



Open Korea Dreaming of Globalization

Korea started riding the wave of globalization in the mid-1990s. Already 20 years have passed since then, and the country has achieved successful economic development and social integration.

In this world that is constantly changing, Korea welcomes diversity and embraces new values, emerging as a major player in globalization.

Organizational Structure & Mission



Quality administrative service delivered both at home and at offices abroad

Korea Immigration Service officials				
19 Immigration Offices	• Gwangju	• Gimpo Airport	• Gimhae Airport	• Daegu
	• Busan	• Seoul	• Southern Seoul	• Suwon
	• Yeosu	• Ulsan	• Incheon	• Incheon Airport
	• Jeju	• Changwon	• Cheongju	• Chuncheon
24 Branch Offices	• Gamcheon	• Geoje	• Goyang	• Goseong
	• Gumi	• Gunsan	• Gimhae	• Dangjin
	• Donghae	• Mokpo	• Muan Airport	• Ansan
	• Seosan	• Seoul train station	• Sokcho	• Sejong-ro
2 Immigration Detention Centers	• Cheongju	1 Immigration Reception Center		
	• Hwaseong			



History of the Korea Immigration Service

Over the past half-century, the Korea Immigration Service has been providing convenient immigration service, adapting to the fast changes both at home and abroad. The Korea Immigration Service will continue to play its role as a stepping stone in creating a safe, harmonious, and prosperous society for foreigners and nationals.

1961~80

- 1961 - The Ministry of Justice took over the responsibility for border control and alien registration from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 1963 - Enacted the Immigration Control Act
- 1976 - Completed foundation of Gimpo International Airport Complex
- 1984 - Established online network system among local immigration offices nationwide

1990's

- 1991 - Introduced Industrial Trainee System
- 1992 - Adopted the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees
- 1993 - Included provisions on procedures on refugee recognition in the Immigration Control Act
- 1998 - The first entry/departure clearance for Mt.Kumkang tourists at Dong-hae port
- 1999 - Enacted a Law on Immigration and Legal status of Overseas Koreans

2000's

- 2002 - Renewed Alien Registration Card and Certificate of Residence
 - Newly devised Permanent Residence status
- 2003 - Enacted an Act relating to Employment of Foreign Workers
- 2004 - Implemented Employment Permit System (EPS)
- 2005 - Introduced MRP (Machine Readable Passport) system and APIS (Advanced Passenger Information System)
- 2006 - The number of cross-border travelers reached 35.85 million
 - Established Council on Protection of Human Rights & Interests of Foreign Nationals
- 2007 - Launched the Korea Immigration Service (1 commissioner, 2 directors-general, 10 divisions)
 - Enacted the Framework Act on Treatment of Foreigners residing in the Republic of Korea
 - Received 2007 UN Public Service Award for KISS (Korea Immigration Smart Service)
- 2008 - Launched comprehensive foreigner support service (www.hikorea.go.kr) and the Immigration Contact Center
 - Held a 1st Together Day commemorative event
 - Held the Grand Festival for Multiple Ethnicities and Cultures Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Establishment of Korea (joint wedding ceremony for internationally married couples)
 - Started Automated entry/departure clearance services
 - Held the 4th Immigration Policy Commission meeting and finalized the 1st Basic Plan for Immigration Policy
- 2009 - Launched a Social Integration Program
 - Launched a Program for International Marriage

2010 ~

- 2010 - Revised the Nationality Act relating to multiple nationality
 - Established and Implemented 1st stage of fingerprint verification system for foreigners
 - Implemented Guidance Program for International Marriage
- 2011 - Implemented fingerprint registration system for foreign residents
- 2012 - Mutual use of Korea's SES and USA's Global Entry Program initiated
 - Initiated Biometric Identification System
 - Total number of entry and departure reached record 50 million
 - Finalized the 2nd Basic plan for Immigration Policy
- 2013 - Enforced the Refugee Act
 - Initiated mutual use of Korea's SES and Hong Kong's E-channel Program
- 2014 - Opened the Immigration Reception Center
 - Ranked 1st for nine consecutive years for the ASQ Award for best airport service
- 2015 - Ranked 1st for ten consecutive years for the ASQ Award for best airport service
 - Total number of entry and departure reached record 60 million
- 2016 - Ranked 1st for eleven consecutive years for the ASQ Award for best airport service
 - Total number of foreign residents reached 2 million
 - Initiated mutual use of Korea's SES and Macao's APC Program
- 2017 - A full implementation of I-Prechecking, which received a Global ICT Excellence Award by WITSA

