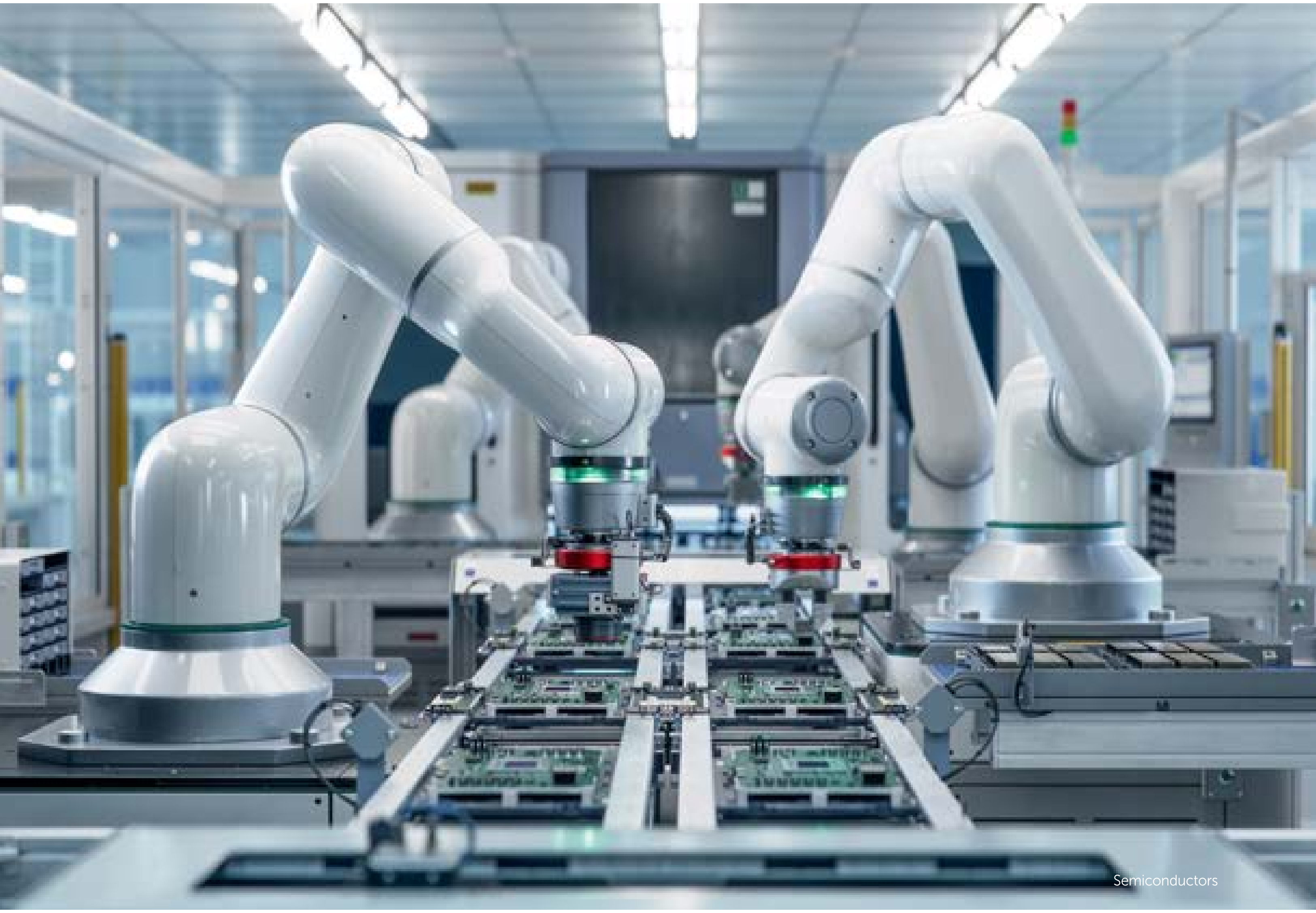
January 2026
Vol.**48** No.**1**

Current Economic Trends

Economic News Briefing

Korean GDP in Q3 2025
G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting
Korean OFDI in Q3 2025

Republic of Korea
Economic Bulletin



Semiconductors

Ministry of Economy and Finance

KDI Economic Information and Education Center

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Republic of Korea **Economic Bulletin**

The Republic of Korea Economic Bulletin is a monthly publication that seeks to promote a greater understanding of the Korean economy by providing readers with information on the latest economic trends and policy issues as well as relevant news and current events.

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Current Economic Trends

Overview

In October 2025, retail sales increased, while industrial production, services production, facilities investment, and construction investment declined. In November 2025, employment saw a widening increase in the number of employed persons, and consumer price rose at the same pace as a year earlier.

In October, production in the industrial sector *(down 4.0% m-o-m and down 8.1% y-o-y)*, construction sector *(down 20.9% m-o-m and down 24.6% y-o-y)* and services sector *(down 0.6% m-o-m and up 0.9% y-o-y)* fell, leading to a decrease in total industrial sector *(down 2.5% m-o-m and down 3.6% y-o-y)*.

In October, the cyclical indicator of the coincident composite index went down by 0.4 points and the cyclical indicator of the leading composite index remained flat.

In October, retail sales increased *(up 3.5% m-o-m and up 0.3% y-o-y)*, while facilities investment decreased *(down 14.1% m-o-m and down 4.3% y-o-y)*.

In November, the Consumer Sentiment Index (CSI) went up 2.6 points month-on-month to 112.4. The Composite Business Sentiment Index (CBSI) increased by 1.5 points to 92.1 in November, and the CBSI outlook for December remained unchanged at 91.1.

In November, exports grew by 8.4 percent year-on-year, supported by strong semiconductor performance. Average daily exports rose by 13.3 percent compared to the same month of previous year.

In November, the number of employed persons grew by 225,000 jobs compared to the same month last year and the unemployment rate stood at 2.2 percent, unchanged from a year earlier.

In November, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) climbed by 2.4 percent year-on-year, driven by agricultural products and petroleum prices. The index when excluding food and energy prices grew by 2.0 percent from a year ago.

In November, both housing prices *(up 0.24% m-o-m)* and *Jeonse* (lump-sum deposits with no monthly payments) prices also rose *(0.14% m-o-m)*.

In November, Korean equity prices went down, yields for Korean Treasury Bond rose, and the Korean Won weakened against the dollar.

Recently, the Korean economy has shown signs of recovery, moving out of weakness in the first half of the year amid improving domestic demand, including consumption, and strong exports led by semiconductors.

The global economy continues to face volatility in global financial markets and concerns over slowing trade and growth, due in part to a deteriorating trade environment following tariff measures by major economies.

With an aim to broaden growth momentum going forward, the government plans to step up efforts to revitalize domestic demand by thoroughly preparing advance procedures to ensure the swift execution of the 2026 budget from the beginning of next year, while making every effort to enhance growth potential through initiatives such as the AI Transformation, Ultra-innovative Economy flagship projects, and Productive Finance.

Economic Activity

1. Gross Domestic Product (Preliminary estimate)

In the third quarter of 2025, Korea's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) amounted to 582.9 trillion won, and real Gross Domestic Income (GDI) was 574.9 trillion won.

(Trillion won, inflation adjusted at 2020 prices)

	2023	2024	2023				2024				2025		
	Annual	Annual[1]	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1[1]	Q2[1]	Q3[1]	Q4[1]	Q1[1]	Q2[1]	Q3[1]
GDP	2,247.2	2,292.2	532.3	560.9	564.5	589.5	550.4	573.5	572.4	595.9	550.2	576.8	582.9
(Seasonally adjusted)	-	-	556.1	559.9	564.2	567.0	573.7	572.4	572.9	573.3	572.1	575.9	583.6
- Private consumption	1,085.4	1,097.0	270.7	266.8	271.9	276.0	273.7	268.8	275.5	279.0	275.2	271.2	280.7
- Facility investment	212.8	216.5	51.9	55.7	49.8	55.3	50.8	54.3	53.1	58.2	53.7	56.1	53.7
- Construction investment	300.0	290.2	62.5	82.4	75.9	79.2	63.5	81.4	71.2	74.1	55.0	72.1	65.9
- Total export	848.3	906.3	201.5	205.5	211.9	229.4	219.5	224.0	225.5	237.3	222.7	234.0	240.4
- Total import	752.7	771.4	193.1	181.2	184.4	194.0	191.7	187.2	193.0	199.6	195.7	195.6	203.4
GDI	2,155.5	2,240.3	505.5	532.6	546.3	571.0	537.9	557.9	560.8	583.8	537.2	566.3	574.9
(Seasonally adjusted)	-	-	529.5	531.9	544.2	549.9	560.4	558.1	559.3	562.5	559.0	567.3	573.3

Source: Bank of Korea.
[1] Preliminary estimate.

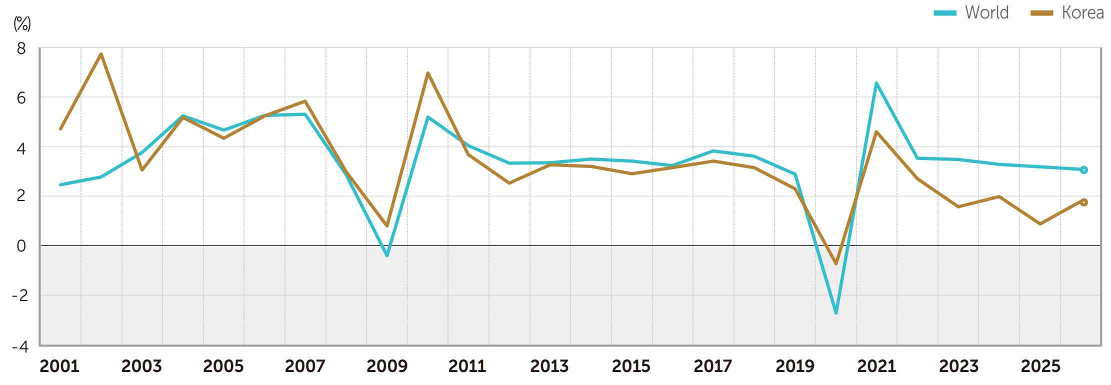
In the third quarter of 2025, real GDP grew 1.8 percent year-on-year, and seasonally adjusted GDP increased 1.3 percent quarter-on-quarter. Real GDI rose 2.5 percent year-on-year, and seasonally adjusted GDI also increased 1.1 percent quarter-on-quarter.

(Percentage change from same period in previous year, inflation adjusted at 2020 prices)

	2023	2024	2023				2024				2025		
	Annual	Annual[1]	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1[1]	Q2[1]	Q3[1]	Q4[1]	Q1[1]	Q2[1]	Q3[1]
GDP	1.6	2.0	1.3	1.2	1.5	2.2	3.4	2.2	1.4	1.1	0.0	0.6	1.8
(Seasonally adjusted[2])	-	-	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.5	1.2	-0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.2	0.7	1.3
- Private consumption	2.0	1.1	5.0	1.7	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.7	1.3	1.1	0.6	0.9	1.9
- Facility investment	-0.2	1.7	4.3	3.0	-5.1	-2.6	-2.2	-2.5	6.6	5.3	5.8	3.4	1.0
-Construction investment	-0.5	-3.3	0.1	0.3	1.1	-3.1	1.6	-1.2	-6.2	-6.4	-13.3	-11.4	-7.5
- Total export	3.4	6.8	-1.5	0.6	3.5	11.1	8.9	9.0	6.4	3.5	1.5	4.5	6.6
- Total import	3.0	2.5	6.8	2.5	-0.7	3.5	-0.7	3.3	4.6	2.9	2.1	4.5	5.4
GDI	1.8	3.9	-1.0	0.1	3.7	4.2	6.4	4.7	2.7	2.2	-0.1	1.5	2.5
(Seasonally adjusted[2])	-	-	0.7	0.5	2.3	1.0	1.9	-0.4	0.2	0.6	-0.6	1.5	1.1

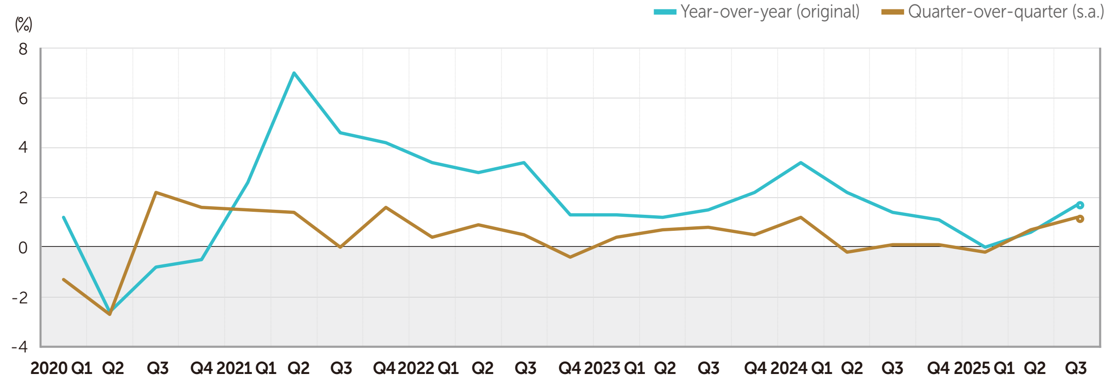
Source: Bank of Korea.
[1] Preliminary estimate.
[2] Percentage change from previous period.

GDP growth: World and Korea



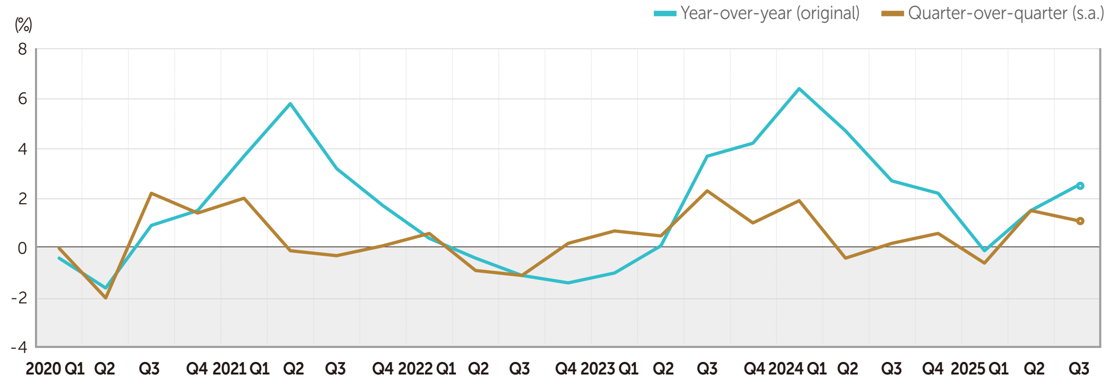
Source: IMF

GDP growth: Korea



Source: Bank of Korea.

