

On Setting Assumption Values for
“Population Projections by Prefecture, March 2002”
and Provisional Examination of Fitness of the Projections

Yuji ESAKI, Hachiro NISHIOKA and Tamotsu Ooba

In this paper we explain the method of making assumptions in ‘Population Projections by Prefecture’ published by National Institute of Population and Social Security Research in March 2002, and we examine fitness of the projections at 1 October 2003 provisionally.

On future fertility rate by 5-year age group of mother under 35, we assumed that the relative disparities of 47 prefectures from the national fertility rates of 1995-2000 would be constant to 2025-2030. It was supposed that the relative disparities of 1995-2000 for age group over 35-39 would decrease linearly to half at the period of 2010-2015, and then it would be constant to 2025-2030. Similarly, the relative disparities of survivorship rates for both sexes and each 5-year age group of 1995-2000 were assumed to decrease linearly to half at 2025-2030 period. Specific trends are difficult to find in the net migration rate, it was supposed that the net migration rate in 1995-2000 would be constant in the future for both sexes and each 5-year age group.

Secondly, we examined adequacy of our projection comparing projected population with actual population at 1 October 2003 by prefecture, it was shown that fitness of the projection was satisfactory on the whole. However, actual population was somewhat over projected population among prefectures in south Kanto and Tokai region, on the other hand, among prefectures in Tohoku and Kinki region, the population at 1 October 2003 was slightly overestimated.