



2019 Survey on Immigrants' Living Conditions and Labour Force

- The number of de jure foreigners was 1.323 million persons in 2019, rising by 22 thousand persons from 2018. The number of Koreans who were naturalized for the past 5 years was 49 thousand persons in 2019, falling by 4 thousand persons from 2018.
- The employment-population ratio of foreigners stood at 65.3% in 2019, dropping by 2.7%p from 2018. The employment-population ratio of naturalized Koreans stood at 64.8% in 2019, dropping by 1.4%p from 2018.
- The unemployment rate of foreigners stood at 5.5% in 2019, rising by 0.7%p from 2018. The unemployment rate of naturalized Koreans stood at 6.0% in 2019, rising by 1.3%p from 2018.

1. De jure immigrants

(Foreigners)

Based on the de jure population as of May 2019, the number of foreigners aged 15 or more was 1.323 million persons, rising by 22 thousand persons (1.7%) from the previous year.

- As for foreigners by nationality, Vietnam and 'Other countries in Asia' increased by 17 thousand persons (11.3%) and 12 thousand persons (3.2%), respectively. Whereas, Korean-Chinese dropped by 14 thousand persons (-2.8%).
- As for foreigners by status of sojourn, 'Student' (22 thousand persons, 18.0%), 'Overseas Korean' (6 thousand persons, 1.9%), 'Professional Staff' (1 thousand persons, 3.8%), 'Marriage Migrant' (1 thousand persons, 1.0%) and 'Other' (2 thousand persons, 1.5%) recorded a year-on-year increase.
- 'Work and Visit' (-9 thousand persons, -4.3%) and 'Non-professional Employment' (-1 thousand persons, -0.4%) recorded a year-on-year decrease.

< De jure foreigners by nationality >

(Unit: thousand persons, %)

	Population aged 15 or more	Asia					Non-Asia
		Asia	Korean-Chinese	China	Vietnam	Other countries in Asia	
May 2018.	1,300.8	1,193.9	521.0	137.0	149.1	386.8	106.8
May 2019.	1,322.6	1,208.0	506.6	136.3	165.9	399.2	114.6
Change from the previous year	21.8	14.1	-14.4	-0.7	16.8	12.4	7.8
Percent change	1.7	1.2	-2.8	-0.5	11.3	3.2	7.3

(Naturalized Koreans)

Based on the de jure population as of May 2019, the number of Koreans aged 15 or more who were naturalized for the past 5 years was 49 thousand persons, falling by 4 thousand persons (-6.7%) from 2018.

- As for nationality prior to naturalization, Vietnam (-2 thousand persons, -9.6%), Korean-Chinese (-0.5 thousand persons, -2.6%), China (-0.5 thousand persons, -7.6%) and 'Other countries in Asia' (-0.5 thousand persons, -6.5%) showed a year-on-year decrease.

2. Major employment indicators

(Economically active population)

The economically active foreigners totaled 914 thousand persons in 2019, which declined by 16 thousand persons (-1.7%) from 2018. Their labor force participation rate stood at 69.1% in 2019, down 2.3%p from 2018.

- The economically active naturalized Koreans totaled 34 thousand persons in 2019, which decreased by 3 thousand persons (-7.4%) from 2018. Their labor force participation rate stood at 68.9% in 2019, down by 0.5%p from 2018.

(Employed immigrants)

The number of employed foreigners was 863 thousand persons in 2019, which declined by 21 thousand persons (-2.4%) from 2018. The employment-population ratio of foreigners stood at 65.3% in 2019, dropping by 2.7%p from 2018.

- The number of naturalized Koreans was 32 thousand persons in 2019, which decreased by 3 thousand persons (-8.7%) from 2018. The employment-population ratio of naturalized Koreans stood at 64.8% in 2019, dropping by 1.4%p from 2018.

□ **(Employed immigrants by status of sojourn)**

As for employed foreigners by status of sojourn, 'Student' and 'Professional Staff' grew by 3 thousand persons (17.3%) and 2 thousand persons (4.9%), respectively, compared to the previous year. Whereas, 'Work and Visit', 'Overseas Korean' and 'Marriage Migrant' fell by 12 thousand persons (-7.3%), 5 thousand persons (-2.3%) and 4 thousand persons (-6.5%), respectively, compared to the previous year.

