



## South Korea

### Progress Map South Korea

Apart from the global mega trend of e-mobility, questions of societal progress are important to South Korean voters. Gender equality is particularly stressed, and the issue of equality goes hand in hand with a strong need for action when it comes to the expansion of public childcare. But social progress seems to be limited to the classic nuclear family. When it comes to rights for homosexuals or the role of migrants, South Koreans see no specific need for progress.

When it comes to economic factors, progress is emphasized especially with regard to continuing vocational education and training and free trade. As an export-oriented country<sup>1</sup> with China as the major import and export partner, free trade is of structural importance. The influx of foreign experts is also seen as a measure of progress, another result that can be seen in the context of an export-oriented economy. The automotive industry is a fundamental aspect of this country's exports, and e-mobility also has many supporters in South Korea.

The current development of South Korea's political culture towards polarization is viewed critically by South Korean voters. What is desired here is a turnaround in this dynamic. Compared with other countries, this is a relatively widespread phenomenon.



As one of the tiger states, South Korea enjoys wealth and a comparatively high living standard thanks to its economic growth. The wish for more professionalization of voluntary work and support for an increase in development aid are symptomatic of a nation that has overcome the status of a recipient and become a donor country<sup>2</sup>. An issue that remains problematic is poverty among the elderly population.<sup>3</sup> Therefore it is no surprise that after an increase in development aid and a desire for more underground transportation, an increase in deductions for old-age pensions are the third political element where South Koreans would like to see more progress.

<sup>1</sup> <https://oec.world/en/profile/country/kor/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://journals.openedition.org/poldev/1535>

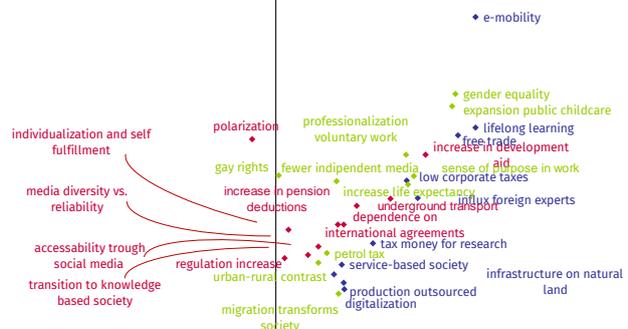
<sup>3</sup> <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Asia-Insight/No-country-for-old-Koreans-Moon-faces-senior-poverty-crisis>

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### Voters

"For each of the areas below, assess the current development and imagine this development as a wheel that turns. For each case, decide whether the development should be accelerated or reversed."

### Survey index values (voters)



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## Desire for Progress in South Korea

In comparison, South Korea stands out with its high degree of willingness to make progress. It can be said that there is an above-average desire to see things moving forward at all levels. Especially when it comes to economic issues, South Koreans are willing to embrace more progress as they have benefited from it in past decades.

But there is also a strong will to advance when it comes to societal issues. In the political sphere there is slightly less enthusiasm for progress, but the overall desire for political progress can still be considered strong.

## South Korea's self- assessment of progress

If asked, how South Koreans themselves would rate progress in their country 52% are of the opinion that their country is currently very progressive or somewhat progressive in terms of social matters. 49% think the same of economic progress and 38% think political progress has been made.

## Further information



**Future prospects:** A majority of South Koreans are at least partially optimistic about their own future (79%). But when it comes to their children, South Koreans are rather pessimistic: 53% agree with the statement that there is a risk that their children will have to cope with less wealth. Half of the respondents fear that their social and economic status is under increasing pressure (50%). A majority (50%) do not see themselves financially insured at retirement age.



**Assessment of past 10 years:** The majority of South Koreans feel an improvement has been made in their country in the areas of political participation (59%), social security (58%), innovation (54%), sustainable technologies (62%) and both rural (52%) and urban (62%) infrastructure within the past 10 years.

On the other hand, a deterioration has been perceived in the stability of economic relations (44%).



**Social cohesion:** 66% of South Korean voters believe that only a small minority is getting richer, while no one else is benefiting from growth, and 68% think that the state should do more to counter this development.



**Battle against climate change:** 66% of the South Korean population want more government intervention to prevent companies from polluting the environment. This is relatively low compared to other countries. Meanwhile, 68% would like a more environmentally friendly economy compared to 24% who believe that the economy should focus solely on growth.