

# Household and Household Members

A household is a living unit of one or more persons who share a dwelling. Households are divided into general, collective, and foreign households. As the population increases, the number of households also increases, but the number of households grows faster than the number of persons. As of 2020, there are 21.5 million households in Korea, and the growth rate of foreign households is the highest among households. In Korea, surveys on households are usually conducted only for general households.

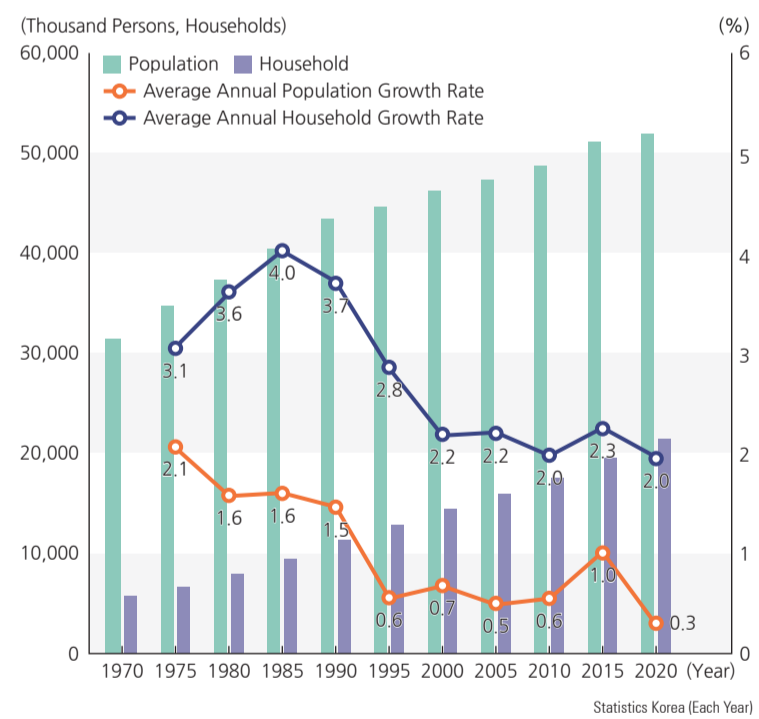
The number of persons who make up a household has changed over time. Households with six or more persons were most common in 1970, accounting for 44 percent of all households. As

of 2020, among a total of 20.9 million households, single-person households (6.6 million households) were the largest and accounted for 32 percent of all households, while two-person households (5.9 million households) accounted for 28 percent. The number of households with two or fewer members was 12.5 million, or 60 percent of the general households. The average number of persons per household was 5.2 in 1970 but fell to 2.3 in 2020.

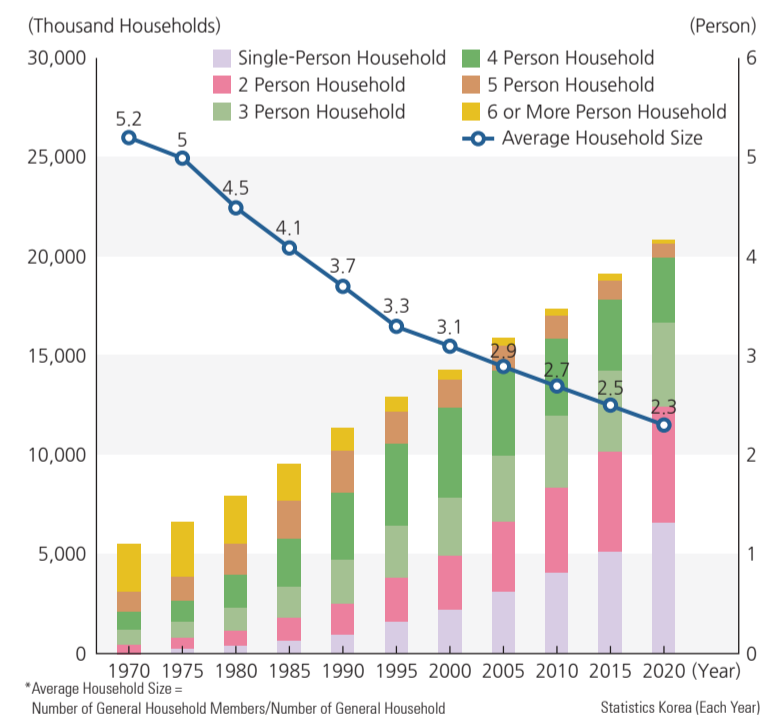
The low birth rate, the aging population, and the increase in single-person households are problems in Korea and part of a larger global phenomenon. As a result, the average number of household members is also decreasing. Compared with OECD

countries as of 2015, the average number of household members in Korea is similar to that of Spain and the United States. Most OECD countries have a lower average number of household members than Korea. Nordic countries such as Sweden have an even lower average number of household members. Furthermore, the proportion of single-person households in OECD countries exceeds 30 percent on average. Considering that the W is rapidly increasing in Korea, the average number of household members in Korea will continue to decrease.

## Changes in Population and Household



## Changes in Average Household Size

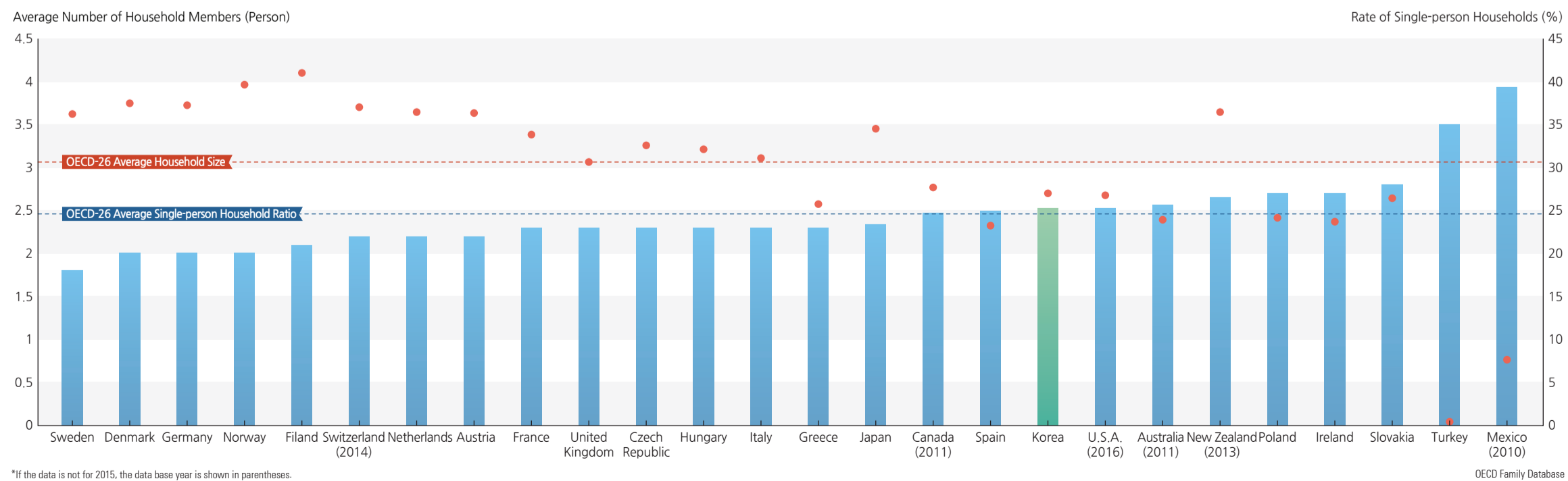


## Changes in Household Composition

Year	General Households	Collective Households	Foreign Households	Total
2000	14,311,807	14,417	65,150	14,391,374
2005	15,887,128	16,551	84,595	15,988,274
2010	17,339,422	20,727	213,918	17,574,067
2015	19,111,030	16,464	433,109	19,560,603
2020	20,926,710	16,388	541,687	21,484,785

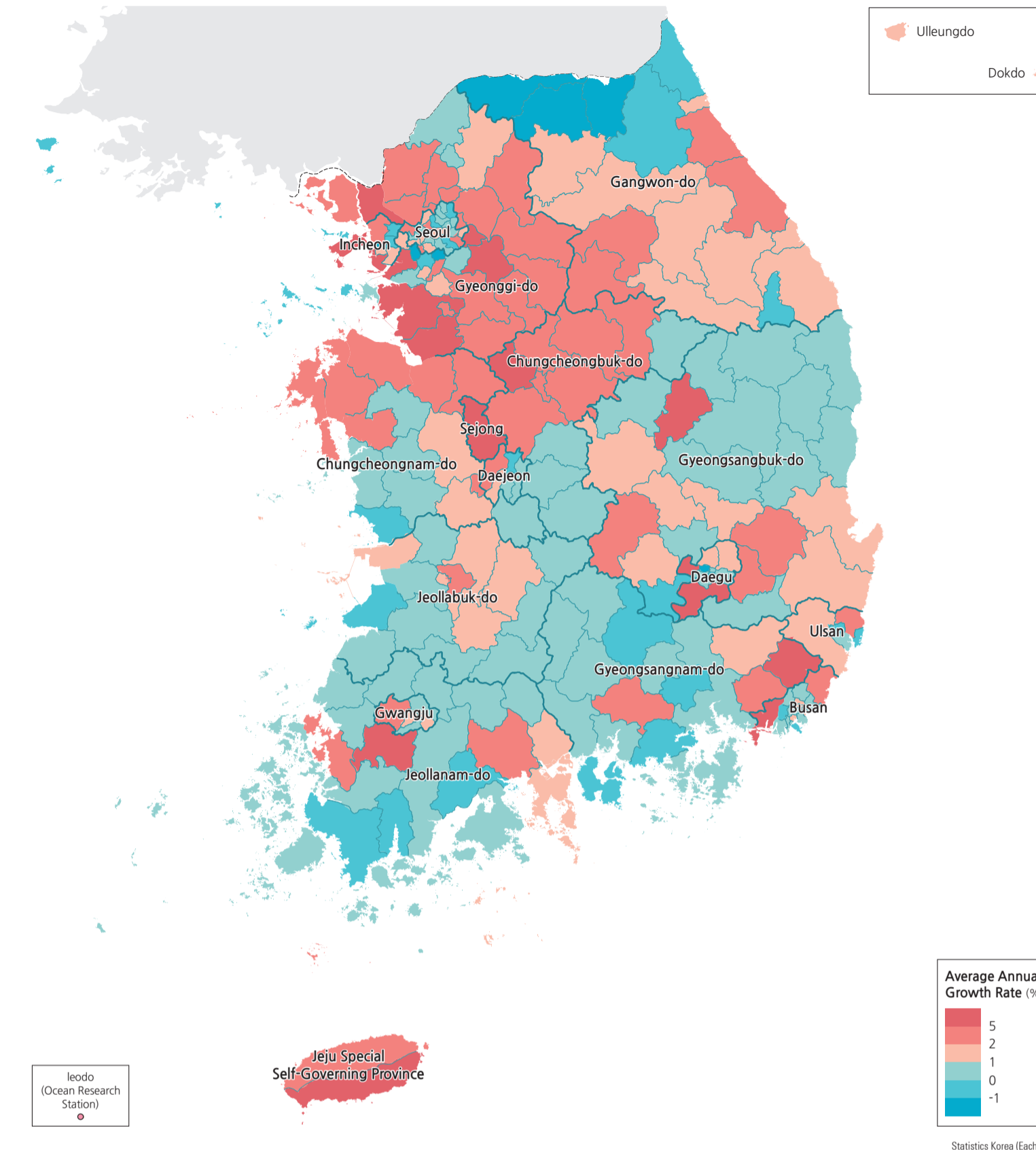
\*A general household is a household consisting of a family, a household in which five or fewer men and women live together with a family, a household in which five or fewer men and women live together, or a single-person household.  
 \*\*A collective household is a household with 6 or more people who are not families, or a household living in social facilities such as dormitories, nursing homes for the elderly, or nurseries.  
 \*\*\*A foreign household is a household composed only of foreigners (however, households in which Koreans and foreigners live together are classified as general households).

