

Return Migration to Rural Regions in Japan: An Analysis of 'The Fifth National Survey on Migration, 2001'

Yuji ESAKI

This paper examines 'U-turn migration', or return migration to rural regions in Japan using data of 'The Fifth National Survey on Migration' performed by National Institute of Population and Social Security Research in 2001.

The rates of U-turn migration from other prefectures to home prefecture and the stay rates in home prefecture at the time of the survey in 'Hokkaido and Tohoku', 'Hokuriku and Koshinetsu', 'Chugoku and Shikoku', and 'Kyushu and Okinawa' are almost similar. Then grouping the data of four regions, comparisons of these rates among generations were conducted, the younger the generation, the higher the rates of U-turn migration and the stay rates in home prefecture. However, these rates of generation born in 1961-65 are lower than those of previous and following generations.

Next, relationship between these rates and types of home region, that is, 'prefectural capital', 'city', 'town', and 'village' was analyzed, many people born and raised in villages and went outside their home prefectures come back to other municipalities of their home prefectures, but migrants returned to their home villages are fairly small. This leads to the fact that the rates of U-turn migration and the stay rates in home prefecture of people from villages are lower than those of people from prefectural capitals, cities, and towns.