Vibrant Korea growing with immigrants

Korea Immigration Service devised the Second Basic Plan for Immigration Policy that will lead the next phase of immigration policy, with the vision: 'Vibrant Korea growing with immigrants'. This Second Basic Plan contains upgrades to the various systems and programs that will facilitate the life and settlement of foreigners in Korea. With five policy goals (openness, social integration, human rights, public safety, and cooperation), the Plan is currently carried out in accordance with the corresponding action plans.



I'm...

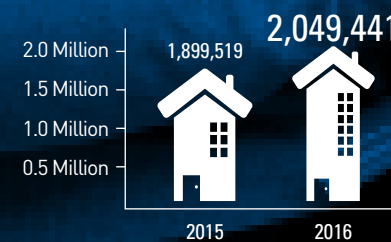


I'm your neighbor

Although our countries and cultures are different, we became neighbors. We exchange greetings and conversations at school and at work, laugh at jokes together and share sorrows of the past and hopes for the future. We find that we have much in common. Hand in hand, we discuss the future, living in Korea in harmony.

※ Changes in the Number of foreign residents in Korea

(Information source : Immigration-Monthly Statistics Review in December 2016, Unit : person)



The number of foreigners staying in Korea was 2,049,441 in 2016, comprising 4 in 100 people of South Korea's population. Among them, the number of foreigners with long-term stay permit was 1,530,539 a 4.3 percent increase from 2015. Korea will continue welcoming foreigners from diverse countries as neighbors. In this fast-changing Korean society, 'we' will study, work and live together in harmony.

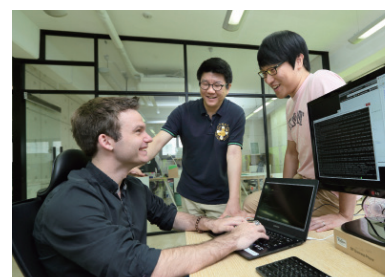


POLICY 1

OPENNESS

We are reinvigorating our economy by attracting more tourists through an improved visa system, while attracting foreign talent and investment to secure future growth engines.

Raising the national competitiveness of Korea through the pursuit of advanced immigration policy, including attracting immigrant investors and foreign talent.



System improvement for tourist attraction

- Allowing no-visas entry to foreigners who travel the Seoul metropolitan area before transferring to a third country
- Issuance of electronic visa for foreign patients invited by 'designated superior institutions to attract foreign patients' for the vitalization of the medical tourism industry
- Carrying out a pilot program for issuing electronic visas for Chinese group tourists and establishing 'e-Visa Center' for processing electronic applications and ensuring efficient review

Support for attracting foreign talent and foreign investors

- Enabling e-visa application for outstanding talent such as university professors, researchers and employees of global businesses and diversifying methods for obtaining permanent residency by introducing the points system
- Offering incentives to foreigners paying tax faithful foreigners in evaluation for resident (F-2) status, by granting additional points based on their tax payment records
- Easing the standard amount of investment required for 'Immigrant Investor Scheme for Real Estate' and improving the program by expanding investment regions; introducing 'Immigrant Investor Scheme for Public Business' to diversify investment types

Attracting foreign students to secure future growth engines

- Expanding job search period (from 1 year to 2 years) for outstanding international students who graduated from Korean universities and allowing employment in professional fields regardless of their majors. Allowing dual nationalities for outstanding talent in the field of science and engineering by easing the requirement for special naturalization
- Drastically easing the document requirements for foreign students enrolling in universities recognized for excellent selection and management of foreign students
- Exemption from submitting information that is verifiable through the Foreign Student Information Management System (FIMS)



Online visa issuance system, 'Korea Visa Portal'

The establishment of Korea Visa Portal (www.visa.go.kr) has made online application for a visa or 'Confirmation of Visa Issuance' possible. This has reduced the inconvenience of visiting an immigration office or an overseas diplomatic mission in person.



e-Government for foreigners, 'Hi-Korea'

The Hi-Korea website (www.hikorea.go.kr) is established as an e-Government for foreigners that not only takes care of immigration-related matters online but also provides information on visa issuance, employment, residence, and living in Korea. Foreigners making reservations for visit through the Hi-Korea website will receive quicker service at a reservation-exclusive counter when visiting the immigration office.



