



# REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Region: East Asia and Pacific  
Income Category: High Income



**Human capital – knowledge, skills, and good health – empowers people to achieve their potential and drives economic growth.** This brief tracks progress by the Republic of Korea in building and using human capital. The Human Capital Complementary Indicators offer a snapshot of human capital investments at four stages of the lifecycle. The figures show the latest available data, benchmarked against regional averages. The figures also report progress over the previous 5 years.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **Neonatal mortality rate.** The neonatal mortality rate is **1** per 1,000 live births (2022), compared to 2 in 2017. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Participation rate in organized learning.** In 2020, **90%** of children one year younger than the official primary school entry age participated in an organized learning program. This remains unchanged since 2015. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **DTP vaccination rate, third dose.** In 2023, **98%** of infants received the third dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine. This remains unchanged since 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

## SCHOOL AGE

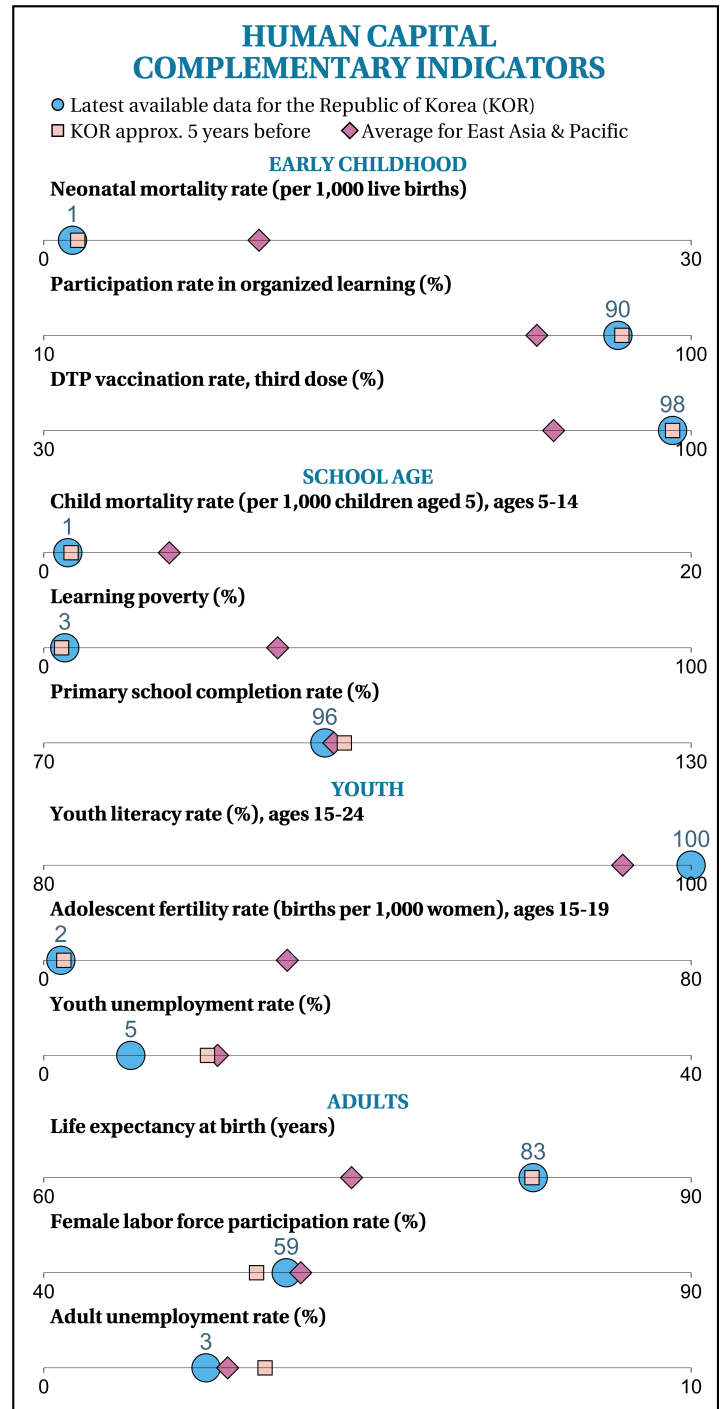
- **Child mortality rate.** The mortality rate for children ages 5-14 is **1** per 1,000 children aged 5 (2022). This remains unchanged since 2017. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Learning poverty.** In 2019, **3%** of children could not read and understand a simple text, by age 10. This remains unchanged since 2015. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Primary school completion rate.** The primary school completion rate is **96%** (by the official entrance age of the last grade) (2022), compared to 98% in 2017. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

## YOUTH

- **Youth literacy rate.** The share of youth (ages 15-24) who are literate is **100%** (2018). The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Adolescent fertility rate.** The number of births for every 1,000 women ages 15-19 is **2** (2022). This remains unchanged since 2017. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Youth unemployment rate.** Unemployed youth as a share of the youth labor force (ages 15-24) is **5%** (2023), compared to 10% in 2018. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

## ADULTS

- **Life expectancy at birth.** Life expectancy at birth is **83** years (2022). This remains unchanged since 2017. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Female labor force participation rate.** Female labor force participation as a percentage of the female working-age population (ages 25+) is **59%** (2023), compared to 56% in 2018. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Adult unemployment rate.** Unemployed adults as a share of the adult labor force (ages 25+) is **3%** (2023). This remains unchanged since 2018. The indicator is similar to the regional average.



Note: Missing symbols indicate internationally comparable data are not available to generate the corresponding statistic.

