

Results of the “NHK/JILPT Joint Survey on Lifestyles and Attitudes” (First aggregation, summary)

High percentages of respondents, with or without a spouse, set the necessary annual income for what they consider a “middle-class life” as “more than 6 million yen.” When asked about their actual standard of living, more than half of the respondents answered that they are “living in a lower than middle-class life.” Less than 40% of respondents indicated “I cannot be more financially affluent than my parents” and indicated a negative response to the idea of “Anyone can become affluent as long as they work hard.”

CONTENTS

1. Image of “middle-class life”
2. Sense of belonging to a hierarchy
3. Current standard of living
4. Prospects for future living conditions
5. Ideal way of working and income, and conditions to realize them
6. *Thoughts on effort* to be affluent
7. Most important condition for living a better life
8. Whether or not they think they can be more affluent than their parents

Key findings

1. Image of “middle-class life”

1.1 Annual income required for an imaged “middle-class life” (Figures 1-1 to 1-5)

The percentage of respondents who chose “more than 6 million yen” was the highest in each category. Responses of those with a spouse are concentrated to “more than 6 million yen” and “more than 8 million yen,” and those without a spouse to “more than 4 million yen” and “more than 6 million yen.”

When the survey targets (men and women of 20–69 years of age among the registered monitors of the survey company) were asked how much annual income they need to have an imagined “middle-class life”, those with a spouse were asked about their combined annual income, while those without a spouse were asked about their individual annual income. The responses by those with a spouse were concentrated between the options of “more than 6 million yen” and “more than 8 million yen,” while the responses by those without a spouse were concentrated between “more than 4 million yen” and “more than 6 million yen.” The percentage of responses of “more than 6 million yen” was the highest in both groups (Figure 1-1). There was a trend for females to choose a lower annual group for class (Figure 1-1), and the higher the educational attainment was, the higher the necessary annual income they set (Figure 1-2). There was also a trend for those with a spouse to set the required annual income as higher as the age group increased. In contrast, no trend in age group was seen in respondents without a spouse (Figure 1-3).

1.2 Conditions for an imaged “middle-class life” (multiple answers, Figures 1-6, Tables 1-1, 1-2)

The most frequent responses for conditions to live an imaged “middle-class life” were “the head of household working as a regular employee” (63.0%), “having one’s own house” (61.2%), and “having one’s own car” (59.5%).

When asked about the conditions for an imagined “middle-class life” (multiple answers allowed), “the head of household is working as a regular employee” (63.0%) was the most frequent response, followed by “living one’s own house” (61.2%), and “having one’s own car” (59.5%) (Figure 1-6). In comparison to males, females chose a higher percentage for most options. With higher educational attainment, the options that they chose became higher, for example, “the head of household is a regular employee,” “married and raising children,” and “able to provide higher education for children,” while the percentage who selected “living in one’s own house” decreased (Table 1-1). Respondents in their 20s chose “living in one’s own house” and “having one’s own car” as conditions less frequently in comparison to other age groups (Table 1-2).

1.3 Living an imagined “middle-class life” or not (Figures 1-7 to 1-11)

More than half (55.7%) responded that they are “living below a middle-class life,” and 40% responded “living a middle-class life.”

When asked whether they live an imagined “middle-class life,” more than half (55.7%) responded that they were “living below a middle-class life,” while 5.9% responded that they were “living above a middle-class life” (Figure 1-7). The percentage of respondents without a spouse who chose “living above a middle-class life” was lower than that with a spouse, and the percentage of respondents without a spouse who chose “living below a middle-class life” was higher than that with a spouse. As the educational attainment increased, the percentage of respondents who chose “living above the middle-class life” increased, and a low percentage responded that they were “living below a middle-class life” (Figure 1-8).

2. Sense of belonging to a hierarchy (Figures 2-1 to 2-5)

With respect to the sense of belonging to a hierarchy in relation to living standards, 55.3% responded that they belonged to the middle class. As the educational attainment increased, the percentage responded that they belonged to the middle class increased, and the percentage who responded that they belonged to the lower class decreased. As for respondents in their 20s and 40s, a lower percentage indicated that they were in the middle-class group in comparison to other age groups, and a higher percentage indicated they were in the lower-class group.

When asked which of five tiers their “standard of living” should be categorized as (“upper,” “upper middle,” “lower middle,” “upper lower,” or “lower”), 53.4% of males, 57.0% of females, and 55.3% of the total indicated that they were in the middle-class group (“upper middle” and “lower middle”) (Figure 2-1, Figure 2-2). A higher percentage of respondents with a spouse indicated that they were in the middle-class group, and a low percentage of respondents with a spouse indicated that they were in the lower-class group (“upper lower” and “lower”). As the educational attainment increased, the percentage of respondents who indicated that they were in the middle-class group increased and the

percentage of respondents who indicated that they were in the lower-class group decreased (Figure 2-2). As for respondents in their 20s and 40s, a lower percentage indicated that they were in the middle-class group in comparison to other age groups, and a higher percentage indicated they were in the lower-class group (Figure 2-3).

3. Current standard of living (Figures 3-1 to 3-5)

In relation to their current standard of living, more than half responded that they cannot afford to live well.

When the survey targets were asked how they feel about their current standard of living, 3.1% responded “I can afford to live quite well,” and 40.2% responded “I can afford to live well to some extent.” On the other hand, 41.8% responded “I cannot afford to live well to some extent,” and 14.9% responded “I cannot afford to live well at all.” Accordingly, more than half (56.7%) of the total respondents answered they cannot afford to live well (total of “to some extent” and “at all”) (Figure 3-1). As the educational attainment decreased, the percentage of respondents who indicated that they cannot afford to live well increased (Figure 3-2). The percentage of respondents who indicated that they cannot afford to live well was 61.5% in the 40-49 age group and 60.7% in the 50–59 age group, which were higher in comparison to other age groups (Figure 3-3). Regarding the type of employment, the percentage of respondents who indicated that they cannot afford to live well was highest among non-regular employee/freelance (64.2%), and the lowest among managers and executives of companies (36.1%) (Figure 3-4). With regard to the annual income group, as the annual income decreased, the percentage of respondents who indicated that they cannot afford to live well increased (Figure 3-5).

4. Prospects for future living conditions (Figures 4-1 to 4-5)

Regarding the prospects for their own living conditions in the future, 53.2% responded “I can maintain my current lifestyle,” 37.2% responded “life will be worse than now.”

When asked about the prospects for their own living conditions in the future, 9.6% responded “life will be better than now,” 53.2% responded “I can maintain my current lifestyle,” and 37.2% responded “life will be worse than now” (Figure 4-1). By type of employment, the percentage who indicated “life will be better than now” was the lowest among the non-regular employee/freelance group, followed by the jobless. The percentage who indicated “life will be worse than now” was the highest among the jobless, followed by non-regular employee/freelance (Figure 4-4). By annual income group, as the annual income decreased, the percentage who indicated “life will be worse than now” increased (Figure 4-5).

5. Ideal way of working and income, and conditions to realize them (Figures 5-1 to 5-11)

“Continue working at the same company for a long time (lifetime employment)” is the response by more than half and the highest (50.5%). When asked about the most necessary thing to realize an ideal way of working, the response of “support for balancing work and life” is the highest (29.4%).

When asked about an ideal way of working and income, the highest percentage (50.5%) indicated “continue working at the same company for a long time (lifetime employment)” (Figure 5-1). The percentage tended to increase in higher age groups. On the other hand, the percentages who indicated “continue choosing a light burden job regardless of income” and “living on unearned income from investments, etc., while working as little as possible” tended to be higher in the lower age group (Figure 5-3). The most necessary thing to realize an ideal way of working was “support for balancing work and life” (29.4%), followed by “stability of corporate management” (19.7%) and “sufficient social security system” (17.4%) (Figure 5-7).

6. Thoughts on effort to be affluent (Figures 6-1 to 6-5)

Two-thirds (65.6%) of respondents answered “do not think so” to the question of whether they think anyone can become affluent as long as they work hard.

When asked if they think anyone can become affluent in Japan as long as they worked hard (namely, *their thoughts on effort*), the responses, in order of frequency, were “somewhat disagree” (47.7%), “somewhat agree” (31.5%), “strongly disagree” (17.9%) and “strongly agree” (3.0%). The percentage who indicated that they disagreed (total of “somewhat disagree” and “strongly disagree”) was 65.6%, indicating that two-thirds of respondents did not think that they could become affluent even if they worked hard (Figure 6-1). The total number of respondents who indicated that they disagreed was higher among those in their late 40s (Figure 6-3) and among the lower annual income group (Figure 6-5).

7. Most important condition for living a better life (Figures 7-1 to 7-5)

The younger generation was less concerned about working diligently.

When asked about the most important condition for living a better life, the responses were “work diligently” (46.1%), “getting a good education” (16.7%), “blessed with contacts and connections” (15.5%), “born and raised in a time with a good economy” (14.8%), and “having parents with higher income or educational attainment” (6.9%) (Figure 7-1). In the higher age groups, the percentage who indicated “work diligently” increased and the percentage who indicated “blessed with contacts and connections” decreased (Figure 7-3).

8. Whether or not they think they can be more affluent than their parents

8.1 (Figures 8-1 to 8-7)

When asked if they think they can be more affluent than their parents, the responses, in order of frequency, were as follows: “I do not think I can” (36.2%), “I think I can be as affluent as my parents” (27.7%), and “I think I can” (18.6%) (Figure 8-1). By age group, the percentage of respondents who indicated “I do not think I can” increased at ages 20 to 49 (20–29 [31.3%], 30–39 [41.3%], and 40–49 [42.5%]) (Figure 8-3). By type of employment, the percentage of respondents who indicated “I do not think I can” was higher among non-regular employees/freelance (41.8%) than among regular employees (34.1%) (Figure 8-6).

8.2 (Figures 9-1, Tables 9-1 to 9-3)

The reasons for answering “I do not think I can” were, in order of frequency, as follows: “the economy is different from the time of my parents” (60.9%), “the pay scale at the company I work for is different from that of my parents” (41.9%), “the cost of living is higher than during my parents’ time” (39.1%), and “my type of employment is different from that of my parents” (30.3%) (Figure 9-1). By age group, for “the economy is different from the time of my parents,” the percentages were comparatively high in the 40–49 (66.7%), 50–59 (63.5%), and 30–39 (58.5%) age groups, while for “the pay scale at the company I work for is different from that of my parents” the percentages were comparatively high in the 30–39 (53.7%) and 20–29 (50.2%) age groups (Table 9-2).

8.3 (Figures 10-1 to 10-4, Tables 10-1, 10-2)

Looking at the trends in responses to the question of “do you think anyone can become affluent in Japan as long as they work hard,” among those responded that they think they can be more affluent than their parents, 5.4% answered that they “strongly agree” and 37.8% answered that they “somewhat agree.”

Among those who responded that they do not think they can be more affluent than their parents, while the percentages of respondents who indicated “strongly agree” (1.6%) and “somewhat agree” (24.4%) were relatively low, the percentages of respondents who indicated “somewhat disagree” (48.9%) and “strongly disagree” (25.3%) were relatively high (Figure 10-1).

Among respondents who indicated that they think they can be more affluent than their parents,” the percentage of respondents who indicated “I want to perform an activity if it is for the sake of society” was relatively high (54.1%). As for those who indicated that they do not think they can be more affluent than their parents, the percentage who chose the same response was relatively low (35.3%), and similarly, the percentages who chose “my action alone will not change the society” (46.1%) or “I am not interested in changing society” (18.6%) were relatively high (Figure 10-3).

Outline of the Survey

1. Purpose and objective

In Japan, wage growth has remained low for a long time along with the long-term economic stagnation.¹ In addition, there are concerns about a decrease in the middle-income group (middle-class group) and an increase in the low-income group in the shape of a decline of the median income level in household income distribution.²

The reduction of the middle-class group, as measured by income indicators, was confirmed by any of analyses using *Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions* (by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) and *National Survey of Family Income* as well as *Consumption and Wealth and National Survey of Family Income and Expenditure* (both by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications). A comparison of household distribution by income group conducted by the Cabinet Office in 1994 and 2019 using *National Survey of Family Income and Consumption and Wealth* and *National Survey of Family Income and Expenditure*³ confirmed the decline of middle-income households and an increase in the percentage of lower income household groups over the past 25 years.⁴ In a study using individual data from *Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions*, Tanaka (2020) also reported the shrinking of the middle-class group from 1985 to 2015 by setting the income group area of each year as well as by fixing the income group area of the middle-class group in 1985.

While the income environment of Japan is in this situation, Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) and The Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training (JILPT) conducted *The Joint Survey on Lifestyles and Attitudes by NHK/JILPT* to grasp the state of peoples' lives and an image of the middle-class and attitudes to society. Through the survey, we examined the following: 1) whether the younger generation is more likely to be less financially affluent than their parents; 2) the negative influence on society if people cannot become more financially affluent than their parents; 3) while it was said in the past that “all-Japanese-are-middle-class”, how do people define a middle-class life; 4) how do personal attributes such as age, education, and gender influence the gap between the imagined “middle-class life” and actual life; and 5) where do people consider themselves if their standard of living is set as an indicator. The following is a preliminary report of some of the findings from the survey.⁵

1. According to *Grand Design and Action Plan for a New Form of Capitalism: Realization of Investment in People, Technology, and Start-ups* (approved by the Cabinet Office on June 7, 2022), the real wages per capita in developed countries increased 1.48 times in UK, 1.41 times in US, and 1.34 times in France and Germany from 1991 to 2019, it remained at 1.05 times in Japan. See its basic materials at https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/atarashii_sihonsyugi/pdf/ap2022.pdf (p.2, in Japanese).

2. In *Grand Design and Action Plan for a New Form of Capitalism* (see note 1 above), “II. Idea to realize a new form of capitalism,” the government says that “to formulate a thick middle-class is important for the healthy development of democracy, and that by enriching the middle-class which is a major player in the economic society in a new form of capitalism, a sustainable economic society can be realized while avoiding the social fragmentation resulting from an widening of fixation of disparity.”

3. Source: The material 4-1 of the second meeting on 2022 for the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy by Cabinet Office, <https://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai-shimon/kaigi/minutes/2022/0303/agenda.html> (in Japanese).

4. In detail, the median income before all household redistribution fell from 5.5 million yen in 1994 to 3.72 million yen in 2019. The median income after redistribution fell from 5.09 million yen to 3.74 million yen. The structural changes in income distribution over the past 25 years—which are considered to be possibly influenced by the increase of the older age households (20% to 36%) and the increase of single households (26% to 38%)—confirmed the decrease in the median income of all age groups as well as the increase of lower income households in each age group except those of the 55 to 64 age group before redistribution.

5. Regarding the detailed survey results, a secondary analysis is to be conducted and announced in the future. Note that the percentages shown in this document are all rounded to one decimal place; thus, in some cases, the total breakdown may not always equal 100% or the total of the breakdown may not always equal the sum of the breakdown percentages.

2. How the survey was conducted

Extraction of survey targets

This survey targeted males and females of 20 to 69 years of age in Japan. Sample extraction was performed to be proportional to the structure of gender, age, employment status, and residence area of the “Population Census” (2020). Specifically, the sample was assigned to 320 cells, consisting of gender × age group (5 classes) × employment status (4 categories: regular/non-regular/self-employed/jobless) × residential area (8 blocks).

Survey method

The web survey targeting the registered monitors of the survey company

Survey period

July 29 to August 1, 2022 (examined the situation as of August 1, 2022).

Number of valid responses

5,370 people

Survey items (general items)

Gender, age, residence area, marital status (with or without a spouse), education status and educational attainment, graduation year (prospected), employment status, job, type of employment, thoughts on the current job, annual income (respondent, their spouse, the household), willingness for marriage, number of children, ideal number of children, imagined “middle-class life,” necessary annual income to realize an imagined “middle-class life,” living situation, household situation at 15 years of age, financial affluence in comparison to parents, sense of belonging to a hierarchy, consumption style, prospects for future living, conditions for living a better life, ideal way of working, thoughts on relationship between efforts and affluence, feeling toward people who succeed in the socially, and attitude to involvement in the society.

References

- Kanbayashi, Hiroshi. 2015. “Kaiso kizoku ishiki kara mita sengo nihon: So churyu shakai kara kakusa shakai e” [Status identification in postwar Japan: From the vast middle class to inequality]. *Shakai ishiki kara mita nihon: Kaiso ishiki no shin-jigen* [New dimensions of social identification and consciousness] edited by Naoki Sudo, 16–49. Tokyo: Yuhikaku.
- Tanaka, Soichiro (research collaborator). 2020. “Nihon no chukanso no suii: Kokumin seikatsu kiso chosa (1985–2015) ni motozuku suikei” [Changes in Japan’s Middle Class: Based on Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions (1985-2015)]. Subsidy for Research Project for Promotion of Health and Labor Administration in FY2019 (Policy Science Research Project [Policy Science Promotion Research Project]), “Koreiki o chushin toshita seikatsu shuro no jittai chosa” [Survey on the Actual Situation of Living and Working in the Elderly] (H30-policy-designation-008). https://mhlw-grants.niph.go.jp/system/files/2019/191011/201901012A_upload/201901012A0016.pdf.

Figure 1-1. Annual income required to live an imagined “middle-class life” by gender and marital status (with or without a spouse)

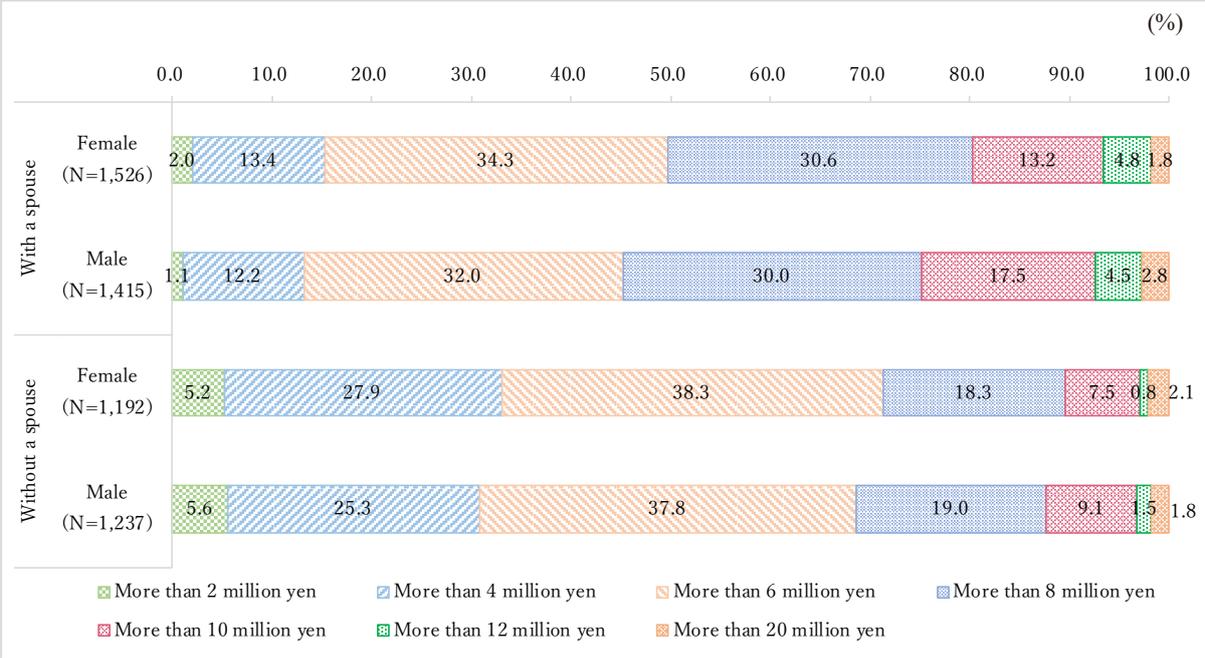


Figure 1-2. Annual income required to live an imagined “middle-class life” by educational attainment and marital status (with or without a spouse)

