

2016 Statistics on the Aged

I. Population

(Population)

In 2015, the population aged 65 or more was 6,569 thousand persons, which occupied 13.2 percent of the total population.

【 Population trends 】

(Unit: thousand persons, %)

	Total population ²⁾	0 to 14		15 to 64		65 or more	
			Share		Share		Share
1960T ¹⁾	24,989	10,153	40.6	13,886	55.6	935	3.7
1970T	31,435	13,241	42.1	17,154	54.6	1,039	3.3
1980T	37,407	12,656	33.8	23,305	62.3	1,446	3.9
1990T	43,390	11,134	25.7	30,094	69.4	2,162	5.0
1995T	44,554	10,236	23.0	31,678	71.1	2,640	5.9
2000T	45,985	9,639	21.0	32,973	71.7	3,372	7.3
2005T	47,041	8,986	19.1	33,690	71.6	4,365	9.3
2010T	47,991	7,787	16.2	34,779	72.5	5,425	11.3
2010R ¹⁾	48,748	7,880	16.2	35,507	72.8	5,360	11.0
2015R	49,706	6,907	13.9	36,230	72.9	6,569	13.2

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Population Census」

Note 1) T: Traditional Census, R: Register-based Census

- ▶ In 2015, the aged dependency ratio stood at 18.1 persons, which indicated that 5.5 working age persons (aged 15 to 64) should support one aged person.

【 Aged dependency ratio and aging index 】

(Unit: per 100 population, person)

	Aged dependency ratio ²⁾	Aging index ³⁾	Working age population per aged person ⁴⁾
1960T ¹⁾	6.7	9.2	14.9
1970T	6.1	7.8	16.5
1980T	6.2	11.4	16.1
1990T	7.2	19.4	13.9
1995T	8.3	25.8	12.0
2000T	10.2	35.0	9.8
2005T	13.0	48.6	7.7
2010T	15.6	69.7	6.4
2010R ¹⁾	15.1	68.0	6.6
2015R	18.1	95.1	5.5

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Population Census」

Note 1) T: Traditional Census, R: Register-based Census

2) Aged dependency ratio = (Population aged 65 or more / Population aged 15 to 64) × 100

3) Aging index = (Population aged 65 or more / Population aged 0 to 14) × 100

4) Working age population per aged person = Population aged 15 to 64 / Population aged 65 or more

■ (Aged household)

In 2015, the aged households whose head was 65 years old or more occupied 19.5 percent of the total households. The one-person aged households occupied 32.9 percent of the total aged households.

【 Aged households¹⁾ 】

(Unit: thousand households, %)

	Total households	Aged households	Type of aged households			
			Share ³⁾	One-generation households	Couple	Share ³⁾
1985T ²⁾	9,571	677	7.1	147	146	1.5
1990T	11,355	963	8.5	238	229	2.0
1995T	12,958	1,251	9.7	389	381	2.9
2000T	14,312	1,734	12.1	587	574	4.0
2005T	15,887	2,448	15.4	846	828	5.2
2010T	17,339	3,111	17.9	1,075	1,046	6.0
2015R²⁾	19,111	3,720	19.5	1,264	1,232	6.4
Share⁵⁾		(100.0)		(34.0)	(33.1)	

	Type of aged households					
	Two-generation households	Couple + children	Share ³⁾	Three-generation households	One-person households ⁴⁾	Share ³⁾
1985T ²⁾	237	133	1.4	166	115	1.2
1990T	303	138	1.2	214	193	1.7
1995T	326	143	1.1	171	349	2.7
2000T	420	185	1.3	171	543	3.8
2005T	583	249	1.6	221	783	4.9
2010T	723	298	1.7	231	1,066	6.1
2015R²⁾	976	371	1.9	233	1,223	6.4
Share⁵⁾	(26.2)	(10.0)		(6.3)	(32.9)	

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Population Census」

Note 1) Households whose head is 65 years old or more

2) T: Traditional Census, R: Register-based Census

3) Refer to the share of the aged households by household type among the total households

4) Refer to the aged households whose head was 65 years old or more and whose head lived alone

5) Refer to the share by household type among the total aged households (households whose head was 65 years old or more)

■ (Share of the aged population)

In 2015, Jeonnam showed the highest share of the aged population. Ulsan showed the lowest share of the aged population.

