



Statistics Korea

Press Release

다시, 대한민국!
새로운 국민의 나라

Embargo 12:00 P.M., Dec. 20, 2023 Embargo 8:30 A.M., Dec. 20, 2023

2023 Statistical Indicators of North Korea

Contact Division	Director General for Planning & Coordination Director for International Cooperation	Contact Person	Kim, Hae ryun (042-481-2095)
---------------------	---	-------------------	------------------------------

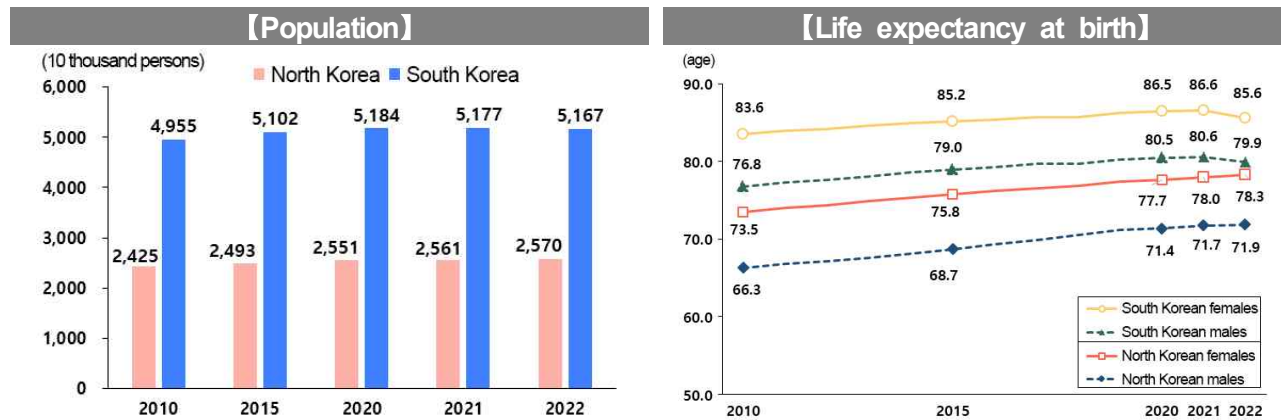
2023 Statistical Indicators of North Korea

□ (Population)

In 2022, the population of North Korea was 25.70 million persons, recording half of that of South Korea (51.67 million persons). The total population of two Koreas stood at 77.37 million persons.

※ According to the projection of Statistics Korea, in 2022, the population of North Korea continued an ever-increasing trend. In the meantime, the population of South Korea has recorded a decreasing trend since 2021.

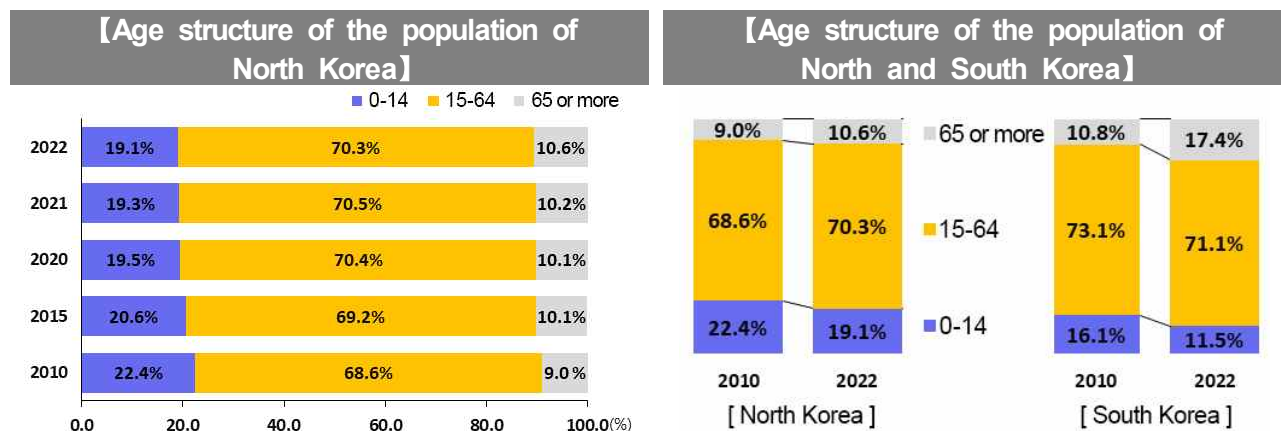
- In 2022, the life expectancy at birth of North Korean males was 71.9 years, which was 8.0 years shorter than that of South Korean males (79.9 years). The life expectancy at birth of North Korean females was 78.3 years, which was 7.3 years shorter than that of South Korean females (85.6 years). The gap in the life expectancy at birth between two Koreas showed a decreasing trend.



