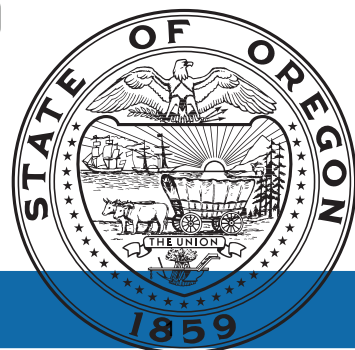




GOVERNOR'S TRADE MISSION 2025

Japan and Korea





Governor Kotek Trade Mission to South Korea and Japan

October 26 – October 30, 2025

Sunday, October 26 - Seoul

Visit the War Memorial of Korea

- Governor and First Lady visited the War Memorial to lay ceremonial flowers honoring the Oregonians who died in the Korean War, met with the Executive Director of the Memorial, Mr. Seung-Joo Baik, and toured a special exhibit at the museum.

Delegation Briefings

- Governor and First Lady met with all private sector delegates attending the mission to hear about their businesses, what meetings they are participating in, and how the mission will impact their business at home. They were also briefed by state agency directors.

Port of Portland Working Dinner

Monday, October 27 - Seoul

Meeting with SM Line

- Governor, First Lady, and Port of Portland staff met with SM Line executives to thank them for their continued commitment to Portland, share progress on Terminal 6's (T6) lease transition to Harbor Industrial, and encourage continued engagement around future service opportunities, including intermodal resumption.

Korea Travel Trade Lunch

- Governor, First Lady, and Travel Oregon staff met with Korean travel partners and tour operators to strengthen Oregon's tourism partnership with Korea by fostering mutual understanding, exploring collaboration opportunities, and reaffirming Oregon's commitment to the Korean market.

Foreign Direct Investment Roundtable

- Governor, Business Oregon staff, and delegation partners presented information on Oregon as a business investment location to Korean company executives with an interest in expansion to the West Coast of the United States. Companies included semiconductor, advanced manufacturing, and bioscience firms. Governor made remarks.

Meeting with Prime Minister Kim

- Governor, First Lady, and delegation members met with Prime Minister Kim Min-seok to strengthen the longstanding relationship between the Republic of Korea and the State of Oregon.

Friends of Oregon-Korea Dinner Reception

- Oregon delegation attended dinner reception with 100+ attendees.
- Remarks by AMCHAM Chairman James Kim and Governor Kotek.

Tuesday, October 28 – Seoul and Tokyo

Meeting with Korean Air Lines

- Governor, Port of Portland staff, and Travel Oregon staff met with KAL to express Oregon's strong interest in beginning Incheon-PDX service and deepen relationships with KAL and Delta Air Lines leadership in Asia.

Travel from Seoul to Tokyo

Tourism Reception at Smith Teamaker in Tokyo

- Delegation attended Travel Oregon-hosted business to business (B2B) networking event to strengthen ties with Japanese travel industry partners actively involved in promoting travel to Oregon or have a deep connection with the region. Governor made remarks.

Wednesday, October 29 - Tokyo

[Governor's Meetings]

Breakfast Briefing with Agency Directors

Meeting with Kanto Chemical Co. Inc.

- Governor, Port of Portland, and Business Oregon staff met with Kanto Chemical executives to discuss ways to support their Oregon expansion project. Kanto's Portland

operations include a production facility, engineering, and design services and customer service center. They currently employ 97 people. They design, manufacture and supply high purity electronic process chemicals to customers like Intel and other semiconductor companies.

Meeting with AGC Inc. (formerly Asahi Glass Co. Ltd.)

- Governor and Business Oregon staff met with AGC executives to discuss support for company's continued investment and expansion in Oregon. AGC Electronics America (AGCEA) has a presence in Hillsboro and is one of 11 Oregon CHIPS awardees, with a grant of \$500,000 supporting the company's expansion project in Hillsboro. The project is planned to proceed in two phases with total capital expenditures of \$9 million.

