



RESEARCH GUIDE Korean Society in Change: Statistics and Sources (IV)

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This research guide is the last service provided by the current editorial board of KJS. Although the past three issues were not comprehensive, they covered many statistics that show some salient trends in the contemporary Korean society. In addition, we also provided a list of online data sources that are accessible in Korean and English. As we believe that the list is comprehensive enough, we will not provide more in this issue. However, we still think that there are more to be reported with regard to statistics. The statistical topics presented thus far include population, economic life, education, social welfare, class, culture, and gender. As readers must have noted, what is important but has been missing is the political life of Koreans. In the course of rapid social change in the past few decades, the Korean society also witnessed a remarkable political change. Ever since the great civil protest against military-authoritarian regime in 1987, the Korean society has undergone durable democratization, as exemplified by two peaceful regime changes in 1998 and 2008, the growth of civil society, the explosion of internet political participation, and the emergence of peaceful candle light demonstration of various identity groups that replaced the earlier violent one. However, it also seems true that there are realities that do not easily change. The Korean nation is still divided into South and North, which often leads to unpredictable tension and confrontations. This situation is echoed in South Korean politics. Despite the global demise of socialist regimes and the subsequent end of cold war, the ideological opposition between left and right is persistent in the contemporary Korean society. Regionalism is also rampant. Although it is often expressed as a pejorative sign of political backwardness, it is easily utilized for political campaigns and haunts every national election. This issue introduces a few indices of the political consciousness of Koreans. Additionally, we present a few indices that enable readers to see Korean society from a global perspective.

STATISTICS

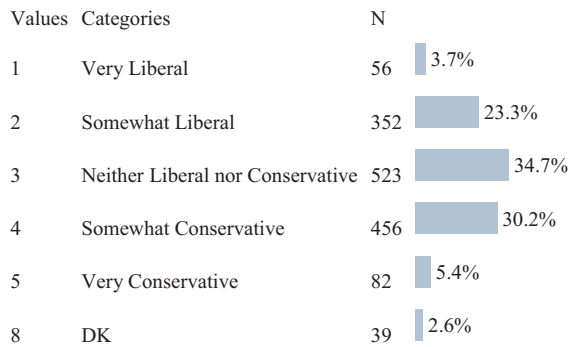
Political Life

We obtained statistics from Korean General Social Survey (KGSS) available at Korea Social Science Data Archive (<http://www.kosssda.or.kr>). We present four indices: Political Ideology (Figure 1-1 to 1-3), Attitudes Toward North Korea (Figure 2), Country Feel Closest to (Figure 3), How Satisfied with the Current State of Politics (Figure 4), and Confidence in Political and

Civil Organizations (Figures 5-1 to 5-5).

Figure 1-1. Political Ideology in 2008

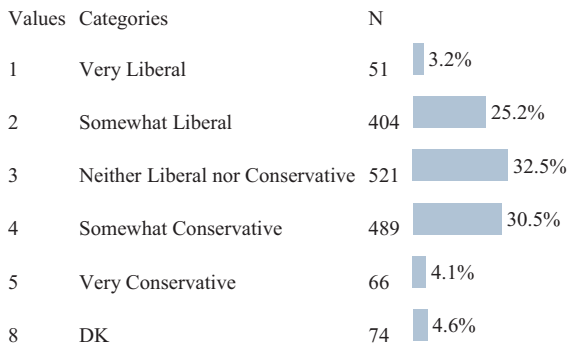
Literal Question: To what degree do you think yourself politically liberal or conservative?



Source | KGSS at KOSSDA.

Figure 1-2. Political Ideology in 2006

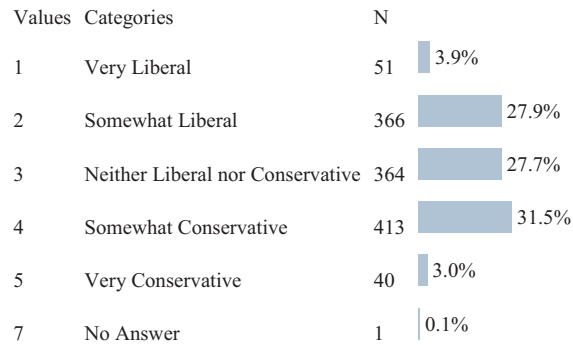
Literal Question: To what degree do you think yourself politically liberal or conservative?



