

# Overview of the Results of the Seventh National Survey on Migration

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Reiko Hayashi, Yoshimi Chitose, Katsuhisa Kojima, Masato Shimizu,  
Shiro Koike, Masahiro Kishi, Masataka Nakagawa

National Institute of Population and Social Security Research  
Department of International Research and Cooperation

Tel: 03-3595-2984, ext. 4421, 4422, 4420

<http://www.ipss.go.jp>

## I. Overview of the survey

### 1. The seventh national survey on migration

The Seventh National Survey on Migration aims to clarify recent migration trends and to obtain fundamental data for projecting future migration trends, followed by six surveys in the past (1976, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006). The Seventh Survey was implemented on July 1st, 2011 with the cooperation of the Statistics and Information Department, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, prefectural governments, the cities and special wards that operate public health centers and the public health centers. However, due to the Great East Japan Earthquake, the survey was cancelled in the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima. For Hokkaido, the survey was postponed and eventually held on September 1st of the same year. The items surveyed are nearly identical to those of the previous survey. These include residential history for the household heads and members of the household, prefectures in which they have lived, experience of leaving home, and prospects of residence 5 years ahead.

### 2. Methodology and response rate

The subjects of the survey were household heads and household members of all households in 288 survey districts (of 300 randomly selected districts from total survey districts of the 2011 Comprehensive Survey on Living Conditions, 12 districts were excluded due to the Great East Japan Earthquake). Household heads were asked to complete the questionnaires, which were distributed and collected by enumerators.

There were 15,449 eligible households for the survey. Out of these, questionnaires were distributed to 12,884 households and 11,546 households returned the questionnaire. Collected questionnaires that were left completely blank or from which critical information was missing were judged as invalid, leaving a final total of 11,353 valid questionnaires for analysis. This gave a response rate of 74.7% and a valid response rate of 73.5% out of eligible households. The response rate was 89.6% and the valid response rate was 88.1% out of households to which questionnaires were distributed.

The distribution of respondents of this survey was compared to that of the Current Population Estimates as of October 1st, 2011 by regional block (excluding the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima) reported by the Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. It was found that the percentage of respondents for the Seventh National Survey on Migration was lower in large metropolitan areas such as Tokyo and Osaka areas, but higher in the Chubu, Hokuriku, and Chukyo areas.

A comparison of the distribution of survey respondents to that of the Current Population Estimates as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 by 5-year age groups indicated that the percentages of survey respondents in their 20s and 30s were lower in the survey, especially from the late 20s to early 30s. For example, the percentage of people in their late 20s accounts for 5.7% of the total estimated population, but the corresponding percentage is only 5.1% for the survey.

This comparison implies the difficulties in distributing and collecting questionnaires to/from households in urban areas and those consisting of relatively young people. The percentage of respondents aged 75 and older was also lower in the survey. In addition to the difficulties in distributing and collecting questionnaires, this may also have been affected by the fact that residents of long-term care facilities were not included in the survey. Consequently, one should be careful in interpreting the data from the survey.

The results of the Sixth National Survey on Migration used in this report for a comparison were recalculated excluding the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima.

**Table I-1 Population distribution by regional block**

	The Seventh National Survey on Migration (2011.7)		Estimated Population (2011.10)**		Difference %
	Population	%	Population (in thousands)	%	
Total	29,320	100.0	122,168	100.0	-
Hokkaido	1,215	4.1	5,486	4.5	-0.4
Tohoku	902	3.1	3,599	2.9	0.1
Kita-Kanto	1,769	6.0	6,959	5.7	0.3
Tokyo Area	7,583	25.9	35,675	29.2	-3.3
Chubu/Hokuriku	3,485	11.9	12,167	10.0	1.9
Chukyo Area	3,056	10.4	11,334	9.3	1.1
Osaka Area	3,766	12.8	17,075	14.0	-1.1
Keihan Suburb	1,082	3.7	3,805	3.1	0.6
Chugoku	1,970	6.7	7,535	6.2	0.6
Shikoku	853	2.9	3,953	3.2	-0.3
Kyushu/Okinawa	3,639	12.4	14,578	11.9	0.5

\* Excludes the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima.

\*\* Estimated population as of October 1, 2011 (Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications).

Note: The regional blocks include following prefectures.

Hokkaido: Hokkaido; Tohoku: Aomori, Akita, Yamagata; Kita-Kanto: Ibaragi, Tochigi, Gunma; Tokyo Area: Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa; Chubu/Hokuriku: Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Yamanashi, Nagano, Shizuoka; Chukyo Area: Gifu, Aichi, Mie; Osaka Area: Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo; Keihan Suburb: Shiga, Nara, Wakayama; Chugoku: Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi; Shikoku: Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, Kochi; Kyushu/Okinawa: Fukuoka, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Oita, Miyazaki, Kagoshima, Okinawa

**Table I-2 Population distribution by age**

	The Seventh National Survey on Migration (2011.7)		Estimated population (2011.10) **		Difference %
	Population	%***	Population (in thousands)	%	
Total	29,320	100.0	122,168		-
0-4	1,212	4.2	5,083	4.2	0.1
5-9	1,335	4.7	5,248	4.3	0.4
10-14	1,438	5.0	5,642	4.6	0.4
15-19	1,385	4.8	5,791	4.7	0.1
20-24	1,342	4.7	6,105	5.0	-0.3
25-29	1,468	5.1	6,918	5.7	-0.5
30-34	1,692	5.9	7,757	6.3	-0.4
35-39	2,114	7.4	9,330	7.6	-0.3
40-44	2,101	7.3	8,955	7.3	0.0
45-49	1,777	6.2	7,629	6.2	0.0
50-54	1,805	6.3	7,269	6.0	0.3
55-59	2,001	7.0	7,904	6.5	0.5
60-64	2,386	8.3	10,162	8.3	0.0
65-69	1,870	6.5	7,541	6.2	0.4
70-74	1,609	5.6	6,869	5.6	0.0
75-79	1,343	4.7	5,843	4.8	-0.1
80-84	984	3.4	4,257	3.5	0.0
85 and over	769	2.7	3,863	3.2	-0.5
Age Unknown	689	-			

\* Excludes the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima.

\*\* Estimated population as of October 1, 2011 (Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications).

\*\*\*Excludes "age-unknown."

## II. Migration from residence 5 years earlier

### 1. Residence 5 years earlier and present residence

The percentage of respondents whose residence 5 years earlier differs from their present residence (residence at the time of the survey) is 24.7%, which is a decrease from the figure of 28.1% of the Sixth Survey (2006). There is also a large decrease in the percentage of respondents whose residence 5 years earlier is within the same prefecture as their present residence.

