

Case studies in international labour migration statistics

► **Design of the survey on
immigrants' living conditions
and labour force:
*the experience of Korea***



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This case study was prepared by Younyoung Park, Senior Statistician at the International Labour Organization (ILO), on secondment from Statistics Korea (KOSTAT), Republic of Korea. It was prepared as part of the ILO programme of work on international labour migration statistics, under the guidance of Elisa M. Benes, Head, Rights, Migration and Skills Statistics Unit, ILO Statistics Department. The publication of this case study would not have been possible without the substantive and editorial support of Elisa M. Benes, as well as Sungkyu Kim and Youngsim Jeong, Deputy Directors from KOSTAT. Valuable comments were provided by Andonirina Rakotonarivo, Labour Statistician and Idil Yildiz, Assistant Statistician, ILO Statistics Department. Virginie Woest, ILO Statistics Department, was responsible for the layout, formatting and for preparing the case study for publication.

The case study forms part of the activities undertaken within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of statistics between the ILO and KOSTAT. First established in 2015, the ILO-KOSTAT cooperation has as main objective to contribute to improving the knowledge base on international labour migration statistics globally, and in the Asia Pacific region, through research, capacity building, and promoting sharing of data and knowledge on the topic. Additionally, the case study aims to contribute to advancing the revision of the 20th ICLS Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration by supporting the identification of good country practice.

► Introduction

National household sample surveys play a central role in national statistical systems as a main source of official data on a wide range of topics needed for monitoring and to inform policy formulation and planning. For international labour migration, specialized migration surveys and labour force surveys are two important sources that countries can use to generate priority indicators and statistics on the labour market situation, employment characteristics and working conditions of international migrants. These statistics are needed on a frequent basis to monitor trends in labour force participation and to analyse the structure of labour market in relation to migrant populations, assess their integration into national economies, and understand potential gaps or inequalities they may face. Additionally, timely and disaggregated data can support the development of targeted labour policies, promote decent work opportunities for migrants, and contribute to broader development goals including economic growth, social protection, and gender equality.

This case study documents the experience of the Republic of Korea in establishing a regular mechanism to generate quality statistics on the labour market situation of international migrants in the country through the establishment of a specialized migration survey, the Survey of Immigrant Living Conditions and Labour Force (SILCLF), conducted on an annual basis since 2012.

The case study is organized as follows:

- The **Background** section offers an overview of Korea's demographic changes and the increasing demand for immigration-related data. It also provides a brief history of the SILCLF's development and its legal basis, emphasizing the survey's role in providing essential data to inform immigration and labour policies in Korea.
- The section **Survey purpose and uses** outlines the objectives of the SILCLF and its main uses. The section further examines the main differences between the SILCLF and Korea's national labour force survey, highlighting their complementary roles in generating comparable labour statistics and indicators, while taking into consideration the different characteristics of foreign nationals and Korean citizens, as well as differing user data needs.
- The **Survey design** section describes the target population and survey sample design, listing the main precision requirements taken into consideration. It further highlights the use of various administrative registers and stratification variables important in designing survey samples targeting migrant populations.
- The **Survey contents** section illustrates how the SILCLF has been designed to generate data on a wide range of topics related to the labour market situation and long-term integration of different categories of foreign nationals through topic rotation. The section further highlights the classifications used for core items, including industry, occupation and visa type, underscoring the importance of using nationally standardized classifications to support harmonized data production across different sources.
- The **Data collection** section provides an overview of how the SILCLF field data collection is organized, using PAPI (Paper and Pencil Interviewing) with direct interviewing of selected respondents. The section highlights special procedures introduced to facilitate participation of selected respondents, including the translation of the survey instrument into multiple languages and the selection and training of interviewers.
- The **Data processing** section highlights some of the main quality checks introduced to ensure the quality of SILCLF data outputs. It also describes the estimation methodology used, in particular, the use and calculation of post-stratification weights.
- The **Survey results** section illustrates some of the key survey outputs, highlighting the value of the SILCLF to monitor the labour market participation of different groups of foreign nationals in Korea.
- The **Data service management** provides additional examples of how SILCLF data is being used for research purposes and to inform the formulation of policies and programmes targeting foreign nationals.
- The **Conclusions** section provides a final reflection on the value of regular specialized migration surveys, such as the SILCLF, in generating quality statistics on the labour market participation of international migrants to support monitoring of trends and inform labour and immigration policy.

► Background

Since the early 2000s, the demographic structure of the Republic of Korea has shifted towards an aging society with a declining birth rate, necessitating increased immigration to sustain economic activity and foster social development. Korea is an ethnically homogeneous country, with most of the population being ethnic Koreans. Foreigners make up only about 3.7% of the total population, amounting to 1.9 million individuals out of a total population of around 51 million in 2023 (Lee, 2024). Although relatively small in proportion, the number of foreign nationals has been steadily increasing in the last two decades due to reasons such as marriage, employment, and education.

Korea's statistical system is decentralized. Major and large-scale statistics—such as the Census, price indices, employment and industrial trends—are produced by KOSTAT, the Korean National Statistics Agency. Meanwhile, other statistics are compiled by individual ministries according to their specific data needs. Although the national statistical system, under the coordination of KOSTAT, produces a comprehensive set of statistics on the general population, there are limitations in the availability of statistics specifically relating to international migrants (ILO, 2024). Consequently, there is a pressing need to develop statistics that specifically target immigrants. This development is crucial for addressing the growing demand for tailored statistical data required for effective immigration policy formulation, which includes managing the influx of foreign workers, overseeing their residency, and assessing their level of economic and social integration. Furthermore, the provision of fundamental statistical data for employment policy, such as labour supply, employment structure, working hours, and the degree of economic participation of foreign residents and naturalized citizens, underscores the necessity for specialized statistical methodologies.

The Survey on Immigrants' Living Conditions and Labour Force (SILCLF) is a designated statistical series approved under Statistical Law No. 920018, in accordance with Article 17. The annual compilation of these statistics is jointly managed by KOSTAT and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). The survey aims to support immigration policy by collecting detailed data on foreign residents and naturalized citizens in Korea, focusing on employment, living conditions, and social integration through an annually rotating questionnaire system. The survey began in 2012 as the Foreign Employment Survey and was expanded and restructured following a pilot in 2016, officially launching in its current form in 2017.

The expansion and reorganization were necessary because the Foreign Employment Survey was originally limited to understanding the labour force status of foreigners in Korea, and as a result information on the long-term situation of foreign residents and naturalized citizens was not collected. To address these gaps, KOSTAT and the MOJ agreed to introduce a number of important revisions. First, the survey population was expanded to include citizens that were naturalized within the past five years (in addition to foreign nationals). Second, the number of survey items was significantly increased from 37 to 266. Finally, a rotational survey method was introduced to prevent excessive burden on respondents due to the large number of data items.

Since 2020, the survey has targeted a total of 25,000 respondents each year, including 20,000 foreigners and 5,000 naturalized citizens. The survey is conducted through face-to-face direct interview with international migrants selected to participate in the survey. The entire survey process, from planning and preparation, survey design, field preparation, data collection, data processing, to publication, takes approximately 12 months.

The budget allocated for this survey in 2023 was 1,689 million KRW, with the largest portion covering interviewer wages and related costs. This funding is part of a regular government allocation following the survey's approval under Korea's Statistics Act, reflecting the government's recognition of the survey's policy importance and its commitment to sustained statistical support for immigration and labour issues. The publication of the survey results is jointly announced through press releases by KOSTAT and the MOJ. The data is mainly used for Immigration Policies for MOJ. The statistical tables are provided through publications and made accessible to public via the National Statistics Portal, and microdata is made available to users after anonymisation.

► Survey purpose, target population and uses

The implementation of the "Survey on Immigrants' Living Conditions and Labour Force" was officially included as a task related to immigrants residing in Korea during the government's 3rd Low Birth Rate and Aging Society Committee (2016-2020) and the 16th Foreign Policy Committee. Its inclusion in the statistics aimed to establish a basic framework for policies on the domestic inflow of foreign labour, stay management (type of visa, address, other changes information management during the stay period), and social integration.

The target population of the SILCLF comprises foreigners and naturalised citizens who have resided in Korea for more than 91 days and are aged 15 years or older.¹ This group includes foreign nationals, naturalised Korean citizens, and overseas Koreans holding a range of visas and statuses, such as permanent resident visas (F-5), spouse of a Korean national visas (F-5-2), non-professional employment visas for migrant workers (E-9), international student visas including D-2 (study abroad) and D-4 (Korean language training and general training), as well as F-4 and H-2 visas for overseas Koreans of foreign nationality and Korean descent.

The SILCLF is a valuable resource for statistical users. Several line ministries rely on the results of the SILCLF to inform policy formulation, for planning and decision making, and for research purposes. For example, the Ministry of Justice uses the results of the SILCLF to inform policies related to immigrants residing in the country. The Ministry of Employment and Labor uses the survey as foundational data for determining foreign worker quotas and the number of workers allowed by industry. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family actively uses the survey data for multicultural policies and to track key indicators, such as the employment rate and number of immigrants arriving for marriage reasons that become employed. The Ministry of Education uses the data to monitor the employment experiences of international students, periods of stay, and future career plans. Additionally, both private and public research institutions, such as the Immigration Policy Research Institute, actively use these statistics as research data for the development of immigration and foreign employment policies.

KOSTAT organizes expert meetings two to three times annually to continually gather user feedback and refine the Survey statistical outputs. These meetings primarily involve experts from major user departments and research institutions and serve to identify different types of improvements required such as, the need to modify survey items, develop new items, or introduce adjustments in the survey item rotation cycle.

For example, in 2023, based on consultations with experts from research institutes, universities, and government departments, a number of improvements were discussed leading to revisions in several survey items related to the characteristics of immigrants, and the addition of specific survey items such as recruitments costs.

The option to integrate the survey within the Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS) was considered. However, it was decided to maintain the two as independent surveys given that they have distinct objectives that are not fully compatible. In particular, the main objective of the EAPS is to capture and provide rapid quantitative data on labour supply as a monthly trend statistic, whereas the SILCLF is designed to generate structural data to support comprehensive analysis on the detailed characteristics of immigrants and their situation in the Republic of Korea. Other important methodological differences include the use of different sampling frames, sampling design, size, and surveys' statistical unit. Importantly, the sampling strategy of the SILCLF is designed to ensure comprehensive coverage of international migrants, including those living in employer provided accommodation, and to support detailed analysis, by essential migration characteristics, including by visa type and country of citizenship while ensuring adequate levels of precision (see [Table 1](#)).

¹ See [Survey on Immigrants' Living Conditions and Labour Force](#), KOSTAT

► Table1. Comparison between SILCLF and EAPS, Republic of Korea

Classification	Survey on Immigrants' Living Conditions and Labour Force (SILCLF)	Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS)
Purpose	Providing data necessary for the establishment of immigration policies such as address and visa type change management, social integration, and the supply of needed labour in accordance with the domestic inflow and increased necessity of foreign labour.	Providing short-term, timely data necessary for macroeconomic monitoring and analysis and the development of human resource policies by investigating the economic activity characteristics of the population.
Survey items	Stay-related items such as personal information, employment including work, job seeking, Korean language proficiency, housing, and living environment.	Employment-related items such as personal information, work, job seeking, and workplace.
Population	Foreigners aged 15 and older based on the resident population and those who have been granted naturalization within the last five years.	People aged 15 and older residing in South Korea.
Sample size	25,000	Approximately 36,000
Statistical unit	Persons	Households
Sampling frame	Foreigners' registry and Naturalized permission Registry from Ministry of Justice	Register-based Census from KOSTAT
Stratification variables	For Foreign citizens: Visa Status (Main categories and subcategories), Citizenship For Naturalized Citizens: Administrative Region (Province/City & District), Previous Citizenship, Marital Status, Age Group	Region, type of residence, registered Employment Rate. These variables are used to re-sample and assign individuals to groups so that the distribution of each group is similar based on the classification indicators. This process uses the Cube Method. Note on the Cube Method: The Cube Method (Deville & Tillé, 2004) is a sampling technique that finds a sample which maintains a balance close to the population across multiple auxiliary variables. It can handle up to 40 variables to ensure the estimated values (Horvitz-Thompson estimators) closely match the population totals.
Survey cycle	Annually	Monthly
Reporting Frequency	Annually	Monthly

► Survey design

Sample size, stratification, and extraction

The total sample size is approximately 25,000, consisting of 20,000 foreign citizens and 5,000 naturalized citizens (See [Table 2](#)). To ensure field survey efficiency, sampling of foreign citizens excludes administrative districts with less than 100 foreigners and KOSTAT field offices with less than 2,000 foreigners. A sampling list is then constructed for registered foreigners and foreign nationals of Korean descent. The sample is allocated proportionally to the square root of the number of foreigners in each province, considering the sample size and the desired level of precision. The sample selection is based on a stratified systematic sampling method, using type of residence status and citizenship as stratification variables across the 17 provinces.

► **Table 2. Foreign sample size and relative standard error (RSE)**

Classification	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Sample Size (N)	13,599	15,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Employed RSE (%)	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
Unemployed RSE (%)	6.2	5.4	3.9	4.4	5.0

For naturalized citizens, a separate sampling list is similarly constructed by excluding underrepresented administrative districts and KOSTAT field offices from the survey population to ensure field survey efficiency (See [Table 3](#)). The sample is allocated proportionally to the square root of the number of naturalized citizens in eight regions, considering the sample size and the desired level of precision. The sample selection employs a stratified systematic sampling method, using administrative district, previous citizenship, marital status, and age group as stratification variables. The final sample consists of approximately 1,500 men and 3,500 women.

