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MORI, Hiromi

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## AN ESTIMATE OF THE INFLOW OF ILLEGAL WORKERS INTO JAPAN (1975-1988)\*

Hiromi MORI

*Professor, Faculty of Economics, Hosei University, Tokyo*

### 1. Introduction

It is only recently that Japan has become identified as a destination for the international migration of people. Due to the strict execution of Japanese immigration policy as well as Japan's geographical, cultural and philological peculiarities, Japan has been relatively uninvolved in recent international migration, with an exception having been the wartime forced labor from neighboring countries. The recent globalization of economic activities, however, has opened a new stage in the development of the international labor scene.

In recent years, foreign nationals who visit Japan with the intention of engaging in remunerative activities have been increasing. Although compared with other countries with huge numbers of migrant workers, the recent labor inflow to Japan still remains at an insignificant level. However, in some regions or industrial sectors, especially in small business enterprises, they already play an indispensable role. There is no doubt that this rapid increase in labor inflow will sooner or later have a large impact on the overall domestic labor market.

Immigration services in Japan are executed according to the "The Immigration-Control and Refugee-Recognition Act", "The Alien Registration Law", and other related laws and ordinances. Foreign nationals who wish to stay in Japan are required to take such necessary steps as an application to the Regional Immigration Bureaus which has the responsibility for the registration of foreign nationals.

Foreign nationals are permitted to reside in Japan only if their situation qualifies them for one of a restricted number of categories stipulated in the Immigration Control Act. The list of alternative residency categories and their standard period of stay are shown in Table 1. Foreign nationals residing in Japan are required to engage in activities permitted only under their status of residence granted at the time of their entering the country. It is prohibited by law for foreign nationals without the appropriate status to engage in any remunerative activities. The present law in use totally prohibits foreign nationals from engaging in unskilled jobs except for students and foreign nationals with permanent residency status.

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However, the recent situation is characterized by many cases of people who land with no labor qualification and who continue to remain in Japan beyond the authorized period of stay while engaging mainly in unskilled work. This type of labor inflow is illegal and, therefore, of a “concealed” character.

Although this concealed labor inflow has no less a substantial impact upon the labor market than the legal inflow, government authorities have not carried out comprehensive surveys on this matter. This may be mainly attributed to the concealed nature of the matter which renders any official approach extremely difficult. This is one of the main reasons why I have tried to approach this matter, working through an analysis of so-called “administrative statistics”, information compiled as a by-product of other administrative activities. The statistical sources to which we refer here are “Immigration Statistics” and “Registration of Foreign Nationals Statistics”.

The aim of this paper is to analyze some of the characteristics of foreign nationals who have remained in Japan during the period 1975 to 1988 and to provide an estimation of the concealed labor inflow in Japan.

## **2. The Net Inflow of People into Japan—Size and Characteristics**

The number of foreign nationals who remained in Japan during the period 1975–1988 is calculated as the net inflow or the embarkation and disembarkation differentials. The validity of the method applied here lies in the following facts.

First of all, the large-scale inflow of concealed labor has a relatively short history in Japan, not more than 10 years. Hence, the result acquired by this residual method not only gives us information on the newly accumulated inflow during the time under consideration, but also affords a good approximation to the total concealed labor force.

Secondly, most visitors to Japan stay only a very short period of time. Thus while some of the people picked up by our residual counting method may be people in Japan only for a visit, and not concealed workers, it is not likely to be a major source of inaccuracy. According to statistics, for 89.1% of the persons who enter and leave Japan, the period of stay is not more than 30 day. If we take 90 days, this period of stay accounts for 95.3% of all visitors. These facts support the validity of our residual method using annual data.

Finally, as stated above, due to Japan’s geographical peculiarity, the number of illegal entrants is expected to be much smaller compared with countries which share borders on land. Because of this peculiarity, the number of foreign nationals who land through legitimate procedures required by law, and continue to stay in an illegitimate manner will offer a relatively good approximation of the total concealed labor force.

As Table 2 shows, the aggregate net inflow calculated by our residual method over the period 1975–1988 amounts to 377,020. The inflow from Asian countries accounts for 83.4% of this total. The largest supplier country is the Philippines (88,835) which accounts for about 30% of the total net inflow. The Republic of China (Taiwan) stands second with 62,217, and then comes the People’s Republic of China (P.R.C.) with 55,776.

Figure 1 illustrates the trend in the annual net inflow from 1975 to 1988. 1979 appears to be a breakpoint in the pattern. But the tempo of increase had been relatively moderate, about 3,000 per year, until 1983. Since then, however, the circumstances seem to have changed, and the net inflow has been increasing in an accelerated tempo. The trend in the annual net inflow in the most recent three years records an amazing upswing.

Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the trend in the net annual inflow from the countries which are regarded as the main suppliers of immigrant workers. It is evident from these figures that the accelerated increase after 1983 has been brought about by a net inflow mainly from the Philippines and Taiwan. However, some alteration has occurred among the main supplier countries of immigrant workers in 1987. The inflow from the main supplier countries—the Philippines and Taiwan—dropped by about 5,000 each compared with the preceeding year. In turn, the inflow from the P.R.C. has increased. Further, such countries as Bangladesh and Pakistan are becoming considerably more important.

#### (1) Characteristics by sex and age

Table 3 shows the aggregate total net inflow by sex and age from the six main supplier countries. The aggregate number by age is estimated by adjusting the annual net increase data to account for the aging of the people. According to this table, the size of the female inflow considerably exceeds that of the male. For reference, the female/male ratio for the total net inflow is 1.35. The Philippines and the Republic of Korea with ratios of 3.72 and 3.17 respectively are more than 2 times greater than the Asian average. The only exception is the P.R.C. with a ratio of 0.38. But recent data generally indicates that a rapid shift in this sex ratio is taking place. Although the sex ratio calculated on single year data gives the value of 1.97 for 1986, and 1.16 for 1987, it yields a far smaller value of 0.54 for 1988. The drastic reversal of this ratio which occurred in 1987 and 1988 is explained mainly by the rapid increase in the inflow of males from the P.R.C., Bangladesh and Pakistan.

It is also evident from Table 3 that the dominant component of the inflow is occupied by the younger generation. Persons ranging in age from 20 through 34 years account for 72.2% of the male and 65.4% of the female net inflow. This is especially true for the Philippines, where women who fall in the age category of 20–29 years comprise 64.0% of the female net inflow.