## OECD Average Number of Household Members



## Changes in Household

### Household Changes (2015-2020)



### Population and Household by Provinces (1980, 2020)

	Population				
	1980	2020	1980	2020	Increase/Decrease
<b>National Total</b>	<b>37,436</b>	<b>51,829</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14,393</b>
Seoul	8,364	9,586	22.3	18.5	1,222
Busan	3,248	3,349	8.7	6.5	101
Daegu	1,852	2,411	4.9	4.7	558
Incheon	1,230	2,945	3.3	5.7	1,715
Gwangju	857	1,478	2.3	2.9	621
Daejeon	804	2,188	2.1	2.9	684
Ulsan	544	1,135	1.5	2.2	591
Sejong	97	354	0.3	0.7	257
Gyeonggi-do	3,704	13,512	9.9	26.1	9,808
Gangwon-do	1,791	1,522	4.8	2.9	-269
Chungcheongbuk-do	1,424	1,632	3.8	3.1	208
Chungcheongnam-do	2,055	2,177	5.5	4.2	122
Jeollabuk-do	2,288	1,803	6.1	3.5	-485
Jeollanam-do	2,923	1,789	7.8	3.5	-1,134
Gyeongsangbuk-do	3,102	2,645	8.3	5.1	-457
Gyeongsangnam-do	2,689	3,333	7.2	6.4	644
Jeju	463	671	1.2	1.3	208

	Households				
	1980	2020	1980	2020	Increase/Decrease
<b>National Total</b>	<b>7,979</b>	<b>21,485</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13,506</b>
Seoul	1,842	4,127	23.1	19.2	2,284
Busan	708	1,420	8.9	6.6	712
Daegu	414	997	5.2	4.6	584
Incheon	277	1,179	3.5	5.5	902
Gwangju	179	608	2.2	2.8	429
Daejeon	157	639	2.0	3.0	482
Ulsan	120	453	1.5	2.1	333
Sejong	20	141	0.3	0.7	121
Gyeonggi-do	807	5,295	10.1	24.6	4,488
Gangwon-do	375	668	4.7	3.1	293
Chungcheongbuk-do	291	696	3.6	3.2	405
Chungcheongnam-do	406	922	5.1	4.3	516
Jeollabuk-do	452	768	5.7	3.6	316
Jeollanam-do	586	773	7.3	3.6	186
Gyeongsangbuk-do	667	1,152	8.4	5.4	485
Gyeongsangnam-do	572	1,376	7.2	6.4	805
Jeju	105	270	1.3	1.3	165

\*The population and households in 1980 is calculated based on administrative districts in 2000.  
 \*\*The population and households of Sejong in 1980 is those of Yeong-gun, Chungcheongnam-do, and the population and households of Chungcheongnam-do in 1980.  
 \*\*\*The population and households of Jeonju in 1980 is those of Yeong-gun, Chungcheongnam-do.

The number of households is increasing very rapidly. From 2015 to 2020, the number of households increased in most areas of the country, except for rural areas, border areas, and old downtown areas. The annual average change in the number of households is very high, especially in new towns, such as Hanam-si in Gyeonggi-do (20.2%), Hwaseong-si in Gyeonggi-do (11.8%), Gimpo-si in Gyeonggi-do (9.0%), Siheung-si in Gyeonggi-do (6.9%), Sejong (16.9%), Gangseo-gu, Busan (10.9%), Dalseong-gun in Daegu (9.9%), and Jincheon-gun in Chungcheongbuk-do (7.4%).

Changes in the population and number of households can be easily recognized by comparing them in 1980 and 2020 based on the 2020 administrative districts. Over the 40 years, the population increased by 14.4 million, and the number of households increased by 13.5 million, almost the same population growth. Moreover, the number of households increased even in the areas where the population decreased significantly, such as Jeollanam-do, Jeollabuk-

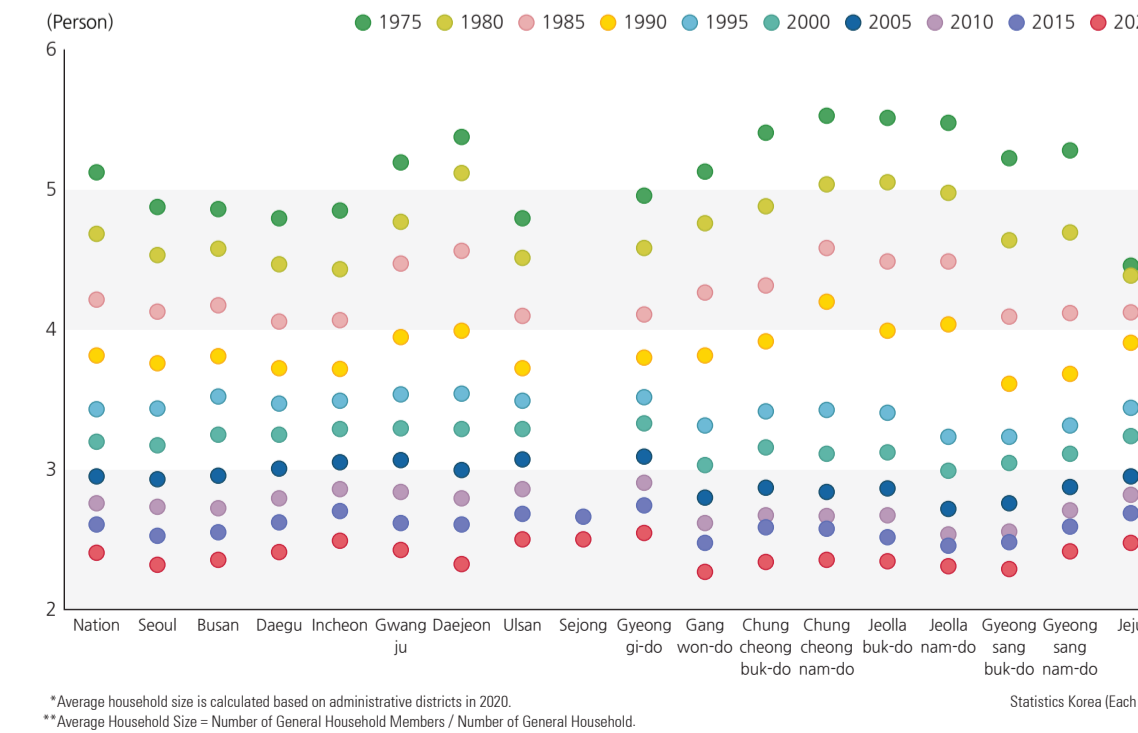
do, Gyeongsangbuk-do, and Gangwon-do.

From 1975 to 2020, the average number of household members continuously decreased in all regions, and the decrease in non-Seoul Metropolitan Areas, such as Chungcheongnam-do, Chungcheongbuk-do, Jeollanam-do, Jeollabuk-do, Gyeongsangnam-do, and Gyeongsangbuk-do, was significant. On the other hand, the decrease in the average number of household members was 1.99, the smallest in the country in Jeju Special Self-Governing Province. In 1975, Seoul, Busan, Daegu, Incheon, and Gyeonggi-do were the regions with a lower average number of households than the national average and a relatively greater number of nuclear families. The number of household members in the metropolitan areas was smaller than that in non-metropolitan provinces. On the contrary, in 2020, Seoul, Busan, and non-metropolitan provinces, such as Gangwon-do, Chungcheongnam-do, Chungcheongbuk-do, Jeollanam-do, Jeollabuk-do, and Gyeongsangbuk-do, were the regions with a

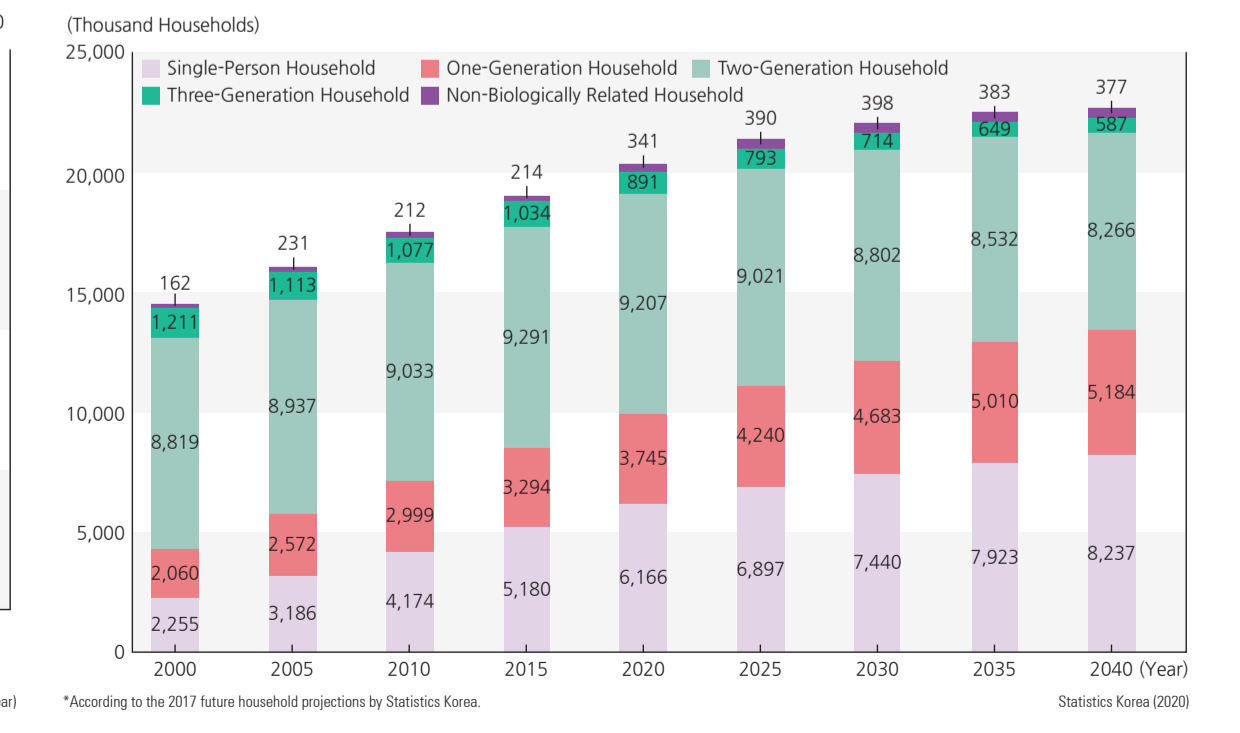
lower average number of households than the national average. The average number of household members in non-metropolitan provinces is smaller than in metropolitan areas, except in Seoul and Busan.

