

Japan's international migration: Can it be a solution to the population decline?

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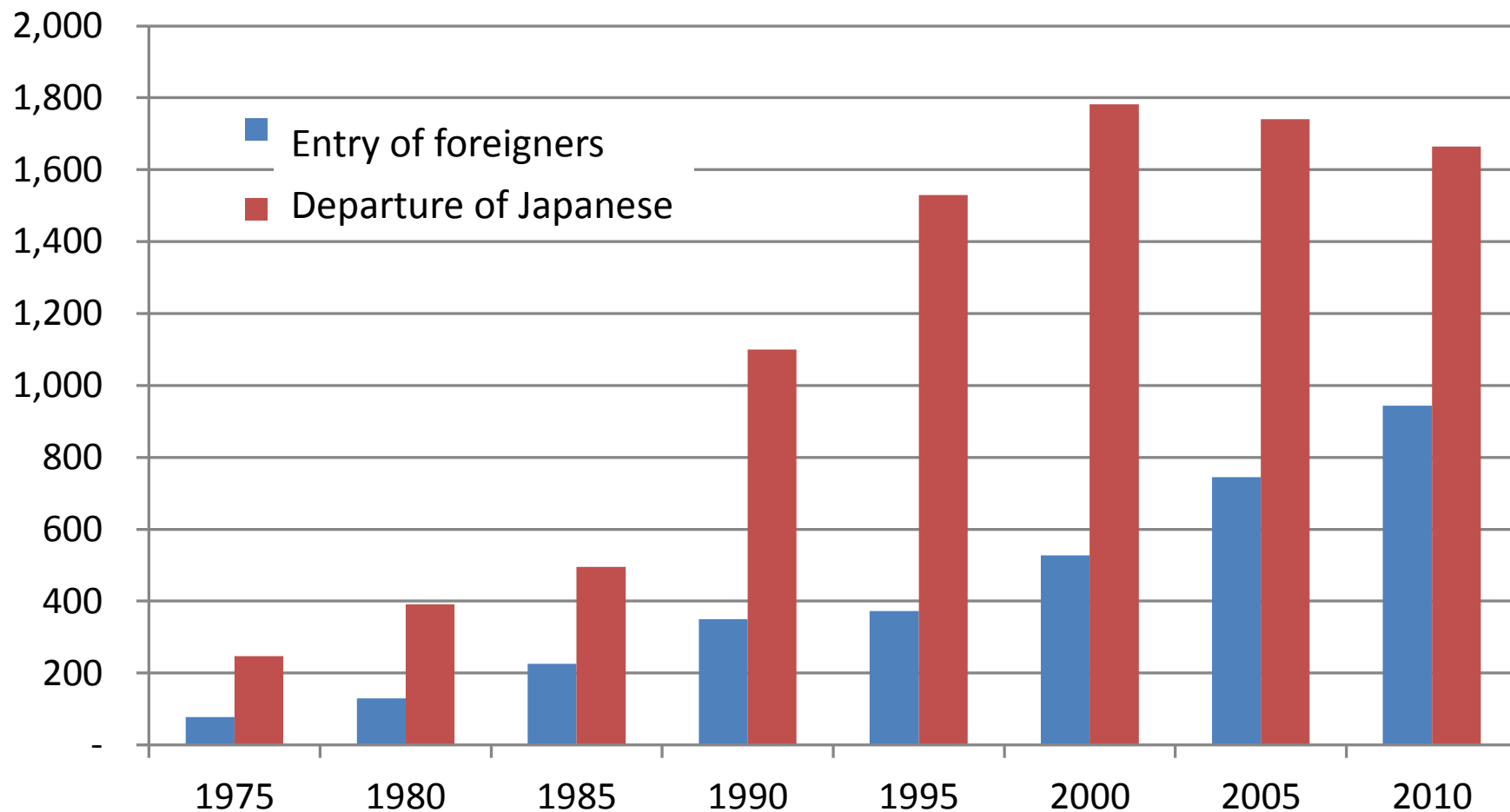
- Trends in international migration
- Geographical disparity in foreign population
- Growing severity of issues over population decline
- Contributions of foreign population in Japan under population decline
- Introduction of highly-skilled foreign workers
- Conclusion

Trends in international migration

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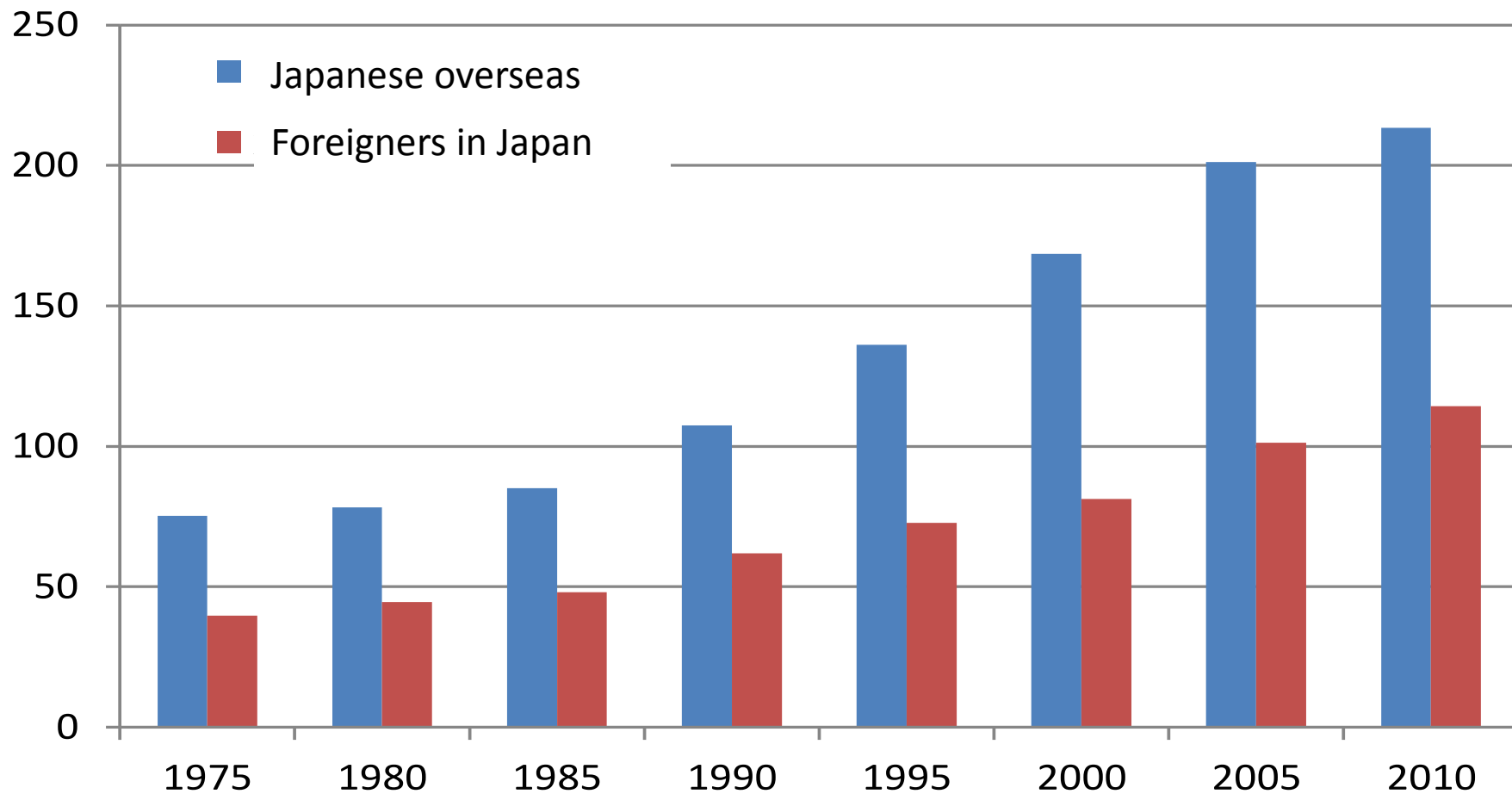
Trends in International migration in Japan (flows): 1975-2010, (thousands)

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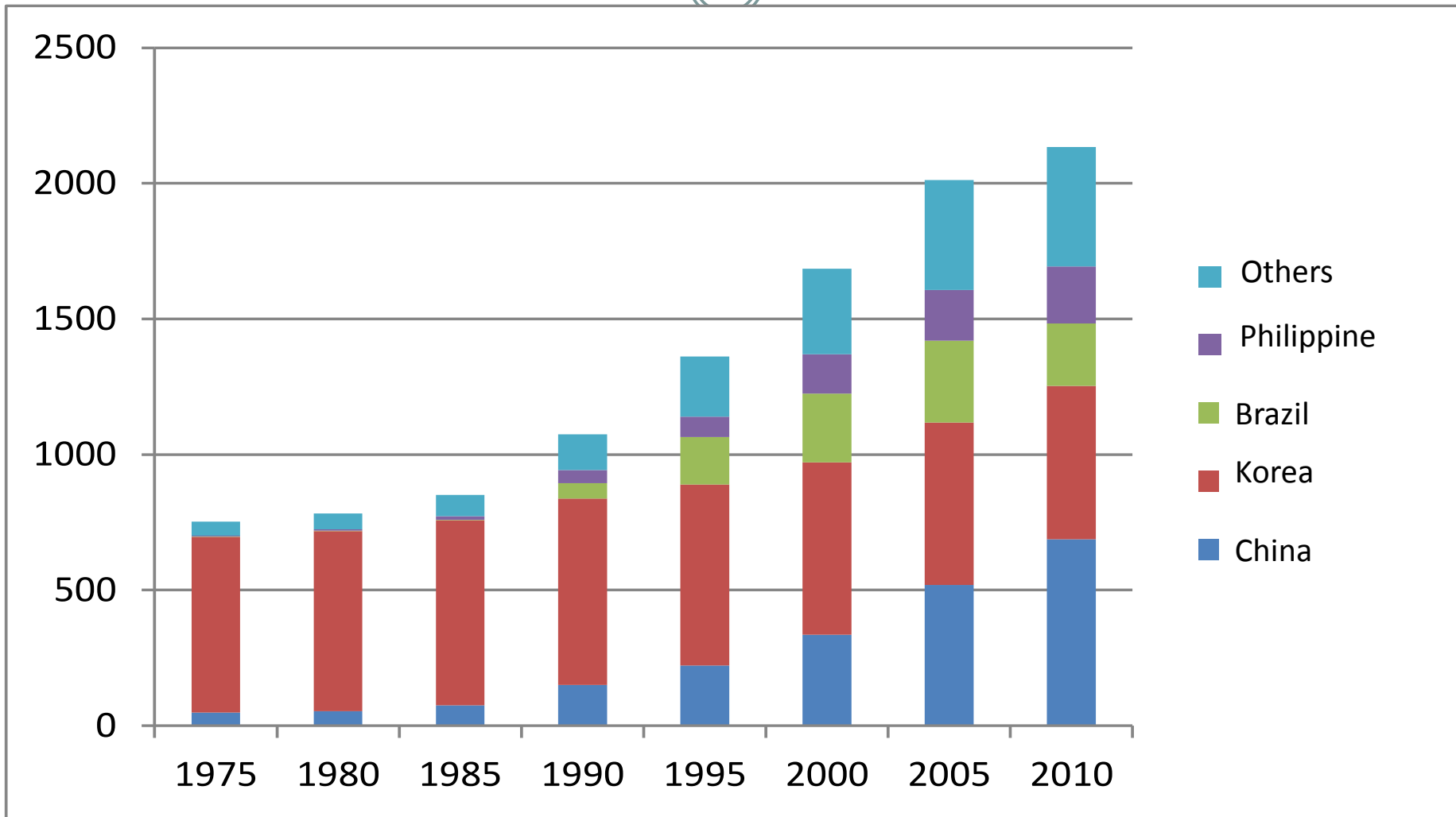
Trends in International migration in Japan (stocks): 1975-2010, (thousands)

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Number of registered foreigners (thousands) by nationality: 1975-2010

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Number of registered foreigners (thousands) by nationality: 2006-2011

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Prospects on international migration trends

- After the recovery from the economic recession since fall of 2008, immigration of foreigners will be stimulated again and the level will reach the pre-recession level.
- Economic development in East and Southeast Asian countries, however, poses uncertainty on levels and continuity of immigration of foreigners to Japan.
- Need to pay attentions to overseas migration of Japanese (including retirement migration).

Geographical disparity in foreign population

Mapping foreign population

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- Existing researches tend to focus on concentration areas of foreigners.
- Need for perspectives on foreign residents as a contributor to measures dealing with issues associated with population decline.
- Effectiveness of maps in identification of regional disparities.

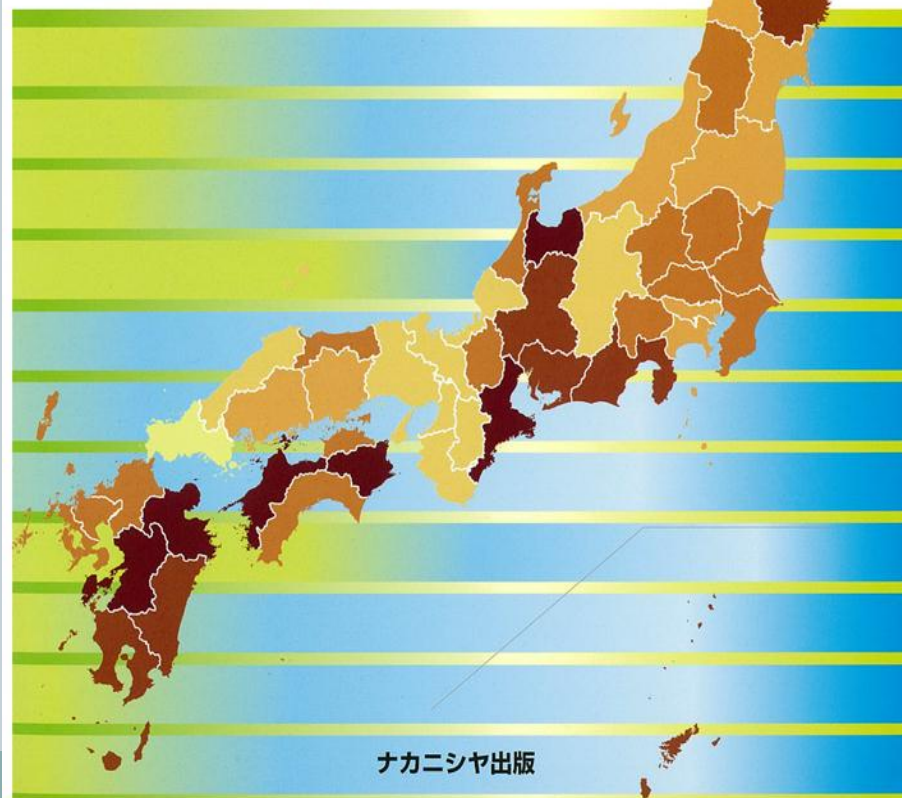
地図でみる

日本の外国人

Mapping Foreign Residents in Japan

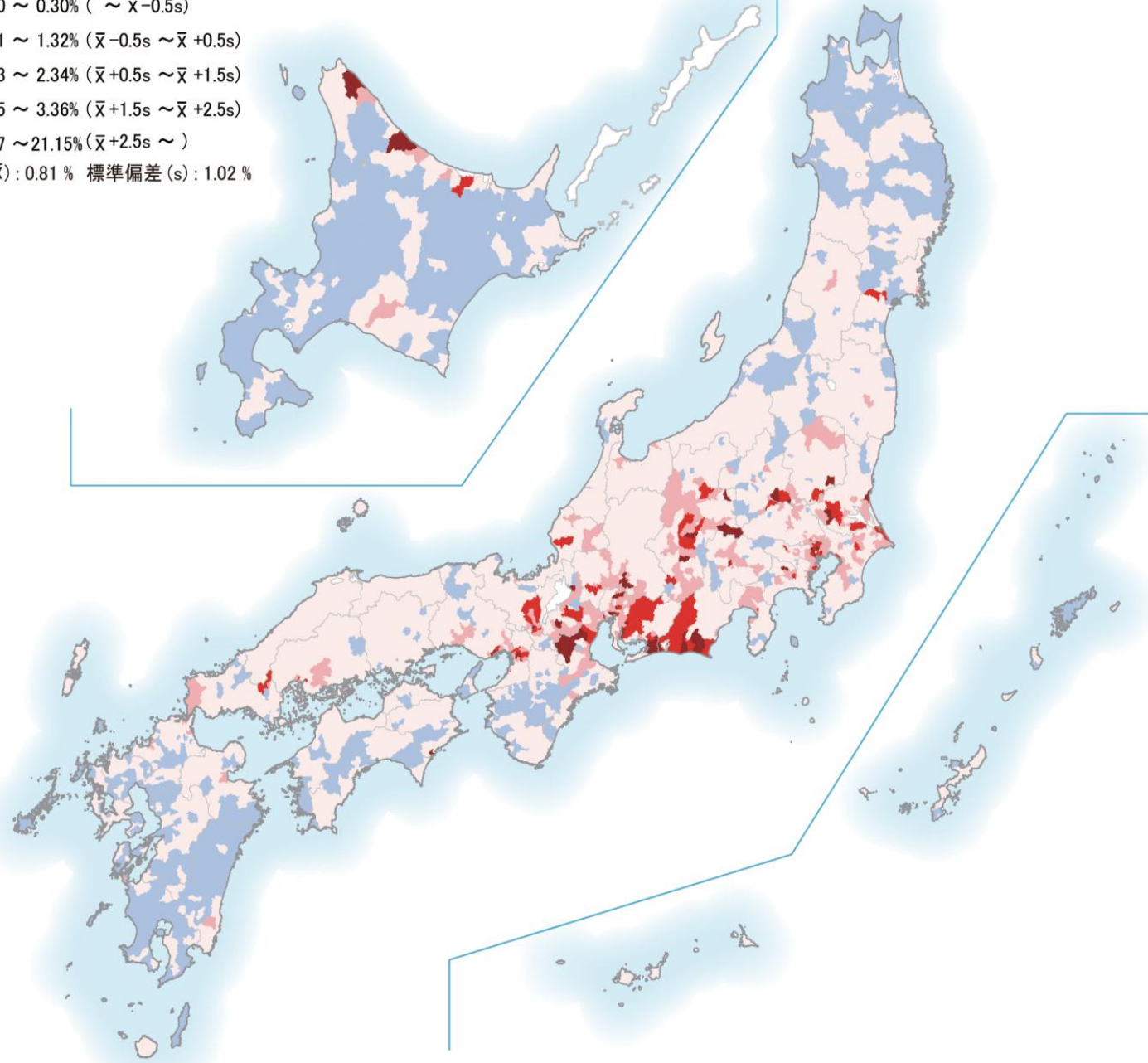
石川義孝 編

Yoshitaka ISHIKAWA, ed.



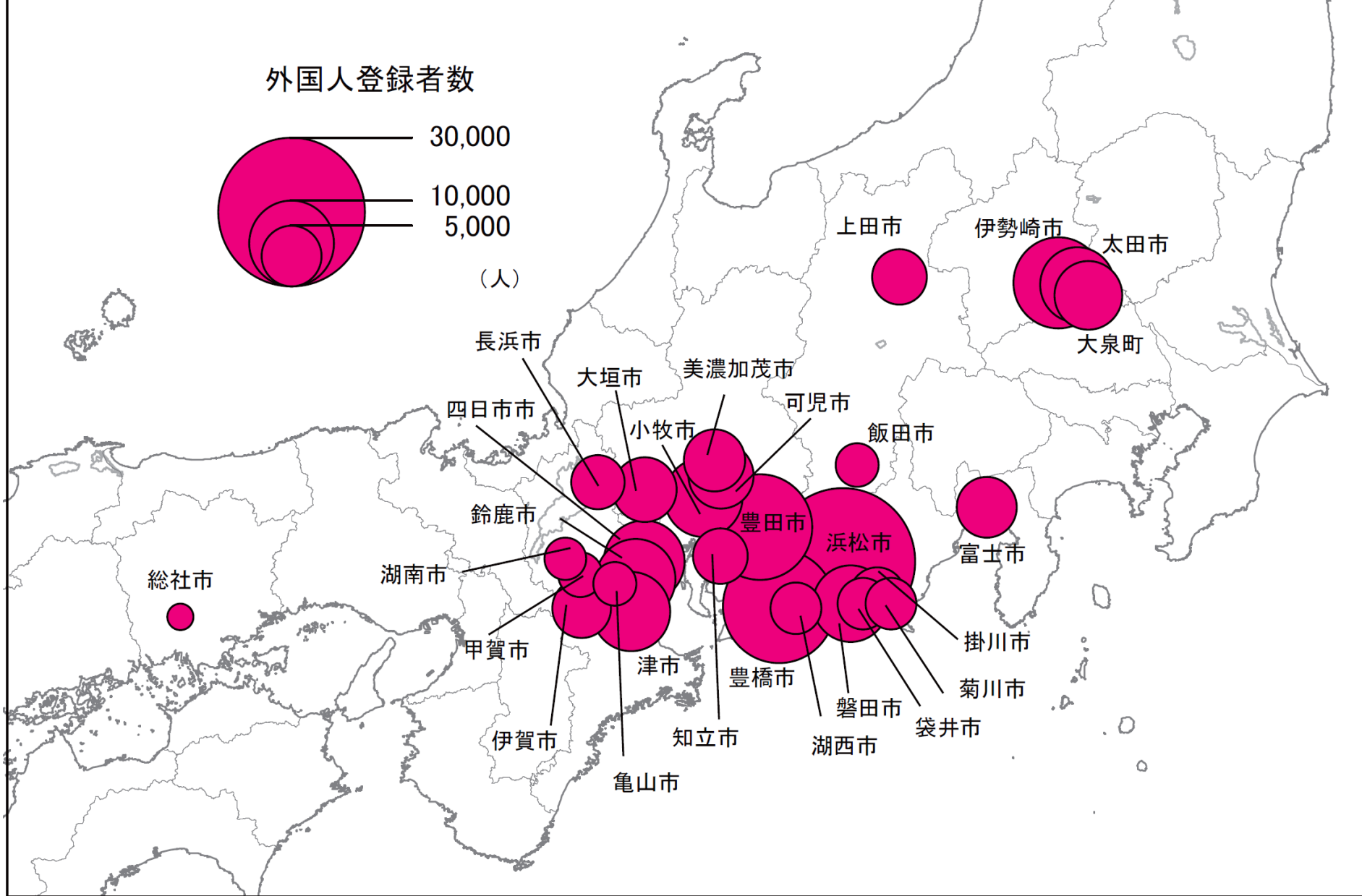
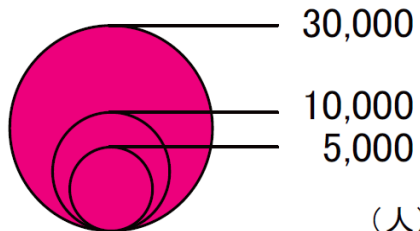
% of foreign residents (2005)

- 0.00 ~ 0.30% ($\sim \bar{x} - 0.5s$)
 - 0.31 ~ 1.32% ($\bar{x} - 0.5s \sim \bar{x} + 0.5s$)
 - 1.33 ~ 2.34% ($\bar{x} + 0.5s \sim \bar{x} + 1.5s$)
 - 2.35 ~ 3.36% ($\bar{x} + 1.5s \sim \bar{x} + 2.5s$)
 - 3.37 ~ 21.15% ($\bar{x} + 2.5s \sim$)
- 平均値 (\bar{x}) : 0.81 % 標準偏差 (s) : 1.02 %



% of foreigners in the total population

外国人登録者数



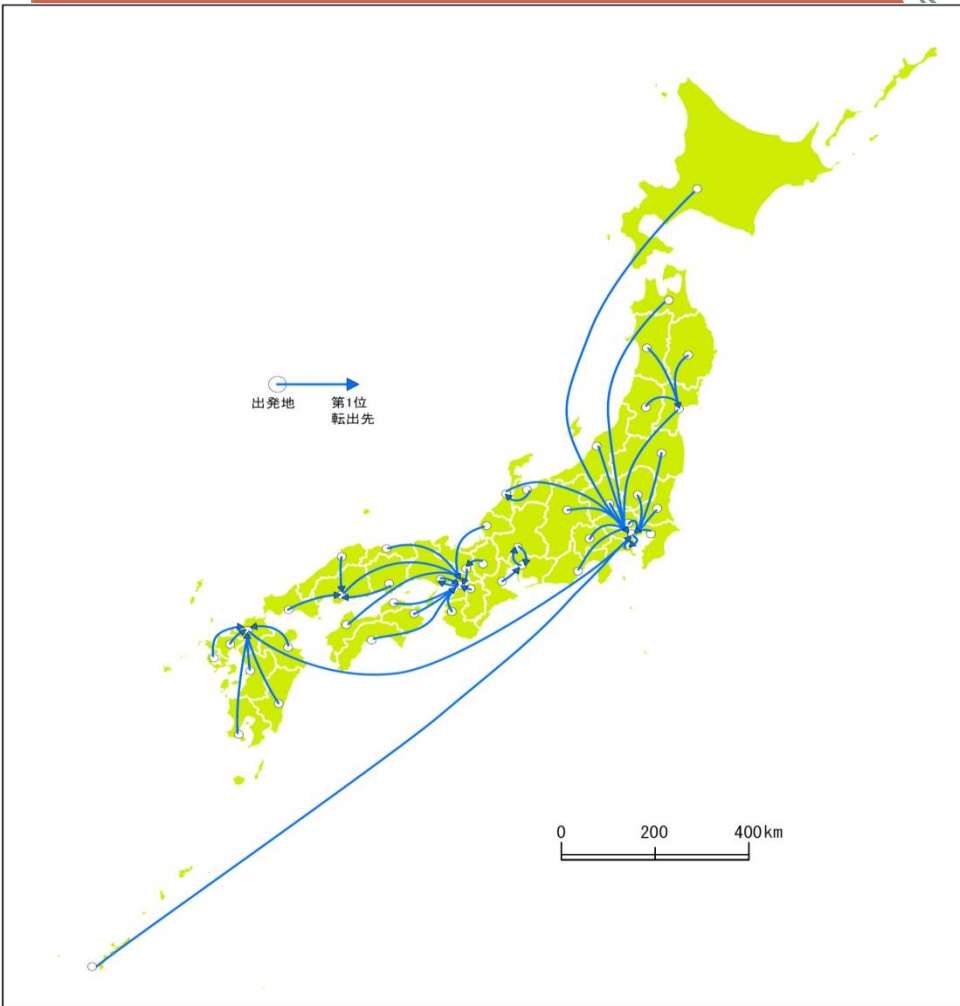
Member municipalities of *Council for Cities with Concentration of Foreign Residents*

Geographical distribution of foreigners

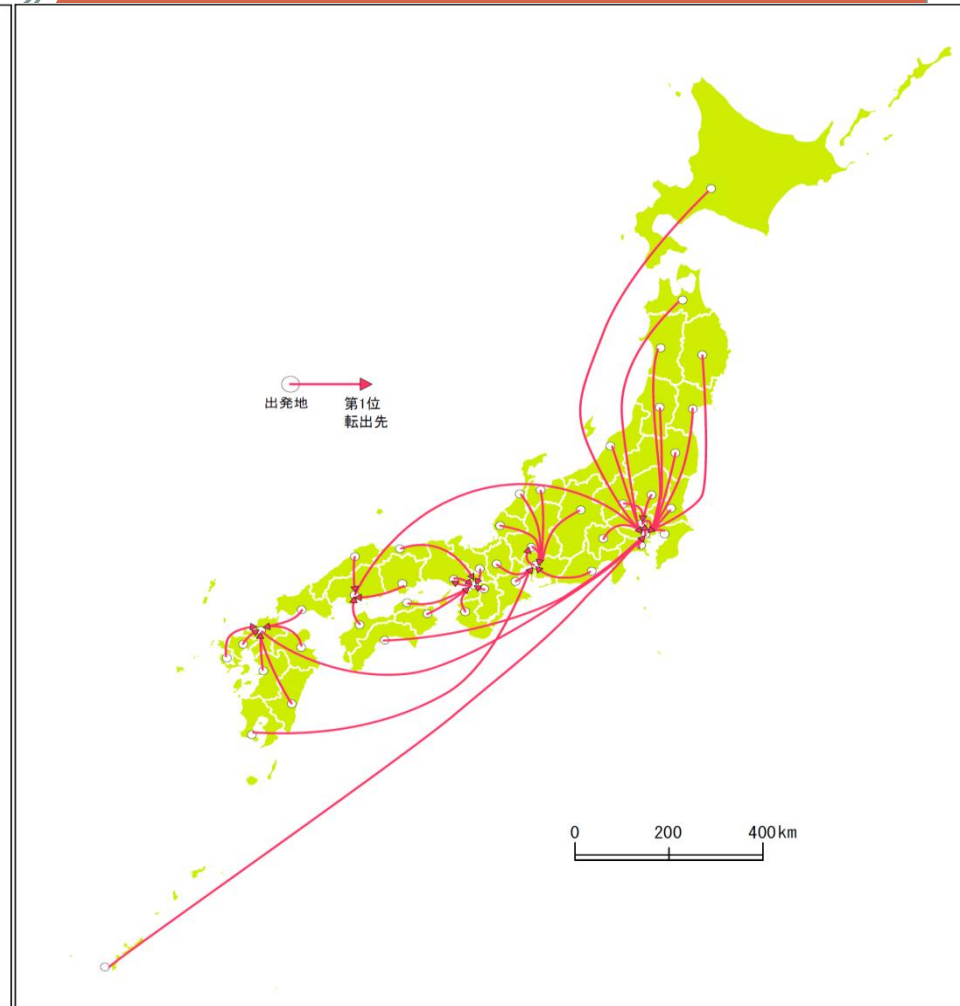
- Concentration in the metropolitan areas reflecting education and employment opportunities.
- Municipalities with a higher percentage of foreign population extending from North Kanto Region to Kinki Region.
- Non-metropolitan areas characterized with a lower levels of foreign residents.
- As observed in other developed countries, foreign population is concentrated in capital city and metropolitan areas.