► **Table 3. Naturalized citizens sample size and relative standard error (RSE)**

Classification	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Sample Size (N)	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Employed RSE (%)	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.1
Unemployed RSE	8.2	6.8	7.9	9.4	9.4

Sample management

Non-response rates are generally high due to factors such as absence, relocation, and language barriers. Therefore, a list of backup samples with similar characteristics is pre-selected and managed. Prior to conducting the survey, an introductory leaflet and a cooperation letter are sent to potential respondents. To improve response rates, respondents are provided with an incentive in the form of a gift voucher worth approximately 10,000 KRW.

► Survey contents

Survey form composition

As described earlier, the contents of the SILCLF have undergone significant revisions since the launch of the survey re-design in 2016. At that time, the Statistical Research Institute of KOSTAT conducted a study using cognitive testing techniques to assess the immigrants' understanding of the survey content and terminology, with the objective of improving the survey questionnaire. Based on the study results, an internal expert meeting at the National Statistical Office was held to prepare an improvement plan that included adjustments for a number of survey items, a review of the items covered distinguishing between foreigners and naturalized citizens, and the introduction of an item rotation cycle. The improvement plan, which aimed to increase the validity of the survey items and quality of the statistics, was submitted to the National Statistics Committee. In 2017, discussions involving relevant ministries, professors, and researchers were held on survey frequency, survey sectors, and survey items. Based on these discussions it was decided to divide common employment items into two groups:

- **Employment 1 items** to be applied annually, and
- **Employment 2 items** to be applied every two years

Regular discussions on the survey form composition continue to be held annually through expert meetings and user feedback. The 2024 survey form was approved by the National Statistics Committee in December 2023, and the survey was conducted based on the form reflecting the current survey items with PAPI method.

Survey Items

The survey items are broadly divided into common items and specific items (see [Table 4](#)). Common items are those surveyed for all participants, whereas specific items are targeted at individuals staying under certain visa types.

- **Common items** include basic items such as age, gender, date of birth, citizenship, Employment I which are related to labour force status, Korean language proficiency, and stay-related items, which are surveyed annually. Other items, such as education, Employment II which are related to work satisfaction such as salary and working hours satisfaction and so on, income and consumption, life in Korea, children's education, and health, are surveyed biennially on a rotating basis.
- **Specific items** include topics targeted specifically to migrants in non-professional employment and international students included in odd-numbered years, and to overseas Koreans, permanent residents, and naturalized citizens included in even-numbered years.

► **Table 4. Rotation of survey items in the SILCLF**

Common Items			Specific Items	
Freq/ Year	Annually	Rotational Items (every 2 Years)	Target/ Year	By Visa type
Odd	Basic Items, Employment I, Korean Language	Employment II Job Search Experience Income and Consumption, Education	Odd	For Non-professional Employment(E-9), International Students (D-2, D-4-1, D-4-7)
Even	Proficiency, Stay-related Items	Life in Korea, Children's Education, Health, Housing and living environment	Even	For Overseas Koreans(F-4), Permanent Residents and Naturalized Citizens(F-5) (F-5-2)

Common items

Table 5 lists the common items collected annually. They include: 36 basic items, 30 Employment I items, 14 Korean language proficiency items, and 12 stay-related items.

► **Table 5. Common items collected annually by survey section, SILCLF**

Survey sections	Main items	Survey question no. (Annex I)
Basic items	- Name - Sex - Date of birth - Country of Birth - Religion - Current citizenship, citizenship of parents, Korean ancestry - Educational level, country of highest educational qualification - Marital status, spouse's citizenship and visa status - Living arrangements - Presence of family in Korea - Number of children, residence status in Korea - Type of dwelling - Dwelling tenure, monthly rent	1 2 3 4 5 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 7-1, 7-2, 7-3 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, 8-4, 8-5 9, 9-1 10 11, 11-1 12 13 13-1
Employment	- Employment in reference period - Employment as contributing family worker - Temporary absence from employment and reason - Multiple job holding - Hours actually worked - Industry, geographic location of place of work - Establishment size - Occupation - Length of employment in current job - Work experience in same occupation in Korea - Job changes in previous 12 months and reason - Status in employment - Contract type, duration - Monthly salary in main job - Job-search in previous four weeks - Availability to start employment in reference period (for job seekers) - Job search method - Duration of job search - Willing to work in reference week - Availability to start employment in reference period (for job non-seekers) - Main activity in reference week	14 15 16, 16-1 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24, 24-1 25 26, 26-1 27 44 45 46 47 48 49 50
Korean language proficiency	- Language used at home - Korean language proficiency level - Experience with Korean language education and TOPIK (Test of Proficiency in Korean)	59 62 60-61
Stay-related items	- Reason as per visa status/ permit type (current status of sojourn) - Length of stay in Korea - Change of visa status/permit type (status of sojourn) - Plans for extending period of stay	66 63-64-65 67, 67-1, 67-2, 67-3 68

Table 6 shows the common items surveyed in odd-numbered years for the four survey sections. These include 19 Employment II items, 2 job search experience items, 7 education items, and 12 income and consumption items.

► **Table 6. Common items collected in odd-numbered years by survey section, SILCLF**

Survey Section	Main Items (Odd-Numbered Years)	Survey question no. (Annex II)
Employment II	• Employment path • Satisfaction with compensation at work • Satisfaction with working hours • Satisfaction with job security, safety, dispute settlement at work • Satisfaction with promotion opportunities at work • Satisfaction with welfare system at work • Satisfaction with welfare facilities at work • Satisfaction with job-related human relations • Satisfaction with overall job conditions • Comparison with Korean workers doing the same job • Intention to change jobs • Occupational injuries and violence and harassment at work	28 29 30 31-32 33 34 35 36-37 38 39-40-41 42, 42-1 43, 43-1, 43-2
Job search experience	• Job search on arrival in Korea • Difficulties in the job search in Korea	51 52
Education and training	• Participation in job-related education and training • Type of job-related education and support services received	53, 53-1, 53-2, 53-3, 53-4 54, 54-1
Income and consumption	• Average monthly total income • Average monthly household expenditure • Yearly amount and frequency of overseas remittances • Financial difficulties experienced in the past year	55 56 57, 57-1, 57-2 58, 58-1

The main focus in odd-numbered years is on job search experiences, education, income, and consumption. In even-numbered years, the focus shifts to health, life in Korea, housing and living environment, and children's education, as shown in **Table 7**.

► **Table 7. Common items collected in even-numbered years by survey section, SILCLF**

Survey Section	Main items (Even-numbered years),	Survey question no (Annex III)
Health	Health status Reasons for not visiting the hospital	35 36, 36-1
Life in Korea	Satisfaction with job Satisfaction with family and other relationships Satisfaction with income Satisfaction with life in Korea Difficulties in life in Korea Satisfaction and methods of leisure activities Social connections Experience with discrimination	39 37, 38 40 41, 42 43 44, 45 46 47
Housing and living environment	Reasons for moving in the past year to the current residence	48, 49
Children's education	Difficulties faced by children attending school Children's reason for staying in Korea for employment purposes	50, 50-1, 50-2, 50-3 51

Specific Items

Specific items are surveyed every two years for certain residence visa statuses² to inform related policies. In odd-numbered years, the survey targets non-professional employment (E-9) and international students (D-2, D-4-1, D-4-7). For non-professional employment, 17 items are surveyed, and for international students, 19 items are surveyed (see **Table 8**).

² Non-professional employment (E-9) and student visas.

► **Table 8. Specific items collected in odd-numbered years by visa status, SILCLF-**

Residence Status	Visa	Main Survey Items	Survey question no. (Annex IV)
Non-professional employment		- Reasons for choosing Korea for employment - Awareness of employment conditions prior to arrival - First time entering Korea via employment permit system (E9) - Time of first payment in Korea - Cost of job search - Average monthly wage for the first month - Change of workplace under employment permit system - Frequency, duration, reason and challenges of job change	E1 E2 E3 E4 E5 E6 E8, E8-1 E9, E9-1, E10, E11
International students		- Reasons for choosing Korea for studies - Major field of study in Korea - Difficulties faced during studies in Korea - Satisfaction with school in Korea - Work to earn income while studying in Korea - Methods of covering tuition and living expenses in Korea - Future plans after graduation - Recommendations for studying in Korea - Changes in perception about Korea	D1 D2 D4 D5 D6, D6-1, D6-2, D6-3 D7-D8 D9, D9-1, D9-2, D9-3 D10 D11

In even-numbered years, the survey targets overseas Koreans (F-4) (those of Korean descent from China, Russia, Central Asia), naturalized citizens, permanent residents (F-5), and spouses of Korean nationals (F-5-2). The survey includes 12 items for overseas Koreans and 38 items for naturalized citizens and permanent residents (see [Table 9](#)).

► **Table 9. Specific items collected in even-numbered years by visa status, SILCLF**

Residence Status	Survey Items-	Survey question no. (Annex V)
Overseas Koreans	- Reasons for coming to Korea - Satisfaction with policies for overseas Koreans - Satisfaction with employment for overseas Koreans - Knowledge of policies related to overseas Koreans - Current residence - Preference for living in the same region - Possibility of visa status change (from visitor to overseas Korean)	H1 H2 H3 H4 H5, H5-1 H6, H6-1 H7, H7-1, H7-2, H7-3
Naturalized citizens and permanent residents	- Perceived inclusiveness in Korean society - Perceived institutional fairness in Korean society - Perceived political efficacy in Korean society - Efforts to maintain native culture - Perceived social status and mobility in Korean society - Perceived sense of belonging in Korean society - Participation in social organizations and elections in Korea - Future residence preference in Korea - Time of acquisition of permanent residency in Korea - Plans to acquire Korean citizenship	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6 F7, F8, F9, F10 F11, F12, F13, F14 F15, F16, F17, F18, F19 F20, F21, F22 F23, F24, F25 F26- F27, F27-1 F28 F29 F30, F30-1

Classifications

SILCLF uses standard classifications for a number of key variables such as industry, job occupation, visa type. These classifications are consistent with those used in other national surveys and with the immigration visa system.

Industry classification refers to the main industrial activity of the establishment where the employed or former employee works. Data is collected using the 2-digit classification according to the Korean Standard Industrial Classification (10th revision) notified by Statistics Korea.

Occupation classification refers to the type of work performed by the employed or former employee according to its function. Data is collected using the 2-digit classification according to the Korean Standard Classification of Occupations (7th revision) notified by Statistics Korea.

Residency status is defined based on the type of visa granted to a foreign national upon entry into the country, according to the Immigration Control Act.

The visa categories are as follows:

- Category A includes diplomatic, official, and agreement visas.
- Category B encompasses visa exemption and transit visas.
- Category C includes temporary news coverage, short-term visit, and short-term employment visas.
- Category D covers visas for cultural arts, study, training, news coverage, religious activities, residence, corporate investment, trade management, and job seeking.
- Category E includes visas for professors, research, technical guidance, professional employment, seasonal work, unskilled employment, and -seafaring employment.
- Category F includes visas for visiting and living with family, residence, accompanying family, overseas Koreans, permanent residency, and marriage immigrants.
- Category G covers other types of visas, and
- Category H encompasses working holiday and visiting employment visas.

However, in this Survey, categories A, B, and C are excluded from the survey population. Foreign nationals holding B and C type visas, which are issued for purposes such as tourism or short-term stays of 90 days or less, differ in nature from the SILCLF survey participants whose stay purposes are related to residence. As such, they are excluded from the survey. Furthermore, foreign nationals holding A type visas, who are not considered residents of Korea due to purposes such as diplomatic duties, are also excluded from the survey as indicated previously.

► Data collection

Survey interview method

The survey is conducted using paper and pencil interview (PAPI) with interviewers conducting face-to-face interviews with the selected foreign nationals. Interviewers hired by the regional statistics offices visit the residences or workplaces of the sampled immigrants to conduct the survey in person. However, if the respondent prefers, they may fill out the questionnaire themselves. The questionnaire is available in 13 languages, including English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Mongolian, and Thai. Each hired interviewer is responsible for completing approximately 33 questionnaires, which corresponds to handling an average of 2.2 individuals per day.

To prevent data loss, leaks, or tampering, surveys must be conducted strictly by trained personnel, and all information obtained about individuals or households during the survey process should not be leaked or used for other purposes, as stipulated by Article 33 of the Statistics Act.

The survey process involves several steps. First, the sample list is reviewed to identify difficult-to-survey samples and finalize the samples. A cooperation letter and survey introduction materials are sent by mail to inform sampled respondents in advance that they have been selected to participate in the survey. The hired interviewers undergo training on statistical surveys, and once assigned a sample, they conduct preliminary preparation, such as identifying the location of the workplace and residence of the sample.

When the survey begins, the headquarters of the National Statistical Office handles survey management tasks such as field guidance, dissemination of survey guidelines, resolution of issues related to the input system, solving problems that arise during the survey data collection, responding to civil complaints, and monitoring survey progress. The local offices are responsible for conducting the fieldwork, including interviewing and completing the survey forms, managing the sample list, inspecting the survey forms, and coding the industry and occupation information provided.

Once the survey field data collection is completed, the headquarters supports the input system, monitors the input rate, conducts system inspections, and performs a comprehensive review. The local offices inspect industrial and administrative district codes, input and review the survey forms, and organize and compile the survey forms.

