Korea spent the highest share of public expenditures on public investment among OECD countries in 2015

While governments across OECD countries invest, on average, 7.7% of public expenditures, Korea allocates 15.2% of all public expenditures to government investment, which represents also 5% of the Korean GDP. The proportion of government investment is allocated mainly to economic affairs and defence (54.5%) but investment in housing and community amenities is more than double that of the OECD average of 5.1%, reaching 11.9% in Korea.

Korea is a leader among OECD countries in the implementation of open government data strategies

Governments gather large amounts of information as part of its administrative duties. Some of that information can be put to use not only to improve the organizational efficiency of the government itself, but also to create value-added in private sector, foster innovation and empower citizens’ decision-making. Korea scores the highest on the OECD OURdata index, a measure of data availability, accessibility and the government support for re-use of data.

The Korean central government employs relatively few young people

The share of the central government workforce aged between 18 and 34 years is 9%, 9 p.p. below OECD average. At the same time the workforce in central government that is 55 years or older is also relatively small, representing 12% of all central government workforce, compared to an OECD average of 24%.
Public Finance and Economics

Fiscal balance* (2015) % of GDP

Government expenditures (2015) % of GDP

Government investment (2015) % of GDP

Government gross debt* (2015) % of GDP

Source: OECD National Accounts

Public Employment

General government employment as % of total employment (2015)

Women in the civil service ... and in senior positions (2015)

Percentage of central government employees aged 55 years or older (2015)

Source: OECD National Accounts

Public Sector Compensation

Annual compensation across central government positions (2015)

Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the compensation of employees in central / federal governments
### Human Resource Management

**Composite indicators on HRM practices in central government (2016)**

- **Extent of delegation of HRM practices in line ministries**
  - Korea: 0.64
- **Extent of the use of performance assessments in HR decisions**
  - Korea: 0.64
- **Extent of the use of performance related pay**
  - Korea: 0.66
- **Use of separate HRM practices for senior civil servants**
  - Korea: 0.55
- **Collection of administrative data**
  - Korea: 0.68

Source: OECD (2016) Strategic Human Resources Management Survey

### Budgeting

**Performance budgeting practices at the central level of government (2016)**

- **Composite index**
  - Korea: 0.61

Source: OECD (2016) Survey of Performance Budgeting

### Regulatory governance

**Composite indices on regulatory governance for primary laws* (2014)**

- **Stakeholder engagement in developing regulations**
  - Korea: 2.54
- **Regulatory Impact Assessment for developing regulations**
  - Korea: 2.44
- **Ex post evaluation of regulations**
  - Korea: 1.71

Source: OECD Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance (iREG)

* See Notes

### Public Procurement

**General government procurement expenditures (2015)**

- **% of government expenditures**
  - Korea: 38.7%

Source: OECD National Accounts

**Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2016)**

- **Support for green public procurement**
  - Korea: 11
- **Support for SMEs**
  - Korea: 8
- **Support for innovative goods and services**
  - Korea: 9

Source: OECD (2016) Survey on Public Procurement
**Fiscal balance** as reported in the System of National Accounts (SNA) framework, also referred to as net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of government, is calculated as total government revenues minus total government expenditures.

**Regulatory governance indicators:** The results for stakeholder engagement and Regulatory Impact Assessment apply exclusively to processes for developing primary laws initiated by the executive. Data is not applicable to the United States, where all primary laws are initiated by Congress. In the majority of countries, most primary laws are initiated by the executive, except for Mexico and Korea, where a higher share of primary laws are initiated by parliament/congress (respectively 90.6% and 84%).

**Government gross debt** is reported according to the SNA definition, which differs from the definition applied under the Maastricht Treaty. It is defined as all liabilities that require payment or payments of interest or principal by the debtor to the creditor at a date or dates in the future. All debt instruments are liabilities, but some liabilities such as shares, equity and financial derivatives are not debt.

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**OURdata Index:**

Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data (2017)

Composite index: from 0 lowest to 1 highest

Korea 0.94

Government support to re-use

Data accessibility

Data availability

Source: OECD (2017) Survey on Open Government Data

**Open Data Digital Government**

Source: OECD, ICT database; and Eurostat, Information Society database

**COREGOVERNMENTRESULTS**

**Satisfaction and confidence across public services**

% of citizens expressing confidence/satisfaction

- National government: National government 24% 42%
- Police: Police 66% 77%
- Health care: Health care 72% 70%
- Judicial system: Judicial system n.a. 55%
- Education system: Education system 57% 67%

*The Korean data are not displayed due to reliability issues.

Source: Gallup World Poll

**Differences in income inequality pre and post-tax and government transfers (2013)**

- Higher inequality: 0.6 0.5 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.1
- Lower inequality: 0.34 0.30 0.32 0.47

Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

**Limited government powers (2016)**

Korea 0.68

Source: The World Justice Project

**Government at a Glance 2017**

Government at a Glance provides readers with a dashboard of key indicators assembled with the goal of contributing to the analysis and international comparison of public sector productivity and performance. Indicators on government revenues, expenditures, and employment are presented, alongside key output and outcome data for education, health and justice. Information on key enablers to increase productivity including on digital government, budget procedures, strategic human resource management, open government data and innovative practices are also included. In a context of tight budget constraints in many member countries, good indicators are needed more than ever, in order to help governments make informed decisions regarding resource allocation and to help restore confidence in government institutions.

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance 2017 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication:

http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2017-en

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets: www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm