MARKET ANALYSIS:
SOUTH KOREA

Jani Toivanen
Advisor / Food & Tourism
Business Finland Korea
+82 10 7265 3164
jani.toivanen@businessfinland.fi
안녕하세요.
Annyeong Haseyo.

==

Hello.
(polite)
TABLE OF CONTENTS

[1] COUNTRY OVERVIEW
[2] CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR
[3] DOING BUSINESS IN KOREA
[4] FOOD & BEVERAGE MARKET
[5] FOOD REGULATION
[6] MARKET ENTRY
[7] FOOD FROM FINLAND IN KOREA
[8] Q&A
1 - COUNTRY OVERVIEW
1.1 Basic Facts

**POPULATION**
- 51 million

**CAPITAL**
- Seoul
  - Population: approx. 10 million
  - Capital area 25 million

**NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES**
- China, Japan, North Korea

**CURRENCY**
- Korean Won (KRW)
  - 1 EUR = 1,260 KRW (as of Dec 4, 2018)

**BUSINESS LANGUAGES**
- Korean, English

---

**17 Administrative Areas**
**7 Major Metropolitan Cities**

Sources: Invest Korea
1 - COUNTRY OVERVIEW
1.2 History, Facts & Figures

**KEY FACTS**

- One of the longest life expectancies in the world
- **Rapidly aging society** (median age 42.6)
- Extremely low fertility rate (0.96) → population to start decreasing in near future
- 82% of population living in urban areas, and nearly 50% in the capital region
- **Single-person households** increasing significantly, now 30% of all households
- Highest smartphone ownership rate in the world (95% of population), and internet penetration rate (96%)

Sources: Euromonitor International
1 - COUNTRY OVERVIEW
1.2 History, Facts & Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dynastic Period</th>
<th>Colonial Period</th>
<th>Korean War</th>
<th>Modern Era - Republic of Korea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>918 – 1392 Goryeo Dynasty</td>
<td>1392 – 1897 Joseon Dynasty</td>
<td>1897 – 1910 Korean Empire</td>
<td>1948 – Present Republic of Korea (South Korea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1231 Mongol Invasions of Korea</td>
<td>1592 Japanese Invasion; Korea becomes Vassal State to Qing China</td>
<td>1905 Korea becomes Protectorate of Japan</td>
<td>1945 Surrender of Japan; Independence of Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1396 Capital Moved to Hanyang (Seoul)</td>
<td>1627-1636 Manchu Invasion; Korea becomes Vassal State to Qing China</td>
<td>1910 Provisional Government Established in Shanghai</td>
<td>1950 - 1953 Korean War; Division to South and North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1396</td>
<td>1895 End of Vassal State Status</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td>1961 Military Coup; Military Dictatorship Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1910 Annexation by Imperial Japan</td>
<td></td>
<td>1987 First Free Elections; Beginning of Democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1988 Seoul Summer Olympics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2016 Impeachment of President Park Geun-Hye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sources: Wikipedia; Britannica</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 - COUNTRY OVERVIEW
1.2 History, Facts & Figures

Miracle on the Han River
• Started in 1961 when the military dictatorship channeled huge amounts of state aid and government-backed loans to selected companies
• Fast-tracked the economic growth through state and business collaboration and successful economic policies

Dominance of Family-owned Conglomerates (aka Chaebols)
• Eg. Samsung, Hyundai, LG, SK, Lotte, Daewoo
• Samsung Group alone accounts for nearly 20% of Korean GDP
• Five biggest Chaebols account for 50% of Korean Stock Index
• The family members also own many other large companies that have separated from the conglomerates

Corruption Scandals
• While Chaebols helped make Korea’s economy a success story, they are also considered politically too powerful and have been involved in many government corruption scandals in the recent years
[2] CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR
2 – CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR

2.1 Current General Trends

**Rapid Growth of Mobile Purchasing**
Buying groceries via mobile apps with home delivery has become the standard as people look for convenience.

