

# Japan's Foreigners' Community from the View of the Statistics; A comparative study among cities and communities

著者	Masuta Ayumi
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# Japan's Foreigners' Community from the View of the Statistics; A comparative study among cities and communities

Ayumi Masuta

## Introduction

Under the foreign registration rule of Japan, any person of foreign nationality who stays with an effective visa should register her/himself to the city hall within 90 days from the arrival in Japan. Over 90 percent of foreigners who come to Japan leave after short stay without this registration.<sup>1)</sup> As the result, 1.4 percent of foreigners who come to Japan are under the foreign registration. This 1.4 percent accounts to the number 2,134,151 and this is the number of foreign nationalities who stay for some time and has lived as residents in Japan. The ratio of foreign residents in all population of Japan is 1.67percent at the end of 2010 which kept loosing since the highest 1.74 percent in 2008. But the number itself became 1.3 times of ten years ago and 2.5 times of 25 years ago when the number of foreign residents started to become much higher than the last years.<sup>2)</sup> These numbers show Japan has had already huge foreign community where foreign nationals have lived in on not only famous Korean Town or China Town, but also other ethnic communities now. We have known there is big Brazilian community in central Japan area by media attentions as an example

The purpose of this paper is to find out how Japan's foreign population has been changed and where and why foreign communities are now by analyzing statistics of the foreign registration by Immigration Department of Japan. The comparative studies by empirical research have been done a lot since we started to observe the increasing numbers of foreign residents, but comparative study by statistics by the objective analysis has hardly done in Japan compared with immigrant societies of other countries, like Australia, Canada, UK and USA. I would suggest seeing the real situation of foreign population revealed by an objective method and wish to show an idea would help local governments which have much foreign residents and tried to find a way for co-living society in being multiethnic and multicultural. Among a variety of the populations in cities and of communities, especially I would focus the analysis on central Japan's foreign population which has rapidly grown these years.

In central Japan, Aichi prefecture has Nagoya city as the capital city and the center of Japan's

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1) *Shutunyuukokukanri Hakusho Heisei 23 nen (The White Paper of Immigration 2011)*, Department of Immigration, Japan p. 19.

2) *Ibid.* p. 19 from graph 13.

manufacturing industry, especially automobile industry, so often called Toyota City. Aichi and neighboring prefectures, Mie, Gifu and Shizuoka have auto industries companies and factories and other manufacturing, machines and parts related factories. There has been always demand for factory workers who can work instead of not enough local workers.

In Aichi prefecture, foreign residents are 200,696 and the biggest group of nationalities is Brazilians (54,458), the second is Chinese (47,313), and followed by Koreans (38,438) in the latest record in the end of 2010.<sup>3)</sup>

### 1. Foreign population by nationalities and visa qualifications in a rough view.

The total number of the foreign registration of 2010 is 2,134,151 which is 2.4% less than last year, 2,186,121 and 4.8% less than 2008, 2,217,426 which was the biggest number ever, and 46.6% increased from 10 years ago. The percentage of the foreigner's number in the total Japanese population of 2010 was 1.67% which has been getting less since 1.74% of 2008.<sup>4)</sup>

The country where the foreigners are from with the biggest number is China and the number is 687,156 which is 32.2% of total foreigners' population of Japan in 2010. The second biggest population is from Korea, number is 565,989 (26.5% of total foreign population) and followed by Brazil, 23,552 (10.8%), Philippines 21,181 (9.8%), Peru 54,636 (2.6%).

Among the visa categories by the purpose for staying in Japan, the biggest number and ratio is identified with Permanent Residents (excludes Special Permanent Residents) 565,089 (26.5% of total foreign population). This category of 2009 was 533,473 and gained by 5.9% in 2010.<sup>5)</sup> The Permanent Residents from China, 169,484 (30.0% of all Permanent Residents) which is the biggest, and followed by Brazil (20.8%), Philippines (16.4%), Korea (10.2%), Peru (5.8%). Under the Permanent Residents category, number from China increased by 1.4 times from 4 years ago. This category was the second biggest to the Special Permanent Residents (mainly Korean residents under special condition) till 2006, which had occupied nearly 90% of total foreign population till 1960s since the last world war. The number of the SPRs (Special Permanent Residents) is decreasing year by year and increasing ratio of new comers who come to Japan with varieties of purpose in recent years, which has changed greatly the situation of Japan's foreign population.<sup>6)</sup>

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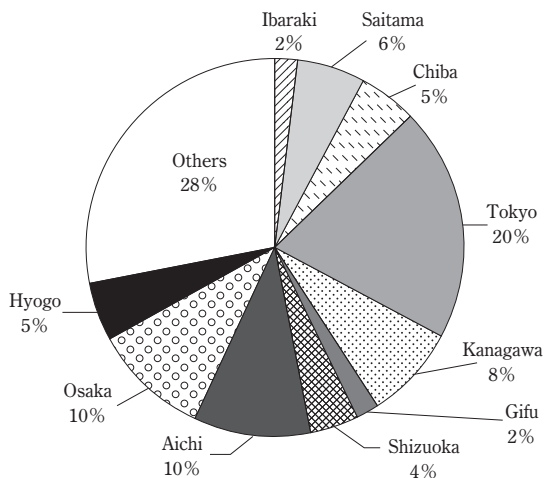
3) *Gaikokujintouroutoukei 2011nen (The Statistics of Foreign Registration 2011)* "Todouhukunbetu kokuseki (shusshinchi) betu gaikokujin tourokushasuu (The Numbers of Foreign Registration by Nationalities)" No. 11-99-03 Houmshou Toukei (The Department of Law, Statistics).

4) *Shutunyuukokukanri Hakusho Heisei 23 nen (The White Paper of Immigration 2011) op. cit.*, graph 13 on p. 19.

5) *Ibid.*, pp. 20-21.

6) *Shutunyuukokukanri Hakusho Heisei 21nendo (The White Paper of Immigration 2010)* p. 19.

**Graph 1** Foreign Population by Prefectures: Total: 2,078,508 persons in 2011, Japan



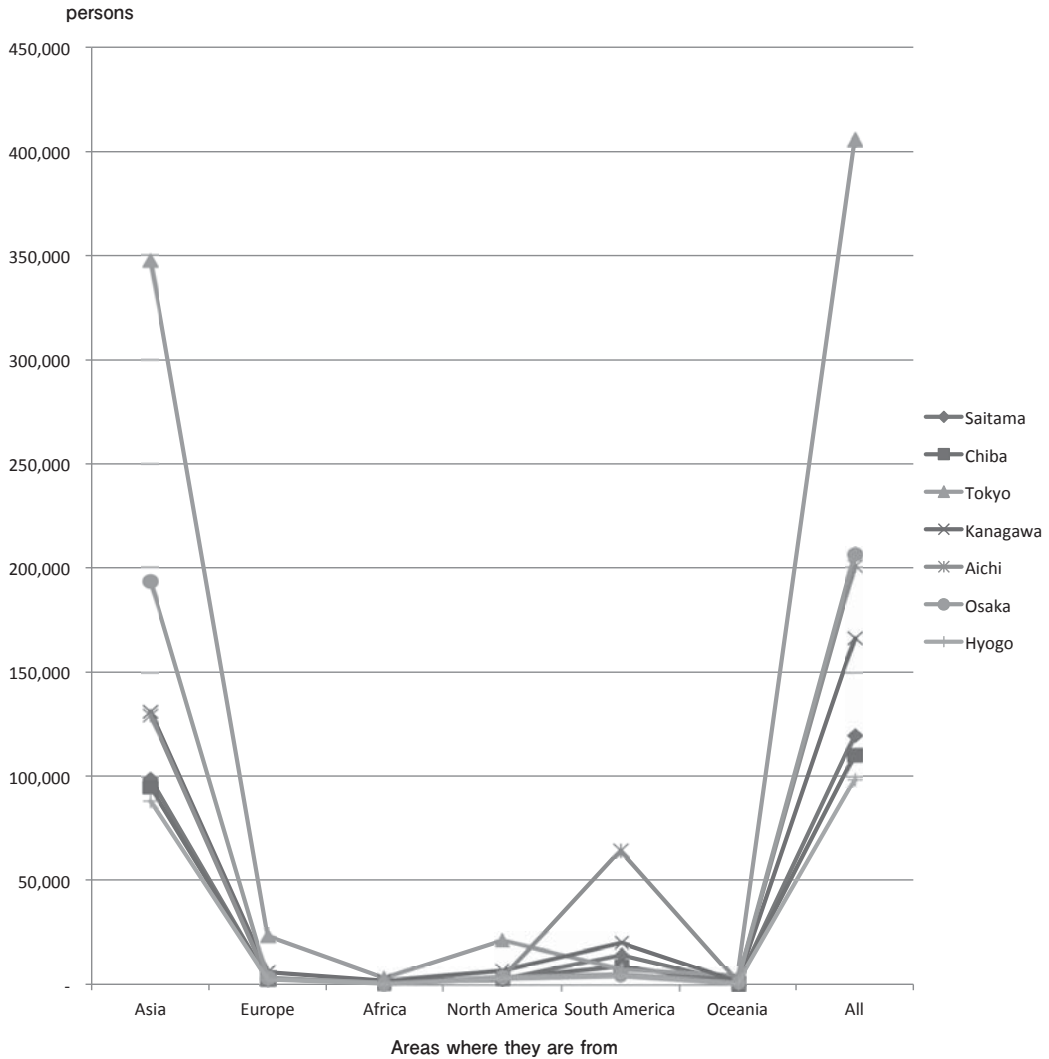
## 2. Foreigners' big population distribution in Japan<sup>7)</sup>

Graph 1 shows the ten biggest foreign population holders of prefectures. Aichi has the 3rd biggest foreign population (200,696) in Japan following Tokyo (405,692) and Osaka (206,324). By the graph 2, we can have the character of constitution of foreign population in top 6 prefectures which have over around 100,000 foreigners. The most distinguished points can be seen from the graph 2 is that there is large distribution of population of North Americans and Europeans in Tokyo and South Americans in Aichi. High numbers of Asians is in all the prefecture and above all the sharpest big numbers are in Tokyo, Osaka and Aichi. Another some large numbers of South Americans, which is much milder number than in Aichi, can be observed in Kanagawa and Saitama. Tokyo has much numbers of foreign residents and diverseness in where they are from, except South Americans.

Graph 3 shows features of prefectures by foreign nationals among the highest shares of foreign populations in 2010. Tokyo has very much highest distribution of Chinese and much high Korean population second to Osaka. The persons from Philippines and USA are also comparatively large in Tokyo. Osaka is distinguished in number of Koreans which is the highest in Japan and Chinese occupies the second biggest share of the foreign population. Aichi has the highest number of Brazilians in Japan and the populations of Chinese and Koreans are as large as Brazilians. Philippines are the second highest population followed from these three groups in Aichi.

