



SOUTH KOREA



GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President MOON Jae-in

Head of Government

Prime Minister LEE Nak-yon

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Seoul

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly or Kuk Hoe (300 seats)

Judiciary

Supreme Court of South Korea (consists of a chief justice and 13 justices); Constitutional Court (consists of a court head and 8 justices)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador CHO Yoon-je

US Ambassador

Ambassador Harry HARRIS

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

policies that favored saving and investment, and exports, over domestic consumption have lifted South Korea up from being one of the poorest countries in the world in the 1960s to one of the wealthiest today, creating one of the 20th century's most remarkable economic success stories

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$2.035 trillion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$39,500 (2017 est.)

Exports

\$577.4 billion (2017 est.)

partners: China 25.1%, US 12.2%, Vietnam 8.2%, Hong Kong 6.9%, Japan 4.7% (2017)

Imports

\$457.5 billion (2017 est.)

partners: China 20.5%, Japan 11.5%, US 10.5%, Germany 4.2%, Saudi Arabia 4.1% (2017)

GEOGRAPHY

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

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

51.4 million (July 2018 est.)

Population Growth

0.44% (2018 est.)

Ethnicity

homogenous

Language

Korean, English (widely taught in elementary, junior high, and high school)

Religion

Protestant 19.7%, Buddhist 15.5%, Catholic 7.9%, none 56.9% (2015 est.)

note: many people also carry on at least some Confucian traditions and practices

Urbanization

urban population: 81.4% of total population (2019)

rate of urbanization: 0.3% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

