



2021 Population and Housing Census (Register-based Census)

[Population]

As of November 1st, 2021, the population of South Korea was 51.74 million persons, which decreased by 0.2% (91 thousand persons) from 2020.

○ (Koreans and foreigners)

In 2021, the number of Koreans residing in South Korea was 50.09 million persons (96.8% of the total population), which decreased by 0.1% (-45 thousand persons) from 2020. The number of foreigners residing in South Korea recorded 1.65 million persons (3.2% of the total population), which decreased by 2.7% (-46 thousand persons) from 2020.

○ (Age structure)

The working age population aged 15~64 occupied 71.4% (36.94 million persons). The elderly population aged 65 or more occupied 16.8% (8.71 million persons). The youth population aged 0~14 occupied 11.8% (6.09 million persons).

- Compared to 2020, the youth population and the working age population dropped by 167 thousand person (-2.7%) and 344 thousand persons (-0.9%), respectively. Whereas, the elderly population rose by 419 thousand persons (5.1%).
- Compared to 2016, the share of the working age population declined by 2.0%p (-677 thousand persons).

○ (Aging index)

The aging index (the elderly population per 100 youth population) stood at 143.0 in 2021, rising by 10.5 from 2020.

- The aging index of Jeonnam recorded the highest figure of 210.0. Whereas, the aging index of Sejong recorded the lowest figure of 49.9.

○ (Population by region)

12 regions (excluding Sejong, Gyeonggi, Incheon, Jeju and Gangwon) showed a year-on-year decrease in the population.

- Compared to 2020, among 4 areas, only the population of the Capital Area showed an increase of 0.1%. Among Dong, Eup and Myeon regions, only the population of Eup regions showed an increase of 1.4%.
- Compared to 2020, the population showed a decrease in 170 Si, Gun & Gu districts.

[Household]

In 2021, the number of households totaled 22.02 million households, increasing by 2.5% (538 thousand households) from 2020.

○ (Household type)

The general households occupied 97.4% (21.45 million households). The other households (foreigners households and group households) occupied 2.6% (574 thousand households).

- Compared to 2020, the general households and the other households increased by 522 thousand households (2.5%) and 16 thousand households (2.9%), respectively.
- Among general households, relative households, non-relative households and 1-person households occupied 64.4%, 2.2% and 33.4%, respectively.

○ (Household size)

Compared to 2020, 1-person and 2-person households marked an increase. In the meantime, 3-person or more households marked a decrease.

- Compared to 2020, 1-person households rose by 7.9% (522 thousand households) and 2-person households rose by 3.6% (212 thousand households). Whereas, 3-person or more households fell by 2.5% (-213 thousand households).
- The average household size marked 2.29 persons in 2021, which fell by 0.06 from 2020 and 0.22 from 2016.

○ (Living quarters)

The households residing in apartments took up 51.9% in 2021, rising by 0.4%p from 2020.

- As for the share of households residing in apartments by province, Sejong showed the highest figure of 77.2%. Jeju marked the lowest figure of 25.7%.

[Housing]

In 2021, the number of housing units totaled 18.81 million units, rising by 1.5% (286 thousand units) compared to 2020.

○ (Kinds of housing units)

Detached houses totaled 3.87 million units, which fell 0.7% (-27 thousand units) from 2020. Multi-unit dwellings totaled 14.73 million units, which grew 2.2% (314 thousand units) from 2020.

- Apartments amounted to 11.95 million units, which accounted for 63.5% of the total housing units. This figure increased by 2.5% (287 thousand units) from 2020.

○ (Housing by region)

Housing units in Dong regions accounted for 77.9% (14.66 million units) of the total housing units. Housing units in Myeon regions accounted for 11.2% (2.11 million units) of the total housing units. Housing units in Eup regions accounted for 10.8% (2.04 million units) of the total housing units. Compared to 2020, Eup regions showed the highest increase of 2.4%.

- As for the year-on-year increase rate of housing units by province, Sejong recorded the highest figure of 5.0%. Busan recorded the lowest figure of 0.5%.
- As for the share of apartments by province, Sejong recorded the highest figure of 86.5%. Jeju recorded the lowest figure of 31.8%. As for the share of detached houses by province, Jeonnam recorded the highest figure of 49.3%. Incheon recorded the lowest figure of 9.0%.

○ **(Construction of housing units)**

Housing units constructed 20 years ago or more accounted for 50.2% of the total housing units. Housing units constructed 30 years ago or more accounted for 21.1% of the total housing units.

- 52.8% (2.04 million housing units) of detached houses were constructed 30 years ago or more. 11.3% (1.36 million housing units) of apartments were constructed 30 years ago or more.

○ **(Average residence households per detached house)**

The average residence households per detached house stood at 1.9 households. The average residence households per general detached house stood at 1.0 household. The average residence households per multi-unit detached house stood at 3.9 households. The average residence households per detached house to be used for dwelling as well as business purpose stood at 2.8 households.

