

## Recent Migration Trends in Japan<sup>1</sup>: Overview of the Results of the Sixth National Survey on Migration (2006)

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### I Introduction

#### 1. Overview

In recent years, the degree of population concentration in Japan has intensified as Tokyo and other large metropolitan areas have witnessed increasing positive net migration while many prefectures in non-metropolitan areas have seen negative net migration. Since most of those migrating are from the younger generations, migration has a substantial effect not only on the size of regional population but on the demographic composition of individual regions as well. The pace of aging in today's Japan is unprecedented. As an outflow of the younger generation continues, it accelerates the pace of aging of the population in many regions. Thus, understanding the current trends and causes of migration, of return migration and other issues regarding migration is of great importance from the regional perspective. Given this situation, the *Sixth Migration Survey* aims to understand the recent trend of migration and to obtain basic data for clarifying future trends of migration.

National migration surveys have been conducted five times so far (1976, 1986, 1991, 1996, and 2001) as part of the Population and Social Security Surveys undertaken by the Institute. The *Sixth Migration Survey* was conducted on July 1, 2006 with the assistance from the Statistics and Information Department, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, various prefectural and city governments, cities/special wards with health centers established, as well as various individual health centers. Questions included residential histories of household heads and household members, prefectures in which respondents have lived, experience of leaving home, prospects of residence 5 years in the future, etc. The questions asked are mostly the same as those in the previous survey.

#### 2. Methodology and Response Rate

The subjects of this survey were household heads and household members of all households in 300 districts that were randomly selected from the survey districts of Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions of the People on Health and Welfare,

2006. The questionnaires were distributed and collected by enumerators. In principle, household heads were asked to fill in the questionnaires.

Out of 16,997 eligible households, 14,062 questionnaires were distributed; of these, 12,575 questionnaires were returned. Among the questionnaires collected, those without any entries and those missing essential information were treated as invalid, yielding a final total of 12,262 valid responses, on which the analysis was based. Thus, the response rate among the eligible households was 74.0% and the response rate of valid questionnaires was 72.1%. The response rate among the households to which questionnaires were successfully distributed was 89.4%, and the response rate of valid questionnaires was 87.2%.

Table I-1 shows a comparison of the population distribution by region between the respondents of this survey and the estimated population by the Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication, as of October 1, 2006. Table I-1 indicates that the percentages of respondents in the Tokyo, Osaka and other metropolitan areas are lower in the *Sixth Migration Survey* compared to the estimated population. The corresponding percentages in Chubu/Hokuriku and Kyushu/Okinawa, however, are higher in the present survey. This difference may be attributable to the relative difficulty in distributing and collecting questionnaires in metropolitan areas due to a higher concentration of one-person households. Similar trends were observed in the *Fifth Migration Survey* as well.

Table I-2 shows a comparison of the data on age composition (5-year groups) of respondents between this survey and the estimated population as of October 1, 2006. According to the table, the difference in the age composition between respondents in the survey and the estimated population is the largest in the 20s, with the percentages being lower in this survey. For instance, the percentage of the population in their early 20s in the estimated population is 5.7%, while the corresponding percentage is 4.8% in this survey. As can be inferred from the distribution by region in Table I-1, the difficulties distributing and collecting questionnaires

**Table I-1 Population Distribution by Region**

	The Sixth Migration Survey (2006.7)		Projected Population (2006.10)*		Difference
	Population	%	Population (in thousands)	%	%
Total	32,205	100.0	127,771	100.0	-
Hokkaido	1,530	4.8	5,601	4.4	0.4
Tohoku	2,284	7.1	9,575	7.5	-0.4
Kita-Kanto	1,963	6.1	7,008	5.5	0.6
Tokyo area	8,341	25.9	34,634	27.1	-1.2
Chubu, Hokuriku	3,612	11.2	12,385	9.7	1.5
Chukyo area	2,763	8.6	11,286	8.8	-0.3
Osaka area	3,735	11.6	17,048	13.3	-1.7
Keihan area	840	2.6	3,833	3.0	-0.4
Chugoku	1,881	5.8	7,654	6.0	-0.1
Shikoku	1,154	3.6	4,063	3.2	0.4
Kyushu, Okinawa	4,102	12.7	14,684	11.5	1.2

\*Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications: Current Population Estimates as of October 1st, 2006

Note: Regions include following prefectures:

Hokkaido Hokkaido Tohoku Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Akita, Yamagata, Fukushima Kita-Kanto Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma Tokyo Area Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa Chubu, Hokuriku Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Yamanashi, Nagano, Shizuoka Chukyo Area Gifu, Aichi, Mie Osaka Area Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo Keihan Area Shiga, Nara, Wakayama Chugoku Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi Shikoku Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, Kochi Kyushu, Okinawa Fukuoka, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Oita, Miyazaki, Kagoshima, Okinawa

**Table I-2 Population Distribution by Age**

	The Sixth Migration Survey (2006.7)		Projected Population (2006.10)*		Difference
	Population	%**	Population (in thousands)	%	%
Total	32,205	100.0	127,770	100.0	-
0~4	1,405	4.5	5,504	4.3	0.2
5~9	1,638	5.3	5,923	4.6	0.6
10~14	1,597	5.1	6,007	4.7	0.4
15~19	1,625	5.2	6,424	5.0	0.2
20~24	1,487	4.8	7,313	5.7	-0.9
25~29	1,695	5.4	8,014	6.3	-0.8
30~34	2,313	7.4	9,643	7.5	-0.1
35~39	2,201	7.1	9,273	7.3	-0.2
40~44	1,968	6.3	7,982	6.2	0.1
45~49	1,864	6.0	7,694	6.0	0.0
50~54	2,005	6.4	8,419	6.6	-0.2
55~59	2,722	8.7	10,825	8.5	0.3
60~64	2,076	6.7	8,143	6.4	0.3
65~69	1,951	6.3	7,624	6.0	0.3
70~74	1,707	5.5	6,814	5.3	0.1
75~79	1,356	4.4	5,413	4.2	0.1
80~84	897	2.9	3,658	2.9	0.0
85 and over	637	2.0	3,094	2.4	-0.4
age unknown	1,061	-	-	-	-

\*Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications: Current Population Estimates as of October 1st, 2006

\*\*Percentage excluding age "unknown."

to/from relatively young one-person households, etc. are considered to have affected the result of this survey. Since the migration tendency is higher among the younger generations in general, the recent migration trends estimated by this survey may be slightly lower than the actual trend.

## II Migration from Residence 5 Years Earlier

As in the previous survey, the present survey asked respondents to specify their location of residence five years earlier (i.e., July 1, 2001). In the following, we explore migration trends by age by making a comparison with the results of the previous survey. Even if the location of residence 5 years earlier was the same as the present residence, it is quite possible that many of the respondents have actually moved within the period. In this analysis, however, the respondents were treated as “migrated” only if the location of residence 5 years earlier was different from the present residence (the location of residence at the time of the survey).

The data of the present survey indicate that a total of 27.6%<sup>3</sup> of the respondents lived in a different residence five years earlier. This percentage is higher than indicated by the previous survey (24.0%<sup>4</sup>) (Table II-1). Among those who moved within the last five years, the percentage of intra-prefectural migration was 21.3% (previous survey: 17.9%) while the percentage of inter-prefectural migration (moved in from “different prefecture” or from “foreign country”) was 6.4% (previous survey: 6.1%). The results show that intra-prefectural migration has become significantly more common than before. Moves within the same prefecture can be classified into intra-municipal migration and inter-municipal migration, but a simple comparison with the previous survey is no longer possible due to the Heisei Municipal Amalgamation (under which various municipality districts were merged). In order to make a proper comparison with the previous survey, intra-municipal moves

are defined as cases where respondents answered that the residence five years earlier was “within the same municipality as the current municipality” and also answered “within the same municipality” according to the municipality division five years earlier. Inter-municipal moves are defined as cases where the residence five years earlier was in a “different municipality within the same prefecture as the current prefecture” or cases where the residence five years earlier was “within the same municipality” but in a “different municipality” according to the municipality division five years earlier.

The data of the present survey indicate that out of the 21.3% who had moved within the same prefecture, 12.3% had moved within the “same municipality” (previous survey: 11.0%), 7.6% (previous survey: 6.9%) had moved from a “different municipality,” and 1.4% was “unknown.” The “unknown” percentage refers to cases where the respondent’s residence five years earlier was “within the same municipality as the current municipality” but the division of the municipality five years earlier was unknown. These cases correspond to respondents who either have moved within the same municipality or moved from a different municipality according to the definitions above. These results show an increase in both the moves within the same municipality and the moves from a different municipality. Overall, a strong increasing trend can be seen especially for shorter-distance moves.

Next, the movements by sex as well as age are examined. Data by sex indicate that 28.4% of the male respondents had moved from the residence five years earlier (previous survey: 24.7%), while the corresponding percentage of the female respondents was 26.7% (previous survey: 23.5%). The percentage is higher for the male population, which is a recurring trend. Figure II-1 classifies respondents who were 5 years or older at the time of the survey into 5-year cohorts by sex to show

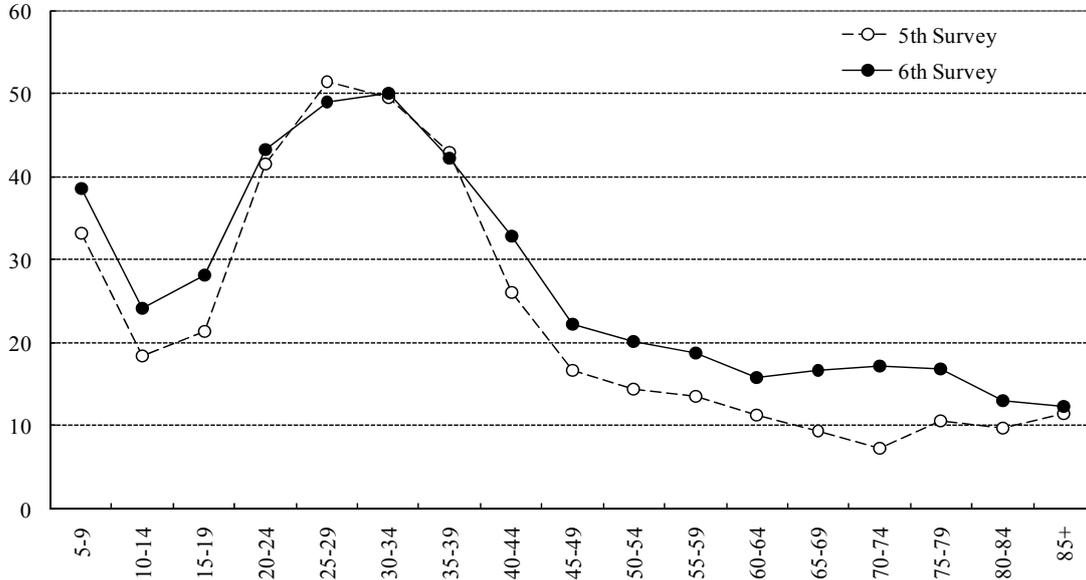
**Table II-1 Percentage of Respondents Whose Residence 5 Years Earlier was Different from the Present Residence**

	Total	In the Same Prefecture as 5 Years Earlier			In the Different Prefecture as 5 Years Earlier	
		in the same municipality	in a different municipality	municipality unknown		
The Sixth Survey	27.6	21.3	12.3	7.6	1.4	6.4
The Fifth Survey	24.0	17.9	11.0	6.9	-	6.1

\* The percentages do not include persons aged 0 to 4 and persons with unknown residence five years earlier at the time of the survey

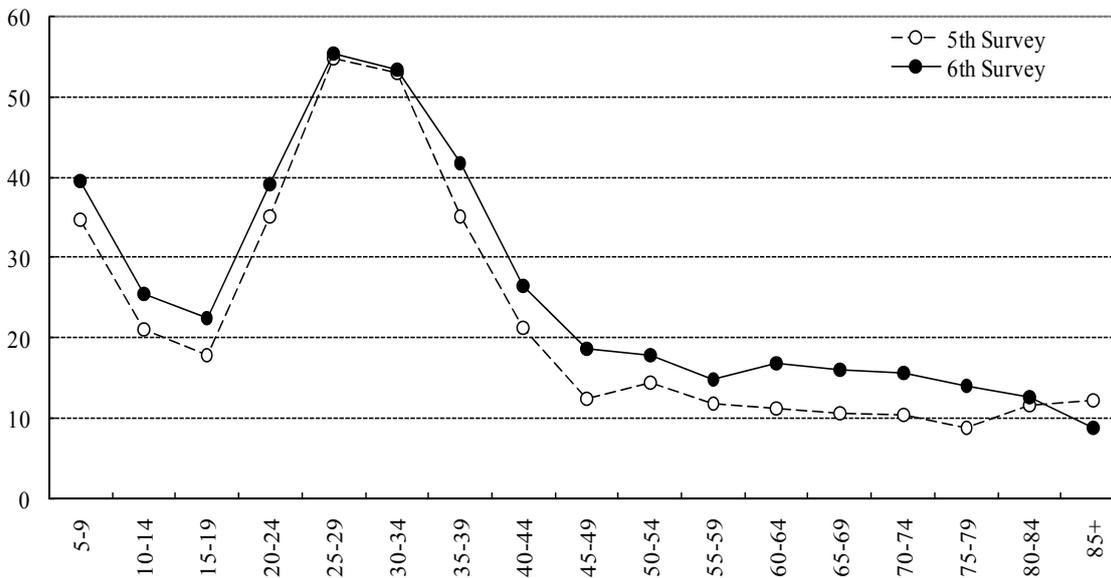
**Figure II-1 Percentage of Respondents Whose Residence 5 Years Earlier was Different from the Present Residence by Sex and Age (above: Male, Below: Female)**

