

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).



Location: Eastern Asia

Capital City: Seoul (+9 GMT)

Chief of State: President Yoon Suk Yeol

Head of Govt.: President Yoon Suk Yeol

Currency: South Korean won (KRW)

Major Languages: <p>Korean, English (widely taught in junior high and high school)</p>

Primary Religions: <p>Protestant 19.7%, Buddhist 15.5%, Catholic 7.9%, none 56.9% (2015 est.)</p>

Calling Code: 82

Voltage: 220

Key Websites

Main Government Page: english.president.go.kr

Commerce Ministry: mofa.go.kr

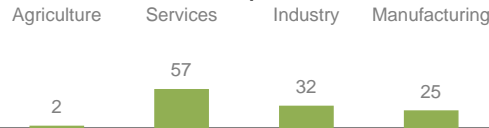
Export Promotion Agency: kotra.or.kr

Investment Promotion Agency: investkorea.org

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	High Income
Level of Development:	Developed
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$2,444.56 billion (2021)
GDP growth (annual %):	4.15% (2021)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$47,242.53 (2021)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	25.46% (2021)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	\$88.30 billion (2021)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	2.50% (2021)
Labor force, total:	28,673,669 (2021)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	3.53% (2021)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$696.44 billion (2021)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$761.24 billion (2021)

GDP Composition %



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

Rankings

Index	Rank
Corruption Perceptions Index	31 / 178
EY Globalization Index	33 / 60
Global Competitiveness Index	13 / 141
Global Enabling Trade Index	27 / 136
Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index (GMCI)	5 / 40
Global Services Location Index	41 / 60
Index of Economic Freedom	29 / 179
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	25 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	19 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	53 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	13 / 139
Open Budget Index	28 / 117

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: A3 - Changes in generally good but somewhat volatile political and economic environment can affect corporate payment behavior. A basically secure business environment can nonetheless give rise to occasional difficulties for companies. Corporate default probability is quite acceptable 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
- High private and public R&D spending
- Good educational system
- Diversified FDIs in Asia

Weaknesses

- Competition from China (steel, shipbuilding, electronics)
- High level of household debt
- Aging population
- High youth unemployment
- Net commodity importer
- Overrepresentation of chaebols in the economy
- Proximity to North Korea
- Increasing tensions with Japan

U.S. Embassy

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