

Korea, Rep. - Country Brief

Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2025

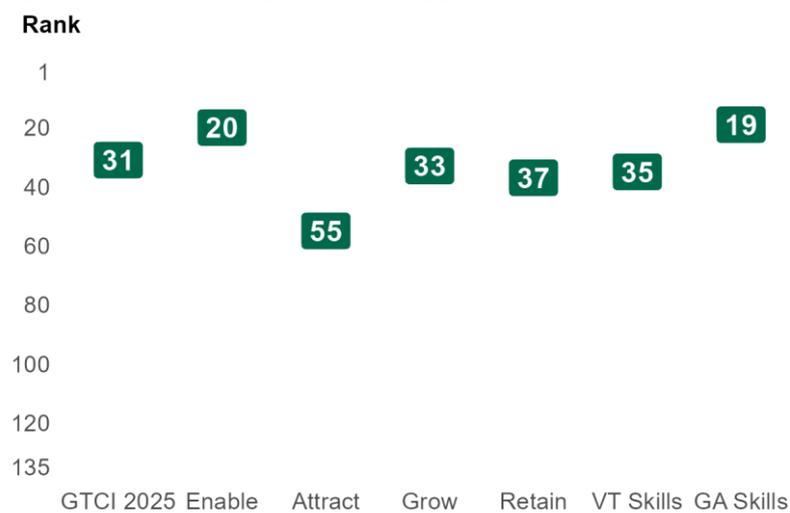


Total population:	51.75 million
GDP:	US\$ 1869.714 billion
GDP (PPP) per capita:	US\$ 62,697 (23 out of 135 countries)
Country income level:	High income
GTCI 2025 ranking:	31 (out of 135)

Global GTCI position

In GTCI 2025, Korea, Rep. is ranked 31st out of a sample of 135 countries (Figure 1). When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Korea, Rep. relate to Market Landscape, High-level Skills and Formal Education, among others. Still, more could be done to improve the economy's performances in the Lifelong Learning, Access to Growth Opportunities and External Openness sub-pillars.

Figure 1: Korea, Rep. global ranking (GTCI sample of 135 countries)



Note: VT Skills = Vocational and Technical Skills; GA Skills = Generalist Adaptive Skills.

Comparison with different groups of countries

Korea, Rep. is situated in Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania and is classified as High income. Within its region, the country is ranked 5th out of 16 countries (Table 1).

Korea, Rep. is ranked 31st within the group of High income countries (implying that 40 percent of countries rank lower).

Table 1: Korea, Rep. performance vs. income groups and regions

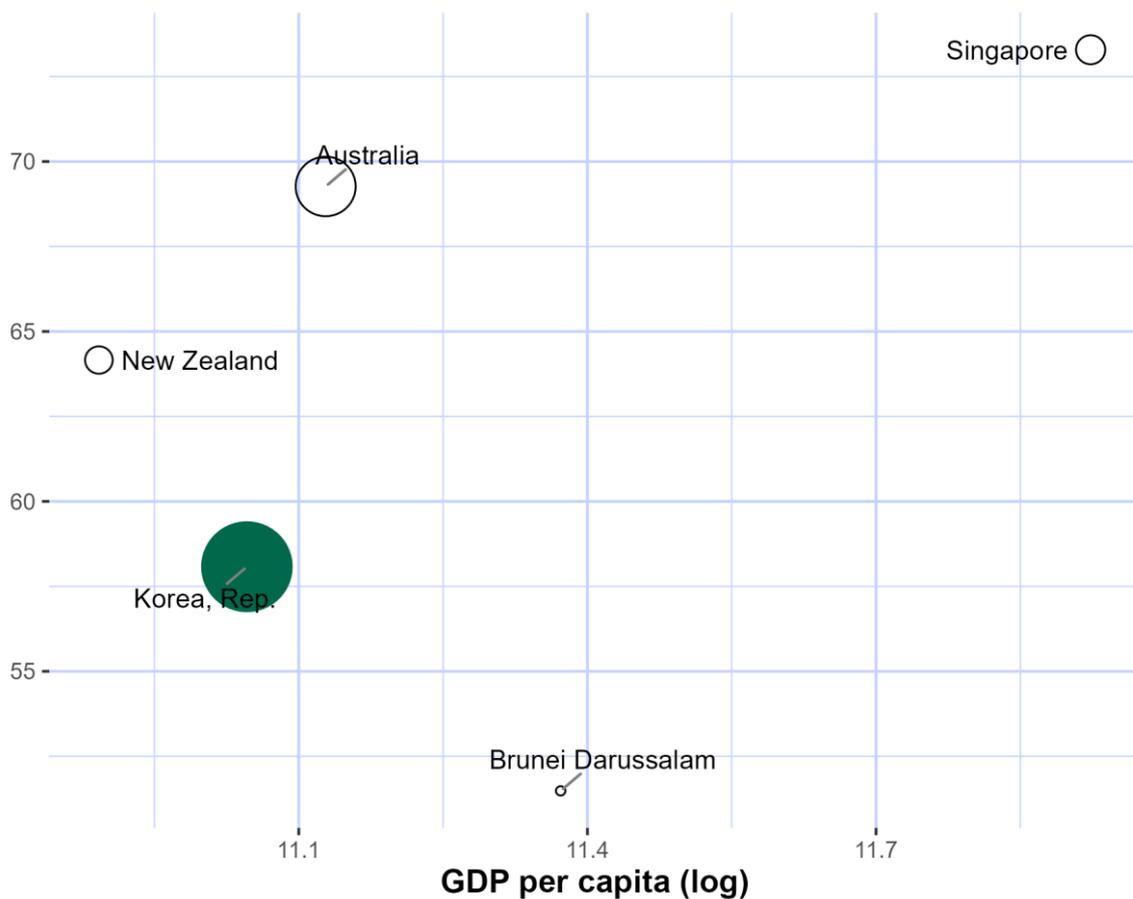
Comparison group	Top 3 scorers of the group	Score GAP: Korea, Rep. score minus group highest score	Share of countries in the group ranked below Korea, Rep.
Region			
Central and Southern Asia	Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	14.7	100%
Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania	Singapore, Australia, New Zealand	-15.2	69%
Europe	Switzerland, Denmark, Finland	-15.1	46%
Latin America and the Caribbean	Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica	5.4	100%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	Israel, United Arab Emirates, Cyprus	-2.1	84%
Northern America	United States of America, Canada	-11.3	0%
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa	8.4	100%
Income group			
High income	Singapore, Switzerland, Denmark	-15.2	40%
Upper-middle income	Georgia, Malaysia, Mauritius	7.1	100%
Lower-middle income	Uzbekistan, Jordan, Philippines	14.7	100%
Low income	Rwanda, Malawi, Gambia	24.2	100%

