

Japanese Immigration Issues & Policy



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Outline

- Immigration definition
- Japanese immigration in the international context
- Immigration in Japan
- Arguments for and against immigration in Japan
- Future trends

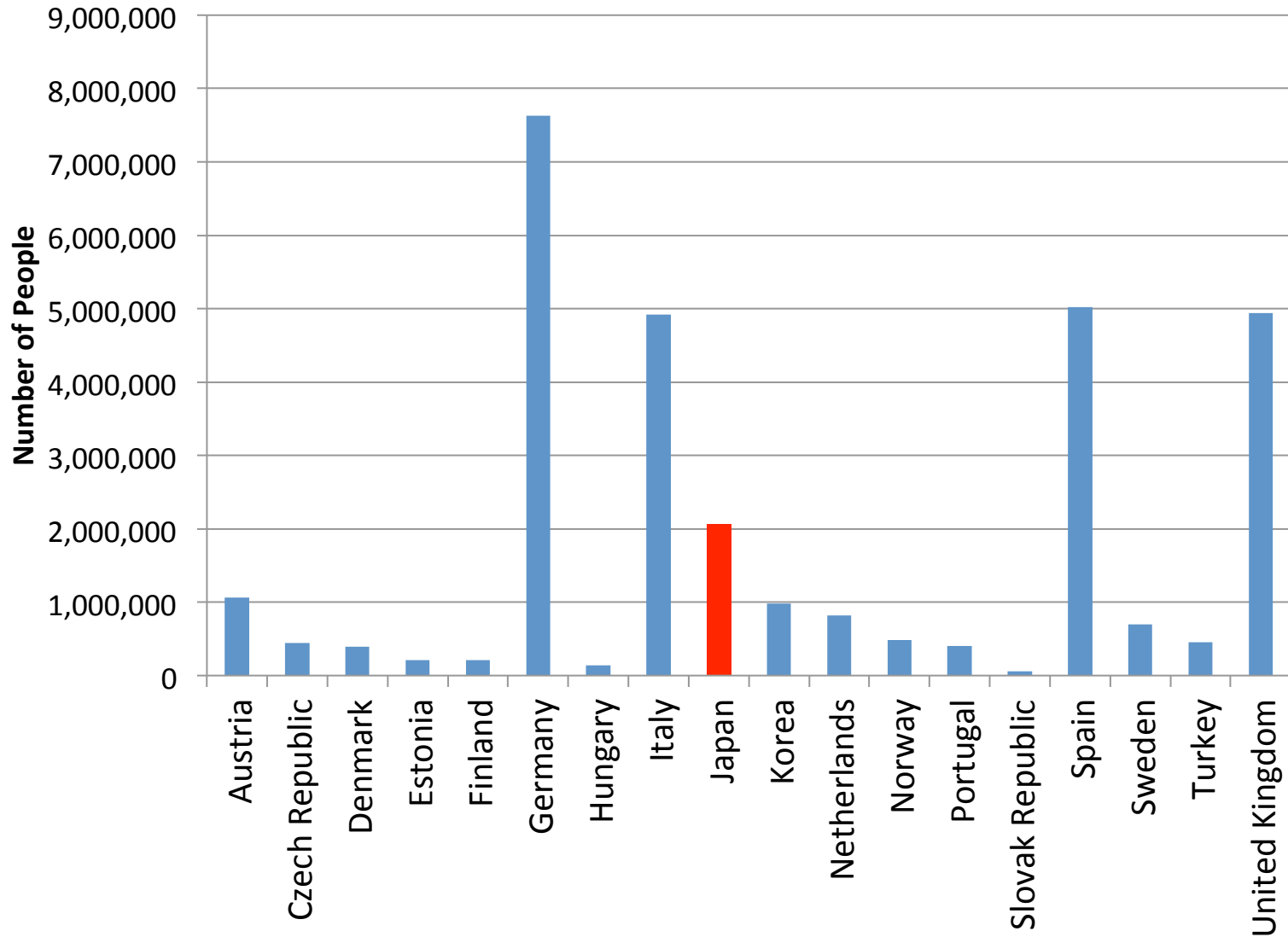
Immigration Definition

- In Japanese context – someone who does not have Japanese nationality, in the country on a long-term visa
- Excludes tourists, Japanese citizens
- Includes permanent residents and refugees

