

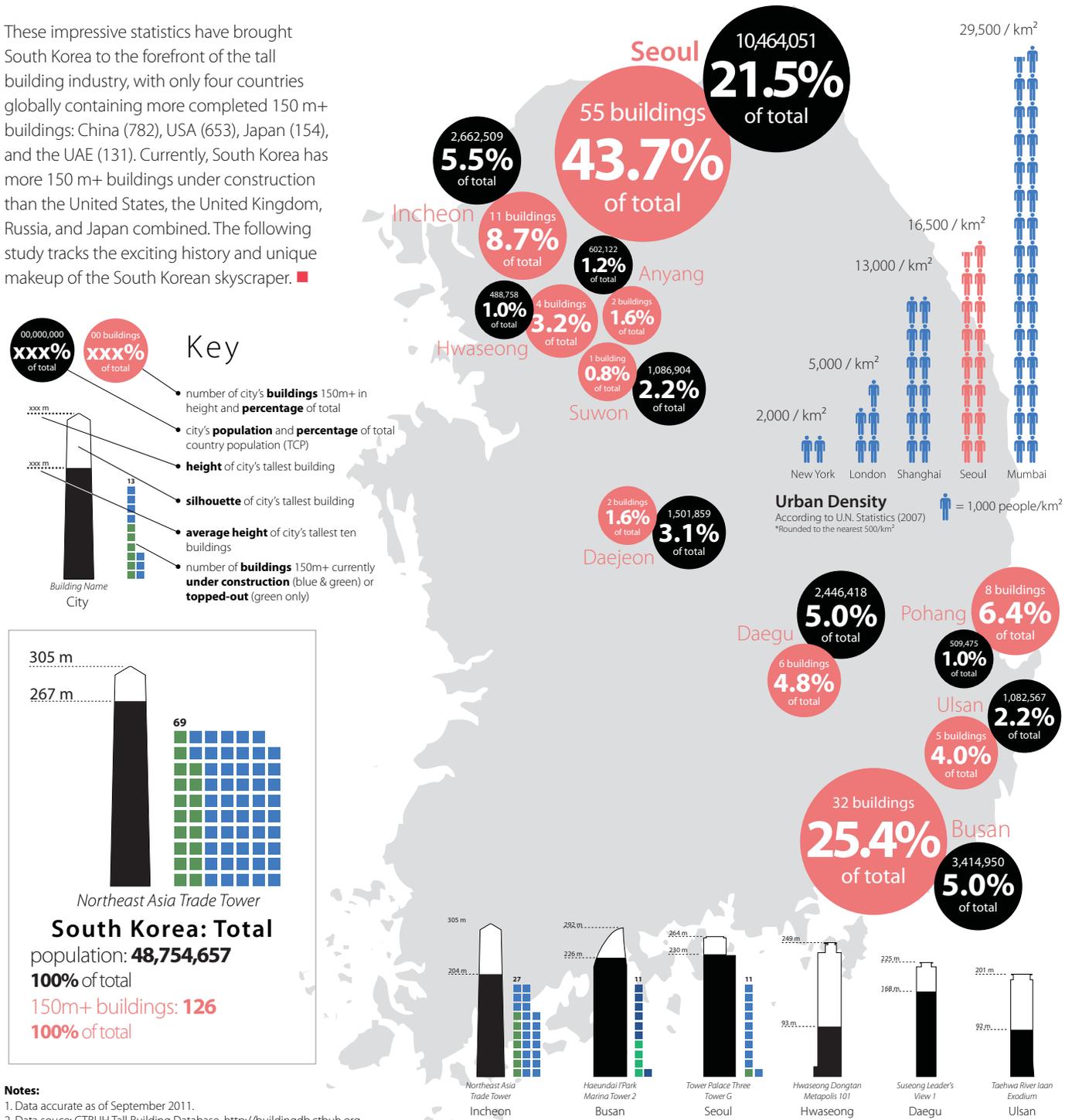
Tall Buildings in Numbers

South Korea: Past, Present, and Future

By Nathaniel Hollister, Seth Ellsworth, and Antony Wood

As of the year 2000, there were only nine buildings 150 meters or taller in all of South Korea. Just twelve years later, there are now 124 buildings 150+ meters in height completed, with another 13 scheduled to complete by the end of this year. That amounts to an incredible 1,500% increase in just over a decade. This dramatic increase has accelerated even further in the most recent years, with roughly 50% of the total 150m+ buildings completed in the past three years alone and seven of the country's future ten tallest buildings currently under construction.

These impressive statistics have brought South Korea to the forefront of the tall building industry, with only four countries globally containing more completed 150 m+ buildings: China (782), USA (653), Japan (154), and the UAE (131). Currently, South Korea has more 150 m+ buildings under construction than the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, and Japan combined. The following study tracks the exciting history and unique makeup of the South Korean skyscraper. ■

