







# Preface

One of the top priorities on national policies is to improve the people's happiness and quality of life. Faced with limitations of economic indicators that solely focus on economic growth as a measure of social development, more policy attentions are on an improvement in the quality of life than on economic growth itself. Since the start of the 21th century, the importance of 'measuring the quality of life' of individuals and the society as a whole has spread across the globe and it has become a crucial foundation for evidence-based policies. In response to such the change, the Statistics Research Institute under Statistics Korea embarked on development of 「Quality of Life Indicators in Korea」 in 2011. After three-year research and development, we have provided results of the indicators and relevant data on its website since 2014.

Since the first release in 2017, Quality of Life Indicators in Korea 2022 is the 5th report. The report provides explanation that can be easily understandable regarding measurement results of quality-of-life indicators by analyzing 11 domain-specific indicators in the following three sectors: individuals, and social relationship and environmental conditions. As of the end of Dec 2022, it shows a glimpse of the current life quality and its changes in Korea via recent trends of 71 indicators in the 11 domains and time-series comparison.

The measurement results in 2021 and 2022 show what changes Korean society have been through since the outbreak of COVID-19 in terms of life quality. Indicators such as the obesity rate, participation rate in social institutions, interpersonal trust and leisure activities which had been exacerbated due to the pandemic witnessed a slight improvement again. In particular, the life satisfaction enhanced in 2021 compared to the previous year and the fine dust concentration level also saw a continuous improvement starting from 2020. These measurement results briefly capture the current state of Korean society and changes in life quality and offer some policy implications.

This year's report contains issue analysis regarding 'Happy Life narrated by Children and Adolescents: Implications for Structure of Quality-of-life Indicators' and 'Voices of the Youth: FGI Results regarding Quality of Life.' As it specifically suggests the meaning of a happy life that children, adolescents and the youth think of through in-depth interviews, it is expected to provide some meaningful insight for life-cycle measurements of life quality. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Researcher Minsang Yu of the National Youth Policy Institute and Deputy Director Hansu Woo of the Statistical Research Institute for contribution to the report. I also thank Deputy Director Sujin Shim, Manager Sangmin Nam and Manager Eunah Kim for writing and editing this report.

I hope that this report can be used as data that anyone can easily grasp the quality of life in Korea and contribute to enhancing national interests in measuring 'life quality of the people.' In addition, I do hope that it is widely utilized as data facilitating evidence-based policies in various policy areas associated with an improvement in the quality of life, ultimately enhancing the quality of life in Korea.

Director-general, Statistics Research Institute *Joonhyuk Song*



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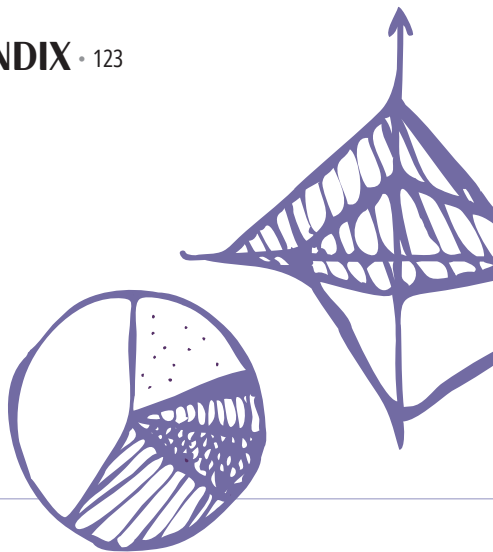
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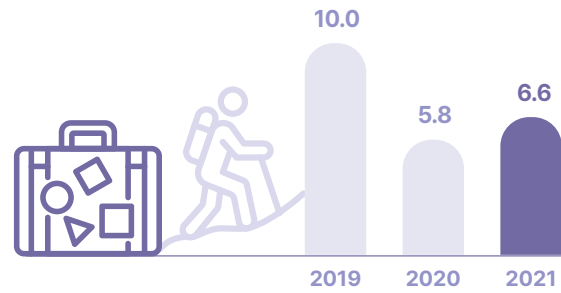
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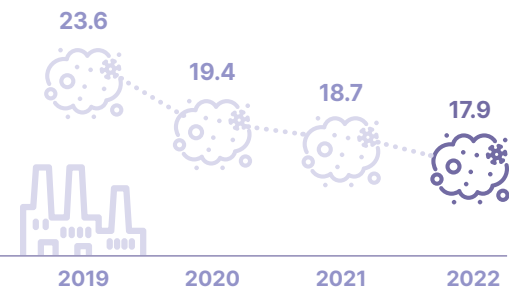
# PART 1

## Overview

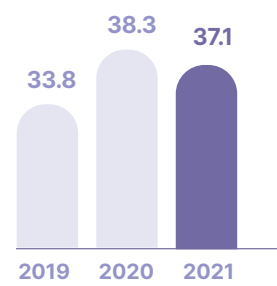
Domestic Travel Days per Person(Days)



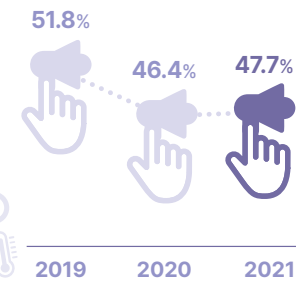
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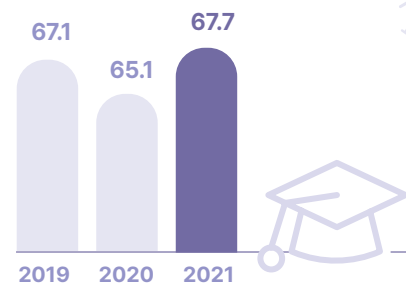
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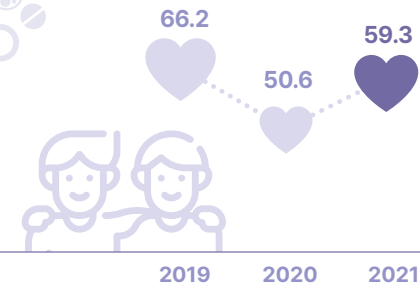
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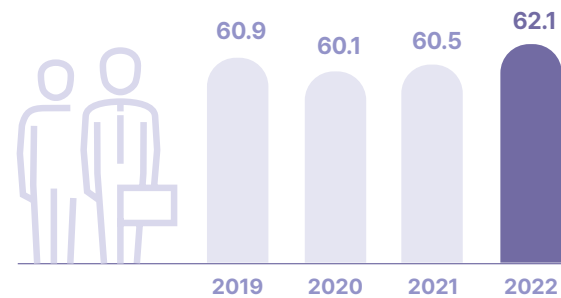
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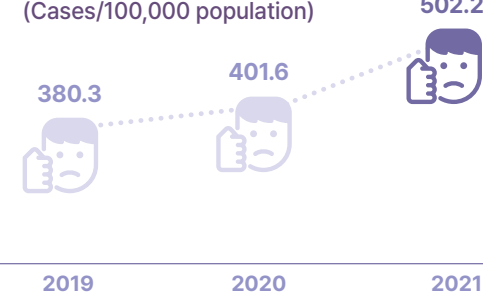
Interpersonal Trust(%)



Employment Rate(%)



Child Abuse Rate (Cases/100,000 population)

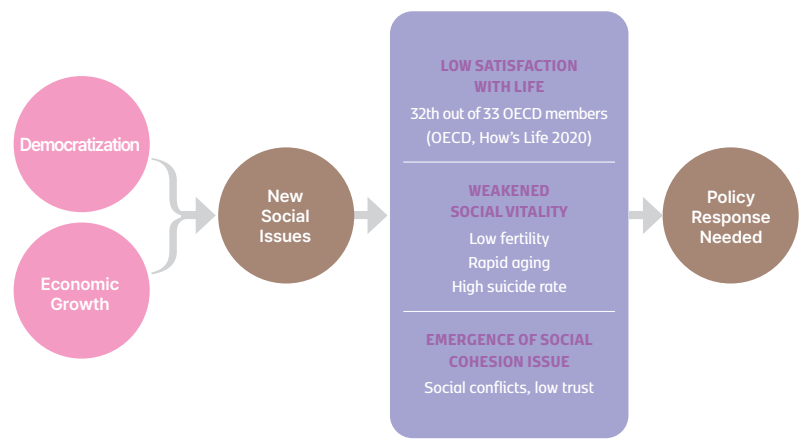


## COVID-19 & Quality of Life



01  
Background

The quality-of-life indicators have been established, considering domestic conditions and international well-being trends. First of all, despite the achievement of industrialization and democratization, the level of satisfaction with life and happiness is not that high in Korea and people are faced with various social issues such as a low fertility rate, rapid aging and a high suicide rate that have sapped vitality across the society. There are also intensive conflicts that have been observed in diverse realms, including ideological conflicts, relative poverty and labor conflicts. In response, now is the time to turn our attention from economy-oriented policies into those to enhance the quality of life.



On the global front, the importance of life quality was brought into attention mainly among international organizations starting from the 1960s and 1970s, and more eyes have been on the quality of life and sustainability since the 1990s as a means to overcome limitations of GDP centering only on economic aspects. In 2009, Stiglitz Commission in France released ‘Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress’.<sup>1</sup> The report proposed a new indicator system encompassing economic aspects as well as the quality of life and sustainability to measure social progress. In 2011, the OECD published “How’s Life?” as a result of the global project which had begun in 2004, suggesting wide statistics of international comparison regarding well-being. In addition, the European Commission embarked on discussions about “GDP and Beyond” in 2009 and included the outcome into EU 2020 Strategy. Various measurements have been also conducted on the national level.

<sup>1</sup> Stiglitz, Joseph E., Amartya Sen & Jean-Paul Fitoussi(2009), “Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and social Progress”

02  
Purpose

The ultimate purpose of this report is to measure major indicators that capture the current state of various life domains contributing to the ‘quality of life’, to show the reality of ‘life quality’ in an objective manner and to provide basic data needed to devise and implement policies for a better quality of life. It will be used as fundamental data to pave the way for identifying strengths and weaknesses of the Korean society and addressing domain-specific issues for a better quality of life.

History

2011	<b>Developed the basic framework for the quality of life and indicator system via external joint research</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ‘Analysis Framework for Measuring Quality of Life in Korea’, joint research with the Korean Journal of Sociology</li><li>• 84 indicators in 9 domains</li></ul>
2012~2013	<b>Developed new indicators</b> <b>Reviewed the feasibility of the indicator system together with internal/external experts and changed some indicators</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 83 indicators in 12 domains(9 deleted, 8 added, 6 revised)</li><li>• Classified the existing material conditions into four domains(income/ consumption/wealth, employment &amp; labor, social welfare, housing)</li></ul>
2014	<b>Established the website (qol.kostat.go.kr) and launched services</b> <b>Reviewed the indicator system together with internal/external experts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 81 indicators in 12 domains(2 deleted, 13 revised)</li></ul> <b>Formed the Indicator Review Committee</b>
2015	<b>Reviewed indicators through the Indicator Review Committee(a change in the sub-category of Environment domain)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 81indicators in 12 areas(1 deleted, 1 added, 7 revised)</li></ul>
2016	<b>Reviewed indicators through the Indicator Review Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 80 indicators in 12 domains(1 deleted, 3 revised)</li></ul>
2017	<b>Prepared the report ‘Quality of Life Indications in Korea 2017,’</b> <b>Collected public opinions online</b>
2018	<b>Revised the indicator system</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 71 indicators in 11 domains(social welfare domain deleted; 17 deleted, 8 added, 8 revised)</li></ul>
2019	<b>Published the report ‘Quality of Life Indications in Korea 2019,’</b> <b>(Released online each year)</b>
2020	<b>Collected public opinions(important areas, key indicators)</b>
2021	<b>Analyzed the long-term trends of quality of life indicators</b>
2022	<b>Published the report ‘Children &amp; Youth Well-being 2022,’</b>

### 03

#### What is 'Quality of Life'?

As a concept encompassing all elements that make life valuable, the quality of life is composed of objective living conditions and the people's subjective perception and evaluation thereof. To be specific, the definition of the "quality of life" concept varies depending on scholars. It tends to be used with various, similar concepts such as the quality of life, welfare, well-being, happiness and subjective well-being and subjective satisfaction depending on what is being measured. The quality of life, welfare and well-being focus more on objective conditions while subjective well-being, satisfaction and happiness put relatively more emphasis on subjective assessment.

As the quality of life reflects social values or norms that determine desirable conditions, it is more like a relative concept that can change depending on a level of economic or social development in a society and its social values and norms, rather than an absolute concept transcending time and space. In addition, it is an inclusive concept that is not confined to the quality of life for individuals who are members of a society, but also includes the 'societal quality.'

### 04

#### Framework

The eleven domains measuring the quality of life form a concentric circle while putting 'individuals' at the core. With subjective well-being showing individuals' satisfaction level at the center, the concentric circle includes 'individuals', 'social relationship' in the middle and 'environmental conditions' on the outermost section. The targets and details in each dimension are as follows.

##### Target from the perspective of individuals

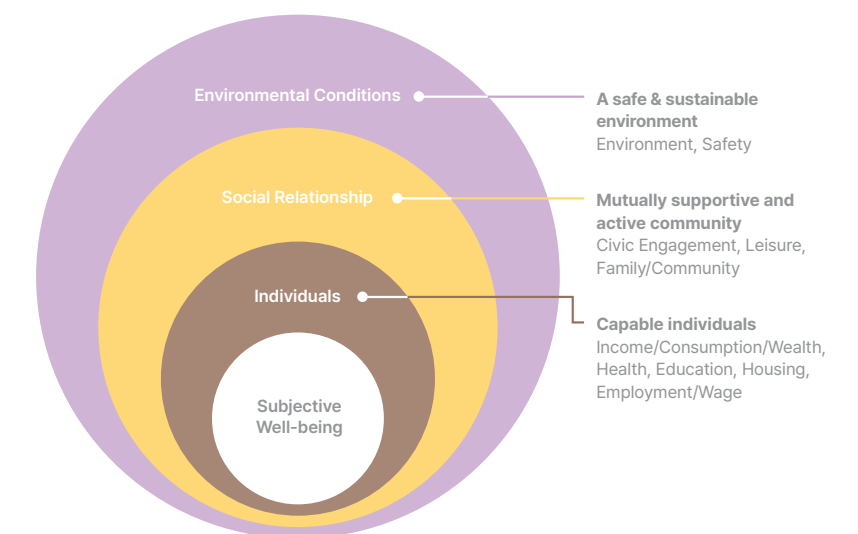
'Capable individuals' who are equipped with knowledge and skills to work through education and enjoy economic affluence and welfare benefits as well as a healthy life

##### Target from the perspective of social relationship

'Mutually supportive and active community' where people benefit from social cohesion and solidarity, actively join civic engagement and enjoy leisure/cultural activities

##### Target from the perspective of environmental conditions

'A safe and sustainable environment' that is free from danger and ensures sustainable life through environmental protection





05  
Criteria for  
Indicator  
Selection

The quality-of-life indicators include objective and subjective indicators for each domain and consist of indicators that are highly relevant to the quality of life in line with the criteria for selection. The main criteria to select indicators include adequacy, quality of data and neutrality.

Criteria for Indicator Selection

ADEQUACY

- **Face validity** Measurable degree as intended
- **Output-focused** Indicators focusing more on outputs than on inputs/courses
- **Understandability** Indicators easily understandable without obscurity
- **Policy Response** Indicators that sensitively change depending on policy intervention
- **Domestic Compatibility** Indicators befitting the Korean context

QUALITY OF DATA

- **Official statistics** Official statistics universally used to measure the quality of life
- **Comprehensive coverage** Indicators that possibly encompass the entire population
- **Time series** Cumulative data repetitively measured with the same yardstick

NEUTRALITY

- Indicators with no political bias reflected

06  
Criteria to  
Determine  
Recent Trends

Recent data trends show how 71 indicators contributed to improving the quality of life. As each indicator has different intervals and directions, indicators were divided into ‘improved’, ‘deteriorated’ and ‘no change’ depending on the directions that each indicator made contribution to the quality of life by comparing the recent measurements with previous ones. For example, the ‘Employment Rate’ indicator was classified as ‘improved’ as an increase in its measurement values means an improvement in the quality of life. Meanwhile, as a rise in the measurement values of the ‘Unemployment Rate’ indicator means deterioration in quality of life, it’s marked as ‘deteriorated.’ In a nutshell, a change in indicators’ measurement values determines how they contribute to the quality of life.

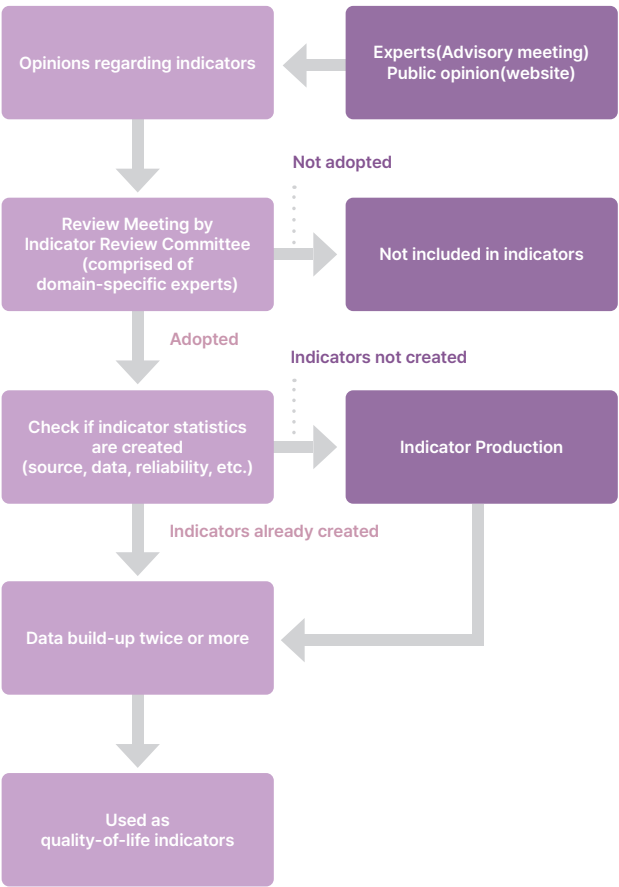
Trend Indication<sup>2</sup>

	<b>Improved</b>	A change in the recent measurement values leading to a better quality of life compared to the previous figure. $X_t - X_{t-1} > 0$
	<b>No change</b>	No change in recent measurement values compared to the previous figure. $X_t - X_{t-1} = 0$
	<b>Deteriorated</b>	A change in the recent measurement values leading to a worse quality of life compared to the previous figure. $X_t - X_{t-1} < 0$

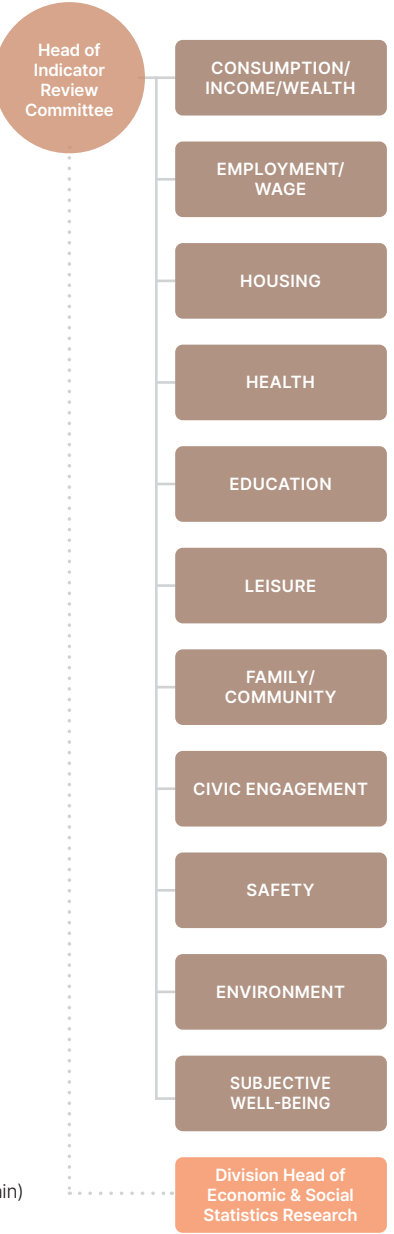
07  
Indicator  
Management  
Procedures

Individual indicators are not the definitive outcome, and continuous complementation is required depending on status of statistics production according to social changes. Thus, indicators go through some changes via regular review and evaluation. For this process, the ‘Indicator Review Committee’ has been formed with 11 domain-specific experts to secure neutrality and objectivity.

Indicator Management Procedures



Indicator Review Committee



- Indicator reviewer(one per domain)
- Consultants(five per domain)

2 As for indicators at a 1-year interval, they are compared with data from the previous year whereas indicators at an interval of two years or longer are compared with previous measurements.

**Indicator Intervals**  
1-yr interval: 45 indicators  
2-yr interval: 23 indicators  
3-to 5-yr interval: 3 indicators

08

Indicator System

The quality-of-life indicator system in Korea is comprised of 71 indicators in 11 domains. Each domain consists of objective and subjective indicators. In total, there are 42 objective(59.2%) and 29 subjective indicators(40.8%). Each indicator is distinguished as positive(+) or negative(-) depending on its contribution to improvement in or deterioration of the quality of life in the case that an indicator value increases.

	Objective Indicators(42)	Subjective Indicators(29)
Family · Community	<div><div>-</div>Live-alone Elderly Rate</div> <div><div>-</div>Social Isolation*</div> <div><div>+</div>Social Group Participation Rate</div>	<div><div>+</div>Family Relationship Satisfaction</div> <div><div>+</div>Sense of Belonging to a Community</div>
Health	<div><div>+</div>Life Expectancy*</div> <div><div>+</div>Healthy Life Expectancy</div> <div><div>+</div>Physical Activity Rate</div> <div><div>-</div>Obesity Rate</div> <div><div>-</div>Suicide Rate*</div>	<div><div>+</div>Self-reported Health</div> <div><div>-</div>Stress Self-recognition</div>
Education	<div><div>+</div>Preschool Enrollment Rate</div> <div><div>+</div>Population with Tertiary Education</div> <div><div>+</div>Employment Rate of College Graduates</div>	<div><div>+</div>Perception toward Effects of School Education</div> <div><div>+</div>School Life Satisfaction*</div> <div><div>-</div>Degree of Education Cost Burden</div>
Employment · Wage	<div><div>+</div>Employment Rate*</div> <div><div>-</div>Unemployment Rate*</div> <div><div>+</div>Average Monthly Wage</div> <div><div>-</div>Working Hours</div> <div><div>-</div>Proportion of Low-paid Workers</div>	<div><div>+</div>Job Satisfaction</div>
Income · Consumption · Wealth	<div><div>+</div>Gross National Income per Capita*</div> <div><div>+</div>Equivalised Median Income</div> <div><div>+</div>Household Net Wealth</div> <div><div>-</div>Household Debt Ratio</div> <div><div>-</div>Relative Poverty Rate*</div>	<div><div>+</div>Income Satisfaction</div> <div><div>+</div>Consumption Satisfaction</div>
Leisure	<div><div>+</div>Leisure Time*</div> <div><div>+</div>Travel Days per Person</div> <div><div>+</div>Ratio of Expenditure on Leisure</div> <div><div>+</div>Participation in Culture, Art &amp; Sport Event</div>	<div><div>+</div>Leisure Satisfaction*</div> <div><div>+</div>Sufficiency of Leisure Time</div>
Housing	<div><div>+</div>Residential Area per Capita</div> <div><div>-</div>Commuting Time to Office</div> <div><div>-</div>Dwelling without Basic Facilities*</div> <div><div>-</div>Rent to Income Ratio*</div> <div><div>+</div>Home-ownership Rate</div>	<div><div>+</div>Housing Environment Satisfaction</div>

	Objective Indicators(42)	Subjective Indicators(29)
Environment	<div><div>-</div>Fine Dust Concentration Level(Particulate Matter Concentration, PM<sub>2.5</sub>)*</div> <div><div>+</div>Urban Park Area per Capita</div> <div><div>+</div>Waterworks Supply Rate in Rural Area</div>	<div><div>-</div>Climate Change Recognition</div> <div><div>+</div>Air Quality Satisfaction</div> <div><div>+</div>Water Quality Satisfaction*</div> <div><div>+</div>Soil Quality Satisfaction</div> <div><div>+</div>Noise Level Satisfaction</div> <div><div>+</div>Green Environment Satisfaction</div>
Safety	<div><div>-</div>Homicide Rate</div> <div><div>-</div>Child Abuse Rate</div> <div><div>-</div>Crime Victimization Rate</div> <div><div>-</div>Child Mortality Rate from Safety Accidents</div> <div><div>-</div>Industrial Accident Mortality Rate*</div> <div><div>-</div>Number of Fire Fatalities</div> <div><div>-</div>Road Traffic Accident Fatality Rate*</div>	<div><div>+</div>Feeling Safe Walking Alone at Night*</div> <div><div>+</div>Perception toward Societal Safety</div>
Civic Engagement	<div><div>+</div>Voter Turnout Rate</div> <div><div>+</div>Voluntary Work Participation Rate</div>	<div><div>+</div>Perception of Political Empowerment</div> <div><div>+</div>Citizenship</div> <div><div>+</div>Corruption Perceptions Index*</div> <div><div>+</div>Interpersonal Trust</div> <div><div>+</div>Institutional Trust</div>
Subjective Well-being	-	<div><div>+</div>Life Satisfaction*</div> <div><div>+</div>Positive Emotions</div> <div><div>-</div>Negative Emotions</div>

Those marked with \* refer to key indicators.

09

Summary of Recent Trends

As the indicators are to take a look at changes in the quality of life in a mid/long term, they monitor the quality of life based on annual data, rather than on recent trends of monthly or quarterly data. Statistics used in the indicators come from various sources and each indicator has different intervals of creation, publication timing and update. Some indicators are published right after being created(e.g., a social survey conducted in May and published in Nov of the same year) while others are published 2 or 3 years later(e.g., a crime victimization survey is published 2 years after it was conducted). In response, the indicators are updated on a quarterly basis and posted on the website. This report was created based on the indicators updated at the end of Dec 2022. Out of 71 indicators, 62 indicators were updated based on statistics that were publicly announced in 2022. The remaining nine indicators continued to carry the same figures in the previous report since there were no statistics created in 2022 due to their two-year or longer interval of update. Moreover, due to different publication timing of the indicators,

Indicators created in each year  
(as of Dec 2022)

20 indicators in 2022  
48 indicators in 2021  
2 indicators in 2020  
1 indicator in 2019



Updated Indicators by Year

	Total	Improved	Deteriorated	No change
2020	1		1	
2021	41	31	9	1
2022	20	16	4	
Total	62	47	14	1

statistics in 2022 were reflected only in 20 indicators(28.2%) at the end of Dec 2022 out of 71 indicators. Instead, 48 indicators(67.6%) relied on statistics in 2021. Out of 62 indicators updated in 2022, 47 indicators changed for the Improved compared to the previous figures, 14 indicators got deteriorated, and one indicator stayed the no change. Since indicators were created in different intervals, out of 62 indicators updated, 20 indicators were based on statistics in 2022, 41 indicators were based on those in 2021 and 1 indicator was based on 2020, which shows that more than half of the indicators used the 2021 statistics.

COVID-19 which started to spread in 2020 has caused huge changes in Korean society and such changes have been also reflected in the quality-of-life indicators. In particular, some indicators related to outdoor activities saw a sudden setback in 2020. Although the indicators have not fully recovered to the pre-COVID level in 2022, they have shown slight improvements from the negative impacts of the pandemic in 2021 and 2022. Indicators such as interpersonal trust, employment rate, unemployment rate and employment rate of college graduates got better compared to the previous figures, returning to the pre-COVID level. Meanwhile, indicators associated with outdoor activities such as social group participation rate, travel days per person and obesity rate, which had seen a steep deterioration in 2020, improved a little bit in 2021, but they were not restored to the pre-COVID state. The ratio of expenditure on leisure continued to decrease starting from 2019, showing a worsening trend, and steadily worsening indicators such as household debt ratio and child abuse rate further deteriorated in 2021 as well.

On the other hand, the fine dust concentration level, environmental satisfaction by sub-area and institutional trust which had improved during the COVID-19 pandemic continued its positive trend in 2021 and 2022. Both life satisfaction and positive experience which had been stagnant in 2019 and 2020 improved in 2021, recording the all-time high since 2013.

The domains of environment, health, income/consumption/wealth, employment/ wage and education had a higher proportion of improved indicators, while only one indicator in each domain showed a setback such as the suicide rate, household debt ratio, working hours, school life satisfaction, and climate change recognition. Meanwhile, the proportion of improved indicators was low in domains like leisure, civic engagement, housing and family/community. As for leisure, the number of indicators showing improvements increased with update of data in 2021, but still three indicators out of six deteriorated. In civic engagement, the voter turnout rate, citizenship and voluntary work participation rate were exacerbated. In terms of housing, the rent-to-income ratio which had been worse saw some improvements whereas home-ownership rate and housing environment satisfaction turned out be to be worse compared to the previous year.

Overall Recent Trend (As of Dec 2022) Improved 52, Deteriorated 18, No change 1



**Note 1** Values and relevant data of each indicator can be downloaded from the website(index.go.kr).  
**2** Indicators marked with \* refer to indicators updated at an interval of 2 years or longer. With no statistics announced in 2022, they are the same as those announced in Dec 2021.

# PART 2



## Domain-specific Measurement Results



# Family · Community



## About

Families and communities contribute to improvement of the quality of life by providing individuals with emotional, physical and financial care and support. As families and communities both provide caring services and psychological stability based on relationship among members and interact with each other, they are grouped under the same domain. Under the protection of a family and community, individuals enjoy care, support and safety and take advantage of opportunities of education, healthcare, leisure and relationship. In addition, senses of identity and belonging as well as social values and norms are reproduced through a family and community.

## Recent Trends

Among five indicators in the 'Family and Community' domain, three indicators improved and the remaining two got deteriorated compared to the previous figures. The value in family relationship satisfaction increased compared to the previous figures, showing some improvements in family relationship. Indicators such as the social group participation rate and sense of belonging to a community, which represent social relations in a broader sense, also changed for the improved. That said, social isolation deteriorated in 2021 compared to 2019. Social isolation became more serious under the social distancing imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The live-alone elderly rate also deteriorated, albeit slightly. This upward trend of the elderly living alone is expected to continue for some time being owing to a change in the demographic structure.

## Indicators

☹️ Live-alone Elderly Rate | **20.6%**(2021) → **20.8%**(2022)

😊 Family Relationship Satisfaction | **58.8%**(2020) → **64.5%**(2022)

😊 Sense of Belonging to a Community | **71.8%**(2020) → **74.8%**(2021)

😊 Social Goup Participation Rate | **46.4%**(2020) → **47.7%**(2021)

☹️ Social Isolation | **27.7%**(2019) → **34.1%**(2021)

# Live-alone Elderly Rate



**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population living alone among the old-age population aged 65 and over

**HOW TO MEASURE** (No. of single-person households aged 65 and over ÷ Population aged 65 and over)×100

## 20.8% in 2022, up 0.2%p from previous year

Many countries including South Korea suffer from both low birth rates and the aging phenomenon. As a result, the proportion of the aged population has rapidly increased.

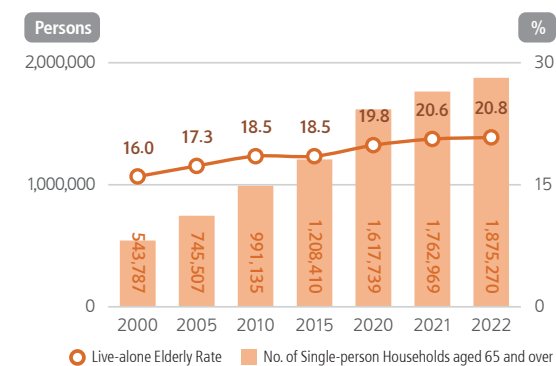
Out of the old-age population, the elderly living alone are the most vulnerable. Social security in Korea is not as sophisticated as those in developed countries which have experienced aging earlier on. For the elderly in Korea, family members including children are the most important supporters for their socio-economic well-being. The elderly who live together with a spouse or family members can have various supports in economic, material and emotional aspects; on the other hand, those living alone have no one to rely on. In particular, senior citizens tend to have more difficulties in their daily life alone due to various chronic diseases from old age. Thus, the elderly living alone should be at the center of social welfare.

The old-age population are also vulnerable to mental health issues, in addition to their economic or physical difficulties. Korea is ranked high in terms of an elderly suicide rate among OECD members. Those living are particularly vulnerable to loneliness or depression since they don't have any family member who live together with. More attention should be paid to them in various aspects including economic assistance.

Out of the population aged 65 and over, the number of the elderly living alone stood at 1,875,000 or 20.8% in 2022. The live-alone elderly rate, which had steadily increased from 16.0% in 2000, 17.3% in 2005 to 18.5% in 2010, saw a slowdown in growth. However, it again slightly increased starting from 2015. While the number of the elderly aged 65 and over rose by 2.7 times from 3,394,000 in 2000 to 9,018,000 in 2022, the number of those living alone increased by 3.5 times from 543,000 to 1,875,000 during the same period. Among 17 regions, the proportion of the elderly

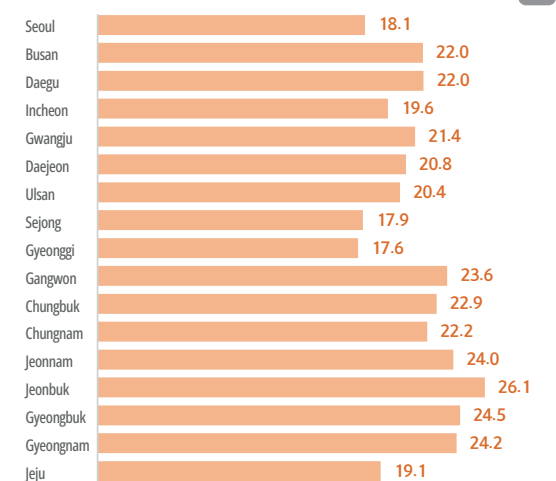
living alone was higher in Jeonbuk/Jeonnam and Gyeongbuk/Gyeongnam. Especially, Jeonnam topped the list with 26.1%. On the other hand, Gyeonggi had the lowest live-alone elderly rate with 17.6%, followed by Sejong(17.9%), Seoul(18.1%), and Jeju(19.1%).

Live-alone elderly rate; 2000 ~ 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, <sup>1</sup>Household Projections 2020<sub>1</sub> ; Statistics Korea, <sup>1</sup>Population Projections 2020<sub>1</sub>

Live-alone elderly rate by region; 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, <sup>1</sup>Household Projections (City/Province) 2020<sub>1</sub> ; Statistics Korea, <sup>1</sup>Population Projections (City/Province) 2020<sub>1</sub>



# Family Relationship Satisfaction



DEFINITION A proportion of the population satisfied with their family relationship

HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of respondents who replied “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with their overall family relationship

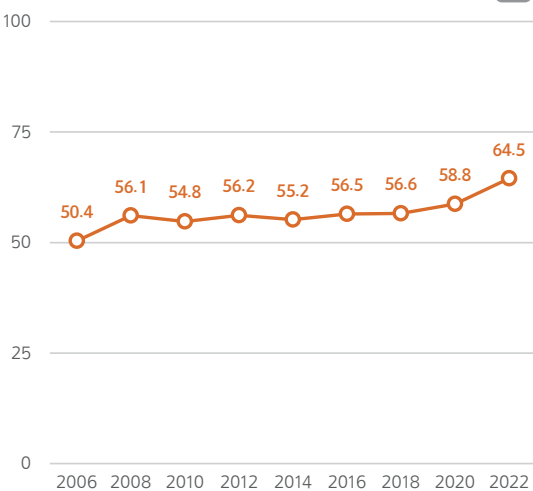
## 64.5% in 2022, up 5.7%p from 2020

Satisfaction with family relationship plays a key role in subjective well-being. Despite individualization and diverse family types, people still value families as the source of a sense of belonging, solidarity and intimacy and are hoping for a happy family life. As a family is a group of people with different genders and generations living together, potential tensions and conflicts exist. Recently, families in Korea have started to shift from the system maintained by social norms in directions that value more emotional relations. In this sense, the family relationship satisfaction shows how well such the anticipation for family relations is being fulfilled and serves as an indicator of the quality in family life.

The satisfaction with family relationship increased 50.4% in 2006 to 56.1% in 2008, followed by the status quo with 56.6% for almost a decade from 2008 to 2018. It again rose to 58.8% in 2020 and to 64.5% in 2022, indicating that the family relationship satisfaction improved with an increase in the stay-at-home time during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Male had slightly higher(2.0%p) satisfaction with family relations than female did. In 2022, the proportion of those satisfied were 65.5% for male and 63.5% for female. Such a trend has continued since 2016. By age group, the older they got, the lower the satisfaction level became. About 80.7% of teenagers aged 13 to 19 answered positively about their family relationship. On the other hand, the number dropped to 58.7% among the population aged 50 to 59 and even to 54.6% in those aged 60 and over, showing different levels of satisfaction depending on generations. The satisfaction among the teenagers which had stood at 68.0% in 2012 increased by almost 2%p each year. In other age groups, the satisfaction level showed a similar trend until 2018. an increase by 2018. It rose by 2%p to 4%p from 2020 to 2022.

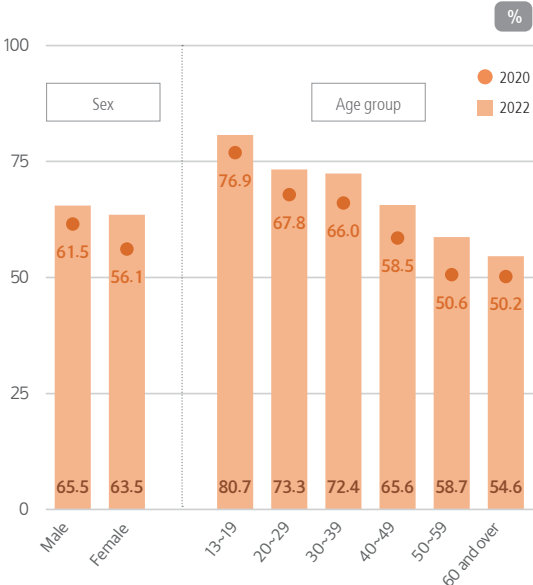
Family relationship satisfaction; 2006 ~ 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 15 and over until 2010 and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2012.

Family relationship satisfaction by sex & age group; 2020, 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

# Sense of Belonging to a Community



DEFINITION A proportion of the population with a sense of belonging to the community that they live in

HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of respondents who replied “very much” or “somewhat” to the question asking whether to have a strong sense of belonging to a community(city/province) that they currently live in

## 74.8% in 2021, up 3.0%p from previous year

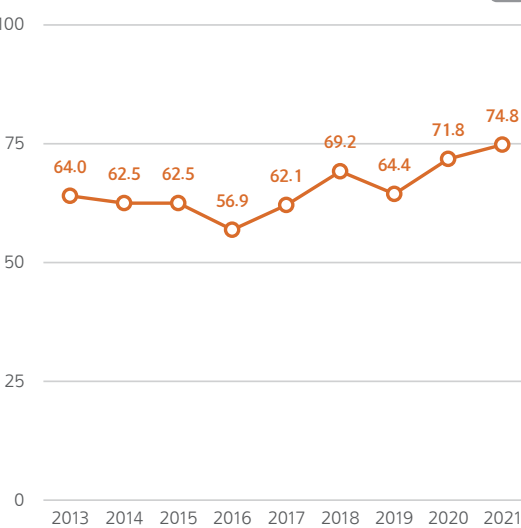
As the size and function of families are diminishing, some of traditional family roles have been replaced with the community or local society. The sense of belonging to a community that people currently reside in can serve as an important indicator in measuring the degree of social integration in the local community, thereby showing social bonding. Firm social solidarity and bonding can lead to a stronger sense of belonging to the community. On the other hand, weak solidarity and bonding could result in a lower sense of belonging. Indeed, social solidarity and bonding within the community is a crucial factor affecting individuals’ quality of life. In particular, it has become more crucial with a growing proportion of single-person households.

The proportion of people having a sense of belonging to their city/province rose by 3.0%p to 74.8% in 2021 from 71.8% in 2020. The sense of belonging to the community had decreased from 64.0% in 2013, 62.5% in 2014 to 56.9% in 2016, but it started to rise in 2017.

The sense of belonging varied depending on the coverage of local communities. The sense of belonging to a city/province was recorded at 74.8% while the ratio changed to 71.8% for City/Gun/Gu and even to 70.5% for Eup/Myeon/Dong, indicating that the narrower coverage of local communities means the lower sense of belonging.

Such characteristics is also noticeable depending on whether the region is an urban or rural area. Among people residing in urban areas, 75.6% showed a sense of belonging to their city/province while the ratio declined to 69.8% to their Eup/Myeong/Dong, which implies that they tended to feel the sense of belonging more to the city/province than Eup/Myeon/Dong where they actually live. On the contrary, people living in rural areas had a higher sense of belonging to Eup/Myeon/Dong (73.8%) than to city/province (71.0%).

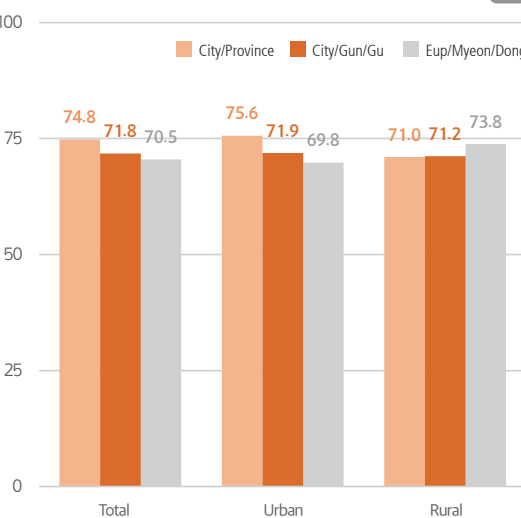
Sense of belonging to a community (City/Province); 2013 ~ 2021



SOURCE Korea Institute of Public Administration, 「Korea Social Integration Survey」

NOTE The surveyed has been changed from the population aged 19 to 69 to those aged 19 and over since 2020.

Sense of belonging to a community by region; 2021



SOURCE Korea Institute of Public Administration, 「Korea Social Integration Survey」

# Social Group Participation Rate



**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population belonging to social institution(s) and engaging in social activities

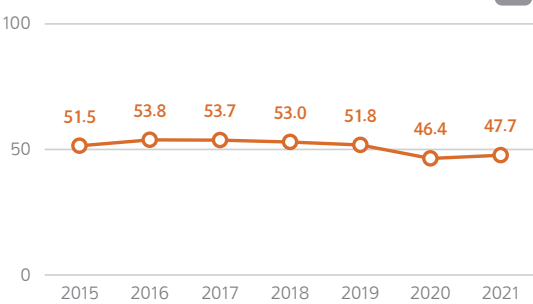
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “sometimes engaging in activities as a member” or “actively engaging in activities as a member” in any of nine social institutions\* listed below(\*A political party, labor union, religious group, club, civic group, local social gathering, voluntary service/donation group, alumni/hometown association or socio-economic organization)

## 47.7% in 2021, up 1.3%p from previous year

The social group participation rate represents the degree of citizens’ engaging in activities in the community that they belong to. The recent research on social capital, the foundation for the community life, implies that active participation in social groups serves as the basis for community development. The degree of participation in groups representing various interests and types of social group implies the overall level and characteristics of participation.

