



2018 Survey on Immigrants' Living Conditions and Labour Force

1. Economically active population

(Employed immigrants)

Based on the de jure population as of May 2018, the number of employed foreigners was 884 thousand persons. Their employment-population ratio stood at 68.0%. The number of employed Koreans who were naturalized for the past 5 years was 35 thousand persons. Their employment-population ratio stood at 66.2%.

* According to the Economically Active Population Survey, the employment-population of Koreans stood at 61.3% in May 2018.

- Compared to 2017, the number of employed foreigners increased by 50 thousand persons (6.0%). Their employment-population ratio fell by 0.1%p.
- As for employed immigrants by nationality, Korean-Chinese occupied the largest share.
 - Among employed foreigners, Korean-Chinese accounted for 42.7%, recording 378 thousand persons. Among employed naturalized Koreans, Korean-Chinese accounted for 38.2%, recording 13 thousand persons.
- As for employed immigrants by industry, 'Mining and Manufacturing' showed the highest share. (Foreigners: 45.8%, Naturalized Koreans: 37.0%)
- As for employed immigrants by status of workers, regular workers occupied the highest share. (Foreigners: 56.1%, Naturalized Koreans: 43.4%)
- As for employed immigrants by weekly hours worked, '40 hours ~ less than 50 hours' occupied the highest share. (Foreigners: 46.4%, Naturalized Koreans: 48.3%)

(Wage and salary of foreigners)

The share of wage and salary immigrant workers earning '2 million won or more' rose by 4.8%p from 57.3% in 2017 to 62.1% in 2018. The share of wage and salary immigrant workers earning 'less than 2 million won' fell by 4.8%p from 42.7% in 2017 to 37.9% in 2018.

(Unemployed immigrants)

Based on the de jure population as of May 2018, the number of unemployed foreigners was 45 thousand persons. Their unemployment rate marked 4.8%. The number of unemployed Koreans who were naturalized for the past 5 years was 2 thousand persons. Their unemployment rate marked 4.7%.

* According to the Economically Active Population Survey, the unemployment rate stood at 4.0% in May 2018.

- Compared to 2017, the number of unemployed foreigners grew by 10 thousand (29.9%). Their unemployment rate went up by 0.8%p.
- As for unemployed immigrants by job-seeking method, 'Relatives, friends or peers' occupied the highest share of foreigners (61.6%) and naturalized Koreans (52.9%).

2. Immigrants' living conditions

(Nationality)

Based on the de jure population as of May 2018, Korean-Chinese occupied the highest share of foreigners (40.1%) and naturalized Koreans (37.3%).

< Share of de jure immigrants by nationality >

	Population aged 15 or more	Asia					Non-Asia
		Asia	Korean-Chinese	China	Vietnam	Other countries in Asia	
Foreigners	100.0%	91.8%	40.1%	10.5%	11.5%	29.7%	8.2%
Naturalized Koreans*	100.0%	98.7%	37.3%	12.6%	33.8%	14.7%	1.3%

* Refer to nationality prior to naturalization

(Health)

As for overall health status, 'Being good' occupied the largest share of foreigners (72.1%) and naturalized Koreans (64.4%).

(Informatization)

74.5% of foreigners and 76.7% of naturalized Koreans used the Internet.

- As for the main use of the Internet, 'News and information browsing' occupied the highest share of foreigners (57.2%). 'Chat' (Kakao Talk, etc.) occupied the highest share of naturalized Koreans (61.3%).

(Life satisfaction in Korea)

As for overall life satisfaction in Korea, 'Being satisfied' occupied the largest share of foreigners (79.2%) and naturalized Koreans (77.4%).

○ (Satisfaction with job)

As for satisfaction with occupation, 'Being satisfied' occupied the largest share of foreigners (69.0%) and naturalized Koreans (60.3%).

○ (Satisfaction with income)

As for satisfaction with income, 'Being satisfied' occupied the largest share of foreigners (59.3%) and naturalized Koreans (43.6%).

○ (Satisfaction with living environment)

As for satisfaction with living conditions, 'Being satisfied' occupied the largest share of foreigners (77.6%) and naturalized Koreans (77.1%).

(Korean language skills)

As for Korean language proficiency including speaking, listening, reading and writing, 'Being very proficient' occupied the largest share of foreigners and naturalized Koreans.

(Continuous sojourn)

85.2% of foreigners (excluding permanent residents) wanted to stay in Korea continuously even after the expiration of sojourn. As for the method to extend sojourn, 'Extension of stay' occupied the highest share at 52.7%, which was followed by 'Obtaining permanent residency' (13.7%) and 'Acquisition of Korean citizenship' (10.5%).

3. Foreigners of Korean descent with the status of 'Work and Visit' (H-2) and 'Overseas Korean' (F-4)

(Foreigners of Korean descent by age group)

As of May 2018, as for foreigners of Korean descent with the status of 'Work and Visit' (H-2) by age group, '50-59' occupied the highest share at 43.6%. As for foreigners of Korean descent with the status of 'Overseas Korean' (F-4) by age group, '60 or more' occupied the highest share at 35.6%.

(Foreigners of Korean descent by industry)

As for foreigners of Korean descent with the status of 'Work and Visit' (H-2) by industry, 'Construction' occupied the highest share at 33.1%, which was followed by 'Wholesale and Retail Trade & Accommodation and Food Service Activities' (26.6%). As for foreigners of Korean descent with the status of 'Overseas Korean' (F-4) by industry, 'Mining and Manufacturing' occupied the highest share at 40.2%, which was followed by 'Others' (24.2%).

(Residence region)

The largest share of foreigners of Korean descent with the status of 'Work and Visit' (H-2) (44.3%) and 'Overseas Korean' (F-4) (41.6%) resided in Gyeonggi.

(Employment experience by status of sojourn)

85.9% of the foreigners of Korean descent with the status of 'Overseas Korean' (F-4) who had been employed in Korea had been employed as the status of 'Work and Visit' as well as the status of 'Overseas Korean'.

- When foreigners of Korean descent changed their status from 'Work and Visit' to 'Overseas Korean', as for the change in the difficulty of duties, 74.1% of them were responsible for the same duties. As for the change in wages or remuneration, 65.6% of them earned the same level of wages or remuneration.