

Results of the 54th Opinion Survey on the General Public's Views and Behavior (June 2013 Survey)

This is an English translation of the Japanese original released on July 5, 2013.

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Public Relations Department
Bank of Japan

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I. Introduction

The Bank of Japan, through public relations activities conducted at its Head Office and branches, has been seeking to determine the concerns of a broad cross-section of the general public relative to its policy and operations. An example of such action is the Bank's *Opinion Survey on the General Public's Views and Behavior*, conducted since 1993 with a nationwide sample of 4,000 individuals who are at least 20 years of age. This survey is essentially an opinion poll designed to gain insight into the public's perceptions and actions, and therefore differs in character from the Bank's *Tankan* (Short-Term Economic Survey of Enterprises in Japan), which is conducted separately from this survey.

II. Survey Outline

Survey period	From May 10 to June 5, 2013.
Sample size	4,000 people (2,273 people [i.e., 56.8 percent of the overall sample size] provided valid responses to questions).
Population of the survey	Individuals living in Japan who are at least 20 years of age.
Sampling method	Stratified two-stage random sampling method.
Survey methodology	Questionnaire survey (mail survey method).

III. Summary

A. Economic Conditions

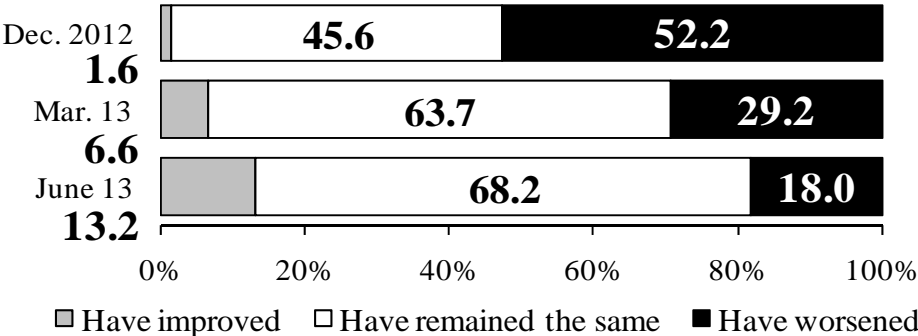
1. Impression of economic conditions

With regard to present economic conditions compared with one year ago, the proportion of respondents who answered that economic conditions "have improved" increased, while the proportion of those who replied that they "have worsened" decreased, and thus the diffusion index (D.I.) rose. Regarding the outlook for economic conditions one year from now, the proportion of those who answered that they "will worsen" decreased, and thus the D.I. rose.

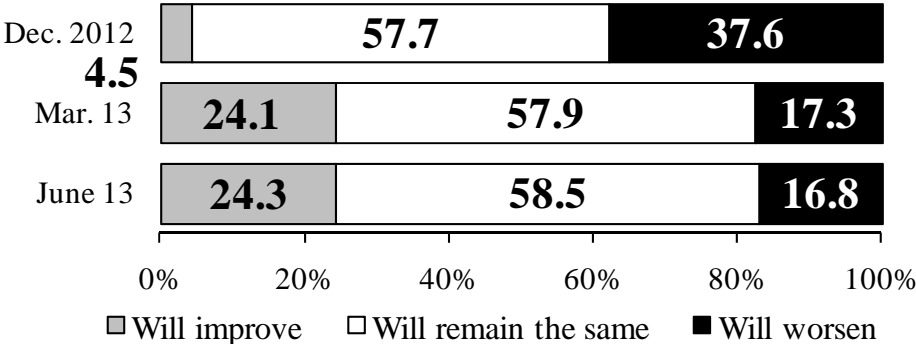
In terms of current economic conditions, the proportion of respondents who described them as "unfavorable" and "somewhat unfavorable" decreased, accounting for 38.7 percent.

Chart 1 Impression of Economic Conditions (Questions 1, 3, and 4)

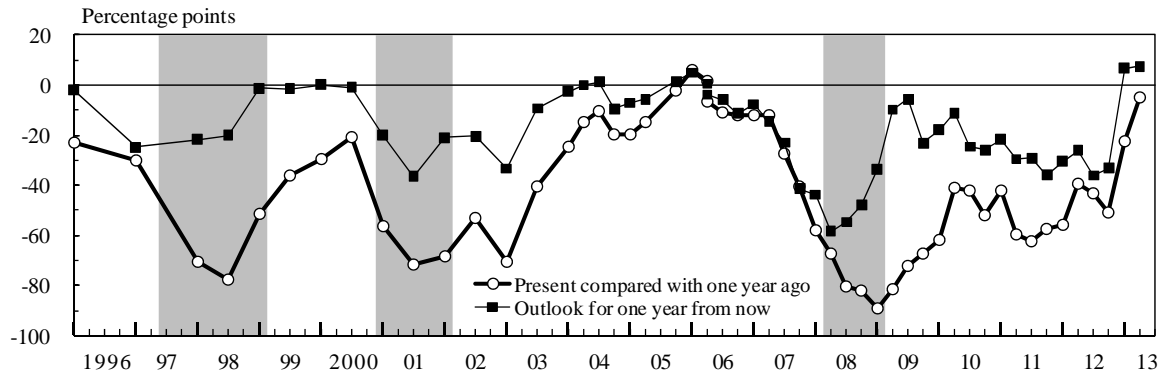
(1) Present Compared with One Year Ago



(2) One Year from Now Compared with the Present



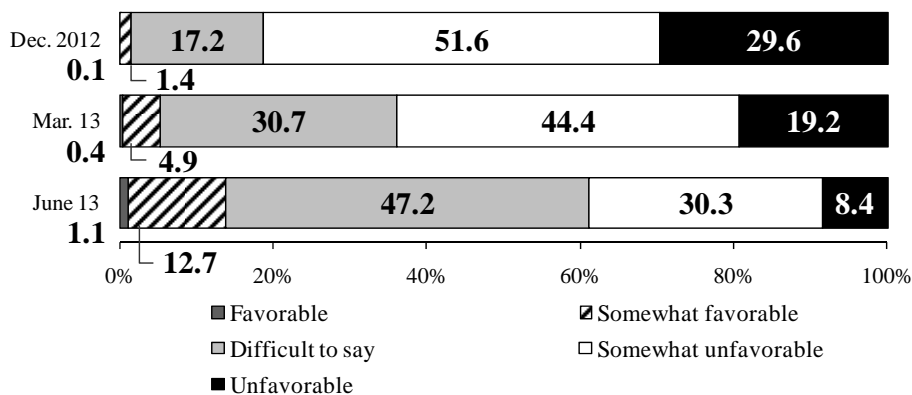
(3) Developments in the Economic Conditions D.I.^{1, 2, 3, 4, 5}



	Sept. 2010	Dec. 10	Mar. 11	June 11	Sept. 11	Dec. 11	Mar. 12	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13
Present compared with one year ago	-42.1	-51.7	-42.3	-59.5	-62.4	-57.5	-55.6	-39.5	-43.1	-50.6	-22.6	-4.8
Changes from the previous survey	-0.9	-9.6	+9.4	-17.2	-2.9	+4.9	+1.9	+16.1	-3.6	-7.5	+28.0	+17.8
Outlook for one year from now	-24.7	-25.9	-21.7	-29.6	-29.2	-35.9	-30.4	-26.0	-36.1	-33.1	6.8	7.5
Changes from the previous survey	-13.5	-1.2	+4.2	-7.9	+0.4	-6.7	+5.5	+4.4	-10.1	+3.0	+39.9	+0.7

- Notes: 1. The current mail survey method was introduced with the survey conducted in September 2006, following its preliminary use for the survey conducted in June 2006. This differs from the previous "in-home" survey method, through which researchers visited sampled individuals, asked them to complete the questionnaire within a prescribed period, and then collected the finished questionnaires upon subsequent visits.
2. In the current survey, the economic conditions D.I. is calculated as the proportion of respondents who answered that economic conditions "have improved/will improve" minus the proportion of those who answered that they "have worsened/will worsen." Up until the survey conducted in June 2006, this was calculated as "improving/will improve" minus "worsening/will worsen."
3. The *Opinion Survey* was conducted annually through March 1998, semiannually from November 1998 to March 2004, and quarterly from June 2004 onward. The survey was not conducted in September 2005.
4. In the past surveys, the economic conditions D.I. for the present compared with one year ago registered a record high of 6.1 percentage points in March 2006 and a record low of minus 88.9 percentage points in March 2009. Also for the period prior to this survey, the economic conditions D.I. for the outlook for one year from now registered a record high of 6.8 percentage points in March 2013 and a record low of minus 58.3 percentage points in June 2008.
5. Shaded areas indicate recession periods.

(4) Current Economic Conditions

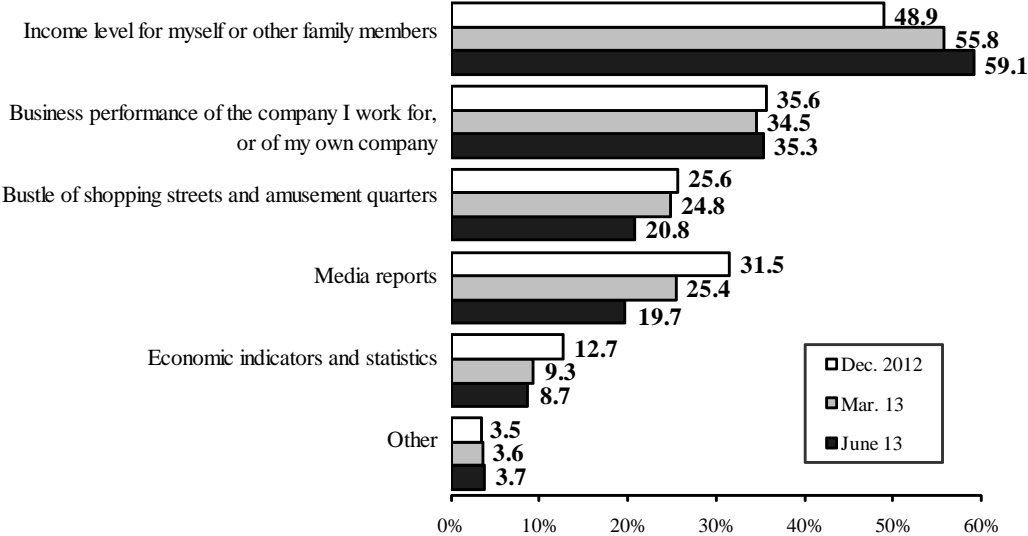


2. Basis for the impression of economic conditions and perception of the interest rate level

When respondents were asked about the basis for their impression of economic conditions, "income level for myself or other family members" was chosen most often, followed by "business performance of the company I work for, or of my own company" and "bustle of shopping streets and amusement quarters."

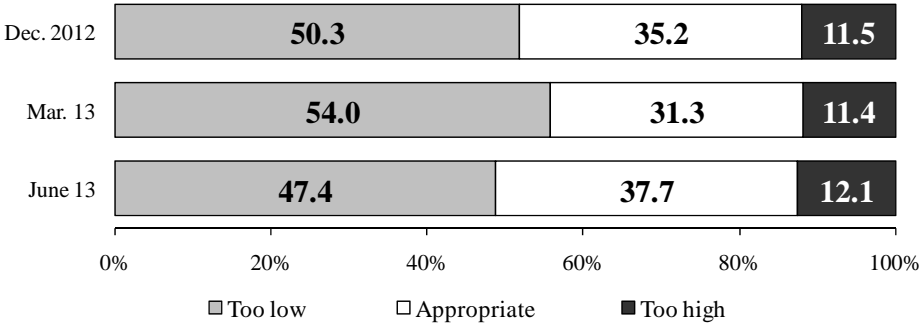
In terms of perception of the interest rate level, the proportion of respondents who stated that it was "too low" decreased, while the proportions of those who stated that it was "appropriate" and/or "too high" increased.

Chart 2 Basis for the Impression of Economic Conditions (Question 2)¹



Note: 1. Up to two answers were allowed.