**Table II-1 Percentage of respondents whose residence 5 years earlier was different from the present residence**

	Total	Percentage of Respondents Whose Residence 5 Years Earlier was Different from the Present Residence (by residence 5 years earlier, %)					
		Total	in the Same Prefecture as 5 Years Earlier		in a Different Prefecture	Abroad	
			in the same municipality	in a different municipality			
7 <sup>th</sup> Survey	26,212	24.7	18.2	11.8	6.4	6.0	0.5
6 <sup>th</sup> Survey	26,653	28.1	21.6	14.6	7.0	6.2	0.4

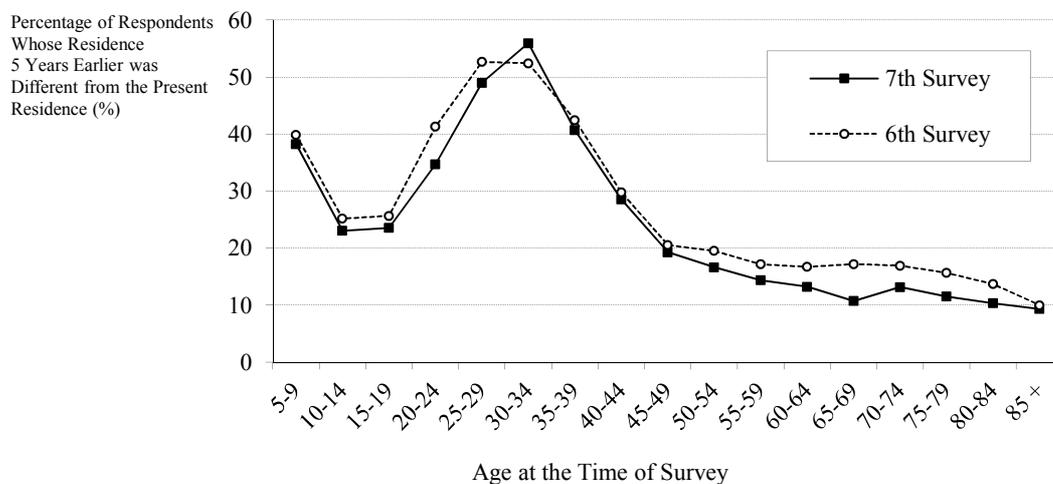
\*Excludes respondents ages 0-4 at the time of the survey, age unknown, and those whose residence 5 years earlier is unclear.

\*Excludes the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima.

### 2. Percentages of respondents whose residence 5 years earlier was different from the present residence, by age group

The percentages of respondents whose residence 5 years earlier differ from their present residence by age group show a decrease in most of the age groups compared to those of the Sixth National Survey on Migration. The decline is particularly noticeable among the 20s, and those in the 50s to early 80s.

**Figure II-1 Percentage of respondents whose residence 5 years earlier was different from the present residence, by age**



Excludes respondents whose residence 5 years earlier is unclear.

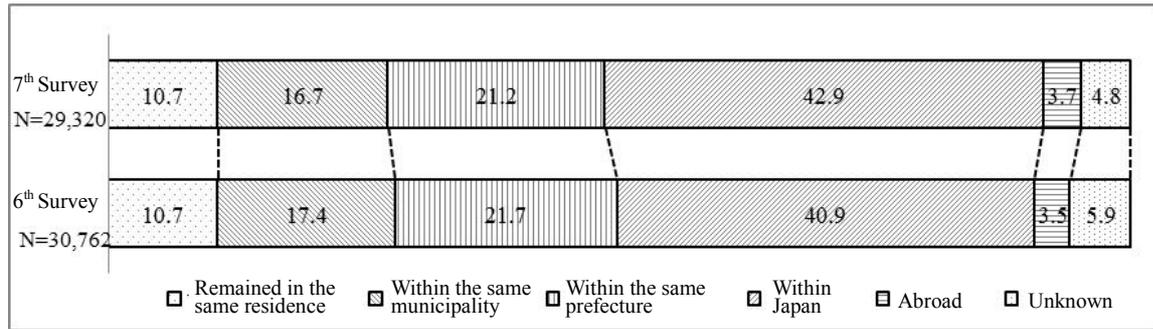
Excludes the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima.

### III. Migration experience and regions of residence

#### 1. Geographical range of migration experience

The percentage of respondents who have always lived at the same residence does not differ from the Sixth Survey (2006), but the percentage of those who moved across prefectural and national borders has increased.

**Figure III-1 Percentage of migration experience by geographical range**



The “Abroad” category includes people who were born abroad, or were in abroad in either of the following time points: when graduating from junior high school, when graduating from the school of highest level, when starting a new job, immediately before/after their first marriage, 5 years earlier from the survey, 1 year earlier from the survey, before the most recent move (hereinafter referred to as “time points”), and those who have lived in abroad for 3 months or longer. “Within Japan” are those who are not of the “Abroad” category and who have lived in another prefecture at any of the time points, as well as those who have lived in two or more prefectures for 3 months or longer. “Within the same prefecture” are those who are not of the “Abroad” and “Within Japan” category, and who have lived in another municipality of the same prefecture of the present residence at any of the time points. “Within the same municipality” are those who are not of the “Abroad”, “Within Japan” and “Within the same prefecture” category, and who had moved within the same municipality of the present residence at any of the time points. “Remained in the same residence” are those who are not of the “Abroad”, “Within Japan”, “Within the same prefecture” and “Within the same municipality” category, and who have been living always the same residence at any of the time points, or people who have not yet experienced the above mentioned life events. The percentage is calculated against the total number of respondents including “unknown”. Excludes the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima.

## 2. Place of birth and place of present residence

The distribution of residential region by birth region shows that the percentages of respondents living in the same regional blocks as blocks where they were born are the highest among respondents born in the Tokyo area (90.4%) and the Chukyo area (89.9%).

