

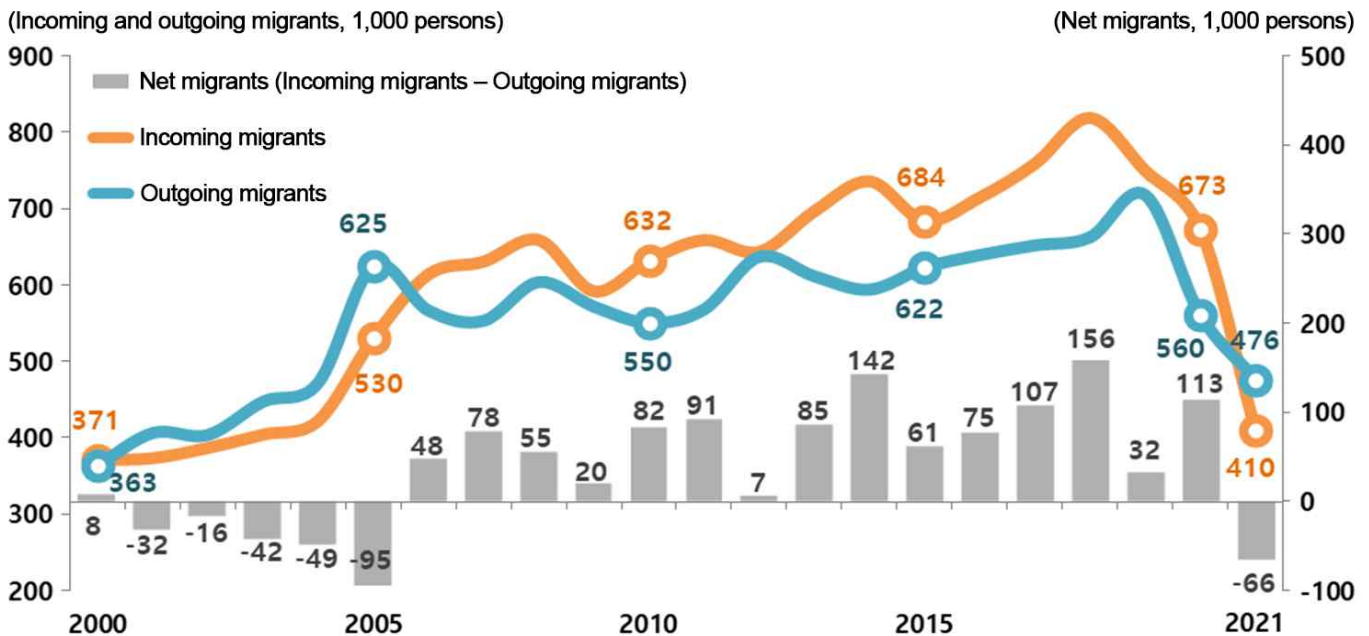


International Migration Statistics in 2021

In 2021, South Korea recorded a negative net migration (Incoming migrants - Outgoing migrants) of 66 thousand persons, which fell into the negative level for the first time since 2006.

- The number of international migrants (referring to those who stay more than 91 days, Incoming migrants + Outgoing migrants) was 887 thousand persons in 2021, which fell by 347 thousand persons (-28.1%) from 2020.
- Incoming migrants totaled 410 thousand persons in 2021, which dropped by 263 thousand persons (-39.0%) from 2020.
- Outgoing migrants totaled 476 thousand persons in 2021, which declined by 84 thousand persons (-15.0%) from 2020.