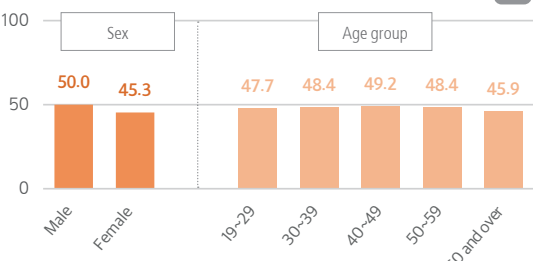
The social group participation rate is measured as a proportion of people either sometimes or actively engaging in activities as members of any of nine social groups. The proportion jumped from 51.5% in 2015 to 53.8% in 2016, with no noticeable change since then. However, due to COVID-19 in 2020, social activities diminished a lot and the rate also decreased to 46.4%. Although it slightly increased to 47.7%, it was still lower than the previous trend. About a half of male(50.0%) took part in social group, which was higher than the proportion of female(45.3%). By age group, the population in their 40s had the lowest proportion of 49.2%. The proportion was also low among the elderly aged 60 and over(45.9%), but there was no big difference among age groups, except for those in their 60s. A higher social group participation rate means expansion of social capital. However, social groups mainly active in Korea are mostly private gatherings such as alumni associations(28.8%) and clubs(19.5%) whose primary purpose is to promote friendship of individuals. Such a lopsided focus on the private gatherings is a proof that social activities in Korea have not been linked to social capital. That said, excluding religious groups, the overall participation rate in 2021 saw an increase compared to the previous year. As for political parties, the rate largely jumped from 2.0% in 2020 to 8.0% in 2021.

Social group participation rate; 2015 ~ 2021



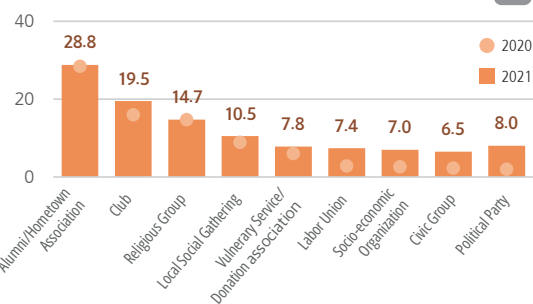
SOURCE Korea Institute of Pubic Administration, 『Korea Social Integration Survey』  
Raw data  
NOTE The surveyed have been changed from the population aged 19 to 69 to those aged 19 and over since 2020.

Social group participation rate by sex & age group; 2021



SOURCE Korea Institute of Pubic Administration, 『Korea Social Integration Survey』  
Raw data

Social group participation rate by item; 2020, 2021



SOURCE Korea Institute of Pubic Administration, 『Korea Social Integration Survey』  
NOTE ① These are ratios of people sometime or actively engaging in activities as a member of a social institution. ② The survey was conducted on the population aged 19 and over.

# Social Isolation



**DEFINITION** A proportion of people who don’t have anyone to turn to in case of a physical or mental emergency

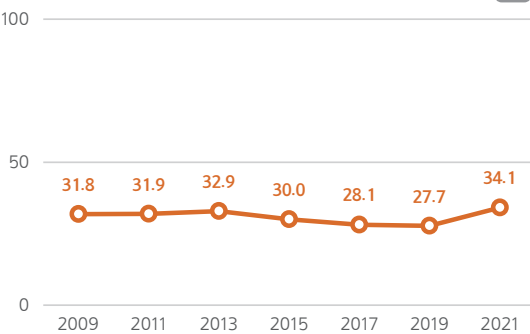
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied that there was no one to turn to even if they needed someone either to ‘help with housework’ or ‘talk to’

## 34.1% in 2021, up 6.4%p from 2019

The indicator called ‘social isolation’ shows how solid and efficient social relation networks that serve as an important axis of social capital are and how broad social bonding is. In particular, the fact that there is no one to turn to even when personal and emotional help is needed heavily affects not only the quality of personal life but also the societal quality. The social isolation shows a proportion of people who don’t have anyone to help them with some housework even when they are sick or to talk to when needed. The proportion increased from 27.7% in 2019 to 34.1% in 2021. Previously, such a social isolation had been on a downward trend, with a slight decrease from 32.9% in 2013. However, it witnessed a sudden increase in 2021 due to social distancing imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. 27.2% and 20.4% of respondents answered that they had no one to “help with housework” and “talk to” respectively.

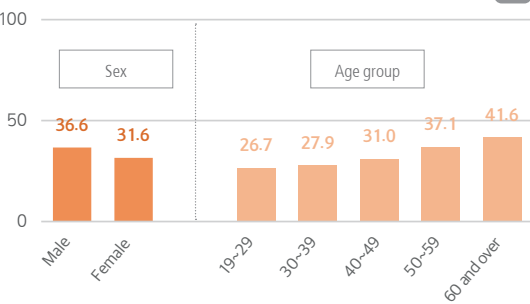
By gender, the proportion was slightly higher for male with 36.6% than for female with 31.6%. The older people get, the more they tend to be socially isolated. The proportion of social isolation among the population aged 19 to 29 and 30 to 39 stood at 26.7% and 27.9% respectively whereas it increased to 41.6% for those aged 60 and over. In particular, the proportion of not having any to talk to was recorded at 28.4% among the population aged 60 and over, which was relatively higher than other age groups (14% to 21%). It shows that they are more vulnerable to emotional isolation.

Social isolation ; 2009 ~ 2021



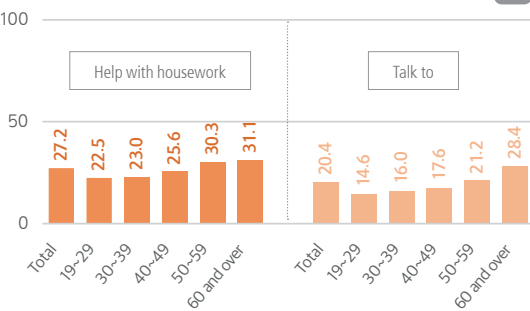
SOURCE Statistics Korea, 『Social Survey』 raw data  
NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 19 and over.

Social isolation by sex & age group; 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 『Social Survey』 raw data

Social isolation by age group; 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 『Social Survey』





About

What matters in the domain of Health is how long a person can live(quantity or length of life) as well as how well he or she can live(quality of life). From the individual perspective, good health is the foundation of successful life as it enhances subjective satisfaction with life and enables people to actively engage in activities in various life realms. As a sound body and mind can also contribute to a society in many ways, communities have paid much attention to ensuring that their members are in good health. The domain of Health consists of healthy behaviors and health conditions of individuals.

Recent Trends

Out of seven indicators in health, six indicators changed for the improved while one indicator turned out to be deteriorated. In a nutshell, all indicators saw some improvements, except for the suicide rate. The suicide rate slightly deteriorated compared to 2020. The life expectancy, healthy life expectancy, and self-reported health all improved compared to the previous figures, and an improvement was also witnessed in the stress self-recognition indicating mental health aspects and the physical activity rate capturing health behaviors of individuals. Due to the restriction on outdoor activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, the obesity rate heavily increased in 2020, but it improved in 2021 compared to the previous year. However, the obesity rate remained still higher than the previous trends.

Indicators

- 😊 Life Expectancy | 83.5 years(2020) → 83.6 years(2021)
- 😊 Healthy Life Expectancy | 72.0 years(2015) → 73.1 years(2019)
- 😊 Stress Self-recognition | 50.5%(2020) → 44.9%(2022)
- 😊 Self-reported Health | 50.4%(2020) → 53.1%(2022)
- 😊 Obesity Rate | 38.3%(2020) → 37.1%(2021)
- 😞 Suicide Rate(deaths per 100,000 population) | 25.7(2020) → 26.0(2021)
- 😊 Physical Activity Rate | 40.9%(2020) → 45.5%(2022)

Life Expectancy



DEFINITION The average number of years a newborn(age 0) is expected to live  
HOW TO MEASURE Expected lifespan at birth(age 0)

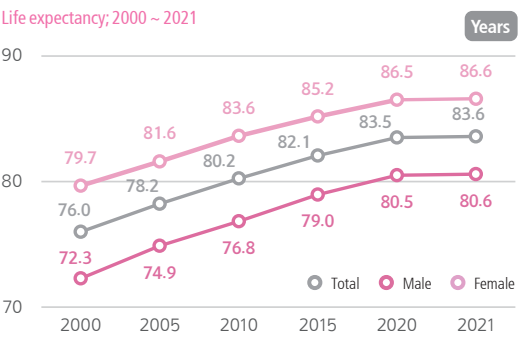
83.6 years in 2021, up 0.1 from previous year

The state of health can be measured with the number of deaths and diseases. Mortality affects life expectancy of the population. If the number of deaths decreases, the life expectancy of the population increases. This is why indicators such as life expectancy and infant mortality are widely utilized to measure the health status of the population. Life expectancy means the average number of years an individual is expected to live in the specific year of birth. To be precise, it refers to ‘expected life span at the age of 0.’

Life expectancy of Koreans increased by more than 20 years from 62.3 years in 1970 to 83.6 years in 2021. It showed an upward trend by an increase of 0.2 year to 0.6 year each year from 76.0 years in 2000 through 78.2 years in 2005 and to 80.2 years in 2010.

With 86.6 years in 2021, the life expectancy of female was longer by 6 years than that of male(80.6 years). Such a gender gap in life expectancy, which had stood at 74 years in 2000, have gradually narrowed down.

As a major indicator used to compare health conditions by country, life expectancy in Korea rose to around 80 years in the 2010s, reaching the level of developed nations. The life expectancy was recorded at 83.6 years in 2021, following Switzerland(84.0 years) and Japan(84.7 years).



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Life Table'

Besides them, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Australia also had a high level of life expectancy(over 83 years). The life expectancy in Korea rose from 76 years in 2000 to 83.6 years in 2021 by 7.6 years for the past 21 years. This was higher growth than any other OECD nation.



SOURCE OECD, *OECD Health Statistics* (retrieved in Dec 2022)  
NOTE ① Out of figures for 2000, Latvia used data of the year 2002. ② Out of figures for 2021, Australia, Canada, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Brazil used data of the year 2020 and Türkiye the year of 2019.

# Healthy Life Expectancy



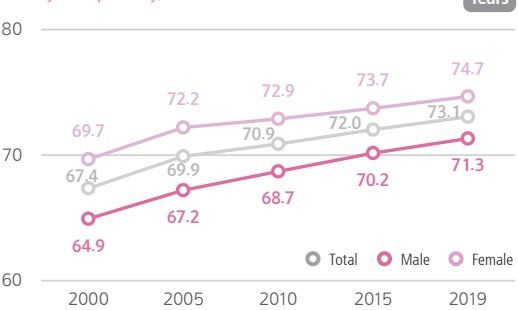
**DEFINITION** Expected years when a person can physically and mentally enjoy a health life excluding a period of disease or disabilities from life expectancy  
**HOW TO MEASURE** A period excluding the total population's average period of diseases or disabilities from life expectancy

## 73.1 years in 2019, up 1.1 years from 2015

Given that life expectancy is an indicator that represents health status in terms of quantity, the healthy life expectancy is an indicator focusing on the quality aspect of health. With a rise in life expectancy, people tend to live longer, but living unhealthily longer at old age and living a healthy, long life have very different impacts on individuals and the society as a whole. A simple increase in life expectancy of individuals does not always result in better health conditions of a society. In this sense, the healthy life expectancy refers to the number of years a person is expected to live in a healthy state, excluding the period of time when they are unable to function properly due to illnesses or accidents.

With an increase in life expectancy, healthy life expectancy has also been on a rise. The healthy life expectancy in Korea increased by 5.7 years to 73.1 years in 2019 from 67.4 years in 2000. The prolonged healthy life expectancy means an improvement in Koreans' health conditions both in quality and quantity. Given the fact that life expectancy extended by 7.4 years for the same period, however, it is clear that the improvement in quality was somewhat lower. Same as life expectancy, female had longer healthy life expectancy than male. In 2019, female were expected to live for 74.7 years which was 3.4 years longer than male(71.3 years). That said,

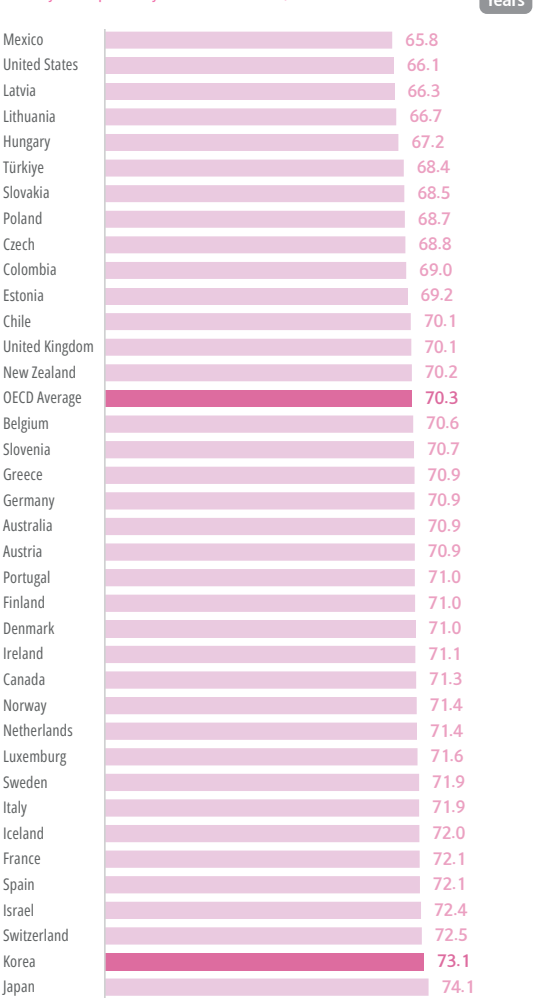
Healthy life expectancy; 2000 ~ 2019



SOURCE WHO, World Health Statistics (retrieved in Dec 2022)

the gender gap has narrowed down since 2000(4.8 years) Compared to other countries, Korea's healthy life expectancy was higher than the OECD average, which was 70.3 years in 2019 out of 37 member states. Like life expectancy, Japan also ranked No. 1 in healthy life expectancy with 74.1 years, followed by Korea, Switzerland, Israel and Spain.

Healthy life expectancy of OECD countries; 2019



SOURCE WHO, World Health Statistics (retrieved in Dec 2022)

# Stress Self-recognition



**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population feeling stressed in their daily life  
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied "severely stressed out" or "moderately stressed out" regarding their daily life for the past two weeks

## 44.9% in 2022, down 5.6%p from 2020

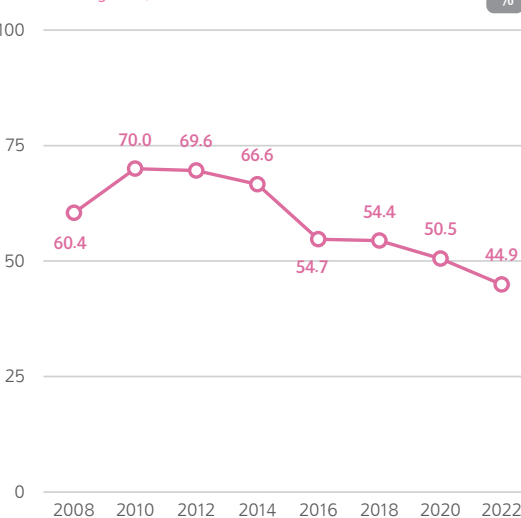
Health of individuals is measured into physical and mental health, and the significance of mental health has been increasingly emphasized. As stress is part of our daily lives, it is one of major indicators that can measure individuals' mental health. The day-to-day, frequent stress has tremendous impacts on individuals' life as it is associated with not only mental health but also physical health.

The stress self-recognition, which is measured at a proportion of feeling stressed for the past two weeks, decreased by 5.6%p from 50.5% in 2020 to 44.9% in 2022. In the aftermath of an increase from 60.4% in 2008 to 70.0% in 2010, it showed a downward trend. In particular, it declined by a big margin from 66.6% in 2014 to 54.7% in 2016.

By gender, female felt more stressed out(47.6%) than male(42.3%). Except for the year 2010 when male showed higher stress self-recognition, female continued to show higher stress self-recognition.

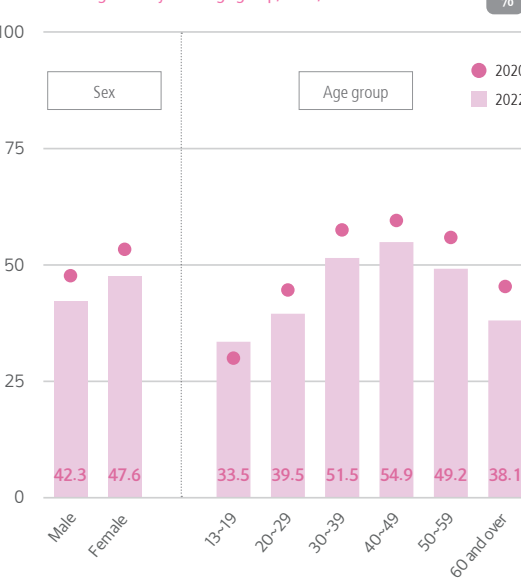
By age group, those in their 30s and 40s were the most stressed out. Stress tended to be lesser for younger or older age groups. Such a trend was witnessed in a similar manner pattern after 2008. Compared to 2020, the stress self-recognition reduced by more than 4%p in almost all ages groups. Especially, the population aged 60 and over saw a decline in stress self-recognition by 7.3%p. Although teenagers(aged 13 to 19) had lower stress self-recognition(33.5%) than any other age group, the rate was still higher than the figure in 2020. It is likely that students' stress level heightened due to a change in their daily life pattern as they started to go to school in 2022, away from remote learning which had been in place from 2020 to 2021.

Stress self-recognition; 2008 ~ 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey'  
NOTE The survey had been conducted on the population aged 15 and over until 2010, and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2012.

Stress self-recognition by sex & age group; 2020, 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey'



# Self-reported Health



**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population assessing themselves as healthy  
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents that replied “very good” or “good” regarding their overall health conditions

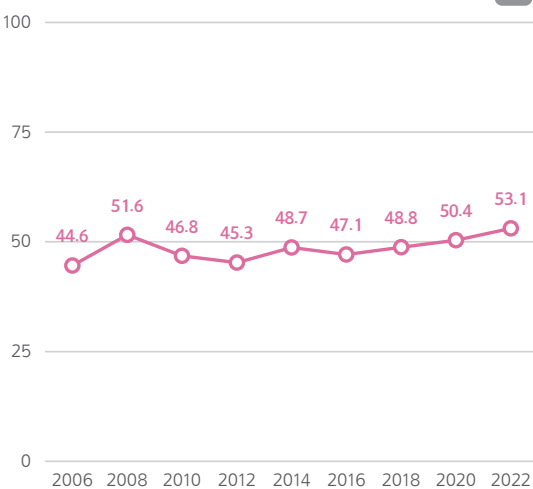
## 53.1% in 2022, up 2.7%p from 2020

Health conditions are traditionally measured with some objective indicators such as life expectancy or prevalence rates. However, self-reported physical and mental conditions have been recently considered as a crucial indicator to show the health state of individuals, regardless of medical diagnosis. In other words, health conditions are identified by measuring the self-reported health level, irrespective of diseases. Even if you are on medication due to high blood pressure, you may feel healthy as long as you can function properly without difficulties. Or you may underestimate your health due to anxieties or concerns of your health even when there is no visible symptom. Subjective judgement on own health may not match with the actual health conditions, but its influence on the quality of life could be more significant.

According to the self-reported health identified in「Social Survey」conducted by Statistics Korea, the ratio of people who assess themselves as healthy increased by 2.7%p from 50.4% in 2020 to 53.1% in 2022. After a rise to 51.6% in 2008 from 44.6% in 2006, it had decreased to 45.3% in 2012 but it rose again afterwards.

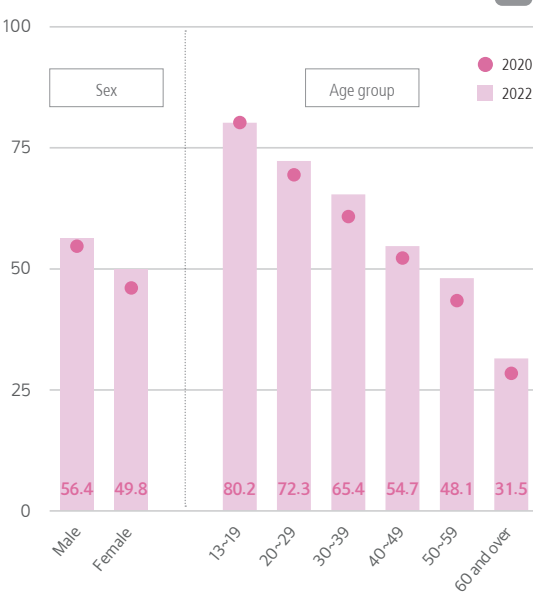
By gender, 56.4% of male viewed themselves as healthy while 49.8% of female did so. Such a trend has been observed on a constant manner. By age group, the younger the responders were, the better their self-reported health was. 80.2% of teenagers answered that their health was good whereas only 31.5% of the elderly in their 60 and over evaluated their own health as good. Compared to 2020, the ratio increased in all age groups except for teenagers.

Self-reported health; 2006 ~ 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」  
NOTE The survey had been conducted on the population aged 15 and over until 2010, and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2012.

Self-reported health by sex & age group; 2020, 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

# Obesity Rate



**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population with BMI (body mass index) of 25 or higher  
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of people with body mass index (BMI) of 25 or higher (BMI = Weight (kg) ÷ [Height (m)]<sup>2</sup>)

## 37.1% in 2021, down 1.2%p from previous year

As a relatively new threat to health, obesity has been considered as one of major contributors to chronic conditions and diseases. Obesity is attributed to an increase in the consumption of processed foods, overnutrition and insufficient physical activities. Unlike lifestyle habits such as smoking or drinking, it is also associated with economic development and changes in lifestyle, and it makes it more difficult to alleviate.

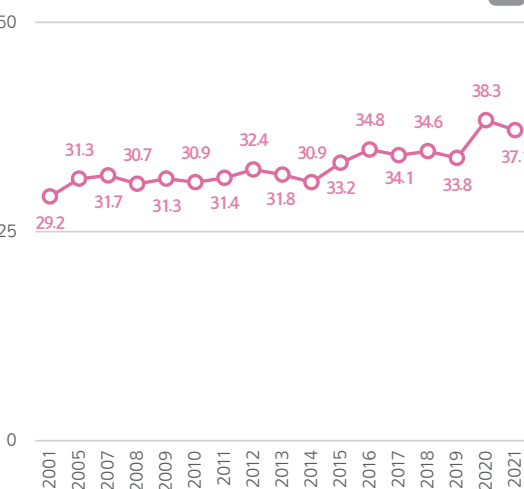
In particular, obesity is associated with chronic diseases like high blood pressure and diabetes, which enormously impact on the quality of individuals' life.

The obesity rate rose from 29.2% in 2001 to 31.3% in 2005. Afterwards, it stayed at the similar level, with some ups and downs. Starting from 2015, it became somewhere between 33% and 34%, but it increased by 4.5%p from 2019 to 38.3% in 2020. It is assumed that the sudden increase in the obesity rate resulted from restricted outdoor activities or sports facilities and more time spending at home like work from home and remote learning amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It slightly decreased to 37.1% in 2021 but still higher than the previous trend.

By gender, 46.3% of male turned out to be obese which was higher by 19.4%p than female(26.9%). The obesity rate of male has continued increasing from 31.8% in 2001 whereas that of female ranged 24% to 28%, including 27.4% in 2001.

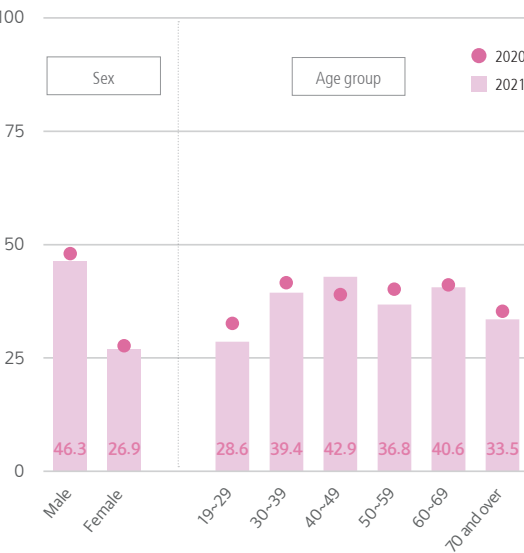
By age group, the obesity rates were low among the population aged 19 to 29 with 28.6% and those in their 70 and over with 33.5%. Excluding them, there was no big difference among age groups. Compared to 2020, the obesity rate decreased in overall, but the rate increased among the population in their 40s from 39.0% in 2020 to 42.9% in 2021. For those in their 60s, the rate fell from 41.1% in 2020 to 40.6% in 2021, which was a smaller decrease compared to other age groups.

Obesity rate; 2001 ~ 2021



SOURCE Korea Disease Control & Prevention Agency, 「Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey」  
NOTE These are age-standardized figures based on the estimated population in 2005.

Obesity rate by sex & age group; 2020, 2021



SOURCE Korea Disease Control & Prevention Agency, 「Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey」  
NOTE sex data are age-standardized figures based on the estimated population in 2005.

Suicide Rate



DEFINITION The number of suicide deaths out of 100,000 population  
HOW TO MEASURE (No. of suicide deaths ÷ No. of registered population) × 100,000

26.0 deaths in 2021, up 0.3 from previous year

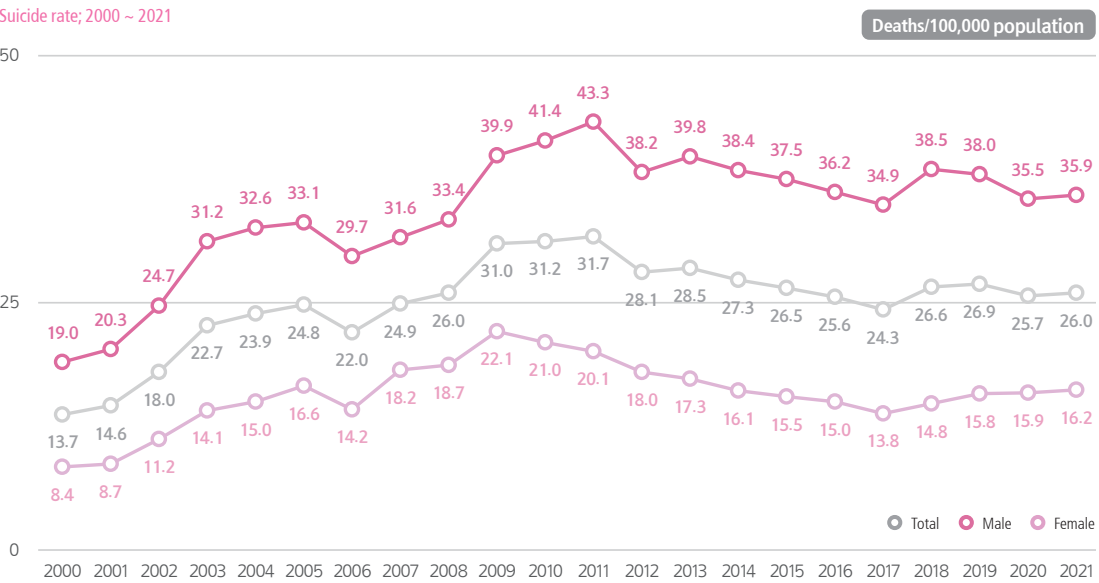
There is an apparent correlation between life satisfaction and suicide rates in general. As one of indicators about mental health associated with depression, suicide rate is highly related to the quality of individuals' life. In addition, the suicide rate implies the structural characteristics of a society and the degree of social integration. Particularly, when a sudden disruption or intense instability occurs in a society, the suicide rate tends to go up.

The total number of suicides in 2021 stood at 13,352, which is equal to 26 deaths per 100,000 population. It was an increase of 0.3 death per 100,000 population compared to the previous year. The suicide rate per 100,000 population has constantly increased from 13.7 deaths in 2000 to 24.8 deaths in 2005. After the record-high suicide rate in 2011 with 31.7 deaths, the rate decreased but slightly went up after 2017.

By gender, the suicide rate of male was equal to 35.9 deaths per 100,000 population which was more than twice as high

that of female(16.2 deaths). The suicide rates of both genders had slightly increased compared to 2020. The suicide rate tends to go up with age. In particular, the rate surged in the population aged 70 and over. The suicide rate of those in their 40s to 60s was around 30 deaths per 100,000 population, but the rate jumped to 41.8 deaths and even to 61.3 deaths among the population aged 70s and 80s and over respectively. While the rate decreased in 2021 for the population aged 40 and over except for those in their 70s, the rate increased in the population under 30 years. Especially, the suicide rates for the two age groups in their 20s and 70s had a higher increase compared to other age groups from 21.7 deaths and 38.8 deaths in 2020 to 23.5 deaths and 41.8 deaths in 2021, respectively.

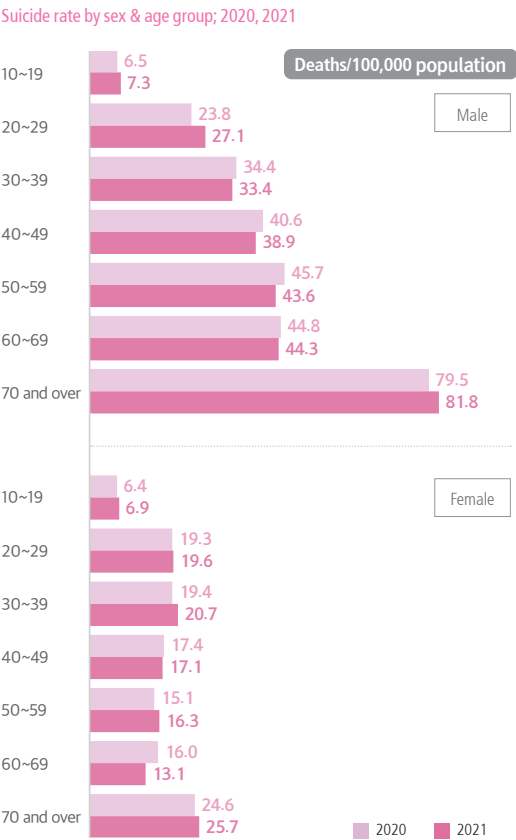
By gender and age group, male tended to see the higher suicide rate as age increased. Meanwhile, female had the highest suicide rate among those in their 20s and 30s, except



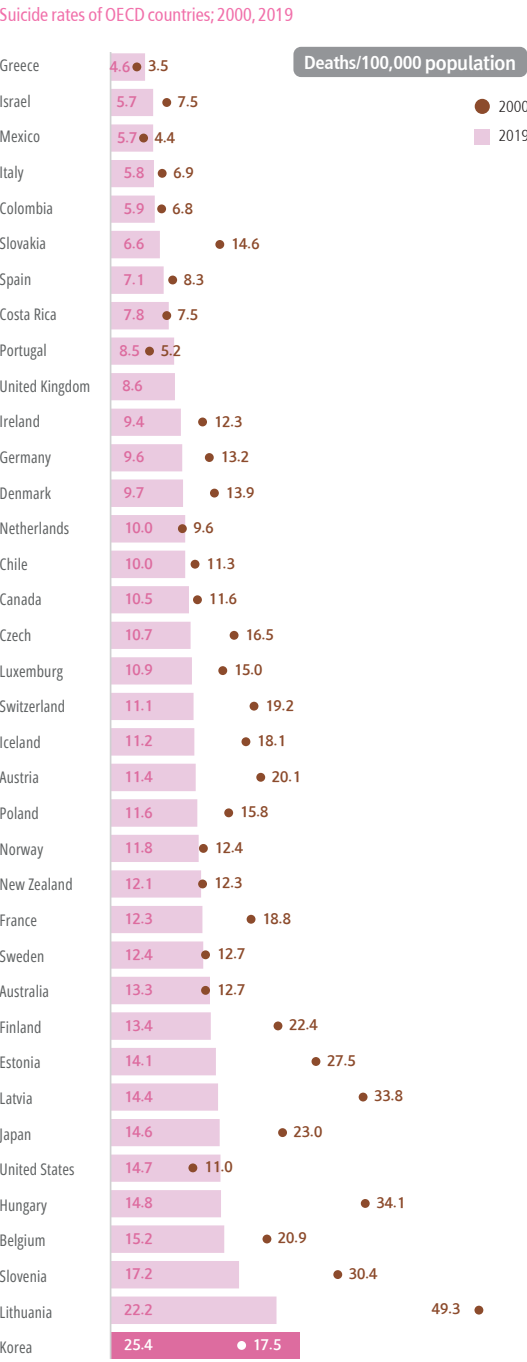
SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Causes of Death Statistics'

for the elderly aged 70 and over. In all age groups, female had lower suicide rates than male, but the suicide rate for those aged 10-19 was almost similar between boys(7.3 deaths) and girls(6.9 deaths). Compared to 2020, the suicide rates of teenagers and those in their 20s increased both for male and female.

Korea has the much higher suicide rate than other countries. In 2019, Korea's suicide rate came in first with 25.4 deaths per 100,000 population out of OECD countries, followed by 22.2 deaths in Lithuania. Along with the suicide rates of OECD countries mostly on a decrease, countries such as Latvia, Hungary, Estonia, Finland and Japan whose suicide rates had been high in 2001 saw a steady decline to less than 15 deaths.



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Causes of Death Statistics'



SOURCE OECD, OECD Health Statistics (retrieved in Dec 2022)  
NOTE ㉔ These are aged-standardized suicide rates. ㉔ New Zealand and Norway used data of the year 2016; France and Italy data of the year 2017; and Belgium, Sweden, Chile, Denmark, Ireland and Portugal data of the year 2018.

# Physical Activity Rate



DEFINITION A proportion of the population practicing physical activities in daily life on a regular basis  
HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of respondents who replied that they "practiced" vigorous exercise(hiking, walking, yoga, cycling, etc.) on a regular basis

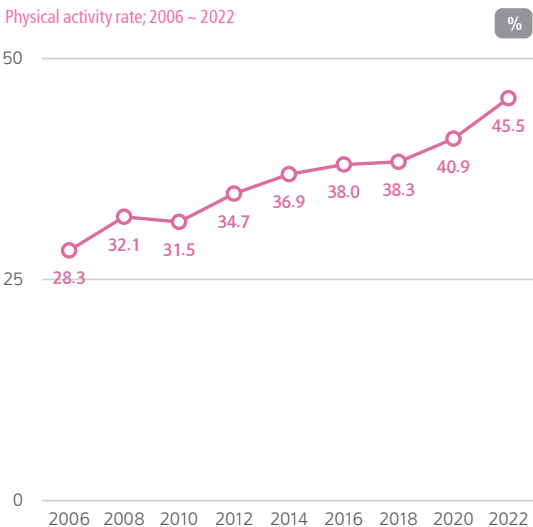
## 45.5% in 2022, up 4.6%p from 2020

One of typical methods to promote health is physical activities. Physical activities are distinguished from professional exercise(sports) as they are available for everyone, and they are not the same as labor that repeats limited motions since they can strengthen muscle of the entire body and promote cardiopulmonary functions. Regular physical activities that can be done easily during day-to-day life such as walking, running and rope skipping and stretching enhance health. They are also known to be effective in preventing obesity.

As part of 「Social Survey」, Statistics Korea conducted a survey to find out whether people practice exercise such as hiking, walking, yoga and cycling on a regular basis. The survey indicated the physical activity rate in Korea steadily increased from 28.3% in 2006 to 45.5% in 2022.

The physical activity rate was higher for male(47.3%) than female(43.7%). By region, the rate was recorded at 46.2% in urban areas which was higher than rural areas with 42.4%. Such the gender and regional gaps have showed the similar trend since 2006.

By age group, the rates stood at 46.7% and 50.5% in the population in their 50s and 60 and over respectively which were relatively higher than those in their 30s and 40s. The physical activity rate of the young under 20 was equal to 40.6% which was the lowest among all the age groups. Compared to 2020, the rate went up throughout all age groups; however, teenagers saw a decrease in the physical activity rate from 43.4% in 2020 to 40.6% in 2022. During the same period, the rate jumped by a larger margin in those aged 30 to 39 than other age groups from 34.3% to 41.1%.



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」  
NOTE The survey had been conducted on the population aged 15 and over until 2010, and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2012.



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

# Education





About

Education is a process of acquiring knowledge and, at the same time, creating new knowledge, thereby serving as a driving force to create material conditions. On social aspects, it promotes social stability and enhances the societal quality through social development, again affecting the quality of individuals' life. In addition, it is evaluated as a means to narrow down a gap in life quality among members of a society. It is also a tool for individuals to fulfill their potential. The domain of Education is classified into the following three: education opportunities (whether enough education opportunities are provided in relation to the quality of life in an impartial manner), education resources (whether sufficient resources are deployed so that education can improve the quality of life), and education performance (whether education can lead to intended performance via learning opportunities and resources deployed).

Recent Trends

Out of six indicators in the domain of Education, five changed for the improved and the remaining one got deteriorated. Overall, 83.3% of the indicators showing improvement. The preschool enrollment rate, which had reduced in 2019 and 2020, returned to the previous upward trend. The improvement of the degree of education cost burden, perception toward effects of school education and population with tertiary education continued. The employment rate of college graduates deteriorated due to COVID-19 in 2020, but again improved in 2021. After some improvements in 2020, the school life satisfaction got worse in 2022. It is assumed that the satisfaction with school life diminished due to a change in their daily life pattern from remote learning to face-to-face classes.

Indicators

- 😊 Preschool Enrollment Rate | 91.5%(2020) → 93.6%(2021)
- 😊 Degree of Education Cost Burden | 64.1%(2020) → 57.7%(2022)
- 😊 Perception toward Effects of School Education | 40.2%(2020) → 43.2%(2022)
- 😞 School Life Satisfaction | 59.3%(2020) → 51.1%(2022)
- 😊 Population with Tertiary Education | 50.7%(2020) → 51.7%(2021)
- 😊 Employment Rate of College Graduates | 65.1%(2020) → 67.7%(2021)

Preschool Enrollment Rate

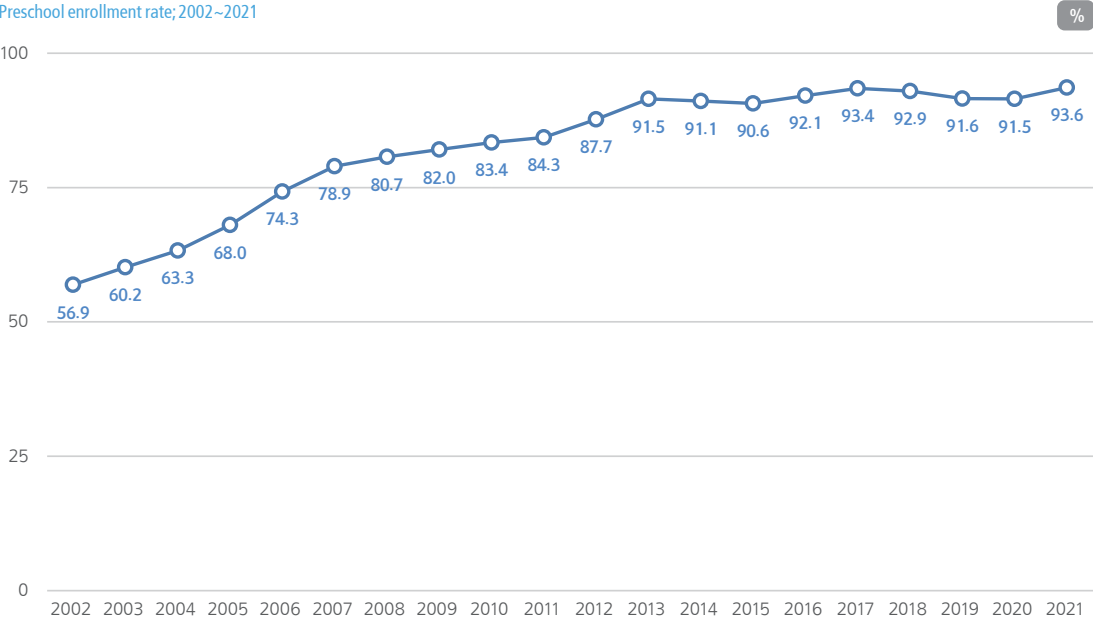


DEFINITION A proportion of children enrolling in a preschool or kindergarten out of the population aged 3 to 5  
HOW TO MEASURE  $\{(\text{No. of 3- to 5-year-olds in preschool} + \text{No. of 3- to 5-year-olds enrolling in kindergarten}) \div \text{School-age Population (aged 3 to 5)}\} \times 100$

93.6% in 2021, up 2.1%p from the previous year

The preschool enrollment rate is an indicator that measures whether education opportunities have been offered to members of a society in a timely, adequate and extensive manner. It focuses on measurement of education opportunities prior to the primary education. In the Korean society, primary/secondary education opportunities are open to almost all. Thus, the preschool enrollment rate is a meaningful indicator as it measures education opportunities before the primary education. Although kindergartens and preschools are currently classified separately as educational institutes and daycare centers respectively and are not integrated, both provide educational and child-care services to pre-schoolers. Unlike the previous kindergarten enrollment rate, herein, the rate

covers children who go to either kindergarten or preschool. For kindergarten, as there is an age limit, the survey was targeted at the school-age population aged 3 to 5. In 2021, the preschool enrollment rate amounted to 93.6%, which means 9 out of 10 children aged 3 to 5 were attending to either preschool or kindergarten. The proportion has been on a steep upward trend, with 56.9% in 2002, 80.7% in 2008 and 91.5% in 2013. In particular, it sharply rose by 4%p to 6%p each year from 2004 to 2007, followed by slight increases by less than 1%p from 2008. After hovering 90% in 2013, it remained stagnant only with some slight changes. Following a transient decrease from 2019 to 2020, it returned to the previous growth rate in 2021.



SOURCE Korean Educational Development Institute, 「Statistical Yearbook of Education」; Ministry of Health and Welfare, 「Statistics on Childcare Facilities and Users」; Statistics Korea, 「Population Projections, 2020」  
NOTE For school-age children, the estimated population data were used. (It was definitive population until 2020, but it's subject to change during the next projection after 2021).

# Degree of Education Cost Burden



DEFINITION A proportion of parents who believe their children's education expenditures are burdensome relative to their income

HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of respondents who replied that education expenditures are "very burdensome" or "somewhat burdensome" out of households with students

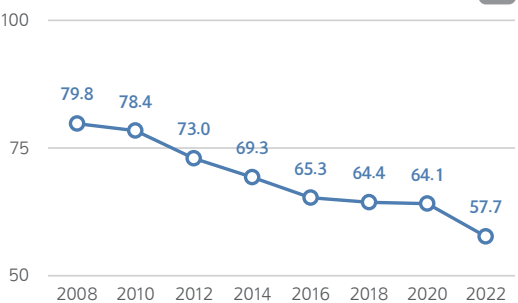
## 57.7% in 2022, down 6.4%p from 2020

A rise in education expenditures could provoke issues with equality of education opportunities, possibly deepening an education gap between social classes. The degree of education cost burden shows how burdensome the education expenditures are relative to the household income.

The degree of education cost burden, a proportion of respondents who believe that children's education expenditures impose a burden on household economy, stood at 57.7% in 2022, down 6.4%p from 2020. While it had constantly decreased from 79.8% in 2008, the decline was particularly apparent in 2022.

By age group, parents in their 30s who normally have preschool or primary school students tended to relatively spend less, while education expenditures went up for those in their 40 and over. 46.1% of household heads in their 30s answered that education expenditures were burdensome. The proportion went up to 58.4% among those in their 40s and even to 60.8% in those aged 50 to 59. The proportion of those in their 50s was about 14%p higher than that of those in their 30s. Out of education expenditures, 'private education outside of school' were selected as the most

Degree of education cost burden; 2008 ~ 2022

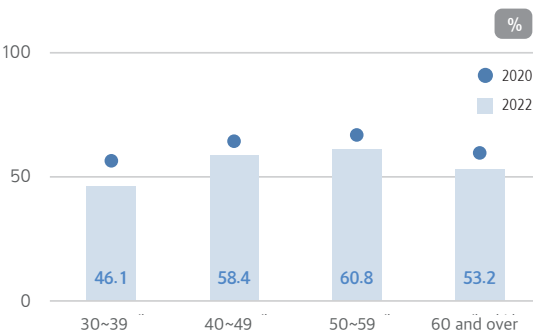


SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey'

NOTE The survey was conducted on household heads in their 30s and over with school-aged children.

burdensome, followed by schooling(23.4%), boarding(4.7%). Since 2016, tuition fees outside school had been more burdensome while the proportion of school payment diminished.

