한국이 미국에 중요한 이유
미국이 한국에 중요한 이유

KOREA MATTERS FOR AMERICA MATTERS FOR KOREA

FOURTH EDITION

EAST-WEST CENTER

KEI

CHEY INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

AsiaMattersforAmerica.org/KOREA

The **East-West Center** promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the US Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options. The **East-West Center in Washington** provides US and Indo-Pacific government stakeholders and program partners with innovative training, analytical, dialogue, exchange, and public diplomacy initiatives to meet policy priorities.

The **Korea Economic Institute (KEI)** is a public policy organization focused on promoting dialogue and understanding between the United States and Korea. Established in 1982, KEI began by concentrating on economic issues but now covers all aspects of the alliance, including national security, Northeast Asian regional affairs and Korean American issues. Every year, KEI commissions dozens of Korea-related research papers, publishes books on Korea policy issues, organizes forums and conferences across North America, and has a growing online presence. KEI is an affiliate with the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), a public research institute in the Republic of Korea.

The **Chey Institute for Advanced Studies** is a knowledge-sharing platform established in October 2018 to honor the 20th anniversary of the passing of CHEY Jong-hyon, the former Chairman of SK Group. The Chey Institute is committed to analyzing various geopolitical risks surrounding the Korean Peninsula, and exploring opportunities and obstacles posed by scientific innovation. In doing so, the Chey Institute aims to come up with pragmatic solutions to the challenges that Northeast Asia faces today.

First Edition: 2011
Second Edition: 2013
Third Edition: 2018
Fourth Edition: 2023

KOREA MATTERS FOR AMERICA/ AMERICA MATTERS FOR KOREA

한국이 미국에 중요한 이유/ 미국이 한국에 중요한 이유

This project maps the trade, investment, employment, business, diplomacy, security, education, tourism, and people-to-people connections between the United States and South Korea at the national, state, and local levels. Part of the *Asia Matters for America* initiative, this publication and the AsiaMattersforAmeria.org website are resources for understanding the robust and dynamic US-Korea relationship.

AsiaMattersforAmerica.org/Korea

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KOREA MATTERS FOR AMERICA | 한국이 미국에 중요한 이유

Highlights

THE US AND SOUTH KOREA IN PROFILE

The United States and South Korea Share Deep Economic, Military, and Democratic Partnerships

As the 1st and 10th largest economies in the world, the United States and South Korea collaborate on a wide array of global challenges. These include nuclear nonproliferation, global health security, women's economic empowerment, human rights, and the rule of law bilaterally and through dozens of international and regional organizations.

VALUES AND DEMOCRACY

The United States and South Korea Share an Enduring Commitment to Democratic Values

The United States and South Korea share key common values, such as their commitment to freedom, democracy, and a rules-based international order, and both countries score 83/100 on the Freedom House Index.

US-KOREA GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

The United States and South Korea Are Global Partners

The United States and South Korea regularly reaffirm that their relationship is anchored in shared values which include the promotion of democracy, human rights, and multilateralism on the Korean Peninsula and regionally.

ALLIANCE

The US-South Korea Alliance Contributes to Regional Security and Supports International Engagement

South Korea hosts the 2nd largest contingent of US troops in the Indo-Pacific and the 3rd largest globally, with five major US military installations and over 28,000 active and reserve troops. South Korea contributes more than $1 billion annually for much of the labor, logistics, and construction costs associated with stationing US troops in the country, and spends more on its defense as a percentage of GDP than most US treaty allies.

TRADE

South Korea Is the 3rd Largest Export Partner of the United States in the Indo-Pacific

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, total two-way trade between the United States and South Korea was $194.5 billion in 2021. Services exports to South Korea exceeded $19 billion in 2021, representing a $6.9 billion services trade surplus.

주요 내용

한국과 미국의 개요

한국과 미국은 경제, 군사, 민주주의의 공고한 파트너십을 유지

미국과 한국은 각각 세계 1위, 10위의 경제대국으로서 비핵화, 보건안보, 여성의 경제적 지위 향상, 인권, 법규범 등 다양한 글로벌 과제에 대응하기 위해 양자간 협력과 지역 및 국제 협력체를 통해 공조하고 있다.

가치와 민주주의

한국과 미국은 모두 민주주의 가치에 대한 강한 신념을 공유

한국과 미국은 자유, 민주주의, 법규범 기반의 국제 질서 등 공통 가치를 공유하며, 양국 모두 프리덤하우스 인덱스(Freedom House Index)에서 100점 중 83점을 기록했다.

한미 글로벌 파트너십

한국과 미국은 글로벌 파트너

한미 양국은 정기적으로 양국 관계가 한반도와 주변지역의 민주주의, 인권, 다자주의 증진을 비롯한 공동 가치에 기반을 두고 있음을 재천명해왔다.

동맹

한미 동맹은 지역 안보와 국제 협력에 기여

한국은 인도태평양 지역 내에서 2번째로, 전세계적에서 3번째로 많은 미군이 주둔하는 국가이다. 주요 5개의 미군 기지에서 28,000명 이상의 현역 및 예비 군인이 주둔 중이다. 한국은 주한 미군과 관련된 노동, 물류, 건설을 위해 매년 10억 달러 이상의 비용을 부담하고 있으며, GDP 대비 방위비 비중이 다른 미국 동맹국들에 비해 높다.

무역

한국은 인도태평양 지역 내 미국의 3대 수출국

코로나 상황에도 불구하고 한미 양자간 무역은 2021년 현재 1,945 억 달러를 기록했다. 같은 해 미국의 한국에 대한 서비스 수출금액은 190억 달러를 초과하고 서비스 무역수지는 69억 달러 흑자를 기록했다.

Highlights

DIGITAL TRADE

Information and Communication Technology Trade Between the United States and South Korea Is Worth Over $12.6 billion

The United States and South Korea share a robust relationship in information and communication technology (ICT), with trade in potentially ICT-enabled services reaching over $12.6 billion in 2020.

JOBS

Trade and Investment With South Korea Support Almost 450,000 Jobs Across the United States

US exports to South Korea directly support 179,000 jobs, and indirectly support an additional 147,000 jobs across the United States. Investment from Korean companies since 2003 has created almost 117,000 jobs across the United States.

INVESTMENT

South Korean Investment in the US Increased by Over 187% Since the Implementation of the KORUS FTA in 2012

The total value of foreign direct investment (FDI) to South Korea from the United States reached $38.1 billion in 2021, while South Korea's investment to the United States reached a total of $72.5 billion.

SUPPLY CHAINS

South Korea Is a Key US Partner in Creating Resilient Supply Chains

The United States and South Korea are partners in building more resilient supply chains to cope with the post-pandemic world and prevent future disruptions. South Korea is a major supplier of semiconductors, specifically memory chips, which the United States relies on for many technology-driven goods.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Fight Against Climate Change Is a Pillar of US–South Korean Cooperation

South Korean and US officials meet at the ministerial level to discuss climate change and have committed to increase cooperation on R&D and science to strengthen the resilience of cities to address growing climate threats and vulnerabilities across the world.

주요 내용

디지털 무역

한미 간 정보통신기술 무역은 126억 달러를 초과

한국과 미국은 정보통신기술(ICT: information and communication technology) 분야에서 공고한 관계를 유지하며 2020년 기준 ICT 관련 서비스 무역금액이 126억 달러를 초과했다.

일자리

한국과의 무역 및 투자가 미국 전역에서 450,000개의 일자리 창출

미국의 한국에 대한 수출은 미국 전역에서 직접적으로는179,000개의 일자리, 간접적으로는 147,000개의 일자리를 창출하는데 기여했다. 또한, 2003년 이래 한국 기업의 투자가 기여한 일자리는 전미에 걸쳐 약 117,000개에 달한다.

투자

미국 내 한국의 투자는 2012년 한미 FTA 발효 이후 187% 이상 증가

2021년 기준 미국의 한국에 대한 직접 투자 누적금액은 381억 달러이며, 한국의 미국에 대한 누적 투자금액은 725억 달러를 기록했다.

공급망

한국은 회복력 있는 공급망 형성에 있어 미국의 핵심 파트너

한국과 미국은 팬데믹 이후의 세계에 대응하고 향후의 공급망 차질을 예방하는 차원에서 회복력 있는 안정된 공급망 구축을 위해 공조하고 있다. 특히 한국은 미국이 여러 기술 기반의 상품에 있어 크게 의존하고 있는 반도체, 특히 메모리칩의 주요 공급국이다.

기후 변화

한미 협력의 중요한 한 축인 기후변화 대응

한미 양국은 기후변화를 논의하기 위해 장관급 회담을 개최하고 있으며, 전 세계적으로 점점 심각해지고 있는 기후 위협과 취약성을 해결하기 위해 도시 회복력을 강화하는 연구 개발 및 과학 분야의 협력을 증진하기로 약속했다.

Highlights

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Before COVID-19, the United States and South Korea Exchanged Over Three Million Tourists Annually

In 2019, over 2.3 million Koreans visited the United States, an increase of 108% since 2010. Korean tourism to the United States contributed $8.8 billion to the US economy in 2019.

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

The United States and South Korea Share Deep Cultural Connections

Korean Americans have made an impact across the American cultural and political landscape over the last 100 years. Over 80 Korean Americans serve in elected positions representing both political parties. Hundreds of Korean Americans are involved in the production of K-pop and play in major league sports.

POPULATION

Nearly Two Million Korean Americans Live in the United States

Korean Americans are the 5th largest Asian ethnic group in the United States. Over 140,000 Americans live in South Korea, of whom 43,000 are dual nationals, making Americans the 4th largest group of foreign residents in the nation.

EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

South Korea Is the 3rd Largest Source of Foreign Students in the United States

Almost 40,000 students from South Korea studied in the United States in the 2020/21 academic year, the 3rd largest group of international students in the United States after China and India.

SISTER PARTNERSHIPS

The United States and South Korea Share 112 Sister Relationships

In total, 16 South Korean provinces and municipalities share sister connections with 31 US states and the District of Columbia, enhancing civic and people-to-people relationships and supporting commercial ties.

주요 내용

여행 및 관광

코로나 이전 매년 3백만 명이 넘는 관광객이 상호 방문

2019년에 2010년 대비 108% 증가한 230만 명이 넘는 한국인이 미국을 방문했으며, 2019년 한국인의 미국 관광이 미국 경제에 기여한 금액은 88억 달러에 달한다.

문화적 연결성

한국과 미국은 문화적으로 깊게 연계

지난 100년간 한국계 미국인들은 미국 문화와 정치 전반에 걸쳐 영향을 미쳐왔다. 미국 양당의 선출직으로 활동 중인 한국계 미국인이 80명 이상이며, 수백 명의 한국계 미국인이 K-pop 제작에 참여하고 메이저리그 스포츠에서 선수로 활약하고 있다.

인구

2백만 명 이상의 한국계 미국인이 미국에 거주

미국 내 아시아계 중 한국계 미국인 인구규모는 5번째로 크게 집계되었다. 한국에 거주하는 14만 명 이상의 미국인 중 43,000명이 이중국적을 유지하고 있으며, 한국에 거주하는 외국인 중 미국인 인구가 4번째로 크다.

교육적 교류

미국 내 해외 유학생 중 3번째로 큰 한국인 유학생

2020~2021학년도에 미국에서 유학 중인 한국인 학생은 중국, 인도 다음으로 3번째로 큰 4만 명에 달한다.

자매 파트너십

한국과 미국은 112개의 자매 관계를 구축

한국의 16개 시와 도가 미국의 31개 주 및 워싱턴 DC와 자매 관계를 맺고 있으며, 이를 통해 인적 교류와 상업적 관계를 증진하고 있다.

The United States and South Korea Share Deep Economic, Military, and Democratic Partnerships

The United States and the Republic of Korea (South Korea) have a robust alliance through their mutual defense treaty, integrated economies, and close people-to-people relationships. Together, the two countries work in partnership to strengthen their economies, address global and regional threats, and bolster democracy and freedom at home as well as abroad.

The United States first established formal diplomatic relations with the Korean Joseon Dynasty in 1882. Following South Korea's liberation after World War II and the Korean War, the United States and South Korea signed a Mutual Defense Treaty in 1953 that still serves as the backbone of the alliance today.

For over 70 years, the United States has been one of South Korea's main economic partners. During this time, South Korea has transformed itself from an international aid recipient to an international donor and a world-leading economy. The United States and South Korea have been free trade partners since 2012 when the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) — signed in 2007 and revised in 2018 — came into effect. The KORUS FTA is the United States' largest FTA in the Indo-Pacific.

As the 1st and 10th largest economies in the world, the United States and South Korea collaborate — both bilaterally and through dozens of international and regional organizations — on a wide array of global challenges, including nuclear nonproliferation, global health security, women's economic empowerment, human rights, and the rule of law.

INDICATOR	UNITED STATES	SOUTH KOREA
Population	331.9 *million*	51.7 *million*
GDP (current USD)	$23.32 *trillion*	$1.81 *trillion*
GDP per capita	$70,249	$34,998
Trade (% of GDP)	25.5%	80.5%
Exports of Goods and Services (% of GDP)	10.9%	42%
Imports of Goods and Services (% of GDP)	14.6%	38.5%
FDI, Net inflows (BoP)	$448.3 *billion*	$16.8 *billion*
FDI, Net outflows (BoP)	$421.8 *billion*	$60.8 *billion*
Military Expenditure (% of GDP)	3.5%	2.8%
Life Expectancy	77	83
Internet Penetration (% of population)	91%	97%

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SOUTH KOREA IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE DYNAMIC AND FAST-GROWING INDO-PACIFIC REGION

Sources: World Bank, 2021 data; World Bank, 2020 data for Internet Penetration statistics

Numbers rounded throughout publication. All monetary values are in current US$ unless otherwise noted. Whenever possible, most recent available data is used. For the most up-to-date data please visit AsiaMattersforAmerica.org/Korea

Timeline of US-Korea Relations

1866
A US Navy ship, the General Sherman, sailed up the flooded Taedong River toward Pyongyang, ignoring Korean officials' repeated requests to turn back. The entire crew is killed when the ship runs aground.

