Leisure and Religion

The Koreans’ leisure time and activities have diversified after a five-day workweek was introduced in the early 2000s. Expenditures for leisure have increased along with income and a changing perception of leisure. As a result, opportunities to actively participate in leisure activities, such as joining clubs, have expanded, and so has the frequency and expense of domestic and international travel.

In recent years, Korean society has experienced social transitions, including religion and family life. The fertility rate decreased, family size has also decreased. As the age of marriage has increased, marriage, and divorce has also increased. With the demographic and social changes, opinions on the family, marriage, and divorce are being reevaluated. Continuous societal efforts are being made to solve these conflicts and inequalities.

Koreans over age 10 enjoy an average of four hours and forty-five minutes of leisure time every day. The average Korean sleeps 100,000 to 200,000 KRW per month: the Sejong shows work-oriented life. Regarding leisure expenditures in 2020, people spent 100,000 to 200,000 KRW per month: in the highest in Jeju-do and Gyeongnam and the lowest in Gangwon-do and Ulsan.

Regionally, a higher percentage of people of Ulsan or Jeju-do shows work-life balance, and a larger proportion of people of Jeju shows work-oriented life. Regarding leisure expenditures in 2020, people spend 100,000 to 200,000 KRW per month: the highest in Jeju-do and Gyeongnam and the lowest in Gangwon-do and Ulsan.

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Leisure Time and Tourism

Average Leisure Time (2020)

Expenditure for Leisure (2020)

Major Purpose of Leisure Activities by Gender (2020)

Major Purpose of Leisure Activities by Age (2020)
Koreans enjoy leisure in movie theaters, spaces around the home and neighborhood parks for light exercises, and restaurants and cafes for gatherings and meals. In addition, they enjoy leisure on weekends. Also, regional differences in leisure space and field are found. For example, space or facilities are often recognized as the primary space for leisure in urban areas. On the other hand, village community centers are the primary space for leisure in nonurban regions where the elderly population is dominant, including Gangneung-gu, Seorakjeong, Jeju-do, and Gijanggun-Sehwa-dong. Regardless of gender, the primary purpose of leisure participation is for personal pleasure; a relatively lesser proportion of Korean people participate in leisure for health, socializing, and personal development. Females are more likely than males to pursue emotional balance and rest in their leisure time. On the other hand, males are more likely to see leisure as an aim to relieve stress. Reflecting such purposes, males participate in activities, entertainment, and sports-related activities; females participate in relaxing, orientating, or culture and activity-related activities. By age groups, the proportion of people participating in leisure activities increases for younger people in personal pleasures, relaxing, socializing, and orientational activities and for older people in reading and health-related activities. Recently, the proportion to watch broadcasts on TVs and smartphones by using video-on-demand (VOD) services and leisure activities using mobile devices also are changing.

People allocate 5 to 20% of their leisure time to reading, depending on the region. For example, people in Jeju-do allocate the longest time on reading, on the other hand, people from Chongbongdo-dong allocate the shortest time. Gwangju, Incheon-do, and Sejong are the regions where people allocate the least time for reading on weekends or holidays. The use of e-books and audiobooks increases as people rely less on traditional printed books. However, users of e-books and audiobooks are still lower than hardcopy users.

Percentage of Time for Reading in Leisure Time (2017)

Understanding the recent walking and cycling craze is an important part of the Korean leisure culture. In the past, the common tourist pattern was arriving to tourist destinations quickly and enjoying the culture, heritage, tourism, and entertainment facilities. However, the new movement trend is understood for the region by redefining and finding the environment while walking slowly. The sustainable trend has changed the moving patterns of Koreans. Following the walking craze, many walking routes have been created and used across the county. These routes reflect the characteristics and the history of the regions. The underlying themes for the creation of such routes are many. Bicycle routes are garnering popularity in order to be able to enjoy the culture, ecology, beautiful coastal landscape, forests, and wildlife. For example, Nutrip, a runner app, to enjoy urban conservation area, has become popular. Also, diverse routes were designed to enjoy unique themes within the city, including ecological and historical museums such as Chingyeong-gil in Seoul. In most cities and provinces, public bicycles—stationery rentals and to directly managed—are operated. People can visit bicycle or rental stations by using transportation cards or mobile applications. In the past, people could not cross the country by riding a bicycle because of its mountainous terrain. However, in recent years, many bicycle trails have been created along major rivers such as the Han River, Geum River, Nakdong River, Mangyong River, and roads such as the east coast of the peninsula and the Jeju Island coast. Local governments have also built bicycle trails focused on beauty,Unlike, and culture. As a result, many bicycle trails using bicycle roads has become popular.

