

Regional Birth Projections Consistent with the "2023 Regional Projections"

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In the *2023 Regional Population Projections for Japan* (hereafter referred to as the "2023 Regional Projections"), the projections utilize the child–woman ratio to project the age 0–4 population. Therefore, the projections do not directly provide births between census years. In this paper, we present regional birth projections that are consistent with the framework of the 2023 Regional Projections. We assume that the ratio between the closed population aged 0–4 and the population aged 0–4 remains constant throughout the projection horizon, in which the closed population is calculated from actual births and the survival rates to age 0–4. We derive this ratio from the values observed during the reference period used to set the migration assumptions for the 2023 Regional Projections.

Our projections show that, expressed as an index with births in 2015–2020 set at 100, the number of births in 2045–2050 ranges from 87.2 (Tokyo) to 40.7 (Aomori) across prefectures. At the municipal level, 887 more than half of the total have indices below 50, meaning that their births in 2045–2050 decline to less than half of the 2015–2020 level. Municipalities with particularly low indices are noticeable in the Tohoku region, reflecting both net out-migration of younger cohorts and low fertility rates. We expect that these projections will serve as fundamental data for various regional policies, especially those related to child-rearing measures.

Keywords: Number of births, Region, "2023 Regional Projections", Census