According to household estimates, the number of households will peak at 22.65 million in 2040 and will decrease thereafter. The proportion of single-person households will increase from 15.5 percent in 2000 to 36.4 percent in 2040. The proportion of two-generation households, which was the largest number in 2020, will decline from 60.8 percent in 2000 to 36.5 percent in 2040. The number of households with three or more generations will also decrease rapidly. In 2040, there will be 13.4 million single-person and one-generation households, accounting for 59.3 percent of the total households, resulting in a sharp decline in intergenerational communication.

## Changes in Average Household Size by Provinces (1980-2020)



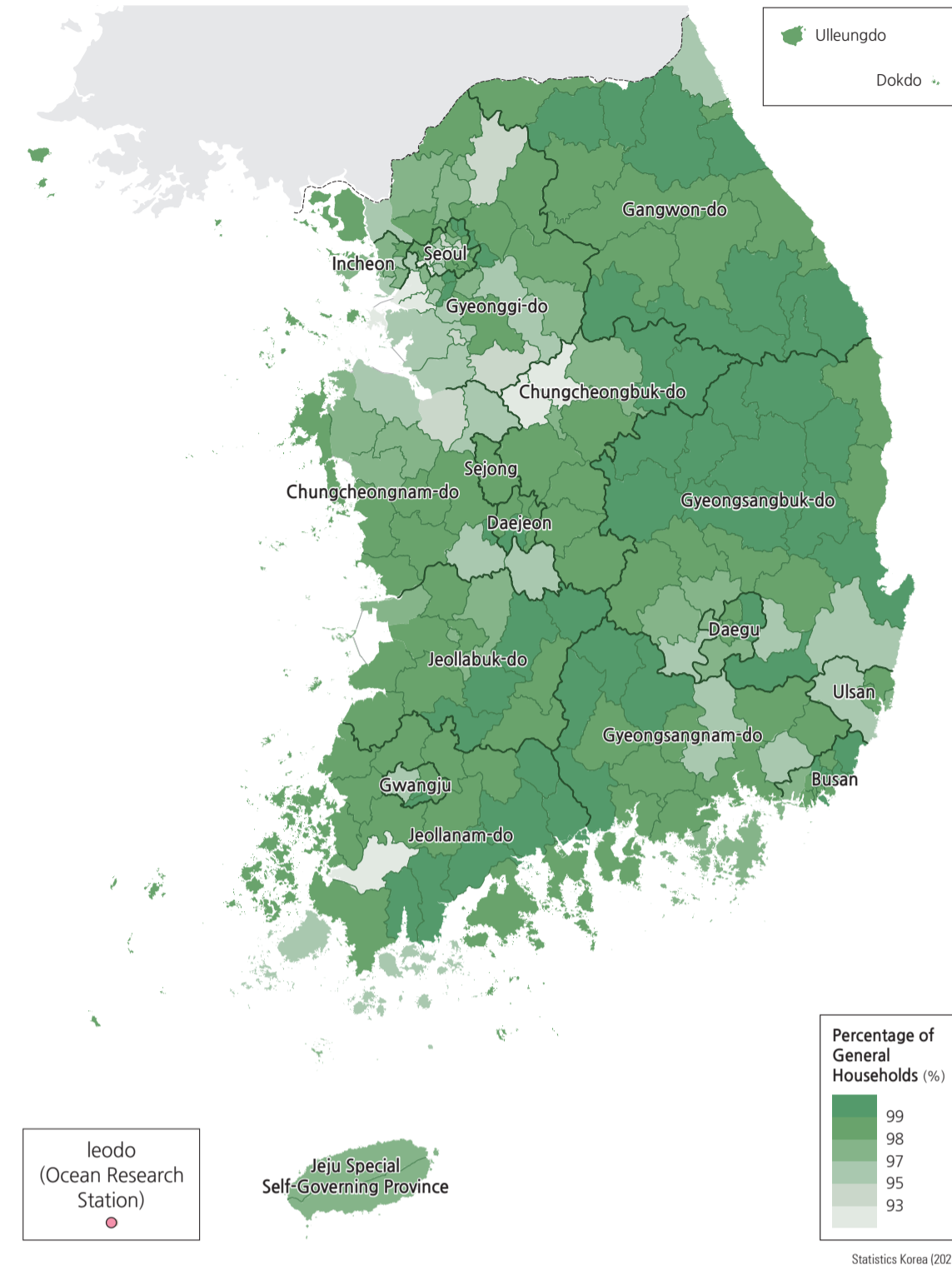
## Household Projections by Household Size





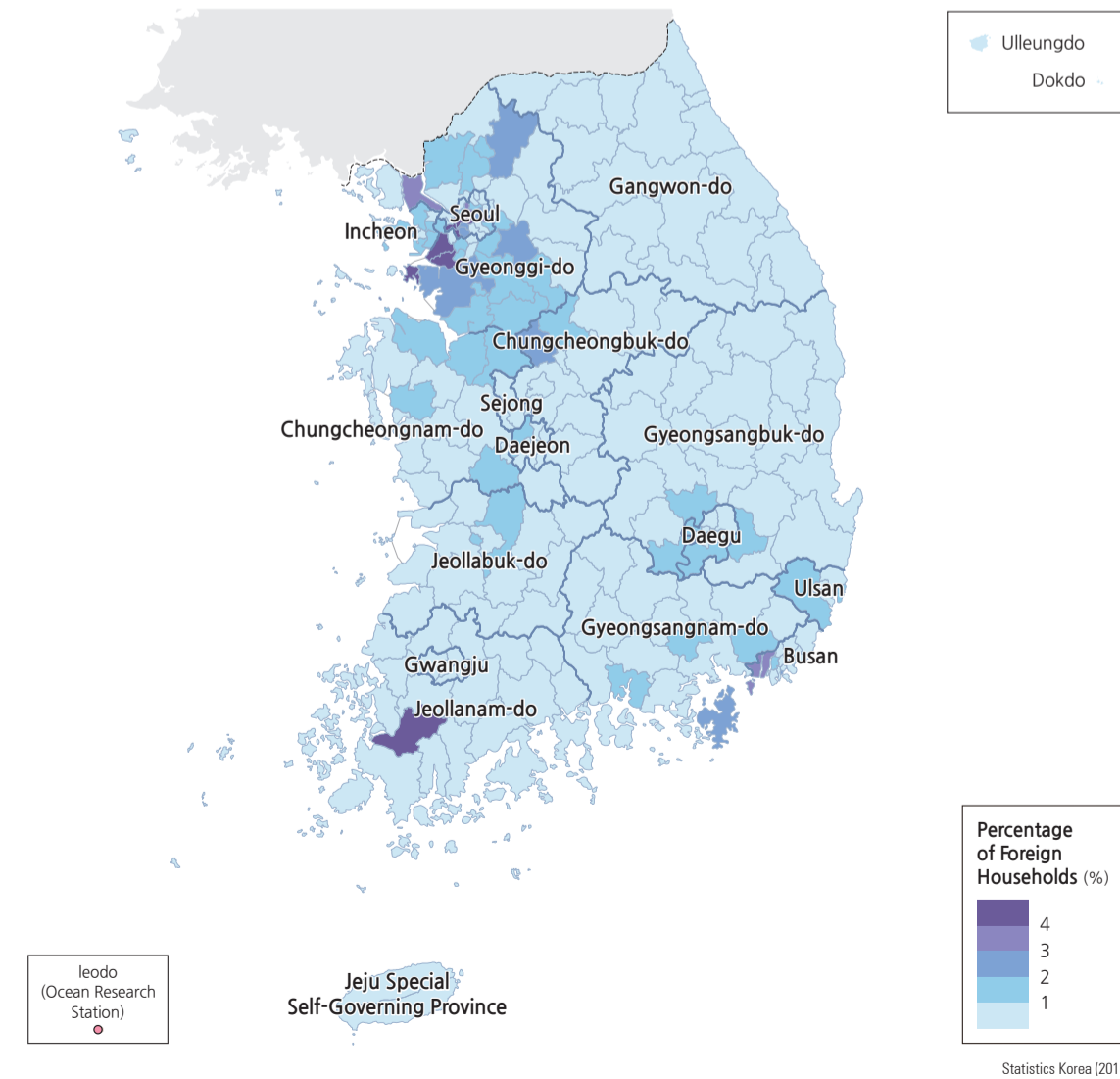
## Household Types and Foreign Households

General Households (2020)



Households are divided into general households, collective households, and foreign households. Most households are general households. Collective households, consisting of six or more people who are not relatives living together, include dormitories, nurseries, and nursing homes. Foreign households consist only of foreigners. Due to the large increase in foreign households, the proportion of general households decreased from 98.7 percent in 2010 to 97.4 percent in 2020. In 2020, Ansan-si in Gyeonggi-do (89.5%), Siheung-si in Gyeonggi-do (89.7%), and Guro-gu in Seoul (89.8%) had the lowest ratio of general households at the -si/-gun/-gu area levels. In addition, the ratio of general households is low in the Seoul Metropolitan Area and the industrial regions of other provinces, where many foreigners reside. There are about 16,000 collective households across the nation, accounting for a very low proportion of total households. However, they are highly concentrated in Geumsan-gun, Chungcheongnam-do, Eumseong-gun, Chungcheongbuk-do, Yeongdong-gun, Chungcheongbuk-do, and Hampyeong-gun, Jeollanam-do.

