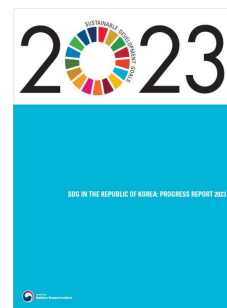


Embargo 12:00PM, March 29, 2023 Release date 8:30AM, March 29, 2023

『SDG in the Republic of Korea: Progress Report 2023』 released

- Assessing Korea's progress on 17 SDGs at the midpoint towards 2030
- Offering policy directions for tackling crises of inequality and climate change

□ On March 29, Statistics Korea(Commissioner Han-Hoon) released the 「SDG in the Republic of Korea: Progress Report 2023」, which assesses Korea's sustainability in social, environmental, and economic sectors using statistical data. This report presents Korea's progress in implementing each SDG sector, which UN member states unanimously agreed upon to achieve by 2030.

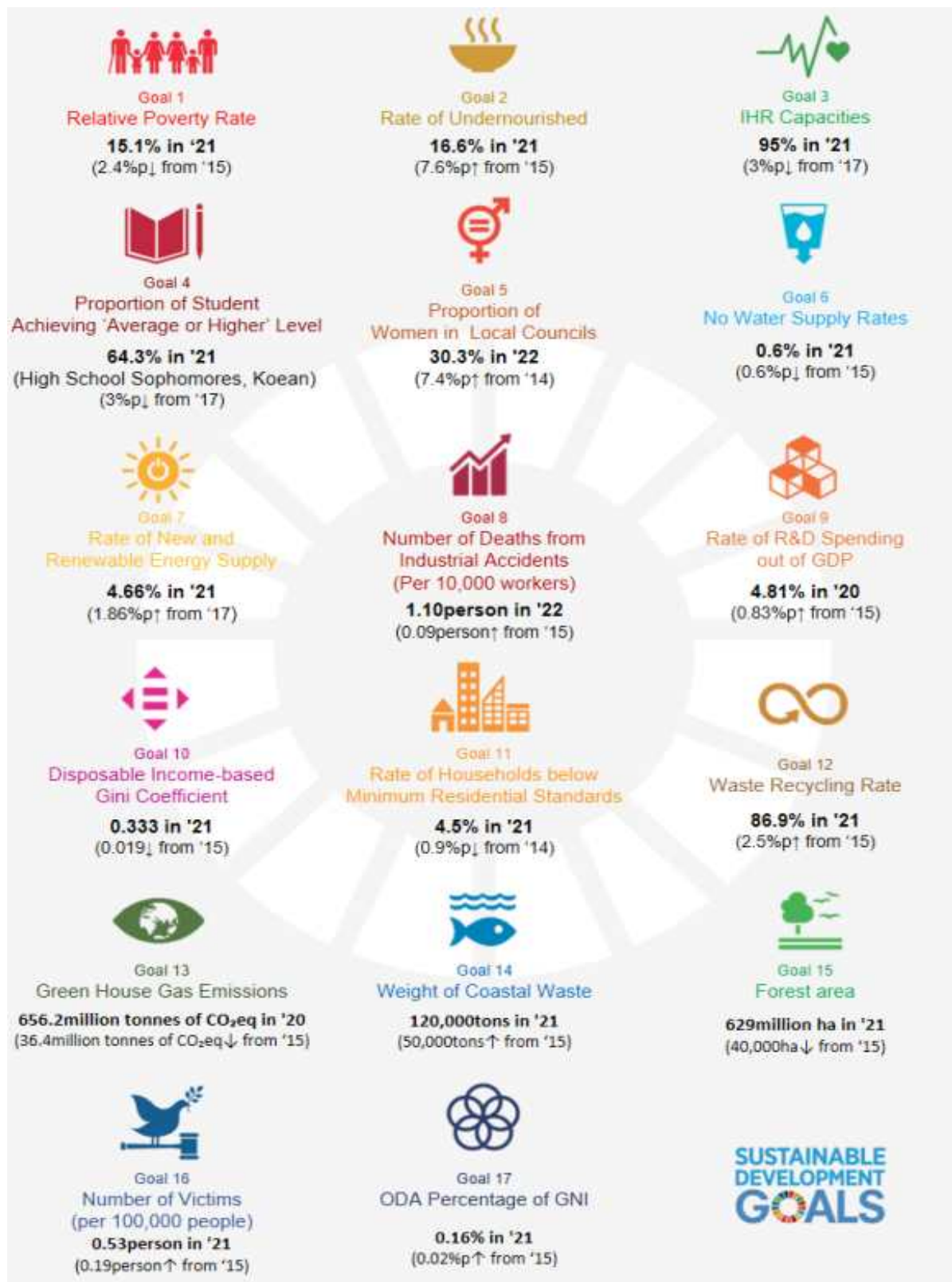


□ The report indicates that Korea's economic activity is recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, but its SDG implementation is lagging in areas such as education, inequality, climate, and ecosystems. Indicators in the report provide a benchmark to monitor Korea's progress towards the SDG.

□ Commissioner of Statistics Korea, Han Hoon, stated that "The crises that we currently face such as climate change can not be solved with efforts put in one single sector. The report's comprehensive examination of the 17 sectors would serve as a basis for creating cross-ministerial policies to overcome crises such as climate change".

□ Meanwhile, The UN General Assembly, to be held in the upcoming September, will host the SDG Summit 2023, where heads of state will evaluate global SDG progress and discuss follow-up steps.

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Contact Division | Statistics in Policy Research Team Statistics Research Institute | Contact Person | Jeon, Jun-woo (042-366-7130) |
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※ The report presents Korea's progress toward achieving the SDGs for each key indicator since their adoption in 2015. However, the report may use different years for data comparison due to differences in data availability.

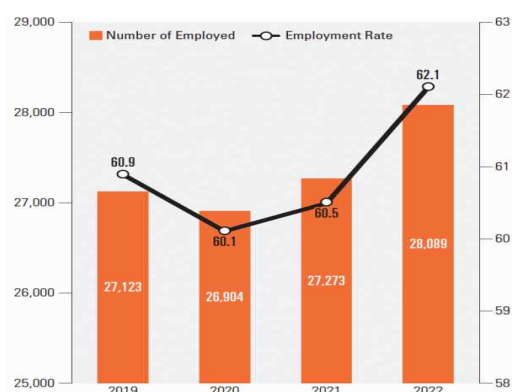
1. Employment, Education, and Poverty



◆ Economic activity has recovered from the shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a rise in the number of employed individuals and a drop in the unemployment rate. However, the recovery patterns have differed across demographic groups and industries.

- **(Employment)** In 2022, the number of employed individuals was 28.089 million, an increase of 816,000 from the previous year. The employment rate was 62.1%, which exceeded the pre-COVID-19 level of 60.9% in 2019.
- In 2022, the unemployment rate was 2.9%, with women having a higher rate of 3.1% compared to men's rate of 2.7%, which shows a persistent gender gap that had initially reversed at the start of the pandemic. The gender gap widened from 0.2% in 2021 to 0.4% in 2022.

<Number of the employed (unit: thousand)·Employment rate(%), 2019-2022>



<Unemployment rate (%) by sex, 2011-2022>



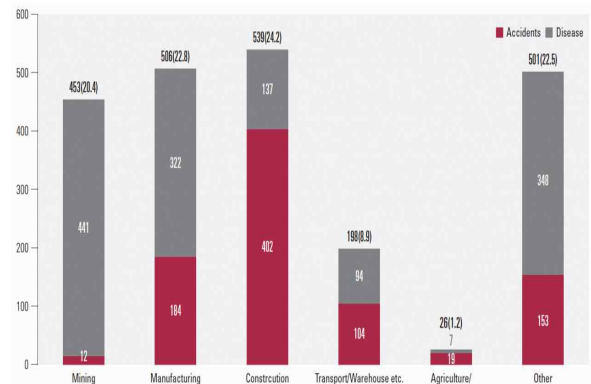
Sources: Statistics Korea, Economically Active Population Survey

- Deaths from industrial accidents increased by 143 from 2021 to 2,223 in 2022. Of these, 874 were deaths resulting from accidents (as opposed to illnesses), and 80.9% (707) occurred in workplaces with fewer than 50 employees.

