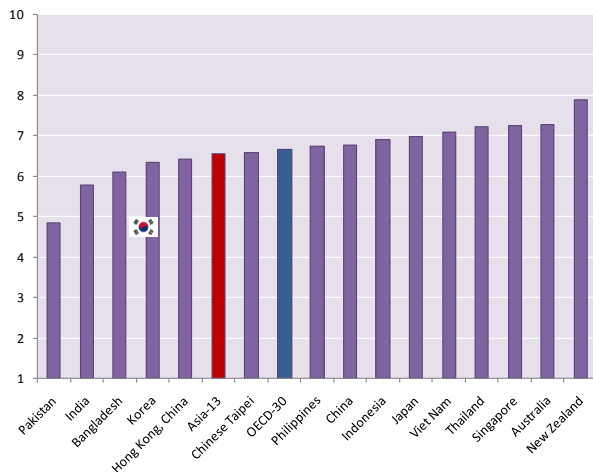


## KEY FINDINGS: KOREA

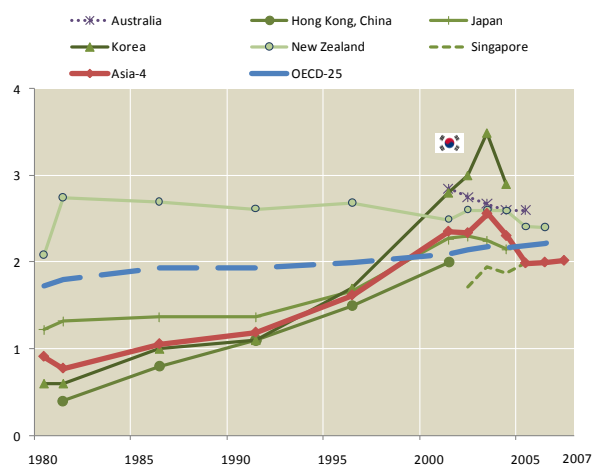
**Life Satisfaction:** Life satisfaction in Korea is relatively low. Koreans rank their life satisfaction slightly higher than Bangladesh and slightly lower than the average for 13 Asian economies (6.5). At the same time, they rank much lower than non-Asian OECD countries such as Australia and New Zealand (respectively 7.3 and 7.9), and lower than the average for 30 OECD countries (6.7). Economic development does not seem to determine life satisfaction in general, since industrialised economies such as Korea and Japan rank lower than developing economies such as Viet Nam and Thailand.

**Divorce:** Korea's divorce rate nearly quintupled between 1980 and 2004 (from 0.6 to 2.9), whereas average divorce rates have remained relatively low for 25 OECD countries (1.7 to 2.3 between 1980 and 2007). Overall, average divorce rates have more than doubled for 4 Asian economies between 1980 and 2007 (from 0.9 to 2.0).

**Average levels of life satisfaction, 2005/2007 (on a scale of 1 to 10 from lowest to highest levels of satisfaction)**



**Crude divorce rates per 1 000 population, 1980-2007**



Sources: - Life satisfaction: 2005-2008 wave of the *World Values Survey*; except Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Singapore from 1999-2004 wave of the *World Values Survey*; and OECD-30 from OECD (2009), *Society at a Glance*. - Divorce rates: Korea: National Statistical Office of the Republic of Korea, *Social Indicators of Korea*; Japan: Ministry of Health and Welfare, *Vital Statistics of Japan* (<http://web-japan.org/stat>); Hong Kong - China: Census and Statistics Department ([www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200212/23/atablee.htm](http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200212/23/atablee.htm)); Singapore: Singapore Statistics (2007), *Statistics on Marriages and Divorces*; Australia, New Zealand, and OECD-26 from OECD (2009), *Society at a Glance*, Paris.

**GDP per capita:** Among industrialised Asian nations, Korea and Macao-China had the highest GDP per capita growth rates (4.8% and 4.7% respectively) between 1990 and 2006, more than double the average for 30 OECD countries of 2.1%.

**Social Spending:** Korea has the third highest ratio of social spending to GDP (7.5%), out of which some 60% is spent on social insurance, 12% on social assistance, and 26% on labour market programmes. Other OECD countries such as Australia and New Zealand spend double that amount (respectively 17.1% and 18.5%).

**Old-Age Replacement Rates:** Korea and Japan offer old age replacement rates of 44.6% and 34.1% respectively for both men and women, compared to 57-58% for OECD countries. This is a measure of how effectively a pension system provides income during retirement to replace earnings which were the main source of income prior to retirement of private sector workers in mandatory pension systems.

**Voting:** Voter turnout rates have steadily fallen for Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Pakistan, while India and Bangladesh show marginal increases, and Thailand a steady increase since the 1980s.