

2013 Foreigner Labour Force Survey

The number of employed foreigners was 760 thousand persons in May 2013, which dropped by 31 thousand persons (-3.9%) from June 2012. The employment-population ratio for foreigners recorded 67.5 percent in May 2013, down 3.5%p from June 2012.

- As of May 2013, the number of foreigners aged 15 and more who resided in Korea was 1,126 thousand persons. The employed foreigners amounted to 760 thousand persons. The unemployed foreigners amounted to 33 thousand persons. The economically inactive population for foreigners amounted to 333 thousand persons.
- The labour force participation rate for foreigners stood at 70.4 percent. The employment-population ratio for foreigners stood at 67.5 percent. The unemployment rate for foreigners stood at 4.2 percent.
- The number of employed foreigners recorded the level of 3.0 percent of the total employed persons in Korea. The number of employed persons (Koreans + foreigners) in Korea was 25,398 thousand persons, according to the Economically Active Population Survey in May 2013.
- Compared to June 2012, the number of foreigners aged 15 or more who resided in Korea grew by 12 thousand persons (1.1%). The employed foreigners fell by 31 thousand persons (-3.9%). The employment-population ratio declined by 3.5%p.

< Economically active population for foreigners >

(Unit: thousand persons, %)

Classification	Population aged 15 and more	Economically active population			Economically inactive population	Labour force participation rate (%)	Employment -population ratio (%)	Unemployment rate (%)
		Employed persons	Unemployed persons					
Economically Active Population Survey ¹⁾	42,047	26,195	25,398	797	15,853	62.3	60.4	3
Males (Share)	20,557 (48.9)	15,195 (58.0)	14,715 (57.9)	480 (60.2)	5,362 (33.8)	73.9	71.6	3.2
Females (Share)	21,490 (51.1)	11,000 (42.0)	10,683 (42.1)	317 (39.8)	10,490 (66.2)	51.2	49.7	2.9
Foreigner Labour Force Survey	1,126	793	760	33	333	70.4	67.5	4.2
Males (Share)	624 (55.4)	522 (65.9)	505 (66.4)	17 (52.7)	102 (30.6)	83.7	80.9	3.3
Females (Share)	502 (44.6)	271 (34.1)	255 (33.6)	16 (47.3)	231 (69.4)	54.0	50.8	5.8

1) Source: Economically Active Population Survey in May 2013, which was released on June 12, 2013

As for the employed foreigners by industry, the number of employed foreigners in 'Manufacturing' showed an increase. In the meantime, the number of employed foreigners in 'Construction', 'Wholesale & Retail Trade and Hotels and Restaurants' and 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' showed a decrease. As for the employed foreigners by occupation, 'Elementary workers' showed a rise, while 'Craft workers and machine operating & assembling workers' showed a drop.

- As for the employed foreigners by industry, foreigners in 'Manufacturing' amounted to 377 thousand persons. This figure was followed by 'Business, Personal and Public Services' (138 thousand persons), 'Wholesale & Retail Trade and Hotels and Restaurants' (137 thousand persons) and 'Construction' (64 thousand persons).
- Compared to June 2012, foreigners in 'Mining and Manufacturing' and 'Business, Personal and Public Services' rose by 9 thousand persons and 2 thousand persons, respectively. Foreigners in 'Construction' and 'Wholesale & Retail Trade and Hotels and Restaurants' and 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' fell by 21 thousand persons, 12 thousand persons and 8 thousand persons, respectively.
- As for the employed foreigners by occupation, 'Craft workers and machine operating & assembling workers' amounted to 284 thousand persons. This figure was followed by 'Elementary workers' (250 thousand persons), 'Managers and professionals and related workers' (93 thousand persons) and 'Service workers and sales workers' (87 thousand persons).
- Compared to June 2012, 'Elementary workers', 'Clerks' and 'Managers and professionals and related workers' rose by 11 thousand persons, 4 thousand persons and 2 thousand persons, respectively. 'Craft workers and machine operating & assembling workers', 'Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers' fell by 46 thousand persons and 1 thousand persons, respectively.

As for the employed foreigners by status of sojourn, 'Non-professional employment (E-9)', 'Working visit (H-2)' and 'Overseas Koreans (F-4)' occupied the majority of the employed foreigners. Compared to June 2012, 'Overseas Koreans (F-4)' and 'Permanent residence (F-5)' recorded an increase, while 'Working visit (H-2)' and 'Non-professional employment (E-9)' recorded a decrease.

- As for the employed foreigners by status of sojourn, 'Non-professional employment' amounted to 226 thousand persons. This figure was followed by 'Working visit' (186 thousand persons), 'Overseas Koreans' (124 thousand persons) and 'Permanent residence' (58 thousand persons) and 'Marriage immigrants' (58 thousand persons).
- Compared to June 2012, 'Overseas Koreans' and 'Permanent residence' rose by 25 thousand persons and 11 thousand persons, respectively. 'Working visit' and 'Non-professional employment' fell by 55 thousand persons and 12 thousand persons, respectively.

