



Business Dynamics: South Korea

September 2025

Table of Contents

HEADLINES

OPERATIONAL AND REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

Political deadlock hampers South Korea's business environment

FINANCING AND INVESTMENT

South Korean government pushes for high-tech FDI

SKILLS AND LABOUR

South Korea advances in training and migration policy to tackle labour shortages

TRADE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Tariffs uncertainty undermines South Korea's export-led economy

DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

South Korea leads in digital readiness and AI regulation

OPERATIONAL AND REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

Chart 1 - Operational and Legal Environment Key Indicators 2024

Chart 2 - Index of Economic Freedom Ranking by Pillar in South Korea and Regional Comparison 2024

Chart 3 - Index of Economic Freedom Ranking 2019-2024

Chart 4 - Index of Economic Freedom: Judicial Effectiveness Pillar Rank in South Korea and Regional Comparison 2019-2024

Chart 5 - Index of Economic Freedom: Government Integrity Pillar Rank in South Korea and Regional Comparison 2019-2024

Chart 6 - Corruption Perceptions Ranking: South Korea and Regional Comparison 2019-2024

FINANCING AND INVESTMENT

Chart 7 - Key Financial and Investment Indicators 2024

Chart 8 - Index of Economic Freedom: Property Rights Pillar Rank in South Korea and Regional Comparison 2019-2024

Chart 9 - Bank Claims on the Private Sector as % of GDP 2019-2024

Chart 10 - Bank Nonperforming Loans to Total Gross Loans 2019-2024

SKILLS AND LABOUR

Chart 11 - Key Skills and Labour Indicators 2024

Chart 12 - Population Aged 15+ with Higher Education 2019-2024

Chart 13 - Education Indicators 2024

Chart 14 - Number of University Graduates by Programme 2024

Chart 15 - Employment by Age 2024

Chart 16 - Employment by Gender 2024

Chart 17 - Youth Unemployment Rate 2019-2024

Chart 18 - Labour Structure Change 2019-2024

Chart 19 - Labour Structure Comparison 2024

Chart 20 - Self-Employed as % of Total Employed Population 2024

Chart 21 - Index of Economic Freedom: Labour Pillar Rank in South Korea and Regional Comparison 2019-2024

Chart 22 - Wage per Hour in Manufacturing Sector 2019-2024

Chart 23 - Labour Market Regulations in South Korea and Regional Comparison 2024

TRADE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Chart 24 - Key Infrastructure Indicators 2024

Chart 25 - Index of Economic Freedom: Trade Freedom Pillar Rank in South Korea and Regional Comparison 2019-2024

Chart 26 - South Korea's Top Four Largest Export Categories 2019-2024

Chart 27 - Turnover of Transport and Storage Industry by Category in South Korea 2024

Chart 28 - Transportation Mode Indicators in South Korea and Regional Comparison 2024

Chart 29 - Road Infrastructure 2024

DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

Chart 30 - Innovation and Digitalisation Key Indicators 2024

Chart 31 - Network Readiness Ranking by Pillar in South Korea and Regional Comparison 2024

Chart 32 - Network Readiness Ranking for South Korea and Regional Comparison 2019-2024

Chart 33 - Network Readiness Ranking: Technology Pillar for South Korea and Regional Comparison 2019-2024

Chart 34 - Intellectual Property: South Korea Compared to Selected Regional Peers 2024

APPENDIX A

The 2024 Index of Economic Freedom

APPENDIX B

The Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024

About Euromonitor International

Euromonitor International is an independent market intelligence provider. Data, insight and analysis stem from in-the-field research spanning 210 national markets.

Content ranges from the in-depth and country-specific, to key strategic themes with a global range and significance. Products cover a comprehensive range of insights and market data, but can be broadly categorised as:

- **Strategy Briefings:** Global or regional in scope, and focussing on the most important themes shaping consumer demand, the key markets, competitive environment and future outlook across a range of industries.
- **Company Profiles:** Analysis dedicated to the world's most significant companies, with detailed insight into their activities, focus of operations, their competitors, their geographic presence and performance.
- **Country Reports:** For an in-depth understanding of specific countries, whether by industry, economic metrics or consumer trends and lifestyles. These reports cover current trends, consumer demand, market potential and future prospects, with country-specific local insight and comprehensive data, unavailable elsewhere.

For more information on this report, further enquiries can be directed via this link www.euromonitor.com/business-dynamics-south-korea/report.