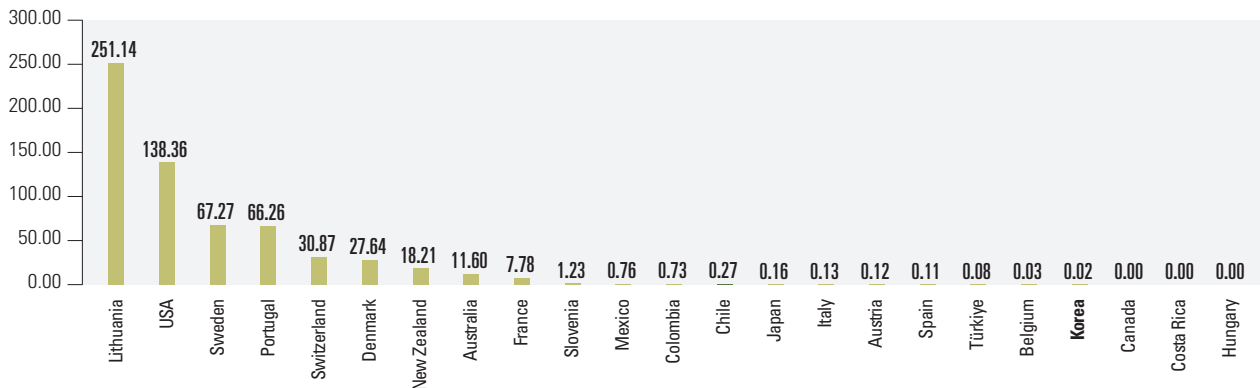
ranking first and second, respectively. Meanwhile, although no deaths or missing persons had been attributed to heavy snowfall since 2015, seven such casualties were recorded in 2024. These developments highlight the need for greater attention to and preparedness for the evolving patterns of natural disaster impacts associated with the climate change.

The summer of 2024 was marked by severe heatwaves, with the nationwide average temperature reaching the highest level on record, while the intensity of heat events varied significantly across regions. Among 66 major meteorological observation stations nationwide, 10 locations recorded the highest number of heatwave days on record, including Miryang and Hapcheon in South Gyeongsang Province, where heatwave days reached 49. In contrast, Daegwallyeong and Baengnyeongdo recorded

no heatwave days in 2024, illustrating considerable regional variation. The number of tropical nights during the summer also increased markedly. More than half of the 66 observation stations nationwide (36 stations) recorded their highest number of tropical nights on record, with Jeju recording as many as 56 tropical nights. By contrast, no tropical nights were observed in inland mountainous areas such as Taebaek and Daegwallyeong. In Seoul, the number of heatwave days reached 27 (the third-highest on record for the station), while the number of tropical nights reached 39, marking the highest level on record and indicating a strengthening urban heat island effect. These patterns highlight the significant regional disparities in the impacts of heatwaves and other natural hazards. As the frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters are expected

Number of deaths and missing persons per 100,000 population in OECD countries, 2023

(Unit: persons per 100,000 population)



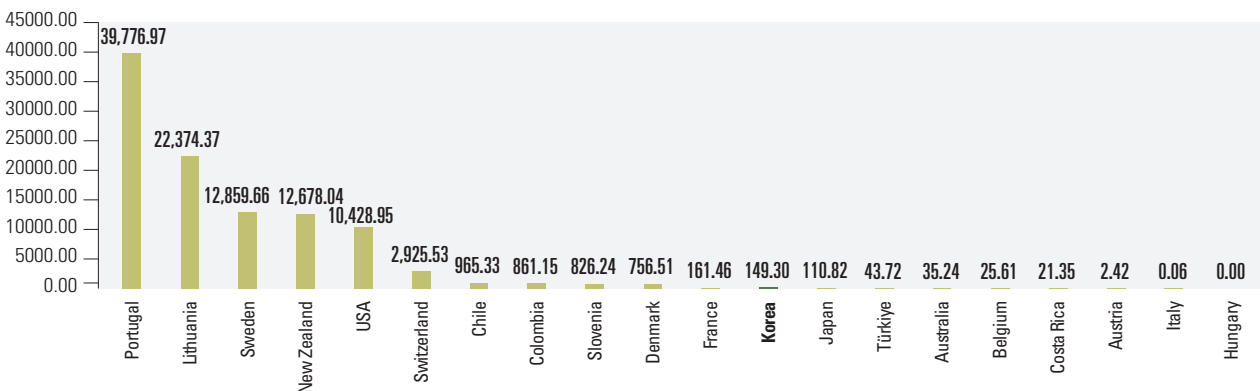
Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on November 6, 2025)

Note 1 : Data for Korea are based on national statistics.

Note 2 : Data refer to 2021 for Lithuania, the United States, and Canada, and to 2022 for Sweden, Portugal, Switzerland, Japan, Austria, Türkiye and Hungary.

Number of directly affected persons per 100,000 population in OECD countries, 2023

(Unit: persons per 100,000 population)



Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on November 6, 2025)

Note 1 : "Directly affected persons" include individuals who were injured or became ill, as well as those experiencing damage to housing (partial or total destruction) or loss of livelihoods. This indicator is calculated separately from the number of deaths and missing persons.

Note 2 : Data refer to 2021 for Lithuania and the United States, and to 2022 for Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Korea, Japan, Türkiye, Austria and Hungary.



to increase further due to climate change, diversified efforts will be required to strengthen climate adaptation capacity tailored to local conditions, taking into account the differing regional patterns of disaster impacts.

As of 2023, among 23 OECD countries, the number of deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population was highest in Lithuania (251.14 in 2021), followed by the United States (138.36 in 2021), Sweden (67.27 in 2022), and Portugal (66.26 in 2022). By comparison, Korea recorded a relatively low figure of 0.27 per 100,000 population. Meanwhile, among 20 OECD countries, the number of directly affected persons per 100,000 population, including those injured or ill, as well as those experiencing damage to housing or livelihoods, was highest in Portugal (39,776.97), followed by Lithuania (22,374.37), Sweden (12,859.66), New Zealand (12,678.04), and the United States (10,428.95 in 2021). Korea recorded 149.30 per 100,000 population in 2022.

Increasing economic losses from natural disasters, with heavy rainfall accounting for the largest share (🌍 SDG 11.5.2)

Between 2015 and 2024, property damage caused by natural disasters averaged approximately KRW 519.1 billion per year (in 2024 constant prices) and has shown a rising trend in the 2020s.

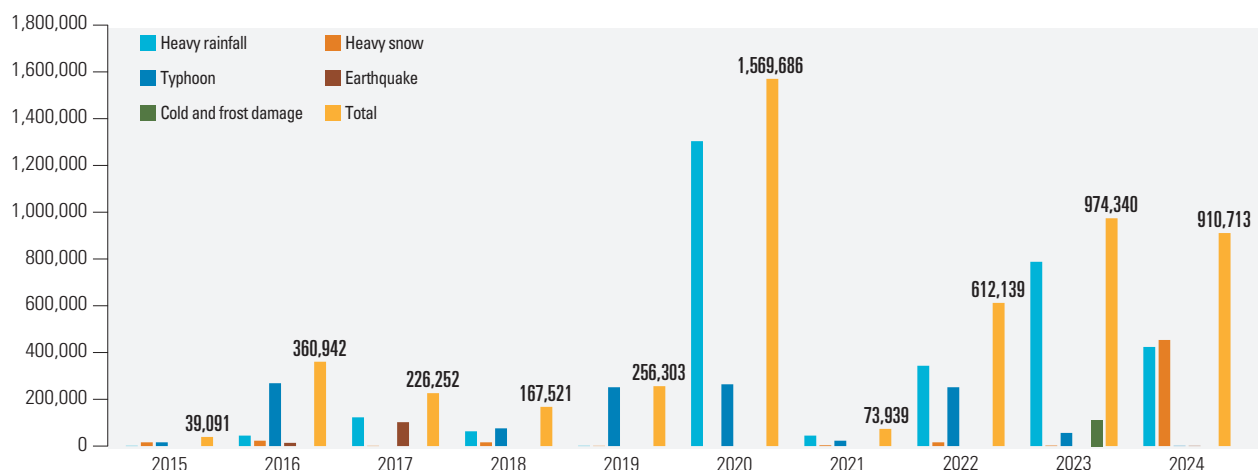
During 2015–2019, annual losses remained below KRW 300 billion, but surged to KRW 1.57 trillion in 2020. In the period 2022–2024, annual losses remained elevated, ranging between KRW 600 billion and KRW 900 billion.

Heavy rainfall accounted for the largest share of property damage. Of the total losses recorded between 2015 and 2024, 60.5% (an annual average of KRW 313.9 billion) were attributable to heavy rainfall. As the climate change intensifies, both the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events are expected to increase, underscoring the need to upgrade and expand water-related disaster infrastructure and strengthen the resilience of related facilities. Following heavy rainfall, typhoons accounted for 23.3% (KRW 121.1 billion) of total losses, followed by heavy snowfall at 10.3% (KRW 53.4 billion), earthquakes at 2.3% (KRW 11.7 billion), and cold and frost damage at 2.2% (KRW 11.2 billion). Other hazards, including high waves and strong winds, cold waves, combined typhoon and heavy rainfall events, pest outbreaks, heatwaves, hail, lightning, and storm surges, each accounted for less than 1% of total losses.

In 2023, among 17 OECD countries with available data, direct economic losses from disasters as a share of GDP were highest in Slovenia (4.63%) and New Zealand (2.92%), followed by Chile (0.68%), Türkiye (0.31%, 2022), the United States (0.27%, 2021), France (0.24%), Colombia (0.18%),

Property damage caused by natural disasters, 2015–2024

(Unit: million KRW)



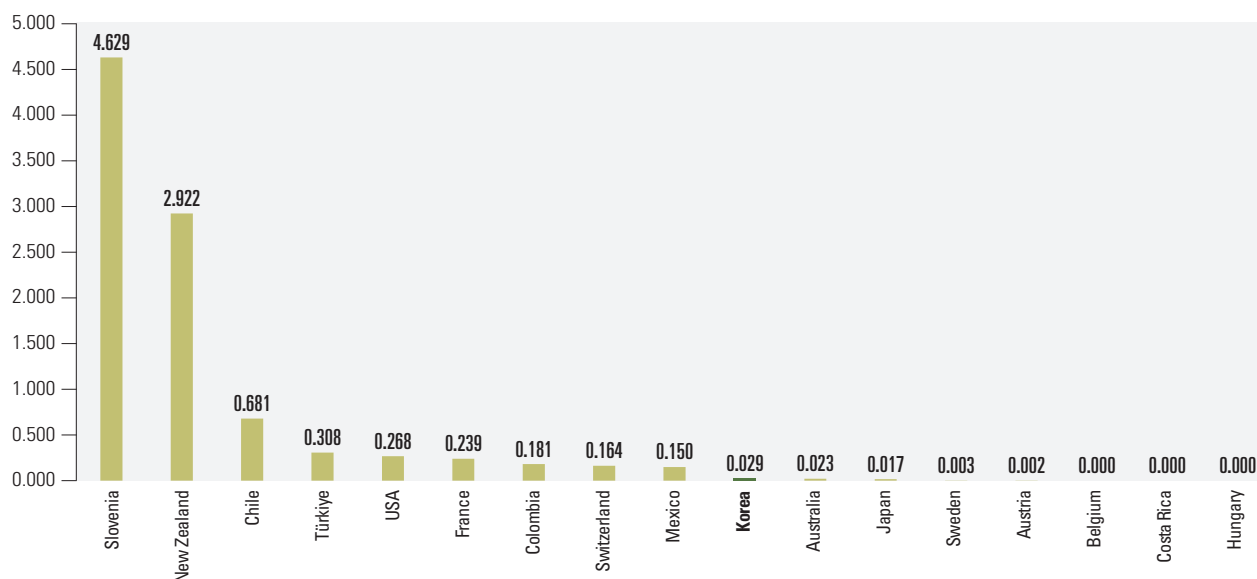
Source : Ministry of the Interior and Safety, Disaster Yearbook 2024

Note 1 : Based on 2024 constant prices

Note 2 : Only the five largest categories of damage are shown by disaster type. Other categories such as high waves and strong winds, cold waves, combined typhoon and heavy rainfall events, pest outbreaks, heatwaves, hail, lightning, storm surges, and others are included in the total but are not shown separately.

Direct economic losses from disasters as a share of GDP in OECD countries, 2023

(Unit: %)



Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on September 7, 2025)

Note : Data refer to 2021 for the United States, and Austria, and to 2022 for Türkiye, Switzerland, Korea, Sweden and Hungary.

Switzerland (0.16%, 2022), and Mexico (0.15%). Korea recorded 0.03% in 2022, remaining relatively low compared with other major economies.

Establishment of a new Nationally Determined Contribution (2035 NDC) (SDG 13.2.1)

Under the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, which were established to enable a coordinated global response to climate change, countries are undertaking efforts to address climate challenges and are implementing key instruments required or recommended under the Paris Agreement. These include Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), National Adaptation Plans (NAP), Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) and Adaptation Communications.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) refer to nationally determined greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets established by each Party in consideration of its national circumstances in order to contribute to achieving the core objectives of the Paris Agreement. Under the Kyoto Protocol, adopted in 1997, emission reduction obligations were imposed primarily on a group of developed countries through a top-

down approach. The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, shifted to a bottom-up framework under which both developed and developing countries establish their own emissions reduction targets. Pursuant to Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, all parties are required to prepare, communicate, and maintain their NDCs and to submit updated and progressively more ambitious targets every five years.

Korea also formally submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC in December 2021, setting a target to reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by 40% from 2018 levels by 2030. More recently, the government established a more ambitious NDC that aims to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 53–61% from the 2018 level (742.3 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent) by 2035, which was approved by the Cabinet in November 2025. Unlike the previous target, which was based on total emissions, the new target uses net emissions for both the base year and the target year. It also improves the accounting framework by incorporating the latest statistical standards based on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. In addition, reflecting uncertainties about future developments, the reduction target is presented as a range rather than a single value.

The Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies



(LT-LEDS) is a long-term national development vision and comprehensive strategy aimed at achieving carbon neutrality (net zero) by 2050 and transitioning toward a low-carbon society. Unlike the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which sets medium-term targets over five to ten years, the LT-LEDS serves as a long-term roadmap of about 30 years toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, providing a proactive and integrated plan for transformation across all sectors of society, including energy, industry, transport, and buildings. The introduction of the LT-LEDS reflects the recognition that mid-term targets alone are insufficient to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, and it encourages countries to develop long-term strategies for decarbonization. In December 2020, Korea submitted its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), titled “2050 Carbon Neutral Strategy of the Republic of Korea,” to the UNFCCC. Through this strategy, the government formally established net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 as a national vision. The strategy outlines five key policy directions and sectoral strategies for achieving carbon neutrality.

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) is a medium- to long-term national strategy designed to identify the impacts of climate change, reduce associated risks, and strengthen resilience at the national level. As the central national framework for climate change adaptation, the NAP was first introduced under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, adopted at the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010. Since 2010, Korea has established five-year national climate change adaptation plans under the Framework Act on Low Carbon Green Growth (currently the Framework Act on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth for Coping with Climate Change). At present, the Third National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2023–2025) is being implemented.

An Adaptation Communication is a report through which countries formally communicate to the UNFCCC their national adaptation priorities, policies and plans, implementation progress, and support needs. Separate from the National

Adaptation Plan (NAP), which focuses on planning, the Adaptation Communication serves as an official communication and reporting mechanism to share implementation status and outcomes with the international community. Introduced under the Paris Agreement, it aims to enhance the international visibility of adaptation efforts and to contribute to the global review of implementation, while maintaining balance with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in the area of climate change mitigation. According to Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement, countries are required to periodically submit Adaptation Communications, and the contents may be submitted in connection with NAPs, NDCs, or other national reports. In March 2023, Korea formally submitted the Adaptation Communication of the Republic of Korea to the UNFCCC. The report was prepared based on the Third National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2021–2025) and transparently reports and shares with the international community Korea’s climate risks and vulnerabilities, progress in adaptation policy implementation, and future plans.

The Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) has become a cornerstone instrument within the implementation architecture of the Paris Agreement. Under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), parties are required to submit BTRs on a biennial basis. These reports provide a comprehensive account of national efforts, including greenhouse gas inventories, progress toward the implementation and achievement of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), policies and measures, climate change impacts and adaptation actions, as well as information on financial, technological, and capacity-building support, and related needs. Korea submitted its first BTR to the UNFCCC on September 30, 2025.

As outlined above, Korea has submitted all key reporting instruments required under the Paris Agreement framework, including the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the Adaptation Communication, and the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR). This demonstrates that Korea has effectively mainstreamed

climate action into its national policy and planning processes, while actively engaging in the global transparency framework.

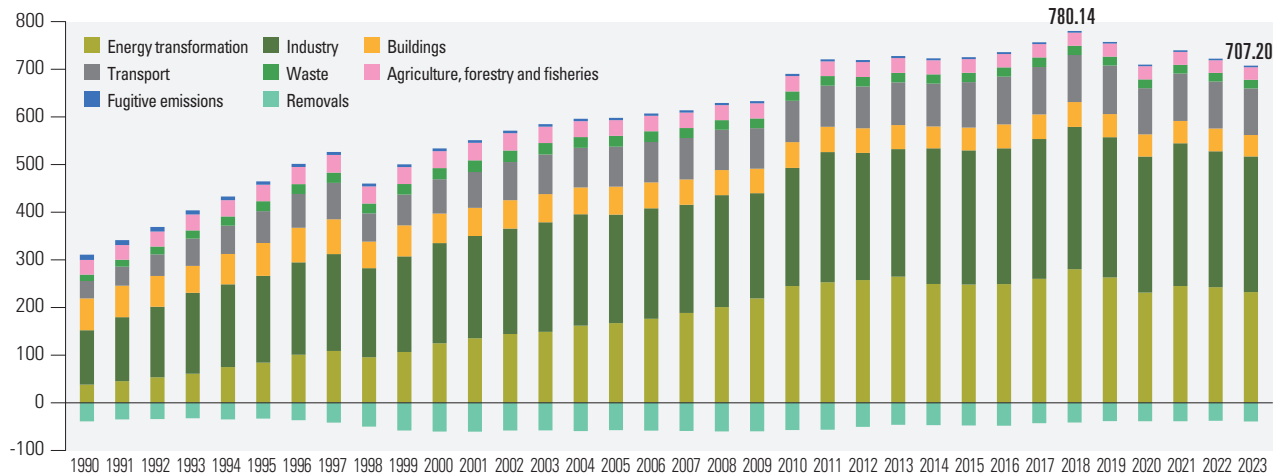
Total greenhouse gas emissions reduced by 2.1% in 2023 (🔄 SDG 13.2.2)

Korea's total greenhouse gas emissions amounted to 707.2 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂eq) in 2023, representing a 2.1% decrease from the previous year. After reaching a peak of 780.14 million tonnes in 2018, emissions have declined each year except for 2021, when economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic and base effects

temporarily increased emissions. Compared with 2018, which serves both as the peak year and the baseline year for the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), total emissions in 2023 were 9.3% lower. In the same year, per capita greenhouse gas emissions were estimated at 13.7 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, also marking a 2.1% decline from the previous year. Meanwhile, despite real GDP growth of 1.6% in 2023, total emissions fell by 2.1%, indicating a pattern of decoupling, where greenhouse gas emissions decline even as the economy expands. Accordingly, emissions intensity declined to 314.7 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per KRW 1 billion of GDP in 2023, a 3.6% reduction from

Greenhouse gas emissions and removals by sector, 1990–2023

(Unit: million tonnes CO₂eq)

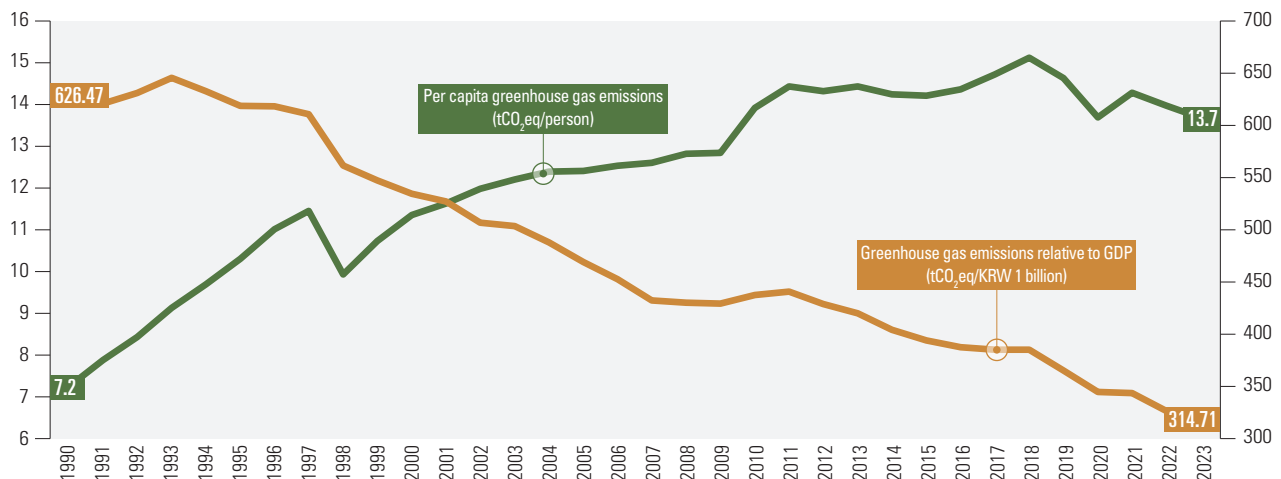


Source : Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Center of Korea, National Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2025 (<https://www.gir.go.kr>, retrieved on December 26, 2025)

Note : Based on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines

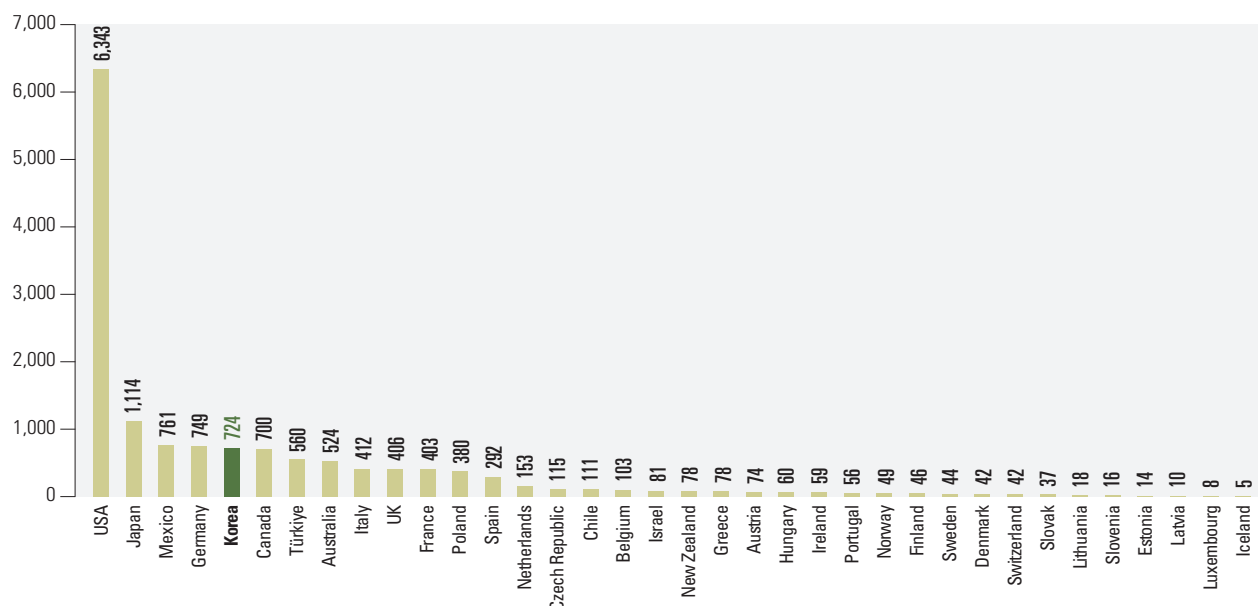
Greenhouse gas emissions per capita and per KRW 1 billion of GDP, 1990–2023

(Unit: tCO₂eq/person, tCO₂eq/KRW 1 billion)

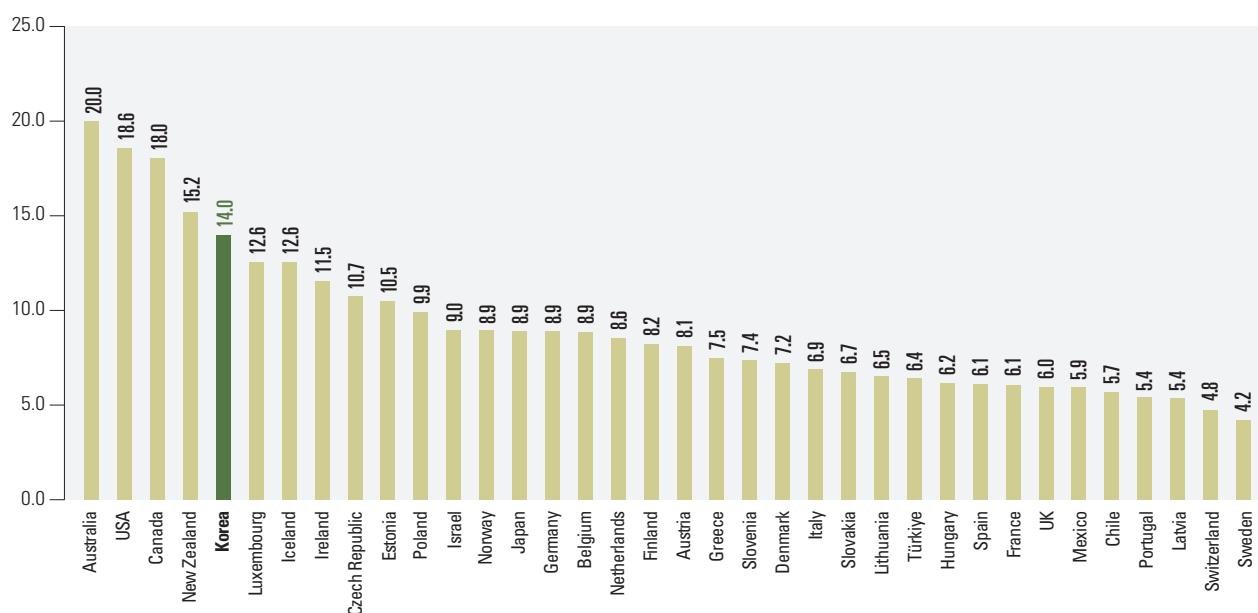


Source : Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Center of Korea, National Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2025 (<https://www.gir.go.kr>, retrieved on December 26, 2025)

Note : Based on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines

**Total greenhouse gas emissions in OECD countries, 2022**(Unit: million tonnes CO₂eq)Source : OECD, OECD Data Explorer (<https://data-explorer.oecd.org>, retrieved on February 8, 2026)

Note : Colombia and Costa Rica are excluded due to unavailable data.

