

## Chapter 1 Current Status of Declining Birth Rate

### Section 1 Recent Changes in Live Birth Rate

#### 1. Trends in the Number of Live Births and Live Birth Rate

(Transition in the number of births and total fertility rate)

About 2.7 million babies and about 2.0 million babies were born in the first baby boom period and in the second baby boom period, respectively in Japan. In 1984, however, the number fell below 1.5 million and since 1991, the number is declining moderately between increases and decreases.

The total fertility rate which was in excess of 4.3 in the first baby boom period rapidly fell since 1950. Since then (including the second baby boom), the rate continued, and it began to stand at about 2.1 to show a declining trend again since it fell below 2.0 in 1975. In 1989, the rate registered 1.57 which was below the record low of 1966 (bingwu- one of the sexagenary cycle). Furthermore, in 2005, the rate fell to 1.26, the lowest registered in the past.

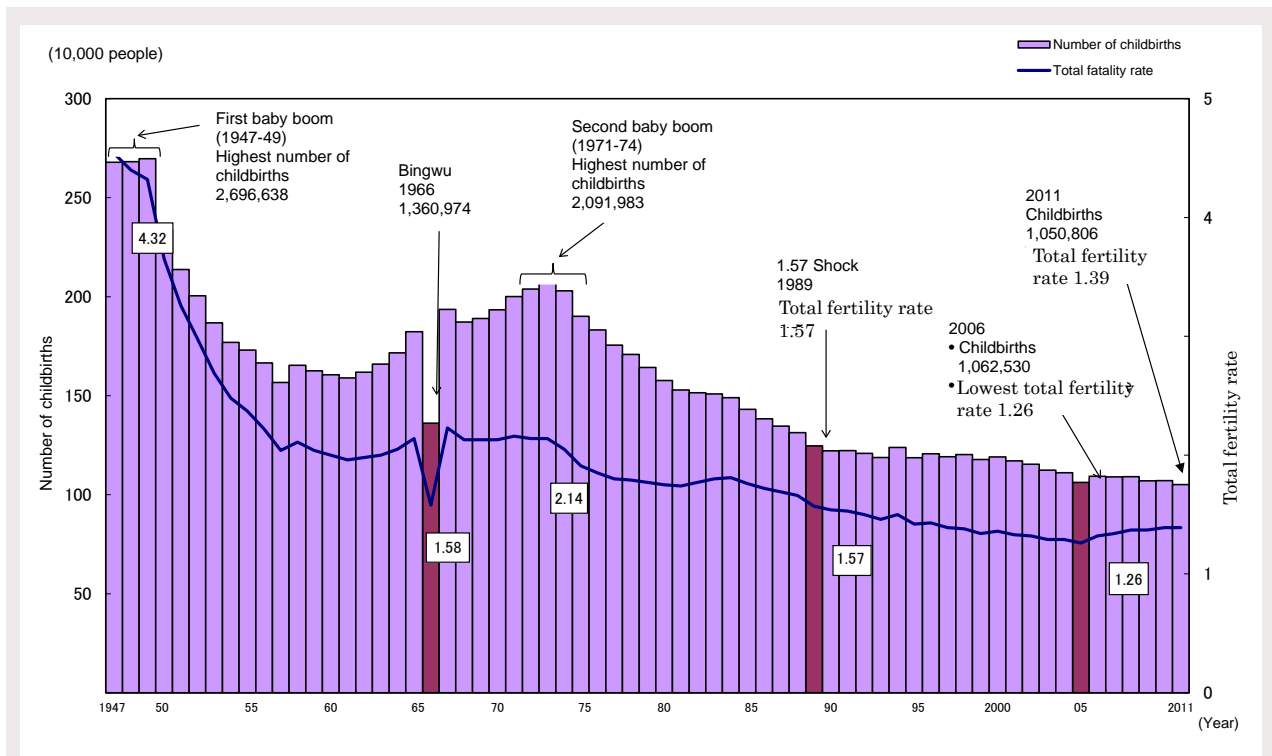
Incidentally, the rate in 2011 was 1.39 (same as that of the previous year) showing a slight increase, but still remains at low levels when compared to western countries.

