

S. Korea most Internet-active in G20

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South Koreans use the Internet more than citizens of any of the other Group of 20 major economies, according to a recent publication from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

The data for people aged 16-74 showed that 77 percent of South Koreans were Internet users in 2008. Canada ranked second with 73 percent, followed by the U.S. with 72 percent and Japan with 69 percent.

The figures for Canada and Japan were recorded in 2007 while the U.S. figure was recorded in 2008.

The lowest percentages of Internet users were found in South Africa and India. Only 7 percent of people in both countries used the Internet in 2007. The world's average was 21 percent while the EU average was 64 percent.

Eurostat released the data on Oct. 20 to mark the **World Statistics Day**. The publication, titled "The EU in the World A Statistical Portrait," covered an array of social economic issues such as infant mortality and life expectancy.

In terms of infant mortality per 1,000 live births based on 2005-2010 estimates, South Korea ranked second in the G20 with 4.4 while Japan ranked first with 3.2.

India and South Africa had the highest mortality rates with 54.6 and 49.1, respectively. The world average is 47.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, while the EU average is 4.5.

In the category of life expectancy at birth based on 2005-2010 estimates, the highest life expectancies among the non-EU G20 countries were found in Japan with 82.7 years, Australia with 81.5 years and Canada with 80.7 years. The lowest was found in South Africa with 51.6 years, India with 63.5 years and Russia with 66.5 years.

Life expectancy in Korea was 79.4 years, higher than the EU average of 79.2 years. The world's average life expectancy was 67.6 years.

The publication also showed that the most populous countries were China with 1.35 billion inhabitants, or 20 percent of the world population. India ranked second with 1.21 billion people, followed by the U.S. with 320 million people and Indonesia with 230 million people. The world's total population in 2010 was 6.9 billion.

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