Greenhouse gas emissions per capita in OECD countries, 2022(Unit: tonnes CO₂eq/person)Source : OECD, OECD Data Explorer (<https://data-explorer.oecd.org>, retrieved on September 15, 2025)

Note : Colombia and Costa Rica are excluded due to unavailable data.

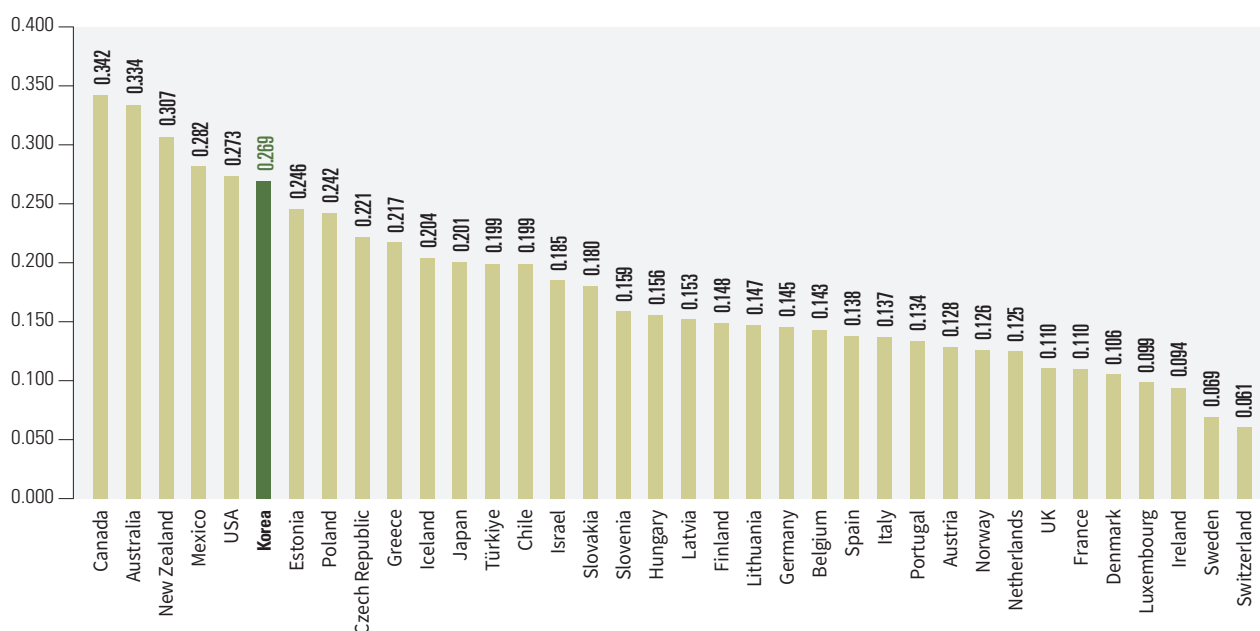
the previous year. This marks the fifth consecutive annual decline since 2019. Compared with the 2018 peak year, real GDP increased by 10.9% between 2018 and 2023, while total emissions decreased by 9.3%, resulting in an 18.3% reduction in emissions intensity, from 385.0 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per KRW 1 billion of GDP in 2018.

When greenhouse gas emissions are classified by sector,

including energy transformation, industry, buildings, transport, waste, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and fugitive emissions, the industrial sector accounts for the largest share. In 2023, emissions from the industrial sector amounted to 284.81 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, representing 40.3% of the national total, while the reduction from the previous year was limited to 0.1%. The energy transformation sector,

Greenhouse gas emissions relative to GDP in OECD countries, 2022

(Unit: tCO₂eq/USD 1,000)



Source : OECD, OECD Data Explorer (<https://data-explorer.oecd.org>, retrieved on September 15, 2025)

Note 1 : Based on 2020 constant price PPP

Note 2 : Colombia and Costa Rica are excluded due to unavailable data.

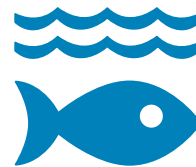
which includes electricity and heat production, accounted for the second largest share at 32.8% (232.09 million tonnes). Emissions in this sector declined by 4.3% compared with the previous year, contributing significantly to the overall reduction in 2023. Of the 14.83 million tonnes of total emissions reductions recorded compared with the previous year, 10.35 million tonnes were achieved in the energy transformation sector. A 1% decline in total electricity generation resulting from reduced power demand, together with an increase in low-carbon electricity generation from nuclear and renewable energy, is identified as a key factor behind the reduction in emissions from the energy transformation sector. The transport sector, which accounted for 13.8% of total emissions (97.83 million tonnes), recorded only a 0.8% reduction. By contrast, the buildings sector, which accounted for 6.3% of total emissions (44.85 million tonnes), recorded the largest reduction rate at 6.0%. This decline is attributed to reduced heating demand resulting from a milder winter and higher city gas prices. The agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector, the waste sector, and fugitive emissions accounted for 3.7% (26.21 million tonnes), 2.6% (18.17 million tonnes), and

0.5% (3.24 million tonnes) of total emissions, respectively. The year on year reduction rates were 1.3%, a decrease of 0.3%, and 4.7%, respectively. Meanwhile, greenhouse gas removals from sources such as forests and croplands amounted to 39.43 million tonnes, representing a 4.1% increase from the previous year. Reflecting these removals, net greenhouse gas emissions in 2023 totaled 667.77 million tonnes, a 2.4% decrease compared with the previous year.

A comparison of total greenhouse gas emissions among 36 OECD countries for which data are available shows that, as of 2022, Korea recorded the fifth largest level of emissions at 724.29 million tonnes, following the United States (6.34 billion tonnes), Japan (1.11 billion tonnes), Mexico (761.35 million tonnes), and Germany (748.79 million tonnes). In terms of per capita greenhouse gas emissions, Korea ranked fifth at 14.0 tonnes, after Australia (20.0 tonnes), the United States (18.6 tonnes), Canada (18.0 tonnes), and New Zealand (15.2 tonnes). Measured by greenhouse gas emissions per USD 1,000 of GDP, Korea ranked sixth at 0.269 tonnes, following Canada (0.342 tonnes), Australia (0.334 tonnes), New Zealand (0.307 tonnes), Mexico (0.282 tonnes), and the United States (0.273 tonnes).



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



140



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development

SDG 14 is the only goal that explicitly addresses the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources. Oceans are essential for sustaining life on Earth, as they regulate the climate, support global ecosystems and provide food and livelihoods. However, they are increasingly under pressure from overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, marine pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change. Despite the global target to protect at least 30% of marine areas by 2030, the global coverage of marine protected areas reached only 9.65% in 2025. Korea has made efforts to comply with international instruments, prevent IUU fishing and restore fishery resources. However, the coverage of marine protected areas remains low, and fishery resources in coastal and offshore waters and in the Northwest Pacific continue to show significant variability.

» Within marine Key Biological Areas (KBAs), the proportion of protected areas reached 42.95% in 2024, up from 27.59% in 2004. However, it fell short of the OECD average of 64.86%.

- The coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas stood at 2.27% in 2025, ranking Korea 28th among the 32 OECD coastal countries. Although this was lower than the proportion of protected areas relative to terrestrial areas (17.72%), Korea has been gradually increasing the coverage to achieve the 30% target under the Convention on Biological Diversity by 2030.

» In January 2026, the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) entered into force, aiming to conserve marine biodiversity in the high seas and deep seabeds beyond national jurisdiction.

- Korea also became the 21st country to ratify the Agreement in 2025, and is preparing domestic legislation for its implementation.

» Since the 2000s, there has been significant variability in fishery resources, as catches of major commercial species in coastal/offshore fisheries, such as Japanese common squid and anchovies, have declined while catches of warm-water species, including yellowtails and Spanish mackerel, have increased.

- Korea has also made policy efforts, including the expansion of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) scheme, to restore fishery resources.
- The proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels significantly declined from 90.0% in 1974 to 64.5% in 2021 worldwide. A similar decline was also observed in the Northwest Pacific, where Korea is included, from 90.0% in 2004 to 63.0% in 2021.

» In 2018, the level of implementing international instruments to eradicate illegal fishing practices was assessed at 5 among 5. Since 2022, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing has not been reported in the deep-sea fisheries.

- In domestic fisheries, crackdowns and sanctions have also been implemented to eradicate IUU fishing. The number of detected IUU fishing cases decreased from 1,953 in 2020 to 931 in 2024.
- The number of detected IUU fishing cases involving foreign vessels also reached 378 in 2015, but it has declined to below 70 since 2020.

A gradual increase in the proportion of marine protected areas (🌐 SDG 14.5.1)

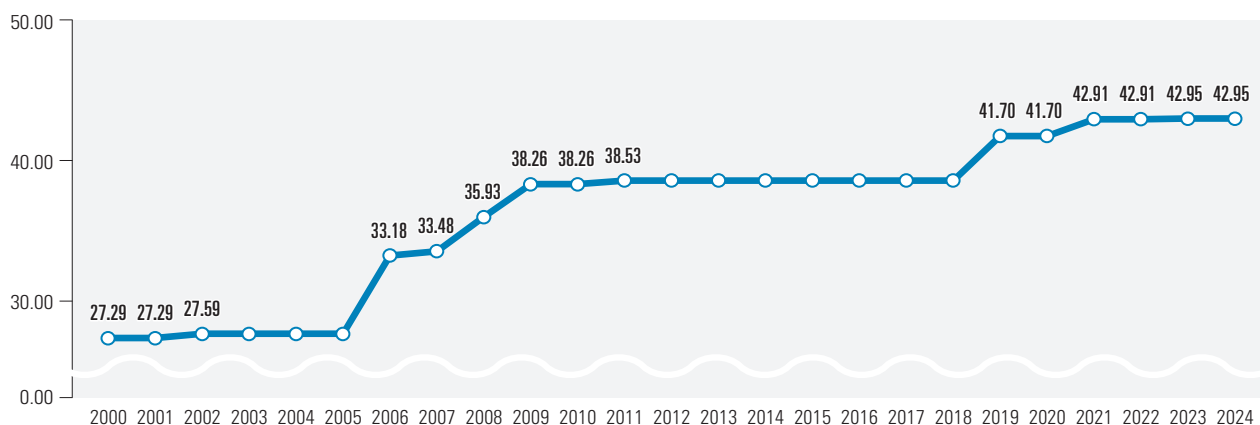
Indicator 14.5.1 measures the proportion of marine Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas. The KBAs refer to areas that need special protection due to their high ecological value. Of the marine KBAs in Korea, the proportion of protected areas has gradually increased from 27.59% in 2004 and 38.53% in 2014 to 42.95% in 2024. However, this placed

Korea 26th among the 32 OECD coastal countries in 2024, falling far short of the average (64.86%) of the 32 countries. Nevertheless, this came close to the global average of 46.00%. However, in terms of the pace of increase, the proportion of marine protected areas in Korea rose by 15.35%p from 2004 to 2024, showing no significant difference from the OECD average growth (16.44%p) over the same period.

In addition to SDG 14.5.1, which measures the proportion

**Proportion of Protected Areas within Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), 2000-2024**

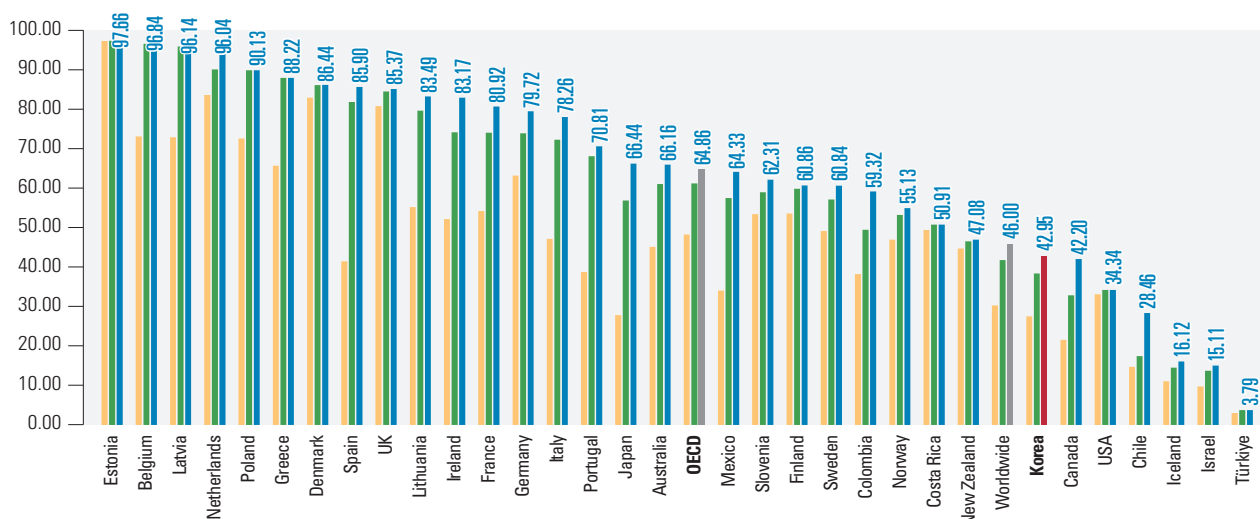
(Unit: %)

Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Sep 18, 2025)

Note : This represents the proportion of protected areas designated within Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Proportion of Protected Areas within Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in OECD Countries, 2004, 2014, 2024

(Unit: %)

Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Sep 18, 2025)

Note 1 : This represents the proportion of protected areas designated within Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Note 2 : The OECD average refers to the average of the 32 coastal countries, excluding six inland countries (Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia).

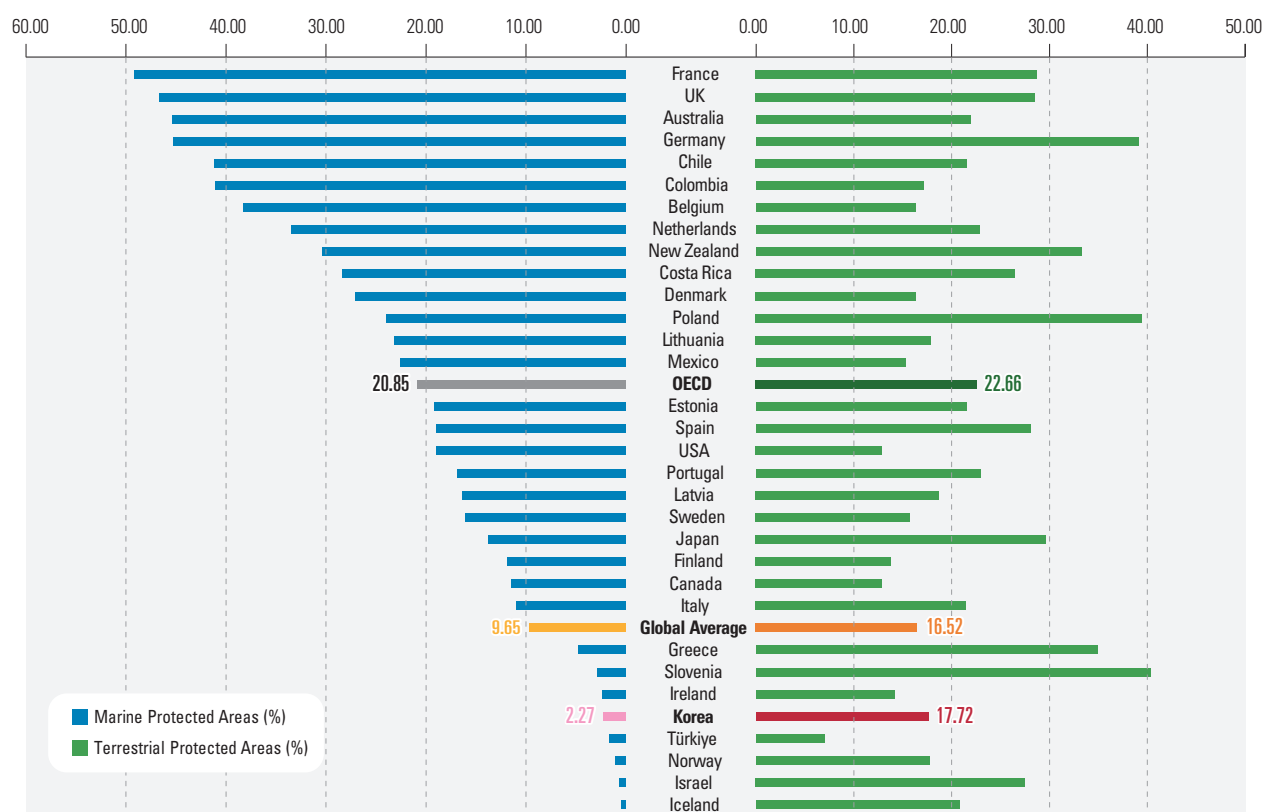
of protected areas based on the KBAs, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has also set a target to protect at least 30% of both territorial and marine areas. According to this, given the protected areas designated within terrestrial waters and exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of each country, the average coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas stood at 20.85% among the 32 OECD coastal countries, with a wide variation ranging from 0.46% in Iceland to 49.24% in France. Meanwhile, the coverage of protected areas relative to terrestrial areas in these countries averaged 22.66%, which was slightly higher than that of marine areas, with a relatively smaller variation

among countries from 7.03% in Türkiye to 40.44% in Slovenia. The international community has set this target of bringing the ratios of both marine and terrestrial protected areas to 30% by 2030; however, the global average in 2025 stood at only 9.65% for marine areas and 16.52% for terrestrial areas. Compared to these, the OECD countries have reached considerably higher levels.

In Korea, the coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas stood at 2.27% in 2025, ranking 28th among the 32 OECD countries, which is lower than that of terrestrial protected areas that ranked 22nd with 17.72%. The marine protected areas

Coverage of Protected Areas in relation to Marine and Terrestrial Areas in OECD Countries, 2025

(Unit: %)



Source : UNEP-WCMC, World Database on Protected Areas (<https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/thematic-areas/wdpa?tab=WDPA>, retrieved on Nov 4, 2025)

Note 1 : This represents the coverage of protected areas in relation to the total marine or terrestrial areas in each country. Marine areas refer to marine and coastal protected areas, while terrestrial areas refer to terrestrial and freshwater protected areas.

Note 2 : Among OECD countries, this graph represents the 32 coastal countries, excluding six inland countries (Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia).

in Korea amounted to a total of 7,887km² in 2025, accounting for about 44% of the terrestrial protected areas (17,954km²). Moreover, marine areas are far larger than terrestrial areas, making the proportion of marine protected areas even lower. Based on the 2030 National Roadmap for Expanding Protected Areas, Korea has endeavored to achieve the 30% target of protected terrestrial and marine areas set by the CBD. In April 2025, it also designated a marine area of 1,075.08km² near Gwantaldo, Jeju Island as a new protected area for marine ecosystems.

Entry into force of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement as the third implementation agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (SDG 14.c.1)

Approximately 64% of the global ocean lies beyond national jurisdiction and is referred to as the high seas. There had long

been no international regulations to systematically protect these vast oceans until June 2023, when a crucial agreement was adopted to address this issue. It is called the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement. Its official full name is the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine Biological diversity of areas Beyond National Jurisdiction. It aims to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity in the high seas and deep seabed.

The BBNJ Agreement is the third implementation agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), following the 1994 Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.

It can be regarded as a tool to implement UNCLOS, which serves as a framework act for the seas, in a more specific manner. The agreement consists of the following four major pillars: (1)



Parties Ratifying the BBNJ by Continent (as of Jan 31, 2026)

Africa(18 countries)	Americas(20 countries)	Asia(15 countries)	Europe(20 countries)
Botswana, Cabo Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Seychelles, Sierra Leone	Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay	Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, the Maldives, the Gambia, Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Vietnam	Albania, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain
Middle East (3 countries)	Oceania (8 countries)	International Organization (1)	A total of 85 countries
Jordan, Qatar, State of Palestine	Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	EU	

Source : UN, United Nations Treaty Collection(https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXI-10&chapter=21, retrieved on Feb 9, 2026)

management of marine genetic resources and fair benefit-sharing; (2) area-based management tools, including marine protected areas; (3) marine environmental impact assessments; and (4) capacity-building and technology transfer. In particular, the second pillar is directly associated with aforementioned SDG 14.5.1. Combined with each country's efforts to expand marine protected areas in its own coastal waters, a foundation has been laid for various countries to join forces together, in order to expand protection coverage to the high seas and deep seabed.

Starting from September 20, 2023, 90 days after the BBNJ Agreement was adopted, the signature process began in each country. As it satisfied the requirements to come into force when the 60th country ratified it on September 19, 2025, the agreement entered into force on January 17, 2026, 120 days thereafter. As of the end of January 2026, it was signed by 145 countries and ratified by 85 countries. Korea also signed this agreement on October 31, 2023, ratifying it as the first East Asian country and the 21st country in the world. It has been preparing domestic legislation to implement the agreement.

Strengthening sustainable management of fishery resources under the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) scheme (SDG 14.4.1)

SDG 14.4.1 indicates the proportion of fish stocks within

biologically sustainable levels, measuring whether fish species subject to fishing activities are maintained in a sustainable manner among the biological resources inhabiting marine ecosystems. In this context, this section first examines the current status of fisheries in Korea.

The catches of coastal and offshore fisheries in Korea declined from an annual average of 1.51 million tonnes in the 1980s (1980-1989) to 1.16 million tonnes in the 2000s (2000-2009). In the recent 2020s (2020-2024), they again fell to 910,000 tonnes. In 2024, the annual catches stood at only 841,000 tonnes, recording an all-time low.