[1-person households]

In 2021, 1-person households marked 7.17 million households (33.4%), rising by 7.9% from 2020.

○ **(Average annual growth rate)**

Increasing trend in 1-person households: 4.1%²⁰¹⁸ → 5.1%²⁰¹⁹ → 8.1%²⁰²⁰ → 7.9%²⁰²¹

○ **(Age structure)**

As for 1-person households by age group, '29 or less' recorded the highest share at 19.8%, which was followed by '30~39' (17.1%) and '60~69' (16.4%). As for 1-person households of males by age group, '30~39' recorded the highest share at 21.8%. As for 1-person households of females by age group, '29 or less' recorded the highest share at 19.4%.

○ **(1-person households by region)**

As for the share of 1-person households by province, Daejeon recorded the highest figure of 37.6%, which was followed by Seoul (36.8%), Gangwon (36.3%) and Chungbuk (36.3%).

[Elderly populatio]

The elderly population aged 65 or more recorded 8.62 million persons in 2021, rising by 5.1% (414 thousand persons) from 2020.

○ **(Elderly population by region)**

The elderly population aged 65 or more in Myeon regions occupied the largest share at 33.0%, which was 2.1 times higher than that in Dong regions (15.4%).

[Multi-cultural households]

The multi-cultural households amounted to 385 thousand households in 2021, rising by 4.7% (17 thousand households) from 2020.

○ **(Multi-cultural households)**

The multi-cultural households totaled 385 thousand households. Among them, the households of marriage immigrants and naturalized Koreans occupied 37.9% and 42.3%, respectively. The households of multi-cultural children and the other households occupied 10.9% and 8.9%, respectively.

○ **(Nationality of naturalized Koreans and marriage immigrants)**

Korean-Chinese occupied the largest share of 32.2%, which was followed by Vietnamese (22.7%) and Chinese (19.0%).

< Major indicators of the Population and Housing Census >

(Unit: thousand persons (households, units), %, %p, males per 100 females, person)

Classification			2019 (A)	2020 (B)	2021 (C)	Change		Percent change		
						B-A	C-B	B/A	C/B	
Population	Total population		51,779	51,829	51,738	50	-91	0.1	-0.2	
	Nationality	Korean	50,000	50,133	50,088	133	-45	0.3	-0.1	
		Foreigner	1,779	1,696	1,650	-83	-46	-4.7	-2.7	
		Share of foreigners	3.4	3.3	3.2	-0.2	-0.1	-	-	
	Sex	Male (M)		25,952	25,915	25,850	-37	-65	-0.1	-0.3
		Female (F)		25,827	25,914	25,888	87	-26	0.3	-0.1
		Sex ratio (M/F)		100.5	100.0	99.9	-0.5	-0.2	-	-
	Age structure	Size	0~14 (Y)	6,392	6,254	6,087	-138	-167	-2.2	-2.7
			15~64 (W)	37,570	37,288	36,944	-282	-344	-0.8	-0.9
			65 or more (O)	7,817	8,287	8,707	470	419	6.0	5.1
		Composition	0~14 (Y)	12.3	12.1	11.8	-0.3	-0.3	-	-
15~64 (W)			72.6	71.9	71.4	-0.6	-0.5	-	-	
65 or more (O)			15.1	16.0	16.8	0.9	0.8	-	-	
Aging index (O/Y)		122.3	132.5	143.0	10.2	10.5	-	-		
Household	Total households		20,891	21,485	22,023	593	538	2.8	2.5	
	General household	General household		20,343	20,927	21,448	584	522	2.9	2.5
		Household type	Relative household	13,809	13,860	13,810	51	-50	0.4	-0.4
			Non-relative household	387	423	473	36	49	9.4	11.6
			1-person household	6,148	6,643	7,166	496	522	8.1	7.9
		Household size	1-person household	6,148	6,643	7,166	496	522	8.1	7.9
			2-person household	5,663	5,865	6,077	201	212	3.6	3.6
			3-person household	4,218	4,201	4,170	-17	-31	-0.4	-0.7
		4-person or more household		4,315	4,218	4,036	-96	-182	-2.2	-4.3
		Average household size		2.39	2.34	2.29	-0.05	-0.06	-	-
Housing	Total housing units		18,127	18,526	18,812	399	286	2.2	1.5	
	By housing type	Size	Detached house	3,918	3,898	3,871	-20	-27	-0.5	-0.7
			Apartment	11,287	11,662	11,949	375	287	3.3	2.5
			Row house / Apartment unit in a private house	2,709	2,752	2,779	43	27	1.6	1.0
			House within a commercial building	213	214	213	1	-1	0.4	-0.5
		Composition	Detached house	21.6	21.0	20.6	-0.6	-0.5	-	-
			Apartment	62.3	62.9	63.5	0.7	0.6	-	-
			Row house / Apartment unit in a private house	14.9	14.9	14.8	-0.1	-0.1	-	-
	House within a commercial building		1.2	1.2	1.1	-0.0	-0.0	-	-	