

“Internet survey on life and work” based on pension-participation history

Overview of the 2011 survey

1. Purpose of survey

The present survey aims to understand the employment behavior, marital status, approach to child rearing, and pension-participation history of individuals; it explores the impact of these life conditions on the current socioeconomic status and subjective welfare of the survey participants.

2. Target and subject of survey

The subjects of this study were individuals with national public pensions who received and kept copies of their annual pension mailings; they were also registered monitors of the Internet survey company. The group excluded members of mutual aid associations. The participants were grouped into three age categories:

Those born between November 1, 1971 and October 31, 1981 (hereinafter referred to as people in their 30s)

Those born between November 1, 1961 and October 31, 1971 (hereinafter referred to as people in their 40s)

Those born between April 1, 1950 and March 31, 1960 (hereinafter referred to as people in their 50s)

As 1,000 men and 1,000 women were assigned to each category, there were approximately 6,000 survey subjects in total.

3. Survey date

For people in their 30s and 40s, the survey took place between November 5 (Saturday) and November 9 (Wednesday), 2011. For people in their 50s, a preliminary survey, which focused on reproducing information from the annual pension mailings, was conducted twice, first between July 29 (Thursday) and August 1 (Sunday), 2010; and second, between September 8 (Thursday) and September 11 (Sunday), 2011. A follow-up survey, excluding copied items, was

conducted between December 2 (Friday) and December 5 (Monday), 2011.

4. Survey items¹

Survey items were broadly classified into the following three categories: (1) government data obtained from annual pension mailings, including pension-participation and wage histories; (2) retrospective data that use these records as a key; and (3) current life and work conditions.

(1) The items derived from annual pension mailings (past administrative records) included the following:

1. Data from the time the participation record was created
2. Data from the pension participation period (1st, 3rd, total national pension, welfare pension, seamen's insurance, total participation period)
3. The estimated old-age pension (old-age basic pension, old-age welfare pension), separating the wage-proportional component and the fixed amount component; the total amount). This set of data only applies to people in their 50s.
4. Premium payment amounts to date (national pension and welfare pension insurance)
5. Standard monthly welfare-pension insurance payment, received in April each year
6. National pension premium payments, received in April each year (13 categories, including paid, unpaid, full exemption, etc.)

(2) Retrospective items based on data from annual pension mailings

1. History of employment, career changes, turnover (company size, industry type, occupation type, type of employment, form of employment contract, vocational training, job change/reason for turnover)
2. Form of employment, marital status, spouse's form of employment
3. Number of children and their residential situation with parents
4. Area of residence

(3) Items related to subject's life and work at the time of survey

1. Gender, date of birth, marital status, number of children, final educational qualification, current employment status, and annual income
2. Household members, relationships of family members living together, annual household

¹ For details, see the survey form.

income, savings, etc.

3. Age of spouse, final educational qualification, current employment status, annual income (if married)
4. Items related to subjective welfare, mode of working, child rearing, parents, elderly people, etc.

5. Survey method

The surveys were carried out via an online survey form. The subjects' public pension histories were obtained from annual pension mailings provided by the Japan Pension Service.

6. Collection and valid responses

This Internet survey used public monitors; as it continued until the target number of subjects was reached, there was no "collection rate." When the investigation was finished, related checks were carried out on government-derived data; items inconsistent with these data were excluded as invalid. The table below shows the number of collected and valid responses, by gender and age. The following answers were invalid: 1) records in which the April National Pension participation records had a year-end age under 20 years old; 2) data in which the difference between the employee's pension participation period, calculated using work history, and the participation period of the posted welfare pension exceeded 13 months; and 3) data in which the difference between 12 times the number of 1st, 3rd, and unpaid premiums in April and the number of participation and unpaid months posted for the copied data was more than 100 months.

	Number of collections	Number of valid responses	Valid response rate
Total	6,177	5,953	96.4%
People in their 30s (men)	1,030	999	97.0%
People in their 30s (women)	1,027	975	94.9%
People in their 40s (men)	1,030	995	96.6%
People in their 40s (women)	1,030	924	89.7%
People in their 50s A (men)	301	301	100.0%
People in their 50s A (women)	251	251	100.0%

People in their 50s B (men)	833	833	100.0%
People in their 50s B (women)	675	675	100.0%

(Note) A preceding study investigated people in their 50s in 2010 (A) and people in their 50s in 2011 (B). In addition, follow-up surveys were conducted using valid responses from the previous survey.