

## 022 Seoul (Republic of Korea)

9.7 million inhabitants according to the UN's *Urban Agglomerations 2003*.

### 1. Territorial Levels, Population and Area

Name	Population	% of total	Area, km <sup>2</sup>	Density, people/km <sup>2</sup>
Seoul	*10.207.296	21,16 %	605,5	16.858
Icheon	*2.577.989	5,34 %	986,4	2.613
Gyeonggi Province	*9.927.473	20,58 %	10.181,3	975
Soul Metropolitan Region	*22.712.758	47,09 %	11.773,3	1.929
Republic of Korea	*48.229.950 **48.598.175	100 %	99.899,9	483

\* Estimation by National Statistics Office of the Republic of Korea for December 2002.

\*\* Estimation by the World Factbook de la CIA for July 2004.

## 2. Administrative Designation and Number of Municipalities

Name	Designation	Number of Municipalities
<b>Seoul</b>	Seoul Metropolitan Government <i>Seul Teukbyeolsi</i>	25 Districts (- <i>gu</i> ): Chongno, Choung, Chungrang, Kangbuk, Kangdong, Kangnam, Kangso, Kumchon, Kuro, Kwanak, Kwangjin, Mapo, Nowon, Socho, Sodaemun, Songbuk, Songdong, Songpa, Tobong, Tongdaemun, Tongjak, Unpyong, Yangchon, Yongdungpo and Yongsan. 522 wards ( <i>dong</i> ) 15.267 ( <i>tong</i> ) 106.020 ( <i>ban</i> )
<b>Icheon</b>	Metropolitan City of Incheon <i>Gwangyeoksi Incheon</i>	8 Districts (- <i>gu</i> ): Chung, Kyeyang, Namdong, Nam, Pupyong, So, Tong and Yonsu. 2 Cities (- <i>gun</i> ): Kanghwa y Ongjin. 136 Local Administrative Units ( <i>Myeon y Dong</i> )
<b>Gyeonggi Province</b>	<i>Gyeonggi-Do</i>	25 Cities (- <i>si</i> ) 6 Counties (- <i>gun</i> ) 22 Towns ( <i>Eup</i> ) 127 Administrative Districts ( <i>Myeon</i> )
<b>Soul Metropolitan Region</b>	Seoul Capital Region	It includes: 1 Metropolitan Government ( <i>Teukbyeolsi</i> ): Seoul 1 Metropolitan City ( <i>Gwangyeoksi</i> ): Incheon. 1 Province ( <i>do</i> ): <i>Gyeonggi-do</i>
<b>Republic of Korea</b>	<i>Daehan Minguk</i>	The provincial level is composed by: 1 Metropolitan Government ( <i>Teukbyeolsi</i> ): Seoul 6 Metropolitan Cities ( <i>Gwangyeoksi</i> ): Busan, Daegu, Incheon, Gwangju, Daejeon and Ulsan 9 Provinces ( <i>do</i> ): Gyeonggi, Gangwon, Chungcheongbuk, Chungcheongnam, Jeollabuk, Jeollanam, Gyeongsangbuk, Gyeonsangnam and Jeju. The municipal level is composed by: 72 Cities (- <i>si</i> ) larger than 50.000 inhabitants, 94 Counties (- <i>gun</i> ) and 69 Districts (- <i>gu</i> ), located on cities larger than 500.000 inhabitants The administrative level is composed by: In counties (- <i>gun</i> ): towns ( <i>eup</i> ) and districts ( <i>myeon</i> ), In cities ( <i>si</i> ); wards ( <i>dong</i> ) and villages ( <i>ri</i> ).

## 3. Institutional framework and political powers

### Seoul

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#### General Aspects

Seoul Metropolitan Government forms part of the provincial structure of Korea. Despite the political and administrative decentralization that began in 1995 with the popular election of mayors and councils, the local governments are part of the State Administration and their function is to implement state policies and coordinate municipal activities. Seoul depends on the central government for funding and organization. The Seoul Metropolitan Government has powers for the following areas: transportation planning, public transport, parking, traffic systems, public works, rehabilitation, urban planning, construction, road planning, sewer planning, housing regeneration and planning, coordination of local administrations (districts), social services, welfare services for women, children and senior citizens, the integration of disabled persons, public hygiene and health, industrial promotion, culture, tourism, sports and youth affairs, protection of the environment, air and water quality control, waste management, parks, public protection services, the fire brigade and natural disaster management.

#### Mayor and the Seoul Metropolitan Government

The Mayor works with three Vice Mayors. They run the administration of the city comprised of: 12 bureaus, 10 departments and 64 divisions. They prepare draft budgets, urban development plans and district plans. Since 1994, the Mayor has been voted for in elections held every four years.

#### Seoul Metropolitan Council

The legislative organ of the city with autonomy in its authority to approve and modify municipal bylaws and budgets. Exercises its authority to control and carry out investigations into the city's administration. Made up of 102 members, of which 92 are elected by direct vote in 25 multi-member electoral districts weighted according to the population. The remaining 10 are voted in by a proportional system in citywide elections. They all serve four-year terms.