**Table III-1 Distribution of residential region by birth region (%)**

Birth Region	Total	Residential Region											
		Hokkaido	Tohoku	Kita-Kanto	Tokyo Area	Chubu/Hokuriku	Chukyo Area	Osaka Area	Keihan Suburb	Chugoku	Shikoku	Kyushu/Okinawa	Total
Hokkaido	1,310	81.1	0.7	0.9	11.2	2.2	1.8	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.2	1.0	100
Tohoku	1,407	2.0	58.0	3.7	30.4	2.4	1.1	1.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.6	100
Kita Kanto	1,675	0.2	0.1	81.3	15.1	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.4	100
Tokyo Area	5,337	0.4	0.1	2.7	90.4	1.7	1.3	1.5	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.9	100
Chubu/Hokuriku	3,626	0.2	0.0	1.1	11.7	81.6	2.9	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.2	100
Chukyo Area	2,680	0.0	0.0	0.3	5.0	1.5	89.9	1.5	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.8	100
Osaka Area	3,461	0.1	0.0	0.1	5.9	1.3	2.4	79.9	6.8	1.4	0.5	1.5	100
Keihan Suburb	822	0.0	0.1	0.0	4.1	0.9	1.9	10.9	80.4	0.9	0.0	0.7	100
Chugoku	2,037	0.1	0.1	0.1	6.8	0.7	1.9	7.0	0.7	79.7	0.6	2.1	100
Shikoku	995	0.0	0.1	0.4	6.4	0.8	1.8	9.8	1.2	2.6	75.8	1.0	100
Kyushu/Okinawa	3,895	0.2	0.0	0.4	8.1	0.9	2.6	4.2	0.7	1.7	0.3	80.8	100
Abroad	316	7.9	0.3	4.1	35.4	8.5	7.9	8.9	1.9	7.9	0.9	16.1	100
Total	27,561	4.2	3.1	6.0	25.7	12.0	10.6	12.7	3.7	6.7	2.9	12.4	100

Excludes people whose birth region is unknown. People who were living in the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima at the time of the survey are not included. However, people who were born in the three prefectures, but were living in a place other than those three prefectures at the time of the survey are included.

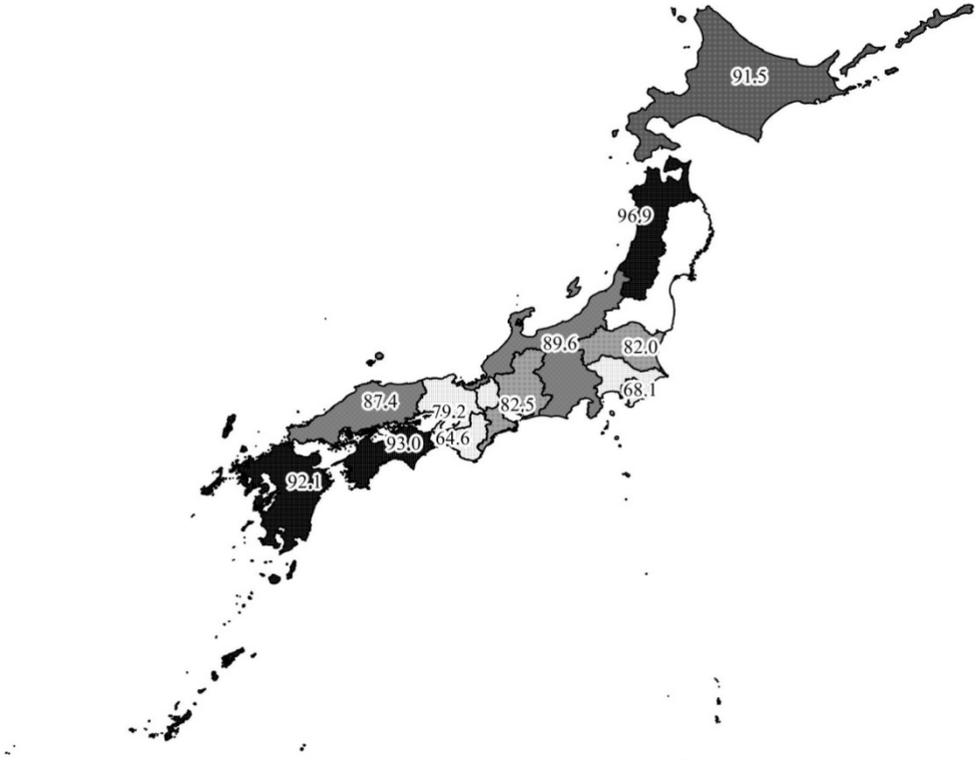
The distribution of birth region by residential region indicates that the percentages of respondents whose residential region and birth region are in the same regional block are highest in Shikoku (93.0%) and Kyushu/Okinawa (92.1%) and lowest in the Keihan suburb (64.6%) and the Tokyo area (68.1%).

**Table III-2 Distribution of birth region by residential region (%)**

Residential Region	Total	Birth Region												
		Hokkaido	Tohoku	Kita-Kanto	Tokyo Area	Chubu/Hokuriku	Chukyo Area	Osaka Area	Keihan Suburb	Chugoku	Shikoku	Kyushu/Okinawa	Abroad	Total
Hokkaido	1,162	91.5	2.4	0.3	1.7	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.6	2.2	100
Tohoku	842	1.1	96.9	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	100
Kita-Kanto	1,660	0.7	3.1	82.0	8.7	2.5	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.8	100
Tokyo Area	7,080	2.1	6.0	3.6	68.1	6.0	1.9	2.9	0.5	1.9	0.9	4.5	1.6	100
Chubu/Hokuriku	3,301	0.9	1.0	0.5	2.7	89.6	1.2	1.3	0.2	0.5	0.2	1.0	0.8	100
Chukyo Area	2,918	0.8	0.5	0.5	2.3	3.6	82.5	2.9	0.5	1.3	0.6	3.5	0.9	100
Osaka Area	3,491	0.2	0.5	0.3	2.3	1.5	1.1	79.2	2.6	4.1	2.8	4.7	0.8	100
Keihan Suburb	1,023	0.0	0.4	0.5	2.2	1.3	1.9	23.1	64.6	1.5	1.2	2.8	0.6	100
Chugoku	1,859	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.7	0.7	0.4	2.7	0.4	87.4	1.4	3.6	1.3	100
Shikoku	811	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.4	2.1	0.0	1.6	93.0	1.5	0.4	100
Kyushu/Okinawa	3,414	0.4	0.3	0.2	1.3	0.3	0.6	1.5	0.2	1.3	0.3	92.1	1.5	100
Total	27,561	4.8	5.1	6.1	19.4	13.2	9.7	12.6	3.0	7.4	3.6	14.1	1.1	100

Excludes people whose birth region is unknown. People who were living in the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima at the time of the survey are not included. However, people who were born in the three prefectures, but were living in a place other than those three prefectures at the time of the survey are included.

**Figure III-2 Percentage of respondents whose residential region and birth region are in the same region, by residential region**



#### IV. Reasons for migration to present residence

##### 1. Trends in reasons for migration

Compared to the Sixth Survey (2006), the percentages of respondents giving migration reasons such as “to attend school,” “work-related reasons” and “change in marital status” increased while “to accompany family members” decreased. In particular, “to attend school” rose to 5.4% from the 4.6% of the last survey. This was caused by an increase in the proportion of women migrating to attend school (from 3.6% to 6.0%). This percentage is larger than that of men migrating to attend school.

