



# 2020 Survey on Immigrants' Living Conditions and Labour Force

- The number of de jure foreigners was 1.332 million persons in 2020, rising by 9 thousand persons from 2019. The number of Koreans who were naturalized for the past 5 years was 49 thousand persons in 2020, falling by 0.2 thousand persons from 2019.
- The employment-population ratio of foreigners stood at 63.7% in 2020, dropping by 1.6%p from 2019. The employment-population ratio of naturalized Koreans stood at 59.1% in 2020, dropping by 5.7%p from 2019.
- The unemployment rate of foreigners stood at 7.6% in 2020, rising by 2.1%p from 2019. The unemployment rate of naturalized Koreans stood at 7.7% in 2020, rising by 1.7%p from 2019.

## 1. De jure immigrants

### (Foreigners)

Based on the de jure population, the number of foreigners aged 15 or more was 1.332 million persons as of May 2020, rising by 9 thousand persons (0.7%) from the previous year.

- As for foreigners by nationality, 'Non-Asia countries' and 'Other countries in Asia' increased by 17 thousand persons (14.5%) and 11 thousand persons (2.8%), respectively. Whereas, Korean-Chinese and China dropped by 16 thousand persons (-3.2%) and 9 thousand persons (-6.3%), respectively.
- As for foreigners by status of sojourn, 'Overseas Korean' (23 thousand persons, 7.5%), 'Other' (17 thousand persons, 11.2%), 'Marriage Migrant' (12 thousand persons, 10.8%) and 'Permanent Residency' (11 thousand persons, 10.6%) recorded a year-on-year increase.
  - 'Work and Visit' (-40 thousand persons, -20.0%) and 'Non-professional Employment' (-9 thousand persons, -3.5%) recorded a year-on-year decrease.

< De jure foreigners by nationality >

(Unit: thousand persons, %)

	Population aged 15 or more	Asia					Other countries in Asia	Non-Asia
		Asia	Korean-Chinese	China	Vietnam			
May 2019	1,322.6	1,208.0	506.6	136.3	165.9	399.2	114.6	
May 2020	1,331.8	1,200.6	490.5	127.7	172.0	410.4	131.2	
Change from the previous year	9.2	-7.4	-16.1	-8.6	6.1	11.2	16.6	
Percent change	0.7	-0.6	-3.2	-6.3	3.7	2.8	14.5	

**(Naturalized Koreans)**

Based on the de jure population, the number of Koreans aged 15 or more who were naturalized for the past 5 years was 49 thousand persons as of May 2020, falling by 0.2 thousand persons (-0.4%) from 2019.

- As for nationality prior to naturalization, Vietnam (2 thousand persons, 14.4%) and 'Other countries in Asia' (0.2 thousand persons, 2.8%) showed a year-on-year increase. In the meantime, Korean-Chinese (-2 thousand persons, -10.5%), China (-0.9 thousand persons, -14.8%) showed a year-on-year decrease.

## 2. Major employment indicators

**(Economically active population)**

The economically active foreigners totaled 917 thousand persons in 2020, which grew by 4 thousand persons (0.4%) from 2019. Their labor force participation rate stood at 68.9% in 2020, down 0.2%p from 2019.

- The economically active naturalized Koreans totaled 31 thousand persons in 2020, which decreased by 3 thousand persons (-7.4%) from 2019. Their labor force participation rate stood at 64.0% in 2020, down by 4.9%p from 2019.

**(Employed immigrants)**

The number of employed foreigners was 848 thousand persons in 2020, which declined by 15 thousand persons (-1.8%) from 2019. The employment-population ratio of foreigners stood at 63.7% in 2020, dropping by 1.6%p from 2019.

- The number of naturalized Koreans was 29 thousand persons in 2020, which decreased by 3 thousand persons (-9.2%) from 2019. The employment-population ratio of naturalized Koreans stood at 59.1% in 2020, dropping by 5.7%p from 2019.

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

As for employed foreigners by status of sojourn, 'Overseas Korean', 'Other' and 'Marriage Migrant' grew by 11 thousand persons (5.4%), 11 thousand persons (20.3%) and 6 thousand persons (10.1%), respectively, from 2019. Whereas, 'Work and Visit' and 'Non-professional Employment' fell by 41 thousand persons (-25.9%) and 10 thousand persons (-3.7%), respectively, from 2019.

