

# Changes for the past 7 decades after the liberation of Korea

## < Economic sector >

- Korea's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) stood at 1,485 trillion won in 2014, which increased by 31,000 times from 47.7 billion won in 1953. In U.S. dollars, it stood at \$1,410.4 billion, which ranked the 13th largest in the world.
- Korea's GNI per capita increased from \$67 in 1953 to \$28,180 in 2014. After 2000, economic growth rates slowed down.
- The share of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries showed a sharp decrease from 48.2 percent in 1953 to 2.3 percent in 2014. The share of Manufacturing increased from 7.8 percent in 1953 to 30.3 percent in 2014, which resulted from fostering policies for the development of heavy and chemical industries in the 1970s.
- Iron ore topped the list of exported items in 1960, textiles in 1970, clothing in 1980 and semiconductor in 1992.
- The labor force participation rate of females rose from 37 percent in 1963 to 51.1 percent in 2014. The monthly average working hours in Manufacturing dropped from 232 hours in 1970 to 187 hours in 2014.

## < Social sector >

- According to the results of 2010 Population and Housing Census, the population of South Korea (excluding foreigners) was 47.99 million, which rose by 2.4 times from 1949. The number of foreigners residing in Korea was 1.58 million in 2013, which grew by 79 times from 20 thousand in 1948.
- The average number of family members fell from 5.4 persons in 1952 to 2.7 persons in 2010.
- The life expectancy at birth rose by 20 years for the past 44 years, in other words 61.9 years in 1970 to 81.8 years in 2014.
- The number of elementary, middle and high school students showed a steady increase. In particular, the number of university students showed a sharp increase from 30 thousand students in 1952 to 2.13 million students in 2014.
- The number of motor vehicle registrations skyrocketed from about 1,000 units in 1946 to 15.75 million units in 2014.

## < Environmental sector >

- Fine dust in major cities exceeded environmental quality standard until the mid 2000s. However, it satisfied environmental quality standard in most cities from 2012.