



AI Job Risk Report South Korea

Which occupations AI is reshaping — and which stay human

26% of South Korea's covered workforce is employed in occupations with high AI task exposure.

536

OCCUPATIONS

33.3M

WORKFORCE COVERED

57/100

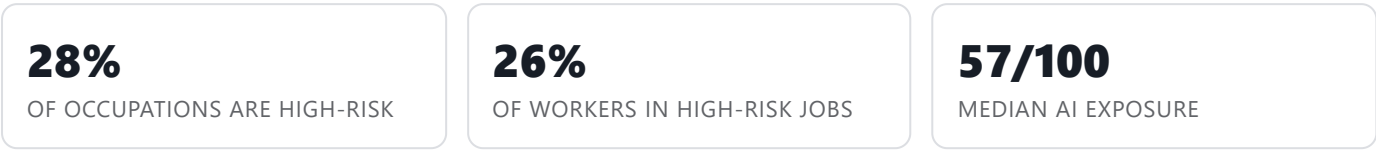
MEDIAN AI EXPOSURE

28%HIGH-RISK
OCCUPATIONS

Published: 2026-08-10 · **Data cutoff:** 2025 · **Web:** <https://aijobriskmap.com/reports/south-korea/>

Executive summary

Across 536 occupations covering 33.3M workers in South Korea, median AI exposure is 57/100. 28% of occupations — and 26% of workers — fall in the high-exposure band.



Most exposed areas

- IT & Digital
- Business, Finance & Legal
- Education & Community

Most resilient areas

- Trades & Construction
- Agriculture & Environment
- Transport, Logistics & Mining

Risk & pay: Official pay is not published at this occupational granularity for South Korea, so pay-vs-risk analysis is omitted in this edition.

What to watch: Entry-level and routine administrative tasks are narrowing fastest; client-facing, accountability and hands-on work remain the human moat.

How to read this report

Every occupation is scored on how much of its work generative AI can touch, and how much of it stays hard for AI to do. Four ideas run through the report:

- **AI exposure** — how much of the day-to-day tasks AI can already perform.
- **Automation pressure** — how likely those tasks are to be automated in practice.
- **AI augmentation** — where AI makes the worker faster rather than redundant.
- **Job displacement risk** — the combined pressure on the *number* of jobs.