#### (2) Characteristics by the status of residence

As stated above, foreign nationals are permitted to stay in Japan in one of 18 categories of residency status as spelled out in the Immigration Control Act of Dec. 31 1988 (see Table 1).

Table 4 shows the total net inflow by status of residence of the six main supplier countries from 1982 to 1988. Due to the lack of consistency in the data, these series are available only for this period.

According to this table, the status of residence with the greatest accumulation of net inflow is that of temporary visitors (4–1–4), 199,800 persons. Those foreign nationals who fall under the miscellaneous status category (4–1–16–3), paid entertainers (4–1–9), and students (4–1–6) constitute the remaining categories with a large accumulated net inflow.

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate the trend in the annual net inflow by status of

residence for different nations. According to this figure, the 4-1-9 status for people from the Philippines and the 4-1-16-3 group for people from P.R.C. are clearly exceptional. For the most part, entrants for the purpose of "study" occupy the predominant part of the net inflow on the 4-1-16-3 status. A recent rapid increase in the net inflow on the 4-1-16-3 status has been mainly caused by dual amendments in immigration policies—mitigation of departures on the side of the P.R.C. and a simplification of acceptance procedures by Japan.

We should note that the figures in Table 4 take no account of the alteration of status during the stay of the residents. According to statistics, 44,851 applications for changing the status of residence were accepted by Regional Immigration Bureaus in 1988 (including 1,354 cases brought forward from the previous year) and of these, 40,901 were those cases in which changes in status were permitted. If the alteration of status from A to B has occurred, the estimated net inflow in status A would be as much overestimated as B is underestimated. In this way the alteration of status by residents affects the size of net inflow categorized by status.

Unfortunately, sufficient information on this alteration process is not available. But, using fragmentary data, an attempt was made to estimate the impact of this bias. (See Appendix 1 for a full discussion of the calculations involved.)

### 3. Estimation of the Concealed Labor Inflow

According to the Immigration Control Act, people who intend to engage in activity outside the scope assigned at the time permission to enter the country was granted, are required to make an application for changing their status of residence and obtain permission for such activity. But actually there exist a lot of people who engage in such activities illegally without government permission. It is probable that engaging in such activities may keep them from appearing at the local government office for registration, simply because their appearance at the office for registration may expose them to the risk of disclosure of their illegal activities. It is for these reasons that the statistical category "unregistered foreign nationals" acquires a special social implication connected with contemporary issue of international labor transfer.

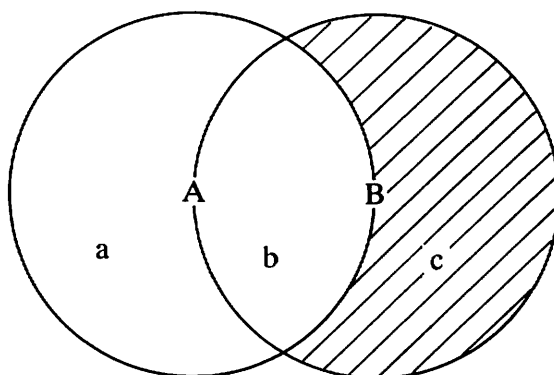
As indicated before, the number of unregistered foreign nationals is expected to provide us with a good approximation of the present number of concealed or hidden foreign laborers in Japan.

#### (1) the scope of unregistered foreign nationals

I introduced the statistical category of unregistered foreign nationals (UFN) to characterize the concealed labor inflow to Japan which is defined as "foreign nationals landing under legal procedures but who stay without registration called for by the Alien Registration Law".

The following Diagram illustrates the basic idea on the number of UFN. (See Appendix 2 for a more detailed illustration on the number of UFN together with the number of people in other related categories.)

**Diagram 1. Scope of Unregistered Foreign Nationals (UFN)**



A : net increase of registrants calculated by registration statistics

B : net inflow calculated by immigration statistics

a : net increase of registrants without disembarkation

b : net increase of registrants by disembarkation

c : unregistered foreign nationals (shadowed)

## (2) Methodology

UFN is calculated by subtracting the net increase in registration from the aggregate net inflow over the period of 1975–1988. But in order to avoid an over- or underestimation of UFN, some statistical correction should be needed.

(A) Correction of immigration statistics to account for those people exempted from registration

According to the Alien Registration Law, foreign nationals who fall under following 4 categories are exempted from registration by Article 2 : (1) persons permitted provisional landing and stay, (2) persons permitted landing at port of call, landing in transit, landing for crew member, emergency landing or landing due to disaster, (3) members and civilian employees of the armed forces of the US and UN forces and their dependents, (4) holders of 4–1–1 status (diplomats) and 4–1–2 status (officials of foreign government).

(i) Concerning people who fall under the first two categories : immigration statistics do not include them in the reported embarkation and disembarkation numbers. As these persons exist outside the scope of immigration as well as registration statistics, they can be disregarded in our calculations.

(ii) Concerning people who fall under the third category : reported statistics do not take into account residents resulting from the Japan-US Security Treaty and others who fall under this category. Therefore, we also disregard their existence. But we should note the fact that the Immigration Control Act does not cover residents resulting from the Japan-US Security Treaty brings about another problem in estimating the aggregate figures of UFN. When those who disembark in Japan through due process at, say, a civilian sea- or airport, leave Japan through US military facilities, they are counted only in the disembarkation (arrival) data. As

the number of people who fall in this category (mainly US citizens) leads to the overestimation of UFN, they should be substrated from the embarkation and disembarkation differentials (EDD).

(iii) Finally, concerning people who reside in Japan with the status of 4-1-1 (diplomats) and 4-1-2 (officials of foreign governments) : Those people who fall in these categories are exempted from registration, although they are counted in immigration statistics. As the treatment of these people (DO) differs between immigration and registration statistics, appropriate correction should be introduced to fill this gap.

