



Korea, South



Background	An independent kingdom for much of its history, the southern half of the Korean Peninsula set up a democratic government after World War II. After fending off a North Korean invasion in 1950, South Korea achieved rapid economic growth and today is a fully functioning modern democracy.
Capital	name: Seoul
Government type	presidential republic
Area	total : 99,720 sq km land: 96,920 sq km water: 2,800 sq km
Climate	temperate, with rainfall heavier in summer than winter; cold winters
Natural resources	coal, tungsten, graphite, molybdenum, lead, hydropower potential
Population	total: 52,081,799 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.21% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	homogeneous
Religions	Protestant 17%, Buddhist 16%, Catholic 6%, none 60% (2021 est.)
Languages	Korean, English
Executive branch	chief of state: President LEE Jae-myung (since 4 June 2025) head of government: Prime Minister KIM Min-seok (since 3 July 2025)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires LEE Joon Ho (since 12 July 2025)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Ambassador Joseph (Joe) YUN (since January 2025)
Economic overview	high-income, export- and technology-oriented East Asian economy; manufacturing led by semiconductor and automotive industries; slow growth amid declining construction investment, export risks, and recent political instability; aging workforce; increased restraint in fiscal policy while maintaining industry support initiatives
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$2.607 trillion (2023 est.) \$2.572 trillion (2022 est.) \$2.507 trillion (2021 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$50,400 (2023 est.) \$49,800 (2022 est.) \$48,400 (2021 est.)

Exports	\$835.149 billion (2024 est.) \$769.243 billion (2023 est.) \$825.961 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	China 25%, USA 18%, Hong Kong 4%, Japan 4%, Taiwan 4% (2023)
Exports - commodities	integrated circuits, cars, refined petroleum, plastics, machine parts (2023)
Imports	\$758.724 billion (2024 est.) \$758.41 billion (2023 est.) \$817.594 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	China 31%, USA 13%, Japan 9%, Germany 5%, Australia 4% (2023)
Imports - commodities	integrated circuits, natural gas, crude petroleum, machinery, cars (2023)

Population Pyramid

