

Press Release



Original in Japanese

January 25, 2013

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Summary of the results of the Seventh National Survey on Migration

Migration slowdown in the past five years with clear settlement trends after return migration

The National Institute of Population and Social Security Research releases the summary of the results of the Seventh National Survey on Migration implemented in FY 2011.

The National Survey on Migration reveals the migration trends such as the geographical migration history, reasons for migration or the migration prospects for the next five years. The objective of the survey is to obtain necessary data for the formulation of relevant policies and for the projection of regional population of Japan. The Seventh National Survey on Migration was implemented in July 2011 in 44 prefectures, excluding the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima due to the Great East Japan Earthquake (The survey was held in September for Hokkaido). The results were tabulated from 29,320 household members in 11,353 households out of 15,449 eligible households (the valid response rate was 73.5%).

Highlights of the Survey

- The percentage of respondents whose residence five years earlier differs from their current residence was 26.7%, showing a decline from the previous survey in 2006 (28.1%). There was a decline in all age groups, with the exception of ages 30-34, showing a clear slowdown in migration trends. (Page 3, Table II-1, Figure II-1)
- The percentage of respondents who have been living in their current residence since birth did not change since the last survey (10.7%), but the share of respondents migrating across prefecture and nation increased somewhat, rising 2.0 and 0.2 points, respectively. (Page 4, Figure III-1)
- The relationship between birthplace and current residence by region indicates that the percentage of respondents who are residing in the same region as their birthplace is high for the Tokyo area (90.4%) and the Chukyo area (89.9%). (Page 5, Table III-1)
- In terms of reasons for migration to current residence, "to attend school", "for work-related reasons," and "change in marital status" increased (0.8 points, 1.3 points, and 0.9 points, respectively), while "to accompany family members" decreased (2.3 points). The percentage of females giving the reason for migration as "to attend school" increased greatly from 3.6% to 6.0%. (Page 7, Table IV-1)
- The percentage of respondents returning to their birth prefecture ("Prefectural U-turn migrants") was 13.3%, which is slightly higher than the 12.7% of the previous survey. The percentage increased in the older age groups from ages 60 to 74, but this is due to the aging of respondents who previously returned to and remained in their birth prefecture. (Page 10, Table V-1 and Page 11, Figure V-1)
- The percentage of respondents with prospects for migration in five years (the sum of those answering "very likely" and "somewhat likely") was 20.1%, showing a tendency similar to the previous survey. (Page 13, Figure VI-1)
- The percentage of respondents who have lived abroad increased slightly from 3.6% of the previous survey to 3.9%. The increase was particularly high for those in their 20s, 30s, and 40s. (Page 15, Table VII-1)

Note: Figures of the previous survey are recalculated excluding the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima for a comparison.