<Number of deaths from industrial accidents, 2019-2022>

| | '19 | '20 | '21 | '22 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| No. of Victims | 109,242 | 108,379 | 122,713 | 130,348 |
| Accidents | 94,047 | 92,383 | 102,278 | 107,214 |
| Illnesses | 15,195 | 15,996 | 20,435 | 23,134 |
| No. of Deaths (per 10,000) | 2,020 (1.08) | 2,062 (1.09) | 2,080 (1.07) | 2,223 (1.10) |
| Accidents | 855 | 882 | 828 | 874 |
| Illnesses | 1,165 | 1,180 | 1,252 | 1,349 |

<Number of deaths from industrial accidents depending on workplace size, 2022>

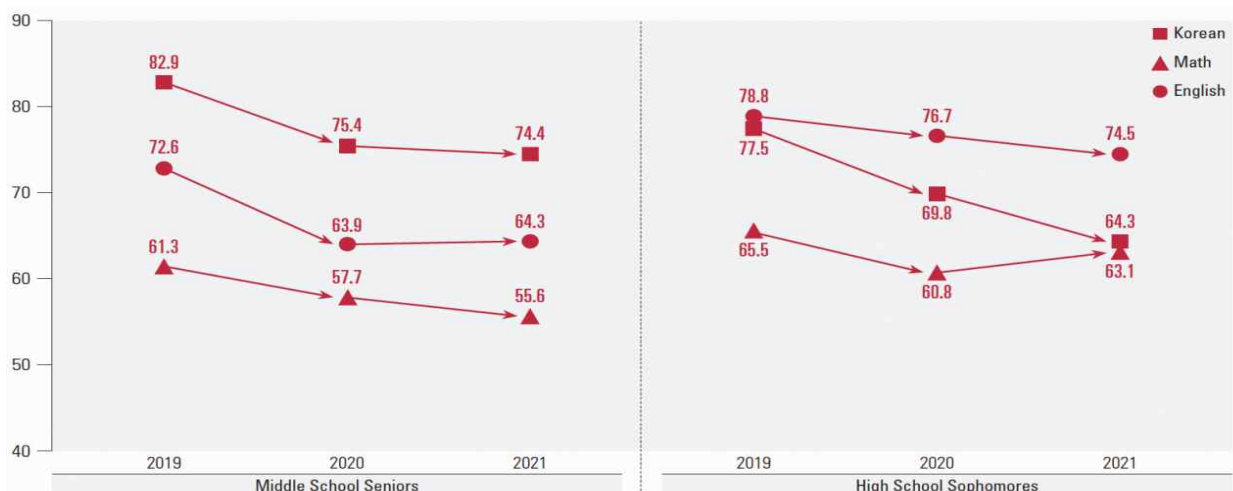


Source: Ministry of Employment and Labor, 2022 Industrial Accident Status

Note: The number of deaths excludes deaths from traffic accidents, sports events, violent acts outside the workplace, deaths occurring one year after the accident, and deaths from regular commuting. However, it includes deaths from traffic accidents outside the workplace in the transportation, restaurant, and hotel industries.

- **(Education)** According to the National Assessment of Educational Achievement, the COVID-19 outbreak led to a decrease in the percentage of middle and high school students achieving the 'Level 3 (Average) or higher' in 2020. Overall, this pattern remained unchanged in 2021.
 - In particular, the rate of high school sophomores achieving 'Level 3 (average) or higher' in Korean decreased from 77.5% in 2019 to 69.8% in 2020 and further to 64.3% in 2021.

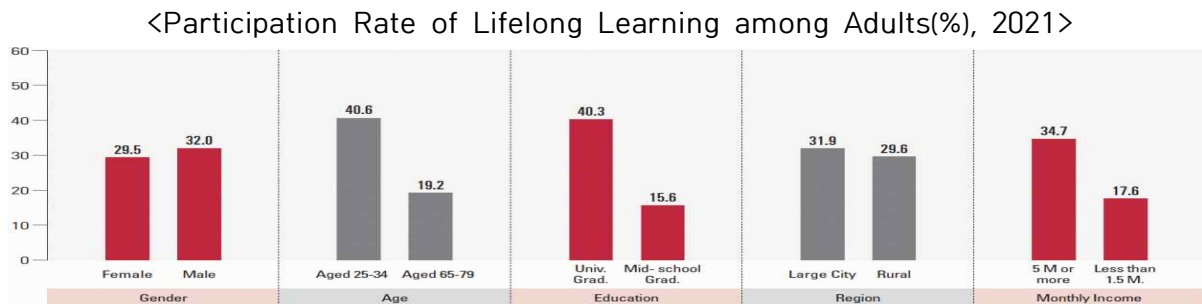
<Percentage of Students with 'Level 3 (Average) or Higher', 2019-2021>



Sources: Korea Institute for Curriculum and Evaluation, National Assessment of Educational Achievement

Note: Achievement is divided into four levels (Level 4: Excellent, Level 3: Average, Level 2: Basic, Level 1: below the basic academic skills)

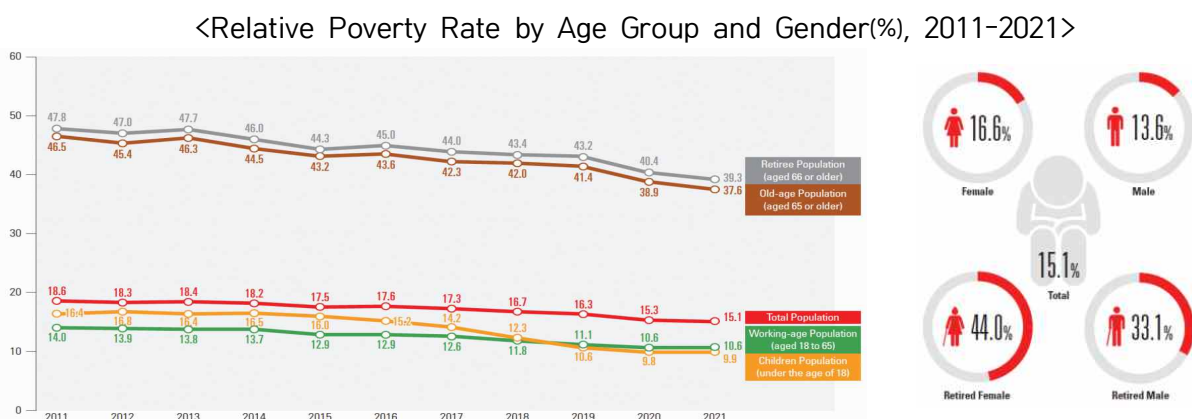
- The participation rate of adults in lifelong learning decreased from 41.7% in 2019 to 40.0% in 2020 and further to 30.7% in 2021. The level of participation significantly varied based on educational attainment and income levels.



Sources: Korea Educational Development Institute, National Lifelong Learning Survey for Individual Learners

Note: The survey covered adults aged 25 to 79 who participated in lifelong learning at least once in the past year. (but it only included adults aged 25 to 64 until 2019).

- **(Poverty)** The relative poverty rate was 15.1% in 2021, which decreased by 0.2%p from the previous year. However, the rate of poverty reduction has slowed down year-on-year, with a decrease of 0.6%p in 2018, 0.4%p in 2019, and 1.0%p in 2020.
- By age group, the poverty rate of those under 18 in 2021 was 9.9%, an increase of 0.1%p from the previous year. The rate for those aged 18 to 65 stayed the same as the previous year at 10.6%. Meanwhile, the poverty rates of those aged 66 or older stood at 37.6%, a decrease of 1.1%p from the previous year, indicating a year-on-year decline in poverty among the elderly population.
- The relative poverty rate of retired females and males aged 66 or older was 44.0% and 33.1%, respectively.



Sources: Statistics Korea, Bank of Korea, Financial Supervisory Service, Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions

Note: Relative poverty rates are measured as the proportion of individuals with equivalised disposable income less than 50% of the median income of the entire population.

