

SOUTH KOREA: A COUNTRY PROFILE

1. STATISTICAL SURVEY

Economic classification: middle income

Average annual growth: 7.4 per cent (1975-85)

Average inflation rate: 14.3 per cent (1975-85)
1.0 per cent (1986)

Gross National Product (GNP): Cdn. \$ 115.5 billion (1985 est.)

Annual per capita GNP: Cdn. \$ 2820.8 (1985)

Foreign Debt: about Cdn. \$ 45.5 billion (1986)

Debt Service as % of GNP: 8.5 per cent (1985)

Debt Service as % of Exports: 18.7 per cent (1985)

Annual per capita consumption (1985): 39.1 kg. flour
14.4 kg. meat
7.2 kg. vegetable oil

Population: 41.1 million (1985)

Rate of population growth: 1.3 per cent (1985 - 2000)

Education and Adult Literacy Rate: The South Korean education system has three levels: elementary, secondary and college or university. Kindergarden is optional for children aged five and six. Elementary school is six years in duration and begins at age seven. The elementary phase of the education system is free and compulsory for all children.

The secondary phase of the education system is further divided into two subsets; middle and high school. Each subset consists of three years of study. The secondary element of the education system also has two distinct disciplines. Students may follow a general education or a more vocational type of instruction. The government has recently been encouraging students to pursue a vocational education to satisfy the employment requirements of their expanding industries. As in Canada, secondary education is followed by college or university. Entrance to the secondary and post-secondary systems is established through an annual lottery.