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Spatial analysis of mega stores in Japan

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Since 2000, when Large-scale Retail Store Law was enforced, the number of location of large-scale retail store has been increasing. Especially, huge stores such as shopping center and super center have provided economic and social impacts in surrounding region. The Law enforces the retailers to make application to Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry for establishing new mega stores. This study examines the spatial pattern of the applications of mega store on the basis of Large-Scale Retail Store Location Law. Since November 2007, Urban Planning Law has been regulated in the suburb for the location of mega store whose floor space is over 10,000m². Analyzing locational characteristics of stores using GIS, I selected spatial characters of trade area and zoning, type of operation, and company as major indicators.

Keywords: mega store, locational regulation, Large-Scale Retail Store Location Law, Urban Planning Act