GDI growth: Korea



Source: Bank of Korea.

2. Total Production and Composite Index of Business Indicators

In October, the Total Index of Industrial Production fell 2.5 percent month-on-month. Public spending *(up 1.5%)* rose, while industrial production *(down 4.0 %)*, construction *(down 20.9%)*, and services production *(down 0.6%)* decreased. The index also fell 3.6 percent year-on-year.

Coincident composite index

The cyclical indicator of the coincident composite index fell 0.4 points month-on-month to 99.0. More specifically, retail sales and the number of employed persons excluding agriculture, forestry and fishing rose, while the value of construction completed and the shipment index for domestic market fell.

Leading composite index

The cyclical indicator of the leading composite index stayed unchanged month-on-month at 102.2. Within the leading composite index, the KOSPI and net barter of trade rose, while construction orders received, inventory cycle of manufacturing, and producer's shipment index of machinery for domestic demand fell.

	2024		2025									
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug[1]	Sep[1]	Oct[1]
Total Index of Industrial Production (m-o-m, %)	-1.2	1.8	-1.6	0.7	1.1	-0.7	-1.2	1.6	0.4	-0.3	1.3	-2.5
(y-o-y, %)	-1.0	0.7	-3.8	1.2	1.1	0.7	-0.8	1.1	2.0	-0.4	6.9	-3.6
Cyclical indicator of coincident composite index	99.4	99.3	98.9	99.1	99.3	99.5	99.1	99.1	99.0	99.2	99.4	99.0
(m-o-m, p)	-0.3	-0.1	-0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	-0.4	0.0	-0.1	0.2	0.2	-0.4
Coincident composite index (2020=100)	112.3	112.4	112.2	112.5	113.0	113.4	113.1	113.3	113.3	113.7	114.2	113.8
(m-o-m, %)	-0.3	0.1	-0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	-0.3	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.4	-0.4
Cyclical indicator of leading composite index	100.7	100.5	100.2	100.3	100.5	100.8	100.8	101.0	101.6	102.1	102.2	102.2
(m-o-m, p)	0.0	-0.2	-0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.0
Leading composite index (2020=100)	117.1	117.2	117.1	117.5	118.1	118.8	119.1	119.6	120.6	121.5	121.9	122.3
(m-o-m, %)	0.3	0.1	-0.1	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.3

Source: Industrial activity trends, Statistics Korea.

[1] Figures for the last three months of coincident composite index are preliminary, while figures for the last two months of leading composite index are preliminary.

Coincident composite index in Oct 2025 (m-o-m, %)

Retail sale index	0.3
Index of Services	0.2
Number of Employed Persons (excluding Agriculture, Forestry and fishing)	0.1
Value of construction completed	-5.3
Shipment index for domestic market	-1.2
Industrial production index	-1.0

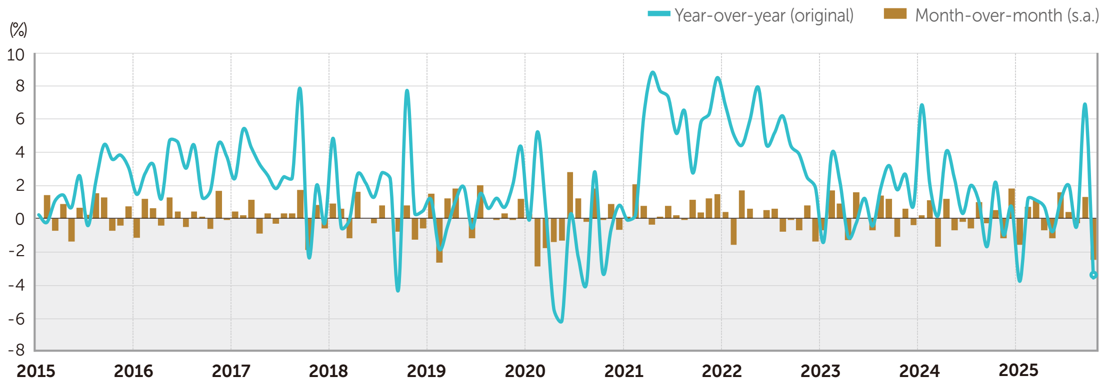
Source: Industrial activity trends, Statistics Korea.

Leading composite index in Oct 2025 (m-o-m, %)

KOSPI	4.3
Net barter terms of trade	0.2
Construction orders received	-5.0
Inventory cycle of manufacturing (%p)	-1.1
Producer's shipment index of machinery for domestic demand	-0.6

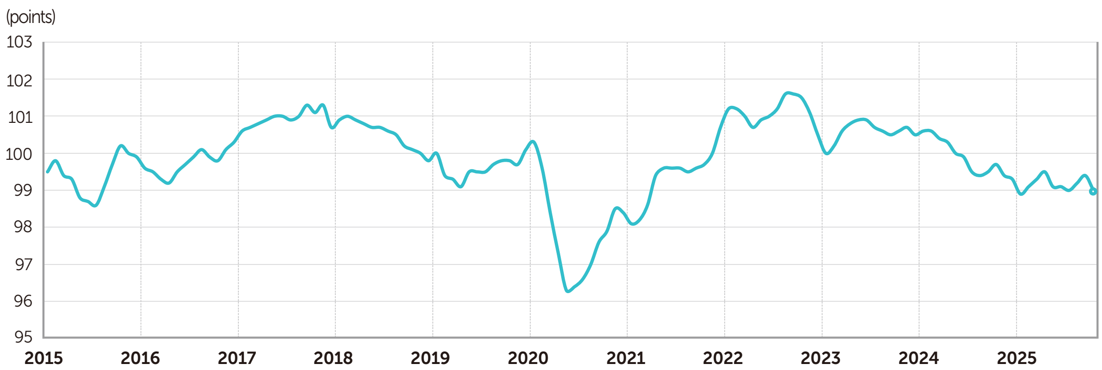
Source: Industrial activity trends, Statistics Korea.

Total index of Industrial Production



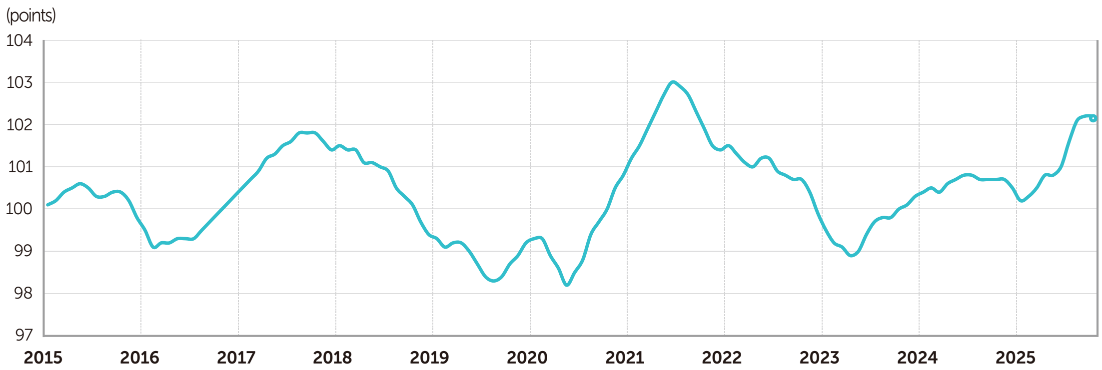
Source: Industrial activity trends, Statistics Korea.

Cyclical indicator of coincident composite index



Source: Industrial activity trends, Statistics Korea.

Cyclical indicator of leading composite index



Source: Industrial activity trends, Statistics Korea.

3. Private consumption

Private consumption *(preliminary estimate of GDP)* in the third quarter of 2025 increased by 1.3 percent quarter-on-quarter and by 1.9 percent year-on-year.

(Percentage change from previous period)

	2023	2024	2023				2024				2025		
	Annual	Annual[1]	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1[1]	Q2[1]	Q3[1]	Q4[1]	Q1[1]	Q2[1]	Q3[1]
Private consumption	-	-	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.2	-0.1	0.5	1.3
(y-o-y)	2.0	1.1	5.0	1.7	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.7	1.3	1.1	0.6	0.9	1.9

Source: National accounts, Bank of Korea.
[1] Preliminary estimate.

Retail sales rose 3.5 percent month-on-month in October. Sales of semi-durable goods *(up 5.1%)* and nondurable good *(up 7.0%)* increased, while sales of durable goods *(down 4.9%)* decreased. The year-on-year index rose 0.3 percent.

(Percentage change from previous period)

	2023	2024	2023				2024				2025					
	Annual	Annual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3[1]	Aug	Sep[1]	Oct[1]
Retail sales	-		-0.7	0.4	-1.3	0.8	-2.2	-0.3	0.7	-0.4	0.4	-0.9	1.5	-2.4	-0.1	3.5
(y-o-y)	-1.3	-2.1	-1.4	-0.4	-2.6	-1.2	-1.6	-3.1	-1.5	-2.0	-0.3	0.0	1.5	-0.4	2.2	0.3
- Durable goods	-1.1	-3.9	-1.0	-0.6	-1.9	2.8	-4.1	-3.2	4.5	-2.2	5.2	-2.8	5.4	-1.5	3.7	-4.9
· Automobiles	6.9	-7.3	0.6	1.8	-5.4	4.4	-11.0	-0.6	7.1	0.8	3.9	2.7	4.1	8.7	-3.5	-6.0
- Semi-durable goods	-0.5	-3.0	3.7	-0.5	-2.8	0.8	-1.4	-0.6	-1.2	1.2	-2.8	-1.8	4.1	1.0	-5.0	5.1
- Nondurable goods	-1.8	-0.9	-2.1	1.2	-0.6	-0.1	-1.5	1.0	-0.2	-0.2	-0.6	0.4	-1.2	-3.9	-0.1	7.0

Source: Statistics Korea.
[1] Preliminary.

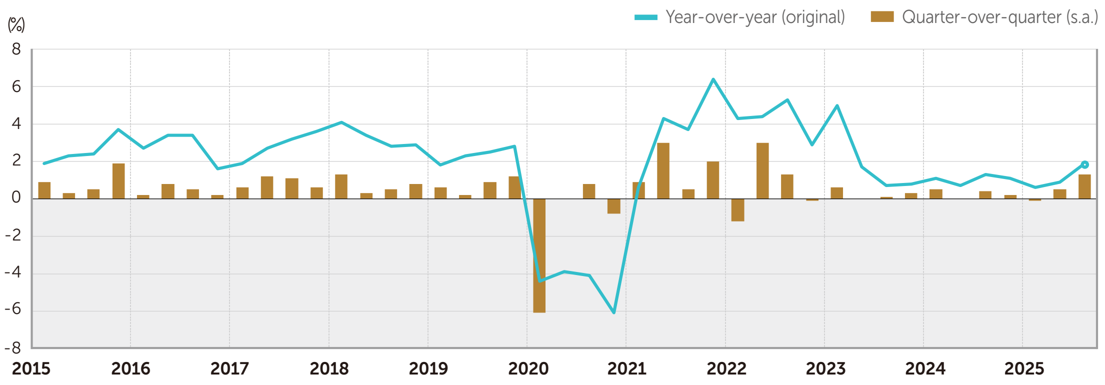
The retail sales outlook for November is mixed, as improvements in the consumer sentiment index and increase in the number of Chinese tourists are offset by lower sales figures for car sales at home and large discount stores.

(Percentage change from same period in previous year)

	2025							
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Car sales at home	12.5	0.1	8.0	2.0	5.0	18.1	-11.4	-4.4
Department store sales	-13.2	-0.5	-1.1	1.1	-7.1	2.7	5.6	2.8
Large discount store sales	-8.2	-5.9	-1.6	-9.6	-22.9	-14.6	-4.7	-14.5
Credit card spending at home[1]	3.9	2.7	3.7	6.3	5.0	8.5	2.1	6.6
Consumer sentiment index[2]	93.8	101.8	108.7	110.8	111.4	110.1	109.8	112.4
Number of Chinese tourists[3]	18.9	28.7	28.8	36.2	21.5	21.7	25.1	26.8

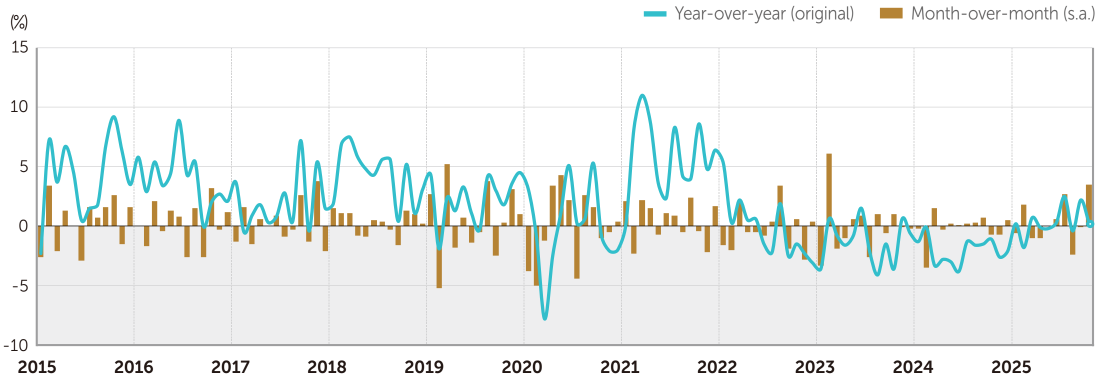
Sources: Korea Automobile Manufacturers Association; The Credit Finance Association; Bank of Korea; Korea Culture & Tourism Institute; data provided by retail industries.
[1] Utility bills are excluded.
[2] Level value.
[3] Advance estimate based on total entries, The figure can be different from the statistic released by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, which excludes diplomatic and military personnel.

