

Outline of the 2019 National Survey of Family Income, Consumption and Wealth

I. Outline of the Survey

1. Purpose of the survey

The National Survey of Family Income, Consumption and Wealth aims to comprehensively grasp the state of consumption, income, assets, and liabilities of households and clarify household income distribution, consumption level and structure, and other matters nationally and by region. This is one of the Fundamental Statistical Surveys based on the Statistics Act (Act No. 53 on 2007) and is implemented for the purpose of compiling “National Statistics of Family Income, Consumption and Wealth,” which are Fundamental Statistics based on the Regulation for the National Survey of Family Income, Consumption and Wealth (Ministerial Ordinance No. 23 issued by the Minister’s Office in 1984). This survey was implemented by completely reviewing the National Survey of Family Income and Expenditure that had been implemented every five years since 1959. The 2019 Survey is the 13th of the entire series.

In order to focus on understanding the actual conditions of yearly income, assets, and liabilities in addition to the structure of income and expenditure, and to improve statistical precision in response to changes in household structure and user needs, while at the same time reducing the burden on the respondents and the implementing organs, the purpose of the survey was changed to the purpose described above from “comprehensively grasp household budgets from the perspectives of income, expenditure, and assets, while clarifying differences by region (e.g. prefecture).”

2. Major revisions of the survey

In order to maintain and improve statistical precision, reduce the burden on sample households, correct and control non-sampling error, and reduce survey affairs and improve their efficiency, mainly the following revisions were made in the survey method and content of the National Survey of Family Income, Consumption and Wealth.

<Maintenance and improvement of statistical precision of total households and one-person households>

- The number of samples of one-person households that have been increasing in recent years was increased to maintain and improve the statistical precision of total households and one-person households.
- The results of the Monitoring Investigation of one-person households (National Survey of

Income and Expenditure of One-person Households) that had been tabulated separately up to the previous survey in 2014 are integrated as data for tabulation using a propensity score, etc. in order to maintain and improve the statistical precision of total households and one-person households.

<Improvement of statistical precision regarding income and family assets>

- The sample size of the yearly income and savings questionnaire was expanded by introducing a long and short form method where the survey consists of “Basic Survey,” which includes a family account book in the questionnaire to be distributed and collected, and “Simplified Survey,” which does not include the account book, in order to improve statistical precision regarding income and family assets.

<Reduction of burden on sample households (correction and control of non-sampling error) and reduction and efficiency improvement of survey affairs>

- The bookkeeping period has been shortened from three months to two months to reduce the burden on sample households, and to correct and control non-sampling error due to substitution of sample households.
- The questionnaire on durable goods, etc., which is not suitable for a time-series comparison and less needed today, has been terminated to reduce the burden on respondents and non-sampling error.
- Sample households of the ongoing Family Income and Expenditure Survey have been integrated as Sample Households of the National Survey of Family Income, Consumption and Wealth, to reduce the burden on the sample households, and to rationalize and save labor of survey affairs, while at the same time maintaining and improving statistical precision.