【 Share of the aged population 】

(Unit: thousand persons, %)

	2000T ¹⁾		2005T		2010R ¹⁾		2015R		Rank
		Share		Share		Share		Share	
The nation	3,372	7.3	4,365	9.3	5,360	11.0	6,569	13.2	-
Jeonnam	271	13.6	321	17.7	335	19.0	372	21.1	1
Jeonbuk	212	11.2	253	14.2	278	15.5	324	17.9	2
Gyeongbuk	314	11.6	374	14.4	411	15.8	468	17.8	3
Gangwon	147	9.9	188	12.9	221	14.9	254	16.9	4
Chungnam	222	12.1	268	14.2	301	14.7	331	16.3	5
Chungbuk	142	9.7	176	12.1	201	13.3	229	14.8	6
Busan	225	6.2	304	8.7	393	11.4	500	14.7	7
Jeju	43	8.4	55	10.4	68	12.4	83	14.1	8
Gyeongnam	267	9.0	330	10.8	381	12.0	452	13.9	9
Daegu	147	5.9	197	8.0	249	10.1	311	12.8	10
Seoul	535	5.4	711	7.3	953	9.7	1,203	12.6	11
Gwangju	75	5.6	101	7.2	131	8.8	166	11.2	12
Incheon	137	5.5	179	7.1	234	8.7	306	10.8	13
Daejeon	75	5.5	101	7.0	129	8.6	164	10.8	13
Gyeonggi	519	5.8	753	7.3	1,000	8.8	1,286	10.7	15
Sejong	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	10.5	16
Ulsan	41	4.0	56	5.3	75	6.9	101	8.9	17

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Population Census」

Note 1) T: Traditional Census, R: Register-based Census

■ (Divorce and remarriage)

In 2015, the number of divorces for the aged population showed a downward trend, while that of remarriages showed an upward trend. In particular, the number of remarriages after divorce recorded a higher increase rate than that of remarriages after bereavement.

【 Divorce and remarriage 】

(Unit: case)

	Divorce			Remarriage							
	Total	65 or more		Total	Males			Females			
		Males	Females		65 or more	After bereavement	After divorce	Total	65 or more	After bereavement	After divorce
2000	119,455	1,321	423	43,370	971	607	364	48,132	202	109	93
2005	128,035	2,589	916	59,662	1,566	687	879	66,587	413	171	242
2010	116,858	4,346	1,734	53,043	2,099	624	1,475	57,451	702	186	516
2011	114,284	4,484	1,789	51,637	2,234	596	1,638	56,430	799	204	595
2012	114,316	4,836	1,955	51,114	2,449	559	1,890	56,488	912	187	725
2013	115,292	5,464	2,317	48,948	2,515	591	1,924	54,320	938	178	760
2014	115,510	5,914	2,721	47,516	2,467	498	1,969	53,927	902	182	720
2015	109,153	5,852	2,655	46,388	2,672	501	2,171	52,747	1,069	184	885
Compared to the previous year (%)	-5.5	-1.0	-2.4	-2.4	8.3	0.6	10.3	-2.2	18.5	1.1	22.9

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Annual Report on Vital Statistics (Marriage and Divorce)」

II. Economic activities

■ (Employment-population ratio)

In 2015, the employment-population ratio for people aged 65 or more marked 30.6 percent. Its increase rate slowed down.

