

# Country Profile

## Republic of Korea



Edition 2005

Specification	Unit	1995	2000	2004			
<b>Area and Population</b>							
Area .....	km <sup>2</sup>	99 268	99 461	99 601			
Population .....	1 000	45 093	47 008	48 082			
Urban population .....	%	78,2	79,6	80,3 <sup>1)</sup>			
under 15 years .....	%	23,4	21,1	19,6			
15 to 64 years .....	%	70,7	71,7	71,7			
65 years and more .....	%	5,9	7,2	8,7			
Population density .....	inh. per km <sup>2</sup>	454	473	483			
Persons per household .....	number	3,2	3,0	2,8			
Registered foreigners .....	number	123 881	244 172	469 183			
share of total population .....	%	0,3	0,5	1,0			
Natural population increase .....	per 1 000 inh.	10,6	8,2	5,1 <sup>1)</sup>			
Birth rate .....	live births per 1 000 inh.	16,0	13,4	10,2 <sup>1)</sup>			
Death rate .....	deaths per 1 000 inh.	5,4	5,2	5,1 <sup>1)</sup>			
Total fertility rate .....	average number of children per woman	1,7	1,5	1,2 <sup>1)</sup>			
Marriages .....	per 1 000 inh.	8,7	7,0	6,4			
Divorces .....	per 1 000 inh.	1,5	2,5	2,9			
Life expectancy at birth							
Men .....	years	69,6	71,7 <sup>2)</sup>	73,2 <sup>3)</sup>			
Women .....	years	77,4	79,2 <sup>2)</sup>	80,4 <sup>3)</sup>			
		1995	2000	2003			
<b>Health</b>							
Public expenditure on health and welfare.....	% of GDP	13,8	17,2	18,6 <sup>3)</sup>			
Inhabitants per doctor .....	number	789	648	588			
Inhabitants per dentist .....	number	3 296	2 606	2 340			
Inhabitants per hospital bed .....	number	230	164	140			
AIDS cases (cumulative number) .....	per 100 000 inh.	0,1	0,4	0,9			
Number of deaths by selected causes and by sex		m	f	m	f		
Neoplasms .....	per 100 000 inh.	142,7	81,2	157,9	90,2	167,6	98,4
Diseases of the circulatory system .....	per 100 000 inh.	134,5	142,8	119,0	127,4	118,2	131,3
Diseases of the respiratory system .....	per 100 000 inh.	27,6	21,0	38,6	29,1	34,2	25,9
<b>Education and Science</b>							
Pupils in							
Elementary Schools (6 years) .....	number	3 905 163	4 019 991	4 175 626			
Pupils per teacher .....	number	28,2	28,7	27,1			
Middle Schools (3 years) .....	number	2 481 848	1 860 539	1 854 641			
Pupils per teacher .....	number	24,8	20,1	18,6			
High Schools (3 years) .....	number	2 157 880	2 071 468	1 766 529			
Pupils per teacher .....	number	21,8	19,9	15,3			
Students at colleges and universities (2 to 4 years) .....	total	1 187 735	1 665 398	1 808 539			
of which: at private institutions .....	%	75,1	77,7	78,3			
Ratio of full time students to part time students	%	92,0 : 8,0	88,2 : 11,8	91,1 : 8,9			
Total expenditure on research and development .....	% of GDP	2,4	2,4	2,6			
Share of foreign investors .....	%	0,01	0,06	0,4			
Research institutes .....	number	2 587	4 635	7 127			
of which non-university .....	%	83,2	90,5	93,3			
Research personnel .....	number	128 315	159 973	198 171			