Recruitment and training of field interviewers

The success of field surveys hinges on the recruitment, training and management of excellent field interviewers. To this end, recruitment information is publicly disclosed in advance via the internet and other platforms, and the selection process includes a first round of document screening and a second round of interviews. If interviewers are unable to conduct surveys due to personal or unavoidable reasons, pre-trained reserve interviewers, amounting to 10% of the interviewer workforce, are ready to step in immediately.

Preference in hiring interviewers is given to those with prior experience in immigrant residence and employment surveys, as well as those with experience in field surveys for KOSTAT. Interviewers are hired on a contract basis to complete the assigned workload during the survey period. Compensation is provided according to the standard workload and the method of calculating field survey staff allowances, provided they complete the designated workload within the deadline. However, a maximum workload is set at 1.5 times the standard workload to ensure no interviewer exceeds this limit. If the contracted workload is not achieved, a portion of the allowance is reduced to enhance the completeness of the field survey.

Hired interviewers undergo both face-to-face and online (e-learning) training. The training covers survey overview, field survey procedures, survey form completion methods, concepts of survey items, and the use of the survey data input system. Each interviewer has a standard workload of 33 samples, with a daily target of 2.2 samples. However, the maximum workload per interviewer is capped at 50 samples (1.5 times the standard workload).

In addition to field interviewers, separate roles for survey managers, data entry and verification staff, and administrative assistants are employed to manage survey progress, data entry, and to support the quality of the survey. To investigate a sample size of 25,000, the workforce comprises 759 interviewers, 87 reserve interviewers, 153 survey managers, and 156 data entry and verification staff.

During fieldwork, a call centre is established to handle respondent queries and concerns. Respondents can contact the centre and provide the sample management number printed on their pre-survey notification letter, which enables staff to immediately retrieve their record and identify the assigned interviewer. The call centre can then either respond directly or promptly notify the interviewer by text or phone.

Handling respondents and non-responses

The survey must be administered exclusively to the selected individual respondents. Proxy respondents, such as spouses or family members, are not permitted. Due to the interview survey method, interviewers must explain the importance of each survey question in detail to encourage responses. In cases of simple non-response, interviewers are required to conduct multiple attempts to complete the interview, for example, by revisiting the selected respondent, and if needed, by seeking cooperation from the survey manager and supervising official, with a principle of re-visiting the selected respondent at least three times.

If the respondent still refuses after three or more visits, or if it is certain that the respondent cannot be met during the survey period due to reasons such as being abroad for an extended period, a selected substitute respondent is allowed. After the survey is completed, a visit log is created for each visit, documenting the visit date, time, response status, and other details. Additionally, interviewers collect paradata on challenging items, items that respondents found difficult, and survey duration. This data is used to develop future improvement plans for the survey.

Use of administrative data

The SILCLF takes advantage of existing administrative data, particularly for sampling, coding and checking data quality. Sampling is the most important reason why administrative data is for this survey. Sample rosters are created using many sources such as information compiled from employment permits and health insurance records which help to secure workplace addresses for selected immigrants. This effort aims to improve survey effectiveness and the response rate of the original selected samples. The primary uses of administrative data include the creation of population and sampling frames, as well as the supplementation of sample rosters. Data from the registered foreigners' list, the domestic residence report for overseas Koreans, and the naturalization permit list are used to analyse the population, create sampling frames, and identify the resident population. Employment permit system and health insurance information are actively used to supplement the employment information in the sample roster. This effort aims to improve survey effectiveness and the response rate of the original selected samples.

In summary, the administrative data used for the SILCLF includes:

- The registered foreigners' list, which contains information for foreigners staying longer than 90 days.
- The domestic residence report for overseas Koreans, which provides information about overseas Koreans who have reported their domestic residence to secure legal status in South Korea.
- The naturalization permit list, which includes information on foreigners who have acquired South Korean citizenship and received naturalization permits.

Variables used for matching information from those three sources include the foreigner registration number and a personal alternative identification key that replaces the domestic residence report number. Programs such as SAS are employed to build the sampling frames. Since the data acquisition times for the registered foreigners' list and the naturalization permit list differ from the survey implementation time and do not necessarily include workplace information, employment permit and health insurance information are used to add workplace details to the sample roster, thereby enhancing the efficiency of the field survey by helping reduce the time required to find the selected respondents.

► Data processing

Process

For the collected data, categorical variables are entered by their item numbers, while continuous variables such as amounts and durations are entered with the exact response values. The survey results are coded according to the predefined coding system as provided in the survey forms.

Data entry is performed at the regional offices using a key-entering method through the national statistics system. Before data entry, interviewers must visually check each survey item to ensure that it has been filled out according to the guidelines, that there are no unanswered items, no jumping errors, and that the entries are logically consistent. This check is mandatory both during the survey and after completing all survey items.

To minimize data entry errors, the system is equipped with an automatic validation feature that checks input ranges. The system's data entry module includes built-in validation rules that trigger alerts for errors and require correction and input of reasons for errors. For example, error number could be notified instantly when wrong number was punctuated in the system. Additionally, a comprehensive validation is conducted during the data entry review period, considering sample rosters, visit records, and other factors to facilitate error correction and reason entry.

Once the data passes through the validation rules and machine validation, a comprehensive review is conducted to check the inter-item correlations and the industry and occupation codes. When respondents are employed in Industry D, their monthly wages or salaries must comply with the minimum wage law by exceeding the established threshold. If the reported data deviates from this threshold, an error-checking mechanism is triggered to identify and correct discrepancies. Such errors typically arise due to monetary misinterpretations or misunderstandings.

In terms of item non-response, missing values are only allowed for three items: deposit rental fees, average monthly wages, and total income (average monthly expenditure). Item non-response in these variables is addressed using the group mean imputation method. This method involves classifying the entire sample into groups with similar characteristics such as gender, working hours, length of stay, and labour force status, and then replacing all missing values within each group with the average response value of that group.

Statistical estimation and analysis

Statistical estimation

Weight adjustment

The total immigrant population is estimated as the sum of foreign nationals and naturalized citizens. Sampling is based on the foreign nationals' and naturalized citizens' registries as of January; however, statistical adjustments are necessary to reflect updated population data over time. To ensure accuracy, three types of weights are applied: design weights (for selection probability), non-response weights (to adjust for missing data), and post-stratification weights (to align with the latest population distribution). The final estimation is derived using post-stratification weights, ensuring consistency with the most recent demographic changes.

Design weights are calculated using the inverse of the inclusion probabilities for each stratum. This is done according to the respective sampling methods for foreigners and naturalization permit holders. For foreigners, 17 regional strata are applied, divided into special metropolitan cities and provinces. For naturalization permit holders, 16 strata are applied, divided by gender and 8 major regions.

Non-response weights are calculated using response propensity scores to adjust for non-response. A logistic regression model, with immigrant characteristics as independent variables, is used to estimate these response propensity scores. For foreigners, variables include 17 residential areas, 5 age groups, 17 nationalities, and 9

residence statuses. For naturalization permit holders, variables include 8 major residential regions and 9 previous nationalities.

Post-stratification weights are calculated using an iterative proportional fitting method to align the sample distribution with the latest population distribution. This involves adjustments to match known population totals for foreigners and naturalized citizens separately. Foreigners are adjusted according to a four-dimensional distribution, and naturalization permit holders according to a three-dimensional distribution (see [Table 10](#)). The weights are iteratively adjusted using a raking algorithm until convergence conditions are met, with the final weights used as the post-stratification weights.

Once the design weights, non-response adjustments, and raking adjustments are completed, the parameters are estimated using the Taylor linearization method.

► **Table 10. Method for post-stratification weighting**

To align with the latest population distribution, the Iterative Proportional Weighting (Raking Ratio Method) is applied to compute final weighting values. This method ensures that the adjusted weights reflect the characteristics of the target population.

Step 1: Define Target Population Dimensions

- Weighting is adjusted separately for foreigners and naturalized citizens to match their respective distributional characteristics.
- The number of dimensions used for adjustment differs:
 - Foreigners: 4-dimensional adjustment
 - Naturalized Citizens: 3-dimensional adjustment

Step 2: Iterative Proportional Weighting Process

1. Foreigners: Adjustments are made sequentially using the following categorical combinations:
 - Step 1: Gender × Region of Residence (17 categories)
 - Step 2: Gender × Citizenship (16 categories)
 - Step 3: Gender × Residence Status (10 categories)
 - Step 4: Age Group (5 categories) × Residence Status (6 categories)
2. Naturalized Citizens: The following categorical combinations are used:
 - Step 1: Gender × Region of Residence (8 categories)
 - Step 2: Gender × Previous Citizenship (5 categories)
 - Step 3: Gender × Age Group (5 categories)

Step 3: Convergence Process

- The iterative proportional weighting algorithm is applied to adjust the weights.
- The process continues until the weights converge, meaning they satisfy the specified distribution conditions.

Step 4: Final Weight Calculation

- The final adjusted weights obtained from the iterative process are used as the post-stratification weights.
- These weights are then applied to ensure accurate representation of the target population in statistical analyses.

This method systematically refines the weighting values to align with the latest population characteristics while maintaining consistency with published demographic categories.

Identification and handling of outliers

Upper and lower bounds for responses are set based on typical distributions or other related response values. Values that fall outside these bounds are defined as outliers. To minimize outliers caused by data entry errors, the entry system is configured to automatically validate entries by setting input ranges for each item.

For subjective items such as monetary amounts, outliers are detected during the initial survey form review. When an outlier is identified, the respondent is immediately queried to confirm and correct the response. If an impossible value is entered, the system generates an input range error message. According to the input validation rules, if a response falls outside the preset upper and lower bounds, the respondent is queried immediately to confirm and correct the response or to document the reason for the outlier.

► Survey results

The results of the survey are officially published each year in December through a press release³. The key statistical data includes classifications based on labour force status, residence visa status, citizenship, age group, sex, educational attainment, marital status, type of residence, and place of birth. These categories serve as the primary basis for statistical reporting and dissemination.

Data are disaggregated by relevant demographic characteristics where sample size and precision allow. Estimates with low reliability, as defined by statistical guidelines, are either flagged or not reported to ensure data quality.

International migrants by labour force status

Estimates for 2023 derived from the SILCLF indicated that the total number of immigrants aged 15 and above stood at 1,481,000 persons, representing 2.9% of the population. This included 822,000 men and 659,000 women. By age group, there were 427,000 persons aged 15–29 years, 417,000 aged 30–39 years, 231,000 aged 40–49 years, 216,000 aged 50–59 years, and 191,000 aged 60 years and older. Of this, foreign nationals accounted for 1,430,000 persons, while naturalized citizens accounted for 51,000 persons (See [Table 11](#)).

Looking at the labour force status, among immigrants, there were 957,000 employed individuals, 54,000 unemployed individuals, totalling 1,011,000 individuals in the labour force, while those outside the labour force amounted to 470,000 persons. Overall, the immigrant labour force participation rate was 68.3%, the employment rate was 64.6%, and the unemployment rate was 5.3% (See [Table 11](#)).

► **Table 11. International migrants by labour force status, 2023 (in thousands)**

Indicators	Sex	Total Immigrants	Foreign nationals	Naturalized citizen
Working-age population (15+)	Total	1,481	1,430	51
	Male	822	813	9
	Female	659	617	42
- Labour force	Total	1,011	975	36
	Male	660	653	8
	Female	351	323	28
· Employed persons	Total	957	923	34
	Male	632	625	7
	Female	325	298	27
· Unemployed persons	Total	54	52	2
	Male	28	28	0
	Female	26	24	1
- Persons outside the labour force	Total	470	455	15
	Male	162	160	2
	Female	308	295	13
Labor Force Participation rate (%)	Total	68.3	68.2	70.7
	Male	80.3	80.3	81.7
	Female	53.2	52.2	68.1
Employment-to-population ratio (%)	Total	64.6	64.5	67.4
	Male	76.9	76.8	79.6
	Female	49.4	48.3	64.7
Unemployment rate (%)	Total	5.3	5.4	4.7
	Male	4.3	4.3	3.9
	Female	7.3	7.5	4.9

³ See [Press Release- 2024 Survey on Immigrants' Living Conditions and Labour Force](#) (KOSTAT)

International migrants by marital status

Among immigrants, approximately 873,000 individuals, or about 59%, were married, while around 608,000 individuals, or 41%, were single. The labour force participation rate was 72.5% for married individuals and 62.1% for single individuals. Similarly, the employment rate was 69.3% for married individuals and 57.9% for single individuals, indicating that marital status influences participation in the labour market among immigrants (See [Table 12](#)).

► **Table 12. International migrants by marital status, 2023 (in thousands)**

Indicators	Total Immigrants	Married	Single
Working-age population (15 years old and over)	1,481	873	608
- Labour force	1,011	633	378
· <i>Employed persons</i>	957	605	352
- Persons outside the labour force	470	240	230
Labor Force Participation rate (%)	68.3	72.5	62.1
Employment-to-population ratio (%)	64.6	69.3	57.9

International migrants by education level

Educational attainment among immigrants shows that there were approximately 625,000 high school graduates, 470,000 with a degree from a technical college or higher, 258,000 with a junior high school education, and around 129,000 individuals with an education level below junior high school. Examining labour force participation rates, individuals with a junior high school education exhibited the highest rate at 70.9%, followed by those with a degree from a technical college or higher at 70.5%, high school graduates at 68%, and individuals with an education level below junior high school at 56.2%.

