The Japanese Longitudinal Survey on Employment and Fertility (LOSEF): Essential Features of the 2011 Internet Version and a Guide to Its Users

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Noriyuki Takayama, Seiichi Inagaki, and Takashi Oshio

Abstract

The Japanese Longitudinal Survey on Employment and Fertility (LOSEF)*: the 2011 Internet Version* was composed of 3 elements undertaken simultaneously via the Internet: 1) creation of a panel data set from transcription of administrative data (history of pension enrolment, salary history, etc.) contained in Social Security Statements; 2) a retrospective panel survey based on the items contained therein (such as career changes, marriage, childbirth, whether or not residing with parents, etc.); and 3) a survey on many other questions relating to current living and working circumstances. In addition to offering an overview of the 2011 Internet Version, this paper compares its basic figures with those from public statistical surveys, thereby elucidating some characteristics of the survey respondents, such as sample selection bias in this survey. Although some bias toward those with higher educational backgrounds was observed, our study confirmed that this survey represents the collection at a single stroke of almost perfect panel data spanning 45 years at maximum. Acquisition of this sort of long-term, almost flawless panel data is unprecedented in Japan— even worldwide, few such examples exist—making this an extremely rare opportunity.

1. Introduction

Panel survey is a method for analyzing the dynamic socio-economic behavior of its respondents with control for individual attributes.[1] It is achieved by tracking the same individual continuously. It has become an indispensable tool in modern economic research and policy evaluation. For this reason, in Japan too, the undertaking of panel surveys has become widespread in recent years, not only among government agencies, but also among universities and private research institutions. However, panel surveys which target the entire cross-section of society incur huge expenses and decades of research, as well as placing heavy burdens on respondents. They are often beset with problems of sample selection bias and drop-out of respondents, and for this reason adequate and accurate current data is not always available. In order to compensate for previous flawed data, the retrospective panel method can also be used to obtain responses concerning respondents' memories of the period from (for example) school graduation up to the commencement of the survey. However, since few hints are given, the accuracy of this sort of response is not necessarily very high, and it is difficult to ensure a sufficiently high response rate.

In order to compensate for the problems with existing panel data, the authors of this paper have utilized Social Security Statements, which are issued on a regular yearly basis to all

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[1] Kitamura (2005) is a basic textbook for Japanese readers.

those enrolled in social security pension plans, through transcriptions of all the items of information contained therein. Additionally, by using this data as guidelines for questions regarding significant life events (career changes, marriage, separation/bereavement, childbirth, educational history, residence with parents or not, etc.), this represented an attempt to create extremely long-term panel data at a single stroke. Many questions were also posed regarding current living and working circumstances. As a result, the authors were able to conduct an extremely inclusive survey. Moreover, as a preliminary study for this research, Inagaki undertook an independent survey with a sample size of around 2000 respondents in July 2010 (Inagaki 2012). The results of his preliminary survey were used once more in undertaking this current research, which was conducted as an Internet survey with a sample size of around 6000 participants and a greatly expanded list of survey questions.[2]

The Social Security Statement is an administrative (governmental) document which contains information on past enrolment in social security pension schemes, records of national pension contribution payments, KNH (*Kosei-Nenkin-Hoken*, employees' pension) employment records, the amounts of standard monthly compensation (pensionable remuneration), the amount of expected pension benefits, etc., and is issued annually to all residents of Japan. In particular, when they reach certain specified ages (ages 35, 45, and 58), residents of Japan receive a Social Security Statement containing detailed and long-term pension records starting from age 15 (or age 20 for those enrolled in the national pension scheme) to the present day. However, in 2009 (which was the first year that Social Security Statements were issued) all members and pension recipients of the KNH or the national pension scheme received this detailed version. Accordingly, by utilizing transcriptions of the records contained in this administrative document, the authors were able to obtain long-term and almost flawless panel data. Furthermore, by relying on these administrative documents we were also able to undertake a highly accurate retrospective panel survey. Incidentally, the Japan Pension Service, which administers Social Security Statements, recommends the creation of a personal employment history table for each person in order to more easily confirm each item of the content reported in Social Security Statements. This fact suggests that our retrospective panel data section possesses sufficient accuracy. Moreover, since this Internet survey covers not only past history as described above, but also contains many questions on present-day living and working circumstances, it has great potential in offering diverse new insights and discoveries about how past lifestyle and background come to influence present-day living and working conditions, which previous surveys have not been successful in obtaining.

Examining the data of this survey as panel data offers both certain advantages and shortcomings that other types of surveys do not.

On the one hand, the advantages include: 1) use of administrative (governmental) data, which ensures extremely high transcript accuracy; 2) responses in the retrospective panel section were likewise based on administrative data, which again offers comparatively high accuracy; and 3) linked checking of responses (for example, duration of enrolment and career history in KNH pension scheme, accuracy of values entered for standard

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[2] This survey was conducted as one part of the Project on Intergenerational Equity (PIE) (principal investigator: Noriyuki Takayama).

compensation[3], etc.) at the time of the Internet survey, as well as linked checking of responses (duration of enrolment in national pension scheme, total amounts of contribution, consistency of contribution records, etc.) after the completion of the survey. These advantages almost entirely eliminated any erroneous values caused by inaccurate responses or data entry mistakes. Additionally, despite the successful acquisition of extremely long-term panel data, there was no problem of respondent drop-out.

On the other hand, shortcomings of the panel data include: 1) sample selection bias stemming from the Internet survey format (bias toward higher educational backgrounds, etc.; see below); 2) sampling was inclined towards persons having some interest in social security pension schemes (since it targets those who keep their Social Security Statements[4]); and 3) it excludes civil servants and other persons enrolled in mutual aid associations, etc.[5]

The next section gives an overview of the Survey. Section 3, by comparing the basic aggregate figures with those of public statistical data, elucidates some characteristics of the survey respondents, such as sample selection bias, etc. The final section concludes this paper and suggests another possible survey with random sampling. In the Appendix, the questionnaires and layout of our data set are presented. A brief outline of Japan's social security pension program is also described.

2　The 2011 Internet Survey: an Overview

2.1 Main Contents of Questionnaires

The Survey provides information on career history starting from the time of first job, marriage, child-rearing, and pension membership history for specific individuals. It also collects information on factors influencing present-day socio-economic circumstances and wellbeing of the respondents.

2.2 Survey Respondents

Respondents were selected among persons holding 2009 Social Security Statements (excluding persons enrolled in mutual aid associations) who registered as monitors at an Internet survey company, in the following age ranges:

Persons born from 1st November 1971 to 31st October 1981 ("those in their 30s" below)
Persons born from 1st November 1961 to 31st October 1971 ("those in their 40s" below)
Persons born from 1st April 1951 to 31st March 1960 ("those in their 50s" below)

1000 male and 1000 female respondents were selected at each age range, making a total sample of around 6000 respondents.

2.3 Survey Schedule

Respondents in their 30s and 40s were surveyed from Saturday 5th November to

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[3] Although amounts of standard monthly compensation are discrete values by grade, survey responses were sought as continuous values.
[4] According to this survey, around two-thirds kept their 2009 Social Security Statement.
[5] Since membership records for mutual aid associations are not listed on Social Security Statements, these were excluded from the scope of this study.

Wednesday 9th November 2011. Respondents in their 50s were surveyed in two sessions: once from Thursday 29th July to Sunday 1st August 2010, and again from Thursday 8th September to Sunday 11th September 2011, with a follow-up survey also conducted between Friday 2nd December and Monday 5th December 2011.

2.4 Survey Items[6]

(1) *Items transcribed from Social Security Statements* (past administrative records)
   a) Date of last update for enrolment records
   b) Covered months of pension membership up to present (for each program)
   c) The estimated amount of old-age pension benefits (only for those in their 50s)
   d) Amounts of contributions paid up to present
   e) Standard monthly compensations in April of each year for KNH
   f) Contribution exemptions in April of each year for national pension
   g) Employment history, job change history, & job leaving history (type of industries & size of employing companies, types of position & employment status, terms of employment contract, job training received at public institutions, reasons for job change or job leaving)

(2) *Past employment history, completed by each respondent based on transcript information* (retrospective panel data section)
   a) Employment status, marital status, employment status of his/her spouse
   b) Number of children, whether residing with parents or not
   c) Area of residence

(3) *Survey items regarding living conditions and well-being at the time of survey*
   a) Respondent's sex, date of birth, marital status, number of children, final level of educational attainment, current employment status, yearly personal income
   b) Number of members in his/her household, relationship with family in his/her household, yearly household income, monetary asset holdings, etc.
   c) Spouse's age, final level of educational attainment, current employment status, yearly personal income
   d) Items relating to subjective wellbeing, future plans to work, upbringing, parents, and old age

2.5 Response Count and Validity of Responses

   This survey was an Internet survey using publicly recruited monitors, which continued until the target number of respondents was reached. Accordingly, the notion of a "response rate" did not exist here. However, after completion of the survey, the authors conducted a check against the transcript items, and excluded as invalid any data inconsistent among transcript items. Table 1 shows the response count and the number of valid responses. Responses rejected as invalid were 1) data containing national pension enrolment records for any April where the person was under 20 years of age at the end of the fiscal year; 2) data containing a discrepancy in excess of 13 months for the KNH membership

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[6] Please refer to the Appendix B of this paper for a list of survey questionnaires and the final data layout.

Table 1   Response count and validity of responses

Current Age (Sex)	Response Count	No. of Valid Responses	Valid Response Rate
Total	6,177	5,953	96.4%
30s (Male)	1,030	999	97.0%
30s (Female)	1,027	975	94.9%
40s (Male)	1,030	995	96.6%
40s (Female)	1,030	924	89.7%
50s A (Male)	301	301	100.0%
50s A (Female)	251	251	100.0%
50s B (Male)	833	833	100.0%
50s B (Female)	675	675	100.0%

Note: "50s A" respondents were surveyed in 2010 and "50s B" respondents were surveyed in 2011, as a preliminary survey. The follow-up survey for them was only conducted for valid respondents from the preliminary survey.

calculated from each employment history against the KNH membership from the transcript data; and 3) data containing a discrepancy of 100 months or more between the number of enrolled months reported in the transcript data, and data containing 12 times the number of months of unpaid contributions plus those qualified as Category 1 or Category 3 (data only from April each year).

The valid response rate for the preliminary survey of "50s" respondents is indicated in Table 2. Since considerable checking was performed at the survey stage, all valid response rates are high; however, in general, female valid response rates were slightly lower than male rates. This is caused by their frequent moves among pension schemes due to marriage, childbirth, and subsequent return to work, making transcription errors more likely.

Table 2   Response count and validity of responses (preliminary survey of 50s respondents)

Current Age (Sex)	Response Count	No. of Valid Responses	Valid Response Rate
Total	3,025	2,666	88.1%
50s A (Male)	479	430	89.8%
50s A (Female)	486	387	79.6%
50s B (Male)	1,030	993	96.4%
50s B (Female)	1,030	856	83.1%

Source: Inagaki (2012)

Table 3 shows the re-calculated sample sizes (number of respondents) examined for each age range as panel survey data, which are just over 182,000 in total. This survey was a retrospective panel, using data from age 16 to current age (age at each year). Thus, the maximum of 45 years of data would exist for a person aged 60 at the time of the survey, for example. Accordingly, sample size fell as age increased. The sample size was 5,953 for ages 16-39; 4,060 for '40s' respondents; 2,121 for '50s' respondents; and 351 for respondents aged 60. However, this reduction in sample size was not due to drop-outs, but rather because the survey examined broad age classes for the purpose of conducting cohort comparison. As well as the year of survey and the ID numbers assigned to identify individuals, the items reorganized as panel survey data (refer to the Appendix for layout) included 30 items related

to basic attributes, including secondary items; 13 items related to past situation in April of each year; and 15 items related to important life events occurring each year, for a total of 58 items. Viewed as panel survey data, the total number of responses reached a huge number at slightly over 4 million data items, giving further evidence of the comprehensiveness of this survey.

Table 3   Sample sizes by sex and age range (panel data set)

Age	Total	Male	Female	Age	Total	Male	Female	Age	Total	Male	Female
Total	182,137	97,302	84,835	31	5,887	3,093	2,794	47	2,594	1,439	1,155
16	5,953	3,128	2,825	32	5,757	3,037	2,720	48	2,424	1,343	1,081
17	5,953	3,128	2,825	33	5,608	2,978	2,630	49	2,264	1,256	1,008
18	5,953	3,128	2,825	34	5,459	2,914	2,545	50	2,121	1,174	947
19	5,953	3,128	2,825	35	5,278	2,822	2,456	51	2,060	1,134	926
20	5,953	3,128	2,825	36	4,987	2,670	2,317	52	2,060	1,134	926
21	5,953	3,128	2,825	37	4,727	2,529	2,198	53	1,820	1,018	802
22	5,953	3,128	2,825	38	4,495	2,414	2,081	54	1,553	877	676
23	5,953	3,128	2,825	39	4,283	2,303	1,980	55	1,335	753	582
24	5,953	3,128	2,825	40	4,060	2,177	1,883	56	1,141	648	493
25	5,953	3,128	2,825	41	3,863	2,077	1,786	57	944	556	388
26	5,953	3,128	2,825	42	3,655	1,975	1,680	58	767	460	307
27	5,953	3,128	2,825	43	3,444	1,867	1,577	59	574	355	219
28	5,953	3,128	2,825	44	3,256	1,780	1,476	60	351	232	119
29	5,953	3,128	2,825	45	3,064	1,686	1,378	61	180	120	60
30	5,953	3,128	2,825	46	2,831	1,561	1,270				

2.6 Some Attributes of the Survey Sample

Our survey was an Internet survey using publicly recruited monitors. According to the JILPT (2005), respondents possess similar characteristics as postal survey respondents (higher educational background, shorter working time, stronger feelings of anxiety/dissatisfaction, etc.). Furthermore, the survey examined only people who had kept their Social Security Statements and who agreed to permit transcription of these.