□ **(Employed immigrants by industry)**

As for employed foreigners by industry, 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' and 'Wholesale & Retail Trade, and Accommodation & Food Service Activities' increased by 3 thousand persons (5.3%) and 1 thousand persons (0.8%), respectively, compared to the previous year. In the meantime, 'Construction', 'Mining and Manufacturing' and 'Business, Personal and Public Services' decreased by 16 thousand persons (-14.2%), 6 thousand persons (-1.4%) and 4 thousand persons (-2.5%), respectively, compared to the previous year.

- As for employed naturalized Koreans by industry, 'Mining and Manufacturing', 'Wholesale & Retail Trade, and Accommodation & Food Service Activities' and 'Business, Personal and Public Services' decreased by 1 thousand persons (-8.6%), 0.8 thousand persons (-7.6%) and 0.8 thousand persons (-12.1%), respectively, compared to the previous year.

□ **(Wage and salary of foreigners)**

The share of wage and salary immigrant workers earning '2 million won or more' rose by 5.5%p to 67.6% in 2019. The share of wage and salary immigrant workers earning 'less than 2 million won' fell by 5.5%p to 32.4% in 2019.

□ **(Unemployed immigrants)**

The number of unemployed foreigners was 50 thousand persons in 2019, rising by 6 thousand persons (12.3%) from 2018. Their unemployment rate marked 5.5% in 2019, up 0.7%p from 2018.

- The number of unemployed naturalized Koreans was 2 thousand persons in 2019, which went up by 0.3 thousand persons (17.6%) from 2018. Their unemployment rate marked 6.0% in 2019, up 1.3%p from 2018.

□ **(Economically inactive immigrants)**

The economically inactive foreigners totaled 409 thousand persons in 2019, rising by 37 thousand persons (10.0%) from 2018. The economically inactive naturalized Koreans totaled 15 thousand persons in 2019, falling by 0.8 thousand persons (-5.0%) from 2018.

3. Immigrant's living conditions

(Total income)

As for monthly average income for the past 1 year, the largest share of foreigners (35.0%) recorded '2 million ~ less than 3 million won'. The largest share of naturalized Koreans (31.4%) recorded '1 million ~ less than 2 million won'.

(Share of expenditure among the total income)

As for foreigners' expenditure among the total income, 'Living expenses' occupied the largest share at 41.6%, which was followed by 'Wire transfers' (24.4%) and 'Savings' (14.2%). As for naturalized Koreans' expenditure among the total income, 'Living expenses' occupied the largest share at 53.4%, which was followed by 'Savings' (20.2%) and 'Housing expenses' (10.4%).

(Money wiring)

38.3% of foreigners and 20.1% of naturalized Koreans wired money to family members or relatives living outside Korea.

(Continuous sojourn)

85.1% of foreigners (excluding permanent residents) wanted to stay in Korea continuously even after the expiration of sojourn.

(Method to extend sojourn)

As for the method to extend sojourn, 'Extension of stay' occupied the highest share at 51.0%, which was followed by 'Obtaining permanent residency' (17.2%) and 'Acquiring Korean citizenship' (11.3%).

4. Supplementary results of foreigners with the status of 'Permanent Resident (F-5)' and naturalized Koreans

(Permanent Resident)

As of May 2019, the number of foreigners with the status of 'Permanent Resident (F-5)' was 104 thousand persons.

(Class consciousness)

As for class consciousness regarding social class or economic rank in society when considering income, occupation, education, etc., 'Middle class' occupied the highest share at 57.7%, which was followed by 'Bottom class' (40.7%) and 'Top class' (1.6%).

○ (Class mobility)

As for the class mobility of foreigners with the status of 'Permanent Resident (F-5)' and naturalized Koreans, 'Low possibility of class mobility during their generation' occupied the highest share at 46.6%, which was followed by 'High possibility of class mobility during their generation' (43.7%). As for the class mobility of foreigners with the status of 'Permanent Resident (F-5)' and naturalized Koreans, 'High possibility of class mobility during the next generation' occupied the highest share at 54.2%, which was followed by 'Low possibility of class mobility during the next generation' (33.7%).

□ (Residence country to be desired)

The largest share (76.1%) of foreigners with the status of 'Permanent Resident (F-5)' and naturalized Koreans wanted to reside in Korea in the future, which was followed by 'Coming and going between Korea and their home country' (18.8%) and 'Home country' (3.9%) and 'A country other than Korea or their home country' (1.2%).

□ (Plan to acquire Korean citizenship)

59.1% of foreigners with the status of 'Permanent Resident (F-5)' planned to acquire Korean citizenship. As for the reason for not planning to acquire Korean citizenship, 'No need to acquire Korean citizenship' occupied the highest share at 13.6%.