

# A Study of Future Migrations Based on the Result of the Eighth National Survey on Migration

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In a question in the Eighth National Survey on Migration, respondents chose their probable destinations in the next five years among "metropolitan areas," "small- and medium-sized" areas, "rural areas," and so on. This paper summarizes the answers to the question and compares them with another survey and categorization. First, it shows the distribution of destination categories among "metropolitan areas," "small- and medium-sized" areas, and "rural areas" by gender and age and the distribution of the reasons for migration by the destination category. Second, these distributions are compared with the "return to the country" population extracted from the census data and with prefectural categorization. The findings are as follow. First, there are relations between employment migrations and migrations to "metropolitan areas" and between residential migrations and migrations to "small- and medium-sized" areas. Second, a comparison with the census data suggests that young migrants to "rural areas" are not adequately captured. Thus, it is difficult to contribute to discussions on the "return to the country" migration.

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