

**Annual Report on
the Ageing Society
[Summary] FY2020**

July 2020
Cabinet Office
Japan

This Report concerns the state of ageing and statements on the implementation of measures adopted by the government for the ageing society and documents clarifying measures and policies to take in view of the state of societal ageing provided for under Article 8 of the Basic Law on Measures for the Ageing Society (Act No.129, 1995).

Annual Report on the Ageing Society

The government submits this Report annually to the National Diet (Legal white paper) in accordance with the Basic Law on Measures for the Ageing Society. This edition is the 25th.

Basic Law on Measures for the Ageing Society

Article 8.1. The government shall submit a report annually to the National Diet concerning the state of the ageing society and the implementation of measures for the ageing society adopted by the government.

Article 8.2. The government shall prepare and submit to the National Diet annually a document which clearly describes the measures that will be adopted to take account of the state of the ageing society as described in the report of the preceding paragraph.

Chapter 1 Situation of the Ageing Population

Section 1 Situation of the Ageing Population (Trends in Ageing population and Projection for the Future)

Section 2 Trends of Living of the Elderly (Trends in Employment Rate by Age Group, Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth and Life Expectancy at Birth, Internet Usage Rate according to Trends by Age Group, Number of Fatal Accidents by Drivers Aged 75 and Over, etc.)

Section 3 <Special Feature> Awareness of the Elderly's for Economic Circumstances of Life

<Topics>

1. Town development in which people support each other in the community and everyone can live with peace of mind and have a sense of purpose
- Efforts to promote the use of the Adult Guardianship System in Hachinohe City, Aomori Prefecture -
2. Searching for a new form of employment and social participation
- Efforts of Kagoshima City Silver Human Resources Center -

Chapter 2 Situation Regarding Implementation of the FY 2019 Measures for the Ageing Society

Section 1 Fundamental Framework of Measures for the Ageing Society

Section 2 Implementation Status of Measures in each Field (Measures implemented by each government ministry during FY 2019)

1. Employment and Income
2. Health and Welfare
3. Learning and Social Participation
4. Living Environment
5. Research Development and Contribution to the World
6. Promote Success of All Generations

Chapter 3 Measures for the Ageing Society in FY 2020

Section 1 Basic Approach to Measures for the Ageing Society in FY 2020

Section 2 Measures for the Ageing Society in each Field (Measures implemented by each government ministry during FY 2020)

1. Employment and Income
2. Health and Welfare
3. Learning and Social Participation
4. Living Environment
5. Research Development and Contribution to the World
6. Promote Success of All Generations

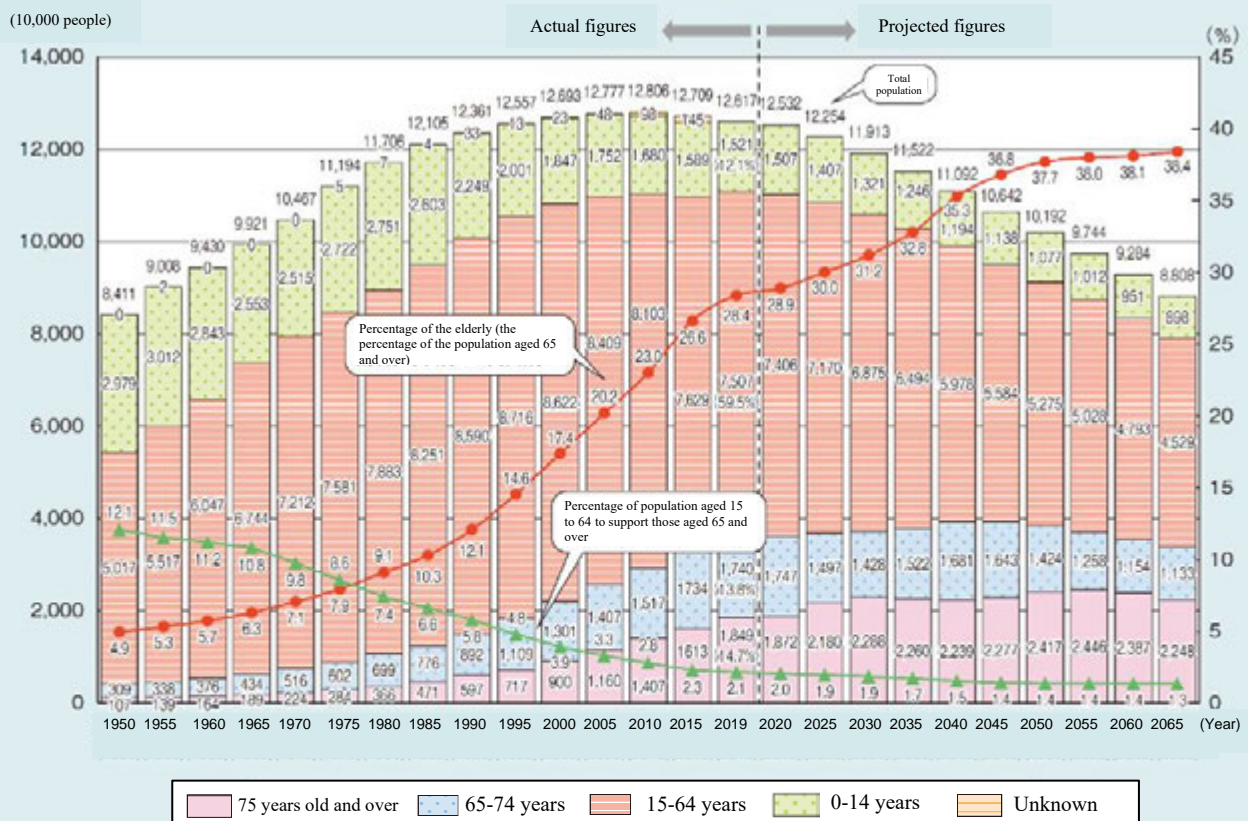
Chapter 1 Situation of the Ageing Population