Percentage of Respondents  
Whose Residence 5 Years  
Earlier was Different from the  
Present Residence  
(%)



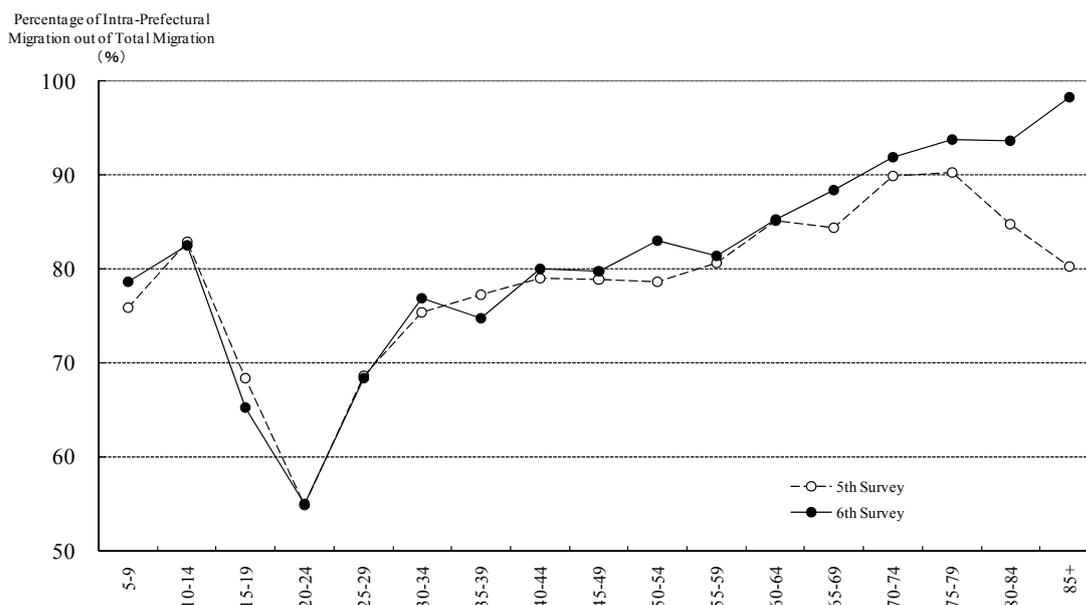
\* The percentages exclude respondents whose residence 5 years earlier was "unknown."

Percentage of Respondents  
Whose Residence 5 Years  
Earlier was Different from the  
Present Residence  
(%)



\* The percentages exclude respondents whose residence 5 years earlier was "unknown."

**Figure II-2 Percentage of Intra-Prefectural Migration Out of Total Migration**



the percentage of respondents whose location of residence five years earlier was different from the current one. As is clear from the figures, while the distribution of migration by age shows no significant change, the values have increased in almost all age groups compared to the previous survey. The increase in the middle and older age groups in their 40s to 70s is particularly noticeable for both males and females. The increase in the 15-19 age group is also large, but a large part of the increase is considered to be due to moves made together with their parents. A comparison by sex shows a generally high percentage of migration for males. However, during the peak ages of 25 to 29 and 30 to 34, females are found to migrate more than males, as can be seen from the sharp increase in the percentage moved in this age group in the graph. This is considered to be due to female migration for marriage, which tends to be concentrated around these specific age groups. Such tendency is also observed from sex age specific migration rates in the Census.

Figure II-2 shows the percentage of age specific intra-prefectural migration out of total migration. The percentage dropped slightly for the ages 15 to 19, signifying an increase in long-distance migration. This may be due to an increase in the percentage of students going on to higher education as discussed in reasons for migration below (see Chapter IV Reasons for Migration). For other age groups, generally an increase in intra-prefectural migration is observed. Most notably, the percentage of intra-prefectural migration has

increased among the 40-44 age group and above. Such increases in intra-prefectural migration of the middle and older cohorts boost the overall percentage of migration.

From demographic perspective, future migration is expected to decrease as the birthrate continues to drop nation-wide and the population of the younger generations who tend to have high migration rates, declines. However, if high migration propensity of the middle and older generations continues as was revealed in this survey, the overall migration may not necessarily decrease.

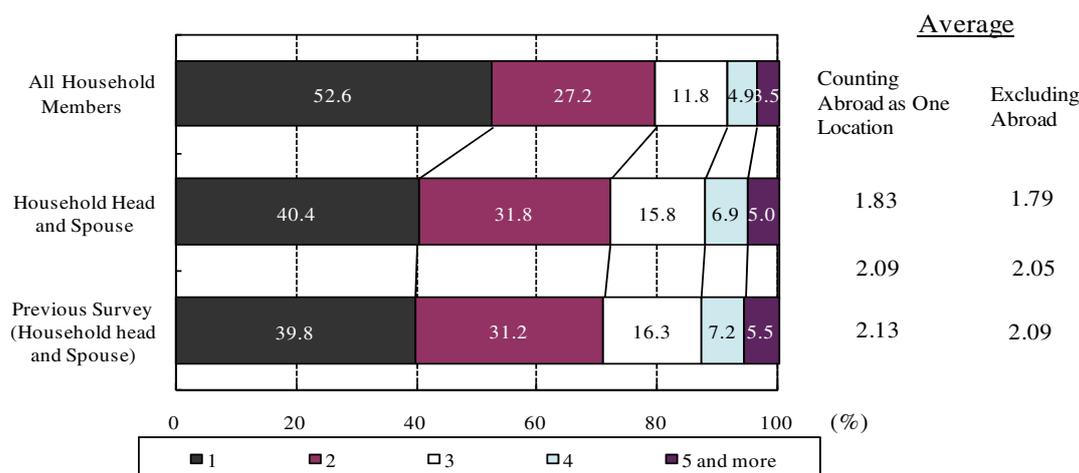
### III Migration Experience and Region of Residence

#### 1. Number of Prefectures Respondents Have Lived In

In this survey we asked each household member to list the names of prefectures and foreign countries in which they have lived for at least three months in the past. By using this information, we are able to grasp the general picture of individuals migrating across prefectural boundaries up until the present time. In the following, we overview individuals' migration experience by analyzing the number of prefectures, and experiences in residing in metropolitan areas and specific regions.

Figure III-1 shows the distribution of the number of prefectures in which respondents have lived in. In these statistics, the experience of living in foreign countries is counted as one, even if the respondents lived in several countries. Respondents with an unknown number of prefectures of

Figure III-1 Number of Prefectures Respondents Have Lived In



Abroad is counted as one location. "Unknown" answers are excluded.

residence are excluded from the total. According to these figures, the percentage of respondents who have only lived in a single prefecture, that is, respondents who have never lived in places other than the current prefecture of residence comprise 52.6% out of all household members and 40.4% of all household heads and spouses. The percentages of respondents who have lived in two locations were 27.2% and 31.8%, respectively, and the corresponding percentages for three locations were 11.8% and 15.8%, respectively. The percentage of respondents who have lived in four locations or more is low: only 8.4% of all household members and 12.0% of household heads and spouses. The average number of prefectures respondents have lived in is 1.83 for all household members and 2.09 for household heads and spouses if foreign countries are counted as 1. The corresponding values when foreign countries are excluded are 1.79 and 2.05, respectively.

The number of prefectures lived are fewer for all household members as compared to only the household heads and spouses, due to the inclusion of minors with little migration experience. Nonetheless, 47.4% of all household members have lived in two or more locations. Respondents who have lived in only one location, i.e., respondents who have never lived in locations other than the current prefecture, seem to be a minority, especially in adolescence and later.

Figure III-1 shows the corresponding values from the fifth survey as well, for the sake of comparison. In the previous survey, questions regarding prefectures of residence were asked only to household heads and spouses. Comparison of the values for household heads and spouses show that the percentages of those who have lived in a single

location and those who have lived in two locations are slightly higher for this survey, whereas the percentage of those who have lived in three locations or more was slightly higher in the previous survey. The average numbers of prefectures of residence, when foreign countries are counted as 1, were 2.13 in the previous survey and 2.09 in this survey; the value was slightly lower this time. It should be noted that the questions asked in this survey was slightly different from the previous survey. The question in the previous survey did not specify the length of residence when it asked the respondents about the regions in which they have lived. Since the number of regions in which respondents have lived in is generally expected to decrease if the duration is specified, the value will be lower for the question format used in this survey even if the respondents have the same migration experience. Taking this point into consideration, it would appear that there are no significant differences in the responses between the previous survey and this one, at least regarding household heads' and spouses' overall migration patterns.

Looking at the average numbers of prefectures the respondents have lived in by age, sex, and present residential region counting foreign countries as 1 (Table III-1), the value turned out to be the highest among male respondents in their 40s to 60s living in the Tokyo area (in the category of all household members). The trend is mostly the same in case when the analysis is restricted to household heads and spouses as well, but in this case, the average value of respondents in the latter half of their 30s is also high. In either case, the values for all household members are lower than the corresponding values of household heads and spouses. A comparison of the values for household

**Table III-1 Average Number of Prefectures Respondents Have Lived In**

1.By Age

	All Household Members	Household Head/ Spouse	Previous Survey (Household Head / Spouse)
Total	27,917	17,630	19,297
0-4	1.07	-	-
5-9	1.18	-	-
10-14	1.24	-	-
15-19	1.33	1.97	1.90
20-24	1.58	2.05	1.98
25-29	1.71	1.96	2.06
30-34	1.88	2.00	2.12
35-39	2.03	2.15	2.08
40-44	2.08	2.17	2.08
45-49	2.07	2.13	2.17
50-54	2.12	2.17	2.17
55-59	2.09	2.12	2.25
60-64	2.15	2.18	2.19
65-69	2.11	2.12	2.06
70-74	1.96	2.02	2.05
75-79	1.79	1.86	2.12
80-84	1.82	1.95	2.21
85+	1.89	2.05	2.11

2.By Sex

	All Household Members	Household Head/ Spouse	Previous Survey (Household Head / Spouse)
Male	1.93	2.24	2.27
Female	1.72	1.94	1.99

3.By Residential Region

	All Household Members	Household Head/ Spouse	Previous Survey (Household Head / Spouse)
Hokkaido	1.43	1.57	1.48
Tohoku	1.77	2.01	1.79
Kita-Kanto	1.93	2.24	1.94
Tokyo Area	2.00	2.35	2.53
Chubu/Hokuriku	1.76	1.99	1.82
Chukyo Area	1.67	1.91	2.02
Osaka Area	1.88	2.12	2.12
Keihan Area	1.65	1.84	2.17
Chugoku	1.71	1.91	2.05
Shikoku	1.79	2.00	1.98
Kyusyu/Okinawa	1.79	2.04	2.14

Abroad is counted as one location. For regional composition, see Table I-1.

heads and spouses by age between this survey and the previous one shows that the values for the 15-24 and 35-44 age groups have significantly increased, while they have significantly decreased for the 25-34, 55-59 and 75-84 age groups. Moreover, the averages by present residential region show that the values increased in Chubu and Hokuriku and the eastern areas except for Tokyo, but on the other hand the value decreased in many regions in the Chubu and western parts of the country.

**2. Regions Respondents Have Lived In**

Table III-2, Figure III-3, and Table III-3 present percentages of respondents who have ever lived in the large metropolitan area and regions. Here, the large metropolitan area is defined as an area that includes the three largest metropolitan areas (Tokyo, Chukyo, and Osaka). Table III-2 shows that 62.6 % of people have lived in the large metropolitan area when the analysis includes all household members. The percentage is higher for males than for females. Data by age show that the percentage is high among those aged 50-64 and 35-44, who were in the latter half of their teens and their 20s during Japan's economic growth period and during the asset-inflated bubble economy period, respectively. The high share of the latter age group

in the large metropolitan area may be explained by them being the second generation of the large number of people who migrated to the large metropolitan areas during the economic growth period. The corresponding values for household heads and spouses are slightly higher than those of all household members, but the trends by sex and age are the same.