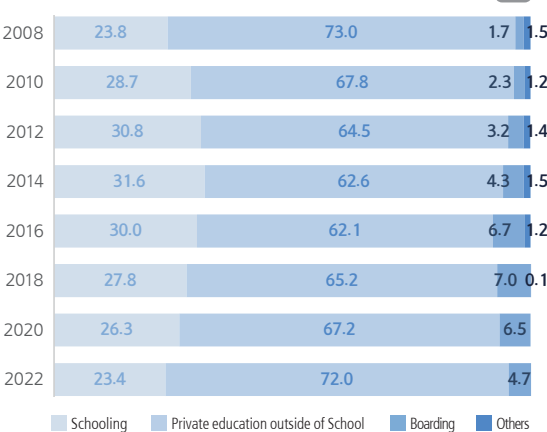
Degree of education cost burden by age group of household head; 2020, 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey'

NOTE The survey was conducted on household heads in their 30s and over with school-aged children.

Education cost burden by item; 2008 ~ 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey'

NOTE ㉠ The survey was conducted on household heads in their 30s or older with school-aged children. ㉡ Each item of education expenditures borne by those who answered that their education expenditures were 'burdensome.' ㉢ 'Teaching materials' costs were excluded from the survey starting from 2018, and 'Extra-classes' costs have been replaced with 'Private education outside of School' since 2020.

# Perception toward Effects of School Education



DEFINITION A proportion of the population who positively recognize efficiency of school education

HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of respondents who replied that school education is "very effective" or "somewhat effective" in 'To prepare for adulthood, a career and employment'

## 43.2% in 2022, up 3.0%p from 2020

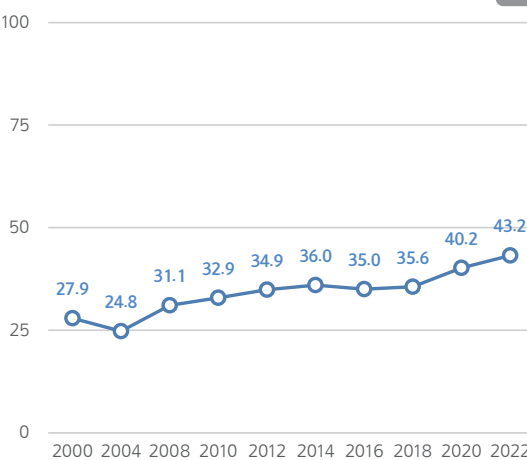
As an indicator that captures how positively individuals evaluate school education, the perception toward effects of school education measures effects of school education based on subjective judgement, instead of the objective level of academic achievement. As it is used as a subjective indicator to indicate academic performance, it shows how effectively school education can be utilized in real life settings such as living, employment and occupation.

The proportion of people who believe school education is effective in 'to prepare for adulthood, a career and employment' rose by 3.0%p from 40.2% in 2020 to 43.2% in 2022. Following an increase from 27.9% in 2000 to 36.0% in 2014, it stayed on the similar trend, but it went up again to 43.2% in 2022.

The perception toward effects of school education varies depending on age groups. The proportion was higher in those in their under 30s and those in their 60s and over whereas it was relatively lower among the population in their 30s and 40s. The proportion was low in those in their 30s and 40s with around 37% whereas it was recorded high at 49.3% in the population aged 13 to 19 and at 50.3% for those in their 60s and over. Compared to 2020, the proportion increased to some degree in all ages groups.

The similar trends were observed in comparison with education levels. Among those who completed only elementary school graduate and under, most of whom are the elderly, a high percentage(52.8%) believed that school education was effective. The proportion of high school graduates and college graduates who answered that school education is effective was 40.8% and 41.5% respectively. College graduates seemed to believe in effects of school education a little bit more, but the gap was not striking. Thus, it is safe to say that this indicator is affected more by age rather than by education level.

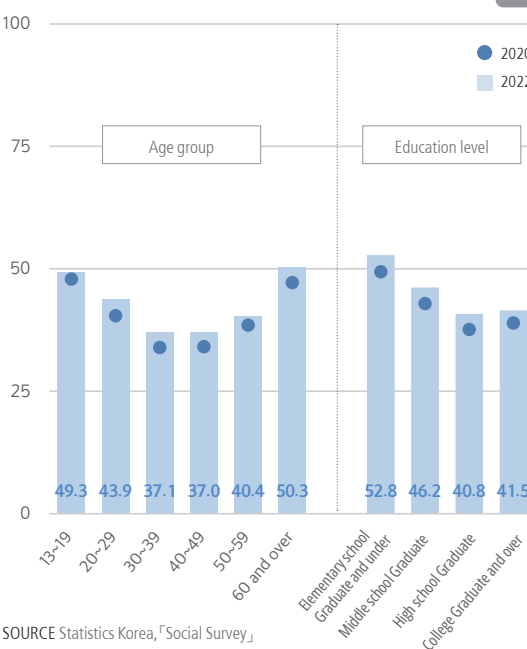
Perception toward effects of school education; 2000 ~ 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey'

NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 15 and over until 2010 and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2012.

Perception toward effects of school education by age group & education level; 2020, 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey'

# School Life Satisfaction



DEFINITION A proportion of students satisfied with school life

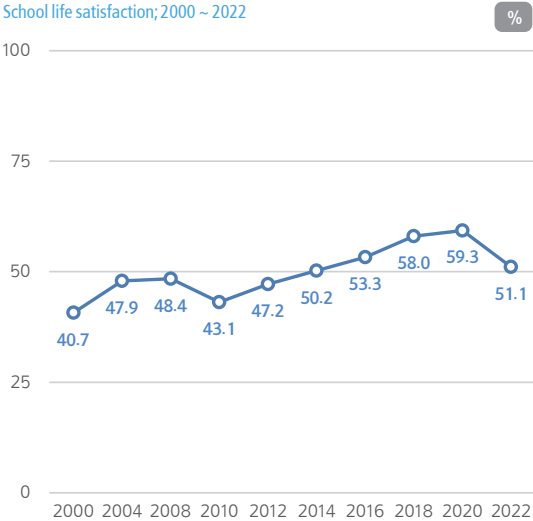
HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of middle and high school students who replied that they were “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with their overall school life

## 51.1% in 2022, down 8.2%p from 2020

It is difficult to measure the quality and process of education solely based on physical environments and facilities of schools as education is fundamentally the result of psychological correlations. Therefore, it is necessary to evaluate the quality of school education through students’ subjective judgements such as school life satisfaction. As an indicator which involves students’ participation in school life and activities, the school life satisfaction indirectly shows their school life. The satisfaction of middle and high school students with their school life decreased by 8.2%p from 59.3% in 2020 to 51.1% in 2022. Actually, it had risen from 40.7% in 2000 to 48.4% in 2008 and again had gone up since 2012, but it fell in 2022. In 2020, the number of school days declined due to COVID-19, combined with online classes conducted in parallel. Despite such the unusual school life, any visible change in overall school life satisfaction was not found. However, in 2022 full face-to-face classes and anti-virus policies to fight against COVID-19 seemed to have affected students’ satisfaction with school life in 2022.

Looking at the breakdown of satisfaction, satisfaction with ‘relationship with schoolmates’ topped the list with 74.1%, followed by ‘relationship with teachers’. On the contrary, satisfaction with ‘educational methods’ was the lowest with 49.0%. The time-series analysis showed that, over the past decade, there was a big rise in satisfaction with ‘relationship with teachers’, ‘school facilities’ and ‘school’s neighboring environment’ whereas satisfaction with ‘educational contents’ or ‘educational methods’ had seen only a slight increase in the satisfaction level. Except for ‘relationship with schoolmates’ and ‘educational methods’, all items decreased compared to 2020. In particular, the satisfaction with and ‘school’s neighboring environment’ had the biggest decline by far.

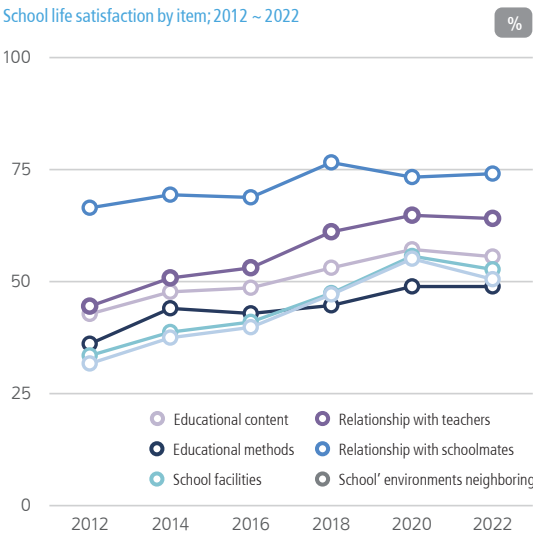
School life satisfaction; 2000 ~ 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 『Social Survey』

NOTE The survey had been conducted on the population aged 15 and over until 2010 and has been done on students attending middle or high school at aged 13 and over since 2012.

School life satisfaction by item; 2012 ~ 2022



NOTE The survey had been conducted on the enrolled students aged 13 and over from 2012 to 2016 and has been done on middle and high school students aged 13 and over since 2018.

# Employment Rate of College Graduates



DEFINITION A proportion of the employed out of those eligible for employment after graduation of tertiary education institutes

HOW TO MEASURE (The employed ÷ Those eligible for employment out of graduates of tertiary education institutes) × 100

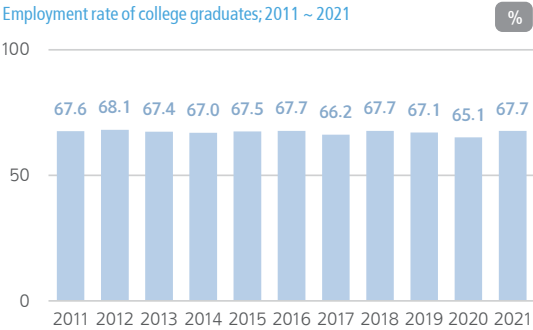
## 67.7% in 2021, up 2.6%p from previous year

The employment of college graduates serves as an objective indicator showing education performance. With utilization of the employment of college graduates as an indicator, we can judge whether development of human resources through tertiary education properly accommodates needs of the labor market. It also shows how successfully the young adults who have completed their regular education step into the stage of self-fulfillment and provides implications for the societal quality and sustainability.

The employment rate of college graduates declined due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, but it returned back to the pre-COVID level, 67.7% in 2021. Except for 2020, during the past ten years(2011 to 2021), the rate stayed at the range between 66% and 68%. In 2021, out of college graduates, 69.5% of male had got a job while 66.1% of female, 3.4%p lower than that of male, had been employed. The employment rate of female was on an increase from 64.5% in 2011, narrowing a gender gap down from 6.2%p in 2011.

By discipline of university/college education, the employment rate was ranked the highest with 82.1% in the medicine departments while arts liberal was the lowest with 58.2%. Compared to 2014, the employment rate in the education and engineering departments had declined. On the other hand, the employment rate in fine arts & sports colleges increased.

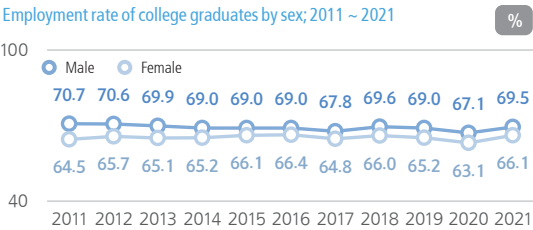
Employment rate of college graduates; 2011 ~ 2021



SOURCE Korean Educational Development Institute, 『Statistical yearbook for employment』

NOTE ① Tertiary education institutes include universities, technical colleges, industrial colleges and educational colleges. ② The employment rate was calculated in conjunction with the database of health insurance and national taxes.

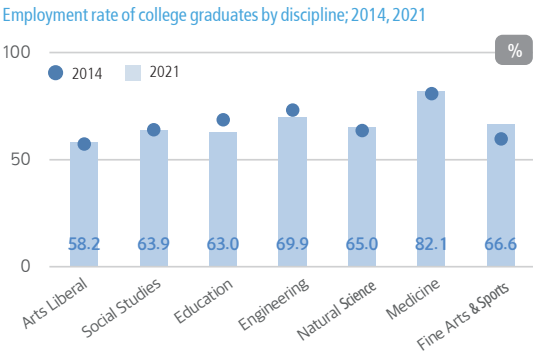
Employment rate of college graduates by sex; 2011 ~ 2021



SOURCE Korean Educational Development Institute, 『Statistical Yearbook for Employment』

NOTE ① Tertiary education institutes include universities, technical colleges, industrial colleges and educational colleges ② The employment rate was calculated in conjunction with the database of health insurance and national taxes.

Employment rate of college graduates by discipline; 2014, 2021



SOURCE Korean Educational Development Institute, 『Statistical Yearbook for Employment』

NOTE ① Tertiary education institutes include universities, technical colleges, industrial colleges and educational colleges ② The employment rate was calculated in conjunction with the database of health insurance and national taxes.



# Population with Tertiary Education



DEFINITION A proportion of graduates from tertiary education institutes out of the population aged 25 to 64

HOW TO MEASURE (Graduates from tertiary education institutes ÷ Population aged 25 to 64)×100

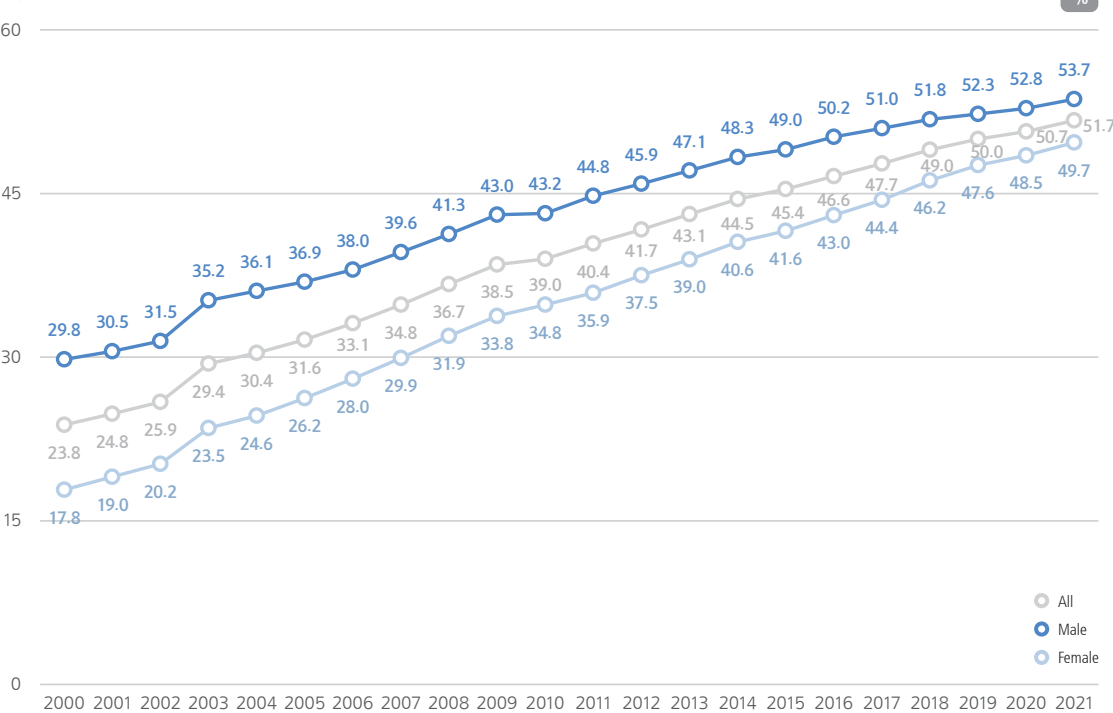
## 51.7% in 2021, up 1.0%p from previous year

The population with tertiary education is one of major indicators showing the education level of a society. The higher the completion rate of tertiary education is, the higher the education level in a society is and the more extensively education opportunities are to the members. A high proportion of the population graduated from college means there are sufficient educational opportunities available for individuals, which can contribute to expansion of exemplary human resources in the nation. As the outstanding human resources are the key to national competitiveness, a large number of college graduates can lead to the robust

foundations for national development.

As a nation with the high education level and yearn for education, Korea has the world's highest school enrollment rate which indicates the degree of education opportunities available to the people. Most Korean students already have the world's greatest access to primary and secondary education. Once education opportunities in the primary and secondary education are satisfied, then hope for college education. In 1981, the government introduced a graduation quota system, doubling the number of college entrants. It also eased requirements for establishment of colleges/

Population with tertiary education; 2000 ~ 2021



SOURCE OECD, *OECD Education at a Glance*. (stats.oecd.org, retrieved in Dec 2022)

NOTE The population with tertiary education refers to a ratio of people who have completed tertiary education out of the population aged 25 to 64.

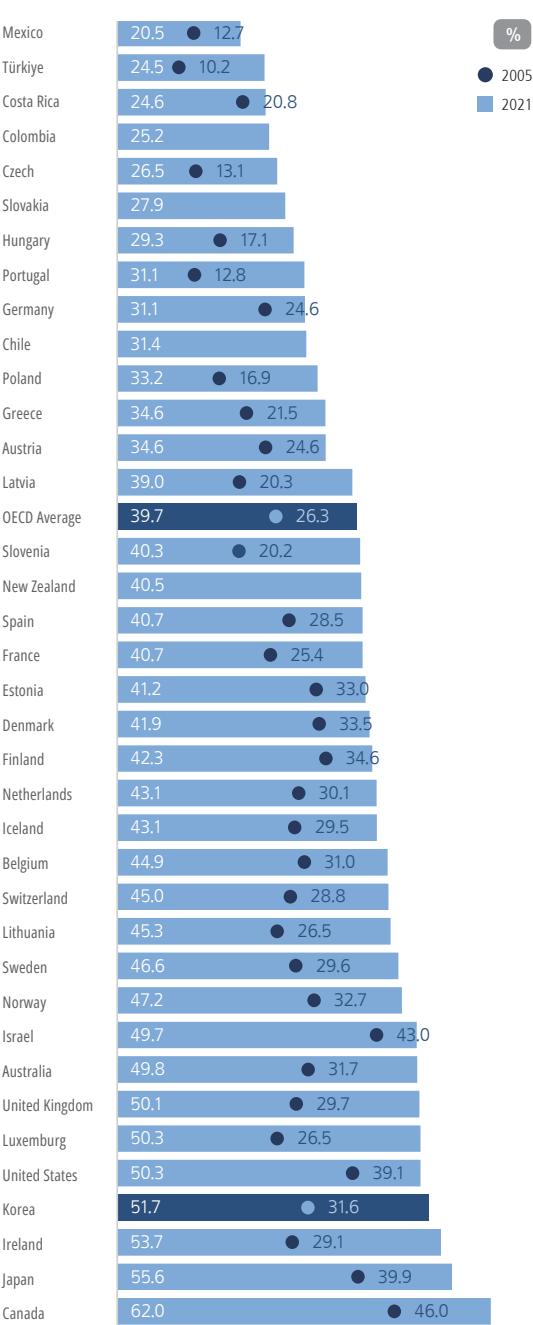
universities and allowed them to determine the number of their freshmen starting from 1995. Afterwards, the number of population with college education or higher saw had grown rapidly.

Out of adults(aged 25 to 64), the of the population who had graduated from college or higher, referred as the population with tertiary education, stood at 23.8% in 2000. It was like only one person received college education out of four. Since then, the population with tertiary education had increased more than double and amounted to 51.7% in 2021.

By gender, 53.7% of male received tertiary education which was 4.0%p higher than that of female(49.7%). However, such a gender gap has reduced. In 2000, the population with tertiary education was 29.8% in male and 17.8% in female, showing a gap by 12.0%p. However, the gender gap decreased to less than 10%p in 2007 and had further declined to below 5%p since 2019.

As one of countries with the highest education levels in the world, Korea had education levels which was 12%p higher than the OECD average in 2021. Countries with a higher completion rate of tertiary education than Korea are namely Canada(62.0%), Japan(55.6%) and Ireland(53.7%). In 2005, Korea's population with tertiary education stood at 31.6% which exceeded the OECD overage(26.3%). Over the past 16 years, Korea saw an increase in the proportion by 20.1%p, which was a lot higher than a rise in the OECD average(13.4%p) during the same period. Compared to 2005, the completion rate also jumped by more than 20%p in Luxembourg, Slovenia, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Population with tertiary education of OECD countries; 2005, 2021



SOURCE OECD, *OECD Education at a Glance*. (stats.oecd.org, retrieved in Dec 2022)

NOTE ① The population with tertiary education refers to a ratio of people who have completed with tertiary education out of the population aged 25 to 64. ② Countries without 2005 data were excluded. ③ 2020 data was used for Chile.

# Employment·Wage



About

Availability of opportunities for economic activities, appropriate compensations for economic activities and the quality of economic activities ultimately affect the quality of individuals' life through final outputs, i.e., incomes. However, economic activities themselves can influence on the quality of life for individuals. In a society with sufficient opportunities for economic activities, individuals engaging in economic activities can benefit from reasonable remuneration, and high quality in employment can lead to the higher quality of life for individuals and the society as a whole.

Recent Trends

Out of six indicators in the domain of Employment/Wage, five indicators improved while one indicator got deteriorated. The employment and unemployment rates showing the current state of the labor market in 2022 changed for the better compared to the previous year. Some improvement was also witnessed in the average monthly wage, proportion of low-paid workers and job satisfaction. The working hours had been on a steady decrease, but it again started to increase in 2020, worsening the working conditions.

Indicators

- 😊 Unemployment Rate | 3.7%(2021) → 2.9%(2022)
- 😊 Employment Rate | 60.5%(2021) → 62.1%(2022)
- 😊 Average Monthly Wage | KRW 3,180(2020) → KRW 3,191(2021)
- 😊 Proportion of Low-paid Workers | 16.0%(2020) → 15.6%(2021)
- 😞 Working Hours(per month) | 163.6 hours(2020) → 164.2 hours(2021)
- 😊 Job Satisfaction | 32.3%(2019) → 35.0%(2021)

Unemployment Rate



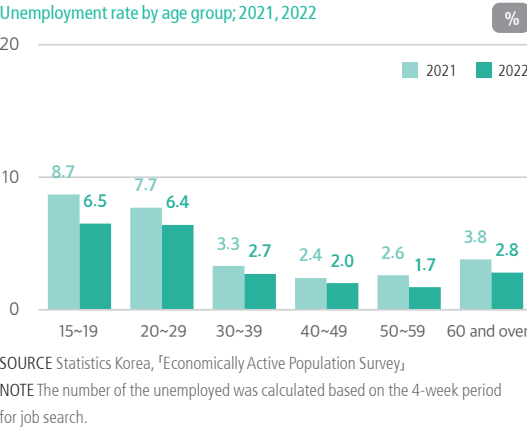
DEFINITION A proportion of the unemployed out of economically active population  
HOW TO MEASURE (No. of the unemployed aged 15 and over ÷ Economically active population aged 15 and over) × 100

2.9% in 2022, down 0.8%p from 2021

The unemployed refer to people who have not engaged any activity generating income but have actively searched for job for the past four weeks. The unemployment rate stood at 2.9% in 2022, down 0.8%p from 2021. After hitting the record high of 4.4% in 2000, the unemployment rate fluctuated until 2013 when there was an upward trend with 3.1%. In 2020, it rose to 4.0% under the influence of the pandemic, but it went back to 3.7% in 2021. It further decreased to 2.9% in 2022, showing the lowest level since 2000.

By gender, in 2022, the unemployment rate stood at 2.7% in male and 3.1% in female. Both male and female saw a decrease in the unemployment rate by 0.9%p and 0.7%p respectively compared to 2021. By age group, the population aged 15 to 19 had the highest unemployment rate of 6.5%, followed by 6.4% in the aged 20 to 29. In 2022, the unemployment rates fell from the previous year in all age group. Especially, those aged 15 to 19 saw the largest reduction in the unemployment rate which became similar to the unemployment rate in those aged 20 to 29. Those in their 50s had the lowest unemployment rate of 1.7%, followed by 2.0% in the population in their 40s.

- UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
Population who have actively engaged in job searching activities during the survey period(for the past four weeks)
- ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION  
Those who are employed or unemployed engaging in job searching activities out of the population aged 15 and over
- ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE POPULATION  
Those classified as students, the elderly, the handicapped and others who are neither employed nor unemployed out of the population aged 15 and over





Employment Rate



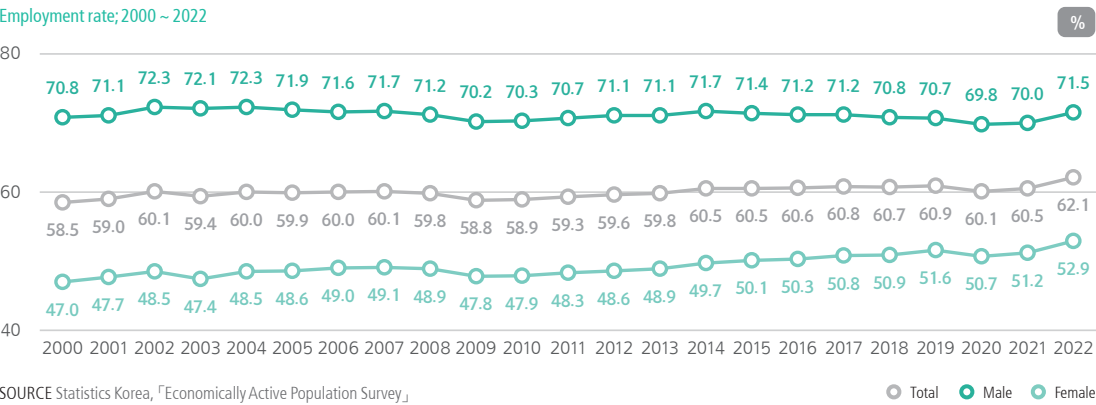
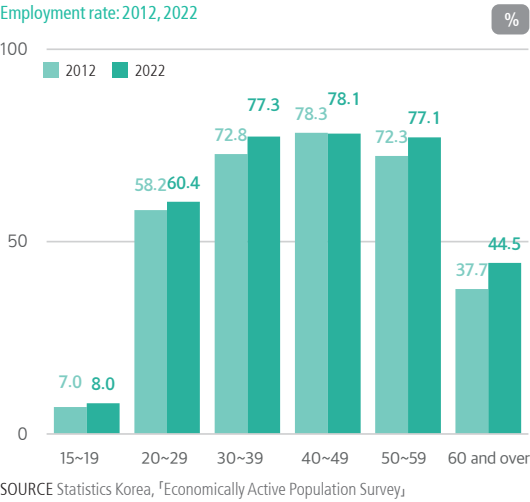
DEFINITION A proportion of the employed out of the population aged 15 and over  
HOW TO MEASURE (No. of the employed aged 15 and over÷ Population aged 15 and over) × 100

62.1% in 2022, up 1.6%p from previous year

The employment rate is a key indicator representing the current state of labor market most concisely. It is also widely used as an indicator for inter-country comparison. The employment rate stood at 62.1% in 2022, up 1.6%p from the previous year. Since it rose to 60.5% in 2014, it had maintained the similar growing trend. In 2020, it decreased to 60.1% due to COVID-19, but it slightly recovered in 2021. It further grew to 62.1% in 2022, exceeding the pre-existing trend. The employment rate was higher in male(71.5%) by 18.6%p than in female(52.9%). As the employment rate of female had constantly increased from 47% in 2000, the gender gap had narrowed down from 23.8% in 2000. In particular, female’s employment rate in 2022 rose by 1.7%p compared to the previous year, reaching the highest employment rate since 2000.

In comparison among age groups, those in their 40s had the highest employment rate of 78.1%, closely followed by those in their 30s and 50s with 77.3% and 77.1% respectively. The population in their 20s and 60s and over came next with 60.4% and 44.5% respectively. The employment rates increased in all age groups compared to 2021. Except for those in their 40s, the employment

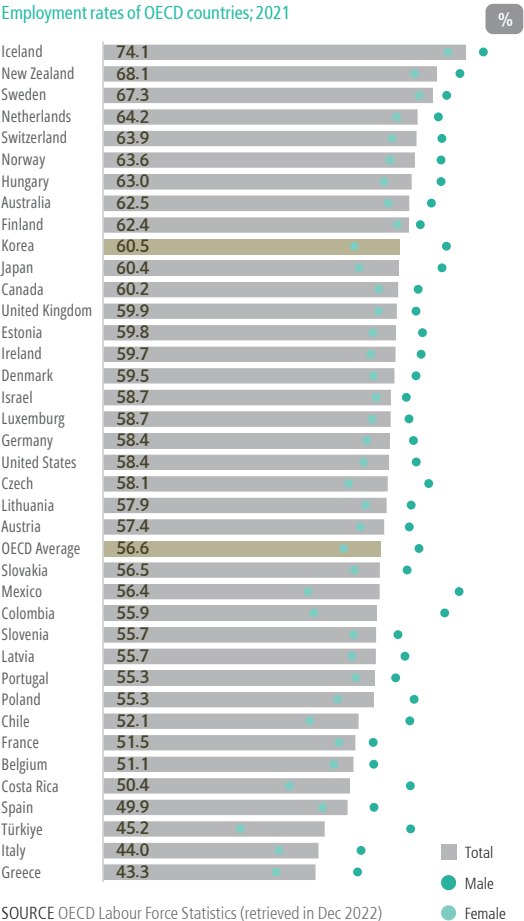
rates rose in all age groups compared to 2012. In particular, the growth was notable in the population in their 50s and 60s and over. In comparison with developed countries, Korea posted the employment rate of 60.5% out of the population aged 15 and over in 2021, exceeding the OECD average(56.6%). Iceland had the highest employment rate of 74.1% while Greece and Italy had the lowest rate of less than 45%. Although Korea was ahead of France(51.5%), it lagged



behind the Netherlands and Switzerland. It joined the rank of nations like the United Kingdom, Japan and Canada. By gender, male in Korea tended to have a higher employment rate, compared to other OECD countries. Meanwhile, female’s employment rate was considered as low among OEDC countries, which was only slightly higher than the OECD female average(49.1%). Furthermore, Korea’s gender gap in the employment rate was equal to 18.8%p which was wider than the OECD average(15.4%p). On the other hand, the gender gaps in many OECD countries such as the United Kingdom, Australia, France and Canada were less than 10%p.

The employment rate among the population aged 65

and over stood at 34.9%, more than twice as high as the average(15.0%), in 2021 which was one of the highest among OECD countries. Korea and Iceland(32.5%) are only two nations with employment rates of over 30% in the population aged 65 and over. In Japan, the employment rate in the old-age group was 25.1% which was lower than that of Korea. For the elderly, Canada, the United Kingdom and Switzerland had the employment rate of at least 10% while the rate was even lower at below 10% in France, Germany and the Netherlands.



# Average Monthly Wage



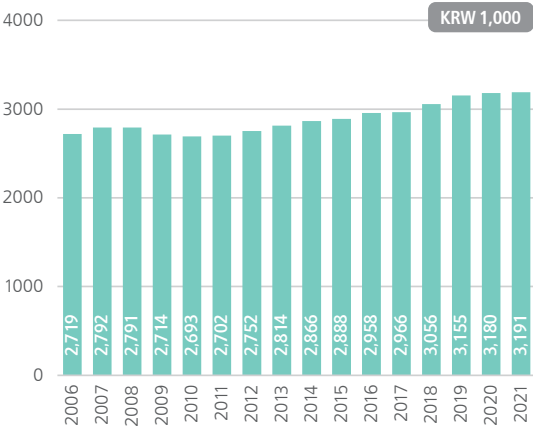
DEFINITION the value obtained by converting the total monthly wages into the real amount  
HOW TO MEASURE (Regular payment + Overtime payment + Annual special payment of the previous year) ÷ 12 months

## Non-regular workers only receiving 44.3% of regular workers' monthly wage

Wages for workers serve as a key indicator to determine the quality of jobs. The average monthly wage is the total amount of wages that workers receive every month, which varies depending on the number of working hours. The average monthly wage is not appropriate for exact comparison considering working hours, but it is still meaningful to evaluate on the overall wages for workers. Excluding 2009 to 2010, the average monthly wage(real amount) had consistently increased over the past ten years. Considering the consumer price index, the average monthly wage in 2021 was KRW 3,191,000(real amount), up KRW 11,000 from KRW 3,180,000 in 2020. After a slight reduction in 2009 and 2010 from KRW 2,719,000 in 2006, it has the slimly growing trend. By gender, in 2021, male received KRW 3,833,000 while female earned KRW 2,476,000 which was about 64.6% of male's. Such a gender gap has narrowed down since 2000(57.6%).

In 2021, regular workers received KRW 3,795,000 per month while non-regular workers received KRW 1,681,000, equal to 44.3% of regular workers'. Around the year 2010, what non-regular workers received was about 47% of regular workers' earnings. Recently, the ratio reduced to less than 45%, further widening the wage gap between regular and non-regular workers. While the monthly average wages for regular workers had been on an increase, the payment raise for non-regular worker didn't keep up with that for regular workers. Sometimes, their monthly wages were even reduced(in 2014), contributing to the wider gap in wages between regular and non-regular workers.

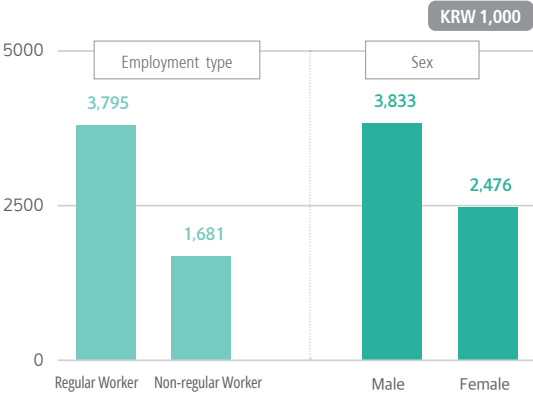
Average monthly wage; 2006~2021(real wage)



SOURCE Ministry of Employment and Labor, 'Survey Report on Labor Conditions by Employment Type'

NOTE ① These refer to real wages calculated by applying the consumer price index (the year of 2020 = 100). ② As the annual special wages were unable for survey in the current year, they were calculated based on the previous year, divided by 12 months and added to the total wages of June in the corresponding year. ③ Workers in special employment types excluded

Average monthly wage by employment type & sex; 2021(nominal wage)



SOURCE Ministry of Employment and Labor, 'Survey Report on Labor Conditions by Employment Type'

NOTE ① As the annual special wages cannot be surveyed in the current year, they were calculated based on the previous year, divided by 12 months and added to the total wages of June in the corresponding year. ② Workers in special employment types excluded

# Proportion of Low-paid Workers



DEFINITION A proportion of wage earners who receive less than 2/3 of the monthly median income out of the total wage earners  
HOW TO MEASURE (No. of wage earners receiving less than 2/3 of the monthly median income ÷ Total number of wage earners) × 100

## 15.6% in 2021, down 0.4%p from previous year

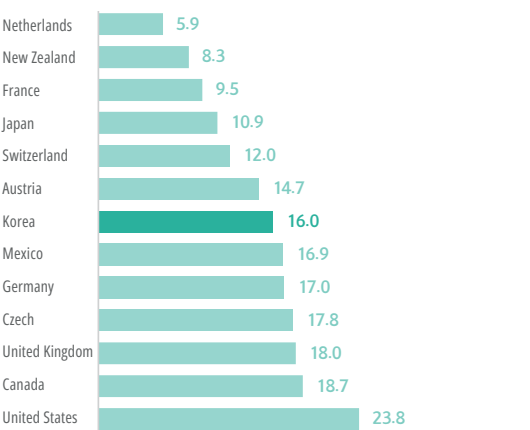
The proportion of low-paid workers is one of key indicators that show inequality of wage income. In general, if someone's income is less than the two thirds of the median wage, it is considered as low-paid. The higher proportion of low-paid workers implies the high possibility of the unequal labor market and in-work poverty.

Any evident change in the proportion of low-paid workers was not found from 24.6% in 2000 to 23.5% in 2015 for the past 15 years, but it reduced by 3.3%p y-o-y to 19.0% in 2018 and further by 0.4%p y-o-y to 15.6% in 2021. The proportion was higher among female workers than among male workers. In 2021, the proportion of low-paid male stood at 10.2% whereas that of female amounted to 24.3%. Although the proportion of low-paid workers among female was 14.1%p higher than that of male, the proportion of low-paid female had been on a steady decline from 45.8% in 2000, consequently narrowing the gender gap down from 30.7% in 2000.

On the global front, Korea is one of countries with the much higher proportion of low-paid workers. In 2020,

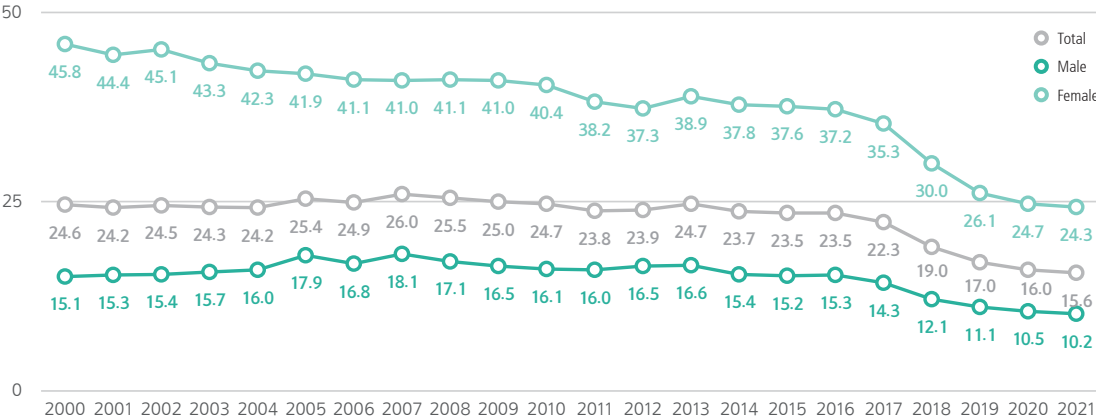
the ratio was equal to 16.0% which was lower than the United States(23.8%), Canada(18.7%) and the United Kingdom(18.0%) but was higher than Japan(10.9%). Countries such as France, the Netherlands and New Zealand had the proportion of less than 10%.

Proportion of low-paid workers in OECD countries; 2020



SOURCE OECD, Earnings (retrieved in Dec 2022)

Proportion of low-paid workers; 2000 ~ 2021



SOURCE OECD, Earnings (retrieved in Dec 2022)

# Working Hours



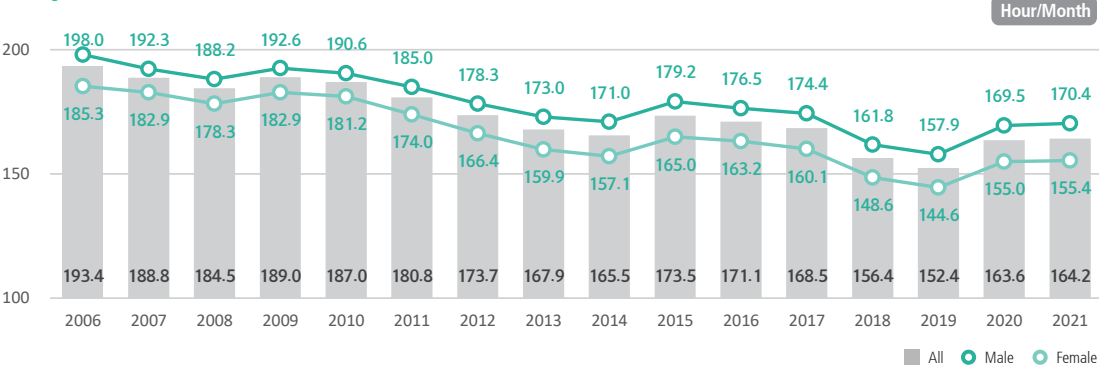
DEFINITION Total working hours per month of wage earners  
HOW TO MEASURE Prescribed work hours + Overtime hours worked

## 164.2 hours in 2021, up 0.6 hour from 2020

Given the intensive focus on work life balance and changes in people's values of labor, working hours is a crucial factor to determine the quality of life and labor productivity of workers. Earning necessary income from shorter working hours so that people can enjoy more leisure time enhances the quality of life. Prolonged labor is regarded as one of main factors that degrade the quality of life for workers. Thus, there is a growing social interest in how much the working hours can be reduced.

The total working hours per month in 2021 stood at 164.2 hours, up 0.6 hour from 163.6 hours in 2020. The working hours had decreased from 193.4 hours in 2006. In 2015, it went up by 8 hours compared to 2014, but again went on a decrease. Recently, it has slightly rose since 2020. The working hours tends to be influenced by the number of working days during each survey period. There were three more working days on the calendar in 2020 than the previous year. The number of working days in 2021 was the same as that of 2020. Despite the continuing decline in working hours, Korea is still considered as a nation with longer working hours than other countries.

Working hours; 2006 ~ 2021

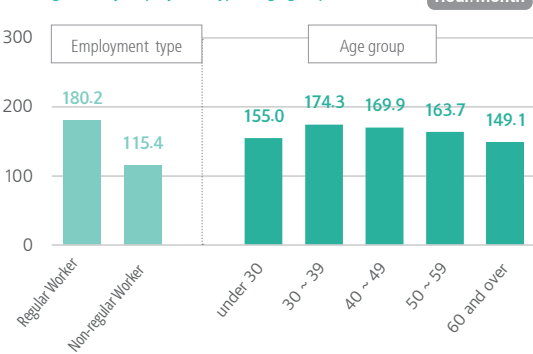


SOURCE Ministry of Employment and Labor, 'Survey Report on Labor Conditions by Employment Type.'  
NOTE Working hours includes prescribed work hours and overtime hours worked.

By gender, male (170.4 hours) worked 15.0 hours longer than female (155.4 hours). For age groups, those in their 30s had relatively longer working hours, 174.3 hours in 2021. However, the working hours were relatively short for workers aged under 30 and those in their aged 60 and over, with 155.0 hours and 149.1 hours respectively.

By employment type, the working hours of regular workers were equal to 180.2 hours in 2021 while those of non-regular workers corresponded to 115.4 hours, suggesting a wide gap.

Working hours by employment type & age group; 2021



SOURCE: Ministry of Employment and Labor, 'Survey Report on Labor Conditions by Employment Type.'  
NOTE: Working hours includes prescribed work hours and overtime hours worked.

# Job Satisfaction



DEFINITION A proportion of the population satisfied with their current job out of wage earners  
HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of respondents who replied "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with their overall working conditions

## 35.0% in 2021, up 2.7%p from 2019

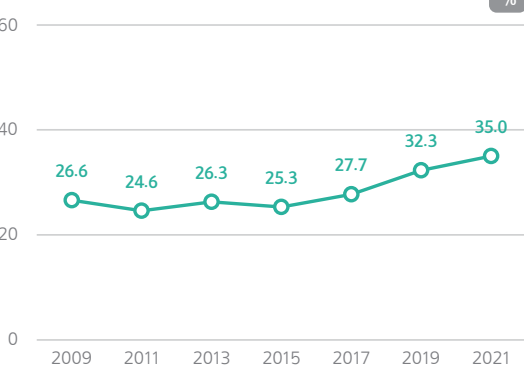
While the average earned income of workers and working hours are to measure working conditions from the objective perspective, job satisfaction is a subjective indicator measuring self-reported satisfaction with job. The subjective job satisfaction measures satisfaction with wages, job security and work content. Then, after measuring these sub-indicators, this key indicator asks the overall satisfaction to comprehend a subjective assessment on overall working life. The job satisfaction in the 'Social Survey' conducted by Statistics Korea stood at 35.0% in 2021, up 2.7%p from 2019. It indicates the satisfaction recently improved after slight changes from 26.6% in 2009 to 27.7% in 2017.