Among major commercial fish species in Korea, including mackerel, Japanese common squid and anchovies, catches of Japanese common squid and anchovies have noticeably declined since the 2000s. Recently, catches of Japanese common squid have decreased the most. From the mid-1990s to the mid-2000s, its annual catches exceeded 200,000 tonnes, but it fell below 100,000 tonnes from 2017 and declined sharply, hitting a record low of 14,000 tonnes in 2024. As for anchovies, the annual catches remained above 190,000 tonnes from 1995 to 2015; however, it went down to an annual average of 150,000 tonnes in the 2020s. It further fell to 120,000 tonnes in 2024.

On the other hand, the catches of warm-water fish species, including yellowtails, Spanish mackerel and jack mackerels, has

increased overall over the past 40 years. In the early 1980s, the annual catches of yellowtails ranged from 2,000 tonnes to 3,000 tonnes, but it has steadily risen, exceeding 20,000 tonnes per year since 2022. The annual catches of Spanish mackerel also increased from 10,000 to 30,000 tonnes during the 1980s to an annual average of over 36,000 tonnes in the 2020s.

As seen above, there have been significant fluctuations in fishery resources, such as a decrease in the catches of major commercial fish species and an increase in the catches of warm-water fish species, due to changes in domestic waters caused by climate change. The index of fishery resources in coastal and offshore waters, expressed as “catch/standardized tonnage,” rapidly declined from the 1980s to the mid-1990s and then has failed to recover from low levels (National Institute of Fisheries Science, 2025), showing that the recovery of fishery resources remains challenging in Korea’s coastal/offshore waters.

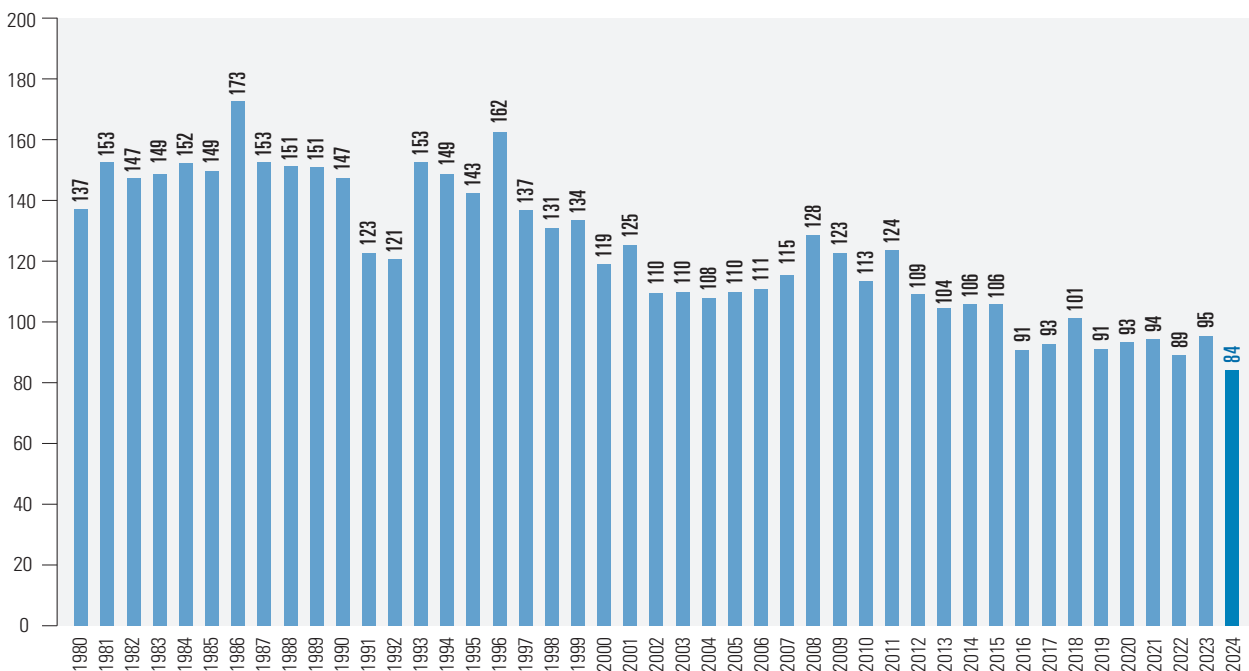
To restore fishery resources, the Korean government devised the Fish Stock Rebuilding Plan in 2005 and has implemented diverse initiatives to identify the current status of coastal/offshore resources through fishery resource assessments based on ecosystems, recover depleted and declining fish species, improve

habitat environments in coastal and offshore waters, and protect immature fish. In particular, the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) scheme, which sets upper limits on catches by fish species and allows fishing only within those limits, has been phased in and expanded. Under the Fisheries Innovation 2030 devised in 2019, a target has been set to increase the ratio of fish species subjected to the TAC from 25% in 2017 to 50% by 2022 and 80% by 2030. Through these efforts, the government has strived to restore fishery resources in coastal and offshore waters, estimated at 3.04 million tonnes in 2017, to 5.03 million tonnes by 2030, which is the level assumed to be the maximum sustainable yield.

Under the TAC scheme, annual allowable catches are set for each target species to manage fishery resources. It began in 1999 with four species, namely mackerels, horse mackerels, sardines and red snow crabs, as well as two types of fisheries (large purse seine and offshore fish-pot fisheries), and has been expanded to 15 fish species and 17 types of fisheries since 2024. As the TAC has been extended to cover even small-scale coastal fisheries of less than 10 tonnes, it has been implemented in phases, such as preparation (Phase 1), practice (Phase 2) and settlement (Phase 3), considering

Catches of Coastal/Offshore Fisheries, 1980-2024

(Unit: 10,000 tonnes)

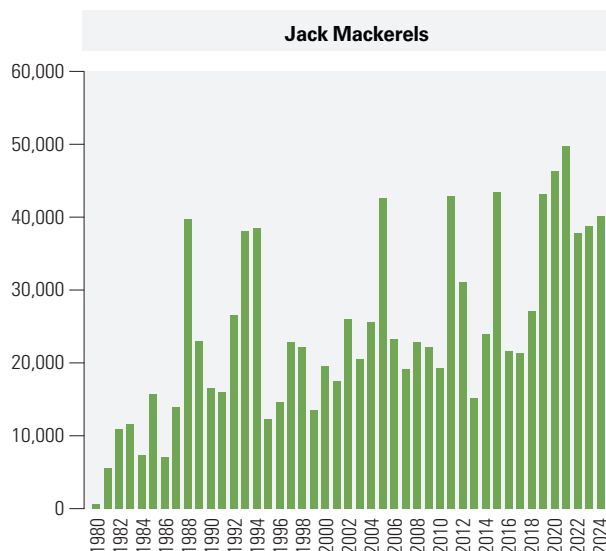
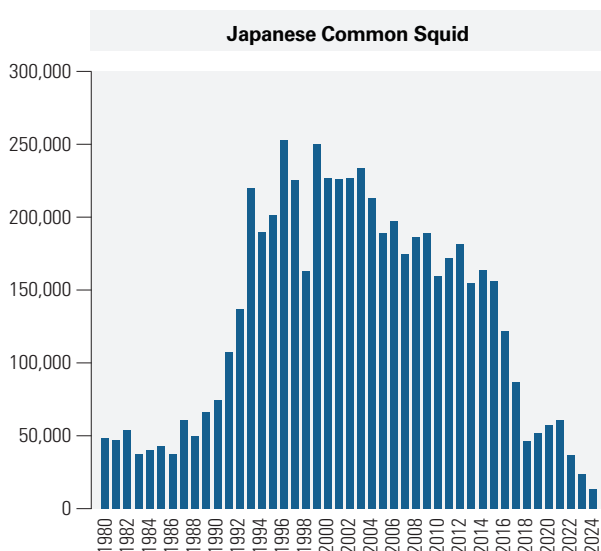
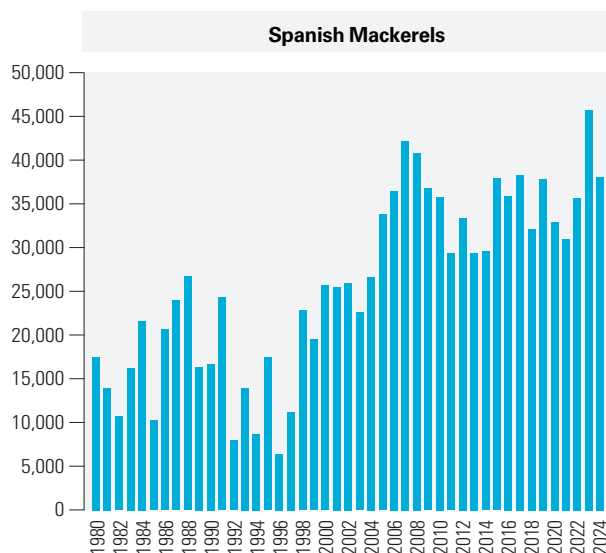
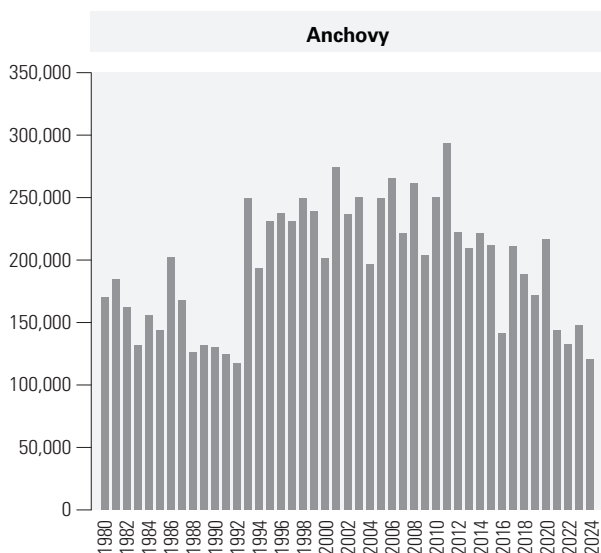
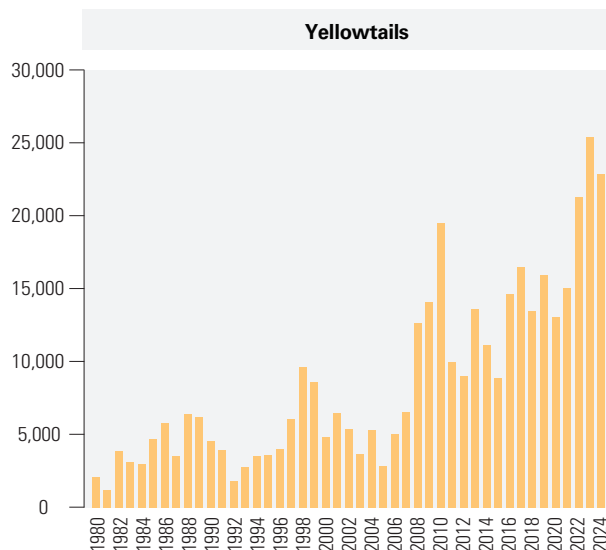
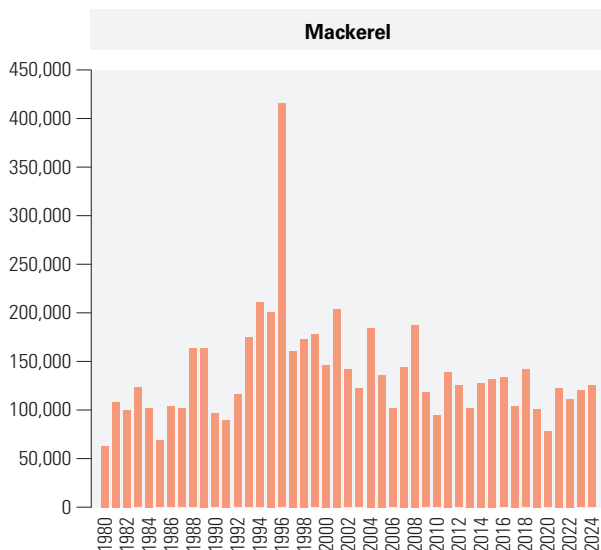


Source : Ministry of Data and Statistics, Fishery Production Survey (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Aug 21, 2025)



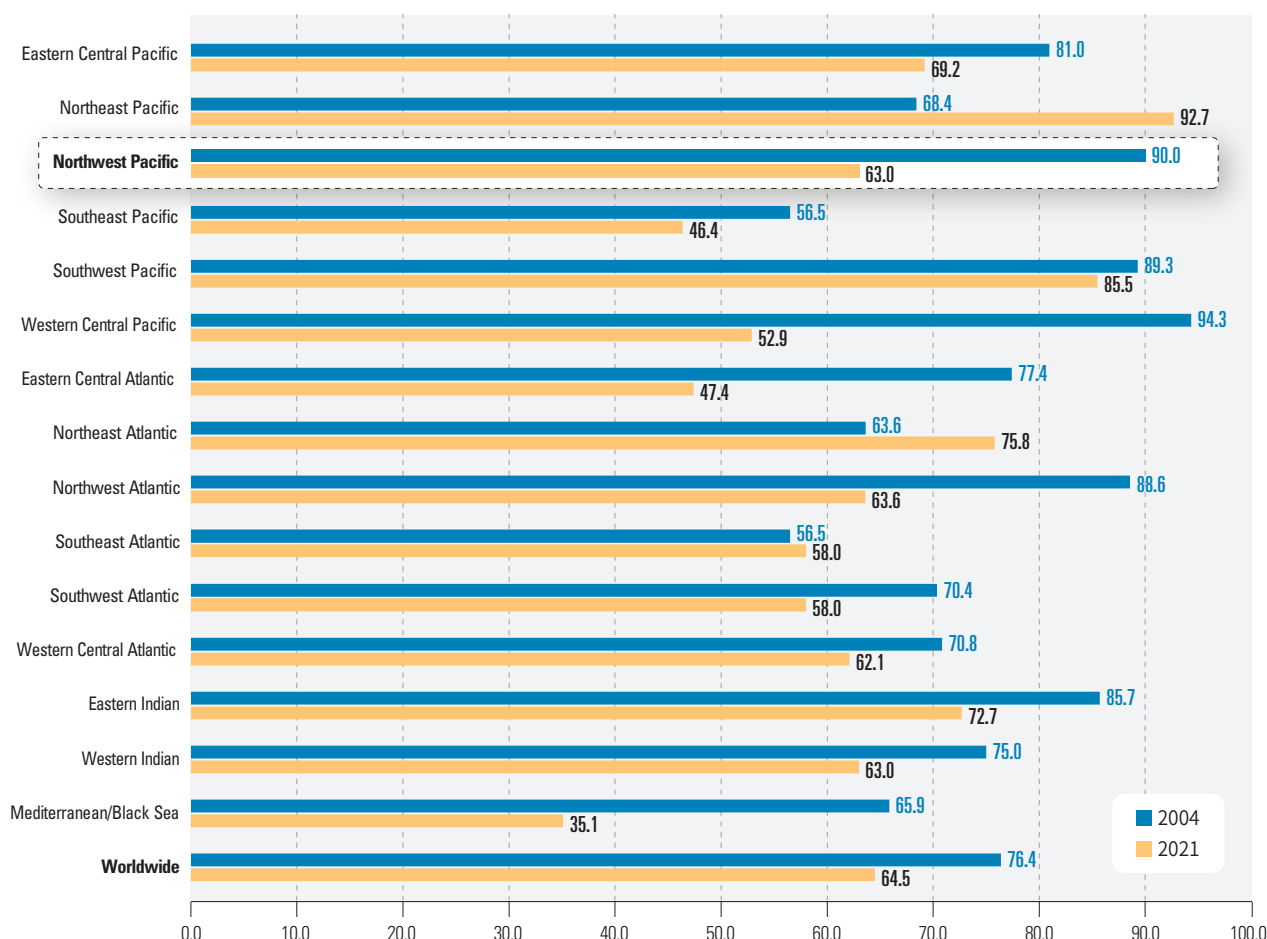
Catches in Coastal/Offshore Fisheries by Major Fish Species, 1980-2024

(Unit: tonnes)

Source : Ministry of Data and Statistics, Fishery Production Survey (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Aug 21, 2025)

Proportion of Fish Stocks within Biologically Sustainable Levels in Global Waters, 2004, 2021

(Unit: %)



Source : FAO, FAO Data Explorer(<https://dataexplorer.fao.org>, retrieved on Feb 10, 2026)

the capacity of small-scale fishers, who cannot implement the TAC immediately, to adopt the scheme. The fish species subject to Phase 1 (preparation) include blue crabs and red snow crabs, which are the key targets to ensure full implementation of the scheme by expanding its coverage to various fisheries, including coastal fisheries. Phase 2 (Practice) applies to fish species and fisheries newly included in the TAC or fish species whose applicable fisheries have been expanded (including anchovies, Japanese common squid, hairtail and Spanish mackerel caught using specific fishing methods). Phase 3 (settlement) also covers fifteen fish species, such as mackerels, horse mackerels, squid, hairtail, yellow croaker and Spanish mackerel.

SDG 14.4.1, which is the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels, fell significantly from 90% in 1974 to 76.4% in 2004 and 64.5% in 2021 across the world.

The Northwest Pacific (FAO Area 61), which includes Korea, Japan, China and Russia, is a fishing ground shared by these countries, requiring joint management especially for migratory fish. As of 2021, the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels in the Northwest Pacific, where Korea is included, declined from 90.0% in 2004 to 63.0% in 2021. It was comparable to the global average in 2021.

A decline in detected cases of illegal fishing

(SDG 14.6.1)

SDG 14.6.1 addresses the degree of implementation of international instruments to eradicate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The international instruments herein refer to various global treaties and action plans, aiming to eliminate IUU fishing, such as the United Nations Convention

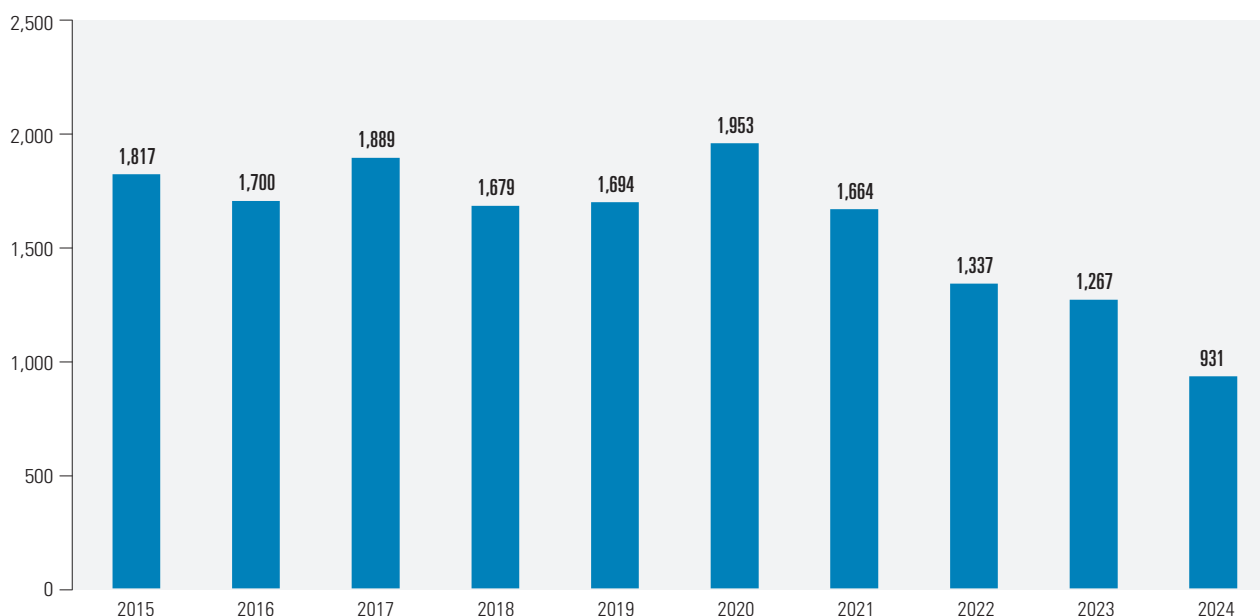


on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) and Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA). According to the criteria suggested by the international organizations, each country

assesses its degree of implementation on a scale of 1 to 5 and submits the results. In 2024, the level of implementing IUU-related international instruments was assessed at 4 on average worldwide. Among neighboring countries, Japan scored five each year from 2018 to 2024 while Russia and China obtained

Number of IUU Fishing Cases Detected, 2015-2024

(Unit: No. of cases)

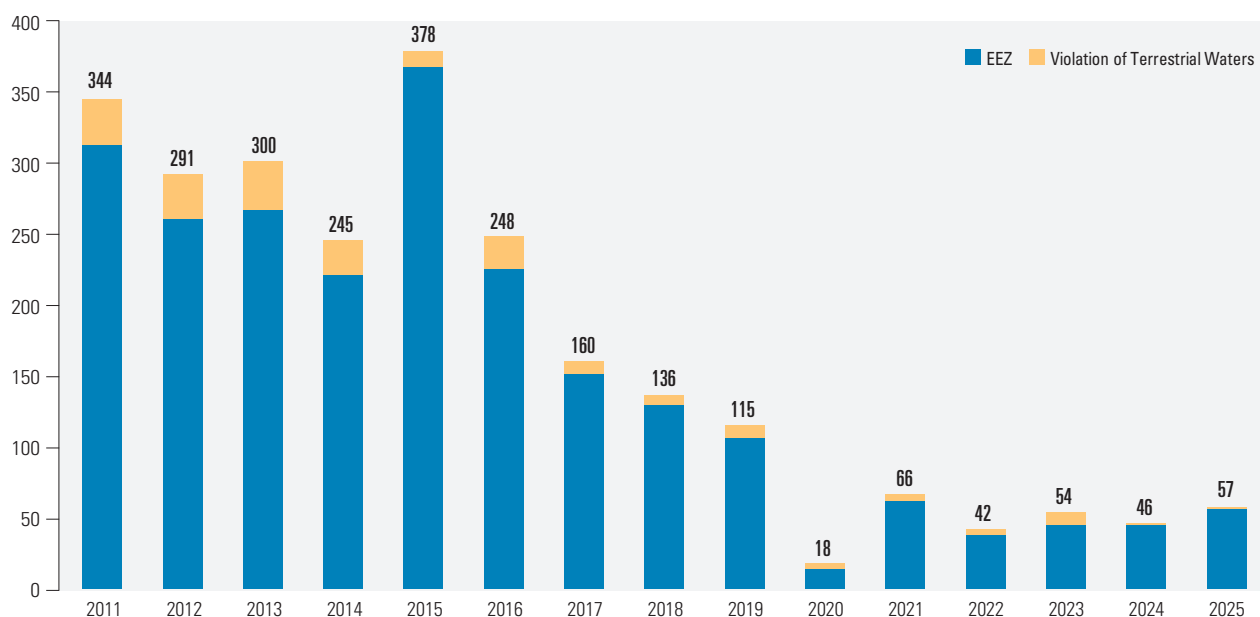


Source : Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Crackdown on IUU Fishing in Coastal/Offshore Waters, (<https://www.mof.go.kr>, retrieved on Feb 26, 2026)

Note : This represents the number of IUU fishing cases detected by the Fisheries Management Service or local governments in violation of the Fisheries Act, the Fishery Resources Management Act and the Fishing Vessels Act.

Number of Detected IUU Fishing Cases by Foreign Vessels, 2011-2025

(Unit: No. of cases)



Source : Korea Coast Guard, Crackdown on IUU Fishing Involving Foreign Vessels (<https://www.index.go.kr>, retrieved on Feb 26, 2026)

scores between 4 and 5 and between 3 and 4, respectively, over the same period. Since achieving a Level 5 rating in 2018, Korea has demonstrated consistent progress in implementing various international instruments.

There has not been a single case of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by Korean deep-sea vessels since 2022.