A comparison of the values for household heads and spouses with those of the previous survey reveals that both the percentages of the total number and the percentages by sex increased slightly. The percentage by age dropped for ages 25-34, but shows an overall upward trend in other age groups. The percentage of respondents who have lived in the large metropolitan area is influenced, as explained above, by the socio-economic conditions during the period in which they were adolescents as well as by the regional distribution of their birth place. Therefore, the percentage varies depending on the individual cohort in question. The differences in the percentages by age between this and the previous survey are influenced by the recent migration conditions between the large metropolitan area and non-metropolitan areas, but some of the differences may be attributable to the respondents' migration experience in their

**Table III-2 Percentage of Respondents Who Have Lived in Metropolitan Areas**

	All Household Members	Household Head/ Spouse	Previous Survey (Household Head / Spouse)
Total	27,917	17,630	19,297
Total (%)	62.8	67.2	66.0
<u>(1) By Sex</u>			
Male	65.1	69.8	68.8
Female	60.6	64.5	63.3
<u>(2) By Age</u>			
0-4	48.6	—	—
5-9	51.5	—	—
10-14	53.2	—	—
15-19	54.2	55.6	49.5
20-24	63.4	65.8	56.6
25-29	62.6	63.1	66.4
30-34	66.1	67.6	71.1
35-39	69.9	71.3	70.9
40-44	70.7	72.4	66.4
45-49	66.2	67.8	68.1
50-54	68.9	69.8	68.2
55-59	69.6	70.4	70.2
60-64	69.3	69.7	65.4
65-69	66.1	66.5	60.3
70-74	59.8	62.4	58.9
75-79	50.1	52.2	58.3
80-84	55.1	58.6	59.5
85+	54.6	59.1	63.9

“Unknown” answers are excluded. Metropolitan Areas include Tokyo Areas, Chukyo Areas, and Osaka Areas (see TableI-1)

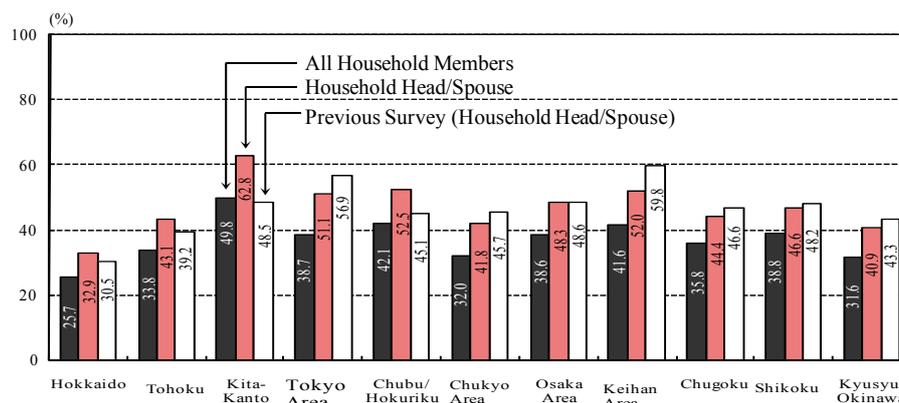
adolescence and the difference in each cohort’s regional distribution at birth.

Next, in order to compare residential experience by regional block, the percentages of respondents who have lived in regional block other than the one they are currently living in, are shown for each regional block in Figure III-2. Although there are individual differences depending on whether the targets are all household members or household heads and spouses, the percentages are consistently high in regional blocks adjacent to the three largest metropolitan areas in this survey. Meanwhile, the percentages are low in the Chukyo area as well as Hokkaido, Tohoku, and Kyushu/Okinawa, which are located far from metropolitan areas. Comparing with the corresponding values for household heads and spouses from the previous survey, it was found that the percentages increased in Chubu and Hokuriku and eastern regions (except for the Tokyo area) and decreased in the Chukyo area and western regions. As in the case of the average number of prefectures respondents have lived in, there are differences between

the eastern and western parts of Japan.

In order to examine the regions respondents have lived in the past, Table III-3 shows the percentage of the respondents presently residing in each regional block who have ever lived in each of the other regional blocks. The percentages of respondents who have lived in the Tokyo area are high in most of the regional blocks. The percentages are particularly high in the eastern parts of Japan: 40.7% of the respondents living in Kita-Kanto and 27.4% of the respondents living in Chubu/Hokuriku have lived in the Tokyo area at some point in their lives. However, the percentages are relatively lower in the western parts of Japan: less than 10% of the respondents living in Keihan and Shikoku regional blocks have lived in the Tokyo area. The percentages of respondents who have lived in the Osaka area are high in the western parts of Japan: 28.2% in the Keihan area and 22.1% in Shikoku. However, the percentage of respondents who have lived in the Osaka area is low in the eastern parts of Japan, less than 10% in all regional blocks. Migration to and from the

**Figure III-2 Percentage of Respondents Who Have Lived in Other Regions by Residence of Present Region**



**Table III-3 Percentage of Respondents Having Lived in Other Regions by Present Residential Region (%)**

Region of Present Residence	Total	Percentage of Respondents Who Have Lived in Each Region											
		Hokkaido	Tohoku	Kita-Kanto	Toyo Area	Chubu/Hokuriku	Chukyo Area	Osaka Area	Keihan Area	Chugoku	Shikoku	Kyusyu/Okinawa	Abroad
Hokkaido	1,410	100.0	5.5	1.7	15.3	2.1	2.2	2.0	0.2	1.6	0.7	2.6	2.8
Tohoku	1,845	3.6	100.0	2.9	24.4	5.9	2.3	2.6	0.6	0.5	0.1	1.1	1.8
Kita-Kanto	1,666	2.4	5.2	100.0	40.7	5.2	2.2	4.1	0.7	1.6	0.4	3.3	4.5
Tokyo Area	7,578	3.4	8.1	6.9	100.0	9.4	3.6	6.8	1.0	3.3	1.6	5.3	4.7
Chubu/Hokuriku	3,069	1.3	3.2	2.8	27.4	100.0	7.1	6.5	1.2	1.3	0.6	2.0	3.7
Chukyo Area	2,350	1.6	1.7	1.6	10.9	7.4	100.0	8.5	2.6	2.3	1.2	7.0	3.0
Osaka Area	3,204	1.2	1.6	1.1	10.7	5.0	5.6	100.0	7.7	7.4	5.1	8.1	2.9
Keihan Area	706	0.4	0.3	0.8	5.2	4.2	6.7	28.2	100.0	1.8	2.0	2.8	3.0
Chugoku	1,591	0.4	0.9	1.3	10.4	1.5	3.4	16.2	1.3	100.0	3.8	7.8	2.5
Shikoku	892	0.9	0.4	0.7	8.6	1.9	3.1	22.1	2.2	8.4	100.0	5.4	2.5
Kyusyu/Okinawa	3,606	1.3	0.9	0.9	12.9	2.1	4.9	9.9	1.2	4.0	1.5	100.0	3.8
Total	27,917	7.0	10.3	8.9	39.8	16.1	12.3	18.9	4.4	8.8	4.9	17.2	3.6

“Unknown” answers are excluded. For regional composition, see Table I-1.

Tokyo area occurs on a nationwide scale, while migration to and from the Osaka area appears to be more limited, centered in and around the Kinki, Chugoku and Shikoku regional blocks. Note that, fewer than 10% of the respondents in all regional blocks (except for the Chukyo area itself) have lived in the Chukyo area. Although it is not possible to make a straightforward comparison due to the differences in geographical ranges, it can at least be said that as far as the percentages are concerned, there are more regions where the percentage of respondents who have lived in Kyushu and Okinawa blocks is higher than in the Chukyo area,

indicating that there has been an active migration between Kyushu/Okinawa and other regional blocks.

### 3. Birthplace and Present Residence

In this survey, we asked all household members about their birthplaces. The term “birthplace” here refers to the location where a person’s parents had their permanent residence at the time the person was born. Data on birthplaces allows us to clarify a part of individual’s migration experience in the period between their birth and the time of the survey. Table III-4 shows the relationship between

birthplace regions and regions of present residence. Although both Table III-4 (1) and (2) are based on the same values, (1) shows distribution of residential regional blocks by birth regional blocks (the sum of percentages in each horizontal row is 100), while (2) shows distribution of birth regional blocks by residential regional blocks (the sum of percentages in each vertical column is 100).

Looking at the percentage of respondents living in the same regional block as where they were born in Table III-4 (1) (listed along the diagonal from the upper left corner to the lower right corner of the table), it is found that the percentage is the highest among respondents born in the Chukyo (89.5%) and Tokyo (89.1%) blocks. On the other hand, the percentage is the lowest among those born in Tohoku (77.6%) and the Keihan blocks

**Table III-4 Birth Regions and Residential Regions (%)**

(1) Distribution of Residential Region by Birth Region

Birth Region	Total	Residential Region											Total	Previous Survey (% in the same region)
		Hokkaido	Tohoku	Kita-Kanto	Toyo Area	Chubu/Hokuriku	Chukyo Area	Osaka Area	Keihan Area	Chugoku	Shikoku	Kyusyu Okinawa		
Hokkaido	1,498	84.6	1.4	1.1	9.1	0.6	0.9	1.1	-	0.3	0.1	0.8	100	79.2
Tohoku	2,544	1.5	77.6	1.8	15.3	1.6	0.6	0.7	-	0.4	-	0.6	100	77.1
Kita-Kanto	1,708	0.4	0.7	80.4	15.7	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	100	80.2
Tokyo Area	6,328	0.4	0.8	3.6	89.1	2.6	0.8	1.2	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.9	100	90.4
Chubu/Hokuriku	3,661	0.2	0.7	1.1	11.2	81.9	2.4	1.7	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	100	81.2
Chukyo Area	2,414	0.1	0.3	0.2	4.0	1.6	89.5	2.7	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.7	100	88.8
Osaka Area	3,124	0.1	0.3	0.7	6.4	1.7	2.1	82.3	2.5	1.6	0.8	1.5	100	82.1
Keihan Area	822	-	0.1	0.1	3.6	1.1	3.0	12.8	77.9	0.4	0.1	0.9	100	80.1
Chugoku	1,864	0.8	0.2	0.6	6.4	1.0	1.1	7.6	0.2	79.8	0.6	1.7	100	76.4
Shikoku	1,228	0.2	-	0.2	5.1	0.2	0.9	9.0	0.7	2.9	79.9	1.1	100	74.2
Kyusyu/Okinawa	4,350	0.4	0.2	0.9	6.0	0.7	2.7	4.6	0.4	1.7	0.3	82.2	100	82.1
Abroad	354	7.3	3.4	11.6	25.4	11.3	6.2	10.5	1.7	3.7	1.4	17.5	100	-
Total	29,895	4.7	7.1	6.1	25.8	11.5	8.7	11.4	2.6	5.8	3.5	12.9	100	81.8

(2) Distribution of Birth Region by Residential Region

Birth Region	Total	Residential Region											Total	Previous Survey (% in the same region)
		Hokkaido	Tohoku	Kita-Kanto	Toyo Area	Chubu/Hokuriku	Chukyo Area	Osaka Area	Keihan Area	Chugoku	Shikoku	Kyusyu Okinawa		
Hokkaido	1,498	90.0	1.0	0.9	1.8	0.3	0.5	0.5	-	0.2	0.1	0.3	5.0	91.8
Tohoku	2,544	2.6	92.8	2.6	5.1	1.2	0.5	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.4	8.5	94.7
Kita-Kanto	1,708	0.5	0.6	75.3	3.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	5.7	83.8
Tokyo Area	6,328	1.7	2.4	12.4	73.2	4.8	1.9	2.3	0.3	1.6	0.7	1.5	21.2	68.1
Chubu/Hokuriku	3,661	0.4	1.2	2.2	5.3	87.6	3.4	1.8	1.2	0.5	0.4	0.2	12.2	90.4
Chukyo Area	2,414	0.1	0.4	0.2	1.2	1.1	83.2	1.9	0.9	0.8	0.3	0.5	8.1	79.2
Osaka Area	3,124	0.3	0.5	1.2	2.6	1.6	2.5	75.5	10.1	2.8	2.4	1.2	10.4	76.4
Keihan Area	822	-	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.3	1.0	3.1	83.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	2.7	79.6
Chugoku	1,864	1.1	0.1	0.6	1.6	0.6	0.8	4.1	0.4	86.2	1.1	0.8	6.2	85.5
Shikoku	1,228	0.1	-	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.4	3.2	1.0	2.0	93.0	0.4	4.1	91.4
Kyusyu/Okinawa	4,350	1.2	0.4	2.1	3.4	0.9	4.5	5.8	2.2	4.2	1.1	92.8	14.6	91.1
Abroad	354	1.8	0.6	2.2	1.2	1.2	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.5	1.6	1.2	-
Total	29,895	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	81.8

“Unknown” answers are excluded. For regional composition, see Table I-1.

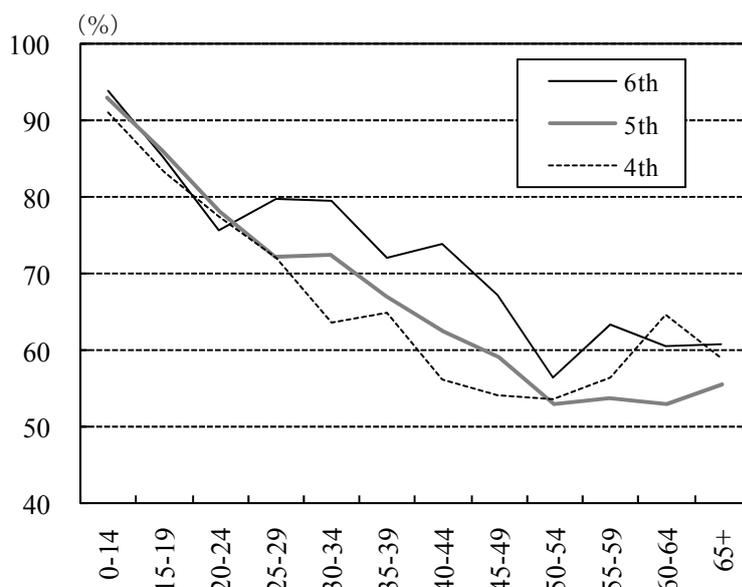
(77.9%). Generally, the percentage of respondents living in their birth regional blocks at the time of the survey is high in metropolitan areas. This is attributable to the plentiful opportunities for higher education and employment near one's home available in these areas, which lessen the need to migrate to other areas for these purposes. It should be noted that the percentage of respondents both born and living in the same blocks at the time of the survey is lower in the Osaka blocks than in the Tokyo and Chukyo blocks. This is considered to be due to a relatively high percentage of people moving to the Tokyo blocks, as shown in the table.