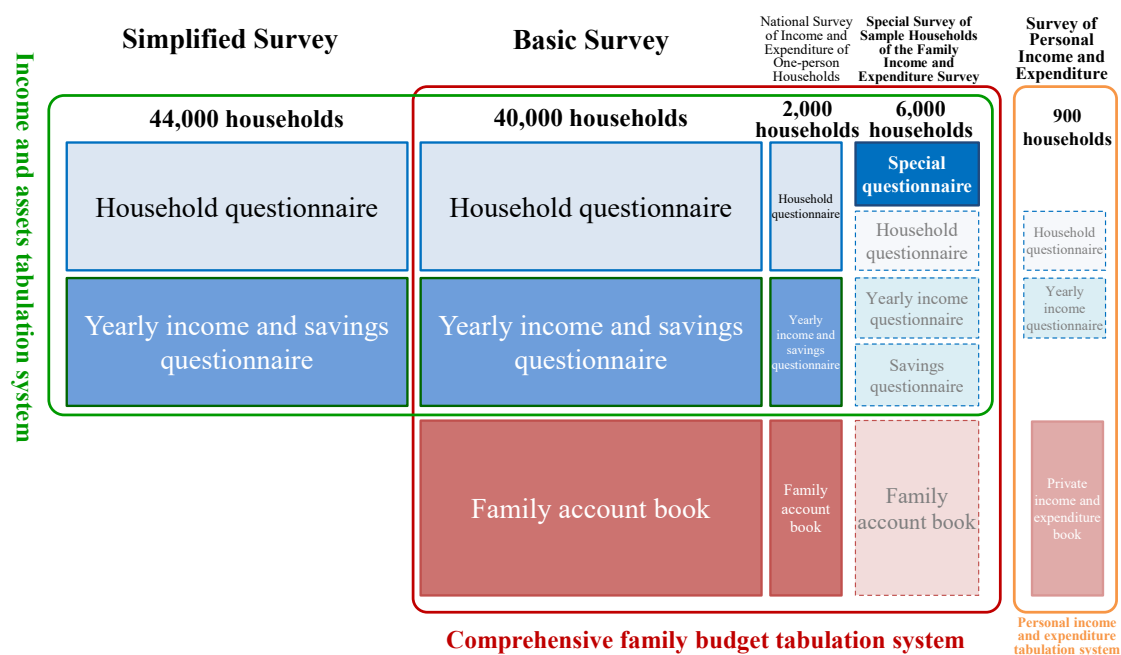
Etc.

3. Survey system

The survey of the National Statistics of Family Income, Consumption and Wealth consists of four surveys: the Basic Survey, the Simplified Survey, the Special Survey of Sample Households of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey, and the Survey of Personal Income and Expenditure. (In addition, the National Survey of Income and Expenditure of One-person Households is used for tabulation of the National Statistics of Family Income, Consumption and Wealth.)

Types of questionnaires, the number of samples (round number) and tabulation system are shown in the figure below.

Survey and tabulation system of the National Statistics of Family Income, Consumption and Wealth



4. Survey items and date or period

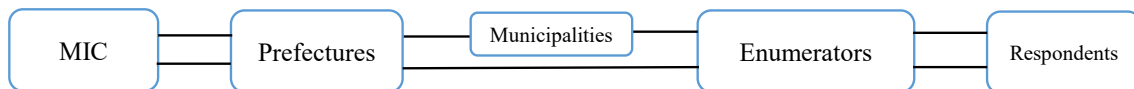
Questionnaire type	Survey item	Survey date/period
Family account book (October)	Income and expenditure	October
Family account book (November)	Income, expenditure and purchase region/place	November
Household questionnaire	Household, household members, residence, land, etc.	October
Yearly income and savings questionnaire	Items regarding yearly income amount of financial assets and debts	One year from November of the previous year to October of the survey year (at the end of October for the amount of financial assets and debts)
Private income and expenditure book	Private income and expenditure of individual household members	October or November (depending on the survey target)

Note: Special Survey of Sample Households of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey is used for tabulation by complementing items that were not asked in the survey with “special questionnaire” in addition to the questionnaire of the survey (household questionnaire, yearly income questionnaire, financial asset questionnaire and family account book).

5. Flow of method of the survey

The survey was implemented as follows (flow of “Basic Survey and Simplified Survey” in the upper column; the flow of “Special Survey of Sample Households of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey and the Survey of Personal Income and Expenditure” in the lower column)

Survey is conducted by enumerators, online and by mail (only for the Simplified Survey).



6. Survey targets

Sample households were selected from among all households nationwide by a method provided by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications. The survey was implemented by dividing the households into two-or-more-person households and one-person households.

However, households that fall under the items below were excluded because it is difficult to accurately measure their household income and expenditure.

(1) Two-or-more-person households

- a. households living in a dwelling combined with a restaurant, inn, or boarding house (including dormitory)
- b. households with lodging and boarding housemates
- c. households with more than four residential business employees
- d. foreigner households (without a person who can fill in the questionnaire in Japanese)

(2) One-person households

- a. persons admitted to a social institution or reformatory
- b. persons living in JSDF barrack
- c. persons admitted to a hospital or sanatorium
- d. persons under 15 years of age
- e. Students
- f. One-person households that fall under a. to d. of (1)

7. Selection

(1) Sampling method

Sampling for the Basic and Simplified Surveys of the National Survey of Family Income, Consumption and Wealth was conducted separately in urban areas and rural areas as is the case of the previous survey. In urban areas, sample households were selected in two steps, where surveyed unit areas of cities (793 cities in total; each ward of Tokyo was regarded as one city) were the primary selection unit, and households were the secondary selection unit. In rural areas, sample households were selected in three steps, where towns and villages were the primary

selection unit, surveyed unit areas of towns/villages (215 towns/villages were selected from among 926 towns/cities) were the second selection unit, and households were the third selection unit. Municipalities are those as of January 1, 2019.