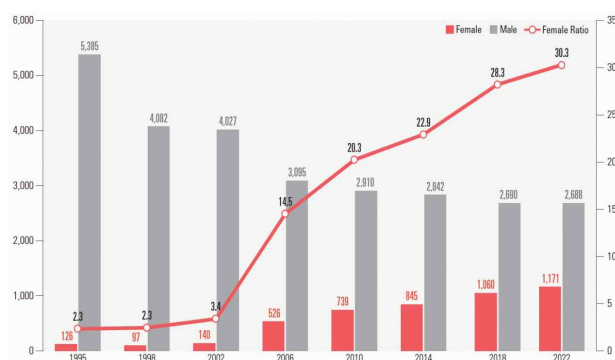
2. Gender and Economic Inequality



- ◆ Although the ratio of women holding seats in local governments has steadily increased over time, it still remains lower than that of men. The Gini coefficient, which measures income and wealth inequality, slightly increased year-over-year.

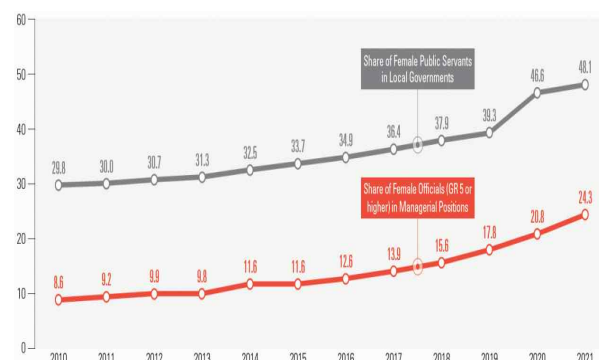
- **(Gender equality)** Since the first local elections for government heads in 1995, the proportion of female representatives elected has increased from 2.3% to 30.0% in 2022, up by 28.0 %p over 27 years.
 - The ratio of female managers (Grade 5 or higher) among public servants in local governments has risen from 8.6% in 2010 to 24.3% in 2021.
 - However, in 2022, no single woman was elected as the head of an upper-level local government and only 3.1% (7) of municipality heads were women.

<Proportion and Number of Seats Held by Women in Local Councils(%), 1995-2022>



Source: National Election Commission, Election Statistics System

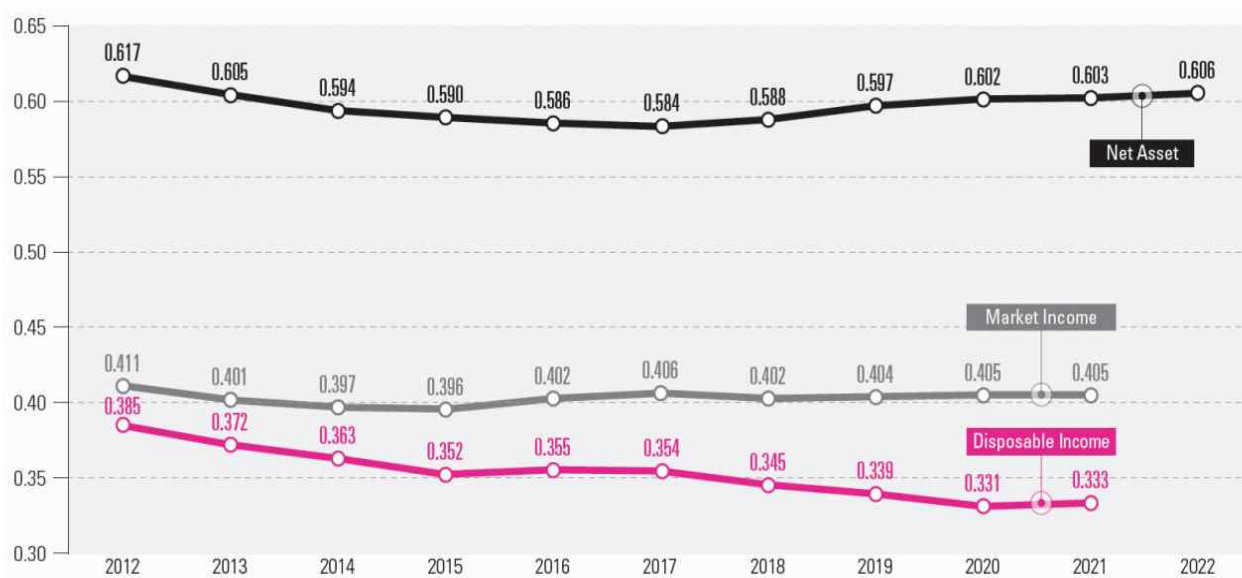
<Share of Women in Managerial Positions (GR 5 or higher) at Local Governments(%), 2010-2021>



Source: Ministry of Public Administration and Security, Statistics of Female Public Servants in Local Government

- **(Inequality)** The Gini coefficient of net wealth has increased since 2018 and reached 0.606 in 2022, up by 0.003 from the previous year.
 - In 2021, the Gini coefficient of market income remained unchanged at 0.405, while the Gini coefficient of disposable income increased by 0.002 to 0.333 compared to the previous year.

<Gini coefficient, 2012-2022>



Source: Statistics Korea, Bank of Korea, Financial Supervisory Service, Survey of Household Finances and Living Conditions

Note: The Gini coefficient measures inequality on a scale from 0 to 1, with 0 indicating greater equality and closer to 1 indicating greater inequality.

- **(Housing)** In 2021, the rate of households living below the minimum residential standards was 4.5%, a decrease of 0.1 p% from the previous year. However, the rates for youth and low-income households were higher than the national average, standing at 7.9% and 7.3%, respectively.
- The rate of households living in underground, semi-underground, and roof-top rooms in metropolitan areas was 2.3%, higher than the national average of 1.1%, indicating concentration in these areas.

3. GHG emissions, Energy, Waste



◆ GHG emissions in Korea have decreased for two consecutive years in 2019 and 2020.

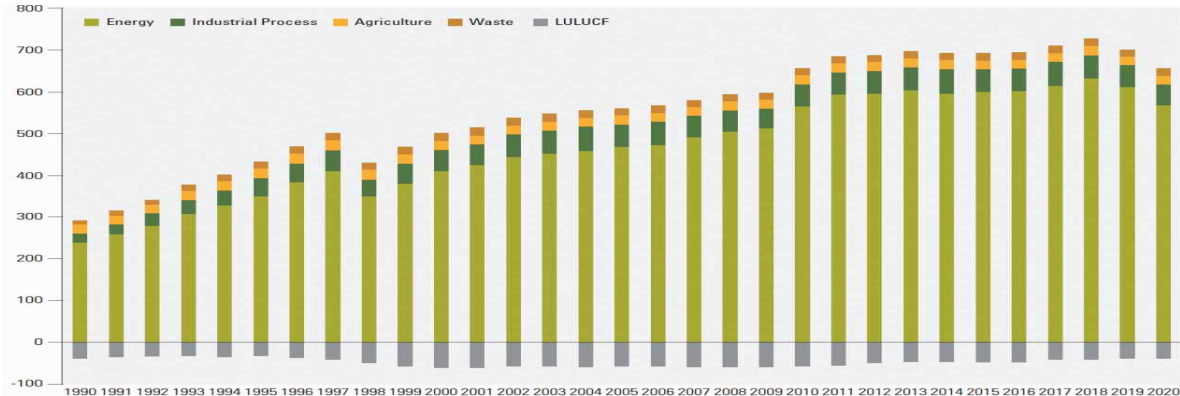
The rate of renewable energy supply increased while waste generation continued to rise steadily.

- **(GHG emissions)** In 2020, South Korea's total GHG emissions amounted to 656.2 million tCO₂eq, a 9.7% decrease from the highest record in 2018 (727 million tCO₂eq) but a 124.7% increase from 1990 levels (292.1 million tCO₂eq).

* South Korea's 2030 NDC target is to cut GHG emissions by 40% from 2018 levels by 2030.

- The energy sector is the largest emitter (86.8%), followed by industrial processes (7.4%), agriculture (3.2%), and waste (2.5%).
- Per capita emissions increased by 85.5% from 6.8 tCO₂eq in 1990 to 12.7 tCO₂eq in 2020.