Internal migration (1995-2000)

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The largest destination from origin prefecture (both Japanese and foreigners)



The largest destination from origin prefecture (foreigners only)

Internal migration of foreigners

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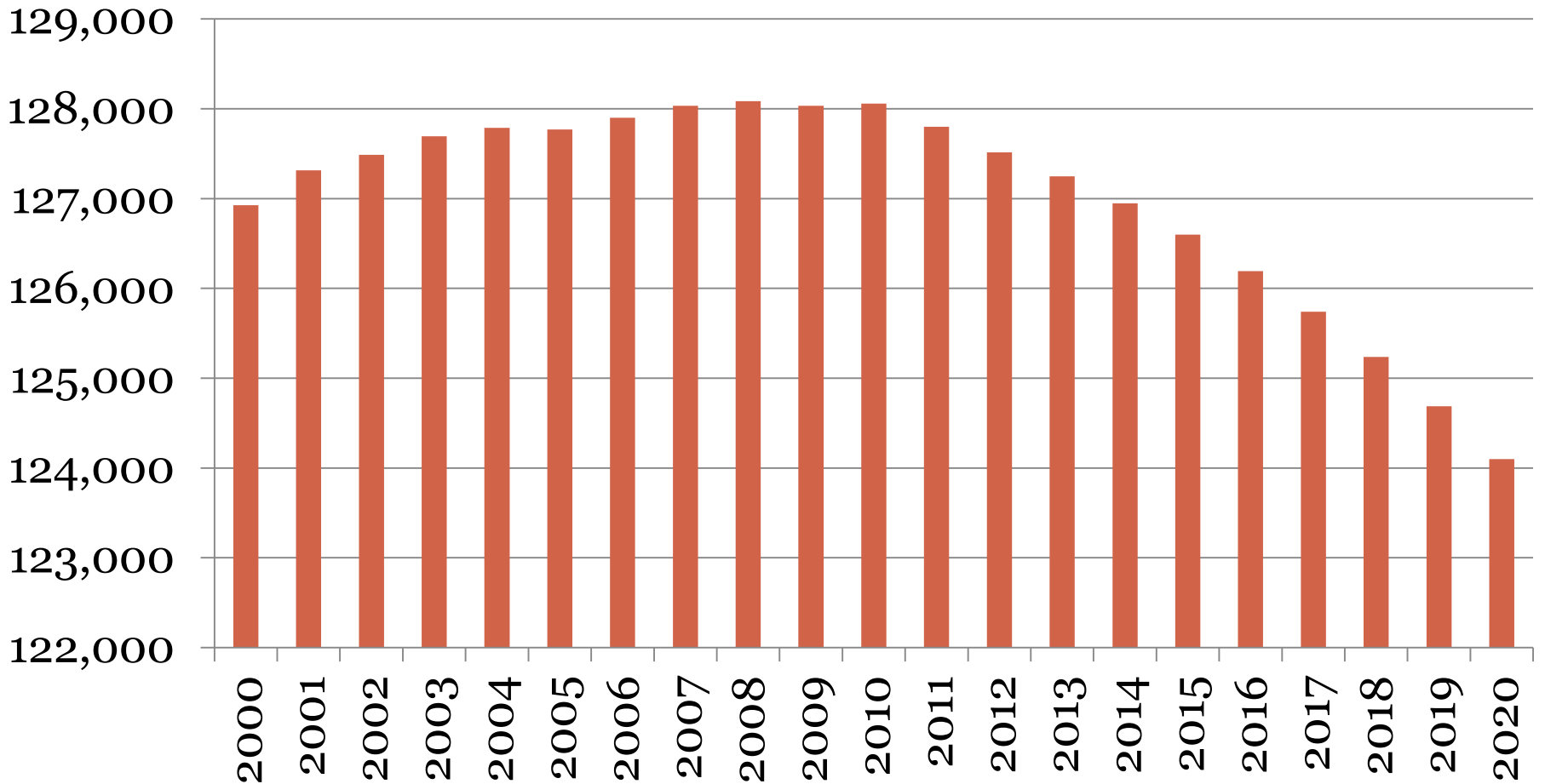
- 1995-2000: Remarkable inflows into industrial areas such as Nagoya-metropolitan area, Shizuoka-pref., and Nagano-pref.
- Regarding Internal migration of Japanese during the same period, concentration to Tokyo was reinforced. ⇒ Migration patterns of foreigners alleviate the concentration of population.
- No evidence yet for 2005 ~ 2010: the recession since 2008 has reduced “attractiveness” of the manufacturing areas. ⇒ reinforcement of concentration to Tokyo?

Growing severity of issues over population decline

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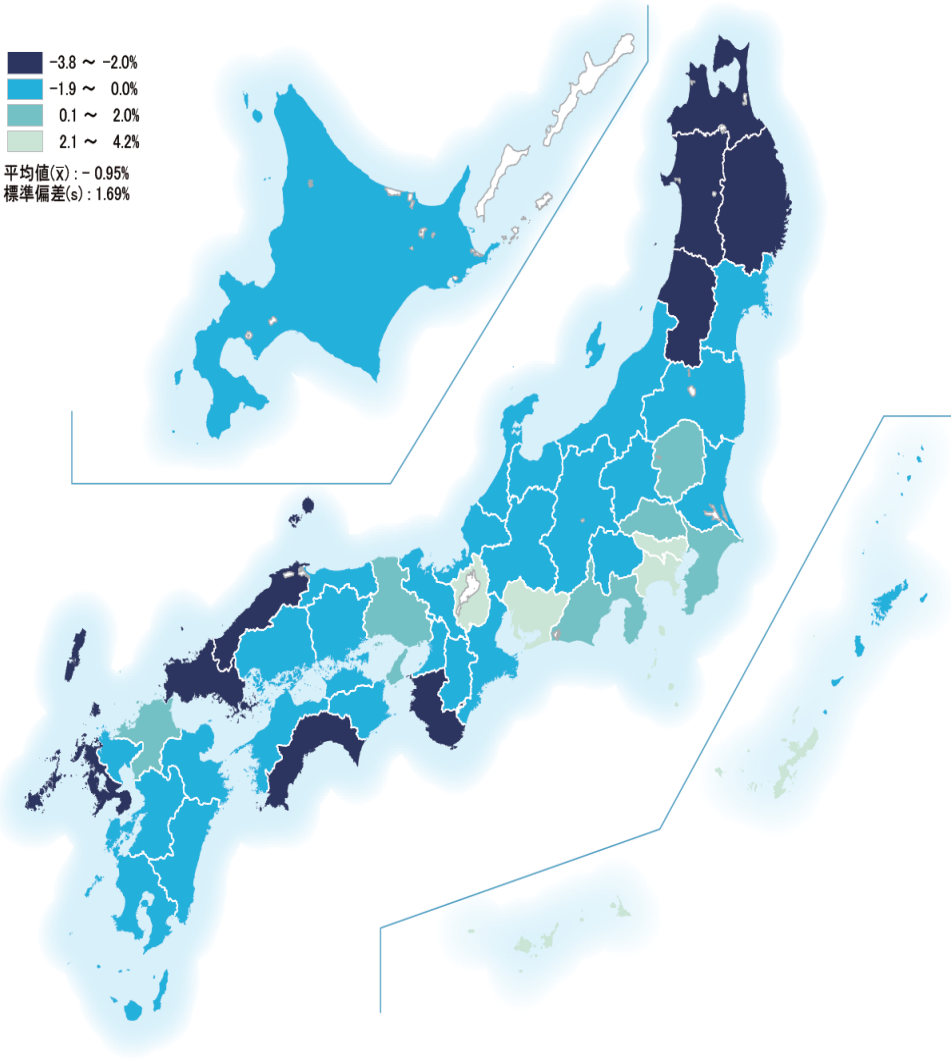
Total population (thousands)