POLICY 2

SOCIAL INTEGRATION

Improvements to the nationality and permanent residence system are underway to build a multiracial and multicultural society. Systematic social integration programs facilitate the settlement of immigrant spouses.

Preparing the foundations on which we envision shared values,
by supporting the healthy settlement of foreigners.



Preparing various mechanisms to support the self-reliance of immigrants

- Providing systematic social integration education through programs that ensure the understanding of the Korean language, culture and society so that immigrants can become members of our society
- Online social integration network (www.socinet.go.kr) currently in operation for mutual three-party usage: social integration program participants, program institutions, and the Ministry of Justice

Allowing dual nationalities for outstanding talent

- Allowing dual nationalities for foreigners who are acknowledged to contribute to the national interests of Korea and its national competitiveness with excellent abilities in a specific field such as science, economy, culture and sports and who are granted permission for naturalization or reinstatement of nationality
- Selecting outstanding foreign talent after review by Nationality Deliberation Committee comprised of civil experts and public officials of relevant agencies. As of September 2017, 115 have been selected as outstanding talent, who have acquired Korean nationality and are allowed dual nationalities
- Starting this year, lowering the evaluation standard for outstanding talent to half of the present level for master's and Ph.D degree holders in the field of science and engineering from Korean universities as part of the effort to attract outstanding talent
 - ※ In September 2013, the evaluation standard was lowered to half of the previous level for outstanding talent of Korean origin



Establishment of the May 20th Together Day

South Korea designated May 20 as 'Together Day' to build the image of a nation where diverse cultures can coexist, promoting mutual respect and understanding between Koreans and foreigners in Korea. Various celebrations are held by local governments across the country during the week of 'Together Day.'



Implementing Korea Immigration and Integration Program (KIIP)

Since 2009, this social integration program has been helping immigrants with understanding Korean language, society and culture. It is offered at 309 locations. (universities, local governments, multicultural family support centers, Nonghyup, etc.) In addition, various benefits, such as exemption from a written test for naturalization, are offered to those who complete the program. For more information, please visit www.socinet.go.kr.



POLICY 3

HUMAN RIGHTS

Our vision is to create an environment where Korean citizens and foreigners can live in harmony. We have institutionalized human rights and anti-discrimination for foreigners in Korea, while operating educational programs to foster respect for and appreciation of cultural diversity.

Creating an environment where all cultures are appreciated,
human rights are respected and
discrimination is prevented.



Institutionalizing human rights for immigrants

- Extension of sojourn period to 2 years for immigrants' foreign-born children that are enrolled in formal educational institutions to encourage these children to receive public education (those that are not in school are subject to 1 year period); Immigration and education offices more broadly sharing information on their sojourn and school attendance
- Volunteers appointed by immigration offices rendering support for immigrants' social integration; Immigration offices offering consultation service on basic laws and regulations as well as child care and employment

Expanding generosity towards various cultures

- Connecting the locally held immigrant-related events and celebrations to the annual 'Together Day' events, promoting an environment for interacting with people from diverse cultures and overcoming differences

Creating a global environment where nationals and foreigners communicate together

- Expanding online immigration service for foreigners and reducing online service fees
- Improving the 1345 Immigration Contact Center service by offering customized consultation service for marriage immigrants and their families



Immigration Contact Center (☎1345)

This multi-lingual phone service for foreigners in Korea provides immigration-related consultation and information service in various languages (English, Chinese, Japanese, etc.). By simply dialing the numbers 1345 without area code, foreigners across the country can receive this convenient service on both landline and mobile phones.



Initial Adjustment Support Program for Immigrants

The program is provided to all recent arrivals, including marriage immigrants and foreign-born children of immigrant spouses. Guidance for social adaptation, including information on basic laws and regulations, is provided in Korean and other languages for 3 to 4 hours to promote their understanding of constitutional values and civic awareness. Information is tailored to different sojourn statuses.

I'm...