#### Districts

After a political and administrative decentralization process toward the districts (in the 1990s), they now have autonomous decision-making capacity in various areas, in addition to administering the services delegated by the city itself. Institutionally, they have a district Mayor who leads the administration and a District Council that approves bylaws and budgets, while also supervising the activities of the district administration.

#### Public Companies in Seoul

Seoul Metropolitan Rapid Transit Corporation

Seoul Metropolitan Subway Corporation

Seoul Housing Corporation

Seoul Agricultural & Marine products Corporation

## Incheon

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### General Aspects

Incheon Metropolitan City forms part of the provincial structure of Korea and has equivalent responsibilities to Seoul Special City.

### Mayor and City Government

The Mayor leads the city administration and is supported by two Deputy Mayors of the administration. The administration is made up of one bureau and eight departments. The Mayor is elected by the direct public vote every four years.

### Incheon Metropolitan Council

The legislative organ of the city is responsible for approving bylaws (regulations) and budgets, as well as the control of the government and supervision of administration activities. Up to 26 council members are elected by a majority system in single-member electoral districts, while the other three councilors are assigned in proportion to the votes obtained by the parties.

### Districts

Like Seoul, Incheon City has a decentralized government that is present in its eight districts and two counties.

## Province of Gyeonggi

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### General Aspects

The Province of Gyeonggi forms part of the provincial structure of Korea and its responsibilities are equivalent to those of Seoul Special City and Incheon Metropolitan City.

### Provincial Governor

Is the maximum political authority in the province and leads the provincial administration and provincial government organization.

### Provincial Assembly

The Assembly is the legislative organ of the province, whose functions go beyond the production of provincial guidelines to include the approval of budgets and the supervision of administration and provincial government activities. It has the authority to approve taxes and open investigations into any matter of interest.

## Seoul Metropolitan Region\*

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### General Aspects

There is no one institution or level of administration whose public policies are exclusively centered on the Metropolitan Region. The central government has taken on economic, demographic and spatial planning for the entire area since the 1960s, in order to manage the population and economic explosion in the region. Currently, the second Capital Region Management Plan 1997-2011, framed by the Capital Region Management Act of 1982, establishes basic elements for the entire region in the following areas: land use, industrial distribution and state capital investments. It is also the reference point for smaller plans (metropolitan, provincial and municipal) in matters of land use, public infrastructure and urban revitalization.

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\* According to Kunhyuck Ahn and Yeong-Te Ohn in "Metropolitan Growth Management Policies in Seoul: a Critical Review" in "Urban Management in Seoul" (2001) published by the Seoul Development Institute.

## Capital Region Management Committee

The Korean Prime Minister chairs this committee created by the Capital Region Management Act of 1982 and its objective is to deliberate and coordinate regional planning and management. It includes members of the government, the Mayor of Seoul and representatives of private companies.

## Republic of Korea

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### President

Head of State who, in addition to the representative role, has wide-ranging executive powers and is responsible for the main political decisions. Has legislative initiative before the Assembly and can issue decrees and ask that laws approved by the National Assembly be reconsidered. The President is elected by universal suffrage to serve a single mandate of five years.

### Prime Minister

The Prime Minister assists the President in executive functions, supervises the Ministers and is responsible for the coordination of government action. While appointed by the President, the decision must be approved by the National Assembly.

### State Council

The State Council is a deliberative body that supports the executive in decision-making. It has a variable number of members ranging from 15 to 30, all from the Council: the President and the Prime Minister and other members of the executive body (the Deputy Prime Ministers, other Ministers, etc.).

### National Assembly, *Gukhoe*

The *Gukhoe* is a unicameral parliament with full legislative responsibilities. Its functions include: approving budgets, decision-making on issues of international relations and national defense; supervision of administration activities and State matters. Has the authority to revoke certain public roles including, with a two-thirds majority, the President. The National Assembly is comprised of 299 members who serve a four-year term. 243 are elected in single-member electorates by a majority system. The remaining 56 members of the Assembly are assigned proportionally to the political parties.

## 4. Relevant websites and online documents

Seoul Metropolitan Government <http://www.seoul.go.kr>

Seoul Metropolitan Council <http://www.smc.seoul.kr>

Seoul Development Institute <http://www.sdi.re.kr>

Government of the Metropolitan City of Incheon <http://www.incheon.go.kr/inpia/en/index.html>

Gyeonggi Province [http://www.gg.go.kr/kg21\\_home.jsp](http://www.gg.go.kr/kg21_home.jsp)

Korea Local Authorities Foundation for International Relations <http://www.klafir.or.kr/>

Official website of the Prime Minister of Korea  
[http://www.opm.go.kr/warp/webapp/home/en\\_home](http://www.opm.go.kr/warp/webapp/home/en_home)

### Documents:

Constitution of the Republic of Korea <http://www.ccourt.go.kr/english/welcome01.htm>

Urban Management in Seoul, Policy issues and responses. Seoul Development Institute (2001) [http://www.sdi.re.kr/nfile/zcom\\_eng\\_bbs/Urban%20Management%20in%20Seoul.pdf](http://www.sdi.re.kr/nfile/zcom_eng_bbs/Urban%20Management%20in%20Seoul.pdf)