Next, according to Table III-4 (2), the percentage of respondents who live in the birth regional block is particularly high in Shikoku (93.0%), Tohoku (92.8%), and Kyushu/Okinawa (92.8%), while it is low in Tokyo (73.2%), Kita-Kanto (75.3%), and Osaka (75.5%). The percentages of people native to the regional blocks tend to be lower in metropolitan areas and their vicinities. The large population of migrants coming into metropolitan areas from non-metropolitan areas contributes to the relatively low percentages of native population in these areas. The same tendency for decline in the percentages of native population found in the regions in the vicinity of metropolitan areas are considered to be attributable to a certain number of people migrating to those areas with the suburbanization of large metropolitan areas.

A comparison of this survey and the previous survey reveals that the percentages of native-born respondents classified by birth regional block (Table III-4 (1)) significantly increased in Shikoku (+5.7%), Hokkaido (+5.4%) and Chugoku (+3.3%). Meanwhile, the percentages of respondents born in the current residential block (Table III-4 (2)) significantly increased in the Tokyo area (+5.0%) and Chukyo area (+4.0%) and decreased in Kita-Kanto (-8.5%). Among these changes, the values for the Tokyo area, for instance, are considered to have reflected recent trends, which will be explained later. It must be noted, though, that compilation of data categorized into a limited number of survey areas (such as compilation by residential region) tends to be error-prone in general. Caution must be taken when drawing conclusions from limited classifications, especially if distributions vary greatly from survey to survey.

Lastly, the percentages of native population (from the Tokyo block) among respondents currently living in the Tokyo block are shown by age (Figure III-3). The shifts in the percentages as respondents' ages increase show that although the percentage of native population is high at 94.1% for children below 15 years of age, it drops to 76.0% for those aged 20 to 24, recovers to 80% for those aged 25 to 34, but then gradually decreases among the older groups. The percentage falls to 56.6% among people in the first half of their 50s, slightly increase for those in the latter half of their

**Figure III-3 Percentage of Native Respondents Among Respondents Living in the Tokyo Area**



The result of the 4th Survey excludes "birth place unknown."

The results of the 5th and the 6th surveys include "sex unknown" but exclude "birth region unknown."

Tokyo areas include Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba, and Kanagawa.

50s, and reaches 61.0% for the population aged 65 years and up. Compared to the previous survey, the percentages are higher than the previous values for people aged 20-29 and over. Although statistic values by age tend to exhibit large fluctuations from survey to survey due to the small size of respondents for each age group, it is safe to say that the percentages of native population for the 30s and 40s cohorts, at least, have been consistently rising since the fourth survey.

**IV Reasons for Migration**

In this chapter, we examine the reasons for migration from micro-level, or from an individual perspective. In the survey, we asked migrants to choose one reason for their migration to their current residential locations among 19 response categories. Based on the answers to this question, the reasons for migration are analyzed by cross-tabulating the reasons by sex, by sex and age group, and by sex and previous residential location. The results are then compared with the previous survey conducted in 2001. The analysis restricts respondents to those who migrated to their current residential locations between July 2001 and 2006.

**1. Classification of Reasons for Migration**

In the survey, the respondents were asked to choose a reason for migration to their current residential location from 19 response categories. All response categories included are the same with the previous survey except for health reasons which is newly added in this survey. These 19 response categories are further classified into the 7 overall categories as in the previous survey for a comparison. The left column of Table IV-1 shows the 19 response categories as originally included in the questionnaire, while the right column shows the categories into which they are classified.

**2. Reasons for Migration: All Migrants and Reasons by Sex**

Figure IV-1 presents the distribution of reasons for migration of all migrants (including those whose sex is unknown) as well as the distribution by sex. The highest percentage of people moved for “housing-related reasons” which accounts for more than 1/3 of the total movers (35.4%). This is followed by “work-related reasons” (12.8%), “change in marital status” (12.6%) and “to accompany a family member(s) (12.2%). Then, “other

**Table IV-1 Categories of Reasons for Migration**

Reasons		Categories	
1	Attend/leave school	1	To attend school
2	First job	2	Work-related reasons
3	New job		
4	Job Transfer		
5	To take over family business		
6	Retired		
7	New housing	3	Housing-related reasons
8	Better neighborhood		
9	Closer to work/easier to commute		
10	To Live with parent(s)	4	Family-related reasons
11	To live closer to parent(s)		
12	To live with child(ren)		
13	To live closer to child(ren)		
14	To accompany family member(s)	5	To accompany family members
15	Marriage	6	Change in marital status
16	Divorce		
17	Better environment for child rearing	7	Other reasons
18	Health reasons		
19	Other reason		

reasons” (10.8%), “family-related reasons” (6.7%) and “to attend school” (4.6%) follow. Results for males show that the highest percentage of them moved for “housing-related reasons” (36.7%) followed by “work-related reasons” (18.2%), and “change in marital status” (10.1%). “Housing-related reasons” (34.2%) are also the highest among females but they tend to move in order to accompany a family member(s) (17.2%) and also because of “change in marital status” (15.0%). Regardless of sex, the top three reasons account for approximately 65% of the total, respectively.

Other than the top three reasons, “other reasons” (9.6%), “to accompany a family member(s)” (9.5%), “family-related reasons” (6.6%) and “to attend school” (5.6%) follow for males. For females, “other reasons” (11.9%), “family-related reasons” (6.9%), “work-related reasons” (7.2%) and then “to attend school” (3.6%) follow.

Table IV-2 compares distributions of reasons for migration between the 6<sup>th</sup> survey and the 5<sup>th</sup> survey (conducted in 2001). “Housing-related reasons” which gained the highest percentage in the 6<sup>th</sup> survey are also the most frequently cited

reason in the 5<sup>th</sup> survey. The percentage of movers who chose this category in the 5<sup>th</sup> survey reached 35.7%, about the same level as in the 6<sup>th</sup> survey. “Work-related reasons” which were the second highest reason in the 6<sup>th</sup> survey (12.8%) also ranked second in the 5<sup>th</sup> survey. The percentage of people who cited “work-related reasons” in the 5<sup>th</sup> survey (13.0%) is very similar to that of the 6<sup>th</sup> survey. Relative to the 5<sup>th</sup> survey, the percentages of movers who chose “to attend school,” “to accompany a family member(s),” and “other reasons” increased. The increase in the share of “other reasons” may be due to the addition of “health reasons” to the list of response categories in this round of survey. Meanwhile, the percentages of respondents who chose “family-related reasons” and “change in marital status” decreased.

Among males, a comparison with the previous survey indicates that the percentage of males who moved “to attend school” increased from 4.5% to 5.6%. At the same time, “housing-related reasons” increased from 35.1% to 36.7%, and “to accompany a family member(s)” went up from 7.2% to 9.5%. In contrast, those who moved due to

Figure IV-1 Reasons for Moving to Present Residence: 2001-2006

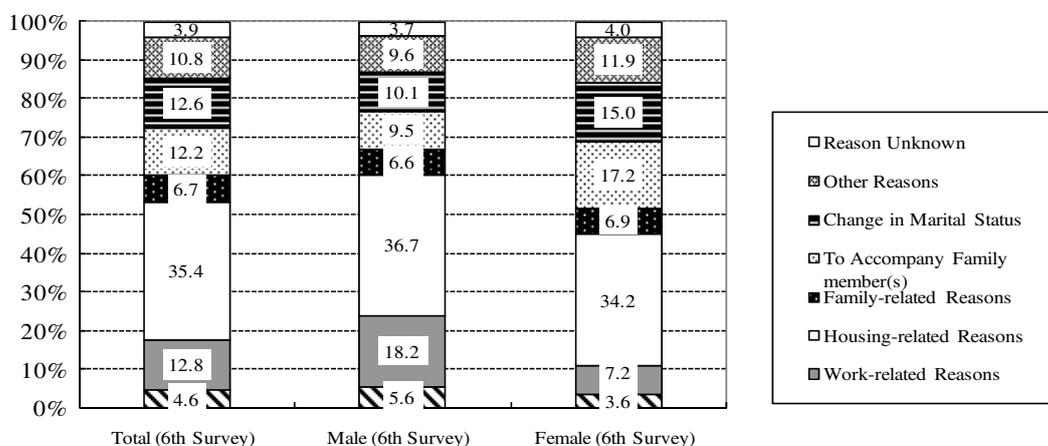


Table IV-2 Reasons for Moving to Present Residence: 2001-2006

	Total	(%)	To attend School	Work-related Reasons	Housing-related Reasons	Family-related Reasons	To Accompany Family Members	Change in Marital Status	Other Reasons	Reason Unknown
Total (6th Survey)	6,983	100.0	4.6	12.8	35.4	6.7	12.2	12.6	10.8	3.9
Male (6th Survey)	3,465	100.0	5.6	18.2	36.7	6.6	9.5	10.1	9.6	3.7
Female (6th Survey)	3,399	100.0	3.6	7.2	34.2	6.9	17.2	15.0	11.9	4.0
Total (5th Survey)	6,941	100.0	3.1	13.0	35.7	7.4	11.0	15.7	8.8	5.3
Male (5th Survey)	3,386	100.0	4.5	18.6	35.1	6.9	7.2	13.4	8.6	5.5
Female (5th Survey)	3,432	100.0	1.7	7.4	35.9	8.0	14.8	18.1	9.1	5.0
Total (4th Survey)	8,983	100.0	3.1	15.3	36.7	4.9	17.6	12.8	5.1	4.4
Male (4th Survey)	4,576	100.0	3.1	24.0	37.5	4.3	11.6	10.2	4.9	4.2
Female (4th Survey)	4,295	100.0	3.0	6.1	35.8	5.5	24.2	15.6	5.3	4.5

\*Total includes sex unknown.

“change in marital status” decreased significantly from 13.4% to 10.1%. The percentages of male respondents moved for “work-related reasons” and “family-related reasons” remained nearly at the same level. In case of females, the percentages of those moved “to attend school” and “to accompany a family member(s)” increased from 1.7% to 3.6% and from 14.8% to 17.2%, respectively. The percentages of females who moved due to “family-related reasons” and “change in marital status,” however, decreased from 8.0% to 6.9% and from 18.1% to 15.0%, respectively. No significant changes were seen in the percentages of the females who moved for “work-related reasons” and “housing-related reasons.”

### 3. Reasons for Migration by Sex and Age

Table IV-3 presents distributions of reasons for migration by sex and age. Since children from 0 to 14 years of age most often migrate together with their parents, the following analysis focuses primarily on respondents aged 15 and over.

#### (1) Males

Among males aged 15 to 19, approximately 40% moved “to attend school,” 26.7% moved for “housing-related reasons”, and 14.1% moved “to accompany a family member(s).” Migration “to attend school” and “accompany a family member(s)” peaks at this age. By the time in their early 20s, the percentage of males moving “to attend school” decreases to a little under 25%, while “work-related reasons” (26.8%) and “housing-related reasons” (25.0%) increase and reach at almost the same level. In the latter half of the 20s, there are no significant changes in percentages of males moving for “housing-related reasons” (26.6%) and for “work-related reasons” (24.3%), though the percentage of males moving due to “change in marital status” increases (26.3%). “Housing-related reasons” is consistently the most common reason cited for males in their 30s and up, generally accounting for 40 to 50% of the male respondents in each age group. The second most common reason among males in the latter half of their 30s to the first half of their 60s is “work-related reasons.” The percentage of respondents moving for “family-related reasons” ranges from 5 to 8% among those in the latter half of their 20s to the latter half of their 50s. Analysis of more detailed response categories indicate that the majority of those moving for “family-related reasons” is actually moving “to live with parents.” The percentage of males moving for “family-related reasons” increases somewhat in their 70s, but in this case, the majority of the respondents

move in order to “live with children.” It is worth noting that in case of males, the percentage of those moving for “housing-related reasons” remains high throughout their life course. In fact, housing-related move accounts for more than 50% even in the latter half of their 60s to the first half of their 80s. This accounts for more than 80% even in their first half of their 80s. Note that the percentage of males in their 30s who moved for “other reasons” exceeds 10%. This is primarily due to high share of respondents citing “better environment for child-rearing.” Note also that in general, the male respondents seldom choose “to accompany a family member(s)” as a reason for migration.