Foreign Households (2010)



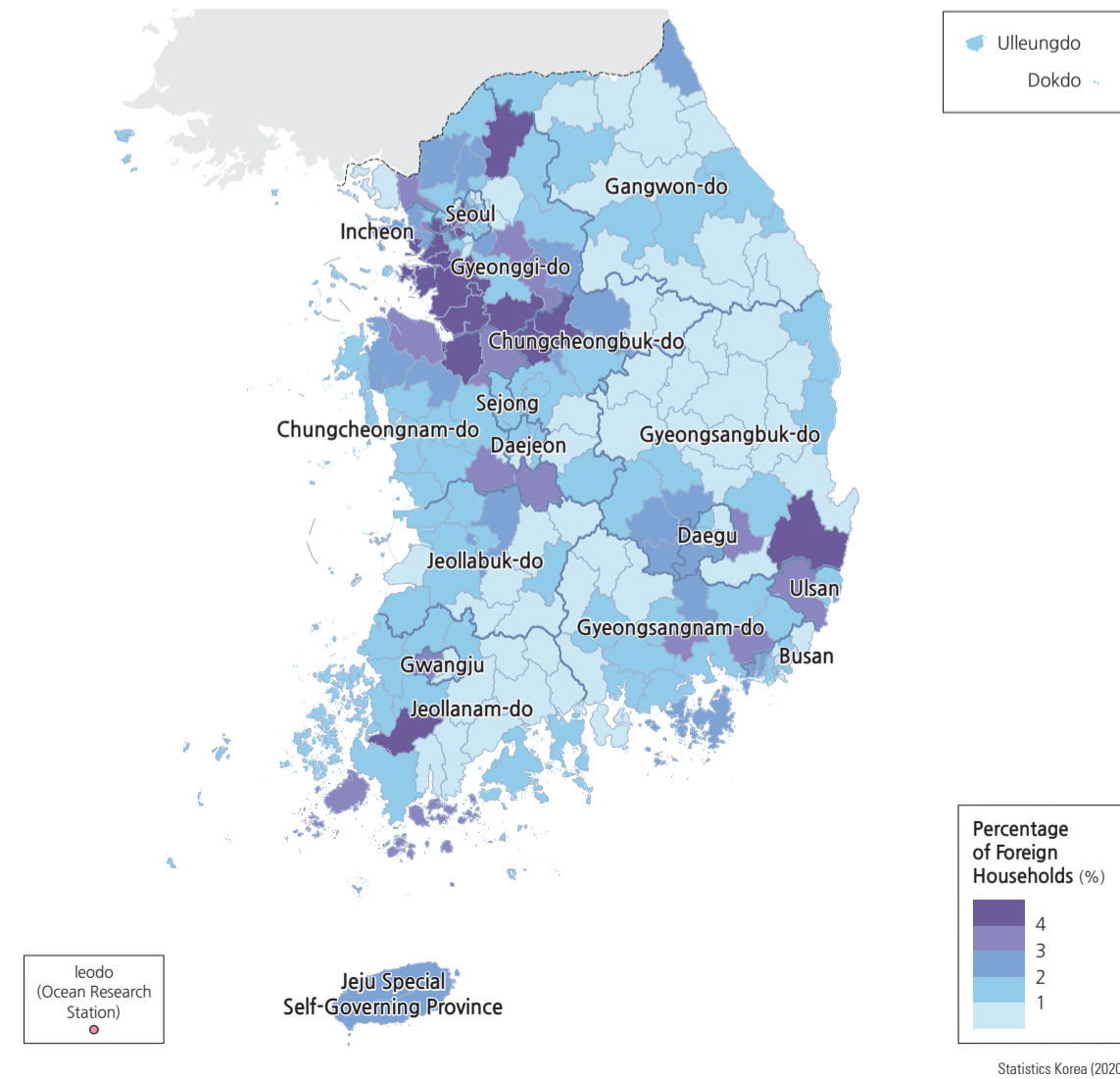
Household by Regions (2010, 2020)

Classification	Total Household			General Households		
	2010	2020	2010-2020 Growth Rate	2010	2020	2010-2020 Growth Rate
<b>National Total</b>	<b>17,574,067</b>	<b>21,484,785</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>17,339,422</b>	<b>20,926,710</b>	<b>20.7</b>
Seoul	3,577,497	4,126,524	15.3	3,504,297	3,982,290	13.6
Busan	1,251,756	1,420,252	13.5	1,243,880	1,405,037	13.0
Daegu	873,934	997,416	14.1	868,327	985,816	13.5
Incheon	929,489	1,178,564	26.8	918,850	1,147,200	24.9
Gwangju	518,742	608,316	17.3	515,855	599,217	16.2
Daejeon	536,297	639,020	19.2	532,643	631,208	18.5
Ulsan	377,938	452,995	19.9	373,633	444,087	18.9
Sejong	-	141,133	-	-	139,106	-
Gyeonggi-do	3,908,059	5,294,836	35.5	3,831,134	5,098,431	33.1
Gangwon-do	560,589	668,479	19.2	557,751	661,039	18.5
Chungcheongbuk-do	564,614	695,948	23.3	558,796	678,922	21.5
Chungcheongnam-do	758,552	922,067	21.6	749,035	892,222	19.1
Jeollabuk-do	663,695	767,803	15.7	659,946	755,575	14.5
Jeollanam-do	684,986	772,660	12.8	681,431	761,518	11.8
Gyeongsangbuk-do	1,014,345	1,152,097	13.6	1,005,349	1,131,819	12.6
Gyeongsangnam-do	1,165,209	1,376,240	18.1	1,151,172	1,350,155	17.3
Jeju	188,365	270,435	43.6	187,323	263,068	40.4

Classification	Collective Households			Foreign Households		
	2010	2020	2010-2020 Growth Rate	2010	2020	2010-2020 Growth Rate
<b>National Total</b>	<b>20,727</b>	<b>16,464</b>	<b>-20.6</b>	<b>213,918</b>	<b>541,687</b>	<b>153.2</b>
Seoul	2,836	2,261	-20.3	70,364	141,970	101.8
Busan	785	686	-12.6	7,091	14,434	103.6
Daegu	553	574	3.8	5,054	11,088	119.4
Incheon	972	713	-26.6	9,667	30,602	216.6
Gwangju	646	438	-32.2	2,241	8,704	288.4
Daejeon	478	420	-12.1	3,176	7,352	131.5
Ulsan	374	239	-36.1	3,931	8,673	120.6
Sejong	-	65	-	-	1,907	-
Gyeonggi-do	5,307	3,879	-26.9	71,618	192,325	168.5
Gangwon-do	658	788	19.8	2,180	6,845	214.0
Chungcheongbuk-do	924	814	-11.9	4,894	16,180	230.6
Chungcheongnam-do	1,417	1,107	-21.9	8,100	28,629	253.4
Jeollabuk-do	815	834	2.3	2,934	11,520	292.6
Jeollanam-do	843	933	10.7	2,712	10,246	277.8
Gyeongsangbuk-do	1,795	1,312	-26.9	7,201	19,096	165.2
Gyeongsangnam-do	2,081	1,176	-43.5	11,956	24,959	108.8
Jeju	243	225	-7.4	799	7,157	795.7

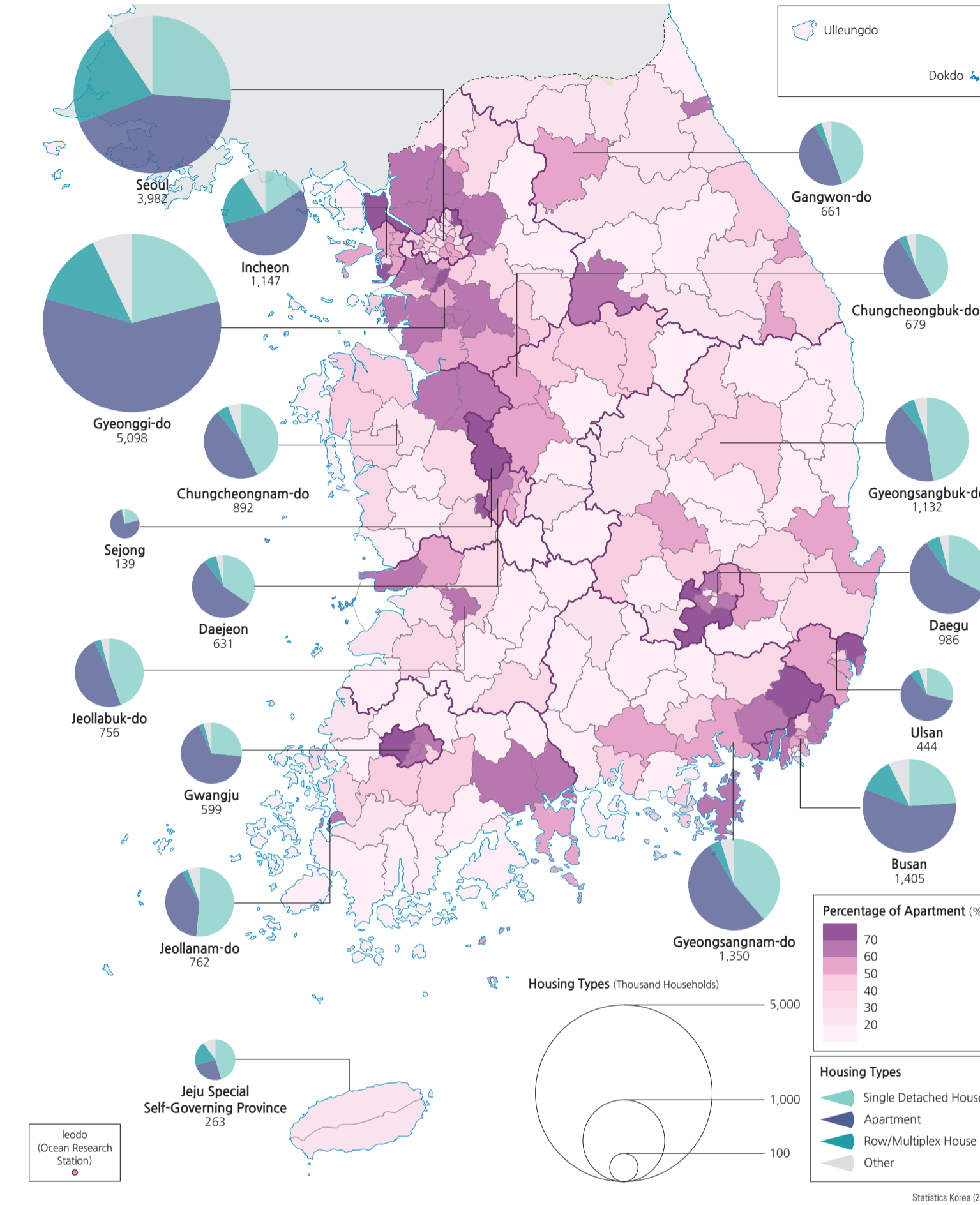
Foreign households have been increasing rapidly since the 2000s due to the influx of foreign workers and the change in overseas Korean policies. The number of foreign households increased 2.5 times, from 210,000 households (1.22%) in 2010 to 540,000 households (2.52%) in 2020. The number of -si/-gun/-gu areas with the ratio of foreign households exceeding 2 percent increased from 23 in 2010 to 75 in 2020. The proportion of foreign households exceeds 10 percent in Ansan-si in Gyeonggi-do, Siheung-si in Gyeonggi-do, and Guro-gu in Seoul. The proportion of foreign households is also high in the southwestern part of the Seoul Metropolitan Area, in the Chungcheong region adjacent to the Seoul Metropolitan Area, and in industrial areas in the provinces, such as Yeongam-gun in Jeollanam-do. The proportion of foreign households reached 2.54 percent in 2019 before the net outflow of foreigners occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Foreign Households (2020)

