GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President MOON Jae-in
Head of Government
Prime Minister LEE Nak-yon
Government Type
presidential republic
Capital
Seoul
Legislature
unicameral National Assembly or Kuk Hoe (300 seats)
Judiciary
Supreme Court of South Korea (consists of a chief justice and 13 justices); Constitutional Court (consists of a court head and 8 justices)
Ambassador to US
Ambassador CHO Yoon-je
US Ambassador
Ambassador Harry HARRIS

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
policies that favored saving and investment, and exports, over domestic consumption have lifted South Korea up from being one of the poorest countries in the world in the 1960s to one of the wealthiest today, creating one of the 20th century’s most remarkable economic success stories
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)
$2.035 trillion (2017 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
$39,500 (2017 est.)
Exports
$577.4 billion (2017 est.)
partners: China 25.1%, US 12.2%, Vietnam 8.2%, Hong Kong 6.9%, Japan 4.7% (2017)
Imports
$457.5 billion (2017 est.)
partners: China 20.5%, Japan 11.5%, US 10.5%, Germany 4.2%, Saudi Arabia 4.1% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
51.4 million (July 2018 est.)
Population Growth
0.44% (2018 est.)
Ethnicity
homogenous
Language
Korean, English (widely taught in elementary, junior high, and high school)
Religion
Protestant 19.7%, Buddhist 15.5%, Catholic 7.9%, none 56.9% (2015 est.)
Note: many people also carry on at least some Confucian traditions and practices
Urbanization
urban population: 81.5% of total population (2018)
rate of urbanization: 0.3% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

as of February 2019