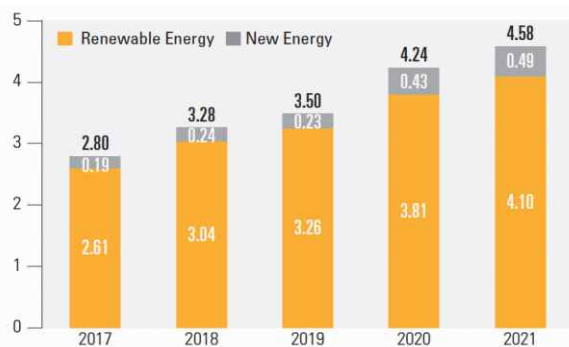
<GHG Emissions by Sector (Unit: million tCO₂eq.) and Per Capita Emissions (tCO₂eq./person), 1990-2020>



Source: Ministry of Environment, Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Center, Announcement of National GHG Inventory

- **(Energy, Waste)** In 2021, the total proportion of new and renewable energy out of primary energy supply in South Korea was 4.66%, with renewables accounting for 4.16% of this figure.
- In 2021, the total amount of waste generated was 197.38 million tons, a 1.0% increase from the previous year (195.46 million tons). Per capita domestic waste generated per day also increased by 1.7%, from 1.16 kg to 1.18 kg.

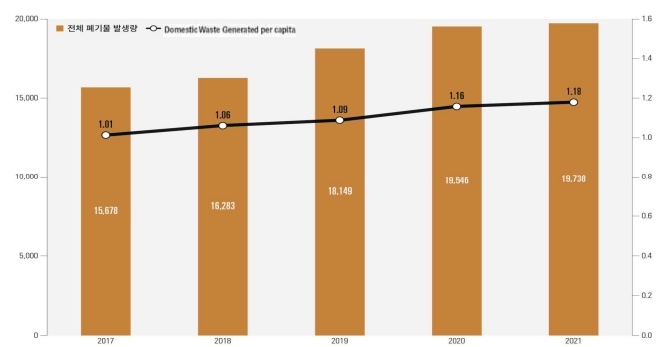
<Rate of New and Renewable Energy Supply(%), 2017-2021 >



Source: Korea Energy Agency, New & Renewable Energy Statistics

Note: Energy generated from non-renewable waste is excluded according to the Renewable Energy Act Amendment (2019).

Waste Generated (Unit: 10,000 ton/year, kg/person/day) 2017-2021 >



Source: Ministry of Environment, Korea Environment Corporation, National Waste Generation and Disposal

Note: The total amount of waste is the sum of domestic waste, industrial waste, construction waste and designated waste.

4. Biodiversity



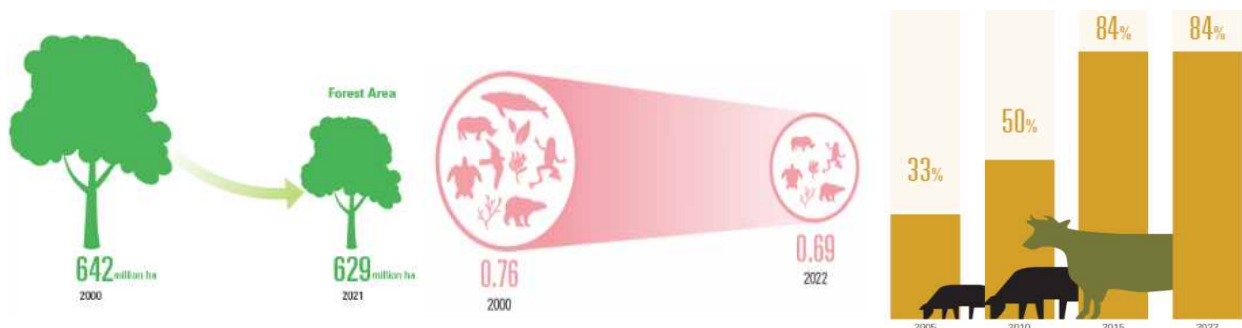
- ◆ The threat to biodiversity is increasing, evidenced by the reduction in forested areas and the decline in the Red List Index. It is crucial to maintain a focus on addressing the impact of plastic wastes on ocean biodiversity.

- **(Land)** In 2021, South Korea's forest areas decreased to 6.29 million ha, a decrease of 130,000 ha* from 6.42 million ha in 2000.

* This area is more than twice the size of Seoul (605 km² in 2021).

- The Red List Index of Korea, which monitors the state and the risk of wildlife extinction, has declined from 0.76 in 2000 to 0.69 in 2022.
- The percentage of local livestock breeds at risk has remained high at 80% or higher since 2011, although it decreased by 2%p year-on-year to 84% in 2022.

<Forest areas·Red List Index·Rate of Local Livestock Breeds at Risk, 2000-2022>



Source: Korea Forest Service' s Annual Report on Forest and Forestry Statistic, and UN SDG Indicators Database(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>)

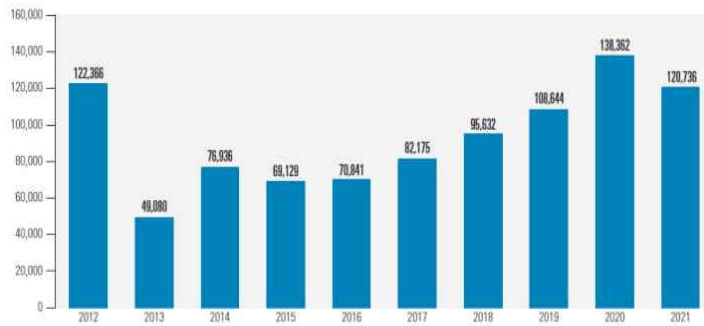
Note 1 : The Red List Index is on a scale of 0 to 1, where a value closer to 0 indicates a greater risk of extinction for endangered and endemic species and lower biodiversity.

Note 2 : The Rate of Local Livestock Breeds at Risk refers to the percentage of local livestock breeds registered in the UN FAO and DAD-IS that are classified as at-risk out of local livestock breeds whose at-risk level is known.

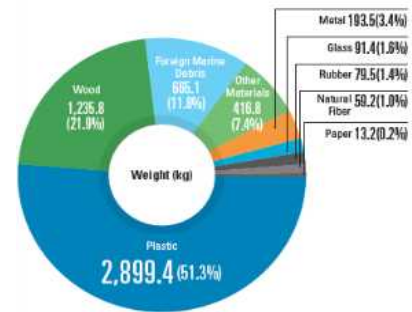
- **(Ocean)** In 2021, the total amount of marine waste collected was 12,736 tons, a 12.7% decrease from 2020.

- Marine waste comprises plastic, wood, metal, glass, rubber, and others, with plastic being the largest contributor at 51.3% of the total weight.

<Source: Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries,
Marine Environment Information Portal (Unit: ton)>



<Marine Waste by Type, 2021>



Source: Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, national marine waste monitoring statistics
(Marine Environment Information Portal)

Note 1 : The amount of marine waste data includes marine waste, settled waste, and floating waste collected through waste removal projects by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and local governments and is available on the Marine Environment Information Portal.

Note 2 : Korea monitors marine waste every two months at 60 selected locations along the east, west, and south coasts.

5. Innovation, Crime, International cooperation



◆ South Korea's R&D expenditure in GDP is among the world's highest.
It is necessary to expand its ODA, including the aid to the least developed countries.

- (Innovation) In 2020, R&D expenditures in Korea increased to KRW 78.86 billion, up KRW 2.444 billion from the previous year.
- The rate of R&D expenditures in GDP was 4.81%, making it the world's second-highest after Israel.