【 Employment-population ratio by age group 】

(Unit: %)

	Total	Twenties	Thirties	Forties	Fifties	60 to 64	65 or more	Males	Females	Gap (Males - Females)
2000	58.5	60.1	72.5	76.4	66.5	53.0	29.4	40.3	22.7	17.6
2005	59.7	61.2	72.3	77.1	68.1	53.4	29.8	40.8	22.4	18.4
2010	58.7	58.2	72.0	77.8	70.9	53.7	28.7	39.5	21.2	18.3
2011	59.1	58.5	72.2	78.4	71.6	55.1	28.9	39.6	21.4	18.2
2012	59.4	58.1	72.7	78.3	72.2	56.1	30.1	40.7	22.6	18.1
2013	59.5	56.8	73.2	78.4	73.1	57.2	30.9	41.9	23.1	18.8
2014	60.2	57.4	73.9	79.1	74.2	58.3	31.3	42.1	23.5	18.6
2015	60.3	57.9	74.2	79.1	74.4	59.4	30.6	41.1	22.9	18.2

■ (Service period)

As for the longest-serving job of the population aged 55 to 64 who had been employed or was employed as of 2016, the average service period was 14 years and 11.1 months, which rose by 1.7 months from 2015.

【 Service period in the longest-serving job (population aged 55 to 64) 】

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total	17 years and 3.1 months	17 years	17 years and 0.2 month	17 years	16 years and 4.7 months	16 years and 5.8 months	16 years and 3.9 months	15 years and 9.9 months	15 years and 4.0 months	14 years and 9.4 months	14 years and 11.1 months
Males	20 years and 5.7 months	20 years and 3.8 months	20 years and 3.1 months	20 years and 5.0 months	20 years and 0.6 month	20 years and 0.6 month	19 years and 10.7 months	19 years and 4.9 months	19 years and 0.3 month	18 years and 7.8 months	18 years and 10.0 months
Females	13 years and 10.6 months	13 years and 6.1 months	13 years and 7.7 months	13 years and 5.1 months	12 years and 7.1 months	12 years and 9.2 months	12 years and 7.3 months	12 years and 1.2 months	11 years and 6.6 months	10 years and 9.9 months	10 years and 11.0 months

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Supplementary Results of the Economically Active Population Survey for the Young and Old Population」 (Based on May of each year)

■ (Intention to have a job)

In 2016, 61.2 percent of the population aged 55 to 79 wanted to have a job in the future. 58.0 percent of them wanted to have a job to make up living expenses. In the meantime, 34.9 percent of them wanted to have a job due to pleasure of working.

III. Health care

■ (Causes of death)

In 2015, 'cancer' was the leading cause of death for the aged population, which was followed by 'heart diseases' and 'cerebrovascular diseases'.

【 Causes of death and death rate (population aged 65 or more) 】

(Unit: per 100,000 population)

		First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
2000		Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (929.7)	Cerebrovascular diseases (785.3)	Heart diseases (358.9)	Diabetes mellitus (218.4)	Chronic lower respiratory diseases (209.1)
2010		Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (882.4)	Cerebrovascular diseases (409.4)	Heart diseases (344.0)	Diabetes mellitus (153.1)	Pneumonia (127.6)
2011		Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (847.8)	Cerebrovascular diseases (381.1)	Heart diseases (361.2)	Pneumonia (155.4)	Diabetes mellitus (143.2)
2012		Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (852.9)	Cerebrovascular diseases (372.9)	Heart diseases (367.1)	Pneumonia (166.4)	Diabetes mellitus (163.0)
2013		Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (836.6)	Cerebrovascular diseases (353.0)	Heart diseases (335.6)	Pneumonia (166.6)	Diabetes mellitus (148.5)
2014		Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (827.4)	Heart diseases (339.0)	Cerebrovascular diseases (323.6)	Pneumonia (177.5)	Diabetes mellitus (136.1)
2015		Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (803.0)	Heart diseases (351.0)	Cerebrovascular diseases (311.1)	Pneumonia (209.1)	Diabetes mellitus (133.2)
By sex	Males	Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (1,175.8)	Heart diseases (352.7)	Cerebrovascular diseases (326.4)	Pneumonia (247.8)	Chronic lower respiratory diseases (160.0)
	Females	Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (533.9)	Heart diseases (349.8)	Cerebrovascular diseases (300.0)	Pneumonia (181.2)	Diabetes mellitus (127.9)
By age group	Teens	Intentional self-harm (suicide) (4.2)	Transport accidents (3.3)	Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (2.4)	Heart diseases (0.5)	Accidental drowning and submersion (0.4)
	Twenties	Intentional self-harm (suicide) (16.4)	Transport accidents (6.4)	Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (4.9)	Heart diseases (1.4)	Cerebrovascular diseases (0.8)
	Thirties	Intentional self-harm (suicide) (25.1)	Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (15.1)	Transport accidents (5.4)	Heart diseases (4.3)	Liver diseases (2.8)
	Forties	Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (47.0)	Intentional self-harm (suicide) (29.9)	Liver diseases (13.7)	Heart diseases (12.5)	Cerebrovascular diseases (9.9)
	Fifties	Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (137.0)	Intentional self-harm (suicide) (34.3)	Heart diseases (27.5)	Liver diseases (26.3)	Cerebrovascular diseases (22.0)