Section 1 Situation of the Ageing Population

○ The percentage of the elderly rises to 28.4%

- The total population of Japan is 126.17 million people as of October 1, 2019.
- The number of the population aged 65 and over is 35.89 million. The percentage of the population aged 65 and over (percentage of the elderly) is 28.4%.
- The population aged between 65 and 74 years is 17.4 million, accounting for 13.8% of the total population of Japan. The population aged 75 years and over is 18.49 million, accounting for 14.7% of the total population, and has overtaken the population aged 65-74 years in size.
- By 2065, one in 2.6 people will be 65 years old and over, and one in 3.9 will be 75 years old and over.

Chart 1-1-1 Trends in Ageing population and Projection for the Future



Source: Rates of ageing in the bar graph and the solid line are based on data in "Population Census of Japan" (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications) for and before 2015, "Population Estimates (fixed value as of October 1, 2019)" (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications), for 2019, and "Population Projections for Japan: 2016-2065 (2017)" (Medium fertility variant and medium mortality variant) (National Institute of Population and Social Security Research) for and after 2020.

(Note 1) The population by age group after 2019 is based on the Statistical Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications "Population census of the census age and nationality uncertainty (reference table)" of 2015. Since it is calculated based on the population who were categorized as the "age unknown", age unknown does not exist. In calculating the rates of ageing from 1950 to 2015, the "age unknown" is excluded from the denominator. However, in calculating the rates for 1950 and 1955, the part of the Okinawa Prefecture population shown in (Note 2) is not included in the "age unknown."

(Note 2) 136 foreigners (55 males and 81 females) aged 70 or over in Okinawa Prefecture in 1950 and 23,328 people (8,090 males and 15,238 females) aged 70 or over in 1955 are excluded from the population aged 65 - 74 or aged 75 or over, and included in the "age unknown."

(Note 3) Population projections represent the future trends of population based on the demographic data obtained before the base year. Deviation between the future estimates and actual result is likely to occur due to structural changes and other reasons occurring after the base year, and the population projections are regularly revised based on such results.

Who are the elderly?