By gender, the job satisfaction among male workers stood at 34.0% in 2021 which was slightly lower than female's satisfaction (36.4%). By age group, workers in their 60s and over had the lowest job satisfaction with 25.1%. Meanwhile, teenagers showed the highest job satisfaction with 42.3%, followed by those in their 40s with 39.2%. Besides them, the job satisfaction was similar among all age groups.

The job satisfaction varies depending on occupations. The

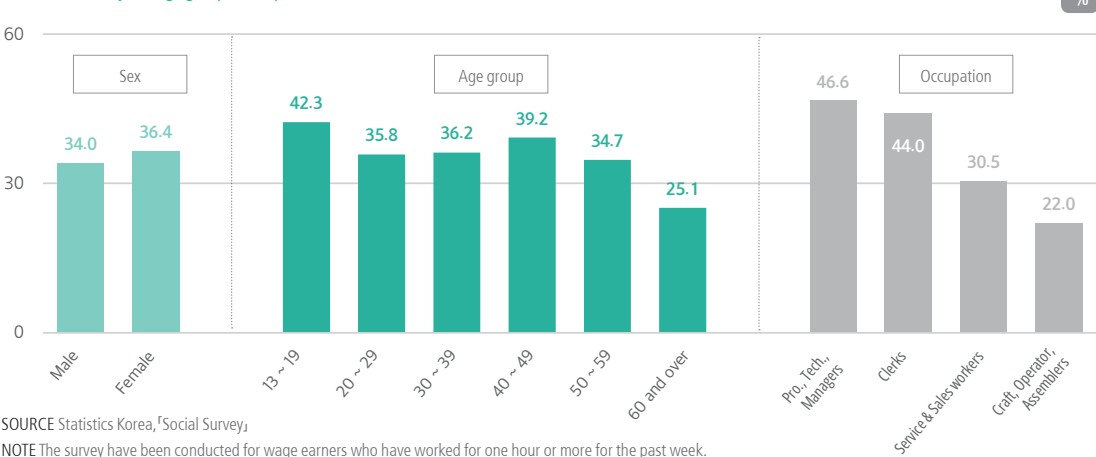
satisfaction was the highest in the 'Pro., Tech., Managers' positions, and clerks also had relatively high satisfaction. On the contrary, service & sales workers and 'craft, operator, assemblers' showed the low satisfaction with their job, with 30.5% and 22.0% respectively. This implies the difference in job satisfaction is significant according to occupation types.

Job satisfaction; 2009 ~ 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey.'  
NOTE ① The survey had been conducted on the population aged 15 and over until 2010, and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2012. ② The survey have been conducted for wage earners who have worked for one hour or more for the past week.

Job satisfaction by sex, age group & occupation; 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey.'  
NOTE The survey have been conducted for wage earners who have worked for one hour or more for the past week.

# Income· Consumption·Wealth





About

The income and wealth are the most major factors representing the quality of life in material aspects. Rather than directly determining the quality of life, however, they can affect the quality of life through the consumption process . As a key indicator regarding material resources on hand, income influences the quality of life via consumption activities and becomes a source of wealth accumulation. Income distribution indicates how income is distributed among members of a society and serves as an important factor determining the ‘societal quality’ although it is not directly associated with individuals.

Recent Trends

Out of seven indicators in the domain of Income/Consumption/Wealth, six improved while the remining one deteriorated. The gross national income per capita, equivalized median income and household net wealth, even compared in real value, increased each year by a small margin. The indicator of the gross national income per capita was stagnant in 2020, but it slightly rose again in 2021. Compared to the previous year, the satisfaction improved in subjective income and consumption life as well as the objective income level. On the other hand, the household debt ratio is the only indicator that got worse. The constant increase in the indicator means it has been exacerbated. Recently, household debts grew even more sharply.

Indicators

- 😊 GNI per Capita | **KRW 37.70 million**(2020) → **KRW 39.49 million**(2021)
- 😊 Equivalised Median Income | **KRW 29,98 million**(2020) → **KRW 30,97 million**(2021)
- 😊 Income Satisfaction | **14.1%**(2019) → **23.5%**(2021)
- 😊 Consumption Satisfaction | **16.8%**(2019) → **18.7%**(2021)
- 😊 Household Net Wealth | **KRW 362.87 million**(2020) → **KRW 404.41 million**(2021)
- 😞 Household Debt Ratio | **197.8%**(2020) → **206.5%**(2021)
- 😊 Relative Poverty Rate | **15.3%**(2020) → **15.1%**(2021)

Gross National Income per Capita

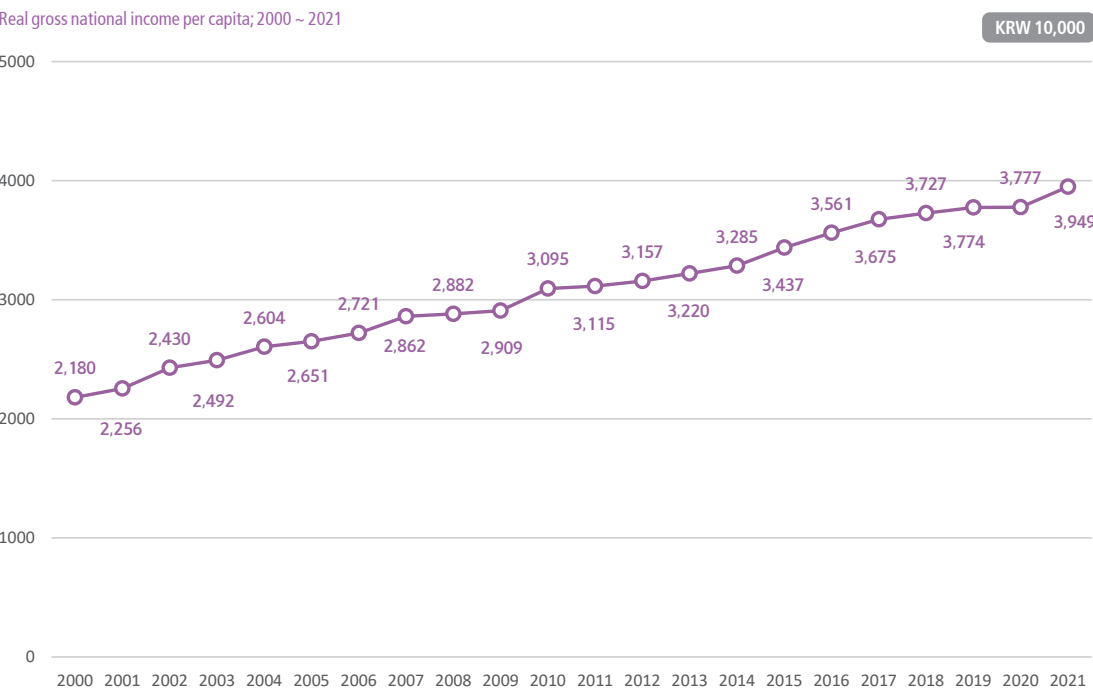


DEFINITION Total sum of income of the people in a nation inform participation in production activities during a certain period, divided by the total population  
HOW TO MEASURE Gross National Income (Consumer price index applied) ÷ Total population

KRW 39.49 million in 2021, up 4.6% from 2020

The gross domestic product(GDP) is useful in identifying the economic size of a nation, but is limited in finding out the people’s standards of living. Meanwhile, the gross national income(GNI) which refers to the total income earned by the people can be used as an indicator to extensively indicate economic fundamentals of well-being given that it absolutely influences on the people’s consumption and welfare in a nation. The GNI per capita, calculated by dividing the total national income by the population, is one of mostly representative indicators effective in comparing income levels of countries on time-series basis.  
Since 2000, the per-capita GNI based on the purchase power

considering the rise in prices has constantly increased. In comparison with the real amount, the GNI per capita stood at KRW 39.49 million in 2021, up KRW 1.72 million or 4.6% from KRW 37.77 million in 2020. It confirms that the economy recovered a little bit from the sluggish economy caused by COVID-19. Although the per-capita GNI has increased since 2000, the growth rate changes each year. In 2002, it had the highest growth with 7.7% year on year whereas the growth rate was just 0.7% in 2008. The growth rate fell short of 1% in 2008, 2009 and 2011. Recently, it has further gone down since 2018 and it was a mere 0.1% y-o-y in 2020.



SOURCE Bank of Korea, 「National Accounts」; Statistics Korea, 「Population Projections (2020 Standards)」  
NOTE ㉠ The real gross national income was calculated using the annual average price index (the year of 2020 = 100). ㉡ There is alteration in previous time series due to a change in the base year in national accounts (based year changed to 2015, June 2019) ㉢ The figures in 2021 were tentative.

# Equivalised Median Income



**DEFINITION** A median amount of household income divided by the number of household members  
**HOW TO MEASURE** Equivalised disposable income of sample households, divided by the number of household members (consumer price index applied)

## KRW 30.97 million in 2021, up KRW 990,000 from 2020

As an indicator measuring the income level of a household unit, the equivalised median income appraises the standard of living of median households. Not only can it inform the median value of individual income in Korea, but it is also one of the most fundamental figures used to create the income distribution index such as the Gini Coefficient, proportion of the poor and ratio of median income classes. As the number of family members varies across each household, it is necessary to take into account the number of household members for appropriate comparison of their income levels between households. In this sense, the equivalised income refers to the adjusted household income, divided by the square root of the household size.

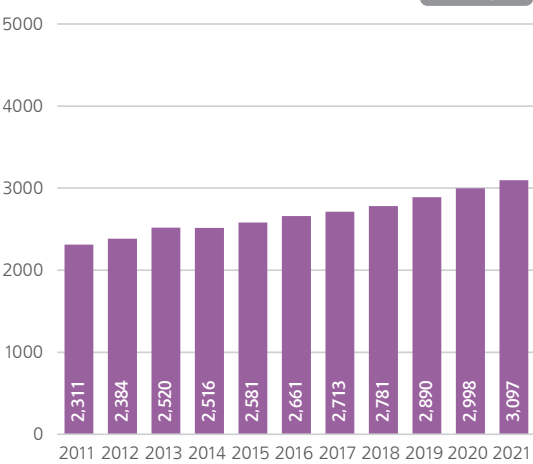
With application of the consumer price index(as of 2020), the real equivalised median income stood at KRW 30.97 million in 2021, up KRW 990,000 from KRW 29.98 million in 2020.

It rose by 34.0% from KRW 23.11 million in 2011 to KRW 30.97 million in 2021. Excluding a small decrease in 2014, the equivalised median income has increased each year since 2011. When the equivalised median income is divided into working and retirement ages, the median income of working-age households amounted to KRW 33.67 million while that of retirement-age households equaled to KRW 18.93 million, suggesting a big gap between these household types. The median income of working-age households went up by 34.0% from KRW 25.12 million in 2011 to KRW 33.67 million in 2021. However, that of retirement-age households increased by 55.8% from KRW 12.15 million to KRW 18.93 million for the same period. Yet, the difference between working-age and retirement-age households has been almost double, but the gap is gradually decreasing.

### MEDIAN INCOME

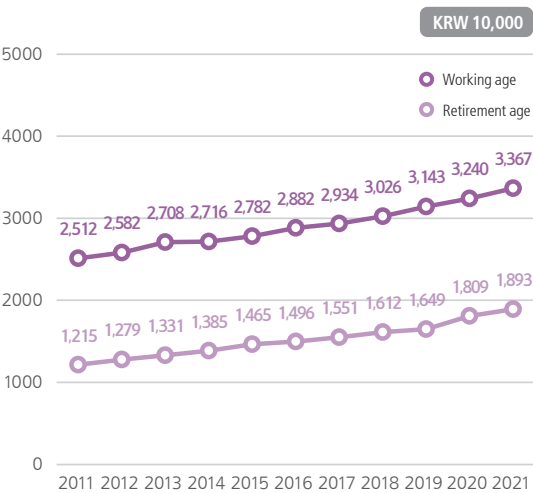
Income level at the midpoint of all households in Korea ranked by their incomes

Equivalised median income; 2011 ~ 2021 (real)



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions,' Statistics Korea, 'Consumer Price Index'  
NOTE ① This is equivalized annual income. ② These are real amounts based on disposable income (the year of 2020 = 100).

Equivalised median income by age group; 2011 ~ 2021 (real)



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions,' Statistics Korea, 'Consumer Price Index'  
NOTE ① This is equivalized annual income. ② These are real amounts based on disposable income (the year of 2020 = 100). ③ Working age (18 to 65), retirement age (66 and over)

# Income Satisfaction



**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population satisfied with their income  
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied as "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with their income, out of the population with income

## 23.5% in 2021, up 9.4%p from 2019

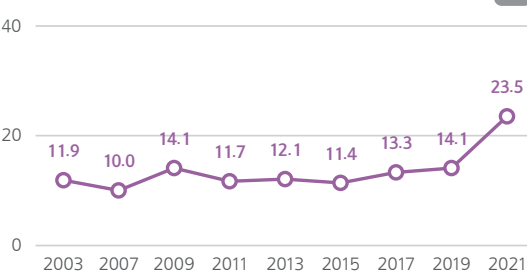
In addition to the objective income level, this indicator measures individuals' subjective satisfaction with their incomes. It is a crucial indicator since it shows subjective judgment regarding individuals' material standards of living. Even if the income level is similar, satisfaction with income may vary depending on individuals. Despite an increase in income, income satisfaction in Korea has remained low.

According to the income satisfaction measured by Statistics Korea under the 'Social Survey', the proportion of people who replied that they were satisfied with their incomes was 23.5% in 2021. It means that only two out of ten people were satisfied with their incomes. The income satisfaction rose from 11.9% in 2003 to 14.1% in 2009, followed by some fluctuations from 11% to 14%. Then, it rapidly jumped to 23.5% in 2021. Despite the abrupt increase in income satisfaction, the proportion of respondents who answered "Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied" decreased, with the proportion of dissatisfied staying almost similar from 43.6% in 2019 to 42.2% in 2021.

By gender, the income satisfaction was almost similar between male and female with 23.4% and 23.6% respectively.

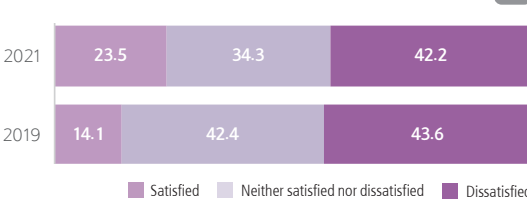
By age group, the population in their 30s and 40s were the most satisfied with their income. There was a tendency that the younger they were, the lower income satisfactions were; however, the difference was not very visible. But the income satisfaction was about 10%p lower in the population aged 60 and over (17.1%) than other age groups. The comparison with the results in 2011 indicates a relatively small growth in the income satisfaction among the elderly in their 60s and over. In overall, the income satisfaction has increased since 2019. However, it has risen only by 6.6%p from 2019 in those aged 60 and over contrast to a 10%p rise observed among those in their 50s.

Income satisfaction; 2003 ~ 2021



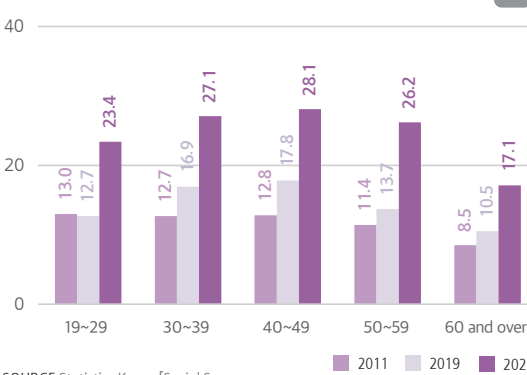
SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey'  
NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 19 and over.

Income satisfaction; 2019, 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey'  
NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 19 and over

Income satisfaction by age group; 2011, 2019, 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey'  
NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 19 and over.

# Consumption Satisfaction



DEFINITION A proportion of the population satisfied with their consumption life

HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of respondents who replied “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with their overall consumption life(overall consumption of clothing, food, housing, leisure and hobbies, etc.)

## 18.7% in 2021, up 1.9%p from 2019

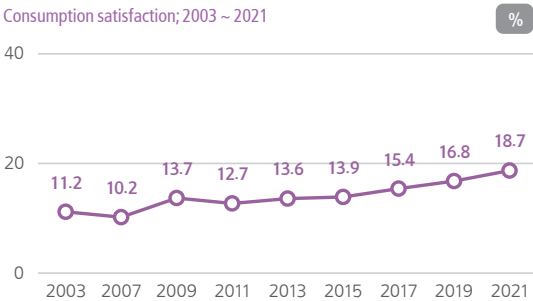
The consumption satisfaction shows the people’s subjective perception toward spending and expenditures. Apart from an objective consumption level, it indicates how subjectively they are satisfied with their own consumption life and assesses the self-recognized economic standards of living.

The proportion of people who were satisfied with their consumption life, measured by Statistics Korea’s 「Social Survey」, was equal to 18.7% in 2021, up 1.9%p from 16.8% in 2019. After some ups and downs between 11.2% in 2003 and 13.9% in 2015, it has been recently increasing. In general, the consumption satisfaction was slightly higher than the income satisfaction; however, it was reversed in 2021 when the income satisfaction rapidly increased. It shows that unlike the income satisfaction which saw an increase in “satisfied” respondents and a decrease in “Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied”, the proportion of “satisfied” respondents went up and that of “dissatisfied” ones down in the consumption satisfaction.

By gender, male(19.0%) were more satisfied with their consumption life than female were (17.2%), but the difference was not very apparent.

By age group, the population aged 19 to 29 had the highest consumption satisfaction. The satisfaction tended to decrease for the older people, contrary to the income satisfaction. Between the two age groups of those aged 19 to 29(22.6%) and those in their 50s(19.9%), no visible gap was found. However, the satisfaction level plummeted to 12.7% in the population aged 60 and over. Compared to 2011, the satisfaction level of those in their 30s to 50s had increased rapidly, narrowing down the age gap. On the other hand,those aged 60 and over were not that satisfied with their consumption life, showing the wider gap with other age groups under 60.

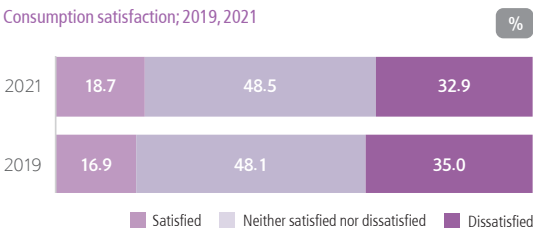
Consumption satisfaction; 2003 ~ 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 15 and over until 2009 and has been done on those aged 19 and over since 2011.

Consumption satisfaction; 2019, 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 19 and over.

Consumption satisfaction by age group; 2011, 2019, 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 19 and over.

# Household Net Wealth



DEFINITION Average assets of all households minus the average debts

HOW TO MEASURE Average net wealth of all households (real value with the consumer price index applied) = Average assets of all households - Average debts of all households

## KRW 404.41 million in 2021, up KRW 41.54 million from 2020

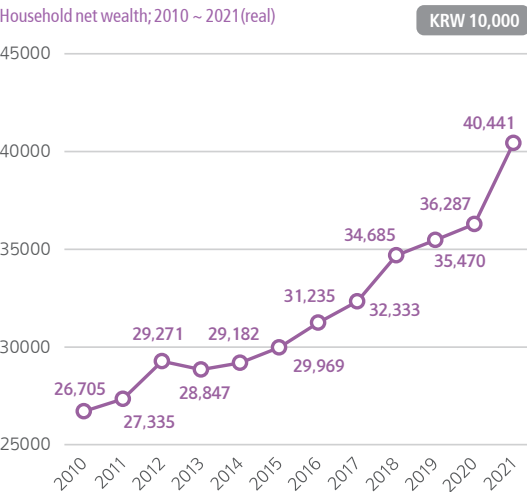
The household net wealth refers to the total wealth of a household minus debts, suggesting the size of accumulated wealth which serves as the direct foundation for sustainable well-being. It is important to analyze changes in household wealth and trends of components for identification of the financial state of the people. As household finance affects consumption, it will also enable to identify impacts on the macro-economy.

Excluding debts from household wealth, the household net wealth(real) amounted to KRW 404.41 million in 2021, up KRW 41.54 million from 362.87 million in 2020. The real net wealth of all households rose by 51.4% from KRW 267.05 million in 2010 to KRW 404.41 million in 2021.

By age group, the population in their 50s had the highest net wealth(nominal) in 2021 with KRW 466.66 million, followed by those in their 40s and 60s with around KRW 430 million. The population in their 40s and 50s had similar debts, but those in their 50s had more wealth. For those in their 60s, they had less debts(KRW 57.03 million) and more wealth than those in their 30s. In nominal terms, debts and net wealth both increased in all age groups compared to 2020.

By region, the national capital areas had the net wealth (nominal) of KRW 519.92 million while the other areas had 314.13 million, and it implies a significant gap areas among regions.

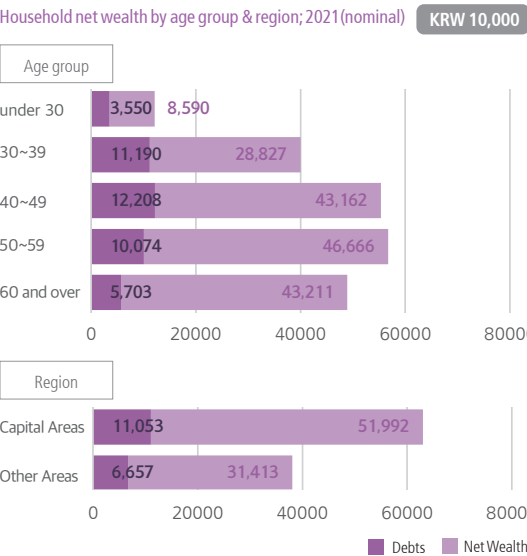
Household net wealth; 2010 ~ 2021 (real)



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions」; Statistics Korea, 「Consumer Price Index」

NOTE ① The household net wealth was a real value by applying the consumer price index(2020=100). ② All loans taken out by households and workplace since 2017 are included in credit loans.

Household net wealth by age group & region; 2021 (nominal)



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions」

NOTE All loans taken out by households and workplace since 2017 are included in credit loans.

# Household Debt Ratio



DEFINITION A ratio of total household debts to disposable household income  
HOW TO MEASURE (Total household debts ÷ Disposable household income) × 100

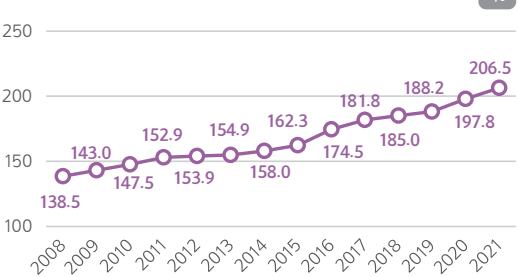
## 206.5% in 2021, up 8.7%p from 2020

Household debts can be helpful as leverage to finance housing or living expenses. However, if the size of debts exceeds a certain level, they are burden to households and the national economy. Increase in household debts exacerbates the burden of the repayment of the principal and interests, thereby raising financial risks to households and imposing restrictions on spending and consumption.

The ratio of household debts to income in Korea had been on a steady increase from 138.5% in 2008 to 206.5% in 2021 for the past 13 years. This means a rise in expenditure needed to repay the principal and interests out of their disposable income. With some variations depending on years, the ratio had increased by 3%p to 4%p each year. Recently, however, such a growth becomes more conspicuous including a big surge by 12.2%p in 2016, 9.6%p in 2020 and 8.7%p in 2021 year-on-year.

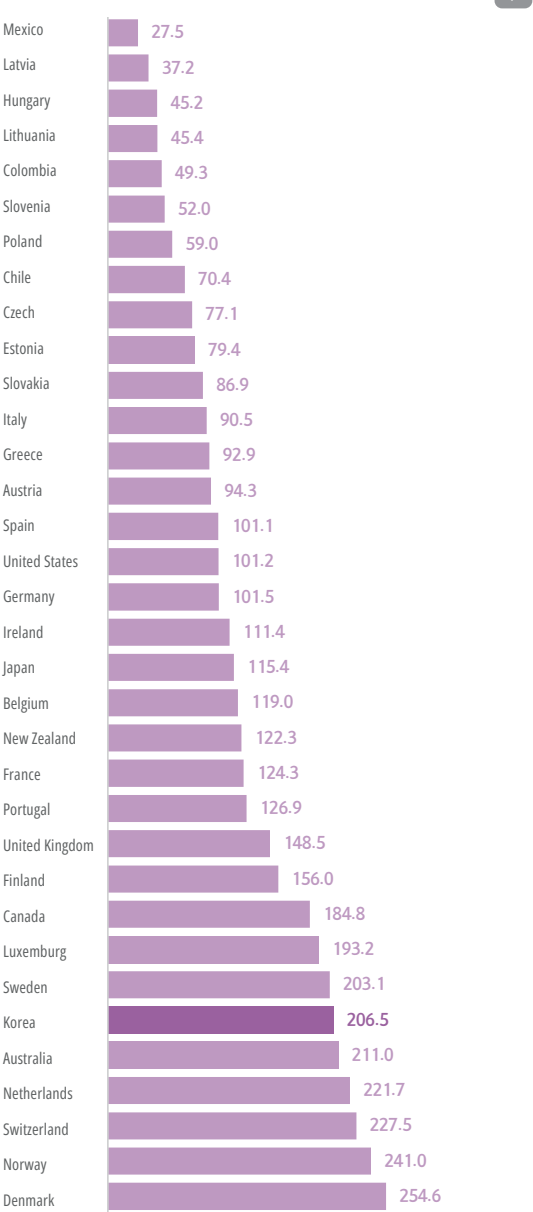
Comparing with OECD countries, Korea is one of countries with a high ratio of debts to disposable income. Major OECD countries didn't exceed 150% such as Japan(115.4%), France(124.3%) and the United Kingdom(148.5%). Meanwhile, the household debt rate hovered 200% in countries including Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Australia and Switzerland.

Household debt ratio; 2008 ~ 2021



SOURCE OECD, Stat (stats.oecd.org, retrieved in Dec 2022)

Household debt ratio of OECD countries; 2021



SOURCE OECD, Stat (stats.oecd.org, retrieved in Dec 2022)

NOTE The 2019 data for Colombia and the 2020 data for Japan, Chile, New Zealand and Mexico were used.

# Relative Poverty Rate



DEFINITION A proportion of the population receiving no more than 50% of the equivalised median income  
HOW TO MEASURE (Population with no more than 50% of the median disposable income ÷ Total population) × 100

## 15.1% in 2021, down 0.2%p from 2020

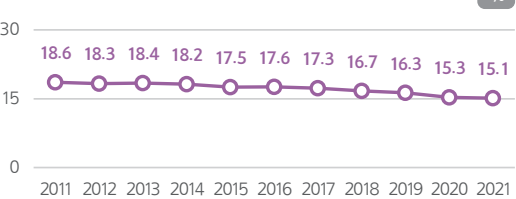
The relative poverty rate is used as one of indicators to indicate income inequality. The indicator related to the level of income inequality is crucial to address the societal quality. The relative poverty rate represents a proportion of the low-income class in a society or a proportion of households receiving no more than 50% of the median income and suggests the size of poor in Korea. The relative poverty rate stood at 15.1% in 2021 and showed a continuing downward trend from 18.6% in 2011.

Looking at OECD data in 2020, the relative poverty rate(15.3%) in Korea was lower than that in Japan(15.7%) but was higher than in Australia(12.6%), the United Kingdom(11.2%), Germany(10.9%) and France(8.4%).

The relative poverty out of the entire population was relatively higher than those in other countries, but the gap was not noticeable.

But the relative poverty rate among the population aged 66 and over stood at 40.4% which was far higher than those in countries with high relative poverty rates like Costa Rica(22.4%), Mexico(19.8%) and Japan(20.0%). It implies, compared to other countries, a wide gap in the relative poverty rate between the elderly and the other age groups.

Relative poverty rate; 2011 ~ 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions,'

NOTE These are based on disposable income.

Relative poverty rates of OECD countries; 2020



SOURCE OECD, Stat (OECD Income Distribution Database, retrieved in Dec 2022)

NOTE ○ These are based on disposable income. ○ The 2017 data for Chile, Iceland; the 2018 data for Ireland, Italy, Japan, Poland; the 2019 data for Austria, Belgium, Czech, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Türkiye and the 2021 data for the United States were used.





About

In contrast to working hours, the leisure time refers to hours that individuals can freely use, and the healthy engagement of leisure time with physical activities like sports or mental activities such as cultural activities and arts, can help us get away from stress derived from work or other social life. In addition, as both sports and cultural/art activities offer opportunities to socialize with other people, it contributes to solidifying relationships with members of a family and a community and providing soul-searching opportunities as well. In particular, cultural and art activities are effective in enhancing human minds and facilitate participants’ their own cultural identities and regain vitality to move forward in their life.

Recent Trends

Out of six indicators in the domain of Leisure, three improved while the other three were exacerbated. The recent indicators in the leisure domain were updated in 2021, and some of them improved slightly compared to in 2020 when COVID-19 deteriorated them. The leisure time had been on a steady increase while the sufficiency of leisure time and travel days per person, which had suddenly deteriorated in 2020, showed slight improvements. The ratio of expenditure on leisure recently declined and the participation in culture, art and sport events and leisure satisfaction, indicators with two-year interval, also got worsen.

Indicators

- Ratio of Expenditure on Leisure | 4.31%(2020) → 4.23%(2021)
- Leisure Time(on a daily average) | 4.2 hours(2020) → 4.4 hours(2021)
- Sufficiency of Leisure Time | 57.0%(2020) → 57.2%(2021)
- Participation in Culture, Art and Sport Event | 8.4 times(2019) → 4.5 times(2021)
- Travel Days per Person | 5.81 days(2020) → 6.58 days(2021)
- Leisure Satisfaction | 28.8%(2019) → 27.0%(2021)

Ratio of Expenditure on Leisure



DEFINITION A proportion of spending on cultural or leisure activities out of household expenditures  
HOW TO MEASURE (Monthly average of leisure/cultural expenditures ÷ Monthly average of household expenditures) × 100

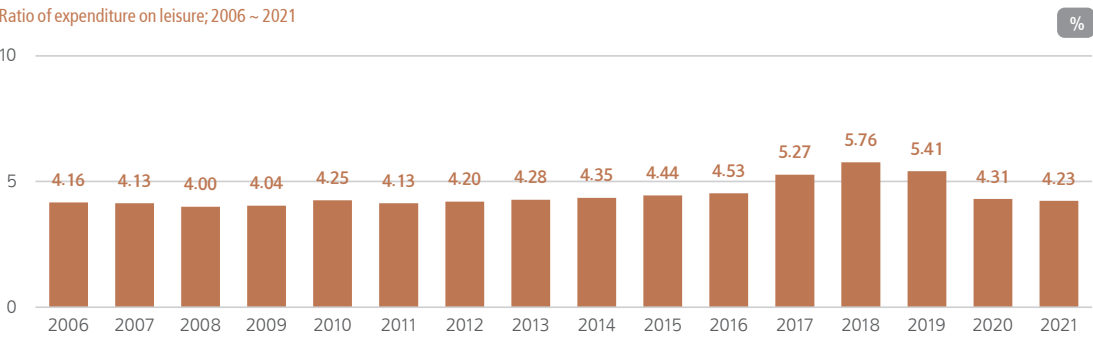
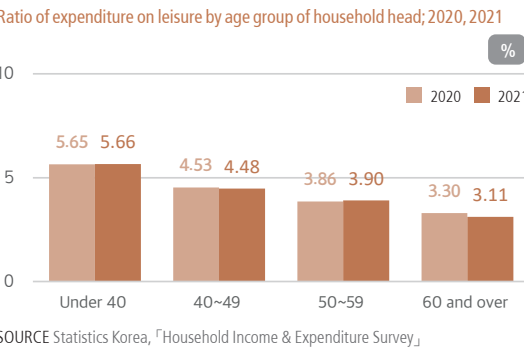
4.23% in 2021, down 0.08p from 2020

Household expenditures on leisure activities suggest the degree of leisure resources people utilize. Calculating the ratio of expenditure on leisure to household expenditures enables to estimate the level of economic resources used for leisure activities. In addition, this indicator can function as basic resources to enhance the quality of life since expenditures on leisure activities are spent on goods and services needed for leisure activities.

The monthly average of the leisure expenditures in 2021 stood at KRW 143,000, taking up 4.23% out of the total household expenditures. The amount increased by KRW 3,000 from KRW 140,000 in 2020 while the ratio declined by 0.08%p.

The proportion of leisure expenditures had constantly increased from 4.16% in 2006, 4.25% in 2010 and 4.44% in 2015. This indicator is flexible as leisure activities are subject to heavy influences of economic situations. During the global financial crisis in 2008 and 2009, the proportion of leisure expenditures decreased by 4.00% and 4.04% respectively. The indicator implies due to limitations on outdoor leisure activities during the COVID-19 pandemic,

leisure-related consumption declined as well. The ratio of expenditures on leisure varies depending on ages of household heads. The younger the household heads are, the higher the proportion of leisure expenditures is. Among the household heads under 40 years old, the proportion was equal to 5.66% which is the highest while those 60 and over years old had the lower proportion of 3.11%. It indicates that ratio of expenditures on leisure to household expenditures tended to be higher in younger generations. Compared to 2020, those under 40 and those in their 50s saw modest increase in the ratio.



NOTE ㉠ This is based on households (single-person or more) nationwide. Agricultural households were excluded until 2016 but they have been included since 2017. ㉡ This is based on nominal figures. ㉢ Caution is needed when interpreting time-series data as the survey methods and sampling design were modified twice in 2017 and 2019.

# Leisure Time



**DEFINITION** Average daily leisure time, including weekdays and weekends  
**HOW TO MEASURE**  $\{(\text{Leisure time on weekdays} \times 5 \text{ days}) + (\text{Leisure time on weekends} \times 2 \text{ days})\} \div 7 \text{ days}$

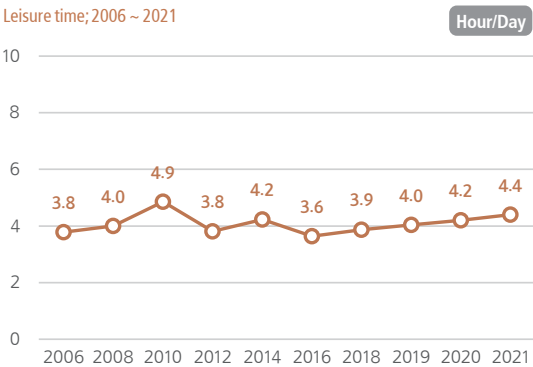
## 4.4 hours in 2021, up 0.2 hour from 2020

The leisure time refers to the number of hours that can be used freely excluding the time for required activities such as work, household chores and classes. It is a basic indicator of the quality of life in terms of work-life balance and the foundations for leisure activities. An appropriate amount of leisure time helps to resolve issues derived from a work-oriented society and is meaningful as a prerequisite to enjoy abundant leisure activities. As one of the most fundamental requirements for leisure life, the leisure time provides the basic data of the people's leisure life.

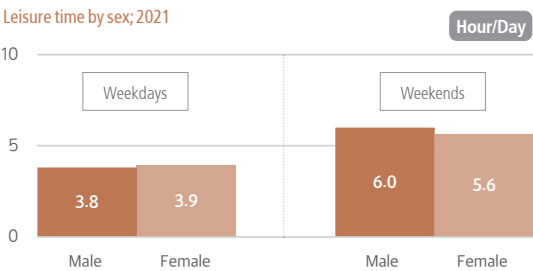
The Leisure Activity Research conducted by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism collects information about leisure time on weekdays and weekends based on self-reports from respondents. According to this survey, the leisure time during weekdays and weekends in 2021 was 3.8 hours and 5.8 hours respectively. Combining these two, the daily average of the leisure time stood at 4.4 hours per day. The leisure time increased from 3.8 hours in 2006 to 4.9 hours in 2010. Since then, it has remained at around 4 hours.

The leisure time was the same for male and female with 4.4 hours. Female had longer leisure time(3.9 hours) on weekdays while male enjoyed longer leisure time(6.0 hours) than female(5.6 hours) during weekends, suggesting some difference depending on days of the week.

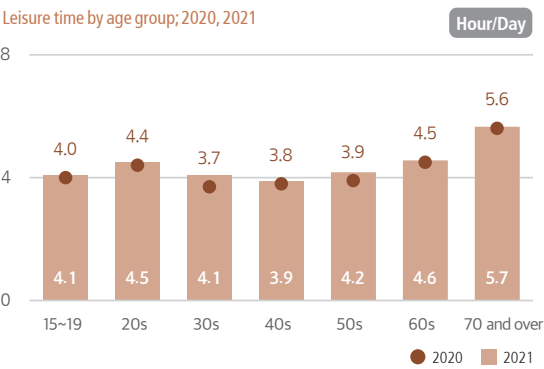
By age group, the elderly tended to have the longer leisure time with 4.6 hours for the population in their 60s and 5.7 hours for those 70 and over. Among respondents under 60 years old, those in their 20s enjoyed long leisure time of 4.5 hours. Compared to 2020, the leisure time increased in all age groups. Especially, among the population in their 30s, the leisure time rose from 3.7 hours in 2020 to 4.1 hours in 2021, showing a large increase compared to other age groups.



SOURCE Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, 「Leisure Activity Research」  
NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 10 and over until 2008 and has been done on those aged 15 and over since 2010.



SOURCE Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, 「Leisure Activity Research」



SOURCE Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, 「Leisure Activity Research」

# Sufficiency of Leisure Time



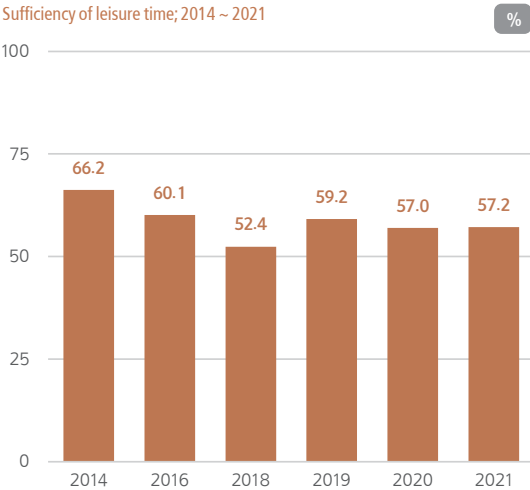
**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population who regard their leisure time as sufficient  
**HOW TO MEASURE**  $(\text{Leisure time satisfaction during weekdays} + \text{Leisure time satisfaction during weekends}) \div 2$

## 57.2% in 2021, up by 0.2%p from 2020

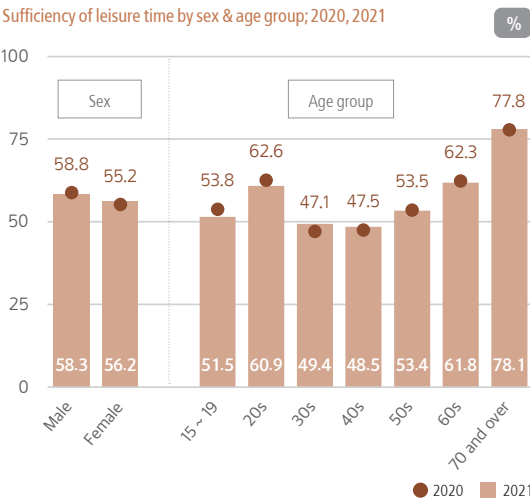
More leisure time is expected to increase leisure activities and enhance the quality of life. Unlike the amount of leisure time which is objective, whether the given leisure time is sufficient or not is determined only through individuals' subjective assessments. Abundance in the leisure time shows temporal resources of individuals for leisure life as well as relax in living. The proportion of respondents who replied that they had enough leisure time was 57.2% in 2021 which was a slight increase from 57.0% in 2020. However, there was a downward trend including a decline from 66.2% in 2014 to 60.1% in 2016. Given the growing leisure time since 2016, it suggests disparity between the objective leisure time and the subjective assessment on sufficiency of the leisure time.

By gender, 58.3% of male were sufficient which is 2.1%p higher than female(56.2%). About 67.7% of male answered that they had enough leisure time during weekends, which is 5.7%p higher than female(62.0%) did. As for weekdays, 50.4% of female felt that their leisure time was sufficient, which is 1.6%p higher than 48.8% of male.

The sufficiency level of leisure time varies depending on age groups. In general, it was low for those in their 30s and 40s and high for the elderly aged 60 and over. The lowest sufficiency was found in the population in their 40s with 48.5% while the proportion was equal to 61.8% in the population aged 60 to 69 and 78.1% in those aged 70 and over. This implies a significant gap among age groups. Such the age gap in the sufficiency of leisure time was the almost the same as the gap in the leisure time among ages groups. Compared to 2020, sufficiency of leisure time increased among those in their 30s, 40s and over 70; on the other hand, there was a slight reduction in the sufficiency in those aged 15 to 29 compared to 2020.



SOURCE Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, 「Leisure Activity Research」  
NOTE ① The sufficiency of leisure time refers to a ratio of respondents who replied 5 to 7 in a scale of 1 (very insufficient) to 7 (very sufficient) for leisure time during weekdays and weekends (including holidays and vacations) over the past one year.  
② The survey is subjected to the population aged 15 and over.



SOURCE Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, 「Leisure Activity Research」  
NOTE The sufficiency of leisure time refers to a ratio of respondents who replied 5 to 7 in a scale of 1 (very insufficient) to 7 (very sufficient) for leisure time during weekdays and weekends (including holidays and vacations) over the past one year.

# Participation in Culture, Art and Sport Event



DEFINITION Average number of per-capita participations in cultural, artistic and sports events

HOW TO MEASURE Average number of people paying a visit to a music concert, music festival, play, traditional Korean performance, musical, dance performance, movies, museum, art gallery and sports events

## 4.5 times in 2021, down 3.9 times from 2019

It is an indicator showing the degree of active leisure activities out of the entire leisure activities, and the participation in culture, art and sports activities affects the quality of life in various ways. It can satisfy individuals' desire for expression on the individual level and support a community on the social level.

The participation in cultural, art and sports events had rapidly rose from 2004 (participation rate: 51.0%, No. of participation: 7.1 times) to 2013. Afterward, the attendance rate and the attendance frequency fluctuated a little bit and remained stagnant. However, the number of attendances to cultural, art and sports events over the past year demonstrates how seriously social distancing due to COVID-19 affected cultural and art activities and leisure life.

The rate of people who had attended an art performance, movie, museum, art gallery or sports over the past year was equal to 24.1% in 2021, with the per-capita attendance frequency of 4.5 times on average. It more than halved from 66.2% in 2019, and the number of per-capital visits also reduced almost by half(8.4 times in 2019).

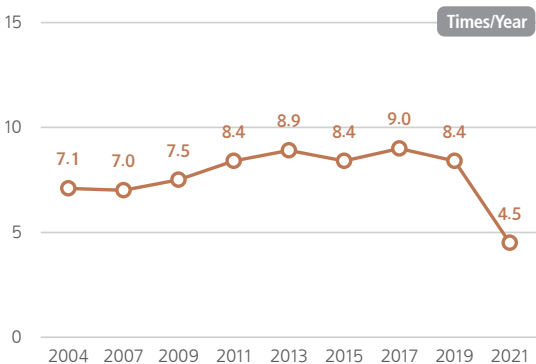
By gender, male attended these events 4.6 times, slightly more frequently than female with 4.4 times. Given the previous trend where female had participated in those events more often than male, it is unusual.

By age group, those in their 20s and 30s had slightly higher attendance than other age groups, but there was no noticeable difference. This trend is different from the previous attendance frequency by age. Until 2019, the highest frequency had been observed among those in their 20s and it'd become less frequent with older age. In particular, the attendance frequency at the ages from 13 to 19 sharply reduced from 9.0 times in 2019 to 4.2 times in 2021.

