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The expansion of administrative districts in 1934 resulted in population growth, and the Korean War led to a dramatic decrease in population in 1950. Seoul’s population continued to increase until 1990, but the population stabilized or even shrunk. Seoul’s population type falls under the 9th category that completed population transformation, indicating the growth trend of Seoul’s population has stabilized.

Abd the stabilization of Seoul’s population, some regions saw population growth thanks to their regional development policies. Strengthened commercial function in the downtown has led to a drop in the number of its settled population since 1980s. Development in the South of Han river in the 1990s resulted in a remarkable population growth, and redevelopment project led to population growth in northwestern and northeastern regions. Special distribution of population change from 2000 to 2020 shows that most regions show population decline, except in some redeveloped regions.
3.2 Population Density

Population density is a standard indicator showing how much population is distributed in a living space (urbanization promotion area). As urbanization began mainly in 1970s, Seoul's population density rapidly increased from 1970s to 1990s, but began to decrease after 1995. Seoul has a relatively high population density, which is 4 times that of London, 2 times that of Paris and 1.1 times that of New York.

Seoul's population density greatly depends on its spatial distribution. For example, downtown area has stronger commercial function than residential function; so the outskirt of urban population leads to low population density. The outskirt of Seoul saw low population density due to the establishment of restricted development districts. Regions with high population density gather together in some southwestern, northeastern and northeastern regions. The regional diversity of population density is a result of a combination of several factors including housing development, housing supply policy and distribution of public transportation system such as buses and subways.
3-3 Population Movement

If you divide the difference of in-migrants and out-migrants by the total population in a region, you can get net migrant rate. About 62.8% of migrants moving between a farm village and a city from 1970 to 1975 were found to move to Seoul, reflecting that most migrants flocked to Seoul. The population movement from 1980s to 1990s can be attributed to economic opportunity and prospects, and related government policies and support aimed social and economic transformation resulting from national development plan rather than movement of the farm population.

Seoul has seen more out-migrants than in-migrants since 1990s, thanks to development of new towns in the suburbs of Seoul. Net migrant rate has continued to be on the decrease since 2000, and there are more in-migrants than counter parts in some regions. The excessive number of in-migrants can be blamed on the large-scale development of apartments and increasing number of foreigners in Eun-gu, Seocho-gu, Gangnam-gu and Mapo-gu.
3.4 Median Age

The median age indicates the characteristics of population, focusing on the median of a certain time. The population whose median age is lower than 20 is called ‘younger population’ and the population whose median age is older than 30 is called ‘older population’.

Seoul’s median age grew by 3.9 years a decade from 21.6 in 1975 to 35.2 in 2005, showing the structure of older population. This change is more clearly seen in the population pyramids indicating population’s gender and age structure, as well as the society’s developmental stage and characteristics. Seoul’s population pyramids shifted from ‘perfect pyramid shape’ usually seen in the early modernization in 1975 to the ‘bell shape’, which means rapid drop in the death rates and birth rates as well as massive influx of young people into the labor market. The spatial distribution of the median age shows that there was a remarkable growth of spaces where the median age is higher than 30 as of 2005, compared with 2000.
3-5 TOTAL DEPENDENCY RATIO

The total dependency ratio is a measure of the proportion of the population that is dependent on the working-age population. It is calculated by dividing the total population by the working-age population and multiplying by 100. A higher total dependency ratio indicates a greater burden on the working-age population to support the elderly and the young. The total dependency ratio in Seoul has increased over the years, indicating a growing burden on the working-age population. This can have implications for the economy and social services in the city.
3-4 Elderly Population Ratio

The number of Seoul’s elderly population reached 710,083 by the standard of 2005 census, reaching about 7% of the total population. The number of elderly population now by more than 7%, compared with a decade ago, showing that Seoul has rapidly transformed into the aged society. The UN defines a society with more than 7% of the population older than 65 as an aging society, and a society with more than 12% as aged society. Seoul has been shifting from the aging society to the aged society as of 2010.

The rapid transformation into the aged society can complicate problems facing our society. It took usually 50 to 100 years for advanced nations to shift from aging society to aged society, but Seoul’s speed of moving into the aged society is unprecedentedly rapid. The aging index/elderly population/child population(1500) is used as a major indicator in predicting the issues related with the elderly, and Seoul’s aging index stood at 16 in the year of 2005.