- In 2022, people aged 0~14 occupied 19.1% of the total population of North Korea. People aged '15~64' and '65 or more' occupied 70.3% and 10.6% of the total population of North Korea, respectively.

- The share of people aged 0~14 of North Korea was 7.6%p higher than that of South Korea. In the meantime, the share of people aged 65 or more of North Korea was 6.8%p lower than that of South Korea.

※ According to the projection of Statistics Korea, the total fertility rate of North Korea showed a sharp decrease to record 1.61 in 2022.



□ (Agriculture and forestry)

In 2022, the crop production (including rice and barley) of North Korea recorded 4.51 million tons, falling by 4.0% from 2021. This figure was 170 thousand tons higher than the crop production of South Korea (4.33 million tons).

- Among crops*, the rice production of North Korea recorded 2.07 million tons in 2022, falling by 3.8% from 2021. This figure stood at 55.1% of the rice production of South Korea (3.76 million tons).

* Crop production: 1.57 million tons (corn), 490 thousand tons (potatoes), 180 thousand tons (pulses), 180 thousand tons (barley), 20 thousand tons (miscellaneous grains)

【Crop and rice production】

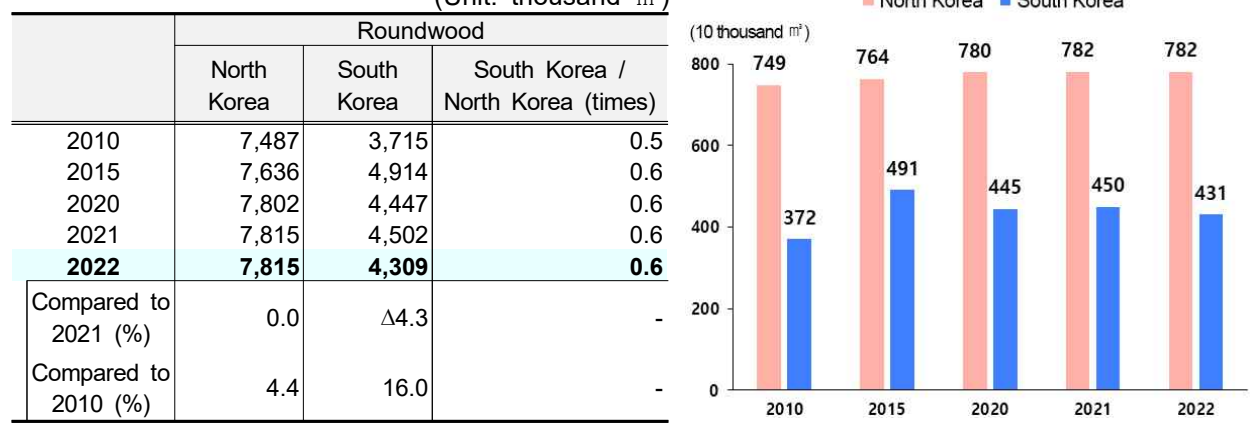
(Unit: thousand tons)

	Crop			Rice		
	North Korea	South Korea	South Korea / North Korea (times)	North Korea	South Korea	South Korea / North Korea (times)
2015	4,512	4,846	1.1	2,016	4,327	2.1
2020	4,398	4,047	0.9	2,021	3,507	1.7
2021	4,692	4,457	0.9	2,156	3,882	1.8
2022	4,505	4,332	1.0	2,074	3,764	1.8
Compared to 2021 (%)	Δ4.0	Δ2.8	-	Δ3.8	Δ3.0	-

- In 2022, the roundwood production of North Korea marked 7.82 million m³, which was 1.8 times higher than that of South Korea (4.31 million m³).

