

Results of the 50th Opinion Survey on the General Public's Views and Behavior (June 2012 Survey)

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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, 2012.
Sample size:	4,000 people (2,281 people [i.e., 57.0 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. Impression of Economic Conditions

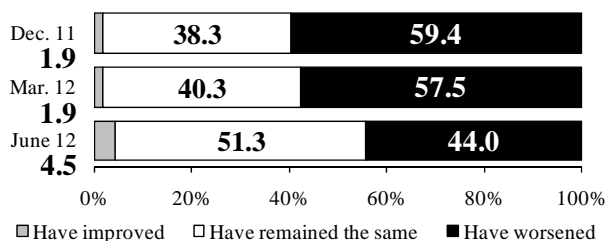
1. Economic conditions

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

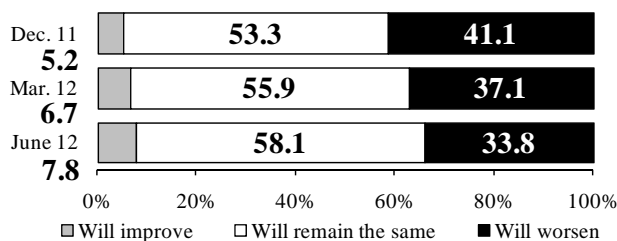
In terms of current economic conditions, the proportion of respondents who chose "as unfavorable" and "as somewhat unfavorable" to describe them decreased, accounting for 76.6 percent.

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

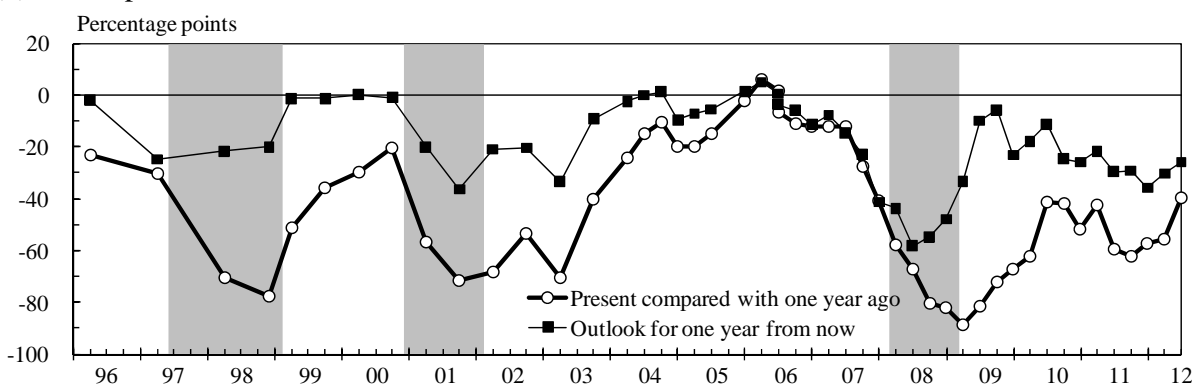
(1) Present Compared with One Year Ago



(2) One Year from Now Compared with the Present



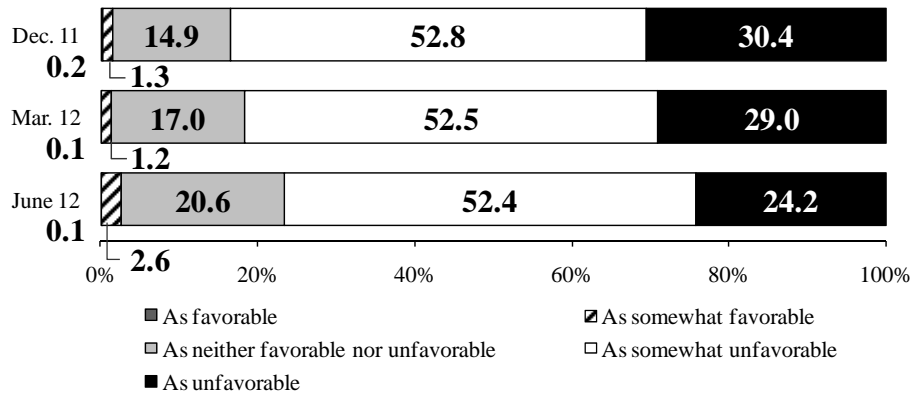
(3) Developments in the Economic Conditions D.I.^{1,2,3,4}



	Sep. 09	Dec. 09	Mar. 10	June 10	Sep. 10	Dec. 10	Mar. 11	June 11	Sep. 11	Dec. 11	Mar. 12	June 12
Present compared with one year ago	-72.3	-67.0	-62.0	-41.2	-42.1	-51.7	-42.3	-59.5	-62.4	-57.5	-55.6	-39.5
Changes from the previous survey	+9.1	+5.3	+5.0	+20.8	-0.9	-9.6	+9.4	-17.2	-2.9	+4.9	+1.9	+16.1
Outlook for one year from now	-5.7	-23.1	-17.9	-11.2	-24.7	-25.9	-21.7	-29.6	-29.2	-35.9	-30.4	-26.0
Changes from the previous survey	+4.2	-17.4	+5.2	+6.7	-13.5	-1.2	+4.2	-7.9	+0.4	-6.7	+5.5	+4.4

- 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. 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."
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. Shaded areas indicate recession periods.

