



GKI RANK 21 /141

GKI SCORE

62.3

WORLD AVERAGE

47.8

COUNTRY PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Korea (Republic of) is a leading performer in terms of its knowledge infrastructure. It ranks 21st out of 141 countries in the Global Knowledge Index 2024 and 21st out of the 59 countries with very high human development.

KOREA (REPUBLIC OF)

KEY INDICATORS

GDP (US\$ billions): 2,615.223

Population: 51,748,739

HDI: 0.929

AREAS OF STRENGTH

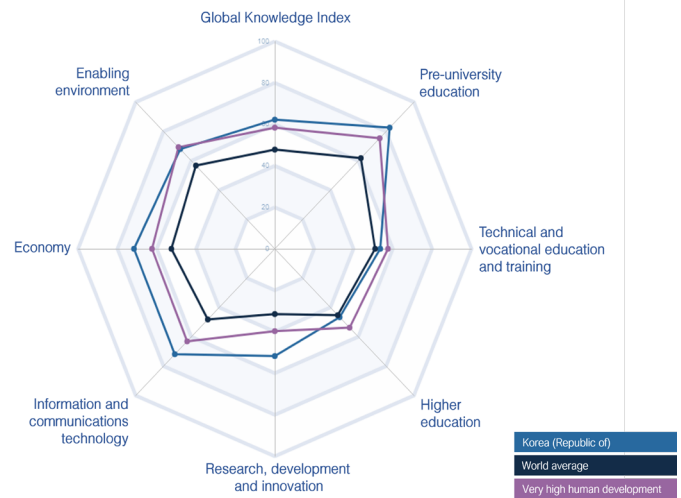
- + Researchers per thousand labour force
- + Researchers in business enterprises (%)
- + Resident patent applications (per 100 billion GDP)
- + Government online services
- + ICT PCT patent applications (per 100 billion GDP)

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

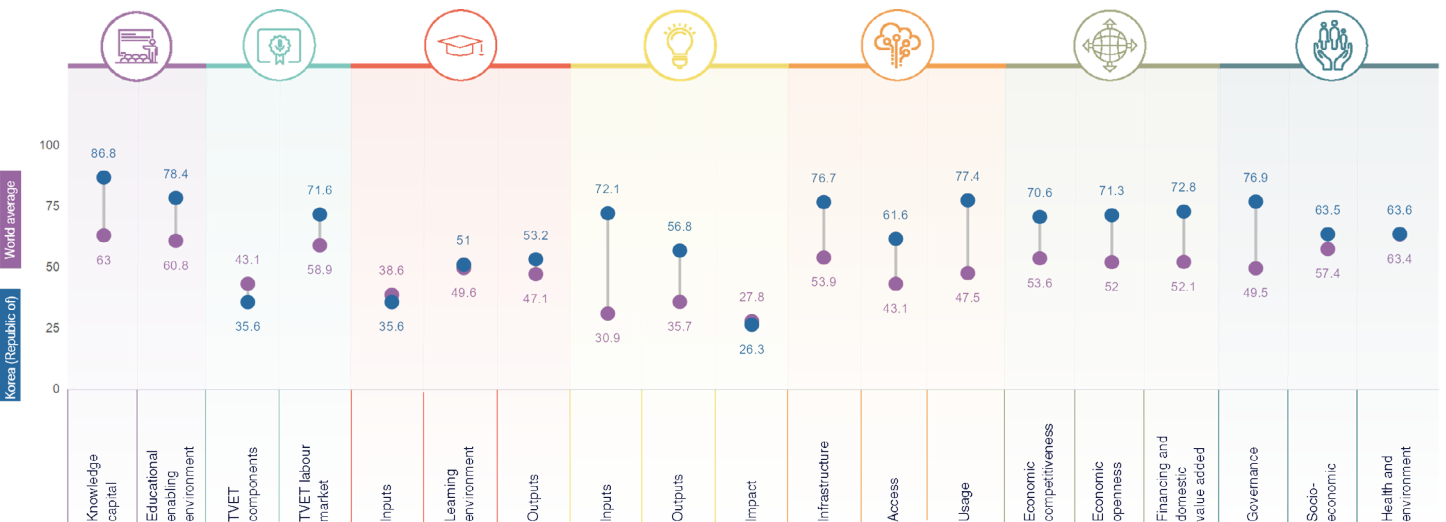
- Researchers in higher education (%)
- Printing and publishing output (% manufactured output)
- Participation rate in formal and non-formal education and training
- Renewable energy consumption (%)
- Average documents per researcher

SECTORAL INDICES

	RANK	VALUE
PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION	8	82.6
TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING	58	53.6
HIGHER EDUCATION	68	46.6
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION	8	51.7
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY	10	71.9
ECONOMY	5	71.6
ENABLING ENVIRONMENT	35	68



GKI PILLARS





KOREA (REPUBLIC OF)