Employment rates also varied: junior high school graduates had the highest rate at 67.6%, followed by those with a degree from a technical college or higher at 65.4%, high school graduates at 65%, and individuals with an education level below junior high school at 53.9% (See [Table 13](#)).

► **Table 13. International migrants by education level, 2023 (in thousands)**

Indicators	Total Immigrants	Elementary & under	Middle	High	College or university & over
Working-age population (15 years old and over)	1,481	129	258	625	470
- Labour force	1,011	72	183	425	331
· <i>Employed persons</i>	957	70	174	406	307
- Persons outside the labour force	470	57	75	200	139
Labor Force Participation rate (%)	68.3	56.2	70.9	68.0	70.5
Employment-to-population ratio (%)	64.6	53.9	67.6	65.0	65.4

International migrants by citizenship

When examining immigrants by country of citizenship, the order is as follows: other Asians were the largest group with 491,000 individuals, Chinese of Korean descent were second with 489,000 individuals, Vietnamese nationals were third with 222,000 individuals, Chinese immigrants were next with 140,000 individuals, and finally the category of non-Asian immigrants was the smallest with 139,000 individuals.

Looking at the labour force participation rate by country of citizenship, the highest was among other Asians at 78.8%, followed by Chinese of Korean descent at 72.8%, non-Asian immigrants at 62.7%, Vietnamese nationals at 57.4%, and Chinese immigrants at 38.2%. Similarly, the employment rate was highest among other Asians at 75.8%, followed by Chinese of Korean descent at 69.1%, non-Asian immigrants at 57.9%, Vietnamese nationals at 53.1%, and Chinese immigrants at 35% (See [Table 14](#)).

► **Table 14. International migrants by citizenship, 2023 (in thousands)**

Indicators	Total Immigrants	Chinese of Korean descent	China (excluding Chinese of Korean Descent)	Vietnam	Other Asia	Non-Asia
Population 15 years old and over	1,481	489	140	222	491	139
- Labour force	1,011	356	54	128	387	87
· Employed persons	957	338	49	118	372	81
- Persons outside the labour force	470	133	87	95	104	52
Labor Force Participation rate (%)	68.3	72.8	38.2	57.4	78.8	62.7
Employment to population ratio (%)	64.6	69.1	35.0	53.1	75.8	57.9

Employed migrants by occupation

In 2023, a total of 957,000 immigrants were in employment in Korea, representing 64.6% of the working-age immigrant population. The majority were foreign nationals, with a smaller portion being naturalized citizens.

Employed immigrants were largely concentrated in lower-skilled occupations. The largest group was in elementary (unskilled) occupations, accounting for 273,000 workers—nearly 29% of all employed immigrants. This was followed by plant and machine operators and assemblers (233,000), and craft and related trades workers (161,000). Service workers made up another 105,000, with a relatively more balanced presence of naturalized citizens in this group compared to others.

By contrast, immigrant employment in higher-skilled roles remained limited. Only 86,000 were employed as managers, professionals, or related workers. Other categories such as clerical, sales, and skilled agricultural jobs each accounted for between 31,000 and 38,000 workers (See [Table 15](#)).

► Table 15. Employed migrants by occupation, 2023 (in thousands)

Occupation		Total Immigrants	Foreign nationals	Naturalized citizen
Total	Total	957	923	34
	Male	632	625	7
	Female	325	298	27
Managers, Professionals, and Related Workers	Total	86	83	2
	Male	45	44	1
	Female	41	39	2
Clerical Workers	Total	38	36	2
	Male	16	15	1
	Female	22	20	1
Service Workers	Total	105	99	6
	Male	31	30	1
	Female	74	69	5
Sales Workers	Total	32	29	3
	Male	12	12	1
	Female	20	17	2
Skilled Agricultural, Forestry, and Fishery Workers	Total	31	30	1
	Male	26	26	0
	Female	5	4	1
Craft and Related Trades Workers	Total	161	156	5
	Male	145	143	2
	Female	16	14	2
Plant, Machine Operators, and Assemblers	Total	233	227	5
	Male	192	191	1
	Female	41	36	4
Elementary (Unskilled) Workers	Total	273	263	10
	Male	165	164	1
	Female	108	99	9

Employed migrants by industry

In 2023, manufacturing was the largest industry employing immigrants in Korea, with 424,000 workers—approximately 44% of all employed immigrants.

The second-largest sector was wholesale, retail, food, and accommodation, employing 181,000 immigrants. This was followed by construction (115,000), and agriculture, forestry, and fisheries (62,000). Business, personal, and public services employed 150,000 immigrants across a range of occupations. In contrast, the electricity, transportation, communication, and finance sector had the fewest immigrant workers, with just 27,000 (See [Table 16](#)).

Overall, immigrant employment was heavily concentrated in labour-intensive and lower-skilled industries, particularly in manufacturing, construction, and service-related sectors

► **Table 16. Employed migrants by industry, 2023 (in thousands)**

Employed by industry (2023)		Total Immigrants	Foreign Nationals	Naturalized Citizen
Total Employed	Total	957	923	34
	Male	632	625	7
	Female	325	298	27
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Total	62	61	1
	Male	45	45	0
	Female	17	16	1
Mining and Manufacturing	Total	424	412	13
	Male	333	331	2
	Female	92	81	11
- Manufacturing	Total	424	411	13
	Male	332	330	2
	Female	92	81	11
Construction	Total	115	112	3
	Male	106	104	2
	Female	9	8	1
Wholesale, Retail, Food and Accommodation	Total	181	170	11
	Male	65	63	2
	Female	116	107	9
Electricity, Transportation, Communication, Finance	Total	27	25	2
	Male	17	16	1
	Female	10	9	1
Business, Personal, and Public Services	Total	150	143	6
	Male	68	67	1
	Female	82	77	5

► Data service management

As indicated earlier, for ongoing quality management, an annual user advisory committee is established to gather improvement suggestions and incorporate them into field surveys. Additionally, the Statistical Quality Assessment conducted by the Statistics Korea regularly evaluates the accuracy, timeliness, comparability, consistency, relevance, and accessibility of this statistical data. Once these procedures are completed, the anonymised microdata is made available to researchers, educational institutions, government agencies, and other stakeholders for approved uses. To ensure strict adherence to confidentiality regulations and to prevent unauthorized use, this release is preceded by a rigorous review process designed to safeguard against misuse beyond the intended purposes.

Selected uses for analytical insights

Recent in-depth analyses conducted using the SILCLF highlight its value for understanding migrants' lives and labour market outcomes in Korea. Researchers have drawn on SILCLF to assess both the economic impacts of international migration and the broader conditions shaping migrants' wellbeing.

For example, Kim (2023) relied on the nationally representative immigrant sample of the SILCLF to retrieve detailed information on immigrants' labour market outcomes and socio-demographic characteristics, in order to examine the relation between immigration and native labour market outcomes. Data on native workers were drawn from the Local Area Labour Force Survey (LALFS), and the combined use of the two surveys enabled the analysis to reach important conclusions. The study showed no overall negative association between immigration flows and the wages or employment outcomes of native workers but revealed heterogeneity across educational groups.

Another study using SILCLF by Kim and Lee (2023) focused solely on immigrants, showing that immigrants face an initial wage gap of 17–29 % compared to natives with similar characteristics and this gap narrows gradually with duration of stay, although the wage integration patterns differ by sex and country of origin.

Other researchers, such as Choi, Choi, and Lee (2023), analysed continued employment outcomes and the role of international students, making use of the SILCLF's coverage of this group. Their study showed that restrictions on student admissions negatively affected university enrolments and finances, and that a reduction in the number of international students also reduced local employment opportunities, particularly in agriculture and business services. Together, these studies underline the value of SILCLF, alone or in combination with other sources, to generate robust evidence on employment outcomes.

The SILCLF has also been used to analyse migrants' living conditions beyond the labour market. Its annual periodicity has supported the monitoring of exogenous shocks. For example, Lee and Park (2024), drawing on SILCLF data, showed that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of female international student applications to Korea declined, and those already residing in the country experienced greater financial hardship than their male counterparts. This study highlighted the gendered dimensions of economic resilience among international students in Korea during the pandemic. Other studies have used SILCLF variables related to discrimination, integration, and migrants' perceptions of Korean society. For instance, Lee et al. (2023) reviewed SILCLF-based evidence and found consistent associations between perceived discrimination and adverse health outcomes among migrants.

Selected uses for policy work

The SILCLF has also been widely used by research institutes and governmental agencies for policy purposes. For example, SILCLF data have been used to analyse self-employment among immigrant women, drawing on variables such as age, marital status, country of origin, presence of children, children's place of residence, education level, duration of stay, economic activity status, employment contract, working hours, and wages. These results have supported the formulation of policies for immigrant women at the local government level.

Other agencies have applied SILCLF data using various statistical techniques, such as correlation and frequency analysis, to study immigrant populations engaged in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. These analyses have provided foundational data for scientifically estimating agricultural-sector employment permits based on rural employment characteristics and projected labour demand. SILCLF has also been used to examine the employment structure and outlook of foreign workers by industry, generating evidence required for formulating sector-specific foreign employment policies.

In addition, the survey has been employed to develop evaluation indicators and indices for policies on immigrant integration. This work combined SILCLF data on employment insurance, industrial accident insurance enrolment, Korean language proficiency, and satisfaction with medical services to provide a basis for monitoring and improving integration policies.

Government agencies have also drawn on the SILCLF to conduct analysis on the quality of life of immigrants considering individual as well as regional characteristics, including administrative area, residency status, education, housing, living environment, employment, income, consumption, health, Korean language proficiency, and intentions to remain after visa expiration. Such analyses have informed policies aimed at improving the quality of life of foreigners by highlighting differences in immigrant characteristics and residential perceptions across regions. Furthermore, SILCLF data have been used to analyse employment in the accommodation and food service industry by visa type, industry classification, and residence code, producing evidence for labour supply policies in these sectors.

These selected uses illustrate how the SILCLF provides a comprehensive statistical basis for monitoring migrant integration. For policymakers, SILCLF offers evidence to assess labour supply, wage differentials, and the consequences of migration policy measures. For researchers, it provides internationally comparable microdata to study the interaction between employment outcomes, living conditions, and social integration. By capturing both labour force participation and dimensions of social inclusion, SILCLF strengthens the evidence base for policies aimed at improving the situation of migrants and supporting their contribution to sustainable development in Korean society.

► Conclusion

South Korea is one of the few countries that conducts both a monthly Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS) and an annual Survey on Immigrants' Living Conditions and Labour Force (SILCIF) in parallel. While these surveys differ in terms of target population, methodology, and objectives, they are designed to complement one another in providing a fuller picture of the labour market.

The EAPS delivers monthly labour force statistics on the general population, whereas the SILCIF focuses on analysing the employment status and living conditions of immigrants on an annual basis. Despite these differences, key indicators such as the employment rate and labour force participation rate can be compared across the two surveys, provided that appropriate methodological considerations are taken into account.

To promote coherence, KOSTAT has incorporated several common elements in the design of both surveys. For instance, both surveys use standardized questions to capture labour force status, occupation, and industry classifications, facilitating comparability between the immigrant population and the general population.

The joint use of the EAPS and SILCIF offers valuable insights into differences and similarities in labour market outcomes between immigrants and the general population. For example, trends in employment rates over time can be compared to highlight distinct dynamics faced by immigrant workers. An illustration of these trends, such as a comparative graph of employment rates from both surveys, would enhance the understanding of how the immigrant labour force is evolving relative to the national average.

This case study on the "Design of the Survey on Immigrants' Living Conditions and Labour Force" aims to shed light on the value of the survey to support comprehensive analysis of the living conditions, economic participation, and overall integration of immigrants in South Korea, and the methodology that has been established to ensure its cost-effectiveness, relevance and long-term sustainability. The survey reveals significant insights into various demographic aspects such as labour force status, marital status, education level, and citizenship, highlighting the diversity and complexity of the immigrant population.

The survey findings indicate that marital status and education level are crucial factors influencing labour force participation and employment rates among immigrants. Additionally, the survey underscores the need for tailored immigration policies that address the unique challenges and opportunities faced by different immigrant groups. The rigorous methodology of the survey, from design to data collection and processing, ensure the reliability and accuracy of the findings, making it a valuable resource for policymakers and researchers. By systematically gathering and analysing data on immigrants' living conditions and labour force participation, the survey provides important evidence to support the formulation of informed policies aimed at improving the socio-economic integration of immigrants.

Moreover, the continuous feedback and improvements to the survey methodology, as noted in the user-producer consultations and expert meetings, demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality and relevance of the statistics provided. Additionally, paradata collected during the survey process—such as visit records, the number of visits, and instances of non-response—are analysed and can be used for various purposes, including sample selection and questionnaire refinement. For instance, survey items with consistently low response rates or those perceived as difficult by respondents can be modified during the questionnaire design phase to enhance clarity and improve response rates. Thus, paradata serves as a valuable resource for optimizing survey methodologies and improving data collection efficiency.

Overall, this study not only sheds light on the current status of immigrants in South Korea but also provides a foundational basis for future research and policy development to support the integration and well-being of immigrant communities. In documenting the survey methodology and processes established by KOSTAT to ensure the quality of the survey results, this case study aims to contribute to the identification of good practices to improve the availability of official statistics on the labour market situation of international migrants.

