

2017 Statistics on the Youth

I. Population and family

(Youth population)

In 2017, the youth population aged 9 to 24 occupied 18.0 percent of the total population. The school-going population aged 6 to 21 would decrease by 1,500 thousand persons during the next decade.

【 Youth population 】

(Unit: thousand persons, %)

	Total population	Youth population aged 9 to 24			Males		Females	
				Percent		Percent		Percent
1970	32,241	11,330	35.1	5,848	51.6	5,481	48.4	
1978	36,969	13,647	36.9	7,030	51.5	6,616	48.5	
1980	38,124	14,015	36.8	7,216	51.5	6,799	48.5	
1990	42,869	13,553	31.6	6,991	51.6	6,563	48.4	
2000	47,008	11,501	24.5	5,987	52.1	5,514	47.9	
2010	49,554	10,370	20.9	5,468	52.7	4,902	47.3	
2017	51,446	9,249	18.0	4,853	52.5	4,396	47.5	
2020	51,974	8,522	16.4	4,438	52.1	4,084	47.9	
2030	52,941	6,989	13.2	3,596	51.5	3,392	48.5	
2040	52,198	6,499	12.5	3,337	51.3	3,163	48.7	
2060	45,246	5,013	11.1	2,575	51.4	2,439	48.6	

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Population Projections」 (Dec. 2016)

(Multi-cultural youth)

In 2016, the number of students in multi-cultural families rose by 20.2 percent to 99 thousand persons. The number of students in multi-cultural families showed a continuously increasing trend.

【 Multi-cultural students 】

(Unit: person, %)

	Total students (thousand persons)	Multi-cultural students ¹⁾			Elementary school		Middle school		High school	
		Percent ²⁾	Year-on-year change	Percent ³⁾	Percent ³⁾	Percent ³⁾	Percent ³⁾			
2007	7,735	14,654	0.2	56.1	12,199	83.2	1,979	13.5	476	3.2
2008	7,618	20,180	0.3	37.7	16,785	83.2	2,527	12.5	868	4.3
2009	7,447	26,015	0.3	28.9	21,466	82.5	3,294	12.7	1,255	4.8
2010	7,236	31,788	0.4	22.2	24,701	77.7	5,260	16.5	1,827	5.7
2011	6,987	38,678	0.6	21.7	28,667	74.1	7,634	19.7	2,377	6.1
2012	6,732	46,954	0.7	21.4	33,792	72.0	9,647	20.5	3,515	7.5
2013	6,529	55,780	0.9	18.8	39,430	70.7	11,294	20.2	5,056	9.1
2014	6,334	67,806	1.1	21.6	48,297	71.2	12,525	18.5	6,984	10.3
2015	6,097	82,536	1.4	21.7	60,283	73.0	13,865	16.8	8,388	10.2
2016	5,883	99,186	1.7	20.2	74,024	74.6	15,105	15.2	10,057	10.1

Source: Ministry of Education, 「Current Status of Students in Multi-cultural Families」

Note 1) Students in international marriage families (Birth in Korea + Entry from overseas countries) + Students in foreigner families

2) Students in multi-cultural families / Total students × 100

3) Share of students in multi-cultural families

■ (Family relationship)

In 2016, 68.7 percent of the youth aged 13 to 24 were satisfied with 'Overall family relationship'.

【 Satisfaction with family relationship of the youth aged 13 to 24 】

(Unit: %)

		Satisfied			Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied	Unsatisfied		
			Very	Slightly			Slightly	Very
Overall family relationship	Youth population	68.7	32.9	35.7	27.6	3.7	3.1	0.6
	Population aged 13 to 19	72.8	36.4	36.4	24.2	3.0	2.5	0.5
	Population aged 20 to 24	63.7	28.7	35.0	31.8	4.5	3.8	0.8
Relationship with parents	Youth population	70.7	35.7	34.9	24.9	4.5	3.5	1.0
	Population aged 13 to 19	74.5	39.0	35.5	21.8	3.7	2.7	1.0
	Population aged 20 to 24	66.1	31.9	34.2	28.5	5.4	4.4	1.0
Relationship with siblings	Youth population	66.2	31.7	34.5	28.7	5.1	3.6	1.4
	Population aged 13 to 19	68.3	33.8	34.5	26.2	5.5	4.1	1.4
	Population aged 20 to 24	63.7	29.2	34.5	31.7	4.6	3.1	1.5