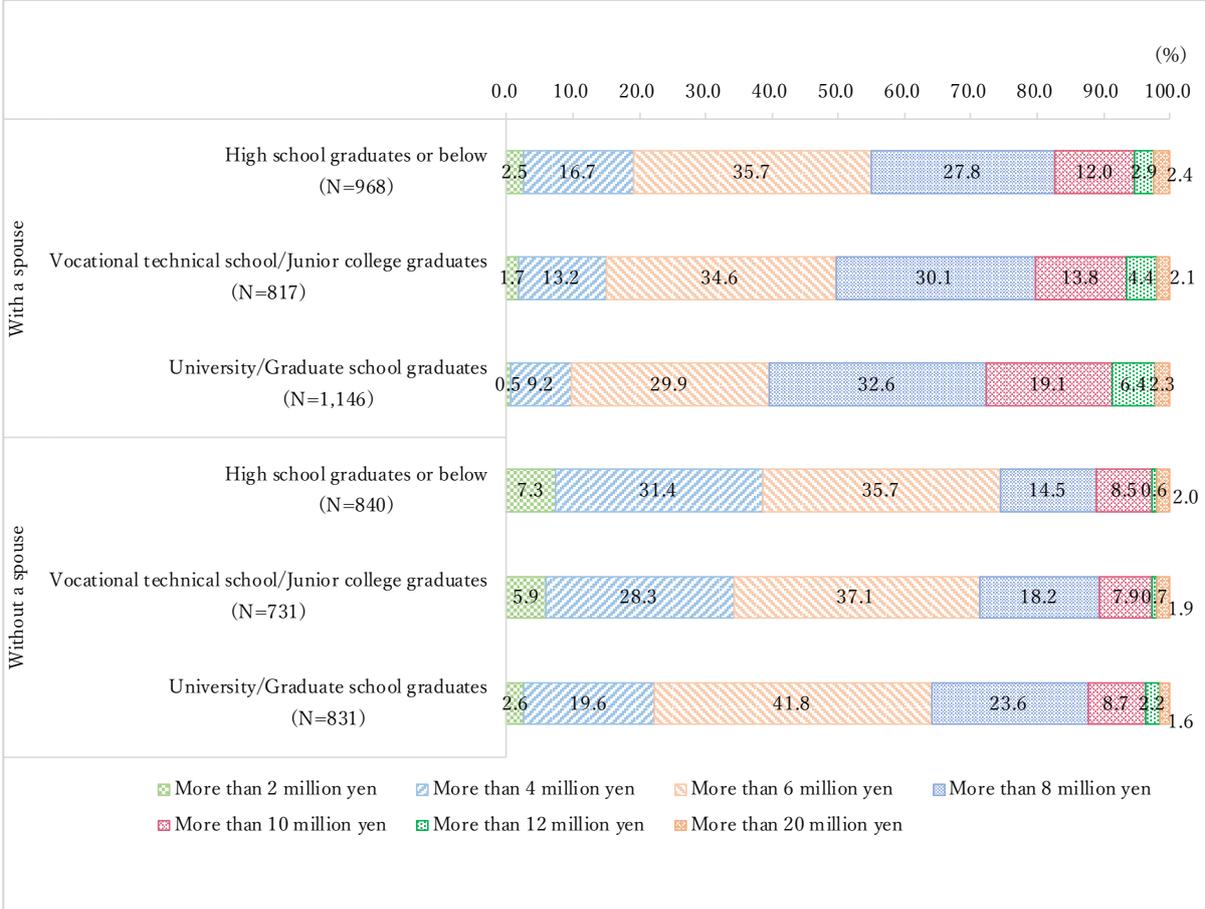


Figure 1-3. Annual income required to live an imagined “middle-class life” by age



Figure 1-4. Annual income required to live an imagined “middle-class life” by type of employment



Figure 1-5. Annual income required to live an imagined “middle-class life” by annual income

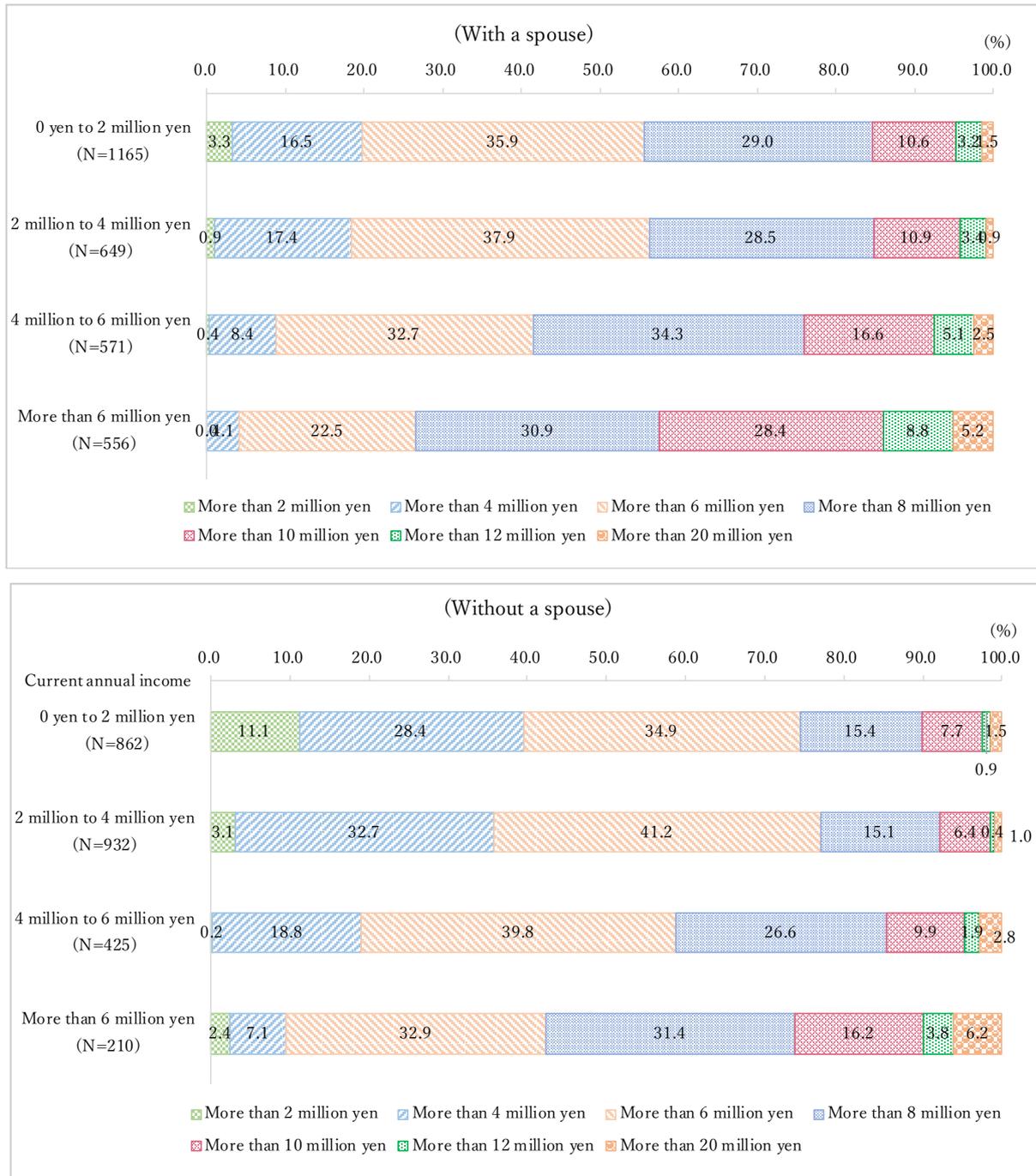


Figure 1-6. Conditions for an imagined “middle-class life” (multiple answers)

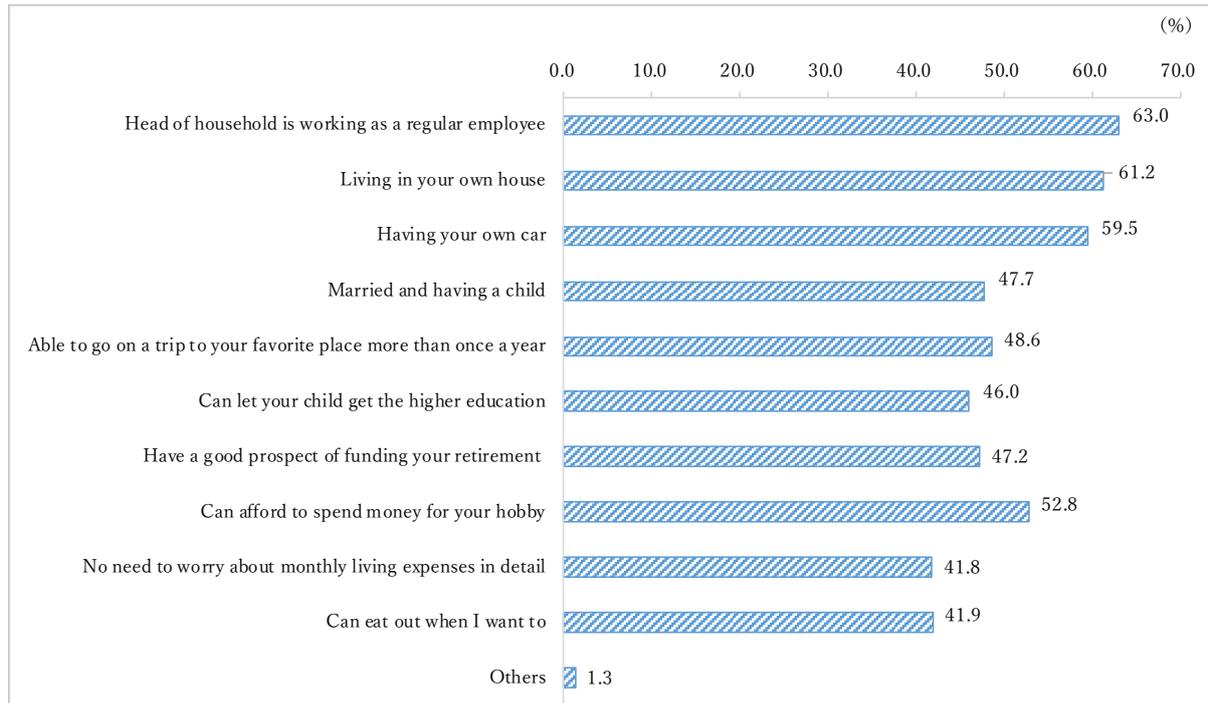


Table 1-1. Conditions for an imagined “middle-class life” by gender and educational attainment (multiple answers)

	Gender					Educational attainment		
	Gender		Educational attainment					
	Female	Male	High school graduates or below	Vocational technical school/Junior college graduates	University/Graduate school graduates			
Head of household is working as a regular employee	66.2	59.7	58.2	64.0	66.9			
Living in your own house	64.8	57.5	63.2	61.6	59.3			
Having your own car	62.8	56.0	59.1	61.1	58.8			
Married and having a child	47.4	48.1	44.1	46.7	52.3			
Able to go on a trip to your favorite place more than once a year	54.5	42.7	44.8	49.9	51.5			
Can let your child get the higher education	50.7	41.1	37.2	45.7	54.7			
Have a good prospect of funding your retirement	52.1	42.3	45.1	48.0	48.8			
Can afford to spend money for your hobby	55.9	49.7	49.8	54.9	54.4			
No need to worry about monthly living expenses in detail	46.8	36.7	39.8	43.6	42.6			
Can eat out when I want to	47.7	35.9	38.2	44.7	43.0			
Others	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.3	0.9			
Sample size	2,718	2,652	1,808	1,548	1,977			

Table 1-2. Conditions to apply an imagined “middle-class life” by age (multiple answers)

	(%)				
	20-29 years old	30-39 years old	40-49 years old	50-59 years old	60-69 years old
Head of household is working as a regular employee	63.5	67.7	67.5	64.0	52.5
Living in your own house	49.5	57.5	59.4	62.5	72.5
Having your own car	49.5	59.3	59.8	62.4	62.8
Married and having a child	50.1	53.0	47.5	45.4	44.4
Able to go on a trip to your favorite place more than once a year	45.1	51.6	49.4	46.0	50.4
Can let your child get the higher education	38.8	46.0	45.7	45.4	51.8
Have a good prospect of funding your retirement	32.2	43.4	46.1	47.6	61.4
Can afford to spend money for your hobby	47.6	51.2	52.6	52.2	58.8
No need to worry about monthly living expenses in detail	33.6	40.9	41.6	40.6	49.7
Can eat out when I want to	39.0	45.1	41.9	40.8	42.2
Others	1.6	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.1
Sample size	769	974	1,284	1,196	1,147

Figure 1-7. Whether they are living an imagined “middle-class life”

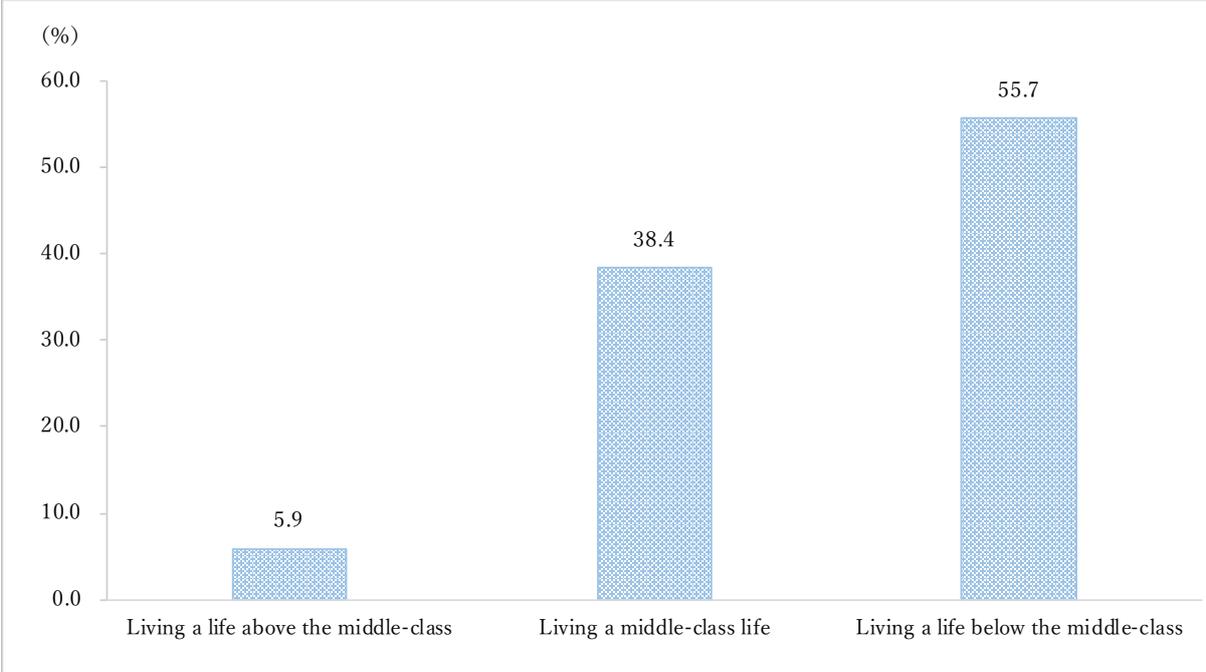


Figure 1-8. Whether they are living an imagined “middle-class life” by gender, marital status (with or without a spouse), and educational attainment

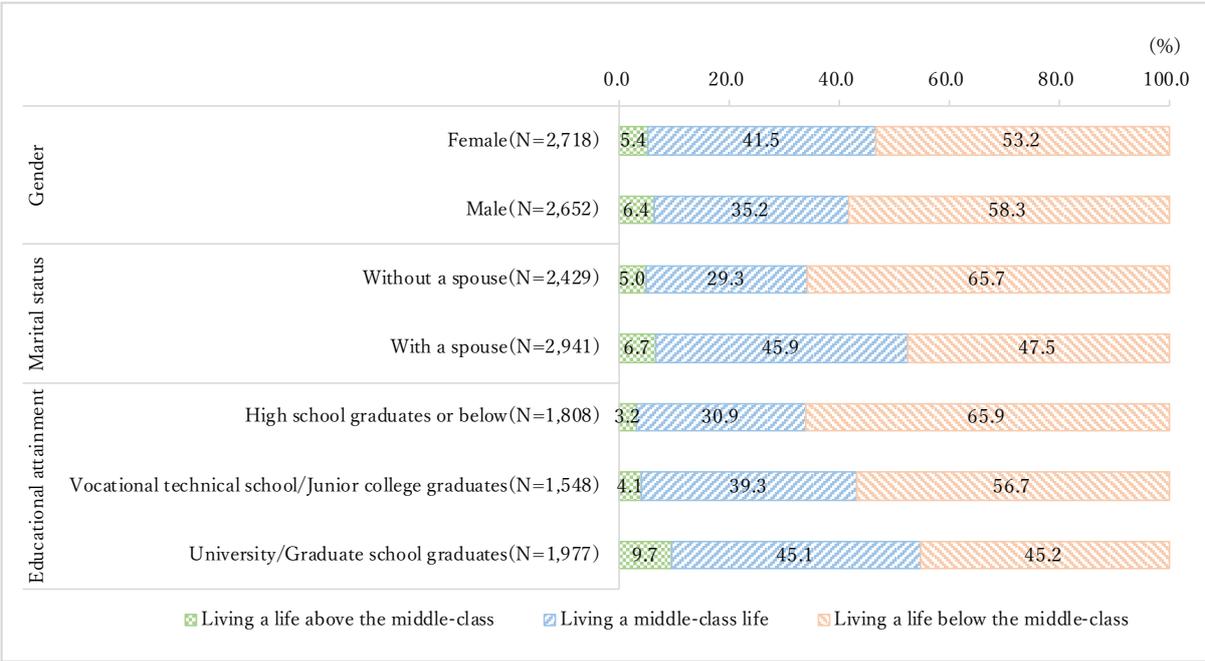


Figure 1-9. Whether they are living an imagined “middle-class life” by age

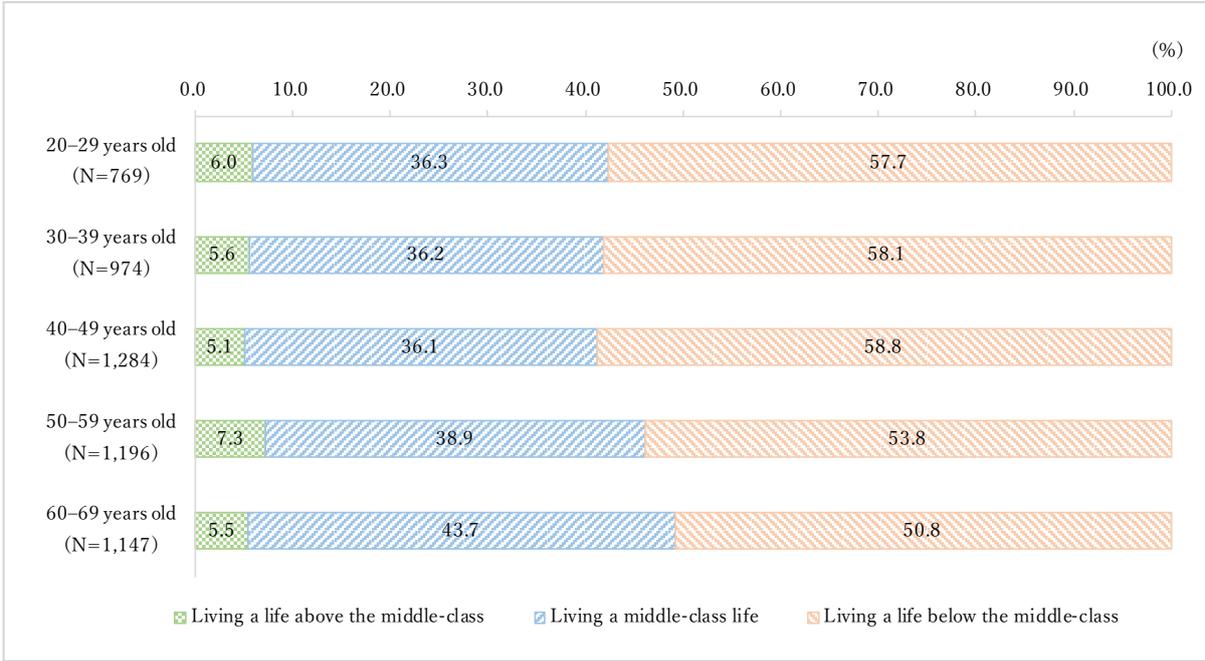


Figure 1-10. Whether they are living an imagined “middle-class life” by type of employment

