

## Future Prospects of Regional Population in Japan

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This paper outlines the methods and results of the "Regional Population Projections for Japan: 2015-2045" ("RPJ2018" hereafter) drafted by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, and presents a view of foreign population and centralization in the Tokyo metropolitan area – which might be adjustable through the introduction of national or local policies (among others). The "RPJ2018" presents high population decline rates, especially in non-metropolitan areas, and indicate that a greater part of this decline will be as a result of a natural decrease as the pressures of nationwide population declines intensify. As such, it appears to be very difficult to halt the population decline among the foreign population located in non-metropolitan areas given that this group is more concentrated in metropolitan areas (than the general Japanese population) coupled with a drop in the fertility rate throughout the foreign population. On the other hand, the centralization in the Tokyo metropolitan area will continue across the long run since the out-migration mobility (from the Tokyo metropolitan area) will decline by the percentage increase of the number of people born in the Tokyo metropolitan area, along with people whose parents were also born in the same district. As the region's ability to achieve a population increase via in-migration will be limited in small part, it can be said that all regional plans need to be formulated on the premise that population decline – mainly as a result of a natural decline – is a given.