The Skills Outlook Scoreboard assesses the extent to which Korea is able to make the most of digitalisation. Korea’s performance is measured along 3 main dimensions: Skills for digitalisation, Digital exposure and Skills-related policy effort.

The Scoreboard shows that Korea performs well on indicators closely linked with the skills acquired in formal education and those of the young generations, nonetheless Korea has a high proportion of older adults lacking basic skills in literacy, numeracy and problem solving in technology-rich environments. In Korea, according to OECD estimates, almost 15% of workers are in occupations at high risk of automation and would need moderate training efforts to transit to safer occupations with low or medium risk of automation (vs 10.9% in the OECD). An additional 2.8% of workers would need important training efforts (up to 3 years) to escape the risk of automation. Results also show that teachers, in Korea, report urgent need of training in ICTs for teaching, one of the highest share among OECD countries. Furthermore, only 36% of adults have received non-formal and informal training in the past 12 months, against an OECD average of 42%.

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Individuals with a well-rounded set of skills are more likely to be able to adapt if digitalisation transforms their job content or everyday activities
Percentage of 16-65 scoring at least Level 3 (inclusive) in literacy and numeracy

Teachers are generally less likely to be top performers in problem-solving skills
Share of top performing teachers and tertiary-educated workers in problem solving in technology-rich environments, by country

Workers more exposed to the risk of automation are less likely to participate in training
Share of workers participating in adult learning (in the last 12 months)

A good level of skills allows people to unlock all the benefits of Internet use. In Korea, however, less than 37% of the individuals aged 16-65 have a good level of literacy and numeracy skills (i.e. score at least Level 3 in PIAAC literacy and numeracy tests).

In many OECD countries teachers appear to be less likely to have higher proficiency in problem solving in technology-rich environment than other tertiary-educated workers. In Korea, instead, teachers problem solving ability as well as their use of technology is on par with that of other high-skilled workers.

In Korea, the participation of workers in Adult Learning is low by international standards. Yet, workers more exposed to the risk of automation and the low-skilled participate less in training than workers at low-risk of automation and high-skilled workers.