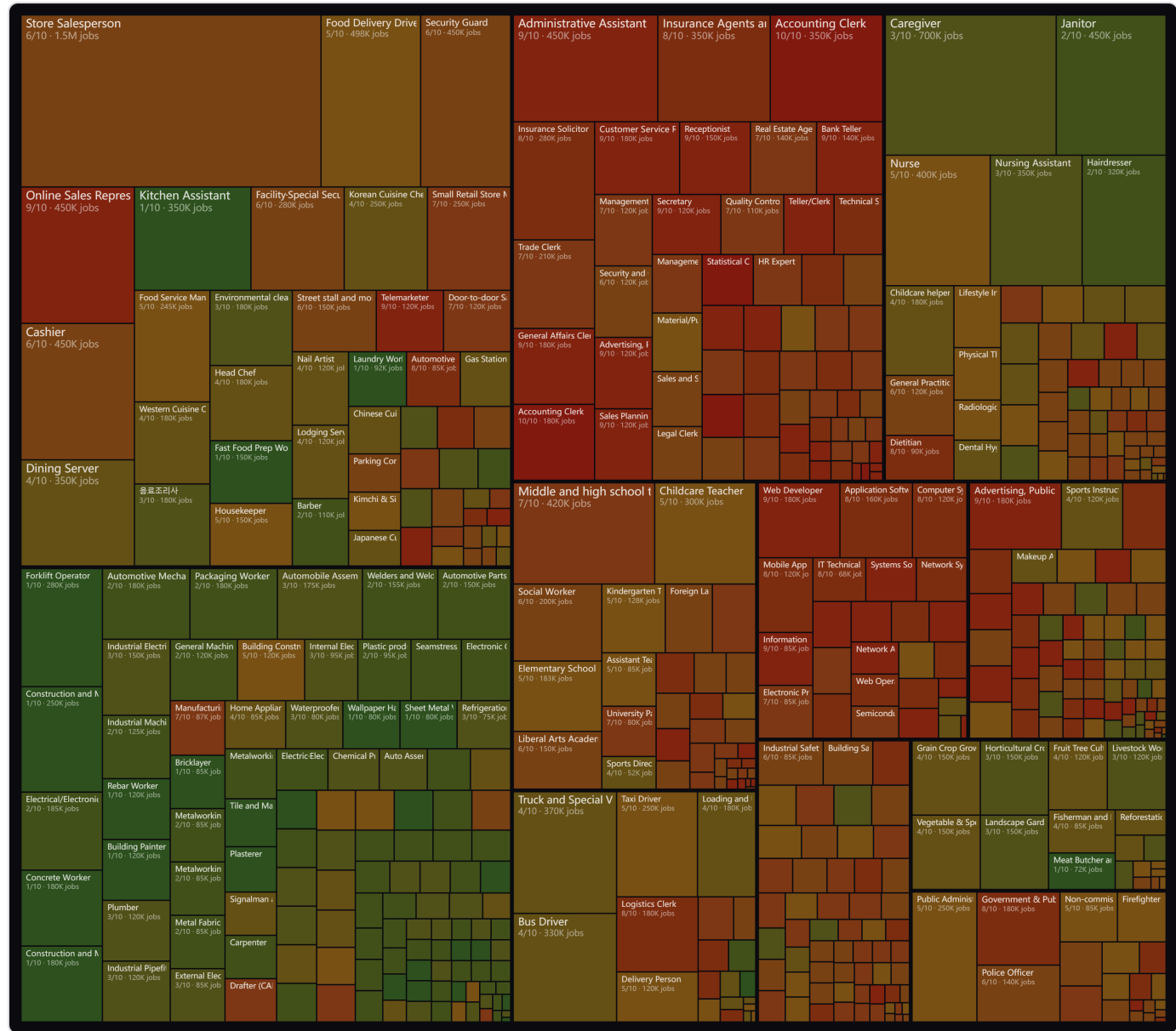
A risk score is not a probability that a job disappears. It is a composite of the occupation's task structure, how automatable those tasks are, workforce demand, and the human moat. High exposure often means AI *augments* the role, not that it vanishes.

South Korea labour-market snapshot

Occupations analysed	536
Workforce covered	33.3M
Median AI exposure	57/100
High-risk occupations	28%
High-risk workforce	26%
Data year	2025

South Korea has a median AI exposure of 57/100. High-exposure work is concentrated in it & digital and adjacent groups, while trades & construction stays most resilient.

Store Salesperson 6/10 - 1.5M jobs	Food Delivery Drive 5/10 - 495K jobs	Security Guard 6/10 - 450K jobs	Administrative Assistant 9/10 - 450K jobs	Insurance Agents and 8/10 - 350K jobs	Accounting Clerk 10/10 - 350K jobs	Caregiver 3/10 - 700K jobs	Janitor 2/10 - 450K jobs
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■ Low exposure (<40) ■ Medium (40–69) ■ High (70+)

Three things this map shows

- The largest tiles — IT & Digital and related groups — carry above-median exposure.
- 26% of employment sits in the high-exposure (red) band.
- Trades & Construction forms the biggest low-exposure (green) cluster.

Explore the interactive version at <https://aijobriskmap.com/country/south-korea/>.

Risk distribution

Two views tell different stories: how risk spreads across *occupations*, and across *people employed*.

By occupation count

High	28%
Medium	41%
Low	30%

By workforce

High	26%
Medium	37%
Low	37%

Median exposure 57/100 · quartiles Q1 35 / Q3 70. Occupation-count and workforce shares differ because high-employment jobs are not evenly spread across risk bands.