The government has also endeavored to eradicate IUU fishing not only in deep-sea fisheries but also in domestic fisheries. The 3rd Basic Plan for Structural Improvement of Coastal/Offshore Fisheries (2024-2028) aims to ensure effective enforcement by restricting eligibility for various subsidies, including limitations on the supply of duty-free fuel, in addition to existing administrative sanctions (such as business suspension, penalties, etc.) imposed on IUU fishing. It also plans to reduce the number of vessels in types of fisheries with a higher percentage of IUU fishing than others, suspend fishing permit for two years if vessels are caught

engaging in IUU fishing three times or more during the five-year permit period and reduce the number of these violating vessels, thereby restricting the entry of IUU fishing vessels. Owing to these policy efforts, IUU fishing has been noticeably reduced in domestic fisheries. In 2020, the annual number of detected IUU fishing cases amounted to 1,953. Since then, it has decreased each year, falling to 931 in 2024. Furthermore, the government has been working on technological development to introduce and implement electronic monitoring (EM) in deep-sea and coastal/offshore fisheries.

Korea also enforces regulations against IUU fishing by foreign vessels in waters adjoining China. In 2015, the annual number of IUU fishing cases involving foreign vessels reached 378; however, since 2020, it has not exceeded 70 per year following concerted efforts by both countries to establish order in fishing activities and the strong enforcement of jurisdiction by the Korea Coast Guard.



15 LIFE ON LAND



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Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

SDG 15 aims to conserve terrestrial ecosystems, promote their sustainable use, and halt biodiversity loss. Globally, while the rate of deforestation has slowed, the overall decline in forest area continues. At the same time, many species—including corals, cycads, dragonflies, and crabs—face an increased risk of extinction, while the proportion of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected area has stagnated since 2015. In Korea, the coverage of protected areas within Key Biodiversity Areas has not shown a significant increase. Nevertheless, in line with international commitments, efforts are being strengthened to mainstream biodiversity into national policies and to develop biodiversity-related accounting systems. Korea is also expanding its support for biodiversity-related official development assistance (ODA).

» As of 2024, the proportion of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas in Korea stands at 40.7% for terrestrial ecosystems, 36.6% for freshwater ecosystems, and 20.2% for mountain ecosystems. These levels remain below both the OECD averages (65.0%, 66.6%, and 61.2%, respectively) and the global averages (44.6%, 43.7%, and 41.4%).

- While the overall extent of protected areas within KBAs in Korea has increased, the rate of expansion since 2000 has been slower than that of the OECD and global averages, indicating a need to strengthen policy focus and implementation capacity for the protection of Key Biodiversity Areas.

» In line with the requirements of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), Korea is undertaking policy efforts to establish national biodiversity targets and to mainstream biodiversity across national policies, plans, and accounting frameworks.

- Through the formulation of the 5th National Biodiversity Strategy (2023), biodiversity considerations are being integrated into multiple statutory plans, alongside efforts to develop natural capital and ecosystem accounts based on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).
- Globally, the number of countries implementing SEEA increased from 54 in 2014 to 94 in 2024

» Korea's biodiversity-related official development assistance (ODA) reached USD 367.92 million in 2023, marking a significant expansion over the past three years.

- During 2022–2023, biodiversity-related activities accounted for approximately 7.2% of Korea's bilateral ODA, with plans to further strengthen support for Green ODA as a priority cooperation area.

Strengthening the protection of Key Biodiversity

Areas (🔄 SDG 15.1.2 / 15.4.1)

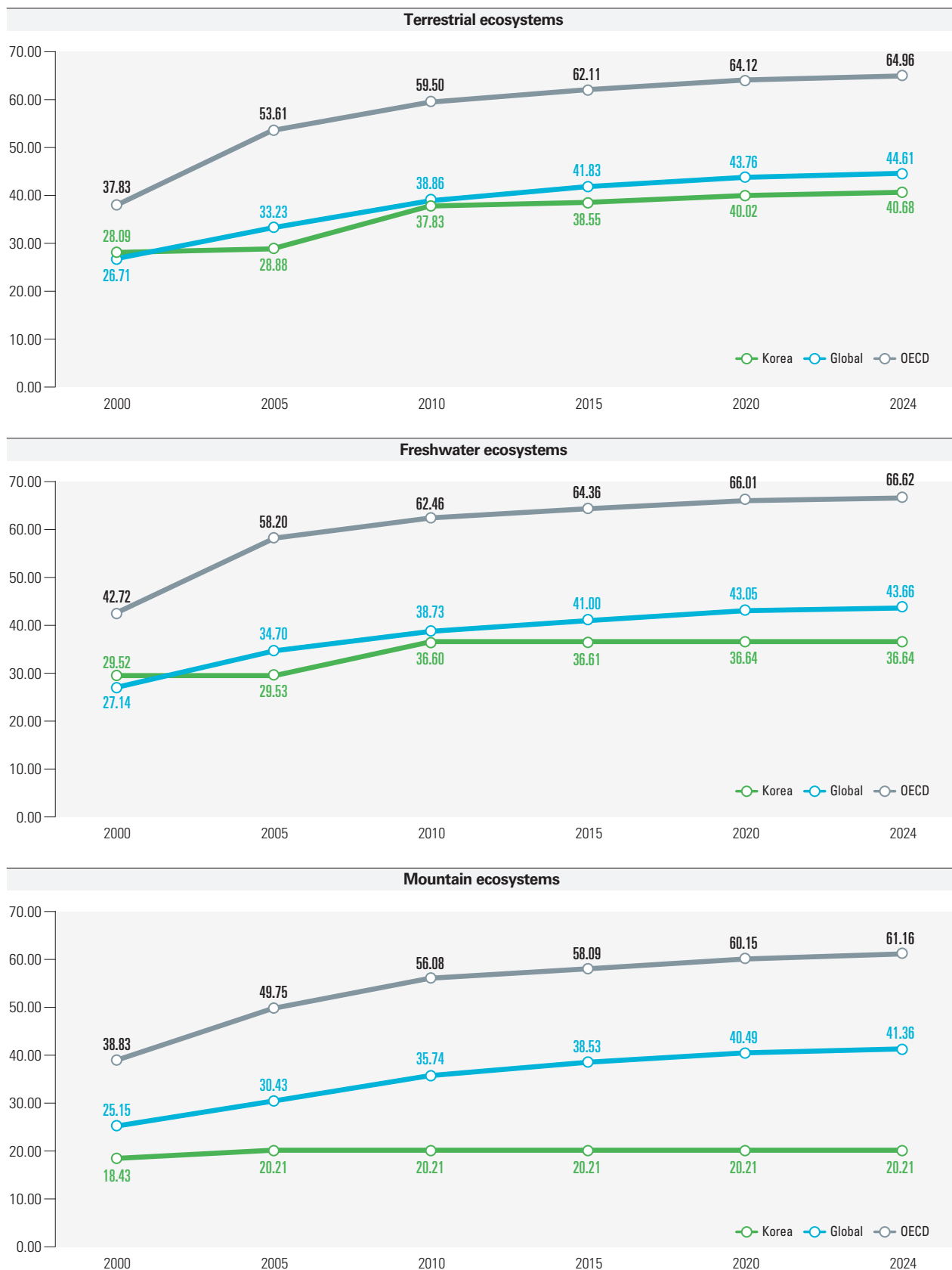
SDG Indicator 15.1.2 measures the proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, while SDG Indicator 15.4.1 measures the corresponding proportion for mountain biodiversity. These indicators assess the extent to which areas of high biodiversity importance are effectively protected. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) identifies Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) based on the following criteria: (1) the risk of extinction of species or ecosystems; (2) the contribution to the conservation of species, assemblages, or ecosystems with

restricted geographic distributions, such as endemic species; (3) the integrity of ecosystems, reflecting whether they are well conserved and functioning effectively; (4) the contribution to key biological processes, including aggregations such as large-scale breeding or overwintering; and (5) the irreplaceability of sites, indicating whether biodiversity can only be conserved in those specific locations. In this sense, Key Biodiversity Areas represent sites of particularly high ecological value that require special protection. Under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a global target has been established to protect at least 30% of terrestrial and marine areas by 2030. Complementing these efforts, the Sustainable Development



Coverage of protected areas within Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), 2000-2024

(Unit: %)



Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on August 20, 2025); Ministry of Data and Statistics, SDG Indicator Nuri (<https://www.index.go.kr/sdg>, retrieved on Aug 20, 2025)

Note 1 : For Korea, the 2024 figure for mountain ecosystems is based on 2023 data.

Note 2 : In calculating OECD averages, countries for which data were not available were excluded. For freshwater ecosystems, Luxembourg was excluded; for mountain ecosystems, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands were excluded.

Goals (SDGs) use the coverage of protected areas within Key Biodiversity Areas as a core indicator for monitoring progress in biodiversity conservation.

Over the past two decades, Korea has remained below international benchmarks in the coverage of protected areas within Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). In 2024, the proportion reached 40.7% for terrestrial ecosystems, below the global average (44.6%) and the OECD average (65.0%). The gap is more pronounced for freshwater ecosystems where Korea (36.6%) lags behind the global (43.7%) and OECD averages (66.6%). In 2000, Korea exceeded the global average by approximately 1–2 percentage points in both terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems; however, since 2005, coverage levels have consistently fallen below the global average. When compared with the OECD average, Korea has persistently lagged by more than 20 percentage points. For mountain ecosystems, coverage remains particularly low at 20.2% (2023).

In line with the objectives of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to expand protected areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

worldwide by 2030, Korea jointly formulated the 2030 National Roadmap for Expanding Protected Areas in 2023 through inter-ministerial coordination. Under this roadmap, Korea is pursuing strategies to expand protected areas and OECMs, strengthen management systems, and reinforce a foundation for coexistence and cooperation with local communities.

Progress in mainstreaming biodiversity and developing related accounting frameworks

SDG 15.9.1

SDG Target 15.9 aims to integrate biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, and accounts. Progress is measured by Indicator 15.9.1, which includes: (a) the number of countries that have established national biodiversity targets in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and (b) the integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems based on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Country-level implementation status of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), 2024

Category	Account	Number of implementing countries (share, %)	Implementation status in Korea
Central Framework	Energy accounts	68(72%)	Implemented
	Environmental protection and resource management expenditure accounts	55(59%)	
	Air Emissions accounts	53(56%)	
	Material flow accounts and economy-wide material flow accounts	50(53%)	Under preparation
	Environmental taxes and subsidies accounts	46(49%)	
	Environmental goods and services accounts	43(46%)	
	Water accounts	37(39%)	Under preparation
	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries accounts	37(39%)	
	Land accounts	36(38%)	
Ecosystem Accounting	Waste accounts	20(21%)	Pilot implementation covering all ecosystem accounts is underway
	Ecosystem extent accounts	42(45%)	
	Ecosystem services supply and use accounts (physical)	27(29%)	
	Ecosystem condition accounts	26(28%)	
	Ecosystem services supply and use accounts (monetary)	17(18%)	
	Ecosystem asset accounts (monetary)	10(11%)	

Source : UN Statistical Commission, 2025, Results of the 2024 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics (Korea-specific information compiled by the authors)



(GBF) in 2022, which identifies the integration of biodiversity considerations into decision-making at all levels as one of its implementation targets (Target 14) and monitors progress by Parties accordingly. As of January 2026, 133 Parties have established at least one national target in line with this objective. In Korea, the 5th National Biodiversity Strategy, adopted in 2023, designates “integrating the value of biodiversity across all sectors of society” as Implementation Target 13. To this end, Korea has set out specific actions to incorporate biodiversity values into multiple statutory plans and to establish national natural capital and ecosystem accounts based on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).

SEEA is an accounting framework formally adopted by the United Nations in 2012 to incorporate and integrate environmental dimensions into the compilation and use of traditional, economy-focused accounts. According to the 2024 implementation results report assessed by the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, 94 out of 120 countries that responded to the survey were implementing SEEA at least partially. This represents substantial progress over the past decade, compared with only 54 implementing countries in 2014. A closer examination shows that, within the Central Framework, which includes modules on energy, environmental protection expenditure, air emissions, material flows, water, and land, energy accounts have the highest implementation rate at 72%. Implementation is also relatively advanced for environmental protection and resource management expenditure accounts (59%), air emissions accounts (56%), and material flow accounts (53%). In contrast, waste accounts show the lowest implementation rate at 21%. The ecosystem accounts of SEEA comprise information on ecosystem extent and condition, ecosystem service flows (in physical or monetary terms), and ecosystem assets. Among these, ecosystem extent accounts have the highest implementation rate at 45%, whereas ecosystem asset accounts and monetary ecosystem services accounts remain comparatively limited, at 11% and 18%, respectively.

In Korea, the Bank of Korea has compiled statistics on pollution abatement expenditure since 1996. In 2001,

this was expanded and restructured into Environmental Protection Expenditure and Revenues (EPER). The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (formerly the Ministry of Environment) has prepared environmental protection expenditure accounts on an annual basis since 2009. In addition, to support a comprehensive assessment of national environmental industry and technology policies and to enable systematic policy analysis, environmental industry statistics have been developed jointly with the Ministry of Data and Statistics (formerly Statistics Korea) since 2001, with annual compilation beginning in 2006. More recently, research has been undertaken to expand these statistics into environmental goods and services accounts. A taxes and revenues related to the environment account was developed through reviews of international practices starting in 2020, and has been compiled annually since 2023. Research to establish water accounts and ecosystem accounts has also been underway since 2024 and 2025, respectively.

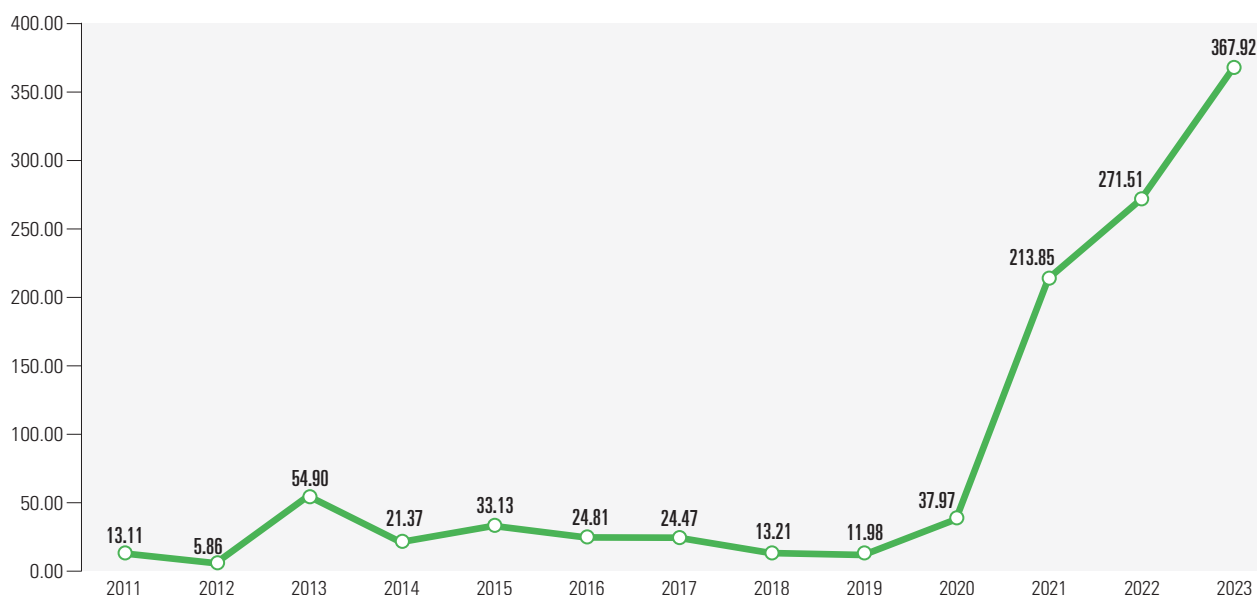
Strengthening the effectiveness of biodiversity-related ODA and budget utilization (🌱 SDG 15.a.1)

Korea’s biodiversity-related official development assistance (ODA) amounted to USD 367.92 million in 2023. Annual funding remained below USD 55 million through 2020, but exceeded USD 200 million for the first time in 2021, followed by substantial increases for three consecutive years. According to the OECD, approximately 7.2% of Korea’s bilateral ODA in 2022–2023 was related to biodiversity. Biodiversity-related ODA projects generally encompass education, training, and research on biodiversity; water resources management; agriculture, forestry, and land management; ecosystem conservation and restoration; support for environmental institutions, policies, and legislation; climate- and nature-based solutions; disaster recovery and reconstruction; and community-based initiatives such as eco-tourism. In 2023, Korea’s biodiversity-related ODA ranked seventh among the 32 OECD-DAC member countries, following Germany, France, the United States, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

In 2021, Korea adopted the 3rd Basic Plan for International

Korea's biodiversity-related ODA, 2011-2023

(Unit: USD million)

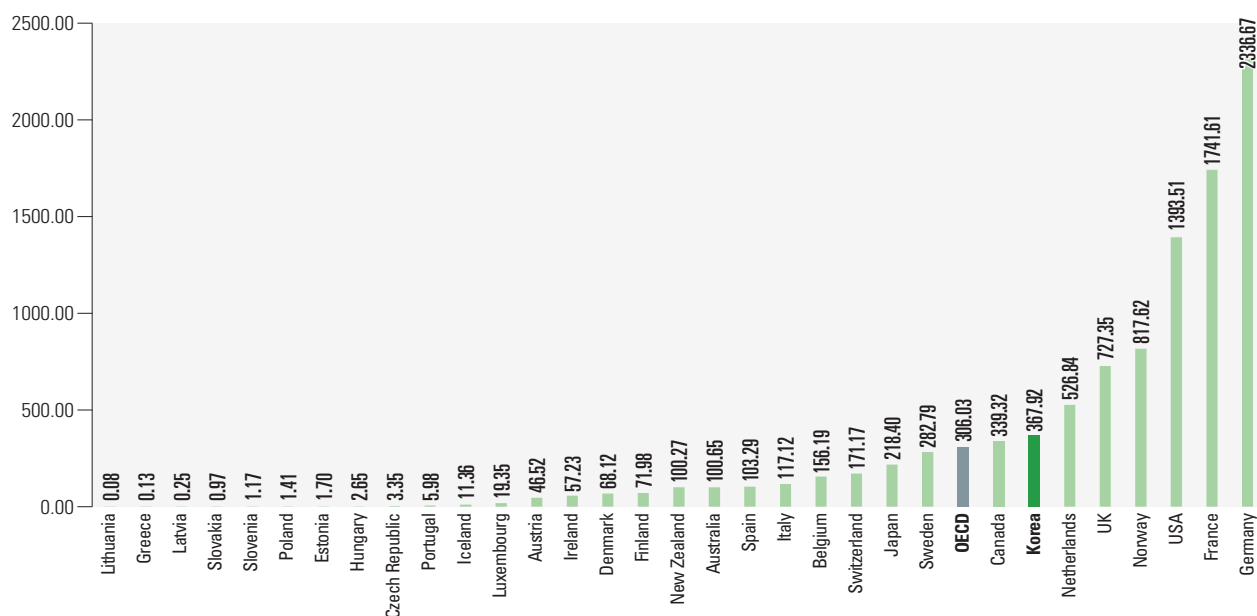


Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on August 25, 2025)

Note : Constant prices, 2023.

Biodiversity-related ODA by OECD country, 2023

(Unit: USD million)



Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on August 25, 2025)

Note : Constant prices, 2023.

Development Cooperation, setting a target to more than double its total ODA volume by 2030 compared with 2019 levels. In addition, under the operation of the Economic Development

Cooperation Fund (EDCF), Korea plans to continue designating the green sector as a priority area of cooperation and to provide focused and sustained support.

Definition

• **OECM (Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures)** : Areas that are not designated as protected areas but are governed and managed to achieve sustained and effective in situ conservation of biodiversity



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



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Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

SDG 16 aims to reduce violence and crime, promote justice and inclusiveness and establish transparent and accountable institutions. Globally, there have been soaring human casualties and forced displacement due to conflicts, and violence against children and women and increasing human trafficking have continued to threaten peace and human rights. It has also been pointed out that the safety of journalists and human rights activists, and trust in government and institutional transparency remain challenges to be addressed. In Korea, corruption among public officials has declined and national agencies' communication with the individuals have also improved. However, more attention is needed to address the political alienation of women, low-educated and low-income groups as well as human trafficking crimes targeting foreign laborers.

» The proportion of the individuals who experienced corruption by public officials fell significantly following the enforcement of the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act in 2016, reaching 0.49% in 2025.

- The experience of corruption was higher in metropolitan governments (0.72%), municipal governments (0.53%) and offices of education (0.88%) than those in public service-related organizations (0.25%) or central administrative agencies (0.37%). In offices of education, in particular, the proportion of corruption experience associated with illegal contributions to athletic teams stood at 0.49%.
- The proportion of businesses experiencing corruption also declined sharply, from 25% in 2000 to 1.6% in 2023.

» The level of political efficacy recognized by the public slightly declined to 2.5 out of 5 in 2024 compared to the 2010s. In particular, it was lower among women, low-educated and low-income groups, indicating the need to consider groups marginalized from access to relevant systems and institutions.

- The assessment of national agencies' communication with the population scored 2.3 out of 4 in 2024, showing overall improvement; however, the National Assembly's communication marked a lower score of 2.1.
- The proportion of the population who believe that decision-making is inclusive stood at 38.7% in 2023, placing Korea 8th among the OECD countries.

» The discrimination experience rate halved to 14.3% in 2024 from 28.2% in 2019.

- By age group, there was a recent increase in the discrimination experience rate among the elderly aged 60 or older, reaching 8.1% in 2024.

» The homicide rate reached 0.54 per 100,000 population in 2024, a decline by 37.0% from 0.85 in 2011. However, since 2022, such a downward trend has stagnated, remaining at 0.54.

- About 2.6% of homicide crimes targeted individuals with developmental disabilities, accounting for a higher proportion relative to their population size.

» The number of human trafficking victims reached about 200,000 across the globe from 2020 to 2023. In Korea as well, 646.6 cases of human trafficking were reported each year between 2016 and 2020.

- In Korea, comprehensive efforts have been made to prevent human trafficking and protect victims, including the enactment of the Act on Prevention of Human Trafficking and Protection of Victims in 2021.

The proportion of people who experienced corruption by public officials has generally declined (SDG 16.5.1 / 16.5.2)

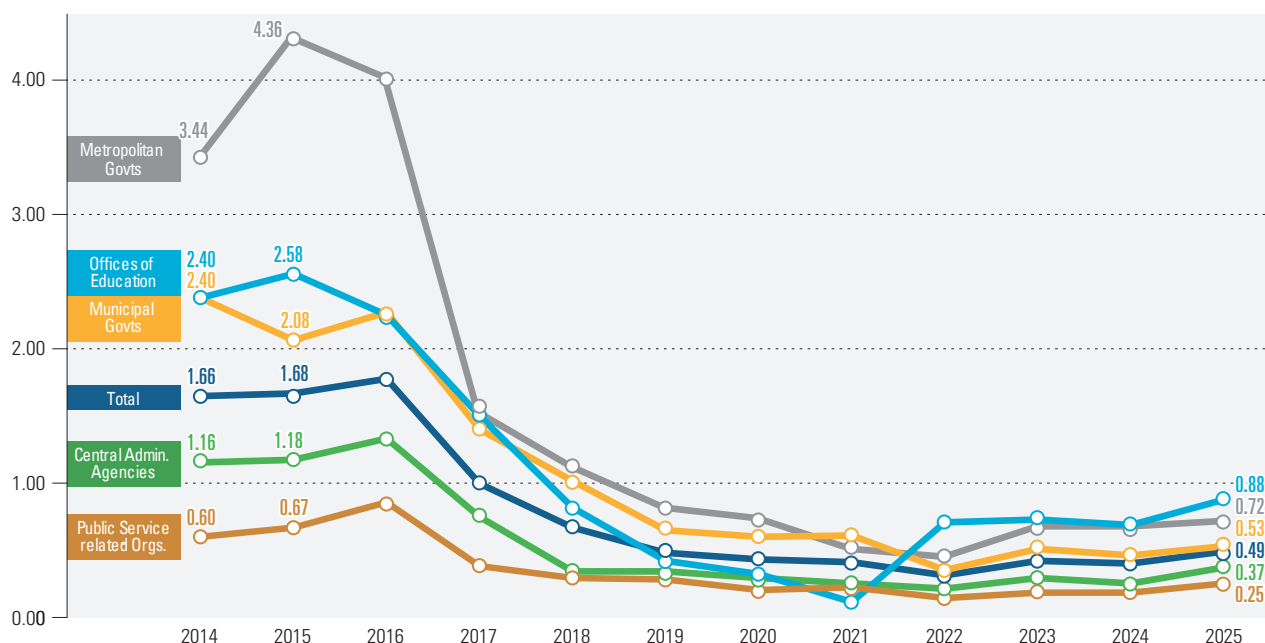
Corruption by public officials is a major stumbling block that stands in the way of the fairness and efficiency of government

functions and undermines the foundations of democratic institutions. In Korea, corruption among public officials has noticeably declined in the aftermath of the enforcement of the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act in 2016. As a result, the proportion of the individuals experiencing corruption in public



Proportion of the Individuals Experiencing Corruption, 2014-2025

(Unit: %)



Source : Anti-corruption and Civil Rights Commission, Comprehensive Integrity Assessment in the Public Sector

Note 1 : This refers to the proportion of the individuals who have experienced being asked for or having provided bribes, entertainment or other favors to public officials over the previous year among those who have had dealing with public organizations.