The corrected embarkation and disembarkation differentials over the period of 1975-1988 (CEDD) are calculated by subtracting from the net inflow information the number of people fitting the two categories just described. Therefore, CEDD is given by following formula.

$$\text{CEDD} = \text{EDD} - \text{US} - \text{DO} \quad (1)$$

(B) Correction of registration statistics to make statistical categories comparable

The net increase in registration over the period of 1975-1988 (NRG) is calculated by subtracting the number of registrants at the end of 1974 (RG0) from those in 1988 (RG1). Therefore, NRG is given by following formula.

$$\text{NRG} = \text{RG1} - \text{RG0} \quad (2)$$

However, in order to avoid an over- or underestimation of the value for UFN, some corrections should be introduced — we calculate a corrected net increase in registration (CNRG).

(i) Registrants by birth (BR) : people who are born and stay in Japan without undergoing formal entry procedures are not counted in EDD. On the other hand, BR is picked-up in the calculation of NRG. In order to avoid underestimation of UFN as a consequence of the increase of NFG caused by BR, BR should be substrated from NRG.

(ii) Registrants by renouncement of Japanese nationality (RR) : People who fall in this category are not included in EDD, because they had Japanese nationality and did not land as foreign nationals. On the other hand they contribute to the registration figures at the point when their application for registration as a foreign national is accepted. The inclusion of RR in RG1 leads to an increase in NRG. For the same reason stated above in (i), RR must be subtracted from NRG.

NRG.

(iii) Registrants by other causes (OR) : Foreign nationals who had been exempted from the need to register under the Alien Registration Law are required to apply for registration when alter the status of residence to one in which registration is obligatory. People in these categories (OR) leads to the increase in reported registration hence to the underestimation of UFN. (See Appendix 3 for a detailed discussion.)

(iv) Deceased registrants (DR) : People who fall under this category affect NRG and CEDD in different manners, depending on whether he or she had entered before or after 1975. The former results in a decrease of NRG, the latter in an

increase of CEDD. In either case they result in the overestimation of UFN. Therefore, DR should be added to NRG. (See Appendix 4 for a detailed discussion.)

(v) Acquisition of Japanese nationality by registrants (AR) : People who fall under this category affect NFG and CEDD in different manners, depending on whether he or she had landed before or after 1975. The former lessens the size of NRG, the latter contributes to an increase of CEDD. However, these two types of cases lead to the same result : the overestimation of UFN. (See Appendix 5 for a detailed discussion.)

(vi) Closure of registration by other causes (CR) : When registrants alter their status of residence to ones which require no registration, they are exempted from registration obligation. The alteration of status by registrants to 4-1-1, 4-1-2 status or to those covered by the Japan-US Security Treaty (and other related laws) constitute the closures of registration by other causes. Foreign nationals who fall under these categories continue to reside in Japan as before. In order words, they are included in CEDD even after their alteration of status. However, NRG drops due to the decrease in RG1 caused by their registration closure. In order to avoid the overestimation of UFN, CR should be added to NRG. (See Appendix 6 for a detailed discussion.)

As a consequence, the corrected net increase of registration over the period of 1975-88 (CNRG) is calculated by following formula

$$\text{CNRG} = \text{NRG} + \text{DR} + \text{AR} + \text{CR} - \text{BR} - \text{RR} - \text{OR} \quad (3)$$

### (3) Calculation of UFN

Given the definitions above, the value of the 11 variables calculated on 1975-88 data would be :

|     |           |    |           |
|-----|-----------|----|-----------|
| EDD | = 377,020 | AR | = 111,135 |
| RG0 | = 745,565 | CR | = 5,874   |
| RG1 | = 941,005 | BR | = 158,580 |
| US  | = 34,900  | RR | = 3,762   |
| DO  | = 3,291   | OR | = 5,415   |
| DR  | = 58,873  |    |           |

Substituting these data for the variables in formulas (1), (2) and (3) above, we have

$$\text{CEDD} = \text{EDD} - \text{US} - \text{DO} = 377,020 - 34,900 - 3,291 = 328,829 \quad (1^*)$$

$$\text{NRG} = \text{RG1} - \text{RG0} = 941,005 - 745,565 = 195,440 \quad (2^*)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CNRG} &= \text{NRG} + \text{DR} + \text{AR} + \text{CR} - \text{BR} - \text{RR} - \text{OR} \\ &= 195,440 + 58,873 + 111,135 + 5,874 - 158,580 - 3,762 - 5,415 \\ &= 203,565 \end{aligned} \quad (3^*)$$

Therefore, the value for UFN calculated on 1975-88 data would be



$$\text{UFN} = \text{CEDD} - \text{CNRG} = 328,829 - 203,565 = 125,264$$

#### 4. Conclusion

The size and the trend of the concealed labor inflow in Japan have been regarded with great concern from the standpoint not only of international labor migration but also by its impact on Japan's domestic labor market. The significance of the calculations carried out in this paper lies in the fact that it affords an estimate of the concealed labor inflow—hitherto policy makers and others had relied only on simple guesses.

According to the estimates presented above, the number of unregistered foreign nationals (UFN) in Japan is about 125,000 as of 1988. This is only about 0.2% of the total labor force. But as Figure 1 shows, the net inflow of foreign nationals has recently exhibited an amazing increase. Moreover, there is reason to believe that our figures underestimate the extend of illegal foreign workers in Japan. Keeping pace with the net inflow of people into Japan, the number of illegally registered people has been increasing.

There are a lot of foreign nationals who intend to stay in Japan more than 90 days and attend the local government office to register soon after landing. These registration applications can result in an underestimation of UFN. Besides these people, there exist some registrants engaging in remunerative activities which their status of residence does not allow. These facts show that the estimate of UFN calculated in this paper does not altogether correspond to the total concealed labor inflow to Japan—that in spite of all our calculations UFN underestimate the size of total inflow. Further, it is generally supposed that small size enterprises in such industries as construction and the service industries, where there are serious labor shortages, are becoming dependent on immigrant workers. This suggests that the importance of understanding the extent of illegal workers in Japan is larger than suggested by the simple number of people. Further statistical investigations to better understand the micro-statistical issues is certainly warranted.