【Roundwood production】

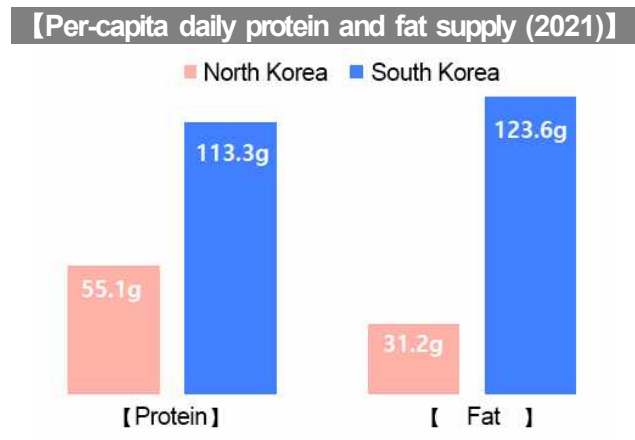
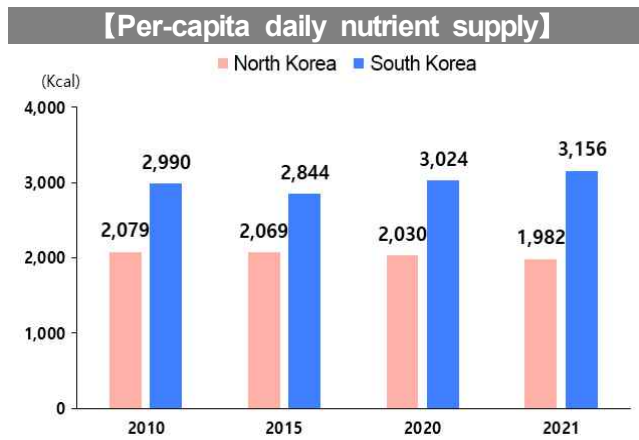
(Unit: thousand m³)



□ (Health)

In 2021, per-capita daily nutrient supply of North Korea marked 1,982kcal, dropping by 2.4% from 2020. Per-capita daily nutrient supply of North Korea stood at 62.8% of that of South Korea (3,156kcal).

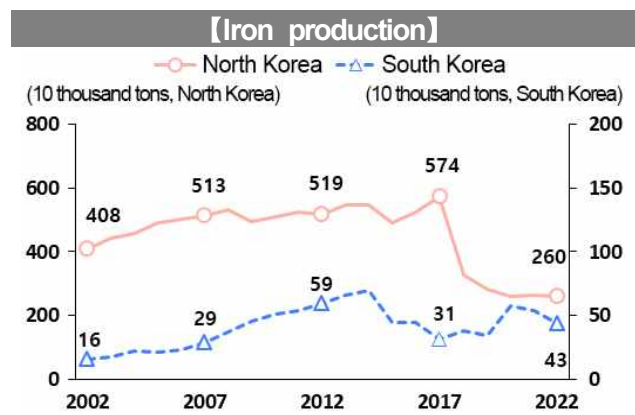
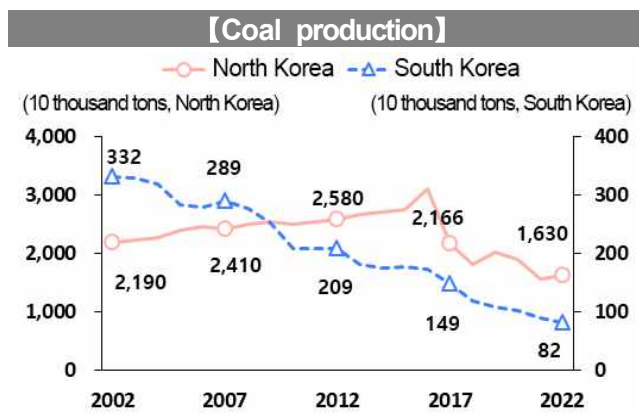
- In 2021, per-capita daily protein supply of North Korea marked 55.1g, falling by 2.1% from 2020. Per-capita daily fat supply of North Korea marked 31.2g, falling by 14.8% from 2020. These two figures of North Korea were lower than half of those of South Korea.



