



REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Region: East Asia and Pacific

Income Category: High Income



Human capital – knowledge, skills, and good health – empowers people to achieve their potential and drives economic growth. This brief tracks progress by the Republic of Korea in building and using human capital. The Human Capital Complementary Indicators offer a snapshot of human capital investments at four stages of the lifecycle. The brief uses the latest available data. It is benchmarked against regional averages and reports progress over the previous 5 years.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **Neonatal mortality rate.** The neonatal mortality rate is **1** per 1,000 live births (2023), compared to 2 in 2018. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Pre-primary school gross enrollment ratio.** The pre-primary school gross enrollment ratio is **92%** (by the official age) (2020), compared to 94% in 2015. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **DTP vaccination rate, third dose.** In 2024, **97%** of infants received the third dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine, compared to 98% in 2019. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

SCHOOL AGE

- **Child mortality rate.** The mortality rate for children ages 5-14 is **1** per 1,000 children aged 5 (2023). This remains unchanged since 2018. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Learning poverty.** In 2019, **3%** of children could not read and understand a simple text, by age 10. This remains unchanged since 2015. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Primary school completion rate.** The primary school completion rate is **96%** (by the official entrance age of the last grade) (2022), compared to 98% in 2017. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

YOUTH

- **Adolescent fertility rate.** The number of births for every 1,000 women ages 15-19 is **1** (2023). This remains unchanged since 2018. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Youth not in employment, education or training.** In 2024, **11%** of youth (ages 15-24) were not in employment, education or training, compared to 13% in 2019. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Youth literacy rate.** The share of youth (ages 15-24) who are literate is **100%** (2018). The indicator is higher than the regional average.

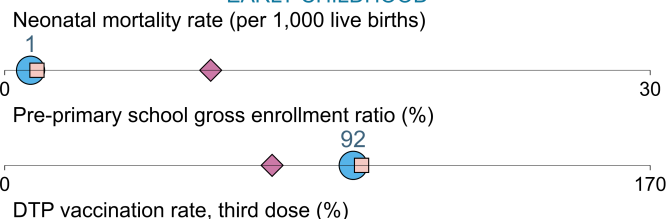
ADULTS

- **Life expectancy at birth.** Life expectancy at birth is **83** years (2023). This remains unchanged since 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Female labor force participation rate.** Female labor force participation as a percentage of the female working-age population (ages 25+) is **59%** (2024), compared to 57% in 2019. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Adult unemployment rate.** Unemployed adults as a share of the adult labor force (ages 25+) is **2%** (2024), compared to 3% in 2019. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

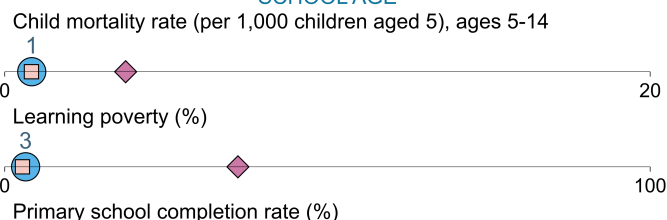
HUMAN CAPITAL COMPLEMENTARY INDICATORS

- Latest available data for the Republic of Korea (KOR)
- KOR approx. 5 years before
- Average for East Asia & Pacific

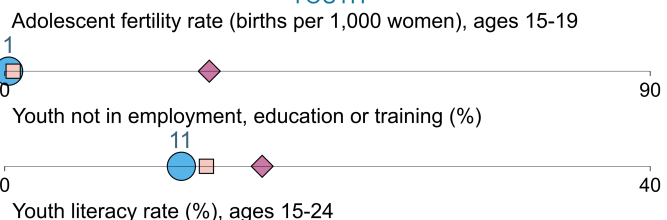
EARLY CHILDHOOD



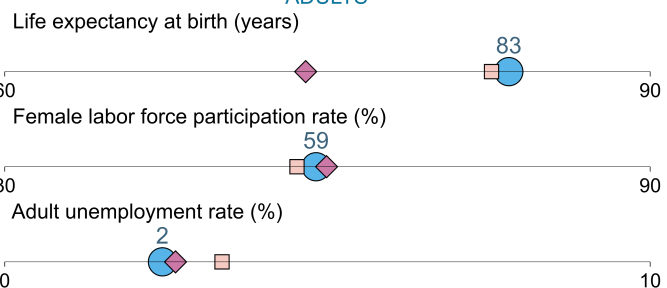
SCHOOL AGE



YOUTH



ADULTS



Note: All values use internationally comparable public datasets. Missing symbols indicate unavailable statistics. Full details can be accessed through the QR code.