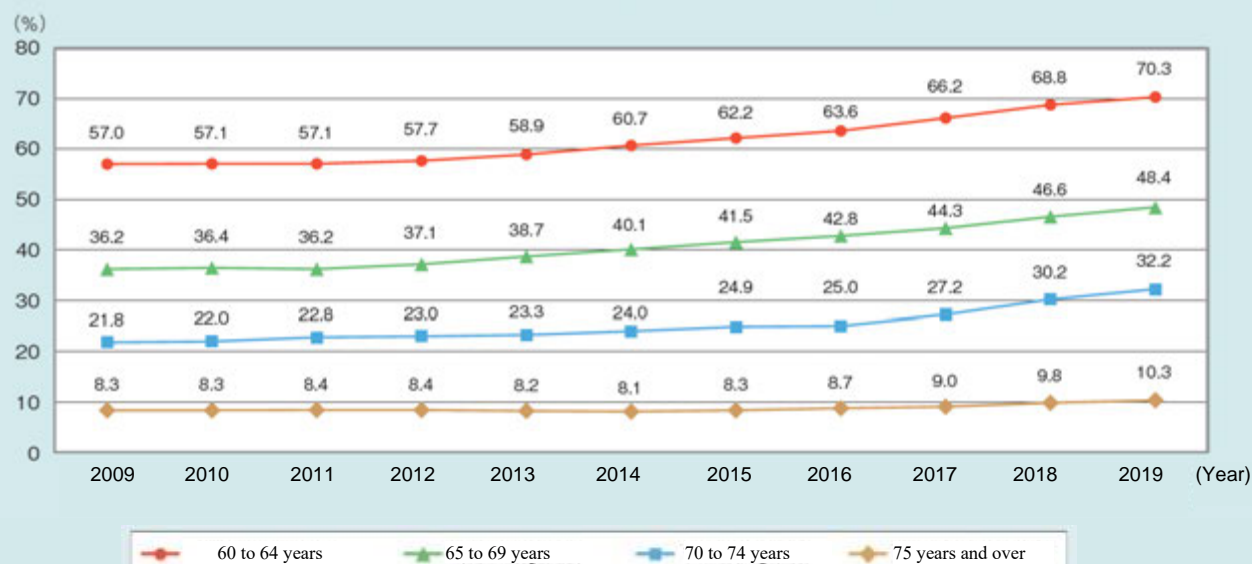
The term "the elderly" is applied to different subjects depending on context and systems, and there is no uniform definition. The Guideline of Measures for Ageing Society (decided by the Cabinet in February 2018) uses as a generally accepted term "the elderly" for the sake of convenience. In this white paper too, the term is used in its generally accepted sense except in cases in which the definitions in various statistics or systems are followed. For the classification and the definitions of the elderly, the "Working Group Report on the Definition of the Elderly" (March 2017) from the Joint Committee of Japan Gerontological Society and the Japan Geriatrics Society proposes to newly define people aged 75 and over as the elderly. The Guideline of Measures for Ageing Society also states that the general tendency to uniformly regard people aged 65 and over as "the elderly" is no longer realistic in light of the current situation.

Section 2 Trends of Living of the Elderly

○ Trends in employment rate by age group

- As for employment rates by age group, rates in 2019 for age 60 - 64, 65 - 69, and 70 - 74 have increased to 13.3 points, 12.2 points, 10.4 points respectively, compared to that of 2009, ten years ago.

Chart 1-2-1 Trends in Employment Rate by Age group



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications "Labour Force Survey"

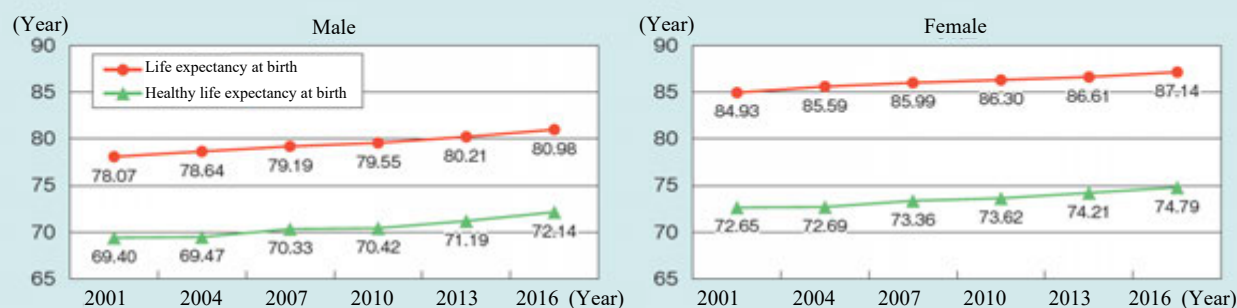
(Note 1) The "Employment Rate by Age Group" represents a percentage of employed persons in the population of each age group.

(Note 2) In 2011, the implementation of the survey became temporarily difficult in Iwate Prefecture, Miyagi Prefecture and Fukushima Prefecture, so complementarily estimated values have been used.

○ Healthy life expectancy at birth is increasing more than the increase of life expectancy at birth

- Average period of time spent without limitation in daily activities (healthy life expectancy at birth) was 72.14 years for males and 74.79 years for females as of 2016. Compared to 2010, both became longer (2010 to 2016: males 1.72 years, females 1.17 years). The increase of healthy life expectancy at birth is larger than that of life expectancy at birth (2010 to 2016: males 1.43 years, females 0.84 years).