Chart 3 Perception of the Interest Rate Level (Question 5)



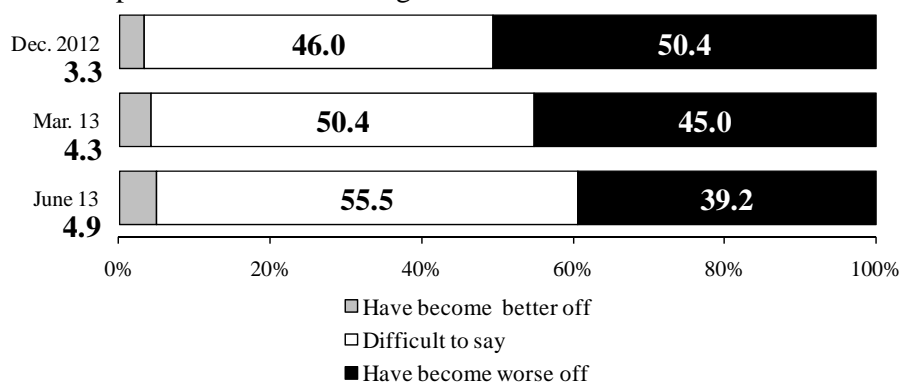
B. Household Circumstances

1. Impression of present household circumstances

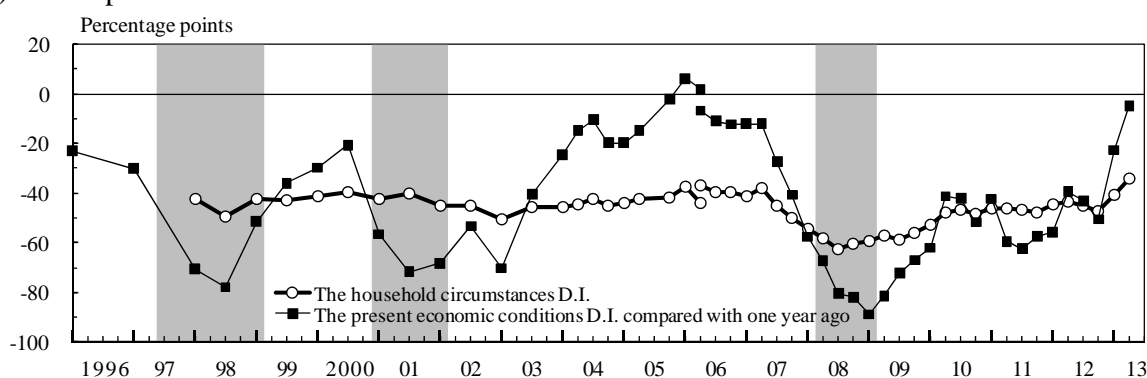
In terms of present household circumstances compared with one year ago, the proportion of respondents who answered that their household circumstances "have become better off" increased, while the proportion of those who replied that they "have become worse off" decreased, and thus the D.I. rose.

Chart 4 Impression of Present Household Circumstances (Question 6)

(1) Present Compared with One Year Ago



(2) Developments in the Household Circumstances D.I.^{1, 2, 3, 4}



	Sept. 2010	Dec. 10	Mar. 11	June 11	Sept. 11	Dec. 11	Mar. 12	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13
The household circumstances D.I.	-46.8	-48.1	-46.2	-46.4	-46.8	-48.0	-44.3	-43.4	-45.2	-47.1	-40.7	-34.3
Changes from the previous survey	+1.2	-1.3	+1.9	-0.2	-0.4	-1.2	+3.7	+0.9	-1.8	-1.9	+6.4	+6.4
The present economic conditions D.I. compared with one year ago	-42.1	-51.7	-42.3	-59.5	-62.4	-57.5	-55.6	-39.5	-43.1	-50.6	-22.6	-4.8
Changes from the previous survey	-0.9	-9.6	+9.4	-17.2	-2.9	+4.9	+1.9	+16.1	-3.6	-7.5	+28.0	+17.8

Notes: 1. For details of the survey, see footnotes to Chart 1.

2. In the current survey, the household circumstances D.I. is calculated as the proportion of respondents who answered that their household circumstances "have become better off" minus the proportion of those who answered that they "have become worse off." Up until the survey conducted in June 2006, this was calculated as "have become somewhat better off" minus "have become somewhat worse off." For the calculation of the economic conditions D.I., see footnote to Chart 1.

3. In the past surveys, the household circumstances D.I. registered a record high of minus 37.2 percentage points in March 2006 and a record low of minus 62.6 percentage points in September 2008. Also for the period prior to this survey, the present economic conditions D.I. compared with one year ago registered a record high of 6.1 percentage points in March 2006 and a record low of minus 88.9 percentage points in March 2009.

4. Shaded areas indicate recession periods.

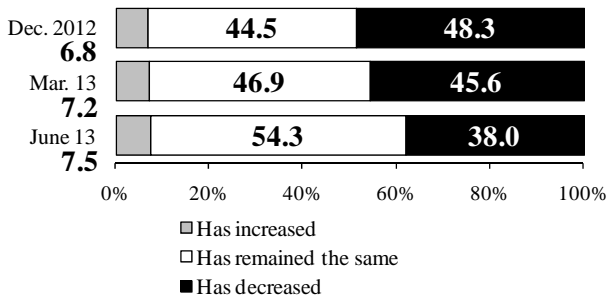
2. Income and spending

With regard to the present income level compared with one year ago, the proportion of respondents who answered that their household income "has remained the same" rose, while the proportion of those who stated that it "has decreased" narrowed. Regarding the outlook for income one year from now, the proportion of respondents who answered that their household income "will remain the same" rose, while the proportion of those who responded that it "will decrease" narrowed.

In terms of the present spending level compared with one year ago, the proportions of respondents who indicated that their household "has increased" and/or "has neither increased nor decreased" its spending rose, while the proportion of those who replied that it "has decreased" its spending narrowed. Regarding the outlook for spending one year from now, the proportions of those who responded that their household "will increase" and/or "will neither increase nor decrease" its spending rose, while the proportion of those who answered that it "will decrease" its spending narrowed.

Chart 5 Income (Questions 7 and 8)

(1) Present Compared with One Year Ago



(2) One Year from Now Compared with the Present

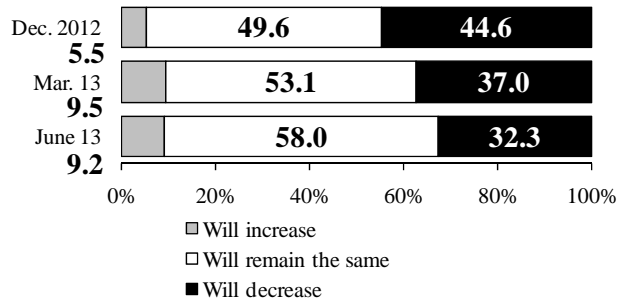
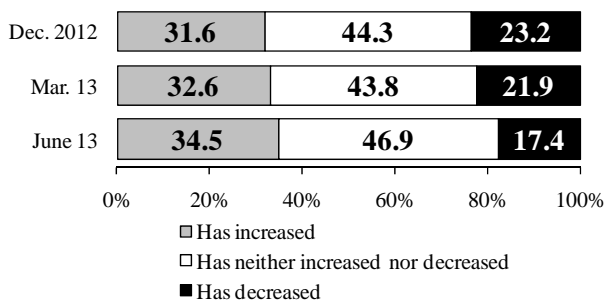
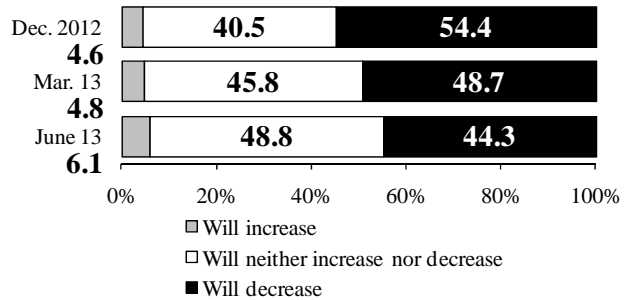


Chart 6 Spending (Questions 9 and 11)

(1) Present Compared with One Year Ago



(2) One Year from Now Compared with the Present

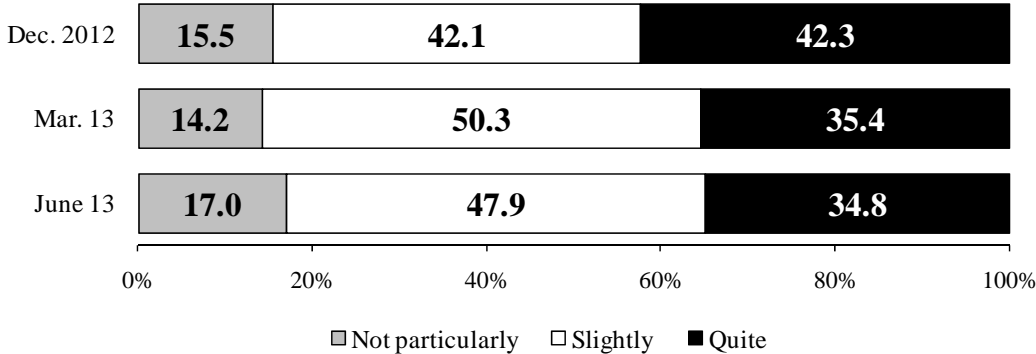


3. Employment and working conditions

When asked about concerns regarding employment and working conditions for workers¹ one year from now, the proportion of workers who answered that they were "not particularly" worried increased, while the proportions of those who responded that they were "slightly" and/or "quite" worried decreased.

¹ Company employees, executives, civil servants, and part-timers.

Chart 7 Workers' Concerns regarding Employment and Working Conditions One Year from Now (Question 20)



C. Price Levels

1. Perception of the present price levels

Regarding their perception of the present price levels compared with one year ago, the proportions of respondents who felt that prices¹ "have gone up"² and/or "have remained almost unchanged" increased, while the proportion of those who felt that they "have gone down"³ decreased.

When asked to what extent price levels have changed compared with one year ago in terms of a specific figure, the average was plus 3.1 percent, up from plus 2.6 percent in the previous survey. The median was plus 1.0 percent, also rising from plus 0.2 percent in the previous survey.

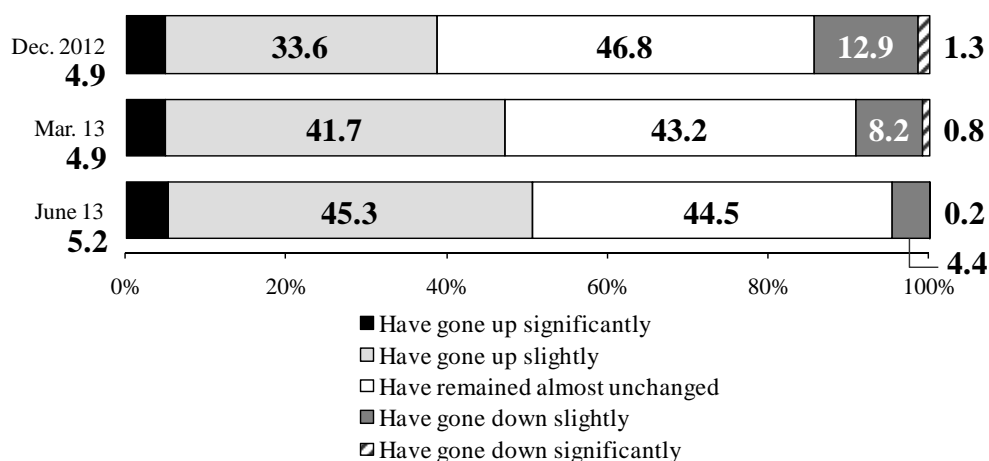
¹ Defined as overall prices of goods and services the respondents purchase.

² "Have gone up" comprises "have gone up significantly" and "have gone up slightly."

³ "Have gone down" comprises "have gone down significantly" and "have gone down slightly."

Chart 8 Perception of the Present Price Levels (Questions 12 and 13)

(1) Present Compared with One Year Ago



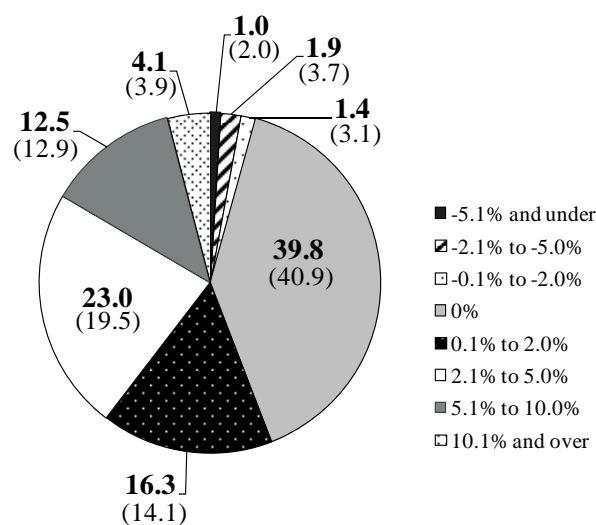
(2) Changes in Price Levels Compared with One Year Ago

	Average ¹	Median ²
Dec. 2012	+2.0%	0.0%
Mar. 13	+2.6%	+0.2%
June 13	+3.1%	+1.0%

Notes: 1. Calculated by excluding 0.5 percent of the highest and lowest figures, respectively, in order to avoid extremes. (The simple average of this survey is plus 3.2 percent, and that of the previous survey in March 2013 was plus 2.7 percent.)

2. The number that appears in the middle when the answers are listed in numerical order.

(3) Distribution of Current Survey Answers^{1, 2, 3}



Notes: 1. Percent.

2. Figures in parentheses represent results of the previous survey (March 2013).

3. Clockwise from the vertical line, in order of the lowest to highest percentage range.

2. Outlook for price levels one year from now

In terms of the outlook for price levels one year from now,¹ the proportion of respondents who expected that prices "will go up"² increased, while the proportion of those who expected that they "will remain almost unchanged" decreased.