Source: Statistics Korea, 「2016 Social Survey」

■ (Support of parents)

In 2016, 46.5 percent of the youth aged 13 to 24 thought that 'Family members, government and society' should help their parents make a living.

II. Health

■ (Physique)

The average height and weight of the 6th grade students in elementary school showed a rise compared to 2015.

【 Average height and weight by school level 】

(Unit: cm, kg)

		6th grade students of elementary school		3rd grade students of middle school		3rd grade students of high school	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Height	2014	151.4	151.8	169.2	159.8	173.5	160.9
	2015	151.4	151.9	169.7	159.8	173.5	160.9
	2016	152.1	152.3	170.0	159.8	173.5	160.9
	Year-on-year change	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Weight	2014	46.8	45.1	61.9	54.5	68.5	56.8
	2015	46.6	45.2	62.3	54.4	69.4	57.1
	2016	48.2	45.5	63.7	54.4	70.0	57.2
	Year-on-year change	1.6	0.3	1.4	0.0	0.6	0.1

Source: Ministry of Education, 「Sample Survey Results of the School Health Survey」

■ (Health care)

In 2016, 57.7 percent of the youth aged 13 to 24 had breakfast. 71.9 percent of them got a sleep between 6 and 8 hours a day. 35.0 percent of them worked out regularly.

【 Health care of the youth 】

(Unit: %)

	Breakfast		Sleep (6~8 hours)		Regular exercise	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
2014	61.1	38.9	71.0	29.0	35.8	64.2
2016	57.7	42.3	71.9	28.1	35.0	65.0
Population aged 13 to 19	67.6	32.4	70.9	29.1	35.0	65.0
Population aged 20 to 24	45.8	54.2	73.0	27.0	35.1	64.9

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Social Survey」

■ (Stress)

In 2016, 46.2 percent of the youth aged 13 to 24 felt stressful from 'Overall life'.

■ (Smoking and drinking)

The smoking and drinking rates of middle and high school students showed a continuously downward trend.

■ (Cause of death)

Since 2007, 'Intentional self-harm (suicide)' had been the leading cause of death for the youth aged 9 to 24, which was followed by 'Transport accidents' and 'Malignant neoplasms (cancer)'.

【 Leading causes of death for the youth population aged 9 to 24 】

(Unit: per 100,000 population)

	1st cause of death	2nd cause of death	3rd cause of death
2004	Transport accidents (7.1)	Intentional self-harm (suicide) (6.6)	Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (4.1)
2006	Transport accidents (6.4)	Intentional self-harm (suicide) (6.0)	Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (3.6)
2008	Intentional self-harm (suicide) (8.8)	Transport accidents (6.3)	Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (3.3)
2010	Intentional self-harm (suicide) (8.8)	Transport accidents (6.0)	Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (3.3)
2014	Intentional self-harm (suicide) (7.4)	Transport accidents (4.9)	Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (2.9)
2015	Intentional self-harm (suicide) (7.2)	Transport accidents (4.0)	Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (2.9)

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Causes of Death Statistics」

Note: The figures in parentheses represent death rates.

III. Education

■ (School life)

In 2016, 52.3 percent of students were satisfied with 'Overall school life'.

■ (Expected purpose of education)

In 2016, 51.1 percent of the youth aged 13 to 24 wanted to get a college or more education to have a 'Decent job'.

■ (Private education)

The private education participation rate of elementary school students stood at 80.0%, which was followed by middle school ones (63.8%) and high school ones (52.4%).