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**Table 1. The List of Status of Residence**

| Status of Residence | Qualifying Persons  | Period of stay                                |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 4-1-1               | Diplomats and consular officials accredited to Japan and their families   | During mission                                |
| 4-1-2               | Officials of foreign governments or international organizations recognized by the Japanese government and their families  | During mission                                |
| 4-1-4               | Temporary visitors with the following purposes : sightseeing, rest and recuperation, engage in sports activities, visit relatives, go on inspection tours, participate in meetings or short courses, attend business meetings, and other similar purposes | 90 days,<br>60 days,<br>30 days or<br>15 days |
| 4-1-5               | Persons engaging in management of business, foreign trade or capital investment activities  | 3 years,<br>1 year,<br>6 or 3 months          |
| 4-1-6               | Students engaging in study or research on the junior college level or above   | 1 year,<br>6 or 3 months                      |
| 4-1-6-2             | Persons accepted by a public or private organization in Japan to acquire industrial technique or skills   | 1 year,<br>6 or 3 months                      |
| 4-1-7               | Lecturers and professors engaging in fulltime teaching at educational or research institutions  | 3 years,<br>1 year,<br>6 or 3 months          |
| 4-1-8               | Persons engaging in activities of a high level in the arts and sciences (music, fine arts, literature, science, etc.)   | 1 year,<br>6 or 3 months                      |
| 4-1-9               | Paid entertainers such as singers, actors, professional athletes, their managers and entourage  | 60 days,<br>30 days<br>or 15 days             |
| 4-1-10              | Persons dispatched to Japan by foreign religious organizations to conduct religious activities (including non-paid educational or medical activities)   | 3 years,<br>1 year,<br>6 or 3 months          |
| 4-1-11              | Persons dispatched to Japan for news gathering purposes by foreign newspapers, radio and TV broadcasters and other journalistic organizations (excluding free writers, etc.)  | 3 years,<br>1 year,<br>6 or 3 months          |
| 4-1-12              | Persons invited by public or private organizations in Japan for the purpose of furnishing high-level or specialized skills and know-how   | 3 years,<br>1 year,<br>6 or 3 months          |
| 4-1-13              | Persons engaging in skilled labor (e.g., cooks in Chinese or French restaurants, Western style confectioners, etc.)   | 1 year,<br>6 or 3 months                      |
| 4-1-14              | Persons seeking to reside permanently in Japan  | Permanent                                     |

|          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
| 4-1-15   | Spouses and unmarried minor children of any person coming under status 4-1-5 through 4-1-13 above (excluding minor children who are college students, employed, or otherwise engaged in any activity which falls under another status of residence category)   | Same as supporting spouse or parent                                     |
| 4-1-16-1 | Spouses or children of Japanese nationals (in case residing in Japan as family members of Japanese nationals)  | 3 years,<br>1 year,<br>6 or 3 months                                    |
| 4-1-16-2 | Children whose Korean or Taiwanese parent has been living in Japan since before the end of World War II or since birth if born between the end of war and April 28, 1958, and who were born after April 28, 1952   | 3 years   |
| 4-1-16-3 | Persons who do not fall under any other status but are permitted to reside by the discretion of the Minister of Justice (under this status medical doctors, teachers at foreign language schools, students at Japanese language schools, dependants of Japanese nationals, etc. are permitted to enter and stay) | Up to 3 years,<br>the precise period determined on a case-by-case basis |

Reprinted from Japan Immigration Association (Nyu Kan Kyokai) : "A Guide to Residence and Registration Procedures in Japan for Foreign Nationals", p. 29, p. 31.

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**Table 2. Net Inflow by Nations (Asia and USA)**

|              |         |              |        |
|--------------|---------|--------------|--------|
| Total        | 377,020 | N. Korea     | -1,340 |
| Asia         | 314,579 | Kuwait       | -41    |
| Afghanistan  | 95      | Laos         | 528    |
| UAE          | 10      | Lebanon      | 49     |
| Burma        | 739     | Malaysia     | 4,832  |
| Bahrain      | -17     | Mongol       | 33     |
| Bhutan       | 9       | Oman         | 13     |
| Bangladesh   | 16,894  | Maldives     | -2     |
| Kampuchea    | 748     | Nepal        | 519    |
| Sri Lanka    | 1,104   | Pakistan     | 16,716 |
| P.R.C.       | 55,776  | Philippines  | 88,835 |
| Taiwan       | 62,217  | Qatar        | -38    |
| Hongkong     | -999    | Saudi Arabia | 74     |
| China (else) | 56      | Syrian Arab  | 22     |
| Cyprus       | 8       | Singapore    | 115    |
| India        | 1,230   | Thailand     | 21,643 |
| Indonesia    | 203     | Turkey       | 99     |
| Iran         | 675     | Viet Nam     | 3,185  |
| Iraq         | 145     | Yemen Arab   | 11     |
| Israel       | 274     | Yemen        | 1      |
| Jordan       | -1      | USA          | 34,900 |
| Korea        | 40,052  |              |        |

Note : 'Asia' includes net inflow from Brunei not listed separately.