7) The graphs are all made originally by using the latest statistical data from the statistics tables of 2011 from home page of Department of immigration of Japan, except graph8s which are made from the tables of 2010 because of no data opened on the page, yet for 2011.

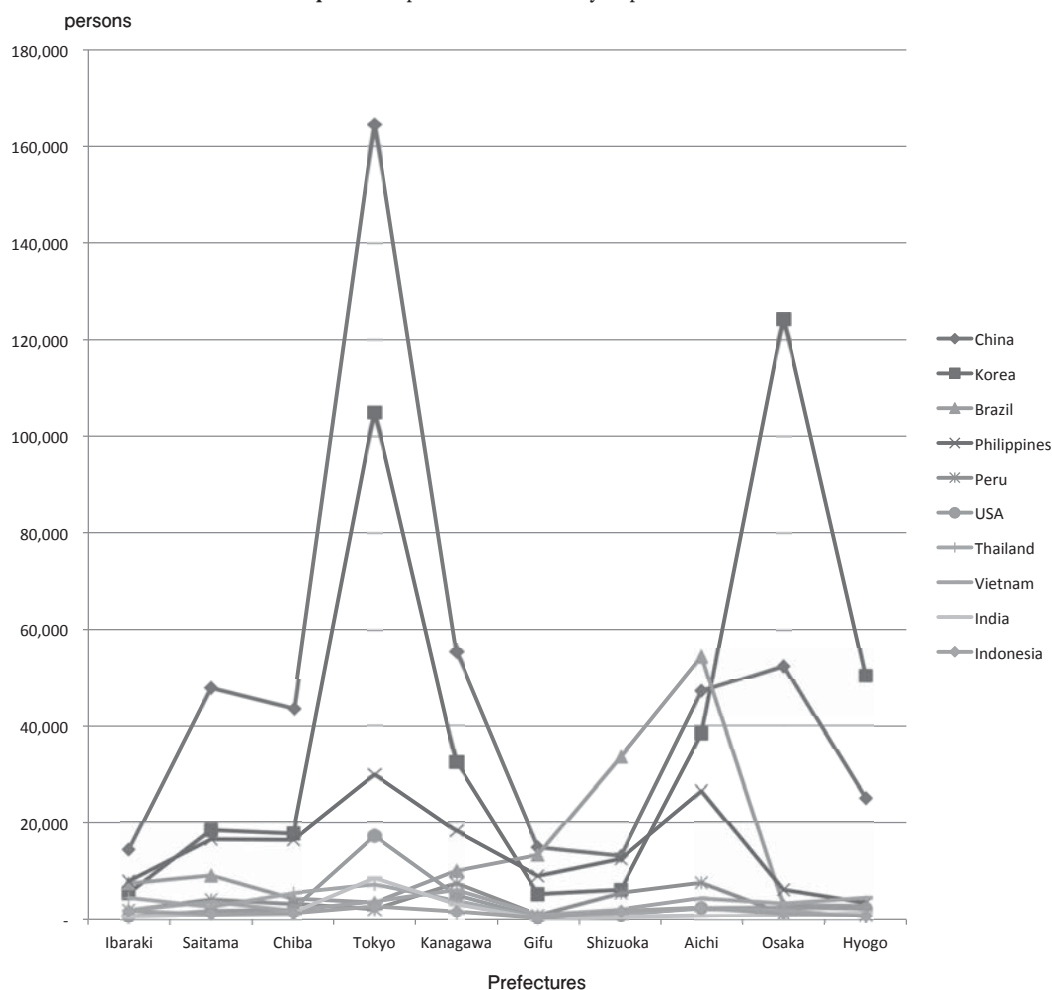
Graph 2 Foreign Population of Top 7 Prefectures by Areas



From the view of ethnic population distribution among prefectures, we can see the largest Korean population in Osaka and Tokyo, followed by Hyogo and Aichi. Huge Brazilian population is in Aichi, then Shizuoka, and Gifu, Kanagawa and Saitama in the next larger numbers. Philippines' biggest population is seen in Tokyo and Aichi and Kanagawa, Saitama, Chiba and Shizuoka has the second biggest distribution of Philippines. As Brazilians, Philippines are considered mostly to be constructed of new comers. the big foreign populations of Tokyo and Aichi are clearly mostly considered by new comers. In this point, it is indicated that Tokyo, Aichi, Kanagawa, Saitama, Chiba, Shizuoka and Gifu have taken new comers in large scale.

The Chinese nationals can be recognized in Tokyo in huge which is over than three times of the second biggest distribution in Kanagawa and Osaka, and followed by Aichi, Saitama and Chiba. Hyogo

**Graph 3** Top 10 Nationalities by Top 10 Prefectures



which has one of the most established Chinese community in Japan has the fourth level of largest share of Chinese population now. The number of Chinese nationals is the biggest among all foreign nationalities in Japan. This ranking as the first biggest has started in 2007 when Chinese nationals became the biggest group over the last biggest group Korean nationals.<sup>8)</sup> In addition, it is said that around 90% of Chinese nationals is New Overseas Chinese in Japan.<sup>9)</sup> Generally, in Japan New Overseas Chinese means Chinese immigrants who went out of China since China's Open Policy

8) "Heisei 21 nen matsu ni okeru GaikokujinTouroku Toukei nituie ("The statistics on Foreigner's Registration in the end of 2008")" on Immigration Department of Japan homepage. Data on Chinese nationals includes Taiwan and Hong Kong citizens.

9) "Honryuu Chuugoku 21 Tokeau Nichuu (jou) ("The Stream of China 21: Japan and China blend into each other") *Asahi Shinbun* 13 November 2007.

started and more precisely and mainly it stands for Chinese people who came to Japan as students, ex-students, professionals and executive workers of companies. On the other hand, there is a group called Old Overseas Chinese who has established Chinese community originally near around China Towns and many of them are now 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations. It is observed that there would be around 700,000 Chinese in Japan with Chinese Japanese who had Japanese nationality which becomes two times of the population in ten years ago.<sup>10)</sup> In the distribution of Chinese population over Japan, Aichi has the 5<sup>th</sup> large Chinese population following Tokyo, Kanagawa, Osaka and Saitama in 2010. Considering the Aichi has not been known with a China Town in it, it would be also presumed that Aichi's high distribution of Chinese nationals is caused by New Overseas Chinese.

### 3. The recent big change of foreign population with a change of Chinese population

The graph 4-1 and 4-2 shows the ratio of foreign population by category of visa in Japan and Aichi. From the comparison of these two graphs, we could observe clear difference in Permanent Residents' ratio (36% in Aichi and 29% as in the national average) and Long Stay's ratio (13% in Aichi and 9% in the national average). With the portion of Chinese and Brazilian in Permanent Residents as seen earlier, this difference reassured that Chinese and Brazilians are quite large in nationalities of Aichi's foreign population.

Aichi has the 5<sup>th</sup> biggest Chinese population (47,813) following Tokyo (164,424), Kanagawa (55,362), Osaka (52,392) and Saitama (47,816), and followed by Chiba (43,581) and Hyogo (25,253). Both of Kanagawa and Hyogo have world well known Yokohama and Kobe Chinese communities. These prefectures with high distribution of Chinese populations have top big cities in Japan where much jobs are.

Major difference between all foreign residents and Chinese in national level, which can see in graph 4-1 and graph 5-1, Chinese population (15%) has double of all foreign population (7%) in ratio in the category Skill-Trainings. About two times of all foreigners (9%) in ratio of Overseas Study can be seen in Chinese (19%) as well.

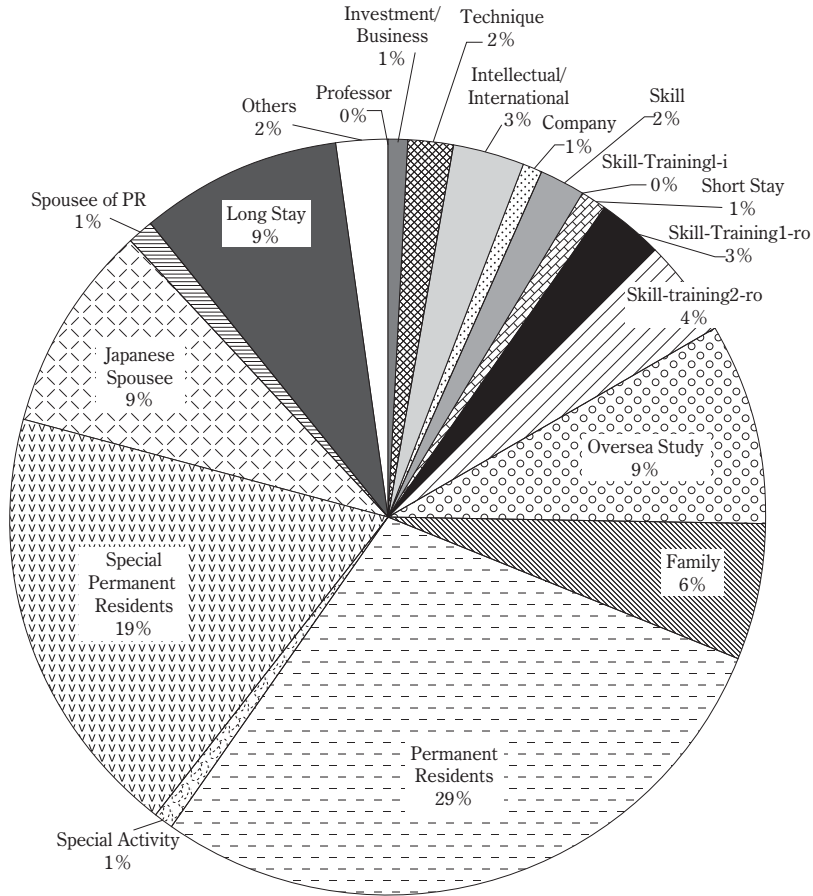
By the report *The Situation on Issuing the Certification for "Skill" and "Intellectual/International" for Working in Japanese Companies in 2011*, (Department of Immigration Japan 2012), under the category of "Skill" and "Intellectual/International", Chinese occupies the biggest ratio 21.0% among the foreign residents, followed by US American (13.8%), Korean (12.1%), Indian (10.8%).<sup>11)</sup> From the graph 4-

10) *Ibid.*,

11) *Heisei 23 nen niokeru Nihonkigyoueno Shuushokuwo Mokutekitosita "Gijutu" matawa "Jinbunchisiki/Kokusaigyomu" nikakawaru Zairyuu Shikaku Nintei Kouhujoukyou nituite (The report on judgement of qualification for Technique, Intellectual/International, to have the employment in Japanese companies in 2011)* Houmushou Nyuukokukanri Kyoku (Department of Immigration, The Department of Law of Japan,) Heisei 24

**Graph 4-1 Foreign Population by the Visa Category, in Japan 2011**

\*Because of the small number in the statistics, some categories in under 1% appear as 0%.



