

## 2.2 Climate and Rainfall

The climate of South Korea is varied. The average temperature throughout the year is 13°C along the southern coast and 10°C in the northern part of the country. The average maximum temperature throughout the country is generally over 40°C. The hottest period of the year lasts for about one month beginning in early August. The temperature then is close to that in the tropics.

In winter the average minimum temperatures along the south coast and in the interior are -5°C and -9°C respectively. The winter season lasts about three months but is made more bearable as three successive cold days are almost invariably followed by four consecutive warm days due to the high atmospheric pressure of the continent.

Precipitation is more varied than temperature and annually ranges between 500 mm to 1,500 mm. Korea's annual average precipitation is about 800 to 1,000 mm, which is twice that of neighbouring mainland China and half the amount usually registered in Japan. Between 55-65 per cent of the total rainfall occurs in the months of June, July and August. Often 30 per cent falls in July alone.

## 2.3 Population, Employment and Labour

Korea, with a 1985 population totalling 41.1 million, has one of the highest population densities in the world at 415 people per square km, compared to Canada's 2.6 people per square kilometer.

The population of South Korea increased at an average rate of 1.7 per cent between 1977 and 1984 but is expected to drop to 1.3 per cent between 1985-2000. Life expectancy in South Korea is 66 years as compared to nearby mainland China at 68 years and Canada at 76 years.

The country has a workforce of 14.4 million people. While employment in agriculture in 1986 dropped by 5.7 per cent from 1985, there has been a more than offsetting rise in employment in the manufacturing sector of 10.6 per cent.

The proportion of the population working in agriculture has been declining steadily, from about 59 per cent in 1965 to 24.9 per cent today. The overall pattern of employment is summarized in Table 1.