

# Prefecture-level Natural Changes of the Foreign Population in Japan

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This paper analyzes prefecture-level natural changes of the foreign population in Japan for the period from 1990 to 2015, and examines their impacts on regional population dynamics. Data drawn from the Population Census and Vital Statistics are used to evaluate the effects of foreign population on natural changes of the total population for each prefecture. While confirming limited effects of the foreign population on prefecture-level natural changes countrywide, the results show salient geographical variations reflecting the distribution and composition of foreign residents. With regard to mortality, the foreign population has a relatively significant upward effect in the central areas of the Kinki region, where the Korean population in Japan has been historically concentrated. In particular, higher mortality is estimated for elderly foreigners in those areas. The fertility level of foreigners is higher in the Tokai and North Kanto regions, where the number of Brazilians rapidly increased since the 1990s. The impact of the foreign population on local fertility has been growing in these areas, suggesting the effects of Brazilian settlement. Finally, we find that fertility of foreigners has suppressed the total fertility rate in most prefectures, despite the recent growth in the younger-aged foreign population. Given these changes, further research must continue to monitor and examine the prolongation of stay among young foreigners in Japan, such as international students from Asian countries, and the consequences to their reproductive behaviors.