

South Korea Aviation Market Report by Aircraft Type (Commercial Aviation, General Aviation, Military Aviation), and Region 2026-2034

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Abstracts

South Korea aviation market size reached USD 2.3 Billion in 2025. Looking forward, IMARC Group expects the market to reach USD 3.4 Billion by 2034, exhibiting a growth rate (CAGR) of 4.07 % during 2026-2034. The growing number of business and leisure trips for traveling to distant places quickly and efficiently, increasing investments in strengthening the defense system, and rising adoption of fuel-efficient aircraft and advanced avionics represent some of the key factors driving the market.

SOUTH KOREA AVIATION MARKET ANALYSIS:

Major Market Drivers: The increasing utilization of flights for business and leisure trips and traveling to distant places quickly and efficiently represents one of the crucial factors impelling the growth of the market in South Korea. Besides this, the adoption of cutting-edge technologies, such as more fuel-efficient aircraft, advanced avionics, and the emergence of electric and hybrid propulsion systems are contributing to the market growth in the country.

Key Market Trends: The integration of artificial intelligence (AI), data analytics, and automation in various aspects of aviation operations, from air traffic management to maintenance procedures, is enhancing safety, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness, further propelling the market's growth. Moreover, the increasing investments in strengthening the defense system by employing efficient fighter jets, transport planes, and helicopters are bolstering the market growth in the country.

Competitive Landscape: Some of the prominent South Korean aviation market

companies include Airbus SE, Dassault Aviation, Korea Aerospace Industries, Leonardo S.p.A, Lockheed Martin Corporation, and The Boeing Company, among many others.

Geographical Analysis: The Seoul Capital Area (which includes Seoul and Incheon) experiences robust demand for both commercial and business aviation owing to the high concentration of international business activities. Moreover, the Hoseo region is served by several smaller regional airports, such as Cheongju International Airport, which are critical for facilitating regional air travel and connectivity.

Challenges and Opportunities: High competition among key players and the rising airport congestion are hampering the market's growth. However, the increasing middle-class affluence and a growing number of international and domestic travelers create opportunities for growth.

SOUTH KOREA AVIATION MARKET TRENDS:

Expanding Tourism

South Korea has become a popular tourist destination, attracting millions of international visitors each year. For instance, the World Travel & Tourism Council's (WTTC) 2024 Economic Impact Research (EIR) anticipated an outstanding year for South Korean travel and tourism, with considerable increases in economic contribution, employment, and tourist spending. In 2023, South Korea's Travel & Tourism sector increased by 18.2% to ₩84.71TN, accounting for 3.8% of the country's overall economic output. These factors further contribute to the South Korean aviation market.

Rising Middle-Class Population

The growing middle class in South Korea has led to higher travel demand. For instance, the proportion of the middle class in South Korea with a median income of between 50 and 150% grew to 62.8% in 2022 from 54.9% in 2011. During this time, the middle-class population increased by 17% to 32.19 million from 27.51 million. As more people reach middle-class status, they have greater access to international and domestic travel opportunities. These factors are positively influencing the South Korean aviation market forecast.

Increasing Government Support

The South Korean government has actively supported the aviation industry through investments in infrastructure, such as expanding and modernizing airports, and through favorable policies and regulations. For instance, in March 2024, South Korea planned to transform Incheon International Airport into a global mega hub airport capable of accommodating 130 million international travelers by 2030. The Korean government planned to complete the fourth phase of its airport expansion project in October 2024, which would include enlarging Incheon Airport Terminal 2 to increase passenger capacity by more than 30 million. These factors are further contributing to the South Korea aviation market share.

SOUTH KOREA AVIATION MARKET SEGMENTATION:

IMARC Group provides an analysis of the key trends in each segment of the market, along with forecasts at the country and regional levels for 2026-2034. Our report has categorized the market based on aircraft type.

Breakup by Aircraft Type:

Commercial Aviation

Freighter Aircraft

Passenger Aircraft Narrowbody Aircraft Widebody Aircraft

General Aviation

Business Jets Large Jet Light Jet Mid-Size Jet

Piston Fixed-Wing Aircraft

Others

Military Aviation

Fixed-Wing Aircraft Multi-Role Aircraft Training Aircraft Transport Aircraft Others

Rotorcraft Multi-Mission Helicopter Transport Helicopter Others

Passenger Aircraft

Narrowbody Aircraft

Widebody Aircraft

Business Jets

Large Jet

Light Jet

Mid-Size Jet

Fixed-Wing Aircraft

Multi-Role Aircraft

Training Aircraft

Transport Aircraft

Others

Rotorcraft

Multi-Mission Helicopter

Transport Helicopter

Others

The report has provided a detailed breakup and analysis of the market based on the aircraft type. This includes commercial aviation [freighter aircraft and passenger aircraft (narrowbody aircraft and widebody aircraft)], general aviation [business jets (large jet, light jet, and mid-size jet), piston fixed-wing aircraft, and others)], and military aviation

[fixed-wing aircraft (multi-role aircraft, training aircraft, transport aircraft, and others] and rotorcraft (multi-mission helicopter, transport helicopter, and others)].

According to the South Korea aviation market overview, increased economic activity typically leads to higher travel demand. As economies grow, so do business and leisure travel, boosting commercial aviation. Moreover, economic stability and growth impact the purchasing power of private individuals and businesses, affecting demand for general aviation services. Increased interest in flying for recreational purposes, including private pilot ownership and flying clubs, can drive demand. Besides this, increased geopolitical tensions and conflicts can drive higher demand for military aircraft and readiness. The need for ongoing pilot and crew training and operational readiness impacts demand for military aviation resources.

Breakup by Region:

Seoul Capital Area

Yeongnam (Southeastern Region)

Honam (Southwestern Region)

Hoseo (Central Region)

The report has also provided a comprehensive analysis of all the major regional markets, which include Seoul Capital Area, Yeongnam (Southeastern Region), Honam (Southwestern Region), Hoseo (Central Region), and Others.

The Seoul Capital Area is a major tourist destination, attracting millions of visitors annually. Increased tourism contributes to higher demand for both domestic and international flights. Moreover, the Yeongnam region, which includes major cities like Busan, Ulsan, and Daegu, is a significant industrial hub, particularly for shipbuilding, automotive, and heavy industries. This industrial activity creates substantial demand for cargo and business aviation.

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE:

The market research report has also provided a comprehensive analysis of the competitive landscape in the market. Competitive analysis, such as market structure,

key player positioning, top winning strategies, competitive dashboard, and company evaluation quadrant, has been covered in the report. Also, detailed profiles of all major companies have been provided. Some of the key players include:

KEY QUESTIONS ANSWERED IN THIS REPORT

How has the South Korea aviation market performed so far, and how will it perform in the coming years?

What has been the impact of COVID-19 on the South Korea aviation market?

What is the breakup of the South Korea aviation market on the basis of aircraft type?

What are the various stages in the value chain of the South Korea aviation market?

What are the key driving factors and challenges in the South Korea aviation?

What is the structure of the South Korea aviation market, and who are the key players?

What is the degree of competition in the South Korea aviation market?

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