Over 60% of internet purchases are done via mobile devices, while nearly all of the adult population own a smartphone.

**Rise of Single-person Households**
Nearly 30% of Korean households are now single-person households with generally higher than average disposable income. Share expected to increase rapidly with aging population and extremely low birth rate.

**Disappearing Personal Interaction**
Rapidly spreading technology is eliminating personal interaction from shopping.

Ordering food or drinks at a restaurant, grocery shop counters, movie theaters, many things can now be done with machines or internet without human interaction.

**Demand for Work-Life Balance**
Korea has long been infamous as the country with longest working hours among OECD countries.

However, achieving better work-life balance has become one of the biggest trends in recent years and this led to a government policy to restrict maximum work hours.

Sources: Euromonitor International
2 – CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR

2.2 Characteristics of a Korean Consumer – Products

**Importance of Aesthetics**

Obsession with beauty and how things look visually.

First impression and “Instagrammability” is extremely important. Brand name products show success and class.

**Service Expectations**

Customer service in Korea is world-class level, and consumers expect customer service to answer and fix any problems they have without having to wait.

The Korean after-sales service is a major advantage over foreign companies, especially for electronics.

**High Reliance on Word-of-Mouth & Idol Marketing**

Korean consumers are highly influenced by trends and word-of-mouth from friends, as well as product or restaurant reviews, blogs, social media, and television.

Usage of celebrities and influencers in marketing has strong effect.

**Highly Informed & Tech-savvy**

Tech-savvy Korean consumers typically research products online, especially through social media, before shopping and enjoy being well informed when purchasing a product.

Product ingredients and quality are important factors.

*Sources: Trend Korea 2019; Yonhap News*
2 – CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR
2.2 Characteristics of a Korean Consumer - Dining

Samsisekki – “3 hot meals a day”
Most Koreans follow the traditional Samsisekki way of eating 3 similar sized meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) a day, which is considered to be the healthiest way to live.

Eating Outside > Home-cooking
Lately Koreans tend to eat meals outside more often than home-cooking due to high food ingredient costs, busy lifestyles, and convenience. 47% of food expenditure was spent on dining outside by Korean households in 2017.

Promised Land of Delivery Service
As an alternative to eating outside, ordering restaurant food with home delivery is extremely popular. Nearly all food types can be ordered with fast inexpensive home delivery.

Sources: Euromonitor International; Trend Korea 2019
2 – CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR

2.2 Characteristics of a Korean Consumer

An average Korean consumer:

- Works on average 50 hours per week
- Buys 10 cups of coffee per week (bought from a coffee shop)
- Drinks 7 bottles of beer per week, or 14 shots of soju per week (most hard liquor consumption in the world)
- Eats 74 servings of ramen noodles per year (most in the world)
- Use more beauty products daily than any other country in the world (largest market in the world for men’s cosmetics)
- Uses credit card for transactions most in the world

Sources: Euromonitor International; Job Korea; Trend Korea 2019; National Tax Service
[3]

DOING BUSINESS IN KOREA
3 – DOING BUSINESS IN KOREA

3.1 Characteristics

Confucian Roots

- Even modern Korean society is influenced by the Confucian philosophy
- Hierarchical society – age, ranks, titles
- Importance of building personal relationships and network → No cold-calls, meetings through 3rd party acquaintances
- Strict manners and etiquette

Dynamic and fast-moving business culture – keywords:

- Straightforward
- Proceeding Fast “Balli Balli Culture”
  - Prompt responses & follow-up expected
- Details are important
- Trust is the Key
- Long-term Partnership (Exclusivity)
- Price sensitive

Sources: Enterprise Ireland
3 – DOING BUSINESS IN KOREA

3.2 Business Manners

**Basic Manners**

- Bowing slightly
- Addressing with proper professional titles when possible
- Know the hierarchical order
- Handshake with men, bow with females
- Giving and receiving with two hands

**Business Cards**

- Representation of the person - Must have!
- Exchanged as the first greeting, examine thoroughly
- Use two hands and treat with care
- Placed on table during meeting, not pocket