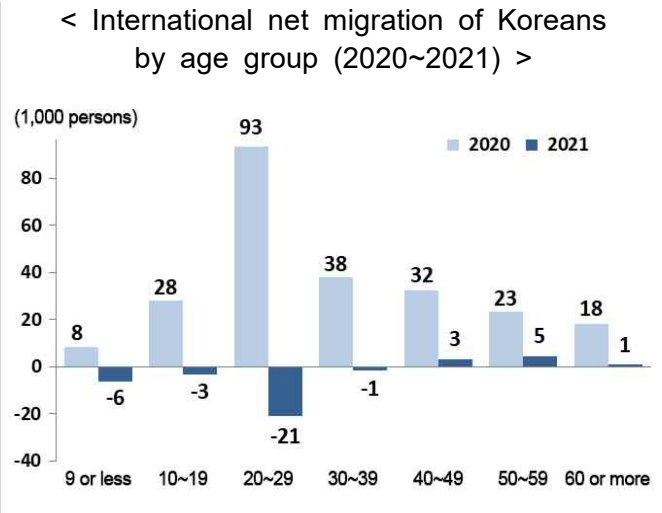
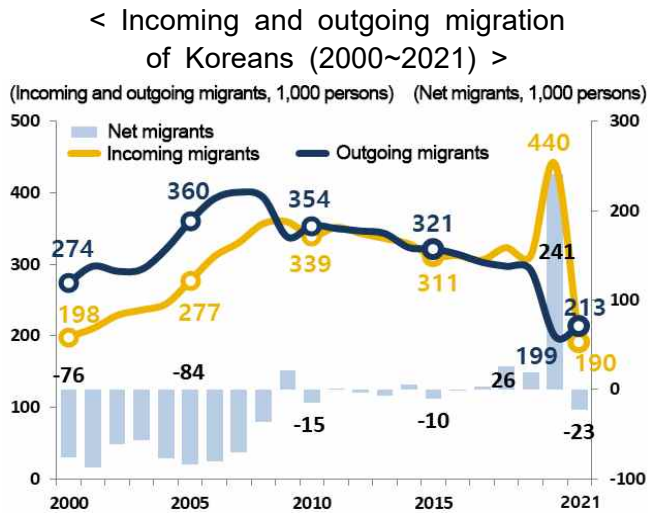
< International migration (2000~2021) >



The net migration of Koreans changed from positive figures to negative figures owing to the drop in incoming migration of Koreans (-56.9%) and the rise in outgoing migration of Koreans (7.2%).

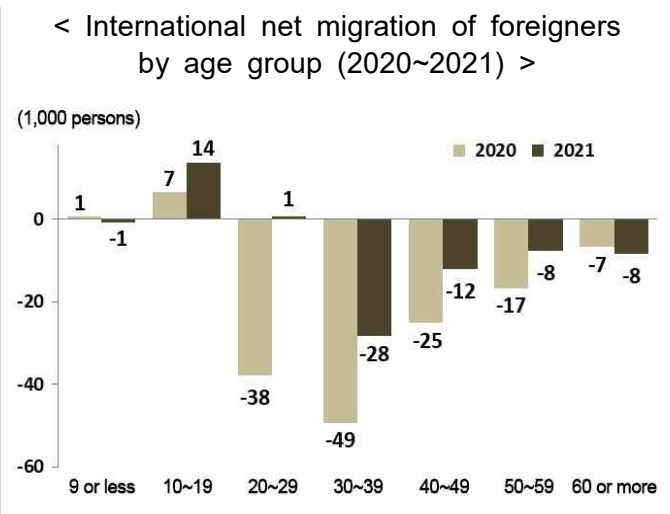
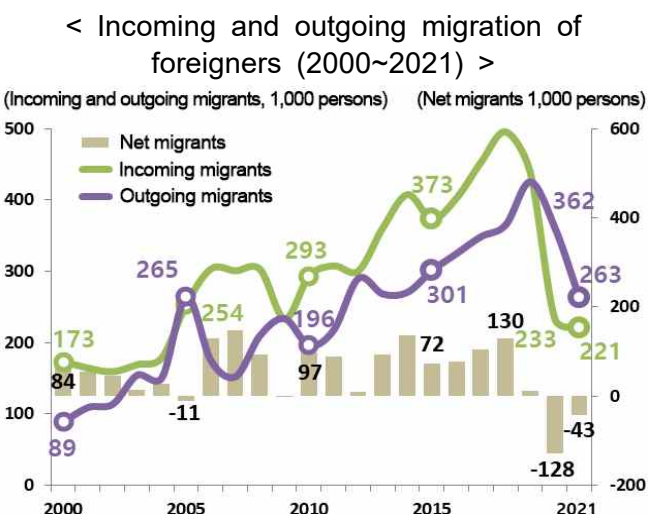
- Compared to 2020, the incoming migration of Koreans fell by 263 thousand persons (-56.9%). Whereas, the outgoing migration of Koreans rose by 14 thousand persons (7.2%).