17

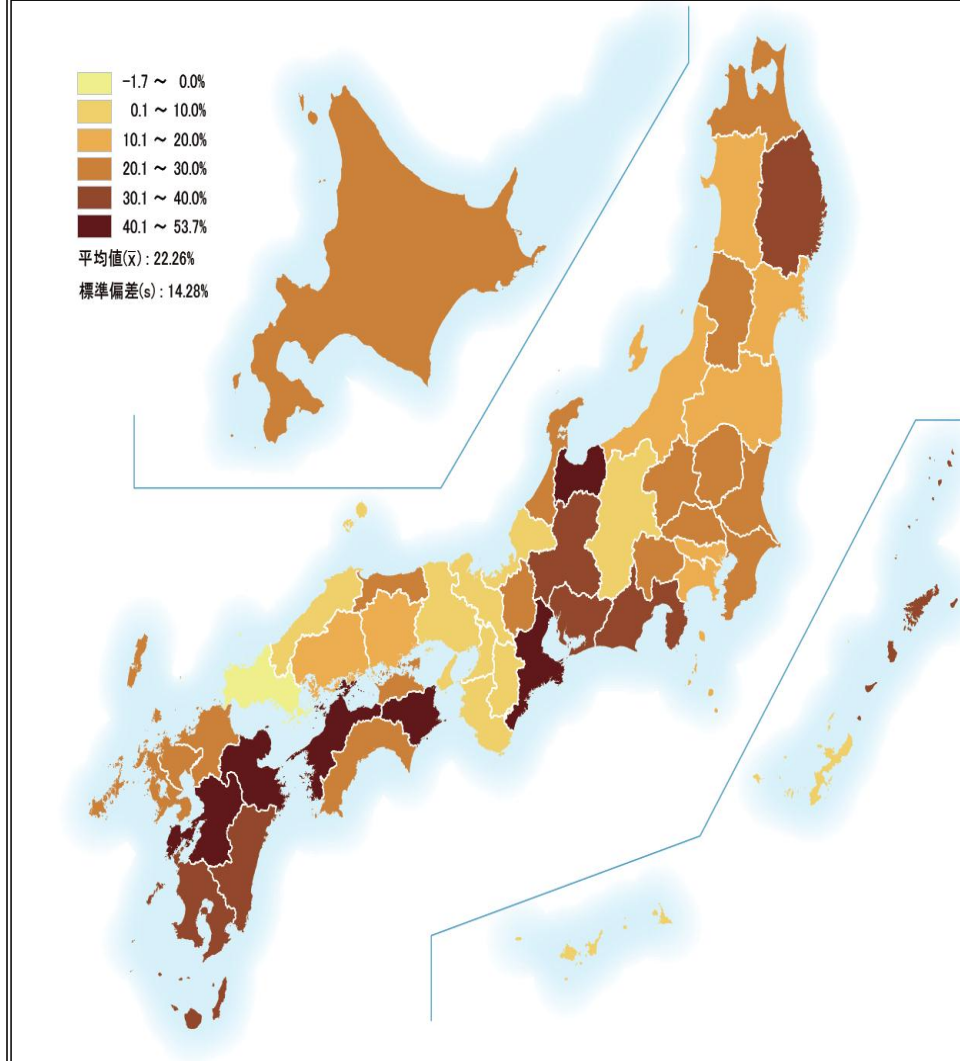


Population growth rate (2000-2005)

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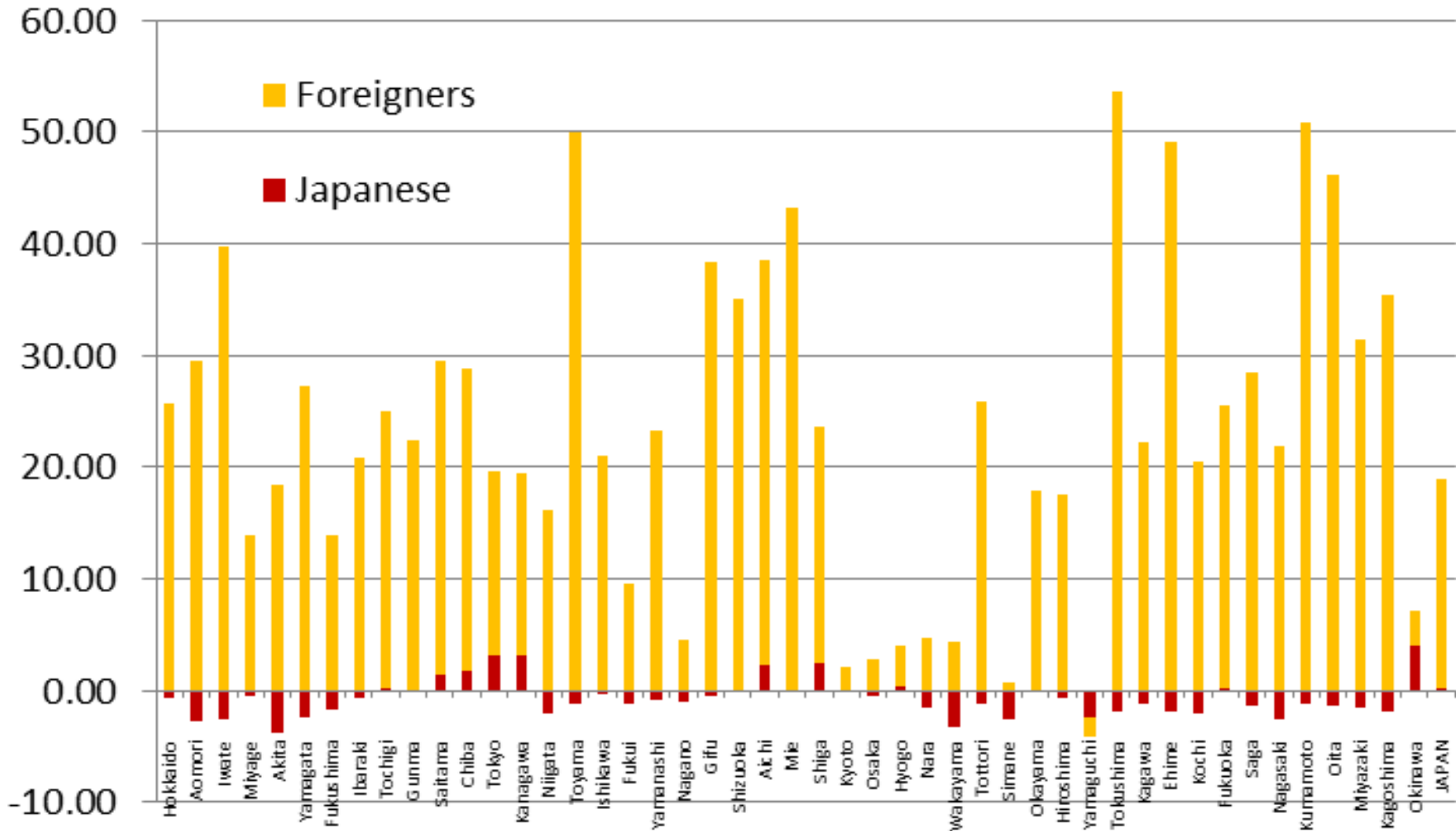
Growth rate (%): Japanese



Growth rate (%): Foreigners

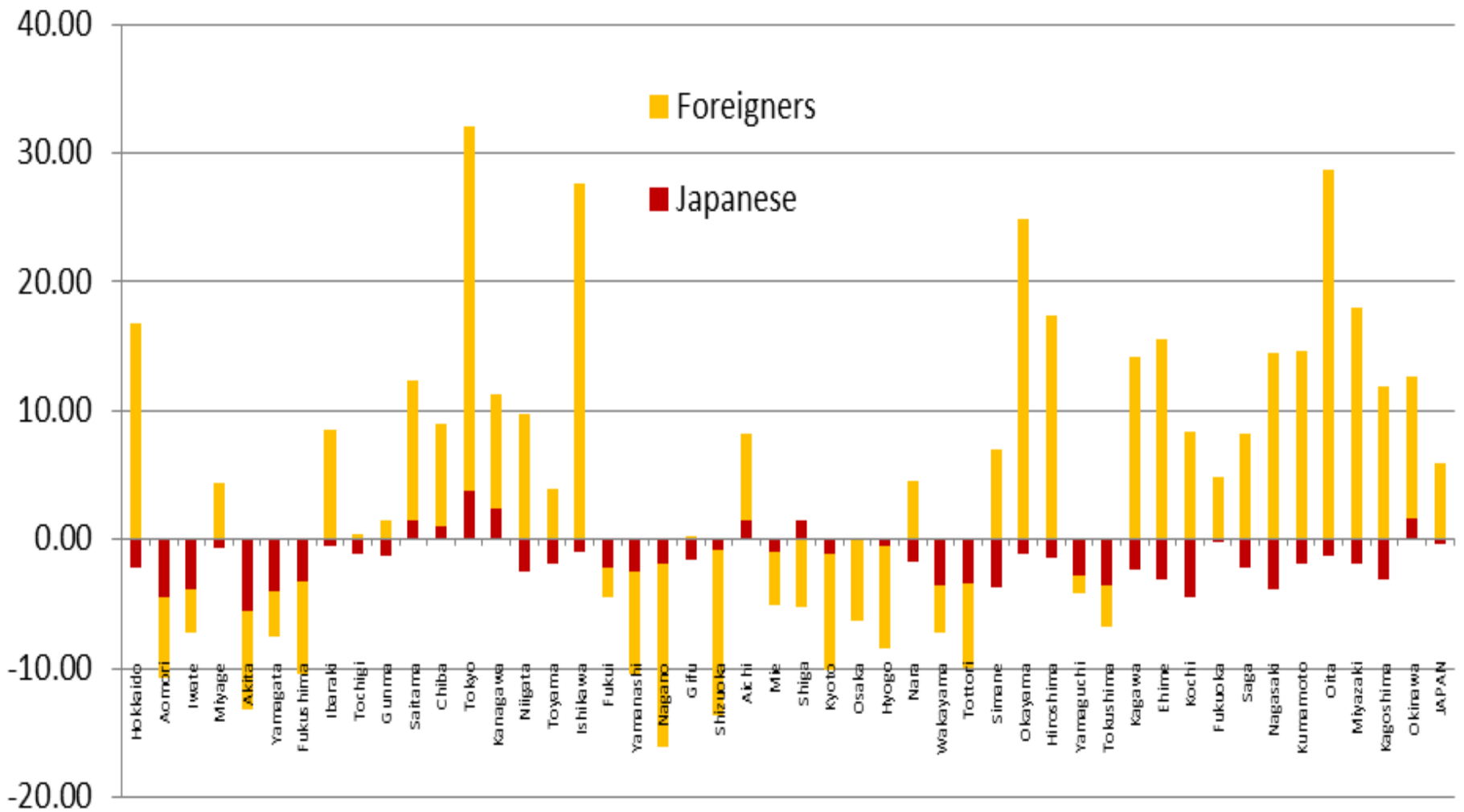
Population growth rate (%) by prefecture (2000-2005)

