



Statistics Korea

Press Release

다시 대한민국!
새로운 국민의 나라

Embargo

12:00 P.M., Dec. 18, 2023

Embargo

8:30 A.M., Dec. 18, 2023

2023 Survey on Immigrants' Living Conditions and Labour Force

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2023 Survey on Immigrants' Living Conditions and Labour Force

(Foreigners)

The number of de jure foreigners was 1.43 million persons in 2023, which rose by 129 thousand persons (9.9%) from 2022.

(Employment-to-population ratio)

The employment-to-population ratio of foreigners stood at 64.5%, down 0.3%p from 2022. The employed foreigners marked 923 thousand persons, which rose by 80 thousand persons from 2022.

- As for foreigners by status of sojourn, 'Non-professional employment', 'Professional employment' and 'Student' grew by 59 thousand persons, 6 thousand persons and 5 thousand persons, respectively, from 2022.

(Unemployment rate)

The unemployment rate of foreigners stood at 5.4%, up 1.2%p from 2022. The unemployed foreigners marked 52 thousand persons, which grew by 16 thousand persons from 2022.

(Economically inactive population)

The economically inactive population was 455 thousand persons, which rose by 33 thousand persons from 2022.

(Naturalized Koreans)

The number of de jure naturalized Koreans was 51 thousand persons, which fell by 1 thousand persons from 2022.

(Employment-to-population ratio)

The employment-to-population ratio of naturalized Koreans stood at 67.4%, up 2.1%p from 2022. The employed naturalized Koreans marked 34 thousand persons, which remained the same as 2022.

1. De jure population

(Foreigners)

As of May 2023, the number of de jure foreigners aged 15 or more in Korea was 1.43 million persons, which rose by 129 thousand persons (9.9%) year-on-year. The number of male and female foreigners was 813 thousand persons (56.8%) and 617 thousand persons (43.2%), respectively.

(By nationality)

As for foreigners by nationality, Vietnamese and Chinese* nationals increased by 32 thousand persons and 5 thousand persons, respectively, year-on-year. Whereas, Korean Chinese nationals decreased by 7 thousand persons year-on-year.

○ **(By status of sojourn)**

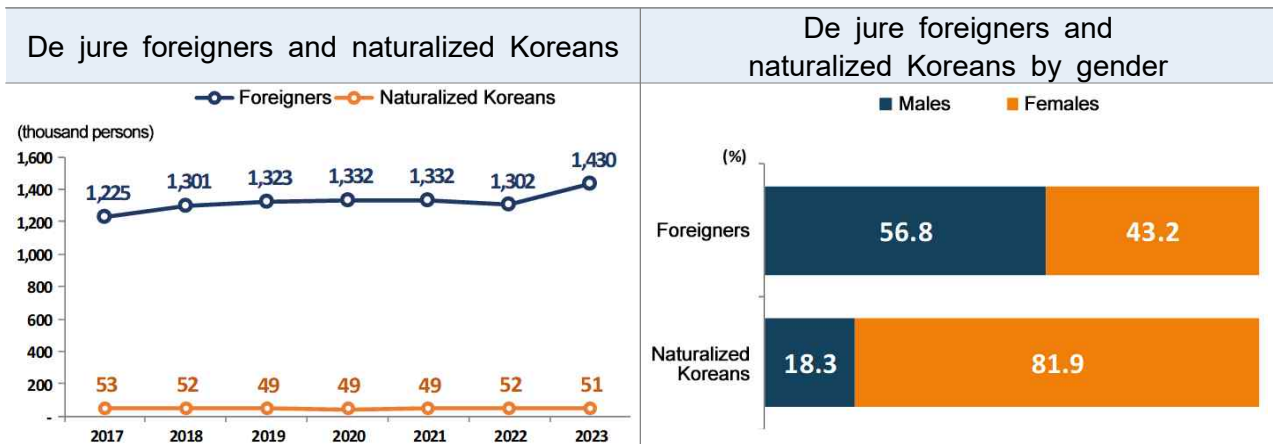
As for foreigners by status of sojourn, 'Non-professional employment' and 'Student' increased by 60 thousand persons and 25 thousand persons, respectively, year-on-year. Whereas, 'Work and visit' and 'Marriage immigrant' decreased by 10 thousand persons and 3 thousand persons, respectively, year-on-year.

○ **(By age group)**

As for foreigners by age group, those aged 15~29, those aged 30~39 and those aged 60 or more grew by 70 thousand persons, 33 thousand persons and 18 thousand persons, respectively, year-on-year. Whereas, those aged 50~59 dropped by 5 thousand persons year-on-year.

□ **(Naturalized Koreans)**

As of May 2023, the number of Koreans aged 15 or more who were naturalized for the past 5 years was 51 thousand persons, dropping by 1 thousand persons (-2.5%) year-on-year. The number of male and female naturalized Koreans was 9 thousand persons (18.3%) and 42 thousand persons (81.9%), respectively.



2. Major employment indicators

□ **Foreigners**

○ **(Labor force participation rate)**

The labor force participation rate of foreigners stood at 68.2% in 2023, up 0.6%p from 2022. The economically active foreigners marked 975 thousand persons in 2023, which rose by 95 thousand persons from 2022.

○ **(Employment-to-population ratio)**

The employment-to-population ratio of foreigners stood at 64.5% in 2023, down 0.3%p from 2022. The number of employed foreigners was 923 thousand persons in 2023, which grew by 80 thousand persons from 2022.

- **(By status of sojourn)**

As for employed foreigners by status of sojourn, 'Non-professional employment', 'Professional employment' and 'Student' grew by 59 thousand persons, 6 thousand persons and 5 thousand persons, respectively, from 2022. Whereas, 'Work and visit' fell by 8 thousand persons from 2022.

- (By industry)

As for employed foreigners by industry, 'Mining and Manufacturing' and 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' increased by 41 thousand persons and 15 thousand persons, respectively, compared to the previous year. In the meantime, 'Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Transportation and storage, Information and communication, and Financial and insurance activities' decreased by 1 thousand persons compared to the previous year.

○ (Monthly average wages)

Foreign wage workers earning '2 million ~ less than 3 million won' on a monthly average occupied the largest share (442 thousand persons), which was followed by '3 million won or more' (313 thousand persons).

○ (Unemployment rate)

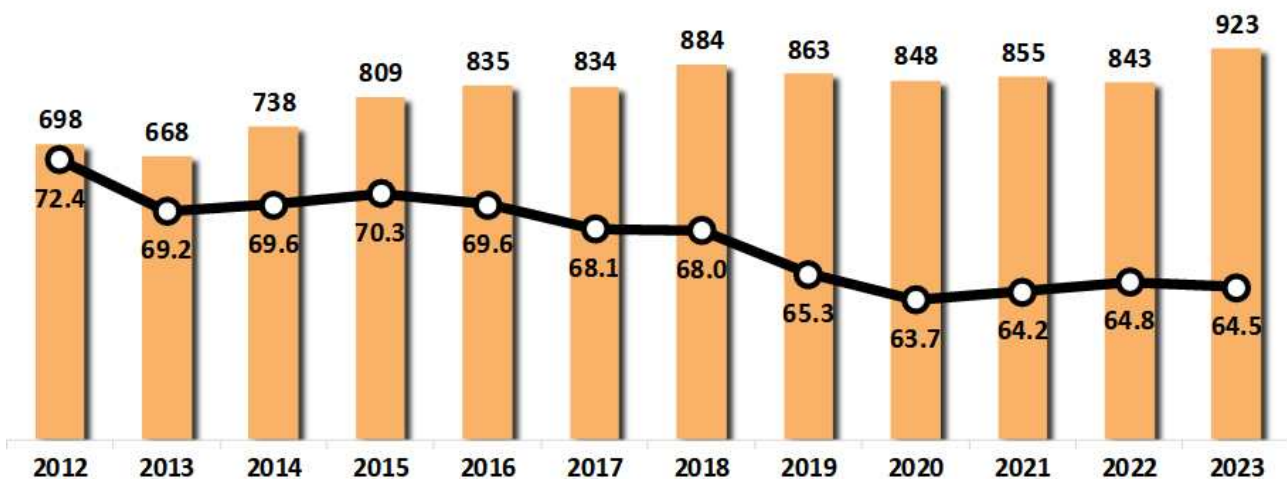
The unemployment rate of foreigners marked 5.4% in 2023, up 1.2%p from 2022. The number of unemployed foreigners was 52 thousand persons in 2023, rising by 16 thousand persons from 2022.

○ (Economically inactive population)

The economically inactive foreigners totaled 455 thousand persons in 2023, which rose by 33 thousand persons from 2022.

< Employed persons and employment-to-population ratio of foreigners >

Employed foreigners (thousand persons) Employment-to-population ratio (%)



□ (Naturalized Koreans)

The employment-to-population ratio of naturalized Koreans stood at 67.4%, up 2.1%p from 2022. The employed naturalized Koreans marked 34 thousand persons, which remained the same as 2022.

3. Immigrant's living conditions

□ (Job information)

As for the channels of getting job information when foreign wage workers changed their job, 'From family members, friends or relatives' occupied the largest share at 46.2%.

(Injury experience)

For the past 1 year, 3.2% of foreign wage workers experienced injuries while working. As for the causes of injury, 'Making a mistake' occupied the largest share at 59.0%.

(Total income)

For the past 1 year, foreigners earning '2 million ~ less than 3 million won' on a monthly average occupied the largest share at 32.8% of the total foreigners in Korea. In the meantime, naturalized Koreans of 'No income' occupied the largest share at 29.9% of the total naturalized Koreans.

(Overseas wire transfers)

37.5% of foreigners wired money to family members and relatives residing overseas. 22.6% of naturalized Koreans wired money to family members and relatives residing overseas.

(Korean language proficiency)

Regarding the Korean language proficiency of immigrants, 'Very good' occupied the largest share. Immigrants thinking their listening proficiency was very good showed a highest percentage. This figure was followed by 'Speaking', 'Reading' and 'Writing'.

(Desire for continuous sojourn)

89.6% of foreigners* 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 52.8%.

*Excluding foreigners with the status of permanent residency

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

(Nationality)

As for the nationality of foreigners with the status of 'Non-professional employment' in May 2023, Nepal occupied the largest share at 14.5%, which was followed by Cambodia (14.5%) and Vietnam (11.9%).

(Reason for choosing Korea)

As for reasons for choosing Korea, 'Due to high wages' occupied the largest share at 72.2%, which was followed by 'Due to good working environment' (10.2%).

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

(Nationality)

As for the nationality of foreigners with the status of 'Student' in May 2023, Vietnam occupied the largest share at 38.3%, which was followed by China* (27.7%) and Uzbekistan (6.4%).

* Excluding Korean Chinese

(Reason for choosing Korea)

As for reasons for choosing Korea, 'Due to an excellent curriculum' occupied the largest share at 30.0%, which was followed by 'Due to a good match of my major in Korea with my interest' (21.9%).