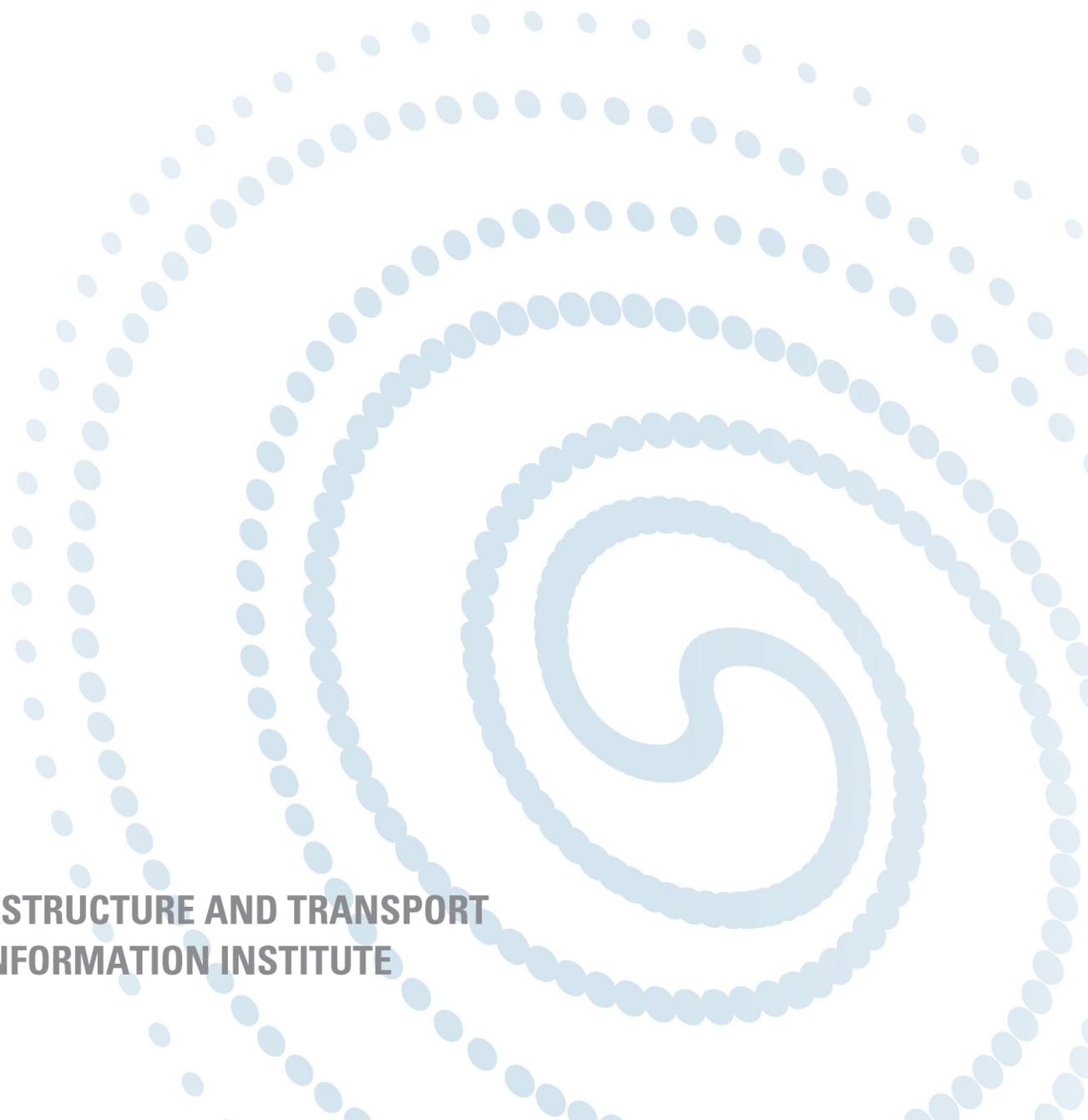


# THE NATIONAL ATLAS OF KOREA Ⅲ 2021

*Human Geography*

MINISTRY OF LAND, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION INSTITUTE



## Foreword to *The National Atlas of Korea III 2021*

I am delighted with the publication of *The National Atlas of Korea III 2021*.