Private consumption



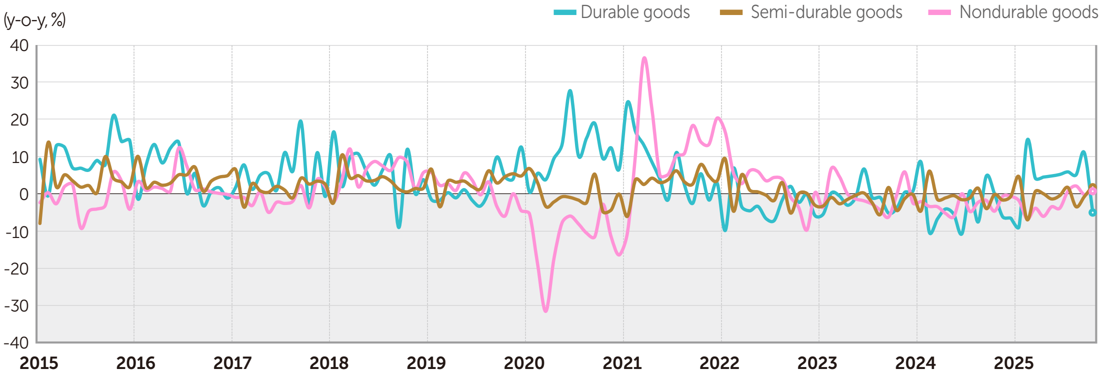
Source: National account, Bank of Korea.

Retail sales



Source: Industrial activity trends, Statistics Korea.

Retail sales by type



Source: Industrial activity trends, Statistics Korea.

4. Facility investment

Facility investment *(preliminary estimate of GDP)* in the third quarter of 2025 grew by 2.6 percent quarter-on-quarter, and it rose by 1.0 percent year-on-year.

(Percentage change from previous period)

	2023	2024	2023				2024				2025		
	Annual	Annual[1]	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1[1]	Q2[1]	Q3[1]	Q4[1]	Q1[1]	Q2[1]	Q3[1]
Facility investment	-	-	-1.7	0.5	-3.6	2.2	-1.0	0.0	5.4	0.8	-0.4	-2.1	2.6
(y-o-y)	-0.2	1.7	4.3	3.0	-5.1	-2.6	-2.2	-2.5	6.6	5.3	5.8	3.4	1.0
- Machinery	-0.1	1.8	-3.8	2.0	-5.6	1.1	0.9	-1.8	6.9	1.8	-4.6	-1.0	4.5
- Transportation equipment	-0.4	1.4	7.5	-5.3	4.7	6.3	-7.9	6.7	0.0	-3.0	15.9	-5.8	-3.5

Source: National accounts, Bank of Korea.
[1] Preliminary estimate.

In October, the facility investment index declined by 14.1 percent month-on-month as both the machinery investment index and transportation equipment investment index decreased. The index also fell by 4.3 percent year-on-year.

(Percentage change from previous period)

	2023	2024	2023				2024				2025					
	Annual	Annual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3[1]	Aug	Sep[1]	Oct[1]
Facility investment index	-	-	-9.0	1.5	-3.8	3.5	-1.5	-1.4	10.2	-1.8	-1.7	0.0	5.8	-1.3	12.6	-14.1
(y-o-y)	-4.8	2.9	-1.5	-0.9	-10.5	-5.8	-1.4	-3.3	11.5	5.3	5.7	5.3	2.0	-0.5	12.7	-4.3
Machinery	-7.1	1.9	-11.0	1.0	-2.8	-0.3	1.7	-1.9	5.0	3.4	-2.3	-4.3	5.9	1.1	9.6	-12.2
Transportation equipment	2.8	5.3	-2.5	2.9	-6.9	15.1	-9.4	-0.1	23.7	-13.1	-0.1	11.0	5.4	-6.5	19.3	-18.4

Source: Statistics Korea.
[1] Preliminary.

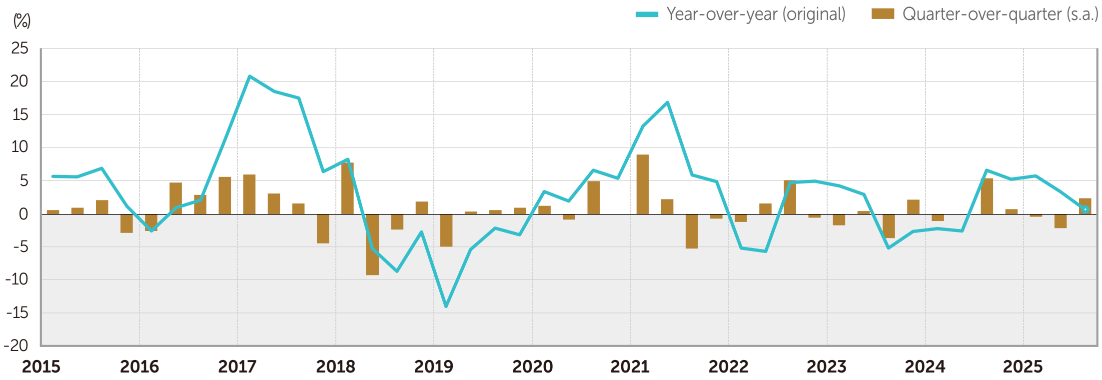
The facility investment outlook is mixed, as an increase in machinery imports is offset by a decline in average capacity utilization rate.

(Percentage change from same period in previous year)

	2023	2024	2023				2024				2025					
	Annual	Annual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3[1]	Aug	Sep[1]	Oct[1]
Domestic machinery orders received	-2.6	-2.7	-5.9	-3.1	-14.5	15.9	-7.1	-7.3	15.6	-9.5	18.3	5.1	-9.5	-10.5	37.4	-8.6
(% change from previous period)	-	-	3.9	4.6	-5.1	9.2	-12.8	-0.9	19.8	-12.9	12.0	-7.4	2.2	25.7	16.5	-24.6
- Public	92.3	-21.2	158.8	124.5	28.0	40.1	-63.0	-42.6	169.3	-40.7	15.2	-28.5	-37.5	-1.6	248.5	-19.7
- Private	-8.2	-0.3	-15.7	-11.1	-16.4	14.2	3.1	-1.7	4.8	-6.8	18.6	8.2	-4.5	-11.5	25.0	-8.2
Machinery imports	-2.6	1.8	2.7	6.7	-12.3	-7.4	-7.4	-12.4	18.2	12.7	11.5	13.5	6.1	0.1	17.5	1.5
Average capacity utilization rate[2]	72.1	72.7	70.9	72.2	72.5	72.7	72.4	73.4	72.5	72.5	73.5	72.5	73.6	74.6	73.5	71.0
Facility investment pressure[3]	-2.1	3.5	-7.2	-4.7	0.3	3.7	4.8	4.4	1.9	3.1	1.3	1.3	4.6	-0.1	10.5	-8.8

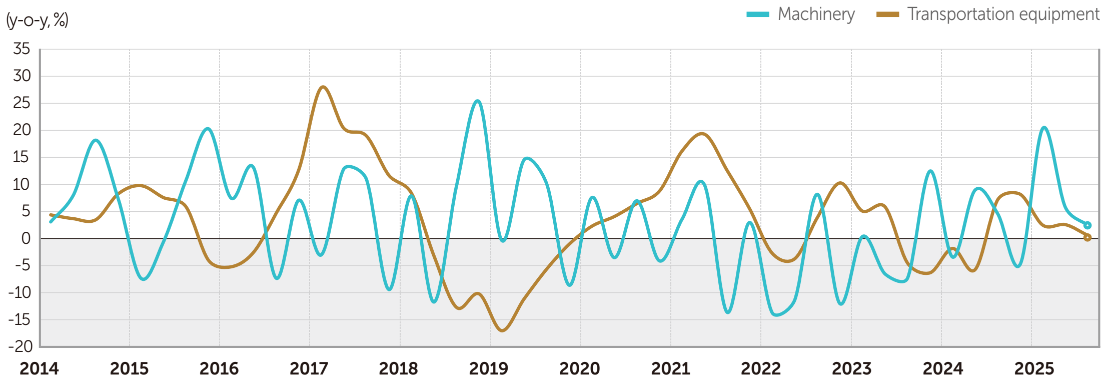
Sources: Statistics Korea; Korea International Trade Association.
[1] Preliminary.
[2] Utilization rate for the period, %.
[3] Production growth rate minus production capacity growth rate in the manufacturing sector, %p.

Facility investment



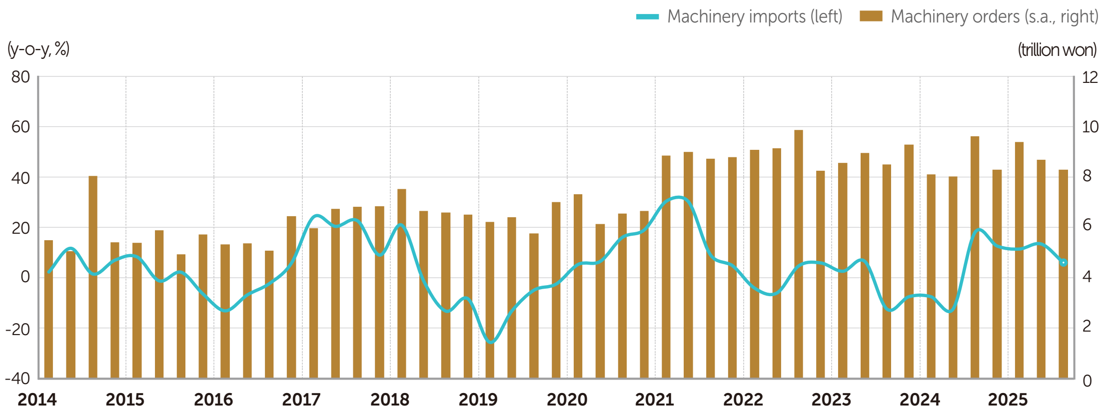
Source: National account, Bank of Korea.

Facility investment by type



Source: National account, Bank of Korea.

Leading indicators of facility investment



Sources: Statistics Korea; Korea International Trade Association.

5. Construction investment

Construction investment *(preliminary estimate of GDP)* in the third quarter of 2025 increased 0.6 percent quarter-on-quarter, and it decreased 7.5 percent year-on-year.

(Percentage change from previous period)

	2023	2024	2023				2024				2025		
	Annual	Annual[1]	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1[1]	Q2[1]	Q3[1]	Q4[1]	Q1[1]	Q2[1]	Q3[1]
Construction investment	-	-	-0.2	-0.5	1.5	-3.9	4.5	-3.3	-3.6	-4.1	-3.1	-1.2	0.6
(y-o-y)	-0.5	-3.3	0.1	0.3	1.1	-3.1	1.6	-1.2	-6.2	-6.4	-13.3	-11.4	-7.5
- Building construction	-2.4	-5.0	-1.7	-0.4	0.7	-5.3	4.6	-3.9	-4.6	-2.4	-5.4	0.1	-0.8
- Civil engineering works	5.0	1.3	4.3	-0.9	3.9	-0.5	4.3	-2.1	-1.2	-8.1	2.6	-4.0	4.2

Source: National accounts, Bank of Korea.
[1] Preliminary estimate.

In October, construction completed *(constant)* declined by 20.9 percent month-on-month as civil engineering works decreased. The index fell 24.6 percent year-on-year.

(Percentage change from previous period)

	2023	2024	2023				2024				2025					
	Annual	Annual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3[1]	Aug	Sep[1]	Oct[1]
Construction completed (constant)	-	-	3.4	-0.4	1.9	-4.2	7.7	-8.2	-3.8	-5.1	-6.4	-3.2	2.7	-5.3	12.3	-20.9
(y-o-y)	7.8	-4.7	12.0	9.5	10.8	0.8	4.0	-3.1	-9.1	-9.7	-21.2	-17.4	-11.7	-17.5	-3.5	-24.6
- Building construction	9.9	-6.7	6.3	-1.3	1.3	-5.7	9.2	-10.0	-5.3	-4.3	-5.7	-4.6	1.1	-6.4	16.0	3.3
- Civil engineering works	1.8	2.0	-5.6	2.7	3.8	0.6	3.2	-2.5	0.9	-7.3	-8.4	1.0	7.0	-2.6	3.3	-15.1

Source: Statistics Korea.
[1] Preliminary.

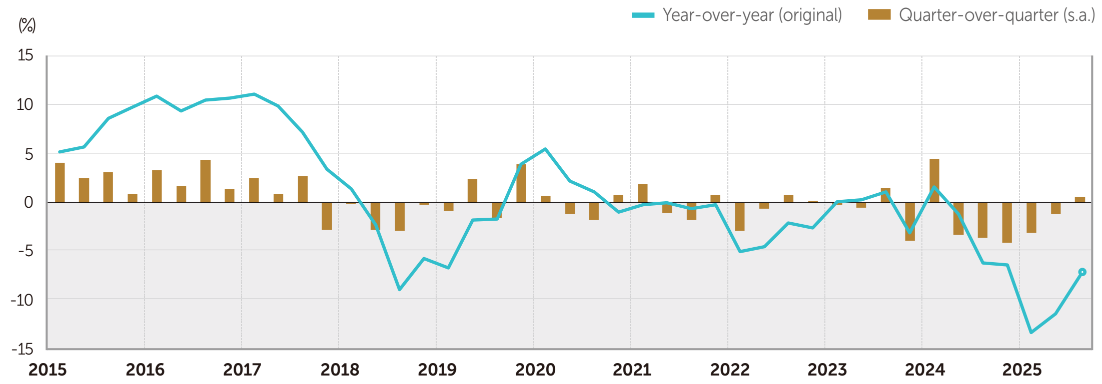
The construction investment outlook is mixed, as a decrease in building permits is offset by an increase in apartment presales.