- Koreans recorded a negative net migration of 23 thousand persons in 2021, which changed from a positive net migration of 241 thousand persons in 2020.
- As for the net migration of Koreans by age group, Koreans aged 39 or less showed a negative net migration. Whereas, Koreans aged 40 or more showed a positive net migration. In particular, Koreans aged 21~29 showed the highest negative net migration of 21 thousand persons.



The incoming and outgoing migration of foreigners fell by 5.4% and 27.2%, respectively, from 2020. Foreigners showed a negative net migration for the past two years in a row.

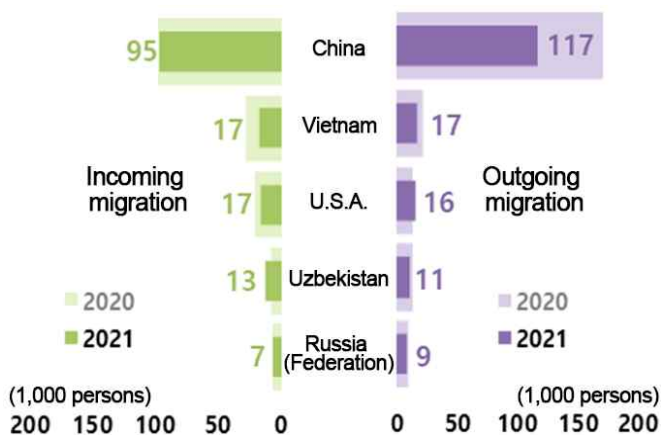
- Compared to 2020, the incoming and outgoing migration of foreigners decreased by 13 thousand persons (-5.4%) and 98 thousand persons (-27.2%), respectively.
- Foreigners showed a negative net migration of 43 thousand persons in 2021, which showed a decrease from 128 thousand persons in 2020.
- As for the net migration of foreigners by age group, foreigners showed a positive net migration in the groups aged 10~29. Whereas, foreigners in the other age groups showed a negative net migration. In particular, foreigners aged 30~39 showed the highest negative net migration of 28 thousand persons.



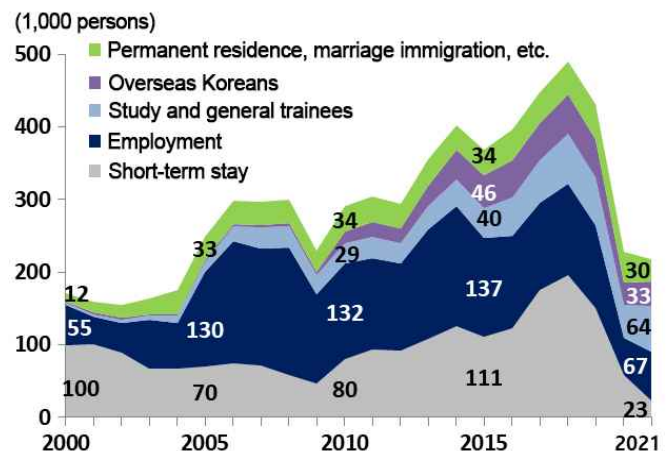
Compared to 2020, the negative net migration of Chinese nationals recorded a drop. Uzbekistan nationals changed from a negative net migration in 2020 into a positive net migration in 2021.

