

## Abstracts

### Long-Term Unemployment in Japan in the 1980s and the 2000s

**Takehisa Shinozaki** (The University of Tokyo)

This paper examines several of the characteristics of long-term unemployment (LTU) observed in Japan in the 1980s and the 2000s, using published data from *The Special Survey of the Labour Force Survey* and *Employment Status Survey*. Using factor decomposition analysis, it was revealed that changes in the proportion of long-term unemployed youths and changes in the unemployment rate of high school graduates had a significant impact on the overall LTU rate. It was also revealed that dismissed employees and displaced workers from failed firms had high proportion of long-term unemployed to total unemployed. Finally, it found that the Kinki and Kyushu regions of Japan showed a high LTU rate in the 1990s and the early years of the 21st century.

### Japan's Unemployment Insurance and Long-Term Unemployment

**Miki Kohara** (Osaka University)

This paper examines the effect that unemployment insurance has had on long-term unemployment during the “*high unemployment period*” since the early 1990's in Japan. The main findings obtained using macro and micro data from Japan are: (1) long-term unemployment climbed during the 90's; however, this tendency was not found among some age groups subsequent to 2000, (2) the percentage of unemployed persons who receive full pay from unemployment insurance is low among those dismissed for non-personal reasons such as a firm's bankruptcy, and (3) unemployment insurance discourages unemployed persons in their twenties and thirties from getting out of their unemployed status. These results imply that the Unemployment Insurance Act revision of 2001, which reduced the period for unemployment insurance payments receivable by persons who quit their job for personal reasons, may provide the unemployed with an incentive to conduct job-seeking activities and help reduce long-term unemployment.

### Homeless Persons and Contemporary Japan

**Masami Iwata** (Japan Women's University)

There have been a conspicuous number of homeless among middle-aged persons, the elderly, those with a low level of education, and non-married individuals as well as males in contemporary Japan since the 1990's. However not all of such persons can be categorized into a single uniform group. It was elucidated that there are in fact three distinct groups which correlate to working experience, via a survey conducted on the homeless in Tokyo in 2000. Namely, the groups are: 1) casual workers, 2) workers living in accommodations that are tied to a job, and 3) regular workers who experience some type of family disintegration or breakdown. The findings suggest that the number of homeless in Japan is the result of not just a general increase in unemployment, but also a breakdown of the 'yoseba' districts (characterized by mass flophouses and an open air labour market), accommodations tied to jobs, and families in transition in a post-industrial society.

### The Effects of Unemployment on Happiness

**Fumio Otake** (Osaka University)

Are unemployed persons less happy than employed workers? In this paper the author introduces studies regarding this issue which have been conducted in overseas countries. Subsequently, the effects that unemployment has on happiness are examined empirically using micro data from Japan. The findings revealed that unemployed persons are less happy than employed workers even when various individual factors such as income and age are controlled, as previous researchers have found in studies implemented in other developed countries. If these results are correct, job creation policy is considered to be more effective than redistribution policy in order to increase the level of subjective welfare people enjoy.

### Potential of Short-Term Regular Employees

**Mitsuyo Matsubara** (Gakushuin University)

The paper analyzes the elements required for realization of a “short-term regular employee” workforce while also clarifying the problems associated with short-term service, by examining the results of a study on short-term workers who are raising children. Close attention was focused on the different types of changes seen in productivity, commitment to one’s company, target setup, and personnel evaluation at the time of full-time service and short-term service, as well as details of operation and work role. This paper also considers the potential that can be achieved by short-term regular employees. Consequently, it turns out that productivity and commitment to one’s company have been increasing, based on an assessment of short-term workers which reexamined their performed work tasks. Although the target setup is somewhat reduced quantitatively in proportion to shortened work time and evaluation is conducted on the degree of performance, there were also cases in which some administrators thought the length of working hours was just as important and made an assessment accordingly. Although there was little change concerning the details of operation and work role (where short-term service is sometimes regarded as a factor), it turns out that change may occur due to a lack of understanding on the part of administrators, and this may affect employee morale. If a short-term regular employee workforce is realized, the author believes that “evaluation adapted to the contents of work duties operation, employee treatment and wages,” “the reexamination of work tasks and work rules on par with those for full-time employees,” and “relevant systems used by managers” will become key issues.