19



Population growth rate (%) by prefecture (2005-2010)

20



Increases of foreign residents

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- 2000-2005: 36 prefectures experienced decline of Japanese population. Foreign population rapidly increased except Kinki area.
- 2005-2010: Decline of Japanese population accelerated. Disparities in growth of foreign population between prefectures due to the recession; remarkable decline in the growth rate for Tohoku, Chubu, and Kinki regions.

Contributions of foreign population in Japan
under population decline – Is it possible to
drive them to non-metropolitan regions?

Foreign population as “replacement migrants”

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- UN Report on Replacement Migration was initially responded with skepticism just after its release.
- With the country’s total population having started declining, the concept of “replacement migration” needs to be re-examined.
- With fertility being expected to stay at the low level, attentions need to pay to multifaceted roles of international migration in response to the population decline.
- The concept of “replacement migration” to be examined both at the national and local levels.

Policy measures to drive migration of foreigners to non-metropolitan regions (1)

- The slogan of “geographically-balanced development” has lost its popularity in the period of population decline. However, regional disparities in development and concentration in the metropolitan areas (particularly Tokyo area) need to be avoided.
- Possibilities for policy measures to drive migration of foreigners to non-metropolitan regions which face acceleration of population decline?
- Policy measures to provide incentives for foreigners to settle in and permanently stay in non-metropolitan areas are worth considering.

Policy measures to drive migration of foreigners to non-metropolitan regions (2)

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- Incentives targeted residential status (visa category) of which holders are relatively concentrated in non-metropolitan areas (e.g., “trainees”) ?
- Immigration of foreigners to non-metropolitan areas expected to stimulate local communities and alleviate population decline.
- If these policy measures do not work and migration of foreigners is driven to metropolitan areas, the inevitable outcomes need to be understood and accepted.

Trainees (2008)

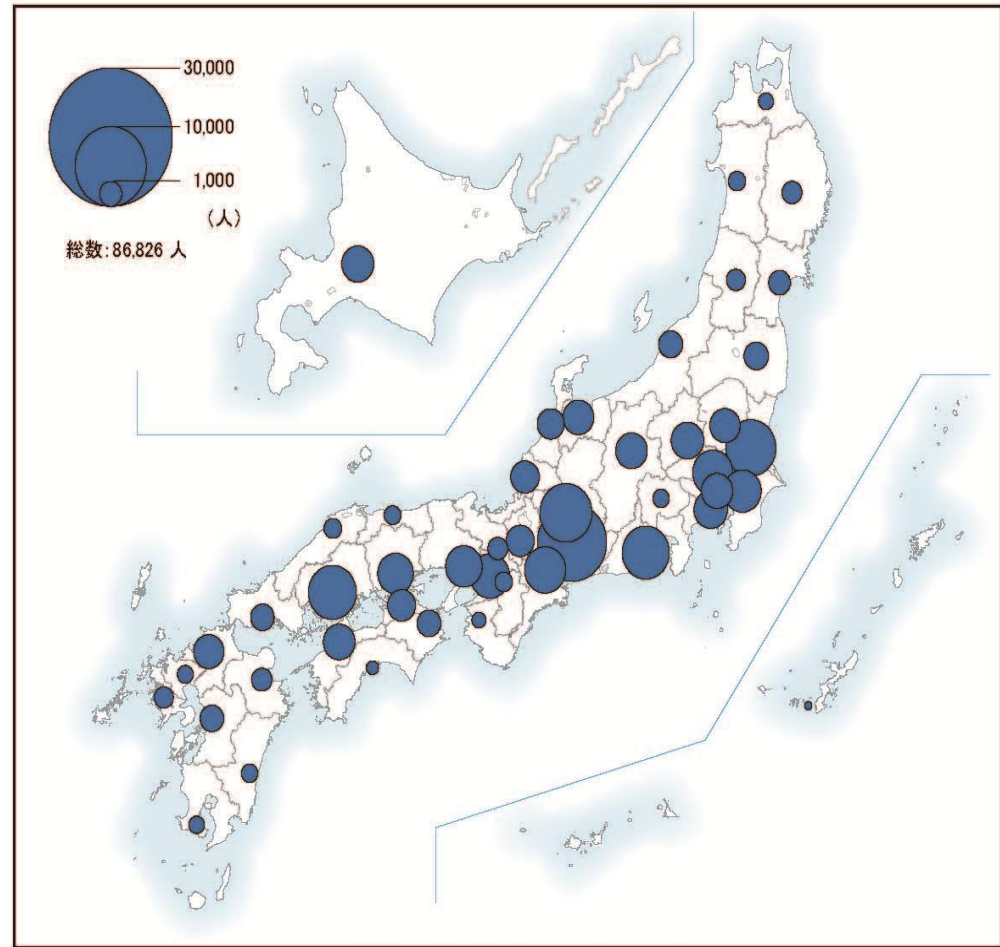


図11-3 在留資格別外国人人数(研修)

Distribution of trainees(2008)

Contributions of foreign population in Japan under population decline

- Immigration to non-metropolitan regions through international marriage -

Immigration of foreign females to non-metropolitan regions (1)

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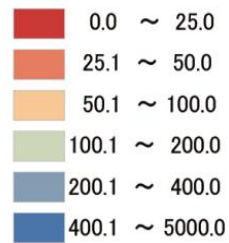
- Immigration of foreign females through international marriage since the 1980s.
- The number of foreign female migrants are larger in the metropolitan areas (particularly Tokyo area).
- The roles of foreign female migrants are more significant in non-metropolitan regions, where immigration and settlement of foreign females alleviate rapid population decline.

Immigration of foreign females to non-metropolitan regions (2)

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- Implications of lower sex ratios in non-metropolitan regions (particularly hilly and mountainous areas).
- Demographic impacts of immigration of foreign females through international marriage and their children.
- Population decline in non-metropolitan areas would have been more accelerated without international marriage.

Sex ratio of foreigners
(2005)