Meanwhile, the frequency in the population aged 60 and over decreased from 5.8 times to 4.3 times, showing a smaller decline compared to other age groups. It can be assumed

that such a reduction in adolescents was due to the restriction imposed on various cultural and art activities that would had been normally conducted at school without COVID-19.

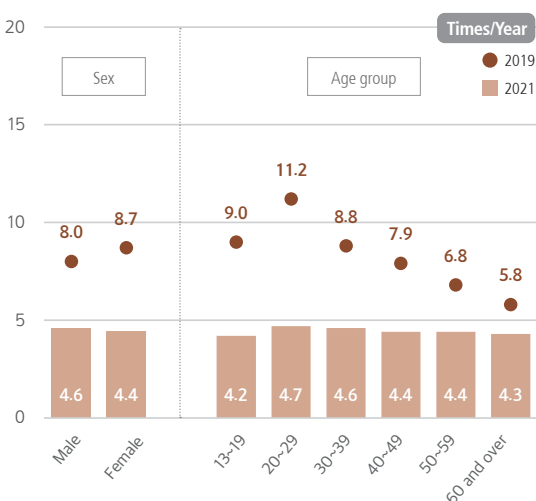
Participation in culture, art and sport event; 2004 ~ 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey'

NOTE ① The number of visits refers to the average number of per-capita participation over the past year. ② The survey was conducted on the population aged 15 and over until 2009 and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2011.

Participation in culture, art and sport event by sex & age group; 2019, 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey'

NOTE The number of visits refers to the average number of per-capita participation over the past year.

# Travel Days per Person



DEFINITION No. of domestic travel days per person on an annual basis

HOW TO MEASURE No. of domestic travel days (incl. day trips) per person of the population aged 15 and over

## 6.58 days in 2021, up 0.77 day from 2020

With growing interests in leisure, the number of travelers is increasing as well. Travel is one of the most desirable leisure activities. The travel days per person is an indicator that allows us to measure the level of leisure activities that the people enjoy.

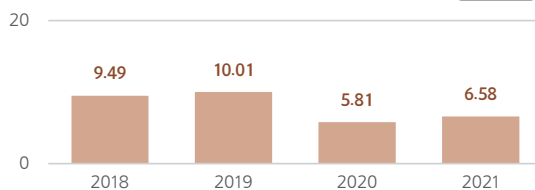
Out of the population aged 15 and over, the per-capita travel days in Korea was 6.58 days in 2021, up 0.77 day from 5.81 days in 2020. It slightly increased from 2020 when the number of travel days sharply diminished due to the restriction on both overseas and domestic travels under the influence of COVID-19. For the travel rates, the domestic travel rate stood at 89.0% in 2021, up 13.5%p from 75.5% in 2020, higher than even the pre-COVID-19 level(85.0% in 2019). In 2020 and 2021, the overseas trips plummeted due to COVID-19, and it motivated people to go on a domestic trip as an alternative.

The number of travel days with no visible change implies that one-day trips increased more than overnight trips.

The number of domestic travel days was relatively high for the population in their 20s and 30s with 8.7 days and 9.1 days respectively whereas those aged 70 and over enjoyed the least number of travel days with 1.9 days. Compared to 2020, the travel days increased in all age groups, with relatively

a small growth in the population aged 70 and over and a big jump in those in the 20s. By household income, the more the household income was, the bigger the number of domestic travel days was. For households with an income of KRW 6 million or more, the per-capital domestic travel days amounted to 9.0 days. The number went down to 2.0 days for households earning less than KRW 1 million and 2.8 days for those with KRW 1 million to less than KRW 2 million, showing that the KRW 2 million is a mark making a huge difference. The overall travel days went up compared to 2020, but there was no change in households with an income of less than KRW 1 million.

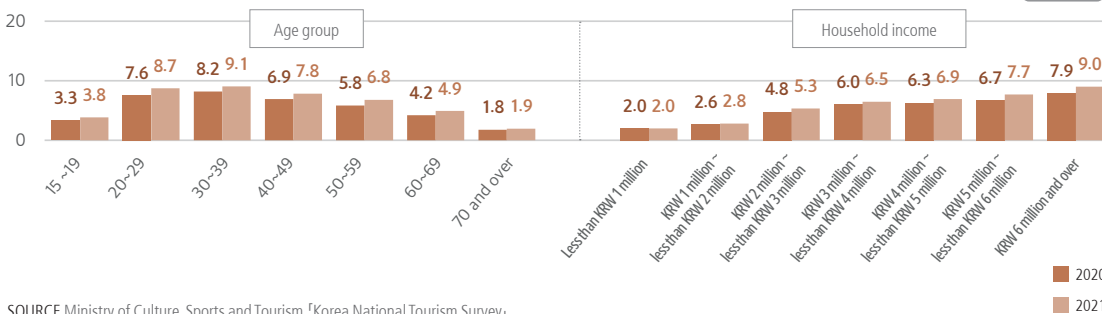
Travel days per person; 2018 ~ 2021



SOURCE Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, 'Korea National Tourism Survey'

NATE ① Domestic travel means traveling for the purpose of leisure, recreation and vacation out of all trips that have been to other jurisdictions outside the corresponding administrative district. ② This is based on estimated population aged 15 and over as of December each year (population projections, in 2020).

Travel days per person by age group & household income; 2020, 2021



SOURCE Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, 'Korea National Tourism Survey'

NOTE ① Domestic travel means traveling for the purpose of leisure, recreation and vacation out of all trips that have been to other jurisdictions outside the corresponding administrative district. ② This is based on estimated population aged 15 and over as of December each year (population projections, in 2020).



# Leisure Satisfaction



DEFINITION A proportion of the population satisfied with current leisure activities

HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of respondents who replied “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with their leisure activities out of the surveyed

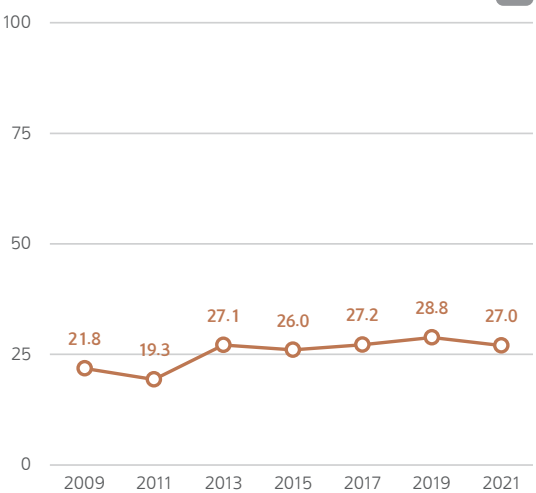
## 27.0% in 2021, down 1.8%p from 2019

The leisure satisfaction indicates the subjective satisfaction level of individuals regarding leisure activities. The finding suggests leisure life is one of crucial components in the quality of life. The leisure satisfaction is also a meaningful indicator aggregating various life aspects since proper leisure activities require supporting health or economic conditions.

The proportion of people satisfied with their leisure life increased from 21.8% in 2009 to 27.1% in 2013. Since then, the proportion has been consistent. In 2021, the leisure satisfaction was 27.0%, down 1.8%p from 2019. The satisfaction was slightly higher among male(27.9%) than female(26.1%).

People tend to feel less satisfied with their leisure life as they are older. About 47.9% of teenagers were satisfied with leisure life while the number went down to only 18.8% among those in their aged 60 and over. Such the age gap in the leisure satisfaction corresponds with the participation in cultural, art and sports events. While the elderly tended to have longer leisure time, their participation in active leisure activities such as attendance in cultural, art or sport events was very few, thereby resulting in profoundly low satisfaction with their leisure life. This indicates that the old-age population have poor access to these leisure activities. Given the trend which the older generation is growing in the whole population, it is necessary to develop and support various leisure activities targeted at the elderly. Compared to 2019, the overall leisure satisfaction decreased; however, the leisure satisfaction at the ages of 13 to 19 rose from 43.3% in 2019 to 47.9% in 2021. Especially for teenagers, while both their attendance in cultural and art events and the travel days decreased, subjective indicators such as leisure time satisfaction and leisure satisfaction increased compared to 2019, unlike other age groups.

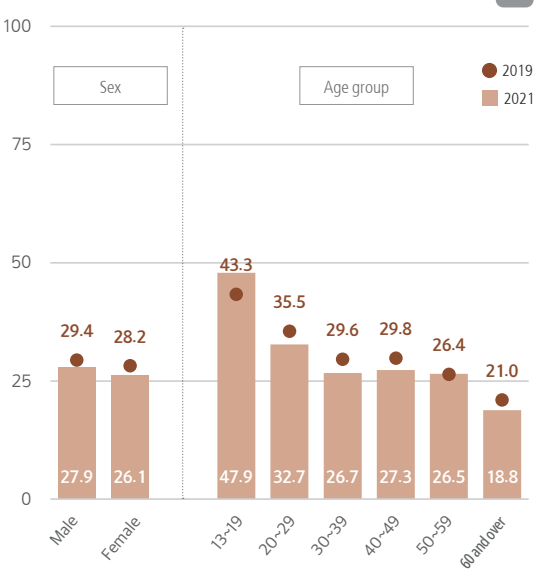
Leisure satisfaction; 2009 ~ 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 15 and over until 2009 and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2011.

Leisure satisfaction by sex & age group; 2019, 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

# Housing



About

Housing refers to residential services that people take advantage of at their living space. Strictly speaking, it should be regarded as a type of consumption. It is logically appropriate to include in the domain of Consumption, Income and Wealth, but the capability to secure residential services, housing stability, and size can be crucial factors determining the quality of life in South Korea. Therefore, housing has been designated as a separate domain.

Recent Trends

Out of six indicators in the domain of Housing, three improved while two deteriorated and the remaining one stayed the no change. The home-ownership rate and housing environment satisfaction changed for the worse compared to the previous year. Meanwhile, the objective indicators such as the rent to income ratio and dwelling without basic facilities had been improved as well as the commuting time. The residential area per capita was the same as the previous figure.

Indicators

- 🔴 Home-ownership Rate | 57.9%(2020) → 57.3%(2021)
- 🟢 Rent to Income Ratio | 16.6%(2020) → 15.7%(2021)
- 🟡 Residential Area per Capita | 33.9㎡(2020) → 33.9㎡(2021)
- 🟢 Dwelling without Basic Facilities | 4.6%(2020) → 4.5%(2021)
- 🟢 Commuting Time to Office | 31.2 minutes(2015) → 30.8 minutes(2020)
- 🔴 Housing Environment Satisfaction | 86.4%(2020) → 85.5%(2021)

Home-ownership Rate



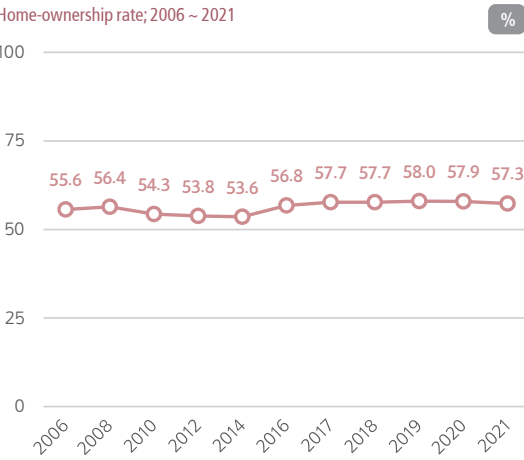
DEFINITION A ratio of households living in their own homes out of total households  
HOW TO MEASURE (households occupying in owned home ÷ Total general households) × 100

57.3% in 2021, down 0.6%p from 2020

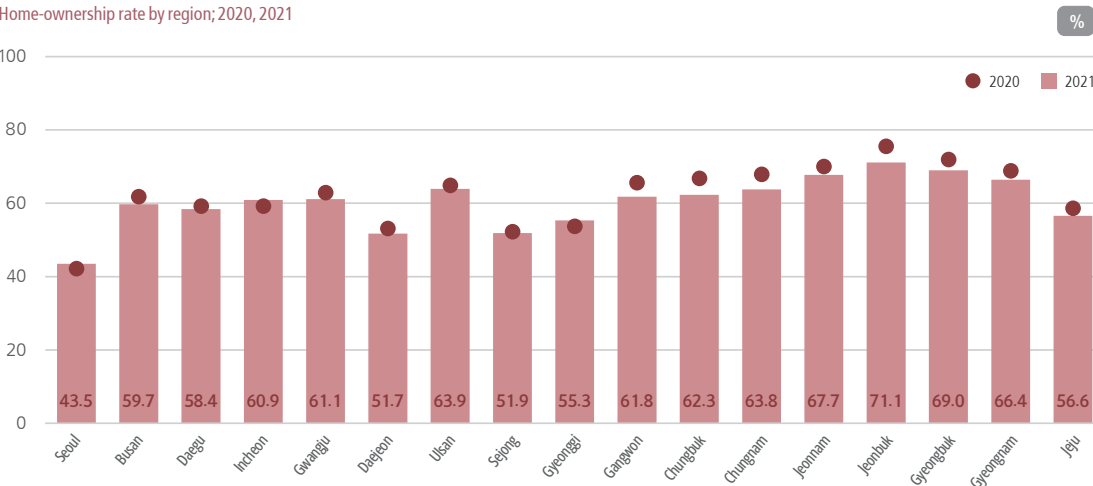
Despite noticeable increase in the housing supply rate with the steady expansion of housing supply, the home-ownership rate in Korea has remained not that high. As housing is one of basic necessities and especially home ownership is very significant in the Korean society beyond the place of residence, it has enormous impact on the quality of life. The proportion of households living in their own homes, i.e., home-ownership rate, had decreased from 55.6% in 2006 to 53.6% in 2014, then increased to 58.0% in 2019. With 57.3% in 2021, it again returned to the downward trend starting from 2019.

By region, Seoul had the lowest rate with 43.5% nationwide and Daejeon and Sejong also showed the low home-ownership rate with 51.7% and 51.9% respectively. The rate in Seoul was even 8%p lower than those in Sejong and Daejeon. The home-ownership rate in major cities excluding Seoul, Daejeon and Sejong stood at around 60%. Meanwhile, Jeonnam showed the highest rate of 71.1%, followed by 69.0% in Gyeongbuk. Among provinces, the home-ownership rate were lower than 60% in

Gyeonggi(55.3%) and Jeju(56.6%). Compared to 2020, the home-ownership rate in 2021 slightly increased in Seoul, Incheon and Gyeonggi whereas all other areas decreased. In particular, Chungbuk(-4.5%p), Chungnam(-4.1%p) and Jeonnam(-4.4%p) suffered from a decline by more than 4%p compared to 2020.



SOURCE Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 「Korea Housing Survey」



SOURCE Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 「Korea Housing Survey」

# Rent to Income Ratio



**DEFINITION** A ratio of housing rents to monthly income

**HOW TO MEASURE** (Monthly median rent ÷ Monthly median income) × 100

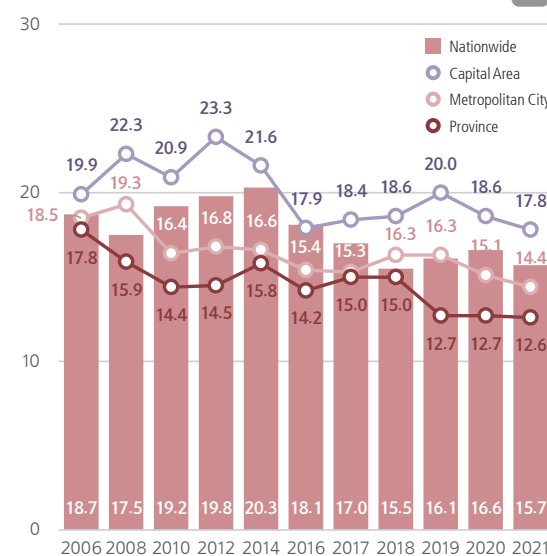
## 15.7% in 2021, down 0.9%p from 2020

Housing rents account for a large proportion out of household expenditures. They are one of the most burdensome expenditures in households without home ownership. The RIR(Rent to Income Ratio) is a representative indicator that shows the ratio of housing costs relative to income. The RIR stood at 15.7% in 2021, down 0.9%p from 2020. After the increasing trend from 18.7% in 2006 to 20.3% in 2004, it has been on a decrease since 2014. Recently, it slightly rose in 2019 and 2020, but it again declined in 2021.

By region, the RIR was recorded at 17.8% in the national capital areas, at 14.4% in metropolitan cities and at 12.6% in provincial areas, indicating that national capital areas had the higher home ownership rate than rural areas. The RIR in national capital areas, which had hovered 20% from 2008 to 2014, recently went down below 20%. Excluding national capital areas, metropolitan cities maintained the 15% level until recently after a decline in 2010. It shows that dwellers in national capital areas had higher burdens on their housing costs than other areas.

By household income, the RIR tended to be high in low-income and high-income households while the RIR was relatively lower in middle-income class. The RIR in the low-income class reduced to 18.0% in 2021 from 29.0% in 2014. For middle-income class, it has stayed around 18.9% since 2006, with no noticeable change. Compared to 2020, the RIR in the low-income class fell by 0.8%p in 2021 while that in mid-income and high-income classes slightly rose. The RIR in the high-income class increased by 0.9%p from 2020.

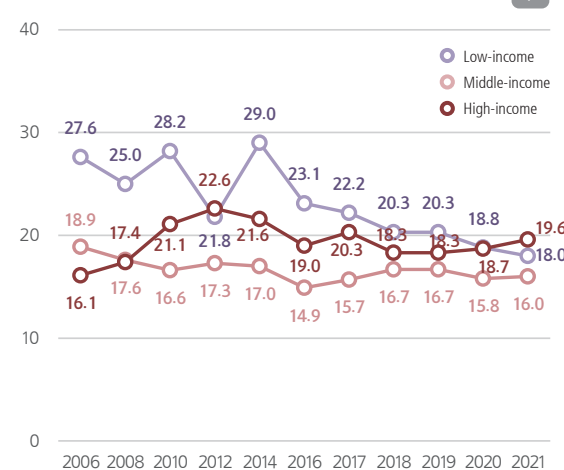
Rent to Income Ratio; 2006~2021



SOURCE Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 'Korea Housing Survey'

NOTE The national capital areas include Seoul, Incheon and Gyeonggi.

Rent to income ratio by income level; 2006~2021



SOURCE Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 'Korea Housing Survey'

NOTE The income level is divided into low (1 to 4 deciles), middle (5 to 8 deciles) and high (9 to 10 deciles) ranks based on 10 deciles of household income.

# Residential Area per Capita



**DEFINITION** Residential area per household member

**HOW TO MEASURE** Average of (residential area of individual household ÷ No. of household members)

## 33.9m² in 2021, same as that of 2020

The residential area per capita is a key indicator that measures the quality of housing with whether the size of housing space is appropriate. This indicator is also used for estimation of the number of households dwelling without basic facilities. In order to address the rapid changes in the household structure such as the increasing number of single-person households, the residential area per capita would more appropriately represent the housing conditions and qualities in Korea. As the residential area per capita is also more widely used on the global front, it is more useful in international comparison.

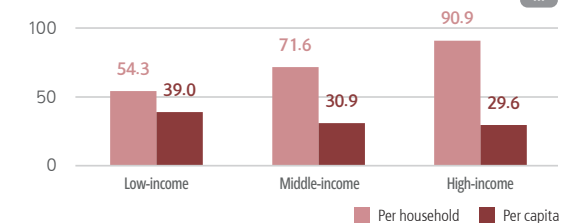
The residential area per capita went through a slight reduction after an increase to 33.5m² in 2014 from 26.2m² in 2006. Recently, it stayed at the level of 33m². The residential area per capita in 2021 stood at 33.9m² which is the same as that of 2020.

By region, the residential area per capita was recorded at 31.4m² in national capital areas, 33.9m² in metropolitan cities and 37.8m² in provincial areas, indicating that the residential area in provincial areas was 6.4m² larger than that of metropolitan areas. Compared to 2020, national capital and provincial areas saw slight increases in

the residential area per capita whereas the living space diminished by 0.8m² in metropolitan cities.

By income level, the residential area per capita turned out to be the widest in the low-income class with 39.0m² while it was almost similar between the mid-income and high-income classes. This can be interpreted as the consequence of the high proportion of single-person or elderly households in the low-income class, resulting in the wider residential area per capita. For the residential area per household, the high-income class occupied a wide residential area of 90.9m², suggesting the distinct difference in the sizes of residential areas among on income levels.

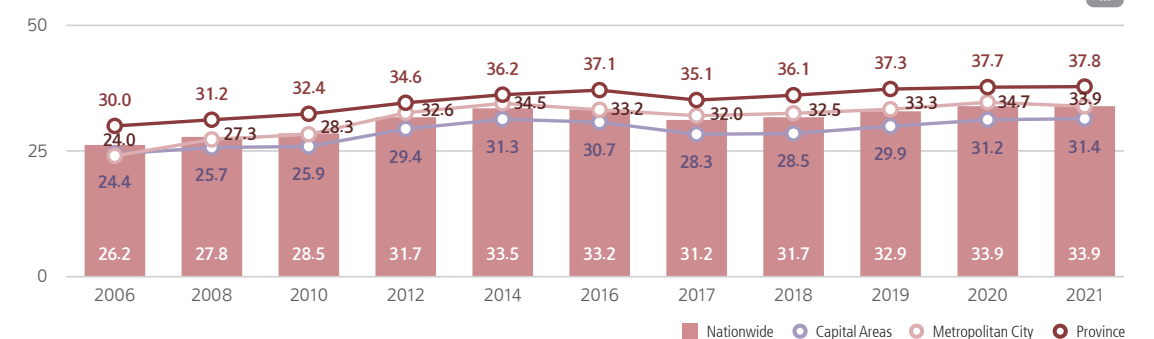
Residential area by income level; 2021



SOURCE Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 'Korea Housing Survey'

NOTE The income level is divided into low (1 to 4 deciles), middle (5 to 8 deciles) and high (9 to 10 deciles) ranks based on 10 deciles of household income.

Residential area per capita; 2006~2021



SOURCE Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 'Korea Housing Survey'

NOTE ① The national capital areas include Seoul, Incheon and Gyeonggi. ② The multi-unit housing area has been estimated based on administrative data since 2017.

# Dwelling without Basic Facilities

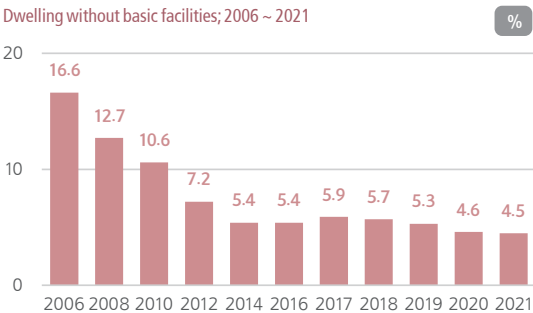


**DEFINITION** A proportion of households dwelling below the minimum housing standards out of total households  
**HOW TO MEASURE** (Number of households dwelling below the minimum housing standards ÷ Total number of households) × 100

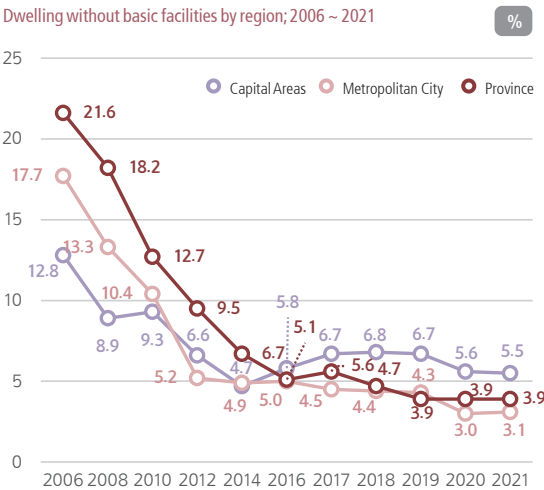
## 4.5% in 2021, down 0.1%p from 2020

Households dwelling without basic facilities measures not only the quantitative size but also the quality of housing with various criteria. The indicator is effective in grasping the size of the housing vulnerable group. The proportion of households living below the minimum housing standards decreased by 0.1%p from 4.6% in 2020 to 4.5% in 2021. After the sudden decline from 16.6% in 2006, the proportion had maintained around 5% since 2014 until recently it entered the 4% range. By region, the proportion was relatively high in capital areas with 5.5% while metropolitan cities had the lowest proportion of 3.1%. Capital areas experienced the decrease from 12.8% in 2006 to 5.5% in 2021. During the same period, metropolitan cities and provincial areas experienced a decline from 17.7% to 3.1% and from 21.6% to 3.9% respectively. The proportion of households dwelling without basic facilities in capital areas had been stagnant after decreasing to 4.7% in 2014 and then rising again whereas the proportion had been consistently relieved in metropolitan cities and provincial areas.

By standard for minimum housing, 4.7% of households in the national capital areas failed to meet the area standard, which was higher than other areas. For provincial areas, housing conditions were relatively good in terms of the area standard, but the proportion falling to meet the facility standard was 3.2% which was higher than other areas.



SOURCE Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 「Korea Housing Survey」



SOURCE Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 「Korea Housing Survey」  
NOTE The national capital areas include Seoul, Incheon and Gyeonggi.

Dwelling without basic facilities by standard; 2021

	BELOW AREA STANDARD	BELOW FACILITY STANDARD	BELOW BEDROOM STANDARD
Capital Areas	4.7	2.7	0.3
Metropolitan City	2.4	2.0	0.1
Province	1.6	3.2	0.2

SOURCE Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 「Korea Housing Survey」  
NOTE The national capital areas include Seoul, Incheon and Gyeonggi.

# Commuting Time to Office

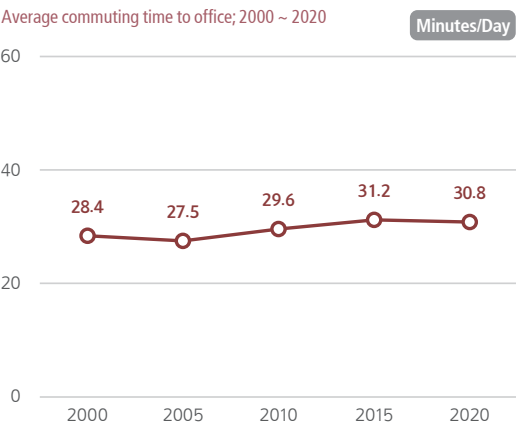


**DEFINITION** Average time required for commuters to get to work from home  
**HOW TO MEASURE** Average time required to get to work from home out of the population aged 12 and over

## 30.8 minutes in 2020, down 0.4 minutes from 2015

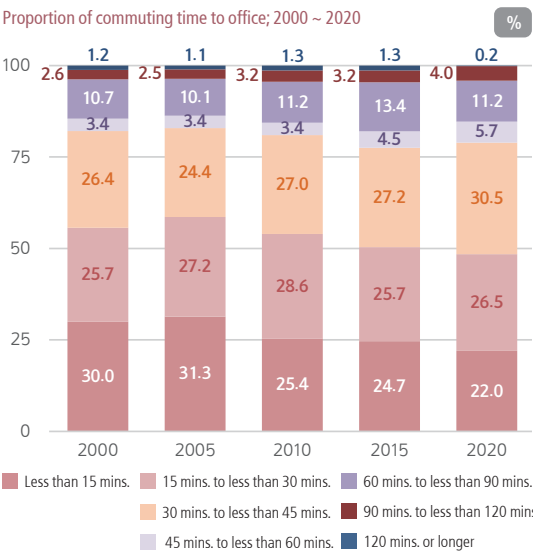
The commuting time is an indicator of workers' access to their workplace. Given the fact that commute is regular and repetitive, it implies convenience of daily life and a glimpse of the quality of life. The trends of commuting time also enable to directly and indirectly comprehend changes in distance between workplace and place of residence, adjustments of business and residential areas and shifts in transportation services during rush hours. The commuting time tends to inevitably increase with urban expansion and the growing number of populations living in sub-urban areas due to a rise in housing prices.

The average commuting time in Korea stood at 30.8 minutes in 2020, up 2.4 minutes from 28.4 minutes in 2000 for the past 20 years. The proportion of population commuting to work for an hour or longer rose to 18.0% in 2015 from 14.5% in 2000. But it again fell to 15.3% in 2020. The proportion of population commuting for 90 minutes or longer increased to 4.2% in 2020 from 3.8% in 2000. When comparing commuting time by region, people living in Dong area had long commuting time while those in Myeon had the shortest commuting time. For Dong, the proportion of population with

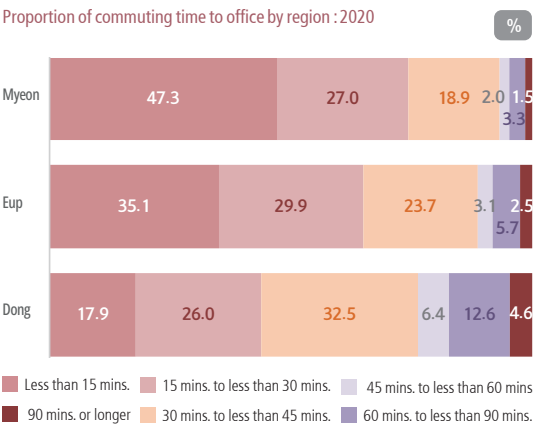


SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Population and Housing Census」

60-minute commuting time or longer was 17.2% which showed a big difference from 8.2% in Eup and 4.7% in Myeon. In addition, the proportion of population with less than 15-minute commuting time was only 17.9% in Dong while the ratio stood at 35.1% and 47.3% in Eup and Myeon respectively.



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Population and Housing Census」



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Population and Housing Census」



# Housing Environment Satisfaction

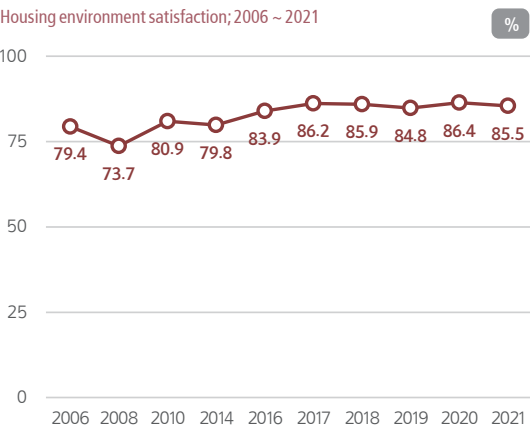


**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population satisfied with overall housing environments in their residential areas  
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied that “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with overall housing environments regarding their residential areas

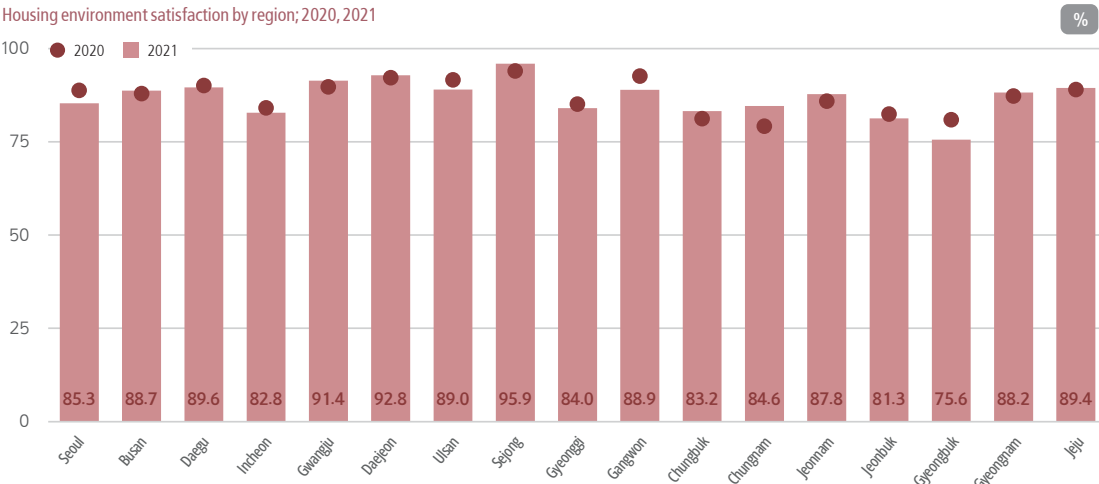
## 85.5% in 2021, down 0.9%p from 2020

The housing environment satisfaction serves as an indicator of housing quality measured with subjective evaluation of residents to comprehend appropriateness of housing environments. The survey on housing environment satisfaction, is extensively conducted with consideration of satisfaction with surroundings, enables to figure out which functions or facilities are necessary based on characteristics such as the class and age of residents. Since it can be utilized for housing policies or plans, and the public attention has shifted from housing to living environments, the housing environment satisfaction has become a crucial indicator in measuring the quality of life. The housing environment satisfaction decreased by 0.9%p to 85.5% in 2021 from 86.4% in 2020. It stayed at a standstill after having increased from 73.7% in 2008 to 86.2% in 2017. Comparing the housing environment satisfaction in 17 regions, Sejong, where had been founded and developed recently, showed the highest housing environment satisfaction of 95.9%. Next, Gwangju and Daejeon also had high levels of satisfaction with housing environments with over 90%. Out of metropolitan cities, meanwhile, Incheon had a proportion of 82.8% which is low compared to others.

Out of the provinces, Gyeongbuk was ranked the lowest with 75.6%. Compared to 2020, Seoul saw a decrease in the housing environment satisfaction by 3.5%p. The decline was noticeable in Gyeongbuk(-5.3%p), Gangwon(-3.7%p) and Ulsan(-2.6%p). However, the satisfaction in Chungnam increased by 5.4%p compared to 2020.



SOURCE Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 「Korea Housing Survey」  
NOTE The figures in 2012 were excluded because a scale of 1 to 5 was used during the year.



SOURCE Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 「Korea Housing Survey」



About

The environment affects the quality of life for people who currently live in a very immediate manner. First of all, the environment has direct (air/water pollution) and indirect(climate change) impacts on health of people. Second, people benefit from environmental services such as water and nature. Furthermore, people’s environmental rights(including accesses to environmental information) have been gradually more recognized. Third, people consider environmental amenities and disamenities as crucial which influence on their actual decisions(e.g., choice of a residential place). Last but not least, environmental conditions can cause natural disasters such as climate change, droughts or floods, which could affect the wealth and life of human beings.

Recent Trends

Out of nine indicators in the domain of Environment, eight improved compared to the previous figures while the remaining one deteriorated. Among the indicators included in the Environment domain, the two indicators representing the 2021 figures, the waterworks supply rate in rural area and urban park area per capita in a city, changed for the better compared the previous year with the constant increasing trend. The fine dust concentration level, which had been consistently exacerbated until 2019, improved along with the better air quality in 2020 under the influence of COVID-19. All the satisfaction indicators showing the subjective satisfaction with the environment had improved. In the domain of Environment, the climate change recognition is the only indicator that deteriorated with slight increase in anxieties over climate change.

Indicators

- 🟢 Urban Park Area per Capita | 11.0㎡(2020) → 11.6㎡(2021)
- 🟢 Fine Dust Concentration Level | 18.7㎍/㎡(2021) → 17.9㎍/㎡(2022)
- 🟢 Waterworks Supply Rate in Rural Area | 80.2%(2020) → 81.6%(2021)
- 🟢 Air Quality Satisfaction | 38.2%(2020) → 42.3%(2022)
- 🟢 Water Quality Satisfaction | 37.7%(2020) → 41.1%(2022)
- 🟢 Soil Quality Satisfaction | 36.7%(2020) → 40.2%(2022)
- 🟢 Noise Level Satisfaction | 35.7%(2020) → 36.6%(2022)
- 🟢 Green Environment Satisfaction | 58.7%(2020) → 59.1%(2022)
- 🔴 Climate Change Recognition | 45.4%(2020) → 45.9%(2022)

Urban Park Area per Capita

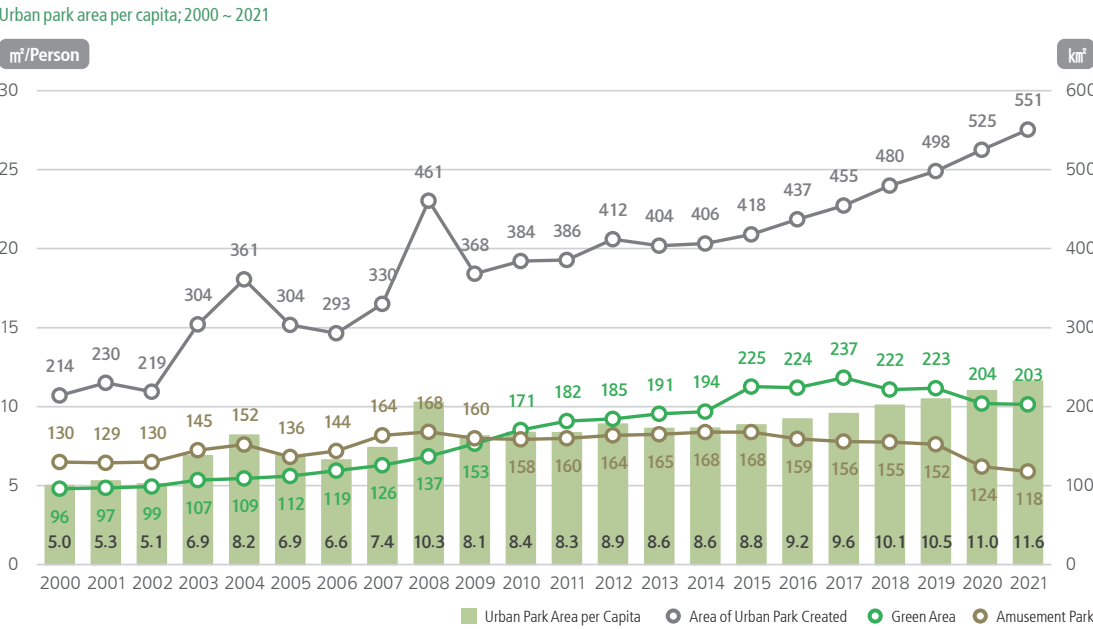


DEFINITION Urban park area per a citizen  
HOWTO MEASURE Area of urban parks created (determined area-unexecuted area) ÷ Total population in urban areas

11.6㎡ per capita in 2021, up 0.6㎡ from 2020

An urban park refers to a spatial facility built to protect the natural sceneries and enhance healthy, recreational and emotional life of citizens in urban areas. The amount of park services provided by natural sceneries and park facilities(e. g. exercise and rest facilities) included in an urban park is a crucial element to determine the quality of life for urban residents. Presence of an urban park easily accessible in a residential area can make a huge difference in quality of life and leisure activities. The urban park area per capita in 2021 rose by 0.6㎡ from 11.0㎡ in 2020 to 11.6㎡ in 2021. The per-capita area was on an increase from 5.0㎡ in 2000 to 10.3 ㎡ in 2008. After a decline to 8.1㎡ in 2009, it slightly rose and stayed around 8㎡ until 2015. It has been on constant increase since 2016 when it entered the 9㎡ range.

The actual area of the urban parks more than doubled to 551㎞² in 2021 from 214㎞² in 2000. Meanwhile, a ‘green area’ meaning a facility built to conserve or improve natural environments and prevent pollution or disasters expanded from 96㎞² to 203㎞² during the same period, growing in tandem with urban parks. However, an ‘amusement park’ that serves as an entertainment and recreational facility to enhance welfare of residents decreased from 130㎞² to 118㎞². The size for urban parks and green areas has been on a steady increase to accommodate the needs of urban residents for leisure and rest. However, for urban parks, the proportion of the determined area(709㎞²) to the area created(551㎞²) stood at 77.7%.



SOURCE Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, LX, 「Statistics of Urban Plan」  
NOTE ㉠ An urban park refers to spatial facilities built to protect urban natural sceneries and enhance healthy, recreational and emotional life of citizens. ㉡ A green area refers to facilities to conserve or improve natural environments and prevent pollution or disasters from occurring. ㉢ An amusement park refers to entertainment and recreational facilities installed to enhance welfare of residents. ㉣ Area created = determined area – unexecuted area.

# Find Dust Concentration Level(Particulate Matter Concentration, PM2.5)



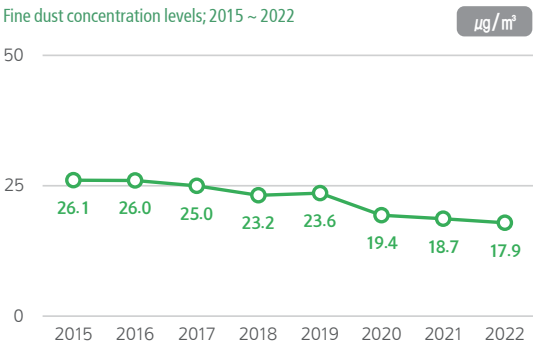
DEFINITION Measured concentration level of ultrafine dust (PM<sub>2.5</sub>, dust with a diameter of 2.5μm or less) in the air  
HOW TO MEASURE Population-weighted value of annual averages of fine dust concentration levels in 17 cities and provinces

## 17.9 μg/m³ in 2022, down 0.8 μg/m³ from 2021

Air pollution is one of major environmental issues directly impacting on human bodies and ecosystems. Out of many air pollutants, fine dust draws the most attention in terms of public health. Especially, the ultrafine dust(PM<sub>2.5</sub>) which is being raised as an issue recently, penetrates into pulmonary alveolus with the extremely small size of particles; therefore, it is well-known for its severe toxicity. As a substance that exacerbates respiratory diseases like asthma, degrades pulmonary functions and worsens visibility, fine dust has also drew attentions of citizens and been recognized internationally and domestically as a matter with the highest severity, significance and social costs.

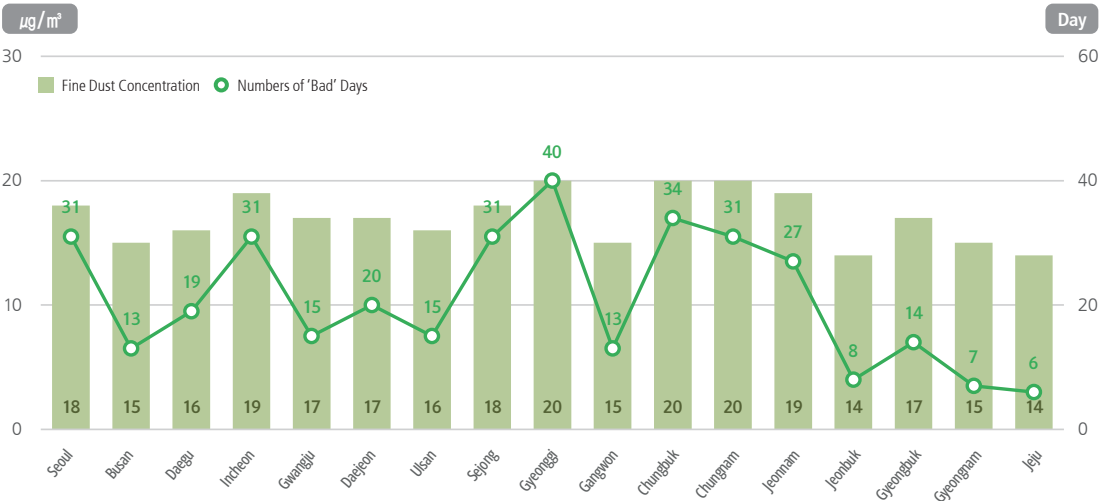
The combined population-weighted average of fine dust concentration levels(PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in 17 regions stood at 17.9 μg/m³ in 2022, down 0.8 μg/m³ from 2021. The concentration levels had stayed in the similar range from 26.1 μg/m³ in

2015 to 23.6 μg/m³ in 2019, but it had largely decreased due to declines in automobile use and operation of factories and installations under the influence of COVID-19 around the world in 2020. Thus, unlike the past, the regional gap



SOURCE National Institute of Environmental Research, 'Annual Report of Ambient Air Quality in Korea'  
NOTE It refers to the population-weighted annual average of fine dust concentration (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) level in 17 regions.