□ (Mining and manufacturing)

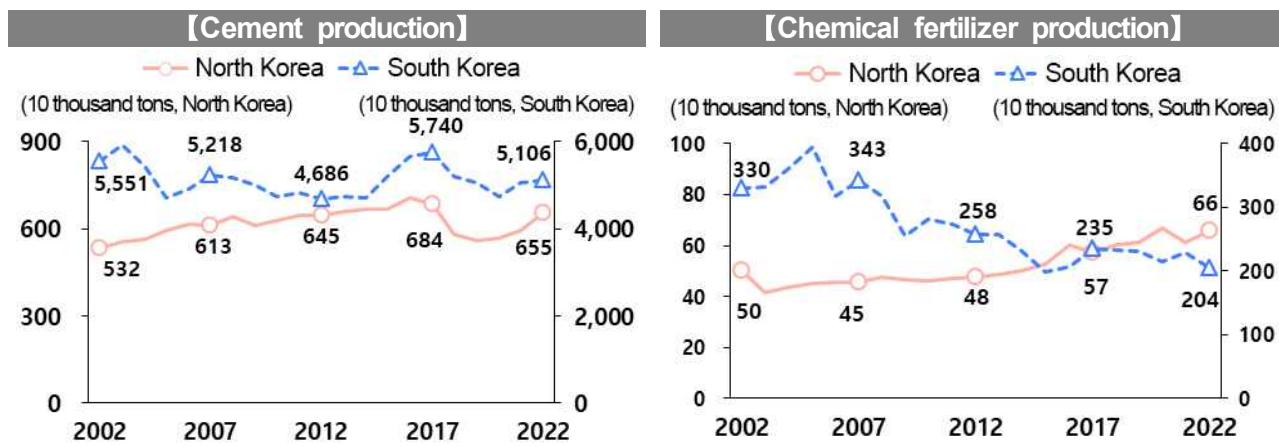
In 2022, the coal production of North Korea totaled 16.30 million tons, which grew by 4.5% from 2021. The iron ore production of North Korea totaled 2.60 million tons, which fell by 2.1% from 2021.

※ The coal production of North Korea was 19.9 times higher than that of South Korea (820 thousand tons). The iron production of North Korea was 6.0 times higher than that of South Korea (430 thousand tons).



○ In 2022, the crude steel production of North Korea marked 290 thousand tons, which fell by 51.7% from 2021. In the meantime, the cement production of North Korea marked 6.55 million tons, which rose by 9.9% from 2021. The chemical fertilizer production of North Korea marked 660 thousand tons, which rose by 7.7% from 2021.

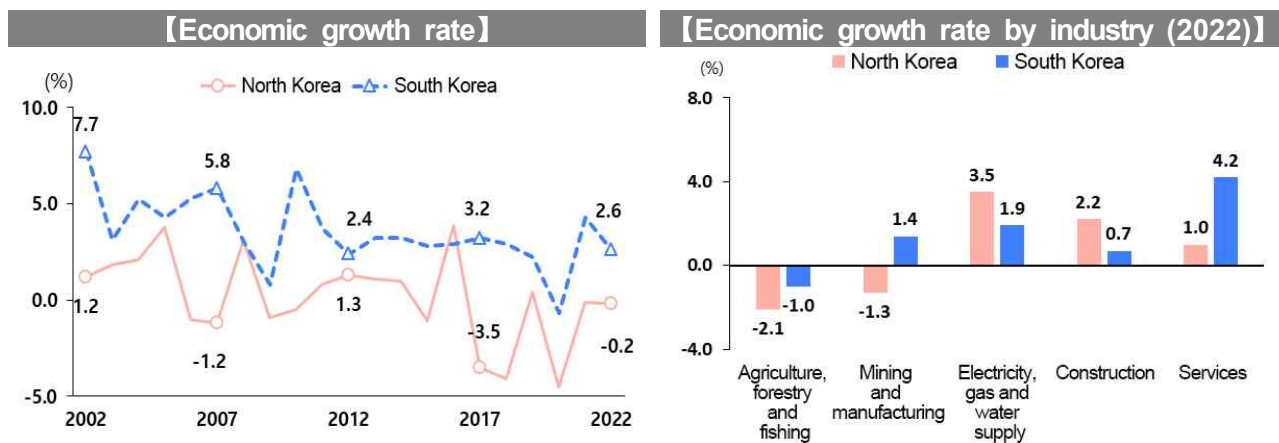
※ The crude steel production of North Korea stood at one 228th (0.4%) of that of South Korea (65.85 million tons). The cement production of North Korea stood at one 8th (12.8%) of that of South Korea (51.06 million tons). The chemical fertilizer production of North Korea stood at one 3rd (32.3%) of that of South Korea (2.04 million tons).