- As for the employed foreigners by nationality, Korean Chinese amounted to 331 thousand persons. This figure was followed by Vietnamese (76 thousand persons), Chinese (excluding Korean Chinese) (55 thousand persons), Americans & Canadians (47 thousand persons) and Indonesians (29 thousand persons).
- Compared to June 2012, Europeans and Americans & Canadians rose by 2 thousand persons and 1 thousand persons, respectively. Korean Chinese, Vietnamese and Mongolian people dropped by 26 thousand persons, 6 thousand persons and 3 thousand persons, respectively.

As for the employed foreigners by employment status, the regular employees occupied the largest share. As for the wage & salary workers by monthly average wages, foreigners earning 1 million won to less than 2 million won occupied the largest share.

- As for the employed foreigners by employment status, the regular employees amounted to 472 thousand persons. Temporary and daily workers amounted to 263 thousand persons. Self-employment workers amounted to 25 thousand persons.
- As for the employed foreigners by age group, foreign workers aged 20 to 29 amounted to 222 thousand persons. Foreign workers aged 30 to 39 amounted to 218 thousand persons. Foreign workers aged 40 to 49 amounted to 168 thousand persons. Foreign workers aged 50 to 59 amounted to 116 thousand persons.
- As for the average hours worked per week, foreigners working 40 hours to less than 50 hours occupied 34.9 percent. Foreigners working 60 hours or more occupied 30.7 percent. Foreigners working 50 hours to less than 60 hours occupied 21.4 percent.
- As for the size of workers, 195 thousand foreigners worked for establishments with 10 to 29 workers. 156 thousand foreigners worked for establishments with 1 to 4 workers. 148 thousand foreigners worked for establishments with 5 to 9 workers.
- As for the monthly average wages, foreigners earning 1 million won to less than 2 million won occupied 65.7 percent. This figure was followed by those earning 2 million won to less than 3 million won (21.7%) and those earning 3 million won or more (6.9%).

The economically inactive population for foreigners was 333 thousand persons in May 2013, which increased by 43 thousand persons (14.8%) from June 2012. Their economic inactivities were mainly due to 'Child care and home duties', 'Rested' and 'Attending a regular school'.

- The economically inactive population for foreigners was 333 thousand persons in May 2013, which increased by 43 thousand persons (14.8%) from 290 thousand persons in June 2012.

- As for reasons for economic inactivities, 'Child care and home duties' amounted to 133 thousand persons, which occupied 39.9 percent of the economically inactive population for foreigners. 'Rested' amounted to 88 thousand persons, which occupied 26.3 percent of the economically inactive population for foreigners. 'Attending a regular school' amounted to 77 thousand persons, which occupied 23.3 percent of the economically inactive population for foreigners.

As for the total length of stay in Korea, foreigners staying for 1 year to less than 5 years accounted for 56.4 percent. Foreigners who had ever stayed in other countries (excluding Korea) for the past year accounted for 25.8 percent. Most of them stayed for less than 3 months.

- Foreigners staying for 1 year to less than 3 years in Korea accounted for 35.1 percent. This share was followed by those staying for 3 years to less than 5 years (21.3%), those staying for 5 years to less than 10 years (20.3%) and those staying for 10 years or more (11.0%).
- 25.8 percent of foreigners had ever stayed in other countries (excluding Korea) for the past year (May 19, 2012 ~ May 18, 2013), while 74.2 percent of them had never stayed in other countries.
- As for foreigners who had stayed in other countries (excluding Korea), foreigners staying for less than 1 month occupied 46.6 percent. This share was followed by those staying for 1 month to less than 3 months (32.3%) and 3 months to less than 6 months (13.1%).
- 22.9 percent of foreigners changed their status of sojourn, while 77.1 percent of them didn't change their status of sojourn.
- After the expiration of the current sojourn status, 85.5 percent of foreigners wanted to stay in Korea, while 14.5 percent of them wanted to leave Korea.

For the past year, 28.3 percent of foreign students had ever worked in Korea. After graduation, 56.4 percent of foreign students wanted to stay in Korea.

- For the past year (May 19, 2012 ~ May 18, 2013), 28.3 percent of foreign students had ever worked, while 71.7 percent of them had never worked.
- After graduation, 56.4 percent of foreign students wanted to stay in Korea, while 43.6 percent of them wanted to leave Korea.
- As for foreign students who wanted to stay in Korea after graduation, 33.1 percent of them wanted to have a job in Korea. 22.9 percent of them wanted to get more education. As for foreign students who wanted to leave Korea after graduation, 95.0 of them wanted to return to their own country.