(Percentage change from same period in previous year)

	2023	2024	2023				2024				2025					
	Annual	Annual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3[1]	Aug	Sep[1]	Oct[1]
Construction orders received (current value)	-18.3	10.9	-14.5	-31.2	-43.2	23.2	-10.4	20.7	26.8	9.7	1.1	-5.4	29.3	45.9	-1.4	-41.6
(% change from previous period)	-	-	19.7	-15.6	-5.6	19.7	-8.2	15.6	0.8	8.1	-18.8	6.6	36.0	-4.9	-30.5	-36.0
- Building construction	-30.5	17.5	-27.4	-43.8	-48.3	8.5	-12.5	24.1	25.3	28.9	24.0	13.2	31.4	48.0	-0.7	-46.7
- Civil engineering works	23.9	-1.8	32.2	20.1	-23.1	59.2	-6.2	14.3	30.8	-22.4	-41.6	-43.8	23.9	39.8	-4.4	-29.1
Building permits[2]	-25.6	-6.8	-8.5	-33.5	-32.8	-24.3	-17.2	-16.4	-9.9	8.4	-23.4	-8.5	-5.6	-27.6	33.2	-3.1
Apartment presales[3]	21.1	25.0	3.5	4.0	5.1	8.6	5.8	5.8	5.7	7.7	2.3	4.7	7.4	1.5	3.2	1.7

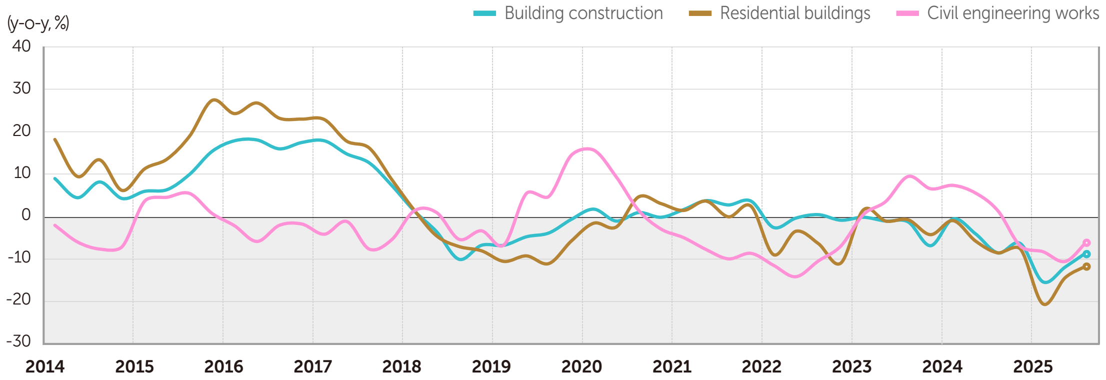
Sources: Statistics Korea; Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transport; Real Estate 114.
[1] Preliminary.
[2] Gross Floor Area.
[3] Thousand housing units.

Construction investment



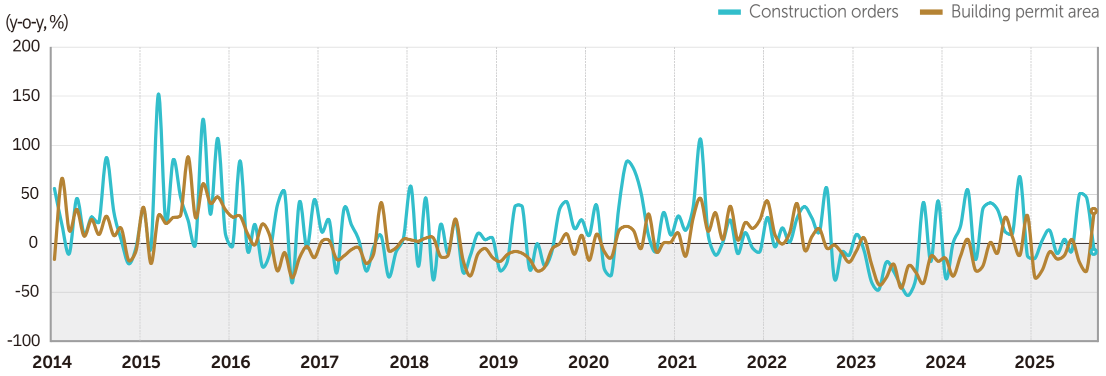
Source: National account, Bank of Korea.

Construction investment by type



Source: National account, Bank of Korea.

Leading indicators of construction investment



Sources: Statistics Korea; Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

6. Exports and imports (Preliminary Estimate)

Exports grew by 8.4 percent year-on-year to US $61.0 billion in November, driven by increased exports of semiconductors. Exports of semiconductor and automobiles increased, while exports of machinery and vessels decreased. In terms of export markets, exports to China and ASEAN increased while exports to US and Japan declined.
The average daily amount of exports, which factors in the number of working days, rose by 13.3 percent year-on-year to US $2.7 billion.

Imports rose by 1.2 percent year-on-year to US $51.3 billion in November.

The trade balance recorded a surplus for the past ten consecutive months, totaling US $9.7 billion in November.

(US $ billion)

	2023	2024	2023				2024				2025			2024	2025
	Annual	Annual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Nov	Nov
Exports	632.2	683.8	151.2	155.8	157.1	168.1	163.3	171.5	173.7	175.2	159.6	175.2	185.0	56.3	61.0
(y-o-y, %)	-7.5	8.1	-12.8	-12.0	-9.7	5.7	8.0	10.1	10.5	4.2	-2.3	2.2	6.5	1.3	8.4
Average daily exports	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.7
Imports	642.6	632.0	174.0	159.3	150.7	158.6	155.1	157.0	160.0	160.0	152.6	154.3	162.4	50.7	51.3
(y-o-y, %)	-12.1	-1.6	-2.2	-13.2	-21.6	-10.7	-10.9	-1.4	6.2	0.9	-1.4	-1.7	1.5	-2.5	1.2
Average daily imports	2.4	2.3	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.6	2.2	2.3
Trade balance	-10.4	51.6	-22.8	-3.5	6.4	9.6	8.2	14.5	13.6	15.2	6.9	20.9	22.6	5.6	9.7

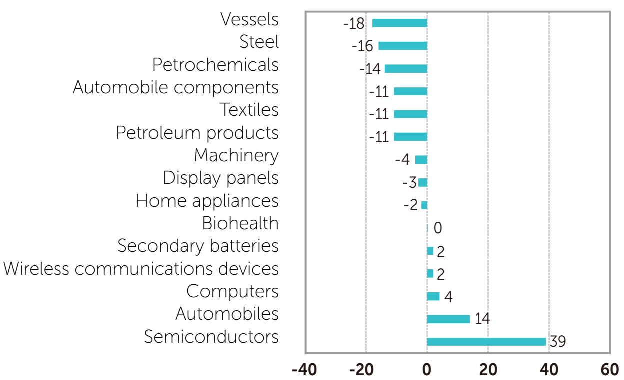
Source: Korea Customs Service.

Export growth and share by region in Nov 2025

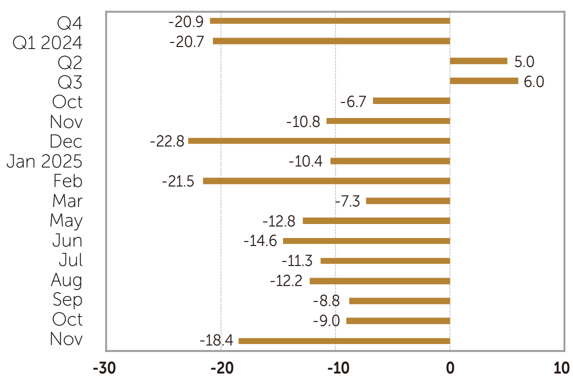
	Growth (y-o-y, %)	Share (%)
Latin America	-7	5
Japan	-7	4
EU	-2	10
US	0	17
India	2	3
ASEAN countries	6	17
China	7	19
CIS countries	26	-
Middle East	33	3

[1] Cumulative total since January 2025.

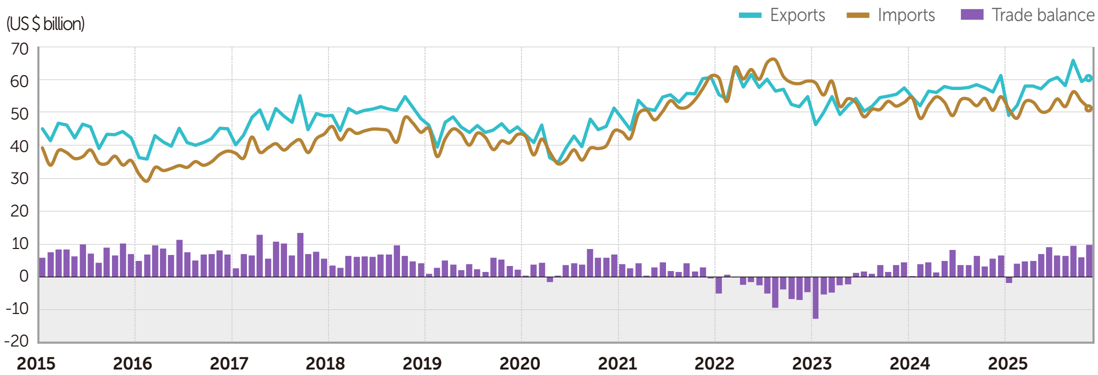
Export growth by item in Nov 2025 (y-o-y, %)



Energy Imports (y-o-y, %)

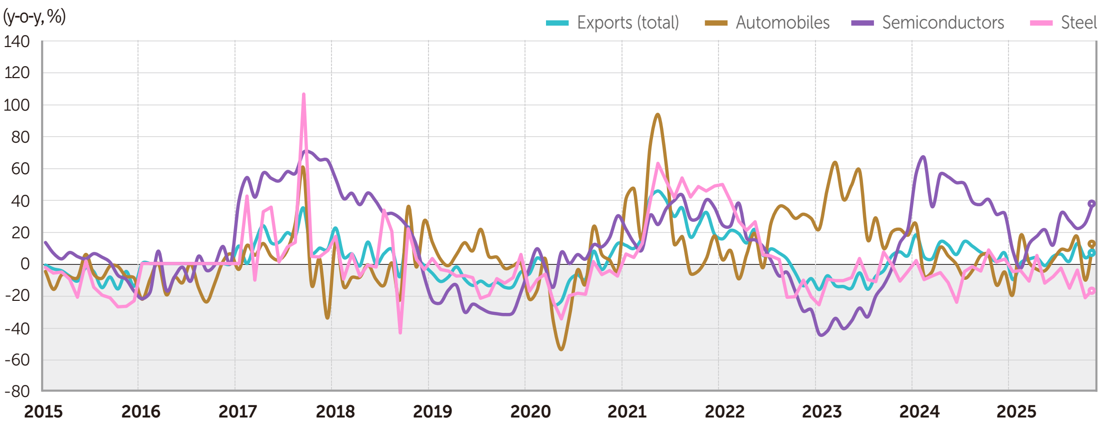


Exports and imports



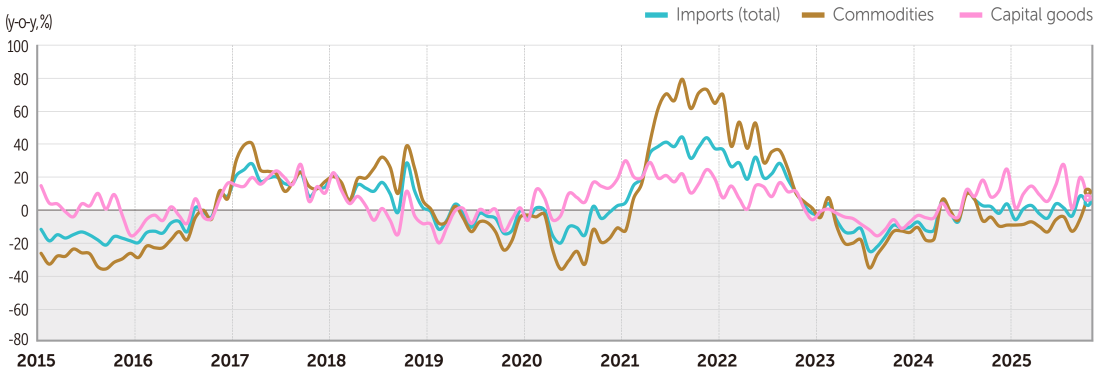
Sources: Korea Customs Service.

Export growth by item



Sources: Korea Customs Service.

Import growth by category



Sources: Korea Customs Service.

7. Employment

In November, the number of employed workers increased by about 225,000 year-on-year to 29,050,000 and the employment rate *(aged 15 and above)* grew by 0.2 percent points to 63.4 percent.

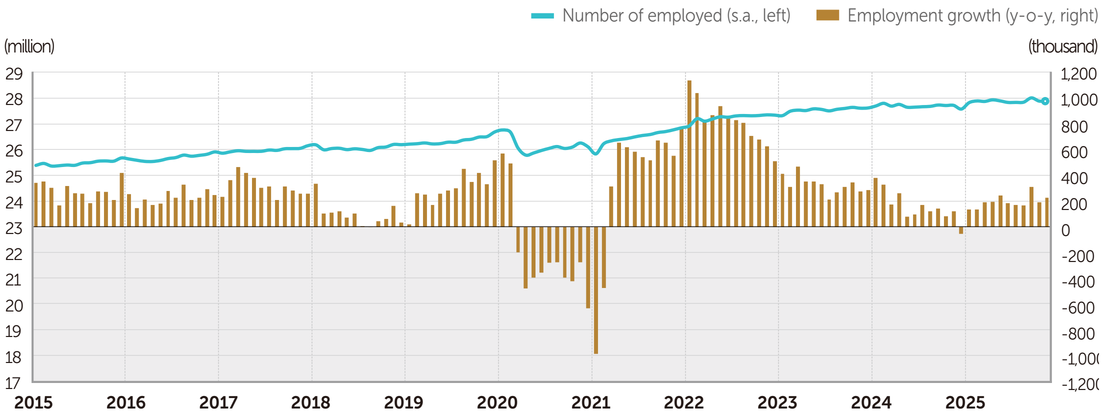
By sector, employment growth was led by an increase in the number of jobs in the following sectors: healthcare and social welfare services, business facilities management and business support services, and arts, sports and recreation related services.

In terms of job growth by employment type, the number of permanent workers and temporary workers increased, while the number of day laborers declined.

