



# OECD Demographics Survey Republic of Korea

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## Factsheet

Fertility rate (births/woman)	Net migration rate (entering-leaving/1000)	Family policies	Attitude towards immigration
0.81 (38th in the OECD)	1.70 (33rd in the OECD)	Generous	Friendly

### Immigration Policies

Although Korea has looked favourably at immigrants for the past couple of decades (a consequence of its fertility rate, by far the lowest in the OECD), it has failed to implement a sustainable immigration policy. Current attitudes see immigrants as mere economic tools which can address the needs of the economy in the shadow of the demographic shift. The country provides very little support and opportunities to foreigners to become Korean citizens and integrate into Korean society. Popular expectations (as well as policies) lag behind the times, expecting immigrants to keep a low profile and assimilate.

**Potential allies:** Japan, Australia, Hungary

### Family Policies

Korea has the world's most acute ageing crisis, leading to significant government support for families (e.g. 1 year parental leave for both parents). Despite this, birth rates remain low due to cultural issues. Only 25% of mothers and 5% of fathers utilize this leave for example, as they (particularly mothers) struggle to re-enter the job market after, due to the work culture. Private education is also quite popular, to help kids get ahead in their careers, making raising children more expensive. Policies aimed at fixing these issues include capping weekly work hours at 52, and providing child care institutions and educational support.

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