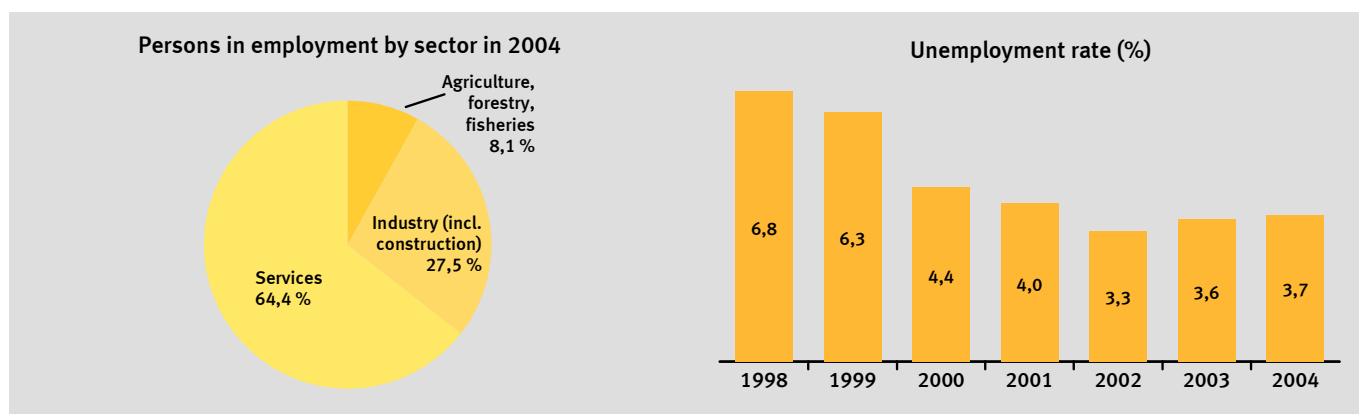
1) 2003.

2) 1999.

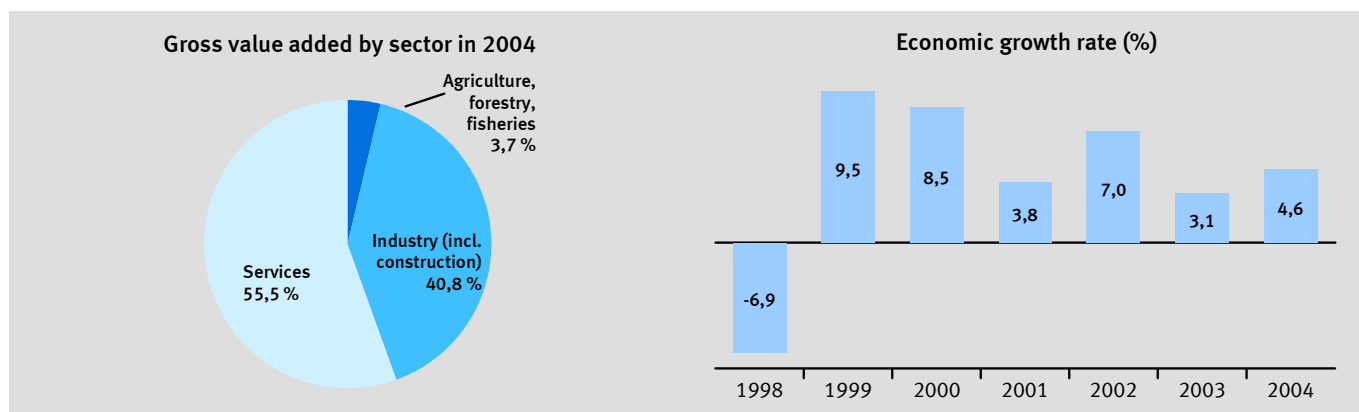
3) 2002.

Edition 2005

Specification	Unit	2004		
		Total	Men	Women
<b>Labour market</b>				
Total labour force (persons in employment and unemployed persons) .....	1 000	23 417	13 727	9 690
Labour force participation rate .....	% of population aged 15 years and more	62,1	75,0	49,9
Persons in employment .....	1 000	22 557	13 193	9 364
Unemployed persons .....	1 000	860	534	326
Unemployment rate .....	%	3,7	3,9	3,4
Youth unemployment rate .....	%	10,5	12,2	9,4



Specification	Unit	2002	2003	2004
<b>Gross Domestic Product</b>				
GDP at current prices .....	₩ bn	684 263	724 675	778 445
	US-\$ mn	546 886	608 000	680 042
GDP per capita .....	1000 ₩	14 371	15 145	16 190
	US-\$	11 486	12 707	14 143
GDP at constant prices of 2000 .....	₩ bn	642 748	662 655	693 424
	US-\$ mn	568 502	586 109	613 324
GDP: expenditure (at current prices)				
of which:				
Household consumption .....	%	55,7	53,7	51,5
Government consumption .....	%	12,9	13,3	13,5
Gross capital formation .....	%	29,1	30,0	30,2