#### 2. Decrease in the Number of Total Population and Change in Population Structure

(Population 50 years later in Japan)

According to the “Future Population of Japan (projection as of January 2012),” it is estimated that the total fertility rate will roughly remain at 1.39 between 2010 and 2014, moderately decrease to 1.33 until 2024, and increase to 1.34 in 2030 and to 1.35 in 2060 based on the medium variant of population (medium birth rate and medium death rate) which is generally used for projecting future population. When calculated on the basis of this assumption, the total population in Japan will show a long-term declining trend from the population of 128.06 million people in 2010 to fall to 99.13 million people below 100 million in 2048 through 116.62 million people in 2030 and to reach 86.74 million in 2060, 50 years later from now.

**Fig. 1-1-1 Trends in the number of live birth and total fertility rate**



Source: "Vital Statistics", Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

### 3. Situation of marriage and childbirth

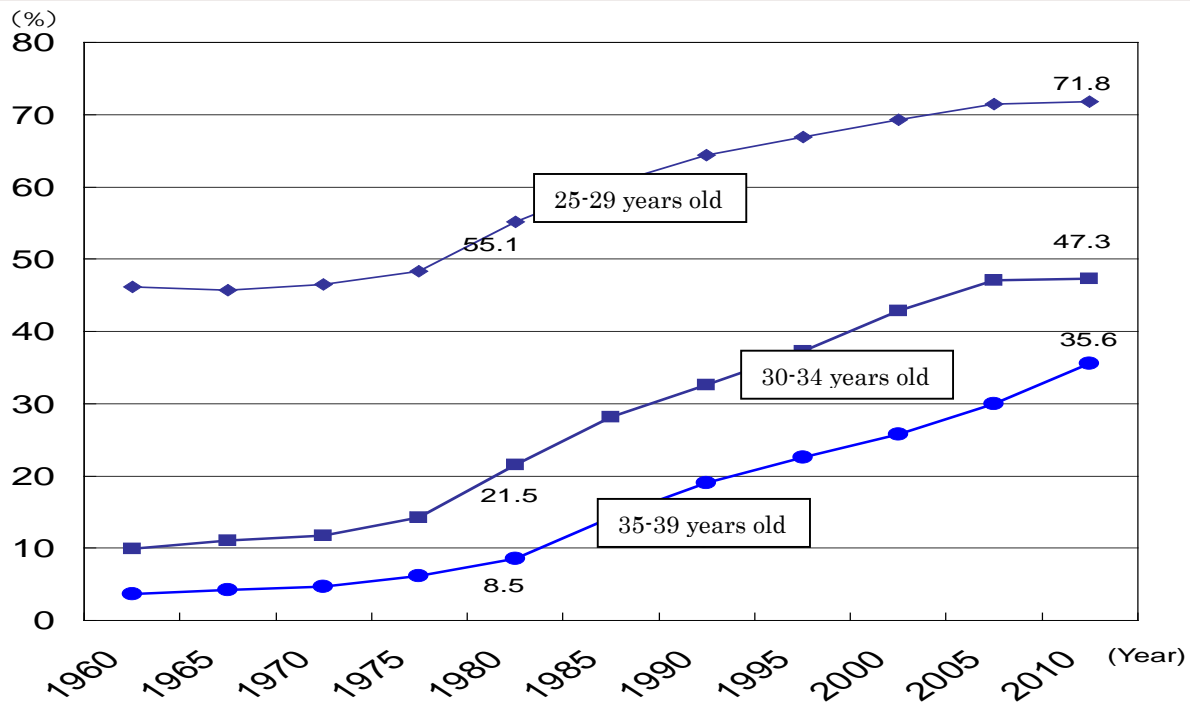
#### (Progression of unmarried status and non-married status)

According to the 'Population Census in 2010' made by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the unmarried rate of both male and female persons aged 25-39 has continued to rise: that of males aged 25-29 being 71.8%, 30-34 47.3%, and 35-39 35.6%, while that of females aged 25-29 60.3%, 30-34 34.5% and 35-39 23.1%. Moreover, if the lifetime unmarried rate is compared to that of 30 years before, it has increased from 2.60% (1980) to 20.14% (2010) for men, and from 4.45% (1980) to 10.61% (2010) for women.

