

# International Comparison of the National Population Projections in Industrialized Countries

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The purpose of this paper is to compare the frameworks, assumptions and results of national population projections in industrialized countries, placing particular focus on international migration assumptions.

National projections outlining the shape of future population development are published regularly by the Statistics Bureau and governmental research institutes. These data provide basic information for important policy matters such as actuarial reviews of pension schemes and national land planning.

International migration assumption in Japan has so far been limited due to the low level of such migration in the country. However, recent trends show that although international migration by Japanese people has not increased greatly, that by nationals of other countries is growing significantly. As Japan's natural increase turns negative and population decline proceeds, future focus should be placed on international migration in the country. Against such a background, Japan must learn from countries in which international migration is increasing and formulate various assumptions about its future in this regard.