Table 3. Net Inflow by Age and Sex

| (male)      | Total  | 0-4   | 5-9   | 10-14 | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 |
|-------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total       | 160683 | 10512 | 4173  | 3414  | 13471 | 43762 | 48521 | 25484 |
| Asia        | 132337 | 4447  | 2427  | 2733  | 7573  | 37829 | 41865 | 22772 |
| P.R.C.      | 40563  | 682   | 1089  | 1263  | 2454  | 7707  | 11220 | 9672  |
| Taiwan      | 16625  | 912   | 367   | -322  | 485   | 5052  | 5371  | 1427  |
| Korea       | 9612   | 1155  | 433   | 311   | -197  | 2107  | 4340  | 1715  |
| Philippines | 18808  | 677   | 307   | 198   | 1018  | 4624  | 5325  | 3238  |
| Thailand    | 5343   | 61    | 76    | 51    | 639   | 1996  | 1050  | 784   |
| USA         | 14369  | 4013  | 1013  | 395   | 4255  | -25   | 2398  | 1366  |
|             | 35-39  | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65-69 | 70-   |
| Total       | 7836   | 3002  | 819   | 161   | -235  | -335  | -146  | 48    |
| Asia        | 7494   | 3165  | 1333  | 448   | 206   | 90    | -63   | -33   |
| P.R.C.      | 3730   | 1643  | 569   | 215   | 105   | 125   | 44    | 43    |
| Taiwan      | 503    | 388   | 216   | 358   | 352   | 271   | 127   | 83    |
| Korea       | -256   | -88   | 157   | 331   | 65    | -137  | -81   | -214  |
| Philippines | 1966   | 896   | 327   | 74    | 55    | 14    | 18    | 62    |
| Thailand    | 364    | 272   | 87    | -41   | 7     | -15   | -2    | 8     |
| USA         | 527    | 188   | 74    | 56    | -95   | -90   | -82   | 111   |
| (female)    | Total  | 0-4   | 5-9   | 10-14 | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 |
| Total       | 216337 | 10272 | 4194  | 3384  | 28699 | 79223 | 46892 | 22812 |
| Asia        | 182242 | 4472  | 2314  | 2627  | 23836 | 66876 | 41501 | 20355 |
| P.R.C.      | 15213  | 603   | 1046  | 1275  | 1418  | 2059  | 3301  | 3252  |
| Taiwan      | 45592  | 939   | 503   | 591   | 3877  | 13374 | 10565 | 7179  |
| Korea       | 30440  | 1131  | 365   | 326   | 921   | 7128  | 8797  | 5068  |
| Philippines | 70027  | 929   | 324   | 363   | 15445 | 34988 | 11675 | 2512  |
| Thailand    | 16300  | 70    | 48    | 84    | 1338  | 6255  | 5616  | 2067  |
| USA         | 20530  | 3774  | 1182  | 300   | 2135  | 6533  | 2682  | 1576  |
|             | 35-39  | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65-69 | 70-   |
| Total       | 9766   | 5212  | 2631  | 1562  | 1344  | 149   | -44   | 83    |
| Asia        | 8590   | 4801  | 2712  | 1735  | 1570  | 372   | 299   | 124   |
| P.R.C.      | 1276   | 777   | 401   | 71    | -76   | -154  | -9    | -29   |
| Taiwan      | 3277   | 1540  | 1140  | 722   | 1003  | 438   | 199   | 211   |
| Korea       | 2520   | 1379  | 1164  | 997   | 678   | 126   | 143   | -288  |
| Philippines | 1251   | 1382  | 319   | 174   | 177   | 156   | 81    | 242   |
| Thailand    | 580    | 99    | 31    | 19    | 32    | 0     | 7     | 48    |
| USA         | 1096   | 539   | 357   | 173   | 2     | 58    | -26   | 97    |

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**Table 4. Net Inflow by Status of Residence (1982-1988)**

|        | Total  | Asia   | P.R.C. | Taiwan | Korea | Phili. | Thai. | USA   |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| Total  | 308761 | 268068 | 46950  | 45210  | 32014 | 80749  | 18894 | 21277 |
| 4-1- 1 | 1879   | 633    | 81     | 1      | 302   | 51     | 60    | 295   |
| 2      | 1714   | 591    | 85     | -1     | 205   | 38     | 46    | 400   |
| 4      | 199800 | 174393 | -1139  | 30697  | 29986 | 60980  | 15941 | 15225 |
| 5      | 4633   | 1990   | 161    | 211    | 1634  | -7     | 3     | 1219  |
| 6      | 14534  | 11103  | 2892   | 3252   | 2970  | 120    | 361   | 451   |
| 6-2    | 11187  | 9611   | 3227   | 256    | 1066  | 1308   | 1862  | 220   |
| 7      | 382    | 215    | 85     | 59     | 36    | 13     | 11    | 59    |
| 8      | 2519   | 1523   | 746    | 162    | 388   | 19     | 21    | 477   |
| 9      | 24143  | 22068  | -2513  | 3262   | 704   | 20264  | 39    | 675   |
| 10     | 645    | 176    | -3     | 25     | 137   | 9      | 5     | 476   |
| 11     | 145    | 77     | 3      | 16     | 59    | -9     | 3     | 51    |
| 12     | -22    | 1      | -3     | 2      | 0     | 0      | 0     | -31   |
| 13     | 1441   | 1242   | -59    | 852    | 26    | -1     | 7     | 2     |
| 14     | -5092  | -4539  | -160   | -206   | -3774 | -80    | -18   | -274  |
| 16-1   | 4708   | 4635   | 1693   | 1125   | 1186  | 394    | 208   | -556  |
| 16-2   | 331    | 330    | 3      | 67     | 247   | 0      | 0     | -1    |
| 16-3   | 52468  | 48753  | 41846  | 5367   | 3496  | -2489  | 347   | 2680  |
| (A)    | -6836  | -6836  | 0      | 0      | -6833 | 0      | 0     | 0     |
| (B)    | 368    | 356    | 6      | 77     | 192   | 0      | 0     | 3     |
| (C)    | 1849   | 1846   | 0      | 0      | 0     | 0      | 0     | 0     |

Notes :

(A) : Permanent residents according to the Special Immigration Law for Enforcement of the Agreement on the Legal Status and Treatment of the Nationals of the Republic of Korea Residing in Japan and the Republic of Korea Enforcement Regulations

(B) : Residents according to Article 2-6 of Law No. 126 of 1952

(C) : Residents permitted Temporary Refugee

Spouses and unmarried minor children of any person coming under status 4-1-5 through 4-1-13 above are included in each corresponding category.

Figures in this table do not count the change caused by residents' alteration of status.

Figure 1. Net Annual Inflow of Foreign Nationals (1975-88)

