

Chapter 1 Outline of the Survey

The Survey on Working Life is carried out with the objective of using a chronological study to gain an understanding of the reality of working life, clarifying the baseline and changes therein, conducting evaluations thereof, and obtaining basic data for policy-making. In ascertaining the baseline of working life, this study focuses on people's concerns (consciousness) and trends therein, centering on their self-actualization through work; the survey is characterized by its approach, involving the examination of a diverse range of aspects of work consciousness, including attitude to work, the relationship between work and other aspects of life, and awareness of systems and rules with work at their core.

This survey consists of a standard set of basic items that appear in each survey, and special topics that change each time. The basic items are characterized by the fact that the same survey method with the same questions is used in each survey, so it is possible to obtain accurate time-series data. Surveys were previously conducted in 1999, 2000, and 2001, making this the fourth time that it has been conducted. The special topic in the fourth survey is "diversifying ways of working".

The outline of this survey is as follows.

- Survey period: August 27–September 21, 2004

- Survey subjects: 4,000 men and women nationwide, aged 20 or over

Subjects were selected by means of a stratified two-stage systematic sampling method (1. Municipalities nationwide were classified into 11 blocks according to their prefecture; 2. Each block was classified into one of 18 categories according to the scale of the cities and counties therein. Proportional distribution of 4,000 specimens (survey subjects) was carried out according to the size of the population aged 20 or above (according to the basic resident register as of March 31, 2003) in each block and city/county-scale stratum, and systematic sampling was carried out in each stratum.

- Survey method: Survey takers went to interview subjects.

- Status of responses: Valid responses obtained from 2,729 people (68.2%).

(Reference) Respondent attributes (1st - 4th surveys)

		(%)			
		1999 (1st)	2000 (2nd)	2001 (3rd)	2004 (4th)
Total number		100.0 2,724 people	100.0 2,778 people	100.0 2,751 people	100.0 2,729 people
Gender	Male	46.5	45.1	45.9	47.6
	Female	53.5	54.9	54.1	52.4
Age	20s	13.3	13.5	11.0	9.9
	30s	16.3	14.8	16.0	16.8
	40s	20.1	17.6	18.9	17.0
	50s	20.9	20.2	22.1	21.6
	60s	18.3	20.3	19.2	19.6
	70 or over	11.2	13.7	12.9	15.1
	Young people (20-34)	20.6	20.6	18.8	17.8

*Component ratio of respondents in items relating to form of employment (special tabulation)

		(%)			
		1999 (1st)	2000 (2nd)	2001 (3rd)	2004 (4th)
In paid employment		64.0	60.1	63.4	59.8
Employee		48.2	45.9	49.0	48.4
Regular employee		32.5	27.8	30.8	27.4
Non-regular employee (note)		13.8	13.6	14.1	16.3

(Note) Here, the term non-regular employee refers to those who answered that their employment status was "non-regular employee" or "dispatched worker."

(Reference) Reports on the 1st–3rd Surveys on Working Life, etc.

Imada, Sachiko (2000), Reconstruction of Work Style: Future of Diversified and Confused Work Consciousness, *Japanese Journal of Labour Studies* No.479

Japan Institute of Labour (2003), *1st Survey on Working Life (1999)*, JIL Data Series No.139

Japan Institute of Labour (2003), *2nd Survey on Working Life (2000)*, JIL Data Series No.140

Japan Institute of Labour (2003), *3rd Survey on Working Life (2001)*, JIL Data Series No.141

Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training (2004), *Changes in Work Consciousness: Analysis of the Results of Surveys on Working Life (1999, 2000, 2001)*, JILPT Research Report No.2