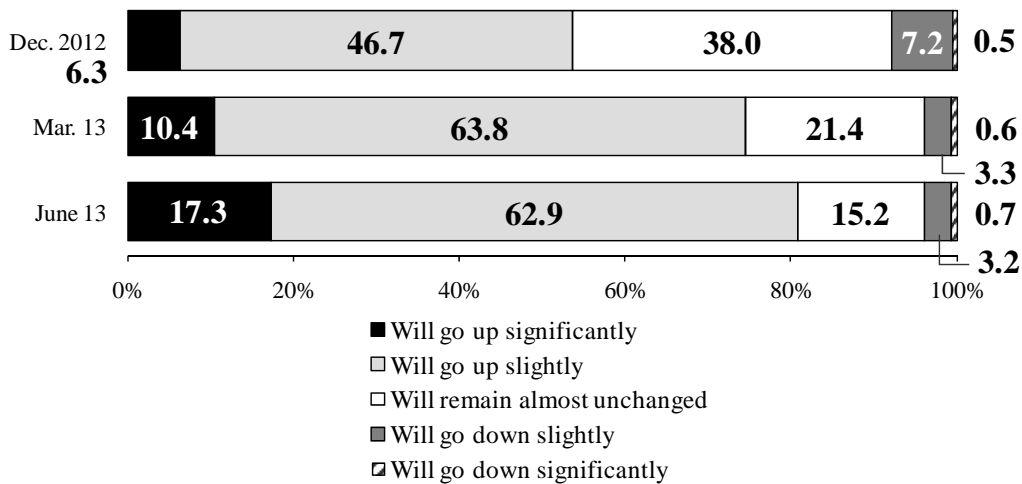
When asked to what extent price levels will change one year from now in terms of a specific figure, the average was plus 5.1 percent, up from plus 4.0 percent in the previous survey. The median was plus 3.0 percent, unchanged from the previous survey.

¹ Disregarding the effects of the scheduled consumption tax hike.

² Will go up" comprises "will go up significantly" and "will go up slightly."

Chart 9 Outlook for Price Levels One Year from Now (Questions 14 and 15)

(1) One Year from Now Compared with the Present



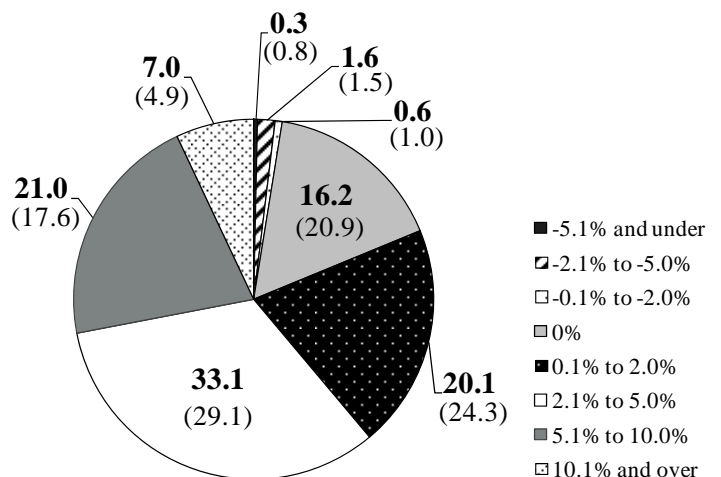
(2) Changes in Price Levels One Year from Now

	Average ¹	Median ²
Dec. 2012	+3.0%	+1.0%
Mar. 13	+4.0%	+3.0%
June 13	+5.1%	+3.0%

Notes: 1. Calculated by excluding 0.5 percent of the highest and lowest figures, respectively, in order to avoid extremes. (The simple average of this survey is plus 5.3 percent, and that of the previous survey in March 2013 was plus 4.1 percent.)

2. The number that appears in the middle when the answers are listed in numerical order.

(3) Distribution of Current Survey Answers^{1, 2, 3}



Notes: 1. Percent.

2. Figures in parentheses represent results of the previous survey (March 2013).

3. Clockwise from the vertical line, in order of the lowest to highest percentage range.

3. Outlook for price levels over the next five years

Regarding the outlook for price levels over the next five years,¹ the proportion of respondents who expected that prices "will go up"² increased, while the proportions of those who expected that they "will remain almost unchanged" and/or "will go down"³ decreased.

When asked about the specific rate of price change per year on average over the next five years, the average was plus 4.3 percent, up from plus 4.0 percent in the previous survey. The median was plus 2.5 percent, also rising from plus 2.0 percent in the previous survey.

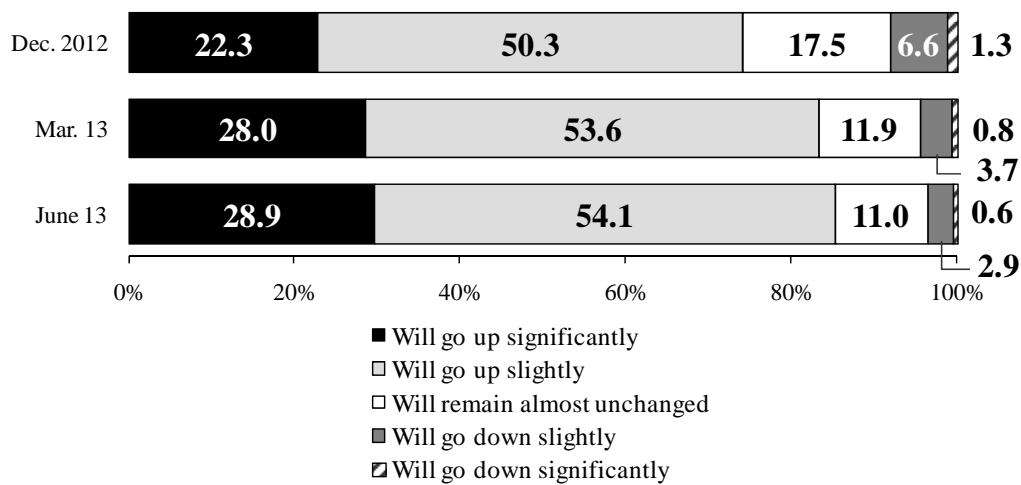
¹ Disregarding the effects of the scheduled consumption tax hikes.

² "Will go up" comprises "will go up significantly" and "will go up slightly."

³ "Will go down" comprises "will go down significantly" and "will go down slightly."

Chart 10 Outlook for Price Levels over the Next Five Years (Questions 16 and 17)

(1) Outlook for the Next Five Years



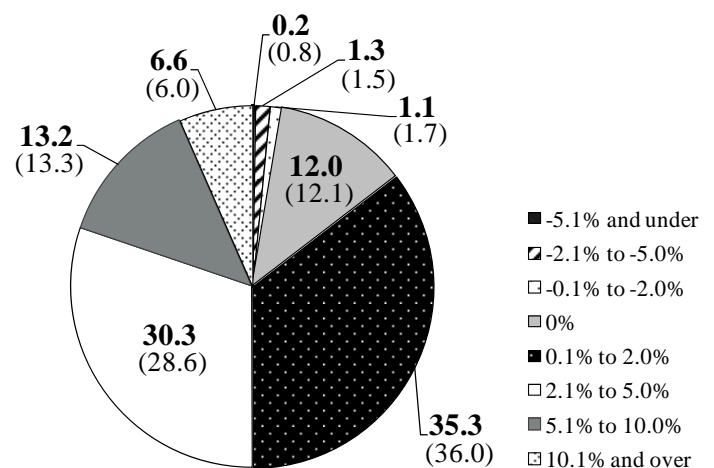
(2) Changes in Price Levels per Year on Average over the Next Five Years

	Average ¹	Median ²
Dec. 2012	+3.8%	+2.0%
Mar. 13	+4.0%	+2.0%
June 13	+4.3%	+2.5%

Notes: 1. Calculated by excluding 0.5 percent of the highest and lowest figures, respectively, in order to avoid extremes. (The simple average of this survey is plus 4.6 percent, and that of the previous survey in March 2013 was plus 4.2 percent.)

2. The number that appears in the middle when the answers are listed in numerical order.

(3) Distribution of Current Survey Answers^{1, 2, 3}



Notes: 1. Percent.

2. Figures in parentheses represent results of the previous survey (March 2013).

3. Clockwise from the vertical line, in order of the lowest to highest percentage range.

4. Comments on the rise and decline in prices

In terms of prices compared with one year ago, 50.5 percent of the respondents felt that prices "have gone up,"^{1,2} of which 81.6 percent described the price rise as "rather unfavorable."

Meanwhile, 4.6 percent of the respondents felt that prices "have gone down."^{1,3} Within this group, the proportions of those who described the price decline as "rather favorable" and "rather unfavorable" accounted for 50.0 percent and 20.2 percent, respectively.

¹ See III.C.1. for the perception of the present price levels.

² "Have gone up" comprises "have gone up significantly" and "have gone up slightly."

³ "Have gone down" comprises "have gone down significantly" and "have gone down slightly."

Chart 11 Comments on the Price Rise (Question 12-(a))

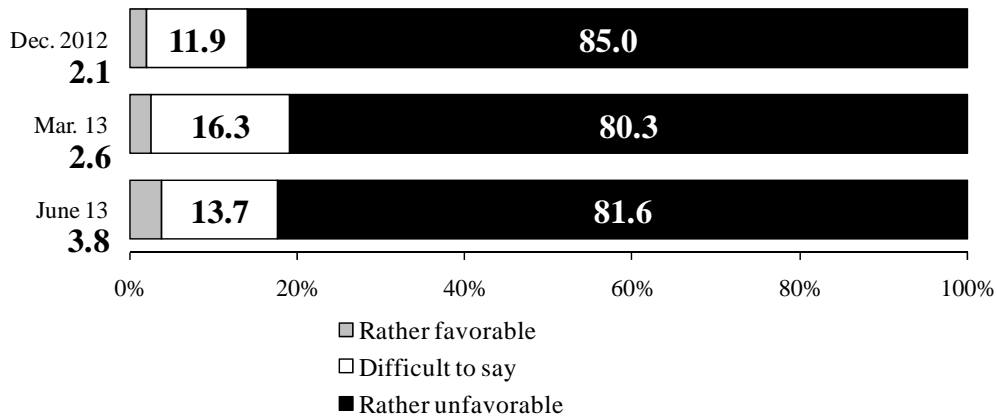
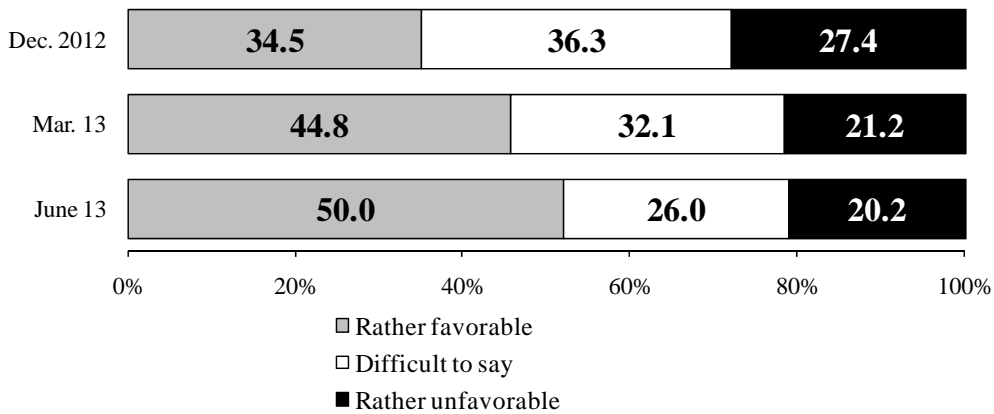


Chart 12 Comments on the Price Decline (Question 12-(b))



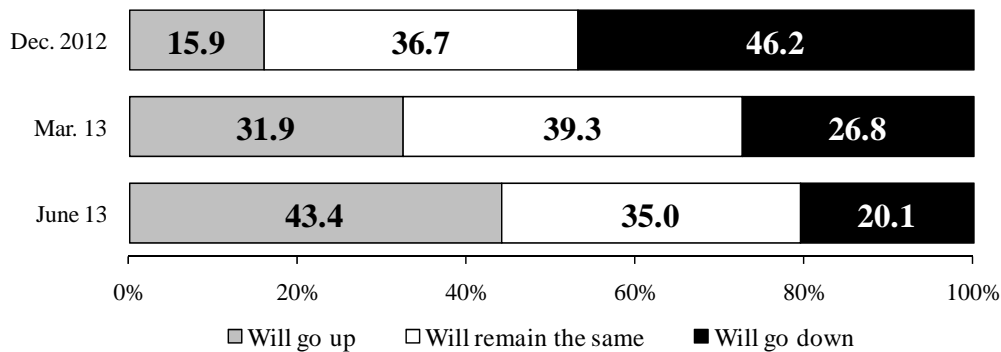
D. Future Land Prices¹

1. This question has been asked since the September 2006 survey.

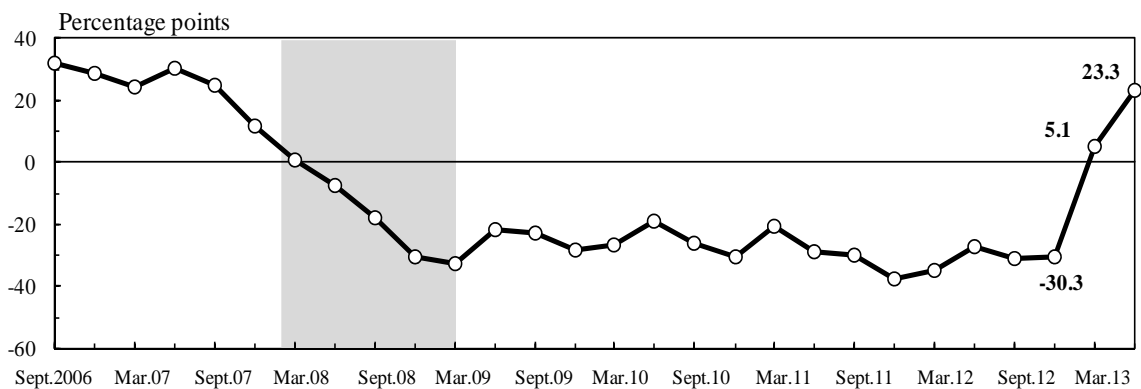
When asked about future land prices, the proportion of respondents who answered that land prices "will go up" increased, while the proportion of those who stated that they "will go down" decreased, and thus the D.I. rose further into positive territory.

