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.

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.
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.

With 48 buildings over 150 meters currently under construction, South Korea stands as the third most active tall building country in the world, behind China (242) and the U.A.E. (57).

By the end of 2008, there were a total of 64 buildings over 150 meters completed in South Korea. Since the start of 2009, an additional 60 have been completed. That's almost 50% of Korea's total tall buildings in less than three years.