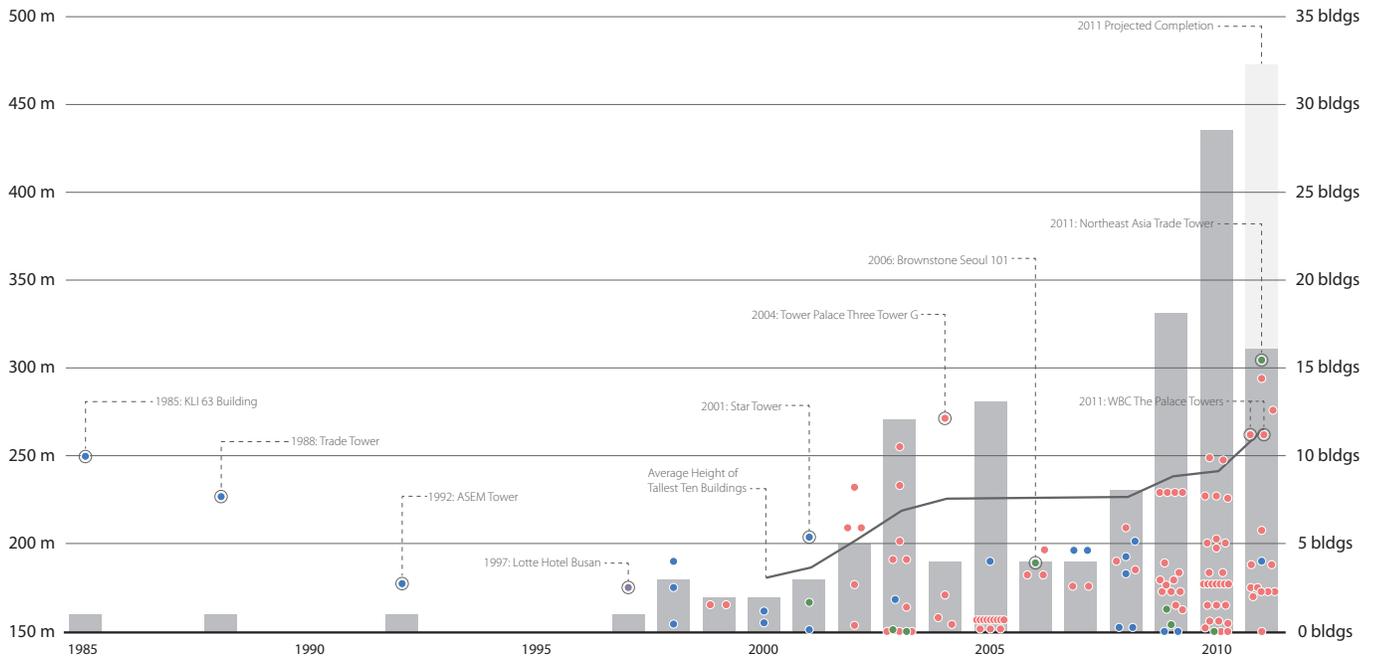


Notes:
 1. Data accurate as of September 2011.
 2. Data source: CTBUH Tall Building Database, <http://buildingdb.ctbuh.org>
 3. Population data: U.N. (2010), <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic>; Republic of Korea (2010), <http://kostat.go.kr/eng>

Timeline of South Korean Skyscraper Completion

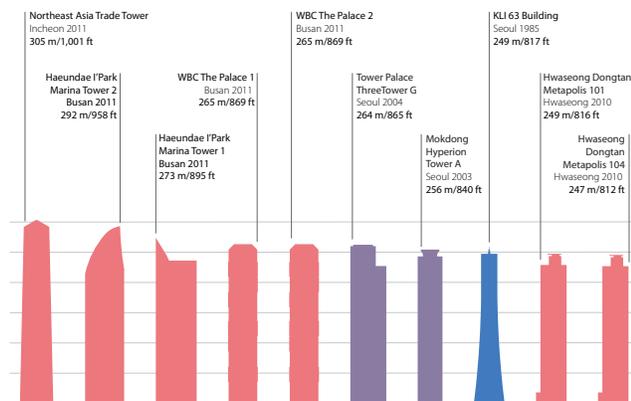
Dots represent building type, completion year and height; bars represent number of buildings completed annually; the line represents the average height of the tallest ten buildings each year

- Office
- Hotel
- Residential
- Mixed-use



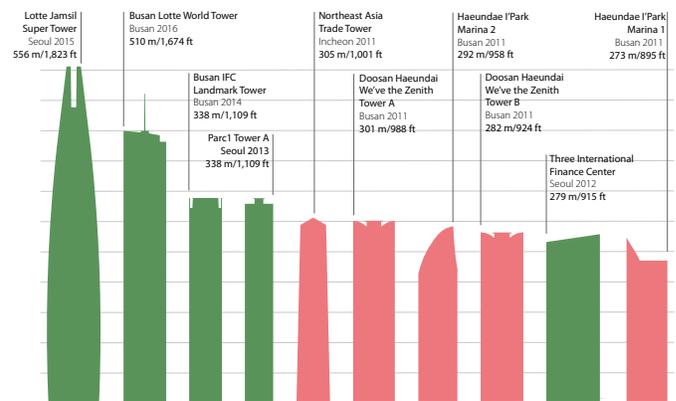
Tallest Ten: Sept 2011 Tallest: 305 meters Average: 267 meters

- 1985–1999
- 2000–2005
- 2006–2011



Tallest Ten: 2016 Tallest: 556 meters Average: 347 meters

- 2006–2011
- 2012–2016



The KLI 63 Building was the first building over 150 meters tall in South Korea. Completed in 1985 at a height of 249 meters, it marked the beginning of Korea as a tall building nation. Today, the building is still the tallest office tower in Korea, and the 6th tallest building overall.