Chart 13 Outlook for Land Prices (Question 18)

(1) Outlook for Land Prices



(2) Developments in the Land Prices D.I.^{1, 2, 3}



- Notes: 1. The land prices D.I. is calculated as the proportion of respondents who answered that land prices "will go up" minus the proportion of those who answered that they "will go down."
 2. In the past surveys, the land prices D.I. registered a record high of 31.9 percentage points in September 2006 and a record low of minus 37.5 percentage points in December 2011.
 3. The shaded area indicates a recession period.

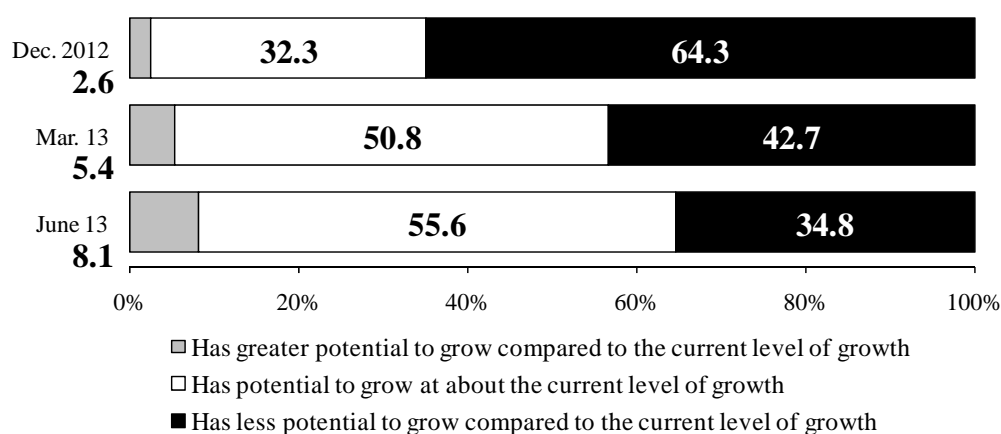
E. Growth Potential of the Japanese Economy¹

1. This question has been asked since the September 2006 survey.

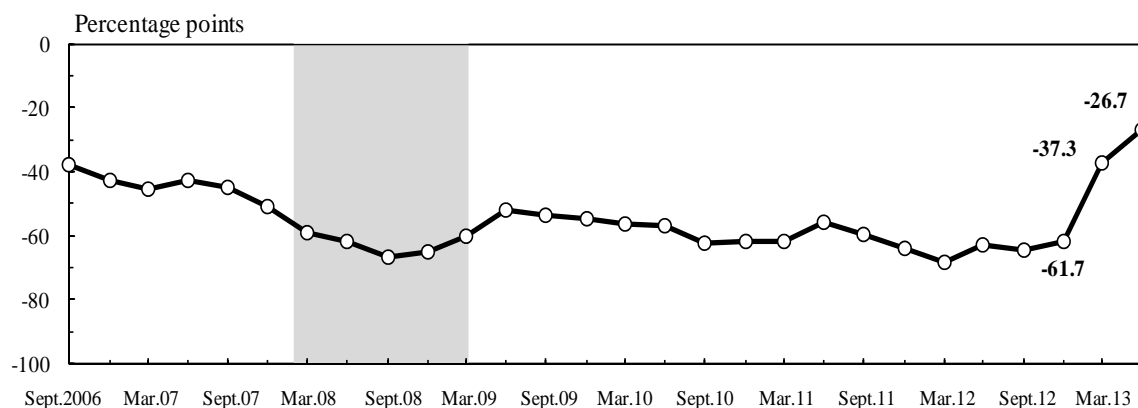
When asked about the Japanese economy's growth potential, the proportion of respondents who replied that the Japanese economy "has greater potential to grow compared to the current level of growth" increased, while the proportion of those who replied that it "has less potential to grow compared to the current level of growth" decreased, and thus the D.I. recorded a smaller negative percentage-point figure.

Chart 14 Perception of the Japanese Economy's Growth Potential (Question 19)

(1) Perception of the Japanese Economy's Growth Potential



(2) Developments in the Japanese Economy's Growth Potential D.I.^{1, 2, 3}



- Notes: 1. The Japanese economy's growth potential D.I. is calculated as the proportion of respondents who answered that the Japanese economy "has greater potential to grow compared to the current level of growth" minus the proportion of those who answered that it "has less potential to grow compared to the current level of growth."
 2. In the past surveys, the Japanese economy's growth potential D.I. registered a record high of minus 37.3 percentage points in March 2013 and a record low of minus 68.3 percentage points in March 2012.
 3. The shaded area indicates a recession period.

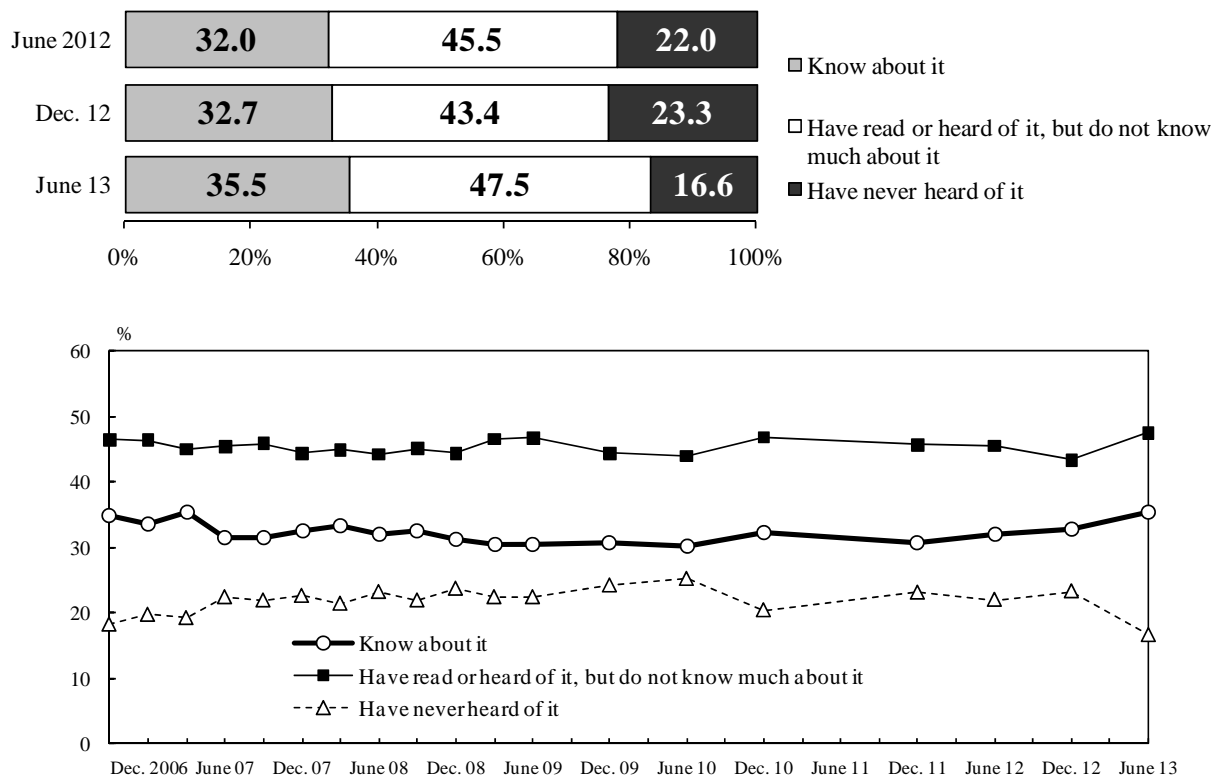
F. Recognition and Credibility of the Bank¹

1. This set of questions was asked quarterly through the June 2009 survey, and semiannually thereafter in the June and December surveys, with the exception of the June 2011 survey.

1. Objectives of the Bank

When asked about their recognition of the Bank's two objectives (to maintain price stability and financial system stability), the proportions of respondents who stated that they "know about it" accounted for 35.5 percent (Chart 15) and 35.2 percent (Chart 16 (1)), respectively.

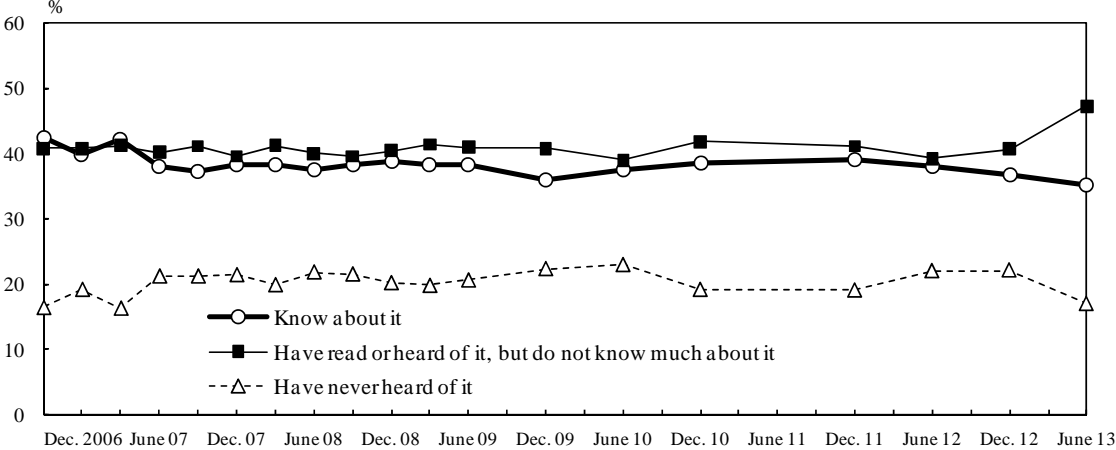
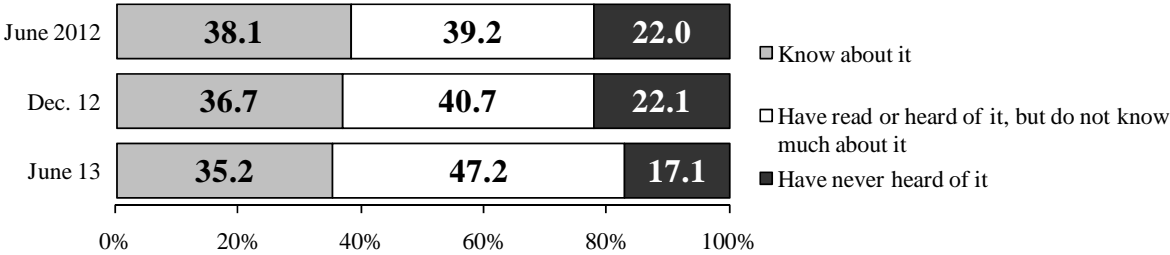
Chart 15 Recognition of the Bank's Objective to Maintain Price Stability (Question 21)¹



Note: 1. The results shown in the line chart are those of the surveys conducted in and after September 2006, when the current mail survey method was introduced.

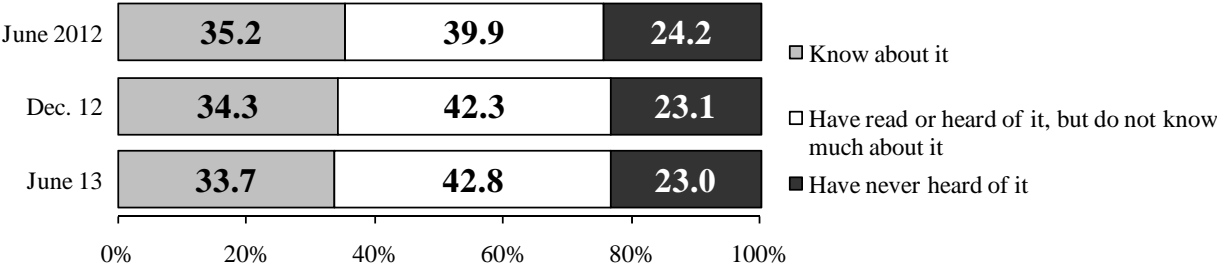
Chart 16 Recognition of the Bank's Objective to Maintain Financial System Stability (Questions 22-(1) through 22-(4))¹

(1) One of the Bank's Objectives Is to Maintain Financial System Stability

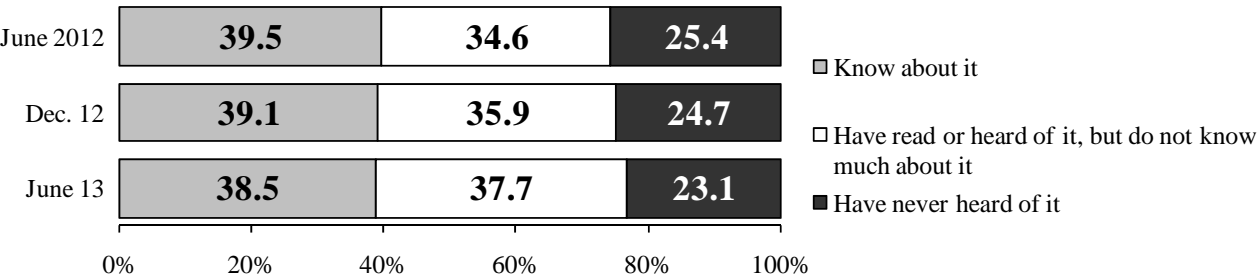


Note: 1. The results shown in the line chart are those of the surveys conducted in and after September 2006, when the current mail survey method was introduced.