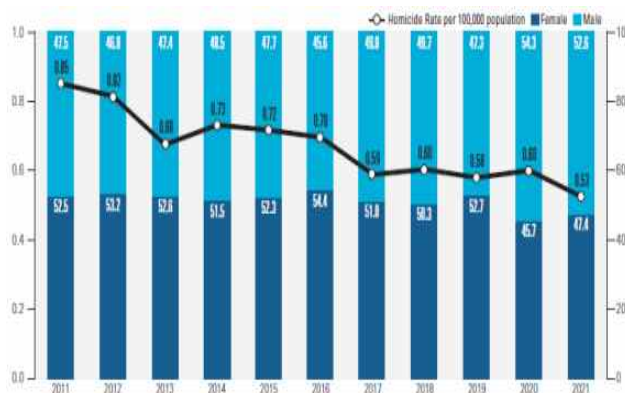
<Total R&D Spending and Share of R&D Spending out of GDP, 2013-2020 (Unit: KRW 100 M, %)>



Source: Ministry of Science and ICT · KISTEP, Survey of Research Development(2022)

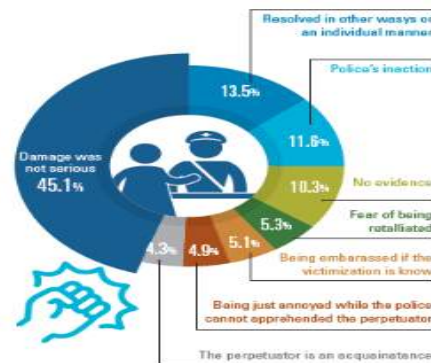
- The homicide victims per 100,000 population decreased by 38.3% from 0.85 in 2011 to 0.53 in 2021. However, the rate of reporting violent crimes to the police was only 19% in 2020.
- The reasons for not reporting violent crimes include not having suffered serious damage (45.1%), resolving the issue in other ways or individually (13.5%), police inaction (11.6%), concerns about being unable to apprehend the perpetrator (4.9%), fear of retaliation (5.3%), and embarrassment if the victimization becomes known (5.1%).

<Homicide Rate and Victim by Sex,
2011~2021
(Unit: No. of persons per 100,000, %)>



Source: National Police Agency, Crime Statistics Data
Note: The homicide rate was calculated based on the number of victims to homicides actually committed per 100,000 population.

<Reasons for Not Reporting Violent Crimes, 2020>



Source: Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice, National Crime Victimization Survey 2020

- **(ODA)** The ODA/GNI ratio in Korea increased to 0.16% in 2021, up 0.02%p from the previous year. However, Korea's ODA rate is still only half of the OECD average.
- The share of bilateral aid to least developed countries increased to 39.8% in 2020, a rise of 1.7%p from 2019.

Attachment3

International Comparison among OECD Members

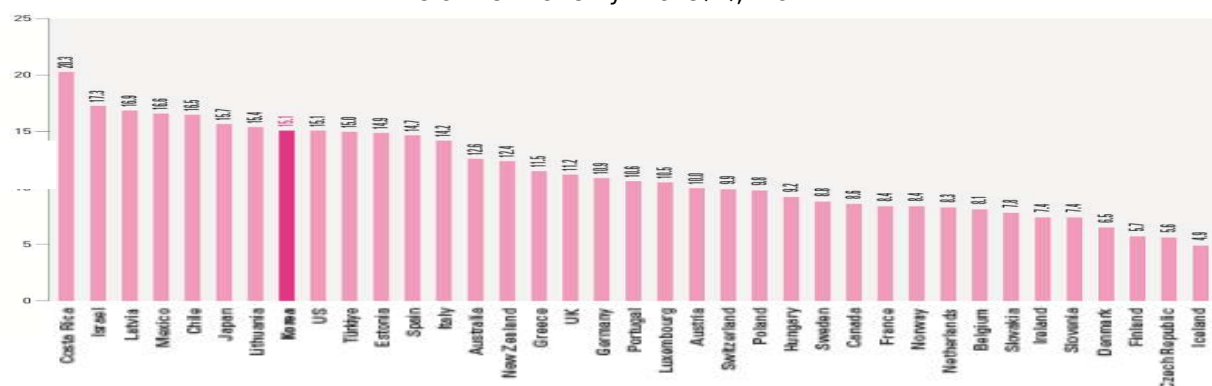
- ◆ Korea ranks high in the number of researchers, waste recycling rate, and IHR core capacities.
- ◆ Korea remains at a low level in renewable energy share, the number of females in top government managerial positions, and the Red index list.

- **(Relative Poverty Rate)** The disposable income-based relative poverty rate in Korea was 15.1% in 2021, which ranked 8th highest among 37 OECD countries and was tied with the U.S.

* (Top countries) Costa Rica 20.3, Israel 17.3, Latvia 16.9

(Bottom countries) Iceland 4.9, Czech Republic 5.6, Finland 5.7

<Relative Poverty Rate(%), 2021>



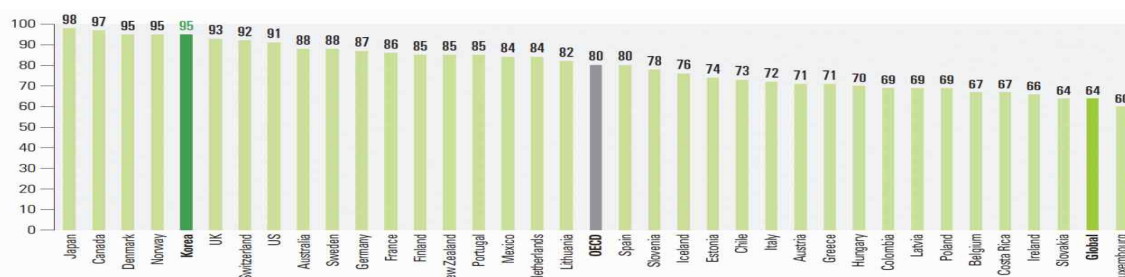
Source: OECD Society Data, income inequality & poverty rate (<https://data.oecd.org/society/homeprofile-inequality>, retrieved on Jan 02, 2023)

Note: This was based on the most recent years (2017 to 2021) with data available for each country. There was no data for Colombia out of 38 OECD members.

- **(IHR Core Capacities)** In 2021, Korea's IHR rating was 95%, the third-highest among OECD members after Denmark and Norway.

* (Top countries) Japan 98, Canada 97, South Korea 95 (Bottom countries) Luxembourg 60, Slovakia 64, Ireland 66

<IHR Core Capacities by OECD Country(%), 2021>



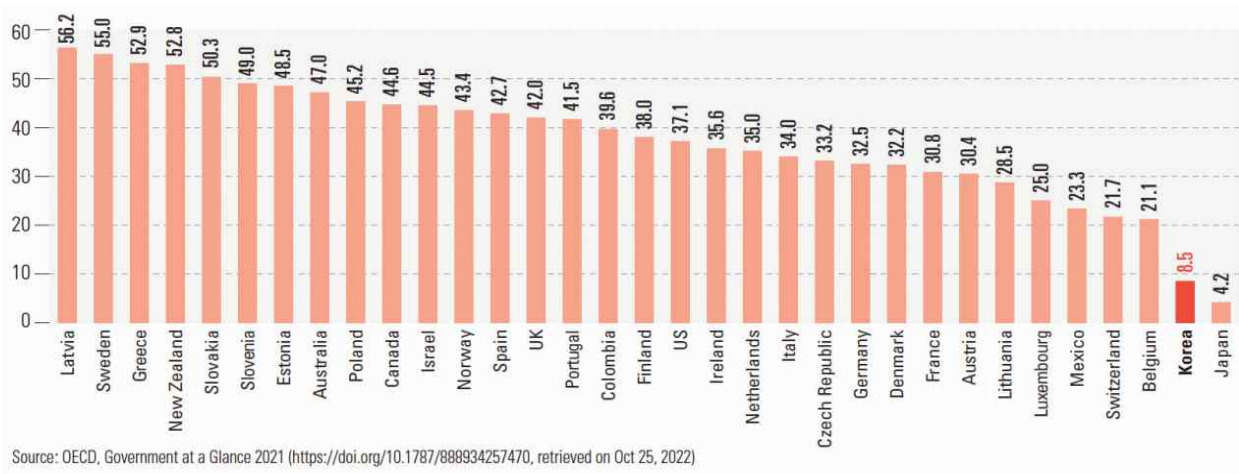
Source: UN SDG Indicators Database (<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>, retrieved on Jan 04, 2023)

※ The IHR serves as legal regulations for WHO member states to prevent, detect and respond to a public health crisis. The IHR capacities and health emergency response are evaluated in accordance with 15 items of core capacities, including 1. Policy, legal and normative instruments to implement IHR, 2. IHR coordination, national focal point functions, 3. Financing, 4. Laboratory, 5. Surveillance, 6. Human resources, 7. Health emergency management, 8. Health services provision, 9. Infection prevention and control (IPC), 10. Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), 11. Point of entry and border health, 12. Zoonotic diseases, 13. Food safety, 14. Chemical events, 15. Radiation emergencies. The item 'Infection Prevention and Control' was newly added to the list in 2021.