Meeting with Meiji Yasuda Life Insurance

- Governor and Business Oregon staff met with Meiji Yasuda executives and Dan McMillan (President and CEO of The Standard) to express support for continued investment in Oregon, specifically The Standard (in 2016, Meiji Yasuda acquired Standard Insurance Company).

Foreign Direct Investment Roundtable

- Governor, Business Oregon staff, and delegation partners presented information on Oregon as a business investment location to Japanese company executives, mostly in the bioscience sector. Governor made remarks.

Existing Oregon Investors Networking

- Governor, Business Oregon staff, and delegation partners held a networking reception with Japanese companies with an existing presence in Oregon.

[First Lady's Meetings]

Mental Health Roundtable

- First Lady convened a roundtable discussion with providers and advocates focused on suicide prevention, exchanging knowledge and best practices that reduce stigma, utilize technology and peer support to provide services, offer programs directed toward young women and LGBTQ+ specific needs, and support families impacted by suicide.
- Attendees: – Anata no Ibasho, Your Place, Masakazu Negishi, Director BOND Project, Jun Tachibana, Director, LifeLink, Chikashi Negishi, Assistant Director, LightRing Ayaka Ishii, Director, OVA (Organization for Volunteer Assistance) – Jiro Ito, Director, ReBit (LGBT Support Organization), Mika Yakushi, Director, Yorisoi Hotline / Social Inclusion Support Center, Tomoko Endo, Administrative Director.

Portland Japanese Garden, Japan Office

- First Lady met with Misako Ito, Executive Director of the Japan Office of the Portland Japanese Garden, to discuss opportunities to strengthen cultural and tourism ties between Oregon and Japan. The meeting highlighted the Garden's role as a bridge between our cultures and explored ways to expand visitor engagement and international partnerships.

Friends of Oregon-Tokyo Evening Reception

- Oregon delegation attended reception with 200+ attendees.
- Remarks by Governor Kotek and Governor Nitta, Toyama Prefecture (Oregon's sister province).

Thursday, October 30 - Tokyo

Meeting with Toyota Tsusho

- Governor and Business Oregon staff met with Toyota Tsusho executives to thank company for their continued investment in Oregon. Radius Recycling, formerly Schnitzer Steel, was acquired by Toyota and is headquartered in Portland with around 3,000 employees.

Meeting with U.S. Ambassador George Glass

- Governor and staff met with Ambassador Glass to discuss Japanese investment opportunities for Oregon and other trade matters.

Travel from Tokyo to Portland

Country Profiles



Country Profile: *South Korea*

October 2025

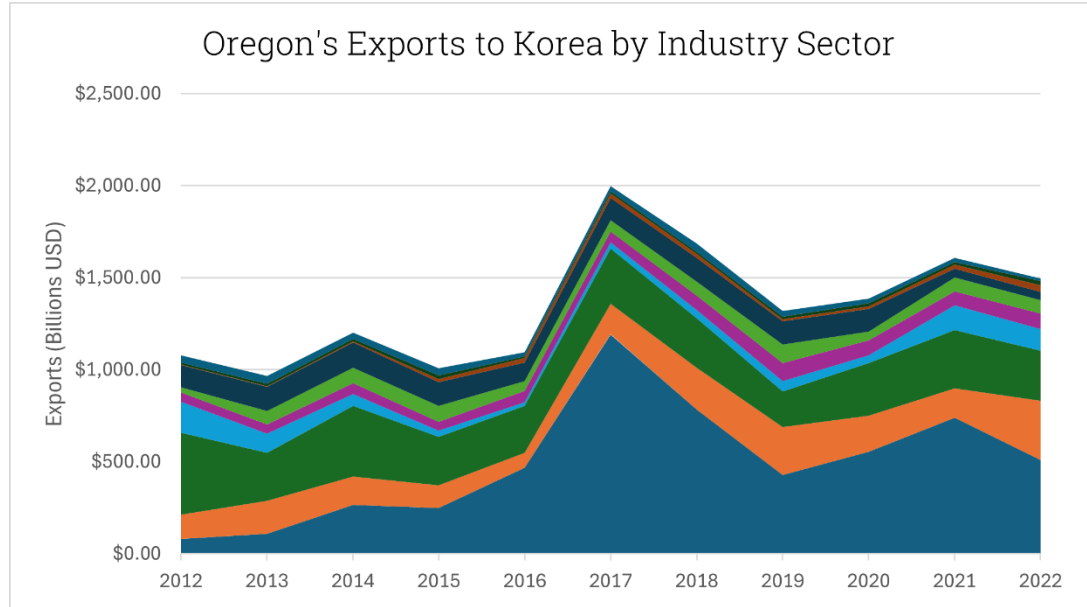
Current South Korean Economy and Trade Patterns:

South Korea, officially the Republic of Korea, is a nation in East Asia. Over the past several decades, South Korea has achieved a high level of economic growth, though it has not surpassed its pre-COVID levels. It is now the 4th largest economy in Asia and the 13th largest in the world. South Korea has an industrialized, developed economy with world-leading high-technology corporations such as Samsung, LG, Hyundai, Kia, and Daewoo. Korea's economy is dominated by chaebols, which are family-owned conglomerates that have close ties to the government. The top 10 chaebols own more than 27% of business assets in South Korea.

After decades of rapid growth, Korea's long-established strength in the steel and petrochemical industries has waned and Korea has become a leader in high-tech industries. The industries targeted by the Korean Government include healthcare (medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and biotechnology), industrial chemicals, information technology (IT) components, semiconductor manufacturing, aerospace and defense, energy, environmental technology, and transportation (including reviving the shipbuilding industry). Given its robust shipping and air cargo infrastructure, Korea serves not only as a market destination for U.S. goods and services but also as a hub for expansion into other markets.

Oregon Trade with South Korea:

South Korea is the 6th largest trading partner of the United States, and Oregon's 3rd largest country of origin for imports, with \$213 million in imports from South Korea in 2025. Overall exports have been steadily growing due to growth in high-tech and agricultural products. In 2012, Oregon became the first state to ship fresh blueberries to South Korea. In 2019 and 2022, Governor Kate Brown visited South Korea with a governmental and business delegation to emphasize trade and Oregon's products such as outdoor gear, food, and beverages.



Color	Industry	2022 Exports (Millions USD)	Percent change 2017-2022
	Machinery, Except Electrical	\$508.07	-57.35%
	Chemicals	\$323.51	94.25%
	Agricultural Products	\$272.06	-9.29%
	Waste And Scrap	\$118.24	248.38%
	Food And Kindred Products	\$83.42	42.69%
	Transportation Equipment	\$72.46	19.01%
	Computer And Electronic Products	\$44.62	-63.19%
	Fabricated Metal Products, Nesoi	\$36.48	43.75%
	Electrical Equipment, Appliances, And Component	\$23.78	104.11%



Full Name: Republic of Korea

Capital: Seoul

Government: Presidential Republic

President: Lee Jae Myung

Prime Minister: Kim Min-seok

Currency: South Korean won

GDP, nominal: \$1.71 trillion (2023)

GDP PPP: \$3.37 trillion (2025)

GDP per capita: \$32,589 (2023)

Area (sq mi): 38,691 sq mi
(Oregon: 98,381)



Population: 51,751,065 (2024)

Population Density: 530/sq mi

Major Cities: Seoul, Busan, Daegu, Daejeon, Gwangju, Incheon, Ulsan

Time Zone: 16 hours ahead of PST

Oregon - South Korea Connections:

South Korea Investment in Oregon:

- NH-Hay: Hay and straw exporter to Asian markets, located in Albany.
- Farwest Steel: Processor and distributor of carbon steel products, located in Eugene.
- Hyundai Auto: Car dealership franchises across the state.
- Hyundai America Shipping Agency: Shipping agency in Portland.
- Hanjin Express of Oregon: Shipping agency in Beaverton.
- NAU International: Clothing and Accessories company in Portland, owned by Korean based Black Yak.
- STX Pan Ocean: Shipping company in Portland.
- LG Electronics: Korean electronics company in Portland
- International Flat Cable: Manufacturer of flat and ribbon cables.
- SM Line:
- CHO Wine
- KoMiCo Hillsboro LLC : Semiconductor
- PSK : Semiconductor