1871
A US diplomatic naval mission to Korea turns into the Battle of Ganghwa, the first US military action in Korea.

1882
Korea and the US sign a Treaty of Amity and Commerce and diplomatic relations between the United States and Korea are established.

1890
Philip Jaisohn (Seo Jae-pil) becomes the first naturalized US citizen from Korea, later also becoming the first Korean to receive an American medical degree.

1945
World War II ends and the United States and allies liberate the Korean Peninsula from Japanese control.

1950–53
The Korean War begins when North Korean troops invade the South on June 25, 1950. The war continues until its belligerents, excluding South Korea, sign an armistice agreement on July 27, 1953 at Panmunjeom.

1953
The United States and South Korea sign a mutual defense treaty.

1960
Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes the first US president to visit South Korea where he met with Prime Minister Ho Chong and addressed the National Assembly.

1964–73
South Korea deploys forces to South Vietnam. Over 320,000 South Koreans will serve in Vietnam over nine years.

1986
Hyundai enters the US market with the Excel, the first Korean car sold in the United States.

1967
Los Angeles, California and Busan, South Korea establish the first US-South Korean sister city relationship.

2002
A US military vehicle accidentally kills two South Korean teenage girls, resulting in massive anti-American protests.

1980
Korean soldiers violently crack down on pro-democracy students and activists in Gwangju. This leads to an era of anti-American sentiment for perceived US support of authoritarian President Chun Doo-hwan, and several incidents of violence occur against American institutions during the subsequent years.

2012
The United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) enters into effect, five years after initially being signed. It begins the process of gradually eliminating nearly 95% of all bilateral tariffs over three years.

2004
3,600 South Korean troops are deployed to assist in Iraq. This is the 3rd largest foreign troop presence after the United States and the United Kingdom.

2019
Presidents Moon Jae-in and Donald Trump meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at Panmunjeom, located in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) that separates the two Koreas. President Trump becomes the first US president to set foot into North Korea while in office.

2011
Sung Kim becomes the first Korean-American to serve as US ambassador to South Korea.

2019
A revised KORUS FTA comes into effect after negotiations in 2018 to revamp the original deal.

2022
President Joe Biden becomes the 11th sitting US president to visit South Korea.

2023
The 70th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty which officially started the US-South Korea alliance.

1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020

Sources: US Department of State; Library of Congress; US Embassy in Seoul, South Korea; Council on Foreign Relations; EWC Research

The United States and South Korea Share an Enduring Commitment to Democratic Values

Following a decades-long democracy movement, South Korea held its first election under its newly revised democratic constitution in 1987. In 2022, both the United States and South Korea were labeled as free countries by the Freedom House Index, both obtaining a weighted score of 83/100. The United States and South Korea share common values such as freedom, democracy, and a rules-based international order. Notably, the April 2020 parliamentary election in South Korea yielded the highest voter turnout since 1992, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a joint statement from May 2022, the leaders of the United States and South Korea expressed a determination to expand existing political, economic, security, and people-to-people connections. Presidents Yoon and Biden have consistently reaffirmed their commitment to the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and South Korea while also emphasizing dialogue as a means to a peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue with North Korea. The statements also included pledges to increase cooperation on nuclear nonproliferation, space exploration, critical and emerging technologies, cyber, energy, and supply chain security. The United States and South Korea agreed to work globally on issues such as climate change, pandemic response, and maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific.

US President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol, May 2022. (Department of Defense photo by Dr. Ernest Gunasekara-Rockwell)

In December 2021, South Korea participated in the Summit for Democracy, which was hosted by the United States, at which many countries came together to share ideas and work towards making democracy better for everyone. Former President Moon Jae-in [2017-2022] delivered a speech at the leaders' plenary session.

Sources: White House Briefings; Freedom House; CIA World Factbook; International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance; Pew Research Center Global Indicators; Chicago Council on Global Affairs 2022

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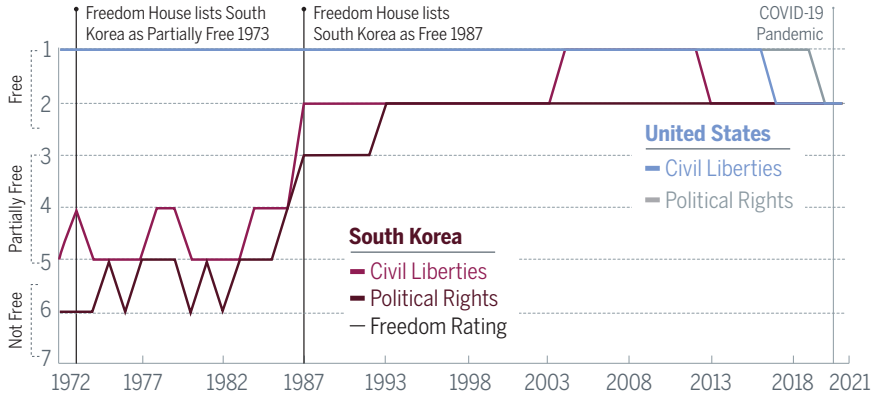
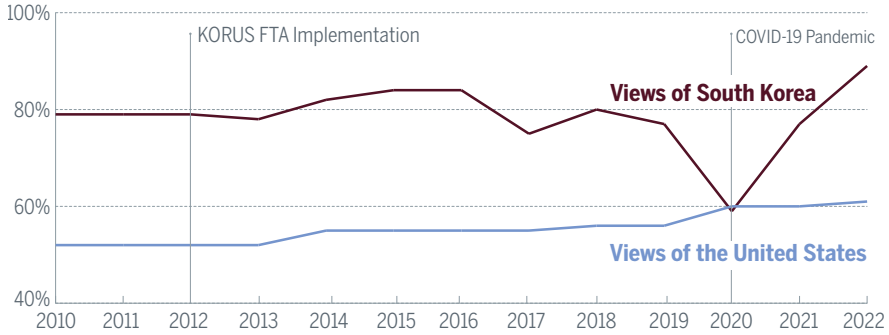
UNITED STATES AND SOUTH KOREAN GLOBAL FREEDOM HOUSE SCORES



UNITED STATES AND SOUTH KOREAN FAVORABILITY TOWARDS EACH OTHER*



* South Korean attitudes towards US from Pew Research Center, US attitudes towards South Korea from Chicago Council on Global Affairs. These sources use differing methodologies to arrive at these numbers.

The United States and South Korea Are Global Partners

The United States and South Korea regularly reaffirm that their relationship is anchored in shared values which include the promotion of democracy, human rights, and multilateralism, not just on the Korean Peninsula or in the Indo-Pacific, but globally.

Both the United States and South Korea have developed Indo-Pacific strategies that are closely aligned and work in tandem to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific. Furthermore, both nations have committed to assisting countries in the region to eradicate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing by providing IUU response capacity building and sharing information on relevant issues.

Both countries have committed to improving collaboration between their overseas aid agencies — the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) — in Southeast Asia to enhance public health cooperation. They have also agreed to cooperate on cyber issues such as expanding digital connectivity in Southeast Asia, building digital capacity, and strengthening cybersecurity.

The United States and South Korea have reaffirmed their commitment to coordinate with regional bodies such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on law enforcement, cybersecurity, public health, climate change, and beyond. Both countries have condemned brutality against civilians in Myanmar, and together advocate for the end of violence, the release of political prisoners, and a return to democracy for the nation. The United States and South Korea have also agreed to promote sustainable development, energy security, and responsible water management in the Mekong sub-region.

US-SOUTH KOREA COVID-19 VACCINE DIPLOMACY

The United States and South Korea are strategic partners in global COVID-19 vaccine distribution, sharing a formalized vaccine partnership at the ministerial level that calls for increased vaccine production in South Korea and expanding R&D partnerships in vaccine technology. In addition, Korean firms such as Samsung Biologics have reached fill-finish agreements with US pharmaceutical companies allowing COVID-19 vaccines to be produced locally in South Korea.

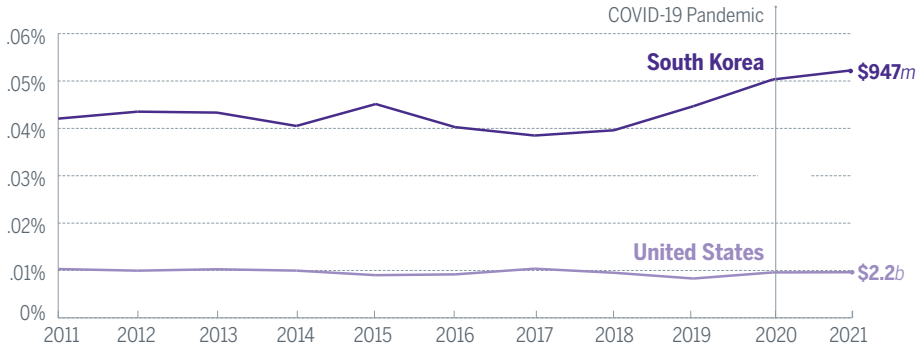
The United States and South Korea are both members of COVAX, the United Nations-led effort to distribute vaccines across the world. South Korea has provided COVID-19 vaccines to various countries bilaterally, and pledged to coordinate vaccine donations with USAID.

Sources: White House Briefings; Cheong Wa Dae (Blue House) Briefings; ForeignAssistance.gov; World Bank; Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA); UNICEF; Samsung Biologics; US Department of State, COVID-19 Response and Recovery; OECD

한국과 미국은 글로벌 파트너

한미 양국은 정기적으로 양국 관계가 한반도와 주변지역의 민주주의, 인권, 다자주의 증진을 비롯한 공동 가치에 기반을 두고 있음을 재천명해왔다.

DISTRIBUTED OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO INDO-PACIFIC AS A SHARE GDP



DONATED COVID-19 VACCINES DOSES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

UNITED STATES		
1	Bangladesh	115*m*
2	Indonesia	42*m*
3	Philippines	34*m*

SOUTH KOREA		
1	Vietnam	1.1*m*
2	Thailand	971*k*
3	Philippines	539*k*

South Korea President Moon Jae-in (center), Samsung Biologics CEO John Rim (left), Moderna's CEO Stéphane Bancel (right) in Washington, DC on May 22, 2021. (Yonhap)

The US-South Korea Alliance Contributes to Regional Security and Supports International Engagement

The United States-South Korea alliance was codified in the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953 and continues to safeguard South Korea's national security, counter threats from North Korea, and serve as a source of stability in the region. The year 2023 marks the 70th anniversary of the signing of both the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Korean Armistice Agreement, which brought an end to the hostilities of the Korean War.

Both countries regularly participate in bilateral and multilateral military exercises in the region and South Korean troops have fought in multiple conflicts led by the United States around the world. The Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise in 2022 marked the first time a South Korean general shared command during the biannual drill, completing one of several requirements South Korea must satisfy before the United States transfers over wartime operational (OPCON) control.

Today, the United States and South Korea collaborate globally on a range of military issues including humanitarian aid and disaster relief (HADR) as part of the alliance's focus on promoting democracy, market economies, freedom, and human rights. The United States and South Korea have pledged to respect freedom of navigation and unimpeded lawful commerce in the South China Sea as well as the Taiwan Strait, and have committed to maintaining an inclusive, free, and open Indo-Pacific.

US AND KOREAN MILITARY COOPERATION GLOBALLY

한미 동맹은 지역 안보와 국제 협력에 기여

한국은 인도태평양 지역 내에서 2번째로, 전세계적에서 3번째로 많은 미군이 주둔하는 국가이다. 주요 5개의 미군 기지에서 28,000명 이상의 현역 및 예비 군인이 주둔 중이다. 한국은 주한 미군과 관련된 노동, 물류, 건설을 위해 매년 10억 달러 이상의 비용을 부담하고 있으며, GDP 대비 방위비 비중이 다른 미국 동맹국들에 비해 높다.

KEY US-SOUTH KOREA BILATERAL MILITARY EXERCISES

EXERCISE	FORCES	DESCRIPTION
Operation Vigilant Storm	Republic of Korea Air Force, US Air Force, US Marine Corps, US Navy, and US Army	An annual exercise designed to enhance regional combat readiness and strengthen the South Korea-US Alliance.
Ulchi Freedom Shield	Combined Forces Command (CFC), United States Forces Korea (USFK), United Nations	A drill including field exercises and computer simulations which takes place throughout South Korea.
Foal Eagle Exercise	Republic of Korea Armed Forces and US Armed Forces	An annual combined field training exercise (FTX) conducted through the Combined Forces Command which has been combined with Key Resolve since 2001.
Key Resolve	Republic of Korea Forces and US Armed Forces	An annual command post exercise (CPX) which has been combined with Foal Eagle since 2001.

