

GKI RANK 17 /133

GKI SCORE 62.9

WORLD AVERAGE 47.5

KOREA (REPUBLIC OF)

COUNTRY PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Korea (Republic of) is a leading performer in terms of its knowledge infrastructure. It ranks 17th out of 133 countries in the Global Knowledge Index 2023 and 17th out of the 61 countries with very high human development.

AREAS OF STRENGTH

- + Bank non-performing loans (%)
- + Resident patent applications (per 100 billion GDP)
- + Researchers in business enterprises (%)
- + Researchers per thousand labour force
- + Completion rate in upper secondary education

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

- Researchers in higher education (%)
- Printing and publishing output (% manufactured output)
- Participation rate in formal and non-formal education and training
- Renewable energy consumption (%)
- Ecological footprint per capita

KEY INDICATORS

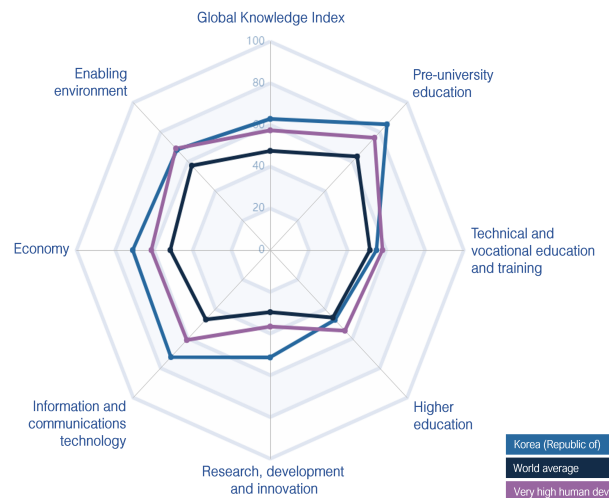
GDP (US\$ billions): 2,347.395

Population: 51,830,139

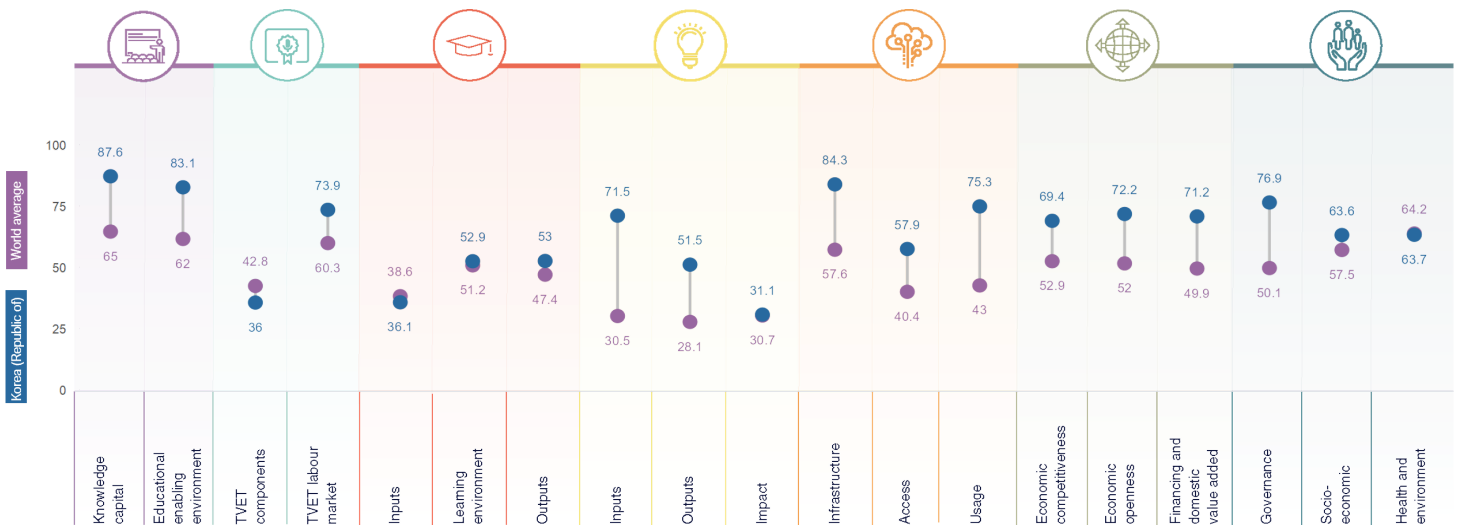
HDI: 0.925

SECTORAL INDICES

	RANK	VALUE
PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION	4	85.3
TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING	51	54.9
HIGHER EDUCATION	62	47.3
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION	6	51.4
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY	4	72.5
ECONOMY	5	71
ENABLING ENVIRONMENT	35	68.1



GKI PILLARS





KOREA (REPUBLIC OF)