【 Private education participation by school level 】

(Unit: %, 10 thousand won)

	Total		Elementary school		Middle school		High school	
	Participation rate	Expenditure ¹⁾	Participation rate	Expenditure	Participation rate	Expenditure	Participation rate	Expenditure
2011	71.7	24.0	84.6	24.1	71.0	26.2	51.6	21.8
2012	69.4	23.6	80.9	21.9	70.6	27.6	50.7	22.4
2013	68.8	23.9	81.8	23.2	69.5	26.7	49.2	22.3
2014	68.6	24.2	81.1	23.2	69.1	27.0	49.5	23.0
2015	68.8	24.4	80.7	23.1	69.4	27.5	50.2	23.6
2016	67.8	25.6	80.0	24.1	63.8	27.5	52.4	26.2
Year-on-year change (%p, 10,000 won)	-1.0	1.2	-0.8	1.0	-5.5	0.0	2.3	2.6

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Private Education Expenditures Survey」

Note 1) The average monthly private education expenditures per student

IV. Economic Activities

■ (Employment and unemployment)

In 2016, the employment-population ratio for the youth aged 15 to 29 stood at 42.3 percent, up 0.8%p from 2015. The unemployment rate of the youth aged 15 to 29 stood at 9.8 percent, up 0.6%p from 2015.

【 Employment-population ratio for the youth population aged 15 to 29 】

(Unit: thousand persons, %)

	Population			Employed persons	Population		Employment-population ratio ¹⁾	Population	
		aged 15 to 24	aged 25 to 29		aged 15 to 24	aged 25 to 29		aged 15 to 24	aged 25 to 29
2001	10,952	6,802	4,150	4,815	2,047	2,768	44.0	30.1	66.7
2006	9,843	5,983	3,860	4,270	1,627	2,643	43.4	27.2	68.5
2011	9,589	6,016	3,573	3,879	1,387	2,492	40.5	23.1	69.7
2012	9,517	6,104	3,413	3,843	1,480	2,363	40.4	24.2	69.2
2013	9,548	6,219	3,328	3,793	1,502	2,291	39.7	24.2	68.8
2014	9,503	6,223	3,280	3,870	1,604	2,266	40.7	25.8	69.1
2015	9,486	6,193	3,293	3,938	1,666	2,272	41.5	26.9	69.0
2016	9,428	6,083	3,345	3,985	1,657	2,329	42.3	27.2	69.6

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Annual Report on the Economically Active Population Survey」

Note 1) The share of the employed youth among the total youth population aged 15 to 29

【 Unemployment rate for the youth population aged 15 to 29 】

(Unit: thousand persons, %)

	Economically active population	Population		Unemployed persons	Population		Unemployment rate ¹⁾	Population	
		aged 15 to 24	aged 25 to 29		aged 15 to 24	aged 25 to 29		aged 15 to 24	aged 25 to 29
2001	5,227	2,280	2,947	413	233	179	7.9	10.2	6.1
2006	4,634	1,807	2,827	364	180	184	7.9	10.0	6.5
2011	4,199	1,535	2,664	320	148	172	7.6	9.6	6.5
2012	4,156	1,626	2,530	313	146	167	7.5	9.0	6.6
2013	4,124	1,657	2,467	331	155	176	8.0	9.3	7.1
2014	4,255	1,783	2,472	385	179	206	9.0	10.0	8.3
2015	4,335	1,862	2,473	397	196	201	9.2	10.5	8.1
2016	4,420	1,855	2,565	435	199	236	9.8	10.7	9.2

Source: Statistics Korea, 「Annual Report on the Economically Active Population Survey」

Note 1) The share of the unemployed youth among the total youth population aged 15 to 29

■ (Wages)

In 2015, the average monthly wages* of workers aged 20 to 24 marked 1,763 thousand won. The average monthly wages of workers aged 25 to 29 marked 2,218 thousand won. The part-time workers aged 13 to 24 got paid 6,575 won an hour.