1, 4-2, 5-1 and 5-2, it can be seen as well that the ratio of “Skill” and “Intellectual/International” by Chinese is about three times to five times of that of all foreign population in national level and Aichi prefecture.

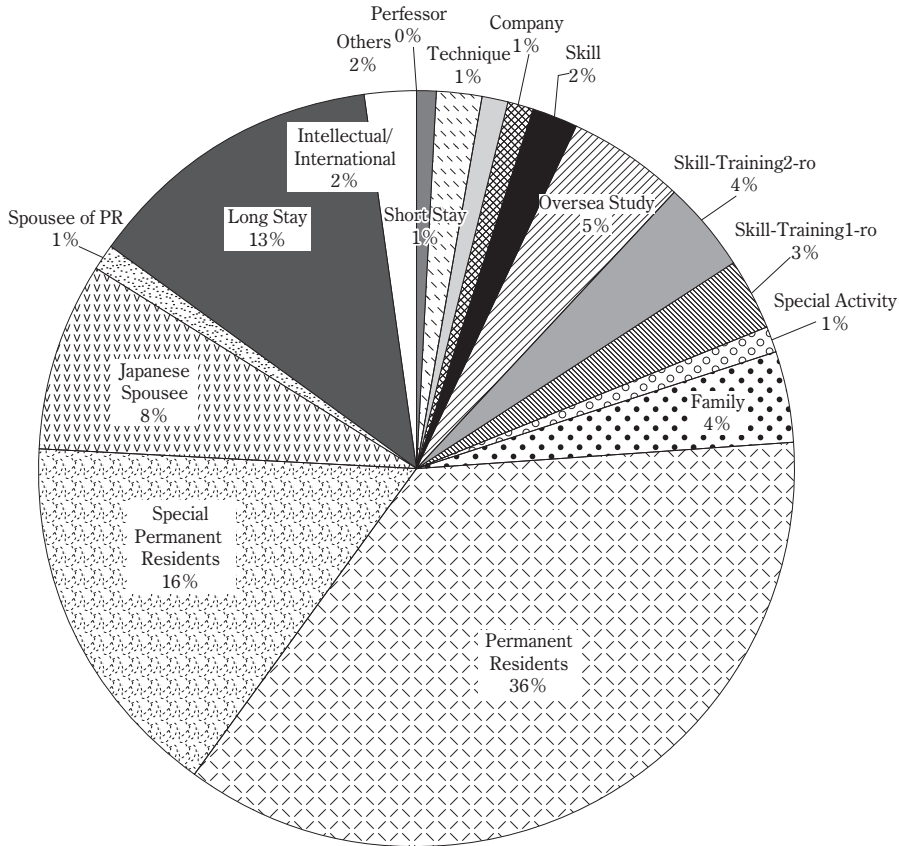
Among categories, Skill-Training, Overseas Study and Skill and Intellectual/International are distinguished among Chinese nationals in Aichi as well as national average. Skill-Training and Overseas Study are surely for new comers. Chinese persons with Intellectual/International would be in both New and Old Overseas Chinese communities. Considering the large ratio of New Overseas Chinese in Chinese nationals estimated earlier, it would be indicated that Intellectual/International qualified ones would add the number of new comers of Chinese in Aichi and all over Japan.

Graph 6-1 to 6-5 tells the age distribution in Chinese communities in Kanagawa and Hyogo where



**Graph 4-2 Foreign Population by Visa Category in Aichi 2011**

\*Because of the small number in the statistics, some categories in under 1% appear as 0%.

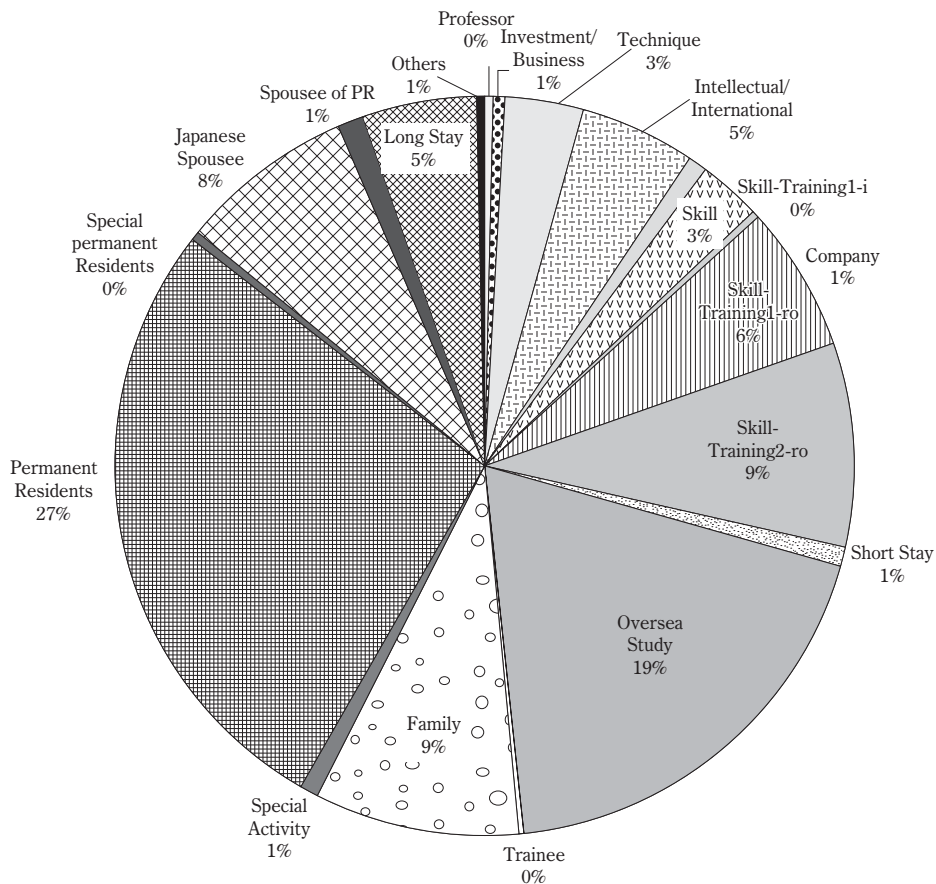


two old Chinese communities are, and Tokyo, Aichi and Japan. Aichi has sharp peak in early 20s' and followed by late 20s' and low ratio in over 40s', and there is a large gap between the peak in the 20s' and bottom low in over 40s', which is similar distribution of national average. Hyogo has high ratio in early and late 20s' and low ratio in over 40s' with sustained low ratio in over 60s'. Tokyo and Kanagawa's distribution are similar to each other, which has peak in late 20s' followed by early 20s' and 30s' and 40s' with mild sweep. The population in old Chinese communities has wider range with some sweep or sustained number in over 40s'. On this point, Aichi's distribution is assumed much to be identified with new comers of Chinese community.

Graph 7-1 to 7-4 shows the provinces where Chinese people come from. Aichi has large population of North China provinces Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang (43% three provinces together) compared with that of Kanagawa (29%) and Hyogo (25%). The ratio of Fujian province people in Aichi (3%) is much less than that of 21% in Kanagawa and 16% in Hyogo, even 9% in national average. The ratio of Taiwan in Aichi (4%) is also less compared with the ratio in Kanagawa (7%), Hyogo (8%) and national

**Graph 5-1** Chinese by Visa Category 2011, Japan

\*Because of the small number in the statistics, some categories in under 1% appear as 0%.



average (6%). It is clear from Kanagawa and Hyogo's cases, Fujian and Taiwan have been the major source of Chinese Overseas in Japan for long time, prefectures with much Chinese nationals from provinces other than these two are regarded to have much new comers. Aichi is considered to be one of them.

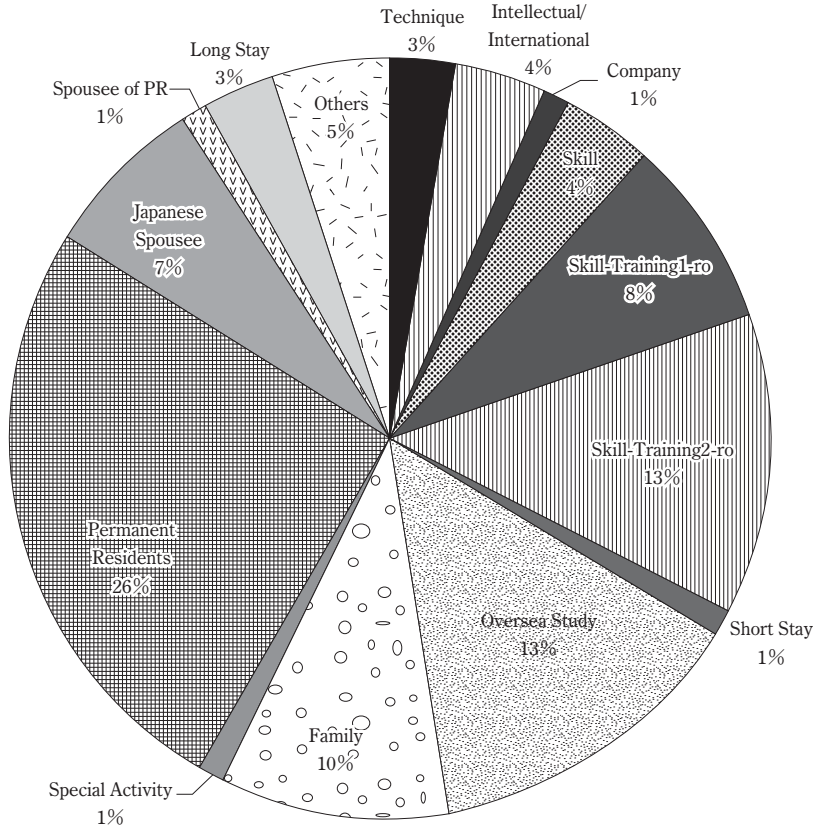
By the statistical analysis done above, it can be assured that the change of foreign population has been constructed with the big growth of Chinese population by new comers. Particularly in Aichi, with the large inflow of Brazilians, the reconstruction of foreign population has been under by new comers.