#### (Progression of tendencies of late marriages and late childbirths)

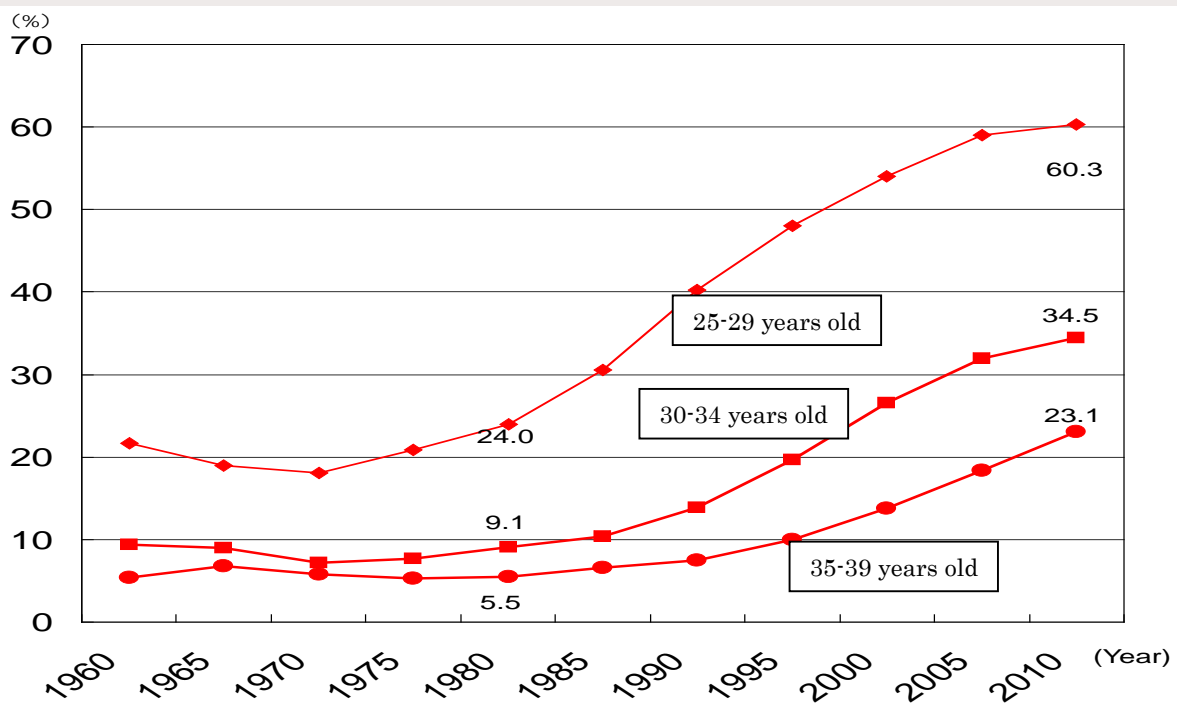
The mean age at first marriage of the Japanese continued to raise in 2011, with 30.7-year-old for the husbands (0.2 years rise compared to the previous year), and 29.0 years for the wives (0.2 years rise compared to the previous year), with the tendency of late marriages at higher age in progress. In 1980, the mean age at first marriage for husbands was 27.8-year-old, and for wives 25.2 years, in about 30 year period it has risen by 2.9 years for husbands, and by 3.8 years for wives. Looking at the mean age of mothers at the time of the birth, in the case of 2011, the mean age for the first child is the age of 30.1, for the second child is the age of 32.0, and the third child is the age of 33.2, and the age at which they give birth to their first child has exceeded 30 years old for the first time.