Chart 1-2-2 Trends in Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth and Life Expectancy at Birth



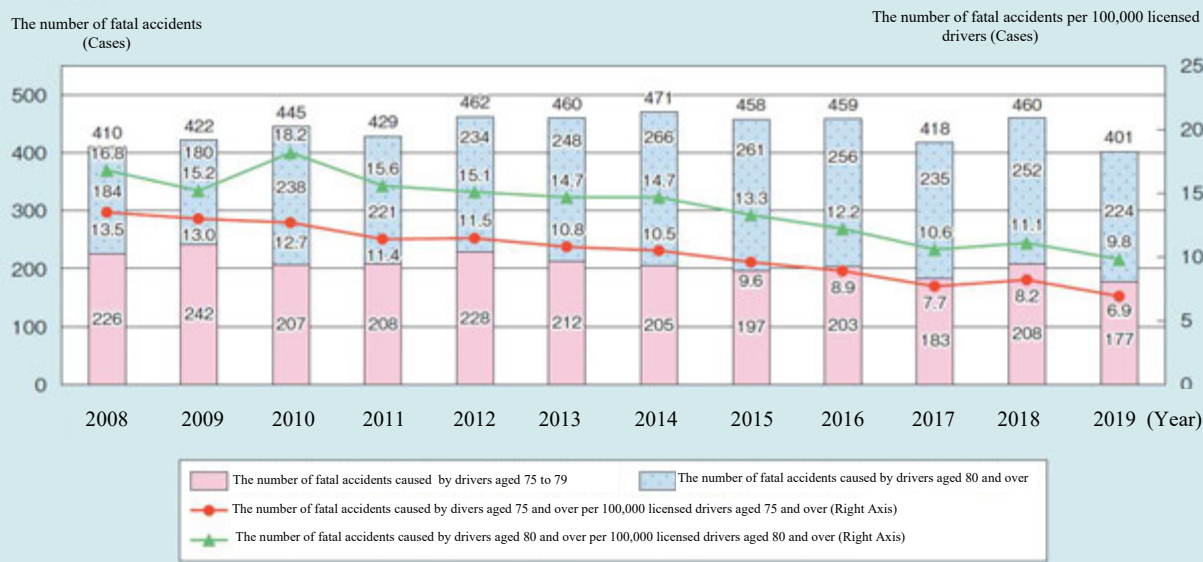
Sources: Life expectancy at birth: "Abridged Life Table," Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare for 2001, 2004, 2007, 2013 and 2016 and "Complete Life Table," Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, for 2010

Healthy life expectancy at birth: Health and Labor Sciences Research Grant "Projection of the healthy life expectancy and the study on the cost-effectiveness of the measures against lifestyle diseases" for 2001, 2004, 2007, and 2010, "Reference Document for the 11th Promotion Specialized Committee of Healthy Japan 21 (the second term)" for 2013 and 2016.

- **The number of fatal accidents per 100,000 licensed drivers aged 75 and over is decreasing**
 - In 2019, the number of fatal accidents per 100,000 licensed drivers aged 75 and over was 6.9, and per 100,000 licensed drivers aged 80 and over was 9.8, both of which are smaller than those of the previous year.

Chart 1-2-3

Number of Fatal Accidents Caused by Drivers Aged 75 and Over and Number of Fatal Accidents Caused by Drivers per 100,000 Licensed Drivers aged 75 and Over



The number of licensed drivers aged 75 and over (10,000 people)

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
304	324	351	375	403	425	447	478	513	540	564	583
Among them, aged 80 and over											
109	119	131	141	155	169	180	196	209	221	227	229

Source: National Police Agency Statistics

- **The number of the elderly who use the Internet is increasing**
 - The Internet usage in the last one year was compared with that of eight years ago by user's age group. The increase in the usage rate for people aged 60 to 69 is highest at 12.2 points, followed by that for people aged 70 to 79 at 11.8 points. This indicates that more people in their 60s and 70s use the Internet.

Chart 1-2-4

Internet Usage Rate by Age Group



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications "Communication Usage Trend Survey"
(Note) Excluding no response

Section 3 <Special Feature> "Awareness of the Elderly's for Economic Circumstances of Life" (outline)

In 2019, the Cabinet Office conducted a "Survey on the Economic Circumstances of Life of the Elderly" for 1,755 men and women aged 60 or over nationwide. Here are some survey results.

* The survey included men and women aged 60 or over in order to ascertain not only the elderly's attitudes but also any differences among the attitudes of the age group that has yet to reach the fully-fledged period of elderliness.