#### 4. Foreigners' communities in big cities

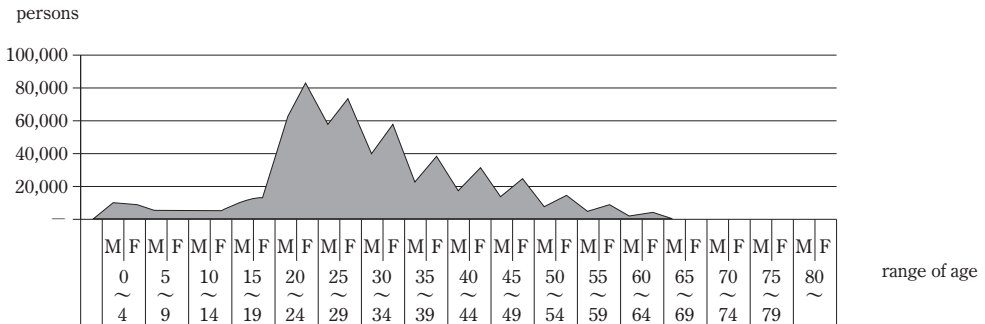
Another purpose of this paper, finding out the communities of foreign residents in Japanese cities by the statistics would be done in this section. The graph 8-1 to graph 8-5 show where the large

**Graph 5-2** Chinese by Visa Category 2011, Aichi

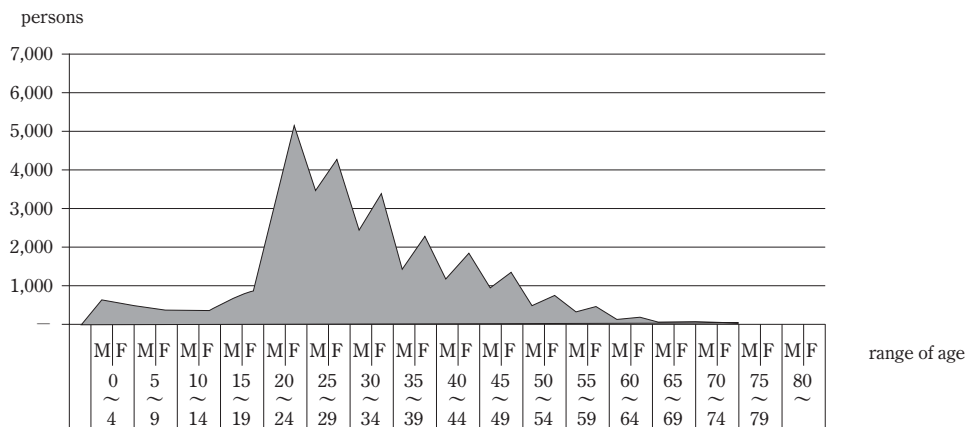
\*Because of the small number in the statistics, some categories in under 1% appear as 0%.



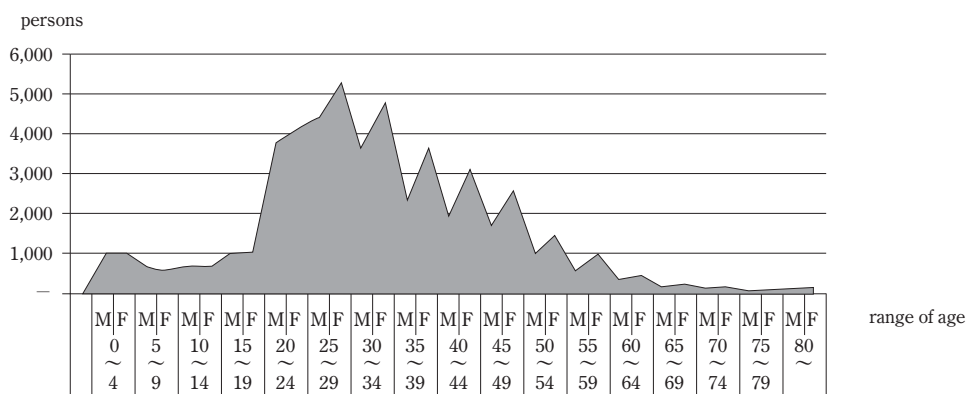
**Graph 6-1** Distribution of Chinese by Age, Japan



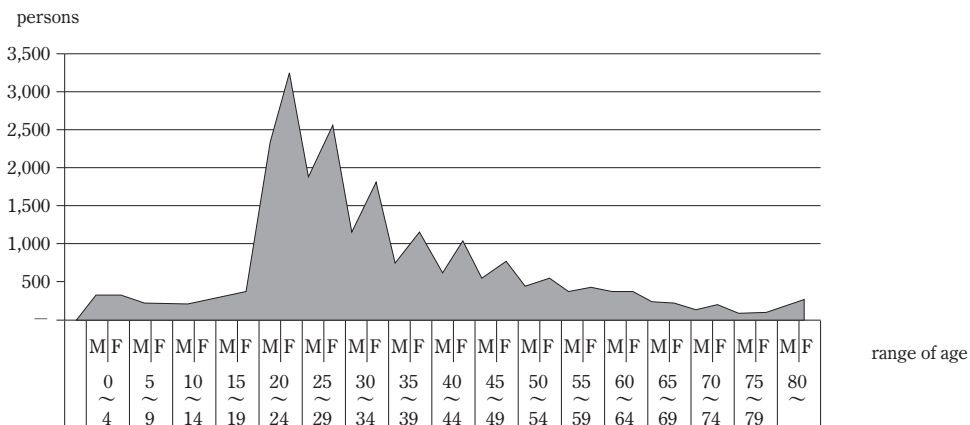
**Graph 6-2** Distribution of Chinese by Age, Aichi



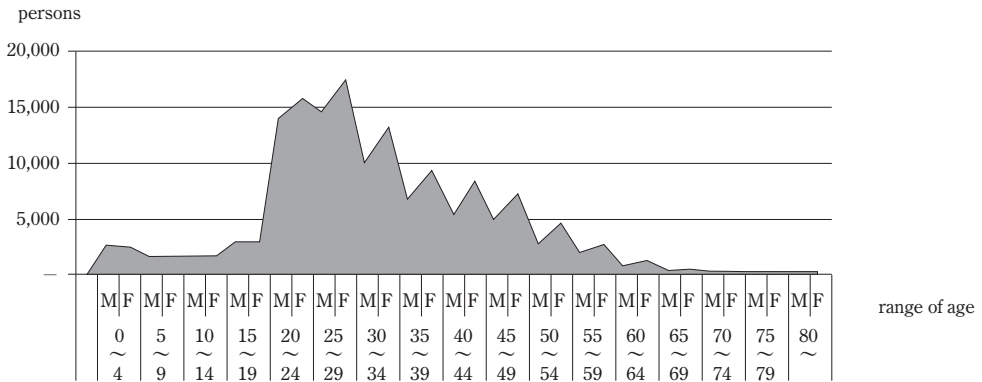
**Graph 6-3** Distribution of Chinese by Age, Kanagawa



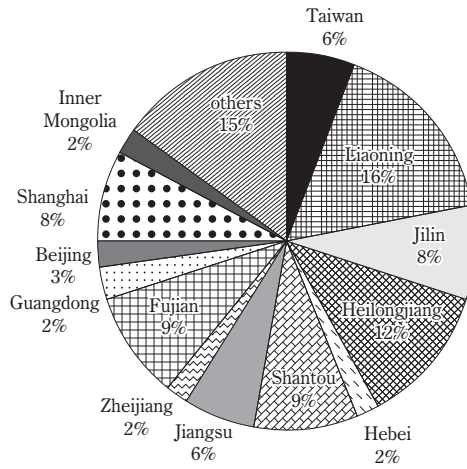
**Graph 6-4** Distribution of Chinese by Age, Hygo



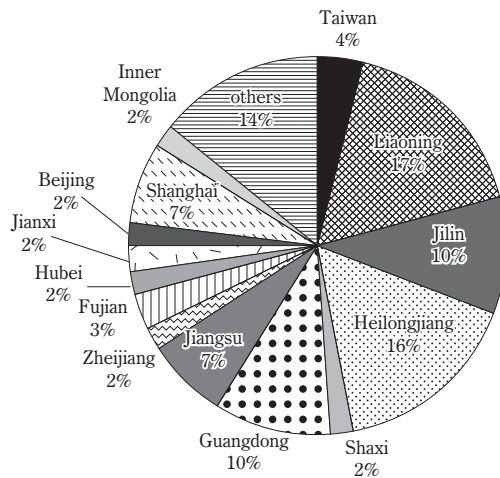
Graph 6-5 Distribution of Chinese by Age, Tokyo



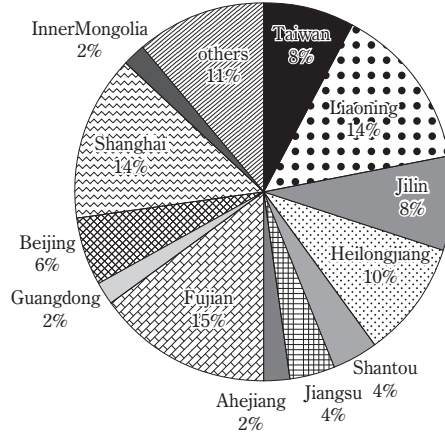
Graph 7-1 Chinese by Home Province, Japan



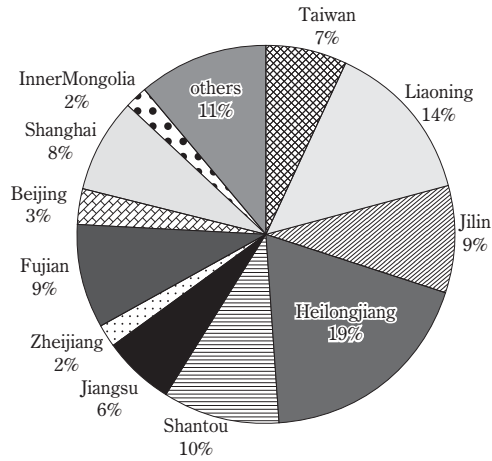
Graph 7-2 Chinese by Home Province, Aichi



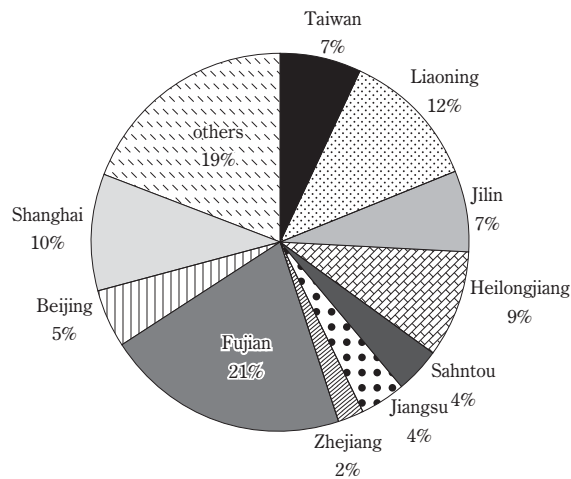
**Graph 7-3** Chinese by Home Province, Tokyo