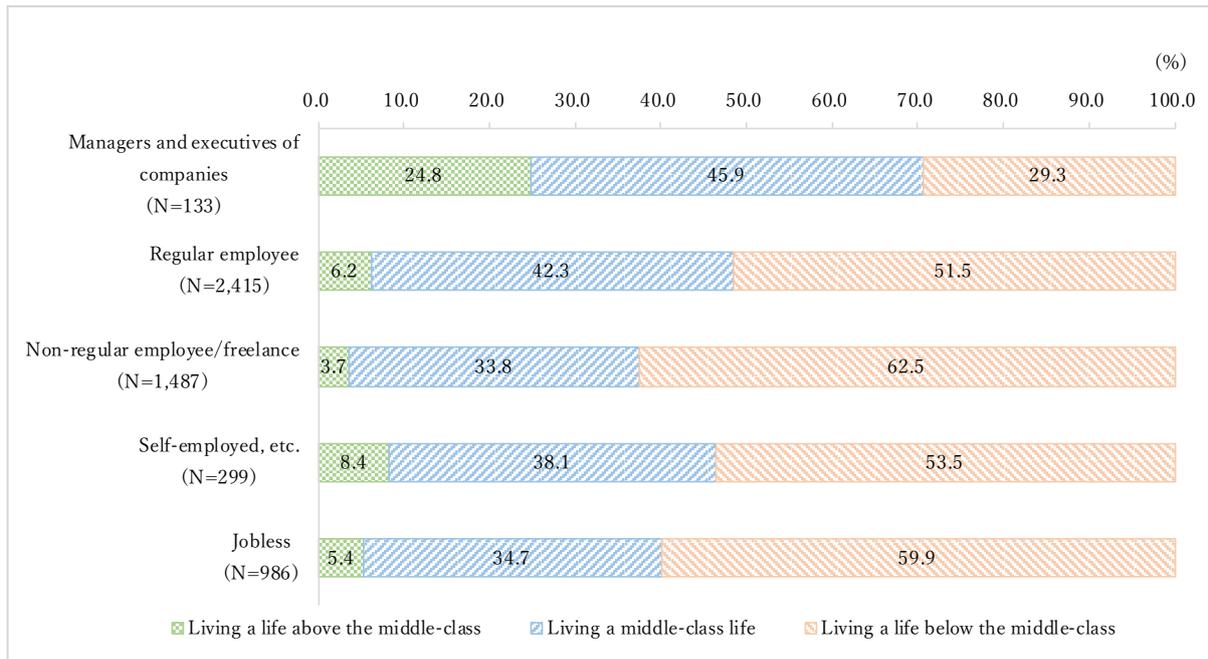


Figure 1-11. Whether they are living an imagined “middle-class life” by annual income

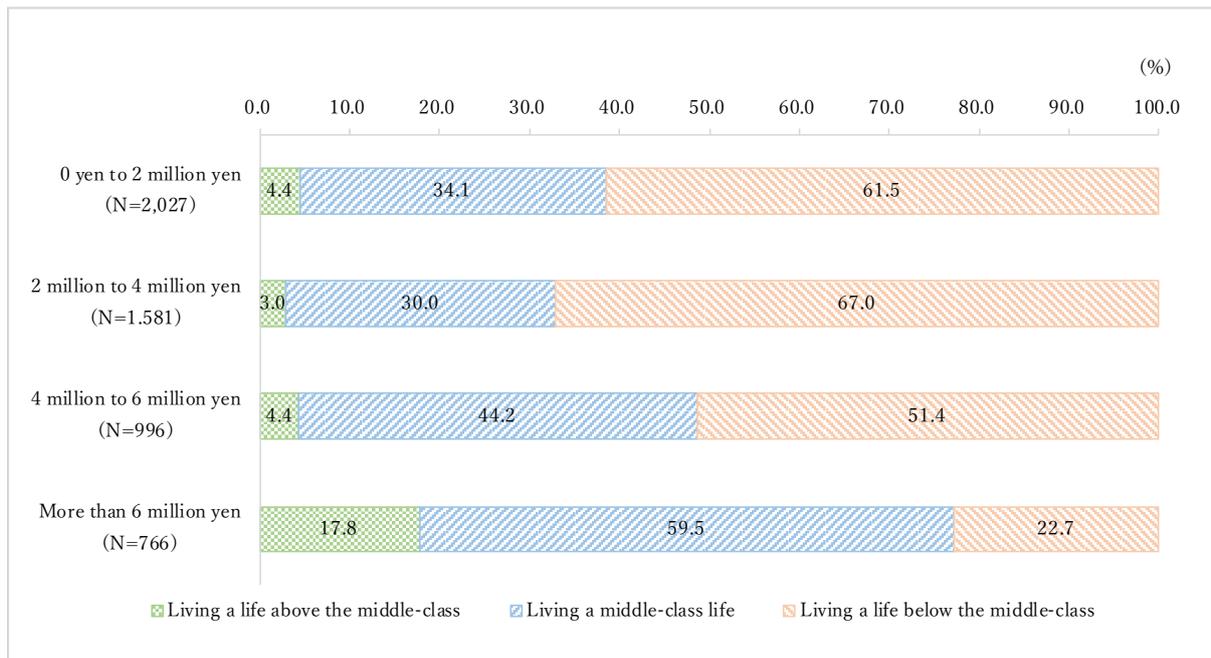
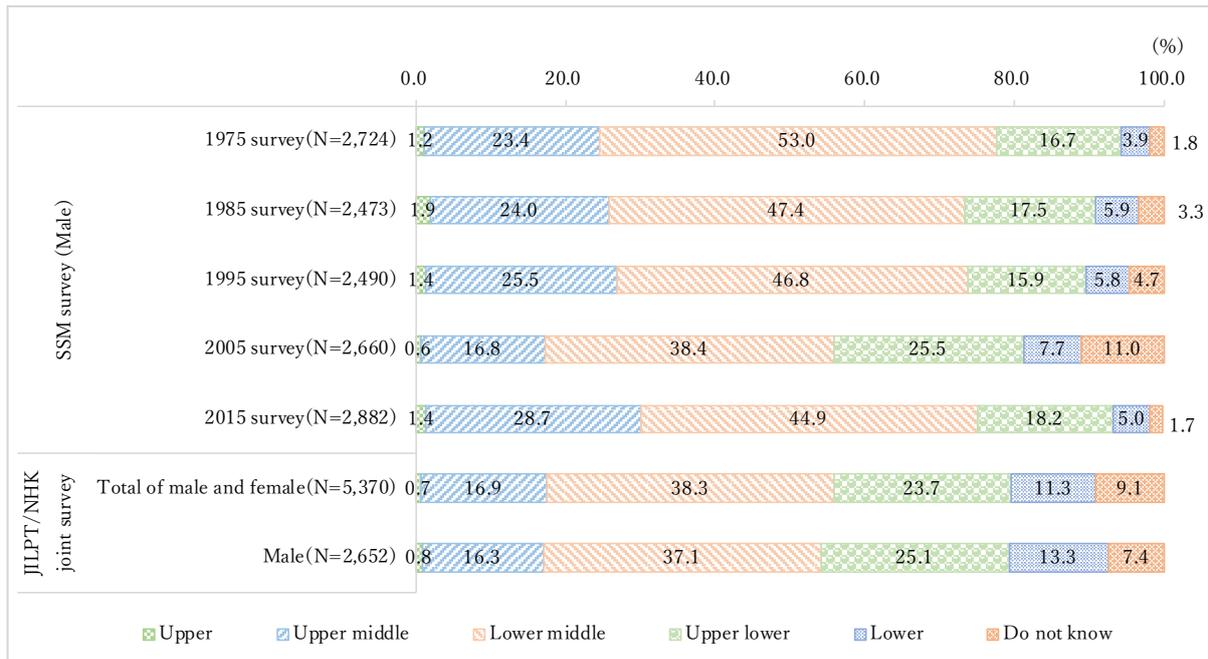


Figure 2-1. Distribution of sense of belonging to a hierarchy compared to SSM survey



Notes: 1. The total results of SSM survey from 1975 to 2005 was cited from Kambayashi (2015). The total results in 2015 was made by Tomohiko Moriyama (Researcher of JILPT) by using SSM survey's individual data. The total result of this JILPT/NHK joint survey was made by the author, HE, Fang (Researcher of JILPT).

2. Both surveys were aggregated for the people of 20–69 years of age.

3. Note that SSM survey investigates the sense of belonging to a social hierarchy, and that the JILPT/NHK joint survey investigates the sense of belonging to a hierarchy about the standard of living. SSM survey uses both the interview and the leaving methods, and the JILPT/NHK joint survey is a web survey targeting the registered monitors of the survey company.

Figure 2-2. Distribution of sense of belonging to a hierarchy by gender, marital status (with or without a spouse), and educational attainment

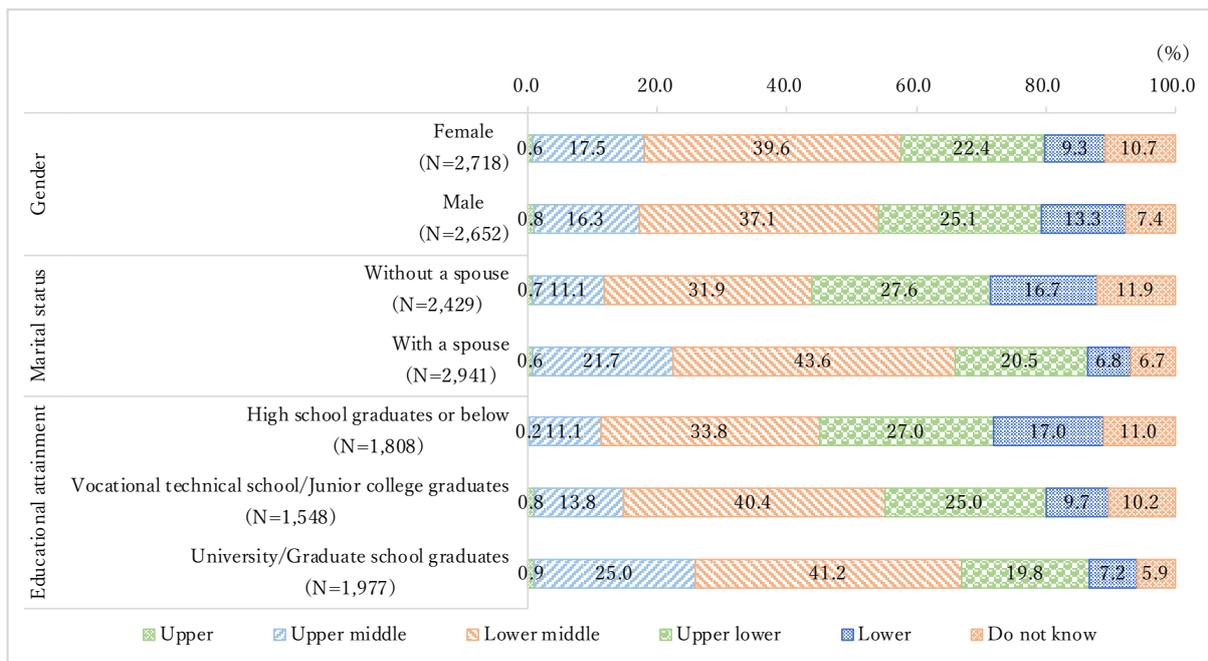


Figure 2-3. Distribution of sense of belonging to a hierarchy by age

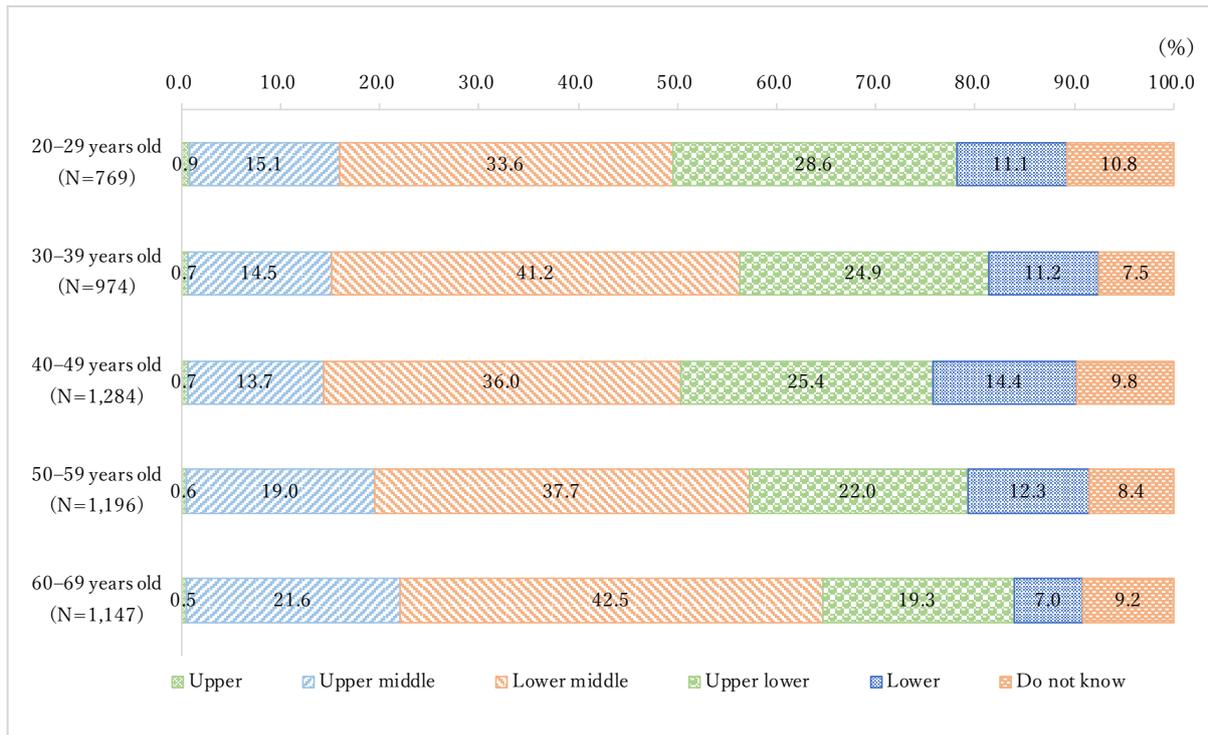


Figure 2-4. Distribution of sense of belonging to a hierarchy by type of employment

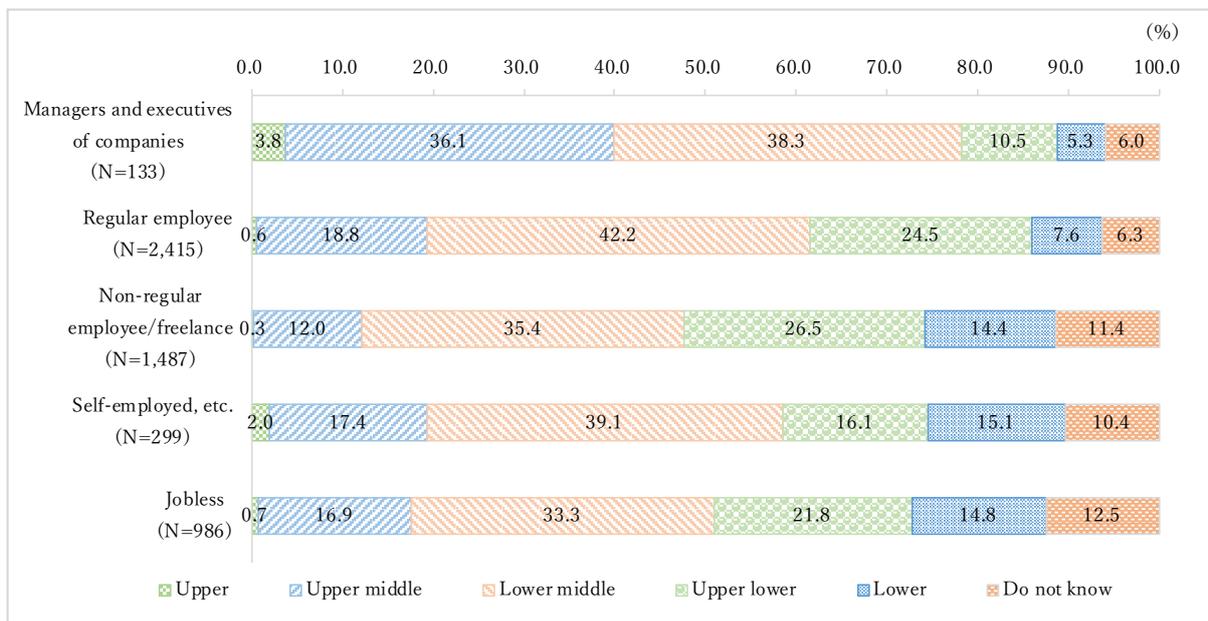


Figure 2-5. Distribution of sense of belonging to a hierarchy by annual income

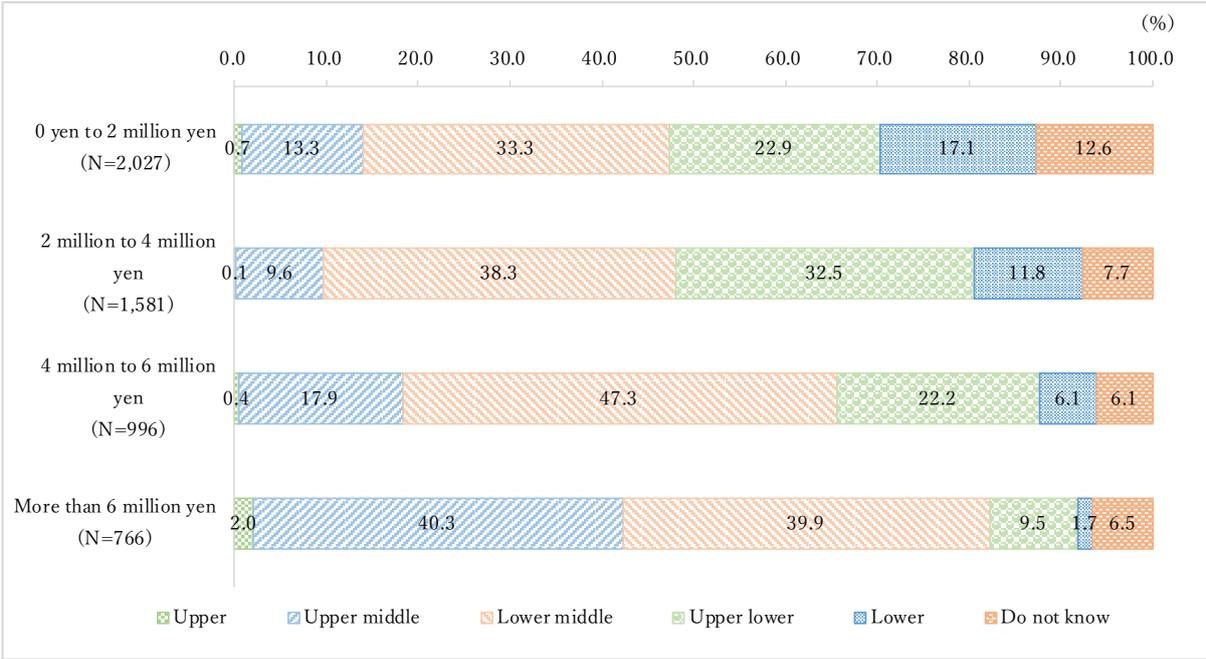


Figure 3-1. The way they feel about their current standard of living

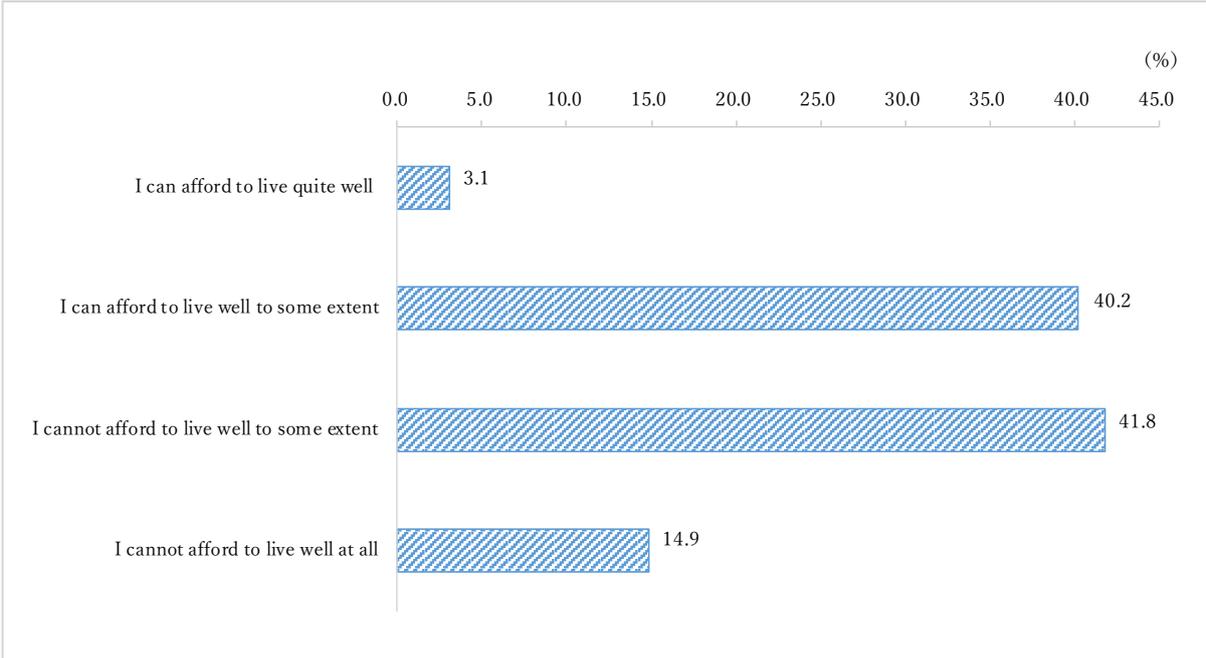


Figure 3-2. The way they feel about their current standard of living by gender, marital status (with or without a spouse), and educational attainment