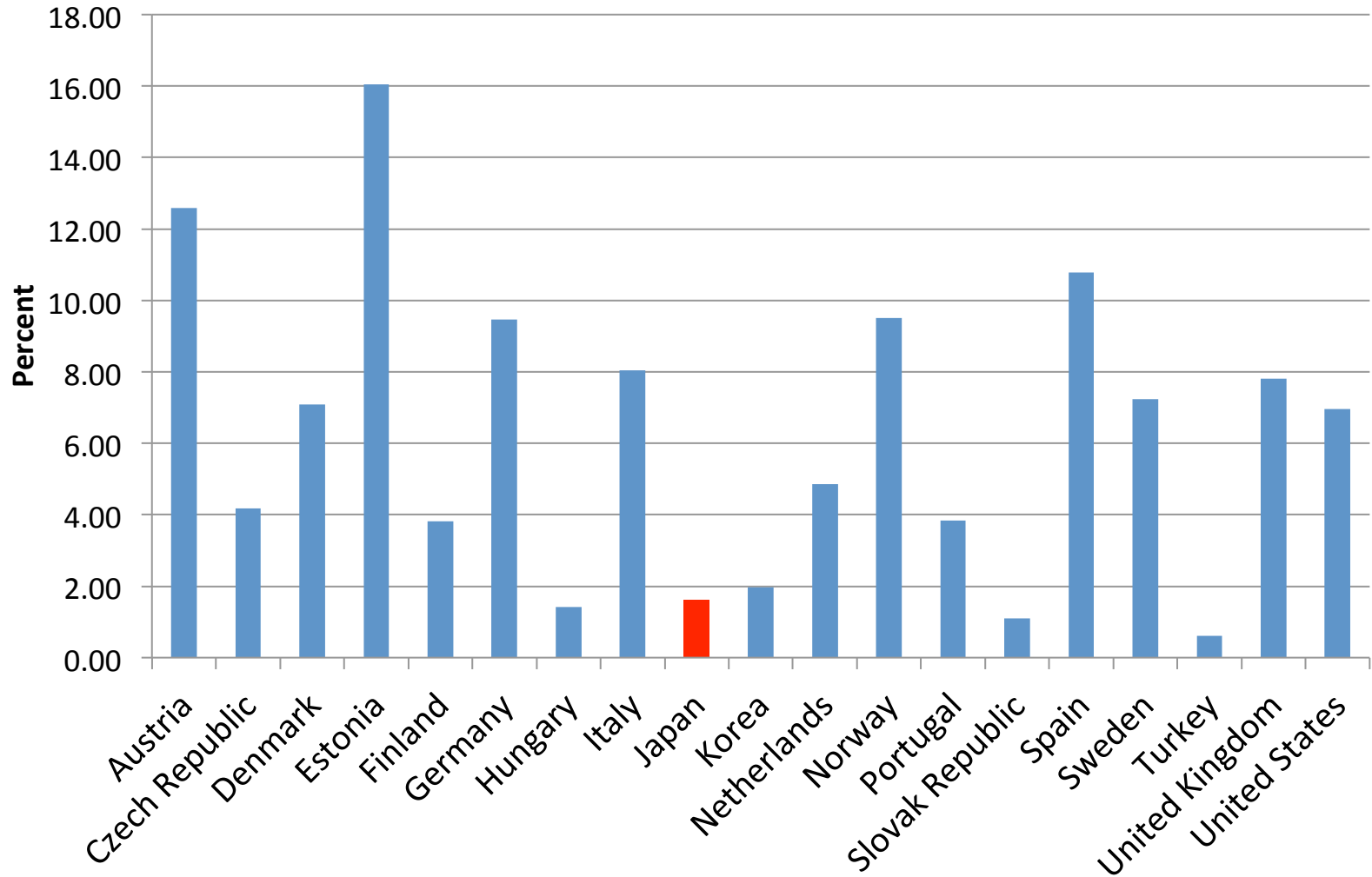
Questions

- Do you think there is a lot of immigration to Japan?
- What do you think are some problems with immigration to Japan?