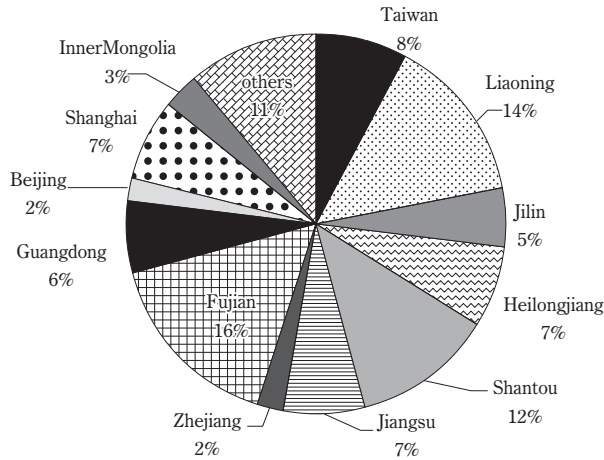
**Graph 7-4** Chinese by Home Province, Osaka



**Graph 7-5** Chinese by Home Province, Kanagawa



Graph 7-6 Chinese by Home Province, Hyogo

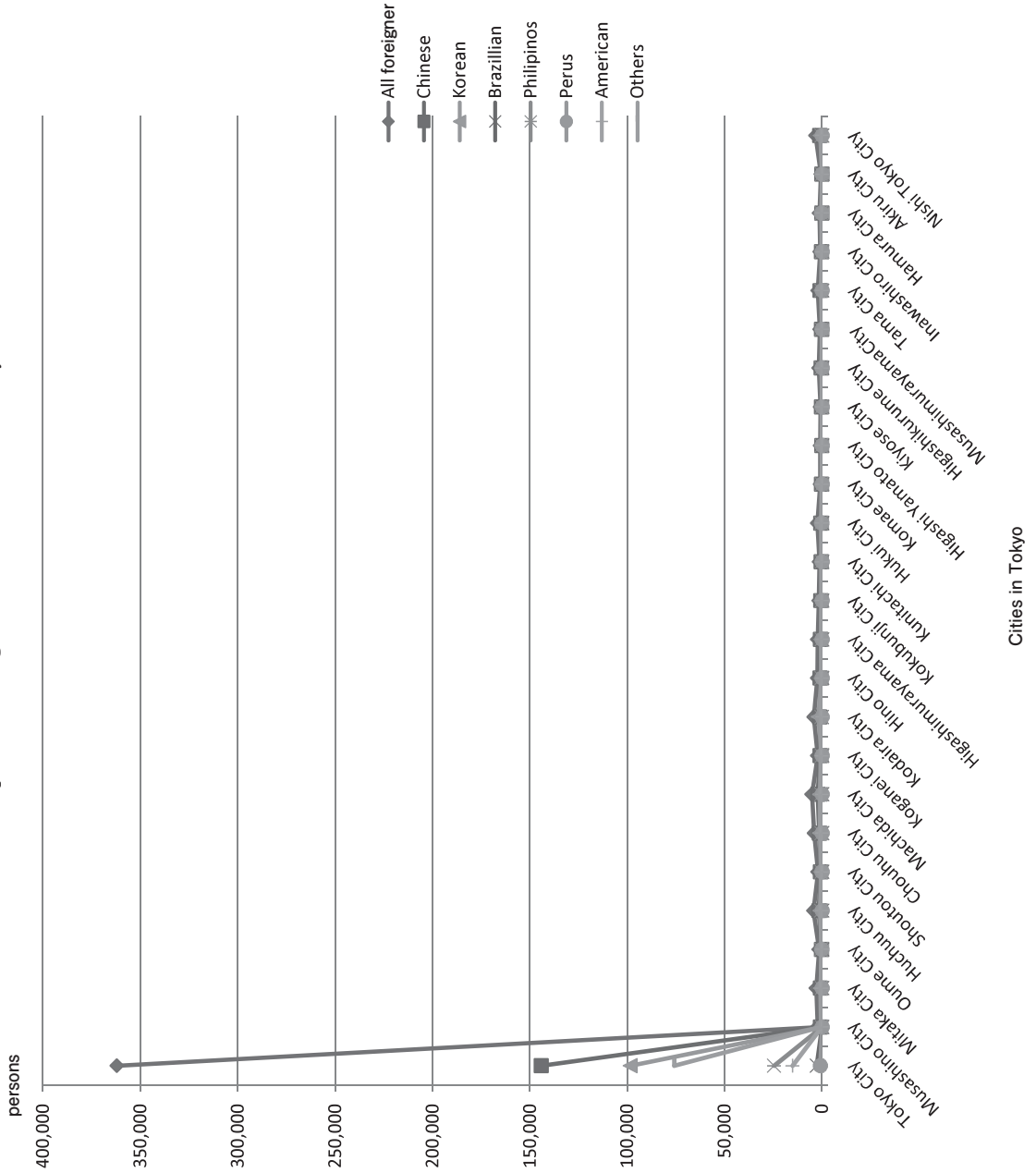


distribution of certain nationalities can be seen in the prefectures, Tokyo, Osaka, Aichi, Kanagawa and Hyogo. As in graph 1, Tokyo, Osaka and Aichi are the top biggest holders of foreign residents among prefectures and Kanagawa and Hyogo are the second level large foreign population holders and these two have had well known international or multicultural cities, Yokohama and Kobe. They have world famous China Towns as well.

The graph 8-1 of Tokyo prefecture's distribution shows that Tokyo city has huge share of foreign population almost by itself and the other cities in Tokyo prefecture seems to have very small portion of the share of the population. By graph 8-6, it can be seen inside Tokyo city, districts of Shinjuku, very central business district, Edogawa, Adachi, Koutou, Toshima and Ota, these districts are downtowns and factories' area, are the highest distribution of foreign population and these districts have the high concentrations of Chinese populations as well. Other high ethnic concentrations are Koreans in Shinjuku, Arakawa, Adachi districts. It is seen in Philippines' high distribution in Minato and Adachi and Edogawa districts. The Others which indicated the mix of residents of variety of nationalities, is observed in almost every districts with the same number which is the third biggest next to Chinese and Korean distribution.

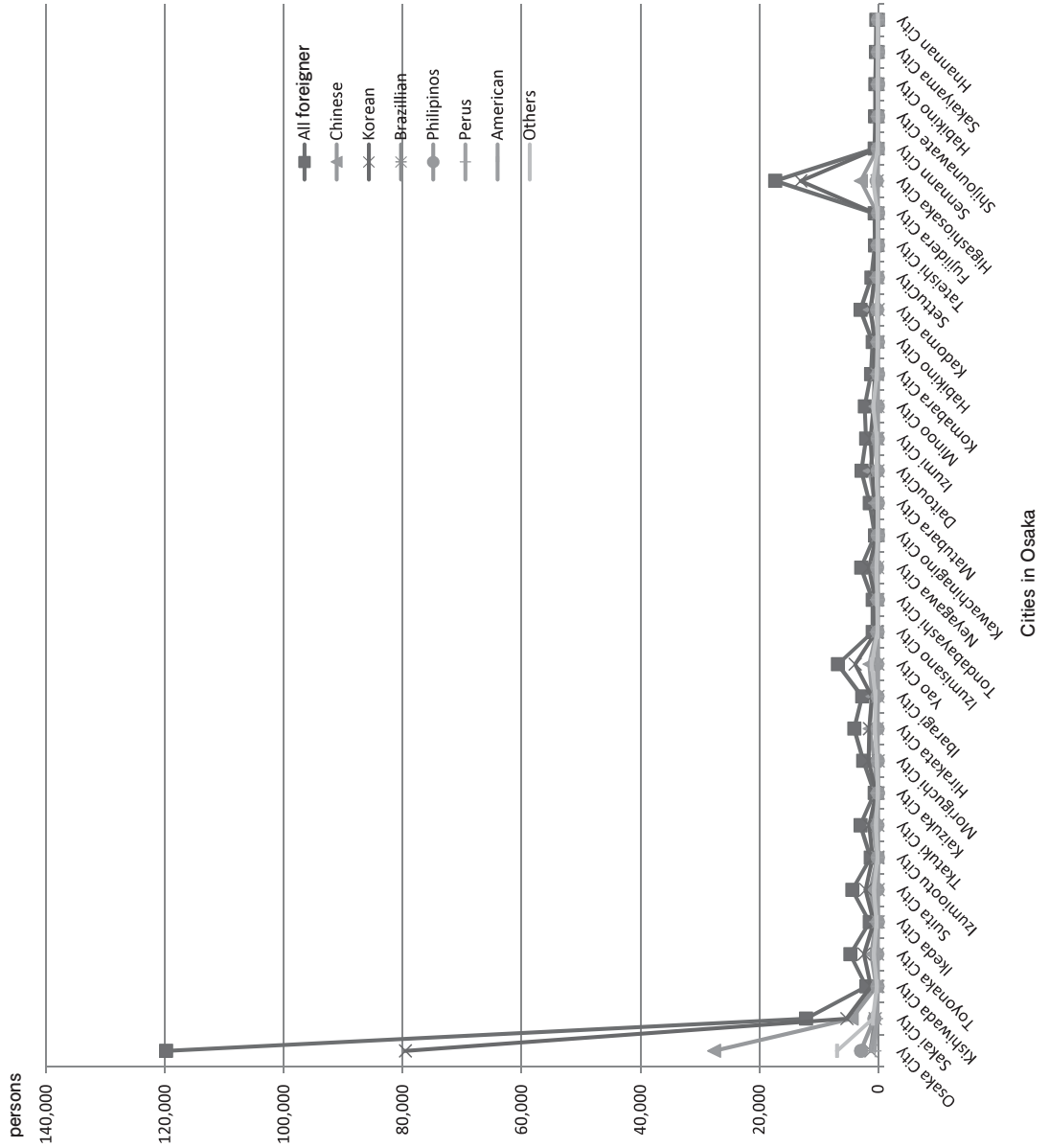
The Graph 8-2 shows that Osaka city has the highest foreign population in Osaka prefecture and Higashiosaka city has the second highest, followed by Sakai and Yao cities, these three cities are known as factories' towns. These four cities have also large population of Koreans. Much lower concentration than Koreans is seen in Chinese in the cities of Osaka, Higashiosaka and Sakai. By the graph 8-7, it is clear that Ikuno district has distinguished number of Koreans where the well known Japan's Korean Town is and Nishinari and Hirano, modest and reasonable estate areas in Osaka, also has big share of Korean residents. Chinese residents' concentration which is much milder than Koreans', can be seen in Naniwa and Higashiyodogawa districts, downtowns, mainly.