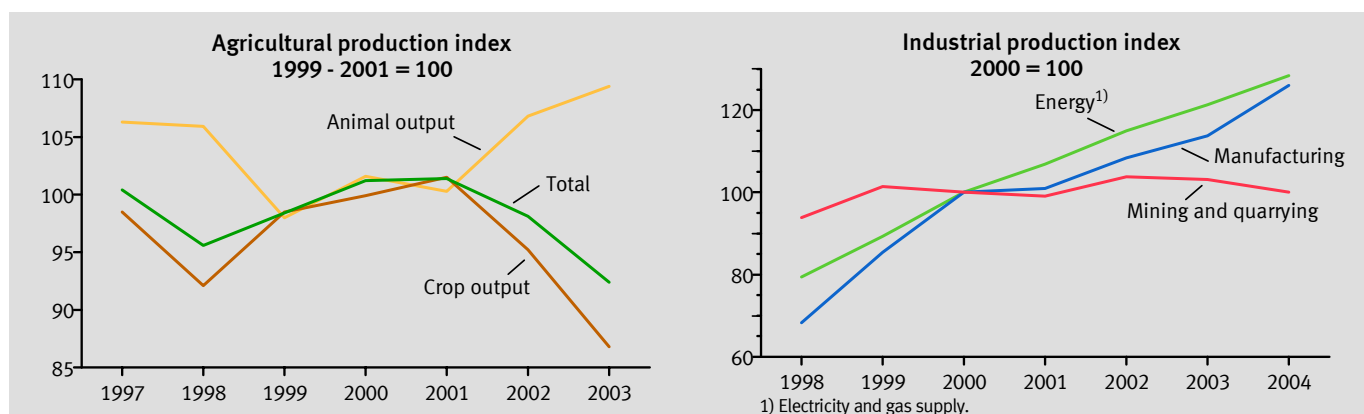


Edition 2005

Specification	Unit	1995	2000	2003
<b>Agriculture and Forestry, Fisheries</b>				
Agricultural land <sup>1)</sup> .....	1 000 ha	1 985	1 889	1 863 <sup>2)</sup>
incl. paddy fields .....	%	60,7	60,8	61,1 <sup>2)</sup>
Forest area .....	1 000 ha	6 452	6 422	6 406
Farming households .....	1 000	1 501	1 383	1 280 <sup>2)</sup>
Production of rice <sup>3)</sup> .....	1 000 t	4 695	5 291	4 927 <sup>2)</sup>
Production of barley .....	1 000 t	288	268	159 <sup>2)</sup>
Production of cabbages .....	1 000 t	3 150	3 420	2 960
Production of soybeans .....	1 000 t	160	113	105
Production of onions .....	1 000 t	975	878	745
Production of meat <sup>4)</sup> .....	1 000 t	1 430	1 649	1 770
incl:				
Pork .....	1 000 t	799	916	1 149
Poultry .....	1 000 t	376	374	383
Catches of fish <sup>5)</sup> .....	1 000 t	3 348	2 514	2 487

1) Cultivated land only.  
2) 2002.  
3) Polished rice.

4) Indicated in carcass weight.  
5) Incl. mariculture and aquaculture.



Specification	Unit	2002	2003	2004
<b>Industry</b>				
Index of production in manufacturing .....	2000 = 100	108,4	113,8	126,0
incl:				
Chemicals and chemical products .....	2000 = 100	109,2	113,4	119,0
Machinery and equipment .....	2000 = 100	104,5	109,0	119,7
Radio, TV and communication equipment ....	2000 = 100	131,2	158,7	212,6
		1995	2000	2003
Production of hard coal .....	mn t	5,6	4,2	3,3
Production of motor gasoline .....	mn t	9,6	12,1	12,3 <sup>1)</sup>
Production of crude steel .....	mn t	36,8	43,1	46,3
Production of portable telephones .....	1 000	4 734	66 894	89 834 <sup>1)</sup>
Production of passenger cars .....	1 000	2 003	2 602	2 768
Production of merchant ships .....	1 000 GT	6 218	12 228	13 683
Production of electricity .....	1 000 GWh	185	266	322
incl.:				
Conventional thermal power .....	%	60,7	57,0	57,6
Nuclear energy .....	%	36,3	40,9	40,2
Number of dwellings completed <sup>2)</sup> .....	1 000	69	43	62