	Rank	Value
PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION	8	82.6
Knowledge capital	3	86.8
Enrolment	18	97.5
Net enrolment rate in primary education	36	97.8
Net enrolment rate in lower secondary education	12	99.6
Net enrolment rate in upper secondary education	19	95.2
Completion	26	79.6
Years of compulsory education in primary and secondary	68	69.2
Completion rate in upper secondary education	1	100
Gross intake ratio to the last grade of lower secondary education	30	69.5
Outcomes	4	83.2
Assessment of 15-year-old students in math, science and reading	3	77
Learning-adjusted years of schooling	6	89.4
Educational enabling environment	15	78.4
Expenditure	6	56.9
Government expenditure on primary education (% GDP)	48	37.3
Government expenditure on secondary education (% GDP)	37	39.2
Government funding per primary student (% GDP per capita)	2	76.9
Government funding per secondary student (% GDP per capita)	3	74.2
Resources	34	97.5
Pupil-trained teacher ratio in primary education	23	94.6
Pupil-trained teacher ratio in secondary education	17	95.4
Schools with access to computers in primary education (%)	1	100
Schools with access to computers in secondary education (%)	1	100
Early learning	18	80.6
Gross enrolment ratio in early childhood education	24	65.3
Proportion of children who are developmentally on track	n/a	n/a
Proportion of children with stimulating home learning environments	n/a	n/a
Pupil-trained teacher ratio in pre-primary education	15	96
Equity and inclusiveness	n/a	n/a
Completion rate in upper secondary education, gender parity	n/a	n/a
Completion rate in upper secondary education, wealth parity	n/a	n/a
Completion rate in upper secondary education, location parity	n/a	n/a
TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING	58	53.6
TVET components	111	35.6
Continuous training and skilling	68	44.3
Firms offering formal training (%)	n/a	n/a
Labour force participation rate with short-cycle tertiary education	29	79.9
Participation rate in formal and non-formal education and training	125	8.6
TVET structure	121	12
Government expenditure on vocational education (%)	n/a	n/a
Share of students enrolled in secondary vocational programmes	80	12
Share of students enrolled in post-secondary vocational programmes	n/a	n/a
TVET quality and qualifications	23	50.6
Extent of staff training	53	60.7
Quality of vocational training	48	58.3
Ratio of high-skill TVET occupations earnings to average wage	n/a	n/a
Ratio of medium-skill TVET occupations earnings to average wage	44	32.8
TVET labour market	23	71.6
Efficiency of the labour market	39	74.4
Firms constrained with inadequately educated workforce (%)	n/a	n/a
Employment educational mismatch (%)	82	55.3
Proportion of skilled production workers	n/a	n/a
Unemployment rate with vocational education	9	93.5
Post-TVET employment	14	66.4
Share of TVET occupations	7	80.4
Manufacturing employment (%)	30	52.4
Equity and inclusiveness	59	73.9
Enrolment in vocational education, gender parity	82	67.6
Vulnerable employment rate	49	80.2

	Rank	Value
HIGHER EDUCATION	68	46.6
Inputs	90	35.6
Expenditure	76	21
Government expenditure per tertiary student	40	14.9
Teaching staff compensation (% tertiary expenditure)	65	27.2
Enrolment	34	39.3
Enrolment in bachelor's or equivalent level (%)	5	48.7
Enrolment in master's, doctoral or equivalent (%)	50	30
Resources	108	46.3
Pupil-teacher ratio in tertiary education	41	83.9
Researchers in higher education (%)	98	8.7
Learning environment	67	51
Diversity and academic freedom	71	51
Teachers in tertiary education, gender parity	72	59.4
Inbound mobility rate	57	10.8
Academic freedom	45	82.8
Equity and inclusiveness	n/a	n/a
Gross attendance ratio for tertiary education, gender parity	n/a	n/a
Gross attendance ratio for tertiary education, wealth parity	n/a	n/a
Gross attendance ratio for tertiary education, location parity	n/a	n/a
Outputs	45	53.2
Attainment	46	33.7
Educational attainment rate, bachelor's or equivalent	16	58.2
Educational attainment rate, master's or equivalent	50	17.2
Educational attainment rate, doctoral or equivalent	38	25.7
Employment	64	81
Labour force participation rate with advanced education	94	70.4
Unemployment rate with advanced education	33	91.6
Impact	49	45
University-industry collaboration in R&D	26	61.1
Citable documents per R&D personnel in higher education	36	28.8
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION	8	51.7
Inputs	1	72.1
Inputs of R&D institutions	4	74.1
GERD (% GDP)	2	88.7
GERD per researcher	29	33.6
Researchers per thousand labour force	1	100
Tertiary graduates from STEM programmes (%)	20	74
Inputs of RDI in business enterprises	1	92.7
GERD performed by business enterprises (%)	2	83.4
GERD financed by business enterprises (%)	2	94.8
Researchers in business enterprises (%)	1	100
Firms that spend on R&D (%)	n/a	n/a
Inputs of societal innovation	23	47.7
High-skilled employment (%)	41	46.4
Intellectual property payments (% total trade)	20	37.5
State of cluster development	31	59.1
Outputs	7	56.8
Outputs of R&D institutions	26	50.6
Average documents per researcher	98	6
Citations per document	44	45.8
Resident patent applications (per 100 billion GDP)	1	100
Outputs of RDI in business enterprises	6	82.2
Intellectual property receipts (% total trade)	16	49.5
Industrial design applications (per 100 billion GDP)	2	96.9
PCT applications (per 100 billion GDP)	1	100
Firms producing new products and services (%)	n/a	n/a
Outputs of societal innovation	32	43.9
Trademark applications (per 100 billion GDP)	9	45.1
Cultural goods exports (% exports)	26	84.3
Printing and publishing output (% manufactured output)	102	2.4
Impact	72	26.3
Quality	5	52.7
Research institutions prominence	11	60.6
Growth of innovative companies	47	51.1
ISO 9001 quality certificates (per billion GDP)	16	41.1
ISO 14001 environmental certificates (per billion GDP)	9	57.8
Linkages	78	13.5
GERD financed from abroad (%)	82	3.7
Joint ventures per strategic alliance deals (per billion GDP)	30	14.4
Computer software spending (% GDP)	61	22.3
Business development	128	12.6
New business density per thousand population	50	12.6
Firms with products and services new to the market (%)	n/a	n/a