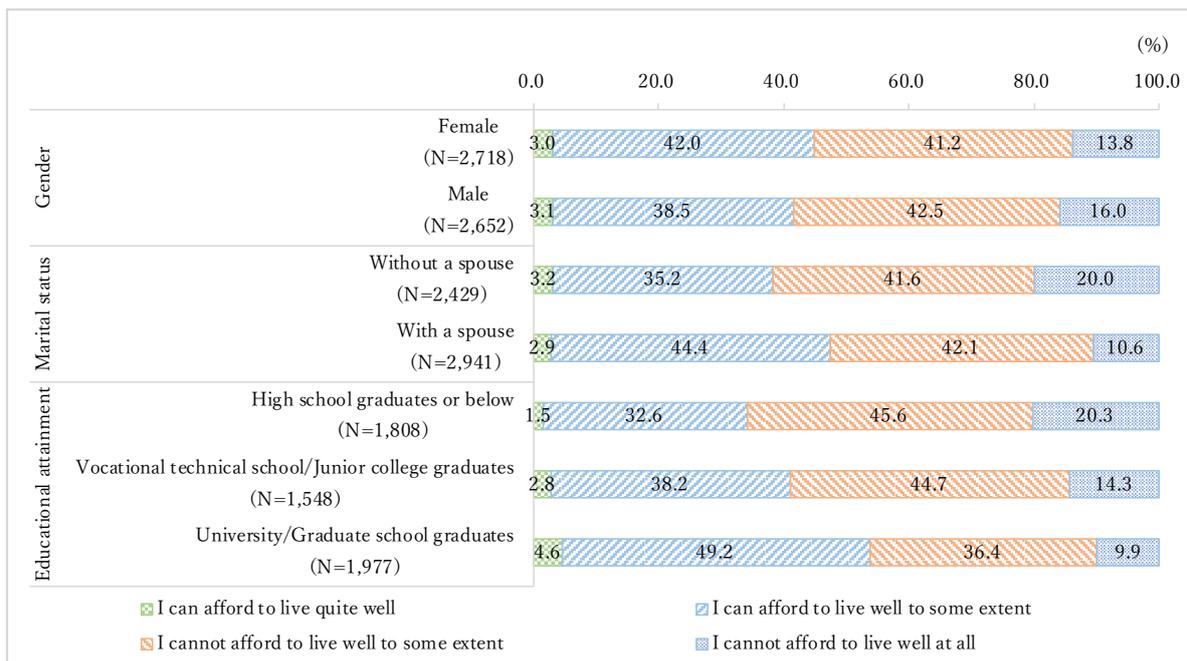


Figure 3-3. The way they feel about their current standard of living by age

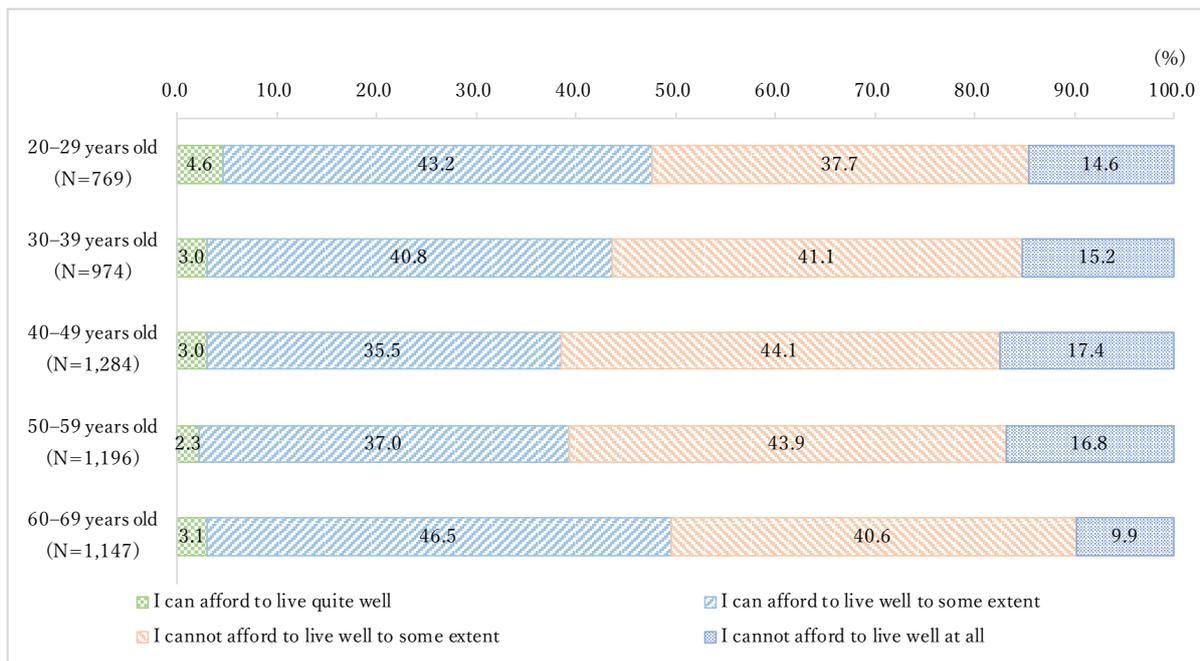


Figure 3-4. The way they feel about their current standard of living by type of employment

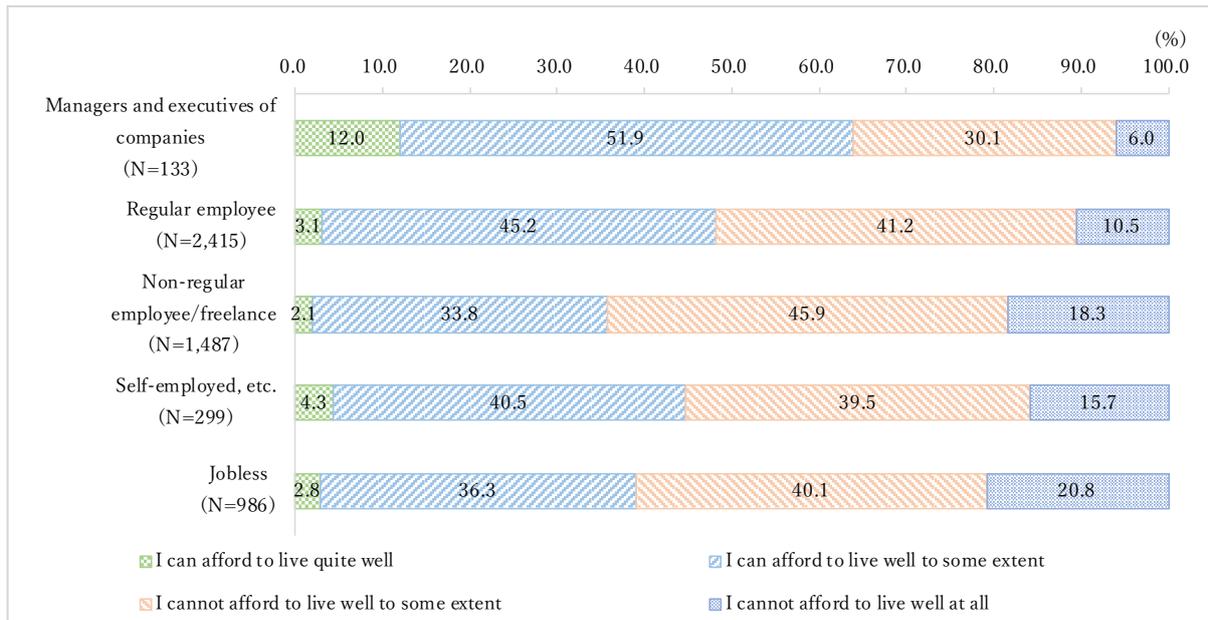


Figure 3-5. The way they feel about their current standard of living by annual income

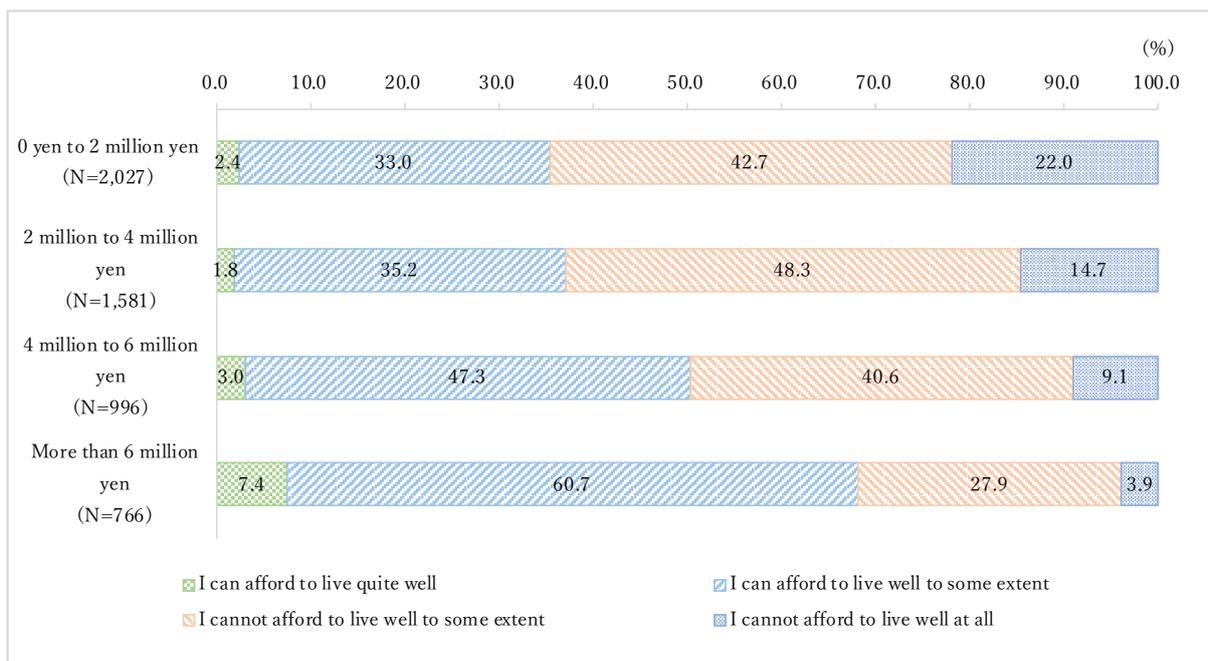


Figure 4-1. Prospects for future living conditions

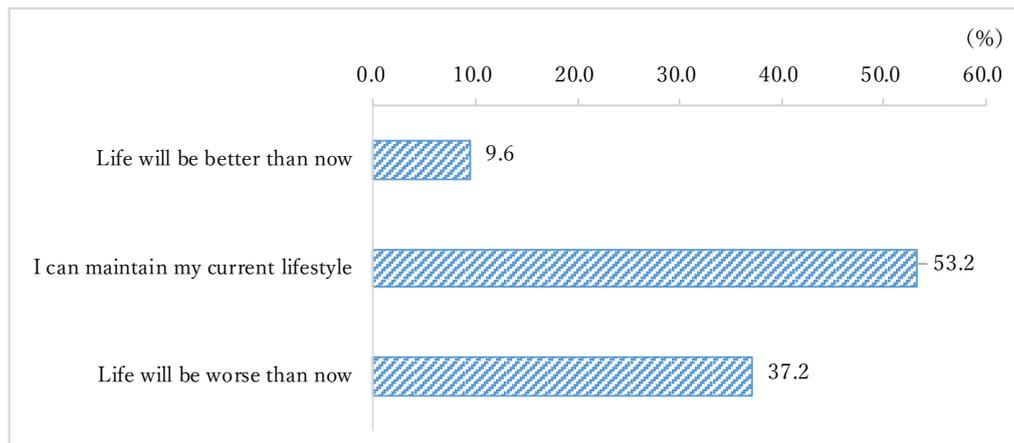


Figure 4-2. Prospects for future living conditions by gender, marital status (with or without a spouse), and educational attainment