#### (2) Females

In all age groups except for those in the latter half of their 20s, those in the first half of their 30s and those of age 80 and up, the most commonly cited reason for moving is “housing-related.” Percentages of females who moved for housing-related reasons range from 30% to nearly 55%. Among the 15-19 age group, the most prevalent reason is “housing-related” which accounts for approximately 33% of the respondents, followed by “to attend school” (27.6%) and “to accompany family members” (19.1%). The percentage of females moved “to attend school” is the highest in this age group out of all age groups but it is still lower than the corresponding percentage among males in the same age group (41.3%). Among female respondents in the early 20s, the percentage of those moving for “work-related reasons” (26.0%) is at the same level with the percentage of those moving for “housing-related reasons.” The percentage of females moving for “work-related reasons” is the highest in this age group. The period from the latter half of the 20s to the first half of the 30s marks the peak of female migration due to “change in marital status” which accounts for approximately 30% of the reasons during this period. Among females in the latter half of their 30s to the first half of their 40s, “to accompany family members” accounts for the second-highest percentage (10 to 20%) after “housing-related reasons.” The percentage of females moving “to accompany family members” peaks in the latter half of their 30s. For females in the latter half of their 50s to their early 70s, the second most common reason for migration after “housing-related reasons” is “family-related reasons.” The majority of these are moving actually “to live with children.” The percentage of respondents choosing “family-related reasons” as the reason of migration exceeds 20% in the age group aged 70 and up. The percentage of respondents choosing “other reasons” exceeds 10% for

**Table IV-3 Reasons for Migration to the Present Residence by Sex and Age (2001-2006)**

Male (%)										
Age	Total	(%)	To attend School	Work-related Reasons	Housing-related Reasons	Family-related Reasons	To Accompany Family Members	Change in Marital Status	Other Reasons	Reason Unknown
Total	3,465	100.0	5.6	18.2	36.7	6.6	9.5	10.1	9.6	3.7
15-19	206	100.0	41.3	1.9	26.7	3.4	14.1	1.0	6.3	5.3
20-24	276	100.0	24.3	26.8	25.0	3.3	5.1	7.3	6.9	1.5
25-29	354	100.0	1.7	24.3	26.6	7.6	1.7	26.3	9.3	2.5
30-34	517	100.0	0.6	16.8	37.7	6.6	1.4	23.0	11.8	2.1
35-39	385	100.0	0.8	24.2	41.0	7.0	0.5	12.2	10.4	3.9
40-44	272	100.0	0.7	25.0	48.9	5.5	0.7	9.6	8.5	1.1
45-49	182	100.0	0.6	29.1	40.1	7.7	0.0	8.8	10.4	3.3
50-54	164	100.0	0.0	29.3	38.4	8.5	1.8	3.7	14.6	3.7
55-59	161	100.0	0.0	29.8	44.1	6.2	1.9	2.5	9.9	5.6
60-64	78	100.0	0.0	28.2	39.7	12.8	0.0	0.0	12.8	6.4
65-69	73	100.0	0.0	15.1	56.2	5.5	4.1	1.4	13.7	4.1
70-74	56	100.0	0.0	5.4	53.6	16.1	1.8	0.0	14.3	8.9
75-79	29	100.0	0.0	3.5	55.2	27.6	0.0	0.0	13.8	0.0
80-84	12	100.0	0.0	0.0	83.3	8.3	0.0	0.0	8.3	0.0
85+	8	100.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	25.0	0.0	12.5	37.5	12.5

Female (%)										
Age	Total	(%)	To attend School	Work-related Reasons	Housing-related Reasons	Family-related Reasons	To Accompany Family Members	Change in Marital Status	Other Reasons	Reason Unknown
Total	3,399	100.0	3.6	7.2	34.2	6.9	17.2	15.0	11.9	4.0
15-19	152	100.0	27.6	2.6	32.9	3.3	19.1	2.6	7.2	4.6
20-24	277	100.0	15.9	26.0	26.0	3.6	5.1	11.2	8.7	3.6
25-29	430	100.0	1.4	13.5	23.0	5.8	7.9	34.0	12.6	1.9
30-34	562	100.0	0.4	4.8	30.3	7.1	12.6	31.3	10.0	3.6
35-39	426	100.0	0.9	3.8	38.0	4.2	20.7	16.4	13.4	2.6
40-44	222	100.0	0.9	5.0	48.7	6.3	14.4	13.1	9.9	1.8
45-49	128	100.0	0.8	3.9	41.4	7.8	14.1	10.2	18.8	3.1
50-54	124	100.0	0.0	8.9	44.4	8.9	9.7	8.1	16.1	4.0
55-59	118	100.0	0.0	5.1	39.8	16.1	14.4	5.9	14.4	4.2
60-64	70	100.0	0.0	2.9	45.7	17.1	14.3	2.9	14.3	2.9
65-69	54	100.0	0.0	11.1	53.7	11.1	7.4	0.0	11.1	5.6
70-74	53	100.0	0.0	1.9	43.4	24.5	9.4	0.0	13.2	7.6
75-79	44	100.0	0.0	0.0	45.5	20.5	0.0	0.0	34.1	0.0
80-84	37	100.0	0.0	0.0	29.7	18.9	0.0	0.0	43.2	8.1
85+	16	100.0	0.0	0.0	18.8	37.5	0.0	0.0	25.0	18.8

\* Total includes 0-14 years old

those in the latter half of the 20s to the latter half of the 30s. This is due to high share of females citing “better environment for child-rearing.” Among respondents in the latter half of their 40s to the first half of their 50s, “other reasons” accounts for the second highest percentage after “housing-related reasons,” but specific reasons are unclear. Note that the percentages of “other reasons” for females aged 75 and up are higher relative to other age groups. This is because many in the older age moved for “health reasons.”

**(3) Comparison with the Previous Survey**

Table IV-4 shows the results of the previous survey. Compared with the previous survey, the following four features can be noted for males: (1) The percentage of respondents aged 15 to 19 choosing “to attend school” increased; (2) the percentage of respondents in their 20s to the first half of their 30s choosing “housing-related reasons” increased while the percentage of respondents in the latter half of their 20s to the first half of their 30s choosing “change in marital status” decreased; (3) migration for “work-related reasons” increased

among the respondents in the latter half of their 40s to the first half of their 50s; and (4) the percentage of respondents choosing “family-related reasons” decreased, while the percentage moving for “housing-related reasons” increased among the respondents in the latter half of their 70s to the first half of their 80s. It is also found that the percentage of respondents in the 15-19 age group moving “to attend school” increased significantly, from 33.3% to 41.3%. The percentage of migration due to “change in marital status” decreased from 31.3% to 26.3% among respondents in the latter half of their 20s and from 30.1% to 23.0%

among respondents in the first half of their 30s. The percentage of migration for “work-related reasons” among respondents in their late 40s to their early 50s was 23 to 25% in the previous survey and this time it increased to 29 to 30%. Finally, the percentage of respondents who chose “family-related reasons” decreased while the percentage of “housing-related reasons” increased among respondents in the latter half of their 70s to the first half of their 80s. The results must be interpreted with caution since the sample sizes of these age groups become quite small.

Compared with the previous survey, the

**Table IV-4 Reasons for Migration to the Present Residence by Sex and Age (1996-2001)**

Male (%)										
Age	Total	(%)	To attend School	Work-related Reasons	Housing-related Reasons	Family-related Reasons	To Accompany Family Members	Change in Marital Status	Other Reasons	Reason Unknown
Total	3,286	100.0	4.6	19.1	34.9	6.8	6.9	13.7	8.6	5.4
15-19	156	100.0	33.3	3.8	30.8	5.1	10.9	0.0	6.4	9.6
20-24	335	100.0	26.0	30.7	17.3	3.0	2.1	10.1	6.3	4.5
25-29	540	100.0	0.9	25.7	24.4	5.6	1.5	31.3	6.9	3.7
30-34	495	100.0	0.4	20.6	27.3	7.7	0.4	30.1	9.5	4.0
35-39	385	100.0	0.8	21.0	39.7	8.8	0.5	15.1	8.1	6.0
40-44	239	100.0	0.4	19.7	48.5	5.9	0.4	6.7	13.4	5.0
45-49	177	100.0	0.0	23.7	46.3	6.8	1.1	5.1	10.2	6.8
50-54	162	100.0	0.0	24.1	47.5	7.4	0.0	6.2	8.6	6.2
55-59	120	100.0	0.0	26.7	50.8	5.0	0.8	3.3	5.8	7.5
60-64	74	100.0	0.0	24.3	43.2	9.5	0.0	2.7	14.9	5.4
65-69	56	100.0	0.0	23.2	44.6	12.5	0.0	0.0	14.3	5.4
70-74	27	100.0	0.0	7.4	55.6	14.8	0.0	0.0	11.1	11.1
75-79	19	100.0	0.0	10.5	31.6	42.1	5.3	0.0	10.5	0.0
80-84	12	100.0	0.0	0.0	58.3	33.3	0.0	0.0	8.3	0.0
85+	13	100.0	0.0	7.7	30.8	46.2	0.0	0.0	15.4	0.0
Female (%)										
Age	Total	(%)	To attend School	Work-related Reasons	Housing-related Reasons	Family-related Reasons	To Accompany Family Members	Change in Marital Status	Other Reasons	Reason Unknown
Total	3,329	100.0	1.8	7.5	35.6	8.0	14.6	18.6	9.3	4.8
15-19	128	100.0	15.6	10.9	39.1	3.1	17.2	3.1	6.3	4.7
20-24	306	100.0	8.8	27.8	22.5	4.6	5.2	20.9	6.9	3.3
25-29	631	100.0	0.8	8.4	18.5	5.2	6.8	46.8	9.8	3.6
30-34	545	100.0	0.0	7.0	29.0	6.6	11.0	30.8	10.3	5.3
35-39	325	100.0	0.9	4.6	45.8	6.8	13.8	15.4	9.8	2.8
40-44	208	100.0	0.0	4.8	48.1	8.7	13.5	7.7	11.5	5.8
45-49	123	100.0	0.0	4.9	55.3	13.8	8.9	5.7	8.1	3.3
50-54	181	100.0	0.0	6.1	51.4	11.0	7.7	4.4	10.5	8.8
55-59	93	100.0	0.0	6.5	41.9	10.8	10.8	5.4	15.1	9.7
60-64	59	100.0	0.0	8.5	42.4	11.9	13.6	1.7	10.2	11.9
65-69	59	100.0	0.0	5.1	59.3	16.9	3.4	0.0	11.9	3.4
70-74	46	100.0	0.0	4.3	54.3	21.7	4.3	2.2	10.9	2.2
75-79	35	100.0	0.0	0.0	37.1	45.7	5.7	0.0	8.6	2.9
80-84	31	100.0	0.0	0.0	48.4	38.7	3.2	0.0	6.5	3.2
85+	24	100.0	0.0	4.2	25.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	4.2

\* Total includes 0-14 years old.  
Total excludes age “unknown.”

following four features can be noted for females: (1) The percentage of respondents in the latter half of their teens to their early 20s choosing “to attend school” increased significantly; (2) the percentage of respondents in their 20s choosing “change in marital status” decreased dramatically; (3) the percentage of respondents in their 40s to the first half of their 50s choosing “change in marital status” increased; and (4) the percentage of “family-related reasons” decreased while “other reasons” increased among respondents in their late 70s and up. It is also found that the percentage of respondents who moved “to attend school” grew significantly among the 15-19 age group, from 15.6% to 27.6% and also among the 20-24 age group, from 8.8% to 15.9%. On the other hand, migration due to “change in marital status,” which accounted for 20.9% of the responses chosen by women in the first half of their 20s and 46.8% in the latter half of their 20s, decreased dramatically to 11.2% and 34.0%, respectively. In contrast, migration due to “change in marital status” increased among the female movers in their 40s to the first half of their 50s: from 7.7% to 13.1% among respondents in the first half of their 40s, from 5.7% to 10.2% among those in the latter half of their 40s, and from 4.4% to 8.1% among those in their early 50s. The breakdown of the data indicates that more respondents in the first half of their 40s moved to get married than to get divorced, but the percentages of marriage and divorce were about the same among female respondents in the latter half of their 40s, and eventually the percentage of respondents moving due to divorce exceeded those moved due to marriage among respondents in the first half of their 50s. The percentage of respondents choosing “family-related reasons” decreased among respondents in the latter half of their 70s while the percentage of “other reasons” increased, with most citing “health reasons.” As explained above, it is

necessary to exert some caution in the interpretation of these results, since the number of samples is very small for the elderly.

#### 4. Reasons for Migration by Previous Residence

Table IV-5 shows the relationship between the previous residential location and reasons for migration, where the previous residential locations are classified into four categories: “within the same municipality as the present residence,” “in a different municipality within the same prefecture,” “in a different prefecture” and “abroad.” Both male and female respondents who migrated from a location within the same municipality as the present residence chose “housing-related reasons” most frequently, and the percentages accounted for approximately 50% for both groups (males: 50.3%, females: 46.0%). Both male and female respondents who migrated from different municipalities within the same prefectures as the present residence also chose “housing-related reasons” most frequently, though in this case this reason accounted for only about one-third (males: 39.1%, females: 34.9%). A greater discrepancy in reasons for migration between males and females were seen as the distance between the previous residence and the present residence grew. The table below thus examines the trends by sex.

Looking at the female respondents’ reasons for migration within the same municipality, the most frequent answer was “housing-related reasons,” as with the male respondents, accounting for a little less than half (46.0%). Except that the percentage of “to accompany a family member(s)” is slightly higher, no notable differences can be seen between the sexes. Regarding migration from other municipalities within the same prefecture, though there are no considerable differences in “family-related reasons” between the sexes, some differences

**Table IV-5 Reasons for Moving by Previous Residence: 2001-2006**

Male (%)										
Previous Residence	Total	(%)	To attend School	Work-related Reasons	Housing-related Reasons	Family-related Reasons	To Accompany Family Members	Change in Marital Status	Other Reasons	Reason Unknown
Same municipality as the present residence	1,593	100.0	1.6	3.0	50.3	7.2	9.7	12.2	12.5	3.5
Different municipality within the same prefecture	973	100.0	4.1	17.9	39.1	7.2	9.2	12.3	8.0	2.3
Different Prefecture	759	100.0	15.8	49.7	9.1	5.5	9.1	3.7	5.4	1.7
Abroad	32	100.0	9.4	65.6	3.1	3.1	9.4	3.1	6.3	0.0
Female (%)										
Previous Residence	Total	(%)	To attend School	Work-related Reasons	Housing-related Reasons	Family-related Reasons	To Accompany Family Members	Change in Marital Status	Other Reasons	Reason Unknown
Same municipality as the present residence	1,551	100.0	1.3	2.2	46.0	6.5	12.9	13.7	13.6	3.9
Different municipality within the same prefecture	1,015	100.0	2.3	8.3	34.9	7.1	15.0	18.5	11.3	2.7
Different Prefecture	653	100.0	10.7	18.1	8.7	8.1	29.9	13.9	8.0	2.6
Abroad	41	100.0	12.2	14.6	4.9	2.4	29.3	12.2	19.5	4.9

can be seen in “to attend school” (males: 4.1%, females: 2.3%), “for work-related reasons” (males: 17.9%, females: 8.3%), “to accompany a family member(s)” (males: 9.2%, females: 15.0%), and “change in marital status” (males: 12.3%, females: 18.5%). Marked differences between males and females emerge among people migrating from different prefectures, however. Although there are no significant differences among those who moved for “housing-related reasons,” considerable differences can be observed for the reasons “to attend school” (males: 15.8%, females: 10.7%), “for work-related reasons” (males: 49.7%, females: 18.1%), “family-related reasons” (males: 5.5%, females: 8.1%), “to accompany a family member(s)” (males: 9.1%, females: 29.9%), and “change in marital status” (males: 3.7%, females: 13.9%). The data of migration from foreign countries should be analyzed with caution because the size of samples is small. Approximately 65% of the reasons given for migration from foreign countries is “for work-related reasons” in case of male respondents, while approximately 30% of the female respondents stated “to accompany a family member(s)” as the reason for migration.