(a) Selection of target towns/villages

Target towns/villages were selected with consideration given to their geographical location, etc.

(b) Selection of surveyed unit areas

The survey areas of the 2015 Census were used as a selection frame to select surveyed unit areas of each municipality. One surveyed unit area of the Simplified Survey consists of one Census survey area, while one surveyed unit area of the Basic Survey consists of two adjacent Census survey areas.

(c) Selection of sample households

From each list of households in a surveyed unit area, which was compiled based on the field survey by enumerators, ten two-or-more-person households and two one-person households were selected.

For the Special Survey of Sample Households of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey, the sample households were selected from the following unit areas among 168 municipalities where the survey was conducted as of November 1, 2019.

- Two-or-more-person households: general unit areas, which were renewed as unit areas of the survey or whose list was corrected in June, July, August, and September
- One-person households: general unit areas and dormitory unit areas, which were renewed as unit areas of the survey or whose list was corrected in September and August

(2) Number of the surveyed unit areas and distribution of sample households

(a) Number of the surveyed unit areas and sample households

The number of surveyed unit areas is 3,638 for the Simplified Survey and 3,328 for the Basic Survey.

36,380 two-or-more-person households were distributed to the Simplified Survey, while 33,280 households were distributed to the Basic Survey. 7,276 one-person households were distributed to the Simplified Survey, while 6,656 households were distributed to the Basic Survey. In addition, 5,328 two-or-more-person households and 497 one-person households were distributed from the Special Survey of Sample Households of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey. The National Survey of Income and Expenditure of One-person Households (survey of monitors of a private research institute and not based on random sampling) surveyed 2,829 one-person households.

(b) Household distribution

Sample households were distributed by setting the minimum sample number with consideration given to the population of each city nationwide and rural area (town/village) of each prefecture. However, distribution to the Basic Survey is made considering the distribution of sample households of the Special Survey of Sample Households of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey that implemented a survey equivalent to the Basic Survey.

Number of the Sample households of the National Survey of Family Income, Consumption and Wealth (the National Survey of Family Income and Expenditure)

Survey year	Number of sample households			Composition ratio (%)		
	Total number	One-person	Two-or-more-person	Total number	One-person	Two-or-more-person
1994	59,794	4,690	55,104	100.0	7.8	92.2
1999	59,794	5,002	54,792	100.0	8.4	91.6
2004	59,794	5,002	54,792	100.0	8.4	91.6
2009	56,806	4,402	52,404	100.0	7.7	92.3
2014	56,352	4,696	51,656	100.0	8.3	91.7
2019	89,471	14,429	75,042	100.0	16.1	83.9
Simplified Survey	43,656	7,276	36,380	100.0	16.7	83.3
Basic Survey	39,936	6,656	33,280	100.0	16.7	83.3
Special Survey of Sample Households of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey	5,879	497	5,382	100.0	8.5	91.5

(Reference)

National Survey of Income and Expenditure of One-person Households	2,829	2,829	—	—	—	—
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8. Tabulation and publication of results

Questionnaires were submitted to the Statistics Bureau of MIC through municipalities and prefectures and then tabulated by computer at the national Statistics Center. Survey results will be published on the website of the Statistics Bureau.

II. Transition in the Survey

Changes of the survey concept and definitions from previous surveys (1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014 Surveys) are described below.