(4) Current Economic Conditions

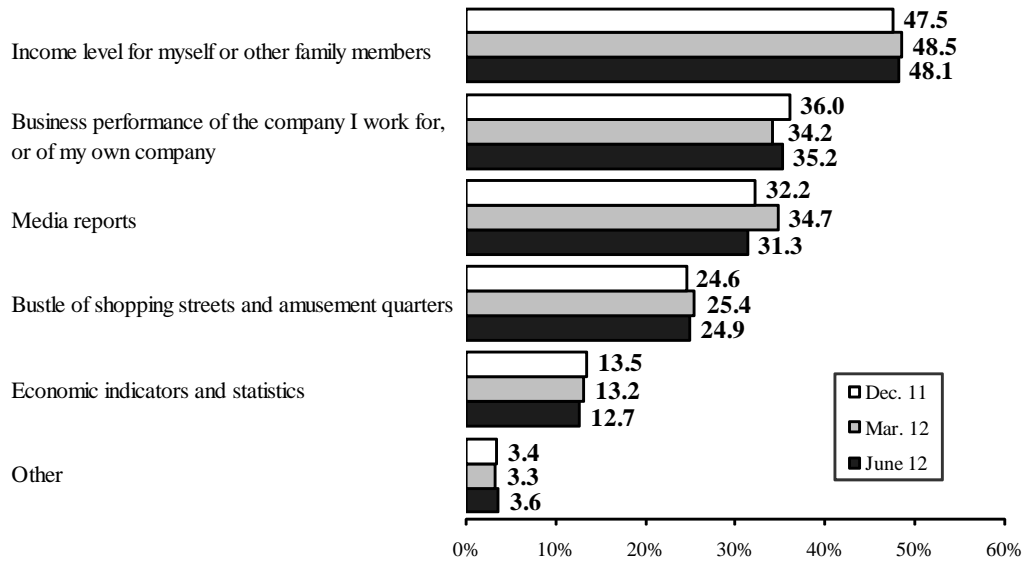


2. Basis for assessment of economic conditions

When asked their basis for assessment of economic conditions, "income level for myself or other family members" was the response chosen most often, followed by "business performance of the company I work for, or of my own company" and "media reports."

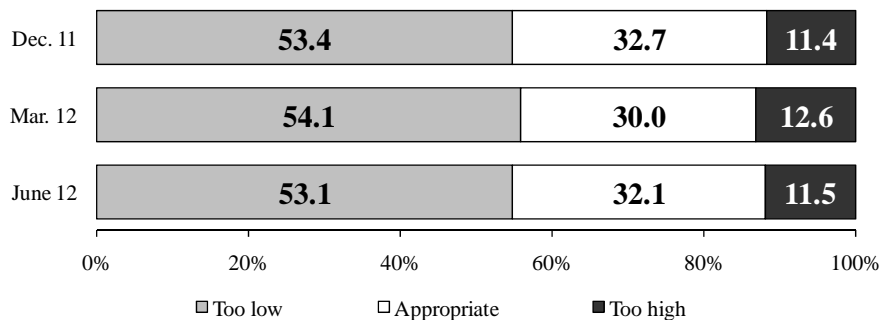
In terms of perception of the interest rate level, the proportions of respondents who stated that it was "too high" and/or "too low" decreased, while the proportion of those who stated that it was "appropriate" increased.

Chart 2 Basis for Assessment and Interpretation of Economic Conditions (Question 2)¹



Note: 1. Up to two answers were allowed.