I'm
your
friend

I applaud the courage of my friend for coming to a foreign country, South Korea. I hope that my friend's worries and concerns would soon turn into trust and excitement. Korea Immigration Service officers are helping foreigners so that their stay here is a comfortable and fulfilling one. With enthusiasm, they support their friends who come to Korea from all corners of the globe. To my amazing friend, thank you for your friendship.



외국인종합안내센터
Immigration Contact Center

Immigration officers of the KIS officers carry out duties across a wide spectrum of immigration service for Koreans and foreigners, including border control, alien registration, sojourn permission, invitation, nationality attainment and management of dual nationals as well as refugees. To help foreigners to successfully settle in, the KIS provides them with full support including industrial training, programs for marriage immigrants, and educational programs on protecting the rights of children of multicultural families and combating discrimination.

POLICY 4

PUBLIC SAFETY

State-of-the-art systems have been established for reliable border control and a variety of programs have been implemented for efficient sojourn management for violators of public order. We also combat illegal migration through efforts such as prior notice programs to prevent illegal employment of foreigners, regional crackdowns, and tighter enforcement on illegal entry and recruitment agencies.

Realizing a safe society for both Koreans and foreigners through reliable border control, efficient sojourn management, and prevention of factors that lead to illegal stay.

Establishment of a comprehensive information management system that ensures stronger border control

- Establishing integrated border control system that prevents the entry and boarding of persons deemed harmful to national interest by receiving and analyzing passenger information from airlines in advance
- Carrying out pilot program for seafarer landing permit system by utilizing unmanned KIOSK to ensure tighter immigration control of foreign vessel crews at ports. (Busan, Incheon and Gamcheon)
- Delivering transparent and expedited visa issuance service by unifying the visa system of the Ministry of Justice and overseas diplomatic missions

Strengthened monitoring of foreigners with a history of illegal conduct

- A wired/wireless identity verification system that incorporates biometric information reading technology is launched, enabling accurate identification of suspected criminals in Korea.
- Providing programs on the basic laws and legal system of Korea(Immigration Act and related regulations, basic domestic laws, international laws, etc.) for foreigners on working visit (H-2 status) and others
- Expanding guidelines for the observance of public order in areas of high foreigner population and large-scale companies

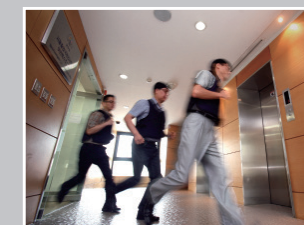
Prevention of factors that lead to illegal stay

- Continuing prior notice programs to eradicate illegal employment and regional crackdowns
- Tightening enforcement on immigration offenders (illegal entry, recruitment agencies, etc.) by bolstering cooperation with investigative agencies including the Prosecution Service



SES, Smart Entry Service

Previously, all Korean nationals traveling abroad were required to present the passport at the inspection desk to the immigration officer. With the introduction of the Smart Entry System (SES), they can now enjoy an expedited clearance service. Inspection through the SES saves around 20% or greater of the time required by conventional inspections by immigration officers.



Strengthening the role of specialized investigations

Following the introduction of the Special Immigration Investigation Force by Seoul Immigration Office in August 2010, Busan Immigration Office launched its own investigative team in May 2015, to further strengthen the role of specialized investigations for establishing order in foreigners' sojourn.

POLICY 5

COOPERATION

Through increased cooperation with immigrants' countries of origin, international organizations, and other parties, foreigners with demonstrated skill receive employment opportunities in Korea. With the implementation of the Refugee Act in 2013, we now pursue advanced refugee policy that measures up to the national merit of an advanced human rights-respecting country.

Contributing to the development of international society by enhancing international cooperation implementing refugee policies benefiting the nation, and strengthening exchanges with overseas Koreans.