- **(Female managers)** In 2020, Korea had only 8.5% of top managerial positions at central governments held by females, which ranked the country 32nd out of 33 OECD countries and showed a significant gap with Belgium, which ranked one place ahead with 21.1%.

* (Top countries) Latvia 56.2, Sweden 55.0, Greece 52.9
(Bottom countries) Japan 4.2, South Korea 8.5, Belgium 21.1

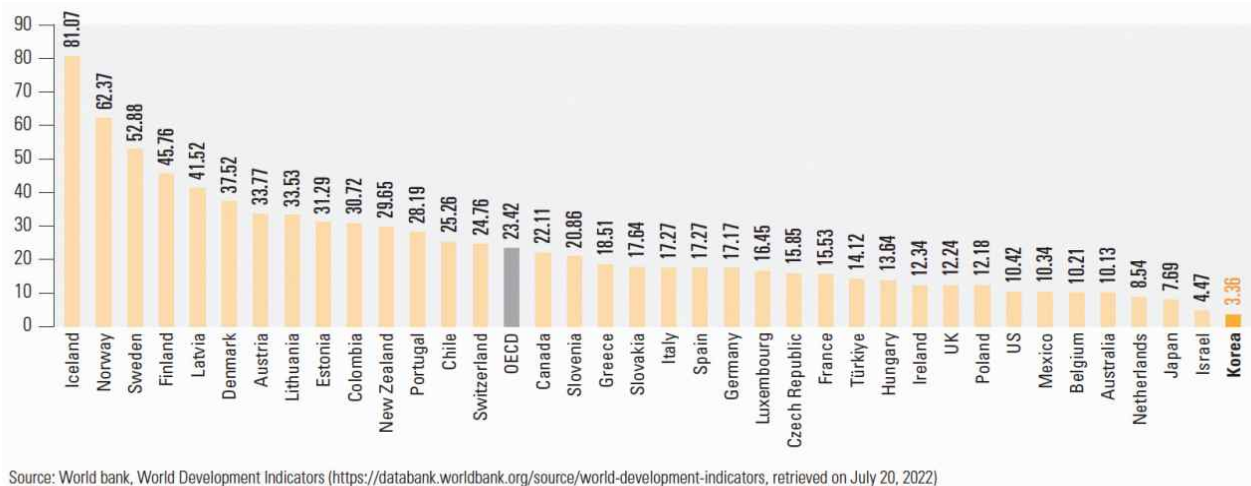
<Share of Females in Top Managerial Positions at Central Governments(%), 2020>



- **(Renewable energy)** South Korea had the lowest rate of renewable energy out of final energy consumption among 37 OECD members in 2019, at only 3.4%, which is one-seventh of the OECD average.

* (Top countries) Iceland 81.1, Norway 62.4, Sweden 52.9
(Bottom countries) South Korea 3.4, Israel 4.5, Japan 7.7

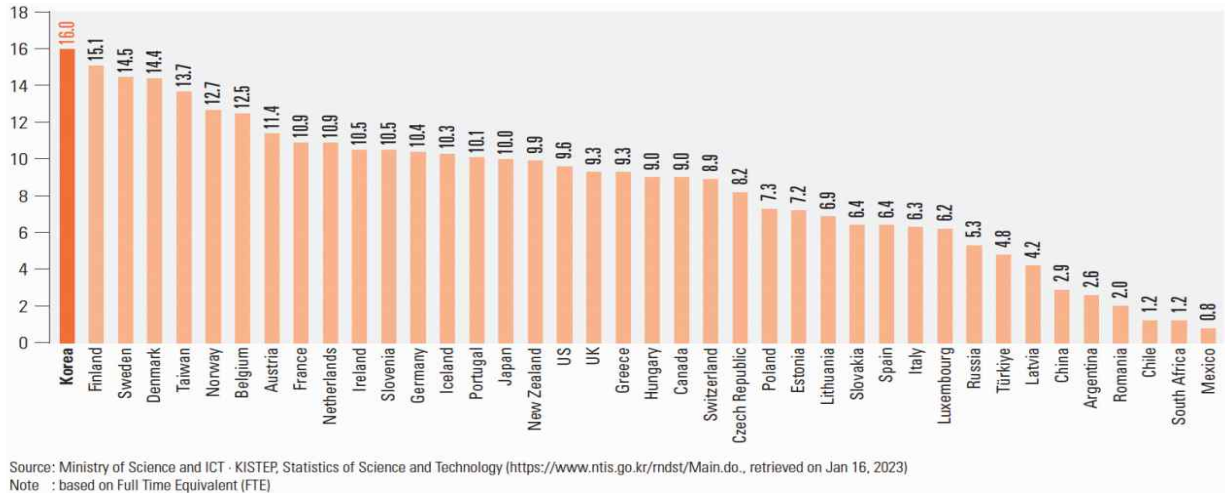
<Renewable Energy Share(%), 2019>



- **(Number of researchers)** In 2020, South Korea had 16.0 researchers per 1,000 economically active population, which was the highest count among all OECD countries.

* (Top countries) South Korea 16.0, Finland 15.1, Sweden 14.5
(Bottom countries) Mexico 0.8, Chile 1.2, Latvia 4.2 (persons)

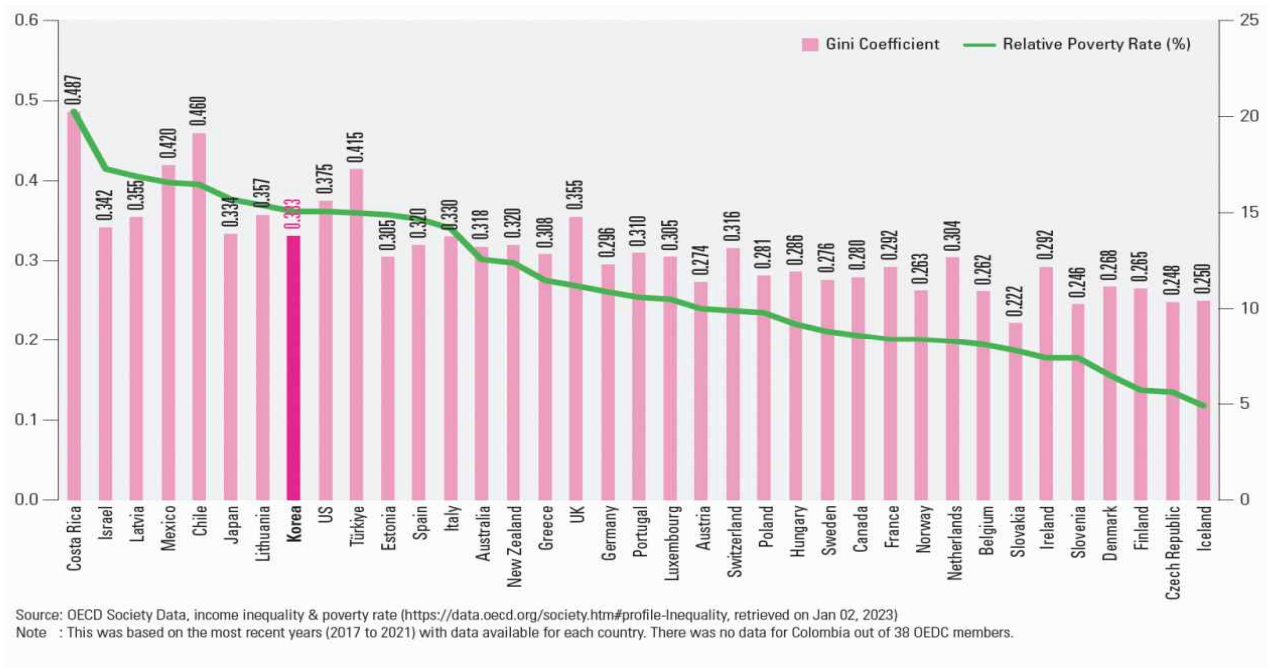
<Number of Researchers per 1,000 Economically Active population, 2020 >



- **(Gini coefficient)** In 2021, South Korea's Gini coefficient of disposable income was 0.333, ranking the country 11th among OECD countries.