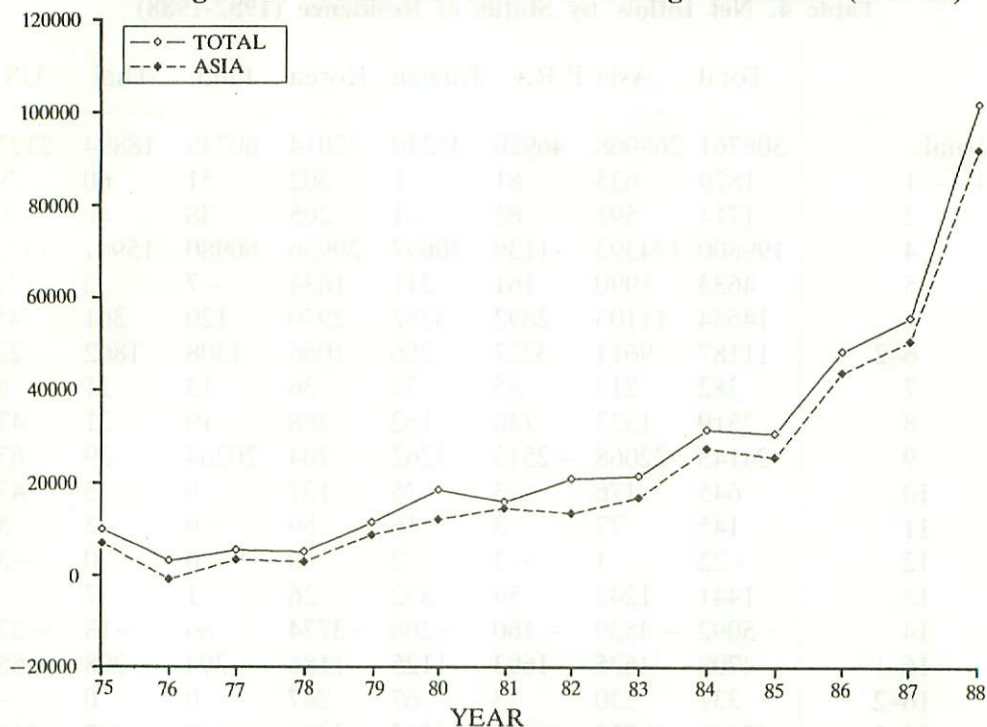
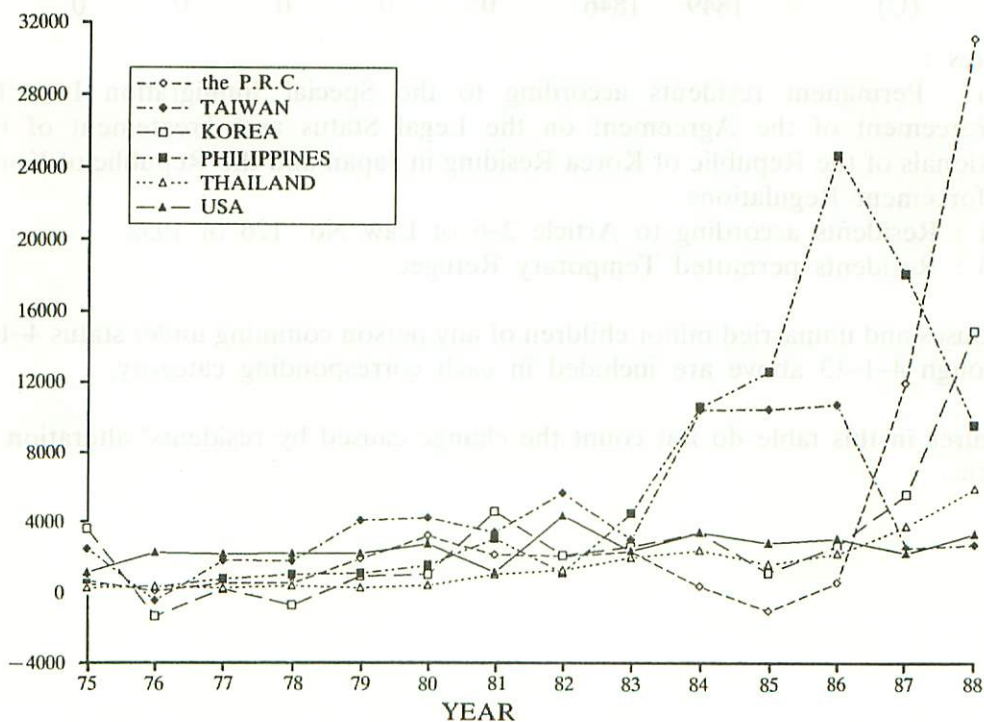
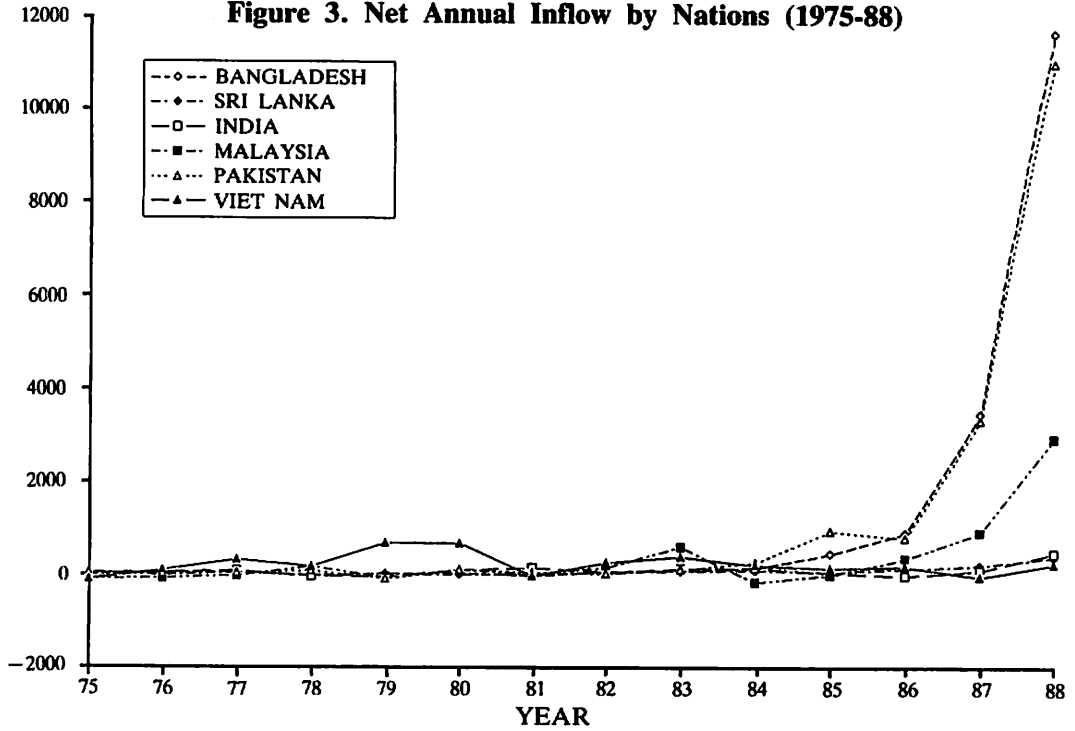


Figure 2. Net Annual Inflow by Nations (1975-88)



