# 🇰🇵 Korea, Dem. People's Rep.: trade brief

Customs figures for 2025 and 2026 to date; products for 2024; long-run totals. Prepared 2026-11-15.

Korea, Dem. People's Rep. exported **$553M** of goods and imported **$3.0B** in 2025, a trade deficit of **$2.4B**. Its largest export market was China (75.3% of exports) and its largest supplier was China (81.7% of imports).

**#163**
largest exporter of 202 economies, and #154 importer
#1 #202

**75%**
of exports go to 🇨🇳 China, the largest market

**83%**
of exports go to just three markets, out of 87

**−2.4B**
trade deficit: exports pay for 19% of imports

**+33.2%**
change in exports on 2024: $415M then, $553M in 2025

**82%**
of imports come from 🇨🇳 China, the largest supplier

## Korea, Dem. People's Rep. in 2025 and 2026: the latest figures

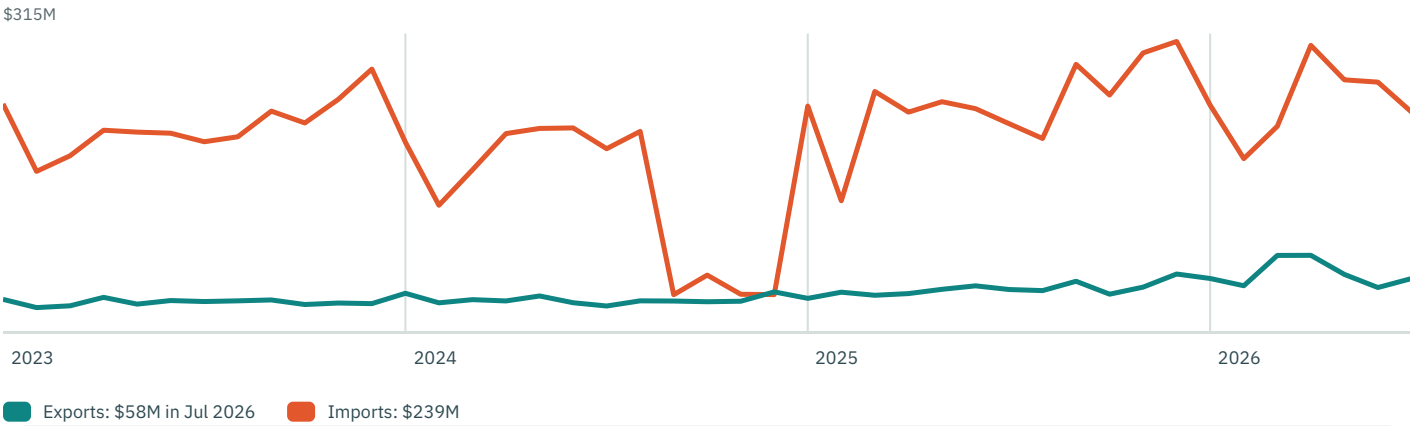
Monthly customs figures in US dollars from the IMF's trade-by-partner database. The newest month is Jul 2026.

**$553M**
Exports, 2025 **+33.2%** on 2024

**$3.0B**
Imports, 2025 **+67.9%** on 2024

**$441M**
Exports, Jan–Jul 2026 **+46.3%** on the same months of 2025

**$1.8B**
Imports, Jan–Jul 2026 **+9.1%** on the same months of 2025




| Period | Exports | Imports | Balance |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2026 (Jan–Jul) | $441M | $1.8B | −1.3B |
| 2025 | $553M | $3.0B | −2.4B |
| 2024 | $415M | $1.8B | −1.4B |
| 2023 | $382M | $2.7B | −2.3B |
| 2022 | $347M | $1.9B | −1.6B |