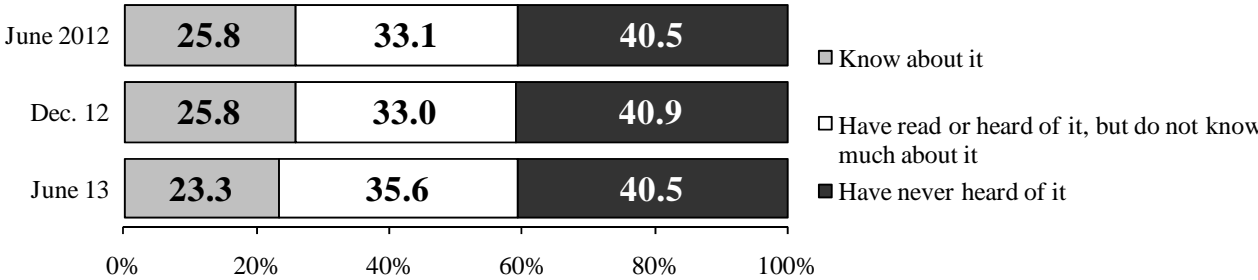
(2) The Bank Provides Safe Settlement Instruments with the Highest Settlement Finality, Such as Banknotes and Current Accounts at the Bank, and Operates Its Own Funds Transfer System and Settlement System for Japanese Government Securities



(3) The Bank Can Extend Loans, Such as Special Loans to Financial Institutions, in Order to Ensure Financial System Stability



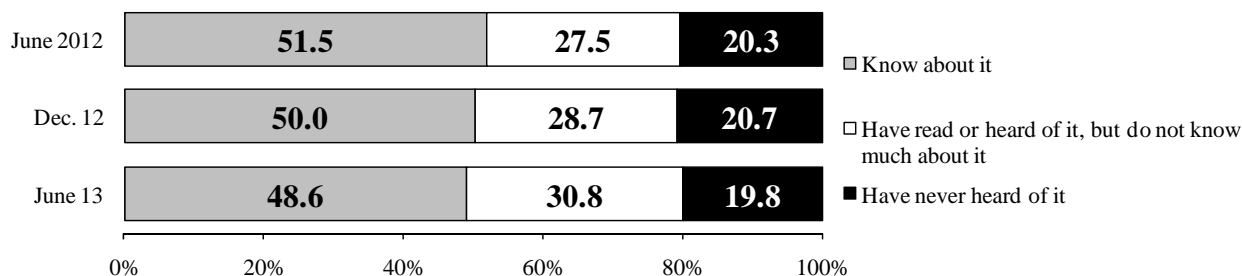
(4) The Bank Conducts On-Site Examinations of Financial Institutions



2. Recognition of electronic payment of taxes and fees to the government

When asked whether they know that payment of national taxes and social security premiums can be made without visiting a teller window, by using, for example, Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and online banking services, the proportion of respondents who indicated that they "know about it" accounted for 48.6 percent.

Chart 17 Recognition of Electronic Payment of Taxes and Fees to the Government (Question 24)



3. Condition of Bank of Japan notes

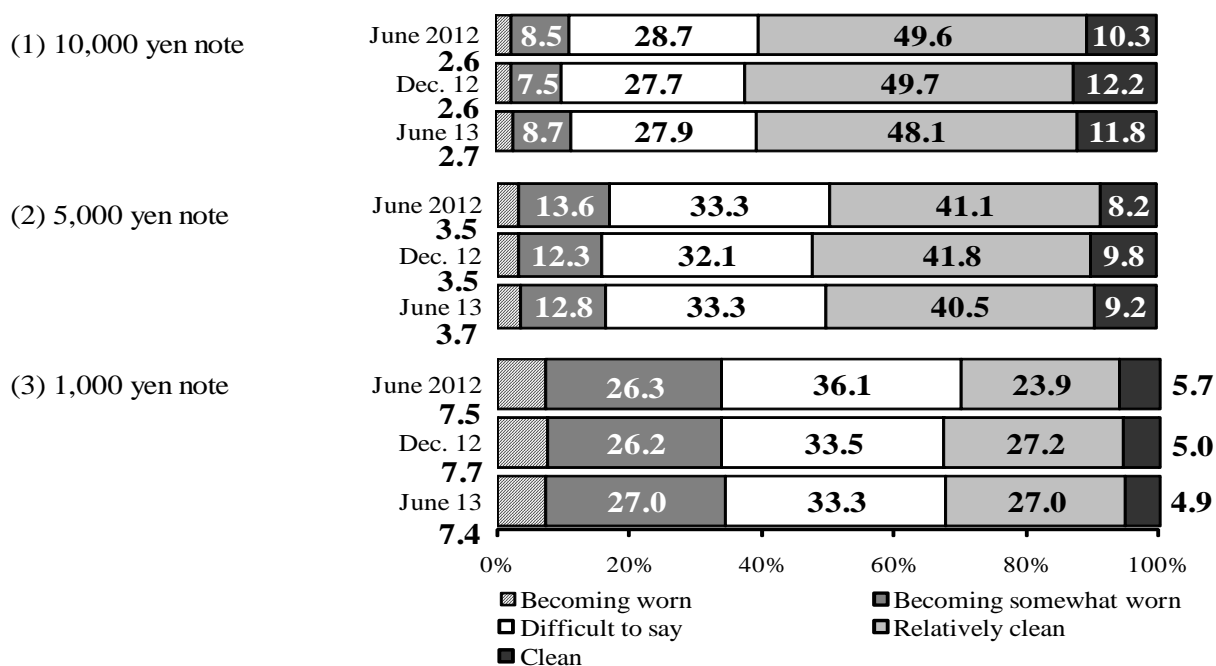
When asked about the condition of Bank of Japan notes, high-denomination banknotes were considered cleaner than low-denomination banknotes, as in the 52nd round of the survey (conducted in December 2012, the last time this question was asked).

The proportion of respondents who described the condition of each denomination as "worn"¹ increased, while the proportions of those who described the condition of 10,000 yen and/or 5,000 yen notes as "clean"² decreased.

¹ "Worn" comprises the choices "becoming worn" and "becoming somewhat worn."

² "Clean" comprises the choices "clean" and "relatively clean."

Chart 18 Condition of Bank of Japan Notes (Questions 25-(1) through 25-(3))



4. Interest in, recognition of, and evaluation of the Bank

When asked about their interest in, recognition of, and evaluation of the Bank (Chart 19), the proportions of respondents who stated that they were "interested"¹ in the Bank's activities, that the Bank was "related"² to their lives, and that the Bank was "contributing"³ to their lives accounted for 24.1 percent, 70.4 percent, and 44.7 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, the proportion of respondents who described the Bank's explanations to the public as "unclear"⁴ accounted for 57.7 percent. Of all respondents, 42.6 percent stated that they were "confident"⁵ in the Bank, while the proportion of respondents who indicated that they were "not confident"⁶ in the Bank accounted for 8.5 percent.

All respondents who described the Bank's explanations to the public as "unclear"⁴ were asked for their reasons (Chart 20), and "because I do not have basic knowledge about the Bank" was most frequently chosen, followed by "because terms used in the Bank's explanations are too technical and difficult" and "because I have difficulty understanding the mechanism of the financial system and the economy."

When all respondents who answered that they were "confident"⁵ in the Bank were asked for their reasons (Chart 21), "because the Bank's activities are contributing to price stability and financial system stability" was most frequently cited, followed by "because the Bank maintains a neutral position in conducting its policy." Those who answered that they were "not confident"⁶ in the Bank were asked for their reasons (Chart 22), and the responses "because the Bank does not maintain a neutral position in conducting its policy," "because the Bank does not make enough effort either to provide clear explanations to the general public about its activities or to collect public opinion data," and "because the Bank's activities are not contributing to price stability and financial system stability" were frequently chosen.

¹ "Interested" comprises the choices "interested" and "somewhat interested" that are found in the questionnaire.

² "Related" comprises "related" and "somewhat related."

³ "Contributing" comprises "contributing" and "somewhat contributing."

⁴ "Unclear" comprises "unclear" and "somewhat unclear."

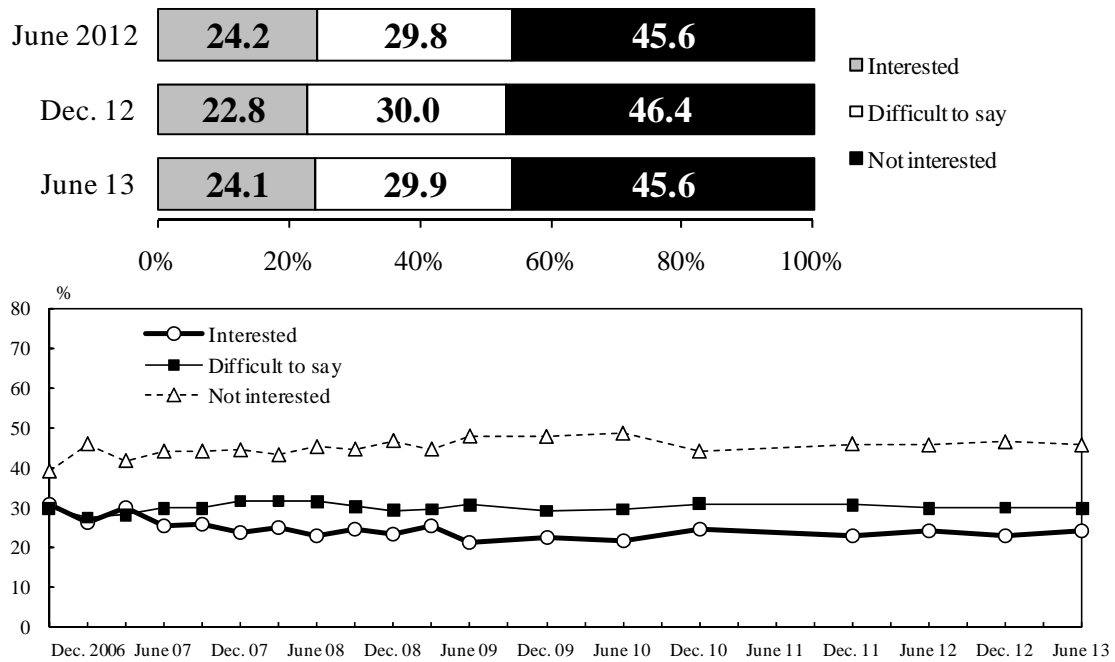
⁵ "Confident" comprises "confident" and "somewhat confident."

⁶ "Not confident" comprises "not confident" and "not particularly confident."

Chart 19 Interest in, Recognition of, and Evaluation of the Bank (Questions 23-(1) through 23-(5))¹

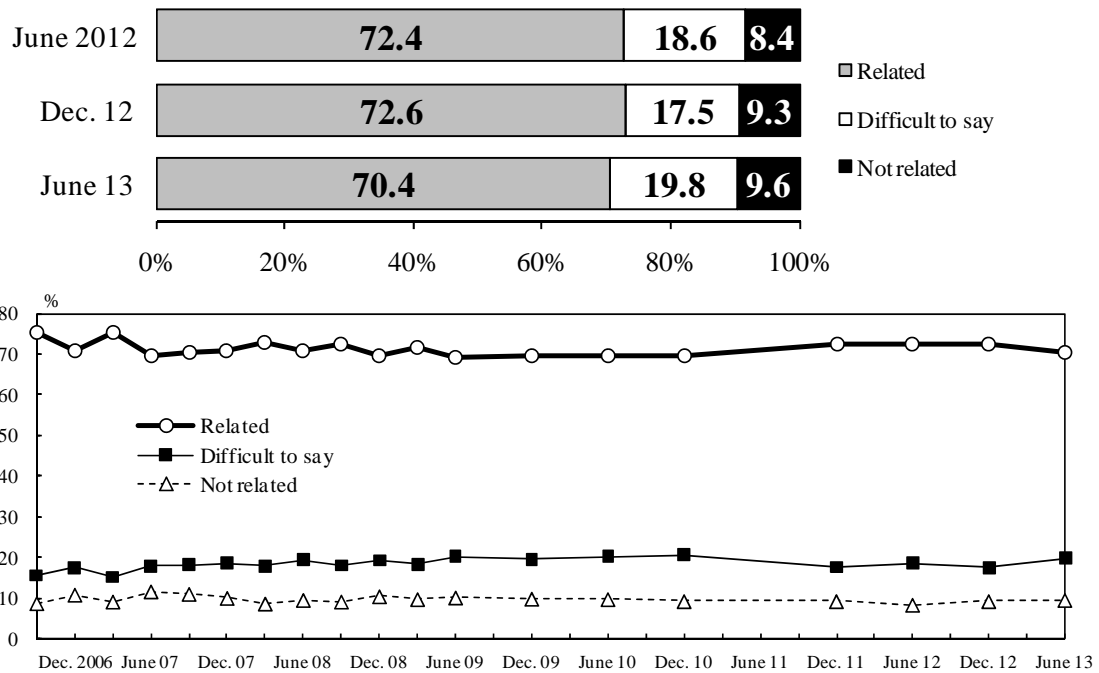
1. The results shown in the line charts below are those of the surveys conducted in and after September 2006, when the current mail survey method was introduced.