	2022	2023	2024	2024		2025										
	Annual	Annual	Annual	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Number of employed (million)	28.09	28.42	28.58	28.82	28.04	27.88	28.18	28.89	28.89	29.16	29.09	29.03	28.97	29.15	29.04	29.05
Employment rate (%)	62.1	62.6	62.7	63.2	61.4	61.0	61.7	62.5	63.2	63.8	63.6	63.4	63.3	63.7	63.4	63.4
(Seasonally adjusted)	-	-	-	62.7	62.3	62.9	63.0	63.0	63.1	62.9	62.8	62.8	62.8	63.1	62.8	62.8
- 15 to 64	68.5	69.2	69.5	69.9	69.4	68.8	68.9	69.3	69.9	70.5	70.3	70.2	69.9	70.4	70.1	70.2
Employment growth (y-o-y, thousand)	816	327	159	123	-52	135	136	193	194	245	183	171	166	312	193	225
- Manufacturing	135	-43	-6	-95	-97	-56	-74	-112	-124	-67	-83	-78	-61	-61	-51	-41
- Construction	33	-9	-49	-96	-157	169	-167	-185	-150	-106	-97	-92	-132	-83	-123	-131
- Services	575	385	239	350	177	349	401	567	606	549	494	460	484	588	481	516
· Wholesale & retail	-41	-37	-61	-89	-96	-91	-65	-26	-3	18	10	13	0	28	46	11
· Hotels & restaurants	84	114	25	24	12	27	56	56	1	-67	-38	-71	0	26	22	-22
· Healthcare & social welfare service	180	143	83	113	-3	119	192	212	218	233	216	263	304	304	280	281
- Wage workers	749	327	214	171	-49	180	177	259	277	329	314	287	270	386	311	294
· Permanent workers	805	478	183	167	187	224	233	234	279	362	318	319	348	340	286	258
· Temporary workers	43	-61	154	106	-86	72	36	126	52	25	58	16	-12	2	79	65
· Day laborers	-100	-90	-122	-103	-150	-116	-92	-100	-54	-59	-63	-48	-67	44	-55	-29
- Nonwage workers	68	0	-55	-48	-3	-45	-41	-66	-83	-84	-130	-116	-103	-75	-118	-70
· Self-employed	119	57	-32	-13	7	-28	-14	-2	-6	-22	-66	-65	-70	-55	-98	-38
- Male	381	24	-29	-34	-127	-56	-42	2	33	49	7	16	20	67	22	22
- Female	436	303	188	157	75	191	178	191	161	196	177	155	146	244	171	203
- 15 to 29	119	-98	-144	-180	-217	-218	-235	-206	-174	-150	-173	-158	-219	-146	-163	-177
- 30 to 39	49	54	90	89	96	98	116	109	93	132	116	93	96	133	80	76
- 40 to 49	4	-54	-81	-91	-97	-71	-78	-49	51	-39	-55	-56	-73	-45	-38	-9
- 50 to 59	194	59	28	7	4	-14	-8	-26	-14	-68	-53	-49	-38	-11	-19	2
- 60 and above	452	366	266	298	162	340	342	365	340	370	348	342	401	381	334	333

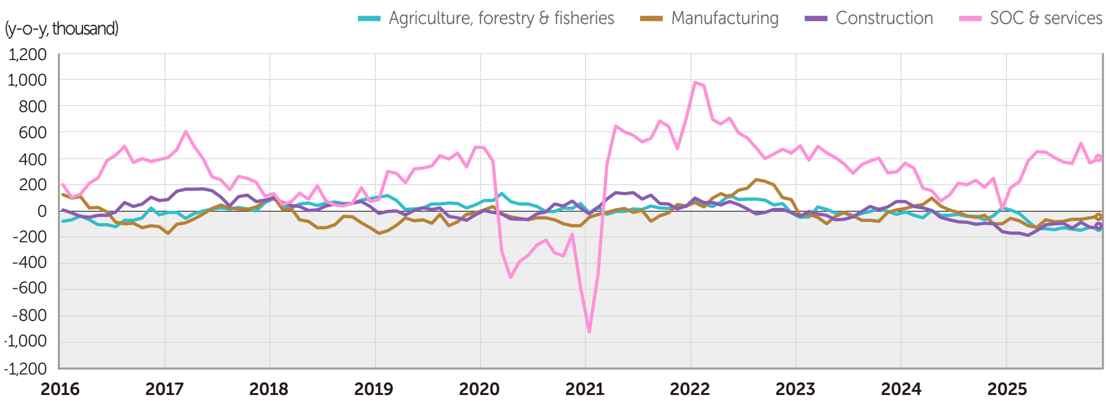
Source: Statistics Korea.

Number of employed workers and employment growth



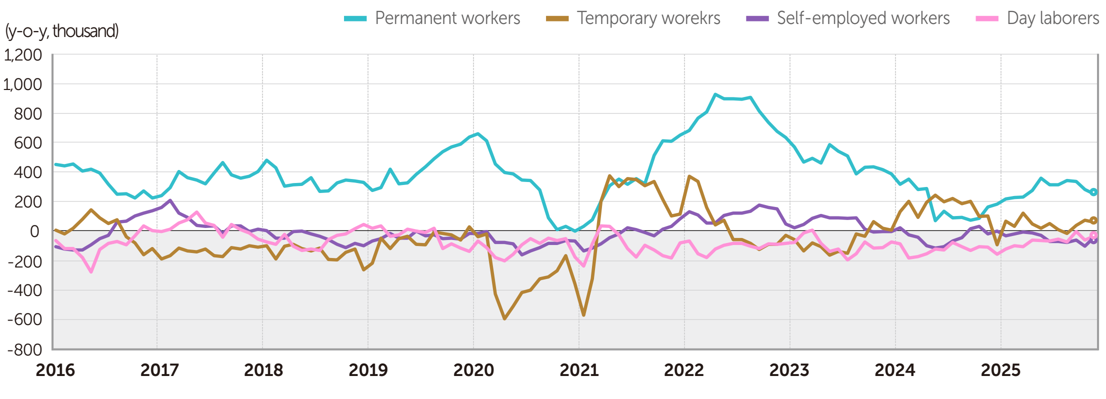
Source: Employment trends, Statistics Korea.

Employment growth by industry



Source: Economically active population survey, Statistics Korea.

Employment growth by type of employment



Source: Economically active population survey, Statistics Korea.

In November, the number of unemployed workers increased by about 5,000 year-on-year to 661,000 and the unemployment rate remained the same at 2.2 percent.

	2022	2023	2024	2024		2025										
	Annual	Annual	Annual	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Number of unemployed (thousand)	833	787	823	656	1,115	1,083	940	918	854	853	825	726	592	635	658	661
Unemployment growth (y-o-y, thousand)	-205	-46	36	-21	171	11	25	26	-32	-32	-32	-11	28	12	-20	5
- Male	-129	-14	18	-32	29	-17	15	5	0	-17	-1	16	23	52	4	29
- Female	-76	-32	18	11	141	28	10	21	-31	-15	-32	-27	4	-39	-24	-24
Unemployment rate (%)	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.2	3.8	3.7	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2
(Seasonally adjusted)	-	-	-	2.7	3.7	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7
- 15 to 29	6.4	5.9	5.9	5.5	5.9	6.0	7.0	7.5	7.3	6.6	6.1	5.5	4.9	4.8	5.3	5.5
- 30 to 39	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.2	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9
- 40 to 49	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8
- 50 to 59	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.4
- 60 and above	2.8	2.6	2.9	1.5	8.0	7.0	3.6	2.6	1.9	2.2	2.2	1.7	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.2

Source: Statistics Korea.

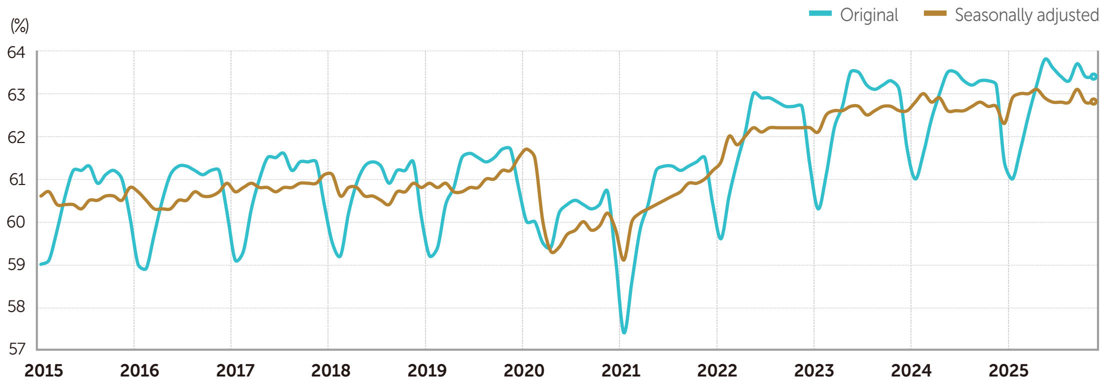
In November, the economically inactive population fell by 10,000 year-on-year to 16,142,000 and the labor force participation rate rose 0.2 percent points to 64.8 percent.

The number of people economically inactive because of childcare and job seeking fell, while retraining and taking time off increased.

	2022	2023	2024	2024		2025										
	Annual	Annual	Annual	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Economically inactive population (million)	16.3	16.2	16.2	16.2	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.2	16.0	15.7	15.8	16.0	16.2	16.0	16.1	16.1
Labor force participation rate (%)	63.9	64.3	64.5	64.6	63.9	63.4	63.7	64.6	65.1	65.6	65.4	65.0	64.6	65.0	64.8	64.8
(Seasonally adjusted)	-	-	-	64.4	64.7	64.7	64.8	64.8	64.8	64.7	64.5	64.4	64.4	64.8	64.5	64.6
Growth in economically inactive population (y-o-y, thousand)	-432	-134	-32	50	29	15	7	-40	18	-22	42	8	9	-116	38	-10
- Childcare	-125	-140	-113	-89	-68	-96	-95	-86	-58	-39	-32	-29	-48	-68	-63	-65
- Housework	-53	-1	45	90	34	11	-5	-2	47	3	20	60	13	-25	14	-44
- Retraining	-136	11	-54	-78	-58	24	-24	-13	-8	-12	7	47	21	25	17	36
- Old age	121	-31	47	4	22	4	2	-16	-30	-56	-43	-36	-50	-40	-41	-16
- Rest	-122	74	117	179	179	128	123	71	45	56	6	69	73	42	135	124
- Job seeking	-78	-88	-48	-62	-55	-7	14	27	30	56	34	-12	11	-8	-38	-13

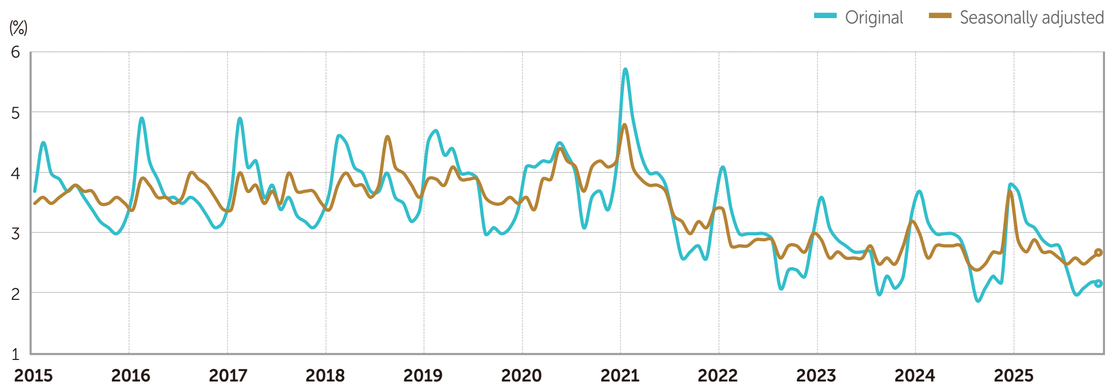
Source: Statistics Korea.

Employment rate



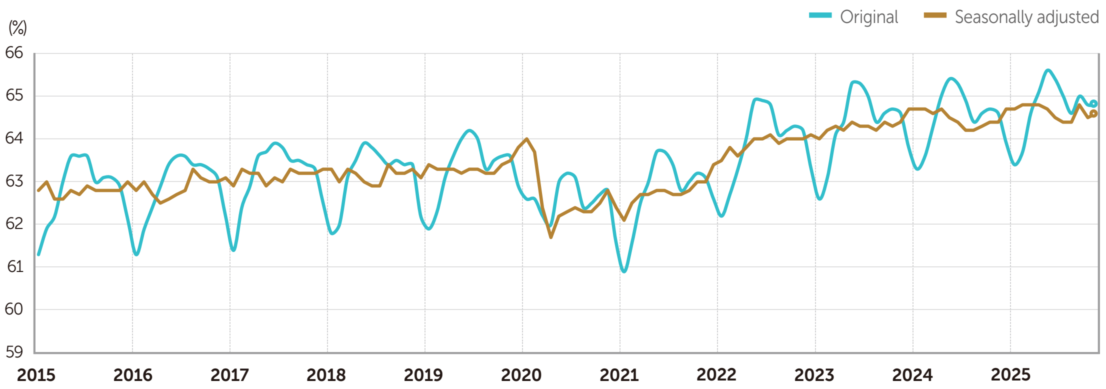
Source: Employment trends, Statistics Korea.

Unemployment rate



Source: Employment trends, Statistics Korea.

Labor force participation



Source: Employment trends, Statistics Korea.

8. Prices

In November, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) grew 2.4 percent from a year ago, led by higher prices of agricultural and fishery products prices, and oil. The CPI fell 0.2 percent month-on-month.

Prices for consumer goods excluding food and energy rose 2.0 percent year-on-year in November. Prices for consumer goods excluding crops and oil products rose 2.3 percent.

The prices index for basic necessities rose 2.9 percent year-on-year in November. The fresh food price index climbed 4.1 percent.

(Percentage change from same period in previous year)

	2024							2025										
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
CPI (y-o-y)	2.4	2.6	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.1	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.4
(m-o-m)	-0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.0	-0.3	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.2	-0.1	0.5	0.3	-0.2
Excluding food and energy	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.3	2.0	2.2	2.0
Excluding crops and oil products	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.3	1.9	2.4	2.5	2.3
Basic necessities	2.8	3.0	2.1	1.5	1.2	1.6	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.5	1.5	2.5	2.5	2.9
Fresh food	11.7	7.7	3.2	3.4	1.6	0.4	2.9	0.7	-1.4	-1.3	-1.9	-5.0	-1.7	-0.5	2.1	-2.5	-0.8	4.1

Source: Statistics Korea.

