



Statistics Korea

Press Release

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새로운 국민의 나라

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Social Indicators in 2024

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Social Indicators in 2024

◆ Population, household and family

In 2024, the total population of South Korea recorded 51.75 million persons. The total fertility rate stood at 0.75p, recording a year-on-year increase.

○ (Population change)

The total population of South Korea is projected to decrease from 51.75 million persons in 2024 to 36.22 million persons in 2072. The share of Koreans aged 65 or more is projected to increase from 19.2% in 2024 to 47.7% in 2072.

○ (Household change)

In 2023, the total number of households was 22.73 million households, rising by 350 thousand households from 2022. The elderly households with a household head aged 65 or more amounted to 5.66 million households in 2023, rising by 320 thousand households from 2022.

○ (Foreigners)

The number of foreigners staying in Korea for 90 days or more was 1.882 million persons in 2023, rising by 193 thousand persons from 2022.

○ (Birth status)

In 2024, the total fertility rate stood at 0.75p. The number of live births was 238.3 thousand birthsp, marking the first year-on-year increase since 2015.

◆ Health and living environment

The life expectancy at birth increased by 0.8 year from 82.7 years in 2022 to 83.5 years in 2023.

○ (Life expectancy at birth)

The life expectancy at birth rose by 0.8 year from 82.7 years in 2022 to 83.5 years in 2023. South Korea ranked 5th in life expectancy at birth among OECD member countries.

○ (Crude death rate)

In 2024, the number of deaths was 7.0 deathsp per 1,000 population, rising by 0.1 death from 6.9 deaths in 2023. Malignant neoplasm (cancer) was the leading cause of death in 2023. The death rate of malignant neoplasm (cancer) stood at 166.7 deaths per 100,000 population.

○ (Fine dust)

In 2023, the concentration level of fine dust (PM-10) and ultrafine dust (PM-2.5) recorded $37\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and $19\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ on an annual average, respectively. These two figures showed a year-on-year increase.

◆ Education & training and Labour

In 2024, the private education participation rate showed a year-on-year increase. The employment-to-population ratio marked a record high since the beginning of statistical production.

○ (Educational opportunity)

In 2024, the school enrollment rates for elementary and high schools showed a year-on-year increase. Whereas, the school enrollment rate for middle schools showed a year-on-year decrease. The private education participation rate in 2024 stood at 80.0%, showing a year-on-year increase.

○ (School life)

In 2024, as for the number of students per teacher, elementary school recorded the highest figure of 12.7 students per teacher. This figure was followed by middle school (11.6 students per teacher), high school (10.1 students per teacher) and kindergarten (9.0 students per teacher).

○ (Employment and unemployment)

In 2024, the employment-to-population ratio stood at 62.7%, up 0.1%p from 62.6% in 2023. This figure marked the highest figure after the beginning of statistical production. The unemployment rate stood at 2.8% in 2024, up 0.1%p from 2.7% in 2023.

◆ Income, consumption, & assets, and Leisure

In 2024, the Gross National Income per capita and the average time spent on leisure activities showed a year-on-year increase.

○ (National account)

In 2024, the Gross Domestic Product at nominal prices recorded 2,549.1 trillion wonp. The real GDP growth rate was 2.0%p. The Gross National Income per capita stood at US\$36,624p, which marked a year-on-year increase.

○ (Household income and income distribution)

In 2023, the annual average household income recorded 71.85 million won, rising by 4.23 million won from 2022. The Gini coefficient recorded 0.323 in 2023, dropping by 0.001 from 2022.

○ (Consumption life)

In 2024, the private consumption expenditures recorded 23.870 million wonp per person, continuing a steadily increasing trend since 2020. In 2024, the monthly average household consumption expenditures recorded 2.890 million won, which showed a year-on-year increase.

○ (Leisure time)

In 2024, Koreans aged 15 or more spent 3.7 hours on weekdays and 5.7 hours on weekends on their leisure activities. These two figures showed a year-on-year increase. The largest share (54.9%) of Koreans aged 15 or more spent their leisure time alone.

◆ Housing, and Crime & safety

In 2023, the rent-to-income ratio (RIR) showed a year-on-year decrease. The number of crimes per 100,000 population showed a year-on-year increase.

○ (Housing supply)

In 2023, the number of housing units per 1,000 population stood at 437.0 units, which grew by 6.8 units from 430.2 units in 2022. In 2023, the housing supply ratio stood at 102.5%, up 0.4%p from 102.1% in 2022.

○ (Housing expenditures)

In 2023, the house price to income ratio (PIR) stood at 6.3 times, which remained the same as 2022. In 2023, the rent to income ratio (RIR) stood at 15.8%, down 0.2%p from 16.0% in 2022.

○ (Crime)

In 2023, the number of crimes recorded 3,121 cases per 100,000 population, rising by 73 cases from 2022. In 2022, the largest share of Koreans felt fear of fraud (13.9%), which was followed by assault (13.5%).

◆ Social Integration and Subjective Well-being

In 2024, the share of Koreans satisfied with their life showed a slight year-on-year increase.

○ (Social conflicts)

In 2024, the social conflicts Koreans perceived most strongly were between the conservatives and the progressives (77.5%). This figure was followed by conflicts between the poor and the middle & high class (74.8%) and between employees and employers (66.4%).

○ (Social isolation)

In 2024, 21.1% of Koreans aged 19 or more felt lonely, showing an increase from 2023. 16.2% of Koreans aged 19 or more felt that no one truly knew them, showing an increase from 2023.

○ (Subjective well-being)

In 2024, 75.6% of Koreans thought that they were satisfied with their life, up 1.5%p from 2023. In 2024, 76.3% of Koreans thought that what they did was worthwhile, up 7.9%p from 2023.