Here we will compare marital status, final level of educational attainment, employment status, and category of insured persons with those from the public statistical records for each sex and age class, and highlight some attributes of the sample in this survey.

Table 4 shows sample sizes broken down by sex, age range, and marital status (valid responses only; same below). After comparing these with the 2010 Japan Population Census results (Table 5), we confirmed that in our survey, among 30s respondents, men were slightly less likely to be married while women were slightly more likely to be married. Aside from this, no other major discrepancies were observed overall in regard to distribution by marital status.

Table 6 shows sample sizes by sex, age range, and final level of educational attainment. Comparing these results with the 2007 Employment Status Survey (Table 7), we see that our sample contains more respondents with higher education backgrounds at all age ranges. For example, looking at the rate of males in their 50s who are university graduates or higher, our survey shows 71.4% among respondents, while the Employment Status Survey is lower at 30.4%. This sort of sampling selection bias is evident across all age ranges and both sexes, although varying in extent, indicating that our survey is skewed towards respondents with

higher educational attainment. This is due to the fact that Internet users tend to have higher educational backgrounds and the fact that our respondents were those keeping their Social Security Statements.

Table 4   Sample sizes by sex, age range, and marital status

Current Age (Sex)	Total	Married	Unmarried	Divorced/ Separated	Widowed
Total	5,953	4,185	1,407	311	50
	(100.0 %)	(70.3 %)	(23.6 %)	(5.2 %)	(0.8 %)
30s (Male)	999	498	476	25	0
	(100.0 %)	(49.8 %)	(47.6 %)	(2.5 %)	(0.0 %)
30s (Female)	975	715	228	30	2
	(100.0 %)	(73.3 %)	(23.4 %)	(3.1 %)	(0.2 %)
40s (Male)	995	651	296	46	2
	(100.0 %)	(65.4 %)	(29.7 %)	(4.6 %)	(0.2 %)
40s (Female)	924	696	161	63	4
	(100.0 %)	(75.3 %)	(17.4 %)	(6.8 %)	(0.4 %)
50s (Male)	1,134	875	179	72	8
	(100.0 %)	(77.2 %)	(15.8 %)	(6.3 %)	(0.7 %)
50s (Female)	926	750	67	75	34
	(100.0 %)	(81.0 %)	(7.2 %)	(8.1 %)	(3.7 %)

Table 5   Total population by sex, age range, and marital status

(units: thousands)

Current Age (Sex)	Total	Married	Unmarried	Divorced/ Separated	Widowed
Total	50,275	35,078	11,407	3,169	621
	(100.0 %)	(69.8 %)	(22.7 %)	(6.3 %)	(1.2 %)
30s (Male)	8,935	5,009	3,662	255	8
	(100.0 %)	(56.1 %)	(41.0 %)	(2.9 %)	(0.1 %)
30s (Female)	8,800	5,778	2,494	504	24
	(100.0 %)	(65.7 %)	(28.3 %)	(5.7 %)	(0.3 %)
40s (Male)	8,253	5,672	2,118	435	28
	(100.0 %)	(68.7 %)	(25.7 %)	(5.3 %)	(0.3 %)
40s (Female)	8,212	6,136	1,236	741	98
	(100.0 %)	(74.7 %)	(15.1 %)	(9.0 %)	(1.2 %)
50s (Male)	7,964	6,071	1,287	504	103
	(100.0 %)	(76.2 %)	(16.2 %)	(6.3 %)	(1.3 %)
50s (Female)	8,112	6,413	610	729	360
	(100.0 %)	(79.1 %)	(7.5 %)	(9.0 %)	(4.4 %)

Note: Excludes those whose marital status is unknown
Source: The 2010 Japan Population Census (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, 2012)

Table 6   Sample sizes by sex, age range, and final level of educational attainment

Current Age (Sex)	Total	Junior high school	Senior high school	Vocational school	Technical college	University undergraduate	Graduate school
Total	5,953	45	1,448	582	845	2,727	306
	(100.0 %)	(0.8 %)	(24.3 %)	(9.8 %)	(14.2 %)	(45.8 %)	(5.1 %)
30s (Male)	999	10	194	116	25	528	126
	(100.0 %)	(1.0 %)	(19.4 %)	(11.6 %)	(2.5 %)	(52.9 %)	(12.6 %)
30s (Female)	975	6	207	106	227	402	27
	(100.0 %)	(0.6 %)	(21.2 %)	(10.9 %)	(23.3 %)	(41.2 %)	(2.8 %)
40s (Male)	995	8	199	108	37	570	73
	(100.0 %)	(0.8 %)	(20.0 %)	(10.9 %)	(3.7 %)	(57.3 %)	(7.3 %)
40s (Female)	924	4	291	120	261	243	5
	(100.0 %)	(0.4 %)	(31.5 %)	(13.0 %)	(28.2 %)	(26.3 %)	(0.5 %)
50s (Male)	1,134	10	213	52	49	741	69
	(100.0 %)	(0.9 %)	(18.8 %)	(4.6 %)	(4.3 %)	(65.3 %)	(6.1 %)
50s (Female)	926	7	344	80	246	243	6
	(100.0 %)	(0.8 %)	(37.1 %)	(8.6 %)	(26.6 %)	(26.2 %)	(0.6 %)

Table 7   Total population by sex, age range, and final level of educational attainment

(units: ten thousands)

Current Age (Sex)	Total	Junior high school	Senior high school	Vocational school	Technical college	University undergraduate	Graduate school
Total	5,191	429	2,308	619	585	1,153	97
	(100.0 %)	(8.3 %)	(44.5 %)	(11.9 %)	(11.3 %)	(22.2 %)	(1.9 %)
30s (Male)	925	61	366	137	32	290	39
	(100.0 %)	(6.6 %)	(39.5 %)	(14.9 %)	(3.5 %)	(31.3 %)	(4.2 %)
30s (Female)	907	37	346	154	208	153	10
	(100.0 %)	(4.1 %)	(38.1 %)	(17.0 %)	(22.9 %)	(16.9 %)	(1.0 %)
40s (Male)	785	49	338	73	26	274	24
	(100.0 %)	(6.2 %)	(43.1 %)	(9.3 %)	(3.4 %)	(34.9 %)	(3.1 %)
40s (Female)	775	30	359	113	165	102	5
	(100.0 %)	(3.8 %)	(46.4 %)	(14.6 %)	(21.3 %)	(13.2 %)	(0.7 %)
50s (Male)	895	135	413	49	26	255	17
	(100.0 %)	(15.1 %)	(46.2 %)	(5.4 %)	(2.9 %)	(28.5 %)	(1.9 %)
50s (Female)	904	119	486	93	127	78	2
	(100.0 %)	(13.1 %)	(53.7 %)	(10.3 %)	(14.0 %)	(8.6 %)	(0.2 %)

Note: excludes currently enrolled students and unknown cases.
Source: 2007 Employment Status Survey (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, 2009)

This survey's sample selection bias towards respondents with higher educational backgrounds is also verified by comparison with the 2010 Japan Population Census (Table 8). The Population Census breaks educational attainments into the following 4 levels: junior high school, senior high school, technical college, and university/graduate school. According to the 2010 Census results, no more than 34.1% of men in their 50s were university/ graduate school graduates.

Table 8 Number of total population by sex, age range, and final level of educational attainment
(units: ten thousands)

Current Age (Sex)	Total	Junior high school	Senior high school	Technical college	University/ Graduate school
Total	4,488	319	2,106	916	1,147
	(100.0 %)	(7.1 %)	(46.9 %)	(20.4 %)	(25.6 %)
30s (Male)	772	50	329	113	280
	(100.0 %)	(6.5 %)	(42.6 %)	(14.6 %)	(36.3 %)
30s (Female)	772	31	299	274	168
	(100.0 %)	(4.0 %)	(38.7 %)	(35.5 %)	(21.8 %)
40s (Male)	734	48	347	78	261
	(100.0 %)	(6.6 %)	(47.3 %)	(10.6 %)	(35.5 %)
40s (Female)	741	31	371	235	104
	(100.0 %)	(4.1 %)	(50.1 %)	(31.7 %)	(14.0 %)
50s (Male)	726	87	346	46	248
	(100.0 %)	(12.0 %)	(47.6 %)	(6.3 %)	(34.1 %)
50s (Female)	744	72	415	170	87
	(100.0 %)	(9.7 %)	(55.8 %)	(22.8 %)	(11.6 %)

Note: excludes pre-schoolers, currently enrolled students, and unknown cases.
Source: The 2010 Japan Population Census (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, 2011b)

Table 9 shows sample sizes by sex and employment status. Comparing these results with the 2007 Employment Status Survey (Table 10), we see that in our survey sample, for males of all age ranges, the proportion of regular full-time employees is rather low. For example, the percentage of regular full-time employees among the male 50s sample in our survey was only 53.7%, which rose to 69.9% according to the Employment Status Survey. This gap has arisen due to our survey's exclusion of members of mutual aid associations (since civil servants etc. comprise 10.3% of the population of males aged in their 50s). Given this point, we do not believe that any major bias has occurred in our survey. Moreover, among women aged 40 plus, the percentage of part-time workers was slightly low, aside from a rather low percentage of regular full-time employees. Additionally, the percentage of non-employed was remarkably high across all age ranges, which is due to a large sample of people insured as category 3 members (as described below). Note that the survey used for comparison (the 2007 Employment Status Survey) predated the global financial crisis of September 2008, and it is possible that the employment situation underwent some structural changes after the 2007 survey.

Table 11 shows sample sizes by sex and pension membership in various categories. Comparing with data provided by the actuarial working group of the Social Security Council, we see that our sample's membership in various pension categories among females in their 40s and 50s differed greatly, aside from the fact that in our survey the percentage of respondents with Category 1 membership was low overall. For example, in our survey the percentages of women with Category 3 membership aged in their 40s and 50s were 52.1% and 49.0%, but the actual percentages are 36.9% and 30.4%, which represents differences of

10 percentage points or more. Thus, our survey sample is skewed toward women of those

Table 9 Sample sizes by sex, age range, and employment status

Current Age (Sex)	Total	Self-employed	Family worker	Full-time employee	Part-time employee etc.	On leave	Non-employed
Total	5,953	486	120	2,454	1,191	293	1,409
	(100.0 %)	(8.2 %)	(2.0 %)	(41.2 %)	(20.0 %)	(4.9 %)	(23.7 %)
30s (Male)	999	67	4	725	128	36	39
	(100.0 %)	(6.7 %)	(0.4 %)	(72.6 %)	(12.8 %)	(3.6 %)	(3.9 %)
30s (Female)	975	21	26	196	262	41	429
	(100.0 %)	(2.2 %)	(2.7 %)	(20.1 %)	(26.9 %)	(4.2 %)	(44.0 %)
40s (Male)	995	118	8	699	83	53	34
	(100.0 %)	(11.9 %)	(0.8 %)	(70.3 %)	(8.3 %)	(5.3 %)	(3.4 %)
40s (Female)	924	37	36	134	280	51	386
	(100.0 %)	(4.0 %)	(3.9 %)	(14.5 %)	(30.3 %)	(5.5 %)	(41.8 %)
50s (Male)	1,134	193	6	609	154	77	95
	(100.0 %)	(17.0 %)	(0.5 %)	(53.7 %)	(13.6 %)	(6.8 %)	(8.4 %)
50s (Female)	926	50	40	91	284	35	426
	(100.0 %)	(5.4 %)	(4.3 %)	(9.8 %)	(30.7 %)	(3.8 %)	(46.0 %)

Table 10 Total population by sex, age range, and employment status

(units: ten thousands)

Current Age (Sex)	Total	Self-employed	Family worker	Full-time employee	Part-time employee etc.	On leave	Non-employed
Total	5,315	340	87	2,787	1,053	234	813
	(100.0 %)	(6.4 %)	(1.6 %)	(52.4 %)	(19.8 %)	(4.4 %)	(15.3 %)
30s (Male)	947	53	8	745	84	29	29
	(100.0 %)	(5.6 %)	(0.8 %)	(78.6 %)	(8.9 %)	(3.0 %)	(3.0 %)
30s (Female)	928	23	14	277	279	67	267
	(100.0 %)	(2.5 %)	(1.6 %)	(29.9 %)	(30.1 %)	(7.2 %)	(28.8 %)
40s (Male)	800	72	5	629	50	19	25
	(100.0 %)	(9.0 %)	(0.6 %)	(78.7 %)	(6.2 %)	(2.3 %)	(3.1 %)
40s (Female)	793	28	19	265	266	50	166
	(100.0 %)	(3.5 %)	(2.4 %)	(33.4 %)	(33.5 %)	(6.3 %)	(20.9 %)
50s (Male)	917	123	3	638	76	26	50
	(100.0 %)	(13.5 %)	(0.3 %)	(69.6 %)	(8.3 %)	(2.8 %)	(5.5 %)
50s (Female)	930	41	38	233	298	44	276
	(100.0 %)	(4.4 %)	(4.1 %)	(25.1 %)	(32.0 %)	(4.8 %)	(29.7 %)

Source: 2007 Employment Status Survey (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, 2009)

ages with Category 3 membership. Furthermore, regardless of the fact that members of mutual aid associations were not included in our survey, the number of those with Category 2 membership was about the same for both Tables 11 and 12, which indicates that, except for women aged in their 40s and 50s, our survey is more biased towards those with Category 2 membership than those with Category 1 membership.