In November, prices of agricultural products increased at a greater rate due to heavy rain and adverse weather conditions, coupled with last year's base effect. The growth of domestic oil prices accelerated due to increases in the foreign exchange rate.

(Percentage change from same period in previous year)

	Farm and fishery products	Manufactured products		Public utilities	Housing rents	Public services	Personal services
			Petroleum products				
Oct 2025	3.1	2.3	4.8	0.4	0.8	1.2	3.4
Nov 2025	5.6	2.3	5.9	0.4	0.9	1.4	3.0
Contribution (%p)	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	1.0

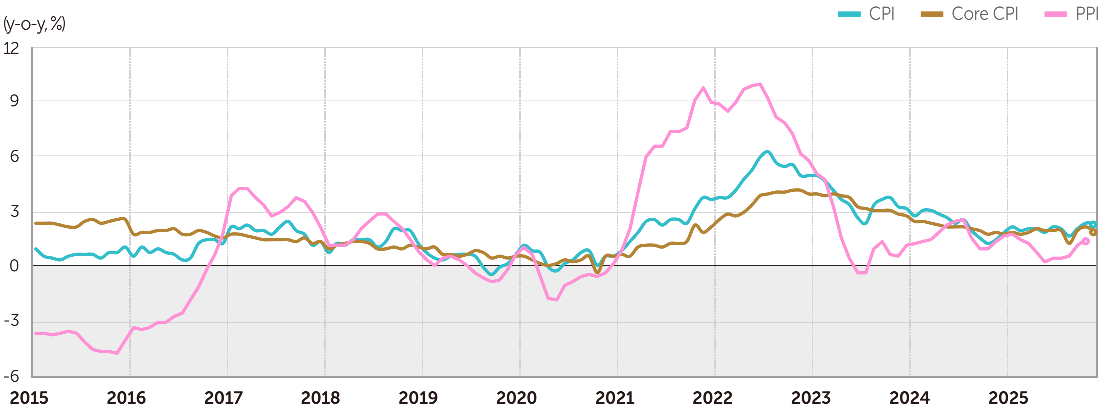
Source: Statistics Korea.

(Won/liter, period average)

	2024	2024				2025					
	Annual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Sep	Oct	Nov
Gasoline prices	1,647	1,607	1,681	1,674	1,624	1,708	1,642	1,665	1,660	1,663	1,718
Diesel prices	1,503	1,512	1,528	1,510	1,460	1,570	1,507	1,533	1,531	1,537	1,619

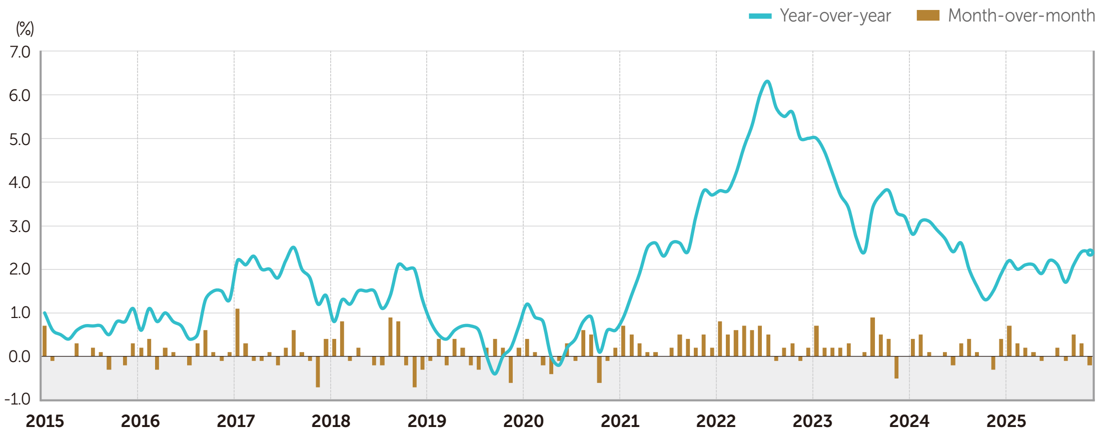
Source: Korea National Oil Corporation.

Prices



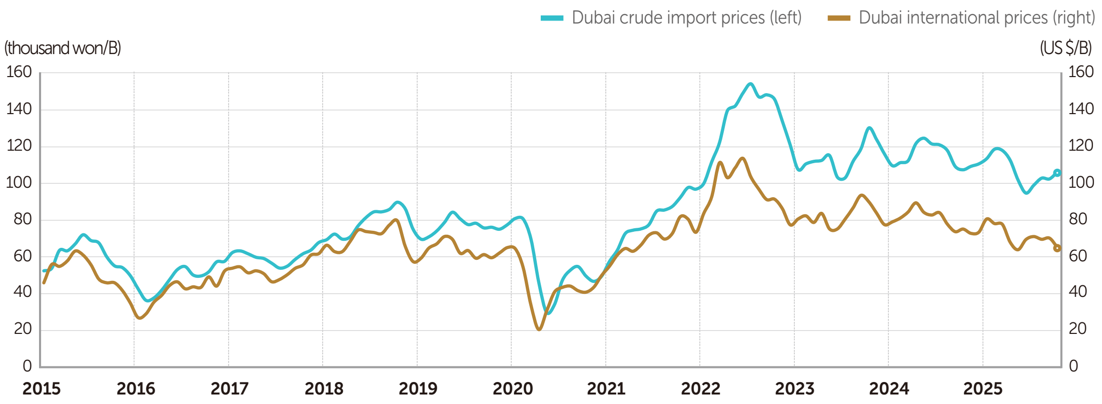
Sources: Consumer price trends, Statistics Korea; Bank of Korea.

Consumer price inflation



Source: Consumer price trends, Statistics Korea.

Dubai crude prices and import prices



Source: Korea National Oil Corporation.

In November, international oil prices fell from the previous month based on expectations of an oversupply in global crude oil next year and the potential easing of restrictions on Russian oil transactions following progress in Russia-Ukraine peace negotiations.

International grain prices rose from the previous month, driven by a range of factors including China's resumption of U.S. soybean imports and concerns over crop conditions for wheat.

Nonferrous metal prices rose from the previous month based on expectations of a decrease in the supply of copper and aluminum.

(Period average)

	2023	2024	2023				2024				2025					
	Annual	Annual	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Sep	Oct	Nov
Dubai crude[1]	82.1	79.6	80.3	77.6	86.6	83.7	81.2	85.3	78.5	73.6	76.9	63.7	70.1	70.0	65.0	64.5
WTI crude[1]	77.6	75.8	76.0	73.6	82.2	78.5	76.9	80.7	75.3	70.3	71.4	67.0	65.0	63.5	60.1	59.5
Brent crude[1]	82.2	79.9	82.1	77.7	85.9	82.9	81.8	85.0	78.7	74.0	75.0	66.7	68.2	67.6	64.0	63.7
Reuters Index[2]	3,104	3,086	3,265	3,040	3,066	3,045	2,948	3,110	3,080	3,203	3,152	2,996	2,979	2,992	2,964	2,979

Source: Korea National Oil Corporation; Korea PDS.

[1] US $/barrel.

[2] A weighted average index of 17 major commodities (Sep 18, 1931=100)

International grain prices growth Nov 2025 (m-o-m, %)

Wheat	5.9
Corn	3.1
Soybeans	9.0

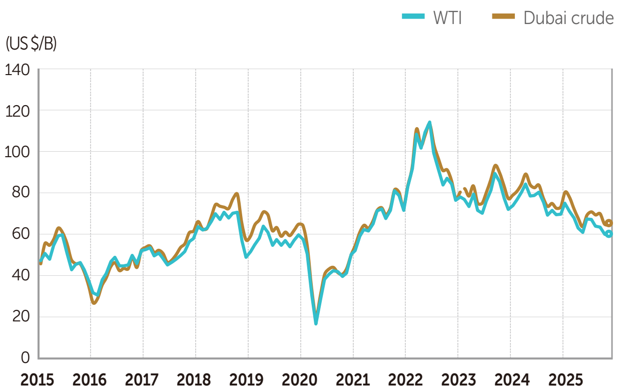
Note: Monthly average prices.

Nonferrous metal prices growth in Nov 2025 (m-o-m, %)

Aluminum	1.3
Nickel	-2.6
Copper	1.0

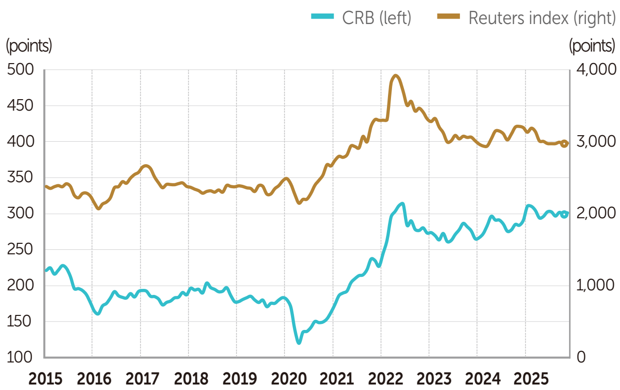
Note: Monthly average prices.

International oil prices



Source: Korea National Oil Corporation.

International commodity prices



Source: Korea PDS

9. Housing market

Nationally, housing sales prices rose 0.24 percent month-on-month in November.
Within the Seoul metropolitan area, housing sales prices rose 0.45 percent, increasing 0.77 percent in Seoul and 0.32 percent in Gyeonggi Province, and 0.09 percent in Incheon.
In the areas excluding the Seoul metropolitan, housing sales prices remained unchanged, increasing 0.04 percent in the five metropolitan cities and in the eight provinces on average, respectively.

Housing sales prices

(Percentage change from previous period)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024	2025			
	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Nov	Cumulative total	Sep	Oct	Nov
Nationwide	5.4	9.9	-4.7	-3.6	0.1	0.01	0.76	0.09	0.29	0.24
Seoul metropolitan area	6.5	12.8	-6.5	-3.6	1.4	0.11	0.45	0.22	0.60	0.45
- Seoul	2.7	6.5	-4.8	-2.0	3.2	0.20	6.23	0.58	1.19	0.77
· Southern Seoul	2.2	6.8	-4.1	-1.5	3.6	0.21	8.07	0.64	1.42	1.02
· Northern Seoul	3.2	6.1	-5.4	-2.4	2.8	0.20	4.29	0.51	0.94	0.50
Areas excluding the Seoul metropolitan area	4.3	7.4	-3.0	-3.5	-1.1	-0.09	-0.78	-0.03	0.00	0.04

Source: Korea Real Estate Board.

Housing sales prices in six major cities in Nov 2025 (m-o-m, %)

Busan	Daegu	Gwangju	Daejeon	Ulsan	Sejong
0.10	-0.12	0.01	-0.08	0.37	0.11

Source: Korea Real Estate Board.

Nationally, housing rental prices increased 0.24 percent in November compared to the previous month.
By region, housing rental prices rose 0.38 percent in the Seoul metropolitan area and 0.12 percent in other areas.

Housing rental prices

(Percentage change from previous period)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024	2025			
	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Oct	Cumulative total	Sep	Oct	Nov
Nationwide	4.6	6.5	-5.6	-5.1	1.3	0.09	0.65	0.10	0.18	0.24
Seoul metropolitan area	5.6	7.7	-8.0	-5.7	3.1	0.19	1.35	0.17	0.30	0.38
- Seoul	3.7	4.9	-6.5	-5.3	3.3	0.15	2.44	0.30	0.44	0.51
· Southern Seoul	4.4	5.1	-6.9	-5.8	2.9	0.11	3.17	0.39	0.58	0.68
· Northern Seoul	2.9	4.7	-6.2	-4.7	3.6	0.18	1.67	0.21	0.29	0.33
Areas excluding the Seoul metropolitan area	3.7	5.5	-3.3	-4.4	-0.44	0.01	-0.01	0.04	0.07	0.12

Source: Korea Real Estate Board.

Housing rental prices in major districts in Nov 2025 (m-o-m, %)

Seocho	Songpa	Gangdong	Gwacheon	Hanam
1.24	1.20	0.83	-1.00	1.43

Source: Korea Real Estate Board.

There were 69,718 housing sales transactions in October, an increase of 10.0 percent month-on-month *(63,365 in September 2025)* and an increase of 23.2 percent year-on-year (*56,579 in October 2024)*.