Graph 8-1 Foreign Residence Distribution in Tokyo

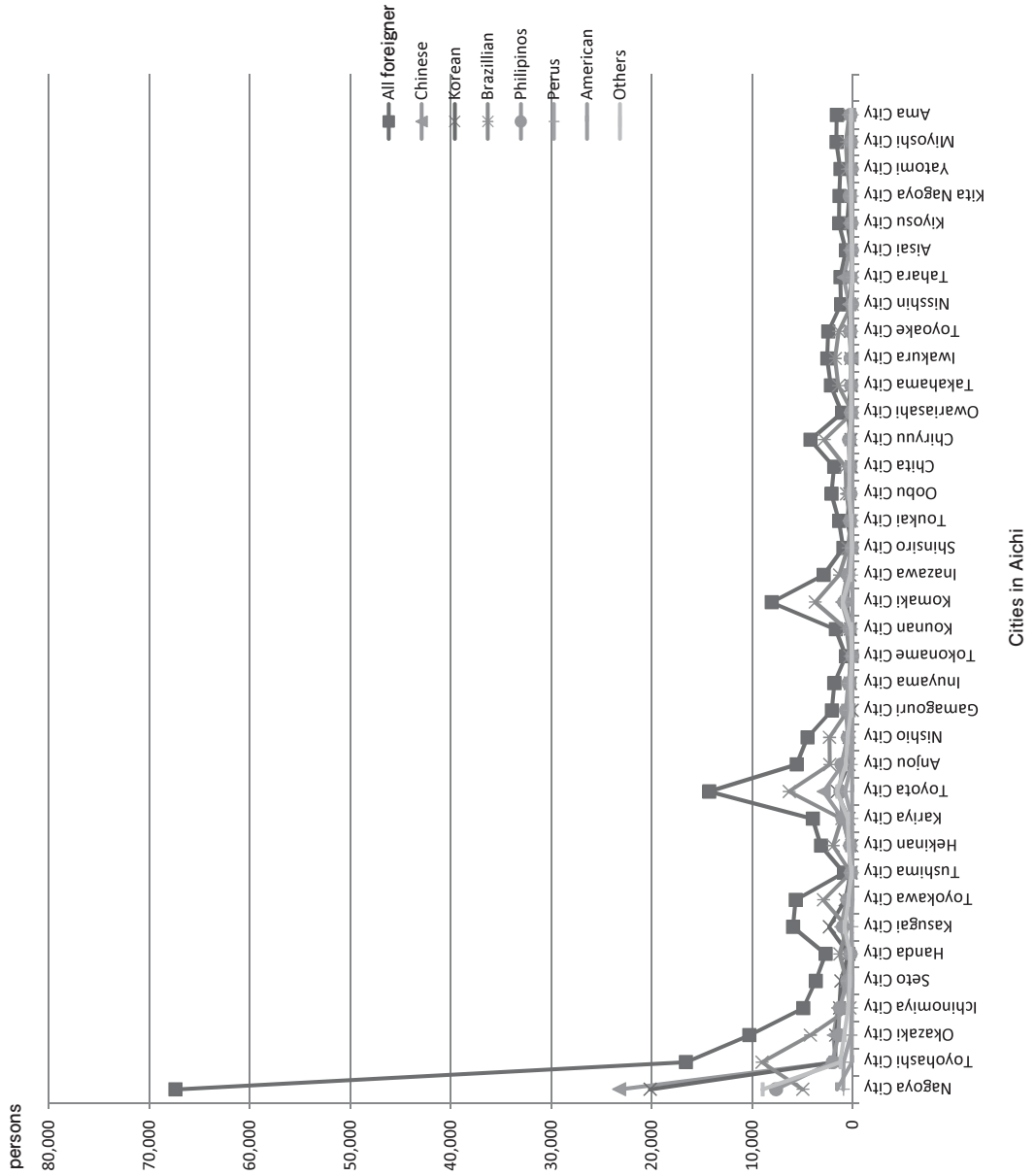




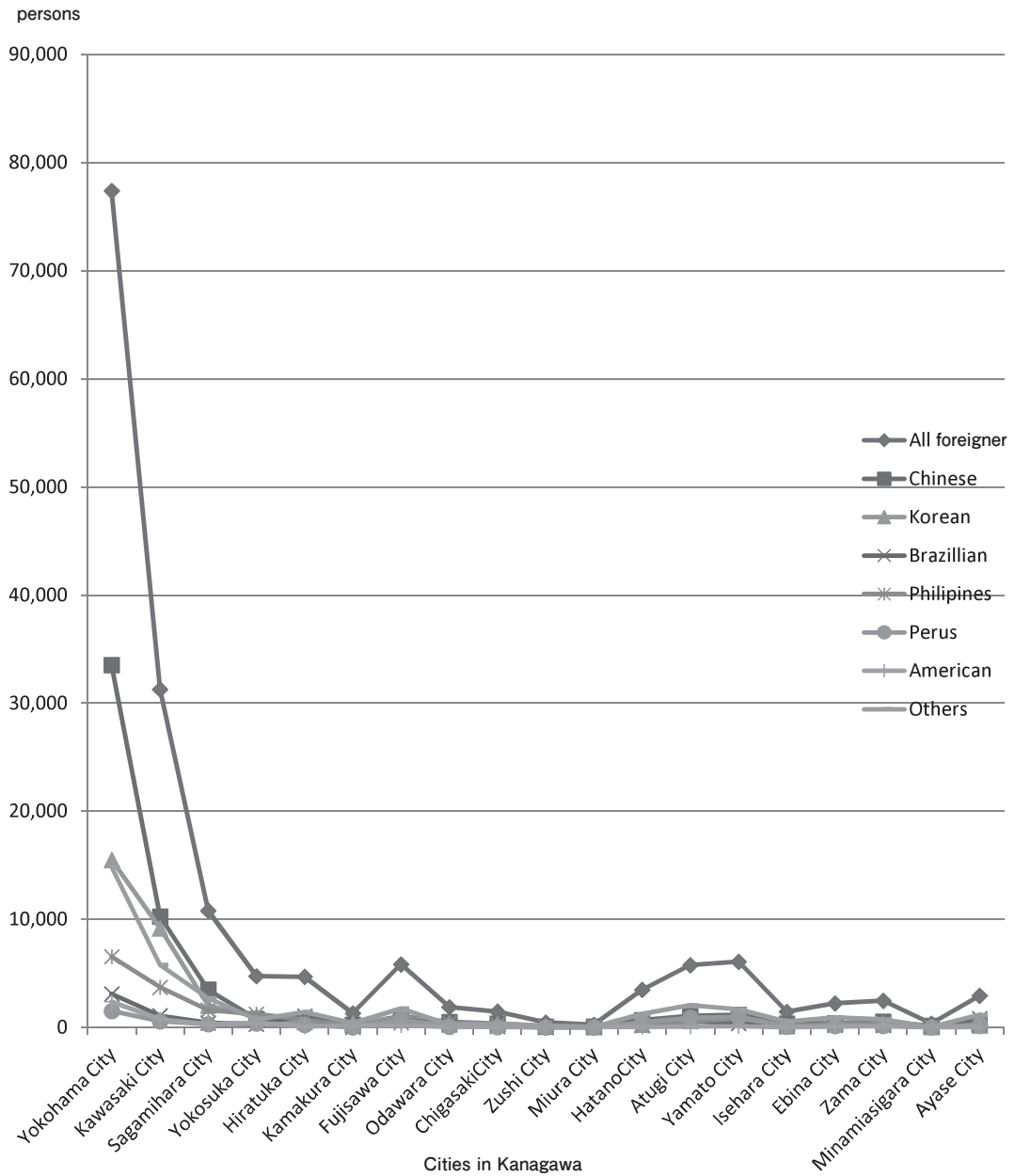
Graph 8-2 Foreign Residence Distribution in Osaka



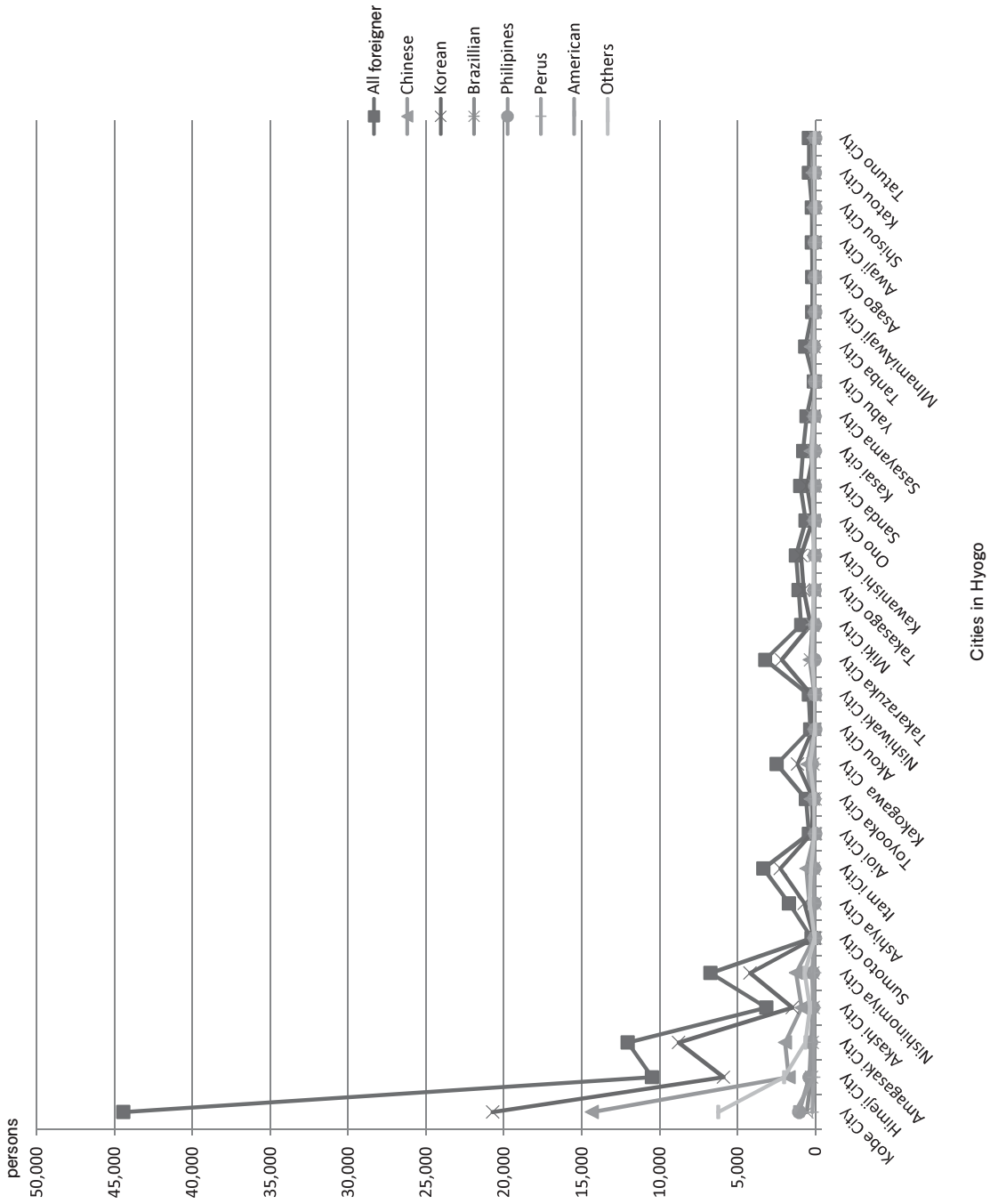
Graph 8-3 Foreign Residence Distribution in Aichi