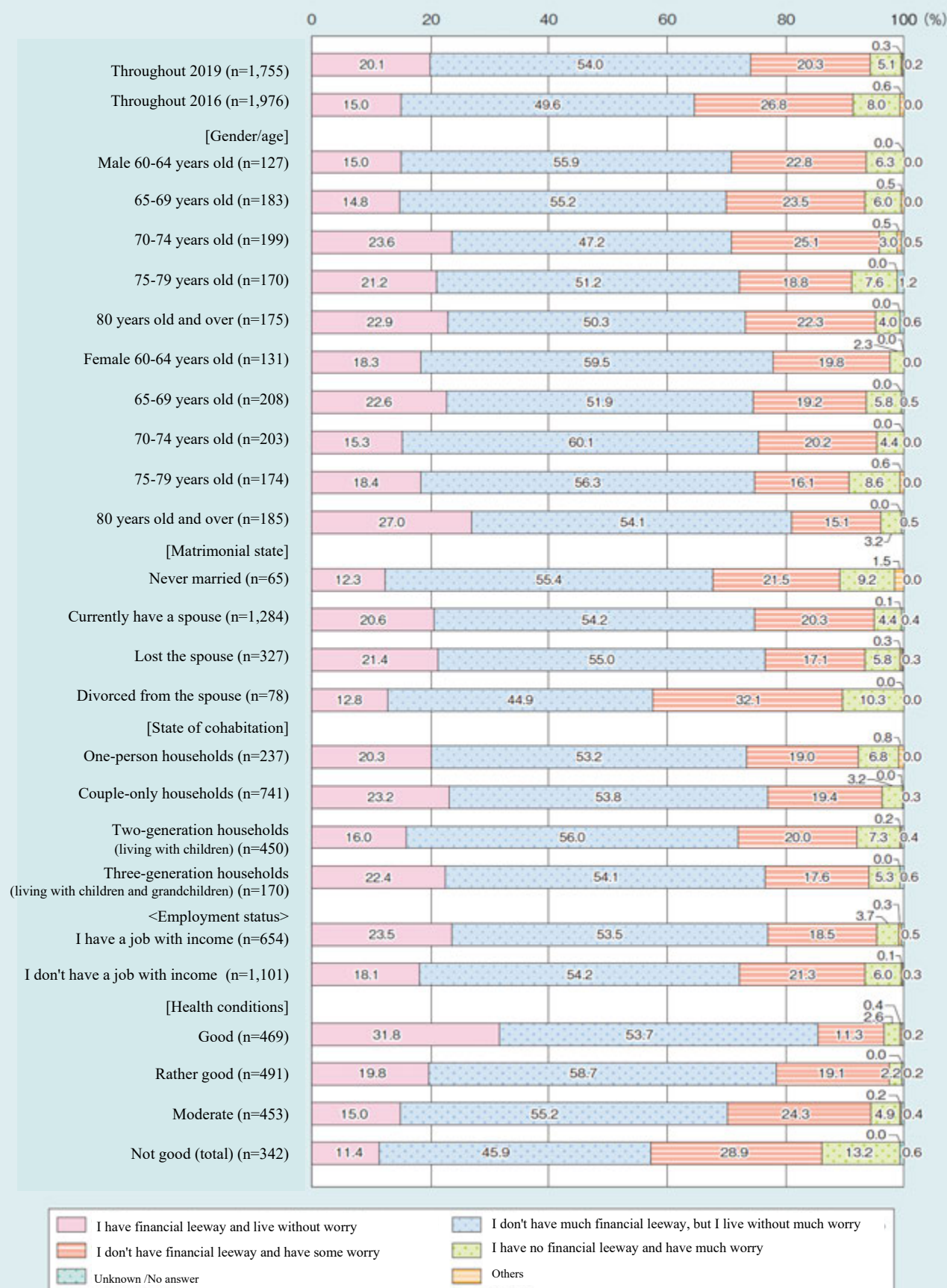
- **About three-quarters of people aged 60 or over live without worry**

When men and women aged 60 or over were asked about their current economic circumstances of life, 20.1% answered "I have financial leeway and live without worry," and 54.0% answered "I don't have much financial leeway, but I live without much worry." A total of third-fourths or 74.1% live without worry.

The Cabinet Office's 2016 "Attitudes regarding the Elderly's Housing and Living Environments" (hereinafter referred to as the "2016 Survey") shows that more than 60% (64.6%) live without worry. The 2019 survey shows that more people live without worry.

Chart 1-3-1

Economic circumstances of life (by gender/age, matrimonial state, state of cohabitation, employment status and health conditions)