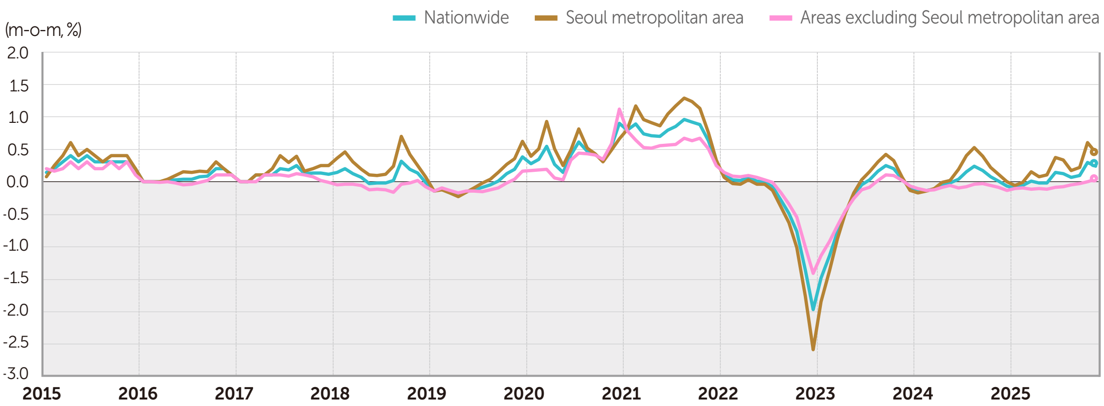
Housing sales transactions

(Thousand)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024			2025									
	Annual[1]	Annual[1]	Annual[1]	Annual[1]	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Nationwide	85	42	46	54	57	49	46	38	51	67	65	63	74	64	46	63	70

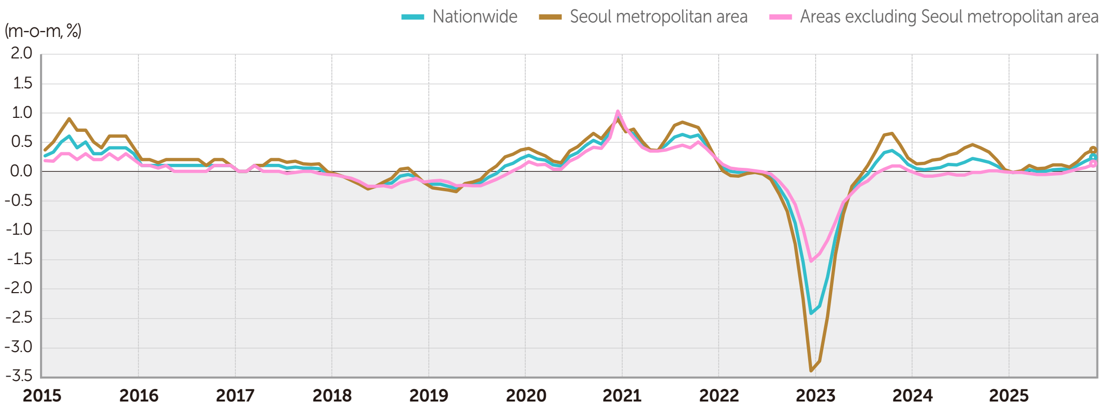
Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.
[1] Monthly average.

Housing sales prices



Source: Korea Real Estate Board

Housing rental prices



Source: Korea Real Estate Board

Financial Markets

1. Stock market

The Korean equity markets, KOSPI and KOSDAQ, made significant gains in November driven by the semiconductor industry's strong performance and the agreement of a tariff deal between Korea and the US.

	KOSPI			KOSDAQ		
	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Change	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Change
Stock price index (points)	4,107.50	3,926.59	-180.91 (-4.40%)	900.42	912.67	12.25 (1.36 %)
Market capitalization (trillion won)	3,383.4	3,235.8	-147.6 (-4.36 %)	474.7	487.4	12.7 (2.68 %)
Daily trade (trillion won)	18.1	17.4	- 0.7 (-3.87 %)	8.9	9.5	0.6 (6.74 %)
Foreign stock ownership (%, %p)	35.16	34.93	- 0.23 (-0.65 %)	10.24	10.21	-0.03 (-0.29%)

Source: Korea Exchange.
Note: The figures are closing rate.

2. Bond market

The government issued 15.6 trillion won worth of treasury bonds in November.

(End-period, trillion won)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024		2025										
	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Treasury bonds issuance[1]	180.5	168.6	165.7	157.7	7.8	1.4	18.3	21.3	20.7	20.9	19.0	23.8	21.2	21.0	21.5	17.7	15.6

Source: Monthly public finance, Ministry of Economy and Finance.
[1] Issuance limit is 231.1 trillion won in 2025..

Korean Treasury bond yields rose in November.

Yields to maturity in Nov 2025 (m-o-m, basis points)

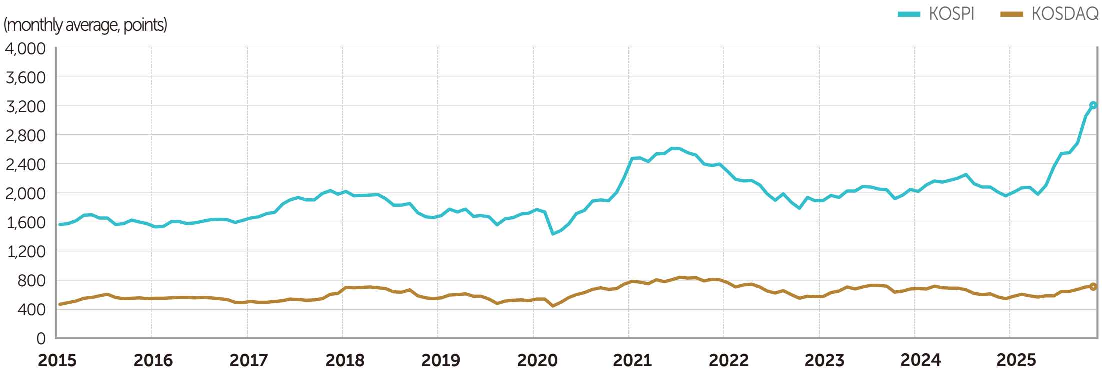
3 yrs	5 yrs	10 yrs	20 yrs	30 yrs
28	32	28	25	24

(Percent per annum)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025		
	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Oct	Nov	Change[1]
Call rate (1 day)	1.58	1.89	1.39	0.61	1.44	3.38	3.91	3.33	2.51	2.51	0
CD (91 days)	1.66	1.93	1.53	0.66	1.29	3.98	3.83	3.39	2.55	2.80	25
Treasury bonds (3 yrs)	2.14	1.82	1.36	0.98	1.80	3.72	3.15	2.60	2.72	2.99	27
Treasury bonds (5 yrs)	2.34	1.88	1.48	1.34	2.01	3.74	3.16	2.76	2.86	3.18	32
Corporate bonds (3 yrs)	2.68	2.29	1.94	2.21	2.42	5.23	3.90	3.28	3.12	3.43	31

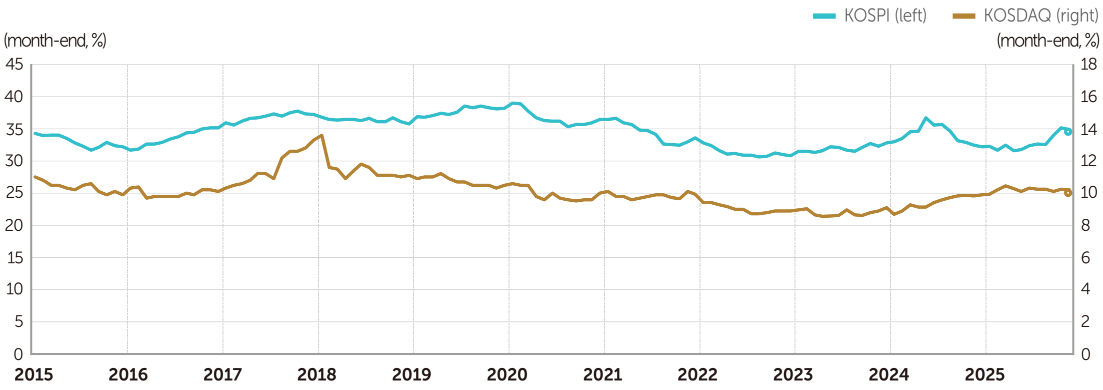
Source: Bank of Korea.
Note: Figures are closing rate.
[1] Change from the previous month as of end-Nov 2025, basis point.

Stock prices



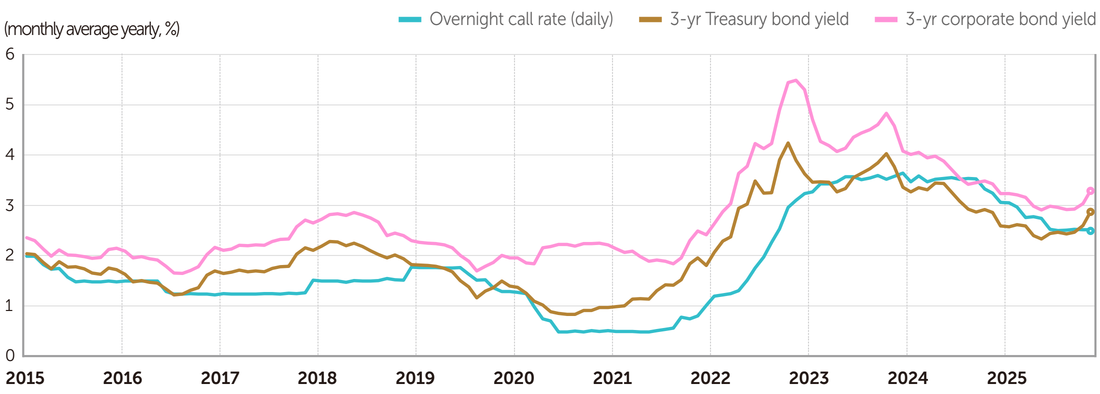
Source: Korea Exchange

Foreign stock ownership



Sources: Financial Supervisory Service, Korea Exchange

Interest rates



Source: Bank of Korea.

3. Foreign exchange market

The won depreciated against the US Dollar in November compared to the previous month.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025		
	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Oct	Nov	Change[1]
Dollar-Won	1,156.4	1,086.3	1,188.8	1,264.5	1,288.0	1,472.5	1,424.4	1,470.6	-3.1
100 Yen-Won	1,059.8	1,051.2	1,032.5	945.6	912.25	943.3	923.6	937.3	-1.5
Yuan-Won	165.6	167.0	186.6	181.6	181.17	202.6	200.3	207.9	-3.6

Source: Bank of Korea.
Note: The exchange rate is based on the closing price at 3:30 pm, local time.
[1] Appreciation from the end of the previous month as of end- Nov 2025, %.

4. Money market

M2 *(monthly average)* rose 8.7 percent year-on-year in October.

(Percentage change from same period in previous year)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025		
	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Sep[1]	Oct[1]	Oct[2]
M1[3]	9.2	4.9	4.3	20.8	21.0	4.0	-10.5	3.2	7.4	8.1	1,332.4
M2	5.5	6.3	7.0	9.3	11.7	8.5	2.9	5.6	8.5	8.7	4,466.3
Lf[4]	6.7	7.0	7.9	8.3	9.8	7.5	3.1	5.4	8.0	7.8	6,026.3

Source: Bank of Korea.
[1] Preliminary.
[2] Period-average, trillion won.
[3] M1 excludes corporate MMFs and individual MMFs, and includes CMAs.
[4] Liquidity aggregates of financial institutions (mostly identical with M3).

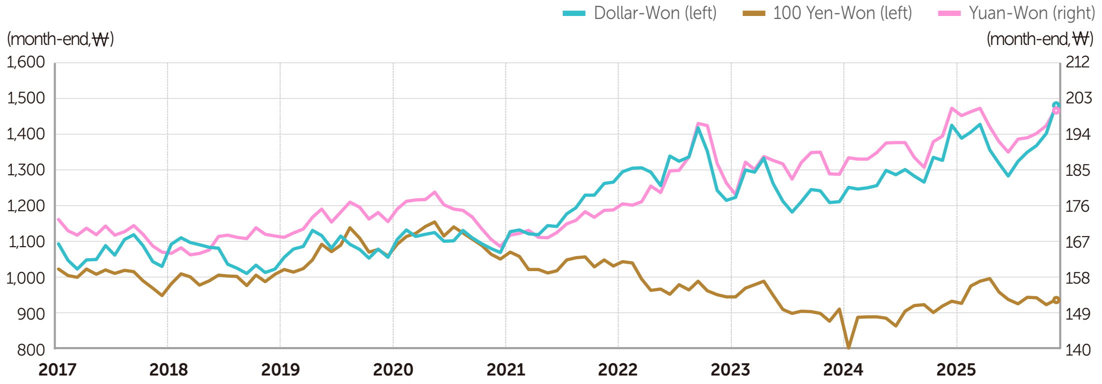
In November, bank deposits significantly increased by 36.6 trillion won, while deposits held by Asset Management Companies (AMC) grew at a slower rate than the previous month, increasing 9.7 trillion won.

(Change from the end of the previous period, trillion won)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025			
	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Sep	Oct	Nov	Nov[1]
Bank deposits	79.5	91.6	106.3	188.4	198.5	107.4	76.4	111.7	31.9	-22.9	36.6	2,527.0
AMC deposits	27.9	53.8	98.6	42.2	93.9	44.4	93.7	117.2	-4.2	50.6	9.7	1,286.9

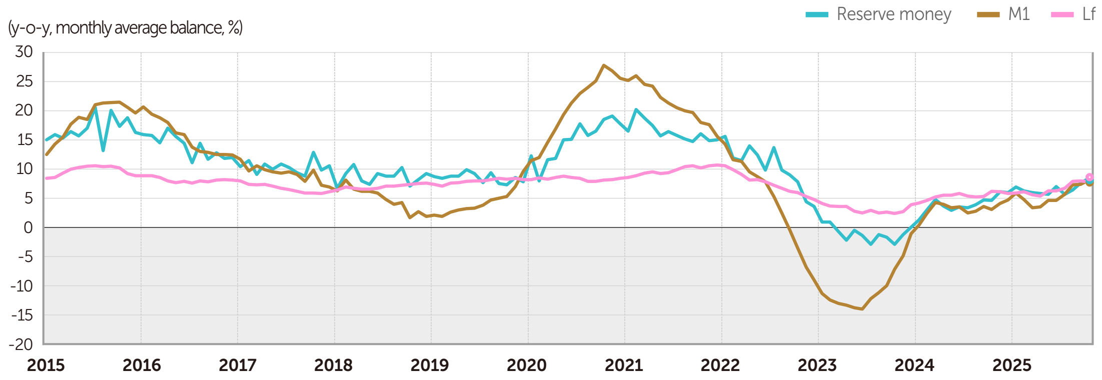
Source: Bank of Korea.
[1]Balance at end- Nov 2025.

Foreign exchange rates



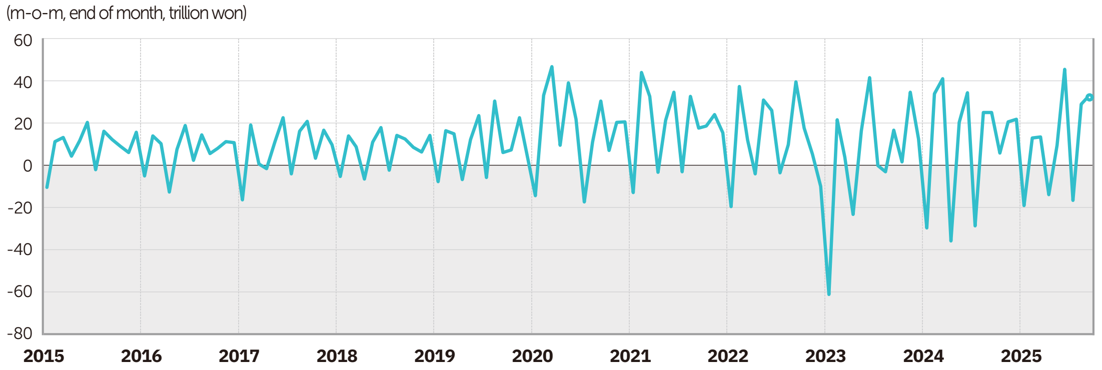
Source: Bank of Korea.