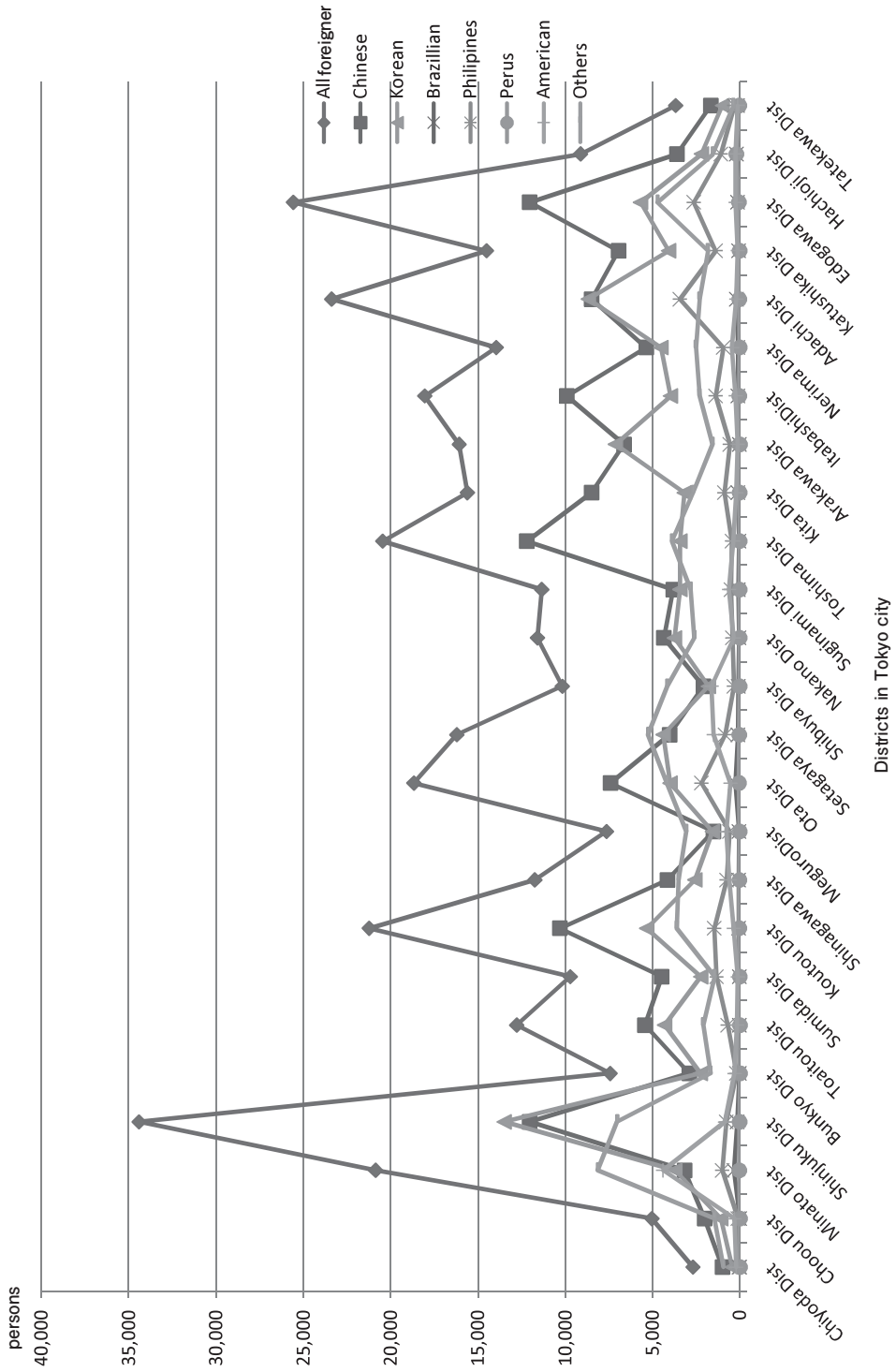
Graph 8-4 Foreign Residence Distribution in Kanagawa



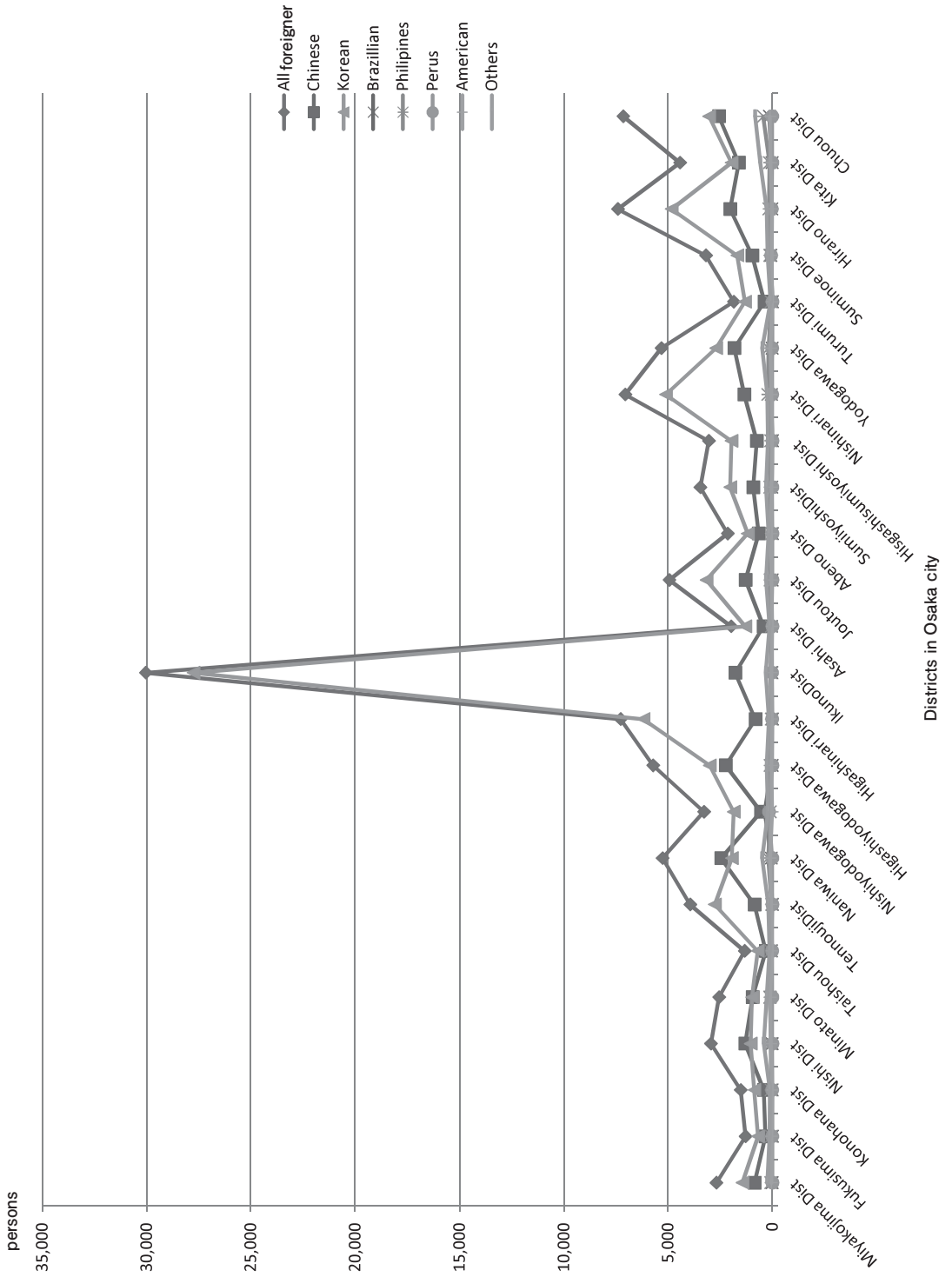
Graph 8-5 Foreign Residence Distribution in Hyogo



Graph 8-6 Foreign Residence Distribution in Tokyo City



Graph 8-7 Foreign Residence Distribution in Osaka City



Graph 8-8 Foreign Residence Distribution in Nagoya City



Aichi's distribution of foreign population can be observed, in graph 8-3 and graph 8-8, that Nagoya city has the most of the distribution and next large concentrations are in cities of Toyohashi, Toyota and Komaki, factories' towns. All of these cities have high concentration of Brazilians. Chinese are very much in Nagoya city and Toyota city with milder concentration. Inside Nagoya city, Minato district, modest and reasonable estate area, has high concentration of Brazilians, Koreans and Chinese which makes the second highest distribution of foreign population in the city. Naka district, the central business district in Nagoya, has the highest number of the foreign residents and has high Chinese, Korean and Philipines as well. Korean concentrations are also in Moriyama, Nakamura, Nakagawa districts, downtowns in Nagoya, and Chinese concentrations are in Chikusa and Midori districts, more established and newly developed area.