In conclusion, this study highlights the importance of a robust statistical framework in addressing the challenges and opportunities of immigration. A comprehensive understanding of immigrants' lives and labour market outcomes requires specialised survey data collection, as administrative sources alone cannot fully capture their social and economic dynamics. Such surveys provide critical insights that are essential for developing inclusive and effective policies that promote the socio-economic integration of immigrants and contribute to the overall prosperity of the host country. Furthermore, the established collaboration between KOSTAT and the Ministry of Justice underscores the value of coordinated efforts in data collection and analysis to ensure the availability of high-quality, policy-relevant information. Finally, greater attention should be given to the increasing demand for these data among multiple stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers, and institutions, who rely on them for evidence-based decision-making.

► Annexes

Annex I. Common items collected annually (SILCLF, 2025)

I . Basic Information

1. Name	2. Gender	3. Date of Birth	4. Birthplace	5. Religion
_____	1 Male	_____ Year	1 Republic of Korea	1 Christianity (Protestant)
_____	2 Female	_____ Month _____ Day	2 Foreign country	2 Christianity (Catholic)
				3 Islam
				4 Hinduism
				5 Confucianism and other Chinese traditional religions
				6 Buddhism
				7 Other()
				8 None
6. Current Nationality				
[6-1] Nationality of respondent	[6-2] Nationality of father ※ If deceased, nationality at the time of death	[6-3] Nationality of mother ※ If deceased, nationality at the time of death	[6-4] Nationality of ancestors Have any of your ancestors at any time possessed Korean (or Joseon nationality)?	
1 Naturalized Korean citizen (Name of country prior to naturalization: _____) ※ Country code _____	1 Korean nationality since birth	1 Korean nationality since birth	1 Yes	
2 Foreign country (Name of country: _____) ※ Country code _____	2 Naturalized Korean citizen	2 Naturalized Korean citizen	2 No	
	3 Foreign country (Name of country: _____) ※ Country code _____	3 Foreign country (Name of country: _____) ※ Country code _____	3 Do not know	
			※ Ancestors include grandfathers, grandmothers, great-grandfathers, and great-grandmothers on both sides of the family.	
7. Level of Education				
[7-1] Current level of education ※ Check the current level of education (However, check the highest level of education if you are a graduate or have completed the program.) ※ The education level is determined by completion of a regular educational course or graduation from an equivalent educational organization approved by the country in which the education was received. (E.g.) If you graduated from a 5-year middle school in your country, please check "High School." 0 No education → Go to [8-1] 1 Elementary school (6 years) 2 Middle school (3 years) 3 High school (3 years) 4 College (Junior college, including 2- and 3-year colleges) 5 University (including universities with a 4 year or longer program) 6 Graduate school (Master's) 7 Graduate School (PhD or higher) → Go to [7-2]		[7-2] Attainment 1 Graduated 2 Attending 3 On leave 4 Dropped out 5 Completed	[7-3] Country from which the highest degree (diploma) was awarded 1 Republic of Korea 2 Home country 3 Foreign country 4 Not applicable ※ If you are currently enrolled in a doctorate program in Korea, check the country from which you acquired a Master's degree. If you dropped out of high school, check the country from which you acquired a middle school graduation certificate.	
8. Marital Status				
[8-1] Are you married?	[8-2] Is your spouse living in Korea?	[8-3] Is your spouse currently working to earn an income?	[8-4] What is your spouse's nationality?	[8-5] What is your spouse's current status of sojourn?
1 Married (including common law marriage) 2 Single 11 Never married 12 Divorced 13 Widowed → Go to No. 9	1 Living in the same household in Korea 2 Living in Korea, but not in the same household 3 Not living in Korea → Go to No. 9	1 Yes 2 No	※ For ethnic Koreans born in China, please write "Chinese of Korean descent" and for ethnic Koreans born in Russia, please write "Russian of Korean descent." 1 Korean nationality since birth → Go to No. 9 2 Naturalized Korean citizen (Name of country prior to naturalization: _____) ※ Country code _____ → Go to No. 9 3 Foreign country (Name of country: _____) ※ Country code _____	※ For "Spouse of a Korean" (F-5-2) among Permanent Resident (F-5), check V inside the parentheses. 1 E-9 (Non-professional Employment) 2 H-2 (Work and Visit) 3 E-1 ~ E-7 (Professional Staff) 4 D-2, D-4-1, D-4-7 (Student) 5 F-4 (Overseas Korean) 6 F-5 (Permanent Resident, F-5-2 ()) 7 F-6 (Marriage Migrant, formerly F-2-1) 8 Other ()

9–11. Status of Household Members																																									
9. Are you living with other people in Korea? 1 I am living with other people 2 I am living alone → Go to No. 10 [9-1] Select all of the following people you are living with in Korea and write the number of each. <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">11 Spouse (Husband or wife)</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">person(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 Children, grandchildren, and their spouses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">person(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13 Parents or grandparents [including the parents and grandparents of spouse (husband or wife)]</td> <td style="text-align: right;">person(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14 Siblings and their spouses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">person(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 Nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts, and other relatives [including other relatives of spouse (husband or wife)]</td> <td style="text-align: right;">person(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16 Colleagues and other housemates</td> <td style="text-align: right;">person(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">17 Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">person(s)</td> </tr> </table>		11 Spouse (Husband or wife)	person(s)	12 Children, grandchildren, and their spouses	person(s)	13 Parents or grandparents [including the parents and grandparents of spouse (husband or wife)]	person(s)	14 Siblings and their spouses	person(s)	15 Nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts, and other relatives [including other relatives of spouse (husband or wife)]	person(s)	16 Colleagues and other housemates	person(s)	17 Total	person(s)																										
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16 Colleagues and other housemates	person(s)																																								
17 Total	person(s)																																								
10. Do you have parents, siblings, or other relatives who are living in Korea but not in the same household? 1 Parents 11 Yes 12 No 2 Siblings 11 Yes 12 No 3 Other relatives 11 Yes 12 No																																									
11. Do you have children? 1 Yes 2 No → Go to No. 12 [11-1] Write the number of children who are living in Korea and/or in other countries. <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">11 Children who are living in the same household in Korea</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">person(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 Children who are living in Korea but not in the same household</td> <td style="text-align: right;">person(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13 Children who are living outside of Korea</td> <td style="text-align: right;">person(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">14 Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">person(s)</td> </tr> </table>		11 Children who are living in the same household in Korea	person(s)	12 Children who are living in Korea but not in the same household	person(s)	13 Children who are living outside of Korea	person(s)	14 Total	person(s)																																
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13 Children who are living outside of Korea	person(s)																																								
14 Total	person(s)																																								
12–13. Lodging and Occupancy Type																																									
12. Which type of house do you currently live in? 1 Common housing (detached houses, studios, townhouses, multiplex housing, etc.) 2 Apartment 3 Dormitory 4 Studio (officetel) 5 Other lodging that is not residential 11 House within a commercial building such as store or factory 12 Social welfare facility including shelters for foreigners 13 Rooms in hotels, motels, etc. 14 Shacks, greenhouses, or shipping container 15 Goshiwon, Korean-style saunas, etc.																																									
13. Which is the occupancy type of the house you currently live in? 1 Homeowner 2 Deposit-based lease (no monthly rent) 3 Monthly rent with a security deposit 4 Monthly rent/prepaid monthly rent without a security deposit 5 Free of charge (provided by the company, school, relatives, or friends) [13-1] How much is the rent of the house you are currently living in? ※ In the case of prepaid monthly rent without security deposit, monthly rent means the amount of the total rent divided by the contract period (00 months) <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th></th> <th>Billion</th> <th>Hundred million</th> <th>Ten million</th> <th>Million</th> <th>Hundred thousand</th> <th>Ten thousand</th> <th></th> </tr> <tr> <td>11 Security deposit</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>won</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 Monthly rent</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>won</td> </tr> </table> (Example) Under the assumption that it is KRW 1.2 million <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th></th> <th>Billion</th> <th>Hundred million</th> <th>Ten million</th> <th>Million</th> <th>Hundred thousand</th> <th>Ten thousand</th> <th></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>won</td> </tr> </table>			Billion	Hundred million	Ten million	Million	Hundred thousand	Ten thousand		11 Security deposit							won	12 Monthly rent							won		Billion	Hundred million	Ten million	Million	Hundred thousand	Ten thousand						1	2	0	won
	Billion	Hundred million	Ten million	Million	Hundred thousand	Ten thousand																																			
11 Security deposit							won																																		
12 Monthly rent							won																																		
	Billion	Hundred million	Ten million	Million	Hundred thousand	Ten thousand																																			
				1	2	0	won																																		

※ Intended for employed persons (19–25)

※ If you have both a main and side job(s), please provide responses based on only your main job.

21. What type of work did you do at the workplace (business) during the reference period?

◆ Type of work _____

◆ Position _____

◆ Name of department _____

※ Official Only
(Classification of Occupation)

E.g.

◆ Type of work: Production of men's business suits

◆ Position: Tailor

◆ Department: Production Department

22. When did you first start working at the job you worked at during the reference period?

 year month (yyyy, mm)

23. How long have you worked in the same career field in total while living in Korea regardless of the number of times you changed workplaces (businesses)?

 year(s) month(s) (E.g.) English instructor: Workplace A (1 year 5 months) + Workplace B (2 years) = 3 years 5 months

24. In the past year (May 15, 2024 - May 14, 2025), have you changed jobs?

1 Yes (_____ times)

2 No → Go to No. 25

[24-1] Why did you move to your current job?

11 Personal or family reasons

12 Childcare or household duties

13 Physical or mental disability (handicapped)

14 Met the regular retirement age, old age

15 Dissatisfied with the previous working conditions (work hours, wages, etc.)

16 Active recruitment by the current workplace

17 Temporary or permanent closure of company

18 Voluntary or early retirement, laid off

19 Completion of temporary or seasonal work

20 No work or business slowdown

21 Other (_____)

25. What was your employment status during the reference period?

◆ Wage or salary worker

1 Permanent employee

2 Temporary employee

3 Daily worker

→ Go to No. 26

◆ Self-employed worker

4 Self-employed with employees

5 Self-employed without employees

6 Unpaid family worker

→ Go to No. 51

※ Wage or salary workers only (26–43)

26. Did you have a fixed term contract of employment(work period) when you were employed during the reference period?

1 Yes

2 No (including retirement)

[26-1] How long is your contract of employment?

11 Less than 1 month

13 6 months or more–Less than 1 year

15 2 years or more–Less than 3 years

12 1 month or more–Less than 6 months

14 1 year or more–Less than 2 years

16 3 years or more

27. What is the average monthly wage or salary for the past three months at your main job?

(Before tax) Monthly avg. of

Billion	Hundred million	Ten million	Million	Hundred thousand	Ten thousand

won

(Example) Under the assumption that it is KRW 1.2 million

Billion	Hundred million	Ten million	Million	Hundred thousand	Ten thousand
			1	2	0

won

2 Seeking Employment

44. In the past four weeks (April 20–May 17, 2025), have you tried to find a job?

- 1 Yes 2 No → Go to No. 48

45. During the reference period, **would you be able to accept a job** if offered?

- 1 Yes 2 No → Go to No. 50

46. In what ways did you seek your job? (Select up to two) (), ()

- 1 Public employment agency (Job Center, Saeil Center, Multicultural Family Support Center, etc.)
- 2 Private employment agency
- 3 Mass media (television, newspaper, magazine, Internet, etc.)
- 4 Agencies and organizations that support foreigners and ethnic Koreans
- 5 School, academic institute
- 6 Relatives, friends, peers
- 7 Other (

47. How many months have you been **looking for a job**?

month(s) → **Go to No. 51**

3 Other Activities

48. **Did you want a job** during the reference period?

- 1** Yes **2** No → Go to No. 50

49. During the reference period, **would you have been able to accept a job** if offered?

- 1 Yes 2 No

50. **What were you doing** during the reference period?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Childcare or household duties | 5 Physical or mental disability (handicapped) |
| 2 Attending a regular educational institution (high school, college, etc.) | 6 Old age |
| 3 Studying to enter a school (attending an institution for entrance exams, etc.) | 7 Taking a break |
| 4 Preparing for employment (taking classes at a test-prep learning center for public exams, vocational institute, etc.) | 8 Other () |

VI. Korean Language Skills

59. Which language do you use the most with the people you live with in Korea?

※ A native language is the language of one's home country or the language of one's nationality before being naturalized; a mother language is the language of one's country of birth.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Korean | 4 Use Korean and another language simultaneously |
| 2 Native or mother language of the respondent (excluding Korean) | 5 Other () |
| 3 Native or mother language of the spouse (excluding Korean) | 6 Living alone |

60. Have you ever learned Korean?

- 1 Yes 2 No → Go to No. 61

[60-1] Where did you learn Korean?

Please select all the places that you learnt Korean and indicate how long you studied Korean for at each place.

- | |
|---|
| 11 Korean language institute (university-affiliated language institute, etc.) at a university in Korea, [] month(s) |
| 12 Korea Immigration and Integration Program by the Ministry of Justice (university, Multicultural Family Support Center, Immigrant Support Center, etc.), [] month(s) |
| 13 Korean education for marriage immigrants at the Multicultural Family Support Center by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, [] month(s) |
| 14 Korean education for foreign workers by Korea Support Center for Foreign Workers, [] month(s) |
| 15 Learned back in home country or a different country other than Korea, [] month(s) |
| 16 Other local communities, academies, religious communities, private groups, online studies, private tutoring, self-taught, etc, [] month(s) |

61. Have you ever taken the Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK)?

- 1 Yes 2 No → Go to No. 62

[61-1] What level did you receive from the test?