**Table IV-1 Reasons for migration to present residence in the last 5 years by sex (%)**

	Total	Respondents who have moved in the past 5 years		To attend school	Work-related reasons	Housing-related reasons	To move in with or closer to parents/children	To accompany family members	Change in marital status	Other reasons <sup>1</sup>	Reason unknown
		No. of People	(%)								
Total (7 <sup>th</sup> Survey)	29,320	5,972	100.0	5.4	14.1	35.0	6.4	10.9	13.5	11.8	2.9
Male (7 <sup>th</sup> Survey)	13,841	2,925	100.0	5.0	20.1	34.8	6.6	7.3	11.4	11.8	3.0
Female (7 <sup>th</sup> Survey)	14,895	2,956	100.0	6.0	8.2	35.0	6.3	14.6	15.6	11.6	2.9
Total (6 <sup>th</sup> Survey)	30,762	6,792	100.0	4.6	12.8	35.3	6.8	13.2	12.6	10.7	4.0
Male (6 <sup>th</sup> Survey)	14,551	3,366	100.0	5.6	18.2	36.5	6.8	9.5	10.1	9.6	3.8
Female (6 <sup>th</sup> Survey)	15,440	3,311	100.0	3.6	7.2	34.1	6.9	17.2	15.1	11.9	4.0

The totals include sex unknown.

Reason unknown includes “For health reasons.”

Excludes the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima.

##### 2. Reason for migration by age group

“To attend school” reaches its peak for men at ages 20-24 and for women at ages 15-19 (33.2% for men, 39.0% for women). The proportion of respondents migrating for “work-related reasons” is higher for men in all age groups, reaching a peak at 50-54 years old for men (41.6%) and 20-24 years old for women (19.8%). “Housing-related reasons” accounts for the highest percentage for both men and women. The share of respondents giving this reason rises sharply from the late 30s. “To move in with or closer to parents/children” accounted for a relatively large proportion in older age groups regardless of sex. This reason accounts for approximately 15% for those aged 65 and over. For women, the proportion giving this reason shows a gradual upward trend from the late 50s. The percentage of respondents giving “to accompany family members” is higher for women. It is especially high for women in their early 40s to early 50s at approximately 18%. Those who migrate due to “change in marital status” are both men and women in their late 20s to early 30s. Although the percentage of men migrating for this reason is 24-25%, the percentage for women is higher at approximately 30-34%.

**Table IV-2 Reasons for migration to present residence in the last 5 years, by sex and age**

Male

(%)

Age	Respondents who have moved in the past 5 years		To attend school	Work-related reasons	Housing-related reasons	To move in with or closer to parents/children	To accompany family members	Change in marital status	For health reasons	Other reasons	Reason unknown
	Total	(%)									
Total	2,925	100.0	5.0	20.1	34.8	6.6	7.3	11.4	1.1	10.7	3.0
15-19	129	100.0	28.7	3.9	33.3	4.7	16.3	2.3	0.0	6.2	4.7
20-24	205	100.0	33.2	24.9	21.0	3.4	4.4	4.4	1.5	6.8	0.5
25-29	303	100.0	3.6	25.7	19.5	7.9	0.7	24.4	1.3	11.6	5.3
30-34	421	100.0	0.5	18.5	31.1	6.4	1.4	25.2	1.0	12.6	3.3
35-39	391	100.0	1.0	18.9	41.4	5.1	0.0	18.2	0.5	12.5	2.3
40-44	253	100.0	1.6	26.9	36.4	11.1	0.0	13.8	0.4	8.3	1.6
45-49	168	100.0	0.6	33.3	43.5	2.4	1.2	6.6	1.2	9.5	1.8
50-54	142	100.0	0.7	41.6	40.1	4.9	1.4	3.5	0.7	6.3	0.7
55-59	123	100.0	1.6	35.0	39.8	8.9	0.0	1.6	0.8	12.2	0.0
60-64	96	100.0	0.0	29.2	41.7	9.4	0.0	3.1	2.1	14.6	0.0
65-69	61	100.0	0.0	14.8	44.3	14.8	0.0	1.6	3.3	16.4	4.9
70-74	45	100.0	0.0	13.3	53.3	13.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.6	4.4
75-79	25	100.0	0.0	4.0	56.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	12.0	8.0
80-84	15	100.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	13.3	13.3	0.0	20.0	20.0	0.0
85 and over	8	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	62.5	0.0	0.0	37.5	0.0	0.0

Female

(%)

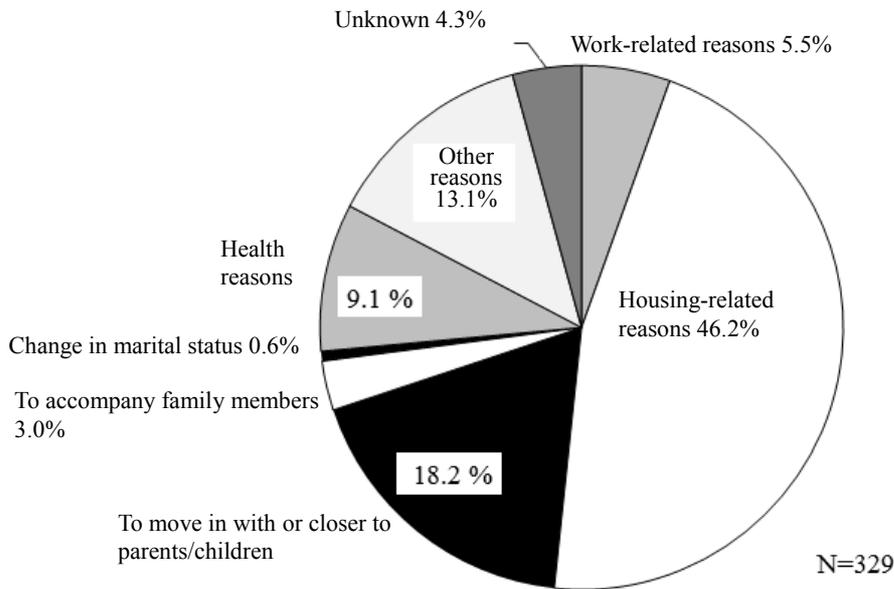
Age	Respondents who have moved in the past 5 years		To attend school	Work-related reasons	Housing-related reasons	To move in with or closer to parents/children	To accompany family members	Change in marital status	For health reasons	Other reasons	Reason unknown
	Total	(%)									
Total	2,956	100.0	6.0	8.2	35.0	6.3	14.6	15.6	1.3	10.3	2.9
15-19	154	100.0	39.0	2.6	31.2	2.6	13.0	2.0	0.7	5.8	3.3
20-24	243	100.0	30.5	19.8	21.4	1.7	4.1	11.1	1.2	8.2	2.1
25-29	354	100.0	4.0	14.7	22.0	4.5	7.3	34.2	0.0	11.0	2.3
30-34	453	100.0	0.9	8.6	29.6	6.2	10.2	30.9	0.4	9.9	3.3
35-39	392	100.0	1.3	7.7	39.5	3.1	12.5	22.5	0.5	11.0	2.0
40-44	247	100.0	1.6	5.7	39.7	7.3	18.6	14.2	0.8	8.9	3.2
45-49	124	100.0	1.6	8.9	43.6	9.7	12.1	11.3	1.6	10.5	0.8
50-54	111	100.0	0.9	9.0	40.5	7.2	18.9	7.2	0.9	15.3	0.0
55-59	98	100.0	0.0	2.0	44.9	16.3	12.2	4.1	1.0	14.3	5.1
60-64	93	100.0	0.0	5.4	45.2	15.1	12.9	6.5	2.2	10.8	2.2
65-69	47	100.0	0.0	0.0	55.3	10.6	2.1	2.1	4.3	21.3	4.3
70-74	41	100.0	0.0	2.4	56.1	19.5	7.3	0.0	4.9	7.3	2.4
75-79	26	100.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	15.4	7.7	0.0	19.2	3.9	3.9
80-84	30	100.0	0.0	3.3	43.3	26.7	3.3	0.0	13.3	6.7	3.3
85 and over	26	100.0	3.9	0.0	15.4	38.5	3.9	0.0	26.9	7.7	3.9