3. Concluding Remarks

Summing up the preceding review of our survey, the following characteristics are evident

in our sample: 1) a bias toward higher educational background among both males and

Table 11   Sample size by sex, age range, and category of pension membership (at April 2008)

Current Age (Sex)	Total	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Non-member
Total	5,953	1,219	3,247	1,275	212
	(100.0 %)	(20.5 %)	(54.5 %)	(21.4 %)	(3.6 %)
30s (Male)	999	205	768	2	24
	(100.0 %)	(20.5 %)	(76.9 %)	(0.2 %)	(2.4 %)
30s (Female)	975	142	424	318	91
	(100.0 %)	(14.6 %)	(43.5 %)	(32.6 %)	(9.3 %)
40s (Male)	995	183	779	5	28
	(100.0 %)	(18.4 %)	(78.3 %)	(0.5 %)	(2.8 %)
40s (Female)	924	159	256	481	28
	(100.0 %)	(17.2 %)	(27.7 %)	(52.1 %)	(3.0 %)
50s (Male)	1,134	296	800	15	23
	(100.0 %)	(26.1 %)	(70.5 %)	(1.3 %)	(2.0 %)
50s (Female)	926	234	220	454	18
	(100.0 %)	(25.3 %)	(23.8 %)	(49.0 %)	(1.9 %)

Note: 'Non-members' includes those who responded that they did not have any entries in their Social Security Statements. Also, Category 2 includes only those covered by the KNH, excluding members of mutual aid associations.

Table 12   Number of insured persons by sex, age range, and category of pension membership (at March 2008)

(units: ten thousands)

Current Age (Sex)	Total	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Total	51,837	13,860	28,214	9,763
	(100.0 %)	(26.7 %)	(54.4 %)	(18.8 %)
30s (Male)	9,432	2,251	7,161	20
	(100.0 %)	(23.9 %)	(75.9 %)	(0.2 %)
30s (Female)	9,161	2,032	3,636	3,493
	(100.0 %)	(22.2 %)	(39.7 %)	(38.1 %)
40s (Male)	7,865	1,870	5,975	20
	(100.0 %)	(23.8 %)	(76.0 %)	(0.3 %)
40s (Female)	7,817	1,748	2,883	3,186
	(100.0 %)	(22.4 %)	(36.9 %)	(40.8 %)
50s (Male)	8,677	2,763	5,858	56
	(100.0 %)	(31.8 %)	(67.5 %)	(0.6 %)
50s (Female)	8,885	3,196	2,701	2,988
	(100.0 %)	(36.0 %)	(30.4 %)	(33.6 %)

Note: The number of non-members is not publicly disclosed.
Source: The Actuarial Working Group of Social Security Council (2009).

females; 2) fewer females in their 30s and fewer males of all ages had Category 1 membership, with more tending to have Category 2 membership; and 3) many females in their 40s and 50s had Category 3 membership. Two constraints on the sample used in this survey were the fact that respondents were drawn from those registered as monitors with an Internet survey company and the fact that the sample was limited to those who had kept their

Social Security Statements. According to our screening survey, around two-thirds of people keep their Social Security Statements. Since our sample was assigned only by sex and by age range, the fact that these sorts of biases are present in the sample suggests that persons with an interest in pensions tended to be those with Category 2 membership rather than Category 1 membership, as well as women in their 40s and 50s with Category 3 membership.

Social Security Statements contain almost entirely accurate long-term records of changes in employment status, monthly earnings, and history of contribution payments, starting from the moment a person commences working up to the present. They also contain information on the estimated amount of pension benefits and the amount of contributions paid. In addition to these items of information, our survey also asked questions about significant life events (those believed to be remembered accurately). As a result, it represents the acquisition at a single stroke of an almost perfect panel data set spanning a maximum of 45 years. Needless to say, despite exhibiting a distinctive Internet-survey sample selection bias, collection of this sort of long-term, almost flawless panel data is unprecedented in Japan. Even worldwide, such examples are very few,[7] making this data all the more precious. This treasure trove of information will doubtless prove extremely useful.[8]

We have high hopes that our data set from this survey will be widely utilized in future with the latest quantitative analysis methods.[9] We will make our data set available to researchers and graduate students, both in Japan and overseas, as soon as possible, to share it as an intellectual asset for the academic community.

Since this survey was limited to those who had kept their Social Security Statements, we first conducted a screening survey to determine whether or not potential respondents had kept their Social Security Statements. Aside from those reaching milestone ages (35, 45, and 58 years of age), the version of the Social Security Statement containing highly detailed information was sent out only once, in 2009. Despite the fact that at the time this survey was conducted, 18 to 30 months had passed since the issue of the 2009 Social Security Statement, around two-thirds of the people in question had kept their Social Security Statement. The 2009 Social Security Statement was originally sent out to confirm all the contents of individuals' detailed records; however, even after this confirmation was complete, many people kept it. We judged that this was because the Social Security Statement was a simple summary of past employment history, enabling people to look back over their own life history so far, but which also indicated their estimated amount of old-age pension benefits: essential in planning for life after retirement. Although the impression remains that the main purpose of the Social Security Statement is simply to confirm individual records, it also plays a significant role as a basic source of information in planning for retirement. In future,

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[7] The PSID (the United States), the SOEP (Germany), and the LINDA (Sweden) are exceptional examples of the long-term panel. See Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF) for details. Regarding those persons of age 50 and above, the HRS (the United States), the SHARE (Europe), the ELSA (the United Kingdom), and the JSTAR (Japan) are available as the longitudinal panel.

[8] In recent years, panel surveys have been conducted in Japan by the government, universities etc., but for those born in the 1950s, panel data on their younger years has never before been obtained. Even the Japan Panel Survey of Consumers (Institute for Research on Household Economics), which was a comparatively early panel survey, only commenced in 1993. Our survey, which presents panel data for the employment situation and wage situation during the 1970s, should also prove invaluable for analyzing the employment behavior in their younger years of currently middle-aged and elderly persons.

[9] For example, since the wages profile for Category 2 insured persons has been accurately surveyed, there are already researchers undertaking detailed analysis of differences in the job change situation, wages profile (lifetime wages), and "Bad Start, Bad Finish" issues between generations. See Takayama- Shiraishi (2012) and Hori- Iwamoto (2012).

we hope that its content might be redesigned with an emphasis on the latter role.

Furthermore, the Social Security Statement contains extremely valuable information from the perspective of those conducting economic analyses, since the contents of the Social Security Statement represent administrative (governmental) data. While complete and full disclosure of individuals' data is not easy to achieve, it will be nearly impossible to identify individuals if the names of employers etc. are masked. In Japan, following the amendment of the Statistics Act, new mechanisms are now being established to process survey data marking individuals into an anonymous format before provision to researchers. The authors strongly hope that these same mechanisms will also be able to process administrative data into anonymous data for provision to researchers.

Finally, although this survey examined respondents drawn from those registered as monitors with an Internet survey company, in order to avoid the sample selection bias particular to Internet surveys, it would be worth attempting to conduct interview surveys and/or mail-in surveys using standard random sampling methods. Under the current system, the Social Security Statement is sent to all covered persons on their birthday every year. Utilizing this characteristic, we could narrow down the sample to those attaining milestone ages (35, 45, and 58 years), who are sent the detailed version of the Social Security Statement, and conduct random sampling against the Basic Residents' Register etc. Aligning the survey date with respondents' birthdays would enable us to begin targeting potential respondents who are not in the habit of keeping their Social Security Statements. However, interview surveys and mail-in surveys possess their own particular, unavoidable forms of sample selection bias. Whichever methods are used, sample selection bias must be sufficiently considered when addressing the results obtained.

Contact Information:
Please direct any enquiries regarding trial use of the panel data related to this survey to:
Noriyuki Takayama (n-takayama@nensoken.or.jp）

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Appendices

Appendix A

Layout Form of Panel Data from the 2011 LOSEF Internet Version

Survey Item	Question Code	No. of Category	Column		Details and Notes
Survey Year		N	1	A	Fiscal 1965～2011（years aged 15 or more）
Basic Personal Attributes					
Sample ID		N	2	B	
Sex		2	3	C	1. Male 2. Female
Age		N	4	D	Age as at the end (31st March) of survey year
Prefecture Code		47	5	E	
Regional block		7	8	F	
Sample Type		8	7	G	1. Male 30's, 2. Female 30's, 3. Male 40's, 4. Female 40's, 5. Male 50's（the 2010 Survey）, 6. Female 50's（the 2010 Survey）, 7. Male 50's（the 2011 Survey）, 8. Female 50's（the 2011 Survey）
Birth year and month	q1_1fa	N	8	H	Year
	q1_2fa	N	9	I	Month
Birth year (Fiscal year)		N	10	J	Birth year
Age at initial employment		N	11	K	Initial employment status numbered 1 to 10 below. If none, then left empty.
Initial employment status		10	12	L	1. Company executive 2. Regular employee 3. Self-employed 4. Part-time worker 5. Casual and temporary worker 6. Dispatched worker 7. Contract worker 8. Entrusted worker 9. Family worker performed at home 10. Other
Final level of educational attainment	q20	6	13	M	1. Junior high school, 2. Senior high school, 3.Vocational school, 4. Junior college/technical college, 5. Undergraduate University, 6. Postgraduate University, 7. Other
Date of the last update of Social Security Statement	q2_1fa	N	14	N	Year
	q2_2fa	N	15	O	Month
	q2_3fa	N	16	P	Date
Number of membership months to date	q3_1fa	N	17	Q	National Pension: Category 1 (excluding unpaid periods)
	q3_2fa	N	18	R	National Pension: Category 3
	q3_3fa	N	19	S	Subtotal of National Pension
	q3_4fa	N	20	T	KNH
	q3_5fa	N	21	U	Seamen's Insurance
	q3_6fa	N	22	V	Total (excluding unpaid periods)

Estimated annual amount of pension benefit at age 65	q4_1fa	N	23	W	Old-age Basic Pension
	q4_2fa	N	24	X	Earnings-related pension of KNH (excluding the KNK's contracted-out portion)
	q4_3fa	N	25	Y	Transitional additional benefits of KNH
	q4_4fa	N	26	Z	Combined total (excluding the KNK's contracted-out portion)
Accumulated amount of contributions already made	q5_1fa	N	27	AA	Category 1
	q5_2fa	N	28	AB	Category 2（employee portion only）
	q5_3fa	N	29	AC	Total
Total number of unpaid months	q6_1fa	N	30	AD	Category 1
Total number of months covered by the KNK	q6_2fa	N	31	AE	
Number of job changes to date		N	32	AF	Count=1 each time a Category 2 person entered in or left his/her company. (0 if not covered at all by KNH)

Situations as at April Each Year

Category of insured persons		4	33	AG	1. Category 1 2. Category 2 3. Category 3 (only 1986 or later) 4. Not covered nor any record
Pensionable remunerations		N	34	AH	Category 2 only
Pensionable remunerations after revaluation		N	35	AI	Converted to 2011 values
Payment record and exemptions in National Pension		13	36	AJ	National Pension （excluding category 2 persons） 1. Contribution completed 2. Contribution unpaid 3. Category 3： Since 1986 4. Fully exempt 5. Half exempt： Since 2002 6. Half unpaid： Since 2002 7. 3／4 exempt： Since 2007 8. 3／4 unpaid： Since 2007 9. 1／4 exempt： Since 2007 10. 1／4 unpaid： Since 2007 11. Special arrangement for Students： Since 2000 12. Additional contribution 13. Unknown

Employment status		14	37	AK	1. Company executive 2. Regular employee 3. Self-employed 4. Part-time worker 5. Casual and temporary worker 6. Dispatched worker 7. Contract worker 8. Entrusted worker 9. Family worker performed at home 10. Other 11. Not in paid employment, seeking employment 12. Not in paid employment, not seeking employment（e.g., helping with house work） 13. Not in paid employment, engaging in full-time house work 14. Student
Marital status		4	38	AL	1. single, 2. married (includes common-law marriage), 3. divorced/separated, 4. widowed
Number of children		N	39	AM	Living at family home or children living separately while attending school who are being sent allowances
Residence with parents		4	40	AN	1. Not residing with any parents 2. Residing with own parent(s) 3. Residing with spouse's parent(s) 4. Residing with both own and spouse's parent(s)
Employment status of spouse		14	41	AO	1. Company executive 2. Regular employee 3. Self-employed 4. Part-time worker 5. Casual and temporary worker 6. Dispatched worker 7. Contract worker 8. Entrusted worker 9. Family worker performed at home 10. Other 11. Not in paid employment, seeking employment 12. Not in paid employment, not seeking employment（e.g., helping with house work） 13. Not in paid employment, engaging in full-time house work 14. Student

