

In this thesis I focus on the causes and consequences of the existence of freeters in current Japanese society. In the first chapter I define freeters, analyze their position on the labour market and describe the historical background of their existence. In the second chapter I concentrate on major reasons of their existence from the point of view of freeters (unwillingness to work as standard employees), companies (cost-reducing) and the labour recruitment system (specific job-hunting customs). I also consider how the existence of freeters affects working conditions of standard employees. In the third chapter I analyze the main social and demographic consequences of the existence of freeters for Japanese society through statistical data of the Japanese Ministry on Labour (MLHW).