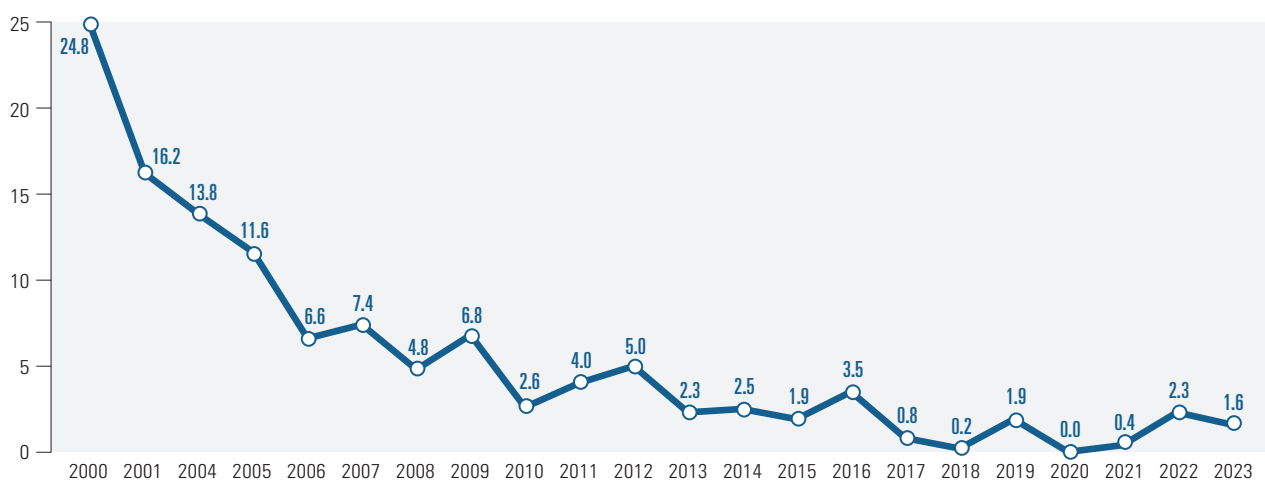
Note 2 : The survey was based on respondents' own experiences until 2017, and from 2018 onward, it has been on the basis of experiences of respondents or their colleagues being asked for or having provided such benefits.

Note 3 : With the change in assessment methods, since 2022 detailed types of corruption have been added, such as personal gains (including recruitment), preferential treatment in transactions or the provision of information and illegal donations to school athletic teams.

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Proportion of Businesses Experiencing Corruption, 2000-2023

(Unit: %)



Source : Korea Institute of Public Administration, Survey Research on the Level of Perception of Public Corruption in Korea

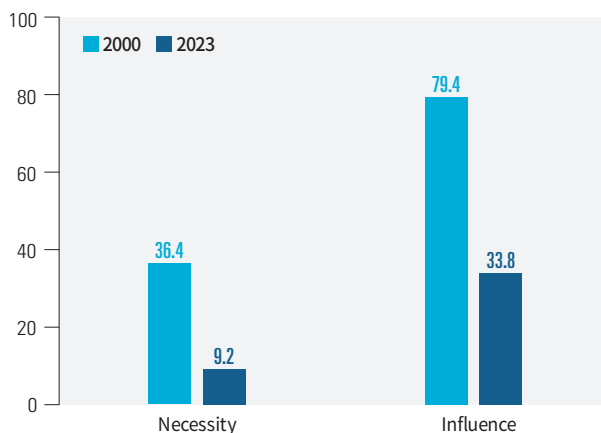
Note : This refers to the proportion of businesses who reported having provided bribes, entertainment or other favors to public officials over the previous year.

organizations has remained in the range of 0.3% to 0.4% since 2019. In central administrative agencies, the experience of corruption fell to 0.37% in 2025 after hitting the highest level of 1.34 % in 2016, showing an overall improvement. In the past, metropolitan/municipal governments and offices of education

also posted record highs of 4.36% in 2015, 2.40% in 2014, 2.58% in 2015 respectively, with rates falling significantly to 0.72%, 0.53% and 0.88% in 2025. However, metropolitan/municipal governments and offices of education (0.5% to 0.9%) still showed higher rates than public service-related organizations

Business Employees' Perception of Corruption (Necessity & Influence), 2000, 2023

(Unit: %)



Source : Korea Institute of Public Administration, Survey Research on the Level of Perception of Public Corruption in Korea

Note : This refers to the proportion of respondents who answered that "it is necessary" to provide bribes to public officials when handling some tasks at administrative agencies(necessity) and the proportion of those who said that "such behavior is helpful in solving problems" (influence).

(0.25%) or central administrative agencies (0.37%). This indicates that the efforts to improve corrupt practices of public officials in local governments and offices of education have been relatively limited. For offices of education, in particular, a distinct type of corruption, which is illegal donations to school athletic teams, was reported from the 2022 survey. This type of corruption does not apply to other public organizations. In 2025, the rate of experiencing this type of corruption stood at 0.49%.

The proportion of businesses experiencing corruption has also remained at a lower level than before. Businesses may encounter corrupt behavior of public officials while engaging in some administrative tasks needed for their business activities. The experience of corruption, which amounted to nearly 25% in 2000, declined dramatically over the past ten years, and has remained below 5% since 2013. In 2023, only 1.6% of respondents reported having provided bribes, entertainment or other favors to public officials during the previous year. Awareness on corruption has also improved. Between 2000 and 2023, there was a substantial decline both in the proportion of respondents who answered that "it is necessary to provide bribes to public officials when handling some tasks" (necessity: from 36.4% to 9.2%) and those who said that "such behavior is helpful in solving problems" (influence: from 79.4% to 33.8%).

National agencies' communication with the population has improved while political efficacy has declined (🔄 SDG 16.7.2)

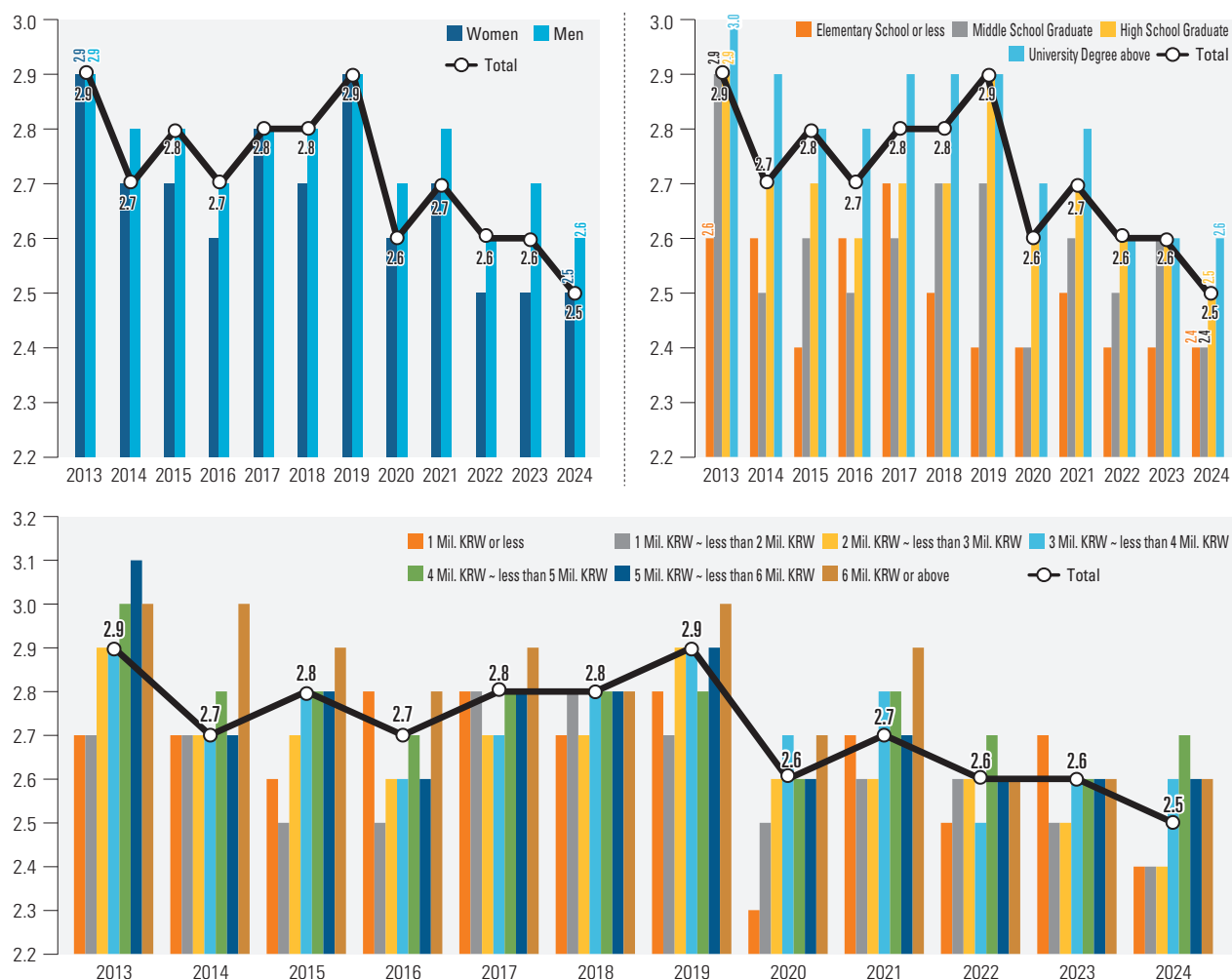
Target 16.7 requires decision-making to be representative, responsive, inclusive and participatory at all levels. Political efficacy refers to the extent to which members of society recognize that their voices can be reflected in the government's institutional processes and contribute to changes. This means that various social groups can participate in decision-making processes and have their voices heard, and it can be therefore used as an indicator to assess whether decision-making structures are responsive and decision-making itself is inclusive.

According to the Korea Social Integration Survey conducted by the Korea Institute of Public Administration, political efficacy perceived by Koreans fluctuated between 2.7 and 2.9 out of 5 from 2013 to 2019. From 2020 to 2023, it slightly fell into the range of 2.6 to 2.7, reaching its lowest level at 2.5 in 2024. By gender, women's political efficacy has continued to remain slightly lower than that of men. In terms of educational attainment and household income, political efficacy was relatively higher among those with a university degree or higher and those in the high-income groups with a monthly income of 6 million KRW or more, whereas it was relatively lower among low-income groups earning less than 3 million KRW per month and those with a middle-school education or less. These findings indicate the need not only to restore overall trust in politics but also to examine whether vulnerable groups, such as women, the low-educated and low-income groups, are not excluded from access to institutional processes.

The assessment of national agencies' communication with the population serves as an indicator for measuring the responsiveness and inclusiveness of decision-making. The communication between the public and national agencies, including the central government, the National Assembly and local governments, was assessed at 2.0 out of 4 in 2013, but it rose to 2.3 in 2024, indicating overall improvements. By agency, the public communication was rated relatively higher for the central government (2.3), local governments (2.4) and

**Political Efficacy by Gender, Educational attainment and Income Level, 2013-2024**

(Unit: scores)

Source : Korea Institute of Public Administration, Korea Social Integration Survey (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Sep 8, 2025)

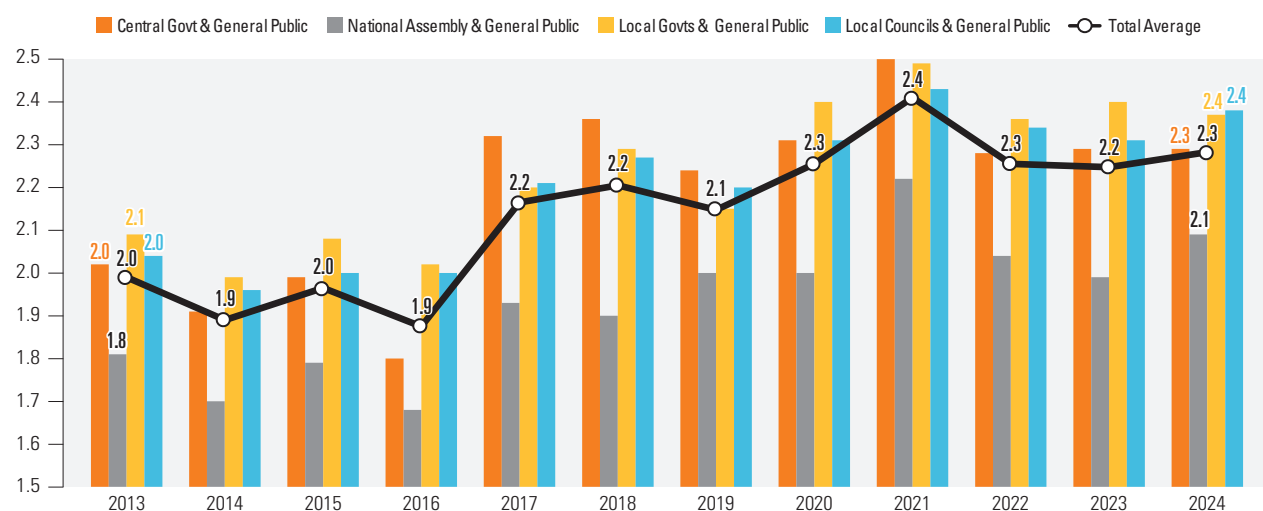
Note 1 : This is an average score calculated through reverse coding of responses on a scale of 5 to the statement, "someone like me cannot make any influence on what the government does," with higher scores indicating greater agreement.

Note 2 : The survey was conducted on the population aged 19 to 69 until 2019, and it has been conducted on those aged 19 or above since 2020.

Note 3 : The figures are based on monthly household income.

Assessment of National Agencies' Public Communication, 2013-2024

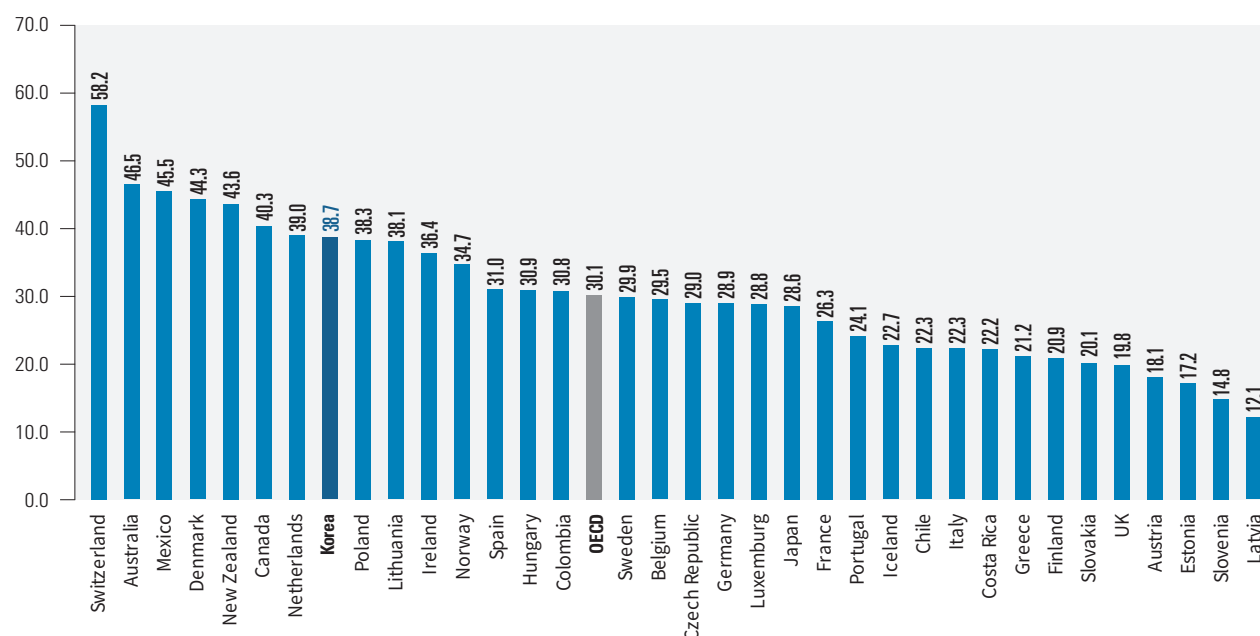
(Unit: scores)

Source : Korea Institute of Public Administration, Korea Social Integration Survey (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Sep 8, 2025)

Note : This refers to an average score of responses on a scale of 4 to the question regarding how well each national agency can communicate with the public.

Perception regarding Inclusiveness of Decision-making in OECD Countries, 2023

(Unit: %)



Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Nov 5, 2025)

Note : The survey is based on the 2024 data for Norway, the 2021 data for Japan and Austria; the OECD average refers to the average of 35 countries excluding the United States, Israel and Türkiye.

local councils (2.4); however, the National Assembly posted the lowest score at 2.1. This suggests that the National Assembly should make greater efforts to improve its communication with the public.

According to UN data, the proportion of the population in Korea who believe that decision-making processes are inclusive stood at 38.7% in 2023, placing Korea 8th among the 35 OECD countries for which data are available. The inclusiveness of decision-making in Korea was rated lower than that of top-ranked countries, such as Switzerland (58.2%) and Australia (46.5%), but higher than that of countries in the lowest tier, such as Latvia (12.1%) and Slovenia (14.8%) as well as major Western European countries, including the United Kingdom (19.8%), France (26.3%) and Germany (28.9%).

While the overall discrimination experience rate has declined, discrimination based on age and gender was reported most frequently (SDG 16.b.1)

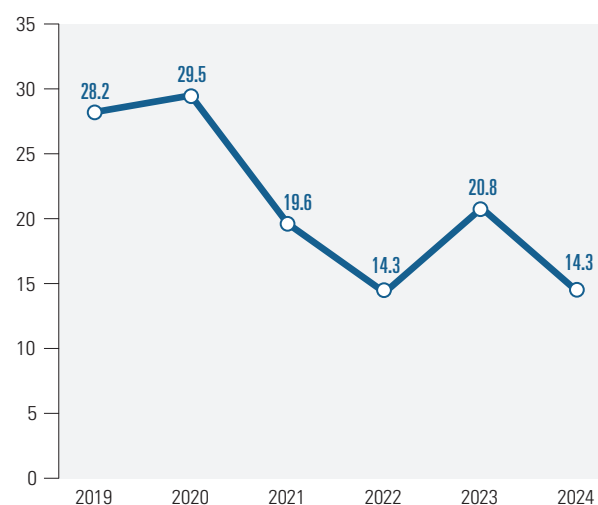
According to the National Survey on Human Rights in Korea conducted by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, about 14.3% of respondents in 2024 reported having experienced discrimination for any reason during the past year.

This represents a sharp decline compared to 28.2% in 2019. Among the reasons for discrimination, age-based (5.1%) and gender-based (4.5%) discrimination were reported at relatively higher rates. Discrimination was also reported on the basis of economic status (3.8%), employment type (3.2%), educational attainment (3.1%) and physical conditions (2.6%).

As gender- and age-based discrimination women experience

Discrimination Experience Rate, 2019-2024

(Unit: %)

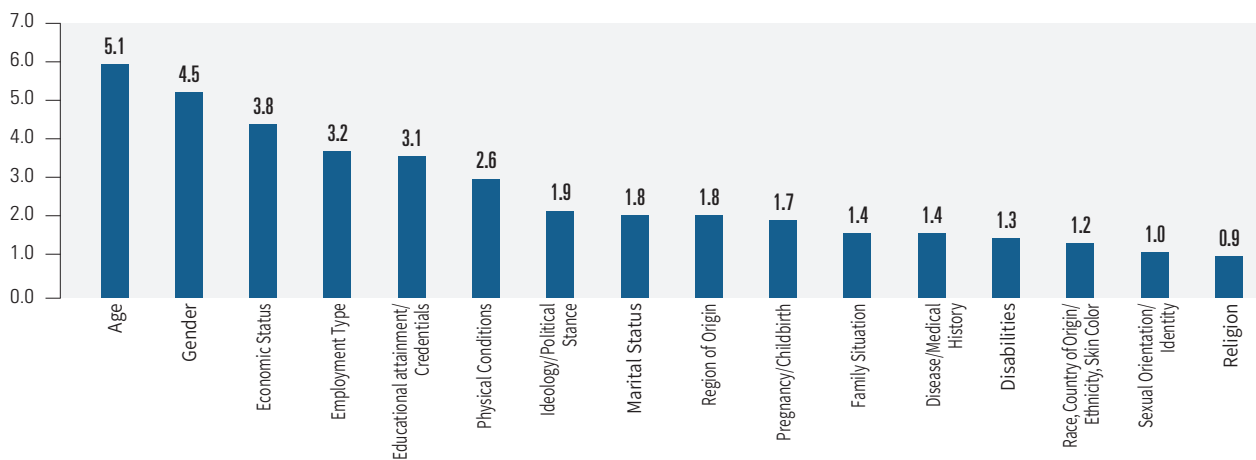


Source : National Human Rights Commission of Korea, National Survey on Human Rights (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Sep 21, 2025)

Note : This refers to the proportion of respondents who answered that they had experienced discrimination for any reason over the previous year.

**Discrimination Experience Rate by Reason, 2024**

(Unit: %)

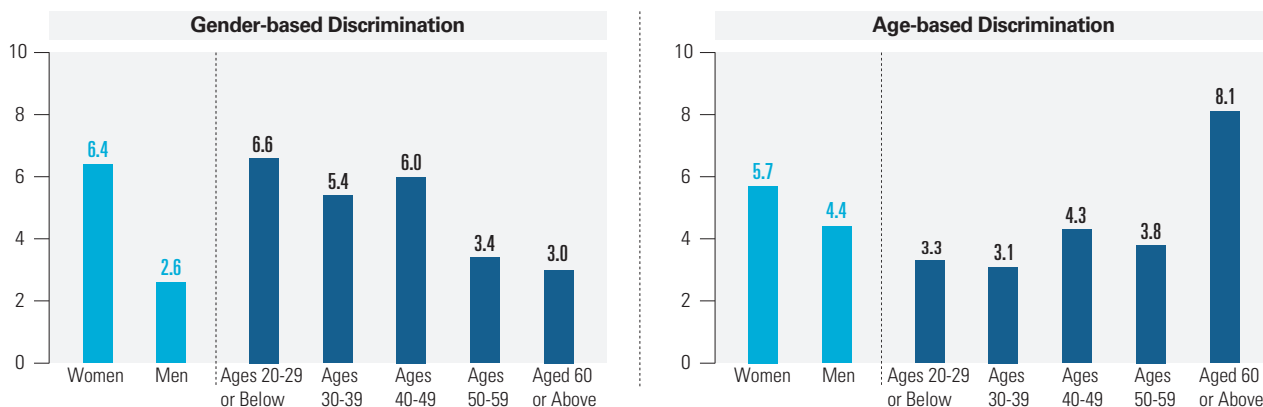
Source : National Human Rights Commission of Korea, National Survey on Human Rights (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Sep 21, 2025)

Note 1 : This refers to the proportion of respondents who answered that they had experienced discrimination for any of the 16 reasons over the previous year.

Note 2 : "None" responses also include "not applicable."