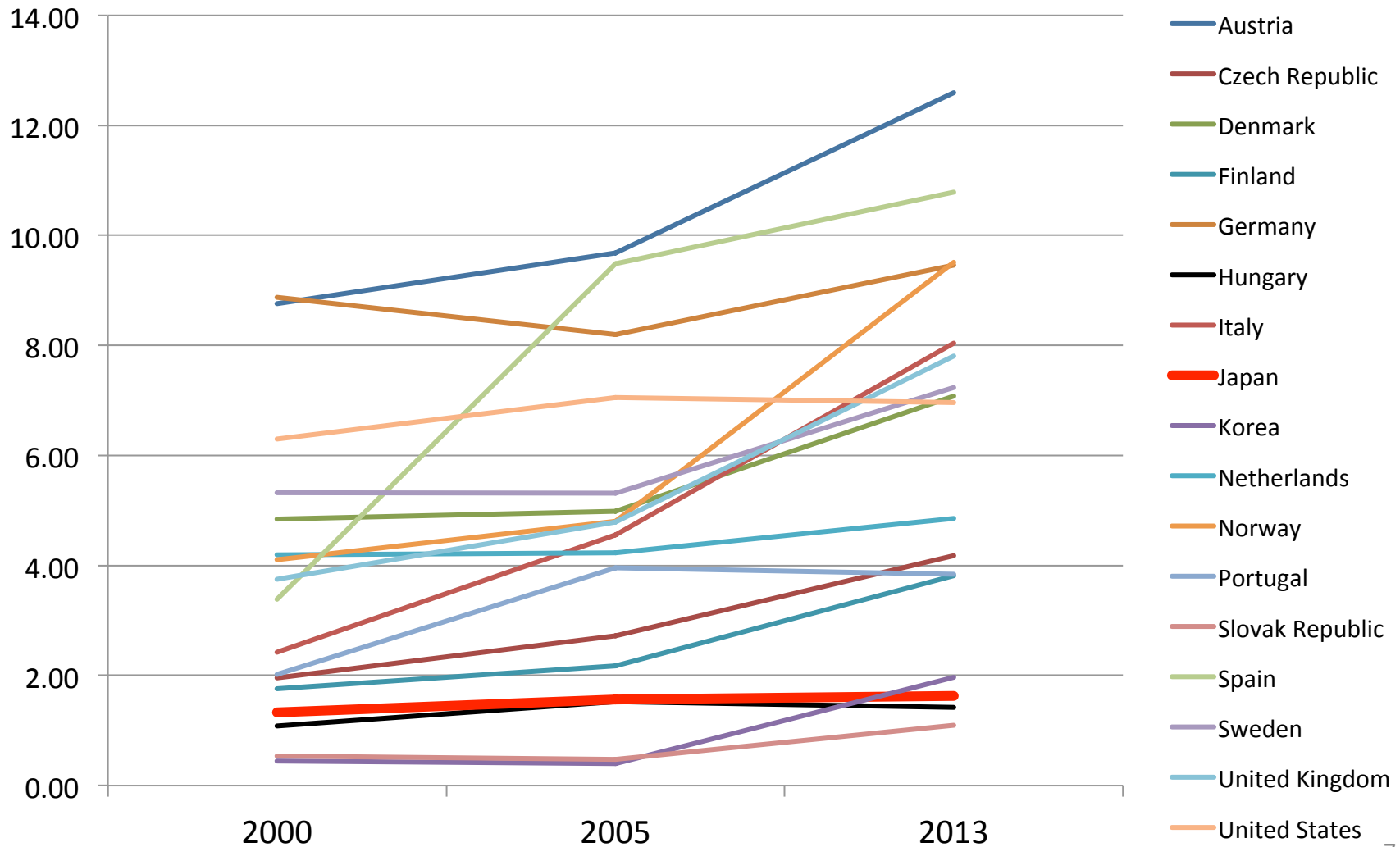
Total foreign population, 2013



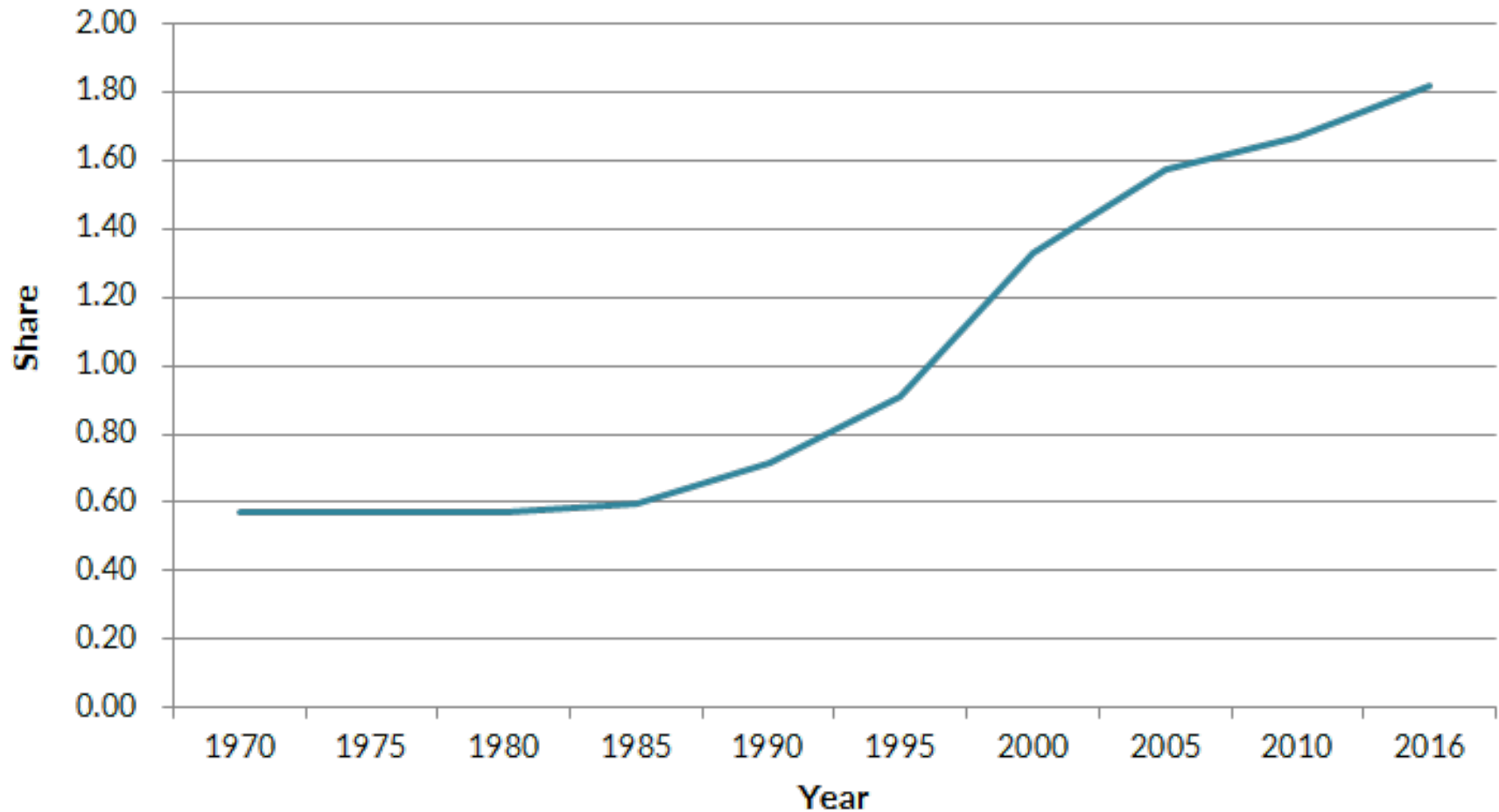
Foreign Percentage, 2013



Change in foreign percentage, 2000-2013



Foreign Percentage in Japan, 1970-2016



Japanese immigration

- Generally closed to immigration through Meiji Restoration
- Colonial expansion, 1905-1945
- Postwar *zainichi*
- Increased demand for foreign labor during bubble era
- Changes in 1990