Highest-risk occupations

Ranked by AI task exposure. The right column shows tasks AI is most likely to take over.

#	Occupation	Risk	Workforce	Main exposed tasks
1	Stenographer	96	4,300	Simple minutes writing; Speech recording in general offices
2	Accounting Clerk	95	350,000	Simple journal entry; Payroll automation
3	Accounting Clerk	95	180,000	Simple journal entry; Payroll automation
4	Statistical Clerk	95	76,000	Basic statistical table creation; Survey coding
5	Securities Clerk	95	52,000	Execution of stock and bond trades; Account balance inquiry and reconciliation
6	Investment Analyst	94	25,000	Basic financial statement analysis; Data aggregation and report writing
7	Credit Analyst	94	12,000	Automatic entry of financial statements and basic ratio calculation; Statistical modeling based on historical default data
8	Securities Dealer	94	3,200	Order execution and trade settlement; Basic chart analysis
9	Records Manager	94	4,500	Basic Classification and Indexing; Automated Metadata Generation
10	Web Designer	93	45,000	Banner Image Production; Basic Template Design
11	UX/UI Designer	93	35,000	Automatic Wireframe Generation; Basic UI Template Design
12	Online Sales Representative	93	450,000	Automated customer inquiry responses; Inventory management data entry
13	Telemarketer	93	120,000	Guidance on initial consultation scripts; Simple order processing
14	Web Developer	93	180,000	Basic CRUD code writing; Writing unit tests
15	Translator	92	45,000	Simple sentence translation; Repetitive technical document translation
16	Interpreter	92	25,000	Simple repetitive interpretation (e.g., announcement broadcasting); Structured meeting interpretation (e.g., quarterly reports)
17	Arts, Design, and Broadcasting Manager	92	6,500	Schedule Management and Coordination; Budget Execution Report Writing
18	Linguistics Researcher	92	1,200	Acoustic Analysis and Statistical Processing; Language Corpus Transcription

Most AI-resilient occupations

Lower task exposure and a stronger human moat. Resilient, not "AI-proof".

Occupation	Risk	Workforce	Human moat
Building Painter	6	120,000	Complex curved/decorative painting; Immediate judgment based on site conditions
Bricklayer	6	85,000	Ability to handle complex on-site situations; Proficiency in manual finishing
Wallpaper Hanger	6	80,000	Field adaptability and manual dexterity; Ability to handle irregular surfaces
Kitchen Assistant	7	350,000	Experiential judgment on hygiene and safety; Customer response ability
Concrete Worker	7	180,000	Site judgment skills; Skilled hand techniques
Rebar Worker	7	120,000	On-site adaptability and experience-based judgment; Physical strength and dexterity
Tile and Marble Installer	7	72,000	On-site intuition; Manual finishing quality
Steel Structure Fabricator and Erector	8	45,000	Site Adaptability; Manual Work on Non-standard Structures
Forklift Operator	9	280,000	On-site situation judgment ability; Safety management experience
Cement and Mineral Product Production Machine Operator	10	18,000	Fault diagnosis and repair; Safety management and emergency response
Ore and Stone Product Production Machine Operator	10	12,000	Sense for judging stone texture and grain; Ability to respond to unexpected equipment breakdowns
Blasters and Stone Cutters	10	8,500	On-site safety judgment; Work in irregular environments
Construction Stonemason	10	4,000	Traditional handcraft skills; Cultural heritage restoration know-how
Deckhand	10	12,000	Emergency situation assessment and response; Experience in complex maritime environments
Meat Butcher and Slaughterhouse Worker	12	72,000	Advanced Deboning Skills and Hand Craftsmanship; Species-specific Expertise
Plasterer	12	68,000	On-site adaptability; Fingertip feel
Painter (Spray Painter)	12	28,000	Complex painting tasks requiring fine adjustments; Flexible response to on-site conditions
Fast Food Prep Worker	13	150,000	Customer service; Emergency response