The totals for each sex include respondents age 0-14 and those whose age was unknown. Excludes the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima.

### 3. Reasons for migration of the elderly

The percentage of respondents aged 65 and over who migrated in the last 5 years is low at 4-5%. Among the elderly, “Housing-related reasons” is the highest at 46.2%. Other reasons with high percentages are “to move in with parents/children” (18.2%) and “for health reasons” (9.1%).

**Figure IV-1 Reasons for migration to present residence in the past 5 years  
for respondents aged 65 and over**



## V. Return migration (“U-turn migration”) to birth prefecture

### 1. Trends in the proportion of respondents returning to birth prefectures

If the prefectural return migrants are defined as people who migrated out of their birth prefectures (prefectural out-migrants) and returned to their birth prefectures later in their life, then the percentage of the prefectural return migrants out of total respondents increased slightly to 13.3 % for this survey compared to 12.7% of the Sixth Survey. The percentage of male prefectural return migrants is higher than females. However, the gain from the Sixth Survey was 0.5 points for men, rising from 14.1% to 14.6%, while the percentage for women rose 0.8 points from 11.3% to 12.1%, showing a decrease in the gap between men and women.

**Table V-1 Percentage of prefectural out-migrants and prefectural return migrants, by sex**

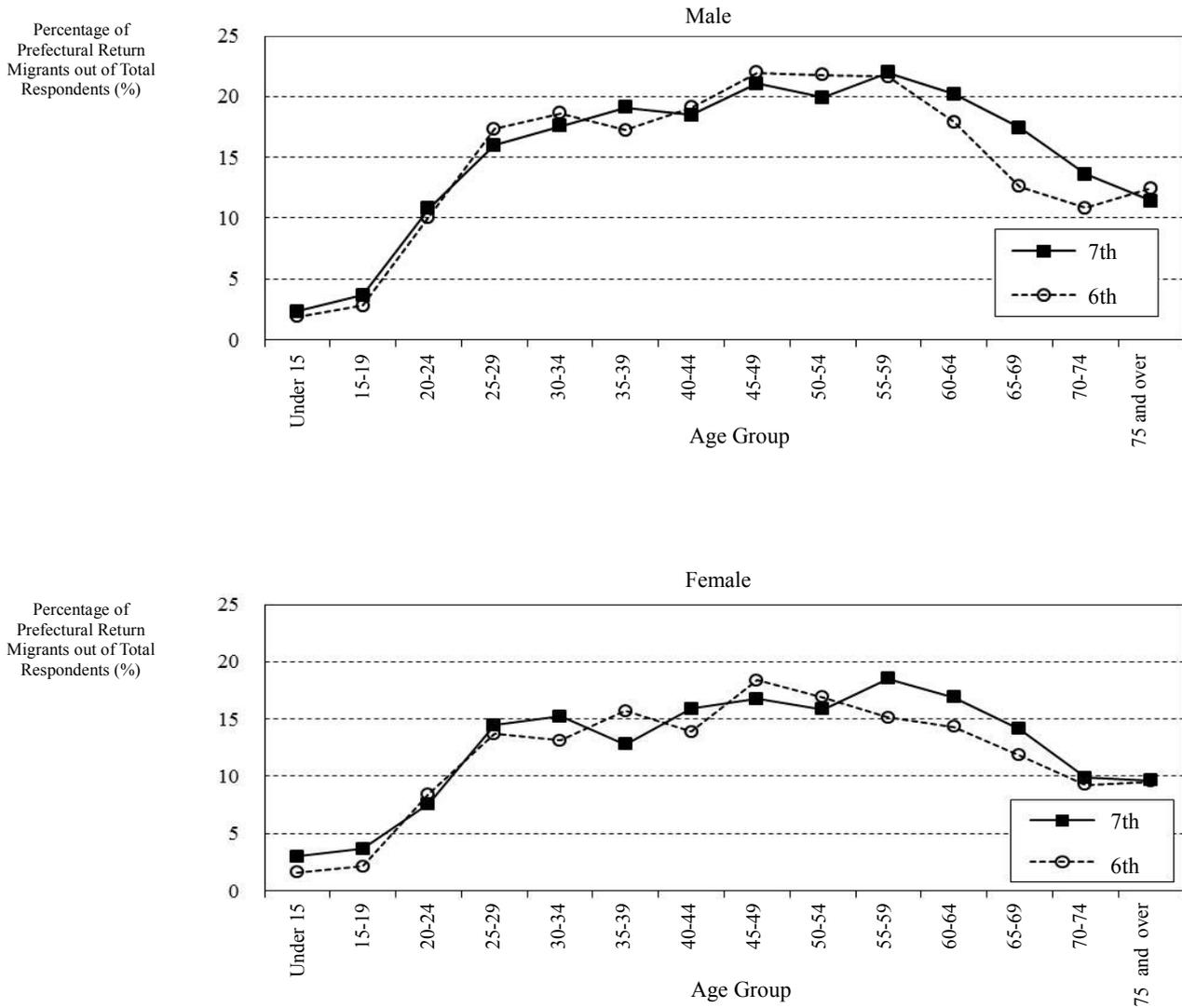
	Total (a)	Prefectural Out-Migrants		Prefectural Return Migrants		
		Total (b)	Out of Total Respondents (b/a)	Total (c)	Out of Prefectural Out-Migrants (c/b)	Out of Total Respondents (c/a)
7 <sup>th</sup> Survey	26,216	10,115	38.6	3,487	34.5	13.3
Male	12,529	4,973	39.7	1,833	36.9	14.6
Female	13,266	5,015	37.8	1,604	32.0	12.1
6 <sup>th</sup> Survey	27,059	9,893	36.6	3,424	34.6	12.7
Male	12,940	4,891	37.8	1,825	37.3	14.1
Female	13,593	4,772	35.1	1,531	32.1	11.3

Excludes respondents whose birth region is unknown, whose migration pattern is unknown, and those born abroad.