Gender- and Age-based Discrimination Experience Rate by Gender and Age Group, 2024

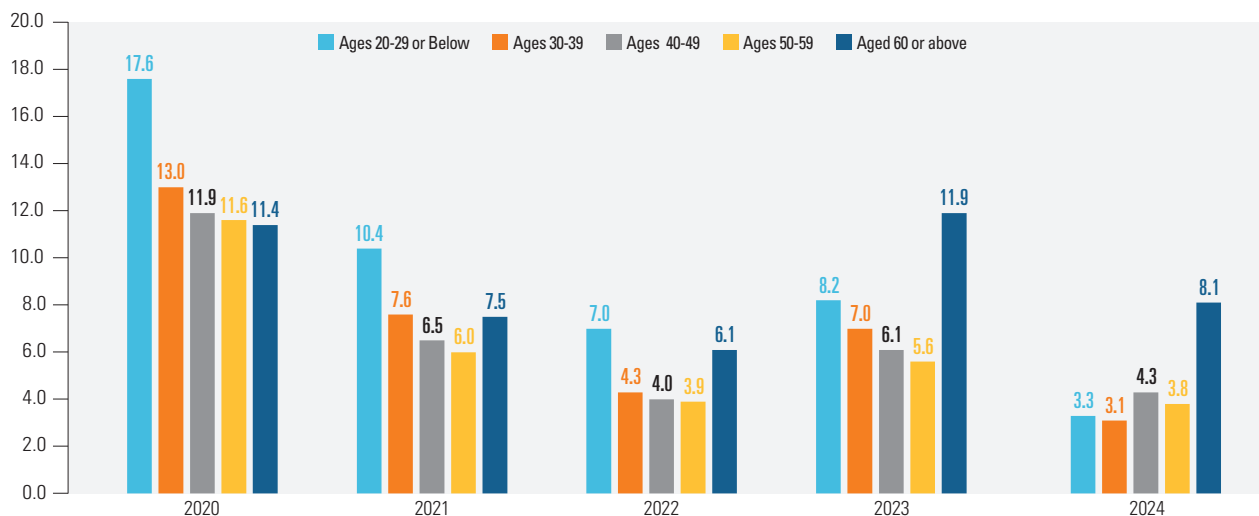
(Unit: %)

Source : National Human Rights Commission of Korea, National Survey on Human Rights (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Sep 21, 2025)

Note : This refers to the proportion of respondents who answered that they had experienced discrimination for the corresponding reason over the previous year.

Age-based Discrimination Experience Rate by Age Group, 2020-2024

(Unit: %)

Source : National Human Rights Commission of Korea, National Survey on Human Rights (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Sep 21, 2025)

Note : This refers to the proportion of respondents who answered that they had experienced discrimination for the corresponding reason over the previous year.

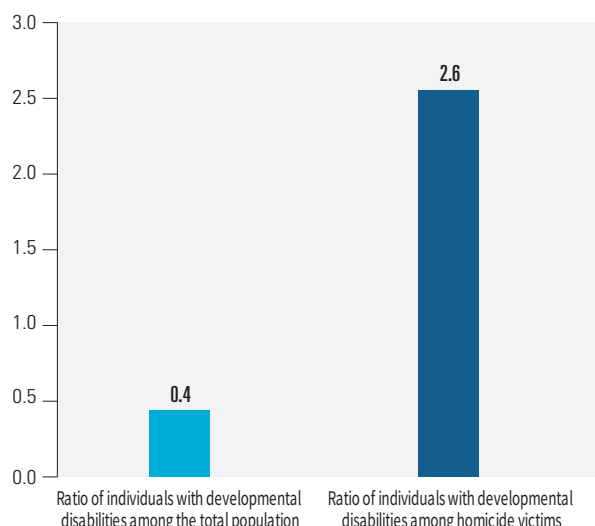
gender-based discrimination more frequently than men (6.4% for women and 2.6% for men), and they are more likely than men to experience age-based discrimination (5.7% for women, 4.4% for men). By age group, gender-based discrimination was reported relatively more often among young adults in their 20s (6.6%) and those in their 40s (6.0%) and 30s (5.4%). While age-based discrimination was concentrated among young adults in their 20s (17.6%) in 2020, there has been a shift in recent trends, with increased discrimination among those aged 60 or older (8.1% in 2024).

The decline in homicide incidents has remained stagnant SDG 16.1.1

Homicide crimes in Korea steadily decreased after 2010; however, this downward trend has stagnated since 2021. In 2024, there were 274 homicide cases. When calculated per 100,000 population, this corresponds to 0.54. Compared to 0.85 per 100,000 population in 2011, this represents a decline of 37.0%. However, there has been no further decrease since 2021.

Rate of Homicide Crimes Targeting Persons with Developmental Disabilities, 2024

(Unit: %)



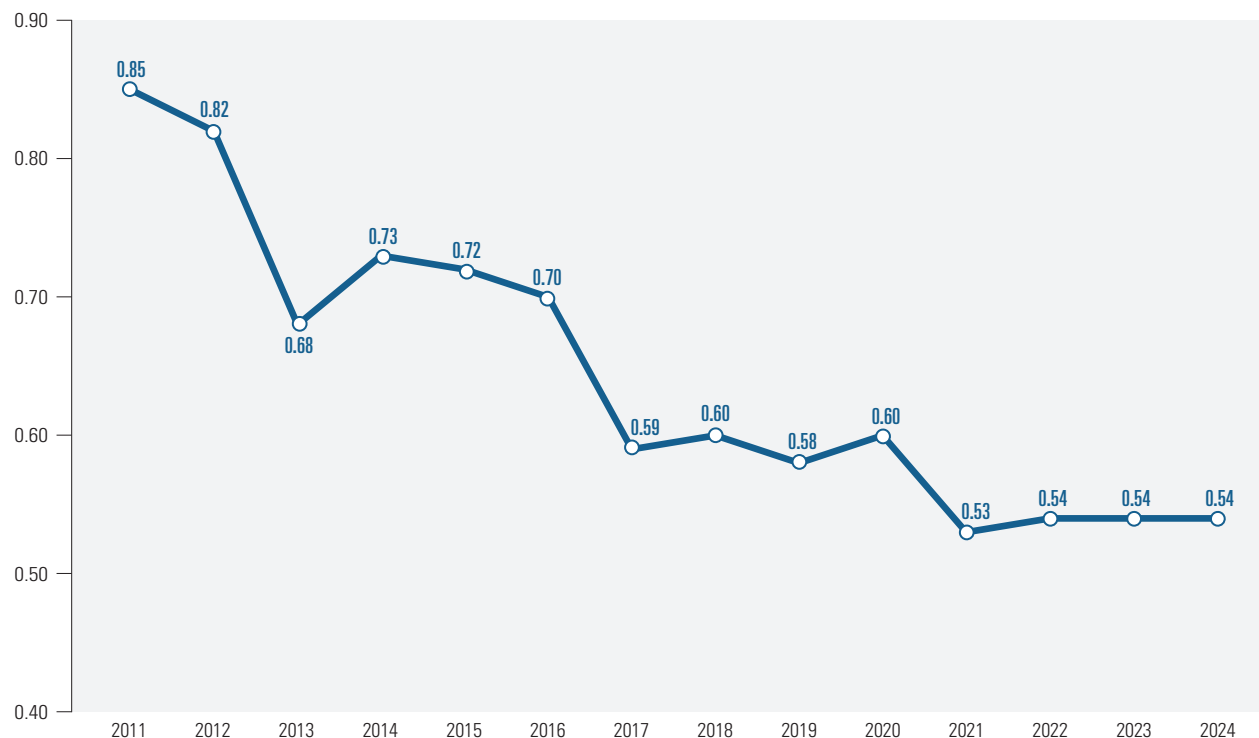
Source : National Police Agency, Crime Statistics; Korea Employment Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Survey on Work and Life of Persons with Developmental Disabilities (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Jan 24, 2026)

Note : This is based on representative victims of homicide crimes and the mid-year registered population.

Since 2023, crimes committed against persons with developmental disabilities, including intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorders, have been compiled separately.

Homicide Rate, 2011-2024

(Unit: per 100,000 population)

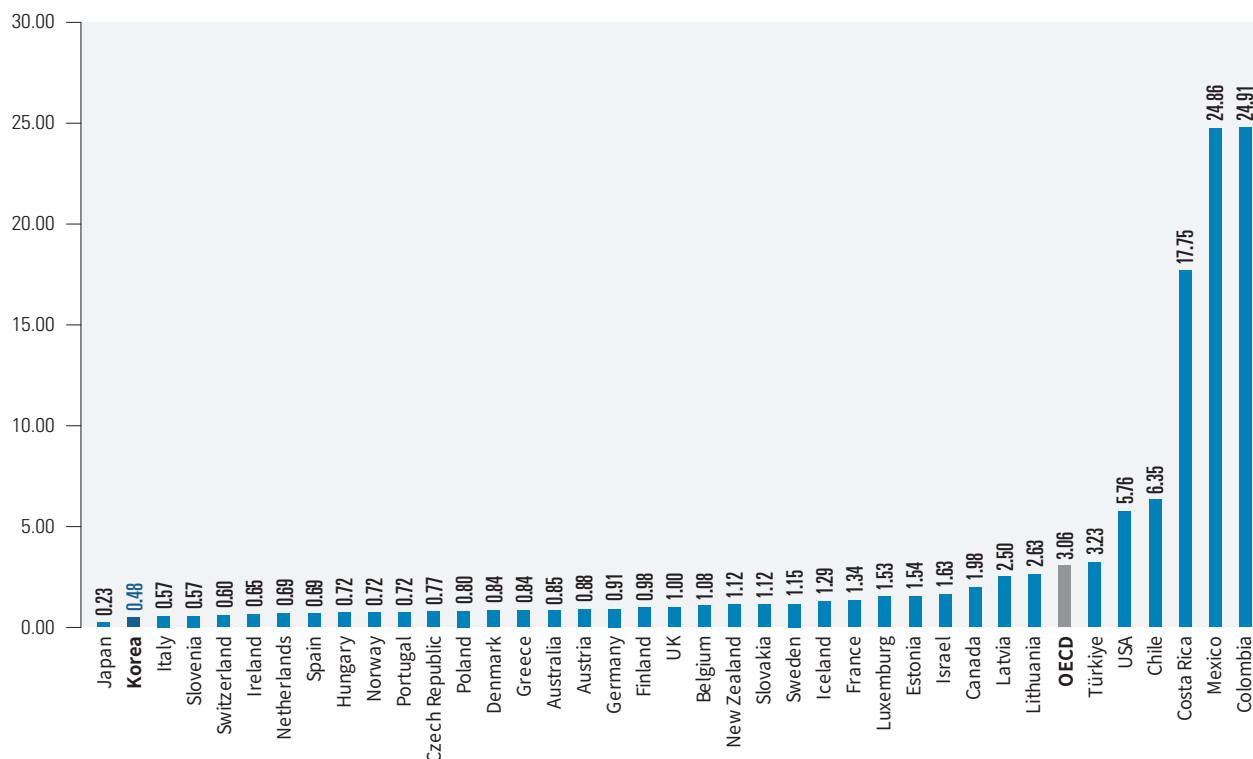


Source : National Police Agency, Crime Statistics (<https://kosis.kr>, retrieved on Sep 17, 2025)

Note : Homicide Rate = (No. of Homicide Crimes ÷ mid-year registered population) × 100,000

Homicide Rate in OECD Countries, 2023

(Unit: per 100,000 population)


Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Jan 24, 2026)

Note : The survey is based on the 2020 data for the United Kingdom, the 2021 data for Belgium and New Zealand, and the 2022 data for Portugal, Luxembourg and Israel.

In 2024, there were 7 homicide crimes against those with developmental disabilities, accounting for 2.6% of the total homicide crimes in the same year. Considering that there are about 220,000 people with developmental disabilities, which account for 0.4% of the total population in Korea, persons with developmental disabilities were disproportionately affected by homicide crimes relative to their share in the population. It is therefore necessary to strengthen efforts to prevent crimes against vulnerable groups.

In 2023, a comparisons of homicide victims per 100,000 population across the OECD countries shows that the figures were much higher in Latin American countries, including Colombia (24.91), Mexico (24.86) and Costa Rica (17.75). In 16 countries, such as Chile (6.35) and the United States (5.76), the rates ranged from 1 to 7. The figure was even less than 1 for the remaining 19 OECD countries, about half of the 38 member states. Korea's figure stood at 0.48, ranking second lowest among the OECD countries. Japan recorded the lowest at 0.23.

Successes and limitations of legal frameworks introduced to prevent human trafficking

(SDG 16.2.2)

SDG 16.2.2 counts the number of human trafficking victims as an indicator. Human trafficking is carried out for various purposes, such as forced labor and sexual exploitation. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime(UNODC), about 200,000 people were identified as victims of human trafficking between 2020 and 2023 worldwide. Among these victims, children accounted for 38%.

The number of human trafficking victims in Korea is not officially counted by the UN. Instead, it can be identified from the Comprehensive Plan on Human Trafficking Prevention Policies. According to the data, between 2016 and 2020, there were a total of 3,233 cases of human trafficking crimes in Korea (an annual average of 646.6 cases). Of these, 46 cases (an annual average of 9.2 cases) constituted human trafficking offenses under the Criminal Act. Article 289 of the Criminal

Act defines human trafficking offenses as human trafficking for the following purposes: molestation, marriage, profits, labor exploitation, sexual exploitation and the removal of human organs. Meanwhile, the Act on Prevention of Human Trafficking and Protection of Victims stipulates the definition of human trafficking crimes in a broader context, including not only human trafficking offenses set forth in Article 289 of the Criminal Act, but also abduction and inducement of minors as prescribed in Article 287 of the Criminal Act, coercion into prostitution under Article 18 of the Act on the Punishment of Arrangement of Commercial Sex Acts and the sale of children and juveniles under Article 12 of the Act on the Protection of Children and Youth against Sex Offenses.

In Korea, the Criminal Act was amended in 2013 to newly introduce the offense of human trafficking and to stipulate punitive provisions. In 2021, the Act on Prevention of Human Trafficking and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking

(Anti-Human Trafficking Act) was enacted, clearly defining the concept of human trafficking and laying the foundations for the protection of victims. In 2023, Korea also formulated the 1st Comprehensive Plan on Human Trafficking Prevention (2023-2027), building an integrated response system that encompasses prevention, early identification, protection and punishment and undertaking efforts to notify indicators for victim identification. In the Trafficking in Persons Report published by the U.S. Department of State, which assesses each country's response to human trafficking, Korea's efforts to eradicate human trafficking in 2024 were rated as Tier 1. The report positively evaluated its measures, such as strengthened investigations and prosecutions of human trafficking cases and the implementation of victim identification indicators, while also pointing out that more efforts would be needed to improve insufficient responses to forced labor involving foreign workers in the fishing industry.



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



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Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

SDG 17 highlights the importance of strengthening the means of implementation and enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Globally, debt servicing costs in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) have reached historically high levels, while an estimated annual investment gap of around USD 4 trillion continues to hinder progress towards achieving the SDGs. In 2024, Korea's official development assistance (ODA) increased further, reaching a record high. However, the fiscal and revenue bases of governments that underpin SDG implementation remain uneven. At the same time, growing migrant workers flows underscore the need to strengthen institutional frameworks to facilitate safe, orderly and regular remittance flows through formal channels.

» Korea's official development assistance (ODA) increased by 27.6% year on year to USD 4.03 billion in 2024 (grant-equivalent terms), with the ODA-to-GNI ratio reaching a record high of 0.21%.

- Among the 32 members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), Korea ranked 13th in total ODA volume, while its ODA-to-GNI ratio ranked 25th, improving by three positions compared to the previous year.

» ODA to least developed countries (LDCs) amounted to USD 0.84 billion in 2023 (gross disbursements), accounting for 31.5% of total bilateral ODA and remaining at 0.06% of GNI.

- ODA to fragile contexts reached USD 0.98 billion, representing 36.8% of bilateral ODA. Of this, development cooperation accounted for 86.7%, while peacebuilding and humanitarian assistance accounted for 8.5% and 4.8%, respectively.

» In 2023, total government revenue amounted to 34.8% of GDP, while domestic taxes financed 55.2% of total government expenditure.

- The government revenue-to-GDP ratio has increased gradually from 26.8% in 2000, reflecting an expansion of the fiscal base, but remains below the OECD average of 38.0%.
- The share of government expenditure financed by domestic taxes declined to 55.2% in 2023 due to reduced tax revenues, compared to 61.8% in 2022, which was broadly in line with the OECD average (62.0%).

» Remittance inflows remain low, at less than 0.5% of GDP. However, outward remittance flows by migrant workers residing in Korea have been increasing steadily.

- In line with the SDG objective of mobilizing diversified sources of development finance, Korea, as a remittance-sending country, needs to strengthen institutional frameworks to reduce remittance costs and facilitate remittance flows through formal channels.

ODA-to-GNI ratio increased to 0.21% (📈 SDG 17.2.1)

The Republic of Korea's official development assistance (ODA) increased to USD 4.03 billion in 2024 (grant-equivalent terms), marking a 27.6% increase from the previous year. Following an 11.6% increase in 2023, ODA growth accelerated further in 2024. The ODA-to-GNI ratio reached 0.21%, the highest level since Korea joined the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in 2010.

Under a sound fiscal policy framework, Korea has steadily expanded its ODA budget, with the objective of becoming a leading donor country. The Third Basic Plan for International Development Cooperation (2021) set a target to more than

double ODA by 2030 compared to 2019 levels. With the 2025 ODA budget reaching KRW 6.5 trillion, this target has already been achieved ahead of schedule.

Bilateral ODA amounted to USD 3.19 billion in 2024, representing a 37.2% increase year on year. Both grants (USD 2.23 billion) and concessional loans (USD 0.95 billion) recorded substantial growth. Within bilateral ODA, notable increases were observed in humanitarian assistance (USD 0.66 billion), emergency response (USD 0.65 billion), and economic infrastructure and services (USD 2.55 billion). Meanwhile, multilateral ODA amounted to USD 0.84 billion, up 0.9% from the previous year.



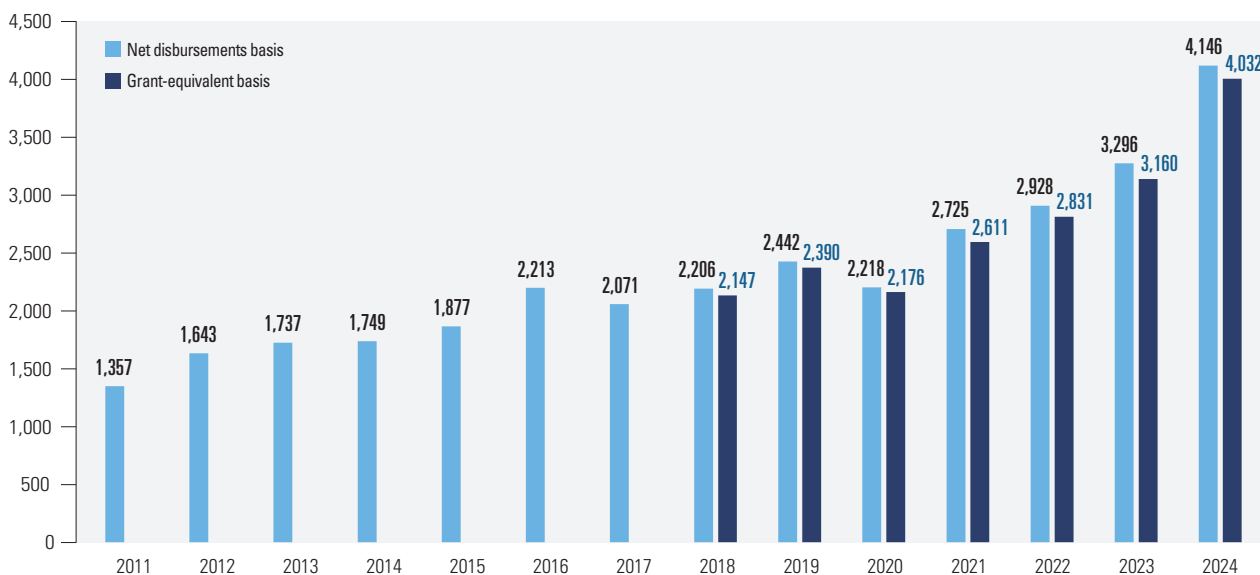
In 2025, Latvia joined the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), bringing total membership to 32 countries. Among DAC members, Korea ranked 13th in total ODA volume in 2024. Major donors included the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan and France. Total ODA

provided by DAC members amounted to USD 210 billion in 2024, representing a decline from the previous year, largely reflecting the scaling back of temporary increases related to the COVID-19 pandemic and support for refugees from Ukraine.

In terms of the ODA-to-GNI ratio, Korea ranked 25th

Korea's Official Development Assistance (ODA), 2011-2024

(Unit: USD million)

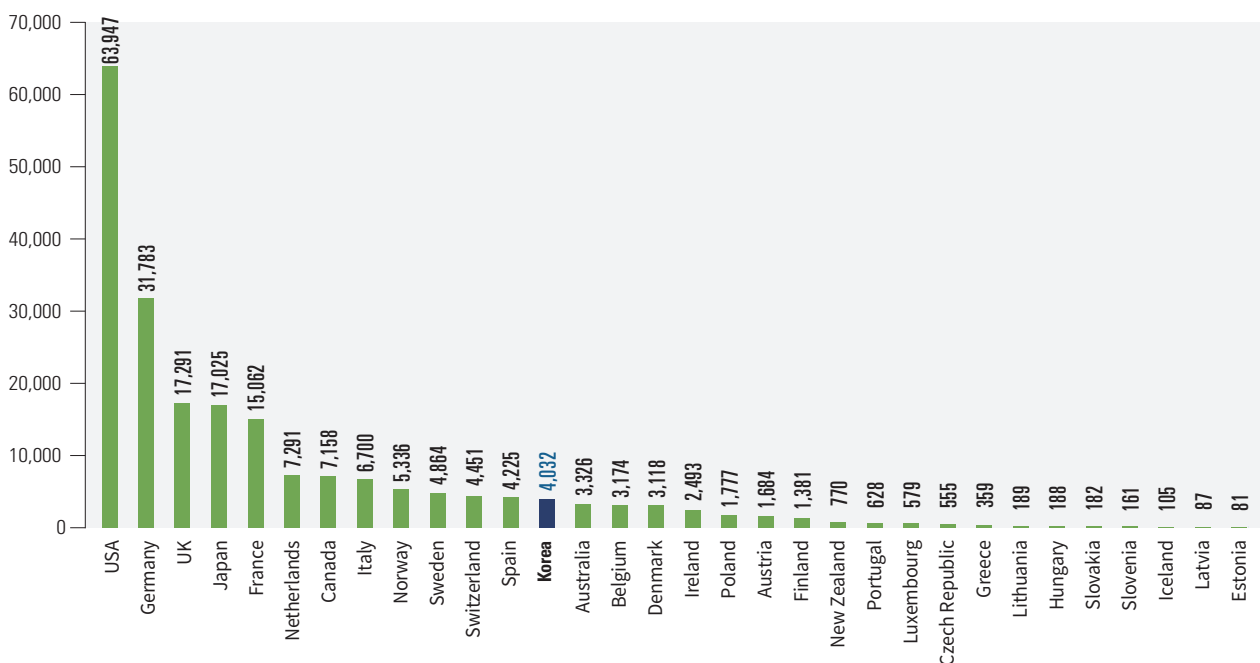


Source : OECD, Development Co-operation Profiles: Korea(https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/development-co-operation-profiles_04b376d7-en/korea_d358baed-en.html); OECD, OECD data explore (<https://data-explorer.oecd.org/>, retrieved on March 14, 2026)

Note 1 : Figures are based on constant 2023 prices.