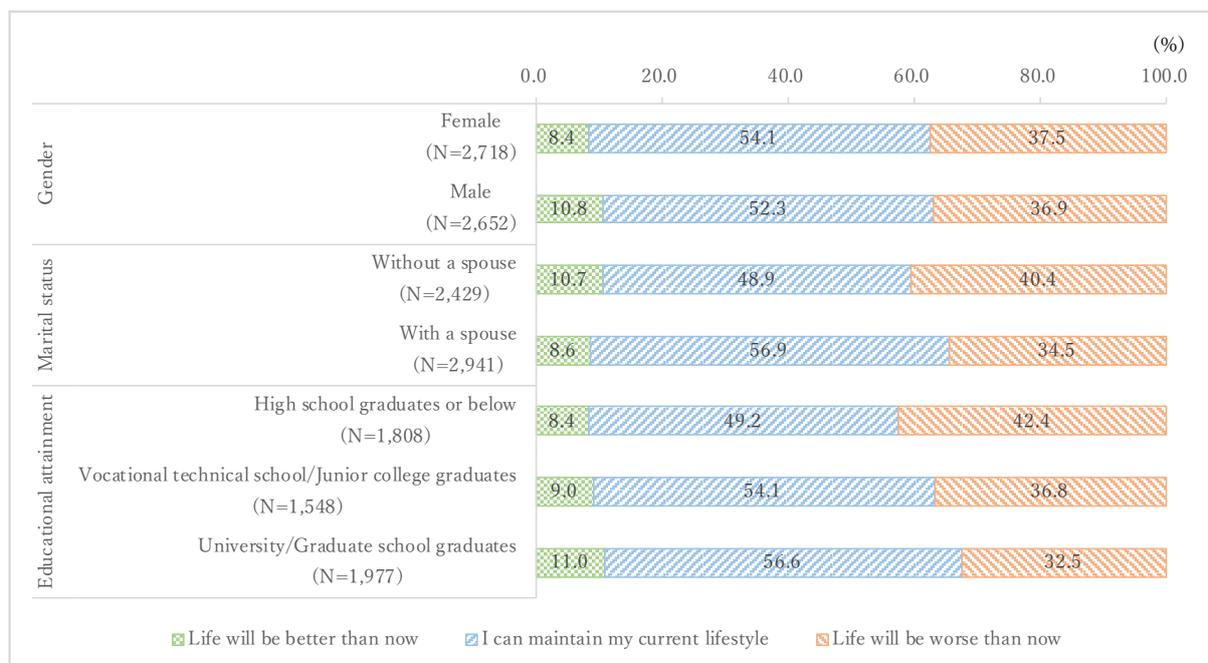


Figure 4-3. Prospects for future living conditions by age

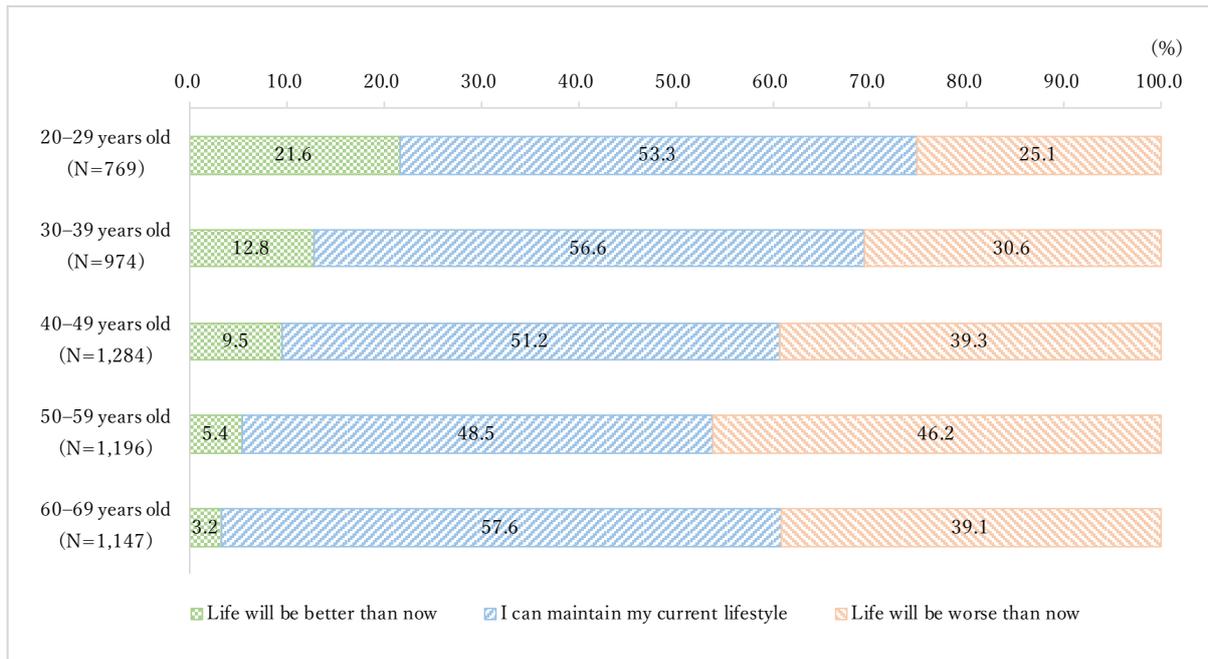


Figure 4-4. Prospects for future living conditions by type of employment

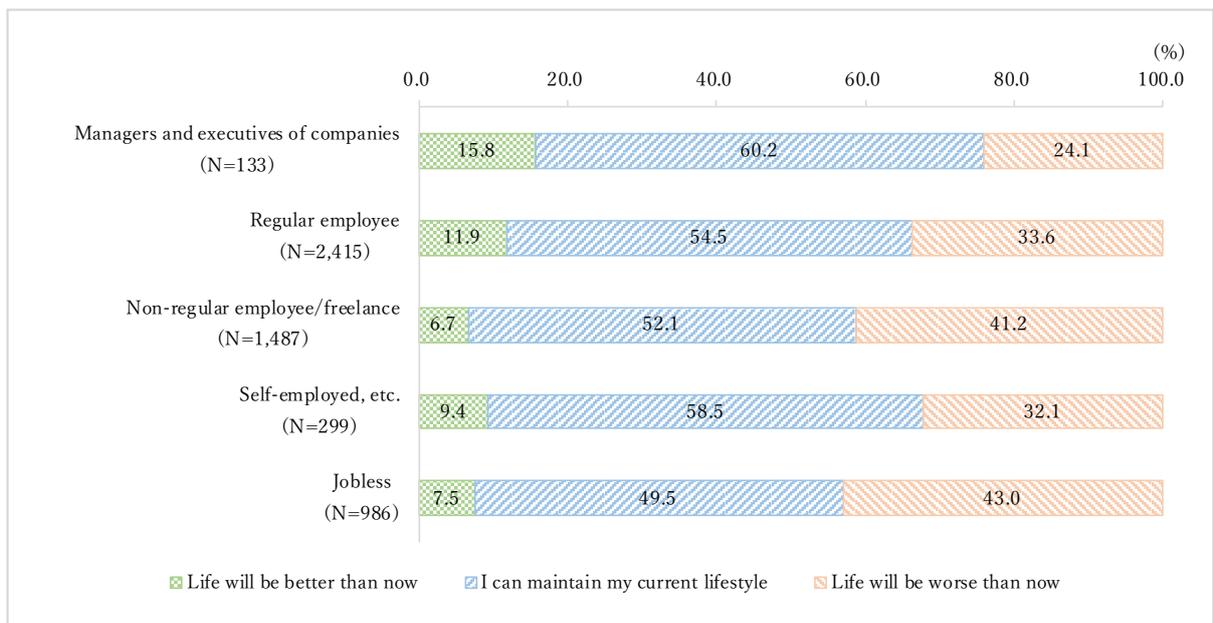


Figure 4-5. Prospects for future living conditions by annual income

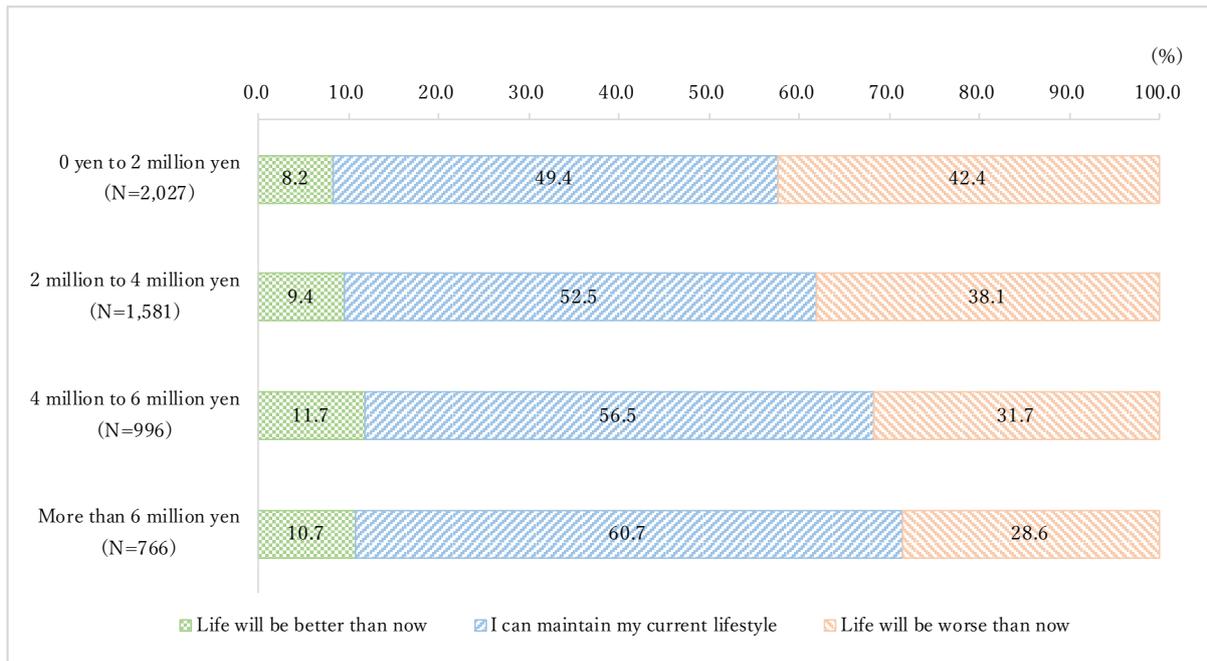


Figure 5-1. Ideal way of working and income

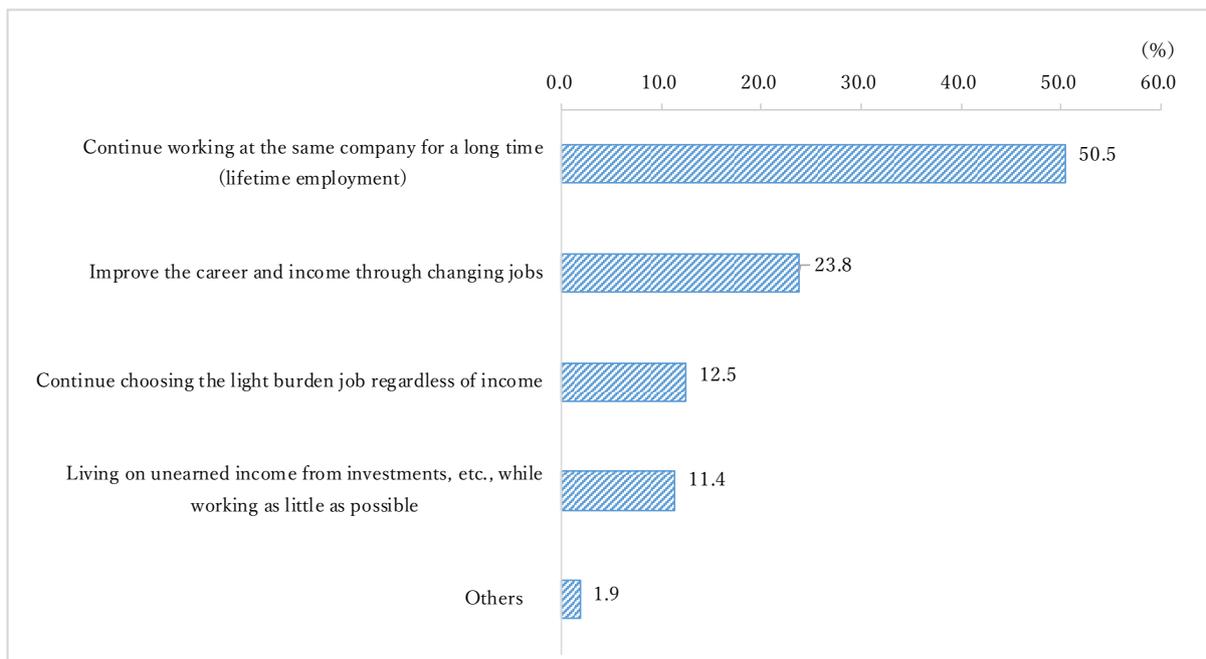


Figure 5-2. Ideal way of working and income by gender, marital status (with or without a spouse), and educational attainment

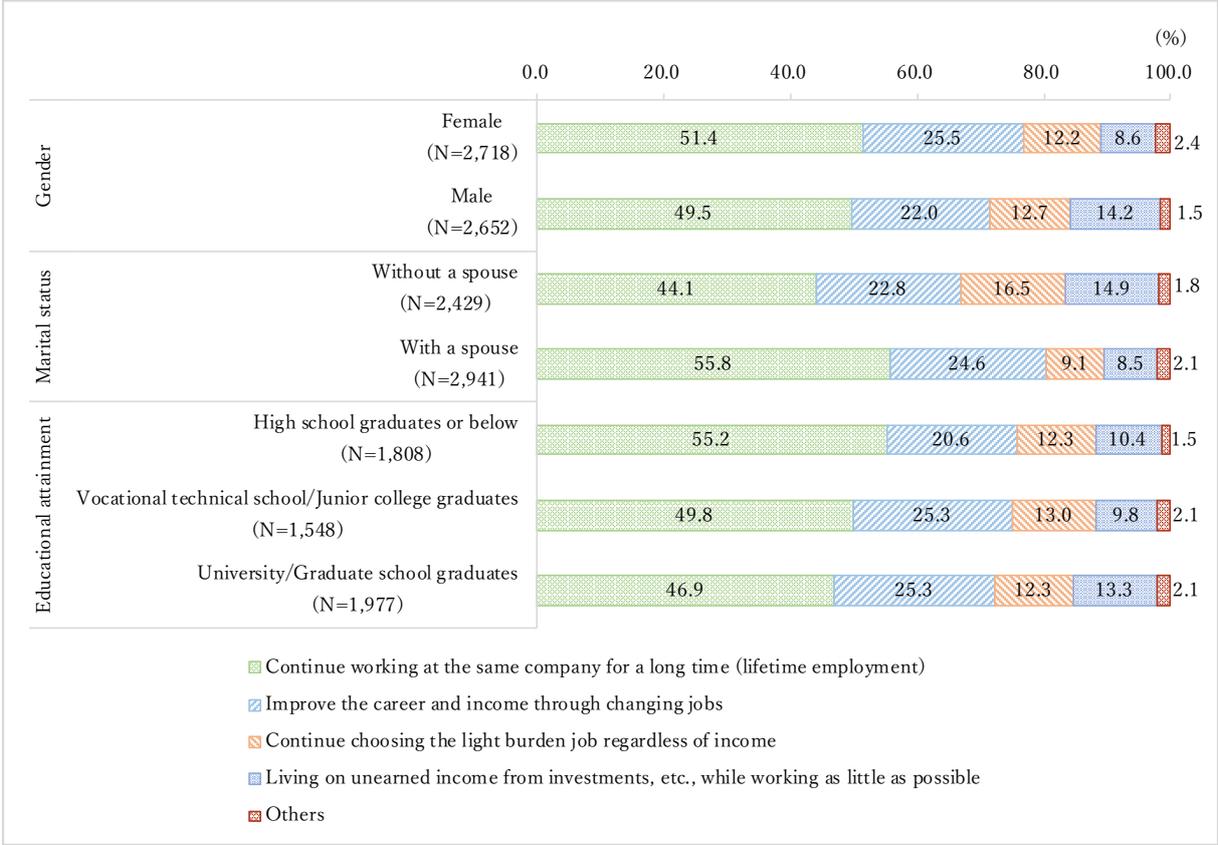


Figure 5-3. Ideal way of working and income by age

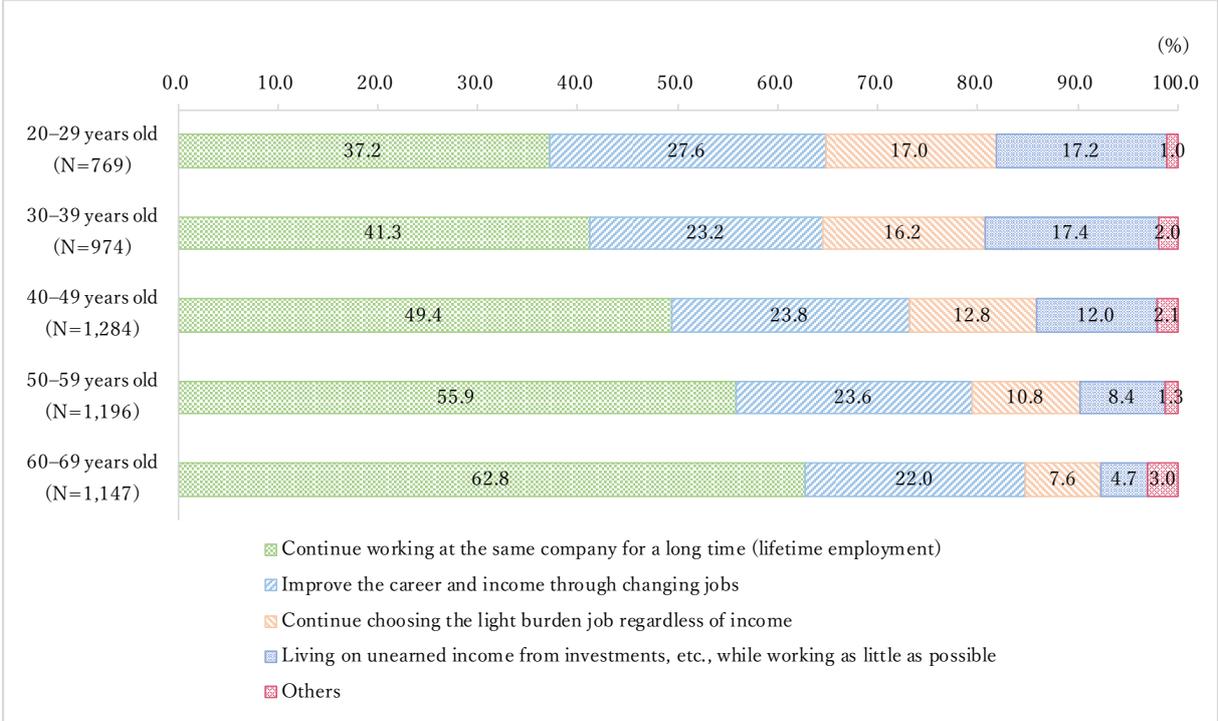


Figure 5-4. Ideal way of working and income by type of employment



Figure 5-5. Ideal way of working and income by gender and type of employment (20–59 years of age)





Figure 5-6. Ideal way of working and income by annual income



Figure 5-7. Most necessary thing you think to realize an ideal way of working

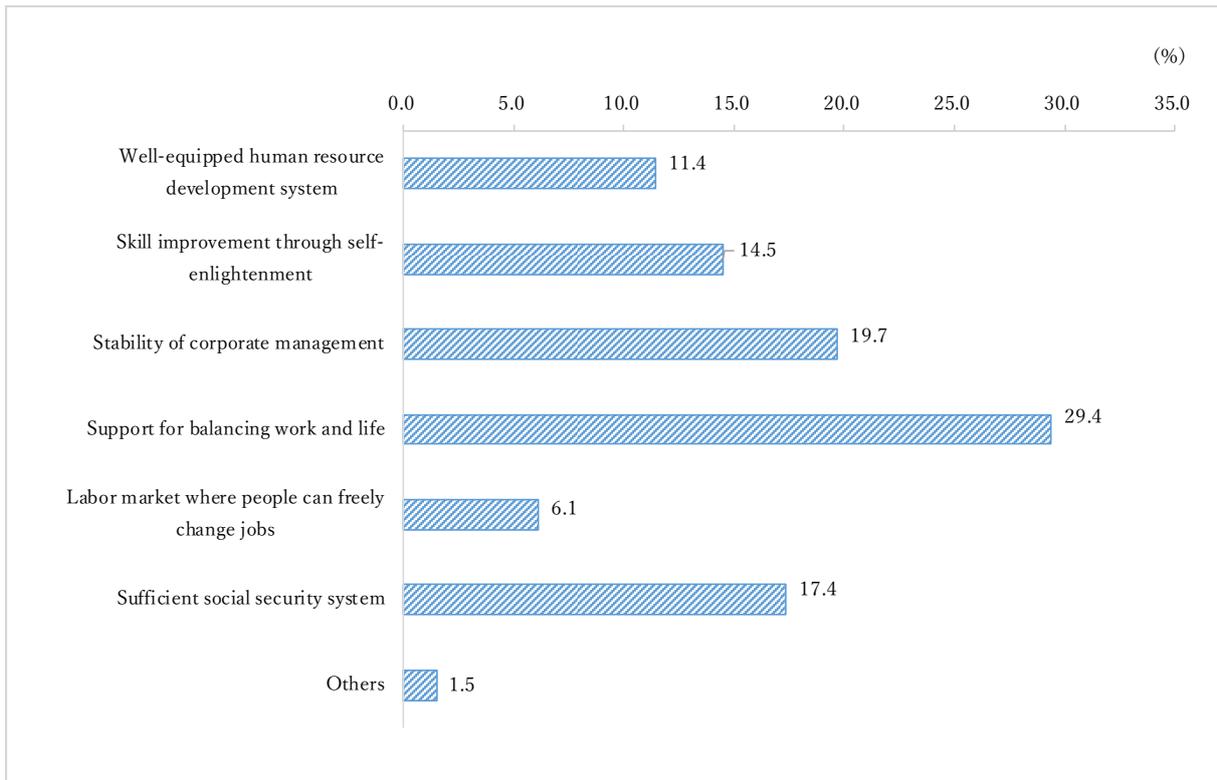


Figure 5-8. Most necessary thing you think to realize an ideal way of working by age



Figure 5-9. Most necessary thing you think to realize an ideal way of working by type of employment

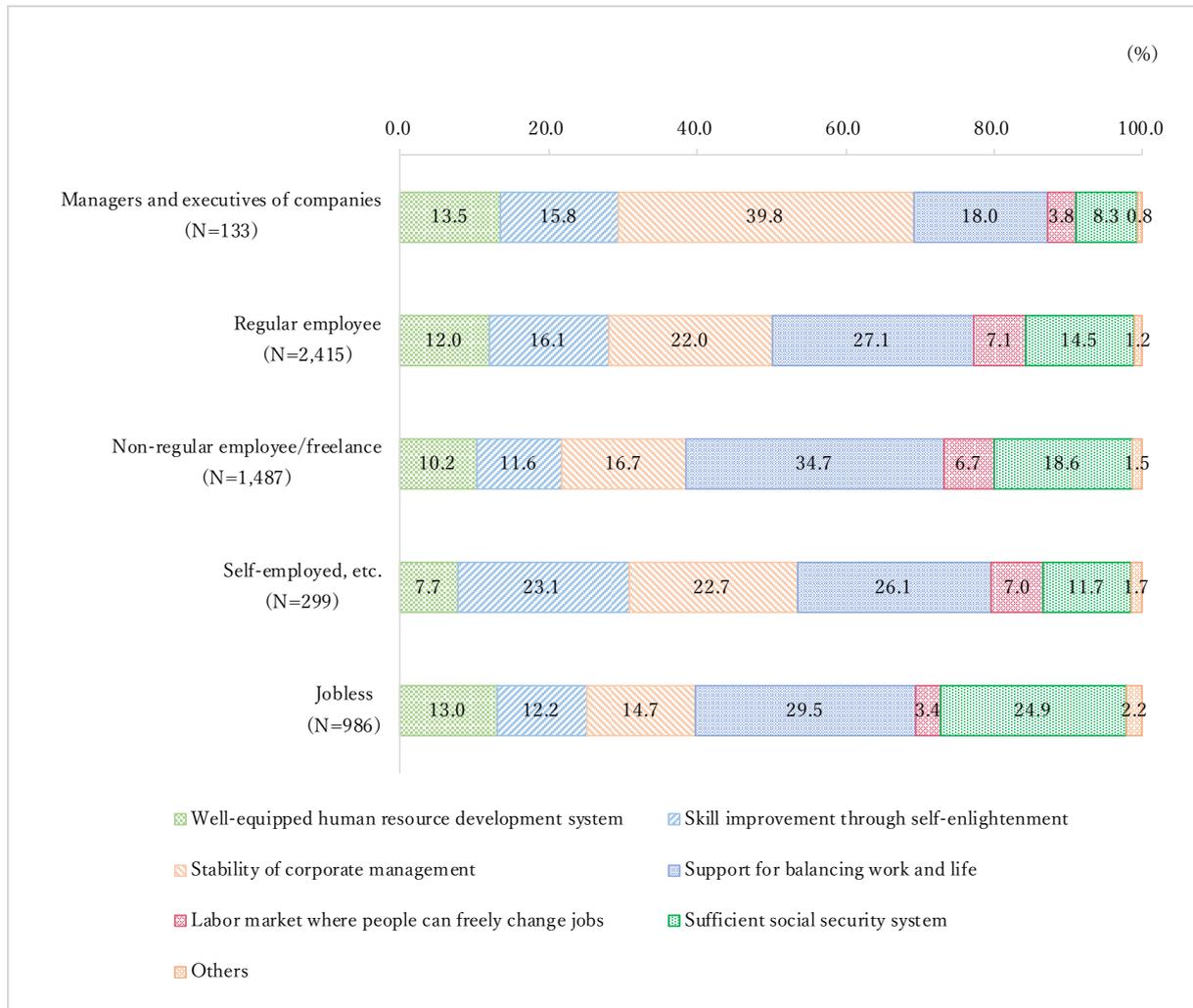


Figure 5-10. Most necessary thing you think to realize an ideal way of working by type of employment (20–59 years of age)

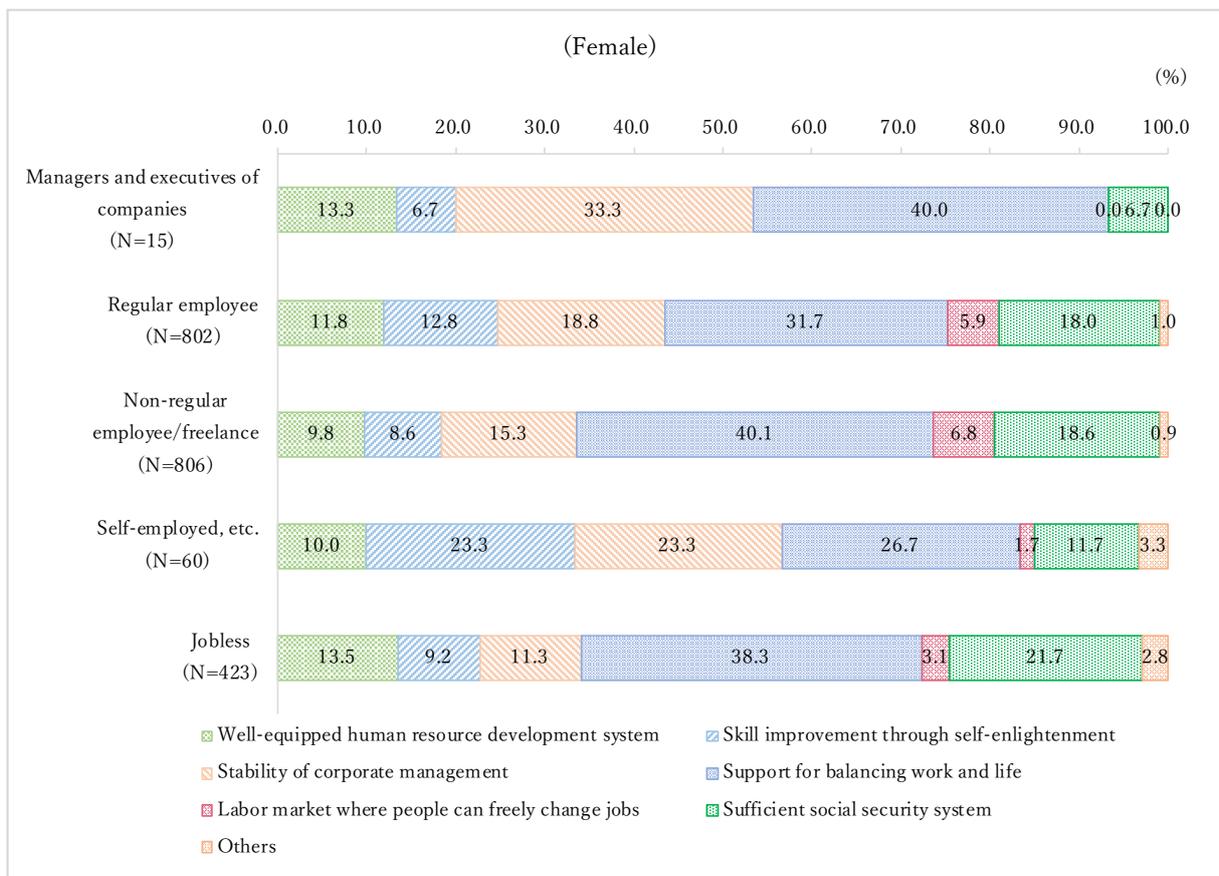
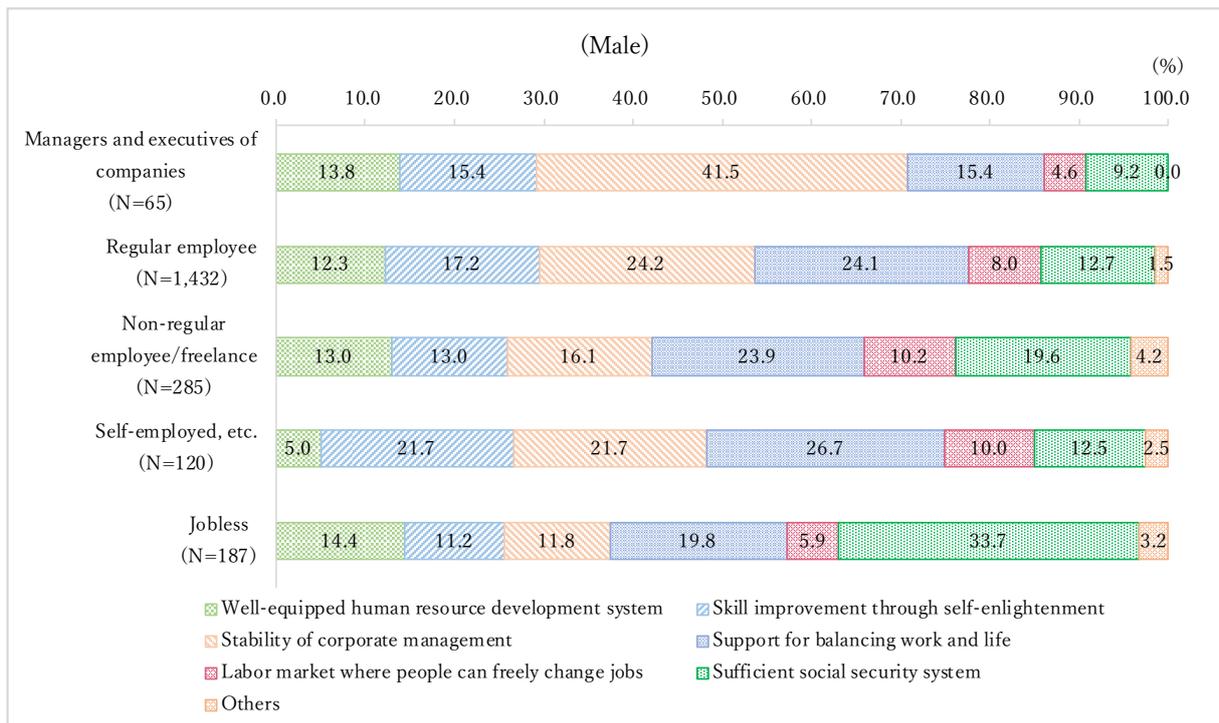