Oregon Businesses with a Presence in South Korea:

- Benson Global: Design consultation and engineering with office in Ulsan, Korea.
- Columbia Sportswear: Over 150 stores selling Columbia products.
- Nike: Over 25 contracted firms make Nike apparel, equipment, and footwear in South Korea. Nike has Korean retail store locations too.
- Intel: Sales and marketing office in Seoul.
- Erickson Air Crane: Has sold a couple units of helicopters to the South Korean Forest Service.
- ENTEK: Exporting lithium battery separator membrane.
- David H. Sutherland: Exporting aerospace products, considering a joint venture in Korea.
- Oregon Wine: Pinot Noir growing prominence in Shinsegae Food, a subsidiary of Samsung Group. VITIS importing at a lower volume.
- Oregon Fresh Blueberry: Importing only from Oregon since 2012.
- Oregon Brand Seafoods LLC- Charelston - exports fresh/chilled fish to Korea
- Calbag Metals Co - exports metals like steel, aluminum and scrap to Korea
- Valley Hay Co., Harrisburg- exports husks, hay and clover to Korea.
- NW Community Credit Union: Serves the local Korean small business and community
- JackWest : Footwear of Leisure sports

Oregon -South Korea Education Partnerships:

- Portland State University, Oregon State University, University of Oregon, George Fox University, Linfield College, and Southwestern Community College all offer student exchange programs.
- PSU, Oregon State and UO teach Korean language.

Cultural and Diplomatic Connections:

- Portland's sister city in South Korea is Ulsan since 1987.
- The Oregon Korean War Memorial is located in Wilsonville. Completed in 2000, it honors the Oregon soldiers and the Korean people affected by the Korean War.

According to the Korean Society of America - there are more than 35,000 Korean Americans in Oregon

South Korea Related Organizations:

Honorary Consulate of South Korea- State of Oregon:

Gregory Caldwell

caldwell@lclark.edu

503-768-7457

Susan Soonkeum Cox

coxkoreanconsulate.eug@gmail.com

541-687-2202

Consulate General of the Republic of Korea:

2033 6th Ave. #1125

Seattle, WA 98121

206-441-1011

Oregon Korea Foundation:

7650 SW 81st Ave.

Portland, OR 97223

503-293-3011

Korean Society of Oregon:

Same address as above

503-977-2617

The Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

[Website](#)

Sister Partnerships:

Oregon	Chollanamdo Province
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Portland	Ulsan
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Port of Portland	Port of Ulsan
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Port of Astoria	Busan
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Beaverton	Cheon An
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Eugene	Chin Ju
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Gresham	Sock Cho
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Salem	Gimhae
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Yamhill County	Geumsan County
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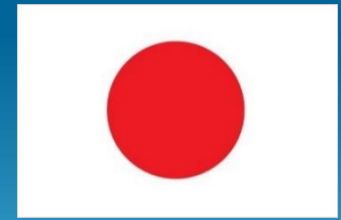
White City	Buck-ku
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US Department of State:

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2800.htm>

Country Profile: *Japan*

October 2025



At a Glance

Capital: Tokyo
Government: Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy

Chief of State: Emperor Naruhito

Prime Minister: Shigeru Ishiba

Currency: Japanese Yen

GDP: \$4.23 trillion (3rd)

GDP PPP: \$5.75 trillion (4th)

GDP per capita: \$46,200 (43rd)

Area (sq mi) 145,925 sq mi (63rd)



Population: 125.12 million

Density: 867 /mi²

Major Cities: Metropolitan Tokyo (38 M), Yokohama,

Osaka, Nagoya, Sapporo, Kyoto, and Kobe.