ODA by OECD DAC Member Countries, 2024

(Unit: USD million)

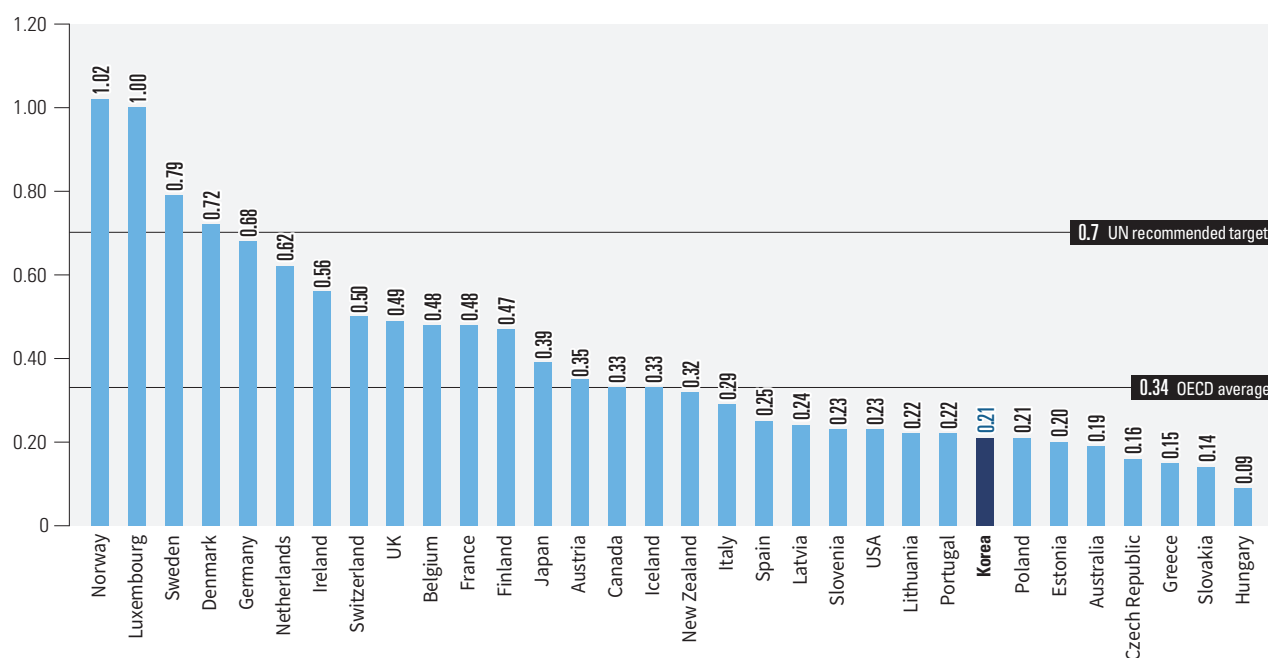


Source : OECD, OECD 2025 Flows by donor (<https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/development-co-operation.html>, retrieved on March 10, 2026)

Note : Figures are based on a grant-equivalent basis.

ODA-to-GNI Ratios by OECD DAC Member Countries, 2024

(Unit: %)

Source : OECD, 2025, Preliminary official development assistance levels in 2024 ([https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD\(2025\)6/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD(2025)6/en/pdf))

Note : Figures are based on a grant-equivalent basis.

among DAC members in 2024, improving from 28th in 2023. The DAC average stood at 0.34% in 2024. Only four countries met or exceeded the United Nations target of allocating 0.7% of GNI to ODA: Norway, Luxembourg, Sweden and Denmark

Bilateral ODA to least developed countries declined from the previous year by 1.5% in 2023 (SDG 17.2.1)

Korea's bilateral official development assistance (ODA) amounted to USD 2.66 billion in 2023 (gross disbursements), representing a 6.7% increase from the previous year. Of this, 39.6% was allocated to lower middle-income countries (LMICs), 31.5% to least developed countries (LDCs), and 10.1% to upper middle-income countries (UMICs).

ODA to LDCs amounted to USD 0.85 billion, a decrease of 1.5% from 2022. Despite this decline, support to LDCs has more than doubled since 2011 and continues to account for over 30% of bilateral ODA. The share of ODA to LDCs relative to GNI remained at around 0.06% between 2021 and 2023, below the United Nations target of 0.15–0.20%.

In 2023, Korea provided USD 0.48 billion in bilateral ODA

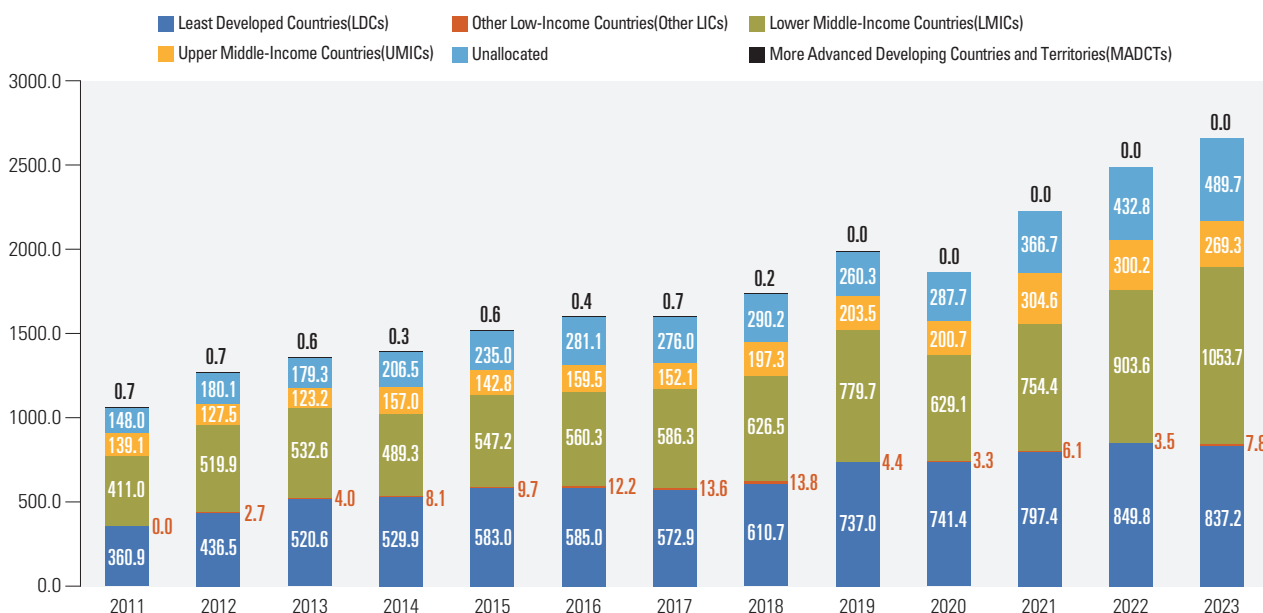
to landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), accounting for 18% of total bilateral ODA. Support to small island developing States (SIDS) amounted to USD 0.06 billion, representing 2.1% of bilateral ODA.

Support to fragile contexts classified as experiencing high or extreme fragility amounted to USD 0.98 billion in 2023, accounting for 36.8% of total bilateral ODA. According to the OECD, fragile contexts are characterized by high exposure to risks across economic, environmental, human, political, security and societal dimensions, combined with limited capacity to manage, absorb or mitigate these risks. As of 2025, 61 countries and territories were classified as experiencing high or extreme fragility.

The humanitarian–development–peace nexus has gained prominence as an integrated approach to addressing the multiple and interlinked risks faced by fragile contexts. In 2023, development cooperation accounted for 86.7% of Korea's support to fragile contexts (USD 0.85 billion), while peacebuilding and humanitarian assistance accounted for 8.5% and 4.8%, respectively. The share of humanitarian assistance declined from 11.5% in 2021, while the share of peacebuilding increased from 5.0% over the same period.

**ODA by Income Group of Recipient Countries, Korea, 2011-2023**

(Unit: USD million)



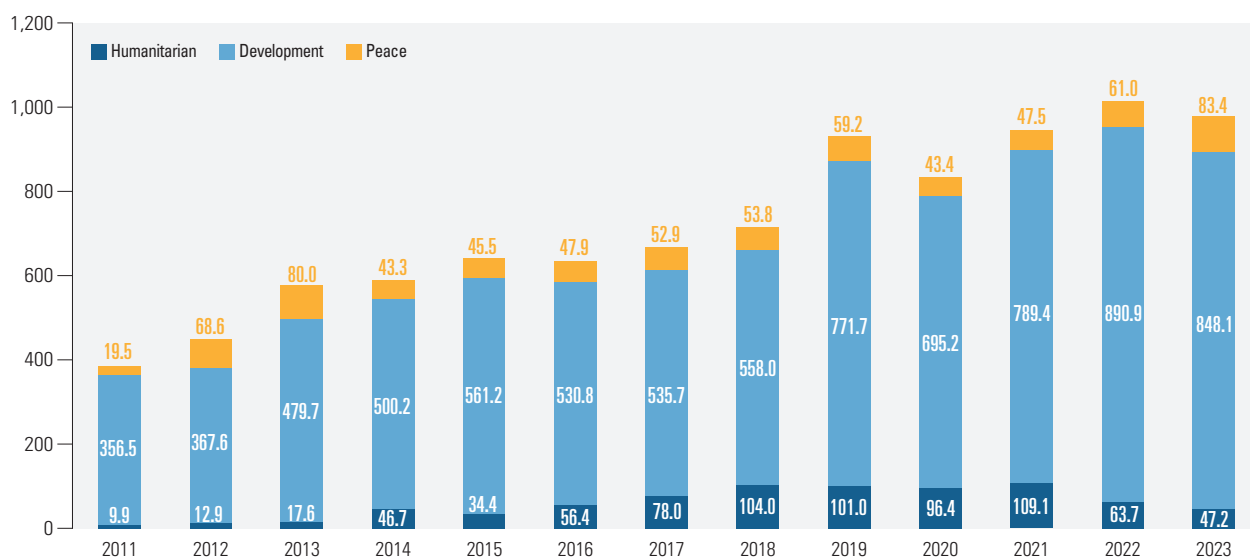
Source : OECD, Development Co-operation Profiles: Korea

https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/development-co-operation-profiles_04b376d7-en/korea_d358baed-en.html

Note : Figures are based on gross disbursements and expressed in constant 2023 prices.

Korea's Support to Fragile Contexts and the Humanitarian Development Peace (HDP) Nexus, 2011-2023

(Unit: USD million)



Source : OECD, Development Co-operation Profiles: Korea

https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/development-co-operation-profiles_04b376d7-en/korea_d358baed-en.html

Note : Figures are based on gross disbursements and expressed in constant 2023 prices.

Within peacebuilding, support for conflict prevention increased from 1.2% of bilateral ODA in 2022 to 2.0% in 2023.

Total Government Revenue: Slight decline amid upward trend (📈 SDG 17.1.1)

Mobilizing domestic resources remains central to the effective

implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A strong public finance base enables increased spending on social welfare, education, and health, thereby laying the foundation for reducing social inequalities and promoting inclusive growth. Through the redistributive effects of tax and fiscal policies, governments can contribute to addressing inequality, while new

tax instruments, such as carbon taxes and environmental taxes, can generate resources to respond to climate and environmental challenges. Against this backdrop, this section examines the government's fiscal base by assessing total government revenue as a proportion of GDP.

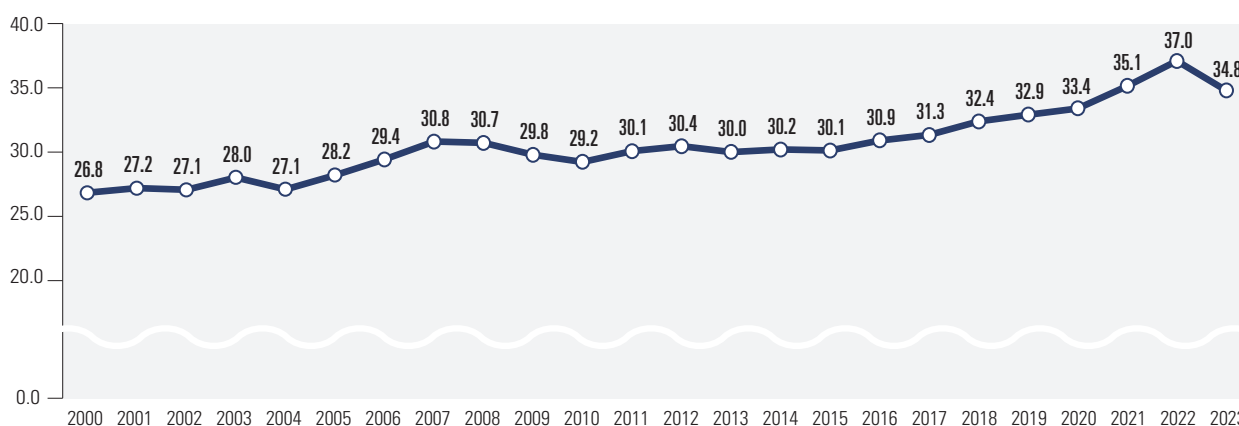
According to OECD data, Korea's total general government revenue amounted to 34.8% of GDP in 2023. The ratio has

increased steadily from 26.8% in 2000 and has remained above 30% since 2011, reaching a peak of 37.0% in 2022.

Despite this upward trend, Korea's level remains below that of most OECD countries. Norway recorded the highest ratio at 63.2%, while Finland, France, Denmark and Austria also reported levels above 50%. In contrast, Korea ranked 30th among OECD countries in 2023.

Total General Government Revenue as a Proportion of GDP, 2000-2023

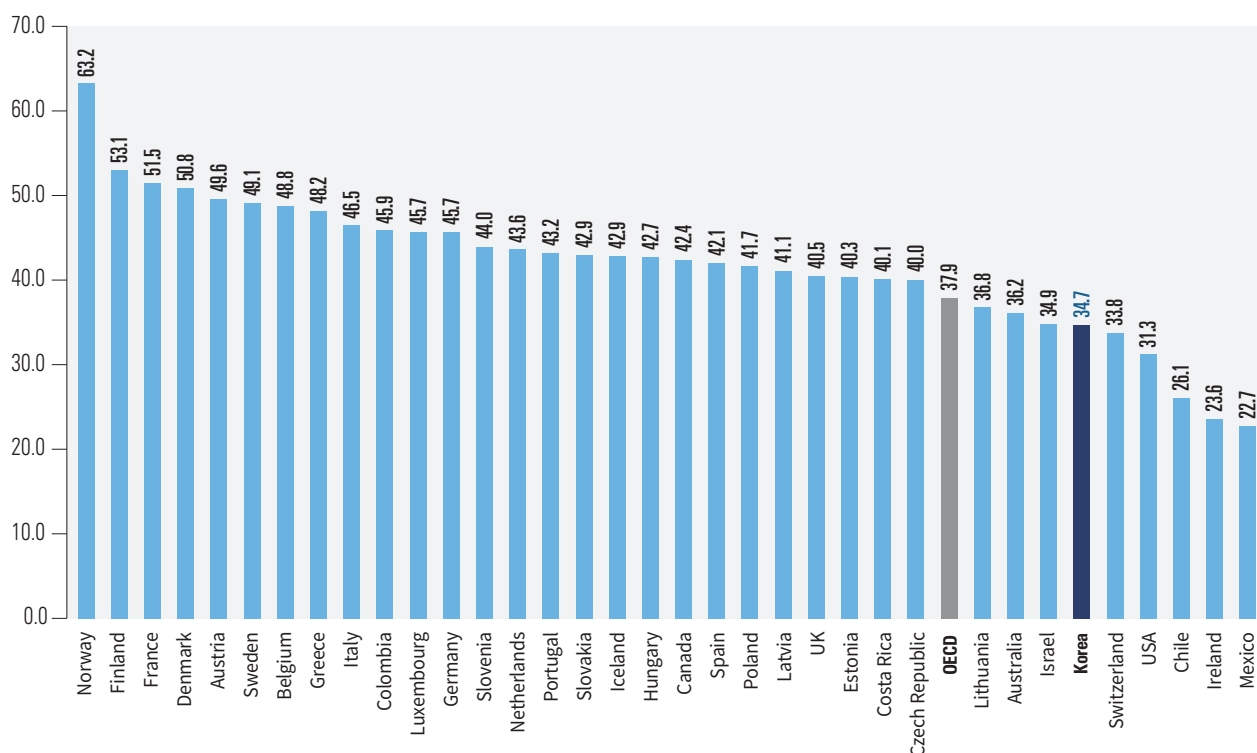
(Unit: %)



Source : Ministry of Data and Statistics, Korean Statistical Information Service (https://kosis.kr/statHtml/statHtml.do?orgId=101&tblId=DT_20EE0023&conn_path=I2, retrieved on January 9, 2026); OECD, General government revenue (<https://www.oecd.org/en/data/indicators/general-government-revenue.html>, retrieved on January 9, 2026)

Total General Government Revenue as a Proportion of GDP by OECD Country, 2023

(Unit: %)



Source : OECD, General government revenue (<https://www.oecd.org/en/data/indicators/general-government-revenue.html>, retrieved on January 18, 2026)

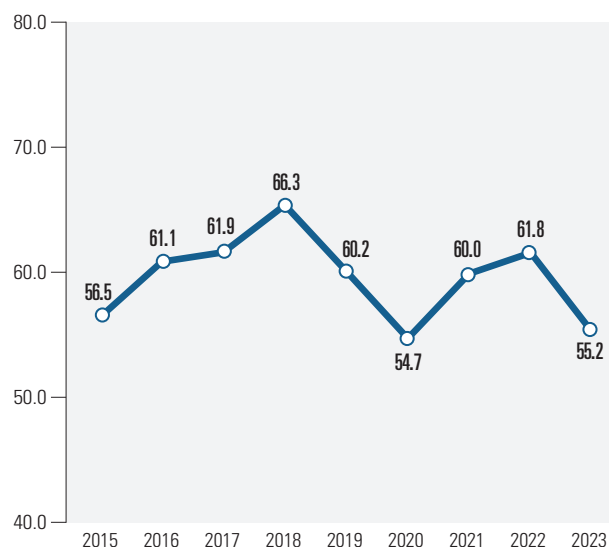


Domestic taxes financed 55.2% of government expenditure (SDG 17.1.2)

Strengthening domestic resource mobilization remains essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This constitutes one of the core national capacities required for the implementation of sustainable development. The proportion of government expenditure funded by domestic taxes is an indicator of a country's capacity to mobilize its own financial resources. Strengthening tax systems relates not only to securing public revenues but also to income redistribution, inequality reduction, and the mobilization of resources for climate action, thereby contributing to multiple SDG objectives.

In Korea, domestic taxes financed 55.2% of total government expenditure in 2023. The ratio has fluctuated between 50% and 60% since 2015, reaching a peak of 66.3% in 2018. It declined to 54.7% in 2020 amid reduced tax revenues and expansionary fiscal measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, before recovering to above 60% in 2021 and 2022. In 2023, the ratio declined again to 55.2%, reflecting weaker

Share of Government Expenditure Financed by Tax Revenues, 2015-2023 (Unit: %)

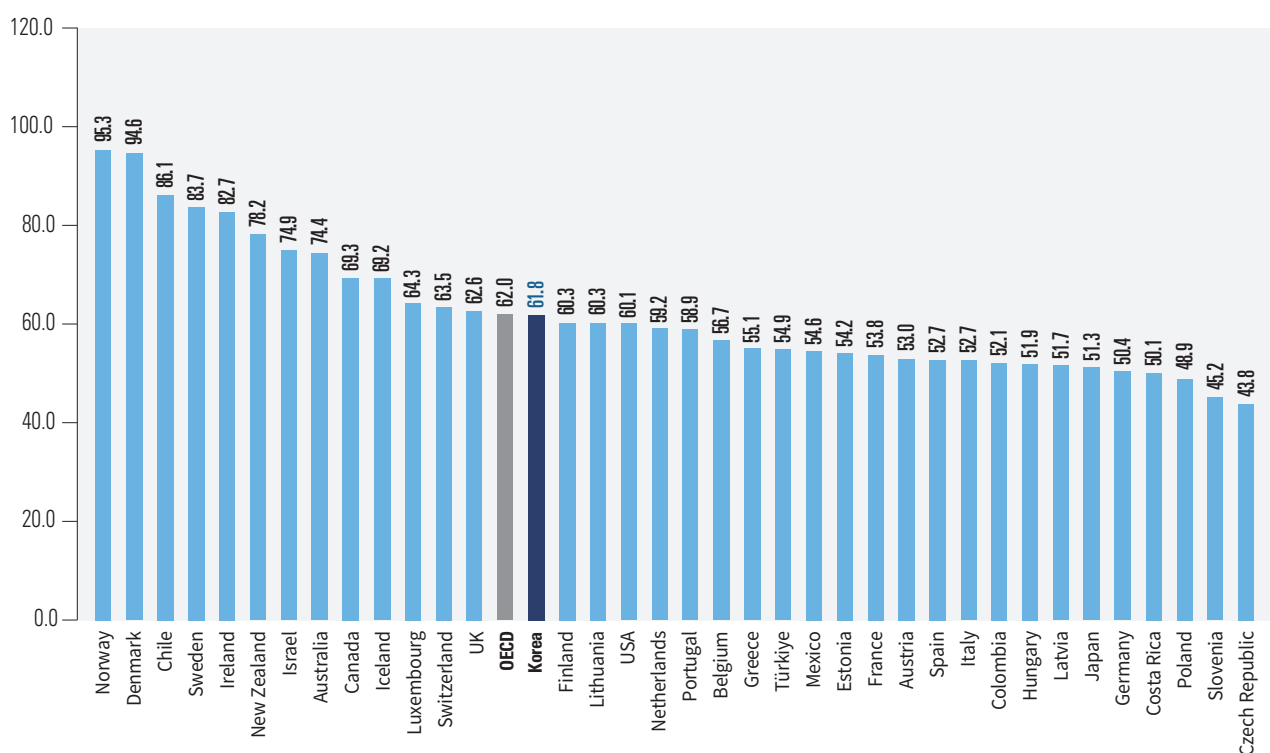


Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database
(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on January 9, 2026)

tax revenues associated with slower economic activity.

According to OECD data, Korea's tax-financing ratio stood at 61.8% in 2022, broadly in line with the OECD average (62.0%). While Norway and Denmark reported ratios

Share of Government Expenditure Financed by Tax Revenues by OECD Country, 2022 (Unit: %)



Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on January 9, 2026)

exceeding 90%, most OECD countries, including Korea, recorded levels between 50% and 60%.

Remittance inflows remained below 0.5% of GDP

(SDG 17.3.2)

SDG target 17.3 calls for the mobilization of additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources and includes the ratio of remittances to gross domestic product (GDP) as a key indicator. This indicator measures the share of remittances sent by migrant workers and overseas communities to their countries of origin in relation to GDP, and reflects a country's capacity to mobilize development finance through external inflows.

In many developing countries, remittance inflows account for between 5% and 20% of GDP, and in some small and low-income countries such as Tajikistan (38.4%), Samoa (28.2%), Nicaragua (26.1%), Honduras (26.1%), and Nepal (25.4%), they exceed 25% (as of 2022). In these countries, remittances are often more stable than foreign direct investment (FDI) or official development assistance (ODA), and play a key role in supporting economic resilience. In this regard, remittances constitute an important

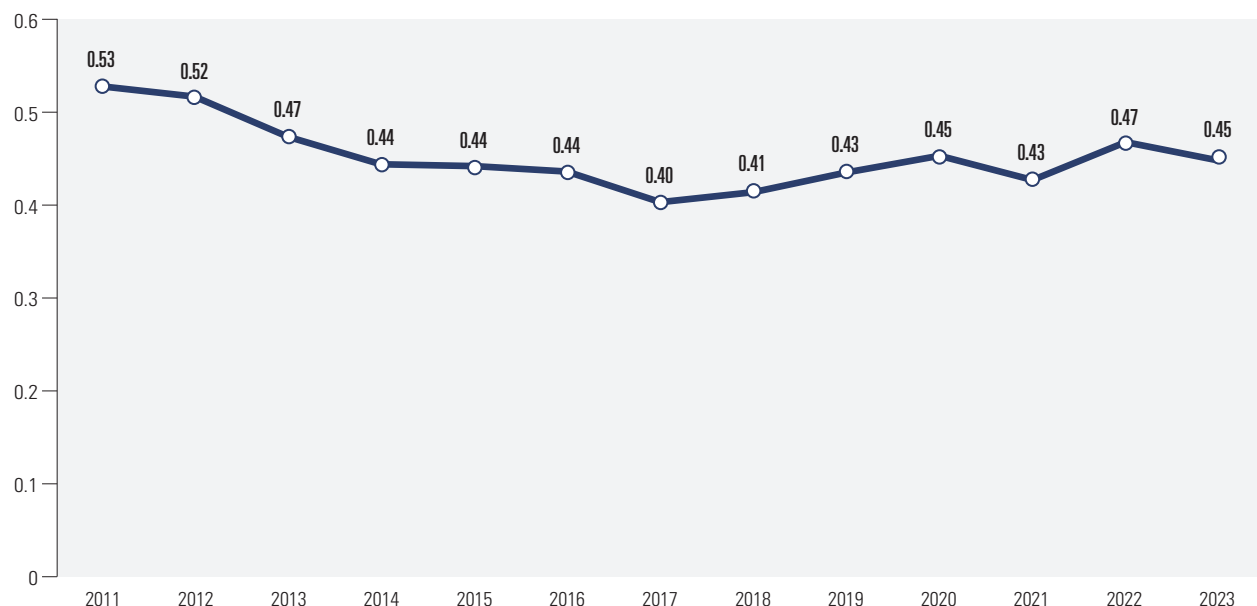
component of the diversification of development finance emphasized under SDG target 17.3.