Risk by occupational group

Group	Median risk	High-risk %	Workforce
IT & Digital	84	81%	1.6M
Business, Finance & Legal	80	75%	5.0M
Education & Community	65	49%	2.2M
Engineering & Infrastructure	64	33%	1.3M
Creative, Media & Personal Services	62	33%	1.5M
Government & Public Sector	60	25%	978,900
Healthcare & Care	55	10%	3.8M
Hospitality, Retail & Tourism	53	20%	7.8M
Transport, Logistics & Mining	47	20%	1.6M
Agriculture & Environment	38	0%	1.1M
Trades & Construction	21	0%	6.5M

Tasks AI is likely to automate

Representative automatable tasks drawn from the most-exposed occupations. Tasks are an occupation-level characteristic, shared across countries.

Stenographer

Accounting Clerk

Accounting Clerk

Statistical Clerk

Securities Clerk

Investment Analyst

Credit Analyst

Securities Dealer

Records Manager

Web Designer

Human advantages

What still needs people, even in the most-exposed occupations — the balance to the risk numbers above.

Stenographer

Accounting Clerk

Accounting Clerk

Statistical Clerk

Securities Clerk

Investment Analyst

Credit Analyst

Securities Dealer

Records Manager

Web Designer

Career transition opportunities

Adjacent, more-resilient roles for people in exposed occupations. Detailed transition plans live on the occupation pages.

Adjacent-role transition mapping is not yet available for South Korea. See each occupation page for individual guidance.

What workers can do

Next 30 days

- Map which of your weekly tasks are most exposed to AI.
- Start using an AI assistant on one recurring task and measure the time saved.

Next 6 months

- Shift effort toward client-facing, judgement and accountability work.
- Earn a recognised credential in your field or an adjacent one.

Next 2 years

- Move toward an adjacent, more-resilient role (see chapter 13).
- Build a verifiable portfolio of outcomes AI cannot claim on its own.

Outlook & scenarios

Rather than a single prediction, we model three AI-adoption scenarios for job displacement by 2030 across South Korea's covered workforce.

CONSERVATIVE 592,542 2% of workforce	BASELINE 1,185,077 4% of workforce	ACCELERATED 2,607,172 8% of workforce
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Scenario estimates, not forecasts. They express how much of the theoretically-automatable exposure converts to job loss under slow, central and fast adoption — the true path depends on policy, investment and job creation this figure does not net out.

Methodology

- **AI exposure** — generative-AI task-exposure percentile (ILO Working Paper 140, calibrated with Eloundou et al.), mapped to occupations.
- **Occupation classification** — ISCO-08.
- **Workforce & pay** — South Korea official statistics office; official pay not published at this granularity for South Korea — pay-based sections are omitted.
- **Displacement scenarios** — workforce × exposure × automation share × realisation rate (low/mid/high).
- **Tasks, human moat & adjacent roles** — occupation-level AI analysis, shared across countries by occupation code.
- **Cross-country comparability** — classification and pay years differ by country; compare within a country first.

Version 2026.1 · missing values are left blank rather than imputed.

Sources & citation

- South Korea official statistics office
- ILO Working Paper 140 — Generative AI and Jobs: A Refined Global Index of Occupational Exposure.
- Eloundou et al. (2023) — GPTs are GPTs: labor-market impact potential of LLMs. arxiv.org/abs/2303.10130

Suggested citation

AI Job Risk Map (2026). AI Job Risk Report: South Korea 2026. <https://aijobriskmap.com/reports/south-korea/>

Appendix

The full occupation-level dataset for all countries — one row per occupation with exposure, pay, workforce and displacement scenarios — is available for download:

<https://aijobriskmap.com/dataset.csv> (CSV, CC BY 4.0)

Risk bands

- High: exposure 70–100
- Medium: 40–69
- Low: 0–39

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