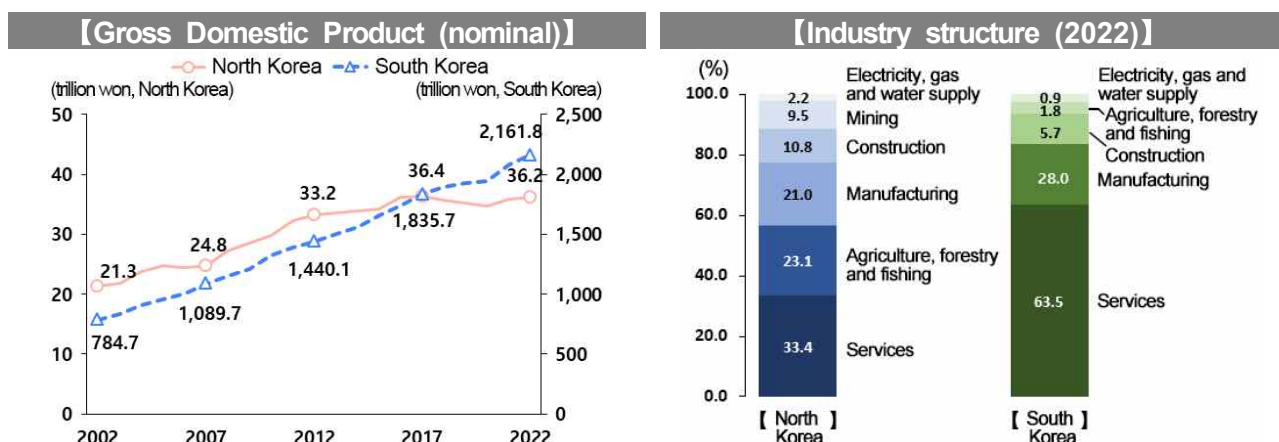
□ (National account)

In 2022, Gross Domestic Product (at constant prices) of North Korea dropped by 0.2% from 2021 owing to a decrease in 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' and 'Mining and manufacturing' despite an increase in 'Electricity, gas and water supply', 'Construction' and 'Services'. GDP of North Korea recorded a drop for the past 3 years consecutively.

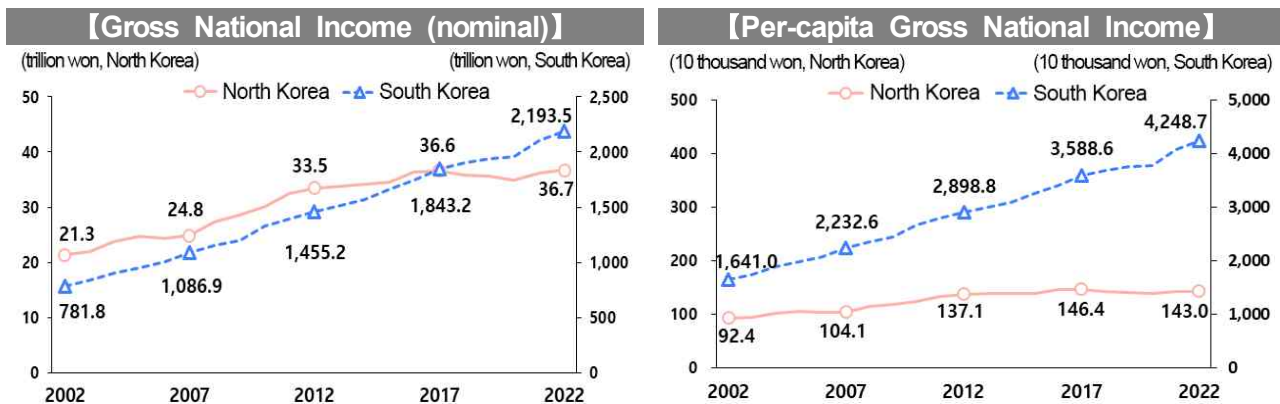
※ The economic growth rate of South Korea recorded an increase for the past 2 years consecutively. (a rise of 4.3% in 2021 and 2.6% in 2022)