Total money supply



Source: Bank of Korea.

Total deposits of banks



Source: Bank of Korea.

5. Official foreign reserves

Korea's official foreign reserves increased month-on-month, totaling US $430.6 billion as of the end of November.

(US $ billion)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025			
					Oct	Nov		Change (m-o-m)
Official foreign reserves	463.1	423.2	420.2	415.6	428.8	430.6	(100.0%)	1.8
- Securities[1]	421.7	369.7	373.7	366.7	377.9	379.3	(88.1%)	1.4
- Deposits	16.6	29.3	22.0	25.2	25.9	26.4	(6.1%)	0.5
- SDRs	15.4	14.8	15.1	14.7	15.7	15.7	(3.7%)	0.0
- IMF position[2]	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.2	4.8	4.8	(1.1%)	0.0
- Gold	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.4	4.3	(1.0%)	-0.1

Source: Bank of Korea.
[1] Including government bonds, government agency bonds, debentures, MBSs, ABSs, etc.
[2] Claims related to the IMF composed of the reserve tranche position (RTP) and loans.

6. External debt

External debt amounted to US $738.1 billion as of the third quarter of 2025, up US $2.5 billion quarter-on-quarter. Short-term debt was US $161.6 billion *(down US $5.4 billion q-o-q)*, and long-term debt was US $576.5 billion *(up US $7.9 billion q-o-q)*. Net external assets increased by US $24.6 billion to US $381.8 billion.

(End-period, US $billion)

	2024[1]				2025[1]			Change (q-o-q)
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	
External assets (in debt instruments, A)	1,042.5	1,031.2	1,072.5	1,060.0	1,051.3	1,092.8	1,119.9	27.1
Total debt (B)	671.2	665.7	705.0	672.9	683.4	735.6	738.1	2.5
- Short-term	141.1	142.1	158.5	146.5	149.3	167.1	161.6	-5.4
- Long-term	530.0	523.6	546.5	526.4	534.1	568.5	576.5	7.9
Short-term/Total debt (%)	21.0	21.3	22.5	21.8	21.9	22.7	21.9	-0.8%p
Short-term/Reserve assets (%)	33.7	34.5	37.7	35.3	36.5	40.7	38.3	-2.4%p
Net external assets (A-B)	371.4	365.5	367.6	387.1	367.9	357.2	381.8	24.6

Source: Ministry of Economy and Finance, Bank of Korea.
[1] Preliminary.

Public Finance

1. Fiscal balance

The consolidated fiscal balance recorded a deficit of 44.0 trillion won in October, an increase of 13.5 trillion won year-on-year. The managed fiscal balance also recorded a deficit of 86.1 trillion won, an increase of 10.5 trillion won year-on-year.

(Trillion won, percent)

	2024					2025[1]			Change
	Main budget (a)	Settlement (b)	Oct (Cumulative, c)	(c)/(a)	(c)/(b)	2nd supplementary budget (d)	Oct (Cumulative, e)	(e)/(d)	(e)-(c)
A. Total revenue	612.2	594.5	498.7	81.5	83.9	642.4	540.8	84.2	42.1
B. Total spending	656.6	638.0	529.1	80.6	82.9	703.3	584,8	83.2	55.6
C. Consolidated fiscal balance (A-B)	-44.4	-43.5	-30.5	-	-	-60.8	-44.0	-	-13.5
D. Net social security fund[2]	47.2	61.2	45.2	-	-	50.8	42.1	-	-3.1
E. Managed fiscal balance (C-D)	-91.6	-104.8	-75.7	-	-	-111.6	-86.1	-	-10.5

Source: Monthly public finance and Open fiscal data, Ministry of Economy and Finance.
[1] Preliminary.
[2] National Pension Fund, Private School Personnel Pension Fund, Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance & Prevention Fund and Employment Insurance Fund.

Fiscal balance

(Trillion won)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Consolidated fiscal balance	-0.2	16.9	24.0	31.2	-12.0	-71.2	-30.5	-64.6	-36.8	-43.5
Managed fiscal balance	-38.0	-22.7	-18.5	-10.6	-54.4	-112.0	-90.6	-117.0	-87.0	-104.8

2. Government debt

The total amount of central government debt in October was 1,275.3 trillion won, up 16.3 trillion won from a month earlier. Korean Treasuries totaled 1,273.8 trillion won, followed by bonds at 1,168.6 trillion won, national housing bonds at 76.5 trillion won, and foreign exchange stabilization bonds at 28.6 trillion won.

(Trillion won)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025[1]	
	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Sep	Oct
Central gov't debt	699.0	819.2	939.1	1,033.4	1,092.5	1,141.2	1,259.0	1,275.3
(% of GDP)	34.3	39.8	42.3	44.5	45.5	44.8	-	
- Treasuries (total)[2]	696.3	815.2	937.0	1,031.5	1,091.1	1,139.8	1,257.4	1,273.8
· Bonds	611.5	726.8	843.7	937.5	998.0	1,047.9	1,154.3	1,168.6
· National housing bonds	76.4	78.9	82.2	82.2	81.6	79.1	76.9	76.5
· Foreign exchange stabilization bonds	8.3	9.5	11.2	11.8	11.5	12.8	26.2	28.6
- Loans	2.6	3.3	2.0	1.9	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.4
- Treasury commitments	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

Source: Monthly public finance and Open fiscal data, Ministry of Economy and Finance.
[1] Preliminary.
[2] Including debt-equity swap securities for international organizations.

Economic News Briefing

- Korea's GDP Grew by 1.3% in Q3 2025 (Preliminary Estimate)
- Deputy Prime Minster Koo Attends G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting
- Korean OFDI Posts $16.06 billion in Q3 2025

Korea's GDP Grew by 1.3% in Q3 2025 (Preliminary Estimate)

In the third quarter of 2025, Korea's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 1.3 percent quarter-on-quarter and 1.8 percent year-on-year according to the Bank of Korea's preliminary estimate released on December 3.

On the production side, the figure for agriculture, forestry and fisheries declined by 4.6 percent quarter-on-quarter. Manufacturing rose by 1.5 percent, led by increased production of transportation equipment as well as computer, electronic and optical products. Production of electricity, gas and water supply also grew by 5.5 percent. Construction increased by 0.7 percent, mainly due to growth in civil engineering. Services grew by 1.4 percent, led by increases in wholesale and retail trade, accommodation and food services, and transportation and storage, and finance and insurance.

On the expenditure side, private consumption increased by 1.3 percent, led by increased spending on both goods and services. Government spending also rose by 1.3 percent with increased expenditures on goods and health care benefits. Construction investment grew by 0.6 percent, mainly due to an increase in civil engineering investment. Facilities investment increased by 2.6 percent, mainly due to an increase in machinery investment. Exports rose by 2.1 percent as exports of semiconductors and motor vehicles increased. Imports increased by 2.0 percent as imports of machinery and equipment, and motor vehicles rose.

Real GDP growth by Production and Expenditure

(Percentage change from previous period of seasonally adjusted data; inflation adjusted at 2020 prices)

	2023	2024	2023				2024				2025		
	Annual	Annual[1]	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1[1]	Q2[1]	Q3[1]	Q4[1]	Q1[1]	Q2[1]	Q3[1]
GDP	1.6	2.0	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.5	1.2	-0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.2	0.7	1.3
(y-o-y % change of original data)			(1.3)	(1.2)	(1.5)	(2.2)	(3.4)	(2.2)	(1.4)	(1.1)	(0.0)	(0.6)	(1.8)
Agriculture, forestry & fisheries	-1.8	0.6	-2.3	1.5	-1.5	-5.6	4.1	2.0	0.7	-1.8	4.4	-1.2	-4.6
Manufacturing	1.5	4.3	1.6	2.5	1.7	1.6	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.1	-0.6	2.5	1.5
Electricity, gas & water supply	-2.6	3.3	-7.0	3.7	1.0	2.6	-1.2	0.1	5.4	-5.9	5.2	-5.4	5.5
Construction	-0.6	-3.8	-0.7	-2.3	1.8	-3.9	5.8	-5.6	-3.0	-4.4	-0.4	-3.6	0.7
Services[2]	2.7	1.6	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.3	-0.2	0.8	1.4
Private consumption	2.0	1.1	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.2	-0.1	0.5	1.3
Government spending	1.9	2.1	0.9	-1.9	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.0	1.2	1.3
Construction investment	-0.5	-3.3	-0.2	-0.5	1.5	-3.9	4.5	-3.3	-3.6	-4.1	-3.1	-1.2	0.6
Facility investment	-0.2	1.7	-1.7	0.5	-3.6	2.2	-1.0	0.0	5.4	0.8	-0.4	-2.1	2.6
Intellectual property investment	0.2	1.2	-1.3	0.7	0.7	-0.5	1.9	-1.3	-0.2	0.9	1.5	0.8	1.2
Exports	3.4	6.8	3.6	1.3	2.5	3.4	1.3	1.5	0.0	0.6	-0.6	4.5	2.1
Imports	3.0	2.5	4.0	-2.5	0.1	1.9	-0.3	1.6	1.3	0.2	-1.1	4.2	2.0

[1] Preliminary estimate.

[2] Wholesale & retail trade; accommodation & food services; transportation & storage; finance & insurance; real estate; information & communication; business activities; public administration, defense & social security; education; human health & social work; and cultural & other services.

Deputy Prime Minster Koo Attends G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Koo Yun Cheol attended the G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting held via videoconference on December 8 to discuss export controls and measures to enhance the stability of critical mineral supply chains.

The meeting was attended by the finance ministers of the G7 member countries and invited partners, including Korea, Australia, India, Mexico, and Chile. Deputy Prime Minister Koo participated in the meeting at the invitation of Canada, this year's G7 Presidency, marking his second engagement in a G7 event following the G7 High-Level Dialogue* held on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings in October.

At the meeting, participating countries shared the impacts of recent global supply chain uncertainties – including rare earth export controls – and discussed possible measures to strengthen the stability of critical mineral supply chains.

Deputy Prime Minister Koo emphasized that, drawing on Korea's experience in responding to supply chain disruptions, the international community must strengthen coordination by diversifying global sources of supply and pursuing joint exploration and development projects with resource-rich countries. The Deputy Prime Minister also suggested that countries should enhance supply chain resilience by scaling up their domestic production bases, promoting the recycling of critical minerals, advancing substitution and resource-efficient technologies, and expanding strategic stockpiles.

Lastly, Deputy Prime Minister Koo reiterated the need for international cooperation to ensure the stability of global supply chains and affirmed that Korea will actively contribute as a responsible partner.

Korean OFDI Posts $16.06 billion in Q3 2025

In the third quarter of 2025, Korea's outbound foreign direct investment (OFDI) totaled $16.06 billion, marking a 9.3% increase compared to the same period of the previous year ($14.69 billion). This also represents a rise of 4.4 % from the previous quarter ($15.38 billion), rebounding from the downward trend that had persisted since the first quarter of this year.

The increase in OFDI in the third quarter of 2025 is interpreted as the result of a combination of factors, including changes in global financial market conditions – such as an easing monetary policy stance and stabilization of the U.S. dollar – as well as reduced uncertainty in the investment environment following the conclusion of tariff negotiations between the U.S. and major economies.

Amid persistent concerns over a global economic slowdown and the ongoing reconfiguration of supply chains and the international trade order, the government will strengthen multifaceted communication and cooperation with major destination countries to ensure that Korean companies expanding overseas can conduct stable business operations.

Korean OFDI

	2023				2024				2025		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Amount invested (US $billion)	18.3	16.1	15.1	16.6	16.6	16.4	14.7	18.4	15.9	15.4	16.1
Y-o-y change (%)	-36.0	-18.9	-21.3	4.1	-9.1	1.6	-2.5	10.9	-4.2	-6.0	9.3

Korean OFDI by industry

	Finance and insurance	manufacturing	Information and communications	Wholesale and retail trade	Real estate and renting
Q3 2024 (US $100 million)	63.0	39.9	8.5	3.9	6.5
Q3 2025 (US $100 million	79.7	42.1	7.6	6.9	5.2
Y-o-y change (%)	26.5	5.5	-10.8	78.0	-20.2

Korean OFDI by region

	North America	Asia	Europe	Latin America	Oceania	Middle East	Africa
Q3 2024 (US $100 million)	52.0	29.8	37.6	23.4	3.3	0.5	0.4
Q3 2025 (US $100 million)	64.8	43.5	25.1	23.4	2.8	0.6	0.3
Y-o-y change (%)	24.6	46.1	-33.1	0.4	-13.9	16.4	-30.4

Korean OFDI by country

	U.S.	Cayman Islands	Luxemburg	Singapore	Vietnam
Q3 2024 (US $100 million)	38.5	17.2	14.4	4.9	5.3
Q3 2025 (US $100 million)	59.7	17.8	14.9	11.6	9.1
Y-o-y change (%)	55.0	3.6	3.7	135.1	71.7

Related Websites

Ministry of Economy and Finance
https://english.moef.go.kr/

Ministry of Trade Industry and Resources
https://english.motir.go.kr/

Ministry of Data and Statistics
https://mods.go.kr/anse/

Ministry of Employment and Labor
https://www.moel.go.kr/english

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport
https://www.molit.go.kr/english/intro.do

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https://global.krx.co.kr/main/main.jsp

Korea Development Institute (KDI)
https://www.kdi.re.kr/eng/

Bank of Korea
https://www.bok.or.kr/eng/main/main.do

Korea Customs Service
https://www.customs.go.kr/english/main.do

Financial Supervisory Service
https://www.fss.or.kr/eng/main/main.do?menuNo=400000

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