KEY REGIONAL MULTINATIONAL MILITARY EXERSISES

EXERCISE	FORCES	DESCRIPTION
Pacific Dragon	Royal Australian Navy, Royal Canadian Navy, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, Republic of Korea Navy, US Missile Defense Agency, and US Navy	A biennial multinational air and missile defense exercise expanded in 2022 to include Australian and Canadian forces.
Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)	Units and personnel from: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, South Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom, and the United States.	The world's largest international maritime exercise, which occurs biennially, and works to support a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

Sources: US Indo-Pacific Command; United States Forces Korea; Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense

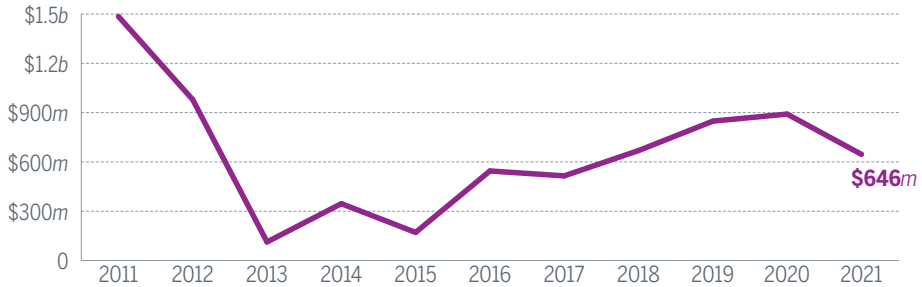
South Korea hosts the 2nd largest contingent of US troops in the Indo-Pacific and the 3rd largest globally after Japan and Germany. This includes over 60 US military facilities and more than 28,000 active and reserve troops, as well as Department of Defense civilian staff. Of the over 28,000 Americans stationed in South Korea, nearly 17,000 are US active-duty Army personnel, representing 86% of all active-duty US Army personnel stationed in the Indo-Pacific region.

South Korea pays for much of the labor, logistics, and construction costs associated with stationing US troops in the country, amounting to over $1 billion in 2021. South Korea has also contributed more than 90% of the cost of constructing Camp Humphreys — amounting to approximately $9.7 billion — which is now the largest overseas US military base.

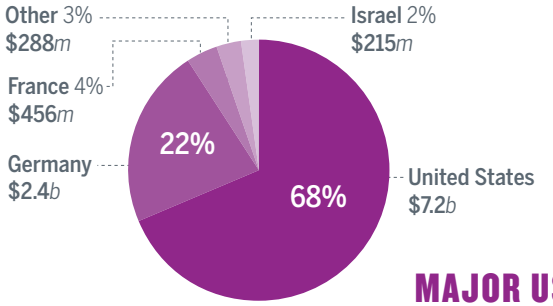
South Korea's own military spending accounted for about 2.8% of the country's GDP in 2021, more than that of most US treaty allies. The United States is the top supplier of defense equipment to South Korea, with $7.2 billion in deliveries in the decade between 2011 and 2021.

Ships from the United States, Japan, and South Korea conducted a trilateral ballistic missile defense exercise in the East Sea/Sea of Japan in October 2022. The ships included the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville (CG 62) (foreground), the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyer JS Chokai (DDG 176) (background), and Republic of Korea Navy destroyer ROKS Sejong the Great (DDG 991) (middle). (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Gray Gibson)

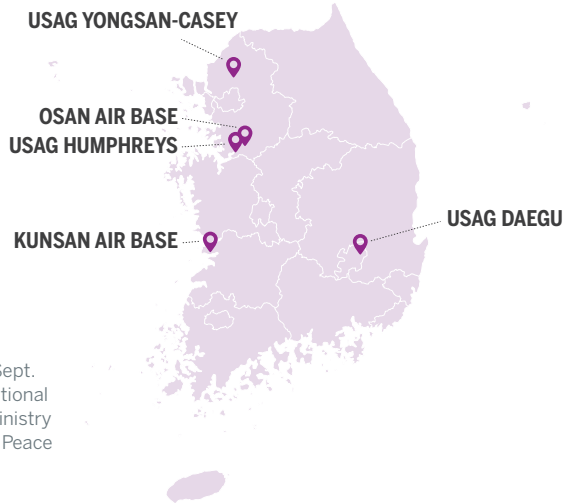
US DEFENSE EQUIPMENT EXPORTS TO SOUTH KOREA 2011-2021



SOUTH KOREAN DEFENSE EQUIPMENT IMPORTS 2011-2021



MAJOR US MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN SOUTH KOREA



Sources: US Department of Defense DMDC, Sept. 2022 data; World Bank, 2021 data; Korean National Assembly Budget Office; Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense; Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

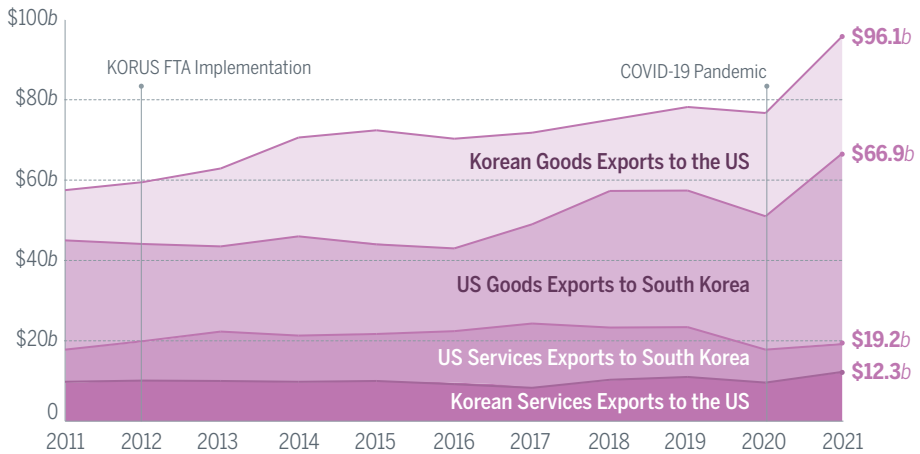
South Korea Is the 3rd Largest Export Partner of the United States in the Indo-Pacific

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, total two-way trade between the United States and South Korea was $194.5 billion in 2021.

The United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA), the United States' largest FTA in the Indo-Pacific, went into effect in March 2012 and has eliminated 95% of tariffs on US exports. Total two-way trade between South Korea and the United States increased almost 50% between 2011 to 2021, and US exports to South Korea increased 36% during the same period. US exports to South Korea accounted for over 3% of overall US exports in 2021, and US goods exports to South Korea have risen steadily to $66.9 billion. Services exports to South Korea exceeded $19 billion in 2021, an increase of approximately 8% from 2011's pre-KORUS FTA figures and representing a $6.9 billion services trade surplus.

US exports of motor vehicles to South Korea increased from $439 million in 2011 to $3.9 billion in 2022, with the United States now exporting more cars to South Korea than Japan. This represents a 793% increase in exports that is largely due to the reduction — and eventual elimination — of the previous 8% tariff placed on US auto exports to South Korea. US exports of motor vehicles have also benefited from a simplification of the vehicle engine tax as a result of the KORUS FTA.

US TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES WITH SOUTH KOREA

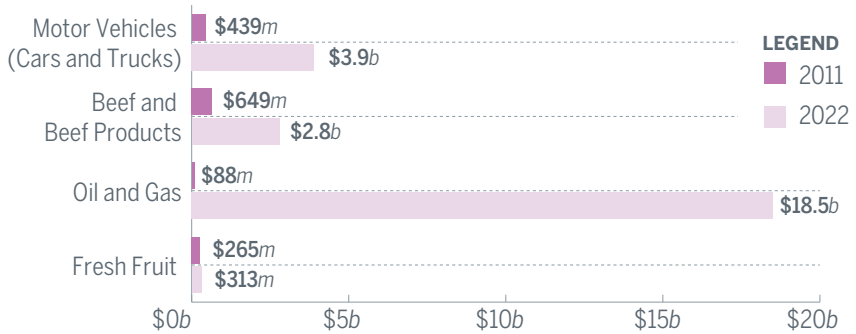


한국은 인도태평양 지역 내 미국의 3대 수출국

코로나 상황에도 불구하고 한미 양자간 무역은 2021년 현재 1,945 억 달러를 기록했다. 같은 해 미국의 한국에 대한 서비스 수출금액은 190억 달러를 초과하고 서비스 무역수지는 69억 달러 흑자를 기록했다.

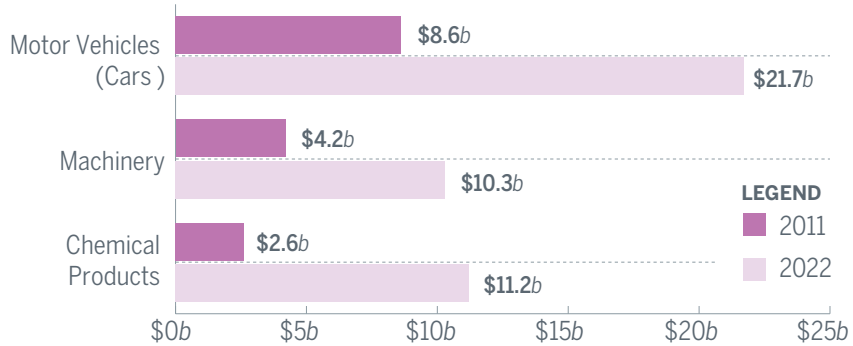
SELECT US GOODS EXPORTS TO SOUTH KOREA

Trade sectors that have seen high growth since the implementation of KORUS FTA



SELECT SOUTH KOREAN GOODS EXPORTS TO THE US

Trade sectors that have seen high growth since the implementation of KORUS FTA

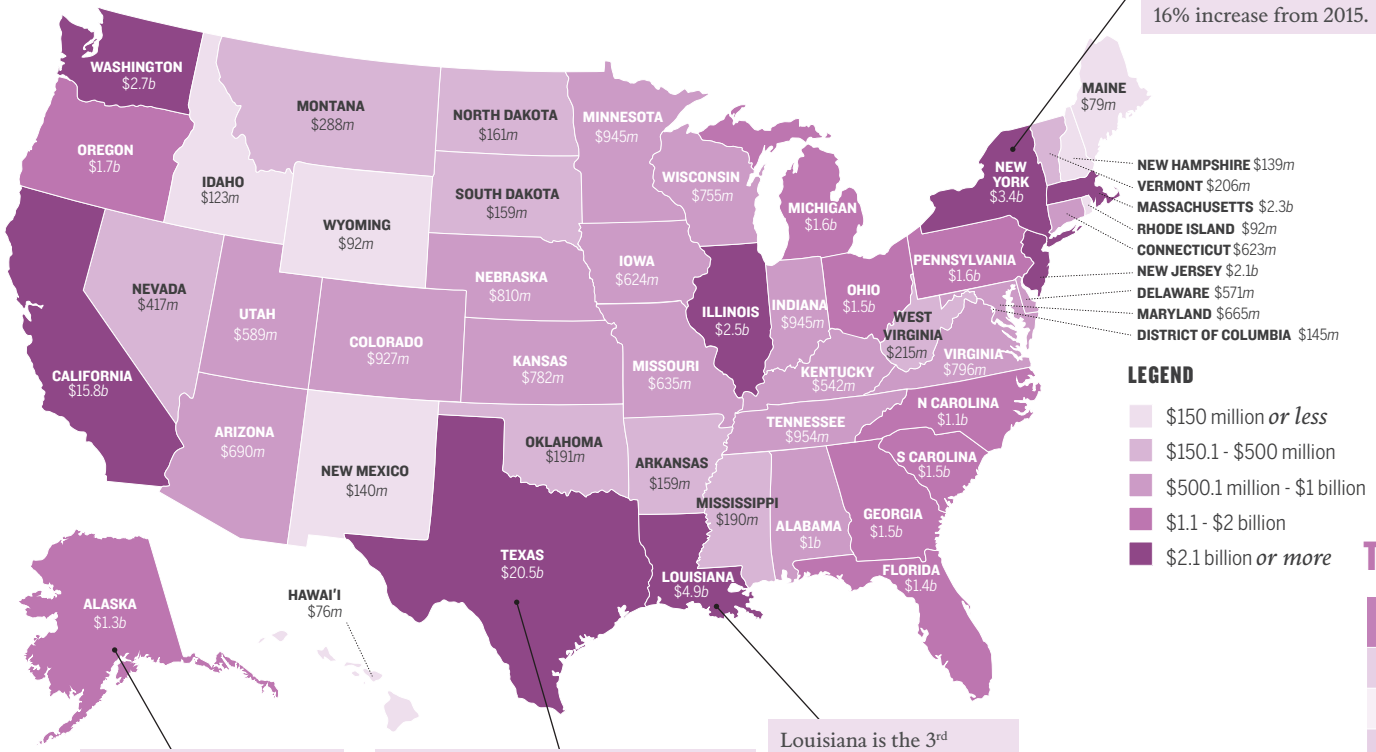


Sources: US Bureau of Economic Analysis; US International Trade Administration; UN Comtrade database, US Trade Representative; Korea International Trade Association; Congressional Research Service; US Census Bureau

Between 2015 and 2021 — with the KORUS FTA in full effect — four states have increased their exports to South Korea by over 100%: Louisiana (500%), Delaware (336%), Kansas (108%), and Texas (103%). In the same period, 31 states increased their goods and services exports to South Korea, and 21 of those increased exports by over 15%.

South Korea is the United States' 5th leading agricultural export market, with US agriculture exports totaling $9.6 billion in 2022. Top US agricultural exports to South Korea include: beef and beef products ($2.8 billion); corn ($509 million); pork and pork products ($605 million); wheat ($450 million); and dairy products ($546 million). South Korea exported $1.5 billion in agriculture products to the United States in 2021, including baked goods, cereal, and pasta ($287 million); seafood products ($199 million); and processed fruit and vegetables ($195 million).