### V Return (U-turn) Migration to Prefectures of Birth

“U-turn migration” has been widely used in Japan as an expression meaning return migration. In this section, we observe the state of U-turn migration (with the individual’s prefecture of birth as the starting point) by following relatively simple migration patterns based on prefectural-level data, i.e., migration process (migration experience at the time of important life events) between the prefecture of birth and the prefecture of present residence. In other words, the cases where the birthplace and the present residence are within the same prefecture are defined as U-turn migration if the respondents had at some time out-migrated to other prefectures. Conversely, the cases where the prefectures of birth and present residence differ are treated as I-turn migration, i.e., out-migration from the birth prefecture to other prefectures. This means that the definition of U-turn migration used here is not limited to cases where people who migrated from non-metropolitan areas to metropolitan areas return to their prefectures of birth as is often used.

Here, we give a broad overview of the

**Table V-1 Percentage of Return Migration to Birth Prefecture: Household Heads and Spouses**

Age	Total	Return Migration Rate ①	Return Migration Rate ②	Out-Migration Rate ①	Out-Migration Rate ②
Male					
Total	8,601	34.1	16.8	65.9	32.4
0-29	592	19.2	11.3	80.8	47.6
30-34	680	36.0	17.5	64.0	31.2
35-39	710	29.6	15.9	70.4	37.9
40-44	745	32.9	18.5	67.1	37.7
45-49	756	40.8	21.0	59.2	30.6
50-54	830	41.0	21.6	59.0	31.1
55-59	1,113	41.2	20.9	58.8	29.9
60-64	888	37.4	17.9	62.6	30.0
65+	2,287	29.5	12.0	70.5	28.7
Female					
Total	8,743	30.2	13.7	69.8	31.7
0-29	615	18.5	9.4	81.5	41.5
30-34	743	28.6	12.9	71.4	32.3
35-39	805	31.6	16.3	68.4	35.3
40-44	780	28.5	13.5	71.5	33.7
45-49	739	38.3	18.5	61.7	29.9
50-54	821	33.7	16.2	66.3	31.9
55-59	1,202	33.1	14.6	66.9	29.5
60-64	840	29.2	14.2	70.8	34.3
65+	2,198	28.8	11.1	71.2	27.3

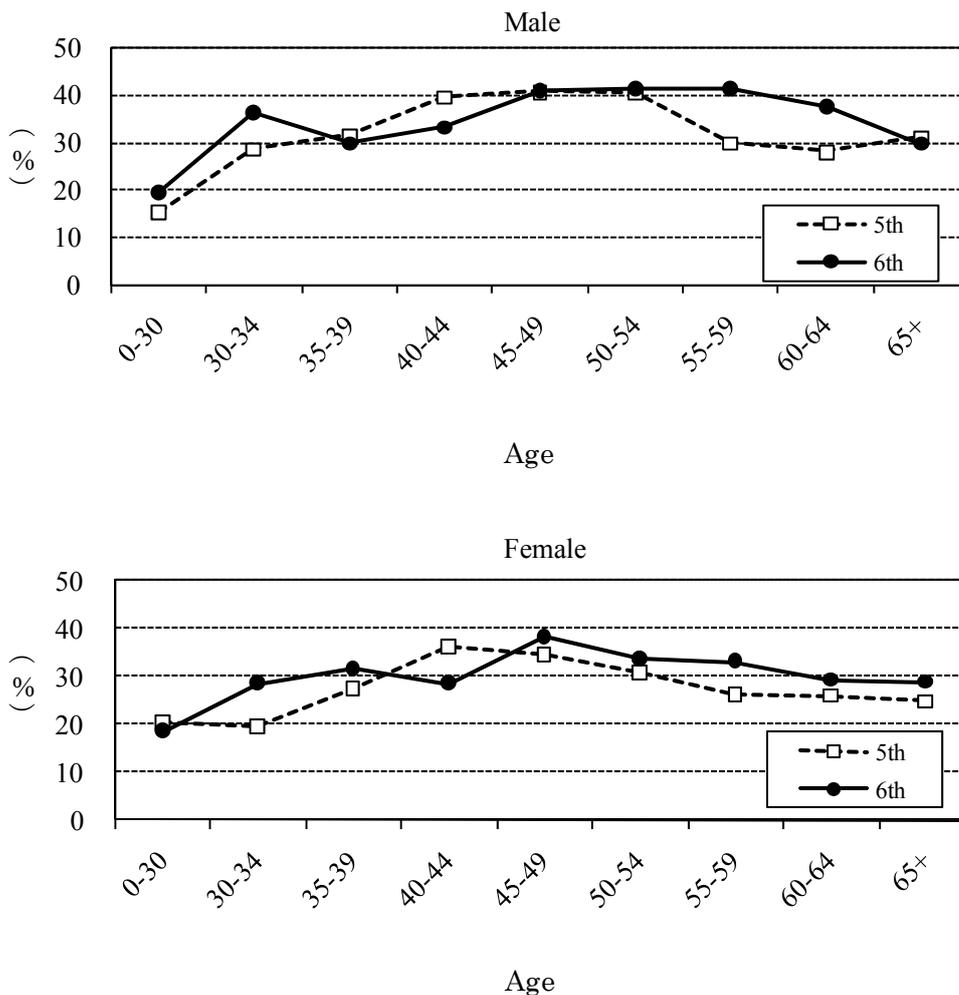
\* Total excludes age “unknown” and migration pattern “unknown.”

sex- and age-specific U-turn migration back to the birth prefectures of household heads and their spouses (Table V-1, Figure V-1). First, the birth prefecture U-turn rates, which indicate the percentage of migrants who returned to the birth prefecture among respondents who had at some time out-migrated to a prefecture other than the one in which they were born (percentage of U-turn to birth prefecture), are 34.1% for males and 30.2% for females, respectively, which is an increase of 2.3 points and 2.8 points, respectively, compared to the fifth survey. The percentage of respondents returning to the birth prefecture is higher for males than for females. Categorizing the data by age, the percentage is a little over 40% for males in the age group in the latter half of their 40s to the latter half of 50s and nearly 40% for males in the first half of their 60s. Regarding the female respondents, the percentage is highest in the age group in the latter half of the 40s. The percentages of U-turns to the

birth prefecture have increased for both males and females in the age groups from the latter half of the 40s to the first half of the 60s. The U-turn percentage has significantly increased for men in their late 50s to their early 60s. This increase may be indicative of people returning to the regions where they grew up upon reaching retirement age.

Next, the rate of out-migration from birth prefectures (I-turn percentage) is examined. This is the percentage of respondents who had moved out of the birth prefecture, and currently residing in prefectures other than their birth prefectures. The rate of I-turn among the entire male population is 65.9% while the corresponding rate for females is 69.8%, reaching nearly 70%. The population currently residing in prefectures other than their birth prefectures is obtained by subtracting U-turn migrants from respondents who have lived in prefectures other than the one in which they were born, and the resulting percentage indicates the

Figure V-1 Percentage of Return Migration to Birth Prefecture by Age



population who keep residing in prefectures other than their birth prefectures out of all respondents who ever had lived outside their birth prefectures. This percentage is higher for females than for males. The percentage by age shows that, it is low among males in the latter half of the 40s and in their 50s, but again increases among those in their 60s and up. The rate of out-migration to prefectures other than the prefecture of birth is high among males in the cohort aged 60 and up and the proportion of those returning to their prefectures of birth is low. For females as well, this rate exceeds 70% in the cohort aged 60 and up. Although the percentage of female respondents who have moved to prefectures other than their birth is lower than that of their male counterparts, but once they out-migrate outside their prefecture of birth, they tend to remain in other prefectures.

## VI Leaving Home and Reasons for Leaving Home

### 1. Experience of Leaving Home

The present survey asked household heads and

their spouses about their experience of leaving home, the age at which they left home, and the reasons for leaving home. Experience of leaving home is defined as “experience of living away from one’s parents.” Table VI-1 shows data on experience of leaving home and age of leaving home by sex, birth cohort, and place of residence (metropolitan or non-metropolitan).

For males, the percentages with experience of leaving home are a little below 80% for respondents born in 1939 and before, regardless of whether the place of residence was metropolitan or non-metropolitan. However, the percentage grows to exceed 80% for those born in 1940 and after, surpassing 90% for respondents born in the 1960s and reaching about 95% for the generation born in the 1970s, in both residence categories. The percentage of the population that continues to live with their parents rather than leaving home after establishing new households through marriage is rapidly decreasing. The rise in the percentage of those with experience of leaving home indicates that, although the proportion of those who are first

**Table VI-1 Experience of Leaving Home: Household Heads and Spouses**

Year of Birth	Male				Female			
	Total	Having experienced leaving home		Average age at leaving home	Total	Having experienced leaving home		Average age at leaving home
		Yes	No			Yes	No	
Total	8,741	7,441	1,300	21.5	8,811	7,638	1,173	22.1
Non-Metropolitan Areas	4,631	3,870	761	21.0	4,706	4,069	637	21.5
Metropolitan Areas	4,110	3,571	539	22.1	4,105	3,569	536	22.6
1929 or before								
Non-Metropolitan Areas	357	257	100	21.6	423	345	78	21.7
Metropolitan Areas	266	211	55	22.4	268	226	42	23.5
1930 to 1939								
Non-Metropolitan Areas	703	513	190	21.2	666	543	123	22.4
Metropolitan Areas	597	467	130	22.6	514	435	79	23.3
1940 to 1949								
Non-Metropolitan Areas	1,065	861	204	21.2	1,018	848	170	21.4
Metropolitan Areas	925	788	137	21.8	905	758	147	22.1
1950 to 1959								
Non-Metropolitan Areas	960	816	144	20.8	902	782	120	21.1
Metropolitan Areas	708	606	102	22.4	720	630	90	22.6
1960 to 1969								
Non-Metropolitan Areas	699	638	61	21.3	780	700	80	22.1
Metropolitan Areas	762	691	71	22.3	786	688	98	23.3
1970 to 1979								
Non-Metropolitan Areas	584	549	35	20.7	667	613	54	21.5
Metropolitan Areas	586	555	31	22.1	662	599	63	22.8
1980 to 1989								
Non-Metropolitan Areas	161	157	4	18.2	145	143	2	19.2
Metropolitan Areas	178	175	3	19.2	169	161	8	19.2

sons are increasing due to the post-war decline in the number of children, people are no longer bound to their positions among siblings and it is common for even the first son to leave his parents' home and establish a separate household. The percentage of female respondents having experience of leaving home is higher than for male respondents in the generations born up until the 1950s, as females normally left home at marriage. This trend can no longer be observed in the generations born in the 1960s and later, however.

## 2. Age at Leaving Home

Various factors, such as postponement of marriage and increased accessibility to higher education which gained momentum in the post-war period, have played significant roles in prolonging the period of staying at home with parents and increasing the age at which people tend to leave home. In general, timing of leaving home is considered to be late for females than males, because more females stay with their parents until marriage. The data by residential areas indicate that the age of leaving home is higher in metropolitan areas than in non-metropolitan areas. For the female generation born between 1960 and 1969, for example, the mean age of leaving home is 22.1 years old in non-metropolitan areas, while it is 23.3 years old in metropolitan areas. It should be noted that because this survey only covers information collected from household heads and their spouses, the data for young generations presented here do not include data on those who might leave home in the future. Therefore, it is expected that these younger generations would actually leave home at a higher age than as indicated in the present data.

## 3. Reasons for Leaving Home

The reasons for leaving parents' home given in the survey include "to attend higher educational institutions," "to get a job, for career switch or transfer," "marriage," "due to housing-related reasons and/or ease of commuting," and to "become self-reliant and/or independent from parents (Table VI-2)."

### (1) Reasons for Leaving Home: Males

To attend higher educational institutions accounts for only 10 to 20% of the reasons for leaving home for males in the generations born up until the 1940s. In the generations born in the 1950s and later, however, it became much more common to enter universities to obtain a higher education, and thus the percentage of those leaving home for this reason soared to as much as 30% in non-metropolitan areas. The percentage of respondents leaving

home to go on to higher education also increases in metropolitan areas as well, but the percentage is noticeably lower than in the non-metropolitan areas, by as much as 10% for some cohorts.