Residence Area		4	42	AP	1. Kei-hin (Tokyo-Yokohama), 2. Chukyo (Nagoya), 3. Kei-han-shin (Kyoto-Osaka-Kobe), 4. Other
Employer ID		N	43	AQ	ID number for companies employing the respondent as Category 2 person. Each is numbered from 1 to 10 from the first company.
Size of Company					1. Less than 5 employees 2. 5–29, 3. 30–99, 4. 100–299, 5. 300–499, 6. 500–999, 7. 1000–4999, 8. 5000 +
Industry of employer					1. Agriculture, forestry and fishery, 2. Construction, 3. Manufacturing, 4. Information and communications, 5. Transportation and delivery 6. Wholesale and retail trade, 7. Finance and insurance, 8. Real estate, 9. Scientific research, 10. Accommodation, food and beverage services, 11. Amusement and leisure, 12. Education, 13. Healthcare and welfare, 14. Other

Important Life Events in Each Fiscal Year

New or renewed entry or not		2	46	AT	As a Category 2 person
Order of employer		N	47	AU	Numbered from 1 to 10 in order of employment history.
Size of employer		8	48	AV	1. Less than 5 employees, 2. 5–29, 3. 30–99, 4. 100–299, 5. 300–499, 6. 500–999, 7. 1000–4999, 8. 5000+
Industry of employer					1. Agriculture, forestry and fishery, 2. Construction, 3. Manufacturing, 4. Information and communications, 5. Transportation and delivery 6. Wholesale and retail trade, 7. Finance and insurance, 8. Real estate, 9. Scientific research, 10. Accommodation, food and beverage services, 11. Amusement and leisure, 12. Education, 13. Healthcare and welfare, 14. Other
Type of work					1. Professional/technical, 2. Management, 3. Office work, 4. Sales work, 5. Service work, 6. Security work, 7. Transport/communication, 8. Production/manufacturing/field work, 9. Unknown
Employment status					1. Regular employee 2. Contract worker 3. Entrusted worker 4. Seconded employee 5. Dispatched worker 6. Temporary worker 7. Part-time worker 8. Other
Length of contract					1. Permanent (no stated limit), 2. 1 to 5 years, 3. 1 month to 12 months 4. Shorter than 1 month
Public job training or vocational training before					1. Public job training school attended. 2. Vocational training school/seminars and/or a

changing company					correspondence course taken at own expense. 3. Vocational training school, seminars and/or correspondence course taken at former (or new) company's expense. 4. Not any.
Left employment or not		2	54	BB	Whether or not ceased being a Category 2 person
Reasons for leaving employment					1. Bankruptcy, layoff, voluntary redundancy 2. Mandatory retirement or transferred to an affiliated company (includes being re-employed as an entrusted employee) 3. Ordinary dismissal 4. Termination of contract period (includes seasonal work) 5. Marriage, child-birth, child-raising 6. Caregiving for elderly parents 7. Other (including own preference)
Period of continuously employed months just before leaving		N	56	BD	Number of months
Married or not		2	57	BE	1=Married during the relevant year, empty=Not married
Divorced or not		2	58	BF	1=Divorced during the relevant year, empty=No divorced
Bereavement (spouse) or not		2	59	BG	1=Bereavement during the relevant year, empty=No bereavement
Childbirth or not		2	60	BH	Labeled with birth order number in case of childbirth, left empty if no childbirth. (in case of a male respondent, childbirth for his wife)

Notes

1   Missing values are left empty.

2   Age is calculated at the end (31st March) of the relevant fiscal year. Accordingly, unless students delayed entry or were kept back, graduation age is 16 years for junior high school, 19 years for senior high school, and 23 years for university undergraduates.

3   The data covers 5,953 respondents, and includes 182,137 responses.

4   Occurrence of marriage, divorce, or spousal bereavement was established by comparing marital status for each fiscal year with the next fiscal year.

5   In cases where a person repeatedly entered employment or left employment (employees' pension) twice or more during the same year, the data reflects only the initial entering or leaving employment.

6   Data on job changes/leaving employment is missing for those persons aged 50 years or over who were surveyed in 2010.

Appendix B

Layout Form of Raw Data after Data Merged

Questions	Item	Column		Details and Notes
	Sample ID	1	A	Sample ID
	Sex	2	B	1. Male 2. Female
	Age	3	C	Age as at the 31st March 2012
	Prefecture Code	4	D	Prefecture
	Area Code	5	E	Area
Sample type	cid	6	F	1. Male 30's, 2. Female 30's, 3. Male 40's, 4. Female 40's, 5. Male 50's（the 2010 Survey）, 6. Female 50's（the 2010 Survey）, 7. Male 50's（the 2011 Survey）, 8. Female 50's（the 2011 Survey）
Birth year and month	q1_1fa	7	G	Year
	q1_2fa	8	H	Month
Date of the last update of Social Security Statement	q2_1fa	9	I	Year
	q2_2fa	10	J	Month
	q2_3fa	11	K	Date
Number of membership months to date	q3_1fa	12	L	National Pension: Category 1 (excluding unpaid periods)
	q3_2fa	13	M	National Pension: Category 3
	q3_3fa	14	N	Subtotal of National Pension
	q3_4fa	15	O	KNH
	q3_5fa	16	P	Seamen's Insurance
	q3_6fa	17	Q	Total (excluding unpaid periods)
Estimated annual amount of pension benefits at age 65	q4_1fa	18	R	Old-age Basic Pension
	q4_2fa	19	S	Earnings-related pension of KNH (excluding the KNK's contracted-out portion)
	q4_3fa	20	T	Transitional additional benefits of KNH
	q4_4fa	21	U	Combined total (excluding the KNK's contracted-out portion)
Accumulated amount of paid contributions	q5_1fa	22	V	Category 1
	q5_2fa	23	W	Category 2 (employee portion only)
	q5_3fa	24	X	Total
Total number of unpaid months	q6_1fa	25	Y	Category 1
Total number of months covered by the KNK	q6_2fa	26	Z	
The first enrolment as a	q10_1fa	27	AA	Date of entry: Era (Era: Japanese Year)

KNH Category 2 person	q10_2fa	28	AB	Date of entry: Year
	q10_3fa	29	AC	Date of entry: Month
	q10_4fa	30	AD	Date of entry: Date
	q10_5fa	31	AE	Date of exit: Era
	q10_6fa	32	AF	Date of exit: Year
	q10_7fa	33	AG	Date of exit: Month
	q10_8fa	34	AH	Date of exit: Date
The 2nd to 10th enrolments as a KNH Category 2 person	q10_9fa | q10_80fa	35 | 106	AI | DB	op. cit.
Size of company: The 1st to 10th companies	q11_1fa | q11_19fa	107 | 116	DC | DL	1. Less than 5 employees 2. 5–29 3. 30–99 4. 100–299 5. 300–499 6. 500–999 7. 1000–4999 8. 5000+
Industry of employer: The 1st to 10th companies	q11_2fa | q11_20fa	117 | 126	DM | DV	1. Agriculture, forestry and fishery 2. Construction 3. Manufacturing 4. Information and communications 5. Transportation or delivery activities 6. Wholesale and retail trade 7. Finance and insurance 8. Real estate 9. Scientific research 10. Accommodation, food and beverage services 11. Amusement and leisure 12. Education 13. Healthcare and welfare 14. Other
Type of work The 1st to 10th companies	q12_1fa | q12_37fa	127 | 136	DW | EF	1. Professional/technical 2. Management 3. Office work 4. Sales work 5. Services work 6. Security work 7. Transport/communication 8. Production/manufacturing/field work 9. Unknown
Employment status The 1st to 10th companies	q12_2fa | q12_38fa	137 | 146	EG | EP	1. Regular employee 2. Contract worker 3. Entrusted worker 4. Seconded employee 5. Dispatched worker 6. Casual or temporary worker 7. Part-time worker 8. Other

Length of contract The 1st to 10th companies	q12_3fa | q12_39fa	147 | 156	EQ | EZ	1. Permanent (no stated limit) 2. 1 to 5 years 3. 1 to 12 months 4. Shorter than 1 month
Did you participate in public job training in order to get a job at the company/change job to the company? The 1st to 10th companies	q12_4fa | q12_40fa	157 | 166	FA | FJ	1. Public job training school attended 2. Vocational training school/seminars and/or a correspondence course taken at own expense 3. Vocational training school/seminars and/or a correspondence course taken at former (or new) company's expense 4. Not any
Reasons for leaving employment The 1st to 10th companies	q13_1fa | q13_10fa	167 | 176	FK | FT	1. Bankruptcy, layoff, voluntary redundancy 2. Mandatory retirement or transferred to an affiliated company (includes being re-employed as an entrusted employee) 3. Ordinary dismissal 4. Termination of contract period (includes seasonal work) 5. Marriage, childbirth, child-raising 6. Caregiving for elderly parents 7. Other (including own preference)

Pension System Enrolment, Employment and Family Formation since 1965

Pension System enrolled as at April of each year: 1965 ～ 2011 (for 47 years)	q7_1 | q7_47	177 | 223	FU | HO	1. KNH 2. National Pension 3. No record
Pensionable remunerations as at April of each year while enrolled in the KNH 1965 ～ 2011 (for 47 years)	q8_1 | q8_47	224 | 270	HP | JJ	Monthly amount
Payment record and exemptions in National Pension as at April of each year 1965 ～ 2011 (for 47 years)	q9_1 | q9_47	271 | 317	JK | LE	1. Contribution completed 2. Contribution unpaid 3. Category 3：Since 1986 4. Fully exempt 5. Half exempt：Since 2002 6. Half unpaid：Since 2002 7. 3／4 exempt：Since 2007 8. 3／4 unpaid：Since 2007 9. 1／4 exempt：Since 2007 10. 1／4 unpaid：Since 2007 11. Special arrangement for students：Since 2000 12. Additional contribution 13. Unknown
Employment status as at April of each year 1965 ～ 2011 (for 47 years)	q14_1	318	LF	1. Company executive 2. Regular employee 3. Self-employed 4. Part-time worker 5. Casual or temporary worker 6. Dispatched worker 7. Contract worker

	|	|	|	8. Entrusted worker 9. Family worker performing work at home 10. Other 11. Not in paid employment, seeking employment 12. Not in paid employment, not seeking employment（e.g., helping with house work） 13. Not in paid employment, engaging in full-time house work 14. Student
	q14_93	364	MZ	
Employment status as at April of each year: Other-Specific contents 1965 ～ 2011 (for 47 years)	q14_2 | q14_94	365 | 411	NA | OU	Specific contents
Marital status as at April of each year 1965 ～ 2011 (for 47 years)	q15_2 | q15_93	412 | 458	OV | QP	1=single, 2=married (includes common-law marriage), 3= divorced/separated, 4=widowed
Number of children as at April of each year 1965 ～ 2011 (for 47 years)	q15_1 | q15_94	459 | 505	QQ | SK	Children either living at family home or living separately to attend school while being supported by an allowance
Residence with parents 1965 ～ 2011 (for 47 years)	q16_1 | q16_47	506 | 552	SL | UF	1. Not residing with any parent 2. Residing only with own parent(s) 3. Residing only with spouse's parent(s) 4. Residing with both own and spouse's parent(s)
Employment status of spouse as at April of each year. 1965 ～ 2011 （for 47 years）	q17_1 | q17_93	553 | 599	UG | WA	1. Company executive 2. Regular employee 3. Self-employed 4. Part-time worker 5. Casual or temporary worker 6. Dispatched worker 7. Contract worker 8. Entrusted worker 9. Family worker performing work at home 10. Other 11. Not in paid employment, seeking employment 12. Not in paid employment, not seeking employment（e.g., helping with house work） 13. Not in paid employment, engaging in full-time house work 14. Student
Employment status of the spouse as at April of each year: Other-specific contents 1965 ～ 2011 (for 47 years)	q17_2 | q17_94	600 | 646	WB | XV	Specific contents
Residential area as at April of each year (not necessary to answer for the period before you enrolled in any pension system) 1965 ～ 2011 (for 47 years)	q129_1	647 | 693	XW | ZQ	1. Kei-hin (Tokyo-Yokohama) 2. Chūkyō (Nagoya) 3. Kei-han-shin (Kyoto-Osaka-Kobe) 4. Others