* (Top countries) Costa Rica 0.487, Chile 0.460, Mexico 0.420
(Bottom countries) Slovakia 0.222 Slovenia 0.246 Czech Republic 0.248

<Gini coefficient, 2021>

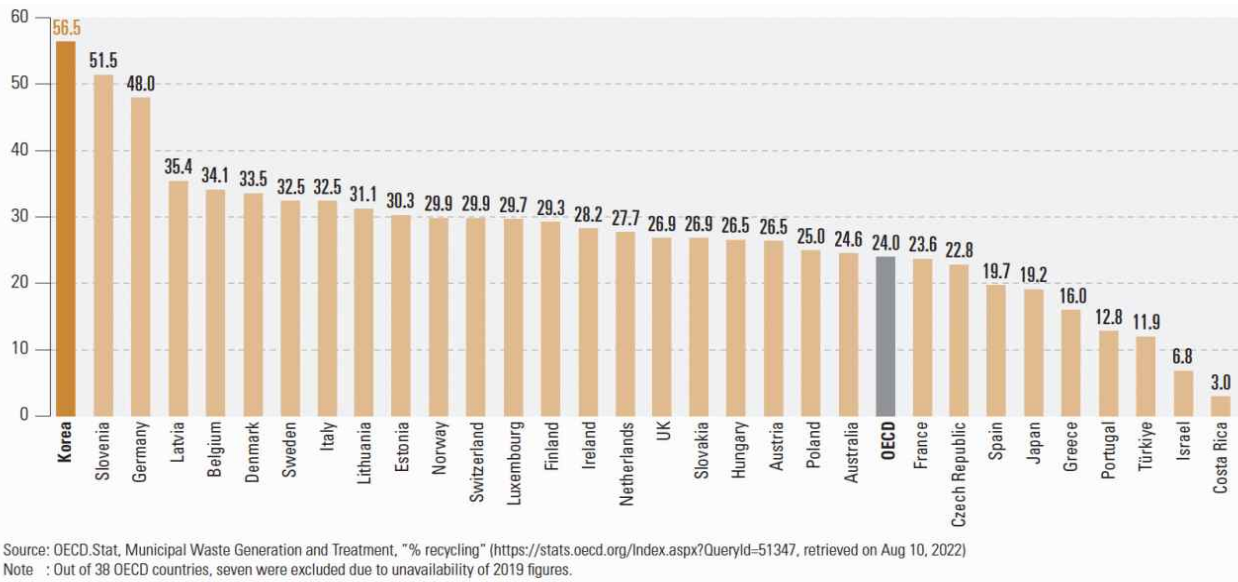


- **(Waste)** In 2019, Korea's recycling rate was 56.5%, the highest among 31 OECD countries.

* (Top countries) South Korea 56.5, Slovenia 51.5, Germany 48.0

(Bottom countries) Costa Rica 3.0, Israel 6.8, Türkiye 11.9

<Domestic Waste Recycling Rate(%), 2019>



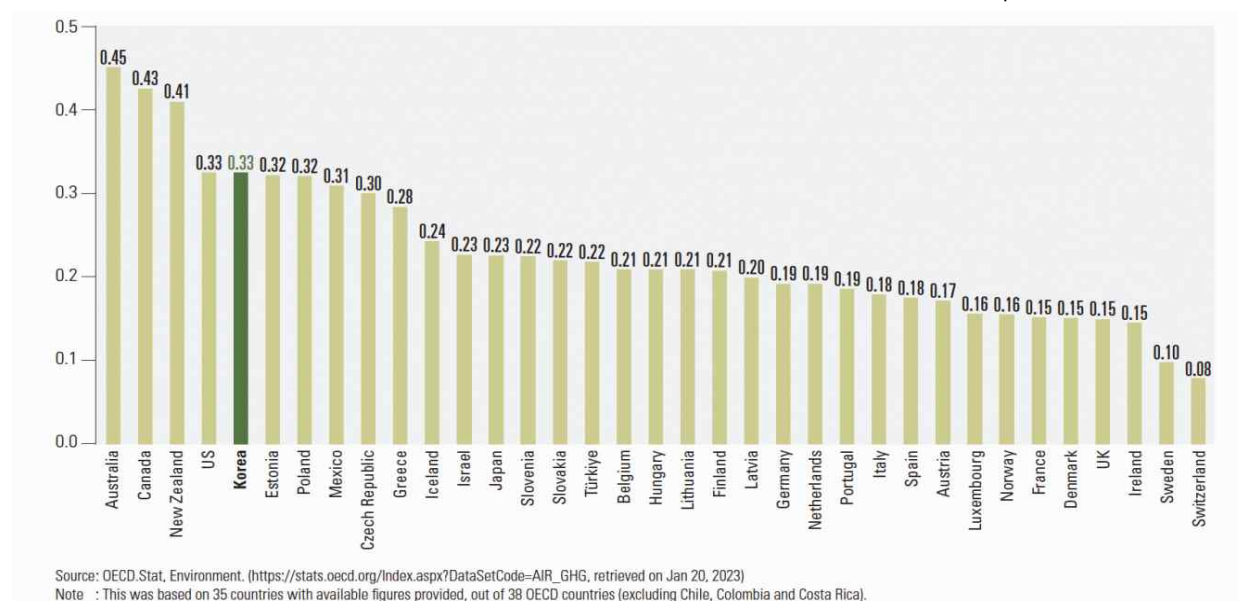
- **(GHG)** South Korea's GHG emissions per GDP were 0.33 tons in 2019, the 4th highest level among 35 OECD countries, tied with the U.S.

* (Top countries) Australia 0.45, Canada 0.43, New Zealand 0.41

(Bottom countries) Switzerland 0.08, Sweden 0.10, Ireland 0.15

<Total GHG Emissions per GDP, 2019>

(Unit: tCO₂eq./USD1,000 (2015 PPP))

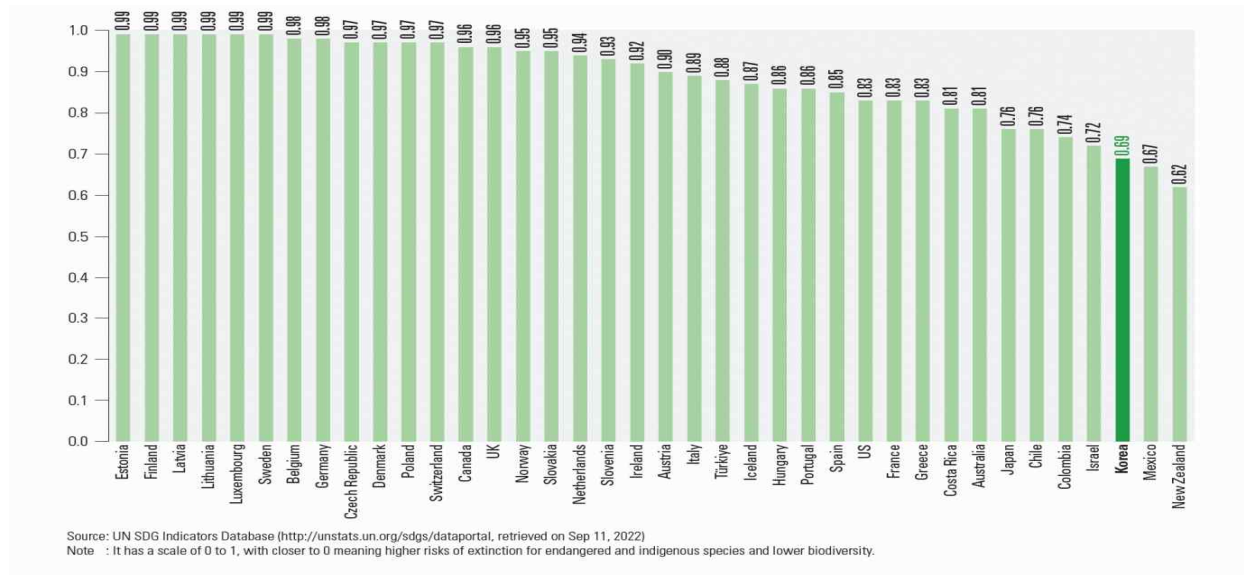


- **(Red list index)** The Red List Index of Korea was 0.69 in 2022, ranking 36th among 38 OECD countries.