- In 2022, Gross Domestic Product (at current prices) of North Korea recorded 36.2 trillion won, which was one 60th (1.7%) of that of South Korea (2,161.8 trillion won). Gross National Income (at current prices) of North Korea recorded 36.7 trillion won, which was one 60th (1.7%) of that of South Korea (2,193.5 trillion won).



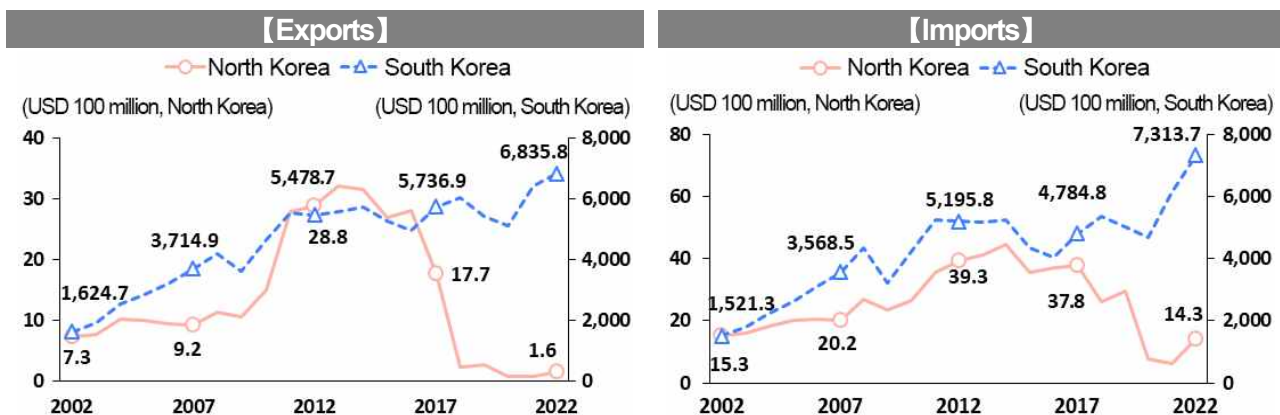
- In 2022, per-capita Gross National Income of North Korea recorded 1.430 million won, which was one 30th (3.4%) of that of South Korea (42.487 million won). The two Koreas continuously widened the gap in per-capita GNI.



□ (Foreign trade)

In 2022, foreign trade of North Korea stood at 1.59 billion US dollars, which skyrocketed* by 122.4% from 2021. This figure recorded one 892nd (0.1%) of foreign trade of South Korea (1,415.0 billion US dollars).