Fine dust concentration levels and number of 'Bad' days by region; 2022

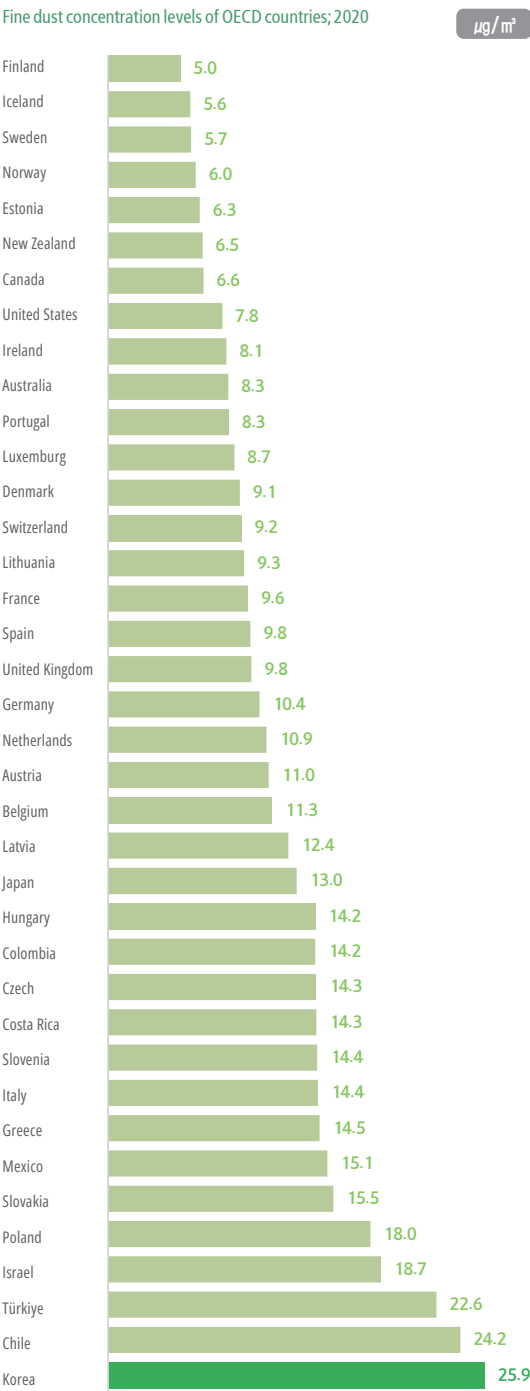


SOURCE National Institute of Environmental Research, 'Annual Report of Ambient Air Quality in Korea'  
NOTE ① It refers to the population-weighted annual average of fine dust concentration (PM 2.5) in 17 regions ② The number of 'Bad' days is the total sum of the number of PM 2.5 'Bad' days(36-75) and the number of 'Very Bad' days (75~).

significantly narrowed down. Gyeonggi, Chungbuk and Chungnam had the highest fine dust concentration level of 20 μg/m³, followed by 19μg/m³ in Incheon and Jeonbuk and 18 μg/m³ in Seoul and Sejong. On the other hand, there were other regions with low fine dust levels such as 14 μg/m³, in Jeonnam and Jeju and 15 μg/m³ in Busan, Gangwon and Gyeongnam.

The levels of fine dust concentration(PM<sub>2.5</sub>) are classified into 'Bad' and 'Very Bad' according to the concentration criteria. By the number of days recorded as 'Bad' or 'Very Bad', Gyeonggi, with the highest concentration of find dust, had total 40 days – the most among the regions. Chungbuk and Chungnam also had more dusty days with 34 days and 31 days respectively, which are lower than Gyeonggi but higher than the other regions. Meanwhile, Jeju had only six days which are the lowest. Jeonnam(8 days) and Gyeongnam(7 days) had 10 days or less. Despite such the huge regional difference, compared to 2021, declines in the number of days rated as "Bad" or beyond appeared in all regions except for Busan, Daejeon, Ulsan, Gangwon and Gyeongnam.

Among the fine dust concentration levels(PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in major OECD countries, South Korea topped the list with 25.9 μg/m³. Given the fact that the concentration level in many OECD countries was no higher than 15 μg/m³, the level in Korea was peculiarly high. There are only two countries, Chile and Türkiye, whose fine dust concentration exceeded 20μg/m³ out of 38 countries. The concentration level was very low with 8.0 μg/m³ or less in Northern European countries like Finland, Sweden and Norway as well as Canada and the United States. Japan which is one of the nearest neighboring countries, also had the fine dust concentration of 13 μg/m³. In 2020, some improvements in fine dust concentration has recently started in Korea; however, it is still high compared to other countries. The people's sensitivity to fine dust is growing as well.



SOURCE OECD, *Air quality and health* (retrieved in Dec 2022)  
NOTE These fine dust concentration levels in each nation are estimated based on satellite observations and chemical transport model.

# Waterworks Supply Rate in Rural Area



DEFINITION A proportion of households actually supplied with waterworks out of households eligible for waterworks supply in rural areas (-Myeon)

HOW TO MEASURE [Population with waterworks supply in rural areas (-Myeon) ÷ Total population in rural areas (-Myeon)] × 100

## 81.6% in 2021, up 1.4%p from 2020

Waterworks services play a key role in sanitation as well as in industrial development and fire-fighting. They are must-have convenience facilities, however, their supply ratios vary depending on each region's residential environments, housing structures, and finances of the local government. In this sense, a waterworks supply rate serves as an indicator to measure quality of regional living environments.

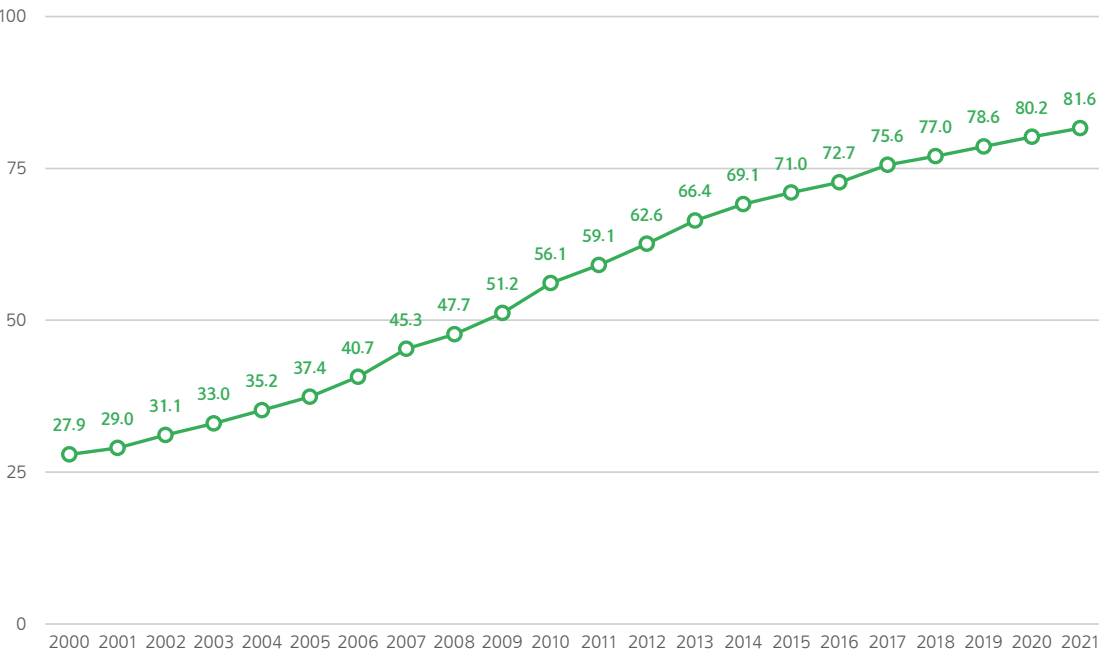
With the Korean government's constant expansion of infrastructure, the nation's waterworks supply rate, 97.7% in 2021, joined the ranks of developed nations with 95% or higher. However, gaps still exist across regions. While the waterworks supply almost covered the entire urban areas,

it is not the case for rural areas.

The waterworks supply rate in rural areas(-Myeon) increased by 1.4%p from 80.2% in 2020 to 81.6% in 2021. The waterworks supply rate was consistently on a rise from 27.9% in 2000, showing over a 2.5-fold increase for the past 20 years. Especially in 2010, it increased by 4.9%p, the biggest growth, compared to 2009. Unlike such the big increase around 2010, the rate has recently grown slightly with no more than 2%p. Nevertheless, it still has fallen short of the waterworks supply rate in the urban counterparts(99.7%), and thus it still requires constant attention and improvement.

Waterworks supply rate in rural areas; 2000 ~ 2021

%



SOURCE Ministry of Environment, 「Statistics of Waterworks」

NOTE ① These are waterworks supply rate in Myeon areas ② The population relying on the local or small-scaled drinking water system is not included in those supplied with water.

# Air Quality Satisfaction



DEFINITION A proportion of the population satisfied with air quality in their residential areas

HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of respondents who replied "very good" or "somewhat good" regarding air environments in the region that they currently reside in

## 42.3% in 2022, up 4.1%p from 2020

Individuals' self-reported evaluation on the environment is very important in the perspective of subjective well-being. The general public perceived the level of fine dust concentration is as poor, according to figures of air quality satisfaction. In the past, the air quality satisfaction was lower than satisfaction with other environmental areas. The air quality satisfaction had declined from 40.1% since 2012. Especially, in 2016, it fell sharply by 4.3%p from 2014. After that, it rebounded rapidly by 9.6%p from 28.6% in 2018 to 38.2% in 2020 and it further increased by 4.1%p to 42.3% in 2022. With this increasing trend, now it is higher than satisfaction levels in other environment areas(water quality, soil quality and noise level). Such this improvement in air quality satisfaction indicates that the people's perception about the level of fine dust concentration has also changed along with the improved air quality resulted from COVID-19 in 2020.

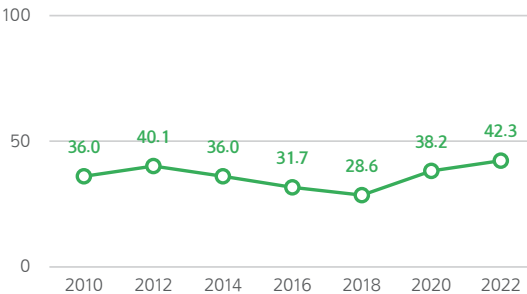
A big gap in the air quality satisfaction exists between urban and rural areas. In 2022, it stood at 57.4% in rural areas which was higher than in urban areas(39.1%). Until 2018, the satisfaction level in rural areas was almost twice as high as that in urban areas. Such the gap in the

air quality satisfaction has gradually narrowed down from 30.0%p in 2010 to 18.3%p in 2022.

For 17 regions, Gangwon had the highest satisfaction with 67.5%, followed by Jeju and Jeonnam ranging from 58% to 60%. Meanwhile, the satisfaction level was low in Seoul(33.8%) and Ulsan(37.7%) while Incheon had the lowest satisfaction level with 26.8%. Compared to 2020, satisfaction largely increased in Daegu, Sejong and Chungbuk. In Jeonnam and Jeju, where the air quality satisfaction is generally high, the satisfaction declined compared to 2020.

Air quality satisfaction; 2010 ~ 2022

%

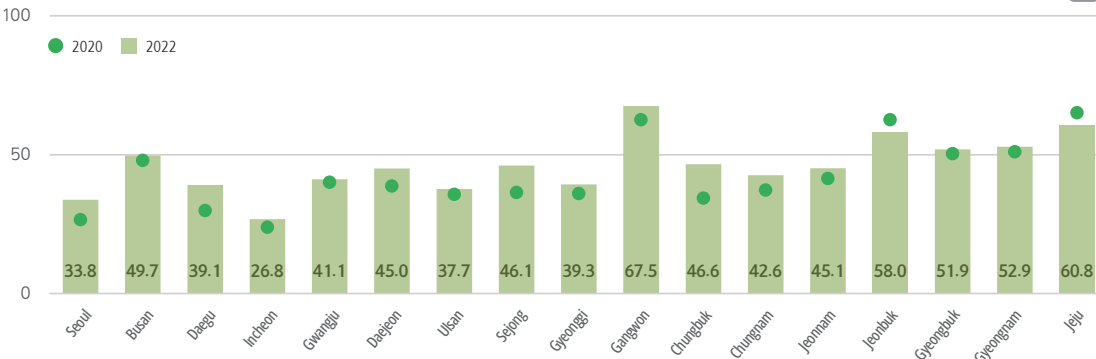


SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

NOTE The survey had been conducted on the population aged 15 and over until 2010, and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2012.

Air quality satisfaction by region; 2020, 2022

%



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」



# Water Quality Satisfaction



**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population satisfied with water quality in their residential areas  
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very good” or “somewhat good” regarding rivers (water quality) of the region that they currently reside in

## 41.1% in 2022, up 3.4%p from 2020

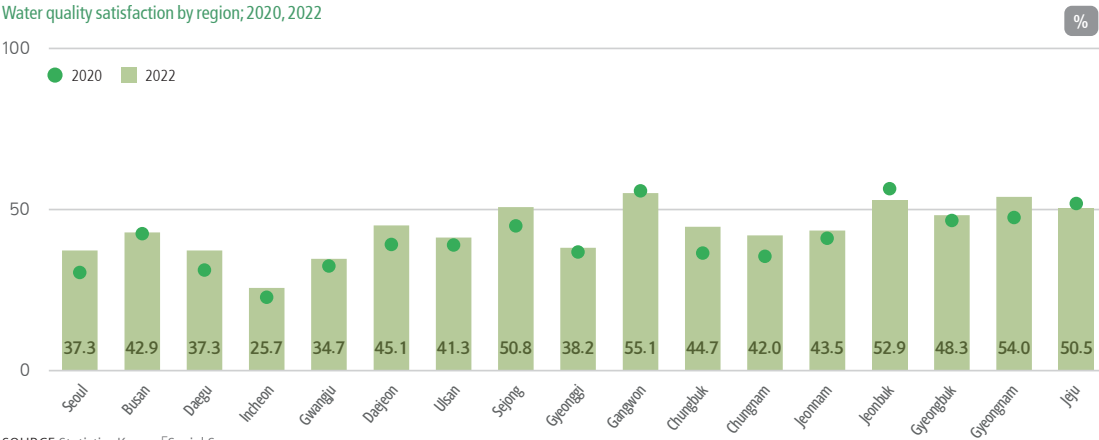
Out of five environmental areas including air quality, rivers(water quality), soil quality, noise level and green environments showing subjective well-being in living environments, water quality is connected to drinking water. Like air quality, it is a crucial factor in quality of life as it directly affects health of individuals. The water quality satisfaction stood at 41.1% in 2022, up 3.4%p from 37.7% in 2020. It is slightly lower than the air quality satisfaction(42.3%). Like the air quality satisfaction, the satisfaction level with water quality rose from 33.9% in 2010 to 36.9% in 2012, followed by the constant decline from 34.9% in 2014 through 33.2% in 2016 to 29.3% in 2018. Recently, it rose again to 41.1%. However, the changes in satisfaction with water quality was less noticeable than with air quality. The water quality satisfaction varies depending on regions, i.e., urban and rural areas. Rural areas had the satisfaction level of 51.0% in 2022 which was 12.1%p higher than urban areas(38.9%).

For 17 regions, the water satisfaction level in Gangwon was ranked highest with 55.1% and Gyeongnam and Jeonnam also had high satisfaction with over 52%. Meanwhile,

Incheon showed the lowest satisfaction of 25.7%. The satisfaction levels were also quite low with 40% or less in Seoul, Daegu, Gwangju and Gyeonggi, showing the similar trend as that of air quality. The water quality satisfaction in Sejong stood at 50.8% which was relatively higher than other metropolitan cities and provinces. Compared to 2020, the satisfaction levels increased in overall. On the other hand, the water quality satisfaction declined in Gangwon, Jeonnam and Jeju.



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」  
NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 15 and over in 2010 and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2012.



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

# Soil Quality Satisfaction

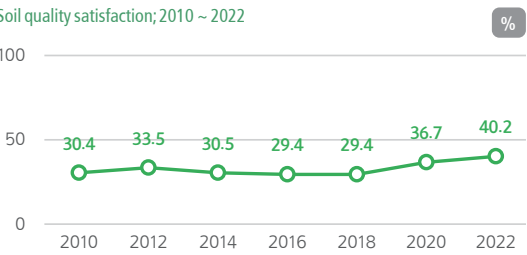


**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population satisfied with soil quality in their residential areas  
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very good” or “somewhat good” regarding soil in the region that they currently reside in

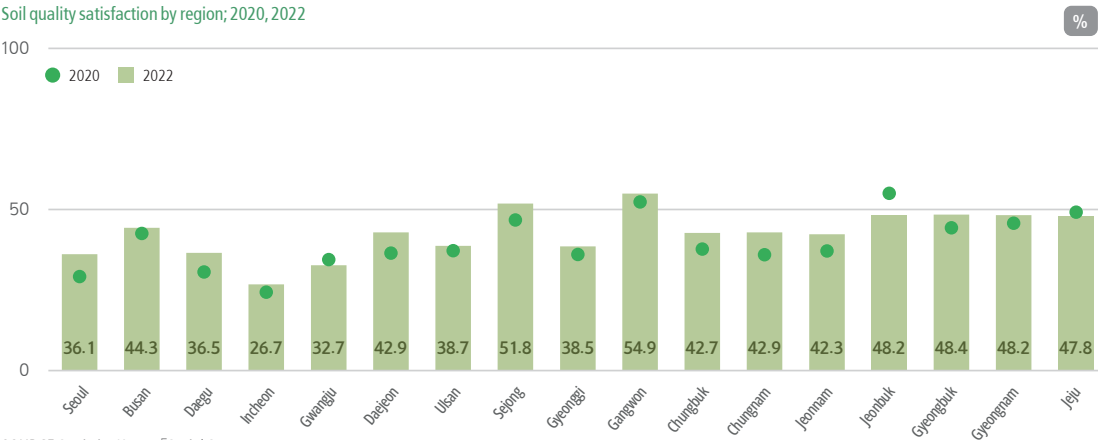
## 40.2% in 2022, up 3.5%p from 2020

Out of five environmental areas showing subjective well-being in living environments, soil quality satisfaction increased by 3.5%p from 2020 to 40.2% in 2022. The soil quality satisfaction level was slightly lower than satisfaction with water quality(41.1%) and air quality(42.3%). The soil quality satisfaction rose from 30.4% in 2010 to 33.5% in 2012, then it declined from 30.5% in 2014 to 29.4% in 2018. But it rapidly increased to 36.7% in 2020 and 40.2% in 2022. Rural areas(49.4%) tend to have the higher satisfaction with soil quality than urban areas(38.3%) do. In urban areas, there had been no noticeable change until 2018, but recently they saw a big jump in the satisfaction level. Meanwhile, the soil quality satisfaction had steadily decreased in rural areas from 54.8% in 2012 until it rose again recently. In comparison to satisfaction levels of air quality, water quality, and soil quality, these in urban areas are similar. In rural areas, on the other hand, air quality had the highest satisfaction while soil quality satisfaction was the lowest. The difference indicates the level of soil environments is something that people can easily perceive

during their day-to-day life in rural areas. For 17 regions, Gangwon had the highest soil quality satisfaction with 54.9%, followed by 51.8% in Sejong. Meanwhile, the satisfaction level in Incheon stood at 26.7% which is the lowest, and Seoul, Daegu, Gwangju, Ulsan and Gyeonggi also had low satisfaction(40% or less). Compared to 2020, the soil quality satisfaction levels in Seoul and Daejeon improved by more than 6%p while that in Jeonnam declined by 6.8%p compared to 2020.



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」  
NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 15 and over in 2010 and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2012.



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

# Noise Level Satisfaction



DEFINITION A proportion of the population satisfied with the level of noise pollution in their residential areas

HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of the respondents who replied “very good” or “somewhat good” regarding noise/vibration in the region that they currently reside in

## 36.6% in 2022, up 0.9%p from 2020

Noise level is one of crucial factors profoundly on individuals’ daily life as people have been recently exposed to various noise due to urbanization. In particular, recurring noise from automobiles on the roadside throughout daily activities makes enormously influence the quality of life.

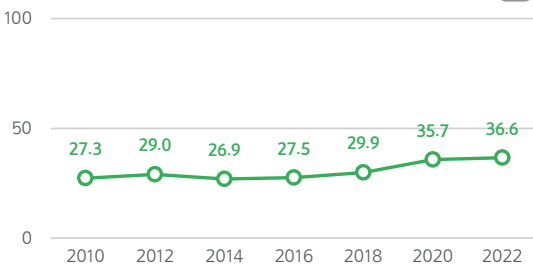
The noise level satisfaction rose by 0.9%p from 2020 to 36.6% in 2022. It had stayed somewhere between 26% and 29% without any visible change after reaching 27.3% in 2010. But then, like satisfaction levels in other environmental areas, it rapidly increased to 35.7% in 2020. Yet this growth was not as evident as the one in air quality or water quality.

Like other environmental areas, the noise level satisfaction was higher in rural areas(51.0%) than in urban areas(33.6%). However, the satisfaction level improved from around 23% to 33.6% in 2022 in urban areas while rural areas repeated the fluctuation from 45% to 50%. It suggests no evident change in people’s satisfaction compared to other environmental areas, but it recently increased to some degree.

In comparison to noise level satisfaction by region, Gangwon came in first with 53.2%, followed by Jeonnam(50.1%). On the

other hand, Incheon had the lowest level of 26.5% and the noise level satisfaction was also low in Daegu and Gwangju(about 30%). Meanwhile, Sejong had the fourth highest satisfaction of 45.5% after Gangwon, Jeonnam(50.1%), Gyeongbuk(47.1%), and it is the highest among metropolitan cities. Compared to 2020, various changes were found across regions. Jeju saw a decline by 9.2%p in the noise level satisfaction while in Jeonbuk it increased by 6.1%p.

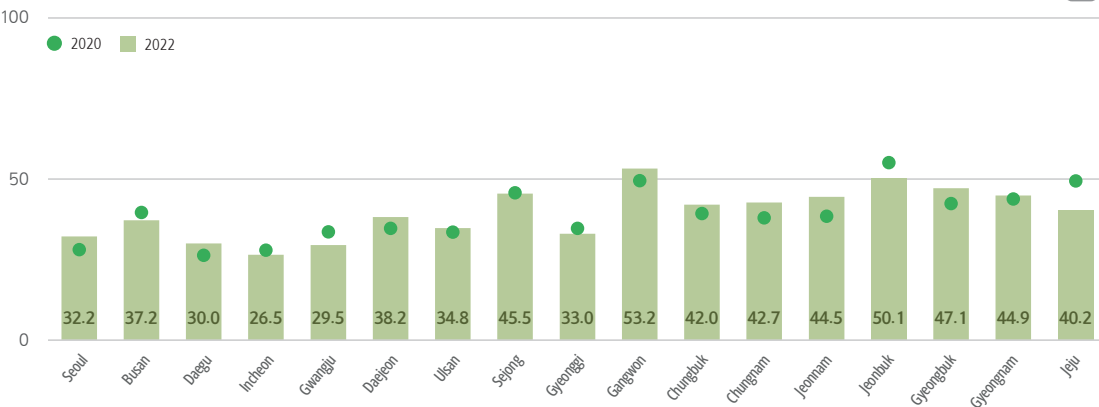
Noise level satisfaction; 2010 ~ 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 15 and over in 2010 and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2012.

Noise level satisfaction by region; 2020, 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

# Green Environment Satisfaction



DEFINITION A proportion of the population satisfied with green environments in their residential areas

HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of respondents who replied “very good” or “somewhat good” regarding green environments (mountains, parks, etc.) in the region that they currently reside in

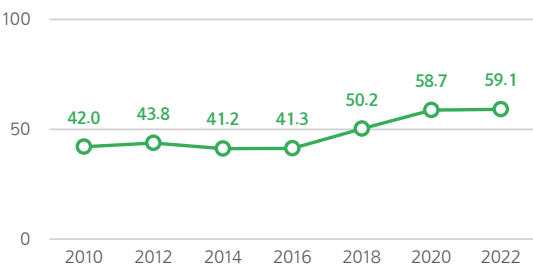
## 59.1% in 2022, up 0.4%p from 2020

Green environments satisfaction indicates how satisfied people are with natural environments such as mountains or parks in the region that they reside in. Like urban parks, they could also enormously influence the quality of life as they are related to individuals’ leisure activities. The satisfaction level with green environments rose by 0.4%p from 58.7% in 2020 to 59.1% in 2022. It maintained around 42% with no evident changes until 2016, but it then increased to 50.2% in 2018 and to 58.7% in 2020. Given satisfaction levels in other environmental areas that amounted to 40%, the green environment satisfaction was quite high with constant improvements.

As in the other environmental aspects, the green environment satisfaction was relatively higher in rural areas than in urban areas. In 2022, the green environment satisfaction in rural areas stood at 68.7% while that was 57.1% in urban areas. For urban areas, there had been no visible change in the satisfaction level from 37.8% in 2010 until 2016, but it rapidly increased by 7.5%p in 2018 and 9.0%p in 2020. The green environment satisfaction had the least gap in the satisfaction between urban and rural areas compared to satisfaction in other environmental areas. The gap was only 11.6%p between

the two areas in 2022. Looking at the green environment satisfaction in each region, Gangwon had the highest level of 74.2%. Jeonnam and Sejong had also high satisfaction with 71.0% and 69.0% respectively. As Sejong is a city recently developed, the green environment satisfaction in the city was pretty high. Meanwhile, Incheon had the satisfaction level of 46.7%, which was over 6%p lower than Gwangju or Daegu which are considered to have the low satisfaction levels. Compared to 2020, Jeju saw the biggest reduction by 8.9%p while in Daejeon the satisfaction level grew by the largest margin(5.2%p).

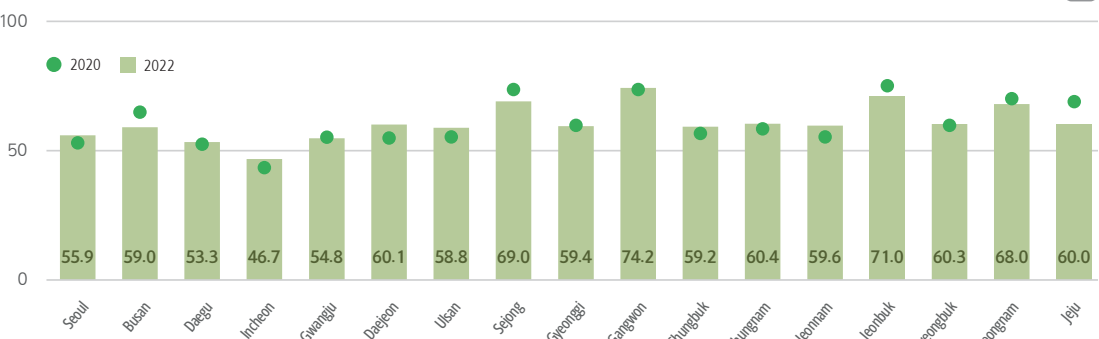
Green environment satisfaction; 2010 ~ 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 15 and over in 2010 and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2012.

Green environment satisfaction by region; 2020, 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

# Climate Change Recognition



DEFINITION A proportion of the population who are anxious about climate change  
HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of respondents who replied “very worried” or “slightly worried” regarding climate change (heatwave, flood, etc.)

## 45.9% in 2022, up 0.5%p from 2020

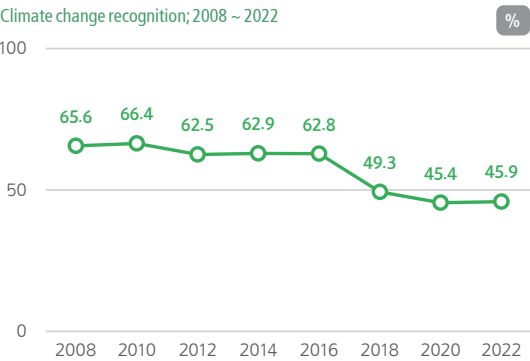
As climate change impacts on the entire ecosystems in long term, it is one of crucial environmental issues. Thus, it is important to analyze the level of people’s anxieties about climate change to comprehend people’s overall recognition toward the environmental issues.

In 2022, the climate change recognition stood at 45.9%, up 0.5%p from 45.4% in 2020. After a reduction from 65.6% in 2008 to 62.5% in 2012, it had maintained at the similar level until 2018 when it rapidly decreased to 49.3% in 2018. It later slightly rose in 2022.

There was no noticeable difference in the climate change recognition between urban areas and rural areas. Residents in urban areas had a little bit more recognition about climate change with 46.5% than in rural ones(42.8%). By gender, female(49.3%) tended to be more aware of climate change than male(42.5%). Such the gender gap has been consistently observed since 2012, with female being 6%p to 9%p more aware of climate change than male.

Looking at age groups, the climate change recognition

was high with more than 50% among the population in their 40s and 50s, followed by 47.6% in those aged 30 to 39. The climate change recognition was recorded at 41.0% for teenagers between 13 to 19 years old and at 41.7% for those in their 60s. Compared to 2020, the climate change recognition grew relatively much more among those in their aged under 30.



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」  
NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 15 and over in 2010 and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2012.



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

About

Safety is the most fundamental foundation that the government is supposed to provide to ensure the quality of life for the people and insecurity is explained as: “it encompasses all external factors which put the physical integrity of individuals at risk” (Stiglitz et al., 2009). Traditionally, the domain of Safety was comprised of indicators focusing on matters related to crimes and the legal system. However, since a variety of accident risks in the daily life, in addition to crimes, are predominantly raising as a threat to safety of the society, diverse safety accidents have been included in indicators for the quality of life.

Recent Trends

Out of nine indicators in the domain of Safety, seven improved while the remaining two got deteriorated. Some improvements appeared in the indicator of feeling safe walking alone at a night and the homicide rate- indicators related to crimes- whereas the crime victimization rate deteriorated. Among indicators that measure safety accidents, road traffic accident fatality rate, industrial accident mortality rate and number of fire fatalities were relieved compared to the previous year. The child mortality rate from safety accidents, which indicates safe environments for children, showed some improvement while the exacerbation of the child abuse rate persisted. The social safety evaluation had consistently improved.

Indicators

- 😊 Homicide Rate(deaths per 100,000 population) | **0.75(2020) → 0.69(2021)**
- 😞 Crime Victimization Rate(cases per 100,000 population) | **3,678(2018) → 3,806(2020)**
- 😊 Feeling Safe Walking Alone at Night | **66.5%(2020) → 70.4%(2022)**
- 😊 Industrial Accident Mortality Rate(deaths per 100,000 population) | **1.09(2020) → 1.07(2021)**
- 😊 Number of Fire Fatalities | **365 deaths(2020) → 276 deaths(2021)**
- 😊 Road Traffic Accident Fatality Rate(deaths per 100,000 population) | **6.0(2020) → 5.6(2021)**
- 😊 Child Mortality Rate from Safety Accidents(deaths per 100,000 population) | **2.4(2020)→ 2.2(2021)**
- 😞 Child Abuse Rate(cases per 100,000 population) | **401.6(2020) → 502.2(2021)**
- 😊 Perception toward Societal Safety | **31.8%(2020) → 33.3%(2022)**

Homicide Rate



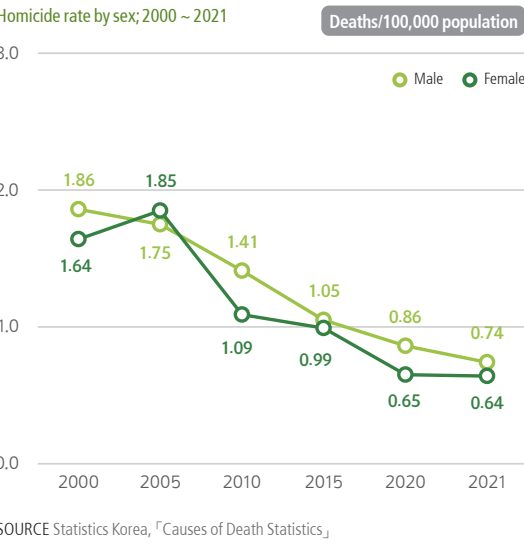
DEFINITION No. of homicides per 100,000 population  
HOWTO MEASURE {No. of homicides ÷ No. of resident population registered} ×100,000

0.69 deaths in 2021, down 0.06 deaths from 2020

Homicide, or a death inflicted by someone else, is one of the most extreme forms of crime victimization and poses the biggest threat to safety. Thus it significantly impacts an individual's quality of life. In the early 2000s, the homicide rate stood at 1.8 deaths per 100,000 population and it has been on a decrease since 2005. In 2016, the number became less than one(0.85) per 100,000 population. In 2021, it further declined to 0.69 deaths from the previous year.

By gender, for male, the homicide rate was recorded at 0.74 deaths per 100,000 population in 2021, down from 1.86 deaths in 2000. The rate for female rose from 1.64 deaths per 100,000 population in 2000, hitting the record high of 1.85 deaths in 2005. Afterwards, it had gradually declined and become 0.64 deaths in 2021. As the rate decreased by the larger margin for male than for female, the gender gap has been reduced over time. In 2014, there was scarcely gender gap, showing similar figures between the two groups. The homicide rate for female has continued

to decline since 2015 while the rate for male has remained stagnant at around 0.8 deaths since 2017. However, the rate for male declined in 2021.





# Crime Victimization Rate



**DEFINITION** No. of crime cases collected in a self-reported method over the past year  
**HOW TO MEASURE** {(estimated) No. of crimes committed ÷ Population aged 14 or older} × 100,000

## 3,806 cases in 2020, up from 2018

Crime victimization serves as one of indicators affecting not only the quality of life for individuals but also the societal quality as it makes a direct impact on safety of individuals and incurs social costs.

The official crime statistics are produced with collecting cases recognized and handled by the police and the prosecutor’s office. Therefore, even if there were actual crimes committed but not reported to the judiciary authorities or not recorded after being reported, this raises an issue called ‘hidden crimes.’ Thus, individuals’ crime victimization data collected based on a self-reporting method via a sample survey allows us to more accurately estimate the number of crimes committed by comprehension of crime damage which individuals have experienced and identification of ‘hidden crimes.’

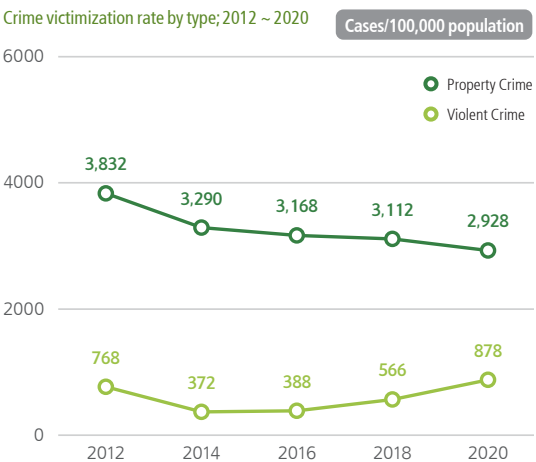
Given the estimated crime victimization rate of individuals based on 「National Public Safety Survey」conducted by the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice, the rate declined from 4,600 cases per 100,000 population in 2012 to 3,556 cases in 2016, and it again rose to 3,678 cases in 2018 and 3,806 cases in 2020. By the crime type, the number of property crime cases was even higher than the number of violent crimes. For property crimes, the crime rate has been on a slight decrease since 2012. Meanwhile, after the sudden decline from 768 cases per 100,000 population in 2012 to less than 400 cases in 2014, the violent crimes were back on a rise to 566 cases in 2018 and further to 878 cases in 2020.

Crime victimization rate; 2012 ~ 2020



SOURCE Korean Institute of Criminology & Justice, 「National Public Safety Survey」  
NOTE ① The crime victimization rate refers to estimated crime cases based on a proportion of people who report crime victimization experience at least once over the past one year. ② Caution is required with interpretation of time-series analysis as some items of crime victimization had changed in the 2020 survey.

Crime victimization rate by type; 2012 ~ 2020



SOURCE Korean Institute of Criminology & Justice, 「National Public Safety Survey」  
NOTE ① The crime victimization rate refers to estimated crime cases based on a proportion of people who report crime victimization experience at least once over the past one year. ② Caution is required with interpretation of time-series analysis as some items of crime victimization had changed in the 2020 survey.

# Feeling Safe Walking Alone at Night



**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population who perceive that they are safe while walking during the night  
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very safe” or “somewhat safe” when they walk alone at night

## 70.4% in 2022, up 3.9%p from 2020

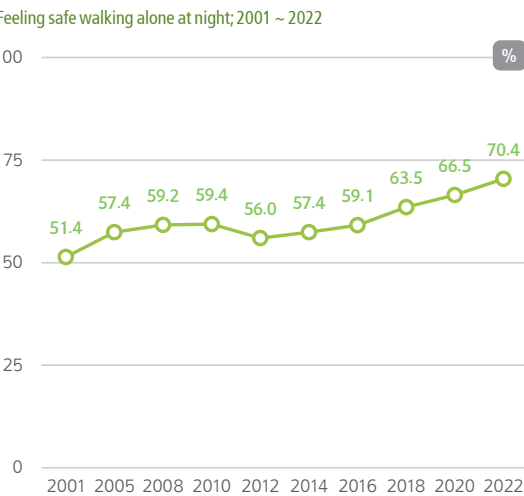
The safety level of a residential area can be evaluated based on individuals’ subjective perception about how safe the neighboring environments are. As a main indicator that assess the level of safety in the residential area, the indicator is also utilized in the OECD BLI as a representative indicator for safety, together with ‘Homicide Rate’.

Statistics Korea conducts the Social Survey to evaluate how safe people feel when they walk at night. Until 2018, before some survey items changed, the ratio of respondents replying “none” when asked if there is any place near their homes that they would feel scared of walking alone at night was measured. The ratio was on an increase from 51.4% in 2001, exceeding 60% in 2018 for the first time. In 2020, the question was changed into how safe they feel when walking alone at night(on a scale of 1 to 4). Same as the previous growing trend, the proportion increased further and reached 66.5% in 2020. Despite the increase in the proportion to 70.4% in 2022, about two thirds of population think they are safe waking at night.

There was a noticeable difference between male and female. The proportion of female who answered safe stood at 56.0% which was 28.9%p lower than male’s(84.9%). By region, the proportion was higher in rural areas than in urban ones, but the regional gap had largely reduced. In 2001, the proportion of feeling safe at night was equal to 49.0% and 60.9% in rural and urban areas respectively with a gap of more than 10%p. However, the proportion jumped to 70.1% and 71.6% in 2022, showing that the proportion of feeling safe at night increased a lot in urban areas.

There was no meaningful difference among age groups, with ranging from 68% to 71%. In 2020, the proportion of feeling safe increased with age. However, in 2022, those in their 30s or younger saw a large increase in the proportion, narrowing down the age gap.

Feeling safe walking alone at night; 2001 ~ 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」  
NOTE ① This indicator is measured based on a proportion of respondents who replied “none” when asked if there is any place near home where they would feel scared walking alone at night. ② The survey was conducted on the population aged 15 and over until 2010, but it has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2012

Feeling safe walking alone at night by region, sex & age group; 2020, 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

# Industrial Accident Mortality Rate

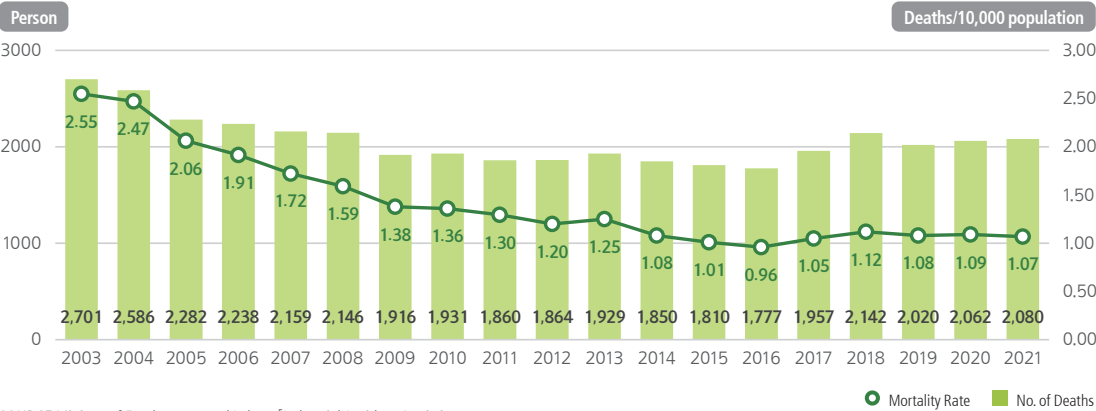
DEFINITION No. of deaths due to industrial accidents and/or diseases per 10,000 workers covered by the industrial accident and safety insurance  
HOW TO MEASURE (No. of deaths due to industrial accidents ÷ No. of workers covered by industrial accident and safety insurance) × 10,000

## 1.07 deaths in 2021, down 0.02 deaths from 2020

Industrial accidents are a significant indicator that assesses safety of working environments by measuring the number of accidents occurring in the workplace. Industrial accidents can be measured in various ways, but some are not included in statistics, and the degree of such the omission also varies depending on countries or times. Such this issue is relatively less apparent in the indicator of industrial accident mortality rate. The industrial accident mortality rate is calculated as a ratio of deaths in industrial accidents per 10,000 workers, out of the workforce covered by the industrial accident and safety insurance.

In 2021, the number of deaths due to industrial accidents stood at 2,080, slightly up from 2,062 in 2020. However, the industrial accident mortality rate declined to 1.07 deaths per 10,000 workers, from 1.09 deaths in 2020. The mortality rate decreased from 2.55 deaths per 10,000 workers in 2003 to 1.36 deaths in 2010 and 0.96 deaths in 2016. Since 2016, it has stayed at around 1.0 death per 10,000 workers.

Industrial accident mortality rate; 2003 ~ 2021



SOURCE Ministry of Employment and Labor, 「Industrial Accident Statistics」  
NOTE ㉠ This shows the number of deaths due to work-related accidents or diseases. ㉡ Deaths due to traffic accidents outside workplace, sports activities, violent acts, those died in an accident that lapsed 1 year or longer from the date of accident and deaths on regular commuting are excluded from the number of deaths (deaths from traffic accidents outside workplace are included only for those in the transportation, restaurant/lodging industries).

# Number of Fire Fatalities

DEFINITION No. of deaths caused by fires each year  
HOW TO MEASURE No. of deaths calculated based on the annual incidence of fires

## 276 deaths in 2021, down 89 deaths from 2020

As one of safety accidents that frequently occur in our daily lives, fire possibly lead to a catastrophe, affecting tremendous impacts on the quality of life with property damage and casualties. Since the magnitude of fire damage varies depending on whether the fire prevention and response system are appropriately ready, the number of fire fatalities serves as a crucial indicator in evaluating the level of fire safety in the society.

The number of fire fatalities decreased to 276 in 2021, down by 89 from 2020, as well as the fire occurrence which declined from 38, 659 cases in 2020 to 36,267 cases in 2021.

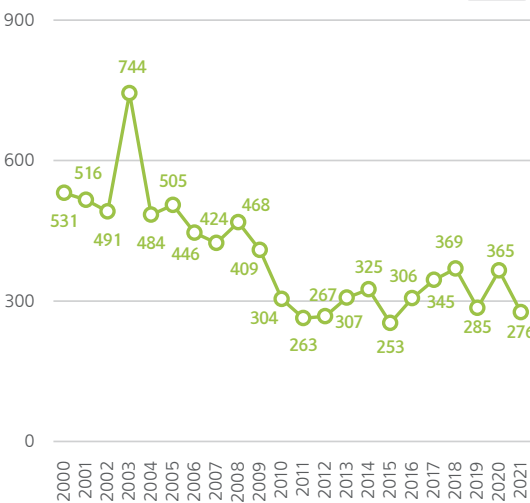
With the constant decline from 531 in 2000, the number of fire-related death had been over 400 deaths each year until 2009, and it further went down to about 300 deaths starting from 2010. After hitting the record-low of 253 deaths in 2015, it fluctuated again.