Questionnaires on Family Members

Current marital status	q18	694		1. Married (includes remarriage and common-law marriage) 2. Cohabiting 3. Divorced 4. Separated 5. Widowed 6. Single Note: Living separately due to job assignments is considered as "married"
Current employment status	q19	695		1. Company executive 2. Regular employee 3. Self-employed 4. Part-time worker 5. Casual or temporary worker 6. Dispatched worker 7. Contract worker 8. Entrusted worker 9. Family worker performing work at home 10. Other 11. Not in paid employment, seeking employment 12. Not in paid employment, not seeking employment (e.g., helping with house work) 13. Not in paid employment, engaging in full-time house work 14. Student
Current employment status: Other-specific contents	q19_10_1fa	696		Specific contents
Final level of educational attainment	q20	697		1. Junior high school 2. Senior high school 3. Vocational school 4. Junior college/technical college 5. University undergraduate 6. University postgraduate 7. Other
	q20_7_1fa	698		Other-specific contents
Number of household members	q21_1fa	699		Including spouses living separately due to job assignments, and children living separately to attend school while being supported by an allowance
Family relationship of household members living in the same family home	q22_1	700		Spouse (including common-law marriage, excluding cohabiting partner)
	q22_2	701		Child(ren)
	q22_3	702		Spouse(s) of child(ren)
	q22_4	703		Grandchild(ren)
	q22_5	704		Own parent(s)
	q22_6	705		Spouse's parent(s)
	q22_7	706		Grandparent(s)
	q22_8	707		Sister(s)/brother(s)
	q22_9	708		Other (e.g., cohabiting partner)

Residence with parents	q23_1fa	709		Own father（Living together/ Living separately/ Deceased）
	q23_3fa	710		Own mother（Living together/ Living separately/ Deceased）
	q23_5fa	711		Spouse's father（Living together/ Living separately/ Deceased）
	q23_7fa	712		Spouse's mother（Living together/ Living separately/ Deceased）
Age of parents	q23_2fa	713		Own father
	q23_4fa	714		Own Mother
	q23_6fa	715		Spouse's father
	q23_8fa	716		Spouse's mother
Birth year and month of spouse/partner	q24_1fa	717		Year
	q24_2fa	718		Month
Final level of educational attainment of spouse	q25	719		1. Junior high school 2. Senior high school 3. Vocational school 4. Junior college/technical college 5. University undergraduate 6. University postgraduate 7. Other
	q25_7_1fa	720		Other-specific contents
Is your spouse/partner currently in paid employment? If so, how many hours a week does he/she work?	q26	721		1. In paid employment 2. Not in paid employment
	q26_1_1fa	722		Working hours per day
	q26_1_2fa	723		Working hours per week
	q26_1_3fa	724		Working weeks per year (There are 52 weeks in a year)
	q27_1fa	725		Type of job
Reasons for remaining single/not remarried	q28_1	726		Too young to marry (remarry)
	q28_2	727		Too old to marry (remarry)
	q28_3	728		Not feeling the need to marry (remarry) yet
	q28_4	729		Wanting to focus on career (studies) now
	q28_5	730		Wanting to enjoy hobbies and leisure time
	q28_6	731		Not wanting to lose the freedom of being single
	q28_7	732		Not having met the right person yet
	q28_8	733		Not good at having relationships with the opposite sex
	q28_9	734		Income is too low
	q28_10	735		Not having enough funds to get married (remarried)
	q28_11	736		Not having any housing suitable for a couple
	q28_12	737		Your parents, friends, or others are (probably) against you marrying (remarrying)

	q28_13	738		You are concerned about possibly emotionally hurting your spouse if you marry
	q28_14	739		Other
How often do you cook dinner?	q29	740		1. Almost every day 2. 5-6 days a week 3. 3-4 days a week 4. Almost never
Where do you usually get food when you prepare/eat dinner?	q30_1	741		Supermarket, grocery store
	q30_2	742		Convenience store
	q30_3	743		Ready-made/prepared food store or food floor in a department store
	q30_4	744		Restaurant, company cafeteria
	q30_5	745		Delivery
	q30_6	746		Other
	q30_6_1fa	747		Other: Specific place
How often do you participate in the activities listed ? 1. Every day 2. More than once a week 3. More than once a month 4. Sometimes 5. Not interested	q31_1	748		Going to concerts and movies
	q31_2	749		Watching sports (e.g., baseball, soccer)
	q31_3	750		Playing sports
	q31_4	751		Artistic/musical activities
	q31_5	752		Meeting friends and relatives
	q31_6	753		Volunteer work
	q31_7	754		Studying for qualifications/licenses
	q31_8	755		Reading books
	q31_9	756		Reading newspapers
	q31_10	757		Using computer (other than for work)
	q31_11	758		Browsing or writing using an SNS (social networking service) such as Facebook or twitter.
How much do you use these information/communication devices each day, other than for paid work? 1. None 2. 0-30 min. 3. 30 min. - 1 hour 4. 1-2 hours 5. 2-3 hours 6. 3-4 hours 7. Over 4 hours	q32_1	759		【non-work days】Mobile phone
	q32_2	760		【non-work days】iPad/iPod
	q32_3	761		【non-work days】Personal computer
	q32_4	762		【non-work days】Television
	q32_5	763		【non-work days】Radio
	q32_6	764		【work days】Mobile phone
	q32_7	765		【work days】iPad/iPod
	q32_8	766		【work days】Personal computer
	q32_9	767		【work days】Television
	q32_10	768		【work days】Radio

Questionnaires for Atypical Employees

	q33_1	769		Wanting to have more time for yourself
	q33_2	770		You want to keep receiving marital tax deduction, or to remain as a Category 3 insured person in the pension system
	q33_3	771		Child-raising
	q33_4	772		Acting as caregiver for family member(s)
	q33_5	773		For reasons of your own health
	q33_6	774		Not being able to find a job as a regular employee
Main reason for current work as an atypical employee	q33_7	775		Not wanting to have heavy responsibilities
	q33_8	776		Participating in volunteer or other activities
	q33_9	777		Studying for a qualification/license
	q33_10	778		Working temporarily at current job due to inability to find more desirable work
	q33_11	779		No specific reasons
	q33_12	780		Other
	q33_12_1fa	781		Other: Specific contents
Industry of employer	q34	782		1. Agriculture, forestry and fishery 2. Construction 3. Manufacturing 4. Information and communications 5. Transportation or delivery activities 6. Wholesale and retail trade 7. Finance and insurance 8. Real estate 9. Scientific research 10. Accommodation, food and beverage services 11. Amusement and leisure 12. Education 13. Healthcare and welfare 14. Other
Size of company you currently work for	q35	783		1. Less than 5 employees 2. 5–29 3. 30–99 4. 100–299 5. 300–499 6. 500–999 7. 1000–4999 8. 5000+
	q36_1	784		Non-regular employees may work in the place of regular employees.
	q36_2	785		Jobs that were previously the responsibility of regular employees are now the responsibility of non-regular employees.
How is work shared between regular and non-regular employees at your workplace?	q36_3	786		Regular employees' jobs and non-regular employees' jobs are clearly separated.
	q36_4	787		No non-regular employees at workplace
	q36_5	788		Other

	q36_5_1fa	789		Other: Specific contents

<p style="text-align:center">Childcare Leave</p>

Is there childcare leave at your workplace?	q37	790		1. Yes 2. No 3. Unknown
Have you ever taken childcare leave? Would you like to do so in the future?	q38	791		1. You have taken childcare leave 2. You would like to do so in the future 3. You have never taken childcare leave and do not intend to do so in the future
Problems in using support systems which promote the balancing of childcare and work	q39_1	792		1. Increases the burden on other employees
	q39_2	793		2. Hinders the user from advancing his/her career
	q39_3	794		3. Significant decrease in the wages of the user
	q39_4	795		4. Hard to gain the boss's understanding
	q39_5	796		5. Many assignments do not work well with those systems
	q39_6	797		6. Other
	q39_6_1fa	798		Other: Specific contents
	q126	799		Among the above, the biggest problem is → [No.]
Is there childcare leave at your spouse's workplace?	q40	800		1. Yes 2. No 3. Unknown
Has your spouse ever taken childcare leave? Does he/she intend to do so in the future?	q41	801		1. Your spouse has taken childcare leave 2. Your spouse would like to take it in the future 3. Your spouse has never taken childcare leave and does not intend to do so in the future

<p style="text-align:center">Planning for Future Paid Work</p>

Future prospects for your employment	q42_1	802		Getting promoted within 2 years (including being promoted to a regular employee)
	q42_2	803		Getting fired from your current job within 2 years
	q42_3	804		Changing jobs within 2 years
What has happened at your workplace within the past 3 years? Yes or No	q43_1	805		Some persons were dismissed
	q43_2	806		Some persons resigned voluntarily
	q43_3	807		Some non-regular employees were promoted to regular employees
Do you want to continue working at your current job?	q44	808		1. You want to continue your current job. 2. You want to get another job in addition to your current job. 3. You want to change to a different job. 4. You want to quit working altogether.
What employment status would you prefer?	q45	809		1. Regular employee 2. Part-time, temporary employee 3. Dispatched or contract worker 4. You want to start your own business 5. You want to take over the family business 6. Side job 7. Other

	q45_7_1fa	810		Other: Specific contents
Possible reasons for your job change (Multiple answers allowed)	q46_1	811		Because your current job was undertaken as a temporary job
	q46_2	812		Because your current income is low
	q46_3	813		Because your employer's business is in bad shape, or you are concerned about its future prospects
	q46_4	814		Because you don't get along with the people at work
	q46_5	815		Because your current job doesn't suit you
	q46_6	816		Because your current employment contract will end soon
	q46_7	817		Because it consumes too much physical energy/time
	q46_8	818		Because you want to make more use of your knowledge or skills
	q46_9	819		Because you want to increase your leisure time
	q46_10	820		Childraising
	q46_11	821		Caregiving for family members
	q46_12	822		Other
	q46_12_1fa	823		Other: Specific contents
Do you think the number of employees of your employer will increase in the next 2 years?	q47	824		1. Increase 2. Decrease 3. No change
Current job type	q48	825		1. Professional/technical 2. Management 3. Office work 4. Sales work 5. Services work 6. Security work 7. Transport/communication 8. Production/manufacturing/field work 9. Unknown
Hours per week including paid work, unpaid work, and overtime.	q49	826		1. Hours 2. Unknown
	q49_1_1fa	827		Specific hours, if known
How likely is it that you will lose your job within the next 2 years?	q50	828		1. Very likely 2. Likely 3. Unlikely 4. Very unlikely 5. Unknown
In balancing work and family, to what extent have you felt the following? 1. Not at all 2. A little 3. Undecided 4. Moderately 5. Extremely	q51_1	829		You can't participate in housework because you spend a lot of time fulfilling your duties at paid work
	q51_2	830		You're often too stressed out when you come home from paid work to do anything for your family
	q51_3	831		Your duties to your family often interfere with your paid work

| | q51_4 | 832 | | You often can't stop thinking about your family at paid work because you are stressed at home |
| | q51_5 | 833 | | Your spouse often fails to cooperate with you at housework |

Data on Children

Number of children	q52_1fa	834		Children who live in your family home
	q52_2fa	835		Children who live separately
Sex of your @th child 1. Male 2. Female	q53_1	836		1st child
	q53_2	837		2nd child
	q53_3	838		3rd child
	q53_4	839		4th child
	q53_5	840		5th child
	q53_6	841		6th child
	q53_7	842		7th child
	q53_8	843		8th child
	q53_9	844		9th child
	q53_10	845		10th child
Birth year and month of your @th child	q54_1fa	846		1st child [FA] Year
	q54_2fa	847		1st child [FA] Month
	q54_3fa	848		2nd child [FA] Year
	q54_4fa	849		2nd child [FA] Month
	q54_5fa	850		3rd child [FA] Year
	q54_6fa	851		3rd child [FA] Month
	q54_7fa	852		4th child [FA] Year
	q54_8fa	853		4th child [FA] Month
	q54_9fa	854		5th child [FA] Year
	q54_10fa	855		5th child [FA] Month
	q54_11fa	856		6th child [FA] Year
	q54_12fa	857		6th child [FA] Month
	q54_13fa	858		7th child [FA] Year
	q54_14fa	859		7th child [FA] Month
	q54_15fa	860		8th child [FA] Year
	q54_16fa	861		8th child [FA] Month
	q54_17fa	862		9th child [FA] Year
	q54_18fa	863		9th child [FA] Month
	q54_19fa	864		10th child [FA] Year

	q54_20fa	865		10th child [FA] Month
Residence of children 1. Living at your family home 2. Living separately (with allowance) 3. Living separately (without allowance)	q55_1fa	866		1st child
	q55_2fa	867		2nd child
	q55_3fa	868		3rd child
	q55_4fa	869		4th child
	q55_5fa	870		5th child
	q55_6fa	871		6th child
	q55_7fa	872		7th child
	q55_8fa	873		8th child
	q55_9fa	874		9th child
	q55_10fa	875		10th child
What does your @th child currently do? 1. Under elementary school age (including those attending nursery or kindergarten) 2. Attending school (includes elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, junior college, vocational school, university, prep. school) 3. Employed (including full-time, part-time, or other non-regular employment) 4. Other	q56_1fa	876		1st child
	q56_2fa	877		2nd child
	q56_3fa	878		3rd child
	q56_4fa	879		4th child
	q56_5fa	880		5th child
	q56_6fa	881		6th child
	q56_7fa	882		7th child
	q56_8fa	883		8th child
	q56_9fa	884		9th child
	q56_10fa	885		10th child
Which of the following educational/childcare facilities does your @th child attend or has last been in? 1. Not yet attending nursery or kindergarten 2. Nursery 3. Kindergarten 4. Elementary school 5. Junior high school 6. Senior high school (public) 7. Senior high school (private/national) 8. Vocational school (special training course, requiring junior high school diploma) 9. Vocational school (advanced course, requiring	q57_1fa	886		1st child
	q57_2fa	887		2nd child
	q57_3fa	888		3rd child
	q57_4fa	889		4th child
	q57_5fa	890		5th child
	q57_6fa	891		6th child

