

Republic of Korea

Human Capital Index 2020

This brief provides an update to the Human Capital Index (HCI). First launched in 2018, the HCI measures the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18. It conveys the productivity of the next generation of workers compared to a benchmark of complete education and full health. Worldwide a child born in 2020 can expect, on average, to be 56 percent as productive as she could be when she grows up. All data represent the status of countries pre-COVID-19.

THE HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX

Human Capital Index. A child born in the Republic of Korea today will be **80 percent** as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health. This is higher than the average for East Asia & Pacific region and High income countries. Between 2010 and 2020, the HCI value for the Republic of Korea decreased from 0.82 to 0.80. Figure 1 shows how the HCI and each of the components evolved over time.

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5.** 100 out of 100 children born in the Republic of Korea survive to age 5.
- **Expected Years of School.** In the Republic of Korea, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **13.6 years** of school by her 18th birthday.
- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in the Republic of Korea score **537** on a scale where 625 represents advanced attainment and 300 represents minimum attainment.
- **Learning-adjusted Years of School.** Factoring in what children actually learn, expected years of school is only **11.7 years**.
- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across the Republic of Korea, **94 percent** of 15-year olds will survive until age 60. This statistic is a proxy for the range of health risks that a child born today would experience as an adult under current conditions.
- **Healthy Growth (Not Stunted Rate).** Data on stunting are not available for the Republic of Korea.

DIFFERENCES IN HCI ACROSS GENDER AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS

In the Republic of Korea, the HCI for girls is higher than for boys. Table 1 shows gender disaggregation for each of the HCI components.

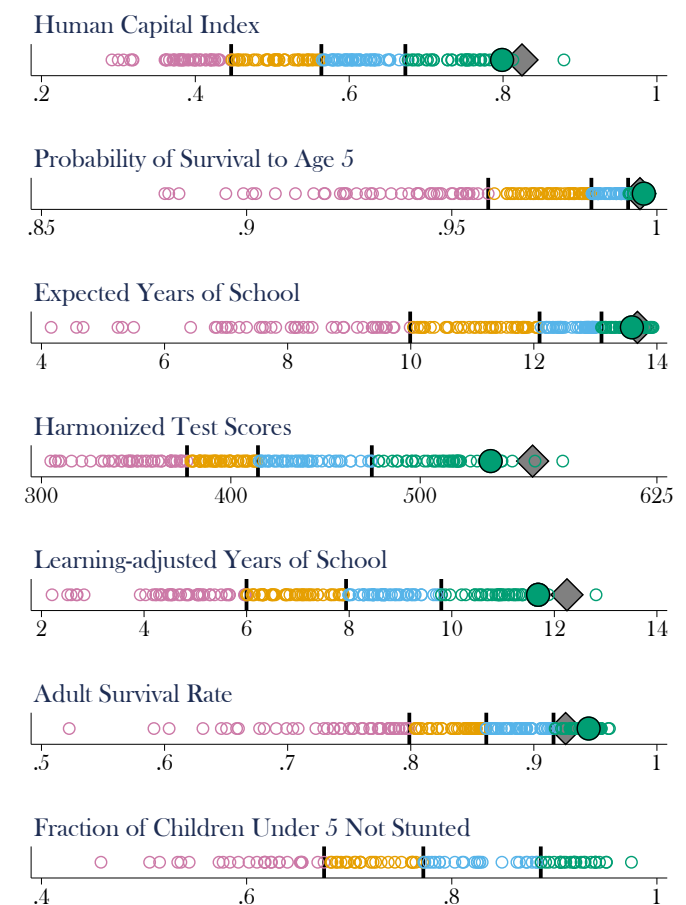
In the Republic of Korea, there are not sufficient data to disaggregate HCI by socio-economic groups.

Table 1. HCI by Gender and Socio-economic Group

Component	Boys	Girls	Overall
HCI	0.78	0.81	0.80
Survival to Age 5	1.00	1.00	1.00
Expected Years of School	13.6	13.6	13.6
Harmonized Test Scores	535	540	537
Learning-adjusted Years of School	11.6	11.7	11.7
Adult Survival Rate	0.92	0.97	0.94
Not Stunted Rate	-	-	-
HCI Ratio (richest / poorest 20 percent)	-	-	-

For more on socioeconomic disaggregated HCI, please visit <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital/brief/insights-from-disaggregating-the-human-capital-index>

Figure 1. HCI and Components



Note:

- Large circle represents Korea, Rep. in 2020
- Diamond represents Korea, Rep. in 2010
- Small circles represent other countries
- Lines and color of circles indicate quartiles of the distribution