**Business Attire**

- More formal than western countries in general
- **Males:** Dark-colored suits are the norm (tie optional), juniors dress more formal
- **Females:** Sleeveless tops, short skirts, and low necklines should be avoided

**Business Gifts**

- Not a must, but common and considered a good manner
- Modest value (esp. Media, public organizations)
- Especially gifts from Finland recommended
- Given at the end of the meeting to person of highest rank

**Business Meetings**

- Make appointments well in advance
- Punctuality
- Don’t expect decisions to be made during meetings
- Facts and figures appreciated

**Language**

- English speaking level generally average
- Often junior employees do the translating for senior executives
- Talk simple, short, and slow to be clear
- Counter-part might not show it if they didn’t understand

**Hospitality**

- Offering lunch or dinner with drinks to foreign partners is considered good manners
- Avoid small-talk about sensitive topics (politics, religion, Japan)
- Don’t be surprised by highly personal questions

*Sources: Enterprise Ireland*
FOOD & BEVERAGE MARKET

PK Market
4 – FOOD & BEVERAGE MARKET

4.1 Current Food Trends

Convenience Foods
The hottest food trends in 2018 have been related to so-called convenience foods.

These are inexpensive, but decent quality products easily available at all convenience stores, enjoyed as a substitute for expensive café or restaurant foods.

HMR Foods
Korean home meal replacement product market has grown extremely fast in the past few years.

Consumers are looking to decrease costs of eating outside, but maintaining the level of convenience by not having to cook a full meal from a scratch. HMR market size is expected to double to 10 billion dollars by 2023.

Western-style Breakfast
Despite the prevalence of the traditional way of eating 3 hot meals a day, more and more younger people are switching to the "western-style" breakfast, eating cereals and yoghurts.

Sales of cereals, granola, mueslis, oatmeals, and yoghurts are expected to keep increasing with the decreasing of home-cooking.

Eat & Drink Alone
In the past, eating and drinking outside alone used to be considered abnormal.

With the increase of 1-person households, more and more restaurants & bars cater to singles. This has even led to coining popular terms called Hon-bab, Hon-sul.

Sources: Euromonitor International; Trend Korea 2019
## 4 – FOOD & BEVERAGE MARKET

### 4.2 F&B Retailing Channels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retailer Type</th>
<th>Recommended Product Types</th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Import Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Convenience Stores** | Snacks and beverages, mild alcohols, coffee | • Fast growing channel  
• Accessibility | • High costs for shelf space (rental system)  
• Customers mainly looking for convenient and inexpensive products | Importer                     |
| **Hypermarkets**    | All product types                              | • Largest retail channel and customer base     | • Hard to stand out                                                      | Importer (90%) Direct (10%) |
| **Supermarkets**    | Snacks and beverages, alcohols, HMR, dairy    | • Large customer base                          | • Mainly sells inexpensive domestic products  
• Supermarket customers usually not looking for premium import products | Importer (90%) Direct (10%) |
| **Department Stores** | All product types (mainly premium)             | • Boost for product image  
• Customer purchasing power | • Declining sales trend                         | Importer (90%) Direct (10%) |
| **Internet Retail**  | All product types (except alcohol)             | • Low-cost, easy to start  
• Fastest growing channel  
• Many channels to utilize | • Marketing required to stand out               | Importer                     |
| **TV Homeshopping**  | Premium products, eg. Health foods, functional foods | • Boost for product image  
• Chance to explain product in detail | • Costs for production                         | Importer                     |
4 – FOOD & BEVERAGE MARKET

4.2 F&B Retailing Channels – Convenience Stores

01 Market dominated by the established major franchises, emart24 being the newest and fastest growing addition

02 High growth rates, accelerated by increasing number of single-person households and young customers looking for convenience

03 Innovative convenience products, such as lunchboxes, beverages and desserts, act as main sales generators

04 Recent concept reforms to include dine-in cafés, as well as postal and banking services increased attractiveness for consumers