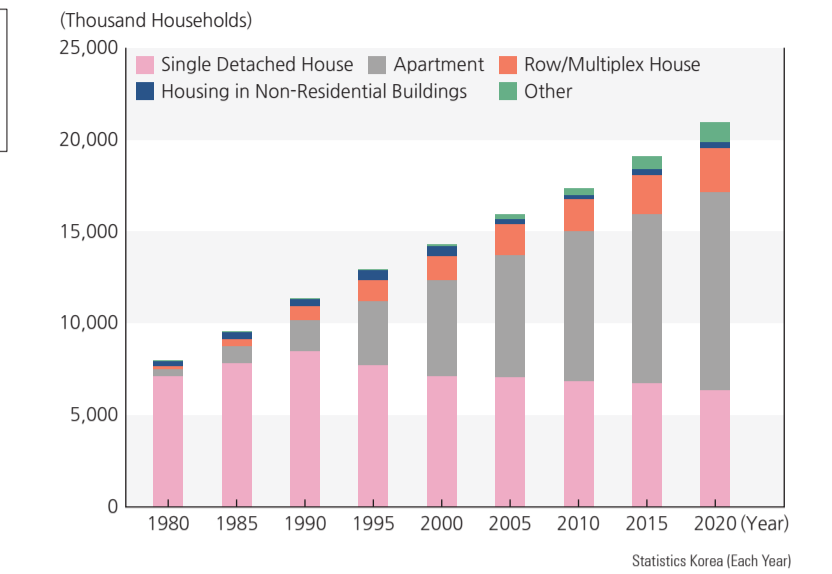


## Housing Types

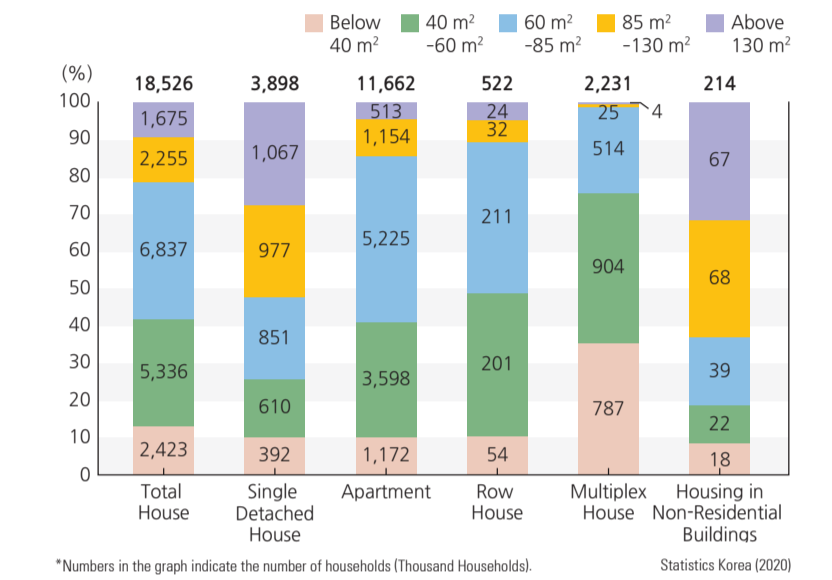
Housing Types (2020)



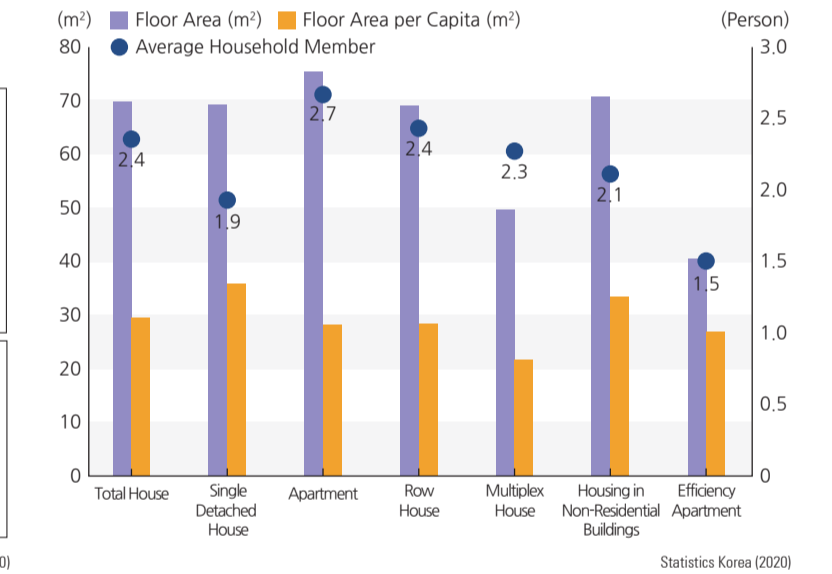
Changes in Housing Types



Gross Floor Area by Housing Type (2020)



Floor Area by Housing Types (2020)



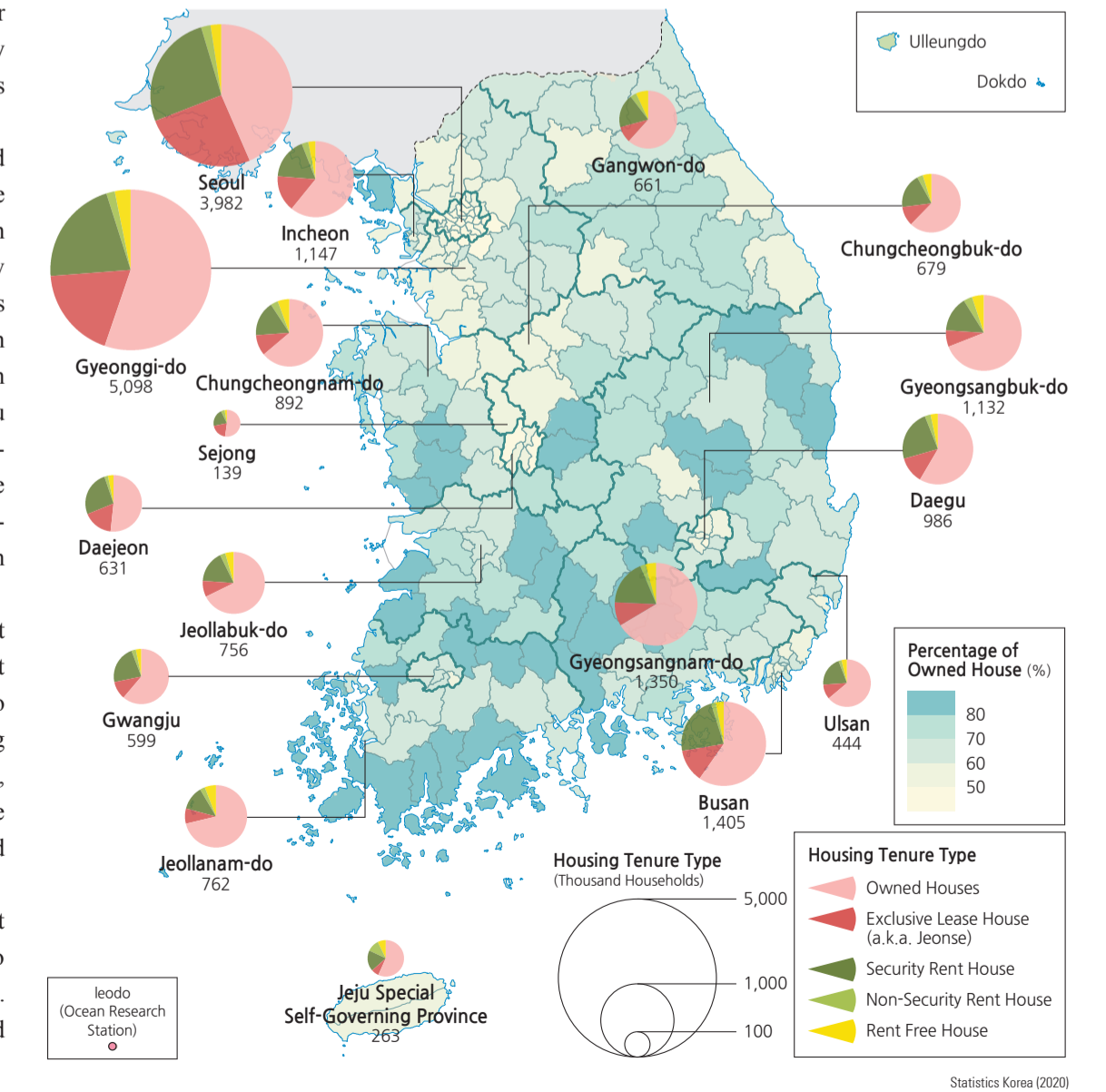
Housing is largely divided into detached houses, multi-unit dwelling houses (apartments, row houses, apartment units in a private house), houses in non-residential buildings such as shopping malls or factories, and residences other than housing, such as studio apartments and dormitories. The occupancy rate of multi-unit dwellings houses is steadily rising, while the occupancy rate of detached houses is steadily declining.

Among provinces, Jeollanam-do, which recorded 52 percent of the households living in detached houses, is the only region where the occupancy rate of detached houses exceeds 50 percent. On the contrary, Sejong recorded 75 percent of the occupancy rate of apartments. Seoul does not have a high occupancy rate of apartments compared to other regions. However, in Seoul, the occupancy rate of row houses and apartment units in private houses is the highest in the nation, and the proportion of households living in residences other than housing is also high, indicating that the proportion of households living in housing other than apartments is high. In 2020, the top five -si/-gun/-gu areas with the highest proportion of households living in apartment dwellers were Gyeryong-si (82%) in Chungcheongnam-do, Nowon-gu (78%) in Seoul, Buk-gu (78%) in Ulsan, Yeonsu-gu (77%) in Incheon, and Sejong (75%). Of the 229 -si/-gun/-gu areas, 87 had greater than 50 percent of the occupancy rate of apartments. On the other hand, the occupancy rate of apartments was low in rural and island areas such as Sinan-gun (0.1%) in Jeollanam-do, Ongjin-gun (3%) in Incheon, Yeongyang-gun (4%) in Gyeongsangbuk-do, Ulleung-gun (4%) in Gyeongsangbuk-do, and Gunwi-gun (5%) in Gyeongsangbuk-do.