senior high school degree) 10. Junior college/advanced technical college 11. University 12. Graduate school 13. Other	q57_7fa	892		7th child
	q57_8fa	893		8th child
	q57_9fa	894		9th child
	q57_10fa	895		10th child
How much money per month does your household spend on the education of your children? Please answer the total for all your children. JPY	q58_1fa	896		School fees (course fee, school meals, material fee, PTA fee, facility maintenance fee, tuition, etc.), excluding kindergarten
	q58_2fa	897		Educational costs outside of school: for example, private preparatory school, tutors, correspondence courses, or English language lessons
	q58_3fa	898		Costs for extracurricular courses or activities (after school activities), including sports clubs (excluding private preparatory school or English lessons)
	q58_4fa	899		Costs for kindergarten, child day-care center or nursery, babysitter, or after-school child-care center
	q58_5fa	900		Allowances for your children (e.g., money sent to children who live separately from your family home to attend school, excluding tuition)
Were you in paid employment in the period before your child entered elementary school?	q59_1_1	901		【child age 0 to under 3】Regular employee
	q59_1_2	902		【child age 0 to under 3】Part-time, temporary or dispatched worker
	q59_1_3	903		【child age 0 to under 3】Self-employed or freelance
	q59_1_4	904		【child age 0 to under 3】Not working in a paid job
	q59_1_5	905		【child age 0 to under 3】Other
	q59_1_6	906		【child age 0 to under 3】 No spouse/partner at that time
	q59_1_7	907		【child age 3 to elementary school entrance】Regular employee
	q59_1_8	908		【child age 3 to elementary school entrance】Part-time, temporary or dispatched worker
	q59_1_9	909		【child age 3 to elementary school entrance】Self-employed or freelance
	q59_1_10	910		【child age 3 to elementary school entrance】Not working in a paid job
	q59_1_11	911		【child age 3 to elementary school entrance】Other
	q59_1_12	912		【child age 3 to elementary school entrance】No spouse/partner at that time
Did your spouse/partner engage in paid employment in the period before your child entered elementary school?	q59_2_1	913		【child age 0 to under 3】Regular employee
	q59_2_2	914		【child age 0 to under 3】Part-time, temporary or dispatched worker
	q59_2_3	915		【child age 0 to under 3】Self-employed or freelance
	q59_2_4	916		【child age 0 to under 3】Not working in a paid job

	q59_2_5	917		【child age 0 to under 3】Other
	q59_2_6	918		【child age 0 to under 3】No spouse/partner at that time
	q59_2_7	919		【child age 3 to elementary school entrance】Regular employee
	q59_2_8	920		【child age 3 to elementary school entrance】Part-time, temporary or dispatched worker
	q59_2_9	921		【child age 3 to elementary school entrance】Self-employed or freelance
	q59_2_10	922		【child age 3 to elementary school entrance】Not working in a paid job
	q59_2_11	923		【child age 3 to elementary school entrance】Other
	q59_2_12	924		【child age 3 to elementary school entrance】No spouse/partner at that time
Did you or your spouse/partner engage in paid employment in the period before your child entered elementary school? (Other: please specify)	q59_5_1fa	925		q_59_1_5 or q59_2_5
	q59_11_1fa	926		q_59_1_11 or q59_2_11
If you become sick or incapable, who will look after your children?	q60_1	927		Spouse
	q60_2	928		Own grandparent(s)
	q60_3	929		Spouse's grandparent(s)
	q60_4	930		Own parent(s)
	q60_5	931		Spouse's parent(s)
	q60_6	932		Relatives
	q60_7	933		Day care provider on a family basis
	q60_8	934		Babysitter
	q60_9	935		Friend/acquaintance/neighbor
	q60_10	936		Family support center
	q60_11	937		No one
Family planning	q61	938		1. Currently, you are trying to have a baby. 2. Currently, you are not trying to have a baby, but you plan to within the next 5 years. 3. Currently, you are not trying to have a baby, and do not plan to have any in future. 4. Other
What are the main reasons you don't plan to have a baby in the future?	q62_1	939		You are done having children.
	q62_2	940		Your spouse does not want children.
	q62_3	941		You want to focus on your job.
	q62_4	942		It's difficult to balance work and child-raising.
	q62_5	943		You don't want leisure time taken away from you.

	q62_6	944		The financial burden (educational and child-raising costs) is too heavy
	q62_7	945		Giving child birth and child-raising is physically too taxing.
	q62_8	946		Other
Do you want to have more children in the future?	q63	947		1. Yes, absolutely 2. Yes, depending on the circumstances 3. No
	q63_1_1fa	948		1. Yes, absolutely → How many (more) children would you like to have? Number of children:
	q63_2_1fa	949		2. Yes, depending on circumstances → How many (more) children would you like to have ? Number of children:
If your monthly income increased, would you consider having another child or consider having a child for the first time?	q64	950		1. You would want to have another child if your income increased. 2. You do not want to have any (more) children, no matter how much your income increases. 3. Your income is unrelated to whether or not you will have children.
	q64_1_1fa	951		Amount of increased income (JPY in ten thousand) per month
	q64_1_2fa	952		Amount of increased income (JPY in thousand) per month
Opinions about the listed statements on childbirth and pregnancy 1. Agree 2. Disagree	q65_1	953		Smoking reduces female fertility
	q65_2	954		Today, it is as possible for women in their 40s to conceive as those in their 30s.
	q65_3	955		Having had an STD reduces fertility
	q65_4	956		Excessive intake of alcohol during pregnancy may have negative effects on the fetus.
	q65_5	957		Drinking alcohol/smoking during pregnancy/breast feeding has a negative effect on the baby.
Questions about care of infants under 1 year old (Please answer regardless of whether you have a child or not.)	q66	958		[Who should look after infants under 1 year old?] 1. Infants under 1 year old should be looked after at home by parents or family, since it is expensive to put them in a nursery. 2. Infants under 1 year old should be looked after at a nursery if necessary. It is not too expensive and the cost does not need to be lowered. 3. Infants under 1 year old should be looked after at a nursery if necessary. However, the cost is too expensive and needs to be lowered.
	q66_3_1fa	959		Please answer the approximate caring cost (JPY) for providers you think would be appropriate for a nursery per month. 1. 50,000 2. 100,000 3. 150,000 4. 200,000 5. 250,000 6. 300,000 7. 350,000 8. 400,000 9. 450,000

Questions on Social Security Policies

Question about social security and welfare: Is there a policy you have high hopes for?	q67_1_1	960		Promotion of parental leave
	q67_1_2	961		Expansion of child allowance, child benefit, and scholarship
	q67_1_3	962		Re-employment support for women who have left work due to childbirth and childcare
	q67_1_4	963		Expansion of public financial support to pregnancy and childbirth
	q67_1_5	964		Free-of-charge children's healthcare
	q67_1_6	965		Expansion of child day-care centers (including day-care for sick children)
	q67_1_7	966		Enhancement of after-school child care
	q67_1_8	967		Strengthening job support for young people
	q67_1_9	968		Equal treatment of children born outside of marriage
	q67_1_10	969		Legal acceptance of separate surnames for married couples
	q67_1_11	970		Raising pension benefits
	q67_1_12	971		Reduction of the co-payment of healthcare for the elderly
	q67_1_13	972		Reducing the contributions for long-term care insurance
	q67_1_14	973		Enhancement of the unemployment insurance system
	q67_1_15	974		Enhancement of Workers' Accident Compensation Insurance System
	q67_1_16	975		Other
	q67_1_17	976		You don't have high hopes for any measures.
Among the above policies, you have the highest expectations for ( )	q67_2_1	977		Promotion of parental leave at the workplace
	q67_2_2	978		Expansion of child allowance, child benefits, and scholarship
	q67_2_3	979		Re-employment support for women who have left work due to childbirth or childcare
	q67_2_4	980		Reduction of the cost of pregnancy and childbirth and expansion of public support grants
	q67_2_5	981		Reduced cost or free-of-charge children's healthcare
	q67_2_6	982		Maintenance of day-care centers (including day-care for sick children)
	q67_2_7	983		Maintenance and enhancement of after-school child care
	q67_2_8	984		1. Strengthening of job support for young people
	q67_2_9	985		2. Equal treatment of children born outside of marriage
	q67_2_10	986		3. Legal acceptance of separate surnames for married couples
	q67_2_11	987		4. Strengthening of public pension system (e.g. raising pension benefits)

	q67_2_12	988		5. Reduction of the cost of healthcare for the elderly
	q67_2_13	989		6. Enhancement of long-term care insurance system (*Kaigo-hoken*) (for example, reducing the insurance premium)
	q67_2_14	990		7. Enhancement of the unemployment insurance system (*Shitsugyou-hoken*)
	q67_2_15	991		8. Enhancement of Workers' Accident Compensation Insurance system (*Rousai-hoken*)
	q67_2_16	992		9. Other
	q67_2_17	993		10. You don't have high hopes for any measures.
Other measures	q67_16_1fa	994		Other: Specific contents
Regarding the funding required for the above enhancement of social security, which measure do you think would be most appropriate?	q68_1	995		1. Raising consumption tax
	q68_2	996		2. Raising income tax, corporate tax, inheritance tax, gift tax and real estate tax
	q68_3	997		3. Raising social security contributions
	q68_4	998		4. Issuing treasury bonds
	q68_5	999		5. Thoroughly eliminating wastefulness in public administration
	q68_6	1000		6. Decreasing financial support for the elderly (pension benefits, medical and welfare services etc.)
	q68_7	1001		7. Decreasing childcare support
	q68_8	1002		8. Enhancement of social security is not necessary in the future
	q68_9	1003		9. Other
	q68_9_1fa	1004		Other: Specific contents
Among the above funds, which are the three most important? Please rank them in order of importance.	q69_1	1005		Most important ( )
	q69_2	1006		Second ( )
	q69_3	1007		Third ( )
	q69_9_1fa	1008		Other (specific contents:)

Family Background When You Were around 15 Years Old

When you were around 15 years old, your parents were:	q70	1009		1. Married (including common-law marriage) 2. Divorced 3. Separated 4. Separated by death (widowed) 5. Other
	q70_5_1fa	1010		Other: Specific contents
Birth year and current age of your father	q71_1fa	1011		Birth year
	q71_2fa	1012		Age: if he is still alive
	q71_3fa	1013		Unknown
Your father's final level of educational attainment	q72_1	1014		Junior high school
	q72_2	1015		Senior high school

	q72_3	1016		Vocational school
	q72_4	1017		Junior college/Technical college
	q72_5	1018		University graduate
	q72_6	1019		University postgraduate
	q72_7	1020		Unknown
When you were around 15 years old, did your father have a paid job?	q73	1021		1. Yes 2. No 3. Your father was not living with the family
	q74_1fa	1022		What kind of job did your father have?
	q75_1fa	1023		What was the main business activity of the company that your father worked in?
	q76	1024		When you were a child, how often did your father talk to you directly about what he did at work? 1. Often 2. Sometimes 3. Rarely 4. Hardly ever
Birth year and current age of your mother	q71_1fa	1011		Birth year:
	q71_2fa	1012		Age: If she is still alive
	q71_3fa	1013		Don't know
Your mother's final level of educational attainment	q72_1	1014		Junior high school
	q72_2	1015		Senior high school
	q72_3	1016		Vocational school
	q72_4	1017		Junior college/Technical college
	q72_5	1018		University graduate
	q72_6	1019		University postgraduate
	q72_7	1020		Unknown
When you were around 15 years old, did your mother have a paid job?	q79	1035		1. Yes 2. No 3. Your mother was not living with the family
	q80_1fa	1036		What kind of job did your mother have?
	q81_1fa	1037		What was the main business activity of the company that your mother worked in?
	q82	1038		When you were a child, how often did your mother talk to you directly about what she did at work? 1. Often 2. Sometimes 3. Rarely 4. Hardly ever