05 Constantly reforming and launching new innovative products – forecast to keep up fast growth rate in the future

Key Players in the Market
(by brand share of convenience stores in 2018)

- GS25 (GS Holdings Corp) 35.5% 13,709 outlets
- CU (BGF Retail) 32.8% 13,591 outlets
- 7-Eleven (Seven & I Holdings) 18.6% 9,646 outlets
- Ministop (AEON Group) 6.4% 2,525 outlets
- Emart24 (Shinsegae Group) 5.6% 3,580 outlets

Sources: Euromonitor International; Korea Statistical Information Service KOSIS
4 – FOOD & BEVERAGE MARKET
4.2 F&B Retailing Channels – Hypermarkets

01 Market dominated by 3 large retail giants, both online and offline

02 The most popular form of grocery retail markets with slow, but steady growth

03 Recent trends are changing hypermarket concepts; outlets split into “discount”, “normal”, and “premium” –level hypermarkets

04 Hypermarkets are trying to innovate with new shop-in-shop concepts, in-store restaurants, and enhanced customer experience

Key Players in the Market
(by brand share of hypermarkets in 2018)

- **Emart (Shinsegae Group)**
  - 44% 157 outlets

- **Homeplus (Homeplus Stores)**
  - 25.7% 141 outlets

- **Lotte Mart (Lotte Group)**
  - 21.3% 127 outlets

- **Hanaro Club (Korea Agricultural Cooperative Marketing)**
  - 8.2% 25 outlets

Sources: Euromonitor International; Korea Statistical Information Service KOSIS
4 – FOOD & BEVERAGE MARKET

4.2 F&B Retailing Channels – Department Stores

01. Three major conglomerate-owned department store chains dominate the market

02. Decreasing sales due to influence of internet retailing, decreased number of inbound travelers and changing competitive landscape

03. Department stores also operate their own online stores, as sales of luxury products is shifting more to internet

04. New department stores incorporated into large-scale shopping complexes, instead of individual stores

Department Store Value Sales 2013-2018 (KRW bil.)

- Lotte (Lotte Group) 38.7% 39 outlets
- Hyundai (Hyundai Group) 27.9% 15 outlets
- Shinsegae (Shinsegae Group) 26.8% 12 outlets

Sources: Euromonitor International; Korea Statistical Information Service KOSIS
4 – FOOD & BEVERAGE MARKET

4.2 F&B Retailing Channels – Homeshopping

01 Market share divided almost equally by 5 competing companies, most of which are large conglomerates

02 Operators focused on omni-channel strategies with both online and offline sales

03 Large conglomerates’ investments in private label products are boosting the growth of homeshopping channels

04 Main sales revenue come from apparel, beauty, healthcare, and accessories. F&B sales from certain niche products (e.g. Functional foods)

---

**Key Players in the Market**
(by brand share of homeshopping sales in 2017)

- **GS Homeshopping**
  (GS Homeshopping) 19.8%

- **Hyundai Homeshopping**
  (Hyundai Dept. Store) 19.6%

- **HnS Mall**
  (Home & Shopping) 16.8%

- **CJ O Shopping**
  (CJ O Shopping) 16.4%

- **Lotte Homeshopping**
  (Lotte Group) 15.5%

- **NS Shopping**
  (NS Shopping) 8.4%

---

**Homeshopping Sales by Category 2017** (KRW bil.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accessories</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>1251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apparel</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F&amp;B</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>949</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HealthCare</td>
<td>313</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics</td>
<td>525</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauty</td>
<td>852</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:** Euromonitor International; Korea Statistical Information Service KOSIS
Food and drink internet retailing enjoys rapid growth as consumers shift to buying all their needs via internet.

Growth led especially by super- and hypermarkets online stores that can rapidly deliver orders from closest stores without extra costs.

Besides the traditional conglomerates, many ecommerce platform operators are also gaining a market share with differentiated marketing, services, and products.