(1) Interest in the Bank's Activities^{1,2}



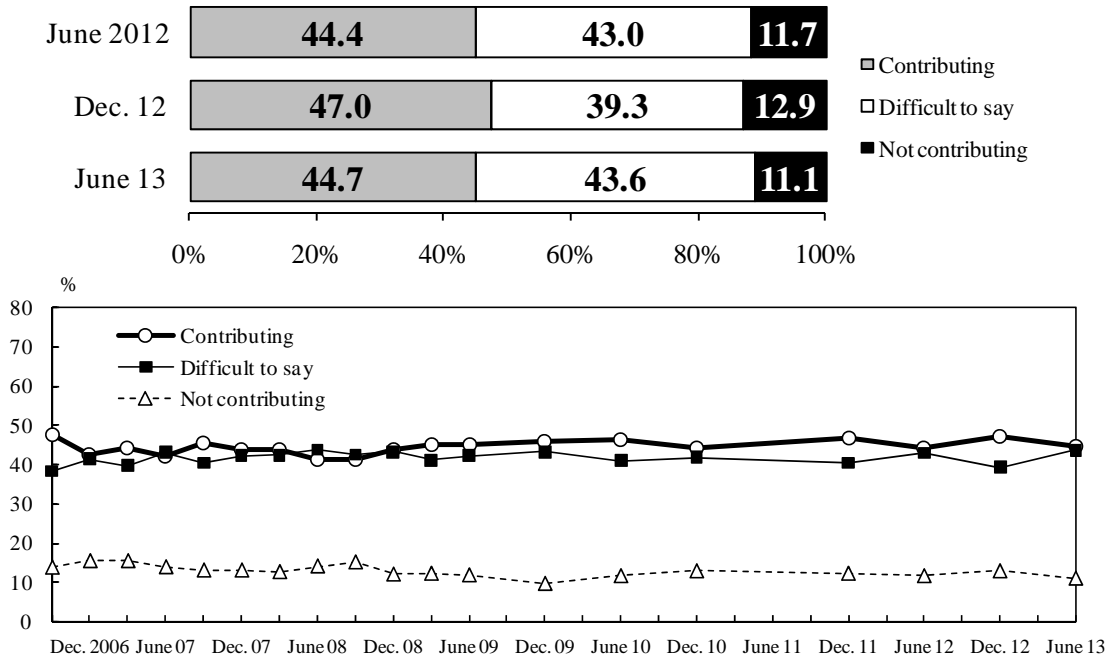
Notes: 1. "Interested" comprises the choices "interested" and "somewhat interested" that are found in the questionnaire.
 2. "Not interested" comprises "not interested" and "not particularly interested."

(2) The Bank's Relationship to Our Lives^{1,2}



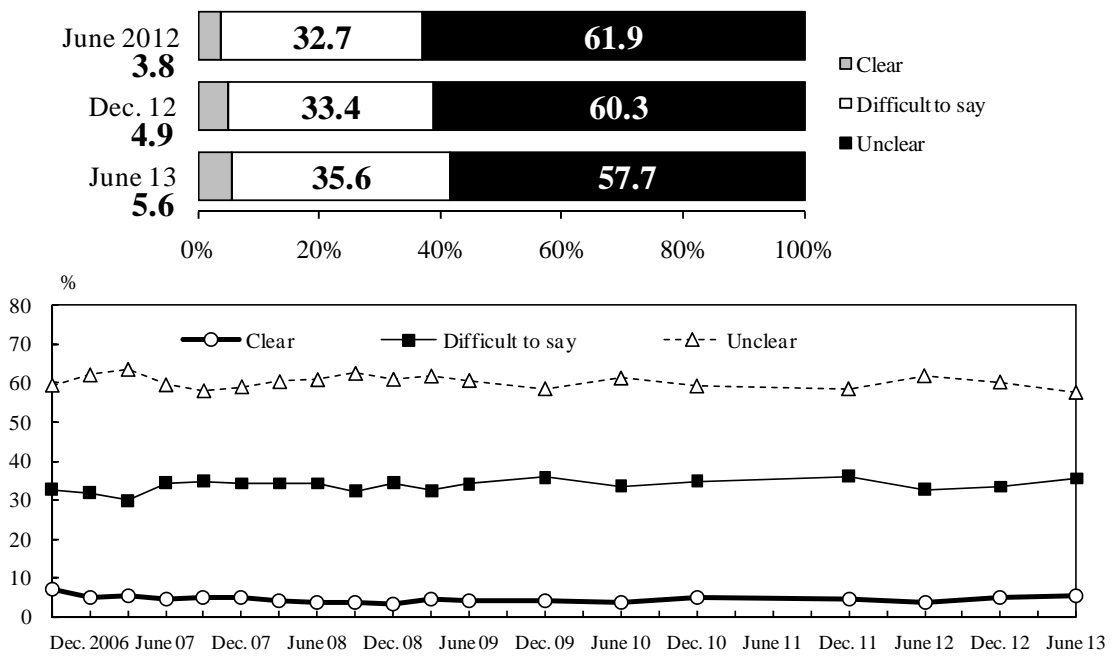
Notes: 1. "Related" comprises the choices "related" and "somewhat related" that are found in the questionnaire.
 2. "Not related" comprises "not related" and "not particularly related."

(3) The Bank's Contribution to Our Lives^{1,2}



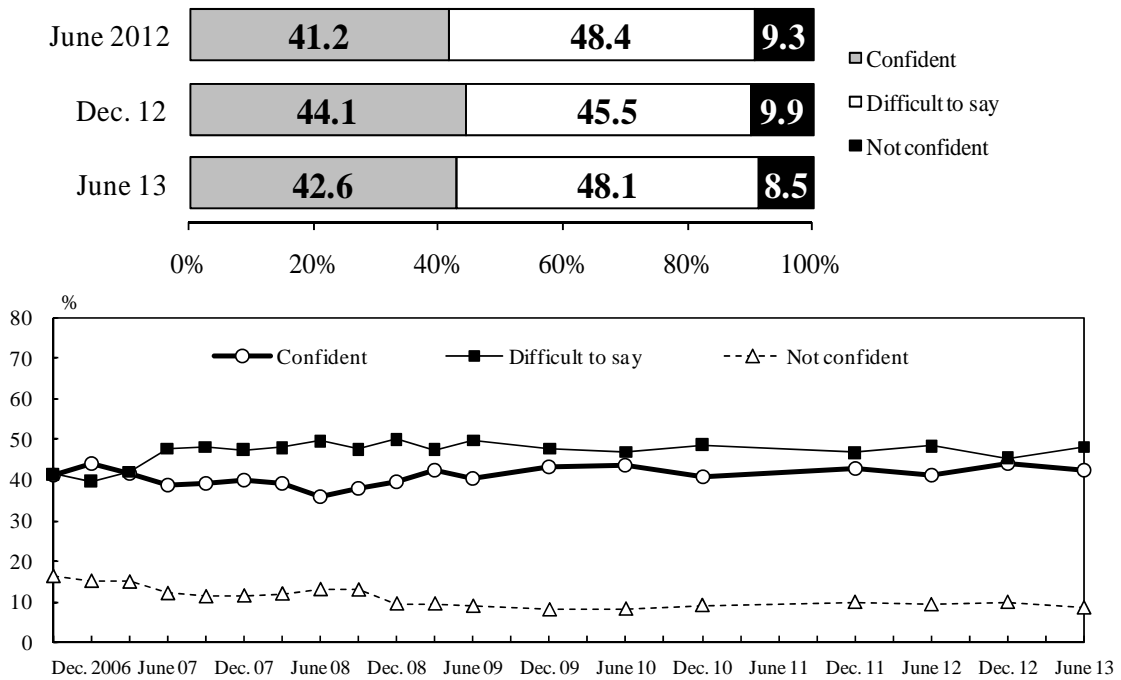
Notes: 1. "Contributing" comprises the choices "contributing" and "somewhat contributing" that are found in the questionnaire.
 2. "Not contributing" comprises "not contributing" and "not particularly contributing."

(4) The Bank's Explanations to the Public^{1,2}



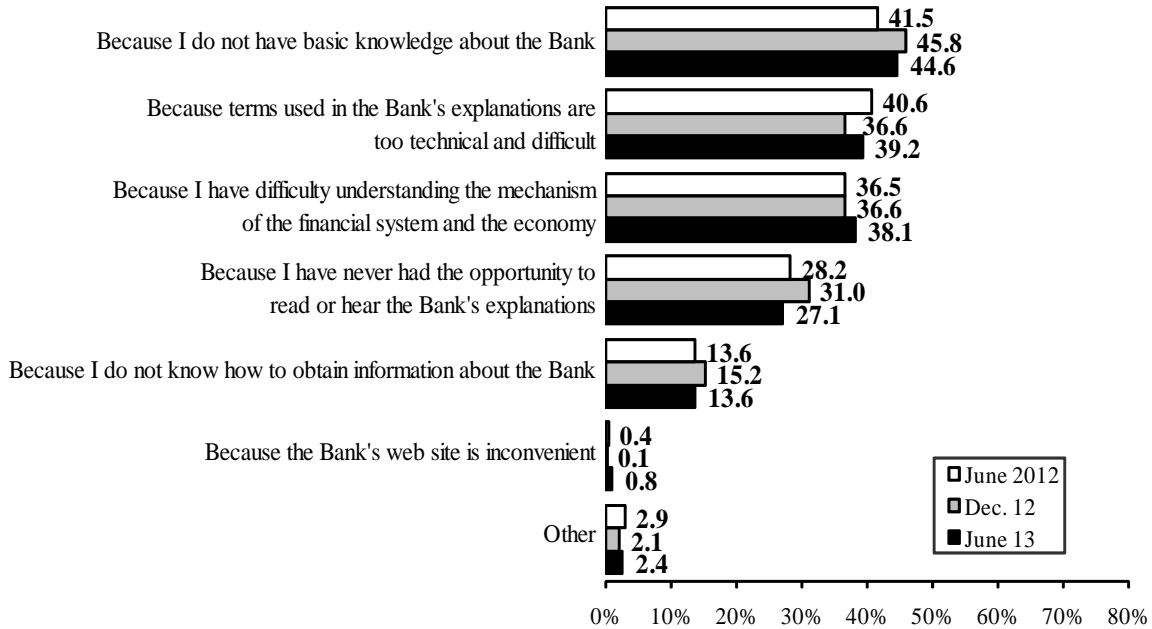
Notes: 1. "Clear" comprises the choices "clear" and "somewhat clear" that are found in the questionnaire.
 2. "Unclear" comprises "unclear" and "somewhat unclear."

(5) Confidence in the Bank^{1,2}



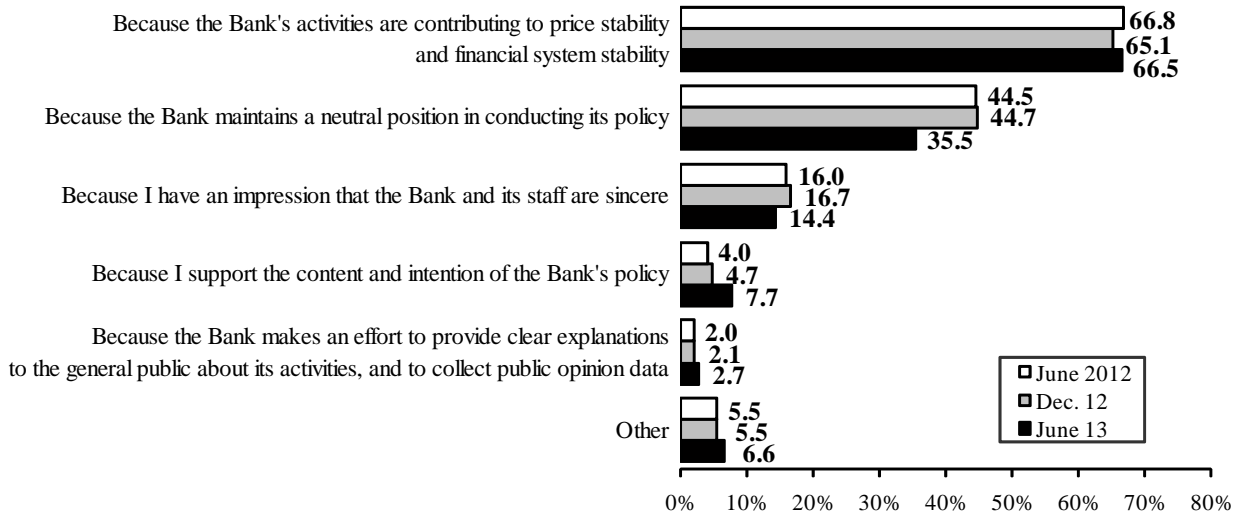
Notes: 1. "Confident" comprises the choices "confident" and "somewhat confident" that are found in the questionnaire.
 2. "Not confident" comprises "not confident" and "not particularly confident."