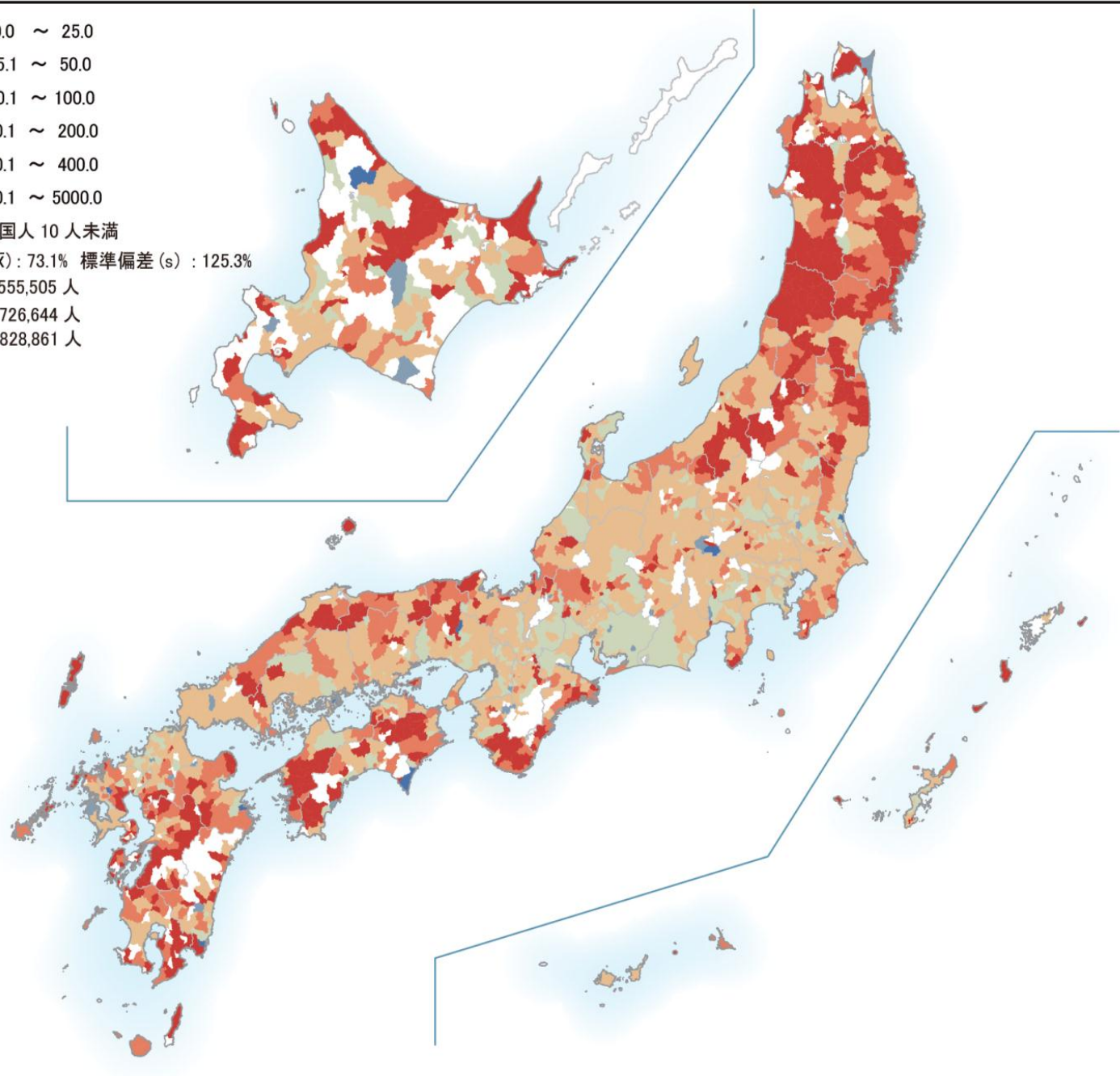
外国人 10 人未満

平均値 (\bar{x}): 73.1% 標準偏差 (s): 125.3%

総数: 1,555,505 人

男性 726,644 人

女性 828,861 人



Sex ratio of foreigners (2005)

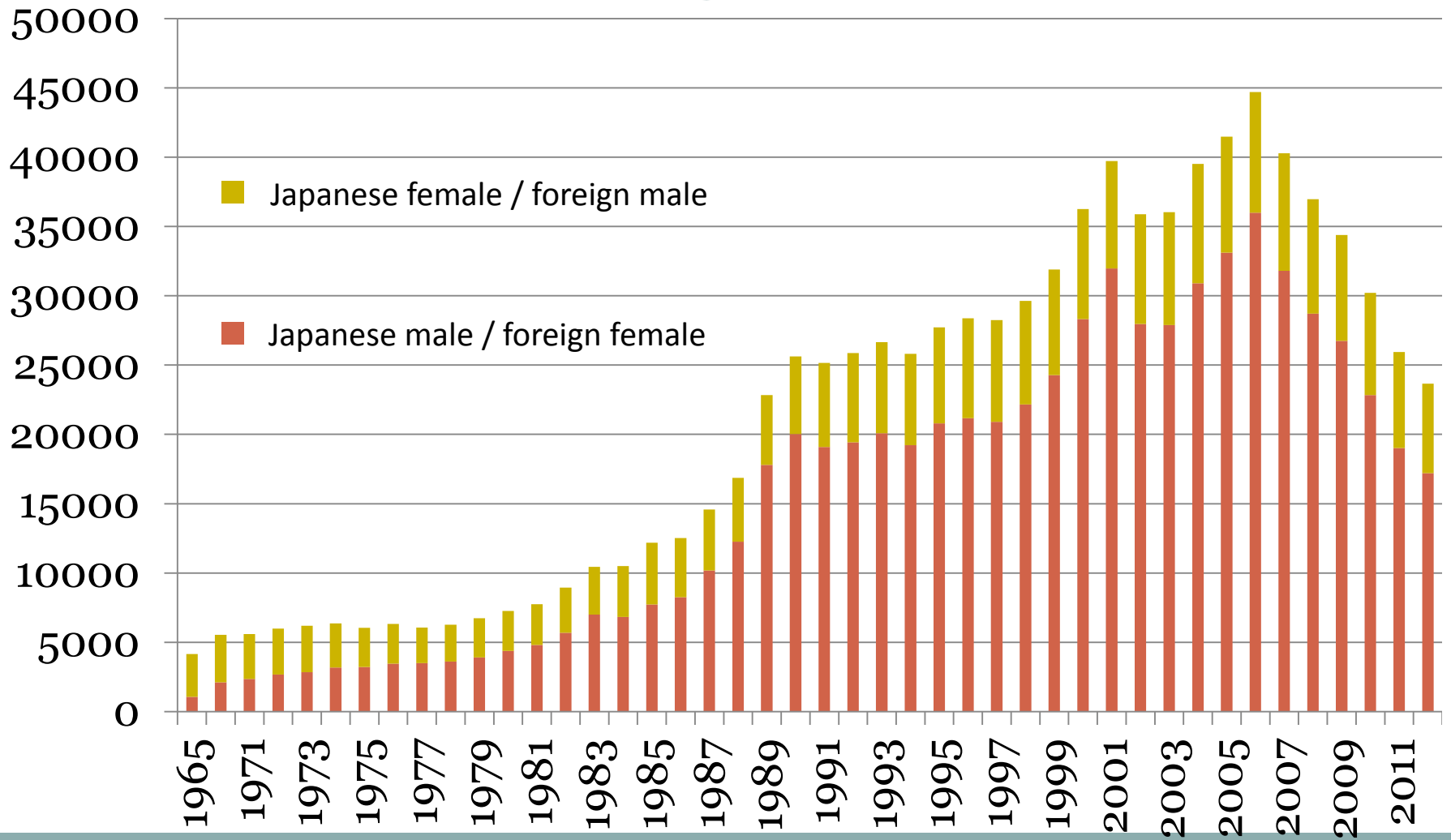
Immigration of foreign females to non-metropolitan regions (3)

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- Spouse choice is a individual decision. There is no room for policy intervention.
- Higher divorce rate observed for international marriage couples. The number of international marriage has also decreased since 2007.
- Need for support to foreign spouses by national and local governments to facilitate their settlement.

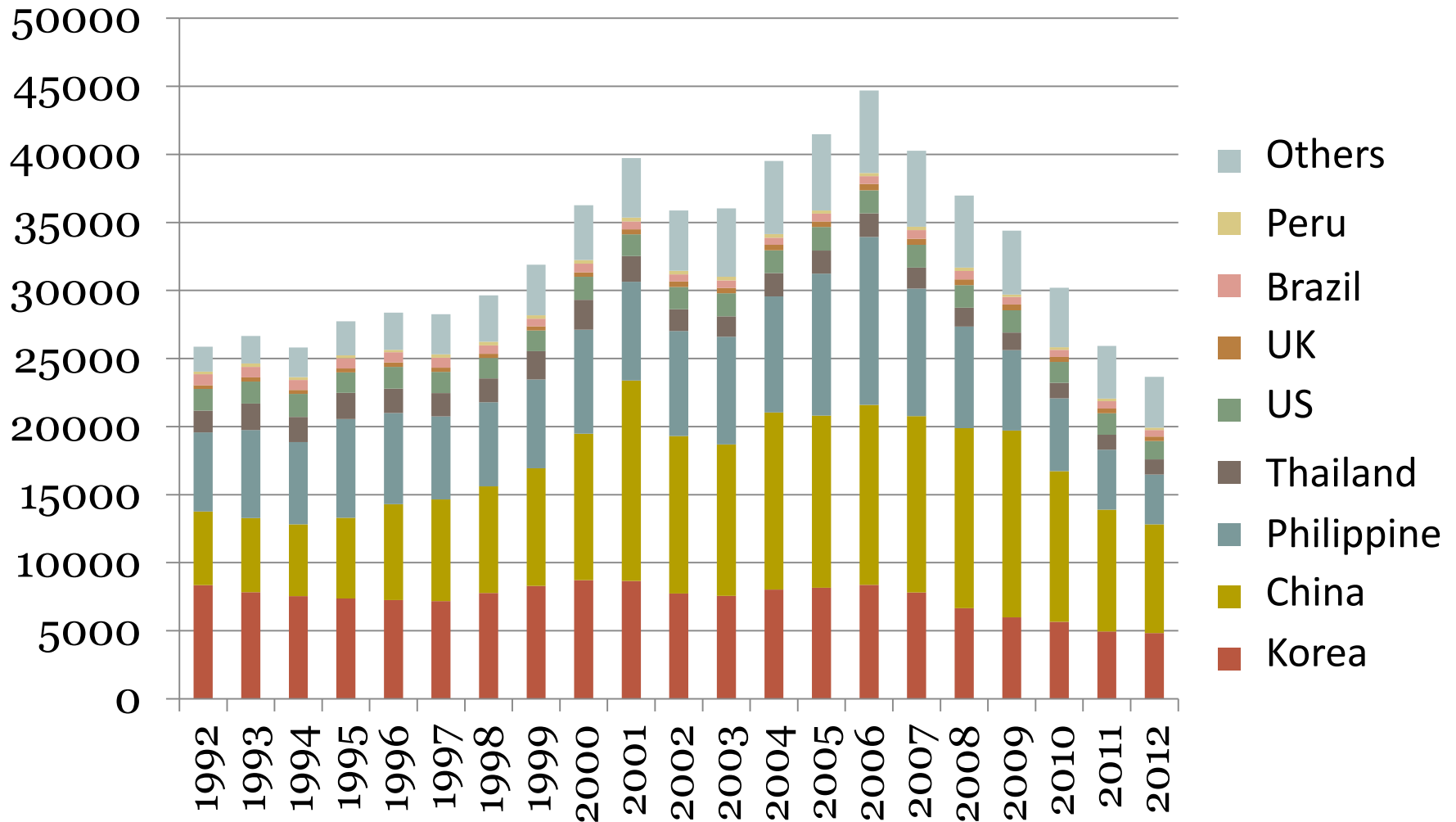
Number of international marriages (1)