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 11 Level 1 | 13 Level 3 | 15 Level 5 | 17 Failed |
| 12 Level 2 | 14 Level 4 | 16 Level 6 | |

62. What is your level of proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing?

	Very proficient	Somewhat proficient	Fair	Not proficient	Not proficient at all
1 Speaking	①	②	③	④	⑤
2 Listening	①	②	③	④	⑤
3 Reading	①	②	③	④	⑤
4 Writing	①	②	③	④	⑤

VII. Status of Sojourn

63. When did you first arrive in Korea for your residence, employment or study?

※ Excluding short-term (90 days or less) entry for business trips, traveling, visiting relatives, etc.

[] year [] month (yyyy, mm)

64. How many years have you resided in Korea since you first arrived in Korea (based on your response to No. 63)?

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Less than 6 months | 3 1 to less than 2 years | 5 3 to less than 4 years | 7 5 to less than 10 years |
| 2 6 months to less than 1 year | 4 2 to less than 3 years | 6 4 to less than 5 years | 8 10 years or longer |

65. Have you ever **stayed in a place other than Korea** for the past year (May 15, 2024–May 14, 2025)?

※ Answer “3” Not applicable” if you began living in Korea after May 15, 2024

- 1 Yes, I have 2 No, I haven't 3 Not applicable

[65-1] What was the **total length of your sojourn outside of Korea**?

- 11 Less than 1 month 13 3 months or more–Less than 6 months
12 1 month or more–Less than 3 months 14 6 months or more–Less than 1 year

66. What is **your current status of sojourn**? Select one of the following status of sojourn.()

※ For candidates eligible for naturalization, please select “99 Acquired Korean citizenship”

[View status of sojourn]

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 11 E-9 (Non-professional Employment) | 15 F-4 (Overseas Korean) | 19 F-1 (Family Visitor),
F-3 (Dependent Family) |
| 12 H-2 (Work and Visit) | 16 F-5 (Permanent Resident), 66 F-5-2 (Spouse of a Korean) | 20 Other () |
| 13 E-1~E-7 (Professional Staff) | 17 F-6 (Marriage Migrant, formerly F-2-1) | 99 Acquired Korean citizenship |
| 14 D-2, D-4-1, D-4-7 (Student) | 18 F-2 (Resident) (excluding F-2-1) | |

※ For “Spouse of a Korean” (F-5-2) among Permanent Residents (F-5), write a separate number 66 instead of 16

67. Since you entered Korea, have you ever **changed your status of sojourn or acquired Korean citizenship**?

- 1 Yes 2 No → **Go to No. 68**

[67-1] **How many times have you changed your status of sojourn?**

- 11 Once → **Answer [67-2] only** 12 More than twice → **Answer both [67-2], [67-3]**

[67-2] What was **your status of sojourn at the time of your initial alien registration** in Korea?

Select from the status of sojourn choices above. ()

[67-3] What was **your status of sojourn just before changing to the current status of sojourn or acquiring Korean citizenship**? Select from the status of sojourn choices above.()

→ **End of survey if you are a Naturalized Citizen, Permanent Resident (F-5) or Spouse of a Korean (F-5-2)**

※ **Respond only if your current status of sojourn as answered in No. 66 is not one of the following:**

- 16 F-5 (Permanent Residents), 66 F-5-2 (Spouse of a Korean), or 99 Acquired Korean Citizenship

68. **Do you wish to stay in Korea** after the expiration of your current status of sojourn?

- 1 Yes, I do 2 No, I do not → **E-9 (Non-professional Employment) or D-2, D-4-1, D-4-7 (Student) visas, go to Detailed Questions.**

[68-1] **How would you like to extend your sojourn in Korea?**

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 11 Extension of stay | 14 Obtain permanent residency | → E-9 (Non-professional Employment) or D-2, D-4-1, D-4-7 (Student) visas, go to Detailed Questions. |
| 12 Change status of sojourn [Except for acquiring Permanent Resident (F-5) status] | 15 Acquire Korean citizenship | |
| 13 Other () | | |

[68-2] **For how long do you wish to extend your sojourn of stay in Korea?**

year(s) → **E-9 (Non-professional Employment) or D-2, D-4-1, D-4-7 (Student) visas, go to Detailed Questions.**

Annex II. Common items collected in odd-numbered years (SILCLF, 2025)

II. Employment

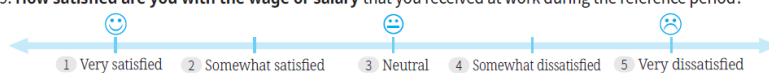
※ Reference Period (1 week): Sunday, May 11 to Saturday, May 17, 2025

※ Wage or salary workers only (26-43)

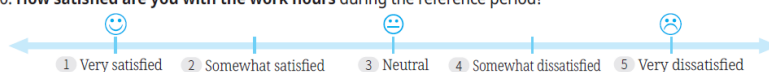
28. When you transferred to your current workplace, which of the following channels did you use to gather information on the job? Select all applicable options.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Job Center under the Ministry of Employment and Labour | 5 NGOs, religious organizations (including counseling offices for foreign workers), or support groups for ethnic Koreans |
| 2 Other public employment mediation agency (Saeil Center, Multicultural Family Support Center, etc.) | 6 Unofficial broker |
| 3 Public recruitment by companies | 7 Friends, relatives or other acquaintances |
| 4 Private job placement agency in Korea | 8 Other () |

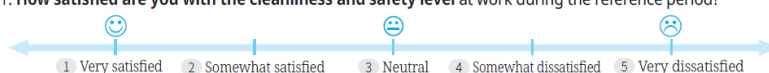
29. How satisfied are you with the wage or salary that you received at work during the reference period?



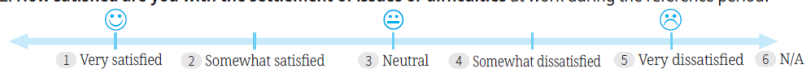
30. How satisfied are you with the work hours during the reference period?



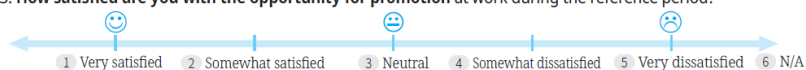
31. How satisfied are you with the cleanliness and safety level at work during the reference period?



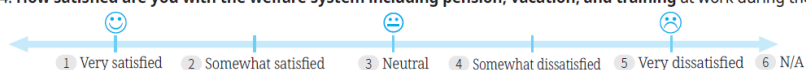
32. How satisfied are you with the settlement of issues or difficulties at work during the reference period?



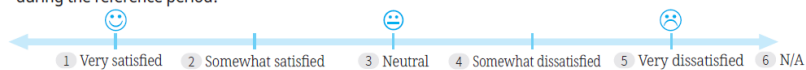
33. How satisfied are you with the opportunity for promotion at work during the reference period?



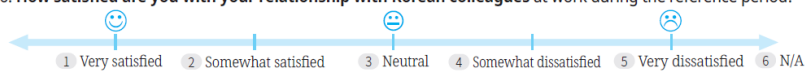
34. How satisfied are you with the welfare system including pension, vacation, and training at work during the reference period?



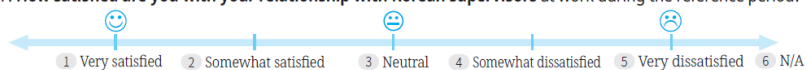
35. How satisfied are you with the welfare facilities at work including accommodations, restaurants, and rest areas during the reference period?



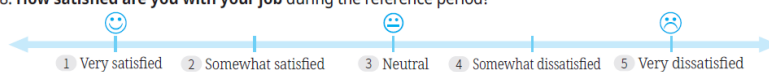
36. How satisfied are you with your relationship with Korean colleagues at work during the reference period?



37. How satisfied are you with your relationship with Korean supervisors at work during the reference period?



38. How satisfied are you with your job during the reference period?



※ Wage or salary workers only (26-43)

39. Compared to a Korean worker with a similar job, how would you rate your work hours?

← 1 Significantly more 2 Somewhat more 3 Similar 4 Somewhat less 5 Significantly less 6 Do not know →

40. Compared to a Korean worker with a similar job, how would you rate your salary?

← 1 Significantly more 2 Somewhat more 3 Similar 4 Somewhat less 5 Significantly less 6 Do not know →

41. Compared to a Korean worker with a similar job, how would you rate your workload?

← 1 Significantly more 2 Somewhat more 3 Similar 4 Somewhat less 5 Significantly less 6 Do not know →

42. Do you wish to transfer to another workplace (business)?

1 Yes 2 No → Go to No. 43

[42-1] What is the biggest reason for wanting to change workplaces?

11 Low wages	17 The work is difficult
12 Delayed payment of wages	18 The work is dangerous
13 Company is not doing well	19 Not on good terms with a supervisor or colleague(s)
14 Suffering an injury or illness	20 Found a better work opportunity elsewhere,
15 The details of the labour contract differed from those signed upon	I have no specific complaints about the current workplace
entering the workplace	21 Desire to work with friends from my home country or
16 Poor housing or workplace environment	other acquaintances
	22 Other ()

43. Please select **all the experiences that you encountered while working at your workplace in Korea** within the past year (May 15, 2024-May 14, 2025).

1 Injury at work	9 Confiscation of passport	→ Go to No. 51
2 Illness caused by work	10 Assault	
3 Delayed payment of wages	11 Sexual harassment	
4 Difficulty due to the fast pace of work	12 Sexual assault (rape)	
5 Conflict with a Korean colleague	13 Restrictions on going out	
6 Conflict with a Korean supervisor	14 Unfair layoff	
7 Abusive language	15 Other ()	
8 Body search	16 Not applicable	

→ Go to No. 51

[43-1] What was the main reason for the injury?

Select the answer based on the most severe accident that occurred in the past year.

11 Not receiving any safety education in advance	15 Mistake on my part (carelessness)
12 Not understanding the guidelines (procedures)	16 Colleague's mistake
13 Inadequate installation of safety devices	17 Not wearing protective gear
14 Lack of Korean language skills (miscommunication)	18 Other ()

[43-2] How did you manage the medical costs for the injury?

11 Industrial accident compensation insurance	15 National health insurance
12 Business owner shouldering the entirety of the medical expenses	16 Medical insurance association for foreign workers
13 Jointly paid by myself and the business owner	17 Other ()
14 Paid the entire medical bill myself	

→ Go to No. 51

III. Job search experience

51. After entering Korea, **have you tried to get employed in order to have a job (work)?**

- 1 Yes 2 No → **Go to No. 53**

52. If you had any **difficulty seeking employment (job)** in Korea, which of the following was the main reason?

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Lack of information on employment | 6 Expensive job-seeking expenses (recruitment fees, etc.) |
| 2 Not knowing how to find jobs | 7 Due to discrimination against foreigners |
| 3 Did not receive help from employment centers | 8 Other () |
| 4 Not speaking Korean well | 9 No difficulty at all |
| 5 Unable to find a desired position nearby | |

IV. Education

53. **Have you received any education or training for employment, the establishment of your own business and/or professional development** in Korea within the past year (May 15, 2024–May 14, 2025)?

- 1 I have (or I am currently receiving it) 2 I have not → **Go to No. 54**

[53-1] Which organization is in charge of this education or training? Select all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 11 Private academy | 16 Association, organization, research center, etc. (productivity headquarters, standard association, etc.) |
| 12 Vocational training corporation (private vocational training institute, etc.) | 17 Community welfare center, city or county offices |
| 13 Public vocational training agencies in Korea (Human Resources Development Service of Korea, the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Korea Polytechnics, Technical Colleges, etc.) | 18 Communication education agencies (Internet, phone, fax, mail, TV, cable TV, etc. excluding Korea National Open University) |
| 14 Training institute run by business owners or business-owning groups (including a company's internal education center and training institute) | 19 Women Resources Development Center |
| 15 Affiliate institutes of universities or community colleges | 20 Other () |

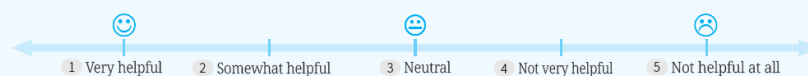
[53-2] What is the **main purpose of receiving this education or training**? Select all that apply.

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 11 To start a business | 13 To improve job performance at work | 15 To change the status of sojourn |
| 12 To get (re)employed | 14 To acquire a certification | 16 Other () |

[53-3] **Who paid for this education or training**? Select all that apply.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 11 Myself | 13 The company at which I currently work | 15 Other () |
| 12 Parent, family member or relative | 14 Korean government or public agency | 16 Do not know |

[53-4] Do you think this education or training was **helpful for seeking employment, starting a business or improving your job performance**?



54. Select all of the **educational or support services you have received while staying in Korea**.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Korean language education | 8 Social activity support service (self-help meetings, etc.) |
| 2 Education for understanding of Korean society (laws, policies, etc.) | 9 Support service for pregnancy, childbirth or other family affairs |
| 3 Training or consultation on immigration and stay | 10 Learning and educational support service for children |
| 4 Obtaining certification or employment training | 11 Medical consultation and treatment service |
| 5 Information sessions related to employment and the introduction of job opportunities | 12 Housing support service including rental housing |
| 6 Life information support service (legal consultation, etc.) | 13 Other () |
| 7 Interpretation and translation services | 14 No services received |

[54-1] Please select two **educational or support services from above that you think are most needed for immigrants** in Korea. () ()

V. Income and Consumption

55. What was the **total income you earned on average each month (monthly average)** in the past year (May 15, 2024–May 14, 2025)?