Chart 20 Reasons Why the Bank's Explanations Are Unclear (Question 23-(a))¹



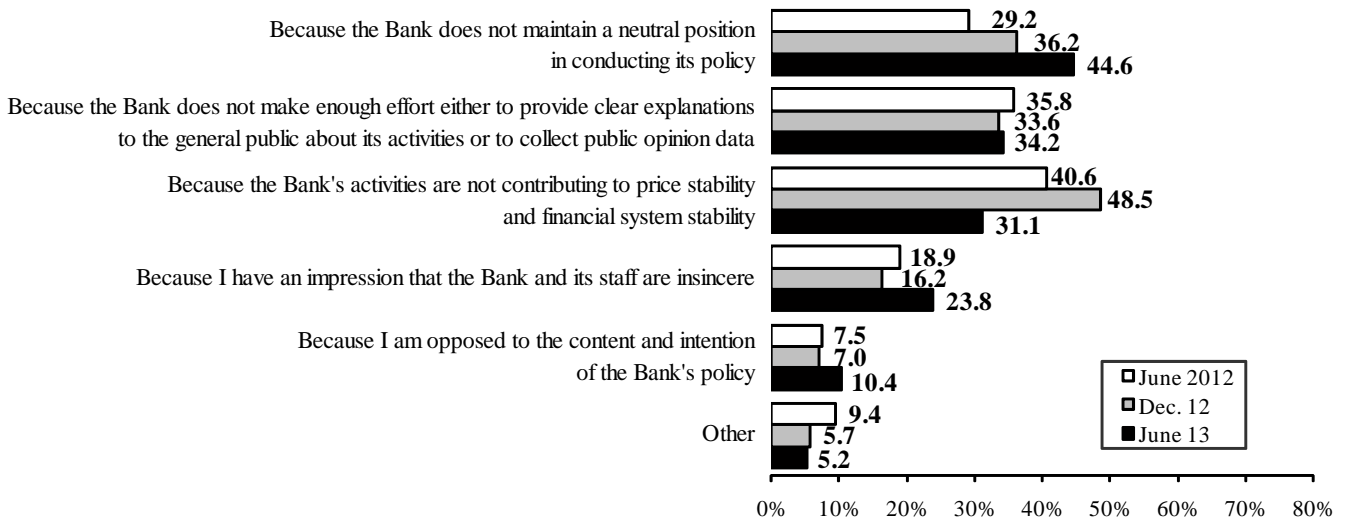
Note: 1. Up to two answers were allowed.

Chart 21 Reasons for Having Confidence in the Bank (Question 23-(b))¹



Note: 1. Up to two answers were allowed.

Chart 22 Reasons for Not Having Confidence in the Bank (Question 23-(c))¹



Note: 1. Up to two answers were allowed.

IV. Distribution of the Sample by Category

Valid responses in the 54th round of the survey (June 2013) ¹	Population of the survey ^{1, 2}	Difference between (A) and (B) ³	Sampled population (reference) ¹
(A)	(B)	(A) - (B)	

By sex

Male	49.1	48.3	0.8	49.9
Female	50.9	51.7	-0.8	50.1

By age

20-29	9.9	12.9	-3.0	12.6
30-39	15.6	16.9	-1.3	16.7
40-49	17.9	16.6	1.3	17.5
50-59	18.0	15.0	3.0	16.5
60-69	18.7	17.5	1.2	16.3
70 or older	19.9	21.1	-1.2	20.3

By region

Hokkaido	4.4	4.4	0.0	4.1
Tohoku	7.5	7.3	0.2	7.5
Kanto	32.2	33.3	-1.1	32.9
Hokuriku	4.0	4.3	-0.3	4.1
Chubu	14.3	14.0	0.3	14.3
Kinki	16.5	16.2	0.3	16.5
Chugoku	6.4	5.9	0.5	6.0
Shikoku	3.1	3.2	-0.1	3.0
Kyushu	11.7	11.4	0.3	11.6

Notes: 1. Percent.

2. Based on the population of municipalities recorded in the Basic Resident Registers as of March 31, 2012.

3. Percentage points.

V. Complete Questionnaire and Results

<Note>

1. Only one choice is allowed, except where otherwise noted.
2. Figures refer to the ratio of responses for each menu of choices against total respondents for each question (percent).
3. The second decimal place is rounded off, and response ratios consequently do not necessarily add up to 100 percent even for questions that allow for only one choice.
4. Figures in parentheses represent results of the previous survey (March 2013), except where otherwise noted.

Question 1

How do you think economic conditions have changed compared with one year ago?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Have improved. | 13.2 (6.6) |
| (b) Have remained the same. | 68.2 (63.7) |
| (c) Have worsened. | 18.0 (29.2) |

Question 2

With regard to Question 1, what makes you think so? (Choose up to two answers.)

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| (a) Media reports. | 19.7 (25.4) |
| (b) Economic indicators and statistics. | 8.7 (9.3) |
| (c) Business performance of the company I work for, or of my own company. | 35.3 (34.5) |
| (d) Income level for myself or other family members. | 59.1 (55.8) |
| (e) Bustle of shopping streets and amusement quarters. | 20.8 (24.8) |
| (f) Other. | 3.7 (3.6) |

Question 3

How would you describe the current economic conditions?

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Favorable. | 1.1 (0.4) |
| (b) Somewhat favorable. | 12.7 (4.9) |
| (c) Difficult to say. | 47.2 (30.7) |
| (d) Somewhat unfavorable. | 30.3 (44.4) |
| (e) Unfavorable. | 8.4 (19.2) |

Question 4

What is your outlook for economic conditions one year from now?

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Will improve. | 24.3 (24.1) |
| (b) Will remain the same. | 58.5 (57.9) |
| (c) Will worsen. | 16.8 (17.3) |

Question 5

Considering the current economic conditions, what do you think of the current interest rate level?

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Too low. | 47.4 (54.0) |
| (b) Appropriate. | 37.7 (31.3) |
| (c) Too high. | 12.1 (11.4) |

Question 6

What do you think of your household circumstances compared with one year ago?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Have become better off. | 4.9 (4.3) |
| (b) Difficult to say. | 55.5 (50.4) |
| (c) Have become worse off. | 39.2 (45.0) |

If you chose (a) in Question 6, please answer Question 6-(a). If you chose (c), please answer Question 6-(b). If you chose (b), please go on to Question 7.

Question 6-(a): this question is for those who chose (a) in Question 6.

Why do you think your household circumstances have become better off?

(Choose all applicable answers.)

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| (a) Because my salary and business income have increased. | 42.0 (62.7) |
| (b) Because my interest income and dividend payments have increased. | 22.3 (3.9) |
| (c) Because I gained special income from sales of real estate. | 1.8 (1.0) |
| (d) Because prices have declined. | 3.6 (6.9) |
| (e) Because the value of my household's assets such as real estate and stocks has increased. | 25.9 (8.8) |
| (f) Because the number of dependents in my household has decreased. | 20.5 (16.7) |
| (g) Other. | 9.8 (17.6) |

Question 6-(b): this question is for those who chose (c) in Question 6.

Why do you think your household circumstances have become worse off?

(Choose all applicable answers.)

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| (a) Because my salary and business income have decreased. | 61.5 (65.6) |
| (b) Because my interest income and dividend payments have decreased. | 10.0 (13.6) |
| (c) Because I purchased real estate. | 3.0 (3.8) |
| (d) Because prices have risen. | 33.7 (31.2) |
| (e) Because the value of my household's assets such as real estate and stocks has declined. | 2.7 (7.0) |
| (f) Because the number of dependents in my household has increased. | 8.0 (9.5) |
| (g) Other. | 26.6 (20.2) |

Question 7

How has your household income changed compared with one year ago?

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Has increased. | 7.5 (7.2) |
| (b) Has remained the same. | 54.3 (46.9) |
| (c) Has decreased. | 38.0 (45.6) |

Question 8

What is your outlook for household income one year from now?

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Will increase. | 9.2 (9.5) |
| (b) Will remain the same. | 58.0 (53.1) |
| (c) Will decrease. | 32.3 (37.0) |

Question 9

How has your household changed its spending compared with one year ago?

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| (a) Has increased. | 34.5 | (32.6) |
| (b) Has neither increased nor decreased. | 46.9 | (43.8) |
| (c) Has decreased. | 17.4 | (21.9) |

If you chose (a) in Question 9, please answer Question 9-(a). If you chose (c), please answer Question 9-(b). If you chose (b), please go on to Question 10-1.

Question 9-(a): this question is for those who chose (a) in Question 9.

Why has your household increased its spending? (Choose all applicable answers.)

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| (a) Because my income has increased. | 5.6 | (4.4) |
| (b) Because my income is likely to increase in the future. | 2.3 | (2.6) |
| (c) Because the value of my household's non-financial assets such as real estate has increased. | 0.9 | (1.6) |
| (d) Because the value of my household's financial assets such as stocks and bonds has increased. | 2.9 | (0.4) |
| (e) Because I purchased real estate such as a house. | 6.4 | (5.5) |
| (f) Because I purchased consumer durable goods such as a car. | 20.8 | (21.0) |
| (g) Because my spending has risen due to an increased number of dependents in my household. | 26.5 | (28.5) |
| (h) Because the costs of consumer goods and services have risen. | 42.1 | (46.0) |
| (i) Other. | 27.6 | (25.9) |

Question 9-(b): this question is for those who chose (c) in Question 9.

Why has your household decreased its spending? (Choose all applicable answers.)

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| (a) Because my income has decreased. | 72.7 | (75.1) |
| (b) Because my income is not likely to increase in the future. | 41.8 | (47.4) |
| (c) Because the value of my household's non-financial assets such as real estate has decreased. | 1.8 | (5.4) |
| (d) Because the value of my household's financial assets such as stocks and bonds has decreased. | 2.8 | (5.2) |
| (e) Because my spending has fallen due to a decreased number of dependents in my household. | 8.6 | (9.7) |
| (f) Other. | 11.1 | (7.8) |

Question 10-1

How has your household changed its everyday spending such as on living and educational expenses compared with one year ago?

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| (a) Has increased. | 12.0 | (9.6) |
| (b) Has neither increased nor decreased. | 56.8 | (55.1) |
| (c) Has decreased. | 29.7 | (33.7) |

Question 10-2

How has your household changed its selective spending, such as on hobby and leisure activities (spending other than asked in Question 10-1), compared with one year ago?

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| (a) Has increased. | 6.2 | (5.2) |
| (b) Has neither increased nor decreased. | 42.1 | (37.7) |
| (c) Has decreased. | 50.5 | (56.2) |

Question 11

How does your household plan to change its spending within the next twelve months?

- (a) Will increase. **6.1** (4.8)
- (b) Will neither increase nor decrease. **48.8** (45.8)
- (c) Will decrease. **44.3** (48.7)

Question 12

How do you think prices¹ have changed compared with one year ago?

- (a) Have gone up significantly. **5.2** (4.9)
- (b) Have gone up slightly. **45.3** (41.7)
- (c) Have remained almost unchanged. **44.5** (43.2)
- (d) Have gone down slightly. **4.4** (8.2)
- (e) Have gone down significantly. **0.2** (0.8)

Note: 1. Defined as overall prices of goods and services you purchase.

If you chose (a) or (b) in Question 12, please answer Question 12-(a). If you chose (d) or (e), please answer Question 12-(b). If you chose (c), please go on to Question 13.

Question 12-(a): this question is for those who chose (a) or (b) in Question 12.

How would you describe your opinion of the price rise?

- (a) Rather favorable. **3.8** (2.6)
- (b) Rather unfavorable. **81.6** (80.3)
- (c) Difficult to say. **13.7** (16.3)

Question 12-(b): this question is for those who chose (d) or (e) in Question 12.

How would you describe your opinion of the price decline?

- (a) Rather favorable. **50.0** (44.8)
- (b) Rather unfavorable. **20.2** (21.2)
- (c) Difficult to say. **26.0** (32.1)

Question 13

By what percent do you think prices have changed compared with one year ago? Please choose "up" or "down" and fill in the box below with a specific figure. If you think that they have been unchanged, please put a "0."

Prices have gone **up** about percent compared with one year ago.
down

Average¹ : **plus 3.1** (plus 2.6) percent

Median² : **plus 1.0** (plus 0.2) percent

Notes: 1. Calculated by excluding 0.5 percent of the highest and lowest figures, respectively, in order to avoid extremes. (The simple average of this survey is plus **3.2** percent, and that of the previous survey was plus **2.7** percent.)

2. The number that appears in the middle when the answers are listed in numerical order.

Questions 14 through 17 ask about your outlook for prices. Please answer these questions, disregarding the effects of the scheduled consumption tax hike(s).¹

Note: 1. The government will raise the consumption tax rate from the current rate of 5 percent, to 8 percent in April 2014 and to 10 percent in October 2015, on the condition that the economic situation is improved.