- The incoming migration of Chinese (95 thousand persons), Vietnamese (17 thousand persons) and American nationals (17 thousand persons) occupied 58.6% of the total incoming migration of foreigners. Compared to 2020, the incoming migration of Vietnamese nationals showed the highest decrease, which was followed by American nationals. In the meantime, the incoming migration of Uzbekistan nationals showed an increase.
- The outgoing migration of Chinese (117 thousand persons), Vietnamese (17 thousand persons) and American nationals (16 thousand persons) occupied 57.0% of the total outgoing migration of foreigners. Compared to 2020, the outgoing migration of Chinese nationals showed the highest decrease, which was followed by Thai and Vietnamese nationals.
- Chinese nationals showed the highest negative net migration, which was followed by Thai nationals. Compared to 2020, Chinese nationals recorded a decrease in negative net migration (53 thousand persons). Uzbekistan nationals changed from a negative net migration (-6 thousand persons) in 2020 into a positive net migration (2 thousand persons) in 2021.
- As for the incoming migration of foreigners by status of sojourn, 'Employment' took up the largest share at 30.4%, which was followed by 'Study and general trainees' (28.8%) and 'Overseas Koreans' (15.1%). Compared to 2020, 'Short-term stay' declined by 35 thousand persons. Whereas, 'Study and general trainees' rose by 19 thousand persons.

< Incoming and outgoing migration of foreigners by nationality (2020, 2021) >



< Incoming migration of foreigners by status of sojourn (2000~2021) >



1. Purpose

- International migration statistics are produced to provide basic data for the compilation of the current population and population projections, and international migration-related policy making by identifying the size and flow of international migration, and the characteristics of migrants, which are components of population variations.

2. History

- 1998: Carried out researches on the methods of producing migration statistics of Koreans and foreigners who have migrated for the purpose of settlement by considering their duration of stay, according to 『Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration (1998)』
- 2000: Produced International Migration Statistics for migrants whose duration of stay is longer than 90 days by using data from immigration inspection and immigration forms

* A 90-day period of stay, which is a benchmark of international migration, was decided under the article of the Immigration Act by the Ministry of Justice in relation of the registration of foreigners who want to stay for 91 days or more in Korea, the timeliness of statistics <* Data can be published 2 years after the survey reference period when following the UN standards of migrants who stay more than 1 year.> and statistical practices of Japan, Germany, and some Eastern European countries.

- 2005: Discontinued the items including the characteristics of arrival of Koreans and departure of foreigners upon the abolition of arrival card to be filled out by Koreans and departure card to be filled out by foreigners (Nov.)
- 2006: Discontinued the items including the purpose and destination of departure, and occupation upon the abolition of departure card to be filled out by Koreans (Aug.). Statistics are produced by using arrival and departure data generated through the automatic passport reading system.
- 2010: Revised time-series data from 2000 at a time by improving matching keys and compilation methodology of international migration
- 2013: Changed publication frequency (annual → monthly)

3. Source: Data of Korean Immigration Service, the Ministry of Justice

4. Methodology: Compile data of international migrants who stay more than 91 days on the basis of immigration records of Koreans and foreigners

5. Legal basis: General statistics (Approval No. 101064) according to Article 18 of the Statistics Act

6. Statistical terms

(Foreigner)

- Foreigners are defined as any person who is not a national of the Republic of Korea under subparagraph 2 of Article 2 of the Immigration Act. Foreigners can stay in Korea within their status of sojourn and duration of stay.

(International migration)

- Migrants who leave their origin state to stay for 91 days or more in their destination

(Immigration)

- Migrants who move to Korea to stay for 91 days or more

(Emigration)

- Migrants who move from Korea to stay for 91 days or more

(Net international migration)

- Gap between incoming migrants and outgoing migrants (Net international migration = Incoming migrants - Outgoing migrants)
- Positive net migration: More incoming migrants than outgoing migrants
- Negative net migration: More outgoing migrants than incoming migrants