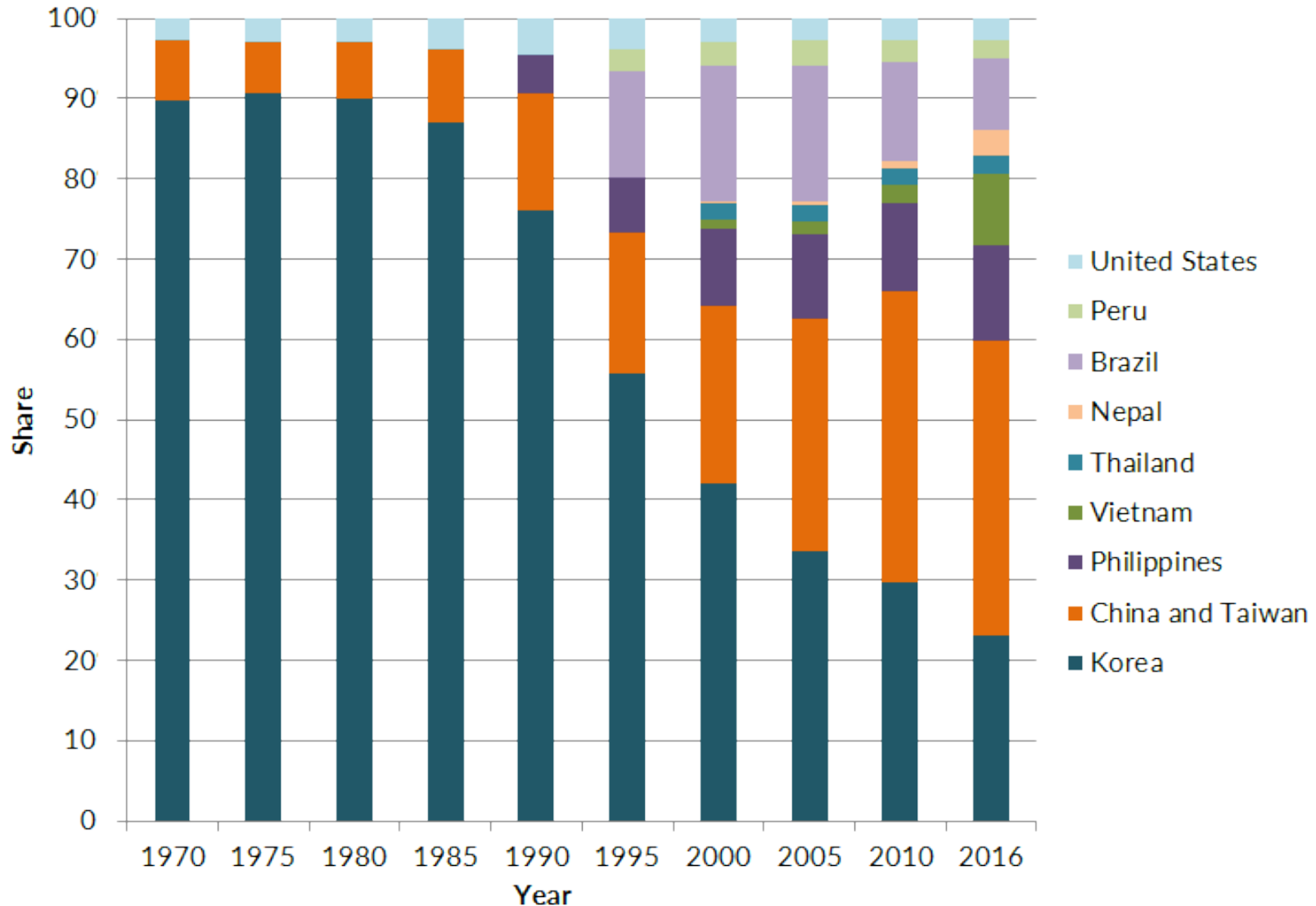
Japanese immigration

- Officially recruiting skilled labor
- *Nikkeijin* issue
- Citizenship difficult to acquire
- Gradual expansion of rights and services to immigrants
- Discrimination still technically legal
- Very few refugees admitted