KOREA (REPUBLIC OF)

	Rank Value	
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY	10	71.9
Infrastructure	11	76.7
Coverage	41	67.6
3G/4G mobile network coverage (% population)	21	99.8
Secure Internet servers per 1 million population	50	68.8
Investment in telecommunication services (% GDP)	39	34.3
Quality	3	74.8
Mobile upload and download speeds	3	60.6
Fixed-broadband upload and download speeds	13	68.4
Fixed-broadband subscriptions by speed per hundred people	3	95.4
Affordability	51	87.6
Fixed broadband basket (% GNI per capita)	32	78.3
Mobile broadband basket (% GNI per capita)	40	97
Internet and telephony competition	97	87.5
Access	19	61.6
Subscriptions	21	72.3
Active mobile-broadband subscriptions per hundred inhabitants	25	59.8
International Internet bandwidth per user	61	57.2
Households with Internet access at home (%)	3	100
Skills and employment	17	50.8
Individuals with standard ICT skills (%)	6	71.8
Tertiary graduates from ICT programmes (%)	63	28.5
ICT employment (%)	29	52.1
Usage	5	77.4
Services	16	70.8
Government online services	1	100
Fixed broadband Internet traffic per subscription	18	52.3
Mobile broadband Internet traffic per subscription	28	33.8
Internet users (%)	10	97.1
Outcomes	4	83.9
ICT PCT patent applications (per 100 billion GDP)	1	100
E-participation	3	97.3
Internet activities by individuals (%)	8	86.7
Trade in digitally deliverable services (% total trade)	29	51.7
ECONOMY	5	71.6
Economic competitiveness	16	70.6
Infrastructure investment	11	67
Gross fixed capital formation (% GDP)	10	57.3
Logistics performance	15	70
Transport productive capacity	27	60.6
Building quality control	46	80
Business agility	22	74.2
Ease of starting a business	27	93.4
Insolvency recovery rate	13	91.8
Entrepreneurial employee activity rate	33	25.8
Extent of corporate transparency	12	85.7
Economic openness	10	71.3
Trade and diversification	14	63.9
Trade (% GDP)	63	20.3
High-technology trade (% total trade)	6	63.6
Product concentration	44	83.2
Market concentration	80	88.5
Financial openness	22	78.7
Chinn-Ito financial openness	1	100
Foreign direct investment, net inflows (% GDP)	109	36.9
Debt dynamics	29	99.3
Financing and domestic value added	6	72.8
Financing and taxes	5	79
Domestic credit to private sector (% GDP)	4	71
MSME financing gap (% GDP)	n/a	n/a
Tax and contribution rate (% profit)	53	66
Bank non-performing loans (%)	1	100
Domestic value added	13	66.5
Medium- and high-tech activities value added	4	70.7
Industry and services value added (% GDP)	25	80.6
Labour underutilization rate	41	79.4
Output per worker	33	35.5

	Rank Value	
ENABLING ENVIRONMENT	35	68
Governance	28	76.9
Political environment	33	69.8
Peace and stability	39	64.6
Voice and accountability	35	74.9
Quality of institutions	23	84
Rule of law	22	84.9
Control of corruption	33	76.9
Government effectiveness	16	90.1
Socio-economic	58	63.5
Gender equity	84	66.3
Female-to-male ratio in parliament	98	25
Female-to-male labour force participation	86	75.3
Female-to-male ratio in Internet usage	55	98.6
Social inclusion	35	86.4
Social protection coverage (% population)	41	79.7
Adult literacy rate	26	98.3
Youth not in employment, education or training (%)	35	81.1
Standard of living	76	37.8
Poverty headcount ratio (% population)	n/a	n/a
GDP per capita	26	37.8
Health and environment	78	63.6
Health	2	94.7
Universal health coverage	2	89.1
Healthy life expectancy (years)	2	95.9
Under-five mortality rate	13	99.2
Environmental performance	137	32.6
Renewable energy consumption (%)	127	3.7
Ecological footprint per capita	122	53.9
Natural hazard exposure	124	40

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