※ **Total income is the sum of your earned income, business income, property income, and transfer income, and refers to the amount before tax deduction and social insurance payment (employment insurance, occupational health and safety insurance, national pension, and national health insurance).**

※ Earned income is the wage received for the labour provided while employed by a business operated by another person.

※ Business income includes the profit gained while operating a business (=sales - business expenses) (including the profit generated from farming activities).

※ Property income refers to income gained from rent, interest and dividends, excluding capital gains from the sales margin of assets (= sales - purchase cost).

※ Transfer income is a support fund received on a regular basis from individuals residing in Korea or other countries, social organizations, religious groups or the government.

(Before tax) The total monthly income on average

Billion	Hundred million	Ten million	Million	Hundred thousand	Ten thousand

won

(Example) Under the assumption that it is KRW 1.2 million

Billion	Hundred million	Ten million	Million	Hundred thousand	Ten thousand
			1	2	0

won

56. How much do you pay each month on average for each of the items below?

Category	Description	Billion	Hundred million	Ten million	Million	Hundred thousand	Ten thousand won
1 Living expenses	Expenses including food (including eating out), clothes, education, health and medical services, transportation, communication, leisure, and cultural activities (If you live in a dormitory, include your expenses on food and if you live with housemates, include your share in communal spending).						
2 Housing expenses	Expenses including monthly rent, maintenance cost and utility fees (electricity, water, gas, etc).						
3 Wire transfers	Support for family or relatives living in separate housing in Korea or overseas.						
4 Savings	Expenses including savings, insurances, stocks, bonds, and funds in Korea. Excludes wire transfers to family or relatives living abroad for the purpose of saving.						
5 Other	Expenses including taxes, employment insurance, occupational health and safety insurance, national pension, national health insurance, donations to religious and social organizations, repayment of loans, and payment of loan interest in Korea.						
Total							

57. Do you **wire money** to family or relatives who are living outside of Korea?

1 I send money

2 I do not send any money → [Go to No. 58](#)

→ [57-1] How many times on average per year do you wire money? times on average per year

[57-2] What is the **total amount of money wired annually**?

Annual total in

Billion	Hundred million	Ten million	Million	Hundred thousand	Ten thousand

won

58. Did you ever suffer from **financial difficulties** in the past year (May 15, 2024–May 14, 2025)?

1 Yes

2 No → [Go to No. 59](#)

→ [58-1] Select all of the **financial difficulties** that you have experienced in the past year.

- 11 I have skipped meals because I did not have the money
- 12 I have not received medical treatment because I could not afford to pay the hospital expenses
- 13 I have had difficulties coming up with educational expenses for myself or a family member
- 14 I have experienced an unwanted, forced layoff from my professional position (advised resignation, forced retirement, etc.)
- 15 I have failed to pay a utility bill (national health insurance fee, electricity, phone or water bills, etc.) by the specified deadline
- 16 I moved because of an increase in housing costs (monthly rent, deposit-based lease)
- 17 Other ()

III. Health

IV. Living in Korea

37. How satisfied are you in **your relationship with your family members who live in Korea with you?**

1 Very satisfied 2 Somewhat satisfied 3 Neutral 4 Somewhat dissatisfied 5 Very dissatisfied 6 Living alone

38. How satisfied are you in **your relationship with your acquaintances in Korea?**

1 Very satisfied 2 Somewhat satisfied 3 Neutral 4 Somewhat dissatisfied 5 Very dissatisfied

39. How satisfied are you with **your job in Korea?**

1 Very satisfied 2 Somewhat satisfied 3 Neutral 4 Somewhat dissatisfied 5 Very dissatisfied 6 Not employed

40. How satisfied are you with **your income in Korea?**

1 Very satisfied 2 Somewhat satisfied 3 Neutral 4 Somewhat dissatisfied 5 Very dissatisfied 6 No income

41. How satisfied are you with the **living environment (public transportation, safety, cleanliness, education facilities, medical welfare)** of the region in Korea in which you're living?

1 Very satisfied 2 Somewhat satisfied 3 Neutral 4 Somewhat dissatisfied 5 Very dissatisfied

42. How satisfied are you with **your life in Korea** in general?

1 Very satisfied 2 Somewhat satisfied 3 Neutral 4 Somewhat dissatisfied 5 Very dissatisfied

43. What is **the greatest challenge you are facing as you are living in Korea?** Please select your top three challenges in the order of most to least challenging.

Challenge No. 1	Challenge No. 2	Challenge No. 3
1 Loneliness	6 Language barrier	
2 Conflict within the family	7 Cultural differences including lifestyle and food	
3 Child rearing and education	8 Discrimination or prejudice against foreigners	
4 Using a bank or public service facilities (city, gun, gu)	9 Other()	
5 Financial problems	10 None	

44. What **activities** do you typically do in your leisure time in Korea? Please choose two activities in the order of importance.

Activity No. 1	Activity No. 2
1 Watch TV (cable, Internet television (IPTV), etc.) 2 Watch or participate in artistic endeavors (play, movie, concert, book club, etc.) 3 Watch or participate in sports (soccer, baseball, billiards, tennis, etc.) 4 Travel (including camping) 5 Computer games, Internet search, etc.	6 Hobby or self-development (cooking, reading, studying for a certificate, etc.) 7 Rest (sleep, going to the sauna, etc.) 8 Other social activities (volunteering, religious gatherings, private gatherings, etc.) 9 Other()

45. How satisfied are you with **leisure activities** in Korea?

1 Very satisfied 2 Somewhat satisfied 3 Neutral 4 Somewhat dissatisfied 5 Very dissatisfied

46. If any of the following situations occur, is there **anyone in Korea you can ask for help and if so how many people (family, relatives, neighbors, colleague, etc.)?**

	① Yes, there is.			No, there is not.
	Korean	Person of my home country	A foreigner other than Korean or person of my home country	
1 When you need someone to do your household chores because you're sick	() person(s)	() person(s)	() person(s)	②
2 When you urgently need a large sum of money	() person(s)	() person(s)	() person(s)	②
3 When you need someone to talk to because you're feeling sad or depressed	() person(s)	() person(s)	() person(s)	②

47. Have you experienced any **discrimination** because of your status as a foreigner or as a naturalized citizen in the past one year (May 15, 2023 – May 14, 2024)?

1 Yes 2 No → Go to No. 48

→ [47-1] Have you experienced discrimination in the following places?

	No discrimination at all	Almost no discrimination	Slight discrimination	Severe discrimination	Never been to the place
11 On the street or in neighborhood	①	②	③	④	/
12 At a store, restaurant, bank, etc.	①	②	③	④	⑤
13 At public service facilities (community service center, police station, etc.)	①	②	③	④	⑤
14 By a landlord or at real estate agency office	①	②	③	④	⑤
15 At the company/workplace	①	②	③	④	⑤
16 At school/university	①	②	③	④	⑤

[47-2] What do you think is the **biggest reason for this discrimination?**

11 Country of origin	13 Appearance	15 Job	17 Other()
12 Korean language skill	14 Economic power	16 Religion	

[47-3] Have you ever asked the person or the institution to **stop discriminating against you?**

11 Yes 12 No → Go to No. 48

→ [47-4] Did the situation improve after your demand to stop discrimination?

11 Yes	12 No
--------	-------

V. Residence and Living Environment

48. Within the past year (May 15, 2023 – May 14, 2024) **have you moved residences within Korea?**

- 1 Yes 2 No → **Go to No. 49**

[48-1] Where was your **previous residence**?

_____ (City / Province)

_____ (City, Gun, Gu)

※ For Survey Official
(Administrative District Code)

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49. What is **the reason you are residing in the current area you live in?**

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Changed jobs or workplace relocation | 6 To reside with family or friends | 11 Marriage |
| 2 For employment | 7 To purchase a house or move to a larger residence | 12 Area many of my foreign friends live |
| 3 For higher education | 8 For a better residential environment | 13 Other () |
| 4 For children's education | 9 To move to a smaller residence due to difficulties in making a living | |
| 5 To move out after residing with family or roommates | 10 Due to increased housing costs (monthly rent, deposit-based lease) | |

VI. For children's education

50. **Do you have any children in the following age groups who currently reside in Korea?** Select all applicable options.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Preschool age (born between 2018 and 2024) | 4 University age or higher (born in or before 2005) → Go to No. 51 |
| 2 Elementary school age (born between 2012 and 2017) | 5 No children |
| 3 Middle to high school age (born between 2006 and 2011) | 6 Have children, but not living in Korea |
- **Go to No. 52**

[50-1] Have you **experienced any of the following difficulties while educating your child(ren) in Korea** within the past year (May 15, 2023 – May 14, 2024)? Select all applicable options.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 11 Taking care of school notices | 16 Problematic behaviors such as drugs, Internet addiction, etc. |
| 12 Guidance on homework | 17 Emotional, behavioral issues |
| 13 Failure to adapt to school life
(refusing to go to school, not getting along with peers, etc.) | 18 Other () |
| 14 Issues with grades and learning disability | 19 No difficulties |
| 15 Public ostracization and/or discrimination from peers | 20 Has not attended school
(kindergarten, preschool, elementary/middle/high school) → Go to No. 51 |

[50-2] **How actively involved are you with your child(ren)'s daycare center, kindergarten, elementary school, middle school or high school (class observation, distribution of meals, parents' association, etc.)?**

1 Very active	2 Somewhat active	3 Neutral	4 Not very active	5 Inactive
---------------	-------------------	-----------	-------------------	------------

[50-3] **How burdensome are the education expenses for your child(ren) considering your income?**

1 Very burdensome	2 Somewhat burdensome	3 Neutral	4 Not very burdensome	5 Not burdensome at all
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→ **Go to No. 51**

[50-4] **Which of the following items of educational expenses is the most burdensome?**

- | |
|--|
| 11 School payments (tuition, school operation committee fees, dues for school-supporting associations, etc.) |
| 12 Expenses for supplementary education
(private academy tuition, school supplementary education fees, individual or group tutoring expenses, etc.) |
| 13 Expenses for learning materials (textbooks, school supplies, etc.) |
| 14 Expenses for boarding school, dormitory or living alone |
| 15 Other () |

51. Are any of your **children who currently reside in Korea employed?**

- 1 Yes 2 No

Annex IV. Specific items collected in odd-numbered years by visa status (SILCLF, 2025)

Detailed Questions [Non-professional Employment (E-9)]

E1. What was the **most important reason you chose Korea** as a destination for overseas employment?

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 High wages | 5 Easier to obtain employment compared to other countries |
| 2 Good work environment | 6 Long-term employment |
| 3 Recommendation from a job placement or transfer agency | 7 Other() |
| 4 Recommendation from a friend or relative who has had prior experience working in Korea | |

E2. How aware were you prior to coming to Korea of the **details of the labour contract** proposed by your employer?



E3. When did you first enter Korea under the current visa (E-9)?

year month

E4. How many years ago were you first paid wages or remunerations for working in Korea?

- 1 Less than 1 year ago 2 1-3 years ago 3 3-6 years ago 4 Over 6 years ago → Go to No. E7

E5. What is the **total cost that goes into finding a workplace (job)** in Korea for the first time?

Please fill in each of the following items, including the total cost of finding a job.

Items	Description	Ten million	Million	Hundred thousand	Ten thousand
1 Documents(paper)	All expenses for issuance and preparation of documents (papers) such as visa, passport, health checkups, insurance, Korean language exam, and vocational training expenses				
2 Employment referral	Employment referral fees paid to individuals or recruitment agencies				
3 Transportation expenses	Transportation and lodging expenses (including domestic travel and temporary accommodation) incurred from home country to workplace in Korea				
4 Debt repayment fees	Interest on debt borrowed to finance job search expenses from acquaintances, relatives, financial institutions, etc.				
5 Other	Other expenses excluding 1 ~ 4				
Total	Total cost of finding a job				

(Example) Under the assumption that it is KRW 1.2 million

Ten million	Million	Hundred thousand	Ten thousand
	1	2	0

won

E6. What was the **average monthly (monthly average) wage or remunerations** received in Korea for the first time?

(Before tax) Monthly avg. of

Hundred million	Ten million	Million	Hundred thousand	Ten thousand

won

E7. After your temporary stay under the current visa (E-9) was over, **did you ever leave and re-enter Korea?**

- ☐ 1 Yes ☐ 2 No

Detailed Questions [Student (D-2, D-4-1, D-4-7)]

D1. What made you decide to study abroad in Korea? Please select your top three reasons in the order of most to least important.

Reason No. 1		Reason No. 2		Reason No. 3	
--------------	--	--------------	--	--------------	--

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 The education is more advanced than in other countries | 8 I was recommended by family, relatives, friends or professors |
| 2 Major in Korea suits my interests | 9 I have colleagues or friends who studies abroad in Korea |
| 3 My major is related to Korea | 10 I am familiar with Korea because I have visited before |
| 4 The degree I will attain in Korea will help with getting a job in my home country or another country | 11 I have positive expectations about living in Korea |
| 5 Entry requirements are easier compared to other countries | 12 I have family, relatives or friends in Korea |
| 6 Study abroad costs are lower compared to other countries | 13 Other () |
| 7 There are scholarship opportunities available | |

D2. What is **your major at the university in Korea?**

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Korean Studies (Korean Language, Korean Culture, Korean History, Korean Politics, Korean Economics, etc.) | 7 Agriculture |
| 2 Humanities other than Korean Studies (Literature, Linguistics, Philosophy, History, Education, etc.) | 8 Marine Fishery Science |
| 3 Social Sciences other than Korean Studies (Political Science, Economics, Business Management, Social Studies, Psychology, Legal Studies, Journalism, etc.) | 9 Arts, Music, or Physical Education (Music, Art, Dance, Physical Education, etc.) |
| 4 Natural Science | 10 Language Training |
| 5 Engineering | 11 Other () |
| 6 Medicine and Pharmacy | |

D3. Do you believe that a degree from Korea will be more helpful than a degree from your home country?