Figure 5-11. Most necessary thing you think to realize an ideal way of working by annual income



Figure 6-1. Whether they think that anyone can become affluent in Japan as long as they work hard (*Their thoughts on effort*)

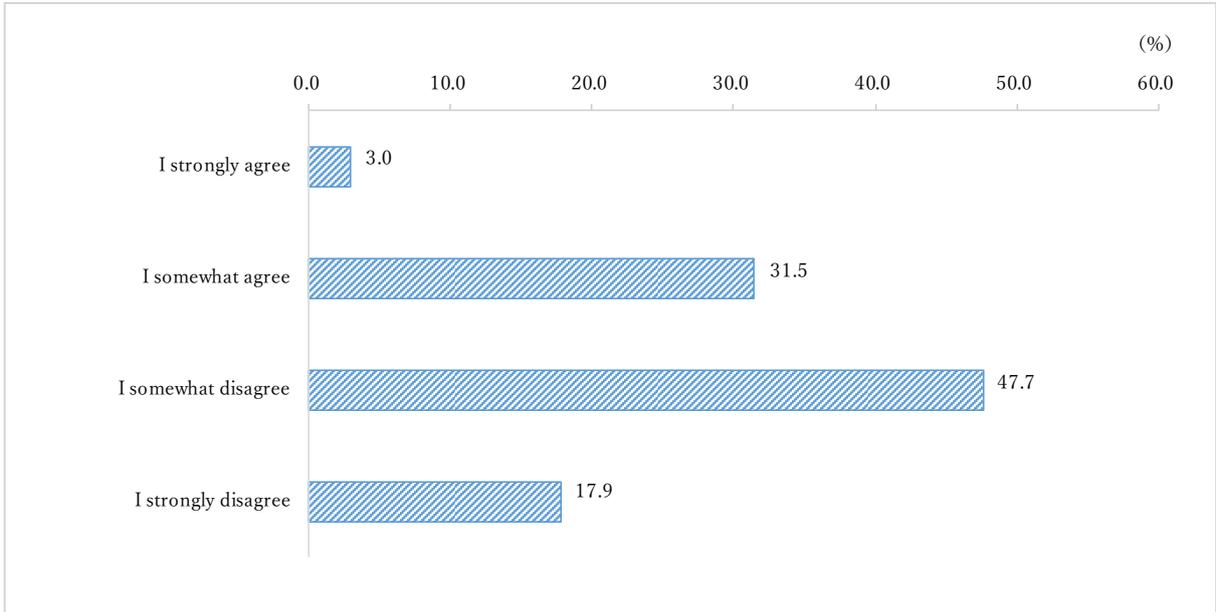


Figure 6-2. *Their thoughts on effort* by gender, marital status (with or without a spouse), and educational attainment

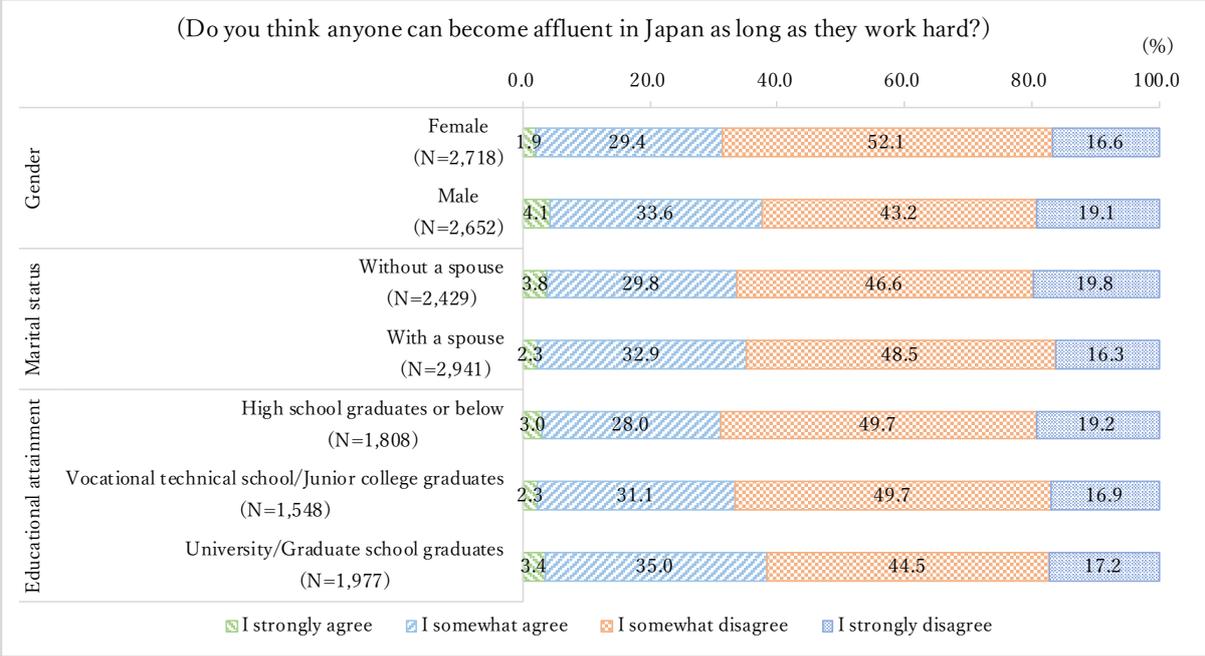


Figure 6-3. *Their thoughts on effort* by age

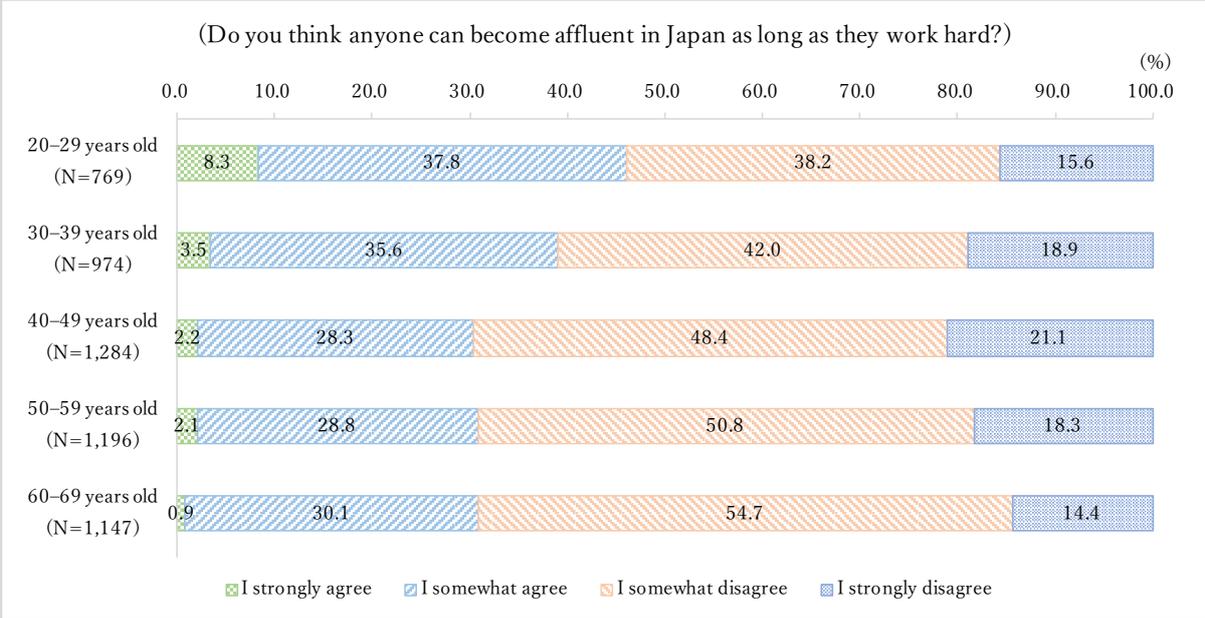


Figure 6-4. *Their thoughts on effort* by type of employment

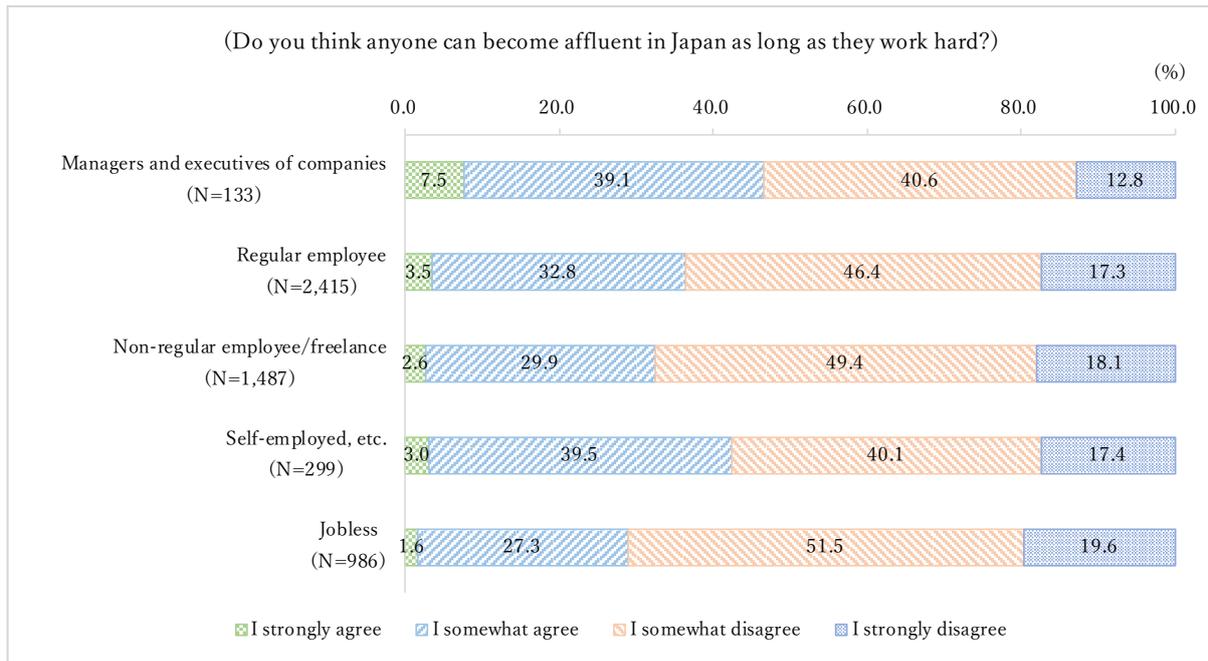


Figure 6-5. *Their thoughts on effort* by annual income

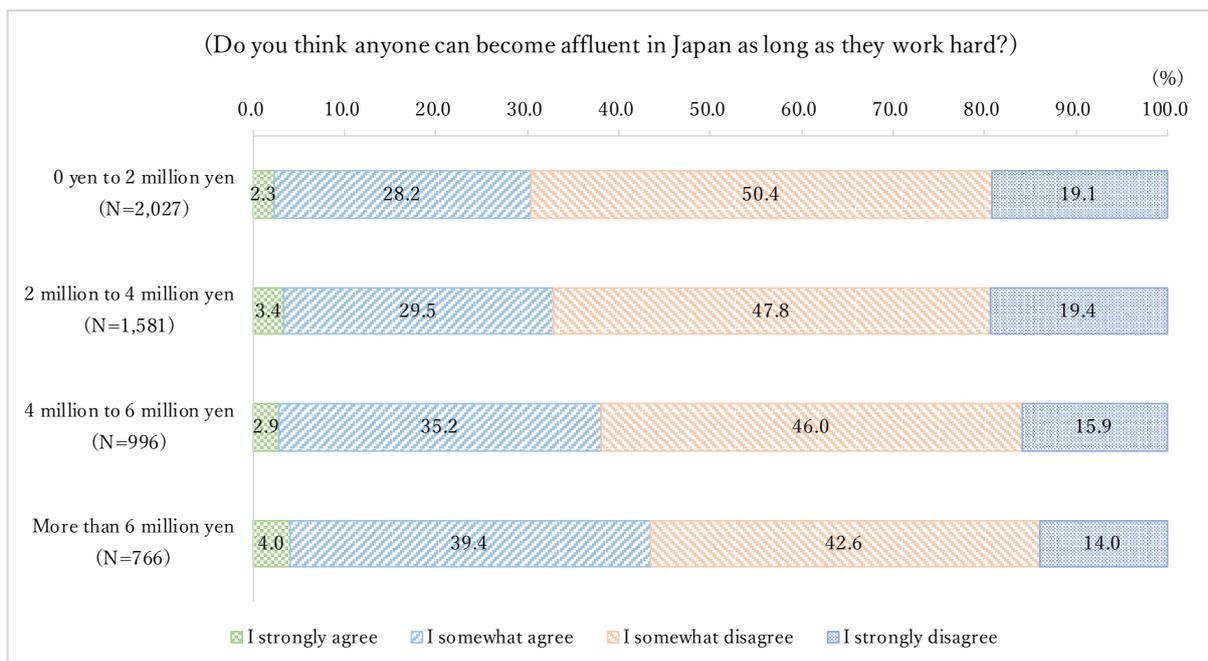


Figure 7-1. Most important condition for living a better life

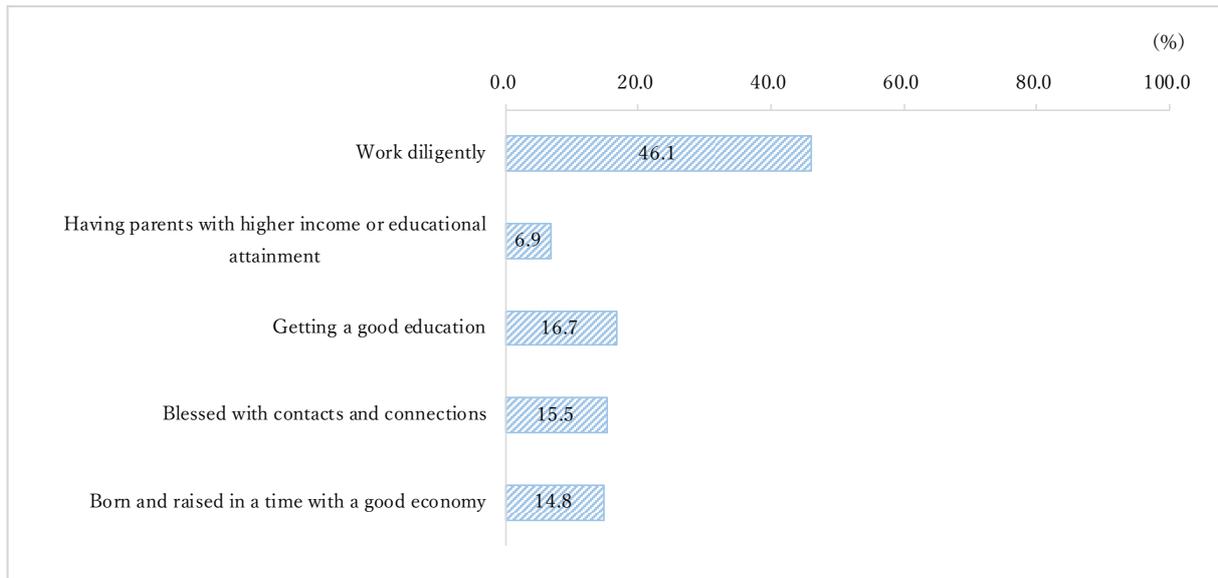


Figure 7-2. Most important condition for living a better life by gender, marital status (with or without a spouse), and educational attainment