US GOODS AND SERVICES EXPORTS TO SOUTH KOREA



New York is ranked 2nd for service exports to South Korea in 2021, a 16% increase from 2015.

South Korea is Alaska's 4th largest goods export market.

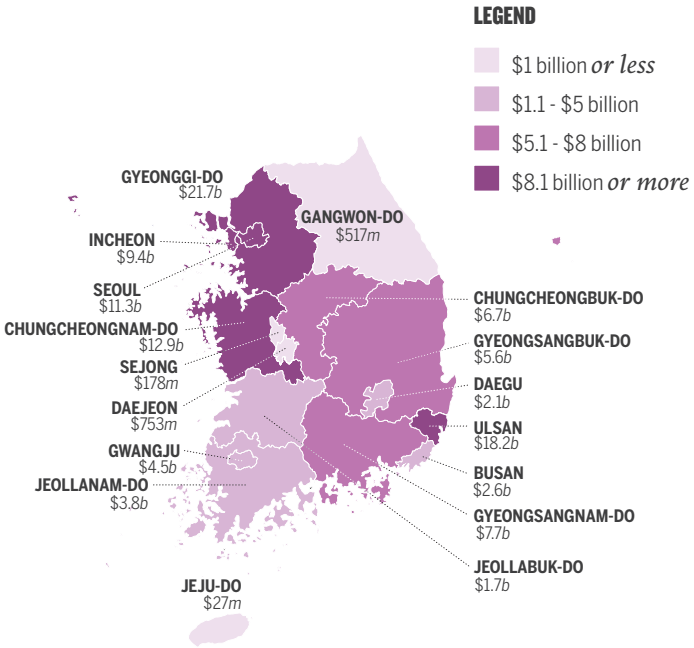
Texas is the state with the largest overall exports to South Korea, and the largest exporter of semiconductors and components, basic chemicals, and oil and gas to South Korea.

Louisiana is the 3rd largest goods exporter to South Korea, and the leading industries are oil and gas, chemicals, and food products.

Sources: Estimated by the Trade Partnership (Washington, DC), 2021 data; US International Trade Administration, US Bureau of Economic Analysis; US Trade Representative Office; Korean International Trade Association, 2022 data; UDSA Foreign Agricultural Service; US Census Bureau, 2022 data

The seventeen South Korean provinces and independent municipalities exported over $109 billion in goods to the United States in 2022. Ten provinces have increased their exports to the United States by more than 100% since the implementation of the KORUS FTA in 2012 with Sejong, Chungcheongbuk-do and Gyeongsanbuk-do increasing exports by over 500%. Almost 70% of exports to the United States come from five regions: Gyeonggi-do, Ulsan, Chungcheongnam-do, Seoul, and Incheon.

SOUTH KOREAN GOODS EXPORTS TO THE US



TOP GOODS EXPORT PARTNERS

US PARTNERS		
1	Canada	$355b
2	Mexico	$324.4b
3	China	$153.8b
4	Japan	$80.3b
5	United Kingdom	$77.3b
6	Germany	$72.9b
7	Netherlands	$72.9b
8	**South Korea**	**$71.5b**

KOREAN PARTNERS		
1	China	$155.8b
2	**United States**	**$109.8b**
3	Vietnam	$61.0b
4	Japan	$30.6b
5	Hong Kong	$27.7b
6	Taiwan	$26.2b
7	Singapore	$20.2b
8	India	$18.8b

Information and Communication Technology Trade Between the United States and South Korea Is Worth Over $12.6 Billion

The United States and South Korea share a robust relationship in information and communication technology (ICT), with trade in potentially ICT-enabled services reaching over $12.6 billion in 2020.* ICT service exports to South Korea represent nearly 10% of all ICT exports to the Indo-Pacific and 3% of US global ICT exports. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, over 50% of global US service exports were potentially ICT enabled in 2019. However, only around 40% of services exports to South Korea fell into this category.

Cloud computing services in South Korea have seen rapid growth since 2016, supported by investment in data centers by Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google, Microsoft, and Oracle, with other US companies looking to expand in the South Korean market. The majority of these data centers are located in Seoul with Microsoft and Oracle both operating data centers in Busan and Gangwon respectively. In 2021, Korean Air announced it would move its entire IT operation to AWS, an indication of how intertwined the United States and South Korea's digital domains are.

The US Embassy in Seoul is one of only 14 US embassies to host a Digital Attaché who works to address 21st century trade barriers in the digital economy. Chapter fifteen of the KORUS FTA specifically addresses electronic commerce and recognizes the economic growth and opportunity e-commerce can provide.

SELECTED STORY

KOREAN AIR AND AMAZON WEB SERVICES

In 2021, South Korea's flag carrier Korean Air became the first global full-service airline to complete a full migration of its IT infrastructure to AWS. AWS and one of its Korean partner organizations, LG CNS, facilitated the move of Korean Air's entire IT infrastructure, including data, network, and security systems, from an in-house data center to AWS in less than three years. The move resulted in Korean Air's website and mobile app working 90% faster than on legacy infrastructure.

*The US Bureau of Economic Analysis defines ICT services as those services "used to facilitate information processing and communication," and and potentially ICT-enabled services as those services "that can predominantly be delivered remotely over ICT networks."

Sources: Congressional Research Service; Bureau of Economic Analysis; International Trade Administration; Individual Companies

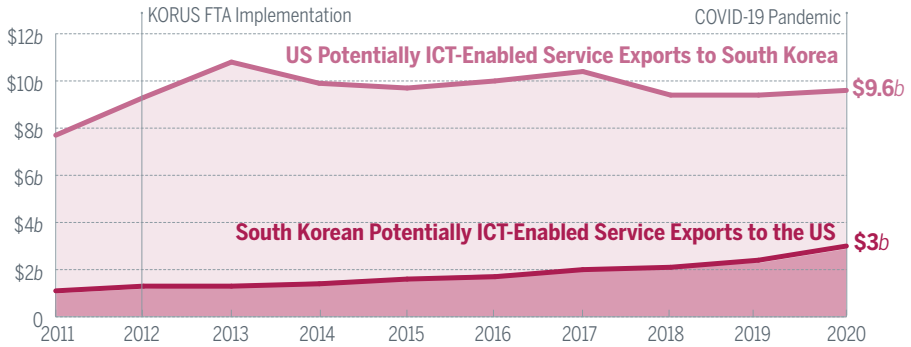
한미 간 정보통신기술 무역은 126억 달러를 초과

한국과 미국은 정보통신기술(ICT: information and communication technology) 분야에서 공고한 관계를 유지하며 2020년 기준 ICT 관련 서비스 무역금액이 126억 달러를 초과했다.

US CLOUD DATA CENTERS IN SOUTH KOREA

COMPANY	LOCATION	YEAR OPENED
Amazon Web Services	Seoul	2019
Oracle	Seoul	2019
Microsoft	Busan	2020
Amazon Web Services	Seoul	2020
Oracle	Gangwon	2020
Google	Seoul	2020
Google	Seoul	2020
Google	Seoul	2020
Amazon Web Services- Wavelength	Daejeon	2020
Microsoft	Seoul	2021
Amazon Web Services- Wavelength	Seoul	2022

POTENTIALLY ICT-ENABLED SERVICES EXPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH KOREA

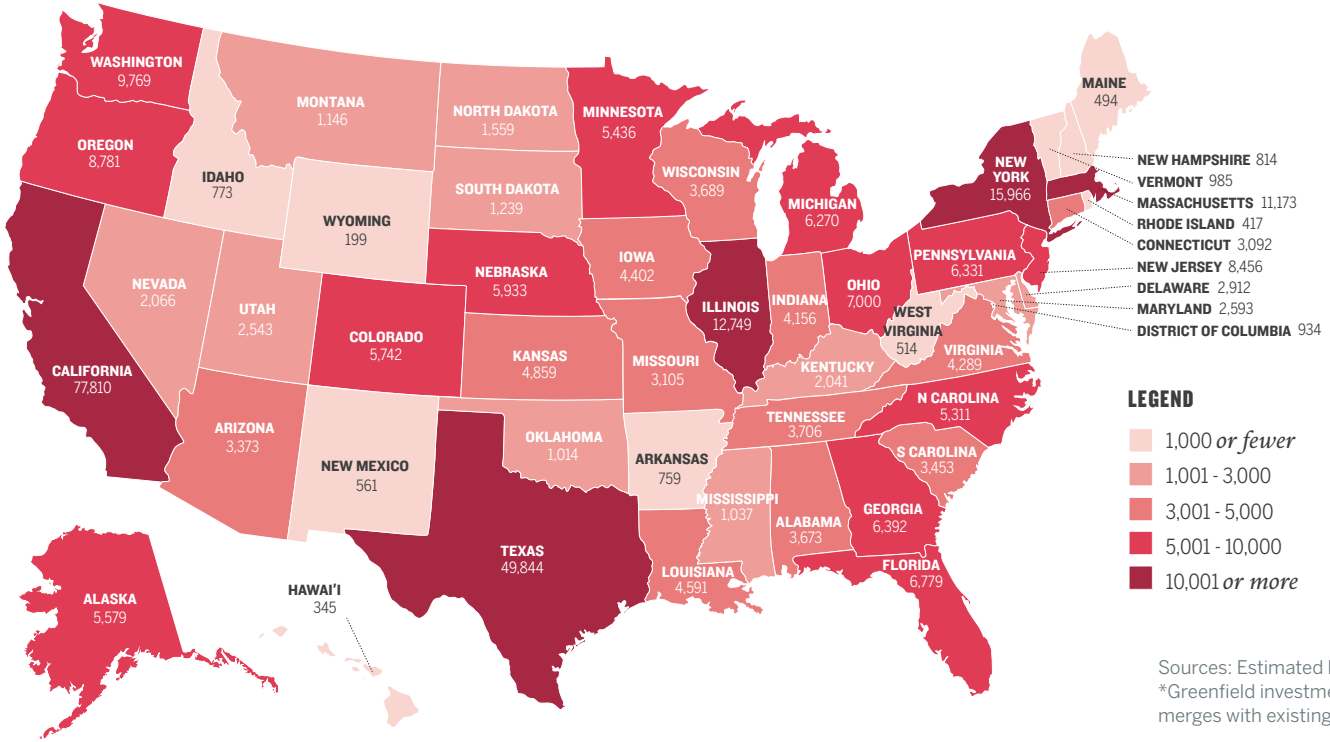


Trade and Investment With South Korea Support Almost 450,000 Jobs Across the United States

In 2021, US exports to South Korea directly supported 179,000 jobs, and indirectly supported an additional 147,000 jobs across the United States. Before the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, exports to South Korea supported a combined 392,000 jobs across the United States.

Greenfield investments* from South Korean companies since 2003 have added almost 117,000 jobs in total across the United States, including nearly 34,000 jobs in Georgia, over 15,000 jobs in Alabama, and almost 14,000 jobs in Texas. On average, each greenfield investment project by a South Korean company creates almost 200 jobs.

US JOBS SUPPORTED BY EXPORTS TO SOUTH KOREA



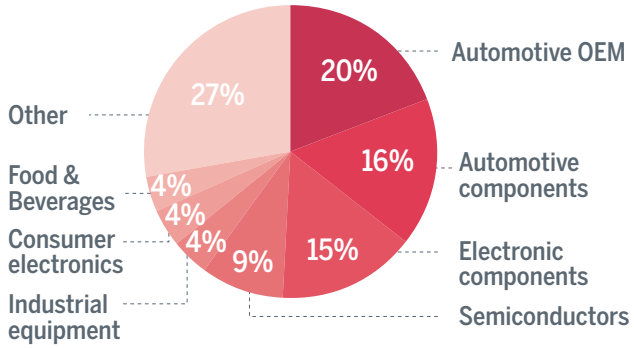
한국과의 무역 및 투자가 미국 전역에서 450,000개의 일자리 창출

미국의 한국에 대한 수출은 미국 전역에서 직접적으로는179,000개의 일자리, 간접적으로는 147,000개의 일자리를 창출하는데 기여했다. 또한, 2003년 이래 한국 기업의 투자가 기여한 일자리는 전미에 걸쳐 약 117,000개에 달한다.