	Rank	Value		Rank	Value
PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION			HIGHER EDUCATION		
Knowledge capital	4	85.3	Inputs	62	47.3
Enrolment	18	97.3	Expenditure	75	21.4
Net enrolment rate in primary education	42	96.7	Government expenditure per tertiary student	43	15
Net enrolment rate in lower secondary education	29	98.5	Teaching staff compensation (% tertiary expenditure)	62	27.8
Net enrolment rate in upper secondary education	13	96.6	Enrolment	34	41.7
Completion	30	79.4	Enrolment in bachelor's or equivalent level (%)	5	51.6
Years of compulsory education in primary and secondary	66	69.2	Enrolment in master's, doctoral or equivalent (%)	49	31.9
Completion rate in upper secondary education	1	100	Resources	107	45.3
Gross intake ratio to the last grade of lower secondary education	51	68.9	Pupil-teacher ratio in tertiary education	42	81.8
Outcomes	4	86.2	Researchers in higher education (%)	99	8.7
Assessment of 15-year-old students in math, science and reading	4	83.4	Learning environment	60	52.9
Learning-adjusted years of schooling	6	89	Diversity and academic freedom	65	52.9
Educational enabling environment	8	83.1	Teachers in tertiary education, gender parity	74	57.7
Expenditure	7	54.9	Inbound mobility rate	55	14.3
Government expenditure on primary education (% GDP)	47	36.9	Academic freedom	39	86.6
Government expenditure on secondary education (% GDP)	41	37.4	Equity and inclusiveness	n/a	n/a
Government funding per primary student (% GDP per capita)	5	76.5	Gross attendance ratio for tertiary education, gender parity	n/a	n/a
Government funding per secondary student (% GDP per capita)	4	68.7	Gross attendance ratio for tertiary education, wealth parity	n/a	n/a
Resources	36	96.3	Gross attendance ratio for tertiary education, location parity	n/a	n/a
Pupil-trained teacher ratio in primary education	26	90	Outputs	48	53
Pupil-trained teacher ratio in secondary education	19	95.1	Attainment	46	34.3
Schools with access to computers in primary education (%)	1	100	Educational attainment rate, bachelor's or equivalent	23	60
Schools with access to computers in secondary education (%)	1	100	Educational attainment rate, master's or equivalent	42	16.9
Early learning	17	83.9	Educational attainment rate, doctoral or equivalent	28	26
Gross enrolment ratio in early childhood education	19	73.8	Employment	60	79.9
Proportion of children who are developmentally on track	n/a	n/a	Labour force participation rate with advanced education	91	68.6
Proportion of children with stimulating home learning environments	n/a	n/a	Unemployment rate with advanced education	29	91.2
Pupil-trained teacher ratio in pre-primary education	19	94.1	Impact	47	44.8
Equity and inclusiveness	12	97.2	University-industry collaboration in R&D	25	61.1
Completion rate in upper secondary education, gender parity	4	99.7	Citable documents per R&D personnel in higher education	37	28.6
Completion rate in upper secondary education, wealth parity	3	93.3			
Completion rate in upper secondary education, location parity	21	98.6			
TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING			RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION		
TVET components	98	36	Inputs	1	71.5
Continuous training and skilling	63	43.4	Inputs of R&D institutions	3	73.2
Firms offering formal training (%)	n/a	n/a	GERD (% GDP)	2	89.5
Labour force participation rate with short-cycle tertiary education	30	81.6	GERD per researcher	22	27.6
Participation rate in formal and non-formal education and training	111	5.2	Researchers per thousand labour force	1	100
TVET structure	114	12.6	Tertiary graduates from STEM programmes (%)	18	75.5
Government expenditure on vocational education (%)	n/a	n/a	Inputs of RDI in business enterprises	1	92.7
Share of students enrolled in secondary vocational programmes	74	12.6	GERD performed by business enterprises (%)	2	83.4
Share of students enrolled in post-secondary vocational programmes	n/a	n/a	GERD financed by business enterprises (%)	2	94.8
TVET quality and qualifications	19	51.8	Researchers in business enterprises (%)	1	100
Extent of staff training	52	60.7	Firms that spend on R&D (%)	n/a	n/a
Quality of vocational training	47	58.3	Inputs of societal innovation	24	46.8
Ratio of high-skill TVET occupations earnings to average wage	n/a	n/a	High-skilled employment (%)	38	45.4
Ratio of medium-skill TVET occupations earnings to average wage	37	36.6	Intellectual property payments (% total trade)	19	35.9
TVET labour market	19	73.9	State of cluster development	30	59.1
Efficiency of the labour market	33	74.2	Outputs	5	51.5
Firms constrained with inadequately educated workforce (%)	n/a	n/a	Outputs of R&D institutions	22	46.1
Employment educational mismatch (%)	74	55.5	Average documents per researcher	96	6
Proportion of skilled production workers	n/a	n/a	Citations per document	61	32.3
Unemployment rate with vocational education	10	92.8	Resident patent applications (per 100 billion GDP)	1	100
Post-TVET employment	12	70	Outputs of RDI in business enterprises	4	78.6
Share of TVET occupations	7	80.3	Intellectual property receipts (% total trade)	18	35.9
Manufacturing employment (%)	30	59.7	Industrial design applications (per 100 billion GDP)	1	100
Equity and inclusiveness	54	77.4	PCT applications (per 100 billion GDP)	1	100
Enrolment in vocational education, gender parity	65	75.1	Firms producing new products and services (%)	n/a	n/a
Vulnerable employment rate	58	79.8	Outputs of societal innovation	18	35.3
			Trademark applications (per 100 billion GDP)	7	72
			Cultural goods exports (% exports)	25	31
			Printing and publishing output (% manufactured output)	99	2.8
			Impact	61	31.1
			Quality	18	49.1
			Research institutions prominence	11	77.3
			Growth of innovative companies	48	51.1
			ISO 9001 quality certificates (per billion GDP)	27	28.2
			ISO 14001 environmental certificates (per billion GDP)	18	39.7
			Linkages	79	13.2
			GERD financed from abroad (%)	84	3.7
			Joint ventures per strategic alliance deals (per billion GDP)	31	14.2
			Computer software spending (% GDP)	62	21.6
			Business development	n/a	n/a
			New business density per thousand population	n/a	n/a
			Firms with products and services new to the market (%)	n/a	n/a