1 Very helpful 2 Somewhat helpful 3 Neutral 4 Not very helpful 5 Not helpful at all

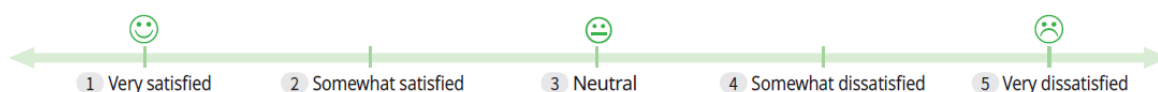
D4. What is the greatest challenge you are facing as you are studying abroad in Korea?

Please select your top three challenges in the order of most to least challenging.

Challenge No. 1		Challenge No. 2		Challenge No. 3	
-----------------	--	-----------------	--	-----------------	--

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Language Barrier (Korean is not good enough to understand lectures) | 7 Adjusting to life in Korea (communication, music, cultural differences) |
| 2 Academics (grade management, etc.) | 8 Housing (difficult to find, cost, unfavorable terms for foreigners) |
| 3 Law and system (visa, etc.) | 9 Romantic relationships |
| 4 Financial problems (tuition, living expenses, etc.) | 10 Religious practice |
| 5 Psychological problems (loneliness, nostalgia, etc.) | 11 Leisure activities |
| 6 Social problems (discrimination, prejudice, bullying, etc.) | 12 Other () |

D5. How would you rate your satisfaction with the level of education you are receiving at your university?



D6. Did you work for **one hour or more to earn an income** in the past one year in Korea (May 15, 2024–May 14, 2025)?

- 1 Yes 2 No → Go to No. D7

[D6-1] For how long did you work?

- 1 Less than 1 month 3 3 months or more–Less than 6 months
2 1 month or more–Less than 3 months 4 6 months or more–Less than 1 year

[D6-2] Where did you work at?

- 1 Only inside the school 3 Mostly inside the school
2 Only outside the school 4 Mostly outside the school

[D6-3] When you worked, did you report the work to the Korea Immigration Service?

- 1 Yes → Go to No. D7
2 No

[D6-4] Why did you not report?

- 1 I did not know that I had to report employment 4 Other international students also work without reporting
2 I went to report but was not granted permission 5 I did not have time to do so
3 I was too lazy to report 6 Other ()

D7. How are you paying for the tuition and living expenses in Korea?

Please select the top three means in the order of most to least important.

Tuition	Means No. 1		Means No. 2		Means No. 3	
Living expenses	Means No. 1		Means No. 2		Means No. 3	

- 1 Scholarship from the Korean government or a Korean institute 4 Savings 7 Loan
2 Scholarship from the government or an institution in my home country 5 Support from parents 8 Other ()
3 School scholarship 6 Part-time work in Korea

D8. What support do you wish to receive the most? Please select the top two choices from most to least desirable.

Choice No. 1		Choice No. 2	
--------------	--	--------------	--

- 1 Provision of dormitory 4 Immigration service info session and check-in agency 7 None
2 Tuition waive 5 Part-time/Employment support 8 Other ()
3 Support for the international students club 6 Language support for Korean

D9. What are your plans after graduating from school?

- 1 Stay in Korea → Go to No. D9-1 2 Return to home country → Go to No. D9-3 3 Depart to a third country → Go to No. D10

[D9-1] What are you planning to do in Korea?

- 1 Employment (including job search) → Go to No. D9-2
- 2 Enter school (more advanced degree, etc.)
- 3 Other ()
- Go to No. D10

[D9-2] At what type of business do you wish to find employment?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Agriculture, forestry and fishery | 8 Electric, gas, steam and air conditioning businesses |
| 2 Mining and manufacturing | 9 Information and communication |
| 3 Construction business | 10 Specialized science and technology service |
| 4 Wholesale and retail businesses | 11 Public administration, national defense and social security administration |
| 5 Lodging and food service | 12 Health and social welfare service |
| 6 Finance and insurance businesses | 13 Business facility management, business support and lease service |
| 7 Educational service | 14 Other (real estate, transportation business, waterworks, art, etc.) |

→ Go to No. D10

[D9-3] Why are you returning to your home country?

Please select the top two reasons from most to least important.

Reason No. 1		Reason No. 2	
--------------	--	--------------	--

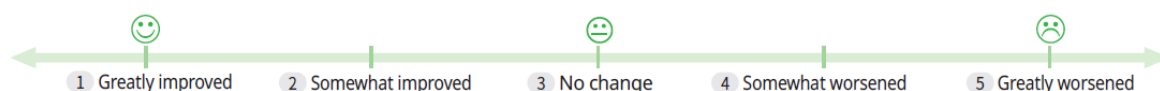
- 1 There are many good jobs available in my home country
 - 2 I want to work at a Korean company that entered my home country
 - 3 It is difficult to find employment in Korea
 - 4 The process of visa change and extension of stay in Korea are complicated
 - 5 Standard of living is better at my home country
 - 6 I want to be with my family, relatives, and friends
 - 7 I faced severe discrimination by Koreans
 - 8 I am tired of living in a foreign country
 - 9 I want to apply what I learned in Korea to my home country
 - 10 I want to continue my studies in my home country
 - 11 Other ()
- [→ Go to No. D10](#)

→ Go to No. D10

D10. Would you recommend studying abroad in Korea to friends or acquaintances in your home country?

- 1 Yes 2 No

D11. How did your perception of Korea change after your study abroad experience?



→ End of Questions

Annex V. Specific items collected in even-numbered years by visa status (SILCLF, 2024)

Detailed Questions [Overseas Korean (F-4)]

H1. What was the main reason you came to Korea?
 1 Financial reason 2 Favorable living environment 3 My family resides in Korea 4 I think of Korea has my home country 5 Other()

H2. How satisfied are you with policies regarding the stay of foreigners, such as issuance of visas for overseas Koreans (F-4) and changes in status of stay?

1 Very satisfied 2 Somewhat satisfied 3 Neutral 4 Somewhat dissatisfied 5 Very dissatisfied

H3. How satisfied are you with policies regarding employment for overseas Koreans (F-4)?

1 Very satisfied 2 Somewhat satisfied 3 Neutral 4 Somewhat dissatisfied 5 Very dissatisfied

H4. Where do you usually find out about policies regarding overseas Koreans (F-4)?

1 Korean Immigration Service under the Ministry of Justice and administrative service office for foreigners 2 Overseas Korean community center 3 Online Overseas Korean community 4 Local community service center 5 Family, relative, friend, etc. 6 Administrator 7 Media 8 Other ()

H5. Where do you live of the following regions?

1 Seoul 2 Incheon / Gyeonggi-do 3 Busan / Daegu / Gwangju / Daejeon / Ulsan 4 City (other than listed above) 5 County

→ **[H5-1] What factors would make you consider moving to a region other than a metropolitan city, Seoul, or Gyeonggi-do?**

11 Easier to obtain permanent residency status 12 No employment restrictions 13 Job placement 14 Housing support 15 Other() 16 I have no plans to move

H6. When choosing a place to live, do you prefer areas populated with residents of your ethnic background?

1 Yes 2 No 3 Doesn't matter

→ **[H6-1] When choosing a place to live, what is the main reason why you prefer areas populated with residents of your ethnic background? (Select up to 2)**

11 Easy communication 12 Easy employment 13 Information sharing (jobs, etc.) 14 Homeland food, culture, etc. 15 Assistance from relevant ethnic organizations 16 Dwelling of family, relative, friend, etc. 17 Various ethnic minority support policies of the local government 18 Other()

H7. Have you ever changed your status of residence from a working visit (H-2) visa to an overseas Korean (F-4) visa?

1 Yes 2 No → End of Questions

→ **[H7-1] Do you have experience working both on a working visit (H-2) visa and on an overseas Korean (F-4) visa?**

11 Yes 12 Employed only on a working visit (H-2) visa 13 Employed only on an overseas Korean (F-4) visa

→ End of Questions → End of Questions

[H7-2] Did the work you do change at your workplace (or company) after you changed your status of residence from a working visit (H-2) visa to an overseas Korean (F-4) visa?

11 Same work as the one assigned on a working visit (H-2) visa 12 More skilled work than the one assigned on a working visit (H-2) visa 13 Simpler work than the one assigned on a working visit (H-2) visa 14 Other ()

[H7-3] Did your wages or remunerations change after you changed your status of residence from a working visit (H-2) visa to an overseas Korean (F-4) visa?

11 Same wages or remunerations as the ones paid on a working visit (H-2) visa 12 Increased wages or remunerations than the ones paid on a working visit (H-2) visa 13 Decreased wages or remunerations than the ones paid on a working visit (H-2) visa 14 Other ()

→ End of Questions

Detailed Questions [Naturalized Citizen, Permanent Resident (F-5), Spouse of a Korean (F-5-2)]

※ Answer all (F1 to F28) if you are either eligible for naturalization, a permanent resident (F-5), or a spouse of a Korean (F-5-2)

F1. Based on your personal experience, do you think it is difficult for an **individual of a different race** to become a member of Korean society?



F2. Based on your personal experience, how difficult is it for an **individual with a different cultural background** to become a member of Korean society?



F3. Based on your personal experience, how difficult is it for an **individual with a different ethnic background** to become a member of Korean society?



F4. Based on your personal experience, how difficult is it for an **individual with a different skin color** to become a member of Korean society?



F5. Based on your personal experience, how difficult is it for an **individual with different religious beliefs** to become a member of Korean society?



F6. Based on your personal experience, how difficult is it for an **individual who speaks a different language** to become a member of Korean society?



F7. How **fair** do you think **educational opportunities** are in Korean society?



F8. How **fair** do you think the **employment opportunities** are in Korean society?



F9. How **fair** do you think the **legal system** is in Korean society?



F10. How **fair** do you think the **press or mass media** is in Korean society?



F11. Do you think it is **difficult for people like you to have any say in or influence over decisions made by the Korean government?**



F12. Do you think the **Korean government is not interested in the opinions of people like you?**



F13. Do you **consider yourself knowledgeable in the political problems that Korea is facing currently?**



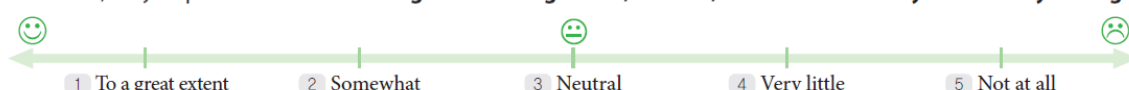
F14. Do you think you **have a good understanding of Korean politics and administration compared to other immigrants?**



F15. In Korea, do you put effort into **acting like natives from your country of origin?**



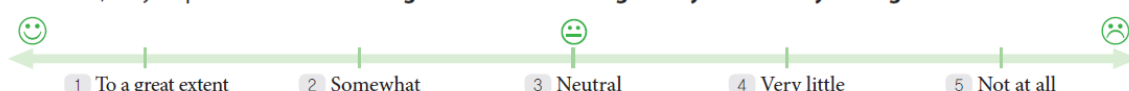
F16. In Korea, do you put effort into **listening to/watching music, movies, or TV shows from your country of origin?**



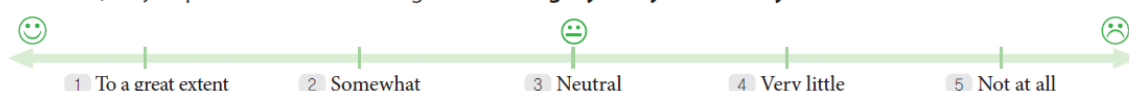
F17. In Korea, do you put effort into **eating foods from your country of origin?**



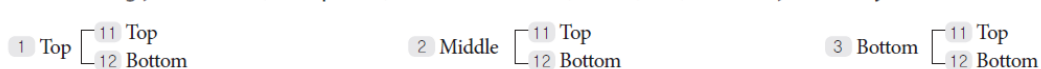
F18. In Korea, do you put effort into **wearing traditional clothing from your country of origin?**



F19. In Korea, do you put effort into following **the dwelling style of your country?**



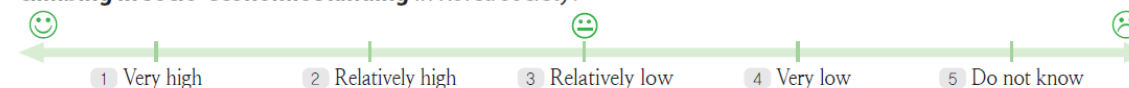
F20. Considering your income, occupation, level of education, assets, etc., what do you think **your social status is in Korea?**



F21. **How much possibility do you think you have in climbing in socio-economic standing** if you work hard in Korea society?



F22. **How much more possibility do you think your children's generation has, compared to your generation, in climbing in socio-economic standing** in Korea society?



► References

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