Purchasing via mobile devices has already surpassed purchasing with PC or other devices (60%), and the operators are focused on improving their mobile platforms.
## 4 – FOOD & BEVERAGE MARKET

### 4.3 Distribution Cost Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail price</td>
<td>800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.A.T</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Final price x 1.1 = Retail price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retailer’s margin</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>25-35%</td>
<td>of the retail price (without VAT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics cost to each store</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5-6%</td>
<td>of the supply price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importer’s &amp; Distributor’s margin</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>added on the COGS. Including sales promotion activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COGS</td>
<td>350</td>
<td></td>
<td>Goods + Freight + Tariff + Local handling cost</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- VAT in Korea is 10% for consumer products
- Retailer margin depends on the retailer type and company, but generally:
  - 25% for department stores
  - 25-35% for hypermarkets
  - 5-15% for online malls

Sources: Euromonitor International; Morning Dew F&B
[5] FOOD REGULATION
5 – FOOD REGULATION

5.1 Livestock and Dairy Products

- Only few categories of Livestock and Dairy products allowed for import to Korea from Finland
- Based on bilateral agreements, differs hugely among EU countries as well
- Opening a new category is a long process and requires bilateral discussions initiated by Finnish Food Authority and Ministry of Agriculture
- When exporting livestock & dairy products, exporter must request for an official health certificate from Finnish Food Authority

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALLOWED FOR IMPORT</th>
<th>BANNED FROM IMPORT</th>
<th>BANNED, BUT UNDER NEGOTIATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pork, Breeding Pigs</td>
<td>All other livestock products, including beef, elk, reindeer, lamb</td>
<td>Poultry &amp; Eggs (ETA 2019)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese (Natural &amp; Processed)</td>
<td>All other dairy products, including infant formulas, liquid milk, butter, lactose, cream</td>
<td>Ice Cream (ETA Unknown)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk Powders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Ministry of Food & Drug Safety; Animal & Plant Quarantine Agency; Finnish Food Authority
5 – FOOD REGULATION

5.2 Tariffs

- Gradual removal of tariffs based on the EU – Korea FTA
  - Tariffs gradually decreased every year in January and July
- Certain product categories still have sky-high tariffs (e.g., Oats, Honey)
  - Importers with quota-recommendations can import with special low tariff, or tariff-free rates
- HS-Codes may differ from those used in EU
- Exact product category determined based on product ingredients, ingredient quantities, and processing methods

### Tariff Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT CATEGORY</th>
<th>TARIFF %</th>
<th>HS CODE (KOREA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALCOHOL PRODUCTS</strong> under 80% al. content</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2208.20 – 2208.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(incl. beer, gin, vodka, whiskey, cognac, brandy, regardless of used grain)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BERRY PRODUCTS</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2007.99-1000 (jam &amp; marmelade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(incl. Powders, jams, marmalade, juice)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2106.90-9099 (powder)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2009.89 – 2009.90 (juice)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLACK TEA</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0902.30 – 0902.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GREEN TEA</strong></td>
<td>297.3%</td>
<td>0902.10 – 0902.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BIRCH SAP</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0902.19-9099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HONEY</strong></td>
<td>243%</td>
<td>0409.00-0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OAT FLAKES, MEAL, PELLETS, GROAT</strong></td>
<td>237.7%</td>
<td>1103.19-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-PROCESSED OAT SEEDS</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1104.12-0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CRISPBREAD</strong></td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>1905.10-0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(incl. Rye and oats)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RYE FLOUR</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1102.90-3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MUESLI</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1904.20-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1904.20-9000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHEESE</strong></td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>0406.10 – 0406.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(incl. Processed cheese, natural cheese, cheese spread)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PORK CARCASSES &amp; HALF-CARCASSES</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0203.11-0000 (fresh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0203.21-0000 (frozen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAM, PORK SHOULDER, OTHER CUT PIECES WITH BONE REMAINING</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0203.12-0000 (fresh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0203.22-0000 (frozen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PORK BELLY</strong></td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>0203.19-0000 (fresh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>0203.29-0000 (frozen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BREEDING PIGS</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0103.10-0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUGAR CONFECTIONERY</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1704.10 -1704.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(incl. chewing gum, pastilles, candies)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHOCOLATE</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1806.10 – 1806.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RAINBOW TROUT</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0304.42-0000 (fillets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MINERAL WATER</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2201.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:** Korea Customs Law Information Portal
5 – FOOD REGULATION