The number of fire incidence stayed at a range from 34,844 cases in 2000 to 31,778 cases in 2006, but it rose to 49,631 cases in 2008. Afterwards, it had stayed over 40,000 cases until 2019 and then in 2021 it fell down to 36,267 cases.

While the number of fire cases had increased since 2000, the fire-related death decreased by 255 from 2000 to 2021. This fact suggests that the death toll caused by fire has been on decrease compared to the past.

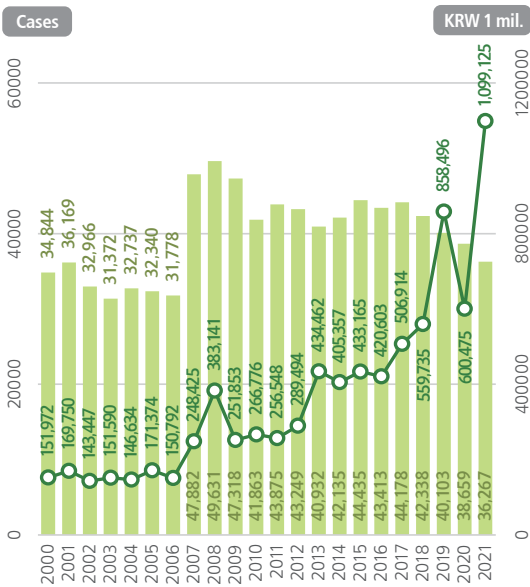
Meanwhile, the amount of property damage caused by fire outbreak has constantly rose. Despite the falling number of fire cases since 2008, the property damage has been on a steady increase since 2011. In particular, the damage in 2021 amounted to KRW 1,099.1 billion, rapidly increasing from KRW 600.4 billion in 2020.

Number of fire fatalities; 2000 ~ 2021



SOURCE National Fire Agency, 「Fire Statistical Yearbook」

Number of fire cases & property damage; 2000 ~ 2021



SOURCE National Fire Agency, 「Fire Statistical Yearbook」

# Road Traffic Accident Fatality Rate



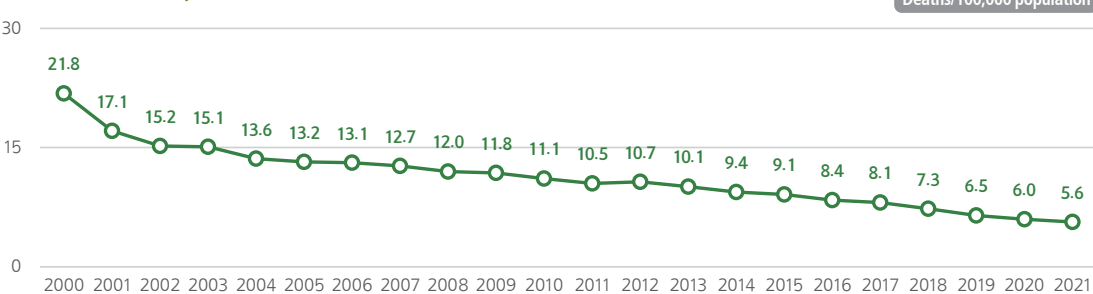
Definition No. of mortalities due to traffic accidents per 100,000 population  
HOW TO MEASURE (No. of mortalities due to traffic accidents ÷ Total population) × 100,000

## 5.6 deaths in 2021, down 0.4 deaths from 2020

Automobiles enhance transit convenience and the quality of life, however, they also can be a threat to safety of people. Thus, the number of deaths in traffic accidents is one of representative indicators to indicate the level of traffic safety. The RTA(Road Traffic Accident) mortality rate in South Korea is relatively high among OECD countries. Without guarantee of safety while walking on the street, people are exposed to physical danger, and it negatively impacts on the quality of life.

The RTA mortality rate had steadily decreased in the 2000s. It fell by almost half to 11.1 deaths per 100,000 population in 2010 from 21.8 deaths in 2000. Afterwards, it again declined by half to 5.6 deaths per 100,000 population in 2021, down 0.4 deaths from 2020. On the other hand, the number of traffic accidents reduced to 220,755 cases in 2004 from 290,481 cases in 2000 and then it stayed at a standstill. Despite the recent decrease to 203,130 cases in 2021, the reduction in the number of traffic accidents was not as evident as that in casualties, indicating that the number of deaths per traffic accident has decreased. For the RTA mortality rate of the vulnerable groups, the death toll of children aged under 13 was equal to 23 in 2021, which can be translated into 0.4 deaths per 1000,000 population.

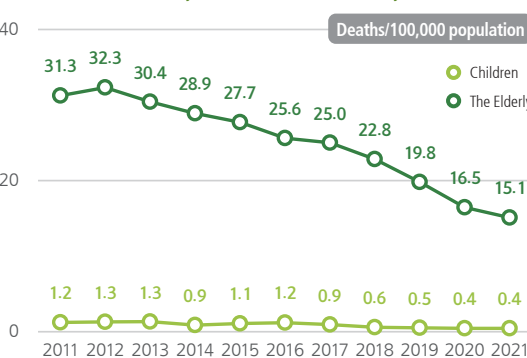
Road traffic accident fatality rate; 2000 ~ 2021



SOURCE Korea Road Traffic Authority, 「Traffic Accident Analysis System」, Statistics Korea, 「Population Projections」(as of 2020)  
NOTE RTA mortalities refer to those who died due to a traffic accident on the road within 30 days from the date of the accident. (death within 72 hours included until 1999)

On the contrary, the number of traffic-related deaths among those in their 60s and over reached 1,295 deaths or 15.1 deaths per 100,000 population which is much higher than the total RTA mortality rate. This statistics suggests that the elder population is quite vulnerable to traffic accidents. But the death tolls among both children and the aged have been on a steady decrease since 2011.

Road traffic accident fatality rate of children and the elderly; 2011 ~ 2021



SOURCE Korea Road Traffic Authority, 「Traffic Accident Analysis System」, Statistics Korea, 「Population Projections」(as of 2020)  
NOTE Children refer to those aged under 13 while the elderly mean the population aged 65 and over.

# Child Mortality Rate from Safety Accidents



DEFINITION No. of deaths due to safety accidents per 100,000 children aged under 15  
HOW TO MEASURE (No. of deaths among children aged under 15 due to safety accidents ÷ Registered population aged under 15) × 100,000

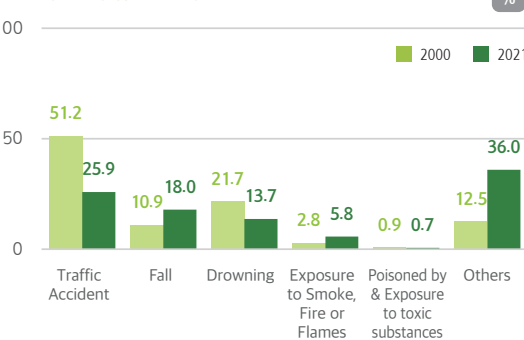
## 2.2 deaths in 2021, down 0.2 from 2020

Children are more exposed to safety accidents(transport accidents, fall, drowning, suffocation, burn, poisoning, etc.) due to the lack of knowledge and experience about safety. As a major indicator representing the social safety net, the child mortality rate from safety accidents implies how safe the society is and how protected the vulnerable groups including children are in the society. This indicator is also utilized as basic data for policies related to the system and environments where children can grow safe and healthy.

The number of children aged under 15 who died from a safety accident stood at 139 deaths in 2021 or 2.2 deaths per 100,000 children aged under 15, which was a slight decrease from the previous year. The child mortality rate from safety accidents(per 100,000 child population) had remarkably reduced from 14.4 deaths in 2000 to 4.8 deaths in 2010. After 2014, it remained stagnant, but it has recently been on a decrease again. The number of child deaths from safety accidents fell by two thirds from 1,434 deaths in 2000 to 387 deaths in 2010. Such the decline continued in 2015

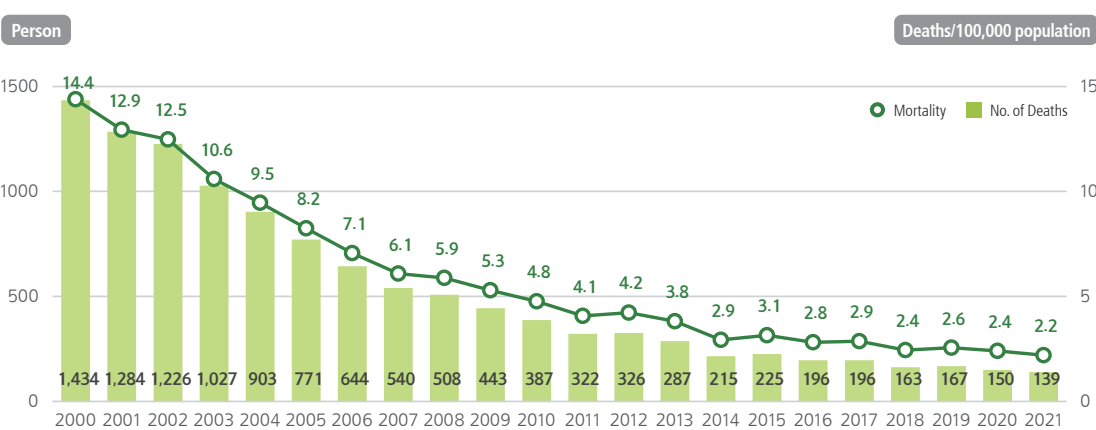
with 225 deaths and in 2021 with 139 deaths. For sub-items of safe accidents, there were a relatively high number of deaths from traffic accidents and falling accidents. Compared to 2000, however, the proportion of traffic and drowning accidents declined while the proportion of deaths due to falling accidents and exposure to smoke, fire or flames increased.

Mortality rate by type of safety accident; 2000, 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Causes of Death Statistics」

Child mortality rate from safety accidents; 2000 ~ 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Causes of Death Statistics」, Statistics Korea, 「Resident Registration Central Population」  
NOTE Coverage of Safety Accident: traffic accident, fall, drowning, suffocation, burn, poisoning included (deaths in accident excluding suicide and murder out of causes of death)

# Perception toward Societal Safety



DEFINITION A proportion of the population recognized the society as safe in general

HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of respondents who replied “very safe” or “somewhat safe” regarding overall social safety

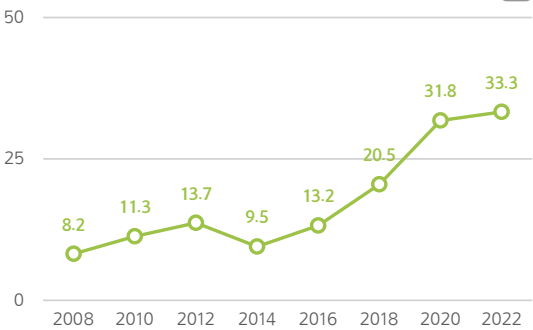
## 33.3% in 2022, up 1.5%p from 2020

Perception toward societal safety serves as an indicator to indicate the degree of safety that the people feel regarding the overall society. In order to thoroughly understand the safety level of a society, it is necessary to comprehend subjective indicators along with objective ones. Even if the number of safety accidents or crimes declines, it is possible that people’s anxiety about the societal safety has not relieved. Thus, it is crucial to evaluate the quality of life via analysis on changes in people’s attitude toward the overall societal safety and to appreciate attributes of people with low sense of safety in determining directions for national policies.

In 2022, the proportion of people who feel safe regarding the overall society stood at 33.3%, up 1.5%p from 31.8% in 2020. The perception toward the societal safety, which had increased from 8.2% in 2008 to 13.7% in 2012, decreased to 9.5% in 2014. The reduction in 2014 can be interpreted as a result of the “sinking of Ferry Sewol” that occurred in April 2014. Since 2016, it has been on an increase again, with rapid rise in 2020.

By gender, 37.0% of male felt safe which was 7.3%p higher than that of female(29.7%). By age group, those in their 60s had the lowest proportion of 26.8% while teenagers between 13 and 19 years old felt safe the most among age groups with 40.9%. The time-series analysis indicates that teenagers tended to have the relatively higher proportion than other age groups while no consistent distinction was found in other age groups.

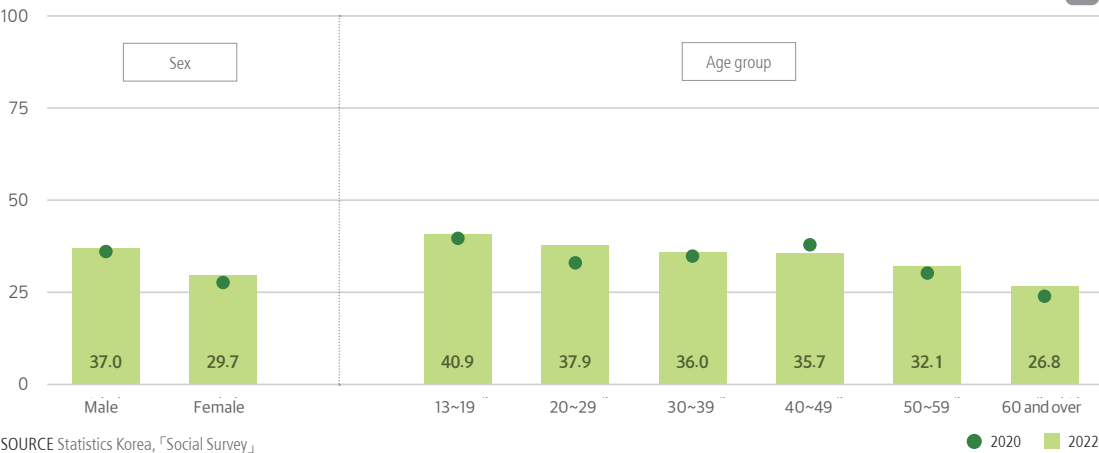
Perception toward societal safety; 2008 ~ 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 15 and over until 2010 and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2012.

Perception toward societal safety by sex & age group; 2020, 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

Compared to 2020, all age groups except for those in their 40s saw an increase in the proportion of feeling safe.

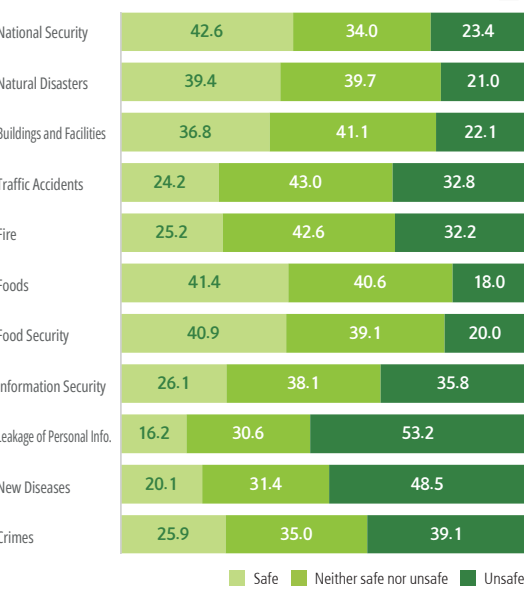
Comparing 17 regions, the proportion of feeling safe in the overall society in Daejeon was ranked first with 39.7%, followed by Busan, Ulsan, Sejong and Seoul. In general, residents in metropolitan cities, or urban areas, are more likely to perceive the society as safe whereas the proportion was the lowest nationwide in Jeonbuk and Jeju with 28.3%. Gwangju also had the low proportion(28.5%). Compared to 2020, the proportion had declined a lot in Gwangju(-8.5%p), Sejong(-6.8%) and Jeju(-5.9%p).

By each item instead of overall societal safety, changes in responses of feeling safe were distinct each other. Out of items, the national security topped the list with 42.6% and foods and food security also had the high proportion of feeling safe with over 40%. However, food security which had stood at 51.3% in 2020 decreased by 10.4%p to 40.9%, indicating that safety recognition largely deteriorated. In terms of leakage of personal information, only 16.2% considered as safe from such the risk, and people also perceived it as less safe from traffic accidents, fire, information security, new diseases and crimes(26% or less). On the other hand, out of items responded as not safe, the leakage of personal information had the largest proportion of 53.2% and new

diseases also had a very high proportion of 48.5% compared to other items(below 40%) despite the decline from 2020(52.9%).

It suggests that the anxieties of people over new diseases derived from COVID-19 are still high.

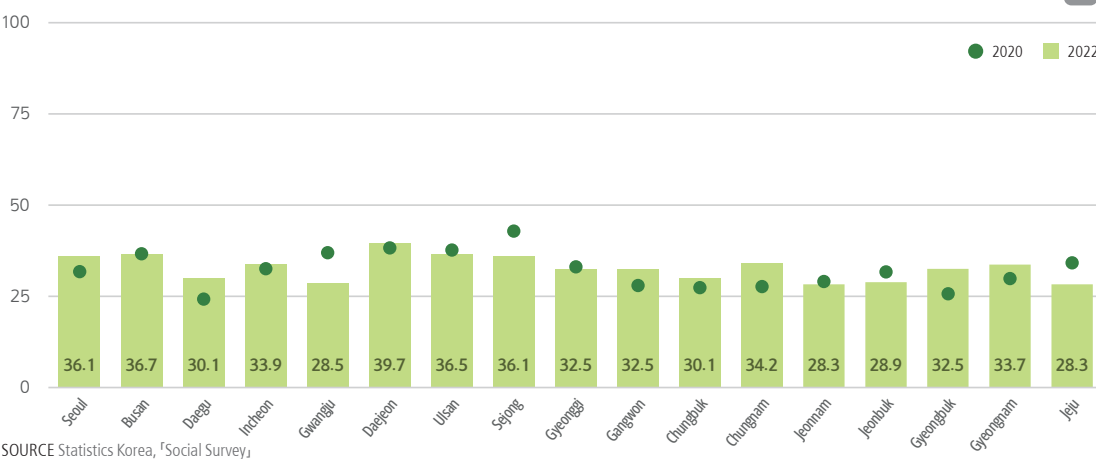
Perception toward societal safety by item; 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

NOTE 'Safe' refers to a proportion of respondents who replied 'very safe' and 'somewhat safe', and 'unsafe' to a proportion of those who replied 'very unsafe' and 'somewhat unsafe'

Perception toward societal safety by region; 2020, 2022



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」



# Child Abuse Rate



DEFINITION Number of child abuse cases confirmed in relation to children population out of the reported cases of child abuse  
HOW TO MEASURE (No. of cases where children under 18 were abused (finally confirmed) ÷ Estimated population under 18) × 100,000

## 502.2 cases in 2021, up 100.6 cases from 2020

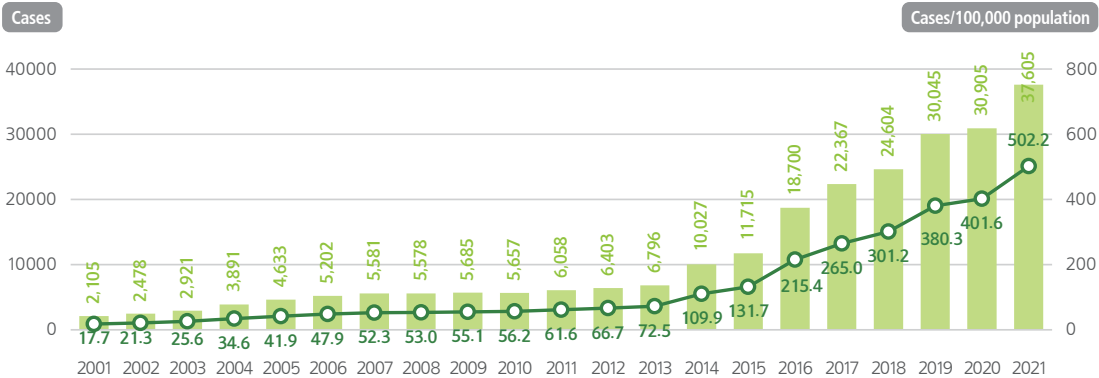
Protection for human rights and safety of children is one of important elements to assess the society’s accountability and morality for future generations as well as the right to live and to enhance quality of life for children who are at a physically and socially vulnerable position. It is especially crucial as the abuse experience during childhood when children deserve protection affect them throughout their lives. Child abuse refers to physical, emotional and/or sexual violence or violent treatment committed by adults including caregivers who could compromise health, welfare or mental development of children and also refers to abandonment and negligence by their own caregivers. As well as in households, the abuse in pre-schools or kindergartens has also become a social issue. Recently, many eyes have been on domestic abuse due to a fatal case caused by domestic violence.

The child abuse rate stood at 502.2 cases per 100,000 children population in 2021, up from 401.6 cases in 2020. The rate has consistently rose from 17.7 cases per 100,000 children in 2001, and especially it rapidly increased in 2014 after some stable trends since 2007. The number of child

abuse cases rose to 30,045 cases in 2019, up 5,441 cases from the previous year. It grew even further to 37,605 cases in 2021 from 30,905 cases in 2020.

Since these figures are only based on abuse cases reported to child protection organizations, there is a possibility of a distant gap from the overall change trends that are actually happening. It can be interpreted that the number of reported cases has increased due to the heightened national awareness on and social sensitivity to child abuse. In particular, the number of child abuse cases reported has constantly increased with reinforcement of the law enforcement regarding child abuse in 2014. In other words, rather than increase in the number of child abuse compared to the past, it is more plausible that child abuse cases which would have been neglected was brought to attention with strengthened social safety net. The sudden rise in child abuse in 2021 could be attributed to the more proactive reports of child abuse due to the high-profile child abuse case at the end of 2020, media coverage about the hidden child abuse at home during school shutdown as well as policy responses to prevent child abuse.

Child abuse rate; 2001 ~ 2021



SOURCE Ministry of Health & Welfare, "Report on Child Abuse," Statistics Korea, "Population Projections," (as of 2020)

NOTE Cases which have been finally confirmed as abuse are counted as child abuse cases.

# Civic Engagement



About

“Civic engagement” has been selected as a mechanism which effectively monitors issues derived from differences or inequalities among various groups and maintains the balance between logics of the governments and markets and of the civic society to facilitate sharing of improved conditions with people. It contains citizens’ rights and duties, political engagement and trust, in order to cover both progresses and consequences of transformation of collective societal quality, which enables the society to develop and benefit its members, into the quality of life in subjective and objective aspects of individuals’ daily lives. These three concepts mentioned above can embody the detailed process where a healthy civic society works. Once they are operated properly, trust is formed.

Recent Trends

Out of seven indicators in the domain of Civic Engagement, four improved while the remaining three deteriorated compared to the previous figures. The perception of political empowerment and corruption perceptions index slightly improved. With the government’s preventative measures against COVID-19 and disaster relief funds, the institutional trust changed for the better, and the interpersonal trust which had suddenly been exacerbated in 2020 improved in 2021. On the other hand, the citizenship and voluntary work participation rate deteriorated. The voter turnout rate of the presidential election turnout in 2022 looked almost similar but got worse with a slight reduction.

Indicators

- 🔴 Voter Turnout Rate | 77.2%(2017) → 77.1%(2022)
- 🟢 Perception of Political Empowerment | 17.6%(2020) → 21.2%(2021)
- 🟢 Institutional Trust | 48.3%(2020) → 55.4%(2021)
- 🟢 Corruption Perceptions Index(on a scale of 100) | 61(2020) → 62(2021)
- 🔴 Citizenship(on a scale of 7) | 5.46(2020) → 5.26(2021)
- 🔴 Voluntary Work Participation Rate | 16.1%(2019) → 8.4%(2021)
- 🟢 Interpersonal Trust | 50.6%(2020) → 59.3%(2021)

Voter Turnout Rate



DEFINITION A proportion of people who cast a vote in the presidential election out of the total number of electorates  
HOW TO MEASURE (No. of voters in Presidential Election ÷ No. of electorates in the presidential election) × 100

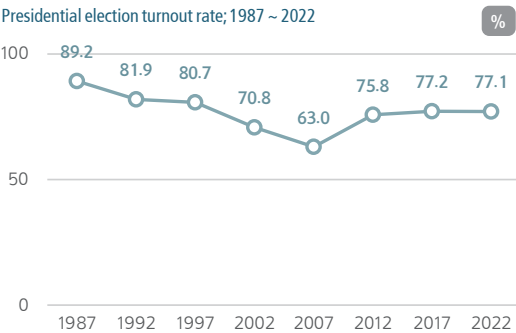
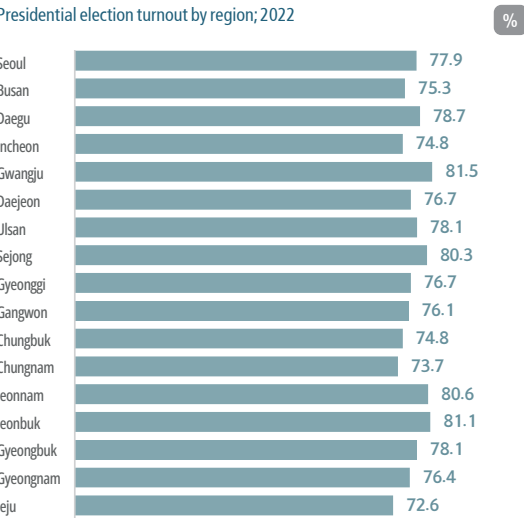
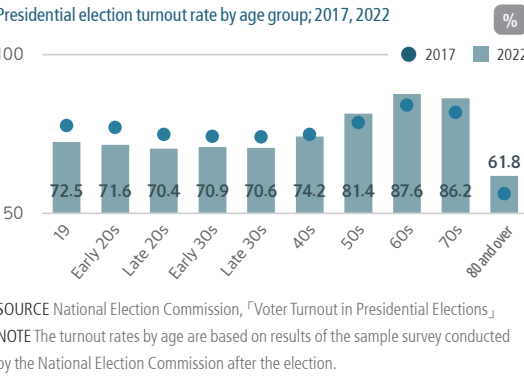
77.1% in 2022, down 0.1%p from 5 years earlier

Political engagement refers to the degree of citizens’ participation in political processes, including all activities to exercise influences on election of representatives or political and policy decisions. In order for the political process to retain legitimacy and representativeness, citizens should express their political views and demands through elections. The voter turnout rate is an indicator about how much citizens are interested in politics and express their opinions. Therefore, the rate is considered as the main quantitative indicator showing the quality of democracy together with the degree of political engagement.

Since the foundation of the nation, Korea had the high voter turnout rate of over 80% until 1990s. However, the voter turnover rate in presidential election had declined since the 2000s, with 63.0% in the 2007 presidential election. Recently, it increased to 77.2% in 2017 from 63.0% in 2007. In 2022, it declined by only 0.1%p to 77.1% which is almost similar to the turnover in 2017.

By age group, according to the results of the sample survey conducted after the elections, the rate was relatively low with around 70% among those in their late 20s to 40s in 2022. On the contrary, the population in their 60s(87.6%) and 70s(86.2%) had a high voting rate. Compared to 2017, the

turnout rate declined in the population aged under 40 while it increased in those aged 50 and over. By region, Gwangju, Sejong, Jeonbuk and Jeonnam had the higher voting rates of over 80% than other regions while Jeju had the lowest rate of 72.6%. With less than 75%, the voting rate was also relatively lower in Incheon, Chungbuk and Chungnam than other regions.



# Perception of Political Empowerment



**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population who believe that they are politically empowered

**HOW TO MEASURE** Arithmetic average of proportions of respondents who answered “never agree” or “little agree” to the following questions: ‘people like me cannot make any influence on what the government does’ or ‘the government never agrees to thoughts or opinions of people like me’

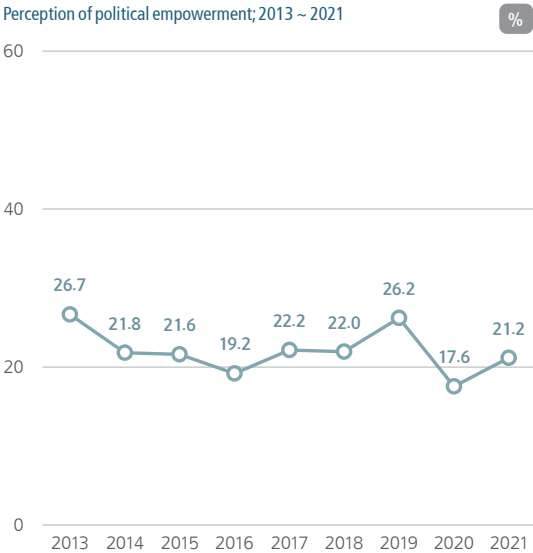
## 21.2% in 2021, up by 3.6%p from 2020

Citizens’ active engagement in politics and policy-making to exert their influences can contribute to development of democracy and enhancement of the quality of life for individuals. The perception of political empowerment is defined as the degree to which citizens believe that they can influence the political process. Political participation can be enhanced when citizens themselves have their own perception of political empowerment which represents the potential for civic engagement.

The perception of political empowerment is measured based on the following two questions: ‘people like me cannot make any influence on what the government does’ and ‘the government never agrees to thoughts or opinions of people like me.’ The proportion of respondents who disagreed with each item was relatively low in 2021 with 21.2%. The proportion, which had decreased from 26.7% in 2013 to 19.2% in 2016, rose to 26.2% in 2019. But, it again declined to 17.6% in 2020 and went up to 21.2% in 2021.

The proportion stood at 21.4% for the degree of influencing what the government does and at 20.9% for the government’s attention to the people’s opinions.

By gender, male(23.5%) had a proportion 4.7%p higher than female(18.8%). By age group, the population in their 20s and 40s had the relatively stronger perception of political empowerment, with 23.5% and 25.1% respectively. On the other hand, the proportion was 16.9% among those aged 60 and over which was the lowest as compared to the other age groups. Compared to 2020, the proportion increased in overall; however, the increase was bigger for male(4.5%p) then for female(2.8%p). Among the population aged 19 to 29, the proportion jumped by 6.0%p from 17.5% in 2020 to 23.5% in 2021.



SOURCE Korea Institute of Public Administration, ‘Korea Social Integration Survey,’  
NOTE The surveyed have been changed from the population aged 19 to 69 to those aged 19 and over since 2020.



SOURCE Korea Institute of Public Administration, ‘Korea Social Integration Survey,’

# Institutional Trust



**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population who place trust on major institutes and systems

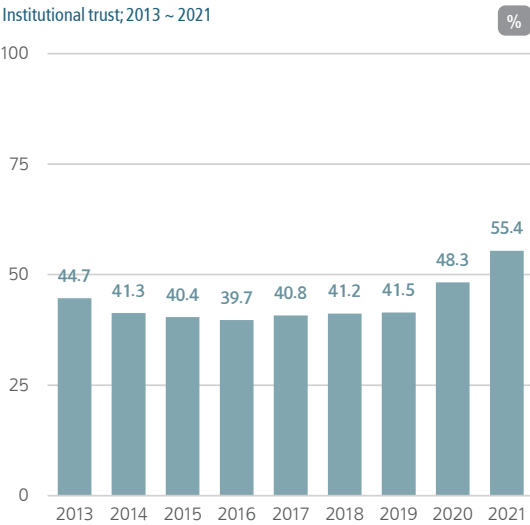
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “can place trust very much” or “can place trust a little bit” on 16 organizations (\* the government, National Assembly, courts, Prosecutor’s Office, police, local governments, military, labor unions, civic organizations, TV broadcasting stations, newspaper companies, education institutions, medical institutes, large conglomerates and financial firms)

## 55.4% in 2021, up 7.1%p from 2020

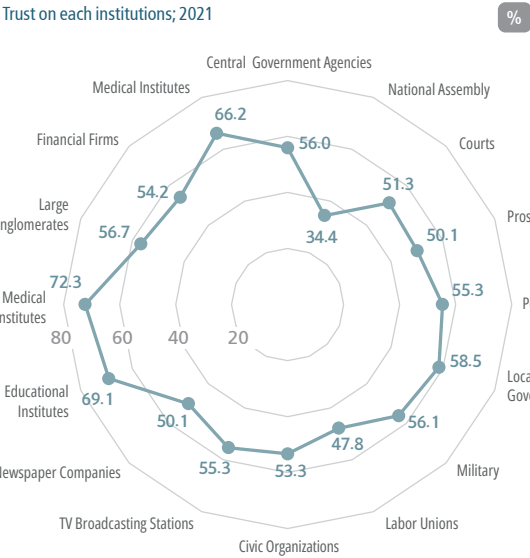
The level of trust citizens can place on various systems and organizations in a society is an indicator about how well the systems and organizations operate or represent the people’s demands or interests. In a democratic society, the more the people trust on public agencies and systems, the stronger the agencies and systems have legitimacy. The institutional trust is measured based on trust on 16 institutions including the government, National Assembly, courts, Prosecutor’s Office, police, local governments, military, labor unions, civic organizations, TV broadcasting stations, newspaper companies, educational institutes, medical institutes, conglomerates, religious groups and financial firms.

The institutional trust declined from 44.7% in 2013 and stayed at around 40% until 2019. However, it recently surged to 48.3% in 2020 and even to 55.4% in 2021.

By institution, ‘medical institutes’ received the highest level of trust with 72.3%, followed by ‘educational institutes’ with 69.1%. On the contrary, the National Assembly had the lowest trust of 34.4% and the trust on labor unions was also low (less than 50%). In particular, the level of trust on the National Assembly was low compared to most institutions, which had a trust level of 50% or higher although it rose by 13.3%p from 21.1% in 2020. Besides that, trust on courts, Prosecutors’ Office and broadcasting stations also increased by more than 10%p compared to 2020. Female(57.0%) tended to have higher trust on institutions than male(53.8%). By age group, there was no significant difference among age groups. But the population in their 20s and 30s had the lower levels of trust(52% to 53%) on institutions than the other age groups. The elderly aged 60 and over had a high level of trust(57.4%).



SOURCE Korea Institute of Public Administration, ‘Korea Social Integration Survey,’  
NOTE The surveyed have been changed from the population aged 19 to 69 to those aged 19 and over since 2020.



SOURCE Korea Institute of Public Administration, ‘Korea Social Integration Survey,’

# Corruption Perceptions Index



**DEFINITION** An index of perception regarding corruption in the public sector including the government

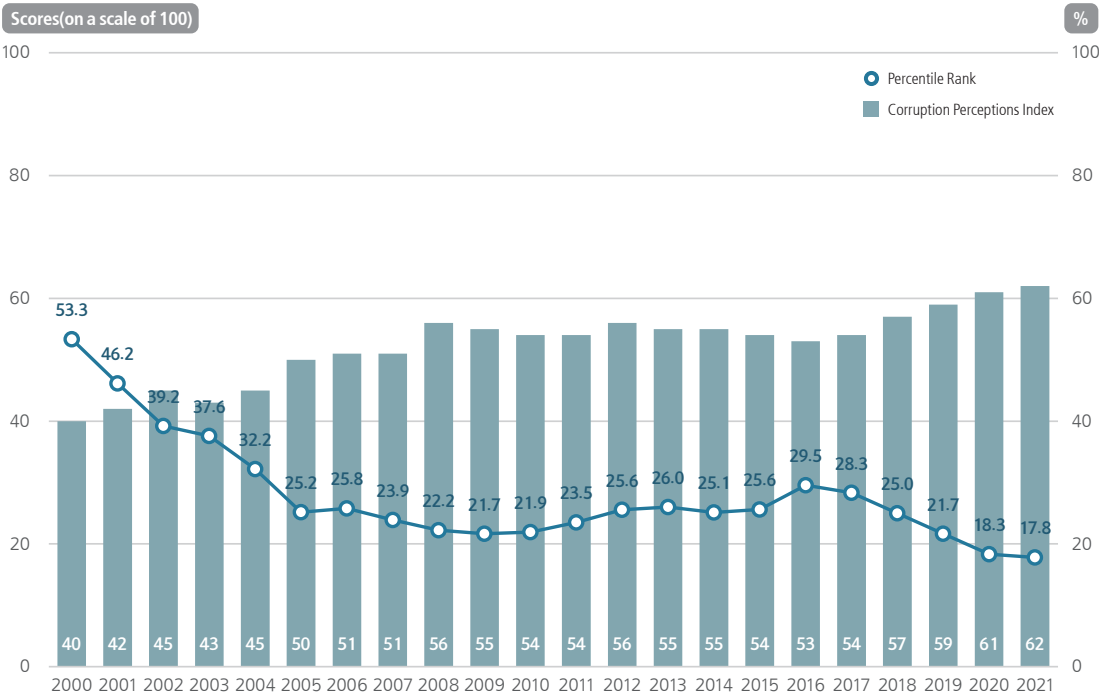
**HOW TO MEASURE** The corruption recognitions index is measured by the Transparency International on a maximum of 100 scores. The higher the scores, the less it is corrupted.

### 32nd out of 180 countries with 62 in 2021

As it is difficult to measure corruption of a government in an objective manner, a subjective perception is usually used. The subjective perception of experts regarding corruption reflects how impartially the government operates and represents interests of the entire people. The more the government is perceived as upright, the more the people trust the government, possibly resulting in the better operation and performance of the government. As “corruption” has been selected as one of 6 factors affecting happiness in the 「World Happiness Report(SDSN)」 the level of corruption in a society is indeed related to the quality of life.

Since 1995, the Transparency International(TI) has published the corruption perceptions index based on the perception of experts specialized in national analysis from international organizations such as the World Bank regarding the corruption levels of the public sector in each nation. The corruption perceptions index or integrity in Korea gradually grew to 5.6 in 2008 from 4.3 in 1995 on a scale of 10. Afterwards, it had remained stagnant for some time, but it recently started going up again. Since 2012, it has been changed into a scale of 100, and in 2021, the index was equal to 62. It's almost same as the previous figure with only up 1 from 2020.

Corruption perceptions index; 2000~2021



SOURCE Transparency International, 「Corruption Perceptions Index 2021」

**NOTE** © Since 2012, it has been changed from a scale of 10 into that of 100. For the proper comparison, data prior to 2012 had been converted into the 100-point scale. © The percentile rank refers to the ranking of South Korea in case countries surveyed are integrated for each year.

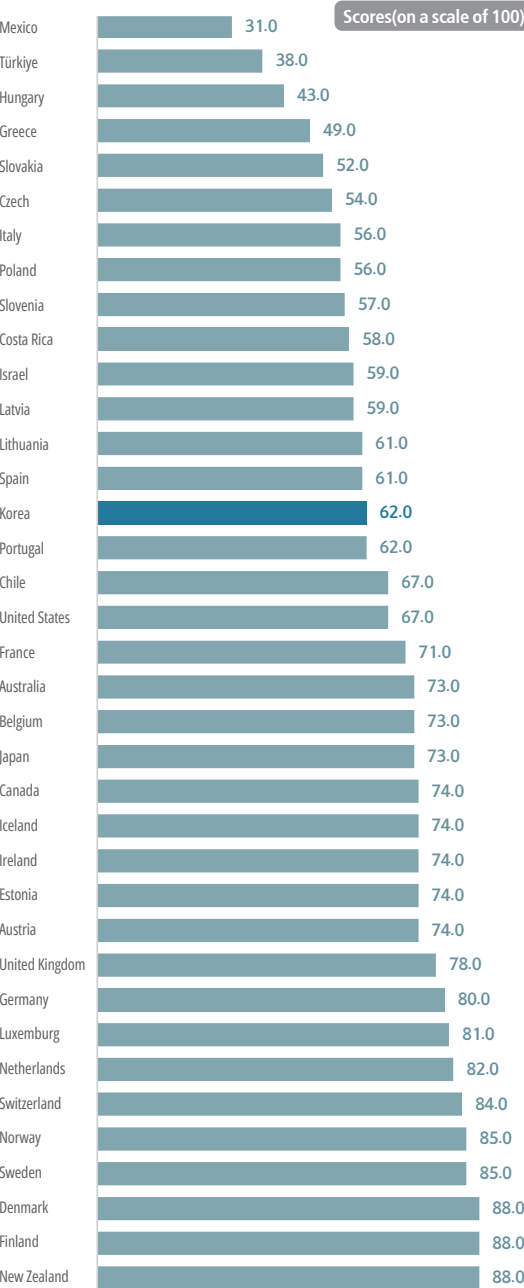
In 2021, Korea was ranked in the 32nd out of 180 countries, ranking up from 33rd. However, compared to the OECD countries, about half of countries(19 countries) had the corruption perceptions index of 70 or higher, which is a big difference from Korea. Despite some improvements in both the corruption perceptions index and ranking, there is still much room to improve for Korea. Given occasional absences of some countries in the rank, it is more useful to focus on the percentile rank out of countries rather than on the world ranking. Korea's corruption perceptions index was ranked at the top 53.3% in 2000, which had constantly improved to the top 21.7% in 2009. Afterwards, it stayed around the 25% range with no noticeable improvement. However, it had again risen from 29.5% in 2016 to an improvement in the ranking with 17.8% in 2021.

In 2021, Denmark, New Zealand and Finland ranked the highest with score of 88 in the corruption perceptions index, and Sweden and Norway also had high scores of at least 85. Meanwhile, among OECD countries, Slovakia(52), Greece(49), Türkiye(38) and Mexico(31) all recorded low scores below 60. Among major OECD countries, the integrity levels deteriorated in Finland, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States compared to 1995 whereas it improved in Japan and Korea. For Finland, its integrity declined compared to 1995, but it has been steadily recognized as the top-raking nation.

### CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX

Transparency International surveys experts specialized in national analysis from 13 international organizations like the World Bank regarding corruption levels of the public sector in each nation. It includes the following questions: “to what degree power-related corruption is punished?”, “are allocation and execution of governmental budgets disclosed in a transparent manner?”, “is there any expenditure related to special public affairs that are indescribable?”, “is there any independent body that monitors public resources?”, “is there enough legal protection for whistle blowers or journalists who have reported corruption?”

Corruption perceptions index of OECD Countries; 2021



SOURCE Transparency International, 「Corruption Perceptions Index 2021」



# Citizenship



DEFINITION Degree of perception toward importance of citizenship

HOW TO MEASURE Arithmetic average of scores that respondents answered to the 8 items of importance related to citizens' obligations

## 5.26 in 2021, down 0.2 from 2020

Citizenship means civil rights that citizens rightfully are entitled to; at the time same, it also refers virtues or roles/ duties that citizens are supposed to abide by. The degree of citizens' agreement to citizenship which serves as the foundation of democracy is a representative indicator of the societal quality which measures maturity of democracy. Citizenship is measured with scores respondents granted to the following eight items that show duties and virtues as a citizen: ① I must participate in voting, ② I pay taxes with integrity, ③ I abide by laws and rules, ④ I am interested in what the government is doing, ⑤ I actively engage in social or political organizations, ⑥ I respect others' thoughts or opinions, ⑦ I ethically purchase products that do not harm the environment despite somewhat costly prices, and ⑧ I am willing to serve the military in case of a national emergency.

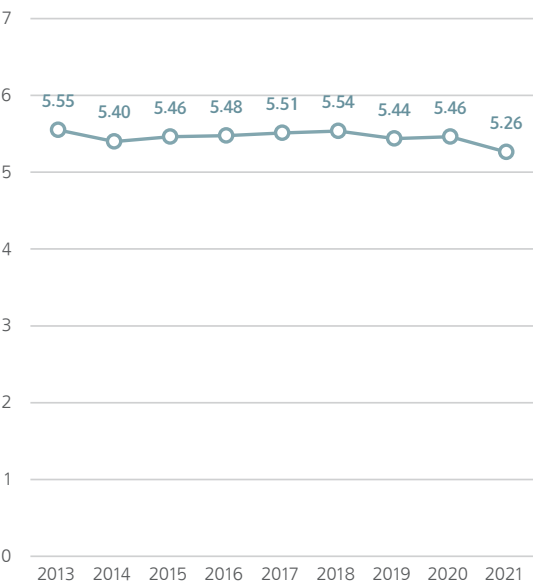
The score of citizenship decreased from 5.46 in 2020 to 5.26 in 2021(out of 7). After the decline from 5.55 in 2013 to 5.4 in 2014, it had increased slightly and then stayed at the almost similar level.

