South Korea

What it produces, exports, imports and uses, among the commodities tracked here

Top-ten producer of

Commodity	World rank	Share of world	Year
Bismuth	2	6.1%	2025
Indium	2	16%	2025
Uranium	5	6.5%	2025
Rhenium	6	3.7%	2025
Steel	6	3.2%	2025
Feldspar	7	3.2%	2025

Top-ten exporter of

Commodity	World rank	Share of world exports	Export value
Bismuth	2	19%	$9.6 million
Lead	2	8.7%	$764.5 million
Zinc	2	9.2%	$1.4 billion
Lithium	3	1.8%	$69.3 million
Steel	3	9%	$6.2 billion
Vanadium	4	10%	$69 million
Silver	5	6.2%	$2.1 billion
Graphite	9	3.3%	$17.6 million

Of $12.7 billion of tracked-commodity exports, 49% is steel, then silver (16%).

Top-ten importer of: molybdenum (#1), lithium (#2), beef (#3), copper (#3), corn (#3), iron ore (#3), magnesium (#3), natural gas (#3).

What it uses (FAO food balances, 2023)

Commodity	Domestic supply	kg per person	Self-sufficiency	Imported
Corn	12.5 million tonnes	19	0.8%	100%
Rice	5.4 million tonnes	81	96%	5.6%
Wheat	5.1 million tonnes	53	1%	104%
Milk	3.6 million tonnes	29	54%	47%
Pork	2.1 million tonnes	40	70%	30%
Sugar	1.5 million tonnes	27	<0.1%	120%

Single-supplier import markets

South Korea buys half or more of its imports from one country in 12 of 36 import markets of $250 million or more: iron ore from Australia (69%); steel from Japan (50%); beef from United States (52%); gold from Australia (54%); soybeans from United States (56%).

Sources: FAOSTAT, USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries, Energy Institute Statistical Review (production); CEPII BACI (trade); FAOSTAT Food Balances (use). Ranks count only the commodities on this site. Cite as: Commodity Origins, "South Korea", https://commodityorigins.com/countries/KOR/ (CC BY 4.0). Full page, sources and downloads: https://commodityorigins.com/countries/KOR/. Text is written with AI assistance and checked against the cited data; figures are computed from the sources (https://commodityorigins.com/about/#how-ai-is-used).