

Gross Domestic Product of North Korea in 1999

North Korea's real gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 6.2 percent in 1999 over the previous year, mainly thanks to an increase in grain production and the expanded support by South Korea and international community.

North Korean GDP growth turned positive after nine consecutive years of negative growth, but real GDP in 1999 stood at only some three quarters of that of 1989.

Most sectors, including the agriculture, forestry & fishing, manufacturing, and construction saw their GDP growth rates shift sharply upward, but that of the government sector decreased at a faster pace.

Trend of North Korea's GDP growth rates

	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99
GDP growth rate	-2.1 <8.3>	-4.1 <8.9>	-3.6 <6.8>	-6.3 <5.0>	-1.1 <-6.7>	6.2 <10.7>
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	2.7	-10.4	0.5	-3.8	4.1	9.2
Manufacturing	-3.7	-5.2	-8.9	-16.8	-3.1	8.5
Construction	-26.9	-3.2	-11.8	-9.9	-11.4	24.3
Services	2.4	1.7	1.1	1.3	-0.5	-1.9
(government)	(3.3)	(2.8)	(1.8)	(2.2)	(-0.3)	(-4.5)

Note: Figures in < > indicate South Korea's GDP growth rates.

Looking at North Korea's industrial structure in 1999, the shares of the agriculture, forestry & fishing industry and the construction industry expanded, whereas that of services declined.

The shares of the agriculture, forestry & fishing industry(31.4%) and the electricity, gas & water industry (4.5%) in North Korea were higher than those of their southern counterparts. In contrast, the shares of the mining & manufacturing industry(25.6%), the construction industry(6.1%), and the service industry (32.4%) were lower than those in South Korea.

North Korea's industrial structure

	North Korea			South Korea	
	Unit: nominal basis, %				
	'97	'98	'99	'98	'99
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	28.9	29.6	31.4	4.9	5.0
Mining & manufacturing	25.5	25.6	25.6	31.2	32.2
Electricity, gas & water	4.3	4.2	4.5	2.4	2.6
Construction	6.3	5.1	6.1	10.1	8.8
Services	35.0	35.6	32.4	51.2	51.4
GDP	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

North Korea's economic scale(nominal GNI) is presumed to have represented one twenty-sixth of that of South Korea in 1999, and its per capita GNI about one twelfth of South Korea.

Comparison of economic scale and per capita GNI

	North Korea (A)		South Korea (B)		B/A(times)	
	'98	'99	'98	'99	'98	'99
Nominal GNI (₩billion)*	17,597.2	18,741.0	437,871.4	478,250.9	24.9	25.5
(US\$billion)	12.6	15.8	313.0	402.1		
Per capita GNI (₩10,000)*	80.2	84.9	943.1	1,020.6	11.8	12.0

* South Korean Won(KRW)

**Comparison of major economic indicators between
South and North Korea in 1999**

	Unit	North Korea (A)	South Korea (B)	B/A(times)
1. Population	1,000 persons	22,082	46,858	2.1
2. Nominal GNI ¹⁾	₩billion (US\$100mil.)	18,741.0 (158)	478,251 (4,021)	25.5 (25.5)
3. Per capita GNI ¹⁾	₩10,000 (US\$)	84.9 (714)	1,020.6 (8,581)	12.0 (12.0)
4. GDP growth rate	%	6.2	10.7	-
5. External economy				
Trade total	US\$100mil.	14.8	2,634.4	178.0
(Exports)	"	5.2	1,436.9	276.3
(Imports)	"	9.6	1,197.5	124.7
(Trade amounts/ nominal GNI)	%	9.4	65.5	-
Exchange rate	₩/US\$	2.17	1,189.48	-
foreign debt	US\$100mil.	123.0	1,364.5	11.1
<Net foreign debt>	"	N.A.	-92.9	N.A.
(foreign debt/ nominal GNI)	%	77.8	33.9	-
6. Budget volume ²⁾	US\$100mil.	92.2	703.5	7.6

Notes : 1) The figures in () indicate the numerical value calculated according to the South Korean Won-US dollar exchange rate.

2) Settlement of accounts basis for North Korea, the central government's general accounting budget(including supplementary budgets) basis for South Korea.

	Unit	North Korea (A)	South Korea (B)	B/A(times)
7. Energy industry				
Coal production	10,000 tons	2,100	420	0.2
Power generation capacity	10,000 kW	739	4,698	6.4
Actual power generation quantity	100 million kWh	186	2,393	12.9
Crude oil imports	10,000 tons	32	11,816	369.3
8. Agricultural & fishing goods production				
Grain (Rice)	10,000 tons	422.2	600.0	1.4
Fishing products	"	162.9	526.3	3.2
	"	66.4	291.1	4.4
9. Mining goods production				
Iron ore	10,000 tons	378.6	18.8	0.5
Nonferrous metals	"	11.7	102.1	8.7
10. Heavy & chemical industry production				
Automobiles	10,000 vehicles	0.73	284.3	389.5
Steel	10,000 tons	124.3	4,104.2	33.0
Cement	"	410.0	4,815.7	11.7
Fertilizer	"	77	370.1	4.8
11. Light industry production				
Textiles	100 mil. m ²	1.0	84.0	84.0
Synthetic fiber	10,000 tons	2.7	258.5	95.7
12. Infrastructure				
Railroad length	Km	5,214	6,683	1.3
Road length	Km	23,479	87,534	3.7
Harbor loading and unloading capacity	10,000 tons	3,501	41,756	11.9
Ship possession	10,000 tons	79.0	607.6	7.7