	q83	1039	Did you mother work during the period after you were born and before you entered elementary school? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Your mother was not living with the family
	q84	1040	Employment history of your mother1. She continuously worked before and after she got married2. She resigned from her job after getting married (or giving birth) and has not worked since then. 3. She resigned from her job after getting married (or giving birth) but started working again after her child(ren) grew up. 4. She has always been self-employed or has had a side job.5. She has always been at home, doing housework and caring for the children.6. Other7. Unknown
	q84_6_1fa	1041	Other: Specific contents
When you were around 15 years old, how was your household income compared with those of the neighbors'?	q85	1042	1. Much lower 2. Lower 3. Around the same 4. Higher 5. Much higher 6. Don't remember. 7. Don't wish to answer.
When you were around 15 years old, how was your family situation? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't remember 4. Don't wish to answer	q86_1	1043	You took after-school lessons
	q86_2	1044	Had a newspaper subscription
	q86_3	1045	Had a magazine subscription
	q86_4	1046	Had own car
	q86_5	1047	Lived in owner-occupied house
	q86_6	1048	Went out often to restaurants
	q86_7	1049	Children had their own room(s)
	q86_8	1050	Had a bathtub
	q86_9	1051	Had a toilet
	q86_10	1052	Had an air-conditioner
	q86_11	1053	Had a library card
	q86_12	1054	Parents raised you with lots of affection
	q86_13	1055	Played sports and other games with parents
	q86_14	1056	Parents were indifferent to child-raising
	q86_15	1057	Parents often helped you study
	q86_16	1058	Parents used violence against the children
	q86_17	1059	Parents were serious people who paid attention to everything
	q86_18	1060	Parents were patient and hardly ever got angry
	q86_19	1061	Parents could not cope well with stress

	q86_20	1062		Parents had strong aspirations
	q86_21	1063		Parents argued a lot and did not get along
	q86_22	1064		Parents drunk alcohol in moderation, if at all
	q86_23	1065		Mother smoked
	q86_24	1066		Parents were often ill
	q86_25	1067		Parents often supported and helped each other
What kind of support do you currently receive from your own father?	q87_1_1	1068		Financial support (living expenses etc.)
	q87_1_2	1069		Housework support (preparing meals, cleaning, laundry)
	q87_1_3	1070		Child-raising support (such as taking children to and from school/kindergarten)
	q87_1_4	1071		No support
What kind of support do you currently receive from your own mother?	q87_2_1	1072		Financial support (living expenses etc.)
	q87_2_2	1073		Housework support (preparing meals, cleaning, laundry)
	q87_2_3	1074		Child-raising support (such as taking children to and from school/kindergarten)
	q87_2_4	1075		No support
What kind of support do you currently receive from your spouse's father?	q87_3_1	1076		Financial support (living expenses etc.)
	q87_3_2	1077		Housework support (preparing meals, cleaning, laundry)
	q87_3_3	1078		Child-raising support (such as taking children to and from school/kindergarten)
	q87_3_4	1079		No support
What kind of support do you currently receive from your spouse's mother?	q87_4_1	1080		Financial support (living expenses etc.)
	q87_4_2	1081		Housework support (preparing meals, cleaning, laundry)
	q87_4_3	1082		Child-raising support (such as taking children to and from school/kindergarten)
	q87_4_4	1083		No support
Your relationship with peers when you were in junior high school	q88_1	1084		You had same-sex friends (with whom you talked or played) → number of friends（[FA1]）
	q88_2	1085		You had same-sex close friends (with whom you could discuss problems) →number of friends（[FA1]）
	q88_3	1086		You had opposite-sex friends→number of friends （[FA1]）
	q88_4	1087		You did not have opposite-sex friends
	q88_5	1088		You did not have many friends (of either sex)
	q88_6	1089		You did not want to associate with other people
	q88_1_1fa	1090		Number of same-sex friends
	q88_2_1fa	1091		Number of same-sex close friends
	q88_3_1fa	1092		Number of opposite-sex friends

Planning for Retirement

Your main income source in old age: 65-69 (Please rank 3 in order of importance.) 1. Income from paid work 2. Public pension benefits 3. Occupational pension benefits (including lump-sum retirement benefits) 4. Personal pension benefits 5. Financial assets 6. Support from parents (including inheritance and living donations) 7. Support from child(ren) (including living together) 8. Public assistance 9. No thoughts	q89_1	1093		Most important ( )
	q89_2	1094		Second ( )
	q89_3	1095		Third ( )
Your main income source in old age: 70-74 (Please rank 3 in order of importance.) 1. Income from paid work 2. Public pension benefits 3. Occupational pension benefits (including lump-sum retirement benefits) 4. Personal pension benefits 5. Financial assets 6. Support from parents (including inheritance and living donations) 7. Support from child(ren) (including living together) 8. Public assistance 9. No thoughts	q127_1	1096		Most important ( )
	q127_2	1097		Second ( )
	q127_3	1098		Third ( )
Your main income source in old age: 75+ (Please rank 3 in order of importance.) 1. Income from paid work 2. Public pension benefits 3. Occupational pension benefits (including lump-sum retirement benefits) 4. Personal pension benefits 5. Financial assets 6. Support from parents (including inheritance and living donations) 7. Support from child(ren) (including living together) 8. Public assistance 9. No thoughts	q127_1	1099		Most important ( )
	q127_2	1100		Second ( )
	q127_3	1101		Third ( )
Who do you plan to live with when you are age 65-69?	q90_1_1	1102		Parent(s) (includes spouse's parents)
	q90_1_2	1103		Child(ren)

	q90_1_3	1104		Sibling
	q90_1_4	1105		Spouse
	q90_1_5	1106		Grandchild(ren)
	q90_1_6	1107		Relatives
	q90_1_7	1108		Alone
	q90_1_8	1109		Friends
	q90_1_9	1110		Other
Who do you plan to live with when you are age 70-74?	q90_2_1	1111		Parent(s) (includes spouse's parents)
	q90_2_2	1112		Child(ren)
	q90_2_3	1113		Sibling
	q90_2_4	1114		Spouse
	q90_2_5	1115		Grandchild(ren)
	q90_2_6	1116		Relatives
	q90_2_7	1117		Alone
	q90_2_8	1118		Friends
	q90_2_9	1119		Other
Who do you plan to live with when you are age over 75?	q90_3_1	1120		Parent(s) (includes spouse's parents)
	q90_3_2	1121		Child(ren)
	q90_3_3	1122		Sibling
	q90_3_4	1123		Spouse
	q90_3_5	1124		Grandchild(ren)
	q90_3_6	1125		Relatives
	q90_3_7	1126		Alone
	q90_3_8	1127		Friends
	q90_3_9	1128		Other
Who do you assume will look after you when you need nursing care?	q91_1	1129		Spouse
	q91_2	1130		Child(ren) (includes adopted children and step-children)
	q91_3	1131		Spouse of your child
	q91_4	1132		Nursing-care helper
	q91_5	1133		Parents/siblings
	q91_6	1134		Relatives
	q91_7	1135		Friends
	q91_8	1136		You will join a nursing-care facility
	q91_9	1137		Other

Data on Housing Conditions

	q92	1138		What type of housing do you currently live in? 1. Owner-occupied housing 2. Private rental housing 3. Public rental housing 4. Subsidized employee housing such as company housing (includes rented housing provided by company), dormitories or housing for government employees. 5. Other
	q92_5_1fa	1139		Other: Specific contents
	q93	1140		Detached house or a multiple-unit building? 1. Detached house 2. Multiple-unit building (such as apartment or condominium)
	q94	1141		Do you have any housing loan left to repay? 1. Yes 2. No
Current housing conditions	q95	1142		Did you acquire the house through inheritance or gift inter vivos? 1. Yes 2. No
	q96	1143		How much is your housing loan payment per month, including interest?
	q96_1_1fa	1144		Monthly amount of loan payment (JPY in ten thousand)
	q96_1_2fa	1145		Monthly amount of loan payment (JPY in thousand)
	q97	1146		If you sold your house (including the land) now, how much do you think you could sell it for?
	q97_1_1fa	1147		Current price of your house (JPY in 100 million)
	q97_1_2fa	1148		Current price of your house (JPY in ten thousand)
	q98	1149		How much is the monthly rent of your current housing (including common area charge and parking)?
	q98_1_1fa	1150		Monthly rent (JPY in ten thousand)
	q98_1_2fa	1151		Monthly rent (JPY in thousand)
Current housing conditions (continued) 1. Yes 2. No	q99_1	1152		It's too small.
	q99_2	1153		It's too large.
	q99_3	1154		Doors and windows do not open and shut smoothly.
	q99_4	1155		It is not sufficiently earthquake proofed.
	q99_5	1156		There's some danger of water or electrical leak.
	q99_6	1157		The entire interior of the house is dirty.
	q99_7	1158		The ventilation is poor.
	q99_8	1159		It doesn't have enough electrical capacity (amperes).
	q99_9	1160		It doesn't have enough electrical outlets.
	q99_10	1161		The ceiling is too low.
	q99_11	1162		It has security problems.

	q99_12	1163		It has a bathtub.
	q99_13	1164		It has a toilet.
	q99_14	1165		It has an air conditioner.
	q99_15	1166		You plan to renovate your current housing within 5 years.
	q99_16	1167		You plan to move out of your current housing within 5 years.
	q99_17	1168		There is a separate room for the children.
	q99_18	1169		There is a separate room for the children, but the girls and the boys live in the same room.
Using daily transport (such as foot, bicycle, car or bus), how long does it take to reach the listed facilities? 1. 0-5 minutes 2. 5-10 minutes 3. 10-20 minutes 4. More than 20 minutes 5. Don't know where it is	q100_1	1170		Supermarket, convenience store
	q100_2	1171		Bank, post office
	q100_3	1172		Hospital or clinic with pediatric service
	q100_4	1173		Day-care center, kindergarten
	q100_5	1174		After-school child care center
	q100_6	1175		Train station or bus stop
	q100_7	1176		Municipal office, town/village office (includes branch office)
	q100_8	1177		Police station (police box)
	q100_9	1178		Hello Work employment service center
	q100_10	1179		Japan Pension Service office
	q100_11	1180		Public health center
	q100_12	1181		Social welfare office
	q100_13	1182		Park (where playing ball games/cycling is possible)
In your opinion, which facilities are friendly and easy to use?	q101_1_1	1183		Day-care center, kindergarten
	q101_1_2	1184		After-school child care and other childcare facilities
	q101_1_3	1185		Elementary school, junior high school
	q101_1_4	1186		Local clinic
	q101_1_5	1187		General hospital
	q101_1_6	1188		Local pharmacy/drugstore
	q101_1_7	1189		Hello Work (employment service center)
	q101_1_8	1190		Japan Pension Service office (former social insurance office）
	q101_1_9	1191		Social welfare office
	q101_1_10	1192		Public health center
	q101_1_11	1193		Municipal office, town/village office (includes branch office)
	q101_1_12	1194		Community general support center
	q101_1_13	1195		Nursing facility for the elderly
	q101_1_14	1196		Youth Support Station

	q101_1_15	1197		Job Café
	q101_1_16	1198		Supermarket, convenience store, department store
	q101_1_17	1199		Bank, post office
	q101_1_18	1200		Police station (police box), fire department
	q101_1_19	1201		Other
Of these, which facility is the friendliest and easiest to use?	q101_2_1	1202		Day-care center, kindergarten
	q101_2_2	1203		After-school child care and other childcare facility
	q101_2_3	1204		Elementary school, junior high school
	q101_2_4	1205		Local clinic
	q101_2_5	1206		General hospital
	q101_2_6	1207		Local pharmacy/drugstore
	q101_2_7	1208		Hello Work (employment service center)
	q101_2_8	1209		Japan Pension Service office (former social insurance office）
	q101_2_9	1210		Social welfare office
	q101_2_10	1211		Public health center
	q101_2_11	1212		Municipal office, town/village office (includes branch office)
	q101_2_12	1213		Community general support center
	q101_2_13	1214		Nursing facility for the elderly
	q101_2_14	1215		Youth Support Station
	q101_2_15	1216		Job Café
	q101_2_16	1217		Supermarket, convenience store, department store
	q101_2_17	1218		Bank, post office
	q101_2_18	1219		Police station (police box), fire department
	q101_2_19	1220		Other
	q101_19_1fa	1221		Other: Specific contents
Are there safety or environmental concerns in the area you live in? 1. No 2. A few 3. A lot	q102_1	1222		Noise
	q102_2	1223		Air pollution
	q102_3	1224		Crimes such as burglary
	q102_4	1225		Graffiti and garbage
	q102_5	1226		Danger of street accidents
	q102_6	1227		Dangerous to walk alone at night
	q102_7	1228		Stress related to neighbors
	q102_8	1229		Threat of natural disasters (such as landslide, flood, ground fissure, land subsidence, ground liquefaction)

Questions on Health Conditions

How is your current health?	q103	1230		1. Excellent 2. Good 3. Average 4. Poor 5. Bad
How often did you experience the listed feelings during the last month? 1. Always 2. Frequently 3. Sometimes 4. Infrequently 5. Never	q104_1	1231		Feeling oversensitive
	q104_2	1232		Feeling of hopelessness
	q104_3	1233		Feeling of restlessness
	q104_4	1234		Feeling depressed and that nothing will make things better
	q104_5	1235		Feeling that everything requires so much effort
	q104_6	1236		Feeling of worthlessness

