Market Brief on South Korea
February 2017

The economy of South Korea is the fourth largest economy in Asia and the 11th largest in the world. It is a mixed economy dominated by family-owned conglomerates called chaebols, however, the dominance of chaebol is unlikely and at risk to support the transformation of Korean economy for the future generations. South Korea is famous for its spectacular rise from one of the poorest countries in the world to a developed, high-income country in just one generation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seoul</td>
<td>10,349,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Busan</td>
<td>3,678,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incheon</td>
<td>2,628,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daegu</td>
<td>2,566,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daejeon</td>
<td>1,475,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suwon-si</td>
<td>1,242,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goyang-si</td>
<td>1,073,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seongnam-si</td>
<td>1,031,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulsan</td>
<td>962,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bucheon-si</td>
<td>850,731</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Population | 50,643,556
Area             | 100,210 km²
Time Zone        | GMT/UTC + 09:00 hour
Capital City     | Seoul
International Telephone Code | +82
Currency         | South Korean Won (KRW)
Exchange Rate (27/10/16) | 1 South Korean Won equals 0.00087 US Dollar
GDP (Dec 2016)   | 1377.87 billion US dollars
GDP per capita (Dec 2016) | $28,462
GDP Growth Rate (Dec 2016) | 2.6%
Ease of Doing Business (World Bank 2017) | 5/190
Inflation Rate (Feb.2017) | 1.90%
Official Language(s) | Korean
Other Languages | Gyeonggi, and Incheon
Business Hours   | Weekdays: 09:00 – 18:00
                 | Weekends and Public Holidays: Closed
Banking Hours   | Weekdays: 09:00 – 16:00
Literacy Rate   | 97.9%
Measures        | Metric System
Important International Participation | United Nations, WTO, OECD/DAC, ASEAN Plus Three, East Asia
South Korea Trade with the World (2012-2016)

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exports</td>
<td>548,760,724</td>
<td>559,648,708</td>
<td>573,091,134</td>
<td>526,900,733</td>
<td>495,465,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports</td>
<td>519,691,165</td>
<td>515,560,844</td>
<td>525,563,837</td>
<td>436,547,721</td>
<td>406,059,974</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Trade map

Major Import Sources of South Korea

- China: 21%
- United States of America: 12%
- Japan: 12%
- Saudi Arabia: 4%
- Qatar: 2%
- others: 32%

Major Export Destinations of South Korea

- China: 25%
- United States of America: 13%
- Hong Kong, China: 7%
- Singapore: 3%
- India: 2%
- Mexico: 2%
- others: 32%
Major Import Products of South Korea (2016)

- Petroleum oils, crude: 11%
- Electronic integrated circuits: 7%
- Petroleum gases: 4%
- Telephones: 3%
- Petroleum oils, refined: 3%
- Machines and apparatus of a kind used solely or principally for the manufacture of semiconductors...: 3%
- Cars: 2%
- Coal; briquettes: 2%
- Solar panels, other semiconductor devices, diodes, transistors: 1%
- Solar panels, other semiconductor devices, diodes, transistors: 1%
- Automatic data processing machines: 1%
- Others: 63%

Major Export Products of South Korea (2016)

- Electronic integrated circuits: 11%
- Cars: 8%
- Petroleum oils, refined: 5%
- Cruise ships, similar vessels: 5%
- Telephones: 5%
- Parts and accessories of the motor vehicles: 4%
- Liquid crystal devices: 3%
- Electric sound or visual signaling apparatus: 1%
- Floating or submersible drilling platforms: 2%
- Cyclic hydrocarbons: 2%
- Others: 54%
Sri Lanka-South Korea Trade (2012-2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Value in 2012</th>
<th>Value in 2013</th>
<th>Value in 2014</th>
<th>Value in 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exports</td>
<td>45,581</td>
<td>78,022</td>
<td>77,326</td>
<td>65,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports</td>
<td>322,656</td>
<td>298,641</td>
<td>413,783</td>
<td>307,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Balance</td>
<td>-277,075</td>
<td>-220,619</td>
<td>-336,457</td>
<td>-242,169</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sri Lankan products with export potential to South Korea

