

Poll on the ROK-U.S. Investment and Shipbuilding Agreement

The Reform Institute · Poll No. 2026-14 · Fielded 16 August 2026 · National sample of 1,006 adults aged 18 and over

Selected Results

A nationwide automated telephone survey of 1,006 adults found opinion divided on the Korea–US investment and shipbuilding agreement: 36.6% called it a good agreement and 35.4% a bad one, a 1.2-point gap within the survey’s margin of error. By contrast, 68.4% said the trade-negotiation details should be disclosed, while 49.2% favored renegotiating the terms and timing. Results are weighted estimates.

Key Findings

- 36.6% - called the agreement good
- 68.4% - said negotiation details should be disclosed
- 49.2% - favored renegotiating terms and timing

1. Survey Overview

Commissioned by	The Reform Institute (self-commissioned)
Conducted by	The Reform Institute
Field period	15 August 2026 to 16 August 2026
Population	Adults aged 18 and over throughout the Republic of Korea
Method	Automated telephone interviews using mobile random-digit dialing
Sample	1,006 completed interviews
Sampling frame	100% mobile RDD
Margin of error	±3.2 percentage points (weighted)
Response rate	1.75%
Contact rate	9.07%
Weighting	RIM weighting by sex, age and region using Ministry of the Interior and Safety resident-registration population data for July 2026

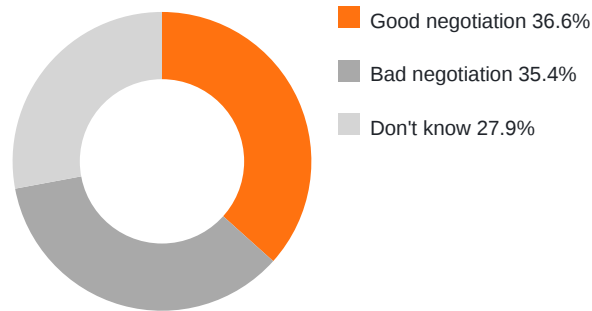
2. Respondent Profile

Group	Completed (n)	%	Weighted base (n)	%	Factor
Total	1,006	100.0	1,006	100.0	1.00
Sex					
Male	573	57.0	498.0	49.5	0.87
Female	433	43.0	508.0	50.5	1.17
Age					
18-29	128	12.7	147.0	14.6	1.15
30s	133	13.2	151.0	15.0	1.14
40s	169	16.8	170.0	16.9	1.01
50s	210	20.9	194.0	19.3	0.92
60s	200	19.9	180.0	17.9	0.90
70 and over	166	16.5	164.0	16.3	0.99
Region					
Seoul	209	20.8	187.0	18.6	0.89
Incheon-Gyeonggi	322	32.0	327.0	32.5	1.02
Daejeon-Sejong-Chungcheong	104	10.3	109.0	10.8	1.05
Gwangju-Jeolla	98	9.7	96.0	9.6	0.98
Daegu-Gyeongbuk	91	9.0	96.0	9.5	1.05
Busan-Ulsan-Gyeongnam	145	14.4	148.0	14.7	1.02
Gangwon-Jeju	37	3.7	43.0	4.3	1.16

3. Q1 - Assessment of the agreement

Last year, the Republic of Korea and the United States agreed on a \$350 billion investment and shipbuilding cooperation plan in the United States. What do you think of this agreement?

Good negotiation: 36.6%



Response	Weighted %
Good negotiation	36.6
Bad negotiation	35.4
Don't know	27.9

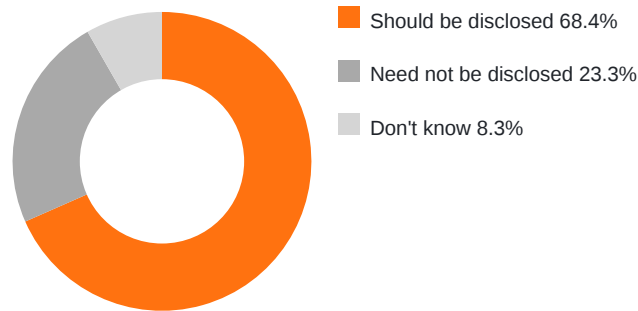
By respondent characteristics (row %, weighted)

Group	n	Good negotiation	Bad negotiation	Don't know
Sex				
Male	498	39.0	37.7	23.3
Female	508	34.3	33.2	32.5
Age				
18-29	147	43.8	38.8	17.4
30s	151	31.2	39.0	29.8
40s	170	53.1	31.6	15.3
50s	194	38.4	33.4	28.3
60s	180	27.9	37.5	34.5
70 and over	164	25.6	33.3	41.1
Region				
Seoul	187	37.5	34.2	28.2
Incheon-Gyeonggi	327	35.8	37.7	26.5
Daejeon-Sejong-Chungcheong	109	41.1	37.4	21.5
Gwangju-Jeolla	96	35.9	27.1	37.0
Daegu-Gyeongbuk	96	35.8	38.2	25.9
Busan-Ulsan-Gyeongnam	148	37.0	33.8	29.1
Gangwon-Jeju	43	29.9	36.7	33.4

4. Q2 - Disclosure of negotiation details

The government has not disclosed some specific parts of its discussions with the United States. What do you think about disclosing the details of the trade negotiations?