Public Bicycle Services (2021)

Distribution of Bike Trails (2021)

Example of a Wailing Trail: Donggakbongwang-gil (Course 2021)
Tourism is one of the most important leisure activities. As a result, domestic and foreign travel increased in Korea. International outbound passengers gradually increased. As a result, the number of outbound passengers decreased in 1989, and it started to exceed 10 million in 2005, exceeding 13 million in 2017. The number of international outbound passengers was used to be around 4 million, have exceeded 7 million in 2010. In the world. Accordingly, domestic visitors who entered Jeju Island that has become the most frequently used route in the entire world. The Flight route between Seoul and Jeju has become the most frequently used route in the entire world. The Flight route between Seoul and Jeju has become the most frequently used route in the entire world. The Flight route between Seoul and Jeju has become the most frequently used route in the entire world. The Flight route between Seoul and Jeju has become the most frequently used route in the entire world. The Flight route between Seoul and Jeju has become the most frequently used route in the entire world. As a result, domestic and foreign tourism in Korea has expanded.

Korean tourists to foreign countries have changed by diverse factors such as accessibility, visa policies, international political and economic relation, exchange rates, and flight routes. Koreans have traditionally visited neighboring East Asian countries such as Japan and China. However, there has been a rapid decline in visitors caused by political reasons for the last few years. Recently, rapid growth in the number of visits to Vietnamese records one million a year in 2015. In 2018, over 4 million visits from Korea to Vietnam. There has been a steady increase in the number of people who visited Vietnam and diverse countries in Southeast Asia. Recently, the number of visitors to the United States has increased gradually since 2010. The number exceeded 2 million people in 2017, and the number of tourists maintained at 2 million before the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of hotel and tourism accommodations naturally reflects the number of visitors to each region. According to the Ministry of the Interior and Safety, as of 2018, Seoul and Jeju do had the greatest number of accommodations, followed by Gyeonggi-do, Gangwon-do, Gyeongsangnam-do, and Busan. However, there is a regional difference in the type of accommodations. The number of tourist hotels is the greatest in Seoul, on the other hand, the number of resort lodgings is the greatest in Jeju-do, followed by Gyeonggi-do. Gyeongsangnam-do has the greatest number of traditional hotel accommodations.
Enjoying and participating in a variety of cultural activities is important in contemporary Korean society. Cultural infrastructures are the facilities run by the entities in each region to allow the local residents to enjoy cultural life more easily and conveniently. Cultural infrastructures include public libraries, museums, art galleries, cultural and art halls, local cultural centers, and community education facilities. These facilities are designed to meet the basic cultural demands of the local population; such facilities have been concentrated more in Seoul and the metropolitan area. However, many exhibitions and performances are being held in the rest of the country to fulfill the cultural demands. Public libraries are also performing cultural services for many people. Libraries recently have been transformed into complex cultural venues for local community education, performances, and cultural events while maintaining their traditional role for storing and lending books. They play significant roles as the centers of cultural activities in each local community.

