Charting South Korea's Economy 1H 2017

Description: Designed to help readers interpret economic numbers and incorporate them into business planning.

1. Economic structure
Part of the country's economic profile, economic structure section gives readers useful views to understand what matters for the South Korean economy.

Key Questions Addressed:
- What is the size of the South Korea's economy in relation to world's major economies?
- What is the size of South Korea's population?
- What is the demographic structure of South Korea? Is it favorable for economic growth?
- How has the structure of South Korea's GDP changed over the years?
- How much does the South Korea's economy rely on external trade?
- What are the key regions for the South Korean economy?

2. Competitiveness
Part of the country's economic profile, this section explores South Korea's competitiveness in the global level. It also covers the country's attractiveness to foreign direct investment.

Key Questions Addressed:
- Which stage of economic development is the South Korea's economy in?
- How is the average wage in South Korea compared to others in the region?
- How has the labor productivity in South Korea changed over the years and in relation with comparable countries?
- How competitive is South Korea?
- How are South Korea's competitive factors compared to those of other countries?
- Is it easy to do business in South Korea?
- What are most problematic factors in doing business in South Korea?
- How good is South Korea in attracting Foreign Direct Investment?

3. Economic development
Part of the country's economic profile, this section explores South Korea's economic development, average income and its distribution, poverty as well as other development indicators.

Key Questions Addressed:
- What is the level of income for an average person in South Korea?
- Is there still a lot of poor people in South Korea? How does it compare to others?
- Is unemployment the issue for South Korea?
- How is income distributed in South Korea and how does it compare to others?
- What is the current level of human development in South Korea?
- How has quality of life in South Korea changed over the years?

4. Economic growth
Part of the country's economic outlook, this section explores South Korea's recent economic growth, its key drivers and well as the growth outlook for the coming years.

Key Questions Addressed:
- What has been the growth rate of South Korea's economy over the past 10 years and how does it compare with others?
- What were the key growth drivers for the South Korea's economy in 2015?
- What were the source of growth for South Korea's economy in the last 5 quarters?
- What is the growth outlook for South Korea's economy over the next 3 years and how does it compare with others?
- How has the growth outlook for South Korea changed over the past few months?

5. Economic stability (Macro risks)
Part of the country's economic outlook, this section explores South Korea's macro-economic risks, including
inflation, financial sector, budget deficit as well as balance of payment and exchange rate.

Key Questions Addressed:
- What is the risk of inflation in South Korea and how does it compare with others?
- How healthy is the South Korea's banking sector?
- What has been the return of the stock markets and how does it compare with others?
- What is the fiscal risk in South Korea?
- Does the government have enough money to invest or continue to subsidize certain program? What is the likelihood of raising tax?
- What is the balance of payment risk for South Korea?
- How good is the country in getting foreign exchange by the mean of commerce?
- Does South Korea have enough international reserves to service its debt and for import?
- What is the FX risk? How has the KRW performed compared to other currencies?

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Appendix 1: Key Economic Projections 2015-2021
- GDP growth
- Inflation
- Population
- Unemployment rate
- Government budget and debt
- Current account

Appendix 2: DOING BUSINESS 2017
Detailed rankings and scores for South Korea and comparable economies.
- Starting a business
- Dealing with construction permits
- Getting electricity
- Registering property
- Getting credit
- Protecting Minority Investors
- Paying taxes
- Trading across borders
- Enforcing contracts
- Resolving Insolvency

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