

On Setting Assumption Values for  
“Population Projections by Municipality, December 2003” :  
Centering on Net Migration Rates

Shiro KOIKE, Hachiro NISHIOKA and Masakazu YAMAUCHI

This article describes the method of setting future assumption values relating population dynamics necessary for Population Projection for Municipality 12/2003, centering on net migration rates. The most influential impact for future population change of regions as municipalities is migration trend, especially of younger age. However, it is extremely difficult to set assumption values of migration (net migration rates) since migration of municipalities is greatly sensitive to regional native circumstances. In this situation, past migration data are inevitably important source, and as a result of analysis from net migration rates of every five years since 1980, they seem to spread spatially as time passes. Therefore, assumption values of net migration rates are set by considering the spatial attribute of the municipality concerned, to take in the migration rates of municipalities geographically adjacent to the one. It will be suggestive for population projection of small area as municipalities to reflect regional spatial attribute on setting assumption values, including natural change (fertility and mortality rates).