US JOBS CREATED BY GREENFIELD INVESTMENT FROM SOUTH KOREAN FIRMS*

1	Georgia	33,756	6	Michigan	5,492
2	Alabama	15,410	7	Arizona	3,020
2	Texas	13,884	8	Ohio	2,805
4	California	9,318	9	South Carolina	2,253
5	Tennessee	7,265	10	New Jersey	2,096

US JOBS CREATED VIA SOUTH KOREAN GREENFIELD INVESTMENT BY INDUSTRY



Sources: Estimated by the Trade Partnership (Washington, DC), 2021 data; fDi Markets, 2003-2022 data
*Greenfield investment refers to the building or expansion of new facilities rather than purchases or merges with existing companies

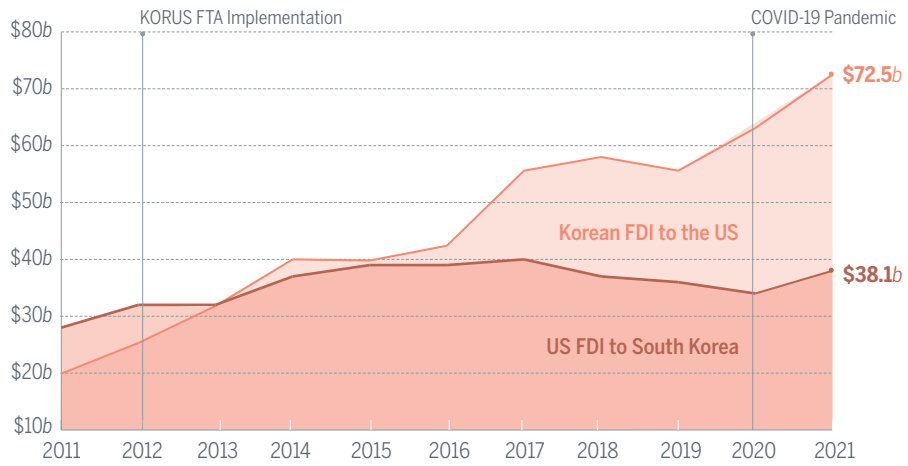
South Korean Investment in the US Increased by Over 187% Since the Implementation of the KORUS FTA in 2012

Since 2003, South Korean companies have invested $94.9 billion in 599 greenfield projects across 39 states and the District of Columbia. South Korea has invested more capital into US greenfield investment* projects than any other Indo-Pacific country except for Japan. South Korean companies invest an average of $158 million per project.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) to South Korea from the United States reached a total value (stock) of almost $38.1 billion in 2021. South Korea is the 7th largest recipient of US FDI in the Indo-Pacific region. American companies have invested over $12 billion in South Korean manufacturing, as well as an additional $3 billion in South Korea's financial sector.

Over 2,100 American companies have a registered presence in South Korea, led by the retail and telecommunications sectors.

US-SOUTH KOREA DIRECT INVESTMENT (STOCK)

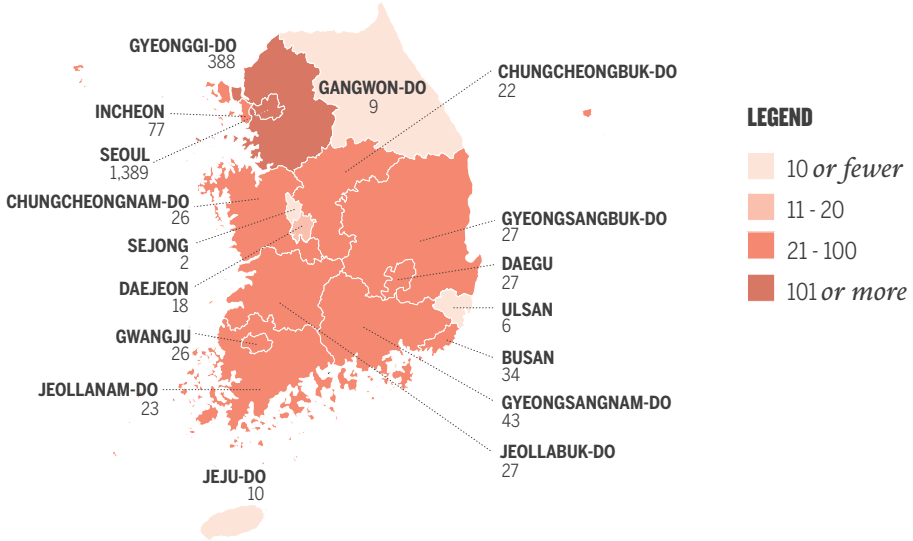


Sources: US Bureau of Economic Analysis (US Direct Investment Position Abroad/Foreign Direct Investment in the US on a Historical-Cost Basis); Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (accessed January 2022)

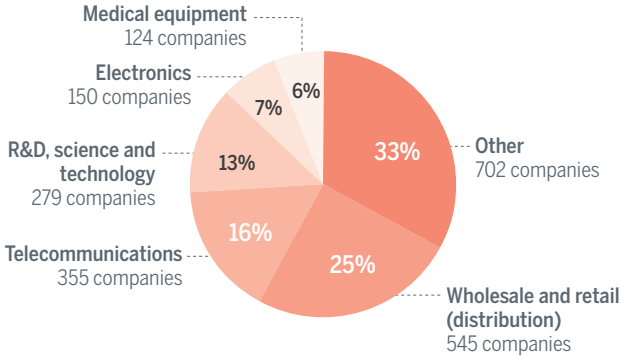
미국 내 한국의 투자는 2012년 한미 FTA 발효 이후 187% 이상 증가

2021년 기준 미국의 한국에 대한 직접 투자 누적금액은 381억 달러이며, 한국의 미국에 대한 누적 투자금액은 725억 달러를 기록했다.

US MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES IN SOUTH KOREA



US INVESTMENT IN SOUTH KOREA BY INDUSTRY

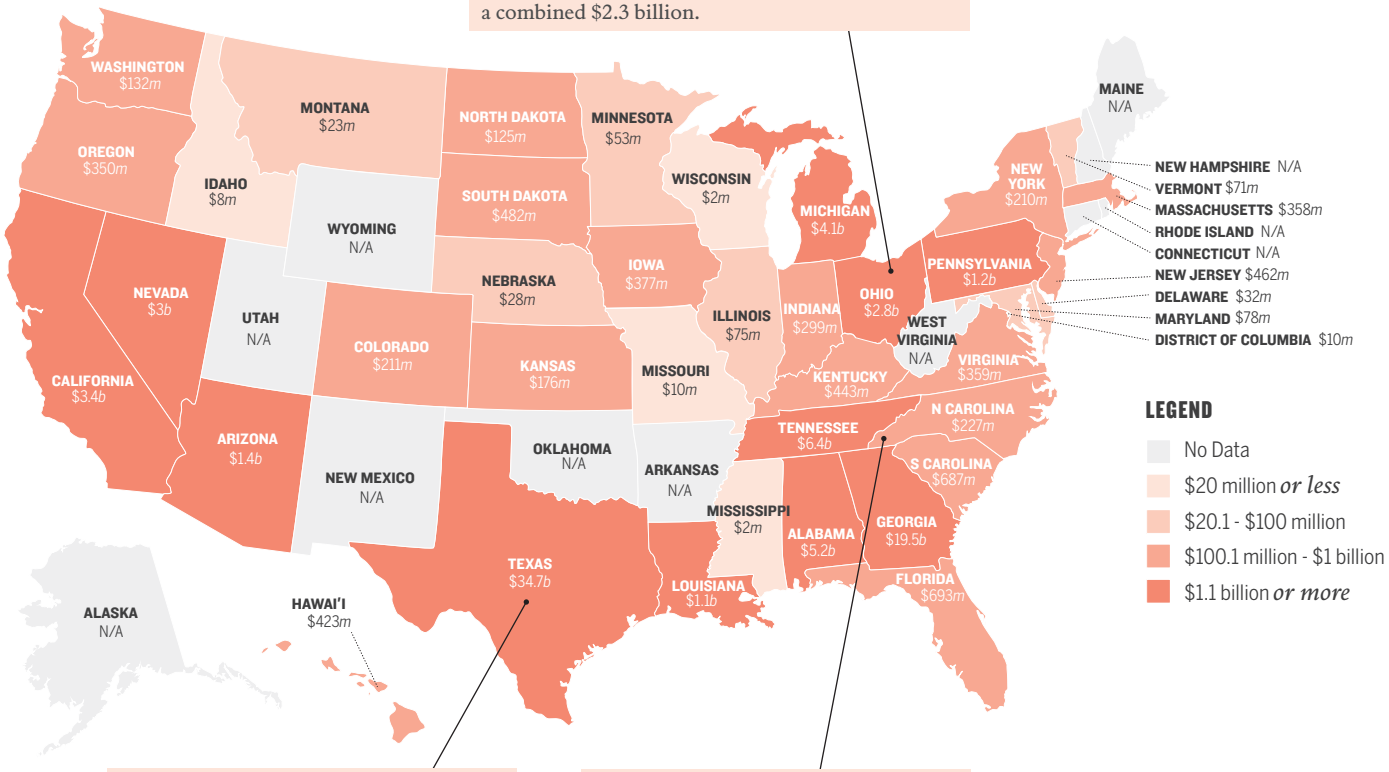


*See footnote on page 27 for more information on greenfield investments.

In 2021, South Korea's investment into the United States reached a total value (stock) of almost $72.5 billion, making it the 3rd largest source of foreign direct investment from the Indo-Pacific region. States such as Ohio, South Dakota, and Alabama have seen rapid growth in South Korean investment since 2016.

SOUTH KOREAN MULTINATIONAL INVESTMENT IN THE US*

In 2019, LG Chem and General Motors launched a joint venture to build an electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing plant in Lordstown, Ohio, investing a combined $2.3 billion.



Samsung's semiconductor plant in Austin, Texas has been active since 1996. In November 2021, Samsung announced a $17 billion investment in a new semiconductor manufacturing facility 30 miles north of Austin.

In 2021, Doosan Bobcat, a construction equipment manufacturer, invested $70 million in Statesville, North Carolina towards a manufacturing facility.

NUMBER OF PROJECTS SOUTH KOREAN COMPANIES ARE INVESTING IN PER STATE

1	California	94	6	Tennessee	24
2	Alabama	79	7	New York	23
3	Georgia	73	8	Ohio	19
4	Texas	61	9	New Jersey	15
5	Michigan	30	10	North Carolina	13

SELECTED INDUSTRIES

SEMICONDUCTORS

The United States and South Korea are the leading global producers of memory chips. Samsung and SK Hynix (South Korea) and Micron (US) made up 95% of global DRAM** sales in 2019.

BEAUTY MARKET

South Korea is one of the top 10 beauty markets in the world, representing almost 3% of the global market. The United States is the 2nd largest import market for beauty and cosmetic products, accounting for 23% of the global market. In 2020, Korean skincare products accounted for 34% of cosmetic imports to the United States.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

South Korea aims to generate 20% of its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030. South Korea's Green New Deal will invest approximately $63 billion in renewable energy. LG Chem plans to invest $4.5 billion in the United States with SK Innovation planning an additional $4.3 billion investment into US production facilities in a joint venture with Ford Motor Company, which is projected to create 11,000 jobs in Tennessee and Kentucky.

*Numbers reflect 2003-2022 greenfield investment and expansion only
**See footnote on page 32
Sources: fDi Markets, 2003-2022 data; US Trade Representative's Office; individual companies

South Korea Is a Key Partner in Creating Resilient Supply Chains

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed weaknesses in the global supply chain as major disruptions in manufacturing and logistics have reverberated throughout the world economy. In February 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 14017, which calls for "resilient, diverse, and secure supply chains to ensure our economic prosperity and national security." Working with allies like South Korea is key to the United States achieving this goal.

The United States and South Korea are committed to building resiliency in their supply chains to cope with the post-pandemic world and to prevent future disruptions. South Korea is a major supplier of semiconductors, specifically memory chips and advanced logic chips, which the United States relies on for many tech-driven goods. South Korea possesses 8% of the total manufacturing capacity for the most advanced semiconductors in the world — those below 10 nanometers — with the other 92% of production capacity existing in Taiwan.

The South Korean conglomerates Samsung and SK Hynix are global leaders in chip production. This gives South Korea a comparative advantage in semiconductor products that include logic, memory, and image sensors. Samsung has invested billions of dollars to build chip manufacturing facilities in the United States to reduce future supply chain disruptions, with advanced semiconductor fabrication plants costing up to $20 billion each to build. Today, the United States accounts for roughly 12% of semiconductor production capacity, with South Korea accounting for 21%. However, the types of semiconductors produced in each country vary with the United States mostly producing logic chips in the 10-22 nanometer range compared to the sub 10 nanometer logic chips and memory production which exists in South Korea.

*NAND is the most common type of flash memory. It does not need power to retain data, so it is used for permanent storage. Typical applications include solid state drives (SSDs) used as laptop hard drives or secure digital (SD) cards used in portable devices.

**DRAM is used to store the data or program code needed by a computer processor to function. It is typically found in personal computers (PCs) and servers. Smartphones are also growing the DRAM content they require, and there is also increasing need for DRAM in automobile electronics applications such as advanced driver-assistance systems.

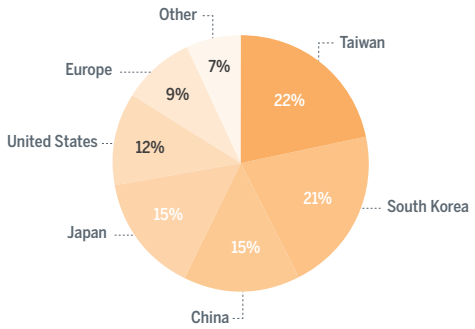
† South Korea's SK Hynix signed an agreement in 2020 to purchase Intel's NAND division. The deal is expected to be completed by 2025

Source: Building Resilient Supply Chains, Revitalizing American Manufacturing and Fostering Broad-based Growth, June 2021; Boston Consulting Group; Semiconductor Industry Association; UBS

한국은 회복력 있는 공급망 형성에 있어 미국의 핵심 파트너

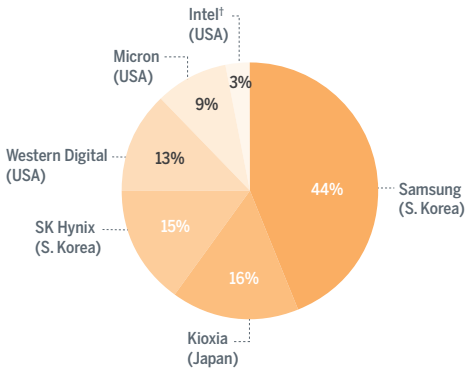
한국과 미국은 팬데믹 이후의 세계에 대응하고 향후의 공급망 차질을 예방하는 차원에서 회복력 있는 안정된 공급망 구축을 위해 공조하고 있다. 특히 한국은 미국이 여러 기술 기반의 상품에 있어 크게 의존하고 있는 반도체, 특히 메모리칩의 주요 공급국이다.