In the case of the gross floor area of houses, detached houses had the highest ratio of the housing that has a gross floor area exceeding 130 m², apartment and row houses had a high ratio of the housing that has a gross floor area between 60 m² and 85 m², and apartment unit in a private house had a high ratio of the housing that has a gross floor area between 40 m² and 60 m². Apartments had the largest living area at 76 m² per household. Detached houses had the largest living area at 36 m² per person. However, apartments, row houses, and studio apartments had a similar living area at 27-29 m² per person. The average number of occupants per household was lowest in the studio apartments at 1.5 persons, followed by the detached houses with 1.9 persons, and the apartments with 2.7 people the most.

By housing tenure type, as of 2020, most people lived in owned houses, followed by the security rent houses, exclusive lease houses (a.k.a. jeonse), non-security houses, and rent free houses. At the -si/-do area levels, Seoul had the lowest owned home ratio at 43.5%, and Jeollanam-do had the highest at 71.1%. At the -si/-gun/-gu area levels, the ratio of owned houses was low in the Seoul Metropolitan Area and other metropolitan areas.

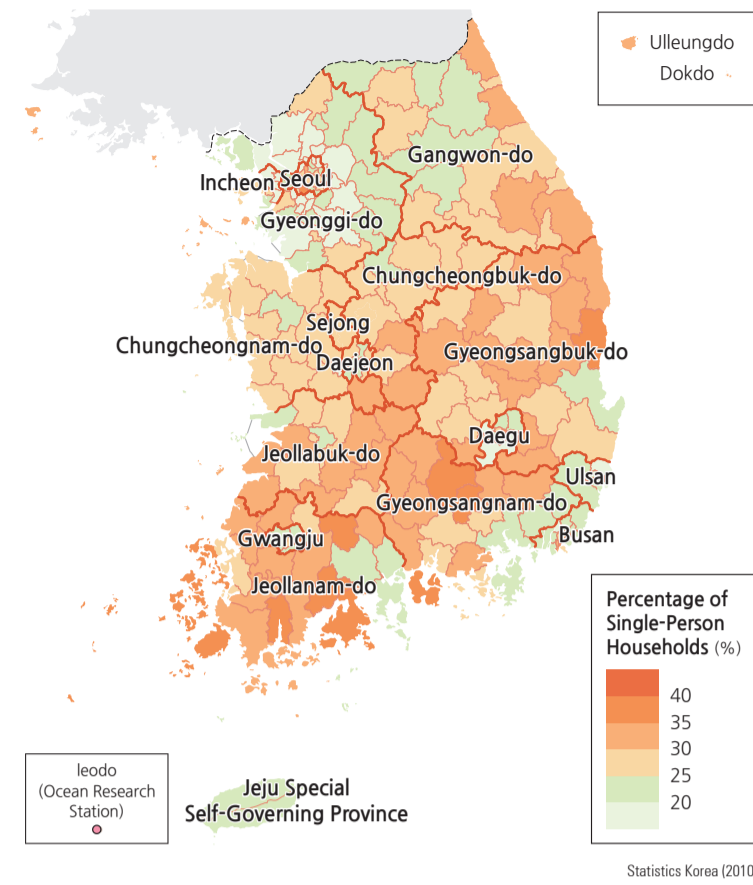
Housing Tenure Type(2020)



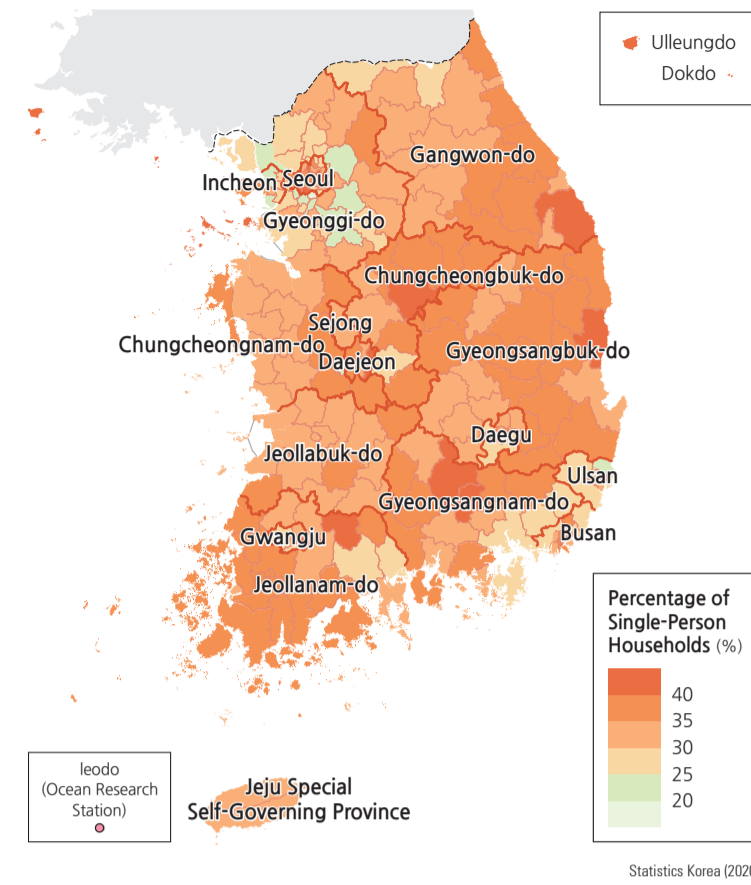


## Single-Person Household

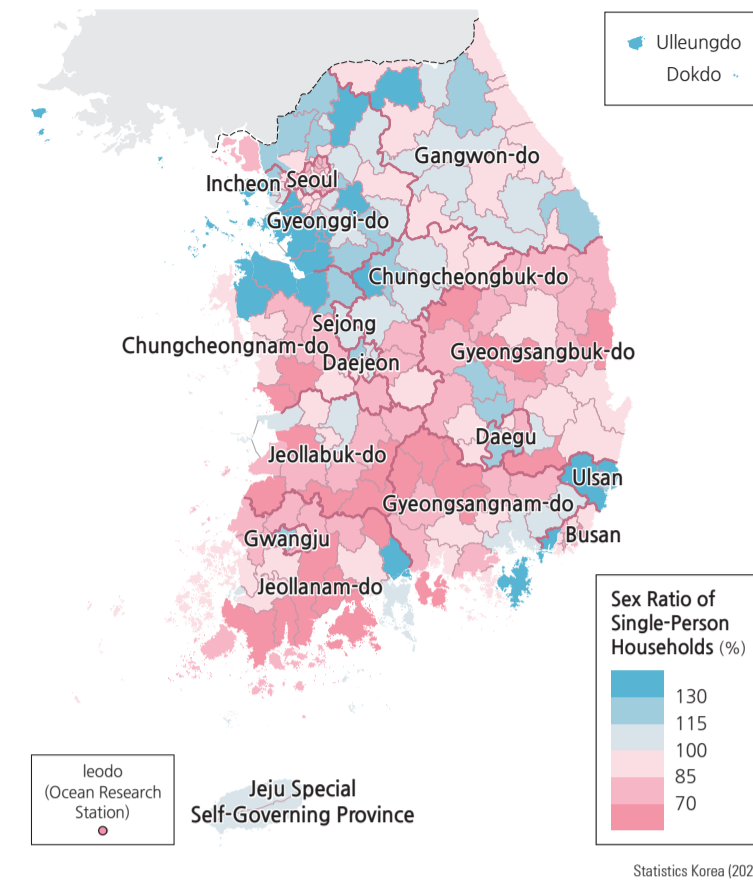
Single-Person Household Ratio (2010)



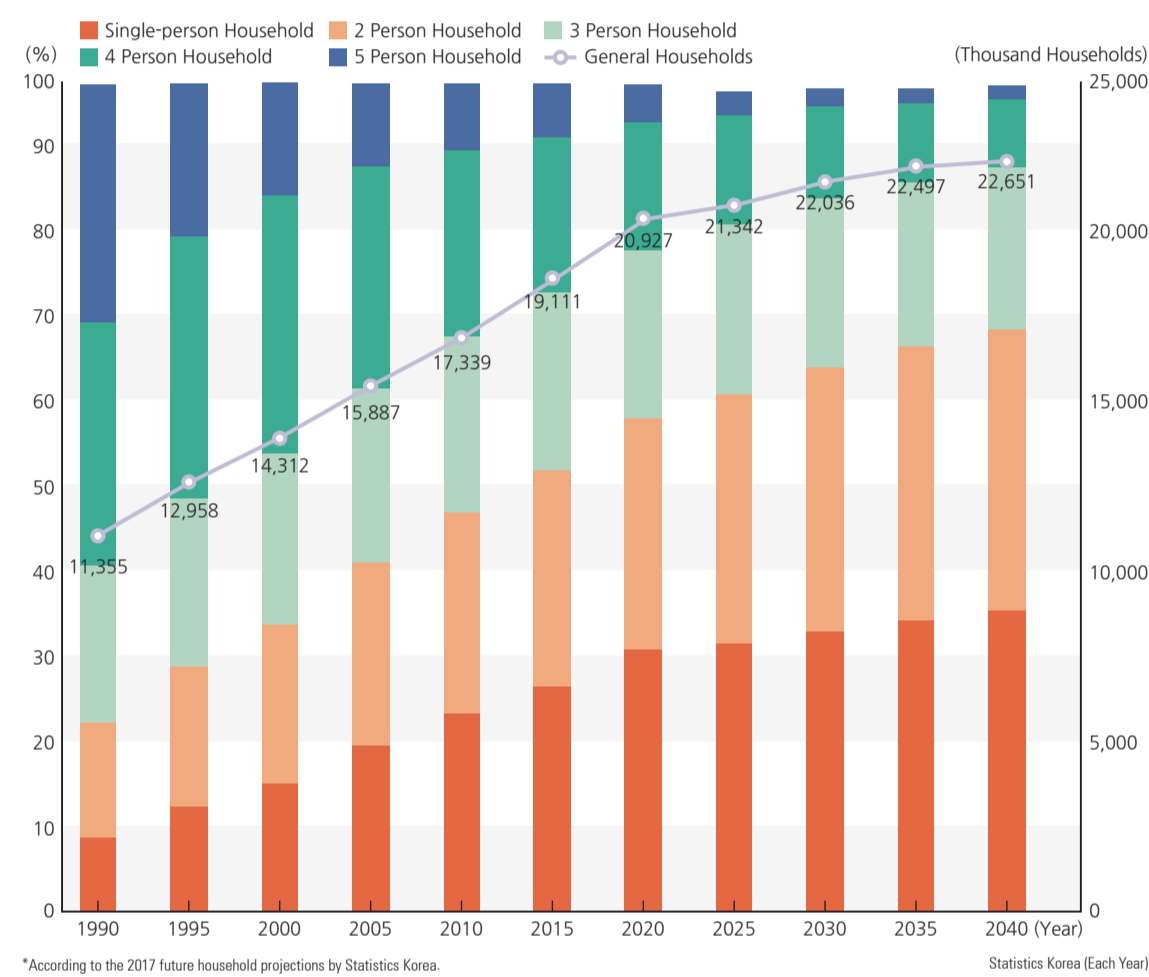
Single-Person Household Ratio (2020)