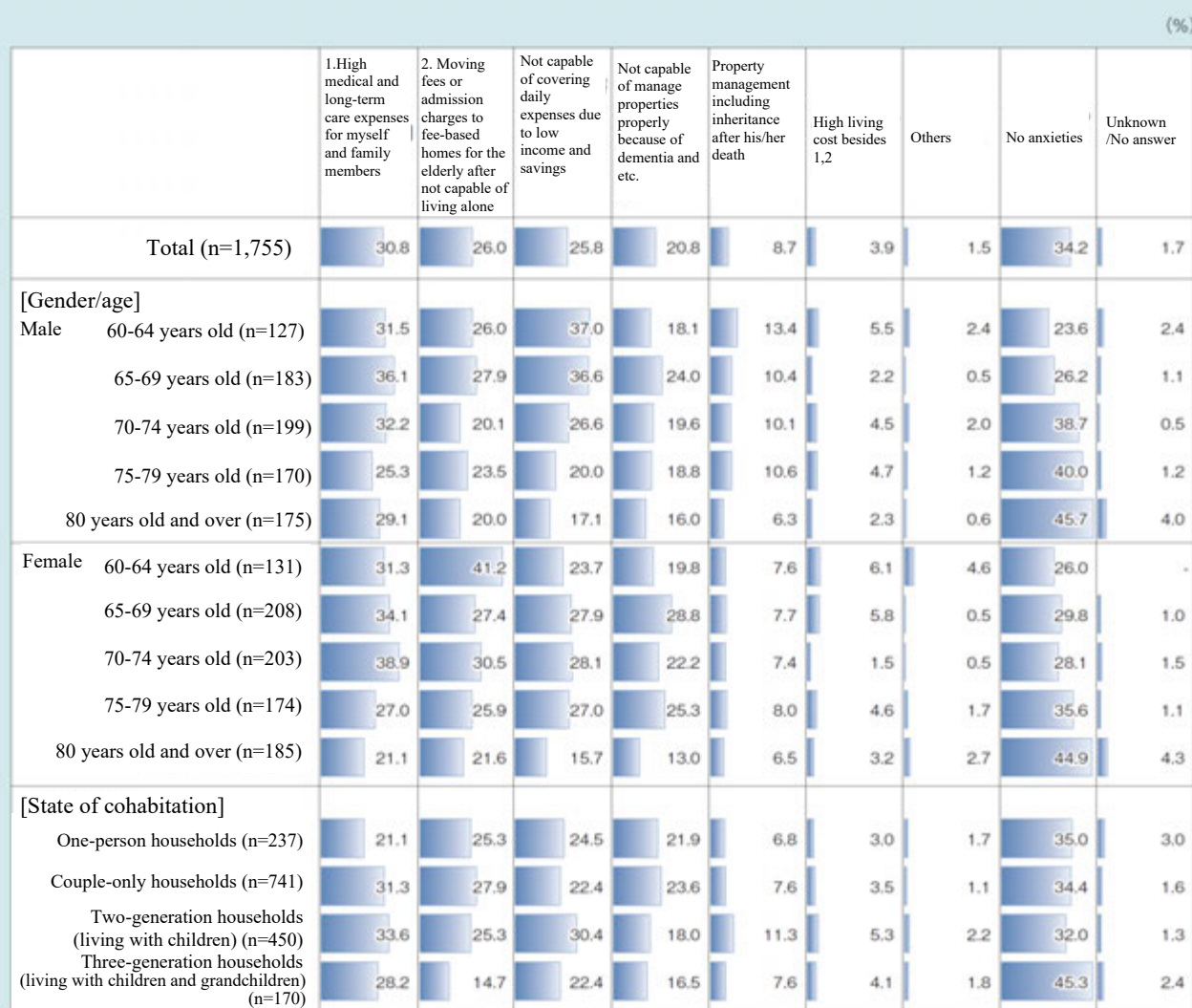
○ Less financial anxiety as age goes up

Men and women aged 60 and over are asked about financial anxieties for the future life. Most commonly answer was "No anxieties"(34.2%). When they have anxieties, in order of frequencies, they answered "High medical and long-term care expenses for myself and family members" (30.8%), "Moving fees or admission charges to fee-based homes for the elderly after not capable of living alone" (26.0%) and "Not capable of covering daily expenses due to low income and savings" (25.8%).

Looking at by gender and age, the elder they are, the more male and female tend to answer "No anxieties. " In particular, Men aged sixties answered most "Not capable of covering daily expenses due to low income and savings" and as age goes up, less people answer it.

Chart 1-3-2

Financial anxieties for the future life (multiple answers) (by gender/age and state of cohabitation)



○About 80% of people aged 60 or over have a purpose of life

When men and women aged 60 and over were asked how much purpose they had in their life, 37.2% answered they "Have much" and 42.5% "Have some." A total of about 80% (79.6%) have purpose in their life.

Chart 1-3-3

Current extent of purpose in life
(by gender/age, matrimonial state, employment status and health conditions)