For males, the primary reasons for leaving home used to be work-related, such as to get a job, career switch and job transfer. This was the most frequent answer in the generations born before the 1950s, with an especially strong trend in non-metropolitan areas, where work-related reasons accounted for 50 to 60% of respondents' reasons. In the generations born in the 1960s and later, more and more people started to leave home to receive higher education, with such cases becoming as common or even more common than the work-related reasons. In metropolitan areas as well, work-related reasons for leaving home used to be the most common until the generation born in the 1960s, but the percentage of those leaving home to receive higher education exceeds work-related reasons in the generations born in the 1970s and later.

The percentages of respondents in non-metropolitan areas who left home for marriage in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s cohorts exhibit a downward trend for later generations. However, the trend reverses to show an increasing trend among the generations born in the 1960s and 1970s. In metropolitan areas, the percentage of respondents who left home for marriage used to exhibit a general downward trend in the same way as in non-metropolitan areas, but the trend reverses among the generation born in the 1970s, showing that 24.6% of the respondents left home due to marriage, which is almost as high as the reasons for higher education, work, etc. Finally, among the generation born in the 1970s, the percentage of respondents stating that they left home to become self-reliant and/or independent from their parents exceeds 10% in metropolitan areas.

### (2) Reasons for Leaving Home: Females

Among the female respondents, leaving home for marriage accounts for the overwhelming majority of the reasons stated in the survey. In metropolitan areas in particular, although the percentage declines from the generation born prior to the war until the generation born in the 1970s, it consistently remains higher than 50%. Throughout the generations born in the 1950s and earlier, marriage and work-related reasons together accounts for more than 80%. Although marriage is also the most common reason for leaving home in non-metropolitan areas, the percentage is lower compared to metropolitan areas. In non-metropolitan areas, the percentages of respondents who

**Table VI-2 Reasons for Leaving Home: Household Heads and Spouses**

Year of Birth		Reasons for Leaving Home						
		Total	Attend/Leave School	Work-related Reasons	Marriage	Housing-related Reasons	To be Independent of Parents	Other Reasons
Total		7,280	1,751	3,049	1,608	177	495	200
Non-Metropolitan Areas		3,786	24.1	41.9	22.1	2.4	6.8	2.8
Metropolitan Areas		3,494	995	1,690	731	66	210	94
			26.3	44.6	19.3	1.7	5.6	2.5
			756	1,359	877	111	285	106
			21.6	38.9	25.1	3.2	8.2	3.0
1929 or before	Non-Metropolitan Areas	244	25	124	51	3	10	31
	Metropolitan Areas	203	10.3	50.8	20.9	1.2	4.1	12.7
			21	83	61	1	21	16
			10.3	40.9	30.1	0.5	10.3	7.9
1930-1939	Non-Metropolitan Areas	496	57	278	113	8	30	10
	Metropolitan Areas	455	11.5	56.1	22.8	1.6	6.1	2.0
			63	206	131	11	25	19
			13.9	45.3	28.8	2.4	5.5	4.2
1940-1949	Non-Metropolitan Areas	843	146	466	160	14	43	14
	Metropolitan Areas	771	17.3	55.3	19.0	1.7	5.1	1.7
			99	391	198	16	52	15
			12.8	50.7	25.7	2.1	6.7	2.0
1950-1959	Non-Metropolitan Areas	804	238	379	128	12	32	15
	Metropolitan Areas	592	29.6	47.1	15.9	1.5	4.0	1.9
			128	256	142	19	35	12
			21.6	43.2	24.0	3.2	5.9	2.0
1960-1969	Non-Metropolitan Areas	624	229	205	133	16	34	7
	Metropolitan Areas	682	36.7	32.9	21.3	2.6	5.5	1.1
			183	238	163	28	58	12
			26.8	34.9	23.9	4.1	8.5	1.8
1970-1979	Non-Metropolitan Areas	541	178	178	118	11	45	11
	Metropolitan Areas	545	32.9	32.9	21.8	2.0	8.3	2.0
			142	135	144	27	72	25
			26.1	24.8	26.4	5.0	13.2	4.6
1980-1989	Non-Metropolitan Areas	157	95	32	13	2	10	5
	Metropolitan Areas	173	60.5	20.4	8.3	1.3	6.4	3.2
			111	25	13	8	12	4
			64.2	14.5	7.5	4.6	6.9	2.3

Year of Birth		Reasons for Leaving Home						
		Total	Attend/Leave School	Work-related Reasons	Marriage	Housing-related Reasons	To be Independent of Parents	Other Reasons
Total		7,498	1,185	1,865	3,767	125	369	187
Non-Metropolitan Areas		3,999	15.8	24.9	50.2	1.7	4.9	2.5
Metropolitan Areas		3,499	707	1,104	1,857	67	170	94
			17.7	27.6	46.4	1.7	4.3	2.4
			478	761	1,910	58	199	93
			13.7	21.8	54.6	1.7	5.7	2.7
1929 or before	Non-Metropolitan Areas	334	23	85	195	4	13	14
	Metropolitan Areas	219	6.9	25.5	58.4	1.2	3.9	4.2
			3	45	153	2	8	8
			1.4	20.6	69.9	0.9	3.7	3.7
1930-1939	Non-Metropolitan Areas	534	38	127	320	6	25	18
	Metropolitan Areas	423	7.1	23.8	59.9	1.1	4.7	3.4
			18	101	274	2	11	17
			4.3	23.9	64.8	0.5	2.6	4.0
1940-1949	Non-Metropolitan Areas	831	82	305	409	6	22	7
	Metropolitan Areas	744	9.9	36.7	49.2	0.7	2.7	0.8
			55	222	430	8	17	12
			7.4	29.8	57.8	1.1	2.3	1.6
1950-1959	Non-Metropolitan Areas	779	156	279	306	8	15	15
	Metropolitan Areas	619	20.0	35.8	39.3	1.0	1.9	1.9
			82	149	346	5	26	11
			13.3	24.1	55.9	0.8	4.2	1.8
1960-1969	Non-Metropolitan Areas	687	165	134	308	18	45	17
	Metropolitan Areas	676	24.0	19.5	44.8	2.6	6.6	2.5
			120	114	347	16	58	21
			17.8	16.9	51.3	2.4	8.6	3.1
1970-1979	Non-Metropolitan Areas	603	165	119	249	14	38	18
	Metropolitan Areas	590	27.4	19.7	41.3	2.3	6.3	3.0
			102	85	296	21	67	19
			17.3	14.4	50.2	3.6	11.4	3.2
1980-1989	Non-Metropolitan Areas	140	65	27	28	8	9	3
	Metropolitan Areas	158	46.4	19.3	20.0	5.7	6.4	2.1
			93	30	21	4	8	2
			58.9	19.0	13.3	2.5	5.1	1.3

left home for work-related reasons are 36.7% and 35.8% in the generations born in the 1940s and 1950s, respectively, which are almost at the same level as those for leaving home for reasons of marriage. However, those leaving home for work-related reasons drastically decrease among the generations born in the 1960s and later and instead, the percentages of those leaving home in order to obtain higher education come to exceed 20% in each of the generations born in the 1950s and onward. In metropolitan areas, there are no changes in the basic pattern; marriage is the main reason for leaving home, while obtaining a higher education becomes the second-most important reason among the generations born in the 1960s and 1970s, accounting for nearly 20% of the stated responses and exceeding the percentage of leaving home for work-related reasons.

## **VII Residence Five Years in the Future**

Since the fourth survey, the Migration Surveys have been collecting data on the prospects for migration for the next five years in order to obtain information related to the future trends of migration. We realize that some reasons for migration are hard to foresee in advance, which may cause a discrepancy between the prospects and the actual migration. Nonetheless, the present survey includes a new question asking the respondents about possibilities of future migration in order to gauge their awareness of migration at the time of the survey to the greatest degree possible. In the following, the main results of information compiled on respondents' expected residence five years in the future are shown.

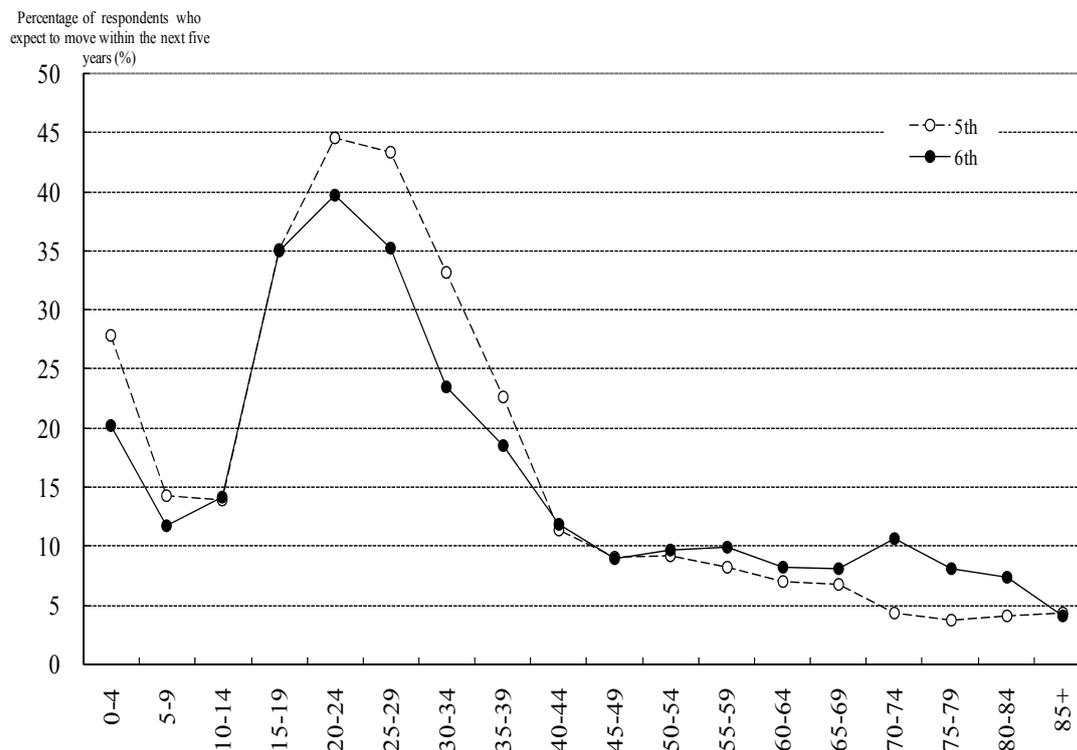
### **1. Prospects for Migration in the Next Five Years**

First, concerning expected residence five years in the future, 13.8%<sup>5</sup> of the total respondents answered that they expected to be living "in a different place." This percentage is significantly lower than the actual percentage of migration in the past five years shown in Chapter II (27.6%) and even lower than the prospect of migration in the next five years in the previous survey (16.4%). Judging solely from this expectation, it can be considered that rate of migration will decline in the future, but we should not make premature conclusions. For one thing, as the figures above indicate, the actual migration within the past five years is considerably higher than the prospect of migration for the coming five years in the previous survey. This phenomenon was also observed in the previous survey. It is thus considered that the actual rate of migration tends to end up higher than the prospect

due to migration opportunities that people cannot anticipate at the time of survey. Second, the percentage of respondents who answered that their residence five years ahead is unknown is as high as 16.6%, which is much higher than in the previous survey (11.0%). Taking these points into consideration, it is safe to say that there is a very high probability that the actual rate of migration in the coming five years will be higher than the prospect obtained in the present survey. At the same time, since the percentage of respondents who answered that they expect to be "in a different place" five years in the future, excluding those respondents who answered "location unknown," is lower than the previous survey (18.4%) at 16.5%, it is difficult to assume that migration will increase in the near future.

Next, Figure VII-1 shows the percentages of respondents by age who answered that they expect to be "in a different place" five years later. This figure also shows the corresponding percentages obtained from the previous survey, excluding respondents who answered "location unknown." In general, nearly identical distribution patterns by age can be observed in both surveys, but two differences can be pointed out by close examination. One point is that far fewer of the relatively young, in their early 20s to later 30s, stated in this survey that they expect to migrate, as compared to the previous survey. Since migration propensity of this age group is particularly high, it is considered a significant contributing factor to the overall decline of the migration prospect. The percentage also dropped in the age group below 10 years of age, but the majority of respondents in this age group can be expected to move together with their parents; it is thus safe to consider that their movements match with those of their parents' generation. The other point of difference is that the migration prospect in this survey is conversely higher among the relatively old generations, who are in their 50s and up, than in the previous survey. This corresponds to the increasing trend of migration among the middle aged and the elderly groups observed in the past five years. The increase among respondents in the first half of their 70s to the first half of their 80s is particularly significant. As percentages of nuclear families among family types increase, the average number of household members per household has continued to fall, and the number of households consisting of elderly couples only or one-person households of the aged is rapidly increasing. Since the proportion of the number of samples in their 70s and older is not very high (14.8% of the total<sup>6</sup>), their increased migration prospects were not sufficient to increase

**Figure VII-1 Percentage of Respondents Answering that They Expect to Be “in a Different Place” Five Years Later by Age**



\* Percentage excludes respondents “location unknown” regarding their expected residence 5 years later.

the total migration prospect, but the result matches with the increased trend of mobility of the middle aged and the elderly observed in the last five years as well. In fact, it is quite possible that this trend will continue to grow stronger as the number of elderly people increases in the future.