**Fig. 1-1-2 Changes in the percentage of unmarried people by age group (men)**



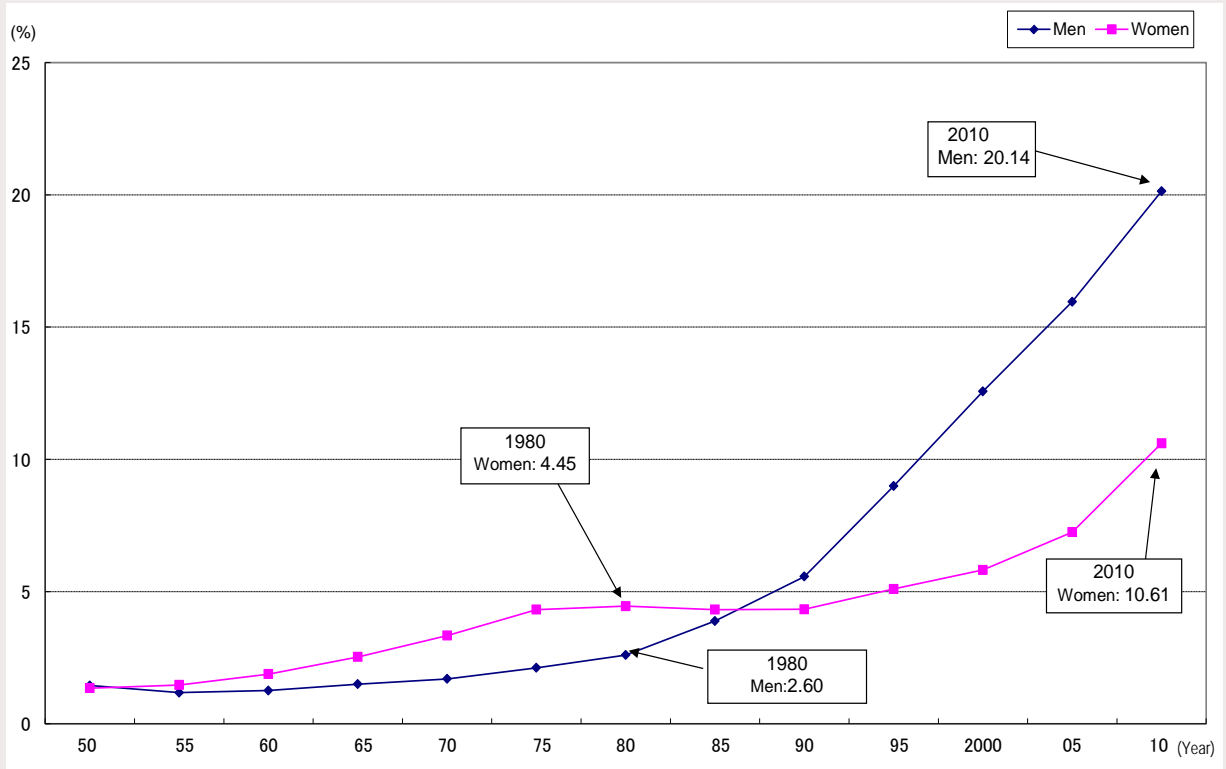
Source: "National Census", Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (2010)  
 Note: Okinawa prefecture is not included in the data of 1960 to 1970.

**Fig. 1-1-3 Changes in the percentage of unmarried people by age group (women)**



Source: "National Census", Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (2010)  
 Note: Okinawa prefecture is not included in the data of 1960 to 1970.

**Fig. 1-1-4 Annual changes in the lifetime unmarried rate**

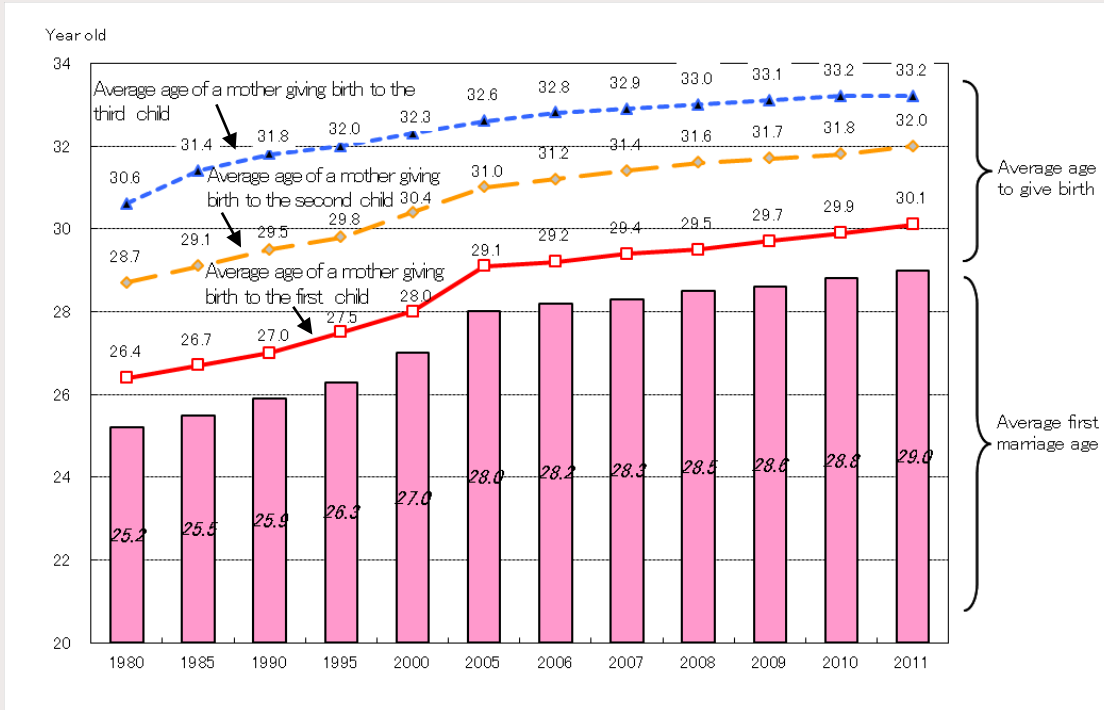


Source: "Population Statics(2013)", National Institute of Population and Social Security Research