### Largest export markets in 2025 and 2026 so far

| Export market | 2025 | Change on 2024 | Share | Jan–Jul 2026 | Change on Jan–Jul 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| China † | $416M | +25.4% | 75.3% | $348M | +50.7% |
| Burkina Faso † | $33M | +1414.1% | 6.0% | $30M | +148.9% |
| Curacao † | $11M | +26.3% | 1.9% | $6M | +5.7% |
| Tanzania † | $10M | +387.1% | 1.8% | $6M | +3.8% |
| Venezuela † | $9M | −23.1% | 1.6% | $8M | +47.2% |
| Liberia † | $8M | +65.0% | 1.4% | $5M | +0.0% |
| Nigeria † | $8M | +422.5% | 1.4% | $6M | +64.2% |
| Zimbabwe † | $7M | +65.2% | 1.3% | $5M | +29.3% |
| Togo † | $4M | −28.1% | 0.8% | $4M | +39.2% |
| Fiji † | $4M | +119.1% | 0.8% | $3M | +0.0% |

### Largest suppliers in 2025 and 2026 so far

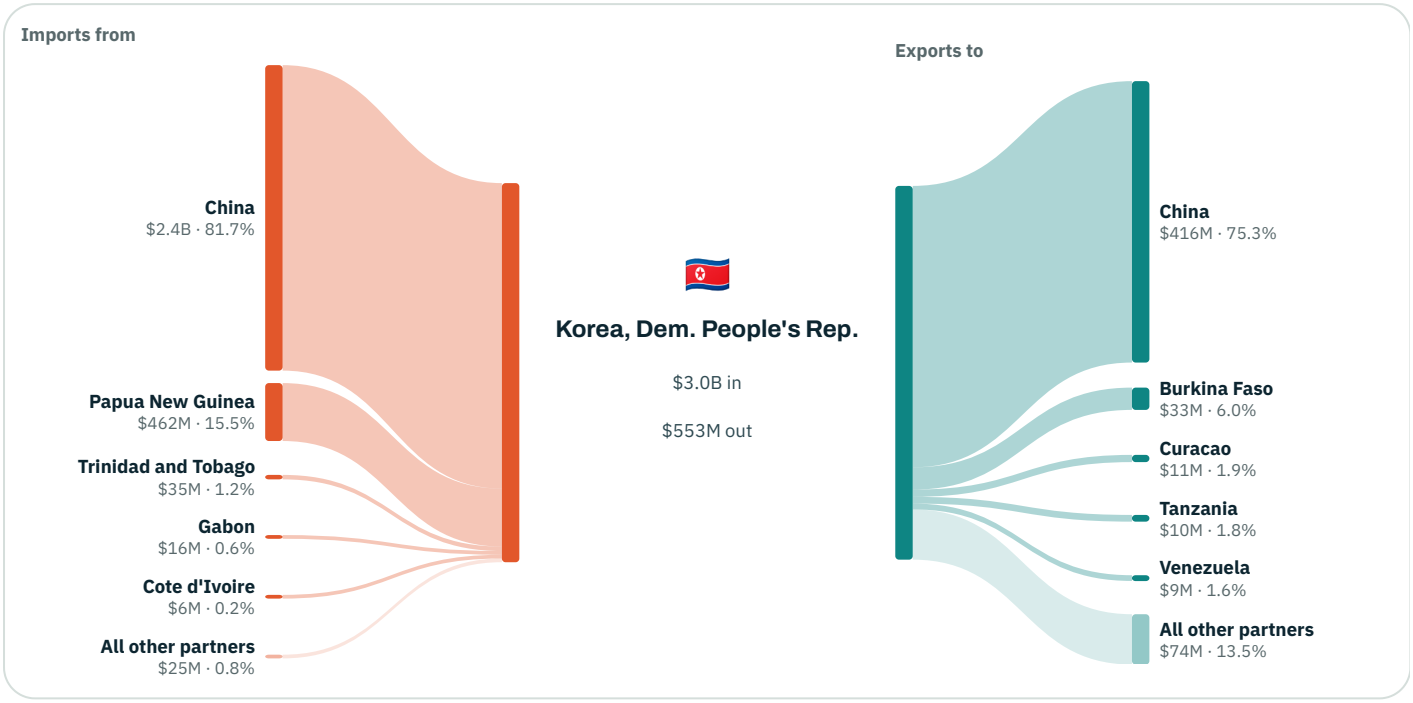
| Supplier | 2025 | Change on 2024 | Share | Jan–Jul 2026 | Change on Jan–Jul 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| China † | $2.4B | +106.3% | 81.7% | $1.5B | +11.8% |
| Papua New Guinea † | $462M | +4.1% | 15.5% | $274M | +2.2% |
| Trinidad and Tobago † | $35M | −64.0% | 1.2% | $3M | −74.2% |
| Gabon † | $16M | −22.4% | 0.6% | $12M | +16.7% |
| Cote d'Ivoire † | $6M | +961.3% | 0.2% | $4M | +0.0% |
| Uganda † | $5M | +207.4% | 0.2% | $3M | +0.0% |
| India † | $5M | +121.1% | 0.2% | $396,000 | −82.2% |
| Guinea † | $4M | +55.5% | 0.1% | $2M | −26.0% |
| Netherlands † | $3M | −65.4% | 0.1% | $882,000 | −46.1% |
| Austria † | $3M | +523.5% | 0.1% | $635,000 | −80.0% |