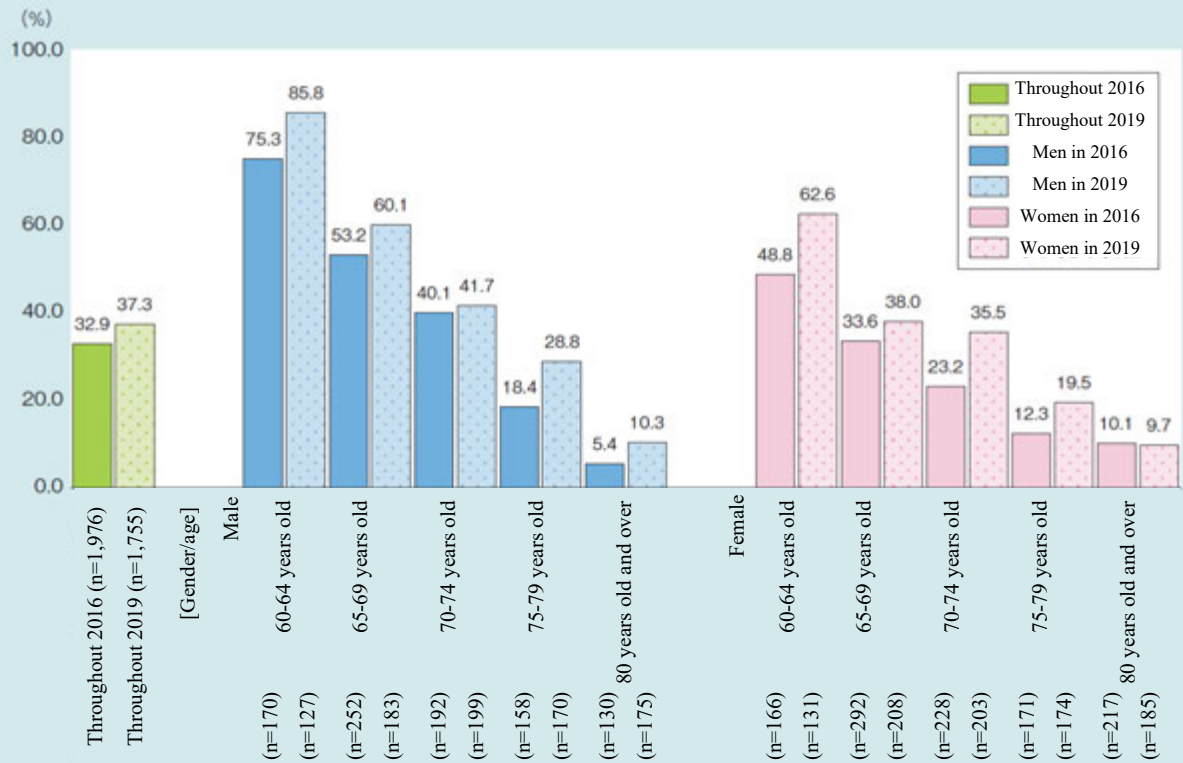
○ **The percentage of people working has increased in a wide range of age groups**

When men and women aged 60 and over were asked about the current employment status, nearly 40% (37.3%) answered "I have a job with income."

Compared with the 2016 Survey, the percentage of people working with income has increased in almost all age groups, for both men and women.

Chart 1-3-4

The percentage of people working with income (by gender/age)



Reasons for working diversify as they get older

When people currently working with income were asked why they were working, the most common answer was "Because I want income" (45.4%), followed by "Because working is good for my health and prevents ageing" (23.5%) and "Because work itself is interesting and I can utilize my knowledge and abilities" (21.9%).

When viewed by gender and age, the percentage of the "Because I want income" is particularly high among men in the age group of 60 to 64, but the reasons for employment tend to diversify for both men and women as they get older.

Chart 1-3-5

Reason for working (by gender/age) (People working with income = 100%)



