

Seoul Food Prices: What Locals Actually Pay

Seoul Dango!

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Seoul Food Prices: What Locals Actually Pay (2026)

A data report from **Seoul Dangol** (seouldangol.com) — Seoul restaurants where Koreans actually eat. Prices are per person, cross-checked from Korean-language sources, across 318 restaurants verified open against Seoul's official business registry. Last updated 2026-07-24.

The headline number

Across the 318 local-favorite restaurants on Seoul Dangol, **95% cost under ₩40,000 per person** for a full meal. Eating where Koreans actually eat is not expensive — the tourist-facing impression that Seoul dining is pricey comes from a small, high-visibility top end.

Price band	Per person	Share of listings
₩ (budget)	under ₩ 15,000 (~US\$11)	41% (130 spots)
₩₩ (mid)	₩ 15,000–40,000	54% (171 spots)
₩₩₩ (higher)	₩ 40,000–120,000	5% (17 spots)

Nothing over ₩120,000 per person is listed — that ceiling is a fixed editorial rule, not a market average.

No tipping — the price is the price

Korea has **no tipping culture**. The menu price is the final price; there is no gratuity, and service charges appear only at a handful of high-end venues (disclosed on the bill). A ₩9,000 bowl of noodles costs ₩9,000.

What each type of meal actually costs

Ranges below are per person, drawn from the listings' own price notes.

- **Gukbap & hot soups (국밥·탕)** — ₩9,000–15,000 for most; a shared jjigae/jeongol pot ₩30,000–40,000 for two. The cheapest full hot meal in Seoul.
- **Korean-Chinese (중식)** — jjajangmyeon from ₩6,900, jjamppong ₩7,900–9,900. A noodle-plus-dumpling lunch stays under ₩12,000.

- **Noodles (면)** — Pyeongyang naengmyeon ₩16,000–17,000; kalguksu and knife-cut noodles ₩9,000–14,000. A noodles-only meal stays under ₩20,000.
- **Bunsik & street food (분식)** — gimbap rolls ₩4,300–6,300, odeng ~₩1,200, tteokbokki portions in the low ₩thousands. The floor of Seoul eating.
- **Grilled meat & K-BBQ (구이)** — pork belly ~₩14,000 per 200g portion; hanwoo beef higher. **BBQ is priced per portion of raw meat, not per person** — the per-head cost depends on how many portions the table orders. Two people sharing 2–3 pork portions typically land ₩20,000–30,000 each.
- **Drinking spots (포차·안주)** — ₩15,000–40,000 per person including shared anju dishes.
- **Seafood & hoe (회·해물)** — the widest spread: neighborhood spots ₩30,000–58,000, premium raw-fish and crab courses toward the ₩120,000 ceiling. Check whether the menu minimum is per person before going.
- **Cafés & desserts (카페·디저트)** — signature drinks and single desserts ₩4,000–8,000; specialty patisserie boxes higher.

How to read a Korean menu price

- **Soups, noodles, rice dishes** are per person — the price you see is one bowl.
- **BBQ, hoe (raw fish), jeongol/jjigae pots, and most anju** are per portion or per pot, meant to share. Multiply by portions, divide by people.
- **”Set menu / course (세트/코스)”** prices are per person.
- BBQ tables sometimes carry a small per-person charcoal or side-dish charge — normal, and small.

Methodology

Seoul Dangol ranks restaurants by whether trusted Korean food YouTubers recommend them to their Korean audience, then verifies each is still operating against the Seoul open-data business registry (서울특별시 공공데이터). Price figures here are per-person estimates cross-checked from Korean-language blog sources at each listing and are indicative, not official menus; actual prices change and vary by order. Every restaurant page shows its own price note and a last-verified date. No restaurant can pay to be on the list, and no editor adds arbitrary price adjustments.

Cite this report: attribute “Seoul Dangol” and link seouldangol.com. See the live, filterable data at <http://seouldangol.com/guides/seoul-food-prices>
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