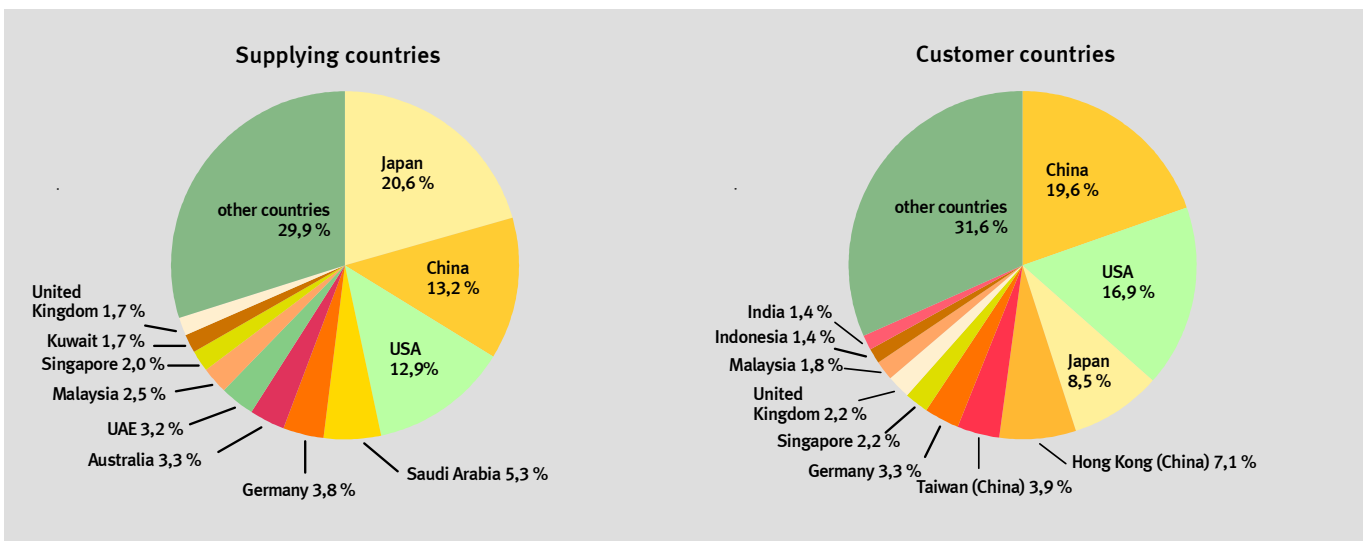
1) 2001.

2) Construction permits.

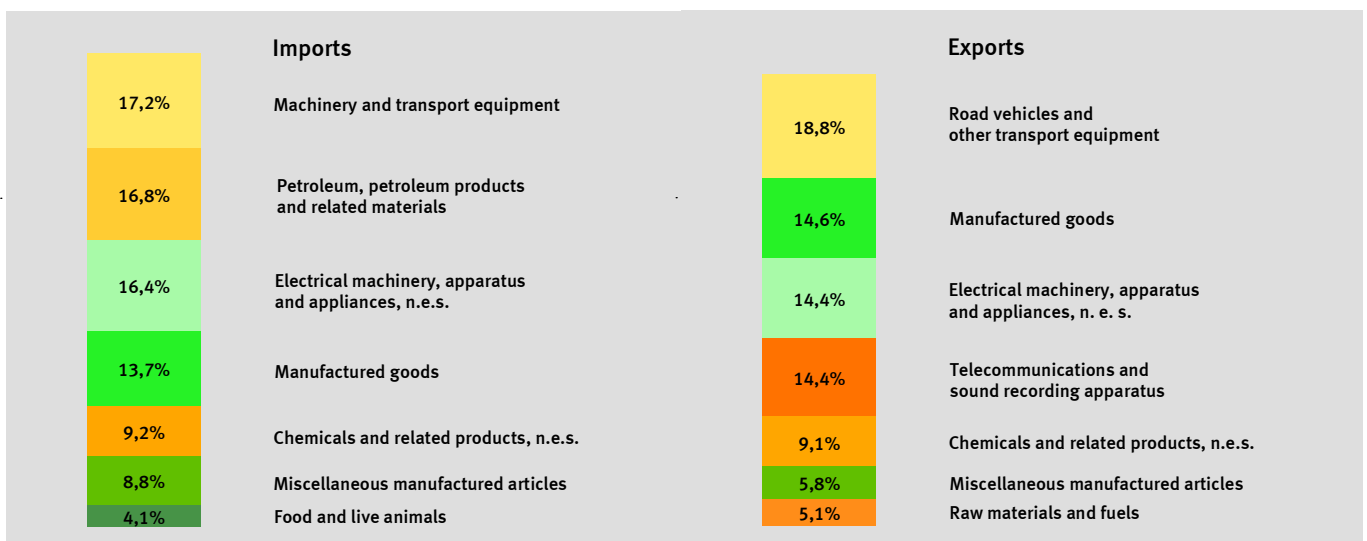
## Edition 2005

Specification	Unit	2002	2003	2004
<b>Foreign Trade</b>				
Import of goods (cif) .....	₩ bn	190 340	213 144	256 942
	US-\$ mn	152 126	178 827	224 463
Export of goods (fob) .....	₩ bn	203 283	231 011	290 576
	US-\$ mn	162 471	193 817	253 845
Foreign trade balance .....	₩ bn	+ 12 943	+ 17 867	+ 33 634
	US-\$ mn	+ 10 344	+ 14 991	+ 29 382