Comparison with group of competitors

South Korea's group of competitors is defined as high-income countries located in Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania. It comprises a group of 5 economies. Figure 2 plots how Korea, Rep. fares against each competitor in terms of GTCI score and GDP per capita.

As can be seen, Korea, Rep.'s GTCI score and GDP per capita are both lower than the corresponding medians of its group of competitors. Thus, the country's talent competitiveness is not in line with what would be expected given its income level.

Figure 2: GTCI score and GDP per capita (log) of Korea, Rep. and its identified competitors



Note: Bubble size indicates country population.

Performance against its income group and region

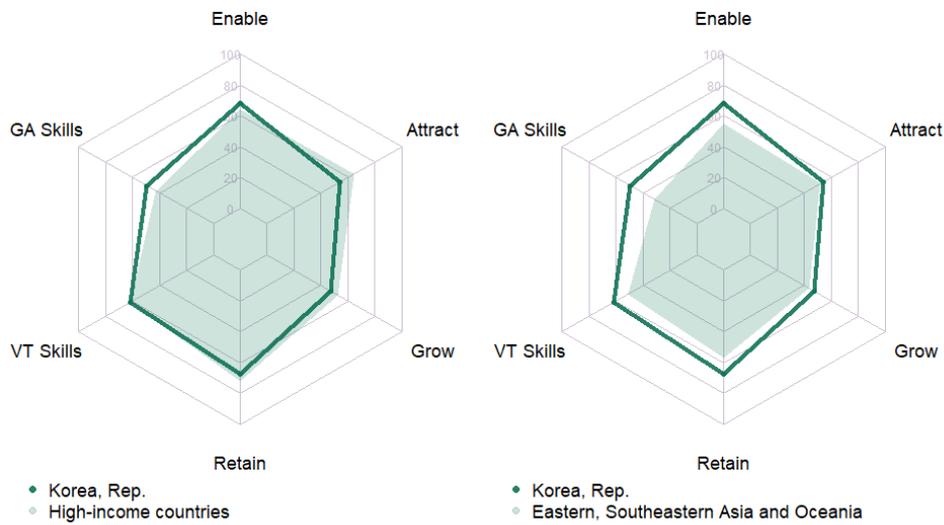
High-income countries

Korea, Rep. is ranked 31st in the group of high-income countries (Figure 3, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a higher score than the income group average in two of the six pillars: Enable and GA. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in seven of the fourteen sub-pillars: Regulatory Landscape, Market Landscape, Formal Education, Sustainability, Employability, Highlevel Skills and Talent Impact.

Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania

Korea, Rep. is ranked 5th within Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania (Figure 3, right panel). It outperforms its region in each of the six pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania in eleven of the fourteen sub-pillars: Regulatory Landscape, Market Landscape, Business Labour Landscape, Internal Openness, Formal Education, Sustainability, Lifestyle, Midlevel Skills, Employability, Highlevel Skills and Talent Impact.

Figure 3: Korea, Rep. pillar scores vs. averages of relevant income group and region



Note: VT Skills = Vocational and Technical Skills; GA Skills = Generalist Adaptive Skills.

Longer-term trends in talent competitiveness

Across all GTCI editions from 2015 to 2025, Korea, Rep.’s ranking ranges from 24th to 37th place (see Figure 4). During GTCI 2020-GTCI 2025, Korea, Rep. ranks 27 out of a total 134 countries (on average), which is better than the average rank of 31 in GTCI 2015-GTCI 2019.

Figure 4: Evolution of GTCI rank for Korea, Rep., 2015-2025





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