

Fewer than 100 North Koreans a month defected to South Korea in 2017, the lowest figure since 2001, as both Pyongyang and Beijing tighten controls on the movement of people

A map of East Asia showing North Korea's escape routes to South Korea. The map includes labels for Russia, Mongolia, China, Japan, India, and Thailand. Key locations marked are Ulaanbaatar, Beijing, Kunming, and Bangkok. A legend indicates that red lines represent 'Exit from North' and black lines represent 'Entry to South'. The routes show a path from North Korea through China and Thailand to South Korea. A scale bar indicates 1,000km (620 miles). A portrait of Kim Jong-un is shown on the right, with the text 'Kim Jong-un, North Korea's dictatorial leader'.

Bar chart showing the number of Ministers of Education from 2001 to 2017. The Y-axis represents the number of Ministers, ranging from 0 to 3,000. The X-axis represents the years from 2001 to 2017. The chart shows a general upward trend from 2001 to 2009, followed by a decline. The 2017 value is highlighted as 1,127, a 21% decrease from 2016. The total number of Ministers from 2001 to 2017 is 30,392.

Year	Number of Ministers
2001	1,000
2002	1,100
2003	1,250
2004	1,850
2005	1,350
2006	1,950
2007	2,500
2008	2,750
2009	2,850
2010	2,350
2011	2,650
2012	1,450
2013	1,450
2014	1,350
2015	1,250
2016	1,350
2017	1,127

Total: 30,392

2017: 1,127 (down 21% on 2016)

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