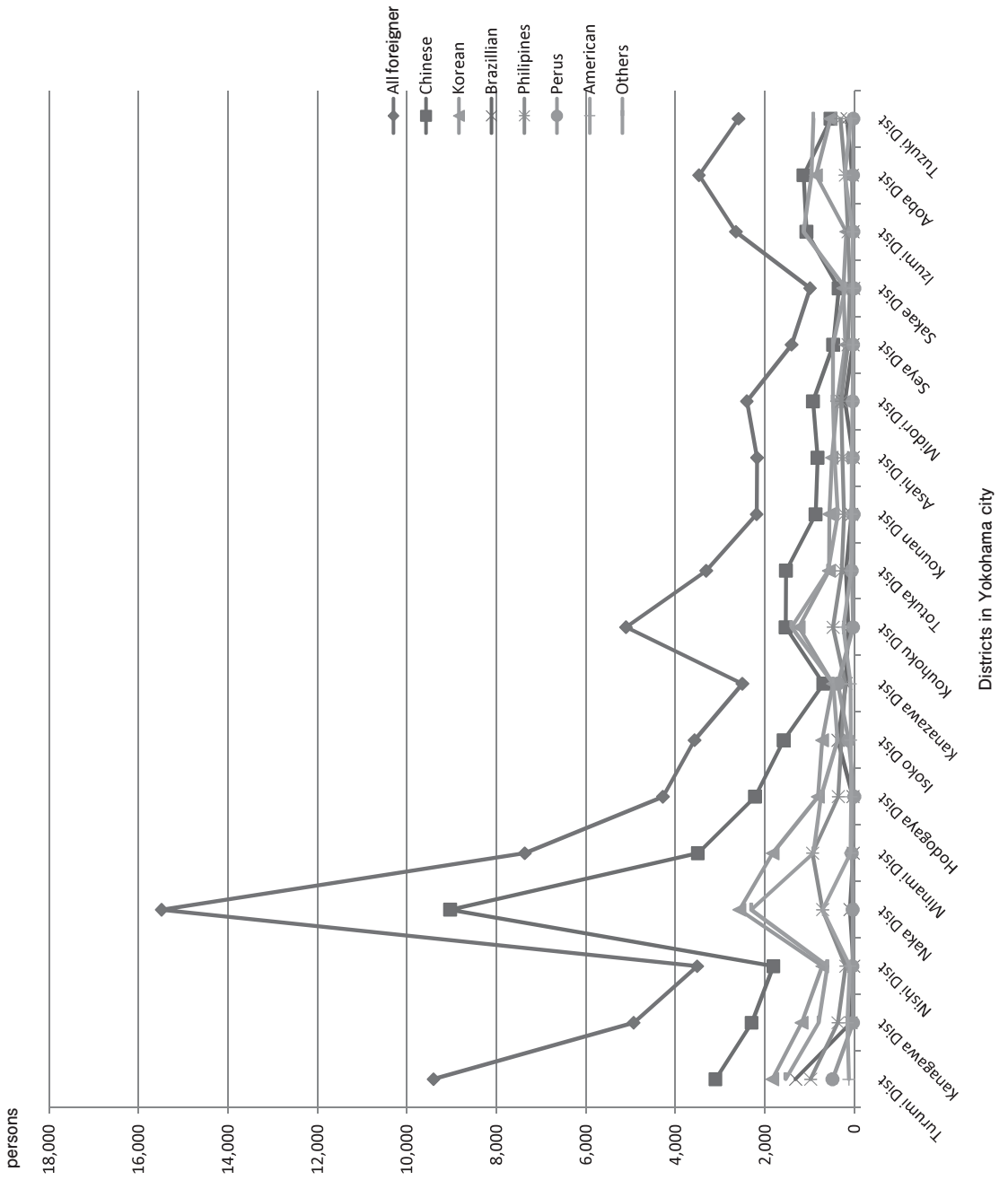
The graph 8-4 and graph 8-9 show the situation of Kanagawa and that Yokohama city has the sharp large foreign population as the top of the share, and Kawasaki city, industry area, is the second largest holder of the foreign population. These two cities have big distribution of Chinese and Koreans. Fujisawa and Atugi area, industry area with factories, have also some big number of Chinese and Perus. Inside Yokohama city, Naka districts, central business district, has the highest concentration of Chinese, Koreans and Others. Kouhoku district, newly developed with old factory area, has the second large number of mix of Chinese, Korean and Others. Compared with other cities observed above, Yokohama has the high distribution of mix of residents in variety of foreign nationalities and is very distinguished in Chinese population distribution in areas around traditional China Town.

According to graph 8-5 and graph 8-10, Hyogo's highest distribution of foreign population is in Kobe city and the second highest in Amagasaki city, industry town. Nishinomiya, Itami and Takasago cities, latter two cities are industry towns, are followers. These all cities have high concentrations of Korean residents and Chinese. Inside Kobe city, Chuou, central business district, and Nagata district, factory town, have the two largest distributions of foreigners and Hyogo, industry city, Suma and Higashinada, more established area, have the next large population of foreign residents. Chuou districts, which China Town area is in, has Chinese the highest and the second largest Korean population in the city and the highest of Others. Nagata district has the highest concentration of Koreans, but lower in Chinese. The second high concentration of Chinese is in Hyogo district and Higashinada which has much foreign residents of varieties in nationalities.

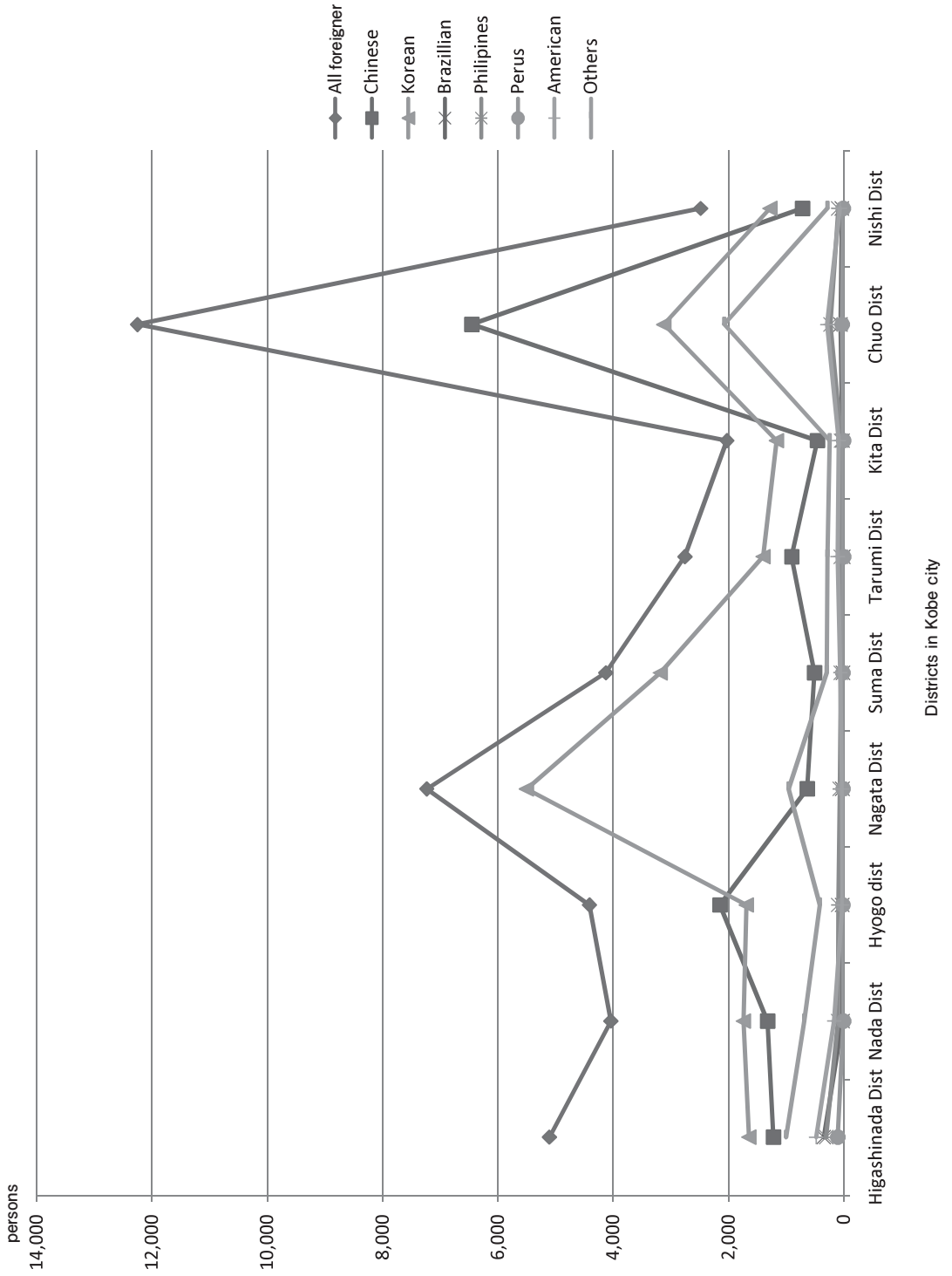
By the graph 8s, it is revealed that areas with high concentrations of certain nationalities locate in cities, especially particular local areas in cities. The cities and local areas inside cities with large distribution of foreign residents seem to attract more than one nationality group. In cities like Kobe and Kanagawa, where historically multiethnic societies have been, there are areas of large distribution of foreign residents in more variety of nationalities and high Chinese concentration around China Towns originally created by old Chinese community. Another found is that areas with high concentration of foreign residents can be divided to three types of areas, which are central business



Graph 8-9 Foreign Residence Distribution in Yokohama City



Graph 8-10 Foreign Residence Distribution in Kobe City



districts, industry areas with modest and reasonable estate areas, and newly developed or established residential area. These distributions of the nature can be seen in multiethnic cities in other countries as well.

## Conclusion

The statistics of foreign registration of Japan shows that the situation of foreign population of Japan has been changed by the big inflow of new foreign population. The new population is mostly consisted of South Americans, Brazilians and new Chinese, New Overseas Chinese. Their large population occupy a visa qualifications, mostly Permanent Residents, has changed the traditional foreign population construction of Japan which has been sustained by the largest population of Special Permanent Resident category of Koreans since the last World War. This reconstruction of foreign population of Japan by new comers has been seen in big cities particularly with the forming new foreign communities in addition of old foreigners' communities. Rapidly grown Chinese community is a representative of this new form of foreign communities as once constructed foreign residence in Japan's port cities in the era of the change. It could be said that Chinese population inflow to Japan has been the key factor for the change of society today as well as last time. Aichi prefecture, in the heart of industrial Japan, has been much affected by the new change. In this sense, Aichi's foreign population is the symbol of changed Japan's foreign population today.

The statistics of the foreign population in Japan shows clearly that there is foreign community which varies in nationalities and spreads into areas with certain high ethnic concentrations. There can be seen variety of ethnic areas in cities of Japan now, in the form of not only traditional China or Korean towns but also newly developed foreign communities clearly identified with ethnic restaurants and shops of ethnic culture goods in central business districts. But other ethnic communities which do not have such clear mark of cultural identities and rather in modest and reasonable estate in industry areas have more population in wider distribution of location. These communities should be paid more attention as they have real living there as residents and most likely need proper support to live with the local community.

In Aichi, there happen to provide the national breaking news in 2007 and 2011 about Chinese engineers who were caught by Investigation of Police for the industrial information spy. This news revealed the existence of Chinese engineers with very high technique working in Japanese top engineer companies, which also impressed the high quality of work force of new comers of Chinese, called New Overseas Chinese. On the other hand, it has been much well known that Toyota city has rapidly grown Chinese population of three North China's Provinces, Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang. This has been happening related with the chain migration of Japanese Orphans left in China in the last war time. The families and relatives of the Orphans have immigrated in Toyota for work and made the

big community. It is well known that they have been under struggle for life. The reasons of the media reflection of bright and dark side of their community could be clearly traced in the statistics into the reconstruction and change of foreign population of Aichi, which has been the icon of the fact kept been going on under the national level of Japan.

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