Question 14

What is your outlook for prices one year from now?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Will go up significantly. | 17.3 (10.4) |
| (b) Will go up slightly. | 62.9 (63.8) |
| (c) Will remain almost unchanged. | 15.2 (21.4) |
| (d) Will go down slightly. | 3.2 (3.3) |
| (e) Will go down significantly. | 0.7 (0.6) |

Question 15

By what percent do you think prices will change one year from now? Please choose "up" or "down" and fill in the box below with a specific figure. If you think that they will be unchanged, please put a "0."

Prices will go **up** about percent one year from now.
down

Average¹ : **plus 5.1** (plus 4.0) percent
 Median² : **plus 3.0** (plus 3.0) percent

Notes: 1. Calculated by excluding 0.5 percent of the highest and lowest figures, respectively, in order to avoid extremes. (The simple average of this survey is plus **5.3** percent, and that of the previous survey was plus **4.1** percent.)
 2. The number that appears in the middle when the answers are listed in numerical order.

Question 16

What is your outlook for prices over the next five years?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Will go up significantly. | 28.9 (28.0) |
| (b) Will go up slightly. | 54.1 (53.6) |
| (c) Will remain almost unchanged. | 11.0 (11.9) |
| (d) Will go down slightly. | 2.9 (3.7) |
| (e) Will go down significantly. | 0.6 (0.8) |

Question 17

By what percent do you think prices will change per year on average over the next five years? Please choose "up" or "down" and fill in the box below with a specific figure. If you think that they will be unchanged, please put a "0."

Prices will go **up** about percent per year on average over the next five years.
down

Average¹ : **plus 4.3** (plus 4.0) percent
 Median² : **plus 2.5** (plus 2.0) percent

Notes: 1. Calculated by excluding 0.5 percent of the highest and lowest figures, respectively, in order to avoid extremes. (The simple average of this survey is plus **4.6** percent, and that of the previous survey was plus **4.2** percent.)
 2. The number that appears in the middle when the answers are listed in numerical order.

Question 18

What is your outlook for land prices?

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|----------|
| (a) Will go up. | 43.4 | (31.9) |
| (b) Will remain the same. | 35.0 | (39.3) |
| (c) Will go down. | 20.1 | (26.8) |

Question 19

How do you view the Japanese economy's growth potential in the long term?

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| (a) Has greater potential to grow compared to the current level of growth. | 8.1 | (5.4) |
| (b) Has potential to grow at about the current level of growth. | 55.6 | (50.8) |
| (c) Has less potential to grow compared to the current level of growth. | 34.8 | (42.7) |

Question 20

In consideration of the presumed situation one year from now, are you (or other family members) worried about employment and working conditions such as pay, job position, and benefits for the worker(s)¹ in your family at their current workplace(s)?

- | | All respondents | Of which: workers |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Not particularly. | 16.4 (14.4) | 17.0 (14.2) |
| (b) Slightly. | 47.8 (50.2) | 47.9 (50.3) |
| (c) Quite. | 33.8 (33.5) | 34.8 (35.4) |

Note: 1. Company employees, executives, civil servants, and part-timers.

Questions 21 through 25-(3) ask about your recognition and credibility of the Bank of Japan.¹

¹ This set of questions has been asked semiannually in the June and December surveys, with the exception of the 46th round of the survey, conducted in June 2011. Figures in parentheses represent results of the 52nd round of the survey, conducted in December 2012.

Question 21

Do you know that one of the Bank's objectives is to maintain price stability?

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| (a) Know about it. | 35.5 | (32.7) |
| (b) Have read or heard of it, but do not know much about it. | 47.5 | (43.4) |
| (c) Have never heard of it. | 16.6 | (23.3) |

Questions 22-(1) through 22-(4) ask about financial system stability, which is one of the Bank's two objectives. Please make the most applicable choice relative to these questions.

Question 22-(1)

Do you know that one of the Bank's objectives is to maintain financial system stability?

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| (a) Know about it. | 35.2 | (36.7) |
| (b) Have read or heard of it, but do not know much about it. | 47.2 | (40.7) |
| (c) Have never heard of it. | 17.1 | (22.1) |

Question 22-(2)

Do you know that the Bank provides safe settlement instruments with the highest settlement finality, such as banknotes and current accounts at the Bank, and operates its own funds transfer system and settlement system for Japanese government securities?

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| (a) Know about it. | 33.7 | (34.3) |
| (b) Have read or heard of it, but do not know much about it. | 42.8 | (42.3) |
| (c) Have never heard of it. | 23.0 | (23.1) |

Question 22-(3)

Do you know that the Bank can extend loans, such as special loans to financial institutions, in order to ensure financial system stability?

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| (a) Know about it. | 38.5 | (39.1) |
| (b) Have read or heard of it, but do not know much about it. | 37.7 | (35.9) |
| (c) Have never heard of it. | 23.1 | (24.7) |

Question 22-(4)

Do you know that the Bank conducts on-site examinations of financial institutions?

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| (a) Know about it. | 23.3 | (25.8) |
| (b) Have read or heard of it, but do not know much about it. | 35.6 | (33.0) |
| (c) Have never heard of it. | 40.5 | (40.9) |

Questions 23-(1) through 23-(5) ask about your view of the Bank. Please make the most applicable choice relative to these questions.

Question 23-(1)

How would you describe your level of interest in the Bank's activities?

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| (a) Interested. | 4.3 | (5.3) |
| (b) Somewhat interested. | 19.8 | (17.5) |
| (c) Difficult to say. | 29.9 | (30.0) |
| (d) Not particularly interested. | 32.5 | (31.0) |
| (e) Not interested. | 13.1 | (15.4) |

Question 23-(2)

How would you describe the Bank's relationship to our lives?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| (a) Related. | 33.7 | (38.0) |
| (b) Somewhat related. | 36.7 | (34.6) |
| (c) Difficult to say. | 19.8 | (17.5) |
| (d) Not particularly related. | 6.8 | (6.4) |
| (e) Not related. | 2.8 | (2.9) |

Question 23-(3)

How would you describe the Bank's contribution to our lives?

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| (a) Contributing. | 17.1 | (18.8) |
| (b) Somewhat contributing. | 27.6 | (28.2) |
| (c) Difficult to say. | 43.6 | (39.3) |
| (d) Not particularly contributing. | 7.2 | (7.7) |
| (e) Not contributing. | 3.9 | (5.2) |

Question 23-(4)**How would you describe the Bank's explanations to the public?**

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Clear. | 0.7 (0.7) |
| (b) Somewhat clear. | 4.9 (4.2) |
| (c) Difficult to say. | 35.6 (33.4) |
| (d) Somewhat unclear. | 39.6 (37.9) |
| (e) Unclear. | 18.1 (22.4) |

Question 23-(5)**How would you describe your level of confidence in the Bank?**

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Confident. | 14.2 (15.6) |
| (b) Somewhat confident. | 28.4 (28.5) |
| (c) Difficult to say. | 48.1 (45.5) |
| (d) Not particularly confident. | 6.4 (7.1) |
| (e) Not confident. | 2.1 (2.8) |

If you chose (d) or (e) in Question 23-(4), please answer Question 23-(a). If you chose (a) or (b) in Question 23-(5), please answer Question 23-(b), but if you chose (d) or (e), please answer Question 23-(c). Otherwise, please go on to Question 24.

Question 23-(a): this question is for those who chose (d) or (e) in Question 23-(4).**Why do you think the Bank's explanations are unclear? (Choose up to two answers.)**

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| (a) Because terms used in the Bank's explanations are too technical and difficult. | 39.2 (36.6) |
| (b) Because I do not have basic knowledge about the Bank. | 44.6 (45.8) |
| (c) Because I have difficulty understanding the mechanism of the financial system and the economy. | 38.1 (36.6) |
| (d) Because I have never had the opportunity to read or hear the Bank's explanations. | 27.1 (31.0) |
| (e) Because I do not know how to obtain information about the Bank. | 13.6 (15.2) |
| (f) Because the Bank's web site is inconvenient. | 0.8 (0.1) |
| (g) Other. | 2.4 (2.1) |

Question 23-(b): this question is for those who chose (a) or (b) in Question 23-(5).**Why do you have confidence in the Bank? (Choose up to two answers.)**

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| (a) Because the Bank's activities are contributing to price stability and financial system stability. | 66.5 (65.1) |
| (b) Because I support the content and intention of the Bank's policy. | 7.7 (4.7) |
| (c) Because the Bank maintains a neutral position in conducting its policy. | 35.5 (44.7) |
| (d) Because the Bank makes an effort to provide clear explanations to the general public about its activities, and to collect public opinion data. | 2.7 (2.1) |
| (e) Because I have an impression that the Bank and its staff are sincere. | 14.4 (16.7) |
| (f) Other. | 6.6 (5.5) |

Question 23-(c): this question is for those who chose (d) or (e) in Question 23-(5).

Why do you not have confidence in the Bank? (Choose up to two answers.)

- | | | |
|---|-------------|----------|
| (a) Because the Bank's activities are not contributing to price stability and financial system stability. | 31.1 | (48.5) |
| (b) Because I am opposed to the content and intention of the Bank's policy. | 10.4 | (7.0) |
| (c) Because the Bank does not maintain a neutral position in conducting its policy. | 44.6 | (36.2) |
| (d) Because the Bank does not make enough effort either to provide clear explanations to the general public about its activities or to collect public opinion data. | 34.2 | (33.6) |
| (e) Because I have an impression that the Bank and its staff are insincere. | 23.8 | (16.2) |
| (f) Other. | 5.2 | (5.7) |

Question 24

Do you know that payments of national taxes, national pension premiums, and labor insurance premiums can be made without visiting a teller window, by using, for example, Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and online banking services?

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| (a) Know about it. | 48.6 | (50.0) |
| (b) Have read or heard of it, but do not know much about it. | 30.8 | (28.7) |
| (c) Have never heard of it. | 19.8 | (20.7) |

Questions 25-(1) through 25-(3) ask about the condition of Bank of Japan notes that you use in your daily life.

Question 25-(1)

How would you describe the condition of 10,000 yen notes?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------|
| (a) Becoming worn. | 2.7 | (2.6) |
| (b) Becoming somewhat worn. | 8.7 | (7.5) |
| (c) Difficult to say. | 27.9 | (27.7) |
| (d) Relatively clean. | 48.1 | (49.7) |
| (e) Clean. | 11.8 | (12.2) |

Question 25-(2)

How would you describe the condition of 5,000 yen notes?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------|
| (a) Becoming worn. | 3.7 | (3.5) |
| (b) Becoming somewhat worn. | 12.8 | (12.3) |
| (c) Difficult to say. | 33.3 | (32.1) |
| (d) Relatively clean. | 40.5 | (41.8) |
| (e) Clean. | 9.2 | (9.8) |

Question 25-(3)

How would you describe the condition of 1,000 yen notes?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------|
| (a) Becoming worn. | 7.4 | (7.7) |
| (b) Becoming somewhat worn. | 27.0 | (26.2) |
| (c) Difficult to say. | 33.3 | (33.5) |
| (d) Relatively clean. | 27.0 | (27.2) |
| (e) Clean. | 4.9 | (5.0) |

This last set of questions asks about you and your household. Although these include questions of a personal nature, they are only used for analyzing the survey results and we would be very grateful for your responses.

Question 26

Are you male or female?

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| (a) Male. | 49.1 (48.0) |
| (b) Female. | 50.9 (52.0) |

Question 27

What age group are you in?

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| (a) 20–29. | 9.9 (9.8) |
| (b) 30–39. | 15.6 (14.6) |
| (c) 40–49. | 17.9 (18.0) |
| (d) 50–59. | 18.0 (17.0) |
| (e) 60–69. | 18.7 (21.3) |
| (f) 70 or older. | 19.9 (19.3) |

Question 28

How would you describe your current employment situation?

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| (a) Person working in agriculture, forestry, or fisheries. | 2.4 (2.1) |
| (b) Self-employed, working for a family business, or professional worker. | 9.9 (9.7) |
| (c) Regular employee (company employee, executive, or civil servant). | 35.9 (34.5) |
| (d) Non-regular employee (part-timer). | 15.0 (14.9) |
| (e) Other (e.g., full-time homemaker, student, pensioner, or unemployed). | 36.4 (38.1) |

Question 29

How much income did you and your spouse earn last year? (Annual income before deducting taxes; excludes temporary income such as retirement allowance, financial donations, and income from land sales, but includes pensions.)

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| (a) Less than 3 million yen. | 36.2 (36.1) |
| (b) 3 million or more but less than 5 million yen. | 31.3 (30.0) |
| (c) 5 million or more but less than 10 million yen. | 22.7 (23.9) |
| (d) 10 million yen or greater. | 6.1 (5.9) |
| (e) No income. | 1.7 (3.1) |

Question 30

Which of the following describes the composition of your household?

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| (a) Single-person household (live by myself). | 10.6 (9.6) |
| (b) Married-couple household (myself and my spouse). | 25.6 (25.7) |
| (c) Two-generation household (nuclear family). | 48.4 (51.4) |
| (d) Three-generation household (extended family). | 11.6 (10.4) |
| (e) Other (e.g., household consisting only of siblings, friends, or grandparents and grandchildren). | 2.5 (2.3) |

Please freely give us your comments or express wishes relative to the Bank's policy and/or operations.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Offered comments. | 19.1 (18.6) |
| (b) Offered no comments. | 80.9 (81.4) |