Our land is a vessel containing the lives of our people and the economy and industry of the nation. It is also an asset of the nation that our people will live on from generation to generation. Therefore, we constantly strive to efficiently use and preserve our land. Many efforts to make our land a beautiful, productive, and livable place enable the land to continue to develop even at this very moment.

The National Atlas of Korea is a very important national document that records the geographical and physical characteristics of our land and its changes. It contains not only geographical information about our land but also data on all activities taking place on our land space, such as culture, history, nature, and humanities, as well as economic and social changes. It is not a simple compilation of maps but a clear arrangement of the changes in land space and its spatial structure using cutting-edge mapping techniques and various data expression methods, so the fields of application are very diverse.

*The National Atlas of Korea III 2021*, published this year, contains the most up-to-date information about our land and further enhances the accuracy and precision of the data included in this atlas. Therefore, it will serve as an important reference to help establish the future vision of our land space and implement major policies. It will also be an important reference for territorial and geographical naming issues with neighboring countries. In addition, it will serve as a textbook that will help all citizens acquire an accurate understanding of our land and take pride in it.

Our land space constantly changes and develops. Therefore, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport will continue to support the periodic publication of the high-quality National Atlas of Korea. I expect that *The National Atlas of Korea* will continue to make great progress and expand its field of application even further.

I would like to thank all the institutions and experts who have collected and provided the vast amount of data necessary to publish *The National Atlas of Korea III 2021*. Furthermore, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the officials of the National Geographic Information Institute and the Korean Geographical Society, who contributed to the publication of *The National Atlas of Korea III 2021*.

Thank you.

December 2021

**Noh Hyeong Ouk**

Minister, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport



## Preface

*The National Atlas of Korea* is an official national document that records the current state of the country as well as changes in the development of the land through time using various cartographic and infographic techniques.

As can be seen from *Dongguk yeojiseungram* and *Haedong yeojitongjae*, Korea has a long tradition of publishing state-led national atlases and geography. The National Geographic Information Institute published the first *National Atlas of Korea* in 2007. After that, the National Geographic Information Institute published the second edition of the *National Atlas of Korea*, describing all aspects of the country in more depth over three years starting in 2014: Volume I (Territory and History) in 2014, Volume II (National Land and Natural Environment) in 2015, and Volume III (National Land and Human Environment) in 2016. *The National Atlas of Korea III 2021* updates and enriches the contents of *The National Atlas of Korea* on our land and human environment, published in 2016, in a more detailed and systematic manner and includes many new geographical phenomena.

Chapter 1 (National Territory and Places of Life) describes land use, urban development, housing, and the various phenomena that constitute sustainable land development. Chapter 2 (Population and Living) explains the growth, distribution, structure, migration, and future projections of the population, as well as the recent change in household types. Chapter 3 (Industrial Activity) deals with various economic activity indices and the industrial structure and explains employment and labor. Finally, Chapter 4 (Society and Culture) describes various aspects of our lives, such as culture, politics, health, welfare, and education.

This revised edition describes changes in the human environment of the nation. It adds new geographical phenomena that reflect the rapidly changing national land, such as “change in spatial activities in the Corona era,” “change in manufacturing industries and de-industrialization,” “local extinction and balanced development,” “expansion and impacts of single-person households,” and “smart mobility.” In addition, this edition adapts the global trend of national atlas production methods and the newly introduced cutting-edge cartography techniques.

I hope that *The National Atlas of Korea*, called *Daedong yeojido* of the 21st century, will become an important reference for land policymakers and a useful textbook for domestic and international educators. Furthermore, I hope that *The National Atlas of Korea* will contribute to everyone’s understanding of and love for our land.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Korean Geographical Society and all those who participated in publishing *The National Atlas of Korea III 2021*.