### 2. Changes in prefectural return migration (out of total respondents), by sex and age group

The proportion of prefectural return migrants (out of total respondents) is particularly high for the older groups between the ages of 60 and 74, compared to the previous survey. However, since the percentages of return migrants in the age groups 5 years younger in the Sixth Survey shows little difference from the current survey, it is assumed that migrants who returned to their birth prefectures earlier remained living there. As a consequence, the percentage of prefectural return migrants among the elderly has increased.

**Figure V-1 Changes in prefectural return migration (out of total respondents),  
by sex and age group**



Excludes respondents whose birth region is unknown, whose migration pattern is unknown, and those born abroad.

### 3. Changes in prefectural return migration by birth region

The proportion of prefectural return migrants by birth region (out of total respondents) tends to be lower in large metropolitan areas (Tokyo, Chukyo, and Osaka areas), and higher in rural areas (non-metropolitan areas). An exception is Hokkaido and the Tohoku region showing low percentages of prefectural return migrants. In the case of Tohoku region, this result may be caused by the exclusion of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima prefectures. (See Table 3, Appendix.)

**Table V-2 Percentage of prefectural return migrants by birth region**

Birth Region	Total Respondents	Prefectural Out-Migrants		Return Migrants		
		Total (b)	Out of Total Respondents (b/a)	Total (c)	Out of Prefectural Migrants (c/b)	Out of Total Respondents (c/a)
Total	26,216	10,115	38.6	3,487	34.5	13.3
Hokkaido	1,276	368	28.8	127	34.5	10.0
Tohoku	1,376	736	53.5	139	18.9	10.1
Kita-Kanto	1,617	614	38.0	253	41.2	15.6
Tokyo Area	4,995	2,075	41.5	587	28.3	11.8
Chubu/ Hokuriku	3,528	1,266	35.9	545	43.0	15.4
Chukyo Area	2,586	698	27.0	303	43.4	11.7
Osaka Area	3,315	1,230	37.1	312	25.4	9.4
Keihan Suburb	796	276	34.7	110	39.9	13.8
Chugoku	1,980	790	39.9	319	40.4	16.1
Shikoku	977	404	41.4	155	38.4	15.9
Kyushu/ Okinawa	3,770	1,658	44.0	637	38.4	16.9

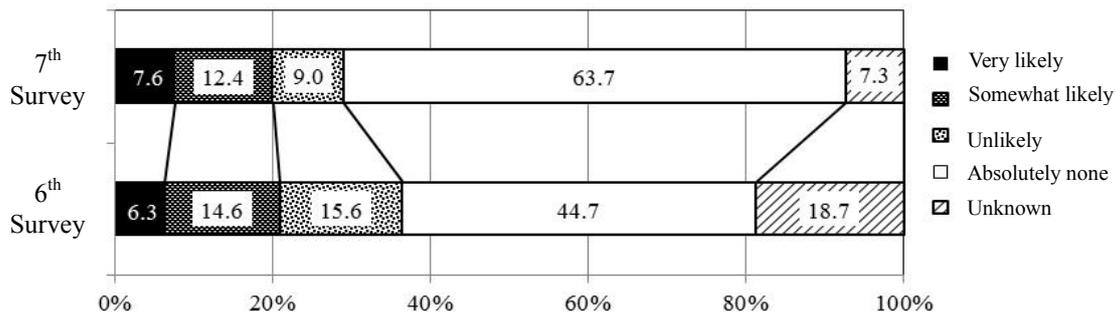
Respondents who were living in the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima at the time of the survey are not included. However, respondents who were born in the three prefectures, but were living in a prefecture apart from those three at the time of the survey are included. Excludes respondents whose birth region is unknown, whose migration pattern is unknown, and those born abroad.

## VI. Residence 5 years ahead

### 1. Prospects for migration in the next 5 years

The percentage of respondents who answered that the possibility of migration in the next 5 years is “absolutely none” was 63.7%, showing a substantial increase from the 44.7% of the Sixth Survey (2006). If respondents who answered “very likely” or “somewhat likely” are considered as “Possible Migrants in the Next 5 Years,” they account for 20.1% out of total respondents. This result shows little change compared to the 20.9% of the Sixth Survey.

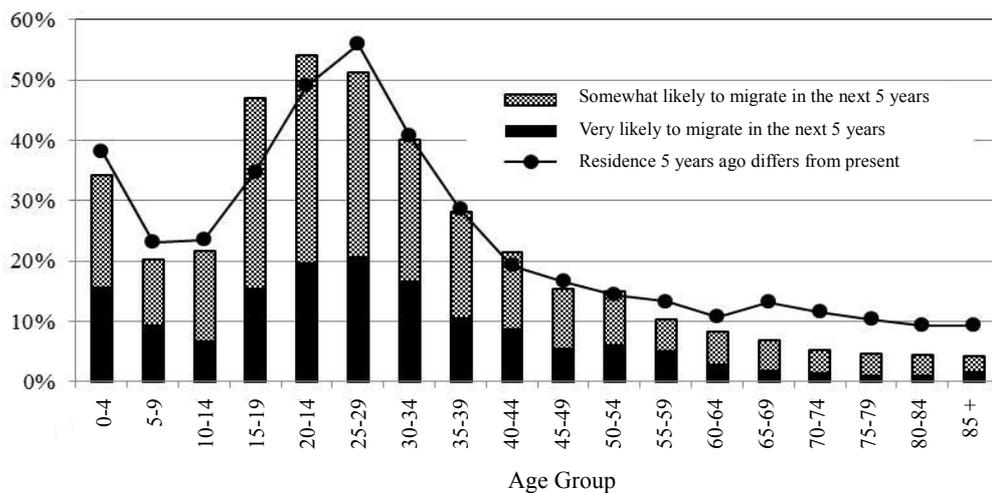
**Figure VI-1 Prospects for migration in the next 5 years**



### 2. Migration possibilities by age group

Figure VI-2 compares the percentages of “Possible Migrants in the Next 5 Years” with migrants in the past 5 years (respondents whose residence 5 years earlier differs from their present residence). The possibility of migration in the next 5 years increases sharply for respondents in their late teens, peaking in the early 20s. However, the percentage begins to drop gradually after the late 20s. This graph also shows that the percentages of possible migrants in the next 5 years and of migrants in the past 5 years show similar patterns, except for those in age 65 and older.