32



Number of international marriages (2) by nationality of spouse

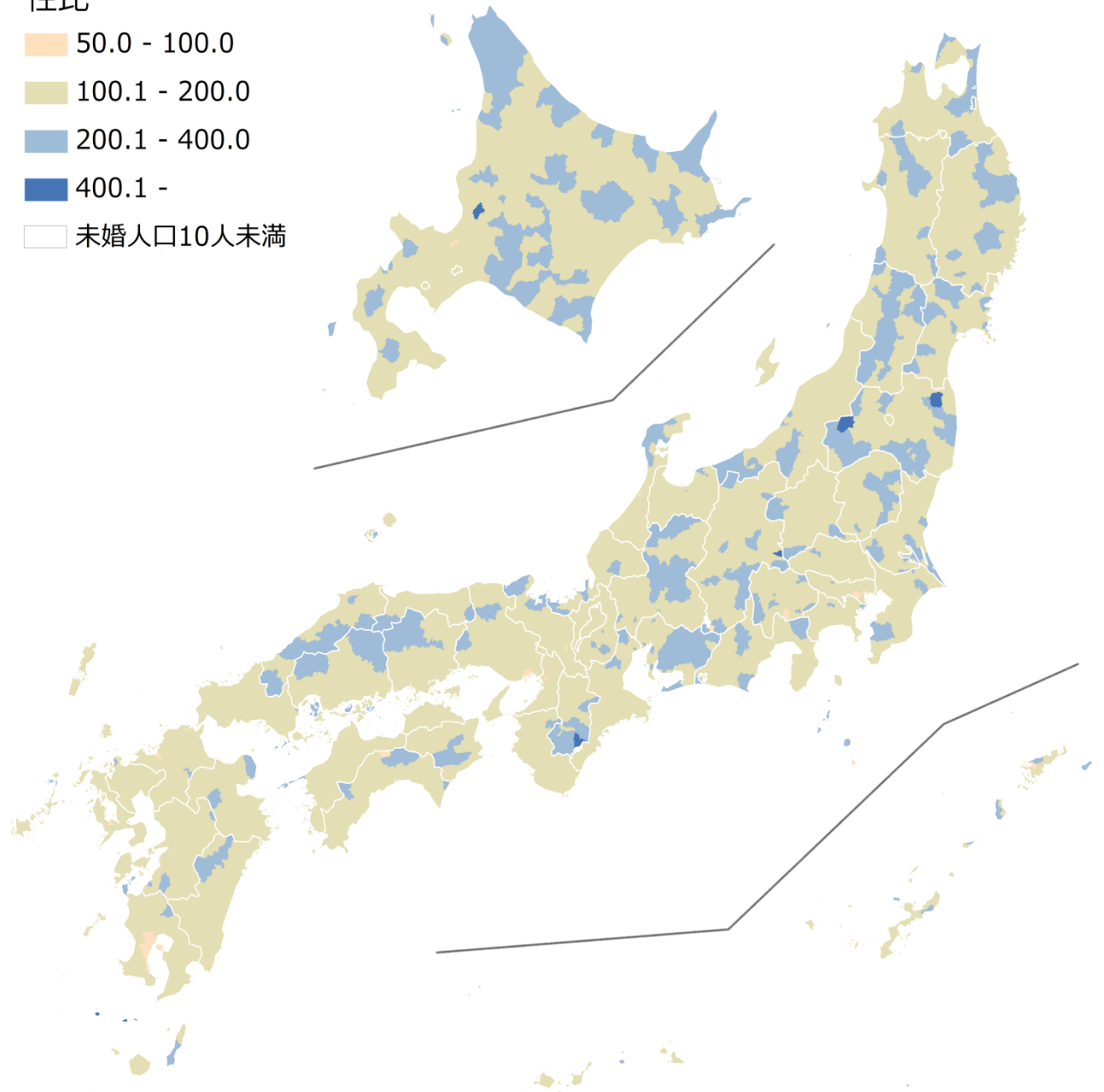
33



Sex ratio of never-married Japanese aged 30-39(2010)

性比

- 50.0 - 100.0
- 100.1 - 200.0
- 200.1 - 400.0
- 400.1 -
- 未婚人口10人未満



Sex ratio of never-married Japanese aged 30-39(2010)

Introduction of highly-skilled foreign workers

- Motivating foreign students completing PhD to stay in Japan-

Motivating foreign students completing PhD to stay in Japan (1)

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- Policy measures to attract foreign skilled workers have not achieved expected outcomes.
- Introduction of the new point-based system is a significant step forward, but uncertainty remains on its efficacy.
- Feasibility of reducing the conditions for international students who complete their PhD to apply for permanent residency.
- Expected benefits from this measure:

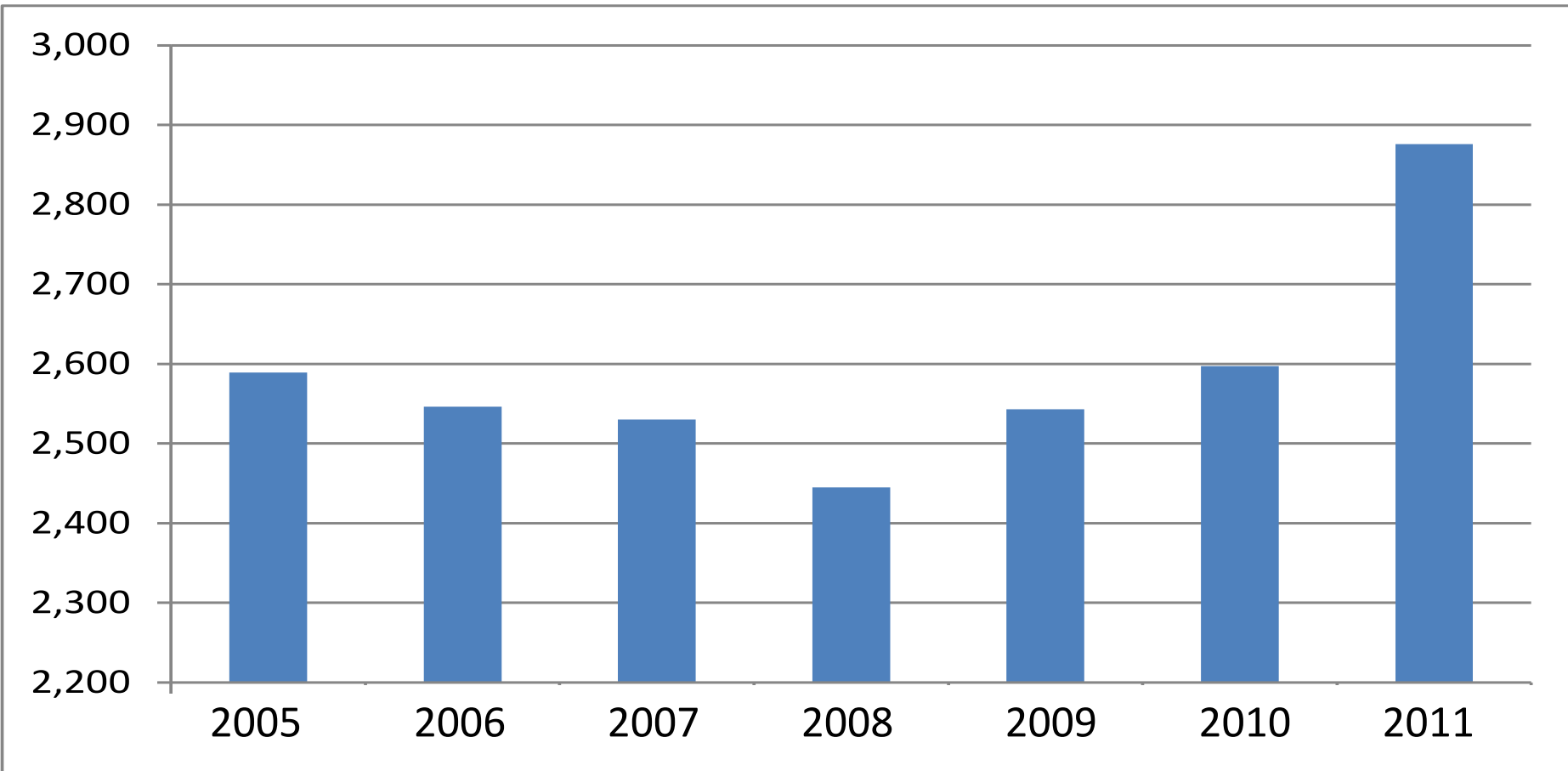
Motivating foreign students completing PhD to stay in Japan (2)

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- 1) Increasing the country's international competitiveness through skilled workers from overseas.
 - 2) Attracting more students from overseas.
 - 3) Relatively less difficulties expected for their integration to Japanese society with their good command of the Japanese language and understanding of the society.
- Their places of residence, however, expected to be concentrated in the metropolitan regions (particularly Tokyo area).

Number of PhDs awarded to students from foreign countries

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Conclusion

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Conclusion (1)

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- Recovery from the recession can stimulate immigration of foreigners to Japan, but uncertainty remains as to whether the level of immigration reaches the pre-recession level.
- Potentials of foreigners as “replacement migrants” needs to be considered in the age of population decline.
- Given the regional disparities in population decline, the role of “replacement migration” needs to be examined at the regional level, as well.

Conclusion (2)

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- My presentation focused on the need to drive migration of foreigners to non-metropolitan regions, the role of inflows of foreigners through international marriages, and possibilities for policy measures to encourage permanent settlement of international students after their completion of PhD. Promotion of policy by the government to facilitate social integration of foreigners is basis for all of these measures.
- A “Japanese model” of international migration need to accommodate the characteristics of the country as a non-English speaking countries and its demographic reality with the combination of population decline and population ageing.
- East and Southeast countries share these conditions with Japan, implying applicability of a “Japanese model” in the region.

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