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Reasons for the Recent Migration and their Changes

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This paper aims at clarifying some characteristics of the recent migration from the viewpoint of migration reasons. Data used here were obtained from The Third and The Fourth Migration Survey conducted in 1991 and 1996, respectively, by the present National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Japan. Analyses showed that compared to migration in 1986-1991, moving rates of male in the period 1991-1996 particularly increased for "job-related" reasons in the ages 30-39. For female, the rates of "moved with family" rose in the ages 25-39. On the other hand, major declines were observed in "marriage/divorce" moving rates for female in the late 20s, and in the rates of "educational advance" for both male and female. As backgrounds of these changes, a few factors were pointed out. Firstly, the recent trend of "delayed marriage" played a role of decreasing "marriage/divorce" moving rates. Secondly, the ongoing spatial dispersal of higher educational institutions seemed to promote educational advance to nearby schools and consequently depressed the long-distance migration. Thirdly, the increase of the rate of transfer migration, which formed the major part of the "job-related" migration, seems to be affected by business establishments' recent spatial behaviors. Moving rates increased especially for transfer going up regional hierarchy, eg. metropolitan-bound moves, and for some lateral movements within the same hierarchy areas. Such increase seemed to be influenced by the fact that the average number of headquarters employees increased in the metropolitan areas, while companies with headquarters in lower-hierarchy regions increased the number of their branch offices and the average number of employees per office in the higher- and, to a lesser degree, the same-hierarchy areas.