1. Survey Targets

- (1) Okinawa, which was returned to Japanese sovereignty in May 1972, was added as a survey region from the 1974 Survey.
- (2) Surveys conducted in and before 1969 excluded agriculture, forestry and fisheries workers' households; however, from the 1974 Survey, only household incomes obtained exclusively or mainly from agriculture, forestry and fisheries were excluded and part-time farming households were included. From the 1984 survey, all households, including agriculture, forestry and fisheries workers' households, were included in the survey.
- (3) Surveys conducted in and before 1964 targeted only workers' households in cities with populations over 50,000 for one-person households. From the 1969 survey and thereafter, one-person household survey areas were extended to include cities, towns and villages with populations less than 50,000, and households other than workers' households.
- (4) Surveys conducted from 1959 to 1979 on one-person households were conducted for two months from October to November, and only one month in November for the 1984 survey. From 1989, the survey period reverted to the two months of October and November and the 2014 survey was also conducted for the two months of October and November.
- (5) The surveyed unit area of dormitory that was used for one-person households up to the 2004 Survey was terminated in the 2009 Survey.
- (6) The survey period of two-or-more-person households was the three months of September, October, and November from the 1959 Survey to the 2014 Survey, but it was the two months of October and November in the 2019 Survey. As a result, the survey period of the two household categories have become the same.

2. Survey Items

- (1) The amount of each item of household expenditure was surveyed in and prior to 1969, but from the 1974 Survey, some items were grouped together for a survey of expenditure amount. However, from the 2004 survey onward, the method returned to the survey of each expenditure item. The surveys in and prior to 1984 asked respondents to enter the volume of each purchase other than fixed items together with the amount, but the entry of volume was terminated from the 1989

Survey onward. Place of purchase in the family account book for November, which was excluded from survey items in the 1989 Survey, was included again in the 1994 Survey. Since the 2009 Survey, expenditure with electronic money and purchase region have been surveyed. In the 2019 Survey, Account Book C of the Survey B was terminated and the survey name was changed to Private Income and Expenditure Survey.

- (2) Items related to yearly income, assets/liabilities, and plan to purchase house/land were surveyed starting with the 1969 Survey. In 1974, we started conducting a survey on whether respondents had any record of acquiring housing or property. From the 1989 Survey, purchase record of and plan to purchase housing/land have been excluded from the survey, and instead, total floor area, etc. of the houses/residential land except the present residence were surveyed. Since the 2014 Survey, intended use of housing/residential land other than the present residence has been eliminated from the survey. In order to increase consistency with the equalized disposable income of OECD, company pension contributions, direct taxes on fixed property, direct taxes on car were added to survey items.
- (3) In regard to major durable goods, clothing, which was surveyed until 1974, was eliminated from the surveyed items in the 1979 Survey and after. Method of purchase (monthly installments or credit card) of major durable goods, which was surveyed in the 1984 Survey, was excluded in 1989 and thereafter. Reason for purchase (new, replacement or addition) of major durable goods, which was surveyed in the 1984 Survey was excluded in 1989, and resumed as new, replacement, additional items in 1994. Period of purchase surveyed in 1989 was surveyed as volume of acquisition in the past one year in the 1994 Survey. From 1999 onward, approximately 20 out of approximately 40 items were surveyed for acquisition period as in the past one year, past one to five years, or past five years or more. In the 2014 Survey, the total ownership and period of purchase of 10 housing facilities, including integrated kitchen unit, were surveyed through Household Questionnaire, while the same of another 30 items were asked in the Consumer Durables Questionnaire. The Consumer Durables Questionnaire was terminated in the 2019 survey.

3. Classification basis

(1) City Class

Sample cities, towns and villages included in the surveyed regions are compared with the previous 12 surveys. See the table below.

Number of sample cities, towns and villages

	1959	1964	1969	1974	1979	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004	2009	2014	2019
Japan	797	814	866	997	1,081	1,112	1,191	1,150	1,142	1,138	1,003	1,003	1,008
Cities	544	559	565	643	647	652	656	664	671	680	784	791	793
Major cities	6	7	7	8	10	11	11	11	11	14	18	21	21
Middle cities	48	63	85	103	110	116	118	123	127	132	141	140	138
Small cities A	206	203	207	226	262	278	295	302	309	304	379	377	362
Small cities B	284	286	266	306	265	247	232	228	224	230	246	253	272
Town/village	253	255	301	354	434	460	535	486	471	458	219	212	215

Major cities — Government-designated cities and Tokyo Wards

Middle cities — Cities with populations of 150,000 or more but less than 1 million (excluding major cities)

Small cities A — Cities with populations of 50,000 or more but less than 150,000

Small cities B — Cities with populations of less than 50,000

(2) Ownership of dwelling

Comparison of classifications in the past 12 surveys and this survey is as shown below.