Source | KGSS at KOSSDA.

Figure 1-3. Political Ideology in 2004

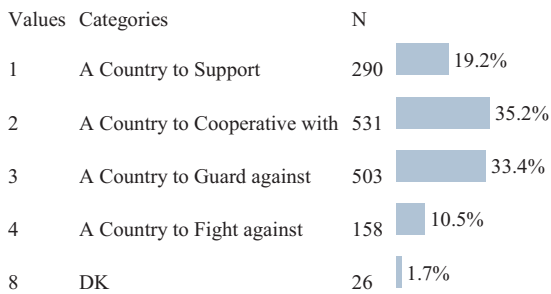
Literal Question: To what degree do you think yourself politically liberal or conservative?



Source | KGSS at KOSSDA.

Figure 2. Attitudes towards North Korea in 2008

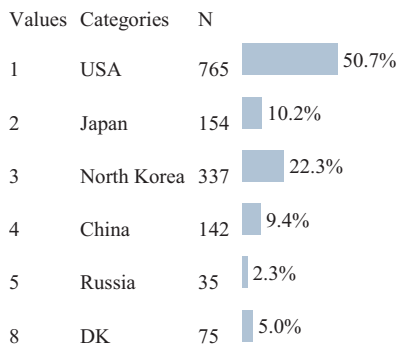
Literal Question: What do you think North Korea is to us? Please choose one answer only among the following.



Source | KGSS at KOSSDA.

Figure 3. Country Feel Closest to in 2008

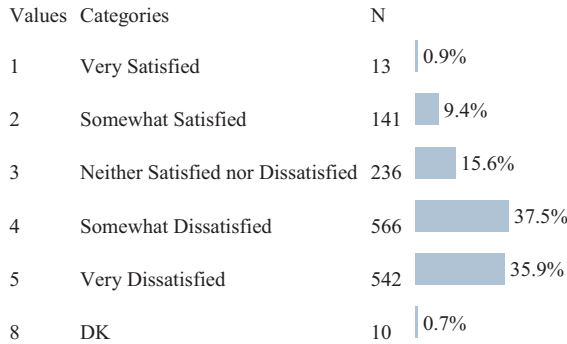
Literal Question: Which country do you feel closest to among the following countries?



Source | KGSS at KOSSDA.

Figure 4. How Satisfied with the Current State of Politics in 2008

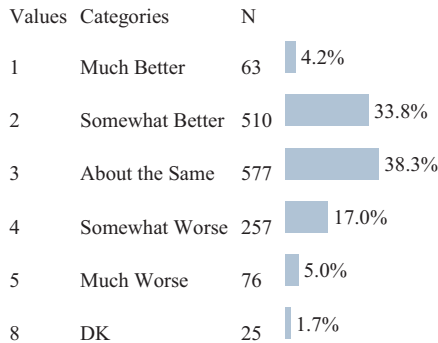
Literal Question: How satisfied are you with the current state of politics in South Korea?



Source | KGSS at KOSSDA.

Figure 5. Prospect for Future Politics in 2008

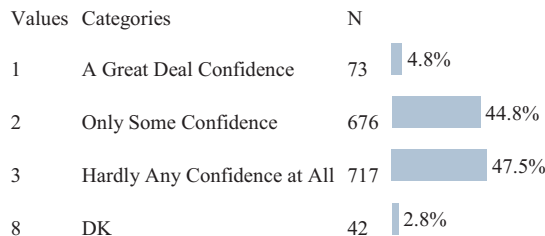
Literal Question: Do you think the political conditions in South Korea will be much better, somewhat better, about the same, somewhat worse, or much worse?



Source | KGSS at KOSSDA.

Figure 5-1. Confidence in National Government in 2008

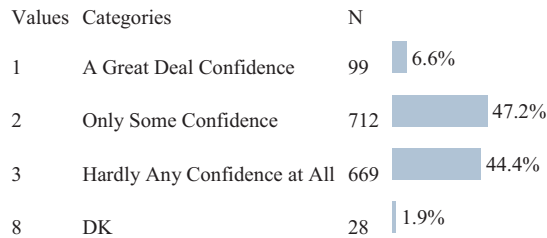
Literal Question: I am going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?