## 2. Prospects for Migration by Region of Residence

Next, the prospects of migration are examined by regional block of residence. Table VII-1 shows the percentage of respondents who answered that they expect to be “in a different place” five years into the future by regional block of residence (excluding respondents answering “location unknown”), along with the corresponding results from the fifth survey. As can clearly be seen from the table, the prospects for migration by regional block in this survey are quite different from those of the previous survey. Kita-Kanto and the Osaka area are the only regional blocks where the percentage increased compared to the previous survey. The percentages are lower than in the previous survey for all other regional blocks, with particularly sharp drops in Hokkaido, Chukyo, Chugoku, Shikoku, and Kyushu/Okinawa. Although the specific

reasons for these results are not exactly known at this point in time, the declining trend is notable in non-metropolitan areas in general, most likely because there has been a significant decrease in the population of the younger generations in these areas lately, which in turn means that the population of those likely to migrate in the next five years is itself decreasing.

In the present survey, the relatively high mobility in metropolitan areas turned out to more evident than the previous survey, a tendency that may be influenced by the concentration of the younger generations in metropolitan areas. Thus, the future changes in population distribution are likely to be determined strongly by the population living in metropolitan areas.

## 3. Reasons for Migration

Next, the reasons for migration of respondents who answered that they expect to be “in a different place” five years later are examined. Table VII-2 shows the distribution of reasons for expected migration of all household members along with the corresponding results from the previous survey.

The most frequently-cited reason for prospective migration is “marriage” in the present

**Table VII-1 Percentage of Respondents Answering That they Expect to Be “in a Different Place” Five Years Later by Region**

Regional Block	(%)		
	5th	6th	Difference
Hokkaido	19.9	10.6	-9.2
Tohoku	13.1	11.7	-1.4
Kitakanto	11.4	16.8	5.5
Tokyo Area	21.3	20.6	-0.7
Chubu/Hokuriku	16.6	12.8	-3.7
Chukyo Area	21.1	15.8	-5.3
Osaka Area	16.4	21.3	4.8
Keihan Area	17.9	13.1	-4.8
Chugoku	17.7	12.4	-5.3
Shikoku	18.4	12.5	-5.9
Kyusyu/Okinawa	20.9	15.5	-5.4
Total	18.4	16.5	-1.9

**Table VII-2 Distribution of Reasons for Possible Migration (Respondents Answering that They Expect to be “in a Different Place” Five Years Later).**

Reasons	(%)	
	5th	6th
Attend school	6.5	8.0
Got a job	9.2	12.6
Change job	2.6	3.4
Job transfer	6.8	11.0
To succeed family business	0.7	0.5
Retirement	1.7	2.8
Housing-related reasons	19.6	12.3
Better neighborhood	7.8	5.7
Easier to commute	2.3	2.1
To live with parent(s)	5.1	3.8
To live closer to parent(s)	1.5	1.2
To live with child(ren)	0.9	1.4
To live closer to child(ren)	0.4	0.5
To accompany family member(s)	10.7	11.9
Marriage	15.8	14.6
Better environment for rearing child(ren)	2.4	2.4
Health reasons	-	1.2
Other Reasons	6.2	4.5

\* Percentage excludes reasons for possible migration “Unknown.”

survey, followed by “for the first job” and “housing situation.” Compared to the previous survey, the percentages of housing-related reasons such as “housing situation” and “living environment” dropped dramatically. Meanwhile, the percentages of “for higher education,” “for the first job” and “job transfers” and other work-related reasons show all-round increases compared to the previous survey. Although the specific reasons for this are unknown at this time, it is speculated that the continuous increase in the percentage of students going on to higher education may form the background for the increase of those expecting to migrate. Among the work-related reasons, “retirement from work” will be particularly interesting to observe, as the retirement of the so-called baby

boomers is ready to start in several years from the present survey. As shown in Table VII-2, the percentage of “retirement from work” is 2.8%, which is higher than the previous survey (1.7%). Moreover, when the distributions of

reasons for migration as stated by the male retiring generations of this survey is compared to those of the fourth and fifth surveys (Table VII-3), it can be seen that the percentage of “retirement from work” increased in the 60-64 age group and the 50-59 age group, which include the baby boomer generation. Migration due to mandatory retirement is thus expected to increase at least during the next five years, with the effect compounded by the size of the cohort.

There are no particularly prominent changes

**Table VII-3 Percentage of Reasons for Possible Migration: “Retirement from Work” (Predominantly Male Retiring Generation)**

Age	(%)		
	4th	5th	6th
50-54	5.4	8.2	6.1
55-59	35.1	41.7	43.8
60-64	20.3	25.5	30.6

\* Percentage excludes reasons for possible migration “Unknown.”

**Table VII-4 Distributions of Reasons for Migration by Region (Metro/Non-Metro)**

Reasons	(%)			
	Metropolitan Area		Non-Metropolitan Area	
	5th	6th	5th	6th
Attend school	3.5	5.0	10.1	12.7
Got a job	6.9	10.7	12.1	15.4
Change job	2.8	3.8	2.4	2.7
Job transfer	6.2	8.9	7.4	14.3
To succeed family business	0.4	0.5	1.1	0.6
Retirement	1.9	3.1	1.6	2.4
Housing-related reasons	22.6	15.6	15.4	7.1
Better neighborhood	9.7	6.3	6.4	4.9
Easier to commute	2.6	3.0	1.7	0.8
To live with parent(s)	5.7	4.1	4.6	3.1
To live closer to parent(s)	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.3
To live with child(ren)	0.8	1.7	1.2	1.0
To live closer to child(ren)	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6
To accompany family member(s)	10.7	11.6	10.5	12.4
Marriage	16.2	15.7	14.6	12.9
Better environment for rearing child(ren)	2.4	2.8	2.4	1.8
Health reasons	-	0.8	-	1.7
Other Reasons	6.0	4.6	6.4	4.3

\* Percentage excludes reasons for possible migration “Unknown.”

regarding other reasons. Looking at the reasons for migration to live together or to live closer to parents/children, it is noted that while “to live with parents” and “to live closer to parents” decreased, “to live with children” and “to live closer to children” increased, albeit by small margins. As the general aging of the population advances, it is considered that the frequency of cases where old parents migrate to live with their children or to live in the vicinity of their children will continue to grow gradually in the future as well. Such movements may further promote aging of society in the urban regions. Finally, it is noted that “for health reasons,” a new option included in the present survey, was chosen by 1.2% of the total number of respondents, primarily by the elderly.

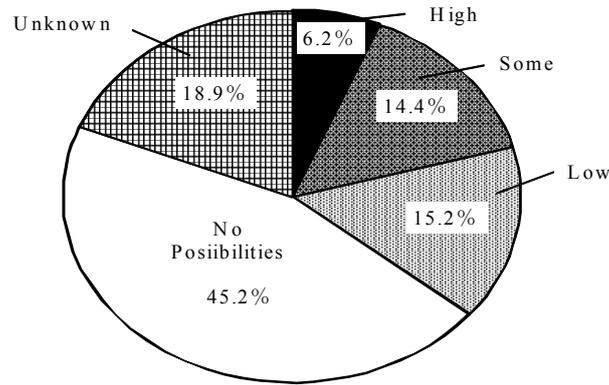
Table VII-4 shows the distribution of reasons for migration by current residential region (classified as either metropolitan areas or non-metropolitan areas). There are several noticeable differences between the two types of areas. The percentages of respondents selecting “housing situation,” “marriage,” etc. as possible reasons are higher in metropolitan areas. It is considered that the “housing situation” percentage is higher because the housing environment in metropolitan areas differs vastly from those in non-metropolitan areas,

whereas the disproportionate population distribution of the younger generations in metropolitan areas are expected to significantly contribute to the higher percentage of “marriage.” On the other hand, in non-metropolitan areas, the percentages of “for higher education,” “for the first job,” “job transfers,” and other reasons that might involve relatively long-distance migration are higher. Compared with the previous survey, large differences in some of the reasons between metropolitan areas and non-metropolitan areas can be observed. Nonetheless, the changes are mostly in tune with the overall changes, showing mostly stable distributions of reasons for migration by region.

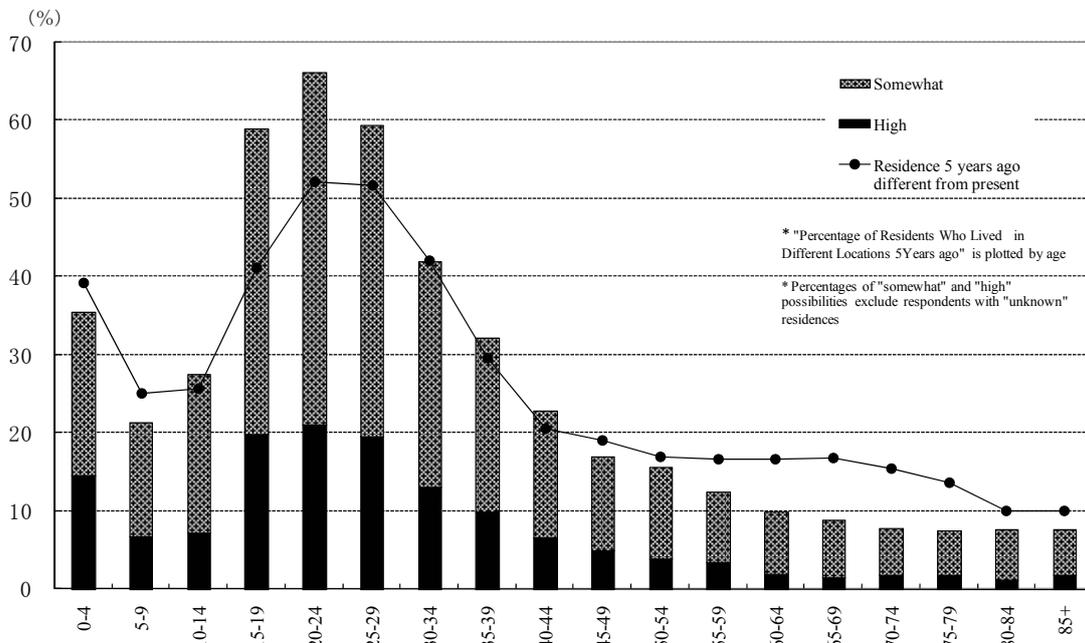
#### 4. Migration Possibilities in the Next Five Years

In the question on prospects for migration, the respondents are asked to choose either “residence different from the present residence” or “same residence as the present residence.” In situations where the respondents are not certain of their prospects for migration, it is not only difficult to answer the question, but also impossible to ascertain the degree of certainty of the responses. For this reason, we included a new question regarding the possibilities of migration in the present survey,

**Figure VII-2 Distribution of Migration Possibilities Five Years Later**



**Figure VII-3 Distribution of Migration Possibilities Five Years Later and Percentage of Residents Who Lived in Different Locations Five Years Ago, by Age**



where we asked the respondents to select the possibility of living in different residences five years into the future. The respondents were given four response categories, "high," "some," "little," and "not at all." With this question, we hope to clarify the respondents' general awareness of their migration situation at the time of the survey, as well as the association between awareness and actual conditions through comparison with the actual migration in the past five years in the next survey.

First, the overall percentages are 6.2% for "high," 14.4% for "some," 15.2% for "little," 45.2% for "not at all" and 18.9 for "unknown"

(Figure VII-2). The sum of "high" and "some" amounts to 20.7%; the percentage of these two response categories accounted for 25.8% when "unknown" was excluded. This figure is very close to the rate of actual migration in the past five years excluding "unknown", etc. (27.6%). Although the association with the actual migration cannot be clarified based solely on the present survey, these categories may become important indexes for predicting future migration conditions if total percentage of "high" and "some" in the present survey matches closely to the percentage of the actual migration the next survey.

Moreover, looking at the distribution of possibilities of migration by age from the percentages excluding “unknown” (Figure VII-3), the total percentage of “high” and “some” shows an age-specific distribution that is generally quite close to the actual migration in the past five years. Looking closely, however, the actual migration in the past five years is lower than the total percentage of “high” and “some” among the young, highly mobile age groups from late teens to early 20s, while the values are reversed for the elderly generation with lower mobility. It is not known at this time whether this pattern indicates changes in the age-specific migration rate from the past five years, or whether it is due to difference in the pattern of association between actual migration and the possibilities diverge by age. It should, however, be noted that environment surrounding the younger generations is rather fluid. It is thus quite possible that at a given time point there may be possibilities for migration in the near future, but it becomes unnecessary to migrate because the environment does not change. Conversely, surrounding environment for the older generations tends to be more stable, which lowers the expectations of migration in the short term, but conditions such as unforeseen aggravation of health conditions may unexpectedly force them to migrate. Thus, there is still room for investigation regarding whether the age-specific possibilities of migration observed here will be reflected in the actual migration during the coming five years.

From these reasons, possibilities of migration are considered to be indexes that reflect the future migration more accurately than the prospects for migration discussed above in general, but close investigation taking individual factors into consideration is required when looking at the data by age.

**Note**

- 1) This paper is based on the summary of the results released on October 23, 2008.
- 2) Faculty of Social Sciences, Waseda University
- 3) This percentage includes respondents whose age and sex are unknown, but excludes persons aged 0 to 4 years at the time of the survey and those whose residence five years earlier are unknown. The same applies to the percentages on total population basis below.
- 4) This percentage includes respondents whose age and sex are unknown, but excludes persons aged 0 to 4 years at the time of the survey and those whose residence five years earlier are unknown. The same applies to the percentages on total population basis below.
- 5) This excludes respondents with age and sex unknown. Respondents with unknown information are not included in the total population in the tables shown in the following pages as well.
- 6) This excludes respondents with unknown age.