# AN ESTIMATE OF THE INFLOW OF ILLEGAL WORKERS INTO JAPAN

**Figure 3. Net Annual Inflow by Nations (1975-88)**



**Figure 4. Net Annual Inflow by Status of Residence (1982-88)**

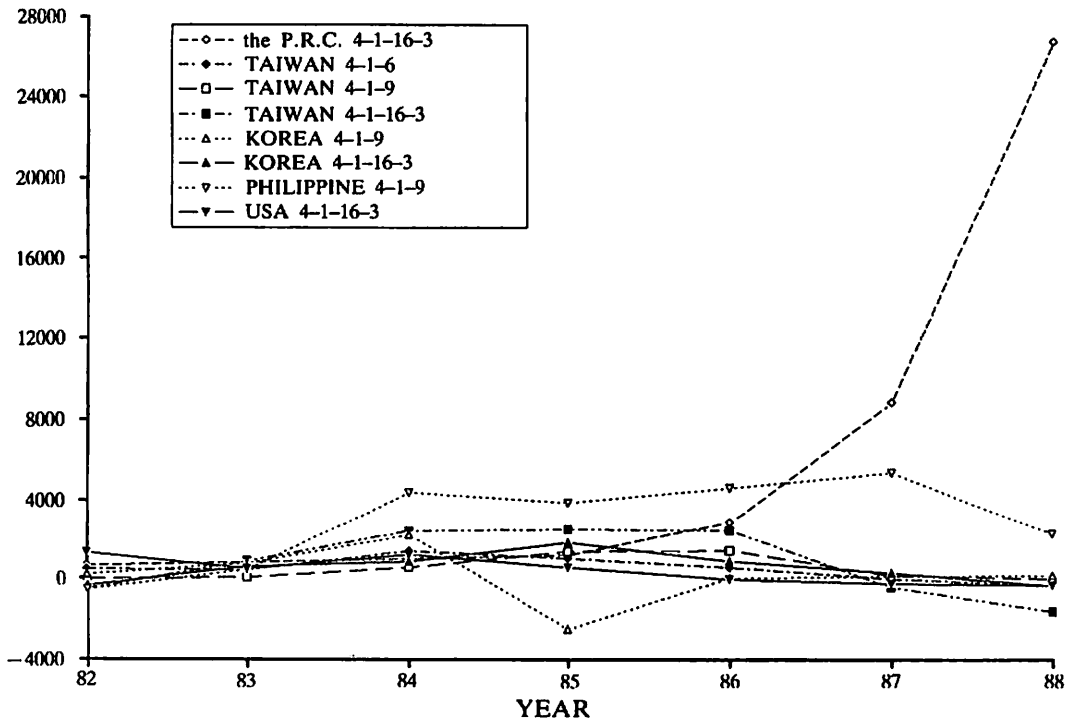
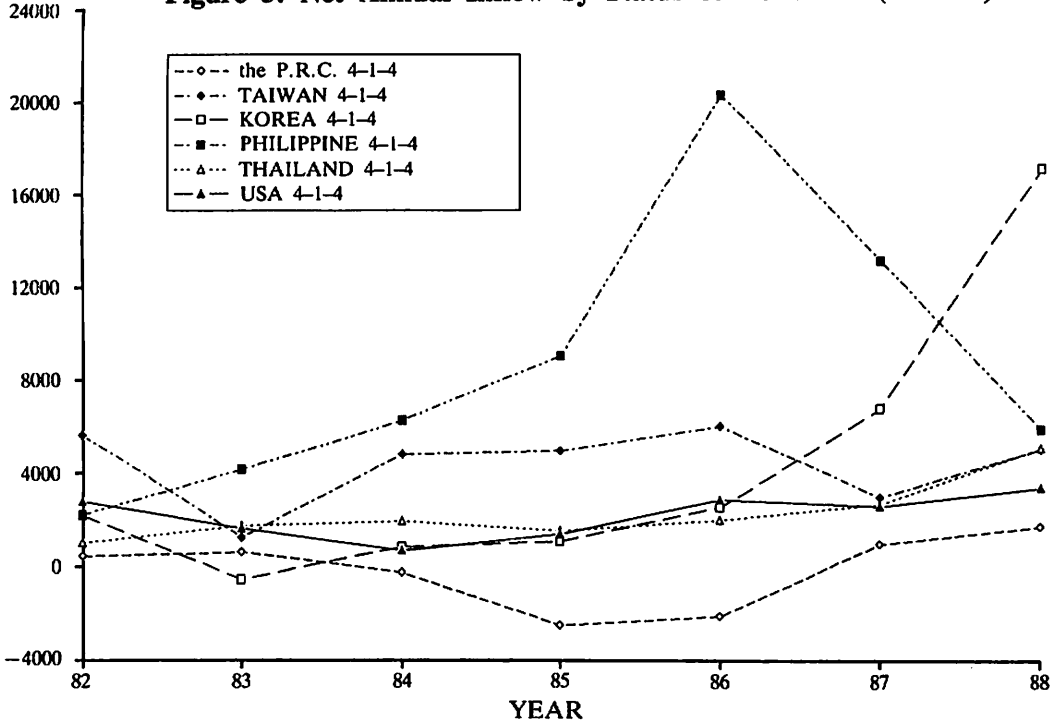




Figure 5. Net Annual Inflow by Status of Residence (1982-88)



## Appendix 1

The following method was used to adjust the data on labor inflow to account for changes in residency status after entry.

1. The average alteration ratios for the main status groups were calculated using 1985 year data — the only data available for the most recent 10 years. The calculated alteration ratios are as follows : alteration of status from 4-1-4 to 4-1-16-1 is 21.3% of all changes, from 4-1-4 to 4-1-16-3 is 16.6%, and from 4-1-16-3 to 4-1-6 is 10.7%.
2. The recorded immigration permit data was multiplied by these ratios to estimate the number of people with altered status.
3. Finally, subtracting (or adding) the estimate out of (or into) the initial numbers for the net inflow described above, the following figures are obtained as the modified estimate of the inflow by major status categories. For status 4-1-4 the modified number for the net inflow is 154,949 ; for 4-1-16-3, 59,368 ; for 4-1-6, 20,839 ; for 4-1-9, 17,838 ; and for 4-1-6-2, 10,235.