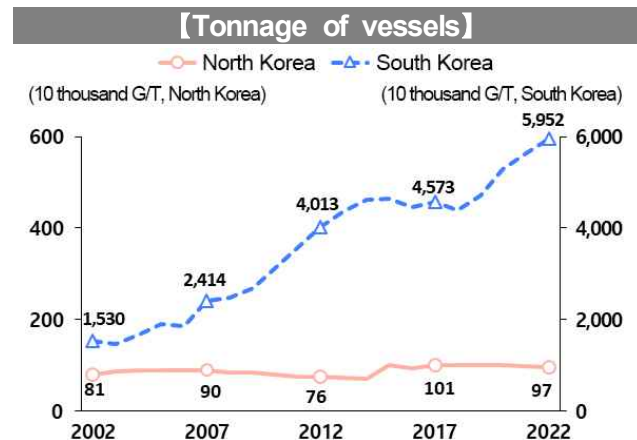
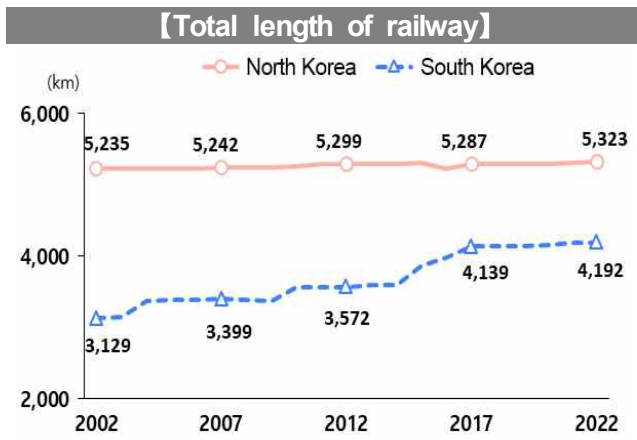
* Foreign trade of North Korea showed a slight recovery after a drastic drop owing to border closures resulting from COVID-19 in 2020.



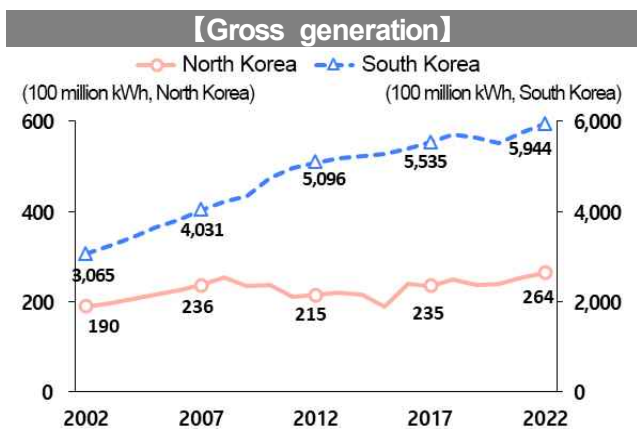
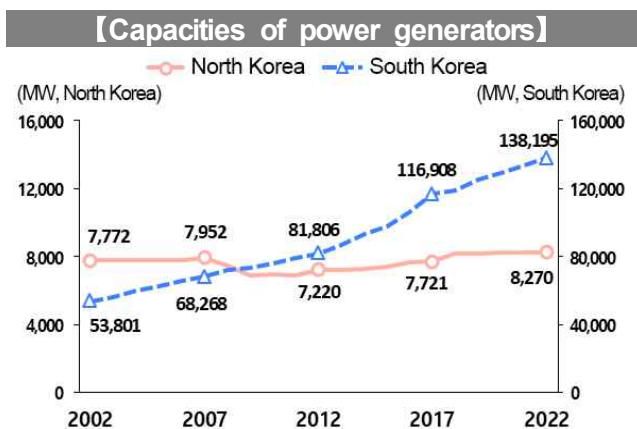
- In 2022, the exports of 'Ores, slag and ash' occupied the largest share at 28.0% of the total exports. The imports of 'mineral fuels and mineral oils' occupied the largest share at 36.4% of the total imports.
- In 2022, the trade value of North Korea with China recorded the highest share at 96.7%, which was followed by Vietnam (1.0%) and Argentina (0.8%)

□ (Transport and energy)

In 2022, the total length of railway of North Korea marked 5,323km, which was 1.3 times longer than that of South Korea (4,192km). The tonnage of vessels of North Korea marked 970 thousand G/T (Gross Tonnage), which stood at one 61st (1.6%) of that of South Korea (59.52 million G/T).



- In 2022, the capacities of power generators of North Korea totaled 8,270MW, which stood at one 17th (6.0%) of those of South Korea (138 thousand MW). The gross generation of North Korea totaled 26.4 billion kWh, which stood at one 23rd (4.4%) of that of South Korea (594.4 billion kWh).



□ (Education and diplomacy)

In 2022, the number of university students of North Korea was 185.0 persons per 10,000 population, which stood at one 3rd (34.4%) of that of South Korea (537.4 persons per 10,000 population).

- As of December 2023, North Korea had diplomatic relations with 159 countries.

※ South Korea has diplomatic relations with 192 countries.