Increasing cooperation with immigrants' countries of origin, international organizations, and others

- Providing employment opportunities to successful candidates (from developing nations), who complete vocational training programs under Official Development Assistance(ODA)
- Supporting invitation-based training and completion of the course for government officers and students from developing nations as well as carrying out government-wide research on 'immigration and development'



Pursuing refugee policies measuring up to the national stature

- Realization of policy and systems in accordance with the Refugee Act and support to improve the treatment of refugees, etc
- Implementing resettlement program to respond to international issues on refugees (prepare resettlement working group under private governance, guidelines on operating and managing resettlement program)
- Setting up a pool composed of professional interpreters specializing in refugee matters, expanding the number of recording devices and building infrastructure to protect the procedural rights of refugee status applicants
- Education and training programs for Refugee Status Determination (RSD) officers to build their capacity and to increase expertise for the assessment processes



Increasing exchange and cooperation with overseas Korean societies

- Continue to grant F-4 status of stay to talented Overseas Koreans from China and CIS region
- Gradually relaxing the employment restriction placed on Overseas Koreans (F-4), who are allowed to work in fields involving simple labor, and expanding their employment to manufacturing, agricultural and dairy industries that are suffering from labor shortage



Visiting Employment System

Under this program, we issue Working Visit (H-2) multiple-entry visas (valid for five years that enable employment in Korea) to Chinese and CIS nationals of Korean origin aged 25 and over. It ensures free entry/departure and employment even for ethnic Koreans without family, relatives and other connections in Korea. Visit the website (eps.hrdkorea.or.kr) for more information.



Opening of the Immigration Reception Center

The center, which is located in Yeongjong-do, Incheon, provides settlement supports such as accommodation, basic living service, and education on Korean language and society to refugee status applicants. It also serves as a training location, etc. for immigration officers.

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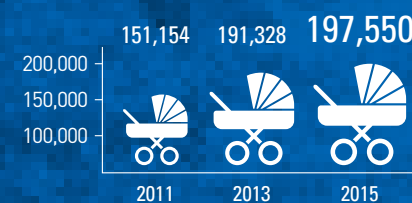


I'm
the future
of Korea

I want to do so many things. But my dream is a secret. I want to be a Korean who makes this country proud. Together with my friends, I sing a song filled with hope for the future. Children of Korean nationals and their foreign spouses can successfully adapt to different cultures. With limitless potential and capabilities, they will be talented global citizens.

※ Changes in the number of children born from international marriage couples

(Information source : Ministry of the Interior and Safety_Survey on foreign residents status in November 2015, Unit : Person)



As of 2015, approximately 200,000 children born from international marriage couples live in Korea. Among those approx. 74,000, or 1.08% of the total number, are K-12 students. We look forward to the future of these children who will grow up to become confident global citizens, proudly embracing Korea in their hearts.

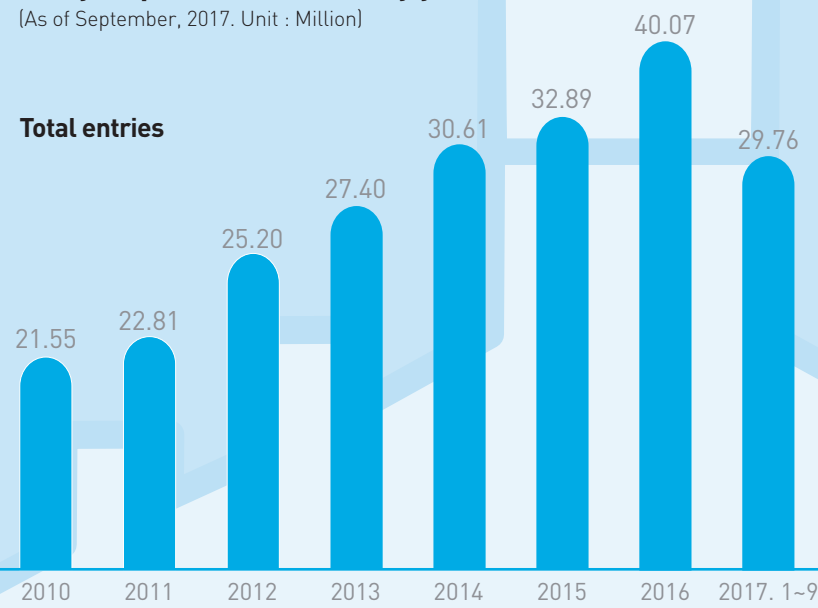
Ever since we processed 30 million entries/departures in 2005, South Korea has seen that figure skyrocket to 60 million in a single decade.

The work by the Korea Immigration Service is recorded in numbers, as shown below. Looking at statistics is the easiest and most accurate way to understand the capacity of the KIS.

