Household Projections by Prefecture in Japan, 2010–2035: Outline of Results and Methods

Introduction

"Household Projections by Prefecture in Japan" projects the number of private households by family type for each prefecture in Japan. The results are consistent with "Household Projections for Japan" and "Regional Population Projections for Japan," both of which were published by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research in 2013.

I. Framework of Projections

1. Period of Projections

The time period for these projections is twenty-five years, from 2010 to 2035. The projections are conducted for individual five-year periods.

2. Method of Projections

The headship rate method is used to calculate the projections. This method is based on the assumption that the number of private households is equivalent to the number of household heads. The projected population by sex and five-year age group is multiplied by the assumed headship rate (percentage of heads in the population) by sex and five-year age group. The result thus obtained indicates the number of household heads, i.e., the number of households.

The family types considered in the present projections consist of five categories: "one-person," "couple-only," "couple-and-child(ren)," "one-parent-and-child(ren)," and "other" households. The number of non-private households (institutional households) is not projected.

II. Outline of Results

1. Number and Mean Size of Private Households

The total number of households in Japan is projected to decrease by 4.4% in 2010–35. In 41 of 47 prefectures, the number of households in 2035 will be smaller than that in 2010. This does not necessarily imply that the number of households constantly declines in those prefectures. The growth rates by five-year period indicate that the number of prefectures with the decreasing number of households is estimated to be 15 in 2010–15, 34 in 2015–20, and 42 in 2020–25. Furthermore, it is projected that all the prefectures, except for Okinawa, will experience a decline

in the number of households after 2025–30.

The mean size of a household ranges between 2.03 (Tokyo) and 2.94 (Yamagata) in 2010. The range lies between 1.87 (Tokyo) and -2.59 (Yamagata) in 2035.

2. Number and Percentage of Households by Family Type

The number of "one-person" households is projected to increase by 10.0% nationwide in 2010–35. This figure ranges between -4.6% (Kochi) and 34.0% (Okinawa). In addition, the percentage of "one-person" households ranges between 23.2% (Yamagata) and 45.8% (Tokyo) in 2010, and between 29.4% (Yamagata) and 46.0% (Tokyo) in 2035.

The number of "couple-only" households is projected to increase by 2.3% nationwide in 2010–35. This figure ranges between -20.2% (Yamaguchi) and 34.2% (Okinawa). Moreover, the percentage of "couple-only" households ranges between 14.5% (Okinawa) and 24.1% (Yamaguchi) in 2010, and between 17.2% (Okinawa) and 23.7% (Hokkaido) in 2035.

The number of "couple-and-child(ren)" households is projected to decrease by 20.3% nationwide in 2010–35. This figure ranges between -30.7% (Akita) and -9.0% (Tokyo). In addition, the percentage of "couple-and-child(ren)" households ranges between 22.4% (Akita) and 33.4% (Saitama) in 2010, and between 19.7% (Akita) and 26.3% (Saitama) in 2035.

The number of "one-parent-and-child(ren)" households is projected to increase by 24.5% nationwide in 2010–35. This figure ranges between -1.9% (Akita) and 45.2% (Tokyo). Furthermore, the percentage of "one-parent-and-child(ren)" households ranges between 7.6% (Tokyo) and 12.9% (Okinawa) in 2010, and between 10.1% (Shiga) and 15.7% (Okinawa) in 2035.

The number of "other" households is projected to decrease by 40.8% nationwide in 2010–35. This figure ranges between -52.2% (Kochi) and -28.4% (Okinawa). Moreover, the percentage of "other" households ranges between 5.7% (Tokyo) and 28.5% (Yamagata) in 2010, and between 3.7% (Tokyo) and 17.1% (Yamagata) in 2035.

3. Elderly Household Heads

The number of private households headed by elderly heads aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 24.8% nationwide in 2010–35. This figure ranges between -1.7% (Yamaguchi) and 61.7% (Okinawa).

The number of "one-person" elderly households, namely, the number of elderly people living alone, is projected to increase by 53.1% nationwide in 2010–35. This figure ranges between 12.8% (Kochi) and 92.3% (Okinawa). In addition, the percentage of "one-person" elderly heads living alone in the total number of elderly heads ranges between 7.1% (Shiga) and 14.6% (Kochi) in 2010, and between 12.2% (Shiga) and 20.1% (Kagoshima).

The number of "couple-only" elderly heads, namely, the number of elderly heads "living only with

spouse," is projected to increase by 15.8% nationwide in 2010–35. This figure ranges between -14.0% (Yamaguchi) and 60.9% (Okinawa). In addition, the percentage of elderly heads "living only with spouse" ranges between 6.8% (Okinawa) and 14.0% (Yamaguchi) in 2010, and between 9.6% (Okinawa) and 15.5% (Akita) in 2035.

III. Outline of Projections

1. Outline of Projection Method

The headship rate applies assumed headship rate to projected population to obtain the number of household heads, which is equivalent with the number of households. Male and female populations by five-year age group by prefecture are taken from the "Regional Population Projections for Japan" published by National Institute of Population and Social Security Research in March 2013. Headship rates are assumed by sex, five-year age group, and prefecture for 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030, and 2035.

2. Initial Number of Households and Population

The initial number of households is the number of private households categorized by heads' sex, five-year age group, and family type, as well as the total population by sex and five-year age group as of October 1, 2010, obtained from the Census.

3. Future Headship Rates

National estimates of future headship rates for Japan by sex, five-year age group, and family type are available from "Household Projections for Japan" published by the institute in January 2013. Prefectural values for the same are obtained by assuming changes in the difference between the national estimates and prefectural estimates. It is basically assumed that this difference reduces over time, although it remains constant for some family types. The degree of reduction is determined according to census results between 1995 and 2010.