5.3 Labeling

- **Organic Labeling**
  - Equivalence agreements for organic labeling with the EU and US
  - If product is certified with the EU organic logo, the company may use EU and/or Korean organic logo in product labeling
  - Only valid for processed foods with min. 95% organic contents
  - For non-processed foods, the company must apply for Korean organic certification separately

- **Gluten-free**
  - Product can be marked as gluten-free when total gluten content is less than 20mg/kg
  - No special logo required

**Sources**: National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service; EU Commission; Ministry of Food & Drug Safety
5 – FOOD REGULATION

5.3 Labeling

- Product Labeling Requirements
  - Basic Product Information Labeling
  - Nutrition Labeling
  - Package Recycling Labeling
  - Food Allergen Labeling
  - (Food Equipment Labeling)
  - (Health Functional Food Labeling)

- Labeling of imported products may be done with a sticker – must be in Korean language

- Functional Foods apply different labeling rules

Sources: Ministry of Food & Drug Safety
5 — FOOD REGULATION

5.3 Labeling

- Basic Production Information Label
  - Basic product information
  - Importer details
  - Safety, nutrition, health information
  - Claims (eg. high in fiber, gluten-free, etc.)
  - Other mandatory consumer warnings

<Example of Basic Product Information Label Format>

- Product Name
- Product Category
- Importer Details
- Country of Origin
- Producer
- Date of Production
- Expiration Date
- Total Contents & Energy
- Ingredient List
- Packaging Materials
- Faulty Product Reporting Number
- Preservation Instructions
- Return & Exchange Instructions
- Production Facility Allergen Alert
- Serving Suggestion Alert
- Recycling Label

Sources: Ministry of Food & Drug Safety
5 – FOOD REGULATION

5.3 Labeling

- Nutrition Label
  - Required for most food products (exceptions include e.g. alcohol, supplements)
  - Must include the total amount of contents, Energy, Sodium, Carbohydrates (which of sugars), Lipid (which of trans-fat, saturated fat), Cholesterol, Protein
  - Daily values comparison and calculation method
  - Can be horizontal, vertical, include graphic contents, etc. Requirements for font size and label size depend on product type

Sources: Ministry of Food & Drug Safety
[6] MARKET ENTRY
6 – MARKET ENTRY

6.1 Before Export

1. Origin Declaration
   - Required to utilize EU-Korea FTA tariff rates
   - Must be included in the invoice, packaging list, or other trade document
   - Anyone can write the origin declaration for exports under 6000 EUR value (must be signed)
   - Copies must be stored for min. 5 years

2. Authorised Exporter Status (Customs Authorisation Number)
   - Only Authorised Exporter can create origin declaration for exports exceeding 6000 EUR value
   - Status is granted by the Finnish Customs by application (customs form 295s)
   - Finnish Customs link: https://tulli.fi/en/businesses/export/how-to-provide-proof-of-origin

The exporter of the products covered by this document (customs authorization No ...) declares that, except where otherwise clearly indicated, these products are of ... preferential origin.

Tässä asiakirjassa mainittujen tuotteiden viejä (tullin lupa n:o ...) ilmoittaa, että nämä tuotteet ovat, ellei toisin ole selvästi merkitty, etuuskohteluun oikeutettuja ... alkuperätuotteita.

이 서류(세관인증번호...)의 적용대상이 되는 상품의 수출자는, 달리 명확하게 표시되는 경우를 제외하고, 이 상품은...의 특혜원산지상품임을 신고한다.