Note: The lifelong unmarried status rate is the average of unmarried status from 45 years old to 49 and from 50 to 54, and the unmarried status rate in 50

**Fig. 1-1-5**

**Trends in the mean age at first marriage and mean age of mothers to give birth**



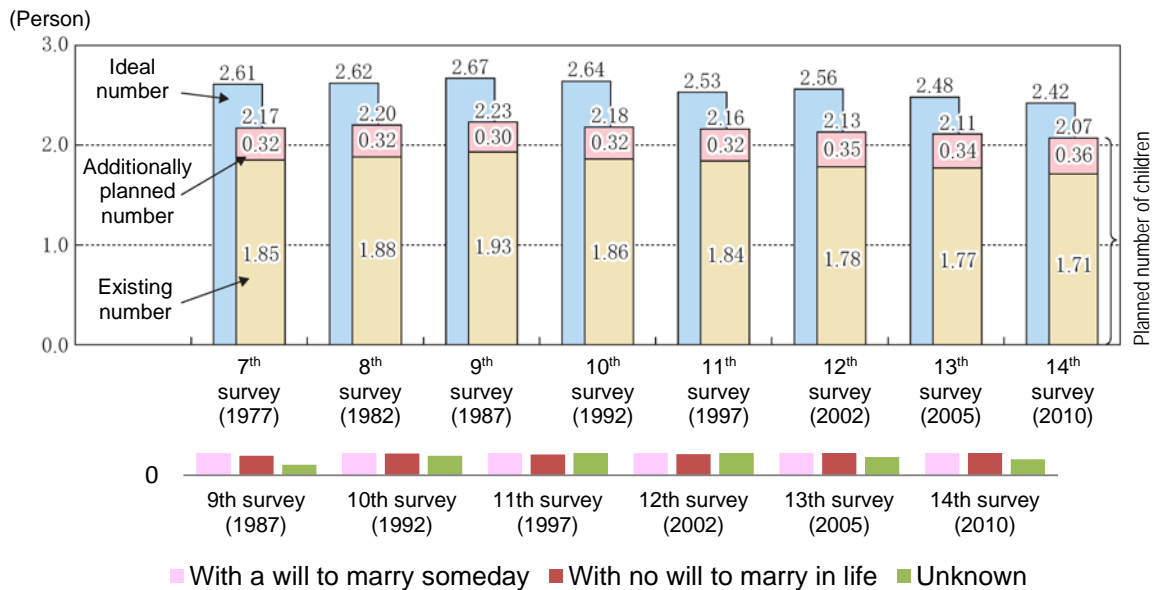
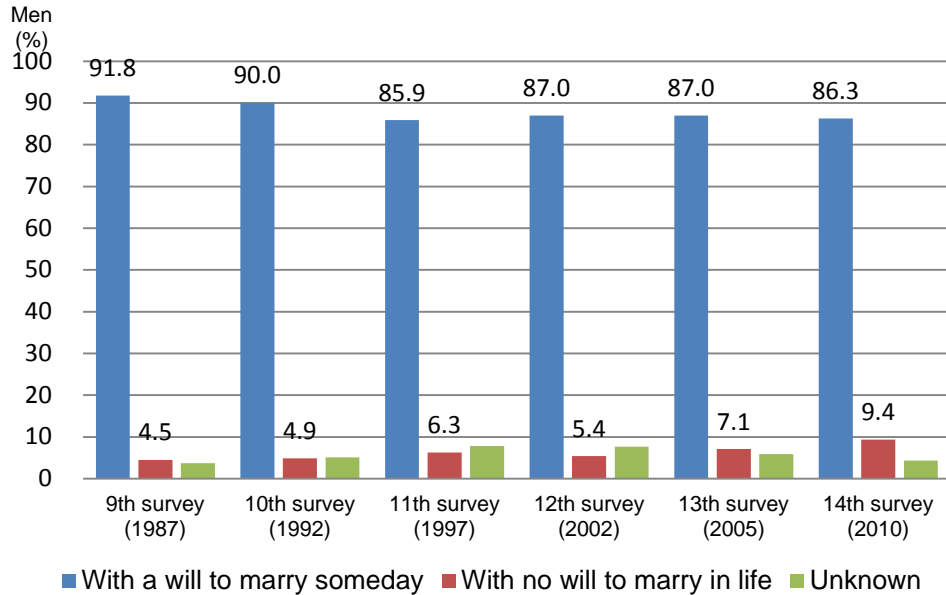
Source: "Vital Statistics," Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