* Regular Workers of establishments with 5 regular workers or more

【 Wages of youth workers¹⁾ 】

(Unit: thousand won, %)

	20 to 24 years	Males	Females	High school graduates	College graduates	University graduates or more
2000	833	859	821	830	823	917
2005	1,200	1,201	1,199	1,174	1,190	1,306
2010	1,427	1,446	1,418	1,365	1,403	1,563
2011	1,575	1,609	1,557	1,523	1,548	1,712
2012	1,618	1,641	1,606	1,535	1,618	1,768
2013	1,672	1,709	1,652	1,605	1,667	1,808
2014	1,748	1,775	1,733	1,746	1,714	1,800
2015	1,763	1,788	1,749	1,725	1,726	1,876
Percent change	0.9	0.7	0.9	-0.2	0.7	4.2

	25 to 29 years	Males	Females	High school graduates	College graduates	University graduates or more
2000	1,077	1,126	999	1,044	1,037	1,184
2005	1,532	1,586	1,458	1,416	1,430	1,703
2010	1,841	1,941	1,728	1,640	1,702	2,031
2011	1,942	2,011	1,856	1,770	1,833	2,103
2012	2,017	2,088	1,933	1,818	1,900	2,181
2013	2,087	2,162	2,002	1,900	1,967	2,237
2014	2,192	2,267	2,106	2,065	2,074	2,308
2015	2,218	2,302	2,122	2,052	2,109	2,341
Percent change	1.2	1.5	0.8	-0.6	1.7	1.4

Source: Ministry of Employment and Labor, 「Reports on Work Status by Employment Type」

Note 1) Regular Workers of establishments with 5 regular workers or more

■ (How to get a job)

In 2016, the largest share of the youth aged 15 to 29 got their job 'Via newspapers, magazines or the Internet'. 48.6 percent of the youth with job experiences quit their job due to 'Dissatisfaction with working conditions'.

V. Media use

■ (Internet use)

In 2016, 99.6 percent of the youth aged 20 to 29 used the Internet more than one time a day for the purpose of 'Communication' and 'Leisure activities'.

【 Hours and frequency of Internet use 】

(Unit: hour, %)

		Average weekly hours	Frequency of Internet use			
			More than one time a day	More than one time a week	More than one time a month	Less than one time a month
2014	10-19 years old	14.4	95.2	4.7	0.1	-
	20-29 years old	20.5	99.3	0.7	0.0	-
2015	10-19 years old	14.5	96.6	3.3	0.1	0.1
	20-29 years old	21.0	99.8	0.2	-	-
2016	10-19 years old	15.4	93.9	5.6	0.3	0.2
	20-29 years old	22.8	99.6	0.4	0.0	-

Source: Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning, Korea Internet and Security Agency, 「Internet Use Survey」

■ (Internet service use)

In 2016, the youth used instant messengers (e.g. KakaoTalk) among Internet services the most.

■ (Excessive reliance on smart phones)

In 2016, 34.7 percent of middle school students were at risk of excessive smart phone use.

■ (Exposure to harmful media)

In 2016, the highest share of middle and high school students (27.6%) were exposed to adult video contents via 'Internet portal sites'.

VI. Safety and Awareness

■ (Runaway)

In 2016, 'Conflict with family members' (74.8%) was the leading cause of runaway of the youth.

■ (Child abuse)

In 2015, emotional abuse occupied the largest share of child abuse, which was followed by physical abuse and negligence.

■ (Social safety)

In 2016, 41.8 percent of the youth aged 13 to 24 considered social safety as 'Insecure'. 'Crime' was considered as the leading cause of social insecurity.

■ (Awareness)

In 2016, 93.9 percent of the youth had awareness of gender equality. 94.7 percent of them thought that 'Everyone should have a right to freely express opinions'.

■ (Participation in voting)

In 2016, the youth aged 19 recorded a high voting turnout at 53.6 percent in the National Assembly election.