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## Populationinflow and rural gentrification in the rural resort on the outskirt of the Tokyo Metropolitan Area

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The authors clarified the population inflows and their lifestyles in rural areas on the outskirts of Tokyo Metropolitan Area, and considered the backgrounds and influences of such immigration from cities to rural areas.

In the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, population has increased not only in the inner city of Tokyo but also near the seats of prefectural government within the Metropolitan Area from 2000 to 2005. While population has decreased in the most of rural areas beyond 50 km from the center of Tokyo, some rural areas has showed the increase of population. In such rural areas, rural resorts have been developed both along the coasts and in the highlands, as the demands for recreational activities has grown during the economic growth in Japan. Not only hotels and pensions but also second houses have been constructed in these resort areas. These facilities for tourists in these areas, connected to the Tokyo Metropolitan Area by highways and Shinkansen, have been used normally in the weekend or summer season.

In recently years, some urban residents have immigrated to these resorts, and began to live seasonally or permanently. They reuse second houses for permanent use, or construct new houses. They are middle-aged or retired aged people, who are seeking still life in the beautiful landscape with mild climate. It is important for them to have good access o the Metropolitan Areas by high speed transports. As they try to realize their own lifestyle, ideal country houses are constructed and their circumstances are beautifully maintained. Retail shops such as supermarkets provide a great variety of goods in quality, because demands of new comers from urban areas are higher. Through the activities by new comers, the population in these areas could be maintained, and additionally the rural landscape and the quality of commercial activities could be gentrified. Some rural resorts have raised the standard of living conditions not only for new comers but also for domestic rural people.