

Special Issue :  
In-depth Analyses of the Results of  
the Eighth National Survey on Migration (Part I)

Introduction

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The Eighth National Survey on Migration was conducted in July 2016 by National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS). In view of increasing attention to the internal and international migration under the national population decline, the Eighth Survey was conducted with a larger number of survey districts to obtain indicators disaggregated by 47 prefectures of Japan. Also, the new question on nationality was added, questionnaire guidelines in four languages (English, Chinese, Korean and Portuguese) were distributed, and online survey was introduced in parallel with the conventional paper questionnaire.

The Eighth Survey districts were sampled so that equal number of samples could be obtained by prefecture. Due to the very low response rate of Tokyo prefecture and other metropolitan prefectures, it was expected that increasing sample size in non-metropolitan prefectures could raise the response rate but in reality, it did not. The response rate was 72.2%, slightly decreased from 73.5% in the Seventh Survey conducted in 2011.

This special issue covers four different topics; migration intention of older persons, migration from metropolitan to non-metropolitan areas, identification on life-course pattern by migration and first marriage, and survey non-response rate. Migration analyses can be made through various aspects as shown in these four papers. Further publications using the results of Eighth National Survey on Migration are planned in the future.

Along with population ageing and decreasing proportion of youth with higher mobility, the overall mobility is decreasing in Japan. However, the migration patterns seem to diversify, and finer analyses are needed.