Future Prospects and Perceived Wellbeing

Future perspective	q105_1	1237		You are likely to become richer than your parents' generation. 1. Yes 2. No 3. Unknown
	q105_2	1238		In 10 years, you will be leading a more stable life with better living standards. 1. Yes 2. No 3. Unknown
	q105_3	1239		If you have problems with housework or child-raising, your spouse will help you (please answer only if you have a spouse). 1. Yes 2. No 3. Unknown
Life satisfaction	q106_1	1240		In general, how satisfied are you with your current life? 1. Very dissatisfied 2. Dissatisfied 3. Somewhat dissatisfied 4. Somewhat satisfied 5. Satisfied 6. Very satisfied
	q106_2	1241		How do you think you will feel in 5 years? 1. Very dissatisfied 2. Dissatisfied 3. Somewhat dissatisfied 4. Somewhat satisfied 5. Satisfied 6. Very satisfied
	q107	1242		How satisfied are you with what you currently do at work? 1. Satisfied 2. Somewhat satisfied 3. Neutral 4. Somewhat dissatisfied 5. Dissatisfied

	q108	1243		How satisfied are you currently with your marriage? 1. Satisfied 2. Somewhat satisfied 3. Neutral 4. Somewhat dissatisfied 5. Dissatisfied
How much do the listed persons help you when you have concerns or difficulties? 1. A lot 2. Somewhat 3. A little 4. None 5. Not applicable	q109_1	1244		Spouse
	q109_2	1245		Family member living with you besides your spouse
	q109_3	1246		Family member/relative living apart from you
	q109_4	1247		Neighbors
	q109_5	1248		Friends
	q109_6	1249		Public institutions (such as government counseling service or child consultation center)
	q109_7	1250		NPO
How much do the listed persons help you out with small daily tasks? 1. A lot 2. Somewhat 3. A little 4. None 5. Not applicable	q110_1	1251		Spouse
	q110_2	1252		Family member living with you besides your spouse
	q110_3	1253		Family member/relative living apart from you
	q110_4	1254		Neighbors
	q110_5	1255		Friends
	q110_6	1256		Public institutions (such as government counseling service or child consultation center)
	q110_7	1257		NPO
If society was divided into five classes, to which class do you think you would belong?	q111	1258		1. Upper 2. Upper-middle 3. Middle 4. Lower-middle 5. Lower
Do you have a plan you are looking forward to in the future?	q112	1259		1. Yes, within a year 2. Yes, more than a year from now 3. No
Do you suffer from serious symptoms that hinder your work, marriage, or childrearing? 1. Yes 2. No	q113_1_1	1260		Heart or blood vessel disease
	q113_1_2	1261		Lung disease
	q113_1_3	1262		Stomach or intestinal disease
	q113_1_4	1263		Psychological illness
	q113_1_5	1264		Eye, ear, or nose disease
	q113_1_6	1265		Skin disease or allergy
	q113_1_7	1266		Bone fracture or other serious injury
	q113_1_8	1267		Other (please specify:[FA1])
	q113_1_9	1268		You do not have any serious disease or injury.
Does any member of your family (spouse, child, parent, grandparent, etc.)	q113_2_1	1269		Heart or blood vessel disease
	q113_2_2	1270		Lung disease

suffer from serious symptoms that hinder your work, marriage or childrearing? 1. Yes 2. No	q113_2_3	1271		Stomach or intestinal disease
	q113_2_4	1272		Psychological illness
	q113_2_5	1273		Eye, ear, or nose disease
	q113_2_6	1274		Skin disease or allergy
	q113_2_7	1275		Bone fracture or other serious injury
	q113_2_8	1276		Other
	q113_2_9	1277		Your family does not have any serious disease or injury.
	q113_8_1fa	1278		Other: Specific contents
If you answered "yes" in the previous question, are you or your family member hospitalized?	q114_1	1279		You: 1. Yes 2. No
	q114_2	1280		Your family member: 1. Yes 2. No
Do you perform anything to maintain health and/or to prevent adult-onset diseases?	q115_1	1281		Jog or take walks regularly
	q115_2	1282		Use the gym regularly
	q115_3	1283		Stretch every day
	q115_4	1284		Walk or use bicycle or stairs while commuting
	q115_5	1285		Eat breakfast every morning
	q115_6	1286		Eat food that contains protein, such as meat and fish, every day
	q115_7	1287		Eat fruits and vegetables every day
	q115_8	1288		Limit the intake of salt and calories
	q115_9	1289		Limit the intake of fatty food such as deep-fried food
	q115_10	1290		Take fluids frequently for rehydration
	q115_11	1291		Avoid excessive drinking and eating
	q115_12	1292		Get enough sleep
	q115_13	1293		Try not to stress too much
	q115_14	1294		You don't do anything in particular to maintain health or to prevent adult-onset diseases.
	q115_15	1295		Other
	q115_15_1fa	1296		Other: Specific contents

Income and Wealth Holdings

How much income (including tax) did you earn during the last year?	q116_1fa	1297		Total annual income, including income from stock dividends, real estate, etc. is JPY xxxxxxxxx (in ten thousand)
How much income (including tax) did your spouse (partner, cohabiting	q117	1298		You know your spouse's total annual income. You don't know about your spouse's income.

partner) earn during the last year?	q117_1_1fa	1299		Total annual income is JPY xxxxxxxxx (in ten thousand)
How much income (including tax) did your household earn in total during the last year? ('Household' includes yourself, and if applicable, a spouse living away from home due to job assignments)	q118_1fa	1300		Total household income is JPY xxxxxxxxxx (in ten thousand)
Did you receive financial support from your parents/grandparents when you purchased a house or when your child entered school?	q119	1301		1. Yes→JPY 2. No, you did not receive any financial support when you purchased a house or when your child entered school. 3. Not applicable
	q119_1_1fa	1302		Amount of financial support JPY xxxxxxxxx (in ten thousand)
Your own financial assets	q120	1303		1. Your own financial assets including deposits, savings and money from selling stocks and bonds under your name, in total 2. You don't have any financial assets.
	q120_1_1fa	1304		Amount of assets (JPY in 100 million)
	q120_1_2fa	1305		Amount of assets (JPY in ten thousand)
Financial assets of your spouse (or partner, cohabiting partner)	q121	1306		1. The financial assets of your spouse (partner, cohabitation partner), including deposits, savings and money from selling stocks and bonds under his/her name, in total 2. Your spouse doesn't have any financial assets. 3. You don't know about your spouse's financial assets.
	q121_1_1fa	1307		Amount of assets (JPY in 100 million)
	q121_1_2fa	1308		Amount of assets (JPY in ten thousand)
How much do you plan to save before retirement?	q122	1309		1. Around [FA1] JPY 100 million [FA2] JPY ten thousand 2. You have not set an amount.
	q122_1_1fa	1310		Target amount (JPY in 100 million)
	q122_1_2fa	1311		Target amount (JPY in ten thousand)

Questions on Inheritance and Gifts Inter Vivos

Have you ever received inheritances or gifts inter vivos?	q123	1312		1. Yes, you have → Total amount around [FA1] JPY 100 million [FA2] JPY ten thousand 2. No, never
	q123_1_1fa	1313		Total amount (JPY in 100 million)
	q123_1_2fa	1314		Total amount (JPY in ten thousand)
In the future, do you expect	q124	1315		1. Yes, you expect to

to receive inheritances or gifts inter vivos?				→ Total amount of around [FA1] JPY100 million [FA2] JPY ten thousand 2. You do not expect to 3. Don't know
	q124_1_1fa	1316		Total amount (JPY in 100 million)
	q124_1_2fa	1317		Total amount (JPY in ten thousand)
Do you plan to leave an inheritance to your child(ren)? Please choose the answer that is closest to your opinion	q125	1318		1. You will leave everything, including assets acquired during your lifetime, to your child(ren) as inheritance. 2. You will leave what you inherited from your parents to your child(ren), but you plan to use all the assets you acquired yourself during your lifetime. 3. If your child looks after you in old age, you will leave your inheritance to that child. 4. If your child takes over the family business, you will leave your inheritance to that child. 5. You plan to use all the inheritance during your lifetime and leave nothing for your child(ren). 6. You don't have children (or don't plan to have children) so you won't leave an inheritance. 7. You don't have children (or don't plan to have children) but you will leave your inheritance to a relative or donate it to society. 8. You have never considered whether or not you will leave an inheritance, so you cannot answer this question. 9. Other
	q125_9_1fa	1319		Other: Specific contents

Appendix C

Brief Outline of the Social Security Pension System in Japan

1. Coverage and Categories of Insured Persons in National Pension and KNH

   Every resident of Japan aged between 20 and 59 is compulsorily covered by the National Pension (NP) scheme. If he/she is a regular employee working for 30 hours or more per week in the private sector, he/she is covered by the *Kosei-Nenkin-Hoken* (KNH) scheme as well. This coverage is also compulsory. If he/she is a regular civil servant in the public sector, he/she is compulsorily covered by the mutual aid associations (MAAs).

   The people actively covered by the NP scheme are classified into three categories. Atypical employees working for less than 30 hours per week with annual earnings of JPY 1.3 million or more, as well as self-employed people, farmers, fishermen, etc. belong to Category 1. Their dependent spouses are also included in this group. Those covered by the KNH or one of the MAAs are classified as Category 2. Their dependent spouses with annual earnings of less than JPY 1.3 million form Category 3.

2. Benefits

   The NP scheme provides flat-rate basic pensions; the annual amount of benefit is proportionate to the ratio of the number of covered months to 480 months (1 at the maximum), irrespective of what his/her income has been. The current *monthly* amount for a beneficiary with 480 months of contributions is JPY 65,541 as of 1 April 2012.

   The KNH and MAA schemes provide earnings-related pensions; the accrual rate (annual amount) of old-age benefit that the KNH scheme provides is 5.481‰ of the average of the pensionable remunerations during the covered period multiplied by the number of covered months. The average of the pensionable remunerations is defined to be the sum of the average of the monthly pensionable remunerations and the average of pensionable bonuses. The average of the pensionable bonuses is the sum of the pensionable bonuses divided by the number of the covered months. The formula to calculate the benefit amount of the old-age earnings-related pension benefit of the KNH is as follows.

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{c}\text{The annual amount of benefit}\\ \text{(Earnings-related pensions)}\end{array}} = \boxed{\begin{array}{c}\text{The average of the pensionable}\\ \text{remunerations (Revalued)}\end{array}} \times \frac{5.481}{1000} \times \boxed{\begin{array}{c}\text{The number of}\\ \text{covered months}\end{array}}$$

   The annual amount of old-age benefit that the MAA schemes provide is 1.2 times as much as the amount calculated by the formula shown above. In other words the beneficiaries of MAA schemes receive 20% more than those of the KNH scheme do. This part of the 20% increment is called the occupational addition of MAA schemes.

The monthly pensionable remunerations and the pensionable bonuses are revalued according to the increase of disposable income of the active workers so that the benefit is indexed to the improvement of the active workers' disposable income level up until the beneficiary reaches the age of 65. After the age of 65, the benefit is indexed to the increase of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The social security pension schemes in Japan are thus composed of two tiers for employees, providing flat-rate benefits and earnings-related benefits respectively. Self-employed people are, on the other hand, provided with only flat-rate benefits.

The pensionable age is now 60 for the earnings-related part of the schemes for employees, whereas it is 65 for the old-age basic pension benefit. It is, however, to be raised gradually to 65 for the earnings-related part by the year 2025 for men and 2030 for women in the case of the KNH scheme.

3. Pensionable Remunerations

An employee's monthly pensionable remuneration is the average of his/her monthly salary or wages paid in April, May and June. It is applied from September until August of the next year. If his/her monthly salary or wages change sharply, then his/her monthly pensionable remuneration is also changed. There is a lower limit and an upper limit for the monthly pensionable remunerations. They are JPY 98,000 and JPY 620,000 respectively. The pensionable bonus is the amount of bonus with the upper limit of JPY 1,500,000. This is applicable both to the civil service pension arrangements and the KNH scheme for private employees.

4. Contributions

The insured people of Category 1 pay flat-rate contributions to the NP scheme. The contribution rate for the FY 2012 for this group is JPY 14,980 per month. Insured people of Category 1 with low income or no income at all may be partially or totally exempted from paying their contributions with benefits for such periods reduced according to the degree of exemption.

The insured people of Category 2 pay contributions proportionate to their pensionable remunerations to either the KNH scheme or one of the MAA schemes. The current contribution rate of the KNH is 16.412% in April 2012. The contributions are paid half by the employees and half by their employer(s).

The insured people of Category 3, namely dependent spouses of employees, do not have to directly pay contributions, although each insured month as a Category 3 person is considered to be a month in which he/she has paid the contribution to the NP scheme. Accordingly, a person with 40 years coverage by the NP scheme totally as Category 3 can receive his/her old-age basic pension benefit in the full amount though he/she has never paid contributions. The contributions are effectively made for them by the schemes which cover

their spouses.

5. Transfer from General Revenue

Government makes matching contributions to finance one half of the flat-rate basic benefit through a transfer from general revenue.

6. Contracting-out Plan (KNK)

The contracting-out plan is called the *Kosei-Nenkin-Kikin* (KNK, Employees' Pension Fund). The benefits of the KNK consist of two components: the equivalent benefit of the earnings-related portion of the KNH (excluding the benefit resulting from indexing), and the supplementary benefit. The latter is primarily financed by the employer. The plan must be funded through a trust fund or an insurance contract. The KNK enjoys the contribution rebate (the payroll tax rebate) between 3.2 and 5.0 percentage point from social security pensions, depending on each KNK's average age of their participants (employees).