Korea is currently better characterized as a remittance-sending country rather than a remittance-receiving one. In the 1970s and 1980s, when Korean construction workers were employed in the Middle East, remittance inflows to Korea were substantial. However, in recent years, remittance inflows has remained below 0.5% of GDP since 2013, indicating a relatively low level. By contrast, the volume of remittances sent abroad by migrant workers residing in Korea has continued to increase.

From the perspective of the SDGs, which emphasize the mobilization of financial resources for developing countries, Korea can contribute to the global partnership as a remittance-sending country. In particular, there is a need to strengthen institutional support to reduce remittance costs for migrant workers, including through lower transaction fees and the expansion of formal remittance channels. As a member of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and an ODA donor country, Korea should further enhance its role in ensuring that remittance flows function as a stable source of development finance.

Volume of Remittances as a percentage of GDP, 2011-2023

(Unit: %)



Source : UN, SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on January 12, 2026)



Purpose and Use

The SDG consists of 17 goals and 169 targets, adopted by the global community at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 as a shared commitment to be achieved by 2030 for the sustainable development of humanity. It is built on an integrated approach encompassing the economic, social, and environmental dimensions, with inclusiveness at its core, embodied in the principle of “Leave No One Behind (LNOB).” Progress towards the 2030 targets is reviewed annually through the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), while summit-level meetings are convened every four years.

Achieving the SDG at the global level requires voluntary implementation across countries, regions, and a wide range of stakeholders. Accordingly, the 2030 Agenda, which adopted the SDG, encourages each country to establish its national SDG framework and to regularly review progress in implementation. In the Republic of Korea, the institutional framework for sustainable development has been further strengthened. In 2022, the former Sustainable Development Act, previously administered by the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (formerly the Ministry of Environment), was elevated to the Framework Act on Sustainable Development, now overseen by the Office for Government Policy Coordination. In 2024, the National Committee for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Task Force were established to further consolidate and advance the national implementation framework. The Framework Act on Sustainable Development designates the Ministry of Data and Statistics as an ex officio member of the National Committee for Sustainable Development. It also requires central administrative agencies to consult in advance with the Ministry of Data and Statistics when developing and disseminating national sustainable development indicators, thereby ensuring the statistical integrity and data quality of these indicators.

The Ministry of Data and Statistics, as the SDG data focal point for the Republic of Korea, has led

efforts to collect domestic SDG data, provide data to international organisations, and publish national reports on SDG implementation. Following the publication of the foundational report in 2019, SDG Data and Implementation in the Republic of Korea: A Global Perspective, the Progress Report has been issued annually in both Korean and English at the end of March since 2021.

To enable a more meaningful and comprehensive analysis of implementation progress by indicator, time-series analysis and disaggregated analysis by population groups and regions within the Republic of Korea were undertaken to the extent possible. In addition, Korea’s current standing was assessed through comparisons with major countries. The findings are presented using visual materials, including graphs, in order to enhance both usability and clarity. Furthermore, the report has been prepared to ensure accessibility for a broad audience, including civil society, the general public, and students, with particular care taken to present technical terminology in a clear and accessible manner.

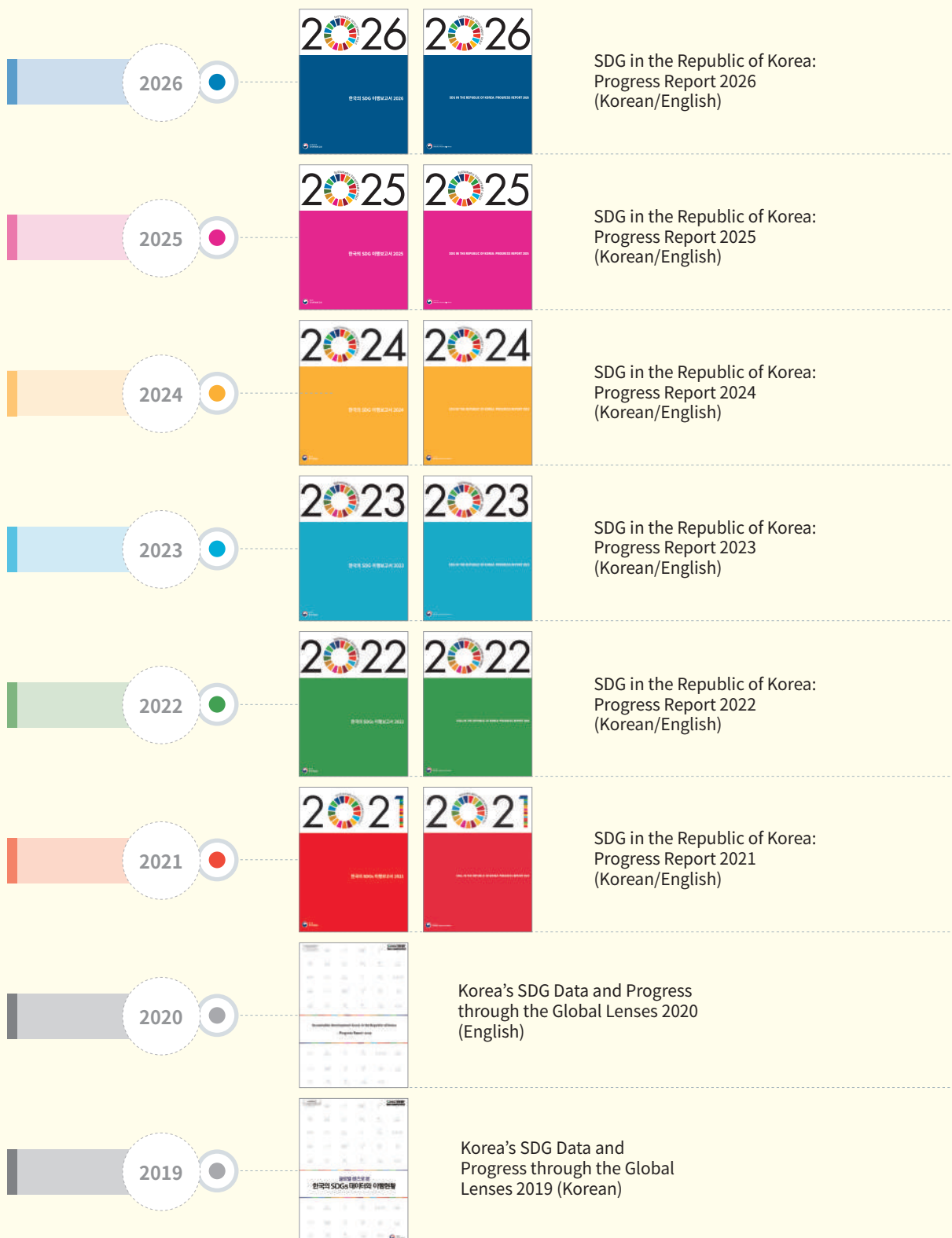
This report serves as a policy resource for policymakers and researchers across various fields, providing an evidence base for the formulation of sustainable development policies. It is also widely utilised as a communication and educational resource for the public, including the media and civil society. In addition, the simultaneous publication of the English edition enables its use by international organisations and researchers.

Data Sources

Statistical data for indicator analysis were primarily drawn from the Ministry of Data and Statistics’ Index Nuri (<https://www.index.go.kr>). Where additional analysis was required, reliable data sources, including officially approved statistics and policy materials, were further incorporated. For international data, the United Nations SDG database was utilised, and, where necessary to ensure more up-to-date and disaggregated analysis, data from relevant international organisations responsible for individual indicators were also used.

History

* The cover color of the report represents a specific goal's color.



Website on which the report is posted: <https://www.index.go.kr/sdg>



Statistical data play a critical role in accelerating progress on the SDG and in providing an essential evidence base for informed policy decisions and effective action. This is because assessments grounded in reliable, timely, and disaggregated data enable a more accurate and nuanced understanding of current conditions. In this regard, the United Nations has supported capacity-building efforts for SDG indicator data across multiple areas, resulting in substantial progress.

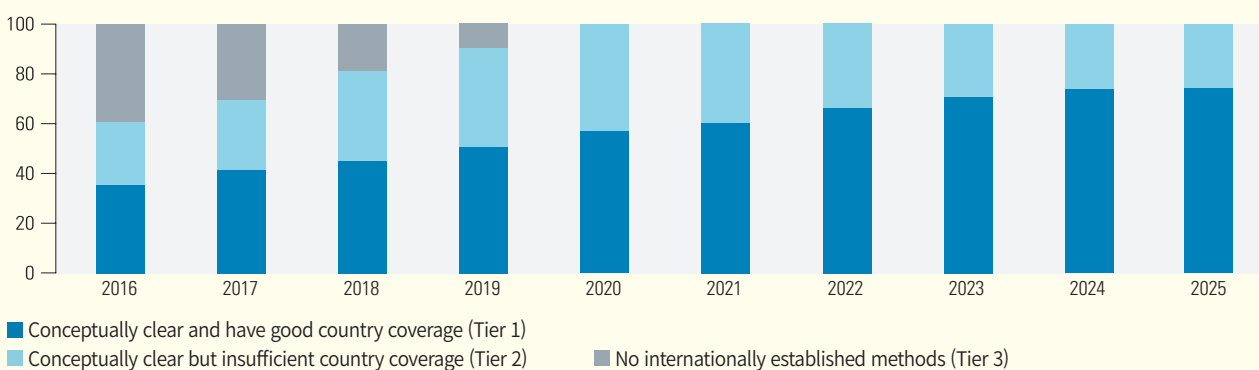
At the time the draft global SDG indicator framework was introduced in 2016, 39% of indicators lacked internationally agreed methodologies, corresponding to Tier III. By 2020, just four years later, all indicators had been equipped with standardised methodologies. The share of indicators for which data are regularly produced at the national level increased from 36% in 2016 to 74% in 2025, corresponding to Tier I. As a result, the framework

has evolved into a system capable of ensuring data accuracy, reliability, and comparability. However, data for 26% of indicators are still not produced on a regular basis, corresponding to Tier II, pointing to the ongoing need for strengthened statistical capacity in countries with more limited resources.

As of 2025, the data availability rate for the Republic of Korea in relation to the global SDG indicators stands at 81%. The Ministry of Data and Statistics identifies and compiles domestic and international statistics that align with the conceptual definitions of the global SDG indicators and provides the corresponding data and metadata through Index Nuri (<https://www.index.go.kr/sdg>). An analysis of data availability by goal indicates that seven goals continue to fall below the overall average. Among these, data gaps are particularly evident in gender equality (Goal 5), climate action (Goal 13), and peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16).

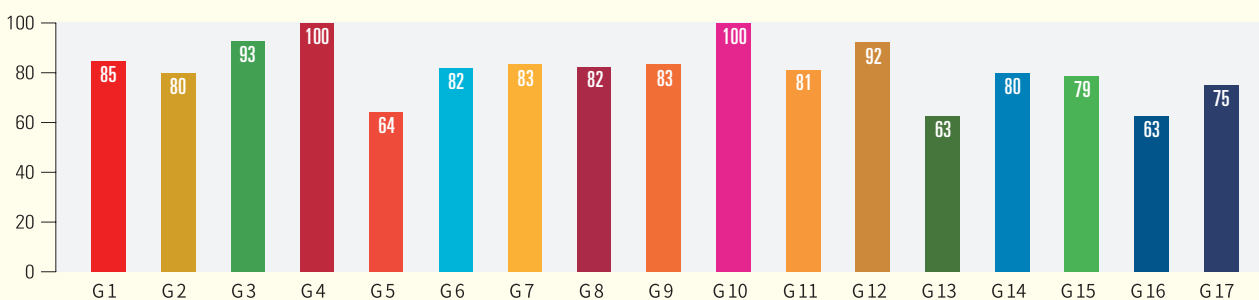
Tier Status of Global SDG Indicator

(Unit: %)



Korea's of SDG Data Availability by Goal(as of Dec. 2025)

(Unit: %)



Global Indicator Framework for the SDGs

From 2023, core indicators and rotation indicators for each goal have been selected for systematic and comprehensive monitoring. Core indicators will be used annually, and rotation indicators will be used for monitoring every 3-5 years.

* Indicators utilized for monitoring since 2019 was shown

Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day	1.1.1 Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)	○						
1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	○		○	○	○	○	●
	1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions							
1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	○	○	○	○	○	○	●
1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services							●
	1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure					○		
1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters	1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	○						
	1.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product(GDP)							
	1.5.3 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030							
	1.5.4 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies							
1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions	1.a.1 Total official development assistance grants that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income				○			●
	1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)					○		
1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions	1.b.1 Pro-poor public social spending			○		○		●

Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round	2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment	○	○	○	○	○	○	●
	2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)		○	○		○		
2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons	2.2.1 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons							
	2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type(wasting and overweight)							
	2.2.3 Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years, by pregnancy status (percentage)						○	●
	2.2.4 Prevalence of minimum dietary diversity, by population group (children aged 6 to 23months and nonpregnant women aged 15 to 49 years)							
2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment	2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size	○	○			○		●
	2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status	○	○	○	○		○	
2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality	2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture			○				



Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed	2.5.1 Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities							○
	2.5.2 Proportion of local and transboundary breeds classified as being at risk of extinction	○			○			●
2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries	2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures					○		
	2.a.2 Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector							
2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round	2.b.1 Agricultural export subsidies							
2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility	2.c.1 Indicator of food price anomalies		○		○		○	

Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births	3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio	○				○		
	3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel							
3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births	3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate	○						
	3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate			○				
3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases	3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations				○			
	3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population			○				
	3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population					○		
	3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population							
	3.3.5 Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases							●
3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being	3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease	○	○					
	3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate	○		○			○	
3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol	3.5.1 Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders							
	3.5.2 Alcohol per capita consumption (Aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol					○		●
3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents	3.6.1 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents	○						
3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes	3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods							
	3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group							
3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	3.8.1 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all		○					●
	3.8.2 Proportion of population with positive out-of-pocket household expenditures on health exceeding 40 per cent of household discretionary budget			○				
3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution							
	3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)							
	3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning					○		

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate	3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older				○			●
3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all	3.b.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme			○			○	
	3.b.2 Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors							
	3.b.3 Health product access index							
3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States	3.c.1 Health worker density, by type of occupation	○	○	○	○	○	○	●
3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks	3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness		○	○	○		○	
	3.d.2 Percentage of bloodstream infections due to selected antimicrobial-resistant organisms							

Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes	4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex	○	○	○	○	○	○	●
	4.1.2 completion rate(primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)							
4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education	4.2.1 Proportion of children aged 24-59 months of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex							
	4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex				○		○	
4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university	4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex	○			○	○	○	●
4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship	4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill			○		○		●
4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations	4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated	○	○	○				
4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy	4.6.1 Youth/adult literacy rate	○					○	●
4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development	4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education, and (d) student assessment				○			
4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all	4.a.1 Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service		○					
4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries	4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships					○		
4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States	4.c.1 Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level					○		



Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex							●
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	○	○	○	○	○		
	5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence						○	●
5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation	5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18							
	5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age							
5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	○	○	○				●
5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	○	○	○	○	○	○	●
5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences	5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care							
	5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education							
5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure				○			
	5.a.2 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure							
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women	5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex							
5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels	5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment							

Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	○			○	○	○	●
6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water					○		
6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated					○		●
	6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality		○	○				●
6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity	6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time				○	○	○	●
	6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	○		○			○	
6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management		○	○			○	
	6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation							
6.6 By 2020 protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time	○			○	○		
6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies	6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan							
6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management	6.b.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management							

Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

	Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
			2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
7.1	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	7.1.1	Proportion of population with access to electricity						
		7.1.2	Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology						
7.2	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	7.2.1	Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	○	○	○	○	○	○
7.3	By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency	7.3.1	Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP	○	○	○	○	○	○
7.a	By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology	7.a.1	International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems						
7.b	By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support	7.b.1	Installed renewable energy-generating capacity						

Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

	Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
			2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
8.1	Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 percent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries	8.1.1	Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita						
8.2	Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors	8.2.1	Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person						
8.3	Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	8.3.1	Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex						
8.4	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead	8.4.1	Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP						
		8.4.2	Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP						
8.5	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	8.5.1	Average hourly earnings of employees, by sex, age, occupation and persons with disabilities						
		8.5.2	Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities						
8.6	By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training	8.6.1	Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training						
8.7	Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms	8.7.1	Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age						
8.8	Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment	8.8.1	Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status						
		8.8.2	Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status						
8.9	By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	8.9.1	Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate						
		8.9.2	Employed persons in the tourism industries						
8.10	Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all	8.10.1	(a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults						
		8.10.2	Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider						
8.a	Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries	8.a.1	Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements						
8.b	By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization	8.b.1	Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy						



Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all	9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road							
	9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport		○	○		○		●
9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries	9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita	○		○			○	
	9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	○	○	○	○	○	○	●
9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets	9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added, based on (a) international classification and (b) national classifications				○			●
	9.3.2 Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit							
9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities	9.4.1 CO ₂ emission per unit of value added							
9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending	9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP	○	○	○	○	○	○	●
	9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitant	○	○	○	○	○	○	●
9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	9.a.1 Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure							
9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities	9.b.1 Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added							
9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020	9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology							

Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population						○	●
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities		○					
10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard	10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law			○				
10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality	10.4.1 Labour share of GDP			○	○	○		●
	10.4.2 Redistributive impact of fiscal policy on the Gini index	○	○	○	○	○	○	
10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations	10.5.1 Financial Soundness Indicators				○			●
10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions	10.6.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations							
10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies	10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination		○	○		○		
	10.7.2 Number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people							
	10.7.3 Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination							
	10.7.4 Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin					○		●
10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements	10.a.1 Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff							
10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes	10.b.1 Total resource flows for development (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)							
10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 percent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 percent	10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted							

Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing	○	○	○	○	○	○	●
11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situation, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons	11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	○		○	○			●
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries	11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate						○	
	11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically				○			
11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	11.4.1 Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural) and level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal)					○		
11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations	11.5.1 1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population							
	11.5.2 Direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters							●
	11.5.3 (a) Damage to critical infrastructure and (b) number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters							
11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	11.6.1 Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities	○	○	○				
	11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)	○	○			○	○	●
11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities	11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities		○	○	○		○	●
	11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months					○		
11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning	11.a.1 Number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that (a) respond to population dynamics, (b) ensure balanced territorial development, (c) increase local fiscal space							
11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels	11.b.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030							
	11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies							
11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials	11.c.1 Total official development assistance and other official flows in support of urban infrastructure or urban infrastructure projects, by sector							

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Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
12.1 Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries	12.1.1 Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production						*	
12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP							
	12.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP							●
12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses	12.3.1 a) Food loss index and b) Food waste index	○				○	○	●
12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement							
	12.4.2 (a) Hazardous waste generated per capita and (b) proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment	○		○	○	○	○	●
12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled	○	○	○	○	○	○	●
12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle	12.6.1 Number of companies publishing sustainability reports		○			○		



Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities	12.7.1 Degree of sustainable public procurement policies and action plans implementation							○
12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education, and (d) student assessment							
12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production	12.a.1 Installed renewable energy generating capacity in developing countries (in Watts per capita)							
12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	12.b.1 Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability							
12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities	12.c.1 Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption)							○

Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population			○	○	○	○	●
	13.1.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030						○	
	13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies						○	
13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	13.2.1 Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change							●
	13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year	○	○	○	○	○	○	●
13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	13.3.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment							
13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible	13.a.1 Amount provided and mobilized in United States dollars per year in relation to the continued existing collective mobilization goal of the \$100 billion commitment through to 2025							
13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities	13.b.1 Number of least developed countries and small island developing States with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change							

Goal 14 Conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution	14.1.1 (a) Index of coastal eutrophication; and (b) floating plastic debris density	○	○	○	○	○	○	
14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	14.2.1 Number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas				○			
14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels	14.3.1 Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations						○	
14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics	14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	○	○	○	○	○	○	●

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information	14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	○		○		○		●
14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation	14.6.1 Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing				○	○	○	●
14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism	14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries							
14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries	14.a.1 Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology				○		○	
14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets	14.b.1 Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries							
14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of "The future we want"	14.c.1 Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources					○		●

Goal 15 **Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area	○		○	○		○	
	15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type		○	○	○	○	○	●
15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally	15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management		○	○	○	○		
15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world	15.3.1 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area							
15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development	15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity						○	●
	15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover Index			○				
15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species	15.5.1 Red list Index	○		○	○	○	○	
15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed	15.6.1 Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits							
15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products	15.7.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked							
15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species	15.8.1 Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species							
15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts	15.9.1 (a) Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Kunming/Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress reported towards these targets; and (b) integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting							●
15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems	15.a.1 (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (b) revenue generated and finance mobilised from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments							●
15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation	15.b.1 (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (b) revenue generated and finance mobilised from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments							



Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities	15.c.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked							

Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	○		○	○	○	○	●
	16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause							
	16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months				○			
	16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live	○		○			○	
16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month		○			○		
	16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation							●
	16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18							
16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms				○			
	16.3.2 Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	○				○		
	16.3.3 Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism							
16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime	16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)							
	16.4.2 Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms, whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments							
16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months				○			●
	16.5.2 Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months				○			●
16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)							
	16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services			○			○	
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	16.7.1 Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups						○	
	16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group			○				●
16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance	16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations							
16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age							*
16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and humanrights advocates in the previous 12 months							
	16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information							
16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime	16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles							
16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development	16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law		○			○		●

Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection	17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source							●
	17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes							●
17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries	17.2.1 Net official development assistance, 1) total and 2) to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)	○	○	○	○	○	○	●
17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources	17.3.1 Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of gross national income (GNI)				○	○	○	
	17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP							●
17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress	17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods, services and primary income							
17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries	17.5.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for developing countries, including LDCs				○	○		
17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism	17.6.1 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed						○	
17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed	17.7.1 Total amount of funding for developing and developed countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies							
17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology	17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet						○	
17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation	17.9.1 Dollar value of official development assistance committed to developing countries							
17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda	17.10.1 Worldwide weighted tariff-average							
17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020	17.11.1 Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports				○	○	○	
17.12 Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States	17.12.1 Weighted average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States							
17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence	17.13.1 Macroeconomic Dashboard							
17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development							
17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development	17.15.1 Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation				○			
17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries	17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals							
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships	17.17.1 Amount in United States dollars committed to public-private partnerships for infrastructure							



Target	Indicator	Monitoring Indicator by Year						
		2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts	17.18.1 Statistical capacity indicator for SDG monitoring							
	17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics							
	17.18.3 Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding							
17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries	17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries							
	17.19.2 Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration							

Data figures for each year are available on the site below



The Ministry of Data and Statistics' Index Nuri
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FAO, FAO Data Explorer(<https://dataexplorer.fao.org>)

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Abbreviations

ADCOM	Adaptation Communications
AQG	Air Quality Guidelines
BBNJ	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
BOD	Biological Oxygen Demand
BTR	Biennial Transparency Reports
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
COP	Conference of Parties
DAD-IS	Domestic Animal Diversity Information System
EDCF	Economic Development Cooperation Fund
EPER	Environmental Protection Expenditure and Revenues
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
KEEP30	Korea Energy Efficiency Partnership 30
LDC	Least Developed Country
LT-LEDS	Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategies
NAP	National Adaptation Plans
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD DAC	OECD Development Assistance Committee
OECM	Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures
PIAAC	The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
SEEA	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TOC	Total Organic Carbon
TOE	Tonne Of Oil Equivalent
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

“We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to achieving this Agenda and utilizing it to the full to transform our world for the better by 2030.”

- Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (para.91) -

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Publication Date: March 2026

Publisher: Data and Statistics Research Institute, the Ministry of Data and Statistics

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ISSN 2765-3803