GLOBAL SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING CAPACITY BY LOCATION - 2020

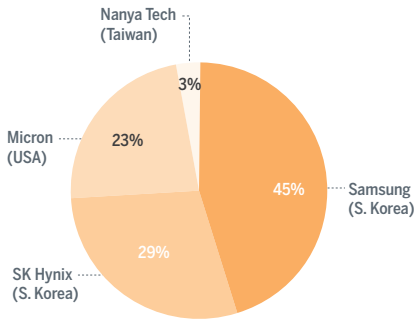


GLOBAL MEMORY CHIP MARKET SHARE - 2020

NAND Memory Chip Market Share*



*DRAM** Memory Chip Market Share*



The Fight Against Climate Change Is a Pillar of US-South Korea Cooperation

Environmental issues and climate change have long been areas of cooperation between the United States and South Korea, with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Environment Administration of the Republic of Korea (now the Ministry of Environment) signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in 1987. This cooperation has continued in formal US-South Korea agreements and statements issued by the leaders of both nations. An environmental cooperation agreement was negotiated alongside the KORUS FTA and in recent summit meetings both countries have pledged to meet their Paris commitments, while strengthening efforts to reduce emissions of methane and deepen cooperation on clean energy technologies.

The United States and South Korea upgraded working level energy talks held since 2009 to the ministerial level in 2021. The South Korean Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy and the US Secretary of Energy met in late 2021 to start the upgraded Energy Policy Dialogue. At this meeting, both countries agreed to cooperate on numerous issues critical to the success of both countries 2050 carbon neutrality targets such as R&D, nuclear energy, and clean energy supply chains.

As of 2023, both South Korea and the United States had pledged and disbursed $100 million and $1 billion, respectively, to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The GCF was established in 2010 during the United Nations COP 16 as part of the Cancún Agreements and is not only the world's largest climate fund, but also a critical element of the Paris Agreement. The GCF has funded over 200 projects since 2015 and is headquartered in Incheon, South Korea.

Diversifying the green energy supply chain is a key area of cooperation between South Korea and the United States. Currently 67% of electric vehicle (EV) batteries imported to the United States are from China, and only 9% are from South Korea (though many batteries imported from other countries are made by South Korean companies). Since 2021, Korean companies have announced plans to construct at least two additional EV battery plants in the United States.

SELECTED STORY

US-SOUTH KOREA COOPERATION ON AIR QUALITY

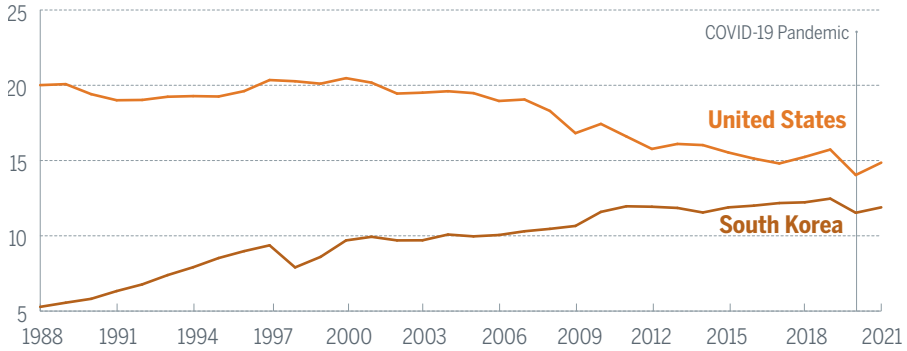
In 2016, the United States and South Korea signed an MoU launching the Korea US-Air Quality study (KORUS-AQ). KORUS-AQ brings together scientists from the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Korean National Institute of Environmental Research, US EPA, and other government agencies and academic institutions to study air quality across the Korean peninsula and its surrounding area. KORUS-AQ uses multiple aircraft and satellites from NASA and South Korea to track air quality over a number of years and make policy recommendations.

Sources: Office of the US Trade representative; US-South Korea Leaders' Joint Statement; KEI; US Environmental Protection Agency; US Census Bureau; Voice of America; Invest Korea; US National Aeronautics and Space Administration; US Department of Energy; World Bank; Global Carbon Project

한미 협력의 중요한 한 축인 기후변화 대응

한미 양국은 기후변화를 논의하기 위해 장관급 회담을 개최하고 있으며, 전 세계적으로 점점 심각해지고 있는 기후 위협과 취약성을 해결하기 위해 도시 회복력을 강화하는 연구 개발 및 과학 분야의 협력을 증진하기로 약속했다.

US AND SOUTH KOREA CO_2 EMISSIONS IN TONS PER CAPITA



EV BATTERY PLANTS BUILT BY - OR IN A JOINT VENTURE WITH - SOUTH KOREAN COMPANIES

MANUFACTURER	LOCATION	INVESTMENT	INITIAL OPENING (EXPECTED)
BlueOval SK Kentucky No.1 & 2	Glendale, Kentucky	$5.8 billion	2025
BlueOval SK Tennessee	Stanton, Tennessee	$5.6 billion	2025
Hyundai Motor Group-SK On JV	Bartow County, Georgia	$4-5 billion	2025
LG Energy Solution	Queen Creek, Arizona	$5.5 billion	2025
L-H Battery Company, INC(LGES)	Jeffersonville, Ohio	$3.5 billion	2024
Samsung SDI America	Auburn Hills, Michigan	$62 million	2018
Samsung SDI-Stellantis JV	Kokomo, Indiana	$2.5 billion	2025
SK Battery America Georgia No.1	Commerce, Georgia	$1.67 billion	2022
SK Battery America Georgia No.2	Commerce, Georgia	$727 million	2023
Ultium Cells LLC(LGES)	Lansing, Michigan	$2.6 billion	2024
Ultium Cells LLC(LGES)	Spring Hill, Tennessee	$2.6 billion	2023
Ultium Cells LLC(LGES)	Warren, Ohio	$2.3 billion	2022

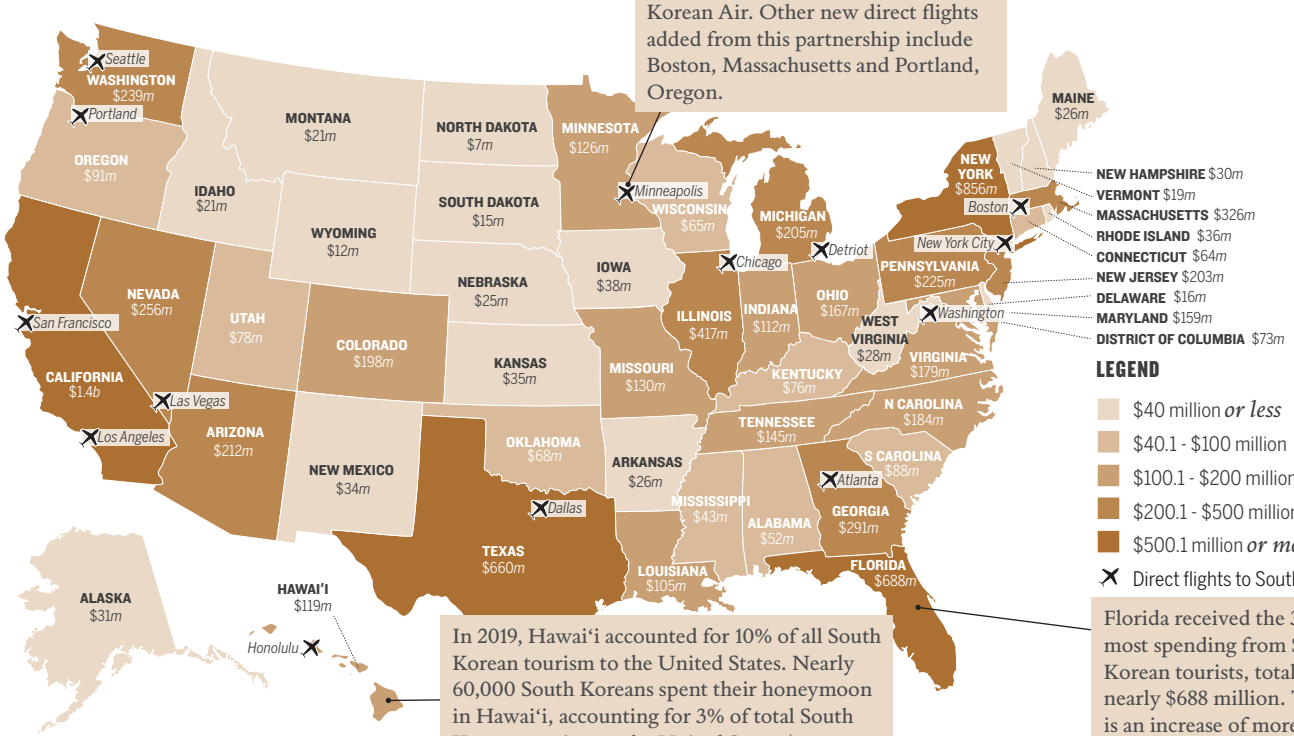
Before COVID-19, the United States and South Korea Exchanged Over Three Million Tourists Annually

Before the COVID-19 pandemic halted most international travel, tourism between the United States and South Korea was at an all-time high. In 2019, 2.3 million South Koreans visited the United States representing an increase of 108% since 2010. South Korean tourists visiting the United States contributed $8.8 billion to the US economy in 2019.

In 2019, the number of Americans visiting South Korea exceeded one million for the first time, a 60% increase since 2010. The United States has been one of the top four largest sources for tourists visiting South Korea since 2008, behind only China, Japan, and Taiwan, and sends more tourists to South Korea than to any other country located outside of Asia. Almost 25% of all visitors to South Korea were from the United States in 2021, and US tourist spending in South Korea was estimated to be $1.3 billion in 2019.*

SOUTH KOREAN VISITOR SPENDING IN THE US BY STATE **

Minneapolis added a direct flight to Seoul in 2019 as part of Delta Air Lines' joint venture partnership with Korean Air. Other new direct flights added from this partnership include Boston, Massachusetts and Portland, Oregon.



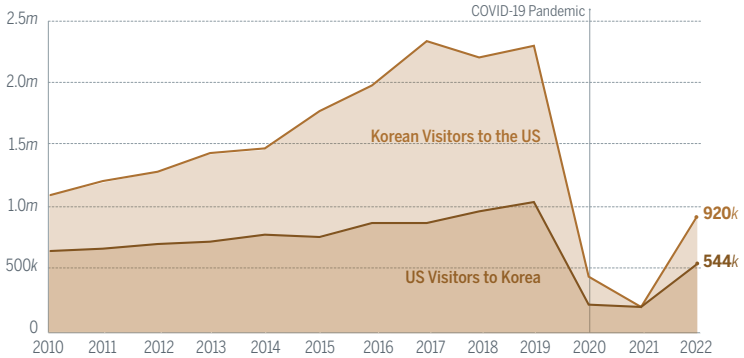
In 2019, Hawai'i accounted for 10% of all South Korean tourism to the United States. Nearly 60,000 South Koreans spent their honeymoon in Hawai'i, accounting for 3% of total South Korean tourism to the United States.‡

Florida received the 3rd most spending from South Korean tourists, totaling nearly $688 million. This is an increase of more than 35% since 2011.

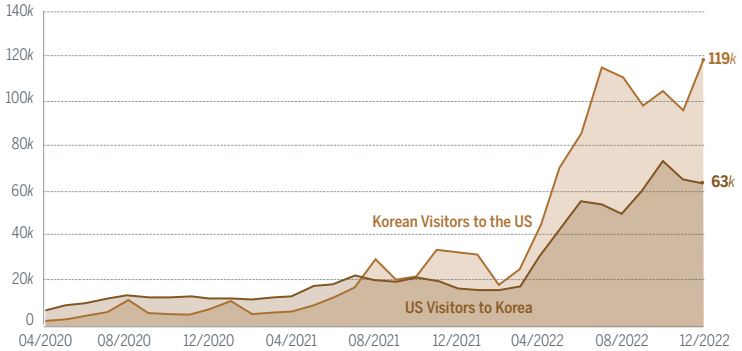
코로나 이전 매년 3백만 명이 넘는 관광객이 상호 방문

2019년에 2010년 대비 108% 증가한 230만 명이 넘는 한국인이 미국을 방문했으며, 2019년 한국인의 미국 관광이 미국 경제에 기여한 금액은 88억 달러에 달한다.