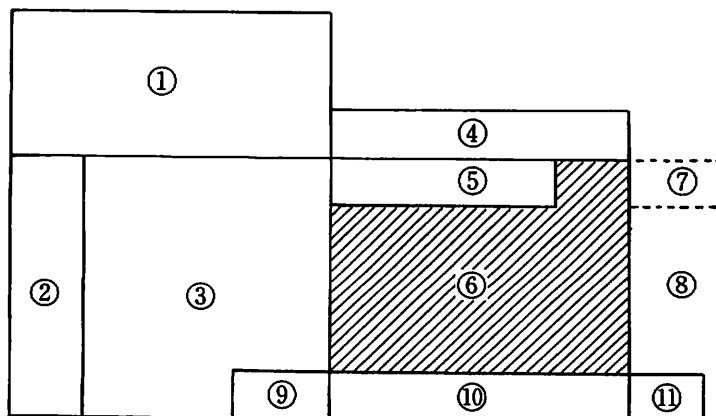
One way of examining the precision of these estimates is to use information from other government agencies.

According to the reported statistics from the Ministry of Education, the number of foreign students engaging in study or research at the junior college level or above is 25,643 for the 1988 academic year. Compared with this, the figure of 20,839 estimated for the 4-1-6 status group given above implies about a 20% underestimate of the true level.

## Appendix 2

The following Diagram illustrates the scope of UFN in terms of categories related to immigration and the registration of foreign nationals.

**Diagram 2. Scope of Unregistered Foreign Nationals (UFN)**



n.b. the size of blocks is not to scale

- (1) : registrants at the end of 1974
- (2) : net increase of registrants without disembarkation in 1975–1988
- (3) : net increase of registrants by disembarkation in 1975–1988
- (4) : unregistered people at the end of 1974
- (5) : residents on 4–1–1, 4–1–2 status and with period of stay up to 90 days
- (6) : unregistered people over the period of 1975–1988
- (7) : residents by Japan-US Security Treaty etc.
- (8) : illegal entrants
- (9) : known extra activities
- (10) : known unregistered residents
- (11) : known illegal entrants
- (1)+(2)+(3) : total cumulated registrants at the end of 1988
- (2)+(3) : net increase of registrants over the period of 1975–1988
- (3)+(5)+(6)+(10) : net inflow calculated by immigration statistics
- (9)+(10)+(11) : known violators of the Immigration Control Act

### Appendix 3

New registrants with the former status of 4–1–1 and 4–1–2 are already excluded from CEDD. Foreign nationals who had stayed according to the Japan-US Security Treaty etc. were included neither in EDD nor in CEDD. Any discrepancies in the treatment of these persons between immigration and registration statistics will lead to an underestimation of UFN. Therefore, registrants who fall under this category should be subtracted from NRG.

### Appendix 4

Registrants who had entered before 1975 and subsequently died during 1975–1988 (DR0) and those who had entered during the period of 1975–1988 and subsequently died during this period (DR1) constitute the number of deceased registrants (DR).

Registrants who fall under the former category are not included in EDD nor in CEDD. Although RG0 initially contains them, they are deleted from registration by the acceptance of their death certificates. Due to their exclusion from RG1, NRG is lowered. In order to avoid the overestimation of UFN caused by a decrease of NRG, DR0 should be added to NRG.

On the other hand deceased registrants who had entered after 1975 raises the registration count at the point when their applications were accepted at the local government offices. As their registration was closed when their death certificates were accepted during the period under consideration, RG1 does not contain DR1. As DR1 was independent of RG0, DR1 has nothing to do with NRG. On the other hand the absence of their departure formalities leads to the overestimation of CEDD as we are calculating it. In order to maintain comparability between NRG and CEDD, DR1 should be added to NRG too.

Consequently,  $DR(=DR0+DR1)$  should be added to NRG.

As illustrated in Diagram 2 non-registered foreign nationals who existed in

Japan at the end of 1974 are exempted from the scope of calculation. Non-registered people who had entered before 1975 and subsequently died during 1975–1988 are neither included in AEDD nor in NRG. Therefore, they can be ignored in calculating UFN.

On the other hand those who had entered during 1975–1988 and subsequently died are included in CEDD, because people who belong to this category are supposed to have entered through due procedures. As they are not counted in the registration statistics, deceased nonregistrants indicate the extinction of non-registered foreign nationals. In order to avoid the overestimation of UFN, they should be excluded from CEDD.

Theoretically, it is evident that the annual death of foreign nationals who die in Japan should be equal to the sum total of deceased registrants and nonregistrants. In other words, the former should exceed the number of deceased registrants by that of deceased nonregistrants. However, according to the vital statistics reported by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the total number of deceased foreign nationals is consistently smaller than those foreign nationals who are registered in Japan. For convenience's sake, the number of deceased nonregistrants who had entered after 1975 is regarded here as zero.

Consequently, the number of deceased nonregistrants can be ignored in the estimation procedure.

## Appendix 5

Those people who had entered Japan before 1975 and have acquired Japanese nationality during the period under consideration (AR0) are not included in CEDD, because they had finished landing formalities before 1975. On the other hand they are included in RG0, as they were validly registered at the end of 1974. Their acquisition of Japanese nationality lowers the number of registrants from the time when their applications were accepted. This fact results in a decrease in NRG by the number of cases of renouncement of foreign nationality. In order to avoid an overestimation of UFN caused by this, AR0 should be added to NRG.

Registrants who had landed after 1975 (AR1) increase CEDD. On the other hand they are removed from registration at the point when their acquisition of Japanese nationality was accepted. This indicates that RG1 does not include registrants who belong to AR1. As NRG is independent of AR1, AR1 may cause an overestimation of UFN.

Therefore,  $AR(=AR0+AR1)$  should be added to NRG to maintain a comparability of data.

## Appendix 6

In the case of departures from Japan by people with re-entry permission, a person's registration was maintained in spite of their absence. Although these departures temporarily overestimates the number of registrants, the period of absence is generally regarded to be relatively short and this overestimation is

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broken off by re-entry. According to the Registration Act, registration is canceled at the point when the re-entry permission has lapsed. Closure of registration due to the lapse of re-entry permission results in the decrease of RG1. As foreign nationals who fall in this category are included neither in CEDD nor in NRG, they can be ignored in calculating UFN.