**Figure VI-2 Possible migrants in the next 5 years and migrants in the past 5 years, by age group**



Excludes those whose prospects of migration in the next 5 years are unknown.

The percentage of respondents whose residence 5 years earlier differs from their present residence is shown according to their age 5 years earlier.

The figures used for the percentage of people whose residence of 5 years earlier differs from their present residence in the age 80-84 and age 85 and older are figures for people who were age 80 and older 5 years earlier.

### 3. Prospects for migration by residential region

The percentages of migration possibilities in the next 5 years by residential region indicate that the possibility is high in metropolitan areas and Hokkaido, while it is low in non-metropolitan areas.

**Table VI-1 Percentage of respondents with prospects for migration in the next 5 Years, by residential region**

Block	Total	Hokkaido	Tohoku	Kita-Kanto	Tokyo Area	Chubu/Hokuriku	Chukyo Area	Osaka Area	Keihan Suburb	Chugoku	Shikoku	Kyushu/Okinawa
(%)	21.6	25.2	13.2	17.6	27.6	17.7	22.4	22.7	14.3	16.6	15.0	20.6

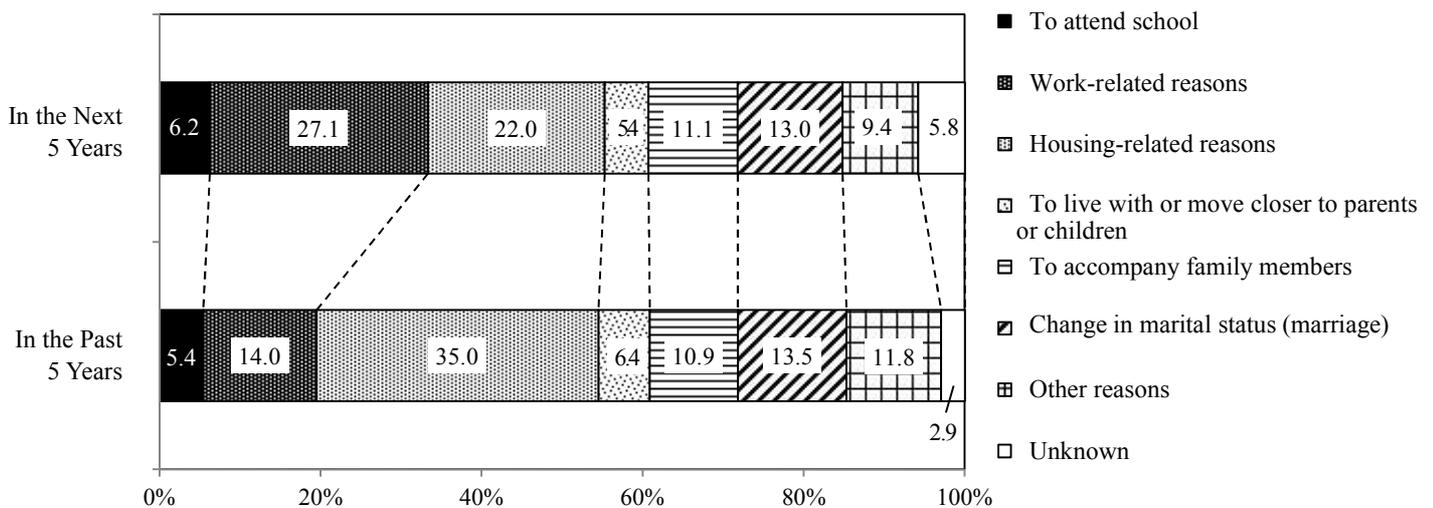
Excludes those whose prospects of migration in the next 5 years are unknown.

“Tohoku” excludes the prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima.

### 4. Reasons for migration prospects

About half of the “prospective migrants in the next 5 years” gave “work-related” and “housing-related” as reasons for the possible migration. “Marriage” and “to accompany family members” were the next most frequently given reasons. There is no such big difference in the distribution of migration reasons for prospective migration in the next 5 years and that of migration reasons given in the past 5 years except for the “work-related” and “housing-related” reasons. A comparison between the two indicates that the distribution of migration reasons shows similar patterns.

**Figure VI-3 Migration reasons for prospective migrants in the next 5 years and migrants in the last 5 years**



## VII. Past residence in foreign countries

The percentage of respondents who have lived in foreign countries for 3 months or longer rose 0.3 points to 3.9% from the 3.6% of the Sixth Survey (2006). The percentage of people who have lived in foreign countries for 3 months or longer among those born in Japan also rose 0.3 points over the previous survey to 2.8%. The proportion of people who have lived abroad is slightly higher for men than for women. However, the difference between the two has decreased slightly from the results of the previous survey. The proportion of people who have lived abroad is high for people in their 20s, 30s, and 40s, and the proportion among those born in Japan is rising. Typically, the U.S.A and U.K are the major foreign countries in which Japanese-born people of these age groups have lived. For those aged 70 and older, however, China (including former Manchuria) and Korea are included in the major countries of foreign residence.

**Table VII-1 Percentage of respondents who have lived abroad for 3 months or longer,  
by sex and age group**

	Seventh Survey (Total: 25,827*)				Sixth Survey (Total: 26,797*)		
	Born in Japan	Born in Japan		Born Abroad	Born in Japan	Born Abroad	
		Top 3 Countries**					
Total	3.9%	2.8%	US, China, UK	1.0%	3.6%	2.5%	1.0%
(1) By Sex							
Male	3.9%	3.0%	US, China, Thailand	0.8%	3.9%	2.7%	1.0%
Female	3.8%	2.7%	US, UK, China	1.1%	3.5%	2.3%	1.0%
(2) By Age Group							
0-9	0.8%	0.6%		0.2%	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%
10-19	2.5%	1.7%	US, Thailand	0.8%	2.1%	1.5%	0.6%
20-29	4.5%	2.9%	US, UK, Canada	1.5%	3.8%	2.2%	1.5%
30-39	4.7%	3.9%	US, Australia, UK	0.7%	3.9%	2.8%	0.9%
40-49	5.4%	4.3%	US, UK, Thailand	1.1%	3.5%	2.7%	0.7%
50-59	3.4%	2.8%	US, UK, France	0.5%	2.8%	2.5%	0.3%
60-69	3.4%	2.3%	US, China, UK	1.1%	4.7%	2.3%	2.3%
70-79	4.2%	2.2%	China, US, South Korea	1.7%	4.5%	2.6%	1.8%
80 and over	5.6%	4.2%	China (including former Manchuria), US	1.2%	11.0%	9.3%	1.3%

\* Total excludes past residence of 3 months or longer abroad is unknown. Also, since the total includes people whose birthplace is unknown, the sum of people born in Japan and people born abroad does not match the total number.