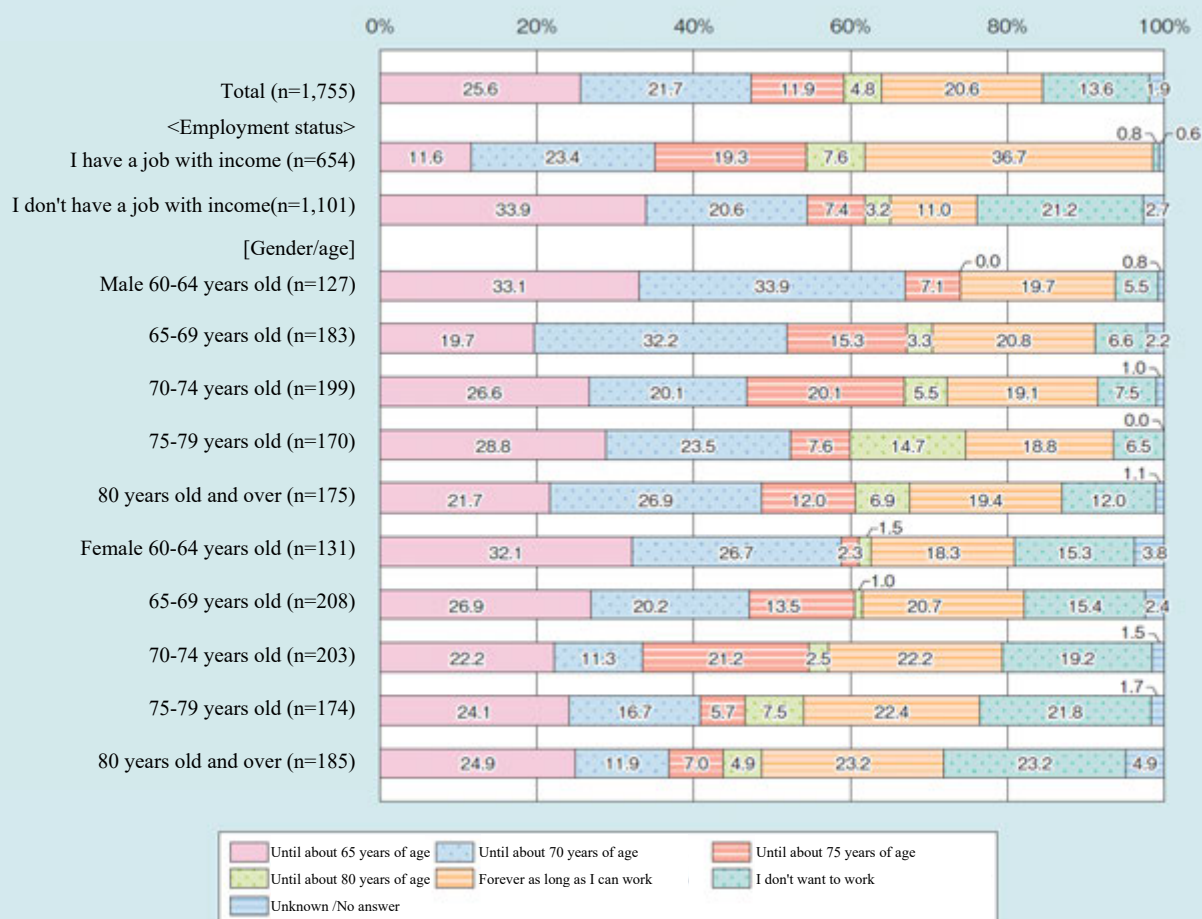
○ **Nearly 90% of working people aged 60 and over want to work until the age of 70**

When men and women aged 60 and over were asked “Until how old did/do they want to work with income?”, they answered "Up to about 65 years of age" (25.6%), "Up to about 70 years of age" (21.7%) and "Forever as long as I can work" (20.6%).

For those who work with income, the most common answer is "Forever as long as I can work" (36.7%), followed by " Up to about 70 years of age" (23.4%) and "Up to about 75 years of age" (19.3%). Nearly 90% (87.0%) want to work until they are 70 years old or older.

Chart 1-3-6

Until how old do you want to work with income? (by employment status, gender/age)



Topics

1. Town development in which people support each other in the community and everyone can live with peace of mind and have a sense of purpose

- Efforts to promote the use of the Adult Guardianship System in Hachinohe City, Aomori Prefecture -

Amid the declining and ageing population combined with the diminishing birth rate, Hachinohe City, Aomori Prefecture, has started to promote professional guardians or citizen guardians who are neither professionals nor relatives.

To promote this effort, Hachinohe City has established Adult Guardianship Center, which is a core organization for promoting the utilization of the Adult Guardianship System and citizen guardianship. The Adult Guardianship Center receives advocacy consultation, promotes citizen guardianship, builds network, and raises public awareness. Hachinohe City positions the Citizen's Guardianship Promotion Council as an investigative and deliberation body, and deliberations are being conducted to promote the use of Adult Guardianship System there. In addition, volunteers who have completed the training for citizen guardians have set up "Hachinohe Citizens' Guardian Liaison Committee" to hold workshops or on-site lectures and cooperate with events to improve the ability of citizen guardians and raise awareness for the Adult Guardianship System.



(Upper photo: "Citizen's Guardianship Promotion Council," Lower photo: "Awareness raising activities by Hachinohe Citizens' Guardian Liaison Committee")

2. Searching for a new form of employment and social participation

- Efforts of Kagoshima City Silver Human Resources Center -

The Kagoshima City Silver Human Resources Center is pioneering new forms of employment and social participation that were never found in the conventional silver human resources centers. In order to increase the participation of women with little work experience, the Silver Human Resources Center holds senior beauty brush up workshops and fashion shows by female members, especially targeting women. In addition, it provides the "One Coin Magokoro Service" that allows people to undertake light work for one coin for the elderly in cooperation with Regional Comprehensive Support Center. This service also helps confirm the safety of the elderly. Furthermore, the Silver Human Resources Center plans events and provides club activities. These efforts make it one of the core organizations for creating a lively community.



(Upper photo: "Fashion show by female members," Lower photo: "One Coin Magokoro Service")