BILATERAL TOURISM BY YEAR



BILATERAL MONTHLY TOURISM SINCE APRIL 2020



*Estimated by the Korean Tourism Organization based on average travel expense per person.
** Monitary values show pre-COVID-19 visitor spending per state
‡ Source: Hawaii Tourism Authority
Sources: Estimated by the Trade Partnership (Washington, DC), 2019 data; US International Trade Administration; Korean Tourism Organization; FlightConnections; Delta Air Lines

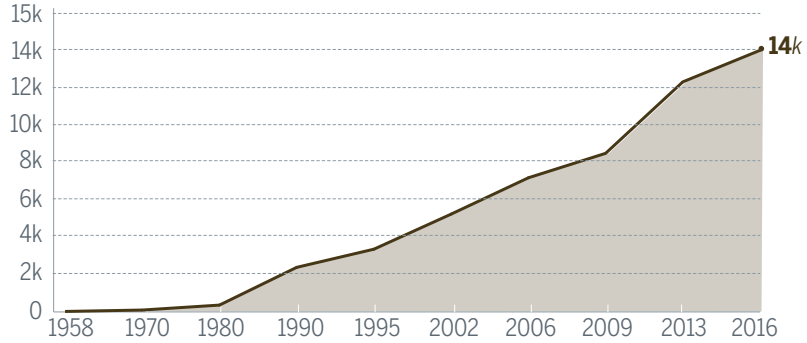
The United States and South Korea Share Deep Cultural Connections

A global rise in the popularity of South Korean culture has continued to be spread across the world and the United States. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, 13% of American tourists visiting South Korea cited *Hallyu* (or the "Korean Wave," an umbrella term for Korean pop culture exports such as K-pop, K-drama, films and gaming) as a reason for visiting South Korea. This figure has increased by 5% since 2015 and is expected to recover with the lifting of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Korean programming such as *Squid Game* has become so popular for the American streaming service Netflix that the company was estimated to have invested $750 million in Korean content in 2022, in addition to the estimated $1.2 billion spent on Korean content from 2015 to 2021. With over 60% of its subscribers watching Korean titles in 2022, Netflix plans to feature 34 new and returning Korean series, films, and documentaries in 2023. Furthermore, Korean and Korean American films like *Parasite* and *Minari* have won high-profile awards at the Oscars with *Parasite* becoming the first foreign language film to win Best Picture in 2021, and Youn Yuh-jung winning an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role in *Minari*.

Interest in Korean popular music (K-pop) has grown significantly in the United States over the past decade with nearly 100 American born singers becoming K-pop artists in South Korea. The Wonder Girls made history in 2009 as the first ever K-pop group to enter the *Billboard Hot 100* charts with their hit song "Nobody (English release)" which peaked at number 76. The Wonder Girls were then followed by Psy with "Gangnam Style" which reached number 2 on the charts in 2012. In 2020, BTS made history with "Life Goes On," the first predominantly foreign-language song to debut at number 1 in the chart's history. BTS has achieved a level of success in the United States unheard of since The Beatles led the British Invasion of the 1960s.

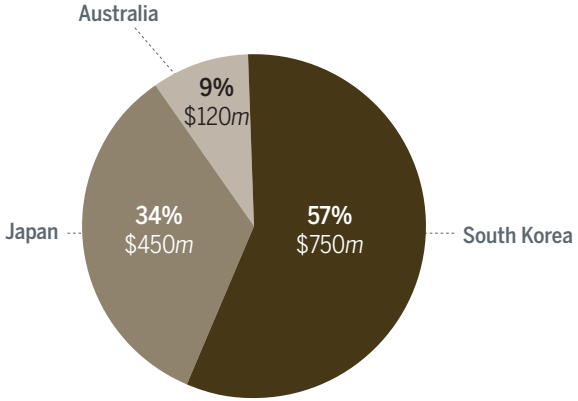
KOREAN LANGUAGE ENROLLMENT IN THE UNITED STATES



한국과 미국은 문화적으로 깊게 연계

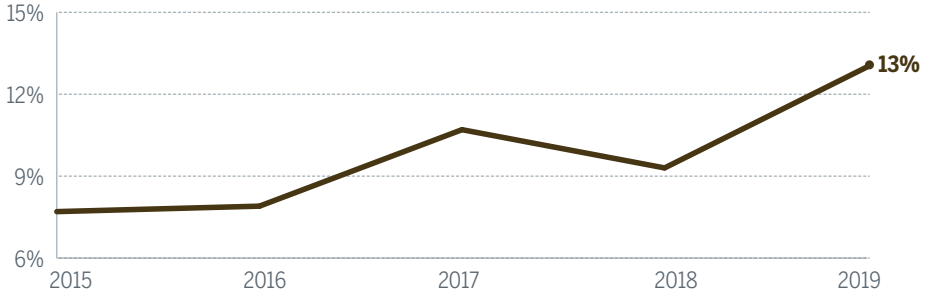
지난 100년간 한국계 미국인들은 미국 문화와 정치 전반에 걸쳐 영향을 미쳐왔다. 미국 양당의 선출직으로 활동 중인 한국계 미국인이 80명 이상이며, 수백 명의 한국계 미국인이 K-pop 제작에 참여하고 메이저리그 스포츠에서 선수로 활약하고 있다.

NETFLIX'S ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR LOCAL CONTENT IN SELECT INDO-PACIFIC MARKETS - 2022



AMERICAN HALLYU TOURISM TO KOREA BY YEAR

Percent of American tourists to Korea citing Hallyu cultural products as a reason for their trip



Sources: KEI; Korean Americans for Political Action; Ballotpedia; Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies; Korean American Grassroots Conference; CNBC; Billboard Charts; EWC Research; Modern Language Association; Korean Tourism Organization, 2019 data; International Visitor Survey

Riding the wave of success Korean pop culture has enjoyed in the United States, Korean American literature has also gained esteem and popularity in recent years. Author and professor Alexander Chee was a 2021 United States Artists Fellow, a 2021 Guggenheim Fellow in Nonfiction, and the recipient of a Whiting Award for his debut novel *Edinburgh*. Min Jin Lee, the author of *Pachinko*, has also received fellowships in fiction from the Guggenheim Foundation (2018) as well as the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study at Harvard (2018-2019), and the New York Foundation for the Arts (2000). *Pachinko* was recently adapted into a critically acclaimed television series on Apple TV, where it reached an even larger audience. Overall, authors like Chee and Lee are capturing and sharing the experiences of the Korean diaspora around the world and across time periods. This growing presence of Korean American literature is filling a void that has persisted in western literature for a long time, and will continue to enrich and educate readers about the diverse experiences of Korean Americans.

Korean food in the United States has been slower to find a wide audience in comparison to other cuisines from Asia, with many Korean restaurants specifically catering to Korean expats and recent immigrants. However, with the growing influence of Korean cultural exports, awareness of Korean food has increased rapidly across the United States in the last decade. Celebrity Korean American chefs like Roy Choi and David Chang have also helped increase the familiarity of Americans with Korean cuisine through restaurants and food trucks such as Roy Choi's popular Korean-Mexican taco truck Kogi in Los Angeles. In 2021, there were almost 7,000 Korean restaurants across the United States, serving an estimated $6 billion market.

South Korea exported over $1 billion of consumer-oriented agricultural goods to the United States in 2021, representing a 172% increase since 2012. Today, there are over 100 Korean markets and supermarkets across the United States selling a wide variety of Korean food and other Korean products.

The Kogi food truck serving customers at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles on January 29, 2009. (Photo by astrobuddha)

Sources: Washington Post; KoreanFoodInUS.com; Serious Eats; US Census Bureau Trade Data; IBIS World; EWC Research

Koreans and Korean Americans have played in every major league sport in the United States including the National Hockey League (NHL), Major League Baseball (MLB), National Football League (NFL), National Basketball Association (NBA), and the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR). Korean American contributions to American sports date back to 1948 when Dr. Sammy Lee became the first Asian American to win a gold medal in an Olympic sport. In 1952, Dr. Lee became the first diver to win back-to-back gold medals.

Dr. Sammy Lee accepts the gold medal for the 10-meter platform dive in Helsinki, Finland on August 1, 1952 (Associated Press)

Korean Americans have been elected across the United States to state, local, and federal government positions. In 2022, over 80 Korean Americans were serving in elected positions representing both political parties. These positions range from school boards, judges, members of state governments, and four members of the US House of Representatives.

KOREAN AMERICAN ELECTED OFFICIALS BY STATE

1	New Jersey	27	**6**	Virginia	4
2	California	16	**7**	New York	3
2	Washington	6	**8**	Pennsylvania	3
4	Hawai'i	4	**9**	Georgia	2
5	Texas	4	**10**	Maryland	2

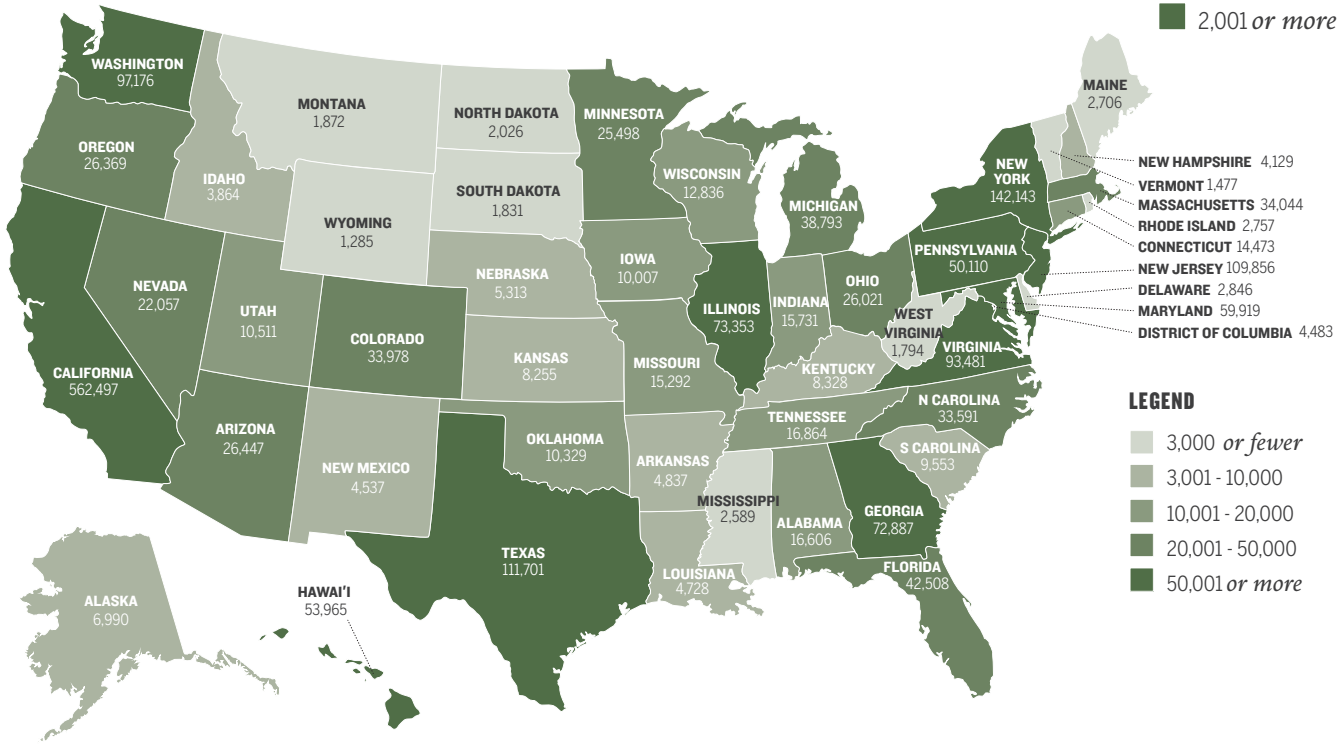
Nearly Two Million Korean Americans Live in the United States

Korean Americans are the 5th largest Asian ethnic group in the country after Chinese, Indian, Filipino, and Vietnamese. About 55% of the Korean American population speaks Korean at home, and Korean is the 7th most spoken non-English language in American households.

Immigrants from South Korea consistently account for nearly 2% of all naturalizing US citizens each year, with about 15,000 South Korean naturalizations occurring in 2021.

According to the South Korean government, there are over 140,000 Americans living in South Korea, with about 43,000 being dual nationals. American citizens comprise about 7% of all foreign residents, making Americans the 4th largest foreign group in South Korea. Of all American foreign residents living in South Korea – excluding DoD personnel – 44% are between the ages of 20-39.

KOREAN AMERICAN POPULATION BY STATE

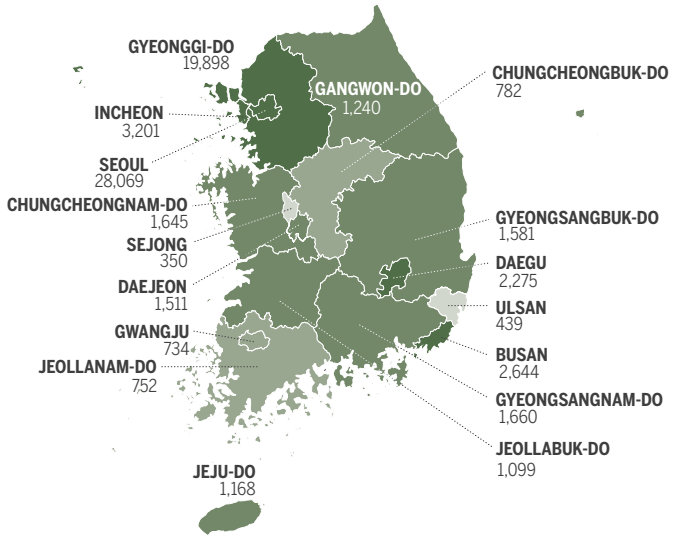


*Data does not include approximately 77,000 US citizens considered "Temporary Foreign Residents" by the South Korean Government.
Sources: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 and 2021 data; World Bank; US Department of Homeland Security; Korea Immigration Service 2020 and 2021 data

2백만 명 이상의 한국계 미국인이 미국에 거주

미국 내 아시아계 중 한국계 미국인 인구규모는 5번째로 크게 집계되었다. 한국에 거주하는 14만 명 이상의 미국인 중 43,000명이 이중국적을 유지하고 있으며, 한국에 거주하는 외국인 중 미국인 인구가 4번째로 크다.