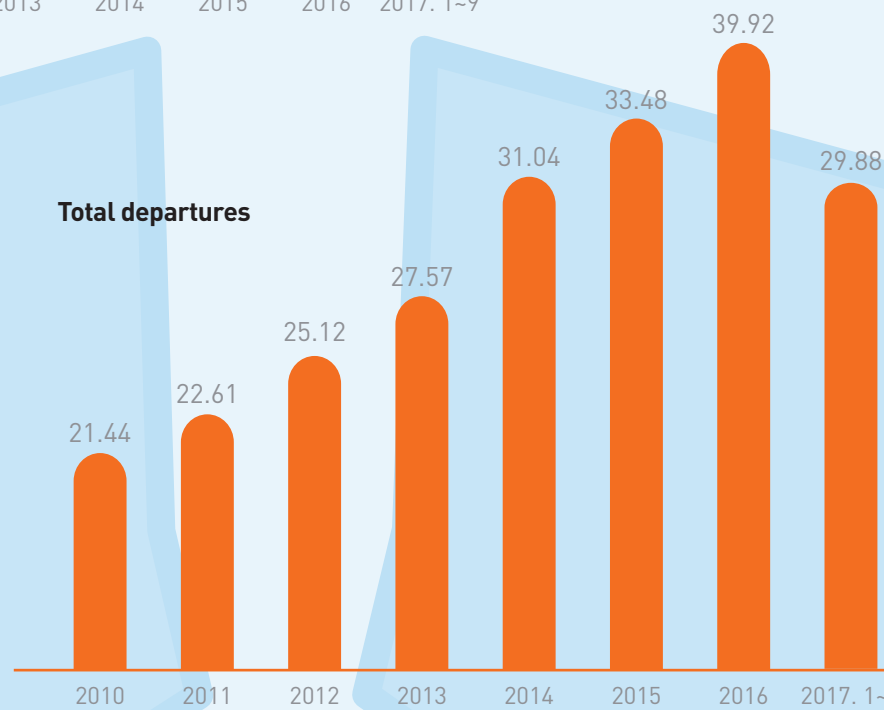
Entry/departure statistics by year

(As of September, 2017. Unit : Million)