Source | KGSS at KOSSDA.

Figure 5-2. Confidence in Local Government in 2008

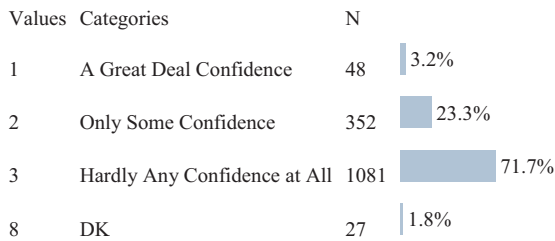
Literal Question: I am going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?



Source | KGSS at KOSSDA.

Figure 5-3. Confidence in Congress in 2008

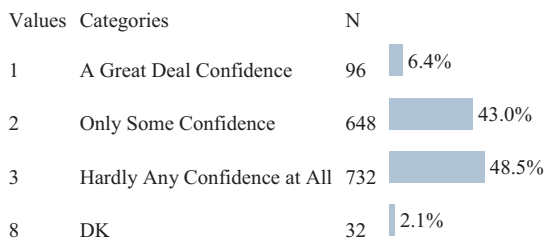
Literal Question: I am going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?



Source | KGSS at KOSSDA.

Figure 5-4. Confidence in the Blue House in 2008

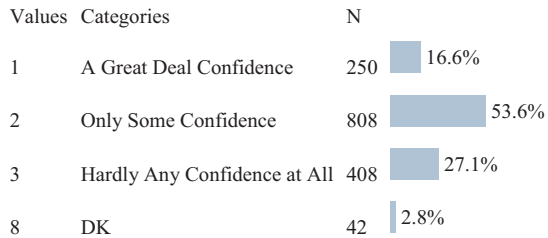
Literal Question: I am going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?



Source | KGSS at KOSSDA.

Figure 5-5. Confidence in Civil Activist Organizations in 2008

Literal Question: I am going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?



Source | KGSS at KOSSDA.

Korean Society from a Global Perspective

In comparison with other countries, where is the Korean society located? There can be various measures and indices, according to which the location of the Korean society will be ranked differently. The United Nations and some non-governmental organizations announce various international indices every year. Among the well known and often referred to include human development index (HDI), its associated gender development index (GDI) and gender empowerment measure (GEM), press freedom index (PFI), corruption perception index (CPI), and global gender gap index (GGGI).

The United Nations annually announces HDI, GDI, and GEM.¹ HDI is obtained by combining the three indicators of life expectancy, educational attainment, and income. It purports to be a more accurate measure of development than other indicators such as GDP that only looks at economic dimension. GDI not only measures achievement in general human capabilities but also considers inequality in achievement between women and men. As a measure of agency, GEM measures the extent to which women and men are able to actively participate in economic and political life and take part in decision-making. It should be noted that while GDI generally refers to women's capabilities, GEM indicates the actual use of those capabilities in economic and political life, and decision-making. As is clearly seen in the Korean case, there can be significant discrepancy between the two measures, which is not desirable. PFI is an annual ranking of countries announced by an international journalist organization, Reporters without Borders. Annually announced by a non-government organization, Transparency International, CPI measures the perceived level of public-sector corruption in countries and territories around the world. The CPI is a "survey of surveys," based on 13 different expert and business surveys. Lastly, GGGI is an index announced by an

¹ See <http://hdr.undp.org/en/humandev/hdi/>

independent non-profit organization, the World Economic Forum.² Readers may find that the Korean society has remarkably advanced in some indices, albeit it has now begun to decline or still stands far behind others.

Table 1. South Korea's Trends of HDI Rank, HDI Value, GDI Rank, and GEM Rank

	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007
HDI Rank			34	30	27	26	25	26
HDI Value	0.722	0.760	0.802	0.837	0.869	0.927	0.933	0.937
GDI Rank				37	29	26	25	25
GEM Rank				83	61	64	68	61
Number of Countries	81	89	115	123	139	175	182	182

Source | UN HDI Report, each year.

