Korean Immigrants Living in the DC and Baltimore Metropolitan Areas

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE
- **79,443**: Approximate number of Korean immigrants* living in the DC and Baltimore metro areas (1% of the area’s population). Among them:
  - **43%** Male and **57%** female
  - **22 years**: Median years in the U.S.
  - **47**: Median age
  - **60%** Eligible to vote (naturalized U.S. citizens age 18+)

*Please note that the terms “immigrant” and “foreign born” are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet. Foreign born refers to individuals who are not a U.S. citizen at birth or who were born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The foreign born may include naturalized U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, temporary residents, refugees and asylees, and others. Additionally, native born includes those who are U.S. citizens at birth, those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and those born abroad to a parent who is a U.S. citizen.

Note: data is displayed at the county level. Maps are based on IPUMS National Historical Information System: Version 12.0. ACS 2012-2016 dataset.
**Korean Immigrants Living in the DC and Baltimore Metropolitan Areas**

**Education, Income, Health Insurance, and Housing**

**12%** of foreign-born Koreans living in the DC and Baltimore metro areas are below the poverty line compared to **10%** of all other foreign born and **9%** of native-born U.S. citizens.

---

**Figure 4. Educational Attainment**

*Individuals, Age 25+, in the DC and Baltimore Metro Areas*

- **Graduate, Professional or Doctoral Degree**
  - Foreign Born from Korea: 21%
  - All Other Foreign Born: 21%
  - Native-Born U.S. Citizens: 22%
- **Bachelor’s Degree**
  - Foreign Born from Korea: 31%
  - All Other Foreign Born: 21%
  - Native-Born U.S. Citizens: 25%
- **Some College or Associate's Degree**
  - Foreign Born from Korea: 20%
  - All Other Foreign Born: 18%
  - Native-Born U.S. Citizens: 25%
- **High School Diploma**
  - Foreign Born from Korea: 21%
  - All Other Foreign Born: 19%
  - Native-Born U.S. Citizens: 22%
- **No High School Diploma**
  - Foreign Born from Korea: 7%
  - All Other Foreign Born: 21%
  - Native-Born U.S. Citizens: 6%

---

**Figure 5. Median Total Family Income and Personal Earned Income**

*Individuals who are employed, age 16-65, in the DC and Baltimore Metro Areas*

- **Median Total Family Income**
  - Foreign Born from Korea: $71,126
  - All Other Foreign Born: $69,872
  - Native-Born U.S. Citizens: $81,350
- **Median Personal Earned Income**
  - Foreign Born from Korea: $54,682
  - All Other Foreign Born: $46,581
  - Native-Born U.S. Citizens: $64,000

81% of foreign-born Koreans living in the DC and Baltimore metro areas have health insurance coverage compared to 76% of all other foreign born and 95% of native-born U.S. citizens.

---

**Figure 6. Home Ownership**

*Household Heads in the DC and Baltimore Metro Areas*

- **Own a Home or Buying a Home**
  - Foreign Born from Korea: 41%
  - All Other Foreign Born: 45%
  - Native-Born U.S. Citizens: 35%
- **Rent, Do not Own Home**
  - Foreign Born from Korea: 59%
  - All Other Foreign Born: 55%
  - Native-Born U.S. Citizens: 65%
Korean Immigrants Living in the DC and Baltimore Metropolitan Areas

Employment and Occupation

**Figure 7. Top Five Occupational Groups**
Individuals who are employed, Age 16-65, in the DC and Baltimore Metro Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupational Group</th>
<th>Foreign Born from Korea</th>
<th>Occupational Group</th>
<th>All Other Foreign Born</th>
<th>Occupational Group</th>
<th>Native-Born U.S. Citizens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales and Related Occupations</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Management, Business, Science, and Arts Occupations</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Management, Business, Science, and Arts Occupations</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management, Business, Science, and Arts Occupations</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>Construction Occupations</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>Office and Administrative Support Occupations</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office and Administrative Support Occupations</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>Sales and Related Occupations</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Preparation and Serving Occupations</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>Office and Administrative SupportOccupations</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>Education, Training, and Library Occupations</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and Mathematical Occupations</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>Sales and Related Occupations</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>Computer and Mathematical Occupations</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Other Occupational Groups</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>20 Other Occupational Groups</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>20 Other Occupational Groups</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5% of foreign-born Koreans in the labor force living in the DC and Baltimore metro areas are unemployed compared to 5% of all other foreign born and 6% of native-born U.S. citizens.

**Figure 8. Employment in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Occupations**
Individuals who are employed, Age 16-65, in the DC and Baltimore Metro Areas

- **Foreign Born from Korea**: 12% STEM, 6% STEM-related, 82% Non-STEM
- **All Other Foreign Born**: 12% STEM, 6% STEM-related, 82% Non-STEM
- **Native-Born U.S. Citizens**: 11% STEM, 6% STEM-related, 83% Non-STEM
Korean Immigrants Living in the DC and Baltimore Metropolitan Areas

Self-Employment

Figure 9. Self-Employment
Individuals who are employed, Age 16-65, in the DC and Baltimore Metro Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Foreign Born from Korea</th>
<th>All Other Foreign Born</th>
<th>Native-Born U.S. Citizens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed and Unincorporated</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed in Own Incorporated Business</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 10. Korean Immigrant Population in the United States, 1950-2017

- $40,506*: Median personal income of Korean immigrants who are self-employed and living in the DC and Baltimore metro areas
- $40,505*: Median personal income of all other foreign born who are self-employed and living in the DC and Baltimore metro areas
- $61,000*: Median personal income of native-born U.S. citizens who are self-employed and living in the DC and Baltimore metro areas

*Please note that these numbers are generated based on individuals who are employed full time.


ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR IMMIGRATION RESEARCH
The IIR works to refocus the immigration conversation among academics, policy-makers and the public, including the business community and media, by producing and disseminating unbiased and objective, interdisciplinary academic research related to immigrants and immigration to the United States. The Institute for Immigration Research is a joint venture between George Mason University and the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Massachusetts. To learn more about the Institute for Immigration Research call (703) 993-5833, email iir@gmu.edu, or visit us online at iir.gmu.edu.