## Trading Partners in 2004



## Major Commodities in 2004

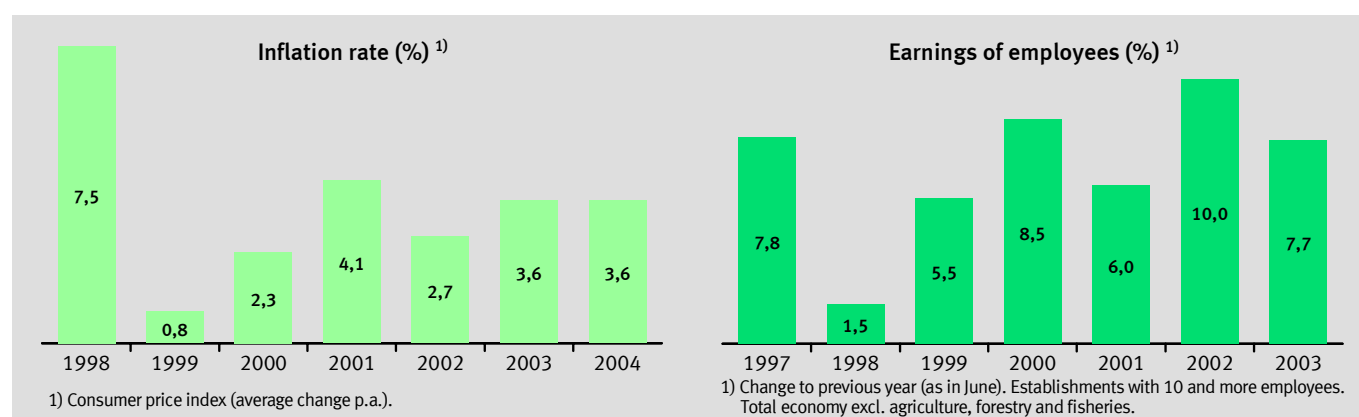


## Edition 2005

Specification	Unit	2002	2003	2004
<b>Finance</b>				
Exchange rate .....	₩ per US-\$	1 251,2	1 191,9	1 144,7
Foreign exchange reserves .....	US-\$ mn	120 811	154 509	198 175
General government deficit (-)/surplus (+) .....	% of GDP	+ 3,3	+ 1,1	+ 0,7
General government gross debt .....	% of GDP	18,5	...	...
Taxes .....	% of GDP	24,4	25,5	...
<b>Earnings and Labour Costs</b>				
Average gross monthly earnings of employees in all sectors <sup>1)</sup> .....	1000 ₩	1 533	1 651	...
	US-\$	1 254	1 383	...
Average gross monthly earnings of employees in manufacturing <sup>2)</sup> .....	US-\$	1 484	1 693	1 929
incl.:				
Chemicals and chemical products .....	US-\$	1 918	2 293	2 622
Machinery and equipment .....	US-\$	1 404	1 621	1 846
Radio, TV and communication equipment ....	US-\$	1 598	1 800	2 169
Motor vehicles .....	US-\$	1 779	2 056	2 392
Average hourly labour costs for workers in manufacturing .....	US-\$	9,00	10,28	...

1) As in June. Establishments with 10 and more employees. Excl. agriculture, forestry and fishing.

2) Establishments with 5 and more employees.



