KOREA MATTERS FOR AMERICA

KoreaMattersforAmerica.org
The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the US Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options.

*Korea Matters for America* is part of the *Asia Matters for America* initiative and is coordinated by the East-West Center in Washington. For more information, please contact:

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The United States and South Korea in Profile

The United States and South Korea are leaders in the world. The US economy is the world’s largest, while South Korea’s is the fifteenth largest. The United States is the world’s largest exporter and South Korea is the eleventh largest. Both countries have democratic governments and populations that are almost evenly distributed between rural and urban areas. South Korea is, by some measures, the world’s most digitally advanced country, with more cell phones than people.

Sources: World Bank; US Central Intelligence Agency; US Census Bureau; US Department of State
US Trade with South Korea Totals $115 Billion

In 2010, South Korea was the United States’ seventh largest two-way trading partner. US exports of goods and services to Korea are valued at $55 billion, an increase of 92% from 2001. US imports from South Korea are nearly $60 billion. The US trade deficit on goods and services has declined 61%, from $12 billion in 2001 to $5 billion in 2010.

The Korea-US Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA), signed in 2007, would eliminate nearly 95 percent of all bilateral tariffs within three years of ratification.

Sources: US Department of Commerce; United Nations, 2010

US TRADING BY PARTNER COUNTRY POPULATION

US trade with Korea is higher than with China and Japan when adjusted for population.

Source: IMF Direction of Trade Statistics, 2009

TOP EXPORT PARTNERS: (IN BILLIONS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>US$</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>$204.7</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>$129.0</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>China (PRC)</td>
<td>$69.6</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>$51.2</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>$45.7</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>$43.3</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>$32.3</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>$28.6</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>$27.0</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>$26.2</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total US Exports</td>
<td>$1,057.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL KOREAN EXPORTS $373.2

Source: US Department of Commerce

COMPOSITION OF US GOODS EXPORTS TO KOREA, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>US$</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Machinery and Transport Equipment</td>
<td>$15.4</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemicals and Related Products</td>
<td>$16.3</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Live Animals</td>
<td>$1.5</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles</td>
<td>$4.3</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Others</td>
<td>($8.5 billion)</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Department of Commerce
13 US States Have Doubled Exports to Korea since 2002

An additional ten states have increased exports by at least 50% during this period. Thirteen states export more than $500 million a year to Korea. Six states send 5% or more of their total merchandise exports to Korea; Alaska has the highest share at 14%.

**STATE PER CAPITA EXPORTS TO SOUTH KOREA, 2010**

**TOP 10 EXPORTERS TO KOREA, 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>USD (Millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>$5,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>$5,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>$2,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>$1,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>$1,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>$826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>$707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>$676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>$669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>$625</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Department of Commerce
Exports to South Korea Support 114,000 US Jobs

Exports to Korea supported an estimated 114,000 jobs in the United States in 2010, 25% more than in 2002. These jobs are spread across the country: 27 states had at least 1,000 jobs supported by exports to South Korea and 5 states had more than 5,000 jobs.

Sources: The Trade Partnership, Washington, DC; US Census Bureau
Korean Investment in the US Has Increased 400% in the Last Decade

South Korean investment in the United States increased from $3 billion in 2001 to $12 billion in 2009. US investment in South Korea has nearly tripled, from $10 billion in 2001 to $27 billion in 2009. This investment creates jobs, such as at South Korean car manufacturing plants. Hyundai’s plant in Montgomery, Alabama, and Kia’s plant in West Point, Georgia, together have created about 8,000 jobs in the last few years.

Other leading Korean investors in the US include Samsung, Hyundai, Kia, Doosan Heavy Industry, and SK Corporation. Leading US investors in Korea include 3M, GM, Chevron, IBM, and Citigroup.
South Korea is the 3rd Leading Source of Foreign Students in the US

The number of South Korean students in the United States has increased significantly in the last decade, rising by nearly half from 49,000 students in the academic year starting 2001 to 72,000 in 2009. Only China and India have more students in the US.

When adjusted for population, Korea sends the greatest number of students among the top five sources of international students in the US.

### COUNTRY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Students in US per 100,000 Source Country Pop.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>150.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>115.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>82.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: International Institute of Education, 2009-10 academic year
Korean Students Contribute $2 Billion to the US Economy

South Koreans also make up an increasing share of all international students. In 2001/02, they represented 8.4% of all international students in the United States; in 2008/09 they reached a high of 11.2%. A majority of South Korean students are undergraduates (50%), while about one in three is a graduate student.

Share of All Foreign Students in the US

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>% of South Korean Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>11,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>8,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>4,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>3,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>2,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>2,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>2,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>2,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>2,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>1,859</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: International Institute of Education, 2009
Koreans Make Up 10% of the Asian American Population

More than 1.3 million Korean Americans live in the United States, an increase of 4.4% since 2004. Nearly 75% of Korean Americans are foreign-born. Koreans are the fifth largest Asian American community after Chinese, Indians, Filipinos, and Vietnamese.

**KOREAN AMERICAN POPULATION, 2009**

Source: US Census Bureau
US and Korea Share 54 Sister City Relationships

The United States and South Korea have a total of 54 sister city relationships, which are municipal partnerships between US cities, counties, and states with similar jurisdictions in South Korea.