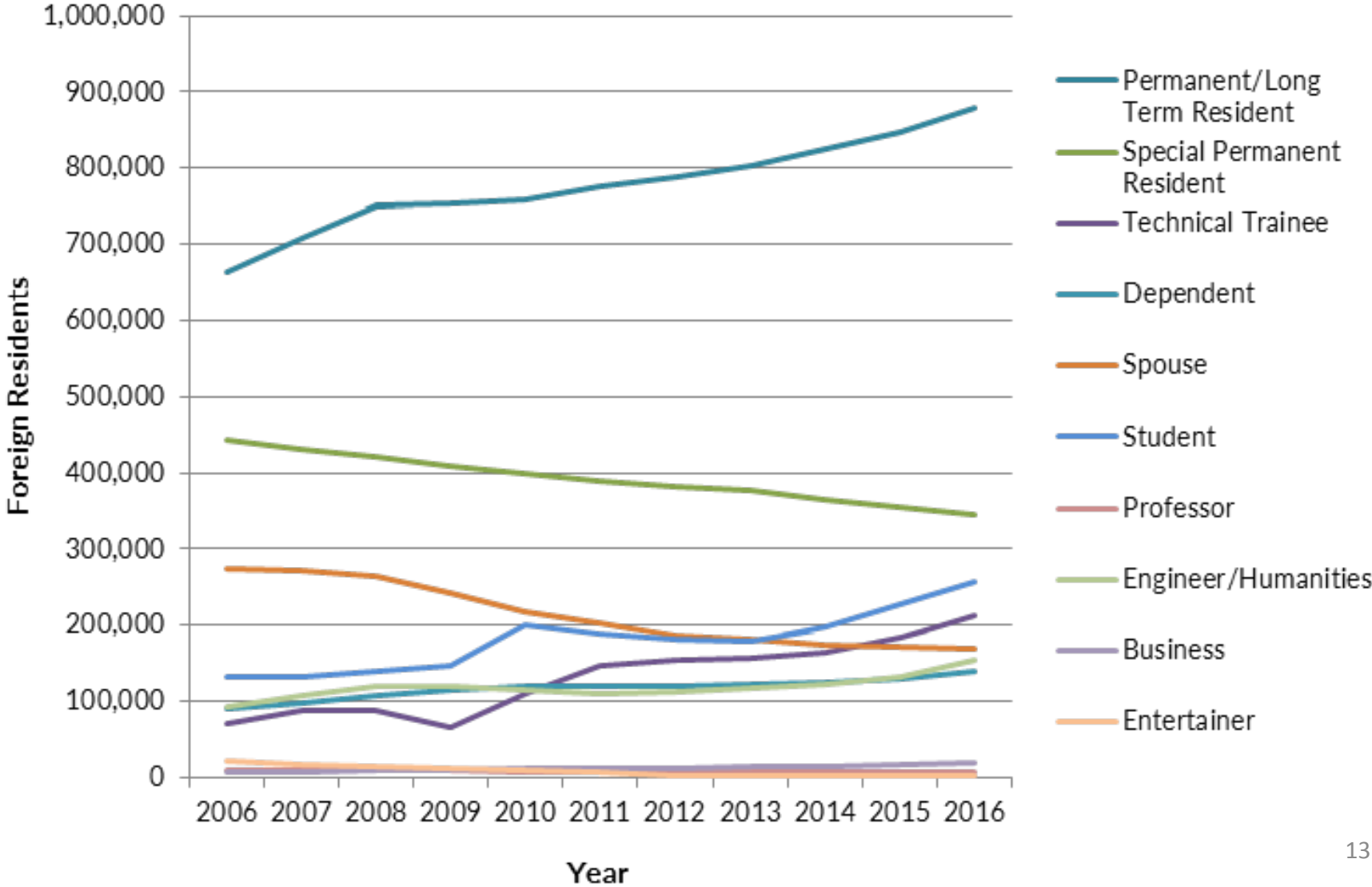
Japanese immigration

- Increasing immigrant diversity

Foreign population by nationality, 1970-2016



Foreign population by visa status, 2006-2016



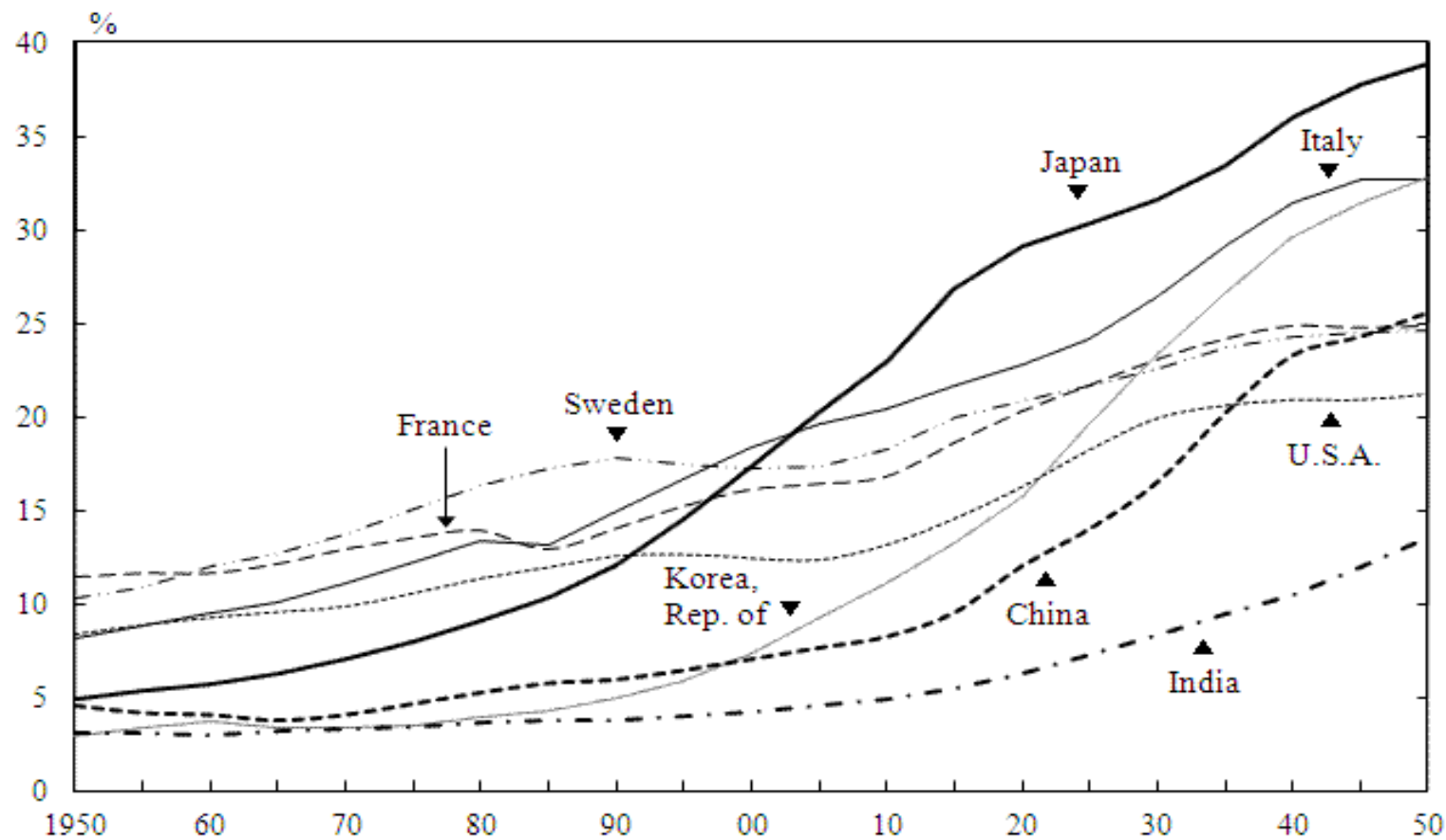
Japanese immigration

- Increasing immigrant diversity
- Steadily growing foreign population, but not an “immigration policy”
- Targeting unskilled, skilled and highly skilled labor

Arguments for Immigration

- Why do you think people would be in favor of immigration to Japan?
- Labor
- Economics
- Aging population

Proportion of Elderly Population by Country



Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC; Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare; United Nations.

Arguments against Immigration

- Why do you think people would be against immigration to Japan?
- Culture
- Crime
- Japan not an attractive destination

Future trends

- What do you think Japan's immigrant population will look like in the future?
- Will it increase or decrease?
- Need at least a 10% foreign population to address aging problem
- Likely to continue status quo
- Promotion of migration to rural Japan

Future trends

- Refugees will need to be addressed
- Local immigrant integration will also need to be addressed
- What do you think will happen?