\*\*Countries listed by less than 5 respondents are not presented.

[Appendix]

**Table 1 Percentage of respondents whose residence 5 years earlier was different from the present residence, by age**

	7 <sup>th</sup> Survey (%)	6 <sup>th</sup> Survey (%)
5-9	38.2	39.9
10-14	23.1	25.2
15-19	23.6	25.7
20-24	34.7	41.3
25-29	49.0	52.7
30-34	56.0	52.5
35-39	40.7	42.5
40-44	28.6	29.8
45-49	19.3	20.5
50-54	16.7	19.5
55-59	14.4	17.2
60-64	13.2	16.7
65-69	10.7	17.2
70-74	13.2	16.9
75-79	11.5	15.7
80-84	10.4	13.7
85 and over	9.3	10.0

**Table 2 Percentage of prefectural return migrants to birth prefectures (out of total respondents), by age group**

Age Group	Male		Female	
	7 <sup>th</sup> Survey (%)	6 <sup>th</sup> Survey (%)	7 <sup>th</sup> Survey (%)	6 <sup>th</sup> Survey (%)
Total	14.6	14.1	12.1	11.3
Under15	2.3	1.9	3.0	1.6
15-19	3.7	2.8	3.6	2.1
20-24	10.8	10.1	7.6	8.4
25-29	16.0	17.3	14.5	13.7
30-34	17.5	18.6	15.2	13.1
35-39	19.1	17.2	12.8	15.7
40-44	18.5	19.1	15.9	13.9
45-49	21.1	22.0	16.8	18.4
50-54	19.9	21.8	15.8	16.9
55-59	22.0	21.6	18.5	15.1
60-64	20.2	17.9	16.9	14.3
65-69	17.4	12.6	14.1	11.8
70-74	13.6	10.8	9.9	9.3
75 and over	11.4	12.5	9.6	9.6

Total includes age unknown.

Excludes birth region unknown, migration pattern unknown, and those born abroad.

**Table 3 Percentage of prefectural return migrants to birth prefectures,  
by birth region from the sixth survey (2006)**

All prefectures

Regional Block	Total (a)	Prefectural Out-Migrants		Prefectural Return Migrants		
		Total (b)	Percentage Out of Total (%) (b/a)	Total (c)	Percentage Out of Prefectural Out-Migrants (%) (c/b)	Percentage Out of Total (c/a)
Total	28,274	10,226	36.2	3,601	35.2	12.7
Hokkaido	1,468	359	24.5	132	36.8	9.0
<b>Tohoku</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>12.7</b>
Kita-Kanto	1,651	613	37.1	269	43.9	16.3
Tokyo Area	5,964	2,206	37.0	609	27.6	10.2
Chubu/ Hokuriku	3,538	1,307	36.9	591	45.2	16.7
Chukyo Area	2,318	581	25.1	221	38.0	9.5
Osaka Area	2,985	1,072	35.9	311	29.0	10.4
Keihan Suburb	793	267	33.7	85	31.8	10.7
Chugoku	1,800	677	37.6	247	36.5	13.7
Shikoku	1,177	447	38.0	175	39.1	14.9
Kyushu/ Okinawa	4,155	1,743	41.9	654	37.5	15.7

44 prefectures excluding Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima

Regional Block	Total (a)	Prefectural Out-Migrants		Prefectural Return Migrants		
		Total (b)	Percentage Out of Total (%) (b/a)	Total (c)	Percentage out of Prefectural Out migrants (%) (c/b)	Percentage out of Total (c/a)
Total	27,059	9,893	36.6	3,424	34.6	12.7
Hokkaido	1,453	344	23.7	132	38.4	9.1
<b>Tohoku</b>	<b>1,307</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>9.9</b>
Kita-Kanto	1,639	603	36.8	269	44.6	16.4
Tokyo Area	5,927	2,172	36.6	609	28.0	10.3
Chubu/ Hokuriku	3,523	1,292	36.7	591	45.7	16.8
Chukyo Area	2,316	579	25.0	221	38.2	9.5
Osaka Area	2,976	1,063	35.7	311	29.3	10.5
Keihan Suburb	793	267	33.7	85	31.8	10.7
Chugoku	1,797	674	37.5	247	36.6	13.7
Shikoku	1,177	447	38.0	175	39.1	14.9
Kyushu/ Okinawa	4,151	1,740	41.9	654	37.6	15.8

Excludes birth region unknown, migration pattern unknown, and those born abroad.

In the Sixth Survey, the ratio of prefectural return migrants in the Tohoku region (excluding Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima) to out-of-prefecture migrants and the total number of respondents is low compared to other regions. However, the numbers calculated when including those three prefectures is not especially low compared to other regions. Therefore, it is highly possible that the low percentage of prefectural return migrants in the Tohoku region for the Seventh Survey is due to the exclusion of these three prefectures.

**Table 4 Respondents with prospects for migration in the next 5 years and respondents whose residence 5 years earlier differ from their present residence, by age group**

Age Group	Prospects for Migration**			Present Residence Differs from 5 Years Earlier % ***
	Very Likely % (a)	Somewhat Likely % (b)	Likely to Migrate % (a+b)	
Total*	8.3	13.4	21.7	24.7
0-4	15.6	18.6	34.2	38.2
5-9	9.2	11.0	20.3	23.1
10-14	6.7	15.0	21.7	23.6
15-19	15.4	31.5	46.9	34.7
20-24	19.6	34.5	54.1	49.0
25-29	20.7	30.7	51.4	56.0
30-34	16.7	23.4	40.1	40.7
35-39	10.4	17.7	28.1	28.6
40-44	8.8	12.8	21.6	19.3
45-49	5.5	10.0	15.5	16.7
50-54	6.0	8.9	14.9	14.4
55-59	5.0	5.3	10.3	13.2
60-64	2.8	5.5	8.3	10.7
65-69	1.8	5.0	6.8	13.2
70-74	1.5	3.8	5.3	11.5
75-79	1.0	3.6	4.6	10.4
80-84	1.0	3.5	4.5	9.3
85 and over	1.6	2.6	4.2	9.3

\*Total number excludes respondents whose age is unknown.

\*\*Percentage excludes respondents for whom the possibility of migration in 5 years is unknown.

\*\*\*The percentage of respondents whose residence 5 years earlier differs from their present residence is shown according to their age 5 years earlier. The figures used for the percentage of people whose residence of 5 years earlier differs from their present residence in the ages 80-84 and aged 85 and older groups are figures for people who were aged 80 and older 5 years earlier.