While libraries provide space for artists to perform and for citizens to enjoy culture, art organizations play an important role for artists. In performing arts such as dances, music, and visual arts, such as paintings, the role of cultural facilities is to provide diverse environments and to secure their rights and interests. About 30% of all organizations are registered in Seoul and Gyeonggi-do, and about 27% are located in Busan, Ulsan, and Gyeongsangnam-do—art organizations are concentrated in the Seoul Metropolitan Area and the southeastern metropolitan area. Cultural associations and community schools are located in various cities and regions across the country. The operation of these themed parks was stricken by COVID-19. Especially indoor theme parks suffered from a sharp decline in the number of visitors due to COVID-19. Local festivals are major events that reflect the rich cultural and natural heritage of the region and discover and cultivate local cultures. Such cultural events occur over the country and rejuvenate the regional economy. Every year approximately 1,000 local festivals are held nationwide. Some festivals have become major local tourist attractions, attracting a large number of people. The festivals offer a diverse array of culture, art, nature, and ecology. History, and local specialties. They have been established as an essential part of recalling local memories and cultural heritages by sparking the imagination about beauty of the unique culture of that place. Since 1995, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism has designated and supported cultural tourism festivals every year, including the host cultures and tourism festivals, the most outstanding festivals, outstanding festivals, and promising festivals. As of 2019, the best culture and tourism festivals selected for five consecutive years are Jeonju International Film Festival, Gijang Horizon Festival, Jeju Young Indases Festival, Jeju Young Ju-Jitsu Festival, and Andong Mask Dance Festival. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism supports promoting these festivals to become global festivals.
Increasing interest in health and quality of life has been accompanied by the demand for exercise facilities and spaces. Daily exercise can be pursued at home and do not require special equipment. However, in recent years, various organized daily exercise-related clubs and professional sports clubs, such as baseball and marine clubs, are increasing. Public sports facilities play a significant role in such a physical environment where daily physical activities are pursued. In particular, multi-sports complexes are growing in popularity because they facilitate diverse sports activities in many parts of the community. In addition, smaller village sports facilities for simple walking and stretching are available for those who prefer to engage in activities closer to home. The neighborhood units of sports facilities are especially important for elderly people with limited mobility and disposable income. Elderly people especially enjoy widely available pitched courts for slow walking and conversation rather than rigorous exercise. Rural areas have been populated by the elderly feature these amenities.

Since the launch of professional baseball in 1982, professional sports such as soccer, basketball, and volleyball have steadily followed, becoming a popular part of leisure life and attracting the interest of many people. Professional sports are part of leisure life and the basis for the sports industry. However, they also have a deep association with local civic pride identity through community connections. Especially, baseball has become the representative professional sport, attracting millions of spectators every year, with the team rankings and player statistics creating media time and daily conversation.

