

# Demographic Analysis of Changes in Internal Migration Trends Associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic

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According to data from the "Annual report on internal migration in Japan derived from the basic resident registration" by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, internal migration trends have changed significantly since 2020, following the COVID-19 outbreak. While many studies have focused on these changing trends, there have been no demographic studies based on long-term data. Therefore, focusing on the Tokyo metropolitan area, in the present study, the changes in the number of prefectural in-migration and out-migration since the mid-1990s were decomposed into population structure factor and mobility factor and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on internal migration was analyzed from a demographic perspective. The main findings were as follows. First, while a general decrease in net out-migration was observed in non-metropolitan areas after 2020, this was due more to a decline in out-migration mobility than an increase in in-migration mobility, which was particularly pronounced in the Tohoku region. Second, although there was a significant decline in in-migration mobility in the Tokyo metropolitan area in 2021, it was at the 2015 level, suggesting that population structure factor also had a considerable effect on the decline in the number of in-migrants and on net migration. These findings are expected to be useful for setting migration assumptions for regional population projections based on the 2020 census.

Keywords : COVID-19, internal migration, Tokyo metropolitan area, population structure factor, mobility factor