† Korea, Dem. People's Rep. had not yet reported this flow, so the IMF derived it from the partner's own records. Treat these as provisional.

Source: International Monetary Fund, International Trade in Goods by partner country, retrieved 2026-11-15. The IMF collects each economy's national customs figures and converts them to US dollars at the average exchange rate of the month the goods moved. Imports include freight and insurance; exports do not. The product and partner sections further down use BACI's reconciled figures for 2024, which can differ noticeably for the same year, so compare like with like.

## Where Korea, Dem. People's Rep.'s goods come from, and where they go

The five largest suppliers and the five largest markets in 2025. Ribbon width is in proportion to value within each side.




## What Korea, Dem. People's Rep. exports, 2024

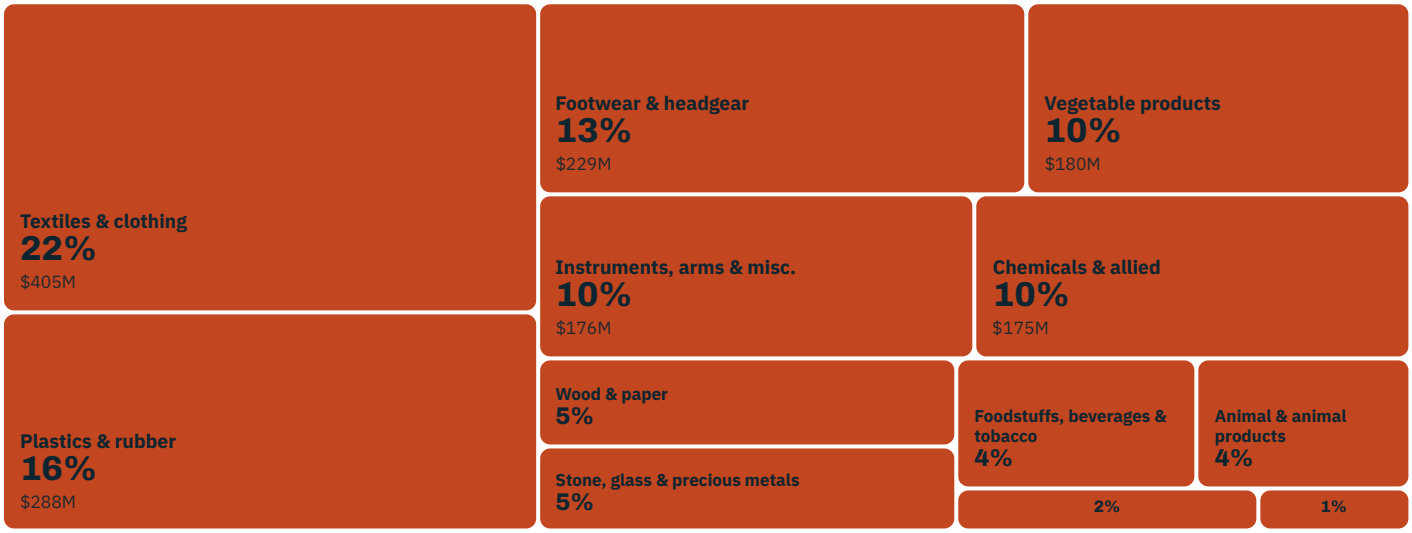



Reconciled figures (BACI): exports of $396M on that basis. 2024 is the newest year with product detail for every economy.

