In-migration to the Tokyo metropolitan area and return to birth prefecture Among those born in non-metropolitan areas

Masahiro Kishi

Using data drawn from the Sixth National Survey on Migration, this paper examines patterns of in-migration to the Tokyo metropolitan area among those born in non-metropolitan areas in Japan, and their return migration to the prefecture of birth. It is observed that among those born in non-metropolitan areas the proportion of those who have migrated to the Tokyo metropolitan area is 21.1 per cent for males and 17.6 per cent for females respectively. Among those who have migrated to the Tokyo metropolitan area, 38.0 per cent of males and 30.2 per cent of females have returned to their prefecture of birth. Analysis of the migration patterns find that 26.2 per cent of males and 17.2 per cent of females who were born in non-metropolitan areas moved to the Tokyo metropolitan area at a time between their entrance to senior high school and completion of the education. Among the return migrants, the majority - 43.7 per cent of males and 41.3 per cent of females - moved in Tokyo metropolitan area until they procured their first job and returned to their prefecture of birth before the first marriage. This paper conducts analyses of the two migration patterns and investigates the duration of stay in the Tokyo metropolitan area of those who have migrated from the non-metropolitan areas.