December 2021

**Sakong, Hosang**

Director General, National Geographic Information Institute



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# Contents

## NATIONAL TERRITORY AND PLACES OF LIFE

<b>Use of National Territory</b> .....	10
National Territory .....	11
Water Resources .....	12
Energy .....	14
Electricity .....	16
Food .....	18
Minerals .....	20
National Transportation Network .....	22
Industrial Complex .....	26
<b>Cities</b> .....	28
Distribution of Cities .....	29
Development of Cities .....	30
City Network .....	32
Planned Cities .....	34
Housing and Residential Environment .....	36
City Area .....	38
Statistics on Cities .....	40
Statistics Map on Cities .....	42
<b>Urban Agglomeration</b> .....	48
Metropolitan Area .....	48
Seoul Metropolitan Area .....	48
Chungcheong Region .....	52
Gangwon Region .....	56
Honam Region .....	60
Yeongnam Region .....	64
<b>Balanced National Development</b> .....	68
National Territorial Plan and Balanced Development Policy .....	69
Quality of Life .....	70
Sustainable Development of National Territory .....	74
Regional Innovative Systems .....	77
Innovation City .....	79
Decentralization .....	82

## POPULATION AND LIVING

<b>Demographic Cliff and Unbalanced Distribution of Population</b> .....	84
Population Status .....	85
Population Crisis .....	86
Uneven Distribution of Population .....	92
Urban Population .....	94
Population Proximity Index and Population Density .....	96
Geographic Population Centers by Region .....	97
<b>Demographics and Population Projections</b> .....	98
Demographic Structure Status .....	99
Demographic Structure Change of Koreans .....	100
Population Dynamics .....	102
Population Projection .....	110
<b>Population Migration</b> .....	114
Population Growth .....	115
Net Migration .....	116
Population Based on the Place of Birth .....	118
In-Migration and Out-Migration .....	119
Migration by Provinces .....	120
Commuting .....	122
Daytime Population Index .....	123
International Migration of Korean .....	124
International Migration of Foreign Nationals .....	126
<b>Household and Household Members</b> .....	128
Changes in Household .....	129
Household Types and Foreign Households .....	130
Housing Types .....	131
Single-Person Household .....	132
Household with the Elderly and Minors .....	133
<b>Foreign Residents and Multicultural Households</b> .....	134
Foreign Residents .....	135
Growth of Multicultural Households .....	136
Vital Statistics of Multicultural Households .....	137

## INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

<b>Economic Index and Industrial Structure</b> .....	138
Economic Growth .....	139
Income and Expenditure .....	140
Industrial Structure .....	142
Trade and International Balance .....	144
Research and Development .....	146
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Mining</b> .....	148
Overview of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing .....	149
Changes in Agricultural Production .....	150
Changes in Agricultural Management .....	152
Livestock and Poultry .....	153
Forestry .....	154
Fishing .....	155
Migrant-Farmers, Migrant-Fishermen, Urban-to-Rural Migrants .....	156
Mining .....	157
<b>Manufacturing</b> .....	158
Overview of Manufacturing .....	159
Manufacture of Motor Vehicles .....	160
Shipbuilding Industry and General Purpose Machinery Manufacturing .....	161
Steel Industry .....	162
Oil Refining and Chemical Industry .....	163
Household Electric Appliances Industry .....	164
Communication and Broadcasting Apparatures and Semiconductor Manufacturing .....	165
Top Five New Emerging Industries .....	166
<b>Service Industries</b> .....	168
Overview of Service Industry .....	169
Retail Trade Services .....	170
Wholesale Trade Services .....	172
Food and Beverage Service Activities .....	173
Transportation, Storage, Accommodation, Arts, Sports, and Leisure-related Services .....	174
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (FIRE Industries) .....	175
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services .....	176
Information and Communication Services .....	177
<b>Employment and Labor</b> .....	178
Employment and Unemployment .....	179
Employment .....	180
Female Labor .....	182
Elderly Labor and Youth Labor .....	184
Migrant Labor .....	186

## SOCIETY AND CULTURE

<b>The Way of Life and Culture</b> .....	188
Fashion and Culture .....	189
Food and Culture .....	192
Residency and Culture .....	198
<b>Leisure and Religion</b> .....	202
Leisure Time and Tourism .....	203
Cultural Facilities .....	208
Sports Activities .....	210
Social Relations and Religion .....	212
<b>Politics and Election</b> .....	214
Presidential Election .....	215
Election of Members of the National Assembly .....	216
Local Election .....	219
<b>Public Health and Welfare</b> .....	220
Health and Medicare Services .....	221
National Health .....	224
Social Welfare .....	228
Spread of COVID-19 .....	232
<b>Education</b> .....	242
Overview of and Changes in Education .....	243
Preschool and Elementary Education .....	244
Secondary Education .....	247
Higher Education .....	249
Private Education and Other Schools .....	252
<b>Photograph Sources</b> .....	254