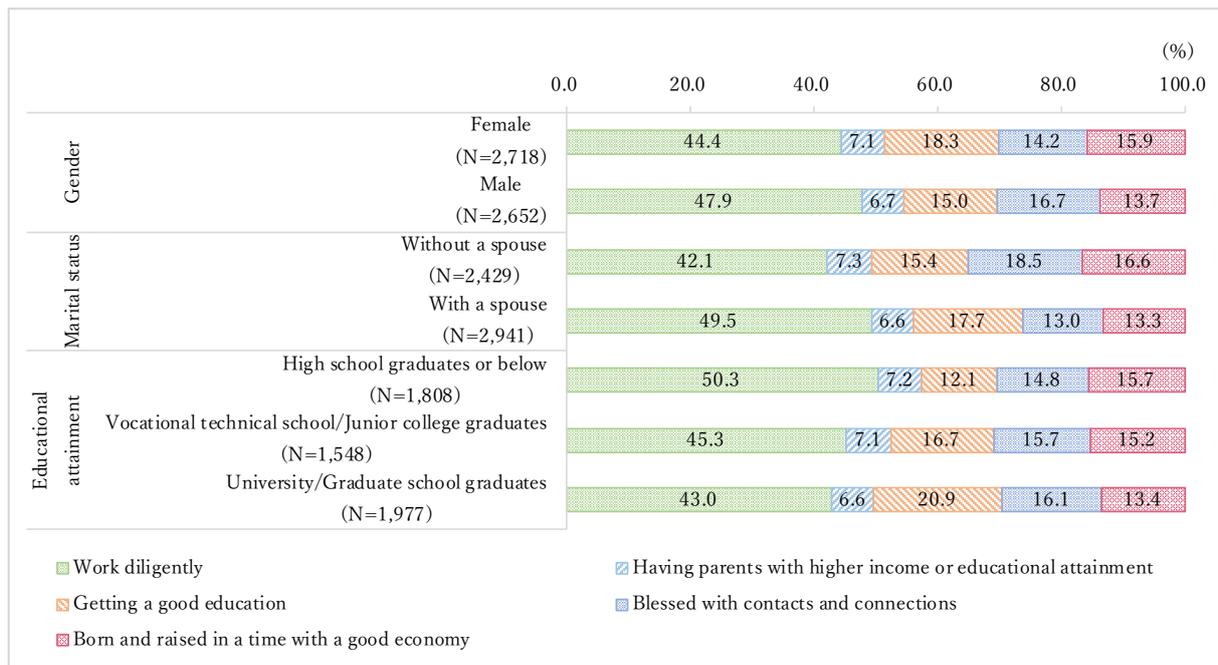


Figure 7-3. Most important condition for living a better life by age

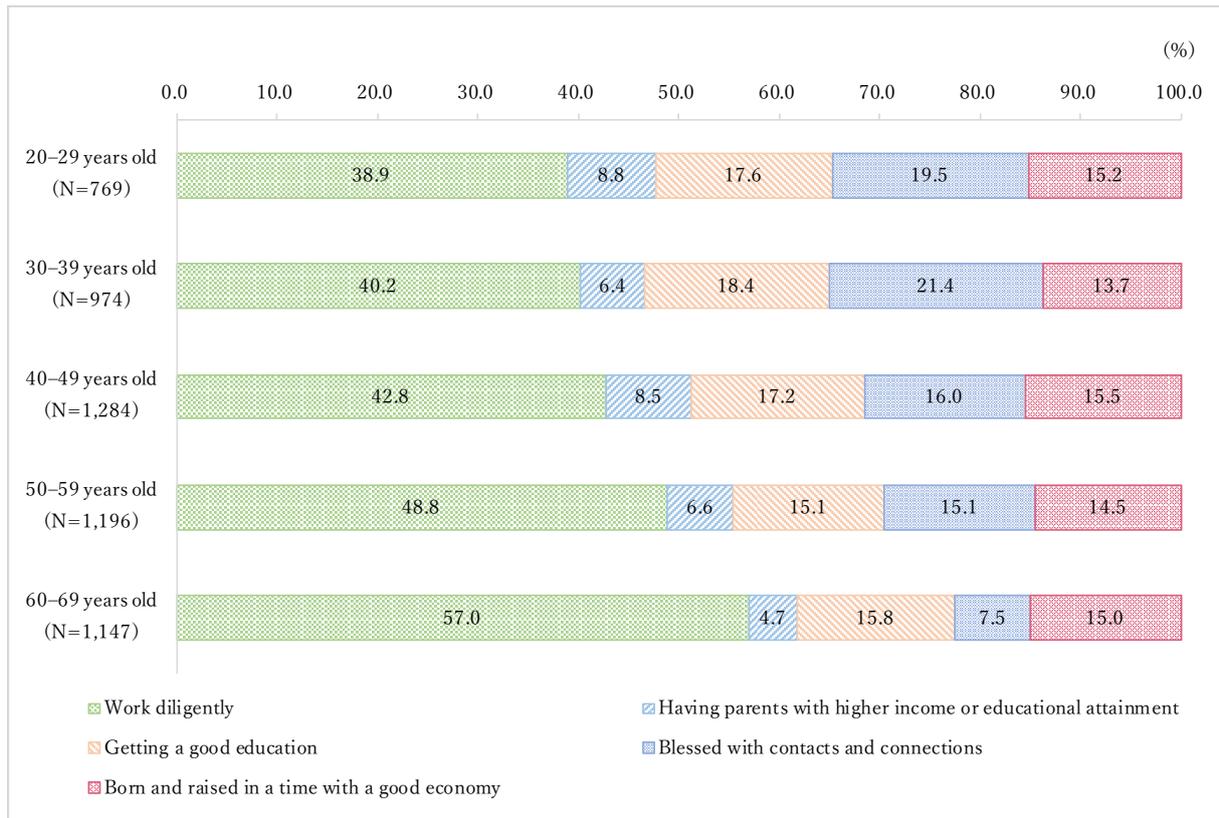


Figure 7-4. Most important condition for living a better life by type of employment

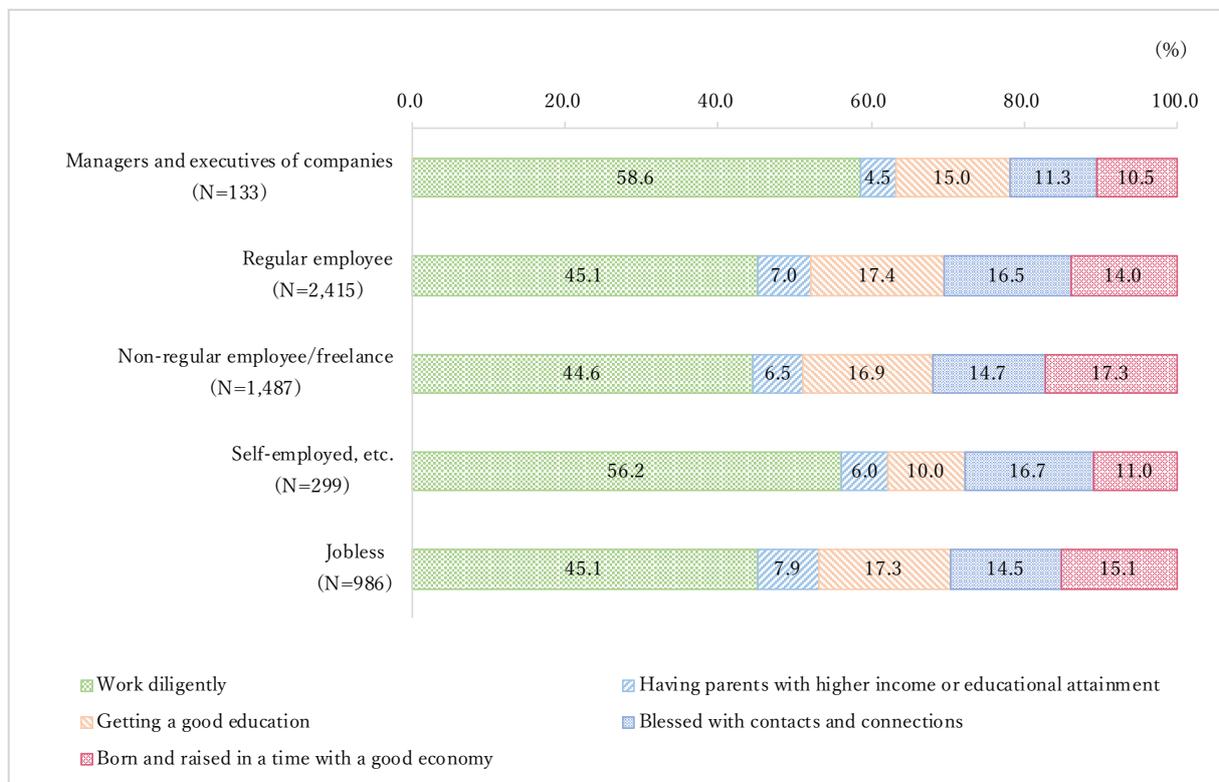


Figure 7-5. Most important condition for living a better life by annual income

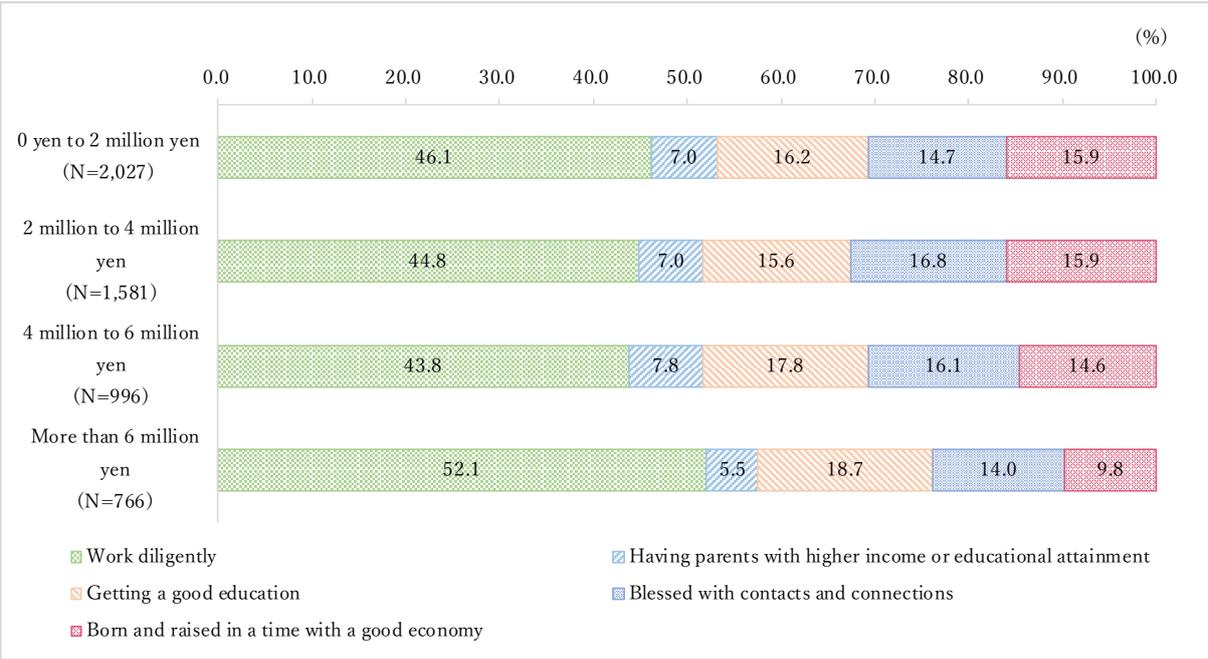


Figure 8-1. Whether they think that they can be more financially affluent than their parents

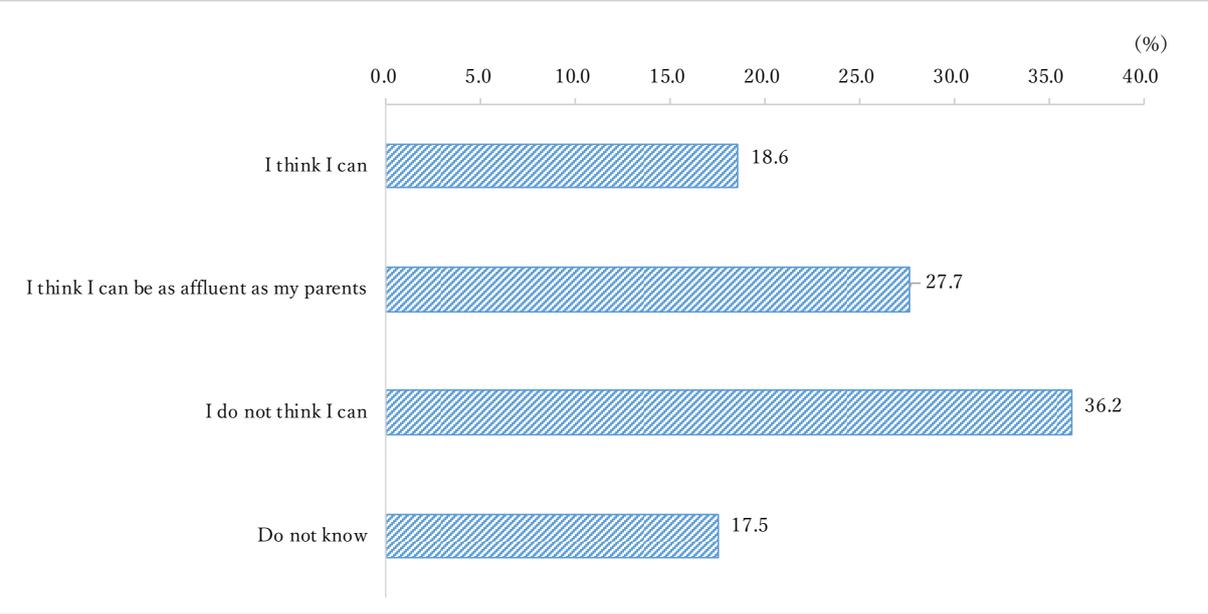


Figure 8-2. Whether they think that they can be more financially affluent than their parents by gender, marital status (with or without a spouse), and educational attainment

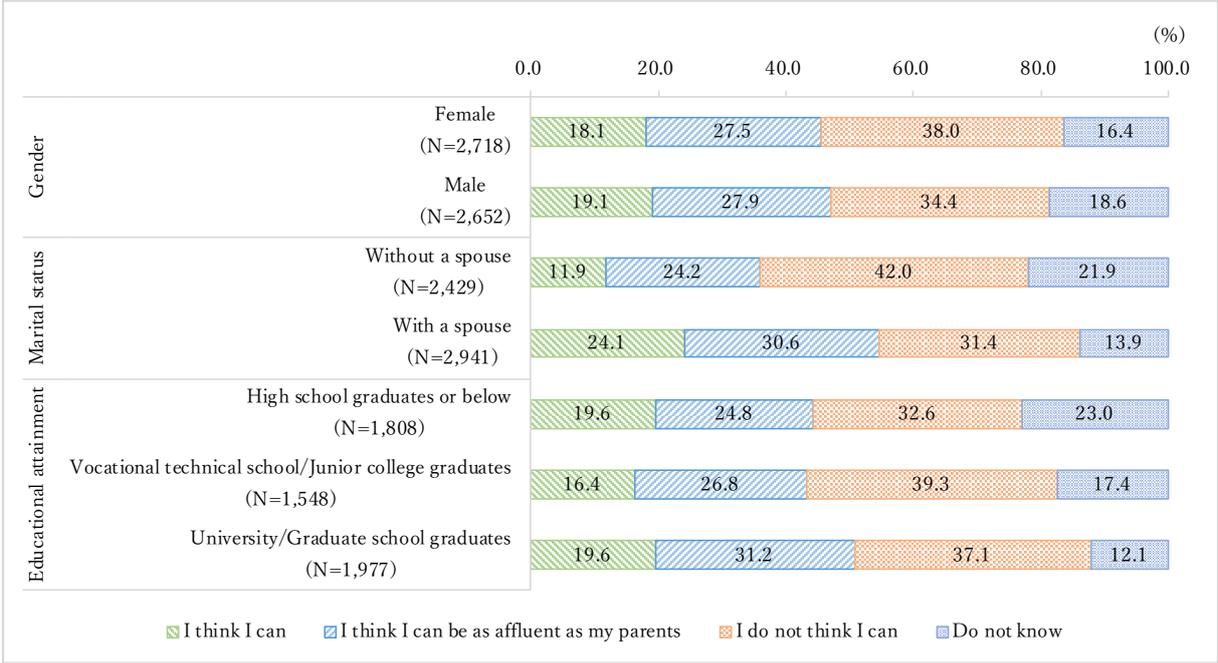


Figure 8-3. Whether they think that they can be more financially affluent than their parents by age

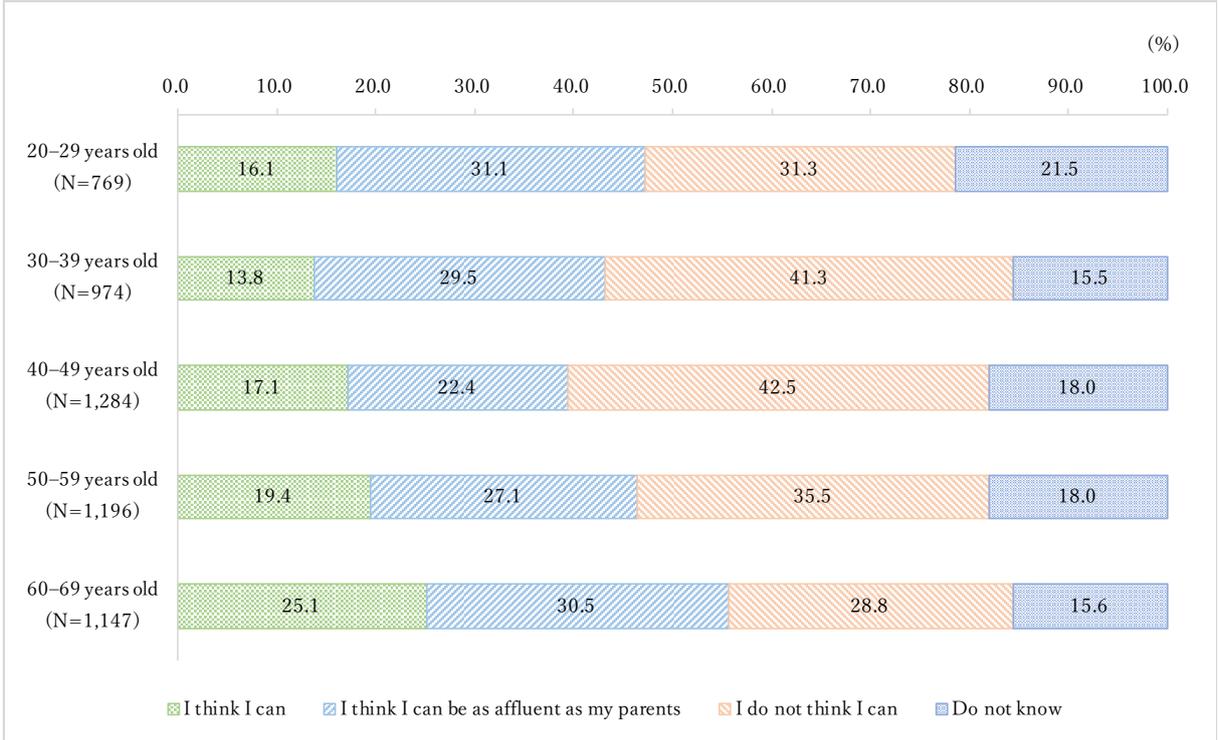


Figure 8-4. Whether they think that they can be more financially affluent than their parents by annual income



Figure 8-5. Whether they think that they can be more financially affluent than their parents by annual household income at the age of 15

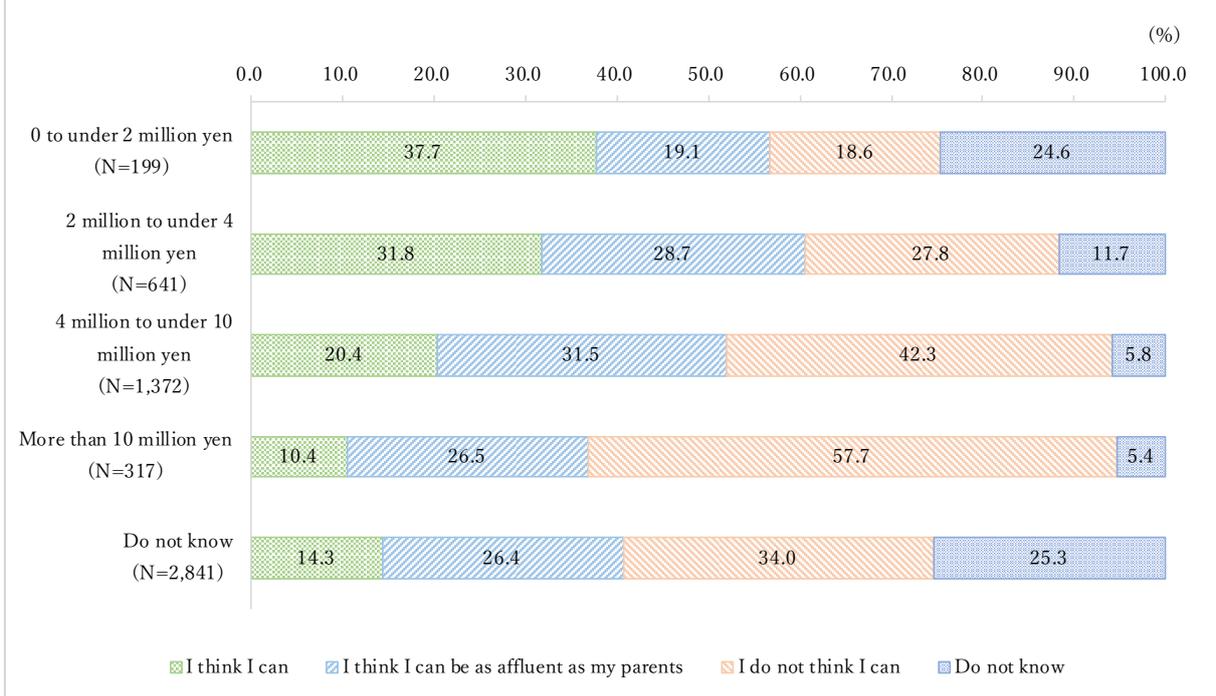


Figure 8-6. Whether they think that they can be more financially affluent than their parents by type of employment