By each item, 'tax payment' and 'compliance with laws and rules' were evaluated as most important with 5.7 while 'social or political activities' were turned out to be least important with 4.7.

By gender, there was no visible difference between male(5.28) and female(5.23). By age group, citizenship score of the population aged 19 to 29 stood at 5.16 while that of those in their 30s and 40s reached 5.30 which was high but with no evident change. For each item, age seemed hardly influencing people's perceptions. Yet, the scores in the following items were relatively low in the population aged 19 to 29 compared to other age groups: 'participation in voting', 'tax payment' and 'compliance with laws and rules.'

Citizenship; 2013 ~ 2021

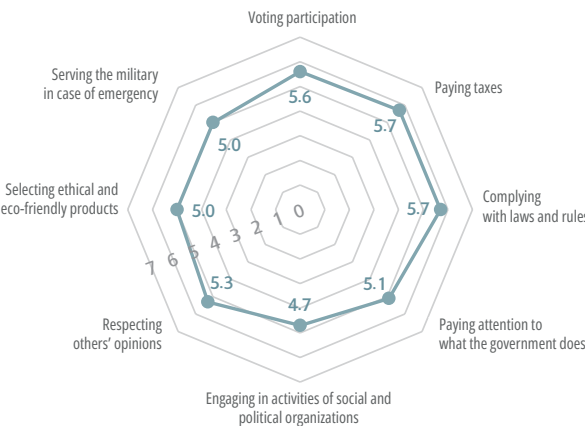
Scores(on a scale of 7)



SOURCE Korea Institute of Public Administration, 'Korea Social Integration Survey.'  
NOTE From 2020, the age coverage of the survey has changed from, the population aged 19 to 69 to aged 19 and over.

Citizenship by item; 2021

Scores(on a scale of 7)



SOURCE Korea Institute of Public Administration, 'Korea Social Integration Survey.'

# Voluntary Work Participation Rate



DEFINITION A proportion of the population participating in voluntary activities

HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of people who participated in voluntary activities over the past year

## 8.4% in 2021, cut by a half from 2019

Voluntary work can contribute to promotion of citizenship and the public good with benefits to those in need and a sense of satisfaction to volunteers. When voluntary work is active across the society, social bonding and solidarity is strengthened and with the community be invigorated, it further reinforces more active voluntary works and creates a virtuous circle.

Referring to a proportion of people having engaged in voluntary activities over the past year, the voluntary work participation rate stayed at 14% from 2003 to 2006, but it rose to 19.3% in 2009 and maintained the level of 18% to 19% for some time until the recent decline. Especially, the voluntary work participation rate cut almost by a half from 16.1% in 2019 to 8.4% in 2021 due to restrictions on face-to-face activities under the influences of COVID-19. The average number of participations also decreased, but the fall in the participation frequency was not as noticeable as that in the participation rate. The per-capita number of participations shrank from 8.0 times in 2019 to 7.1 times in 2021.

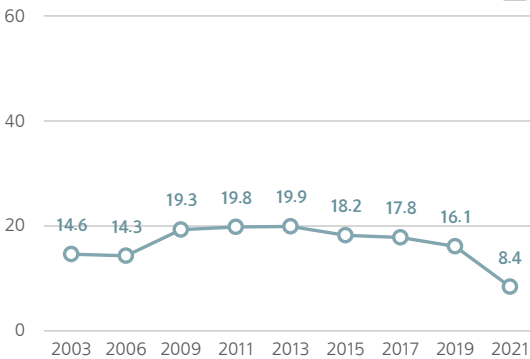
The participation rate was a little bit higher in female with 8.7% than in male with 8.0%, with no visible difference. However, a noticeable difference was observed among age groups. The participation rate was recorded at 23.3% for the population under 20 while the rate was very low with 10% or less among other age groups. Out of those aged 20 or older, the participation rate was relatively high for the population in their 40s and 50s. Such the age gap implies that voluntary activities were generally conducted by students under 20. The fact that students quit voluntary activities after school graduation suggests such the activities were regarded as only part of school curriculum or school scores.

Thus, it is necessary to encourage people in various age groups to engage in voluntary activities at their willingness.

In contrast, for the per-capita average number of participations, the number of participations grew with age. Although the participation rate was low among the older age population, they tended to have the higher number of participations on average once they participated in the voluntary activities.

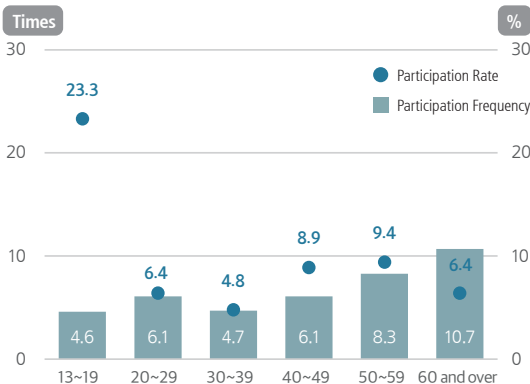
Voluntary work participation rate; 2003 ~ 2021

%



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey.'  
NOTE The survey was conducted on the population aged 15 and over until 2009 and has been done on those aged 13 and over since 2011.

Voluntary work participation rate and frequency activities by age group; 2021



SOURCE Statistics Korea, 'Social Survey.'  
NOTE The participation frequency refers to the average number of participation sessions per participant.

Interpersonal Trust

DEFINITION A proportion of the population who trust others  
HOW TO MEASURE A proportion of respondents who replied “can trust a little bit” or “can trust very much” to the question to what degree they can trust others

59.3% in 2021, up 8.7%p from the previous year

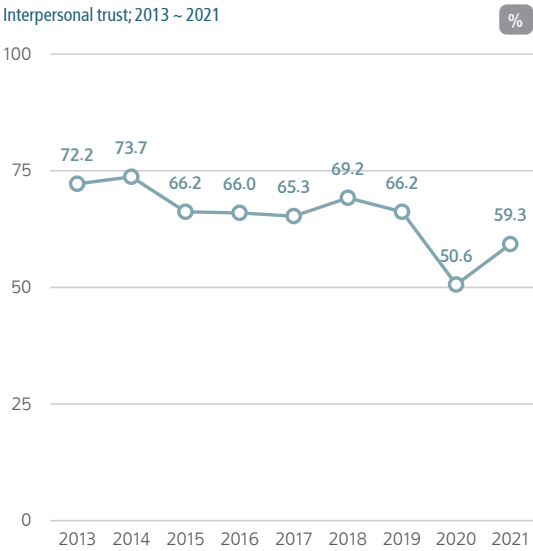
The interpersonal trust measures how much an individual can trust others in general when they are not intimate. When people trust only the limited and small number of people and cannot trust the others, the solidary and bonding becomes very limited and weak in a society. In addition, it is more likely to cause conflicts between groups which do not trust each other or to societally cost more due to distrust. When members trust each other regardless of intimacy, it can promote both the social capital and social cohesion.

The interpersonal trust showing the level of trust on others had been on a decrease since 2014. After it fell from 73.7% in 2014 to 65.3% in 2017, it went through some ups and downs to some degree. In 2020, it rapidly declined by 15.6%p to 50.6% from the previous year, but it then again increased by 8.7%p to 59.3% in 2021.

The deterioration in the interpersonal trust in 2020 could be attributed to the result of social changes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing between individuals became part of daily life, and the fear of getting infected from others had possibly made negative impacts on the interpersonal trust. Fortunately, in 2021 when COVID-19 still persisted, the interpersonal trust had somewhat recovered although it fell short of the pre-COVID level.

A gap in the interpersonal trust between gender had not been observed in a constant manner while, by region, the trust level(65.9%) was higher in rural areas than in urban areas(58.0%).

By age group, the population in their 30s had the lowest interpersonal trust with 54.8% while it was high among the elderly aged 60 and over with 62.3%. Compared to 2020, the interpersonal trust had improved in all age groups. Especially, for those aged 19 to 29, it increased with the biggest growth by 14.8%p from 44.8% in 2020 to 59.6% in 2021.



SOURCE Korea Institute of Public Administration, 「Korea Social Integration Survey」  
NOTE The surveyed have been changed from the population aged 19 to 69 to those aged 19 and over since 2020.



SOURCE Korea Institute of Public Administration, 「Korea Social Integration Survey」

Subjective Well-being



About

Subjective well-being is a representative indicator measuring the quality of life especially in the perspective of individuals. Objective indicators provide useful information regarding the quality of life but the combination of objective conditions does not always corresponds with overall life satisfaction that individuals actually perceive. Rather than contradicting objective indicators, subjective indicators serve as a complementary measuring tool which contains aspects of life not caught by objective indicators, and objective measurements can also affect subjective indicators. The measurements of subjective well-being are divided into cognitive factors and emotional factors. Cognitive factors evaluate satisfaction with the entire life or area-specific satisfaction utilizing a criterion which individuals themselves regard as crucial for life satisfaction. Emotional factors measure positive emotions and negative emotions based on day-to-day emotional experiences.

Recent Trends

According to the recent trends of the three indicators in the domain of Subjective Well-being, the life satisfaction and positive emotions improved while the negative emotions deteriorated compared to the previous year. The subjective well-being indicators were based on the data for the year 2021 when the nation went through enormous changes in daily life due to COVID-19, and it indicated the life satisfaction and positive emotions rose again from stagnation in 2020. Meanwhile, the indicator of negative emotions had improved since 2014, but recently it deteriorated again.

Indicators

- 😊 Life Satisfaction(on a scale of 10) | 6.0(2020) → 6.3(2021)
- 😊 Positive Emotions(on a scale of 10) | 6.4(2020) → 6.7(2021)
- 😞 Negative Emotions(on a scale of 10) | 3.7(2020) → 4.0(2021)

Life Satisfaction

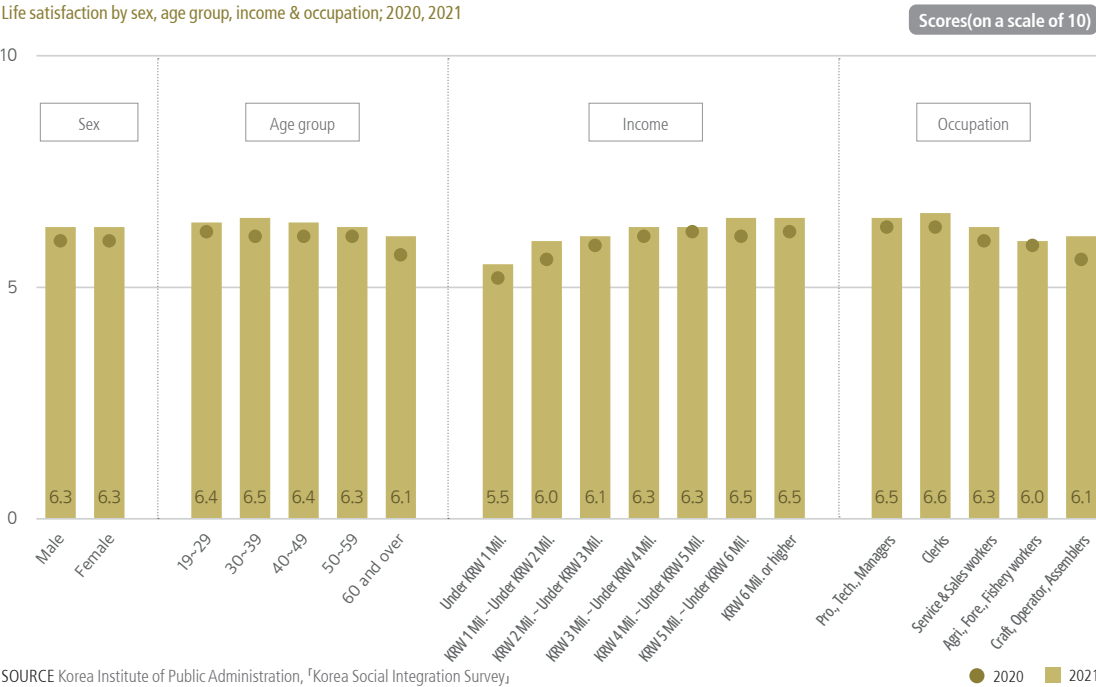
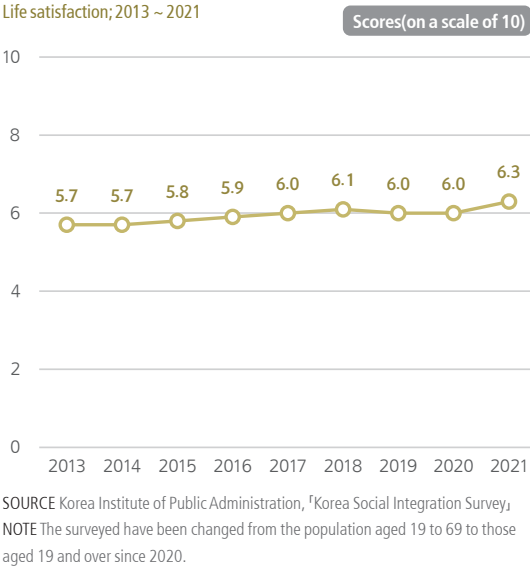


DEFINITION Subjective satisfaction in general with individuals’ current life  
HOW TO MEASURE Average value of responses regarding satisfaction with the current life on a scale of 0 to 10

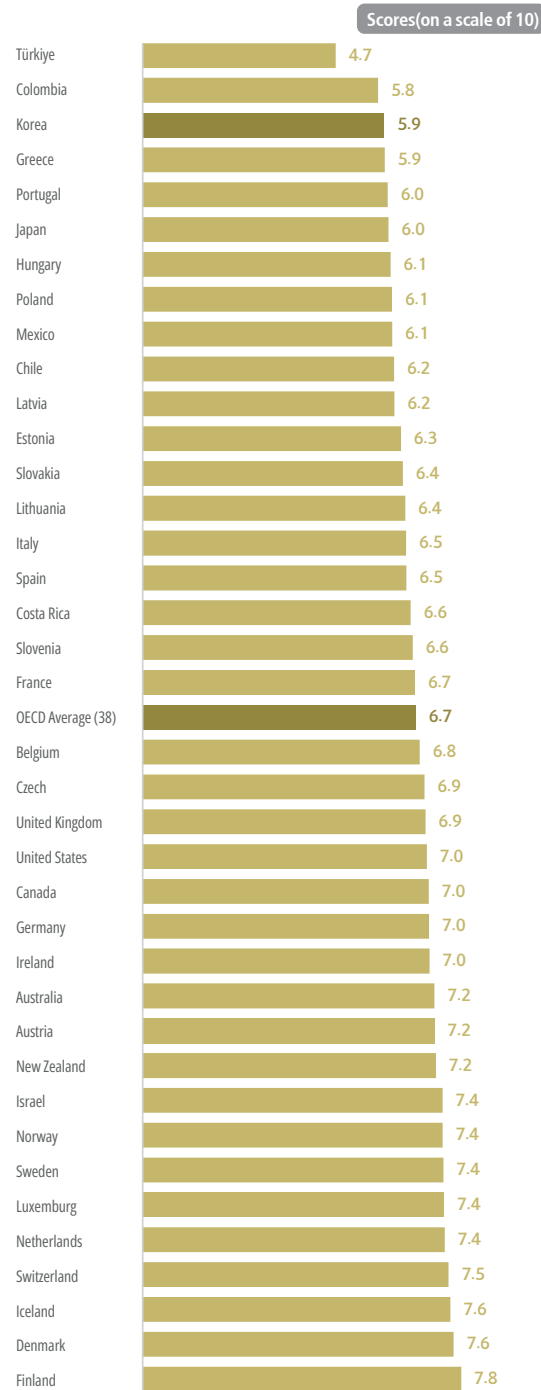
6.3 in 2021, up 0.3 from 2020

As one of factors measuring a cognitive aspect of subjective well-being, life satisfaction indicates the level of subjective satisfaction that individuals perceive about life. Since the quality of life is multi-dimensional and subjective judgement on experience is crucial, the life satisfaction is one of most representative indicators that constitute the quality of life. The life satisfaction which is on a scale of 0 to 10, rose by 0.3 from 6.0 in 2020 to 6.3 in 2021. After an increase from 5.7 in 2013 to 6.0 in 2017, it had maintained the similar level until 2021 when it rose to 6.3. Despite some overall changes in daily life due to COVID-19, any significant difference had not been found in in the life satisfaction.

With 6.3 for both male and female, no gender gap was found in life satisfaction. By age group, the elderly aged 60 and over had the lowest score of 6.1, and life satisfaction was 6.4 to 6.5



Life satisfaction of OECD countries; Average of 2019 ~ 2021



SOURCE SDSN 「World Happiness Report 2022」

NOTE © This is based on the average values from 2019 to 2021. © This is an evaluation item for life based on average scores on a scale of 0 to 10.

for population in their aged under 50, suggesting the little age gap.

However, a distinct difference was observed in income levels: People with the higher household income are more likely to be satisfied with the overall life. Life satisfaction stood at 5.5 for the low-income class with less than KRW 1 million for monthly income while the score increased by 0.5 to 6.0 for those with an income of KRW 1 million to less than KRW 2 million. The life satisfaction was score of 1 higher in higher-income class earning over KRW 5 million(6.5) than in those with less than KRW 1 million(5.5). Another evident difference had been found among occupations. The score was equal to 6.5 and 6.6 for professional management and office work respectively while technical labor and agriculture/forestry/fisheries employees had the lowest scores with 6.1 and 6.0 respectively. Given the high correlation between the income level and occupations, it also suggests life satisfaction varies depending on the income level.

Compared to 2020, life satisfaction had increased in all groups. Especially, the growth was more noticeable in such groups as the population aged 30 to 39, 'services/sales' and 'technical labor'.

According to the results of international comparison in the 「World Happiness Report(SDSN)」, South Korea was ranked low with 5.9 points based on the scores from 2019 to 2021, which is 0.8 points lower than the OECD average(6.7) and comparable to scores of Japan, Greece and Portugal. Meanwhile, Northern European countries such as Finland, Denmark and Iceland had a high score of 7.6 or more. Austria, Australia, New Zealand and Sweden also showed a high score like 7.2 or higher. Colombia and Türkiye were only two nations whose score was lower than that of Korea out of 38 OECD countries. Even during 2020 and 2021 when the people around world had been through the difficult time due to COVID-19, there was no significant change found in life satisfaction compared to the past.

## Positive Emotions



DEFINITION How often individuals feel positive emotions (happiness) in daily life

HOW TO MEASURE Average value of responses on a scale of 0 to 10 regarding how happy respondents were yesterday

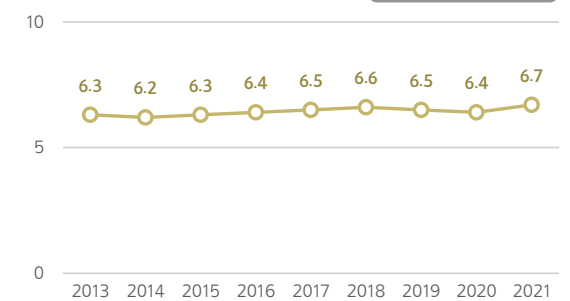
### 6.7 in 2021, up 0.3 from 2020

As an indicator to measure the emotional aspect of subjective well-being, positive emotions are one of key items recommended in 「OECD Guidelines on Measuring Subjective Well-being」. While positive emotions that individuals feel are diverse, the most widely used indicator is to measure how 'happy' respondents were yesterday. Positive emotions showing how 'happy' they were yesterday stood at 6.7 in 2021, up from 6.4 in 2020. Like the change in the life satisfaction indicator, positive emotions had slightly increased from 6.2 in 2014 until 2018. Afterwards, it has recently remained stagnant until the increase by the biggest margin in 2021. When compared by household income, the higher the income is, the higher the level of positive emotions is. The group with an income of KRW 3 million or more had a high score of 6.7, and it even increased to 6.9 for those earning KRW 6 million or more. On the other hand, the low-income class with less than KRW 1 million showed 5.9, 0.8 lower than the total average. Although every jump up in the income level does not always correlate with the higher positive emotions, it implies an evident difference in the low-income class. By occupation,

professional management and office work tended to have a high score of 7.0 while agriculture, forestry and fisheries had the lowest score of 6.3.

Compared to 2020, positive emotions had increased in all groups. In particular, the increase was relatively more visible in the following groups: the population in their 30s and 60s or older, an income level from KRW 1 million to less than KRW 2 million, and professional management.

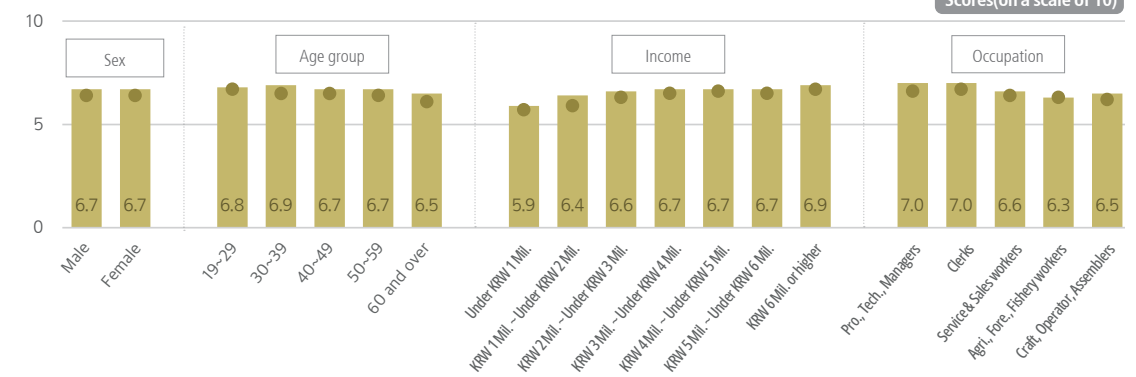
Positive emotions; 2013 ~ 2021



SOURCE Korea Institute of Public Administration, 「Korea Social Integration Survey」

NOTE The surveyed have been changed from the population aged 19 to 69 to those aged 19 or older since 2020.

Positive emotions by sex, age group, income & occupation; 2020, 2021



SOURCE Korea Institute of Public Administration, 「Korea Social Integration Survey」

● 2020 ■ 2021



Negative Emotions



**DEFINITION** How often individuals feel negative emotions (worries, depression, etc.) in daily life  
**HOW TO MEASURE** Average value of responses on a scale of 0 to 10 regarding how worried or depressed respondents felt yesterday (Average score for worries + Average score for depression) ÷ 2

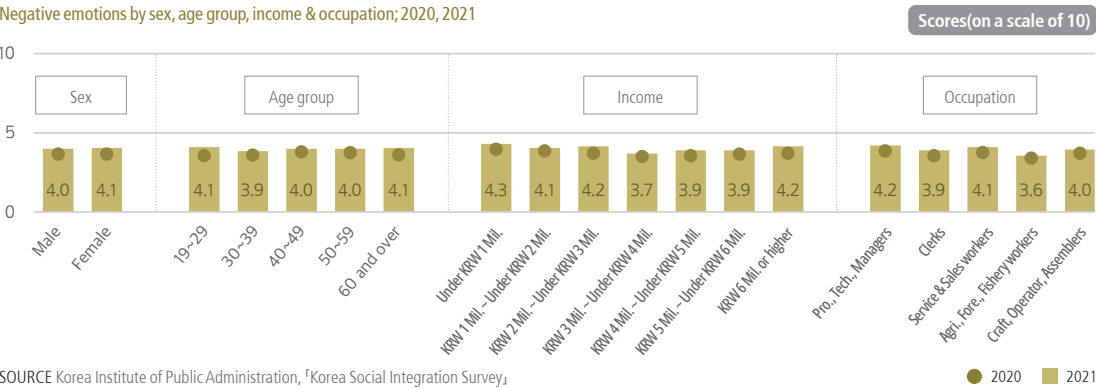
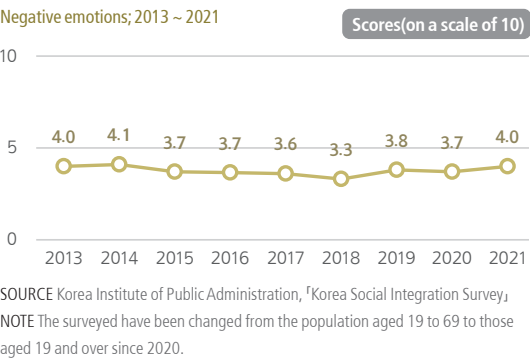
4.0 in 2021, up 0.3 from 2020

Together with positive emotions, negative emotions are an indicator to measure the emotional aspect of subjective well-being and serve as one of key items recommended in 「OECD Guidelines on Measuring Subjective Well-being」. Among negative emotions that individuals feel, how frequently respondents felt “worried” or “depressed” yesterday are utilized. Rather than as the exact opposite concepts in the emotional spectrum, positive and negative emotions should be viewed as separate concepts with different measurements. Therefore, positive and negative emotions are not treated as a single metric but are separated into two distinct measures.

Negative emotions showing how ‘worried’(4.3) and ‘depressed’(3.7) they were yesterday stood at 4.0 in 2021, up 0.3 from 2020. They fell from 4.1 in 2014 to 3.3 in 2018. However, it has been on an increase from 3.8 since 2019. Negative emotions showed the similar results as life satisfaction and positive emotions with no noticeable gender gap. However, in terms of age, they showed a different pattern from life satisfaction or positive emotions. Unlike them, negative emotions did not increase with age- instead, no evident difference among age groups was found. While the population in their 20s and 60s and over had a high score of 4.1, the lowest score was 3.9 observed

at the ages of 30 to 39.

By the income level, the low-income class with less than KRW 1 million had the highest score of 4.3, indicating that the lower income level could lead to higher negative emotions in general. Once negative emotions hit the lowest of 3.7 in an income of KRW 3 million to less than KRW 4 million, however, they again increased even with an increase in the income level. Such the gap between positive and negative emotions became even more noticeable in comparison by occupations. Professional management positions had the highest score of 4.2, showing the opposite results from life satisfaction and positive emotions. Such this characteristic was also found in 2020.



APPENDIX

01 Family·Community

Live-alone Elderly Rate

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population living alone among the old-age population aged 65 and over

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Household Projection」 「Population Projection」

**HOW TO MEASURE** (No. of single-person households aged 65 and over ÷ Population aged 65 and over)×100

**FREQUENCY** Annual

Family Relationship Satisfaction

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population satisfied with their family relationship

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with their overall family relationship

**FREQUENCY** Biennial

Sense of Belonging to a Community

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population with a sense of belonging to the community that they live in

**SOURCE** Korea Institute of Public Administration, 「Korea Social Integration Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very much” or “somewhat” to the question asking whether to have a strong sense of belonging to a community (city/province) that they currently live in

**FREQUENCY** Annual

Social Group Participation Rate

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population belonging to social institution(s) and engaging in social activities

**SOURCE** Korea Institute of Public Administration, 「Korea Social Integration Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “sometimes engaging in activities as a member” or “actively engaging in activities as a member” in any of nine social institutions\* listed below(\*A political party, labor union, religious group, club, civic group, local social gathering, voluntary service/donation group, alumni/hometown association or socio-economic organization)

**FREQUENCY** Annual

Social Isolation

**DEFINITION** A proportion of people who don’t have anyone to turn to in case of a physical or mental emergency

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied that there was no one to turn to even if they needed someone either to ‘help with housework’ or ‘talk to’

**FREQUENCY** Biennial

02 Health

Life Expectancy

**DEFINITION** The average number of years a newborn (age 0) is expected to live

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Life Table」

**HOW TO MEASURE** Expected lifespan at birth (age 0)

**FREQUENCY** Annual

Healthy Life Expectancy

**DEFINITION** Expected years when a person can physically and mentally enjoy a health life excluding a period of disease or disabilities from life expectancy

**SOURCE** WHO, World Health Statistics

**HOW TO MEASURE** A period excluding the total population’s average period of diseases or disabilities from life expectancy

**FREQUENCY** Quinquennial

Stress Self-recognition

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population feeling stressed in their daily life

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “severely stressed out” or “moderately stressed out” regarding their daily life for the past two weeks

**FREQUENCY** Biennial

Self-reported Health

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population assessing themselves as healthy

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents that replied “very good” or “good” regarding their overall health conditions

**FREQUENCY** Biennial

Obesity Rate

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population with BMI (body mass index) of 25 or higher

**SOURCE** Korea Disease Control & Prevention Agency, 「Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of people with body mass index (BMI) of 25 or higher (BMI = Weight (kg) ÷ [Height (m)]<sup>2</sup>)

**FREQUENCY** Annual

Suicide Rate

**DEFINITION** The number of suicide deaths out of 100,000 population

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Causes of Death Statistics」

**HOW TO MEASURE** (No. of suicide deaths ÷ No. of registered population) × 100,000

**FREQUENCY** Annual

Physical Activity Rate

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population practicing physical activities in daily life on a regular basis

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied that they “practiced” vigorous exercise (hiking, walking, yoga, cycling, etc.) on a regular basis

**FREQUENCY** Biennial

03 Education

Preschool Enrollment Rate

**DEFINITION** A proportion of children enrolling in a preschool or kindergarten out of the population aged 3 to 5

**SOURCE** Korean Educational Development Institute, 「Statistical Yearbook of Education」; Ministry of Health & Welfare, 「Statistics on Childcare Facilities

and Users」; Statistics Korea, 「Population Projections」

**HOW TO MEASURE** {(No. of 3- to 5-year-olds in preschool + No. of 3-to 5-year-olds enrolling in kindergarten) ÷ School-age Population (aged 3 to 5)} × 100

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Degree of Education Cost Burden**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of parents who believe their children’s education expenditures are burdensome relative to their income

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied that education expenditures are “very burdensome” or “somewhat burdensome” out of households with students

**FREQUENCY** Biennial

**Perception toward Effects of School Education**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population who positively recognize efficiency of school education

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied that school education is “very effective” or “somewhat effective” in ‘To prepare for adulthood, a career and employment’

**FREQUENCY** Biennial

**School Life Satisfaction**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of students satisfied with school life

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of middle and high school students who replied that they were “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with their overall school life

**FREQUENCY** Biennial

**Employment Rate of College Graduates**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the employed out of those eligible for employment after graduation of tertiary education institutes

**SOURCE** Korean Educational Development Institute, 「Statistical Yearbook for Employment」

**HOW TO MEASURE** (The employed ÷ Those eligible for employment out of graduates of tertiary education institutes) × 100

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Population with Tertiary Education**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of graduates from tertiary education institutes out of the population aged 25 to 64

**SOURCE** OECD, OECD Education at a Glance, Education attainment of 25-64 year-old(Tertiary)

**HOW TO MEASURE** (Graduates from tertiary education institutes ÷ Population aged 25 to 64)×100

**FREQUENCY** Annual

04 Employment·Wage

**Unemployment Rate**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the unemployed out of economically active population

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Economically Active Population Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** (No. of the unemployed aged 15 and over ÷ Economically active population aged 15 and over) ×100

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Employment Rate**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the employed out of the population aged 15 and over

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Economically Active Population Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** (No. of the employed aged 15 and over÷ Population aged 15 and over) × 100

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Average Monthly Wage**

**DEFINITION** the value obtained by converting the total monthly wages into the real amount

**SOURCE** Ministry of Employment and Labor, 「Survey Report on Labor Conditions by Employment Type」; Statistics Korea, 「Consumer Price Index」

**HOW TO MEASURE** (Regular payment + Overtime payment + Annual special payment of the previous year) ÷ 12 months

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Proportion of Low-paid Workers**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of wage earners who receive less than 2/3 of the monthly median income out of the total wage earners

**SOURCE** OECD, Earnings(Incidence of low pay)

**HOW TO MEASURE** (No. of wage earners receiving less than 2/3 of the monthly median income ÷ Total number of wage earners) × 100

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Working Hours**

**DEFINITION** Total working hours per month of wage earners

**SOURCE** Ministry of Employment and Labor, 「Survey Report on Labor Conditions by Employment Type」

**HOW TO MEASURE** Prescribed work hours + Overtime hours worked

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Job Satisfaction**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population satisfied with their current job out of wage earners

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with their overall working conditions

**FREQUENCY** Biennial

05 Income·Consumption·Wealth

**Gross National Income per Capita**

**DEFINITION** Total sum of income of the people in a nation inform participation in production activities during a certain period, divided by the total population

**SOURCE** Bank of Korea, 「National Accounts」; Statistics Korea, 「Population Projections」; Statistics Korea, 「Consumer Price Index」

**HOW TO MEASURE** Gross National Income (Consumer price index applied) ÷ Total population

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Equivalised Median Income**

**DEFINITION** A median amount of household income divided by the number of household members

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions」; Statistics Korea, 「Consumer Price Index」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** Equivalised disposable income of sample households, divided by the number of household members (consumer price index applied)  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Income Satisfaction**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population satisfied with their income  
**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied as “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with their income, out of the population with income  
**FREQUENCY** Biennial

**Consumption Satisfaction**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population satisfied with their consumption life  
**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with their overall consumption life (consumption for food, clothing and shelter, leisure and hobbies)  
**FREQUENCY** Biennial

**Household Net Wealth**

**DEFINITION** Average assets of all households minus the average debts  
**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions」; Statistics Korea, 「Consumer Price Index」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** Average net wealth of all households (real value with the consumer price index applied) = Average assets of all households - Average debts of all households  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Household Debt Ratio**

**DEFINITION** A ratio of total household debts to disposable household income  
**SOURCE** OECD, OECD National Accounts at a Glance(Debt of households)  
**HOW TO MEASURE** (Total household debts ÷ Disposable household income) × 100  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Relative Poverty Rate**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population receiving no more than 50% of the equivalised median income  
**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** (Population with no more than 50% of the median disposable income ÷ Total population) × 100  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

**06 Leisure**

**Ratio of Expenditure on Leisure**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of spending on cultural or leisure activities out of household expenditures  
**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Household Income and Expenditure Survey」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** (Monthly average of leisure/cultural expenditures ÷ Monthly average of household expenditures) × 100

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Leisure Time**

**DEFINITION** Average daily leisure time, including weekdays and weekends  
**SOURCE** Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, 「Leisure activity research」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** {(Leisure time on weekdays × 5 days) + (Leisure time on weekends × 2 days)} ÷ 7 days  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Sufficiency of Leisure Time**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population who regard their leisure time as sufficient  
**SOURCE** Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, 「Leisure activity research」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** (Sufficiency of leisure time during weekdays + Sufficiency of leisure time during weekends) ÷ 2  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Participation in Culture, Art and Sport Event**

**DEFINITION** Average number of per-capita participations in cultural, artistic and sports events  
**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** Average number of people paying a visit to a concert hall, theater, play, musical, dance, movie, museum, art gallery and sports arena  
**FREQUENCY** Biennial

**Travel Days per Person**

**DEFINITION** No. of domestic travel days per person on an annual basis  
**SOURCE** Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, 「Korea National Tourism Survey」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** No. of domestic travel days (incl. day trips) per person of the population aged 15 and over  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Leisure Satisfaction**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population satisfied with current leisure activities  
**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with their leisure activities out of the surveyed  
**FREQUENCY** Biennial

**07 Housing**

**Home-ownership Rate**

**DEFINITION** A ratio of households living in their own homes out of total households  
**SOURCE** Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 「Korea Housing Survey」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** (households occupying in owned home ÷ Total general households) × 100  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Rent to Income Ratio**

**DEFINITION** A ratio of housing rents to monthly income



**SOURCE** Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 「Korea Housing Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** (Monthly median rent ÷ Monthly median income) × 100

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Residential Area per Capita**

**DEFINITION** Residential area per household member

**SOURCE** Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 「Korea Housing Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** Average of (residential area of individual household ÷ No. of household members)

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Dwelling without Basic Facilities**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of households dwelling below the minimum housing standards out of total households

**SOURCE** Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 「Korea Housing Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** (Number of households dwelling below the minimum housing standards ÷ Total number of households) × 100

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Commuting Time to Office**

**DEFINITION** Average time required for commuters to get to work from home

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Population and Housing Census」

**HOW TO MEASURE** Average time required to get to work from home out of the population aged 12 and over

**FREQUENCY** Quinquennial

**Housing Environment satisfaction**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population satisfied with overall housing environments in their residential areas

**SOURCE** Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, 「Korea Housing Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied that “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with overall housing environments regarding their residential areas

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**O8 Environment**

**Urban Park Area per Capita**

**DEFINITION** Urban park area per a citizen

**SOURCE** Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, LX, 「Statistics of Urban Plan」

**HOW TO MEASURE** Area of urban parks created (determined area-unexecuted area) ÷ Total population in urban areas

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Fine dust concentration level(Particulate Matter Concentration, PM2.5)**

**DEFINITION** Measured concentration level of ultrafine dust (PM<sub>2.5</sub>, dust with a diameter of 2.5μm or less) in the air

**SOURCE** National Institute of Environmental Research, 「Annual Report of Ambient Air Quality in Korea」, Statistics Korea, 「Population Projections」

**HOW TO MEASURE** Population-weighted value of annual averages of fine dust concentration levels in 17 cities and provinces

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Waterworks Supply Rate in Rural Area**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of households actually supplied with waterworks out of households eligible for waterworks supply in rural areas (-Myeon)

**SOURCE** Ministry of Environment, 「Statistics of Waterworks」

**HOW TO MEASURE** (Population with waterworks supply in rural areas (-Myeon) ÷ Total population in rural areas (-Myeon)) × 100

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**Air Quality satisfaction**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population satisfied with air quality in their residential areas

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very good” or “somewhat good” regarding air environments in the region that they currently reside in

**FREQUENCY** Biennial

**Water Quality Satisfaction**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population satisfied with water quality in their residential areas

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very good” or “somewhat good” regarding rivers (water quality) of the region that they currently reside in

**FREQUENCY** Biennial

**Soil Quality Satisfaction**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population satisfied with soil environments in their residential areas

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very good” or “somewhat good” regarding soil in the region that they currently reside in

**FREQUENCY** Biennial

**Noise Level Satisfaction**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population satisfied with the level of noise pollution in their residential areas

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of the respondents who replied “very good” or “somewhat good” regarding noise/vibration in the region that they currently reside in

**FREQUENCY** Biennial

**Green Environment Satisfaction**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population satisfied with green environments in their residential areas

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very good” or “somewhat good” regarding green environments (mountains, parks, etc.) in the region that they currently reside in

**FREQUENCY** Biennial

**Climate Change Recognition**

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population who are anxious about climate change

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very worried” or “slightly worried” regarding climate change (heatwave, flood, etc.)

FREQUENCY Biennial

09 Safety

Homicide Rate

**DEFINITION** No. of homicides per 100,000 population  
**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Causes of Death Statistics」; Statistics Korea, 「Resident Registration Central Population」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** {No. of homicides ÷ No. of population registered} ×100,000  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

Crime Victimization Rate

**DEFINITION** No. of crime cases collected in a self-reported method over the past year  
**SOURCE** Korean Institute of Criminology, 「National Public Safety Survey」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** {(estimated) No. of crimes committed ÷ Population aged 14 and over} × 100,000  
**FREQUENCY** Biennial

Feeling Safe Walking Alone at Night

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population thinking that they are safe while walking during the night  
**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very safe” or “somewhat safe” when they walk alone at night  
**FREQUENCY** Biennial

Industrial Accident Mortality Rate

**DEFINITION** No. of deaths due to industrial accidents and/or diseases per 10,000 workers covered by the industrial accident and safety insurance  
**SOURCE** Ministry of Employment and Labor, 「Industrial Accident Statistics」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** (No. of deaths due to industrial accidents ÷ No. of workers covered by industrial accident and safety insurance) × 10,000  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

Number of Fire Fatalities

**DEFINITION** No. of deaths caused by fires each year  
**SOURCE** National Fire Agency, 「Fire Statistical Yearbook」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** No. of deaths calculated based on the annual incidence of fires  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

Road Traffic Accident Fatality Rate

**DEFINITION** No. of road casualties due to traffic accidents per 100,000 population  
**SOURCE** Korea Road Traffic Authority, 「Traffic Accident Analysis System」; Statistics Korea, 「Population Projections」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** (No. of road casualties due to traffic accidents ÷ Total population) × 100,000  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

Child Mortality Rate from Safety Accidents

**DEFINITION** No. of deaths due to safety accidents per 100,000 children aged under 15

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Causes of Death Statistics」, Statistics Korea, 「Resident Registration Central Population」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** (No. of deaths among children aged under 15 due to safety accidents ÷ Registered population aged under 15)×100,000  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

Perception toward Societal Safety

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population recognized that the society is safe in general  
**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very safe” or “somewhat safe” regarding overall social safety  
**FREQUENCY** Biennial

Child Abuse Rate

**DEFINITION** Number of child abuse cases confirmed in relation to children population out of the reported cases of child abuse  
**SOURCE** Ministry of Health and Welfare, 「Report on Child Abuse」; Statistics Korea, 「Population Projections」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** (No. of cases where children aged under 18 were abused (finally confirmed) ÷ Estimated population aged under 18) × 100,000  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

10 Civic Engagement


Voter Turnout Rate

**DEFINITION** A proportion of people who cast a vote in the presidential election out of the total number of electorates  
**SOURCE** National Election Commission, 「Voter Turnout in Presidential Elections」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** (No. of voters in Presidential Election ÷ No. of electorates in the presidential election) × 100  
**FREQUENCY** Quinquennial

Perception of Political Empowerment

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population who believe that they are politically empowered  
**SOURCE** The Korea Institute of Public Administration, 「Korea Social Integration Survey」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** Arithmetic average of proportions of respondents who answered “never agree” or “little agree” to the following questions: ‘people like me cannot make any influence on what the government does’ or ‘the government never agrees to thoughts or opinions of people like me’  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

Institutional trust

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population who place trust on major institutes and systems  
**SOURCE** The Korea Institute of Public Administration, 「Korea Social Integration Survey」  
**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very trust” or “somewhat trust” on 16 organizations\*( the government, National Assembly, courts, Prosecutor’s Office, police, local governments, military, labor unions, civic organizations, TV broadcasting stations, newspaper companies, education institutions, medical institutes, large conglomerates and financial firms)  
**FREQUENCY** Annual

Corruption Perceptions Index

**DEFINITION** An index of perception regarding corruption in the public sector including the government  
**SOURCE** Transparency International, Corruption Perceptions Index

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**DEFINITION** Degree of perception toward importance of citizenship

**SOURCE** The Korea Institute of Public Administration, 「Korea Social Integration Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** Arithmetic average of scores that respondents answered to the 8 items of importance related to citizens' obligations

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population participating in voluntary activities

**SOURCE** Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of people who participated in voluntary activities over the past year

**FREQUENCY** Biennial

**DEFINITION** A proportion of the population who trust others

**SOURCE** The Korea Institute of Public Administration, 「Korea Social Integration Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** A proportion of respondents who replied “very trust” or “somewhat trust” to the question to what degree they can trust others

**FREQUENCY** Annual

## Life Satisfaction

**DEFINITION** Subjective satisfaction in general with individuals' current life

**SOURCE** The Korea Institute of Public Administration, 「Korea Social Integration Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** Average value of responses regarding satisfaction with the current life on a scale of 0 to 10

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**DEFINITION** How often individuals feel positive emotions (happiness) in daily life

**SOURCE** The Korea Institute of Public Administration, 「Korea Social Integration Survey」

**HOW TO MEASURE** Average value of responses on a scale of 0 to 10 regarding how happy respondents were yesterday

**FREQUENCY** Annual

**DEFINITION** How often individuals feel negative emotions (worries, depressions, etc.) in daily life

**SOURCE** The Korea Institute of Public Administration, "Korea Social Integration Survey."

**HOW TO MEASURE** Average value of responses on a scale of 0 to 10 regarding how worried or depressed respondents felt yesterday (Average score for worries + Average score for depression) ÷ 2

**FREQUENCY** Annual



Quality of Life Indicators in Korea 2022

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# QUALITY of LIFE INDICATORS in KOREA 2022