Figure 6. South Korea's HDI Value Trends

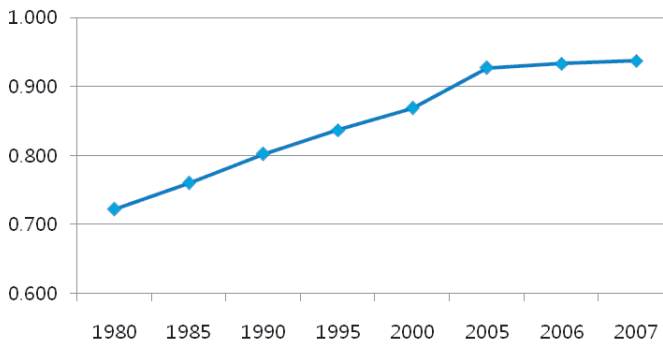
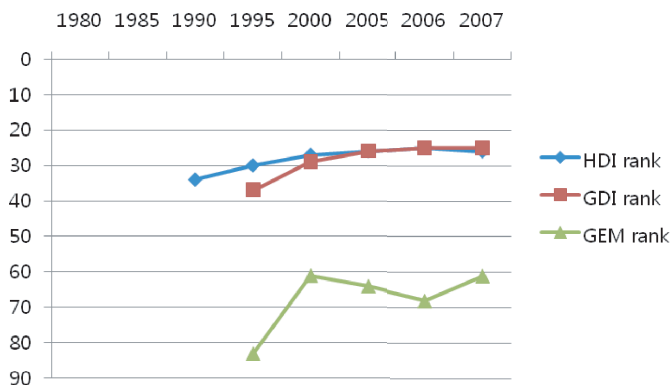
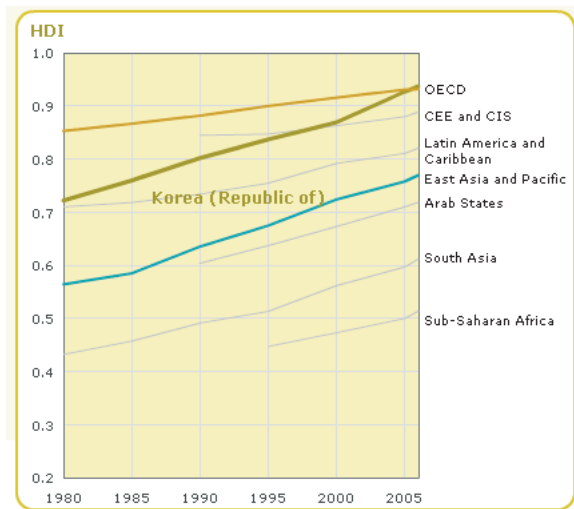


Figure 7. Ranks of HDI, GDI, and GEM



² See <http://www.weforum.org/>

Figure 8. HDI Trends



Source | Indicator table G of the Human Development Report 2009.

Table 2. Korea (Republic of)'s Human Development Index in 2007

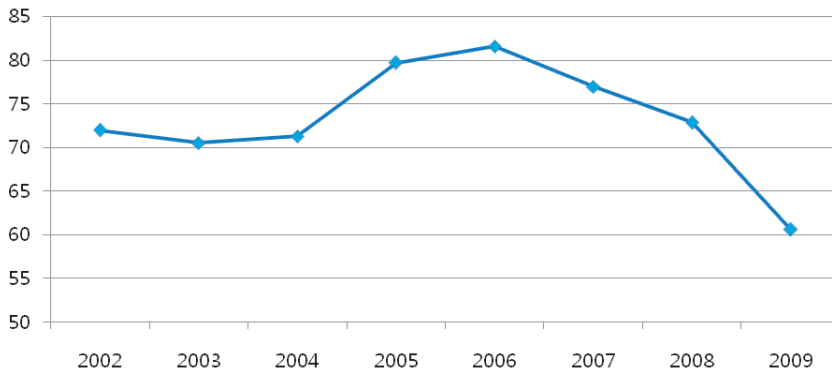
HDI Value	Life Expectancy at Birth (years)	Combined Gross Enrolment Ratio (%)	GDP Per Capita (PPP US\$)
1. Norway (0.971)	1. Japan (82.7)	1. Australia (114.2)	1. Liechtenstein (85,382)
24. Hong Kong, China (SAR) (0.944)	23. Luxembourg (79.4)	7. Canada (99.3)	33. Slovenia (26,753)
25. Greece (0.942)	24. United Kingdom (79.3)	8. Norway (98.6)	34. Israel (26,315)
26. Korea (Republic of) (0.937)	25. Korea (Republic of) (79.2)	9. Korea (Republic of) (98.5)	35. Korea (Republic of) (24,801)
27. Israel (0.935)	26. United States (79.1)	10. Ireland (97.6)	36. Cyprus (24,789)
28. Andorra (0.934)	27. Greece (79.1)	11. Netherlands (97.5)	37. Czech Republic (24,144)
182. Niger (0.340)	176. Afghanistan (43.6)	177. Djibouti (25.5)	181. Cong (Democratic Republic of the) (298)

