Daejeon is South Korea’s fifth largest metropolis. Located in the center of South Korea, Daejeon is at the crossroads of major transport routes and serves as a transportation hub. The Daejeon area was historically known as Hanbat, a native Korean term for ‘large field’, and was a small village of few residents. In 1905, the Gyeongbu railway began operations from Seoul to Busan, opening a station at Daejeon which transformed the city into a major transportation centre. Daejeon is also an administration hub with 11 National Administrative Agencies headquartered in the city.

Daejeon is considered to be the science and technology capital of Korea with more than 200 research institutes located here – including the R&D facilities of Samsung, LG, and the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. The city is home to as many as 20,000 researchers and 19 universities – thereby earning its name as ‘Asia’s Silicon Valley’. The city hosted Expo ‘93 and the International Mathematical Olympiads (IMO) in 2000, the 2010 International Astronautical Congress, 2011 International Association of Science Parks World Congress, 2012 World Association of Chefs Societies World Congress. In addition, Daejeon established the WTA (World Technopolis Association) in 1998 with the view of realizing regional development through international cooperation. The WTA has 84 members from 43 countries, and is the official consultative body for UNESCO. Daejeon is a provincial center for the television, newspaper and publishing industries.

Today Daejeon’s population growth is the second highest in the country (after Seoul), a result of growth in high-tech and research industries. Sleek new apartment buildings sprung up around the new government service precincts creating a neighbourhood of restaurants, Korean western-style bars and coffee shops. The city offers a number of historic parks and gardens, art and culture museums, and science and technology related attractions. After the conclusion of Expo ‘93, the grounds and structures were refurbished as Expo Science Park, now a major attraction. Daejeon reflects a high-tech, ultra-modern ‘city of the future’.

The Daejeon World Cup Stadium was constructed for the 2002 FIFA World Cup. The city is home to football clubs Daejeon Citizen, Daejeon Hydro & Nuclear Power FC, and the Hanwha Eagles baseball team.