Time Zone: 16 hours ahead of PST

The Current Japanese Economy and Trade patterns:

Japan is one of the most important trade and investment partners for the United States. In 2022, bilateral U.S.-Japan trade in goods and services was worth \$307.4 billion. Both exports and imports increased versus 2021, up 7.3% and 9.8% respectively. U.S. goods exports to Japan were about \$80.2 billion, while services exports were approximately \$38.3 billion, for a total of \$118.5 billion, up 13.7 percent from 2020. **Top U.S. exports to Japan include natural gas liquids, pharmaceutical preparations, meat and poultry, industrial machines, medicinal equipment, civilian aircraft, engines and parts, and corn.** Imports of goods from Japan were close to \$135 billion, and services imports were about \$33 billion, for a total of \$167 billion, up 9.3 percent from the prior year. (U.S. goods imports from Japan were \$98 billion in the period January-August 2022, an increase of 7% versus the same period last year.) Top U.S. imports from Japan are autos, auto parts, and electronics. **Japan is the fourth-largest export market and trading partner for the United States**, which has a trade deficit with Japan of about \$61 billion in goods (principally autos and related parts) and a trade surplus of about \$6 billion in services. (Information from the [U.S. Census Bureau](#).)

As of 2023, **Japan is the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into the United States, with an FDI stock of \$721 billion.** Japan's FDI position in the U.S. on a historical cost basis has grown every year for over a decade, from \$301 billion in 2012. Direct investment in the United States by Japanese companies is predominantly in manufacturing, particularly of transportation equipment (e.g., autos). These investments support U.S. jobs (close to one million) and contribute to U.S. economic output and exports. Please see the [SelectUSA FDI Fact Sheet on Japan](#) and the [SelectUSA Investor Guide](#).

- **Japan is the third largest economy in the world after the United States and China. It is the fourth largest importer of U.S. products after Canada, Mexico, and China.** Japan is a key member of the international trade system with a market that respects the rule of law and provides strong protections for intellectual and real property rights.
- **Japan's consumer economy is large, broad-based, and sophisticated.** Per capita income of about \$45,000 underpins its strength as a consumer market.
- **Japan is highly dependent upon the import of natural resources.** Japan has, for example, been for decades the world's largest importer of liquefied natural gas (LNG). It has also been the world's largest net buyer of food products. **The United States is Japan's leading supplier of agricultural imports, as well as agricultural capital equipment and related technologies.**
- Japan's strategic alliance and deep economic integration with the United States presents opportunities in advanced sectors such as space, defense, and security. **Japan is a leading importer of U.S. aerospace and defense equipment and, increasingly, an integrated co-developer.** Related growth sectors include defense procurement, advanced manufacturing, and cyber security solutions.
- **Japan's rapidly aging and declining population continues to send ripple effects through its society and economy, shaping present and future demand in economic spheres as disparate as robotics and pharmaceuticals, franchising, and real estate.**
- Japan's population is declining as it ages rapidly. The population may decrease by as much as one third by 2060, from 127 million to 87 million. The proportion of the population older than 65 will rise from 27% today to 40% by 2060.

Oregon's Trade with Japan:

- In 2021, Japan was Oregon's 6th largest export market with exports of \$1.6 billion. In the early and mid-2000s, agricultural products dominated trade with Japan but in the past 5 years, they began to fall. In 2018, the US and Japan signed an agreement that would reduce tariffs on agricultural products. Japan is the largest international market for Oregon's food and Ag products and this trade agreement is expected to help Oregon's exports of beef, wine, and various other agricultural products.
- Exports to Japan peaked in 2018 when they were 2.2 billion dollars. In 2020, exports were 1.3% lower than in 2015. Out of all the states and territories, Oregon ranks 14th in total exports to Japan in 2020. "Chemical" exports shown below are actually shipments of Canadian potash that are transferred from rail to barge in Oregon. Other Oregon exports include machinery, paper, aerospace parts, primary metal manufacturing, and wood products. Oregon imports Japanese machinery, autos, electronics, chemicals, and rubber products.