### Largest export products

| Product | 2024 | Share |
|---|---|---|
| Wigs, false beards, eyebrows and eyelashes, switches and... 6704.20 | $180M | 45.5% |
| Tungsten ores and concentrates 2611.00 | $31M | 7.9% |
| Electrical energy 2716.00 | $22M | 5.6% |
| Ferro-alloys; ferro-silicon, containing by weight more... 7202.21 | $21M | 5.3% |
| Watch movements; complete and assembled, electrically... 9108.11 | $16M | 4.1% |
| Molybdenum ores and concentrates; other than roasted 2613.90 | $14M | 3.7% |
| False beards, eyebrows and eyelashes, switches and the... 6704.19 | $7M | 1.9% |
| Carbides; of silicon, whether or not chemically defined 2849.20 | $6M | 1.5% |

## What Korea, Dem. People's Rep. imports, 2024



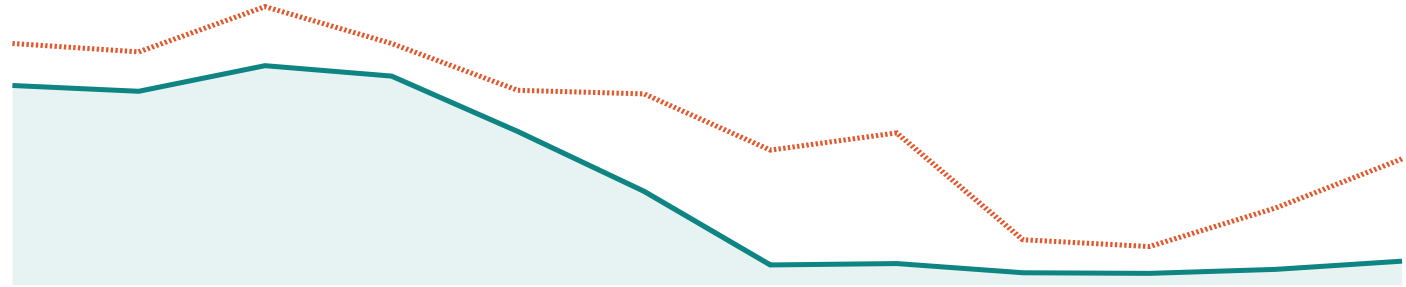

Reconciled figures (BACI): imports of $1.8B on that basis.

### Largest import products

| Product | 2024 | Share |
|---|---|---|
| Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise... 6703.00 | $169M | 9.2% |
| Vegetable oils; soya-bean oil and its fractions, other... 1507.90 | $89M | 4.9% |
| Floor, wall or ceiling coverings; of polymers of vinyl... 3918.10 | $42M | 2.3% |
| Fabrics, woven; containing less than 85% by weight of... 5407.69 | $34M | 1.9% |
| Fabrics, woven; containing 85% or more by weight of... 5407.52 | $30M | 1.6% |
| Fabrics; knitted or crocheted fabrics, other than those... 6006.32 | $29M | 1.6% |
| Rubber; new pneumatic tyres, of a kind used on buses or... 4011.20 | $22M | 1.2% |
| Amino-acids, other than those containing more than one... 2922.42 | $21M | 1.1% |

## Korea, Dem. People's Rep.'s trade over the long run

Merchandise exports and imports, World Bank series, current US dollars.



Exports Imports 2012–2023

## Sources and method

- **2024 products:** BACI (CEPII), which reconciles what exporters and importers each reported to UN Comtrade, six-digit HS, current US dollars.
- **Totals and partners, latest year and current year:** International Monetary Fund, International Trade in Goods by partner country: each economy's own monthly customs figures, converted to US dollars at the average exchange rate of each month. Values marked † were derived by the IMF from partners' records because the economy had not yet reported.
- **Long-run totals:** World Bank, merchandise exports and imports, current US dollars.
- The two sources use different methods and can give different totals for the same year. Compare like with like.
- Product classification: Harmonized System, © World Customs Organization.

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