

# Factsheet: South Korea

Last update: 24 October 2014

## DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The South Korean [youth law](#) (2008) defines youth as between 9-24 years.

### CANDIDACY AGE

**Lower House** **25**  
Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

**Upper House** **--**  
Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)  
Unicameral.

### MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent	Opposite Sex With Parental Consent	Same Sex
Male	20	18	--
Female	20	18	--

No specific legislation for same-sex marriage. Source: [UNSD, ILGA](#)

### VOTING AGE

**19**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

### MAJORITY AGE

**19**

Source: [Civil Code](#) (2011)

### CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

**14**

Minimum Age  
Source: [Criminal Code](#) (2005)

### GDP PER CAPITA

**USD 25976.95**

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

### HDI

**0.909**

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)  
15 out of 187 countries.

### GINI

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Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

### CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

**55**

43 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

### PRESS FREEDOM

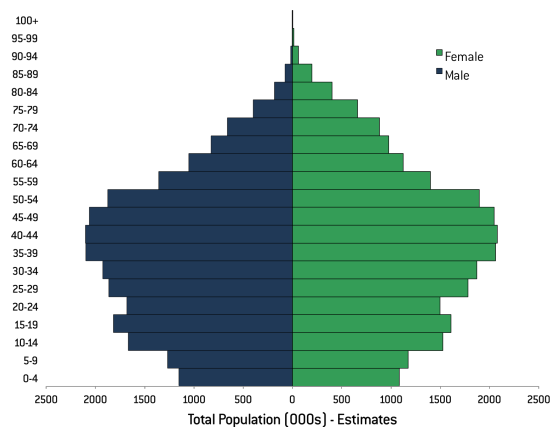
**25.66**

57 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



KOR

Source: [United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division](#)

2012 Revision - Estimates. (Accessed August 2013).

## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

**0.81**

3 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

### LITERACY RATES

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Both sexes (15-24) %

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Male (15-24) %

Female (15-24) %

Year: No data.

Source: [UNESCO](#)

### NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

**95.98%**

Both sexes %

**96.37%** **95.55%**

Male %

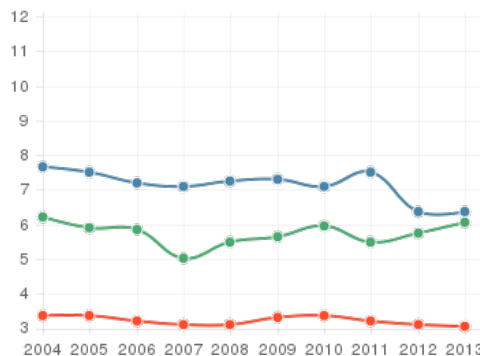
Female %

Year: 2012

Source: [UNESCO](#)

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

### Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment



## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### PREVALENCE OF HIV

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Male (15-24) %

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Female (15-24) %

Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

### TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

**13.00%**

Both sexes (13-15) %

**14.90%**

Male (13-15) %

**10.60%**

Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

## POLICY & LEGISLATION

The [youth law](#) (2008) outlines the legal and social provisions for young people, youth organisations, youth centres, activities and welfare, youth leaders and funding. The vision of the national youth policy, described extensively on the [Youth policy pages](#), is to enable, "dreaming youth, family with hope, [and a] bright future of society." It's goal is "to reinforce the competence of the youth and to build health and sound environment for the youth." It has three specific tasks: 1) Promoting diverse hands-on youth activities; 2) Expanding and improving youth welfare outcomes; 3) Providing sound environment for youth. The policy outlines specific measures to strengthen youth policy, youth participation, youth welfare & safety and protecting youth from violence.

### Is there a national youth policy?

**YES**

South Korea has a [youth law](#) and a national youth policy.  
An [English summary](#) is available.

## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or

## BUDGET & SPENDING

male - (15-24)

female - (15-24)

total labour force

Source: [World Bank](#)

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

Since 2010, the [Ministry of Gender Equality and Family](#) has responsibility for youth affairs and aims at "[f]ostering welfare and protection of youth." According to the [2007 report](#) a National Youth Commission was established in 2005 under the Office of the Prime Minister and "developed a five-year plan for 2008-2012, to be implemented both nationally and by local governments." However, the National Youth Commission could not be located on the [government organizational chart](#).

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

**YES**

youth programming?

**UNCLEAR**

No documentation on youth spending in South Korea could be found online. According to the [World Bank](#), South Korea spent 15.77% of its government expenditure on education provision in 2008, and 5.05% of its GDP in 2009.

## YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The [National Council of Youth Organizations in Korea](#) (NCYOK) is a membership organisation founded in 1965. The work of NCYOK,

covers information exchange, mutual cooperation among youth organizations and joint research on youth, connecting the government, schools, social organizations and international youth organizations in striving to promote organizational activities for youths and youth leaders.

Does the country have a national youth organisation / association (council, platform, body)?

**YES**

The NCYOK represents Korean youth at the [Asian Youth Council](#) and international youth events.

## BUDGET & SPENDING

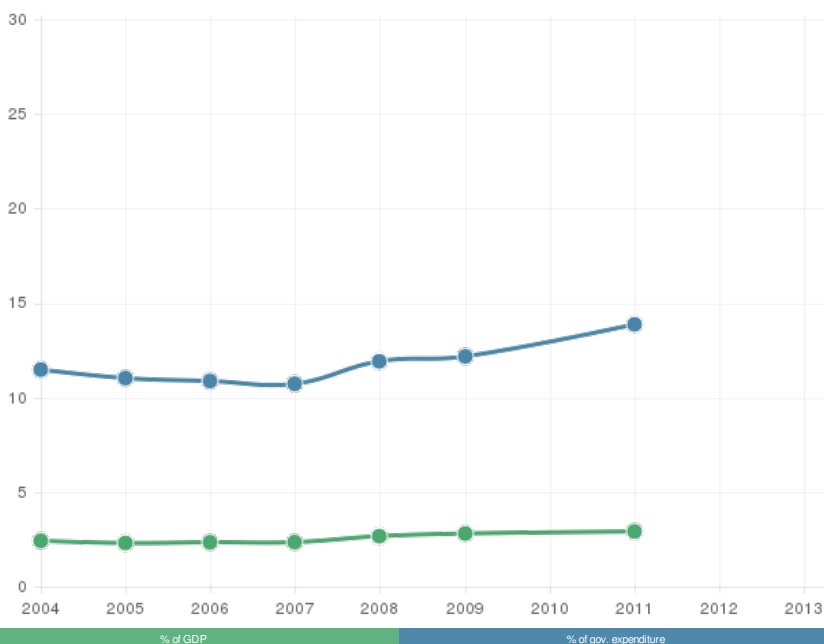
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**UNCLEAR**

## TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

### TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP



Source: [World Bank](#)  
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

% of GDP

% of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)  
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

## PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

Visit our library for further reading:  
[Documents about South Korea](#)