Sex Ratio of Single-Person Households (2020)

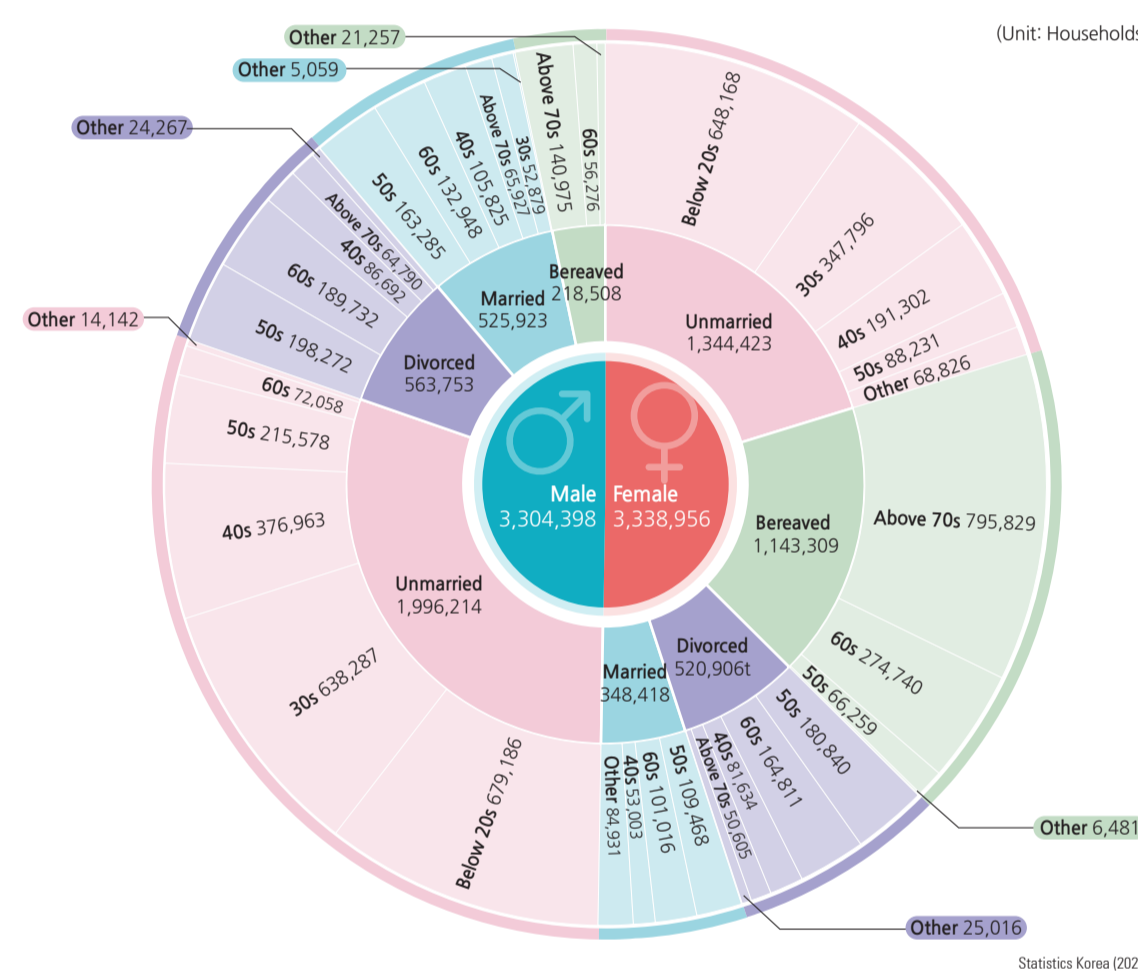


Changes in Household Size



\*According to the 2017 future household projections by Statistics Korea.

Single-Person Households by Gender, Age, and Marital Status (2020)



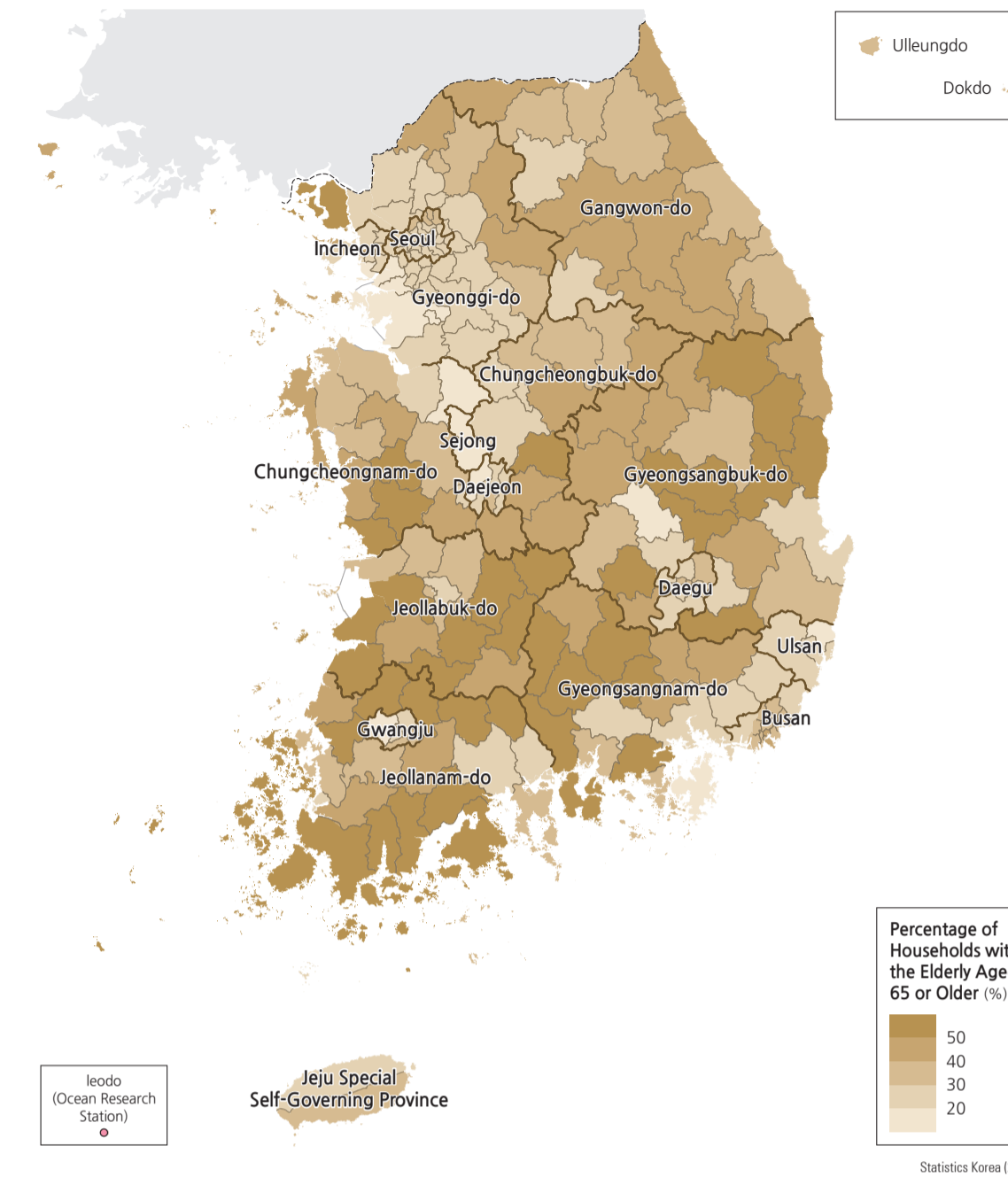
Single-Person Households by Provinces (2010-2020)

Province	2010				2020				2040 (Projection)				
	Household Members	General Household	Single-Person Household	Single-Person Household Ratio	Household Members	General Household	Single-Person Household	Single-Person Household Ratio	Household Members	General Household	Single-Person Household	Single-Person Household Ratio	
National Total	46,651	17,339	4,142	8.9	20,927	6,643	13,5	31.7	22,651	8,237	36.4		
-Eup	3,984	1,487	347	8.7	2,022	621	13.0	30.7	-	-	-	-	
-Myeon	4,237	1,821	552	13.0	2,008	722	17.2	35.9	-	-	-	-	
-Dong	38,430	14,031	3,244	8.4	16,897	5,300	13.2	31.4	-	-	-	-	
Seoul	9,459	3,504	855	9.0	3,982	1,391	15.3	34.9	3,830	1,418	37.0		
Busan	3,306	1,244	291	8.8	2,022	621	13.0	30.7	-	-	-	-	
Daegu	2,377	868	192	8.1	2,321	986	13.1	30.9	974	350	35.9		
Incheon	2,585	919	191	7.4	2,087	1,147	13.5	28.3	1,315	452	34.4		
Gwangju	1,423	516	123	8.6	23.8	1,410	599	13.8	32.4	604	233	38.6	
Daejeon	1,441	533	135	9.4	25.3	1,425	631	22.9	16.1	36.3	257	40.3	
Ulsan	1,042	374	77	7.4	20.7	1,083	444	12.3	11.3	27.7	447	31.1	
Sejong	-	-	-	-	-	340	139	44	12.8	31.3	236	83	35.3
Gyeonggi-do	10,926	3,831	777	7.1	20.3	12,693	5,098	14.06	11.1	27.6	6,116	2,036	33.3
Gangwon-do	1,392	558	155	11.2	27.9	1,453	661	23.1	15.9	35.0	736	300	40.8
Chungcheongbuk-do	1,439	559	150	10.5	26.9	1,525	679	23.6	15.5	34.8	791	319	40.3
Chungcheongnam-do	1,902	749	202	10.6	27.0	2,017	892	30.5	15.1	34.2	1,082	427	39.5
Jeollabuk-do	1,699	660	175	10.3	26.5	1,701	756	25.5	15.0	33.8	750	296	39.4
Jeollanam-do	1,668	681	197	11.8	28.9	1,686	762	25.7	15.2	33.7	792	309	39.0
Gyeongsangbuk-do	2,458	1,005	290	11.8	28.8	2,483	1,132	38.9	15.7	34.4	1,176	462	39.3
Gyeongsangnam-do	3,019	1,151	286	9.5	24.9	3,148	1,350	41.8	13.3	30.9	1,460	524	35.9
Jeju	515	187	45	8.7	24.0	633	263	82	12.9	31.1	354	128	36.2