AMERICAN PERMANENT RESIDENTS AND DUAL NATIONALS IN SOUTH KOREA BY PROVINCE*



KOREAN AMERICAN SHARE OF STATE'S ASIAN AMERICAN POPULATION

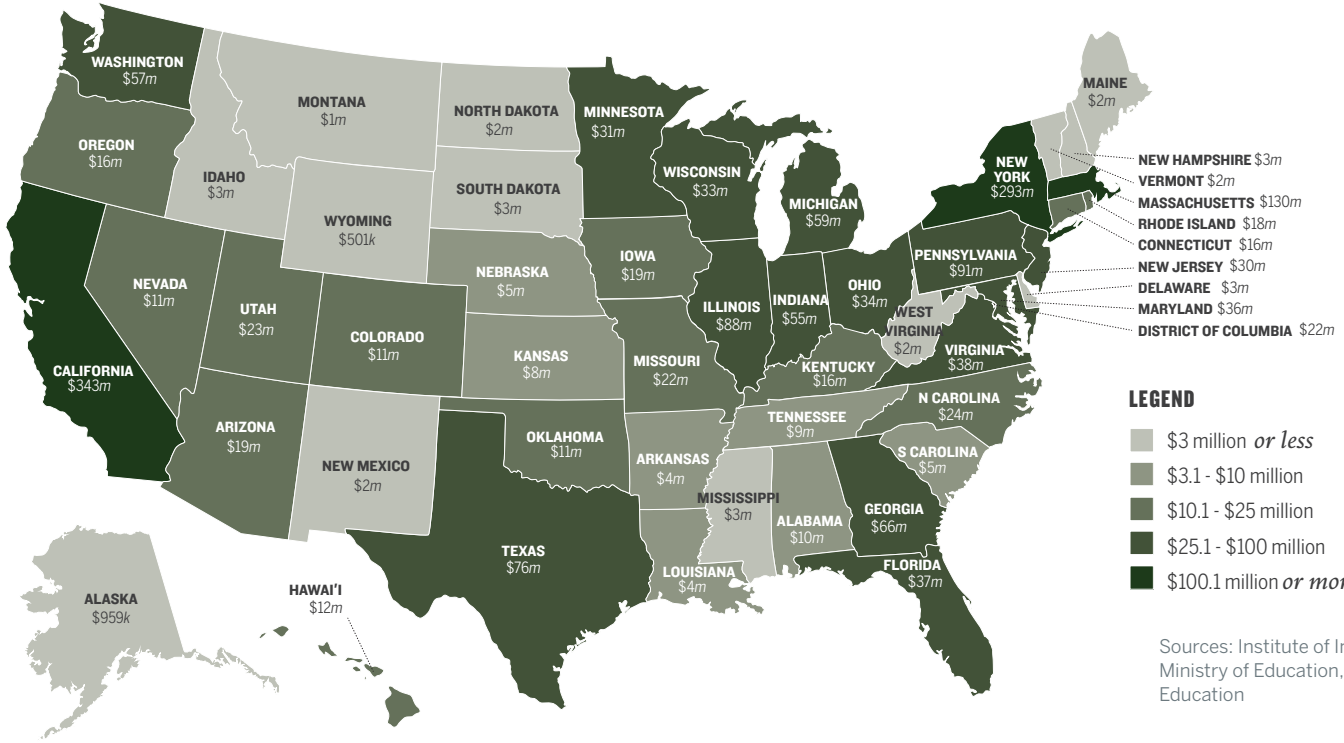
1	Alabama	18%	6	North Dakota	11%
2	Georgia	13%	7	District of Columbia	11%
3	Virginia	13%	8	Wyoming	11%
4	Colorado	13%	9	Montana	11%
5	Maryland	12%	10	Maine	11%

South Korea Is the 3rd Largest Source of Foreign Students in the United States

The COVID-19 pandemic created significant barriers to educational exchange as many higher education institutions suspended study abroad programs in the spring of 2020. The 2018/2019 academic year saw 4,558 American students studying in South Korea, dropping to 977 in the 2020/2021 academic year, representing a decrease of over 78%. However, South Korea was the 5th most popular destination for American students studying abroad in the 2020/21 academic year. Before COVID-19, nearly 80% of American students studying in South Korea were located in Seoul.

The 2020/2021 academic year saw 39,491 South Korean students study in the United States at all academic levels, making South Korea the 3rd largest source of international students in the United States after China and India. Before COVID-19, there were 49,809 South Korean students studying in the United States, who made over $1.8 billion of economic contributions to the US economy annually.

PRE-COVID-19 ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF SOUTH KOREAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



LEGEND

- $3 million *or less*
- $3.1 - $10 million
- $10.1 - $25 million
- $25.1 - $100 million
- $100.1 million *or more*

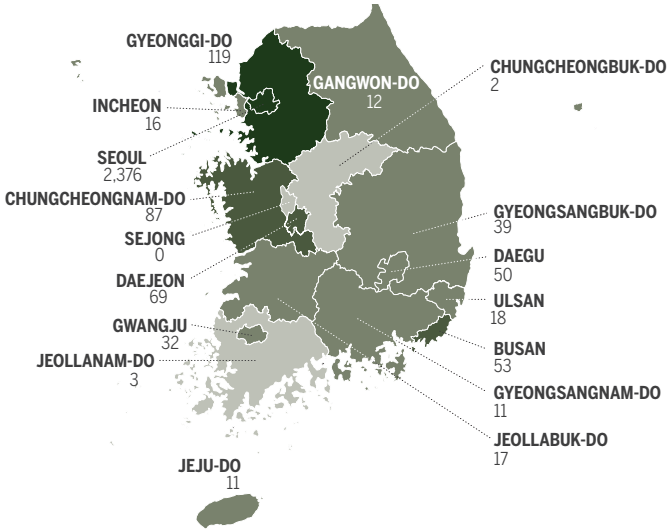
미국 내 해외 유학생 중 3번째로 큰 한국인 유학생

2020~2021학년도에 미국에서 유학 중인 한국인 학생은 중국, 인도 다음으로 3번째로 큰 4만 명에 달한다.

US STUDENTS IN SOUTH KOREA BY PROVINCE PRE-COVID-19

LEGEND

- 10 *or fewer*
- 11 - 50
- 51 - 100
- 101 *or more*



SOUTH KOREAN STUDENTS BY STATE PRE-COVID-19

1	California	12,015	6	Pennsylvania	2,755
2	New York	8,577	7	Georgia	2,196
3	Texas	3,388	8	Washington	1,913
4	Massachusetts	3,334	9	Michigan	1,699
5	Illinois	2,867	10	Florida	1,534

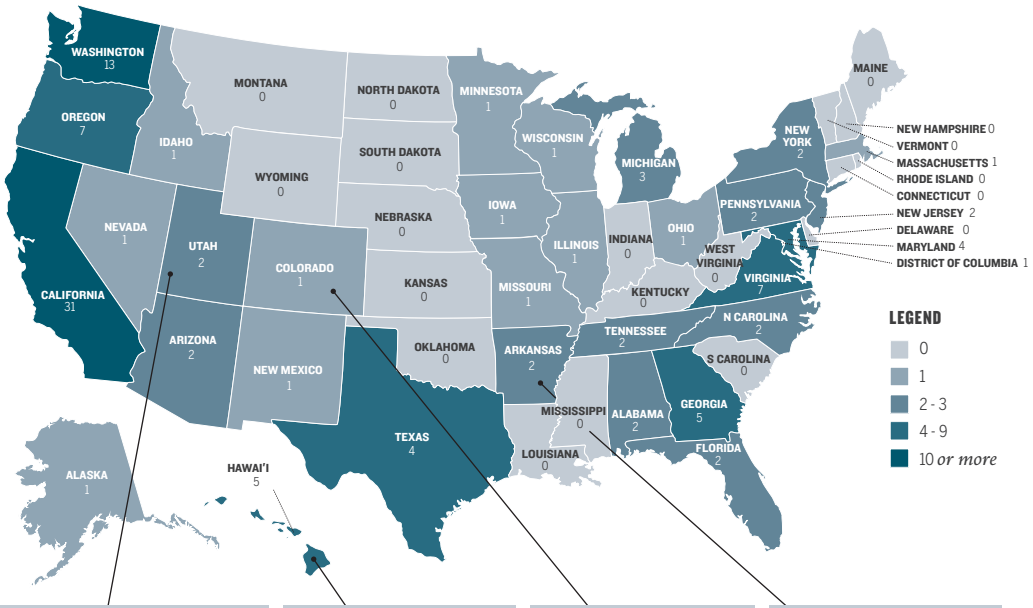
Sources: Institute of International Education (IIE), 2018/2019, 2019/2020, and 2020/2021 data; Korean Ministry of Education, 2019 Data; IIE; NAFSA: Association of International Educators; Korean Ministry of Education

The United States and South Korea Share 112 Sister Relationships

In total, 16 South Korean provinces and municipalities share sister connections with 31 US states and the District of Columbia. Sister relationships are partnerships between cities, counties, or states that work to build civic and people-to-people relationships and support cultural and commercial ties.

There are 13 sister-state relationships between US states and South Korean provinces. California has the most connections with South Korea of all US states, with 31 sister city, county, and state relationships. The Korean province of Gyeonggi-do has the most sister relationships with the United States with 31 sister partnerships.

US SISTER RELATIONSHIPS WITH SOUTH KOREA



On the 70th anniversary of the Korean War, Cedar City's sister city Gapyeong donated a memorial stone commemorating "The Miracle at Gapyeong" battle, where despite being outnumbered, the Southern Utah 213th Field Artillery Battalion did not lose a single soldier.

In October 2021, Hawai'i celebrated 35 years with its sister state Jeju Province, South Korea, with which it also shares a sister park relationship between Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes.

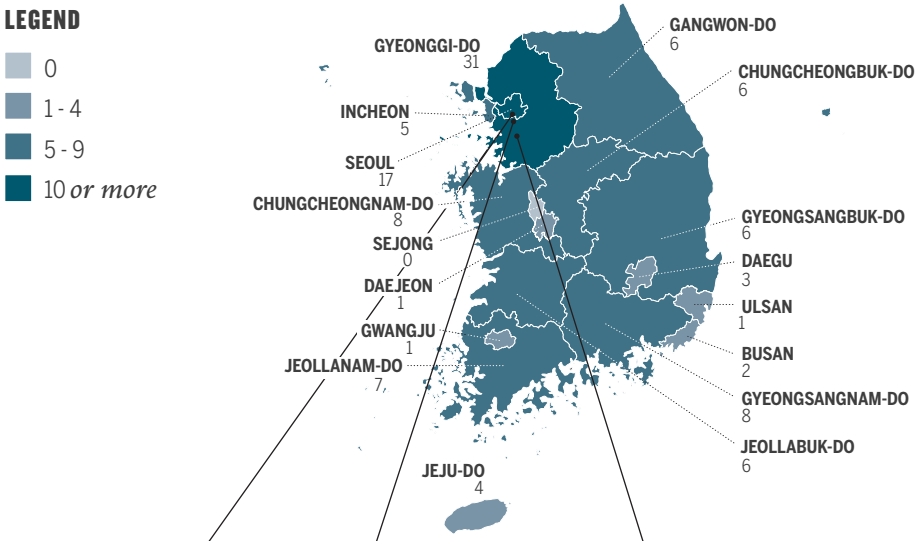
High school students in Aurora, Colorado have been holding virtual exchanges with students from Aurora's sister city, Seongnam City, South Korea to keep the relationship alive during the pandemic.

In 2018, Little Rock celebrated 25 years of sister city partnership with Hanam, South Korea. The relationship began in 1992 with assistance from H.U. Lee, who founded the American Taekwondo Association in Little Rock.

한국과 미국은 112개의 자매 관계를 구축

한국의 16개 시와 도가 미국의 31개 주 및 워싱턴 DC와 자매 관계를 맺고 있으며, 이를 통해 인적 교류와 상업적 관계를 증진하고 있다.

SOUTH KOREAN SISTER RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNITED STATES



Gangnam District and its newest sister city (2021) Grand Rapids, Michigan are named after nearby bodies of water, and share a love of art. Gangnam has a sister event to Grand Rapids' ArtPrize festival called ArtPrize Gangnam.

High school students in Anyang participated in a virtual dance party with Hampton, Virginia's Hampton High School K-pop Dance Club in February 2021 to celebrate their sister city relationship and highlight the popularity of K-pop.

Suwon's sister city relationship with Phoenix, Arizona, which began in 2021, was its first sister city in the United States.

Sources: Sister Cities International; Governor's Association of Korea; individual sister city associations.
For more information on sister cities, please visit our website: AsiaMattersforAmerica.org

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PUBLICATION DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATION

TOP SHELF DESIGN
Washington, DC
www.topshelfdesign.net

JEANETTE SIMMONS
Infographic and Design Specialist
East-West Center in Washington

THE ASIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA INITIATIVE

Asia Matters for America/America Matters for Asia is an interactive resource for credible and nonpartisan information, graphics, analysis, and news on US-Indo-Pacific relations at the national, state, and local levels.

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한국이 미국에 중요한 이유/ 미국이 한국에 중요한 이유

This project maps the trade, investment, employment, business, diplomacy, security, education, tourism, and people-to-people connections between the United States and South Korea at the national, state, and local levels. Part of the *Asia Matters for America* initiative, this publication and the AsiaMattersforAmeria.org website are resources for understanding the robust and dynamic US-Korea relationship.

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