Clubs to support professional soccer, basketball, and volleyball teams have moved beyond stateor city-specific teams. Regionally-based professional teams are beloved by the regional population. Business enterprises promote and brand themselves through professional sports teams. As a new feature, in addition to the conglomerate-oriented professional teams, a variety of citizen sports clubs, enterprises promote and brand themselves through professional sports teams. As a new feature, in addition to the conglomerate-oriented professional teams, a variety of citizen sports clubs, such as SEOUL HEROES BASEBALL CLUB, have moved beyond mere spectator status. Regionally-based professional teams are beloved by the regional population. Business enterprises promote and brand themselves through professional sports teams. As a new feature, in addition to the conglomerate-oriented professional teams, a variety of citizen sports clubs, such as SEOUL HEROES BASEBALL CLUB, have moved beyond mere spectator status. Regionally-based professional teams are beloved by the regional population. Business enterprises promote and brand themselves through professional sports teams. As a new feature, in addition to the conglomerate-oriented professional teams, a variety of citizen sports clubs, such as SEOUL HEROES BASEBALL CLUB, have moved beyond mere spectator status. Regionally-based professional teams are beloved by the regional population. Business enterprises promote and brand themselves through professional sports teams. As a new feature, in addition to the conglomerate-oriented professional teams, a variety of citizen sports clubs, such as SEOUL HEROES BASEBALL CLUB, have moved beyond mere spectator status. Regionally-based professional teams are beloved by the regional population. Business enterprises promote and brand themselves through professional sports teams. As a new feature, in addition to the conglomerate-oriented professional teams, a variety of citizen sports clubs, such as SEOUL HEROES BASEBALL CLUB, have moved beyond mere spectator status. Regionally-based professional teams are beloved by the regional population. Business enterprises promote and brand themselves through professional sports teams. As a new feature, in addition to the conglomerate-oriented professional teams, a variety of citizen sports clubs, such as SEOUL HEROES BASEBALL CLUB, have moved beyond mere spectator status. Regionally-based professional teams are beloved by the regional population. Business enterprises promote and brand themselves through professional sports teams. As a new feature, in addition to the conglomerate-oriented professional teams, a variety of citizen sports clubs, such as SEOUL HEROES BASEBALL CLUB, have moved beyond mere spectator status. Regionally-based professional teams are beloved by the regional population. Business enterprises promote and brand themselves through professional sports teams. As a new feature, in addition to the conglomerate-oriented professional teams, a variety of citizen sports clubs, such as SEOUL HEROES BASEBALL CLUB, have moved beyond mere spectator status. Regionally-based professional teams are beloved by the regional population. Business enterprises promote and brand themselves through professional sports teams. As a new feature, in addition to the conglomerate-oriented professional teams, a variety of citizen sports clubs, such as SEOUL HEROES BASEBALL CLUB, have moved beyond mere spectator status. Regionally-based professional teams are beloved by the regional population. Business enterprises promote and brand themselves through professional sports teams. As a new feature, in addition to the conglomerate-oriented professional teams, a variety of citizen sports clubs, such as SEOUL HEROES BASEBALL CLUB, have moved beyond mere spectator status. Regionally-based professional teams are beloved by the regional population. Business enterprises promote and brand themselves through professional sports teams. As a new feature, in addition to the conglomerate-oriented professional teams, a variety of citizen sports clubs, such as SEOUL HEROES BASEBALL CLUB, have moved beyond mere spectator status. Regionally-based professional teams are beloved by the regional population. Business enterprises promote and brand themselves through professional sports teams. As a new feature, in addition to the conglomerate-oriented professional teams, a variety of citizen sports clubs, such as SEOUL HEROES BASEBALL CLUB, have moved beyond mere spectator status.
Korean society has undergone rapid changes, which are reflected in the social perceptions and behaviors of its people. For example, attitudes towards supporting parents have also changed rapidly. In recent years, there has been an increasing notion that parents should be supported by a combination of family members, the government, and the society, away from the traditional Confucian culture where family members support their parents. As a result, only 20 to 30% of the people think that family members should support their parents, and such perceptions have rapidly diffused to all cities and provinces. For example, attitudes towards supporting parents have also changed rapidly. In recent years, there has been an increasing notion that parents should be supported by a combination of family members, the government, and the society, away from the traditional Confucian culture where family members support their parents. As a result, only 20 to 30% of the people think that family members should support their parents, and such perceptions have rapidly diffused to all cities and provinces.

The Confucian culture that led to the negative perception about divorce is also changing rapidly. The proportion of people who are advocates of divorce spans from 13 to 20%, depending on the cities and provinces. The proportion of people who believe that no one should get divorced for any reason spans from 16 to 18%. From 2014 to 2020, the proportions have decreased from 16 to 18% in most cities and provinces. Opinions on marriage are similar to those 40 to 50% of people think that one must get married. It is better to get married, depending on the cities and provinces. Those who think that they are not to get married or that one should not get married account for 3 to 5%. The percentage has increased up to 3% from 2016 to 2020 in most regions. A survey regarding marriage factors in Korean society also reveals the difference between generations. The younger generation has higher anxiety about crimes. In comparison, the older generation believes that individual insecurity, natural disasters, and new diseases are worrisome. Among those in the 20s to 30s who can actively participate in economic activities, the gap between the rich and the poor and economic risk is considered the most problematic social unsettling factors. The degree to which those at higher educational institutions, such as college or high school students, prefer large companies was lower than middle school students. On the other hand, the degree of preference on the employment in public enterprises, those who attended college or higher education showed higher preferences than those at lower education. Also, most young adults and adolescents preferred to get a job at government organizations, and especially females preferred to work for government organizations or public enterprises. The fact that mostly half prefers to work for government organizations or public enterprises reflects people’s anxiety about the Korean economy that has entered a phase of low economic growth. The social life of Koreans has rapidly drifted from the family and village-oriented community of the past to a more urban way of life. This change in the social fabric carries with it a variety of forms of social participation. Formal social and religious rights and religious and birdbrain-based activities are increasing.

Statistics Korea (2016–2020)