Sources: Finnish Customs; Ministry of Food & Drug Safety
6 – MARKET ENTRY

6.1 Before Export

- **3. Registering Manufacturing Facilities with the Korean Ministry of Food & Drug Safety**
  - Must be done regardless of food category
  - Must be done min. 7 days before the first export, otherwise products will be forfeit
  - Must be renewed every 2 years, min. 7 days before expiration
  - Can be done online by the exporter, or the Korean importer
  - Required details:
    - Applicant company basic information
    - Manufacturing facility information
    - Business information (business type, product category, used quality management systems)
    - Agreement that MFDS may inspect the facility if requested
  - Link to MFDS registration: [https://impfood.mfds.go.kr/](https://impfood.mfds.go.kr/)
  - Livestock and dairy products require a separate registration with MAFRA (Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs)

Sources: Ministry of Food & Drug Safety
6 – MARKET ENTRY

6.1 Before Export

- **4. Checklist**
  - Ingredient compliance (especially livestock and dairy products)
  - Exact tariffs for the product category
  - Compliance of used additives and pesticides
  - Required documentation

- **5. Things to be aware of**
  - During the first import, thorough product testing will be executed by MFDS, which can take time and often includes testing costs
  - MFDS requires the product “recipe” including very thorough list of ingredients, their amounts, processing methods, and the process chart
  - Differing allowed safety levels for residues or radiation, sometimes much stricter than EU (eg. Allowed level of radiation in product 6 times lower than EU)
  - Origin, ingredients, processing method, importer history, non-compliance history, etc. All affect the speed and testing requirements

Sources: Ministry of Food & Drug Safety
6 – MARKET ENTRY
6.2 Product Launch

- Localization
  - Original product, or modified for the market?
  - Complete new localized package, or outer packaging only?
  - Labels – sticker, or package?

Sources: Finn International; Sisun International
6 – MARKET ENTRY

6.3 Entry Strategies

- **1. Through Importer**
  - Most common way to enter the market
  - Many retailers prefer having importers between
  - Possibility to access to various sales channels
  - Commission increases prices

- **2. Direct Import**
  - Direct import by retailer without 3rd parties between
  - Only selected products, usually after market test
  - Only for selected sales channel

- **3. Online Direct Purchase**
  - Requires marketing and product awareness
  - High delivery fees
FOOD FROM FINLAND IN KOREA
WHY KOREA?

PROS

• High disposable income and willingness to spend on quality
• Ability to control whole country with 1 partner
• Growing interest for healthy & safe foods amidst safety scandals
• Changing food trends and westernization
• Rise of online purchasing of food & beverage products allows soft landing to Korean market
• Relatively low number of competitors
• Image of Finland

CONS

• Protectionist market
• Trade barriers still exist
• Low awareness of Nordic food culture and brands
• Lack of Finnish experts on Korean market

Potential Product Categories

1. Healthy Foods & Organic Foods
   - Eg. Berry products, cereals, children’s foods & snacks, xylitol products, other nature foods
2. Functional Foods
3. HMR Foods
4. Mild Alcohols
7 – FOOD FROM FINLAND IN KOREA
Finland Day – April 11-13, 2019
• Cross-industry combined B2B, B2C, Media event
• Meet-the-buyer day, exhibit your products, media exposure, VIP evening party
• B2C sales for companies with importers
• 1000+ visitors expected

Nordic Food Event – November 2019
• B2B meet-the-buyer event
• Jointly organized with Sweden, Norway, Denmark
• Includes a market study day
• Media/influencer event (TBC)

Nordic Pop-up store – Q4 / 2019
• Pop-up store with Nordic F&B, and Lifestyle products for B2C sales in a local department store
• For companies already selling in Korea
감사합니다.
Gamsa Habnida.
[gamsa hamnida]

Thank you.
(polite)

Jani Toivanen
Advisor / Food & Tourism
Business Finland Korea
+82 10 7265 3164
jani.toivanen@businessfinland.fi