**(Employed immigrants by industry)**

As for employed foreigners by industry, 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' and 'Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply, Transportation and Storage, Information and Communications, and Financial and Insurance Activities' increased by 5 thousand persons (9.2%) and 5 thousand persons (37.1%), respectively, compared to the previous year. In the meantime, 'Mining and Manufacturing' and 'Construction' decreased by 20 thousand persons (-5.0%) and 10 thousand persons (-10.0%), respectively, compared to the previous year.

- As for employed naturalized Koreans by industry, 'Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply, Transportation and Storage, Information and Communications, and Financial and Insurance Activities' grew by 0.2 thousand persons (25.0%) compared to the previous year. Whereas, 'Wholesale & Retail Trade, and Accommodation & Food Service Activities' and 'Business, Personal and Public Services' decreased by 1 thousand persons (-13.4%) and 0.7 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' dropped by 0.1%p to 67.5% in 2020. The share of wage and salary immigrant workers earning 'less than 2 million won' fell by 0.1%p to 32.5% in 2020.

**(Unemployed immigrants)**

The number of unemployed foreigners was 70 thousand persons in 2020, rising by 19 thousand persons (38.2%) from 2019. Their unemployment rate marked 7.6% in 2020, up 2.1%p from 2019.

- The number of unemployed naturalized Koreans was 2 thousand persons in 2020, which went up by 0.4 thousand persons (20.0%) from 2019. Their unemployment rate marked 7.7% in 2020, up 1.7%p from 2019.

**(Economically inactive immigrants)**

The economically inactive foreigners totaled 414 thousand persons in 2020, rising by 5 thousand persons (1.3%) from 2019. The economically inactive naturalized Koreans totaled 17 thousand persons in 2020, rising by 2 thousand persons (14.5%) from 2019.

### 3. Immigrant's living conditions

**(Health)**

The largest share of foreigners (73.2%) and naturalized Koreans (65.6%) thought that they were healthy.

**(Satisfaction with life in Korea)**

The largest share of foreigners (81.0%) and naturalized Koreans (81.5%) were satisfied with their life in Korea.

**(Discrimination experience)**

20.3% of foreigners and 24.1% of naturalized Koreans experienced discrimination for the past 1 year. The main reason for discrimination was their country of origin.

**(Korean language proficiency)**

Regarding the Korean language proficiency of speaking, listening, reading and writing, the largest share of foreigners and the largest share of naturalized Koreans thought that their Korean language proficiency was very good.

**(Continuous sojourn)**

86.5% of foreigners (excluding permanent residents (F-5)) 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 54.5%, which was followed by 'Obtaining permanent residency' (14.3%) and 'Acquiring Korean citizenship' (10.3%).

### 4. Foreigners with the status of 'Non-professional Employment (E-9)'

**(Nationality)**

As of May 2020, as for the nationality of foreigners with the status of 'Non-professional Employment (E-9)', Cambodia occupied the largest share at 13.7%. This share was followed by Vietnam (13.5%), Nepal (13.0%), Indonesia (10.3%) and Thailand (9.5%).

**(Reason for choosing Korea)**

Regarding the reasons for choosing Korea as a place to work abroad, the largest share of immigrants mentioned 'High wages' (70.9%), which was followed by 'Good working environment' (10.7%).

**(Injury experience)**

6.0% of foreigners with the status of 'Non-professional Employment' experienced injury while working. The main reason for getting injured was 'Mistake' (56.3%).

## 5. Foreigners with the status of 'Student (D-2, D-4-1, D-4-7]'

**(Nationality)**

As of May 2020, as for the nationality of foreigners with the status of 'Student (D-2, D-4-1, D-4-7)', Vietnam occupied the largest share at 39.9%. This share was followed by China (28.1%).

**(Reason for choosing Korea)**

Regarding the reasons for choosing Korea as a place to study abroad, the largest share of students mentioned 'Excellent curriculum' (25.8%). This share was followed by 'Good match between the major in Korea and the field of interest' (21.8%) and 'To get a degree in Korea is helpful when getting a job' (13.4%).