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Causes of Death Statistics」

- ▶ As for death rates by cancer type, the death rate of lung cancer recorded the highest figure, which was followed by liver cancer and colon cancer.

【 Death rate by cancer type (population aged 65 or more) 】

(Unit: per 100,000 population)

	65 or more	Stomach cancer	Colon cancer	Liver cancer	Pancreatic cancer	Lung cancer	Breast cancer	Uterine cancer	Prostate cancer
2000	929.7	194.1	75.4	113.5	47.5	221.6	8.0	18.6	14.4
2010	882.4	121.5	100.0	107.6	55.6	221.1	9.7	13.1	22.5
2011	847.8	114.6	97.2	102.1	54.7	217.0	10.7	11.9	23.2
2012	852.9	106.9	102.7	104.9	58.2	220.5	10.1	10.7	23.3
2013	836.6	99.5	98.2	103.5	55.7	217.7	10.7	10.3	24.8
2014	827.4	95.7	96.6	102.3	57.6	215.1	10.7	10.0	24.7
2015	803.0	86.8	92.8	99.1	59.3	206.7	11.2	10.9	24.2
Males	1,175.8	130.8	119.8	155.5	68.8	360.2	0.4	-	57.7
Females	533.9	54.9	73.3	58.4	52.5	95.9	19.1	18.7	-

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Causes of Death Statistics」

■ (Life expectancy)

In 2014, the life expectancy of males and females aged 65 recorded 18.3 years and 22.8 years, respectively. The life expectancy (excluding the disease period) of females was 0.3 year longer than that of males. In the meantime, the subjective healthy life expectancy of males was 0.8 year longer than that of females.

【 Life expectancy and life expectancy by health level (2014) 】

(Unit: year)

	Life expectancy				Life expectancy by health level							
	Total	Males (A)	Females (B)	Gap (A-B)	Excluding the disease period				Subjective health			
					Total	Males (A)	Females (B)	Gap (A-B)	Total	Males (A)	Females (B)	Gap (A-B)
65	20.9	18.3	22.8	-4.4	9.1	8.9	9.2	-0.3	10.1	10.5	9.7	0.8
70	16.7	14.5	18.3	-3.8	6.6	6.3	6.8	-0.4	7.2	7.5	6.9	0.6
80	9.7	8.2	10.5	-2.3	3.6	3.3	3.7	-0.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Life Tables for Korea」

■ (Medical expenses)

In 2015, the medical expenses of the aged population occupied 36.8 percent of the total medical expenses. The per-capita medical expenses of the aged population were 3.43 million won, which was 3 times higher than those of the total population (1.15 million won).

IV. Welfare

■ (National basic livelihood security)

In 2015, the number of the aged population who received the national basic livelihood security was 419 thousand persons, which increased by 40,404 persons from 2014. This figure showed a continuously increasing trend after 2011.