Should be disclosed: 68.4%



Response	Weighted %
Should be disclosed	68.4
Need not be disclosed	23.3
Don't know	8.3

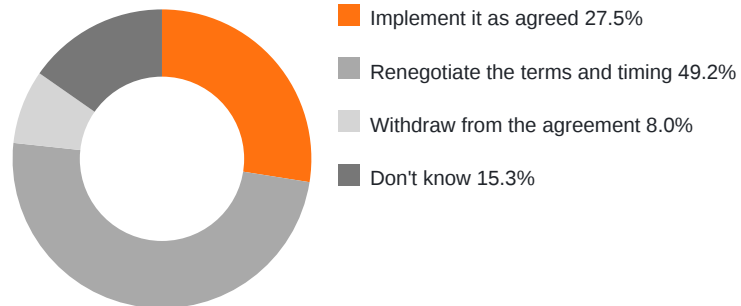
By respondent characteristics (row %, weighted)

Group	n	Should be disclosed	Need not be disclosed	Don't know
Sex				
Male	498	73.5	19.3	7.1
Female	508	63.4	27.2	9.4
Age				
18-29	147	65.1	26.4	8.5
30s	151	80.7	13.6	5.7
40s	170	66.3	29.6	4.1
50s	194	62.0	29.2	8.7
60s	180	72.7	22.2	5.1
70 and over	164	65.0	17.2	17.8
Region				
Seoul	187	65.3	26.1	8.6
Incheon-Gyeonggi	327	70.3	22.5	7.2
Daejeon-Sejong-Chungcheong	109	76.3	17.3	6.3
Gwangju-Jeolla	96	54.6	32.1	13.4
Daegu-Gyeongbuk	96	73.3	13.9	12.8
Busan-Ulsan-Gyeongnam	148	67.2	26.8	6.0
Gangwon-Jeju	43	71.4	21.9	6.7

5. Q3 - What should happen next

What do you think should be done with this agreement going forward?

Renegotiate the terms and timing: 49.2%



Response	Weighted %
Implement it as agreed	27.5
Renegotiate the terms and timing	49.2
Withdraw from the agreement	8.0
Don't know	15.3

By respondent characteristics (row %, weighted)

Group	n	Implement it as agreed	Renegotiate the terms and timing	Withdraw from the agreement	Don't know
Sex					
Male	498	31.2	47.1	7.8	13.9
Female	508	23.9	51.4	8.2	16.6
Age					
18-29	147	35.4	43.7	8.2	12.7
30s	151	31.7	45.9	7.9	14.5
40s	170	30.4	46.0	7.9	15.7
50s	194	23.6	56.8	7.6	12.0
60s	180	24.2	56.5	7.0	12.3
70 and over	164	21.7	43.6	9.6	25.1
Region					
Seoul	187	29.9	48.3	7.0	14.8
Incheon-Gyeonggi	327	28.4	48.8	8.5	14.4
Daejeon-Sejong-Chungcheong	109	25.5	50.8	9.9	13.9
Gwangju-Jeolla	96	26.9	49.7	3.5	19.9
Daegu-Gyeongbuk	96	20.2	52.9	10.1	16.7
Busan-Ulsan-Gyeongnam	148	29.3	46.5	8.9	15.3
Gangwon-Jeju	43	26.8	52.4	6.2	14.6

6. Interpretation and Notes

A nationwide automated telephone survey of 1,006 adults found opinion divided on the Korea–US investment and shipbuilding agreement: 36.6% called it a good agreement and 35.4% a bad one, a 1.2-point gap within the survey's margin of error. By contrast, 68.4% said the trade-negotiation details should be disclosed, while 49.2% favored renegotiating the terms and timing. Results are weighted estimates.

The comparisons in this report are descriptive. They do not establish causal direction. Subgroup estimates have larger sampling errors than estimates for the full sample.

Appendix. Notes on Method

All reported percentages and subgroup tables are weighted. RIM weighting (raking) was applied by sex, age and region using Ministry of the Interior and Safety resident-registration population data. Subgroup estimates carry larger sampling errors and should be interpreted cautiously. Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

Questionnaire

Q1. Last year, the Republic of Korea and the United States agreed on a \$350 billion investment and shipbuilding cooperation plan in the United States. What do you think of this agreement? Response options: Good negotiation; Bad negotiation; Don't know.

Q2. The government has not disclosed some specific parts of its discussions with the United States. What do you think about disclosing the details of the trade negotiations? Response options: Should be disclosed; Need not be disclosed; Don't know.

Q3. What do you think should be done with this agreement going forward? Response options: Implement it as agreed; Renegotiate the terms and timing; Withdraw from the agreement; Don't know.

The Reform Institute is the policy research institute of the Reform Party in the Republic of Korea. This survey was self-commissioned and is released under CC BY 4.0.

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