Introduction
South Korea is a country in Eastern Asia occupying the southern half of the Korean Peninsula. It borders the Sea of Japan, the Yellow Sea, and North Korea. South Korea’s terrain is mostly mountainous. The government system is a republic; the chief of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister. South Korea has a mixed economic system which includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. South Korea is a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA).

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI): High Income Level of Development: Developed
GDP, PPP (current international $): $1,998.13 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %): 3.06% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international $): $38,824.12 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP): 27.57% (2017)
Current account balance (BoP, current US$): $75.23 billion (2017)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %): 1.94% (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate): 3.80% (2018)
Imports of goods and services (current US$): $576.91 billion (2017)

GDP Composition %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agriculture</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Manufacturing</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>28</td>
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</table>

*Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.

Rankings

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<th>Index</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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<td>Corruption Perceptions Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>EY Globalization Index</td>
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<td>Global Competitiveness Index</td>
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<td>Global Enabling Trade Index</td>
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<td>Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index (GMCI)</td>
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<td>Index of Economic Freedom</td>
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<td>International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)</td>
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<td>Inward FDI Potential Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>KOF Index of Globalization</td>
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<td>Networked Readiness Index (NRI)</td>
<td>13 / 139</td>
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<td>Open Budget Index</td>
<td>27 / 115</td>
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</tbody>
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Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)
Country rating: A2 - The political and economic situation is good. A basically stable and efficient business environment nonetheless leaves room for improvement. Corporate default probability is low on average.

Business Climate rating: A1 - The business environment is very good. Corporate financial information is available and reliable. Debt collection is efficient. Institutional quality is very good. Intercompany transactions run smoothly in environments rated A1.

Strengths
- Diversified industrial base
- Leader in high-end electronics
- Highly successful educational system
- High public R&D spending
- Increased investments in Asia

Weaknesses
- Increased competition from China (steel, shipbuilding, textiles)
- Weight of commodities imports
- High level of household indebtedness
- Ageing population
- High youth unemployment despite successful education system
- Unpredictability of the North Korean regime
- Proportion of chaebols in the economy

U.S. Embassy
U.S. Embassy Seoul
Seoul, Korea
188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu
Seoul, Korea
03141
Phone: 82-2-397-4114188
Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu
Seoul 110-710
Republic of Korea
Tel: 82-2-397-4114
https://kr.usembassy.gov