【 National basic livelihood security beneficiaries (population aged 65 or more) 】

(Unit: person, %)

	Total beneficiaries	Beneficiaries aged 65 or more	Share ¹⁾		
			Males	Females	
2001	1,345,526	334,272	24.8	87,213	247,059
2005	1,425,684	367,658	25.8	93,995	273,663
2010	1,458,198	391,214	26.8	106,723	284,491
2011	1,379,865	378,411	27.4	104,901	273,510
2012	1,300,499	376,098	28.9	107,156	268,942
2013	1,258,582	376,112	29.9	110,189	265,923
2014	1,237,386	379,048	30.6	114,731	264,317
2015	1,554,484	419,452	27.0	133,292	286,160

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare, 「Status of National Basic Livelihood Security Beneficiaries」

Note 1) Share = (Beneficiaries aged 65 or more / Total beneficiaries) × 100

■(Public pension)

In 2015, 42.3 percent of the population aged 65 or more was beneficiaries of public pensions (national pension, pension for government officials and pension for private school teachers). 88.3 percent of them were national pension beneficiaries.

■ (Pensioners)

For the past one year, 44.1 percent of the population aged 55 to 79 received a pension (including a public pension, a basic pension and a private pension) of 510 thousand won on average.

【 Pensioners aged 55 to 79 】

(Unit: thousand persons, %)

	May 2015					May 2016					
	55 to 79		Males	Females	Share	55 to 79		Males	Share	Females	Share
	55 to 79	Share				55 to 79	Share				
< Total >	11,834	100.0	5,573	6,261	12,397	100.0	5,846	100.0	6,551	100.0	
Pensioners	5,328	45.0	2,744	2,583	5,469	44.1	2,826	48.3	2,643	40.3	
Average pension (10 thousand won)	49		67	31	51		69		32		
	Subtotal	5,328	100.0	2,744	2,583	5,469	100.0	2,826	100.0	2,643	100.0
Pension	Less than 0.1 million won	82	1.5	30	52	51	0.9	16	0.6	35	1.3
	0.1 million ~ less than 0.25 million won	2,695	50.6	925	1,770	2,707	49.5	923	32.7	1,784	67.5
	0.25 million ~ less than 0.50 million won	1,327	24.9	806	521	1,357	24.8	802	28.4	555	21.0
	0.50 million ~ less than 1 million won	585	11.0	470	116	667	12.2	526	18.6	140	5.3
	1 million ~ less than 1.5 million won	194	3.6	147	48	214	3.9	169	6.0	45	1.7
	1.5 million won or more	444	8.3	367	77	473	8.6	390	13.8	84	3.2

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Supplementary Results of the Economically Active Population Survey for the Young and Old Population」 (May 2016)

Note: 1) Refer to the pension schemes of public pension, basic pension and private pension that government or individuals set up for security for the aged population

■(Living expenses)

In 2015, 58.5 percent of the aged population paid their living expenses for themselves or by their spouses.

V. Culture and leisure

■ (Watching cultural, artistic or sports events)

In 2015, 24.5 percent of the aged population watched cultural, artistic or sports events. 73.0 percent of them watched movies, which was followed by 'museums' (29.1%) and 'music and concerts' (21.4%).

【 Watching cultural, artistic or sports events
(multiple response, for the past one year, 2015)】

(Unit: %)

	Watched	Music and concert	Play or musical	Movies	Museum	Gallery	Sports events
Total ¹⁾	66.8	20.6	22.4	88.1	26.6	19.1	21.1
65 or more	24.5	21.4	15.6	73.0	29.1	15.7	11.5
Males	27.8	19.3	14.5	67.8	33.3	17.5	20.1
Females	22.1	23.3	16.6	77.7	25.3	14.0	3.7

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」 (2015)

Note 1) Covered the population aged 13 or more

■ (Leisure activities)

'Watching TV or DVD' was a main leisure activity over the weekends or holidays for the aged population. 'Sightseeing' was a leisure activity that the aged population wanted to do in the future.