SOUTH KOREA AND US SISTER CITIES

Sources: Sister Cities International; Individual sister city associations
The United States and South Korea Are Allies

The 1953 Mutual Defense Treaty remains the cornerstone of the two countries’ security relationship, which has guaranteed peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and the region for over fifty years. The United States currently maintains about 28,500 military personnel in the Republic of Korea (ROK), and the Combined Forces Command (CFC), established in 1978, has been the centerpiece of the ROK-US Alliance. However, responding to the vast increase in capabilities of the ROK Armed Forces, armistice Operational Control of the ROK Armed Forces was returned to the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) in 1994. The Alliance is currently implementing a comprehensive strategy to achieve transfer of wartime Operational Control by 2015 to the ROK JCS.

US BASES IN KOREA

CURRENT DEPLOYMENT

SOUTH KOREA

NORTH KOREA

Pyongyang

Seoul

After Reployment

Centered in 2 major areas, 16 bases

CAMP CASEY
CAMP HOVEY
CAMP CASTLE
CAMP RED CLOUD
CAMP JACKSON
CAMP STANLEY
CAMP MARKET
YONGSAN GARRISON
K-16 AIR BASE
CAMP YONGIN
OSAN AIR FORCE BASE
CAMP EAGLE
CAMP LONG
CAMP HUMPHREYS
KUNSAN AIR BASE
CAMP CARROLL
CAMP HENRY
CAMP WALKER
FLEET ACTIVITIES CHINHAE

GUNSAN

Pohang

SOUTH KOREAN REGIONS

MIDDLE REGION

SOUTHERN REGION

US MILITARY PERSONNEL IN SOUTH KOREA, 1990-2008

45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5

10
20
30
40


Sources: United States Forces Korea; US Department of Defense; US Department of State

Sources: Department of Defense; CSIS; Korea Ministry of Defense
The United States and South Korea in Global Partnership

US-South Korea relations matter for the world. Together, the two countries fund nearly 30% of the total budget for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. The two countries are both members of the Group of Twenty (G20) and the Nuclear Security Summit, which was initiated by US President Barack Obama in 2010 and is scheduled to be held in 2012 in South Korea.

The two countries work closely on a broad range of issues, such as addressing the challenges of terrorism, piracy, climate change, poverty, infringement of human rights, security, and epidemic diseases. Korea contributes to peacekeeping and development assistance in Iraq and Afghanistan. Both countries seek permanent peace and peaceful reunification on the Korean Peninsula. In the United Nations, South Korea is in the top quarter of countries that vote in agreement with the United States.

KOREAN FAVORABLE VIEWS OF THE US
A US diplomatic naval mission to Korea turns into the Battle of Ganghwa, the first US military action in Korea.

Philip Jaisohn, or Seo Jae-pil, becomes the first naturalized US citizen from Korea, later also becoming the first Korean to receive an American medical degree.

Diplomatic relations between the United States and Korea are established.

Korea and the US sign a Treaty of Amity and Commerce.

The Treaty of Portsmouth formally ends the Russo-Japanese War and paves the way for Japan’s domination and annexation of the Korean Peninsula.

World War II ends and the US and Allies liberate the Korean Peninsula from Japanese control.

The United States and South Korea sign a mutual defense treaty.

The Republic of Korea, the formal name for South Korea, is established on August 15, with Syngman Rhee as its first president.

Lyndon B. Johnson becomes the first US president to visit South Korea, expressing appreciation for South Korea’s troop presence in Vietnam.

The Korean War begins after North Korean troops invade the South on June 25. The war continues until its belligerents, excluding South Korea, sign an armistice agreement on July 27, 1953 at Panmunjeom.
1976: The Ulchi-Focus Lens annual joint military exercise starts. Now known as Ulchi Freedom Guardian, it is the world's largest command and control simulation exercise.

1982: The Korean pro-democracy student movement becomes increasingly militant, blaming the US for perceived support of authoritarian President Chun Doo-hwan. Several incidents of violence occur against American targets during the following years.

1993: Kim Young-sam becomes the first democratically elected president of South Korea.

1994: The United States and North Korea sign the Agreed Framework to replace North Korean nuclear power plants with light-water reactor power plants.

1999: The first round of the Six Party Talks takes place, bringing together five Northeast Asian countries and the United States to discuss North Korea's unauthorized nuclear weapons program.

2002: The United States and South Korea sign a free trade agreement that, if ratified, would likely eliminate nearly 95 percent of all bilateral tariffs over three years.

2003: The United States and South Korea sign a free trade agreement that, if ratified, would likely eliminate nearly 95 percent of all bilateral tariffs over three years.

2005: US President George W. Bush and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun launch a US-South Korea strategic dialogue on November 17.

2007: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates meet with their South Korean counterparts after the sinking of the South Korean ship Cheonan.

2008: South Korea lifts a five-year ban on beef imports from the United States.

2010: South Korea's 520 troops depart Iraq after a four-year mission.

2011

Major Sources: US Department of State; Library of Congress; US Embassy in Seoul, South Korea; Council on Foreign Relations

AsiaMattersforAmerica.org provides a hub for a global audience to explore the importance of Asia to the United States and the United States to Asia at the national, state, and local levels. The graphical project, including an interactive website, reveals surprising findings through the use of maps, charts, graphs, and raw data, allowing comparison across countries and states.
Korea Matters for America

Part of the Asia Matters for America initiative, this publication and its corresponding website KoreaMattersforAmerica.org provide tools for a global audience to explore the enduring significance of the US-South Korea relationship in the 21st century.

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