**4. Circumstances Surrounding Marriage, Childbirth, and Childcare**

**( Opinions Regarding Marriage)**

According to the '14th Basic Research of Childbirth and National Survey on Trends in Marriages and Births' (Singles Survey) conducted by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (2011), the proportion of unmarried people who want to get married, is still at a high level with 86.3% men, and 89.4% women. However, the number of singles that "are not going to get married for life," tends to increase gradually in both men and women after the 9th survey.

**Fig. 1-1-6 Lifetime Marriage Intentions of Singles, by survey**



Source: "The 14th Japanese national fertility survey (For couples )" in 2011, by National Institute of Population and Social Security

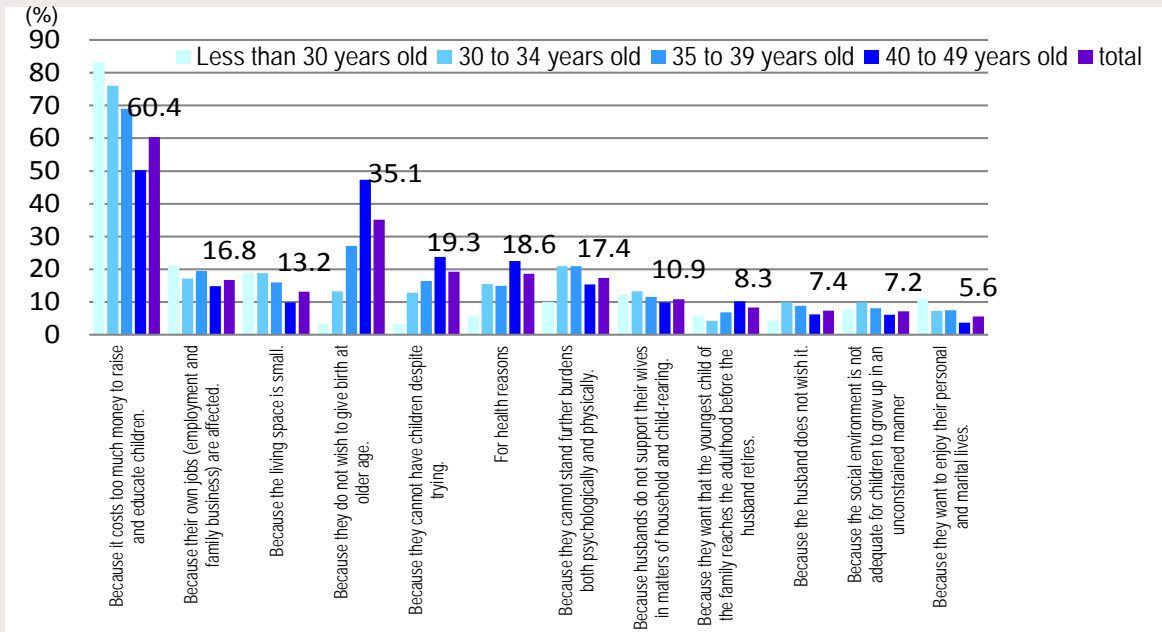
Note: Subjects were first-married couples of less than 50 years old. The planned number is the sum of the additionally planned number and the existing number. The total number includes that in which the duration of marriage is unknown. The years represent the years in which the survey was conducted.

Source: "The 14th Japanese national fertility Survey (for unmarried persons) in 2011", National Institute of Population and Social Security

Note: Subjects were unmarried persons of 18 to 34 years old. The years represent the years in which the survey was conducted.

**Fig. 1-1-8**

**Reasons why married couples do not have the ideal number of children by age of wife**



Source: "14th Birth Trends Survey (Married couple survey)", National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (2011)

Note: Subjects were first-married couples with fewer children than their ideal number. The percentage of married couples with fewer children than their ideal number is 32.7%.

**(Low growth of income for younger generation)**

If the income distribution for the childcare generation is considered, in the 30 's, the percentage of employers with the income 5.00-6.99 Million Yen was largest in 1997. However, the percentage of employers with the income 3.00 Million Yen was largest in 2007. It has shifted downwards in these 10 years.

**Fig. 1-1-9** Income distribution of child-rearing generation