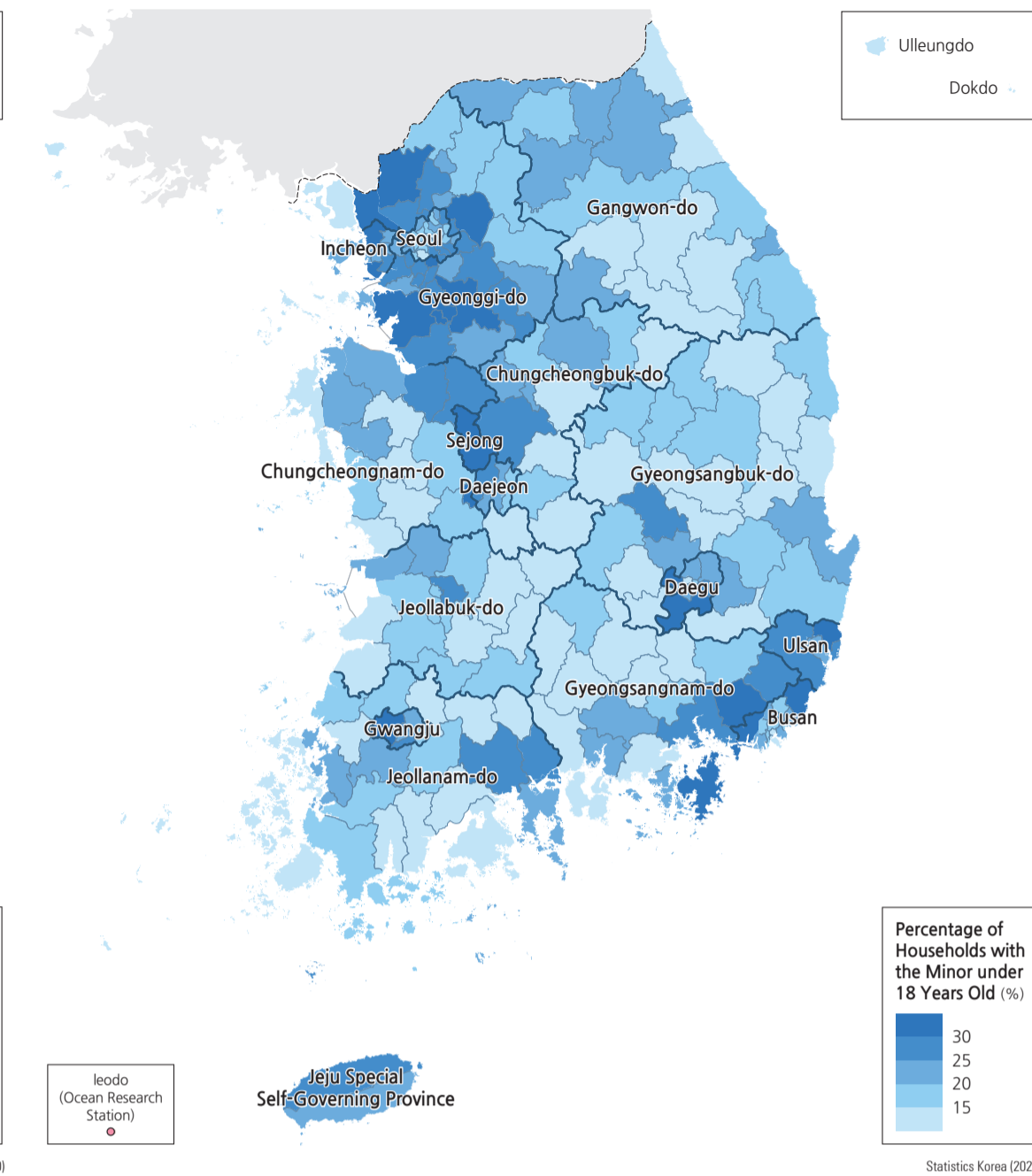
\*According to the 2017 future household projections by Statistics Korea.

## Household with the Elderly and Minors

Households with the Elderly Aged 65 or Older (2020)



Households with the Minor Under 18 Years Old (2020)



The numbers of single-person households and elderly households have increased, while the number of households with minors has decreased. The number of households with elderly people aged 65 and up increased from 4.07 million in 2010 to 5.87 million in 2020, accounting for 44 percent of all households. The proportion of elderly households rose from 23.5 percent in 2010 to 28.0 percent in 2020. As of 2020, the proportion of elderly households in Jeollanam-do had risen to 39 percent. In addition, the proportion of households with only the elderly and households with elderly singles reached 14.2 percent and 7.9 percent, respectively, necessitating the development of systems supporting elderly households. Of the 229 municipalities nationwide, 41 -si-gun-gu areas account for more than 50 percent of the elderly households, and the proportion of elderly households is low in large cities and

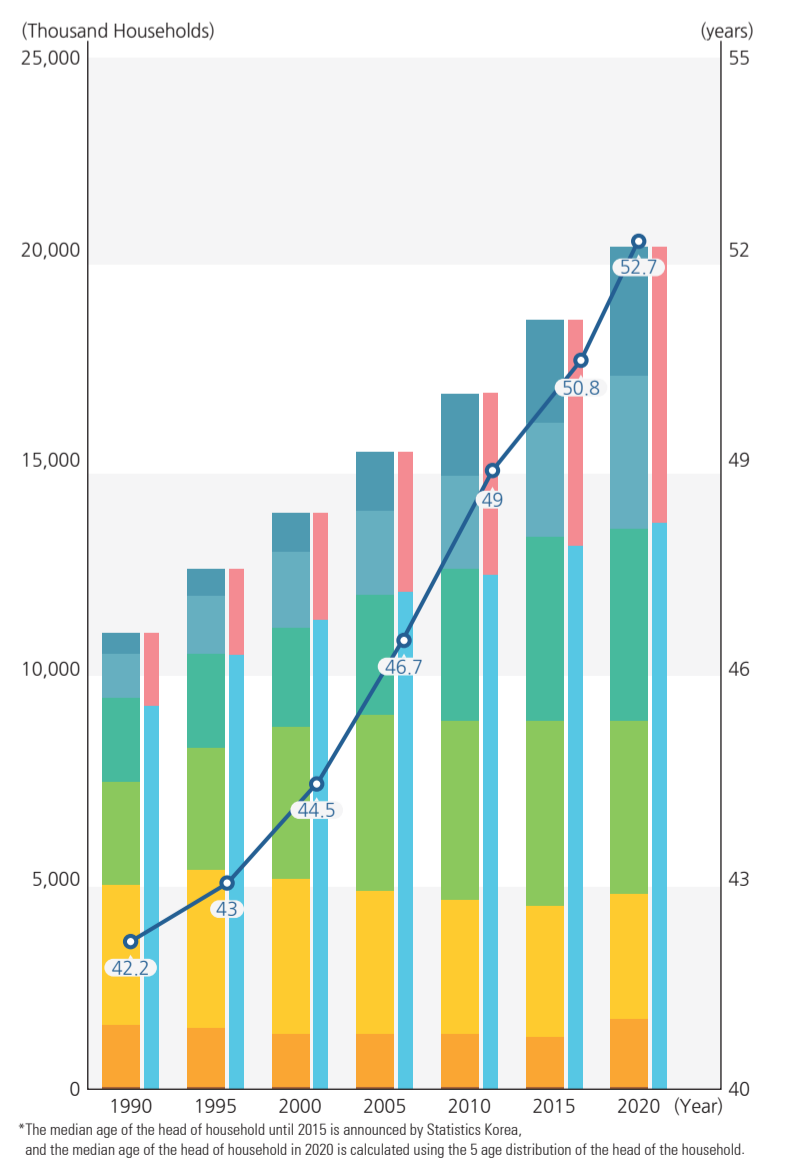
the Seoul Metropolitan Areas. However, the proportion of elderly households is expected to increase rapidly in these urban areas. The number of households with minors under the age of 18 decreased by 11 percent, from 5.57 million households in 2016 to 4.95 million households in 2020, and the proportion of households with minors dropped from 28.7 percent in 2016 to 23.6 percent in 2020. Households with children under the age of five experienced the greatest decline, falling 18 percent from 2.06 million in 2016 to 1.69 million in 2020. Although policies to encourage childbirth have been implemented, the number of births is expected to decrease due to various social and economic factors. Accordingly, the number of households and household members is also expected to decrease. However, the proportion of households with minors generally shows the opposite trend of change to the proportion

Households with the Elderly or Minors (2020)

Province	General Households	Households with the Elderly						Households with the Minors					
		Households with the Elderly		Households with Only the Elderly		Single-Person Elderly Household		Households with the Minors		2 and More Minors		3 and More Minors	
		Household	Ratio	Household	Ratio	Household	Ratio	Household	Ratio	Household	Ratio	Household	Ratio
National Total	20,927	5,866	28.0	2,965	14.2	1,661	7.9	4,949	23.6	2,951	14.1	511	2.4
Seoul	3,982	1,061	26.6	486	12.2	260	6.5	819	20.6	458	11.5	66	1.7
Busan	1,405	455	32.4	237	16.8	136	9.7	292	20.8	170	12.1	26	1.9
Daegu	986	281	28.5	149	15.1	83	8.5	233	23.6	141	14.3	22	2.2
Incheon	1,147	289	25.2	134	11.7	76	6.7	289	25.2	171	14.9	29	2.5
Gwangju	599	145	24.2	75	12.6	42	7.0	154	25.7	99	16.5	19	3.2
Daejeon	631	147	23.3	75	11.9	42	6.6	147	23.3	91	14.4	17	2.7
Ulsan	444	101	22.8	49	11.1	27	6.2	121	27.3	73	16.4	11	2.5
Sejong	139	24	17.1	11	7.8	6	4.1	50	36.0	31	22.3	5	3.6
Gyeonggi-do	5,098	1,227	24.1	556	10.9	297	5.8	1,411	27.7	845	16.6	142	2.8
Gangwon-do	661	223	33.8	122	18.4	70	10.6	135	20.4	79	12.0	15	2.3
Chungcheongbuk-do	679	199	29.3	109	16.1	62	9.1	149	21.9	92	13.5	19	2.8
Chungcheongnam-do	892	277	31.1	153	17.1	84	9.5	204	22.9	126	14.1	25	2.8
Jeollabuk-do	756	265	35.1	150	19.8	87	11.5	160	21.2	101	13.4	23	3.0
Jeollanam-do	762	297	39.0	174	22.9	105	13.8	155	20.3	95	12.5	22	2.9
Gyeongsangbuk-do	1,132	395	34.9	229	20.3	132	11.7	229	20.2	135	11.9	24	2.1
Gyeongsangnam-do	1,350	407	30.1	223	16.5	133	9.8	331	24.5	201	14.9	35	2.6
Jeju	263	72	27.6	34	12.8	18	6.9	70	26.6	45	17.1	12	4.6

\*If there is more than one minor (under 18 years of age), children who are not minors are included in the number of children.

Changes in the Number of Household Owners by Family and Age



\*The median age of the head of household until 2015 is announced by Statistics Korea, and the median age of the head of household in 2020 is calculated using the 5-age distribution of the head of the household.