Total entries

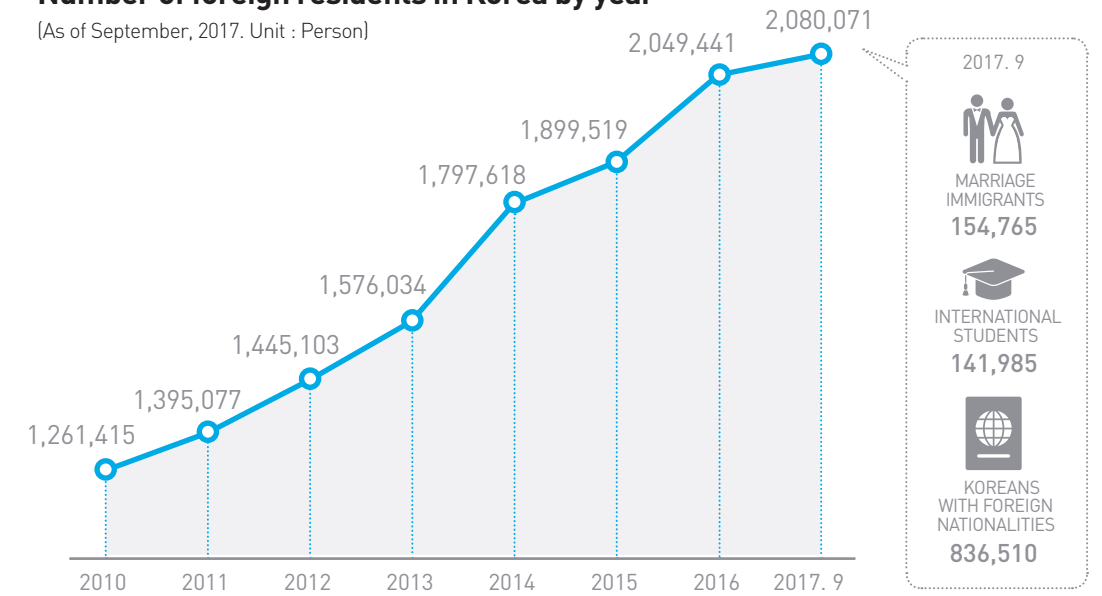


Total departures



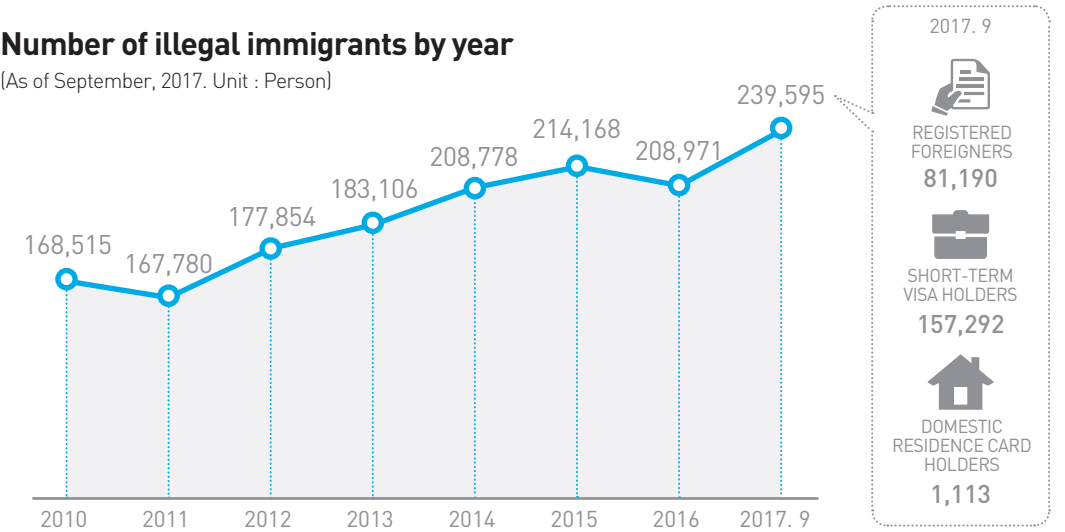
Number of foreign residents in Korea by year

(As of September, 2017. Unit : Person)



Number of illegal immigrants by year

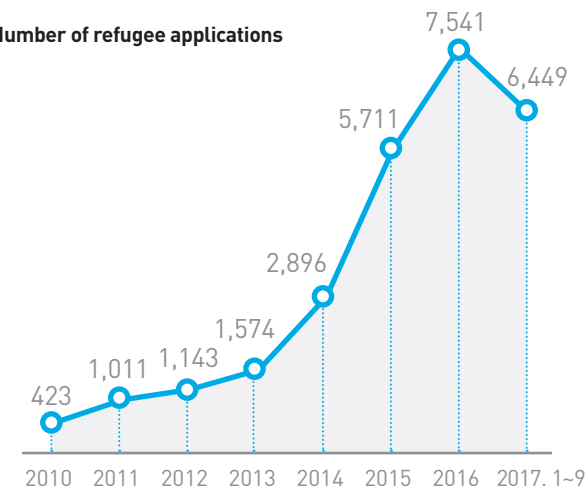
(As of September, 2017. Unit : Person)



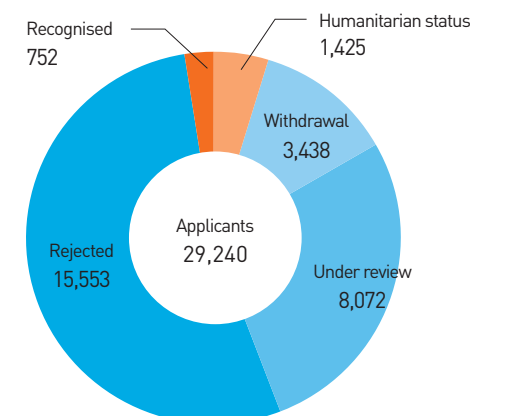
Statistics on Refugees

(As of September, 2017. Unit : Person)

Number of refugee applications



Refugee review statistics by year('94.~'17. 9.)



Promises of a hopeful future, together with global citizens

Vibrant Korea growing together with world citizens!
Korea Immigration Service will usher in the era of order
and openness so that Koreans and foreigners could live
together in harmony. We will make every endeavor to
create a bright future for a global society.