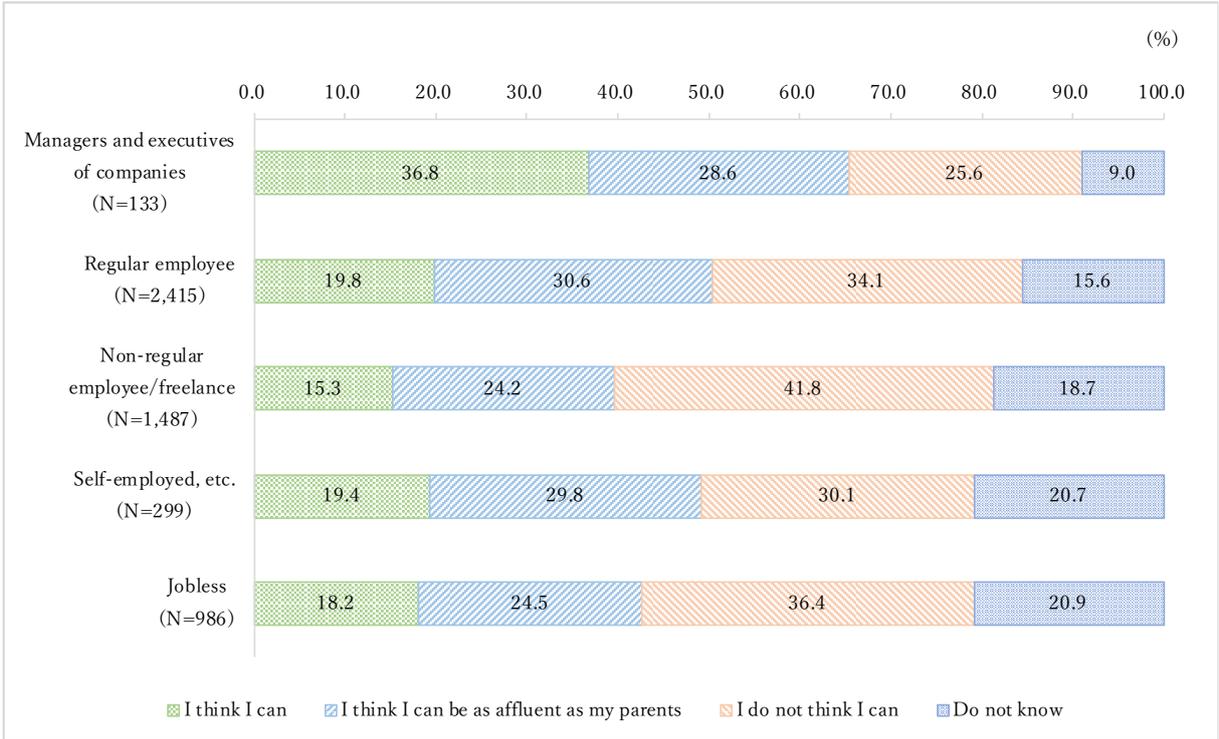
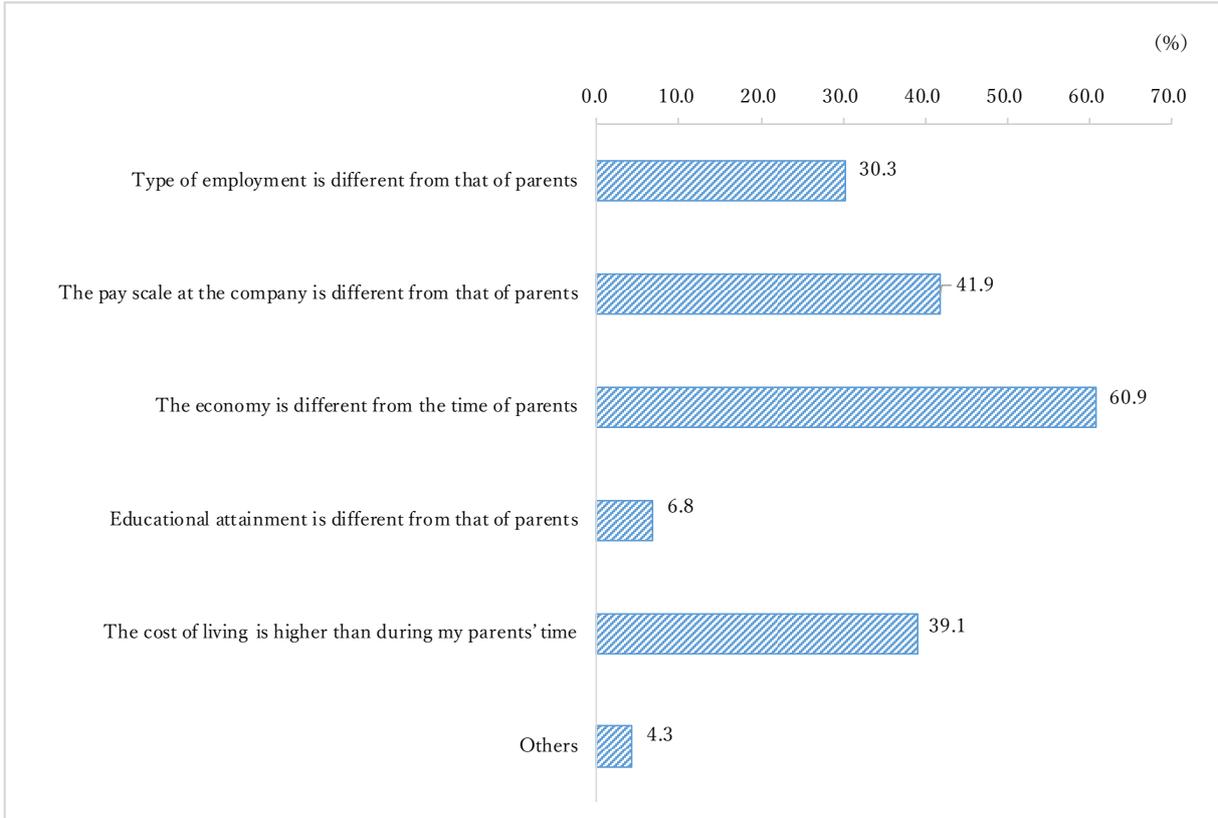


Figure 8-7. Whether they think that they can be more financially affluent than their parents by labor market situation at the time of graduation



Note: “A tough year for employment situation” defines here as the year to surpass 7.5% of total unemployment rate of 20–24 years of age. Specifically, such years are those between 1999 and 2007 and between 2009 and 2012.

Figure 9-1. Reasons why they do not think they can be more financially affluent than their parents (multiple answers)



Note: Respondents who answered “I do not think I can be more financially affluent than my parents” (N=1,944).

Table 9-1. Reasons why they do not think they can be more financially affluent than their parents by gender and marital status (with or without a spouse) (multiple answers)

	Gender		Marital status	
	Female	Male	Without a spouse	With a spouse
Type of employment is different from that of parents	33.2	27.1	36.0	24.1
The pay scale at the company is different from that of parents	40.9	43.0	44.6	39.0
The economy is different from the time of parents	62.7	58.7	58.9	63.1
Educational attainment is different from that of parents	5.5	8.3	8.2	5.3
The cost of living is higher than during my parents' time	41.2	36.7	35.7	42.9
Others	4.5	4.1	6.6	1.8
Sample size	1,033	911	1,021	923

Table 9-2. Reasons why they do not think they can be more financially affluent than their parents by age (multiple answers)

	Age group (%)				
	20-29 years old	30-39 years old	40-49 years old	50-59 years old	60-69 years old
Type of employment is different from that of parents	33.6	31.1	28.4	30.8	29.7
The pay scale at the company is different from that of parents	50.2	53.7	45.1	33.9	26.7
The economy is different from the time of parents	49.4	58.5	66.7	63.5	59.1
Educational attainment is different from that of parents	14.1	10.0	6.6	4.2	1.5
The cost of living is higher than during my parents' time	34.9	38.1	36.8	42.1	43.3
Others	3.7	3.5	4.4	4.0	6.1
Sample size	241	402	546	425	330

Table 9-3. Reasons why they do not think they can be more financially affluent than their parents by educational attainment and type of employment (multiple answers)

	Educational attainment				Type of employment				Total
	High school graduates or below	Vocational technical school/Junior college graduates	University/Graduate school graduates	Managers and executives of companies	Regular employee	Non-regular employees/freelance	Self-employed, etc.	Jobless	
Type of employment is different from that of parents	32.7	31.2	27.8	23.5	17.7	47.0	31.1	31.2	
The pay scale at the company is different from that of parents	36.3	44.0	44.8	20.6	52.2	38.8	15.6	32.9	
The economy is different from the time of parents	60.0	60.9	61.6	61.8	59.5	60.7	73.3	62.1	
Educational attainment is different from that of parents	7.3	8.4	5.2	2.9	7.3	6.0	5.6	7.8	
The cost of living is higher than during my parents' time	43.7	37.4	36.8	32.4	38.9	36.4	37.8	44.8	
Others	4.2	5.4	3.5	0.0	2.1	4.3	5.6	8.9	
Sample size	590	609	734	34	823	621	90	359	

Notes: For educational attainment, N=1,944. For type of employment, N=1,927.

Figure 10-1. Whether they think that anyone can become affluent in Japan as long as they work hard (*Their thoughts on effort*) by responses to the question whether they think they can be more financially affluent than their parents

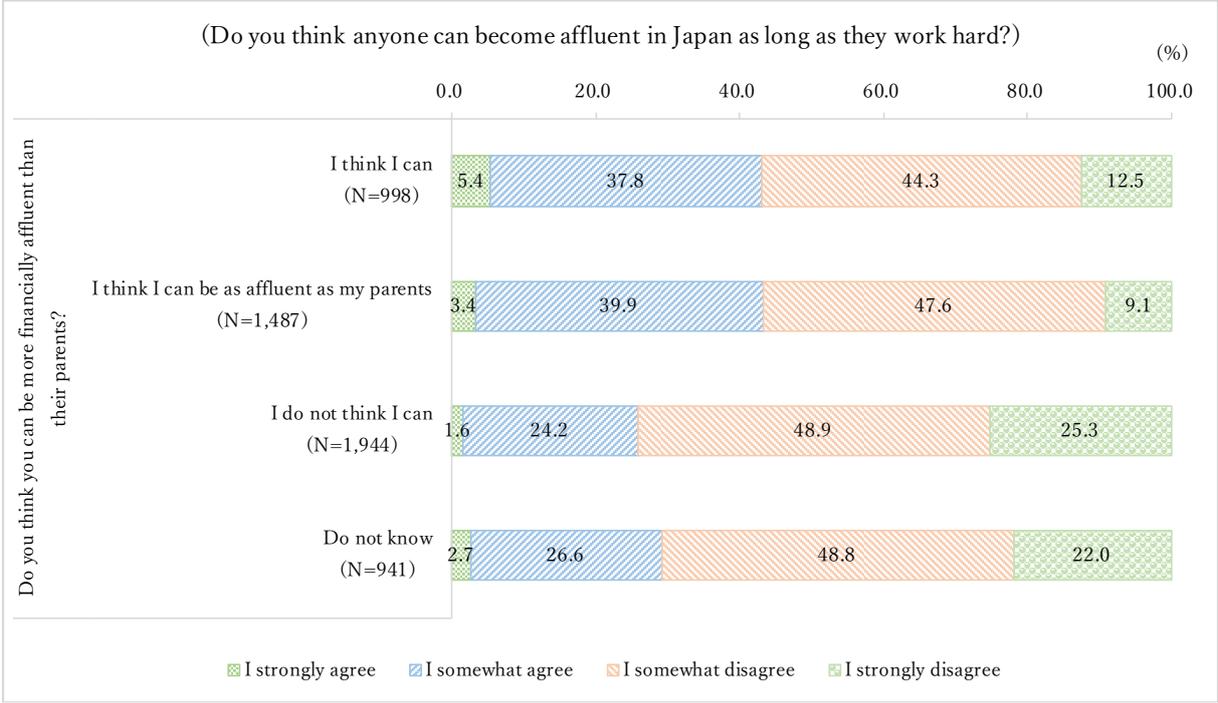


Figure 10-2. Most important condition for living a better life by responses to the question whether they think they can be more financially affluent than their parents

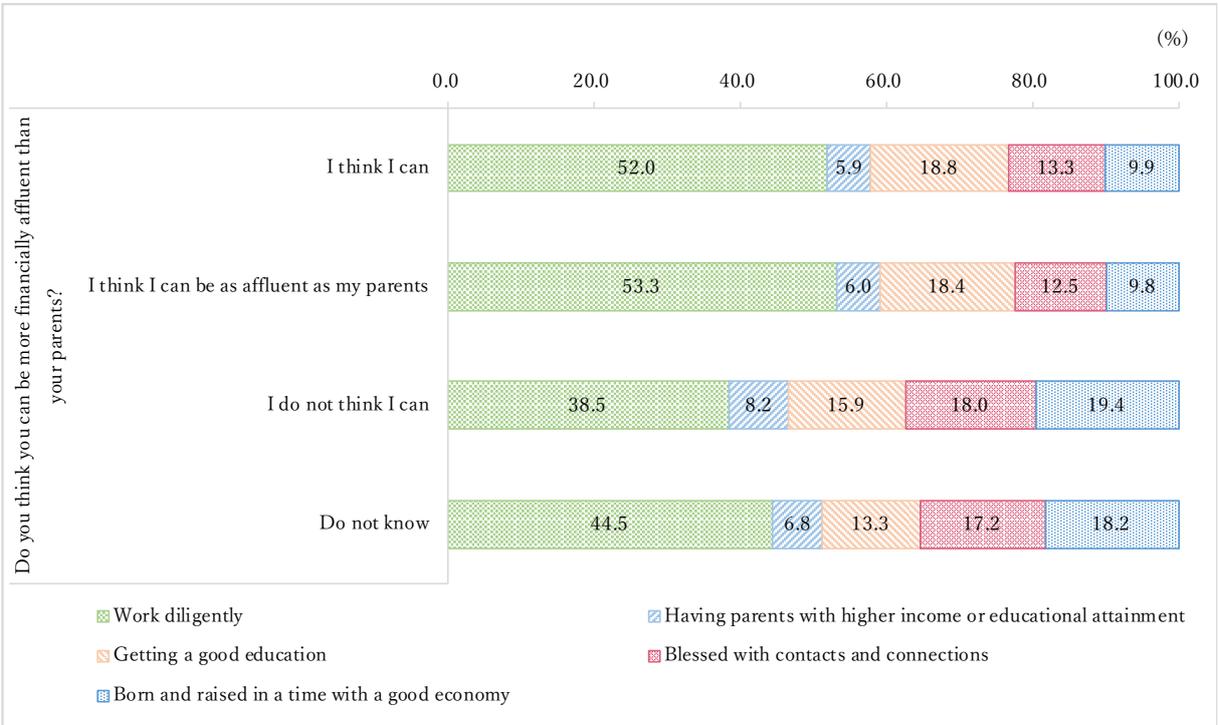


Figure 10-3. How they think about getting involved in the society by responses to the question whether they think they can be more financially affluent than their parents

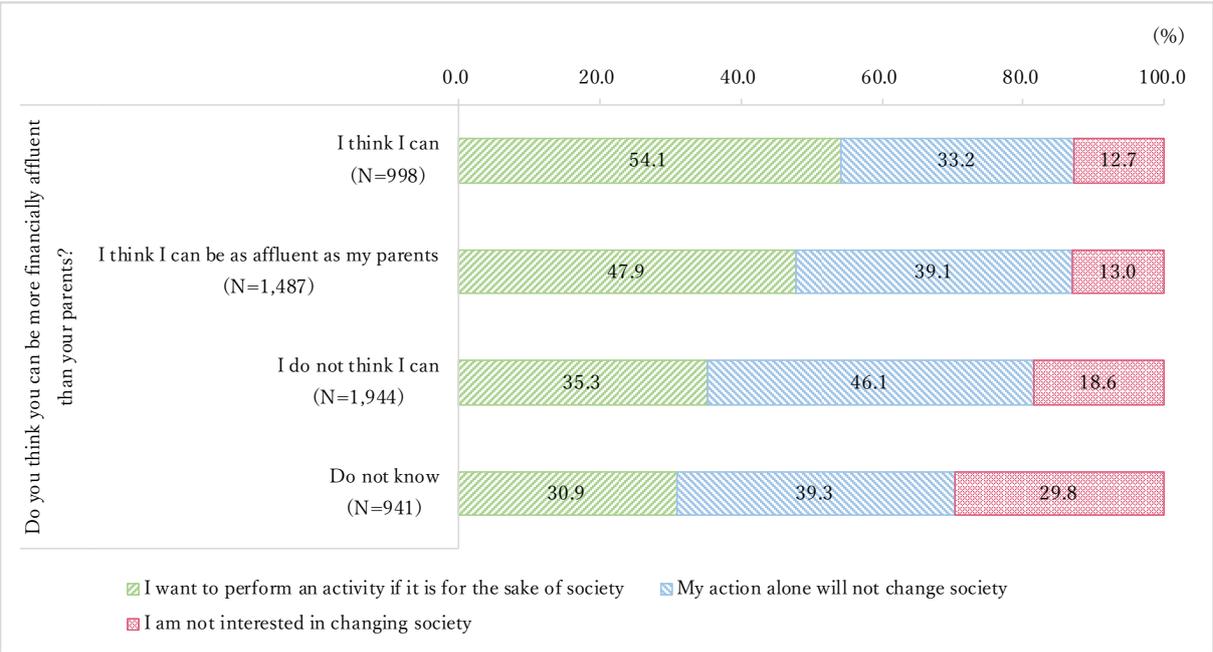


Figure 10-4. How they feel toward people who succeed in the society by responses to the question whether they think they can be more financially affluent than their parents

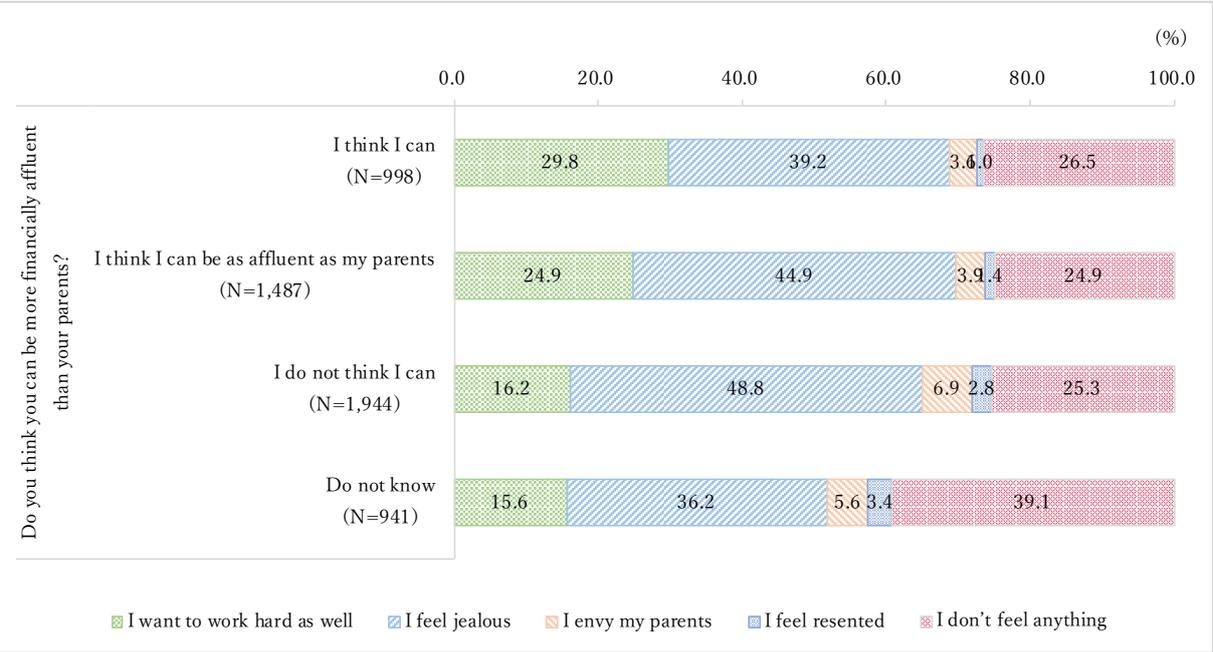


Table 10-1. How they think about getting involved in the society by responses to the question whether they think they can be more financially affluent than their parents (Limited the samples to those whose annual household income at the age of 15 was 4 million to 10 million yen)

How they think about getting involved in the society	Total of sample	Do you think you can be more financially affluent than your parents?			
		I think I can	I think I can be as affluent as my parents	I do not think I can	Do not know
I want to perform an activity if it is for the sake of society	46.8	61.1	49.1	40.0	33.8
My action alone will not change society	38.6	28.9	40.5	41.9	38.8
I am not interested in changing society	14.6	10.0	10.4	18.1	27.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sample size	1,372	280	432	580	80

Table 10-2. How they feel toward people who succeed in the society by responses to the question whether they think they can be more financially affluent than their parents (Limited the samples to those whose annual household income at the age of 15 was 4 million to 10 million yen)

How they feel toward people who succeed in the society	Total of sample	Do you think you can be more financially affluent than your parents?			
		I think I can	I think I can be as affluent as my parents	I do not think I can	Do not know
I want to work hard as well	23.6	33.6	26.9	16.7	21.3
I feel jealous	46.5	38.6	46.8	51.4	37.5
I envy my parents	5.0	4.3	5.1	5.5	3.8
I feel resented	1.8	1.1	1.4	2.8	0.0
I don't feel anything	23.0	22.5	19.9	23.6	37.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sample size	1,372	280	432	580	80