Source | Human Development Report 2009 (<http://hdrstats.undp.org>)

Table 3. South Korea's Press Freedom Index 2002-2009

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Ranking	39	49	48	34	31	39	47	69
Number of Countries	139	166	167	167	168	169	173	175

Source | Reporters without Borders (<http://www.rsf.org>)

Figure 9. South Korea's Trends of Press Freedom Index (adjusted)**Table 4.** South Korea's Corruption Perception Index

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Ranking	43	50	48	42	40	50	47	40	42	43	40	39
Number of Countries	85	99	90	91	102	133	145	159	163	179	180	180

Source | Transparency International (<http://www.transparency.org>)

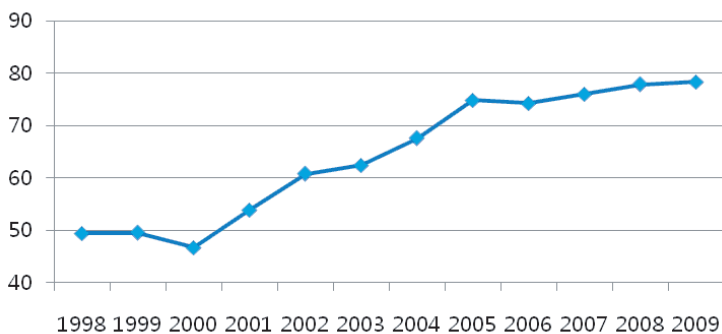
Figure 10. South Korea's Trends of Transparency Index (adjusted)

Table 5. South Korea's Global Gender Gap Index

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Ranking	92	97	108	115
Score	0.616	0.641	0.615	0.615
Number of Countries	115	128	130	134

Note | Score: 0.000=inequality, 1.000=equality)

Source | World Economic Forum (<http://www.weforum.org>)

Table 6. South Korea's Gender Gap Subindexes

Gender Gap Subindexes	Rank	Score	Average	Female	Male	Male Ratio
Economic Participation and Opportunity	113	0.52	0.594	-	-	-
Labour force participation	87	0.71	0.69	54	76	0.71
Wage equality for similar work	109	0.55	0.66			0.55
Estimated earned income (PPP US\$)	83	0.52	0.52	15,781	30,143	0.52
Legislators, senior officials, and managers	114	0.1	0.3	9	91	0.1
Professional and technical workers	89	0.66	0.84	40	60	0.66
Educational Attainment	109	0.894	0.93	-	-	-
Literacy rate	-	-	0.87	-	-	-
Enrolment in primary education	120	0.93	0.97	93	100	0.93
Enrolment in secondary education	106	0.94	0.92	94	100	0.94
Enrolment in tertiary education	106	0.67	0.87	75	113	0.67
Health and Survival	80	0.973	0.96	-	-	-
Sex ratio at birth (female/male)	116	0.93	0.93	-	-	0.93
Healthy life expectancy	1	1.06	1.04	71	65	1.09
Political Empowerment	104	0.071	0.169	-	-	-
Women in parliament	83	0.16	0.22	14	86	0.16
Women in ministerial positions	124	0.05	0.17	5.95	0.05	-
Years with female head of state (last 50)	30	0.02	0.14	1	49	0.02

Source | World Economic Forum (<http://www.weforum.org>)