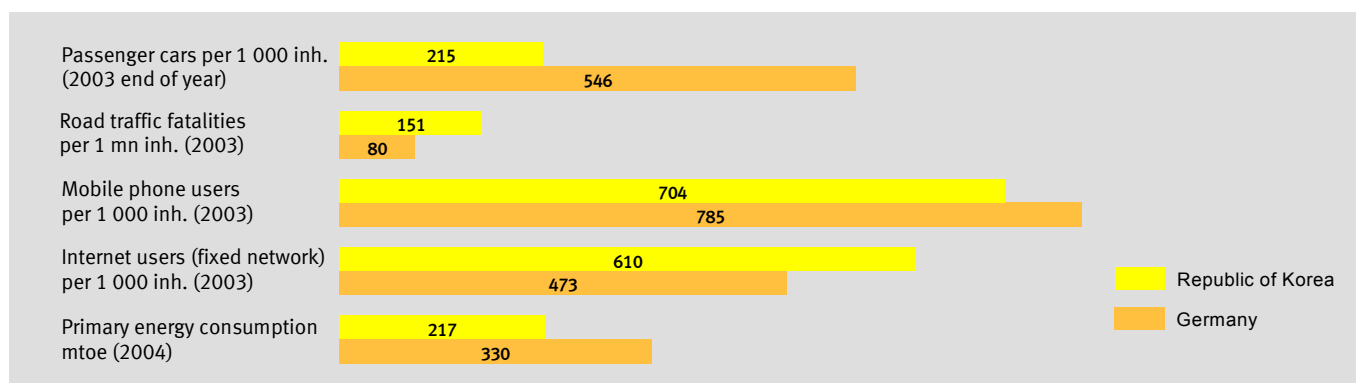
Specification	Unit	2002	2003	2004
<b>Balance of Payments, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Foreign Debt</b>				
Current account balance .....	US-\$ mn	+ 5 394	+ 11 950	+ 27 613
Inward stock of FDI in the Republic of Korea .....	US-\$ mn	43 713	47 465	...
Outward stock of FDI abroad .....	US-\$ mn	31 102	34 531	...
Inflows of FDI in the Republic of Korea (net) .....	US-\$ mn	2 392	3 526	8 189
Outflows of FDI abroad (net) .....	US-\$ mn	2 617	3 429	4 792
Foreign debt (gross) .....	US-\$ mn	143 013	161 581	177 643
	% of GNI <sup>1)</sup>	26,1	26,5	26,1

1) Gross national income.

## Edition 2005

Specification	Unit	1995	2000	2003
<b>Transport and Telecommunication</b>				
Passenger transport				
Railways .....	bn passenger-km	29,3	27,8	28,4
Subways .....	bn passenger-km	15,7	21,0	16,7
Passenger cars and buses .....	bn passenger-km	72,3	74,6	77,3
Air .....	bn passenger-km	7,4	8,0	7,9
Sea .....	bn passenger-km	0,5	0,7	0,6
Freight transport				
Railways .....	bn ton-km	13,8	10,8	11,1
Lorries and trucks .....	bn ton-km	18,2	11,4	13,0
Sea .....	bn ton-km	43,9	38,3	...
Air transport				
Passengers <sup>1)</sup> .....	mn	29,6	42,0	42,8
incl. domestic flights .....	mn	21,0	22,5	21,4

1) Passengers in national and international transport (incl. transit).



Specification	Unit	1995	2000	2004
<b>Environment</b>				
Primary energy consumption .....	mtoe (million tons of oil equivalent)	148,6	191,1	217,2
	toe per capita	3,3	4,1	4,5
incl.:				
Oil .....	%	63,8	54,0	48,3
Coal .....	%	18,9	22,5	24,4
Emissions of sulphur dioxide .....	1 000 t	1 532	951 <sup>1)</sup>	...
	kg per inh.	34,0	20,4 <sup>1)</sup>	...
Emissions of carbon dioxide .....	mn t	362	428	452 <sup>2)</sup>
	t per inh.	8,0	9,1	9,5 <sup>2)</sup>
Nature protection areas .....	1 000 ha	.	.	354 <sup>3)</sup>
	% of land area	.	.	3,6 <sup>3)</sup>

1) 1999.

2) 2002.

3) 2003.

## Sources:

Korea Statistical Yearbook, Korea National Statistical Office, Daejeon  
Internet site: [www.nso.go.kr](http://www.nso.go.kr) (Korea National Statistical Office)  
Monthly Statistical Bulletin, The Bank of Korea, Seoul

Statistical Review of World Energy, BP, London  
various sources of international organisations (UN and specialized agencies,  
The World Bank, IMF, OECD, IEA, ITU, WRI)

Since most of the figures were taken from national sources they do not always fully correspond to those in other publications of the Federal Statistical Office, e.g. the International Statistical Yearbook, where mainly data from international organisations were used.

For further inquiries please contact the information service on international statistics of the Federal Statistical Office  
(Tel. +49 18 88 / 6 44 84 73, Fax +49 18 88 / 6 44 89 93) or send an e-mail to: [auslandsinfo@destatis.de](mailto:auslandsinfo@destatis.de).

Please also make use of our other publications on international statistics available on the internet at: [www.destatis.de/themen/e/thm\\_international.htm](http://www.destatis.de/themen/e/thm_international.htm).