1959	1964	1969	1974	1979	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004	2009	2014	2019
Owned houses	Owned houses	Owned houses	Owned houses	Owned houses	Owned houses	Owned houses	Owned houses	Owned houses	Owned houses	Owned houses	Owned houses	Owned houses
Rented houses – privately owned	Rented houses – privately owned	Rented houses – privately owned (facilities used exclusively)	Rented houses – privately owned (facilities shared)	Rented houses – privately owned (facilities used exclusively)	Rented houses – privately owned (facilities shared)	Rented houses – privately owned (facilities used exclusively)	Rented houses – privately owned (facilities used exclusively)	Rented houses – privately owned (facilities used exclusively)	Rented houses – privately owned (facilities used exclusively)	Rented houses – privately owned (facilities used exclusively)	Rented houses – privately owned (facilities used exclusively)	Rented houses – privately owned (facilities used exclusively)
Rented rooms	Rented rooms	Rented rooms	Rented rooms	Rented rooms	Rented rooms	Rented rooms	Rented rooms	Rented rooms	Rented rooms	Rented rooms	Rented rooms	Rented rooms
Rented houses publicly owned	Rented houses publicly owned	Rented houses publicly owned	Rented houses, public corporation's ownership	Rented houses publicly owned	Rented houses, public corporation's ownership	Rented houses publicly owned	Rented houses, public corporation's ownership	Rented houses publicly owned	Rented houses, public corporation's ownership	Rented houses publicly owned	Rented houses, public corporation's ownership	Rented houses publicly owned
Public officers' housing	Issued houses	Issued houses	Issued houses	Issued houses	Issued houses	Issued houses	Issued houses	Issued houses	Issued houses	Issued houses	Issued houses	Issued houses
Dormitories	Dormitories	Dormitories	Dormitories	Dormitories	Dormitories	Dormitories	Dormitories	Dormitories	Dormitories	Dormitories	Dormitories	Dormitories

In the dwelling ownership tables of the 1969 and 1974 Surveys, “Rented houses – privately owned (facilities shared)” and “Rented rooms” were partially grouped as “Rented houses – privately owned (facilities shared) and rented rooms.” In the tables of the 1969 Survey, “Rented houses – publicly owned” and “Rented houses, public corporation's ownership” were partially grouped to show “Rented houses, publicly owned or public corporation's ownership.” In surveys from 1979 to 1989, “Rented houses privately owned (facilities shared)” and “Rented rooms” were grouped to show “Rented houses – privately owned (facilities shared) and rented rooms.”

Since the 1994 Survey, “Rented houses privately owned (facilities used exclusively),” “Rented houses, privately owned (facilities shared),” and “Rented rooms” were grouped to show “Rented houses and rooms privately owned” and “of the above, rented houses privately

owned (facilities used exclusively)” was added. In and after the 2014 Survey, this was changed to “of the above, rented houses privately owned” and the distinction of shared and exclusive facilities was eliminated.

In some tables, “Rented houses, publicly owned” and “Rented houses, public corporation's ownership” (“Rented houses, Urban Renaissance Agency, and public corporation's ownership” from 2004 Survey) are grouped as “Rented houses publicly owned and rented houses, public corporation's ownership” (“Rented houses publicly owned and rented houses Urban Renaissance Agency or public corporation's ownership” starting from the 2004 Survey).

From the 1969 Survey, two-or-more-person households residing in “dormitory” has been included in “issued houses.”

On some tables of the surveys conducted between 1999 and 2009, “Owned house” is broken down by ownership into “Owned house (owned by the household head or members)” and “Owned house (owned by a person other than the household head or members).”

(3) Classification of households (regarding children)

In the 1969 survey, households with more than four members were classified by age and type of school attended by all children. In and after the 1974 survey, households were categorized by age and type of the school attended by the first child.

From the 1979 Survey onward, number of children in the family were categorized into household types; and from the 1999 survey, “Households with single parent and children” were renamed “Households with children and a father or mother.”