* (Top countries) Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania 0.99

(Bottom countries) New Zealand 0.62, Mexico 0.67, South Korea 0.699

<Red list index, 2022>

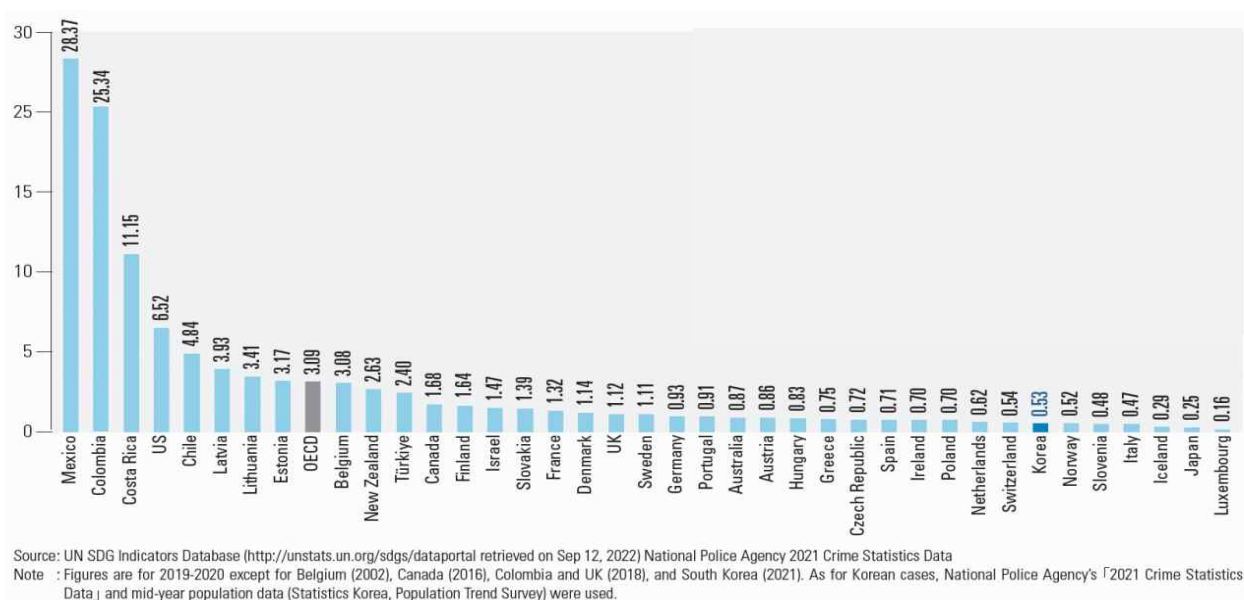


- **(Homicide crime)** South Korea's number of homicide victims per 100,000 population was 0.53 in 2021, ranking 32nd out of 38 OECD countries.

* (Top countries) Mexico 28.37, Colombia 25.34, Costa Rica 11.15

(Bottom countries) Luxembourg 0.16, Japan 0.25, Iceland 0.29

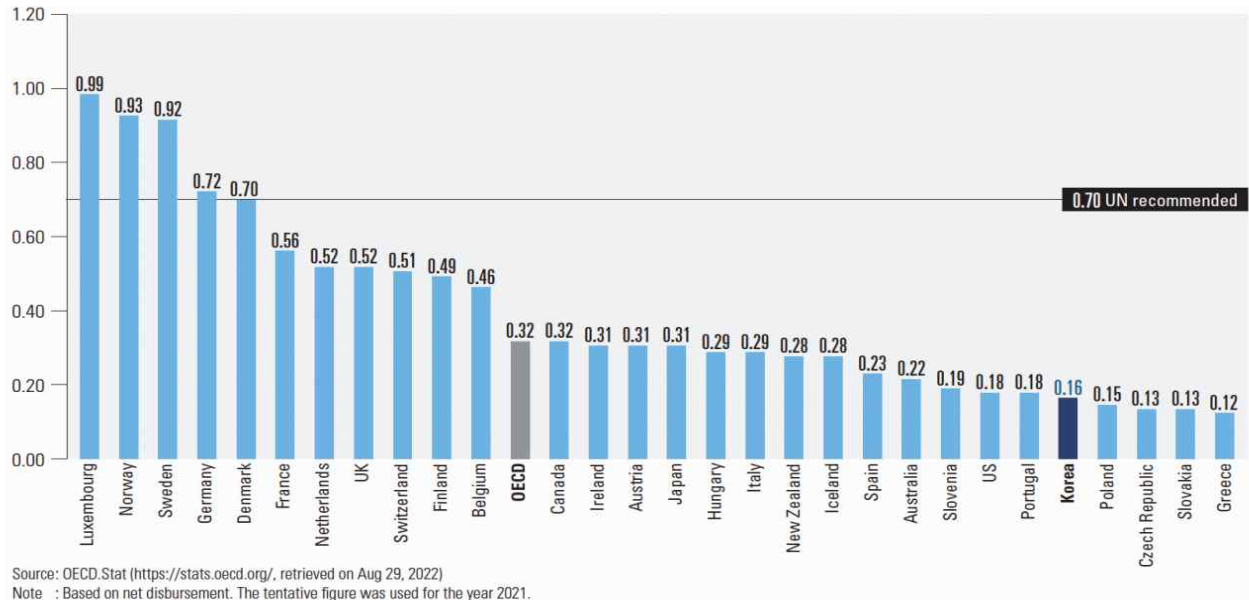
<Number of Homicide Victims per 100,000 Population, 2021>



- **(ODA)** South Korea's ODA/GNI percentage was 0.16% in 2021, ranking 25th among 29 OECD DAC member countries.

* (Top countries) Luxembourg 0.99, Norway 0.93, Sweden 0.92
 (Bottom countries) Greece 0.12 Slovakia 0.13, Czech Republic 0.13

<ODA/GNI Percentage by OECD DAC Member States(%), 2021>



Appendix

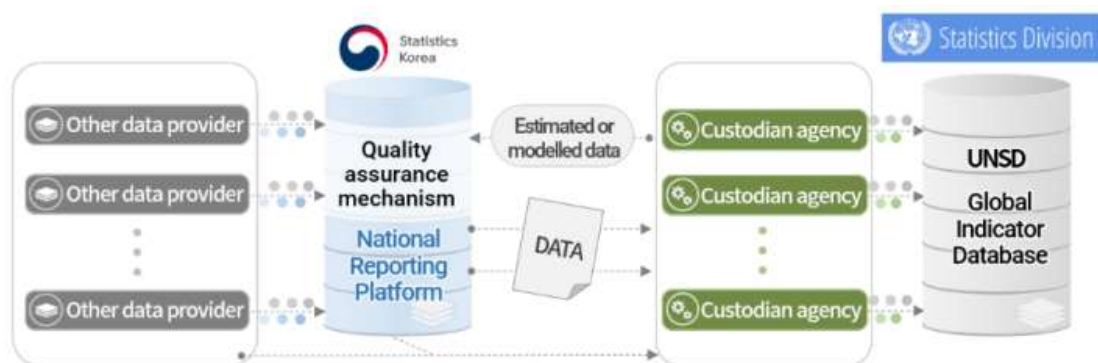
Overview of the UN SDG

- ▷ **(Concept)** The Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015 at the UN General Assembly, are a comprehensive action plan to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030, consisting of 169 targets and 231 indicators.



< SDG Goals >

- ▷ **(Principle)** Based on its core principle of inclusiveness, “Leave no one behind”, all SDG indicators should be disaggregated by sex, age, income, disability, migration status, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in the national context.
- ▷ **(Data management)** The UN designates a data focal point for each country to collect data, and in Korea, Statistics Korea fulfills this role. Currently, Korea has established a network of 28 ministries and 40 statistical organizations to collectively manage domestic data.



<Data Flowchart>