- Women's suits, not knit
- T-shirts
- Men's suits, not knit
- Women's suits
- Men's shirts, not knit
- Sweaters, pullovers, sweatshirts, etc.
- Petroleum oils, refined
- Women's shirts, not knit
- Brassieres and parts thereof, not knit
- New pneumatic tires, of rubber
- Women's undergarments
- Floating or submersible drilling platforms
- Men's undergarments
- Other articles of rubber
- Gloves, mittens and mitts
- Men's suits
- Articles of apparel of rubber
- Activated carbon
- Fruit, nuts and edible plants preserved with sugar
- Other nuts
- Coconut oil crude
- Men's shirts
Sri Lanka’s Imports from South Korea (2016)

- Woven Fabrics: 26%
- Other Products of Base Metal nes: 12%
- Other: 23%
- Standard Wire of Aluminum, Copper & Iron: 3%
- Other Paper Products nes: 3%
- Motor Vehicles & Parts: 4%
- Petroleum Products: 4%
- Other Textile Articles nes: 5%
- Other Products of Plastics nes: 5%
- Synthetic Rubber: 6%
- Other Electrical & Electronic Products nes: 9%

Sri Lanka’s Export to South Korea (2016)

- Apparel: 41%
- Others: 20%
- Rice & Cereals: 2%
- Silica & Quarts: 2%
- Mattresses & Mattress Supporters: 2%
- Toys Games & Sport Requisites: 2%
- Coconut Oil: 3%
- Pneumatic & Retreated Rubber Tyres & Tubes: 2%
- Activated Carbon: 5%
- Industrial & Surgical Gloves of Rubber: 7%
- Coco Peat & Fiber Pith: 14%
## Trade Fairs/Solo Exhibitions and Trade Missions in South Korea

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exhibition names</th>
<th>Cycle</th>
<th>Next Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KOGOLF (Korean Exhibition Dedicated to Golf. Korea Golf Show (KOGOLF) Is The Right Place And Right Partner For You To Make Success In Korea’s Golf Market)</td>
<td>Once A Year</td>
<td>02.03 - 05.03 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUTOMOTIVE TESTING EXPO KOREA(International Trade Fair For Automotive Test And Evaluation)</td>
<td>Once A Year</td>
<td>06.03 - 08.03 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermold Korea(Korea International Die-Mold Related Equipment Exhibition)</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>07.03 - 11.03 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koplas (Korea International Plastics &amp; Rubber Show)</td>
<td>Every 2 Years</td>
<td>07.03 - 11.03 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daegu Fashion Fair(Daegu Fashion Fair)</td>
<td>Once A Year</td>
<td>08.03 - 10.03 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOFISH (Fishing Industry Exhibition In South Korea. Facilities, Supplies And Services For Fishing)</td>
<td>Once A Year</td>
<td>10.03 - 12.03 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimes (Korean International Medical &amp; Hospital Equipment Show)</td>
<td>Once A Year</td>
<td>16.03 - 19.03 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Useful Addresses

**Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Sri Lanka**

Address: 98 Srimath Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 00700, Sri Lanka

Phone: +82 10-2135-3233

**Sri Lankan Embassy in Seoul, Korea (Republic)**

347-359 Shindang- Dong

Jung - Gu

Seoul 100-450

Korea (Republic)

E-mail: lankaemb@kornet.net

**Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA)**

13, Heolleungno, Seocho-gu, Seoul, Korea

Tel: +82-2-3460-7114  Fax: +82-2-3460-7777~8

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### Preferential Trade Agreements

- ASEAN.
- Australia Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement KAFTA (2014)
- Chile.
- Colombia.
- EFTA.
- India (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement)
- Peru.
- Singapore.

**Source:** EDB statistics, Trade map

**Prepared by:** Market Development Division(EDB)