KOREA (REPUBLIC OF)

	Rank	Value		Rank	Value
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY	4	72.5	ENABLING ENVIRONMENT	35	68.1
Infrastructure	6	84.3	Governance	26	76.9
Coverage	28	74.4	Political environment	31	69.8
3G/4G mobile network coverage (% population)	21	99.9	Peace and stability	37	64.6
Secure Internet servers per 1 million population	50	69.3	Voice and accountability	33	74.9
Investment in telecommunication services (% GDP)	26	54.1	Quality of institutions	23	84
Quality	3	85.9	Rule of law	32	76.9
Mobile upload and download speeds	2	82.7	Control of corruption	16	90.1
Fixed-broadband upload and download speeds	2	83.1	Government effectiveness	22	84.9
Fixed-broadband subscriptions by speed per hundred people	4	92	Socio-economic	49	63.6
Affordability	48	92.6	Gender equity	80	65.4
Fixed broadband basket (% GNI per capita)	29	93.7	Female-to-male ratio in parliament	100	23.6
Mobile broadband basket (% GNI per capita)	40	96.8	Female-to-male labour force participation	83	74
Internet and telephony competition	95	87.5	Female-to-male ratio in Internet usage	44	98.8
Access	20	57.9	Social inclusion	35	86.5
Subscriptions	20	67	Social protection coverage (% population)	38	82.4
Active mobile-broadband subscriptions per hundred inhabitants	23	50	Adult literacy rate	23	98.3
International Internet bandwidth per user	62	51	Youth not in employment, education or training (%)	40	78.7
Households with Internet access at home (%)	4	100	Standard of living	75	39
Skills and employment	20	48.9	Poverty headcount ratio (% population)	n/a	n/a
Individuals with standard ICT skills (%)	6	74.8	GDP per capita	27	39
Tertiary graduates from ICT programmes (%)	59	29.1	Health and environment	76	63.7
ICT employment (%)	31	42.7	Health	2	95.5
Usage	7	75.3	Universal health coverage	2	89.1
Services	24	67	Healthy life expectancy (years)	2	98.3
Government online services	3	98.3	Under-five mortality rate	14	99.2
Fixed broadband Internet traffic per subscription	20	41.3	Environmental performance	129	31.9
Mobile broadband Internet traffic per subscription	23	31.5	Renewable energy consumption (%)	118	3.8
Internet users (%)	12	97	Ecological footprint per capita	115	51
Outcomes	6	83.6	Natural hazard exposure	106	41
ICT PCT patent applications (per 100 billion GDP)	1	100			
E-participation	8	94.3			
Internet activities by individuals (%)	3	91.6			
Trade in digitally deliverable services (% total trade)	37	48.5			
ECONOMY	5	71			
Economic competitiveness	14	69.4			
Infrastructure investment	15	64.7			
Gross fixed capital formation (% GDP)	12	43.8			
Logistics performance	15	70			
Transport productive capacity	29	65.1			
Building quality control	45	80			
Business agility	22	74.2			
Ease of starting a business	29	93.4			
Insolvency recovery rate	13	91.7			
Entrepreneurial employee activity rate	33	25.8			
Extent of corporate transparency	13	85.7			
Economic openness	10	72.2			
Trade and diversification	12	67.5			
Trade (% GDP)	54	19.9			
High-technology trade (% total trade)	7	79			
Product concentration	35	82.7			
Market concentration	75	88.5			
Financial openness	22	77			
Chinn-Ito financial openness	1	100			
Foreign direct investment, net inflows (% GDP)	101	32.4			
Debt dynamics	32	98.5			
Financing and domestic value added	6	71.2			
Financing and taxes	4	80.1			
Domestic credit to private sector (% GDP)	4	65.8			
MSME financing gap (% GDP)	n/a	n/a			
Tax and contribution rate (% profit)	47	74.4			
Bank non-performing loans (%)	1	100			
Domestic value added	11	62.3			
Medium- and high-tech activities value added	3	77.7			
Industry and services value added (% GDP)	25	58.4			
Labour underutilization rate	40	79.4			
Output per worker	33	33.7			

*All values are normalized to a scale from 0 (worst) to 100 (best).