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



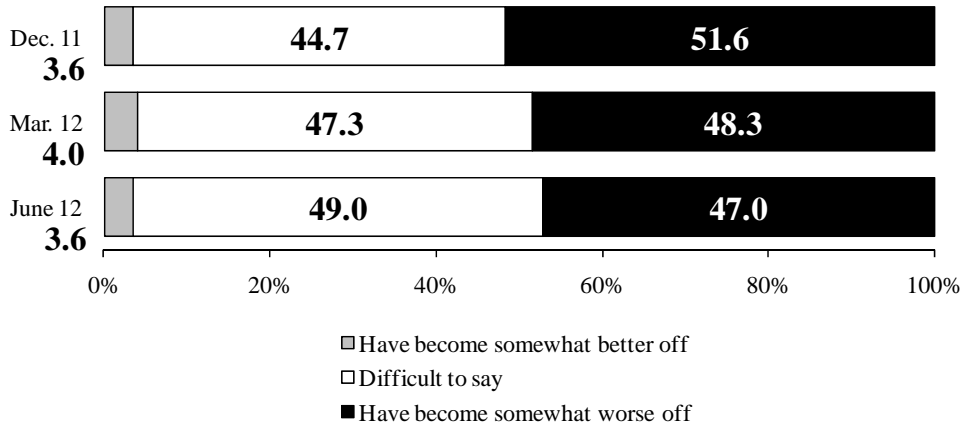
B. Household Circumstances and the General Public's Views

1. Present household circumstances

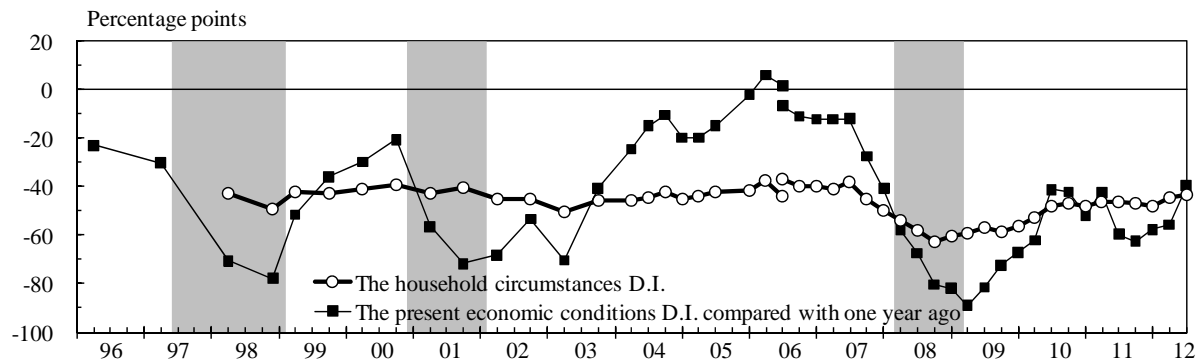
In terms of the general public's household circumstances compared with one year ago, the proportion of respondents who answered that their household circumstances "have become somewhat worse off" decreased, and thus the D.I. rose.

Chart 4 Present Household Circumstances (Question 6)

(1) Present Household Circumstances



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



	Sep. 09	Dec. 09	Mar. 10	June 10	Sep. 10	Dec. 10	Mar. 11	June 11	Sep. 11	Dec. 11	Mar. 12	June 12
The household circumstances D.I.	-58.7	-56.1	-52.9	-48.0	-46.8	-48.1	-46.2	-46.4	-46.8	-48.0	-44.3	-43.4
Changes from the previous survey	-1.7	+2.6	+3.2	+4.9	+1.2	-1.3	+1.9	-0.2	-0.4	-1.2	+3.7	+0.9
The present economic conditions D.I. compared with one year ago	-72.3	-67.0	-62.0	-41.2	-42.1	-51.7	-42.3	-59.5	-62.4	-57.5	-55.6	-39.5
Changes from the previous survey	+9.1	+5.3	+5.0	+20.8	-0.9	-9.6	+9.4	-17.2	-2.9	+4.9	+1.9	+16.1

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

2. The household circumstances D.I. is calculated as the proportion of respondents who answered that their household circumstances "have become somewhat better off" minus the proportion of those who answered that they "have become somewhat worse off." For the calculation of the economic conditions D.I., see footnote to Chart 1.

3. Shaded areas indicate recession periods.

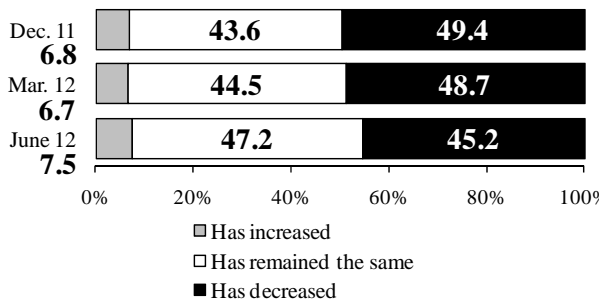
2. Income and spending

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

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

Chart 5 Income (Questions 7 and 8)

(1) Present Income Level Compared with One Year Ago



(2) Income Level One Year from Now Compared with the Present

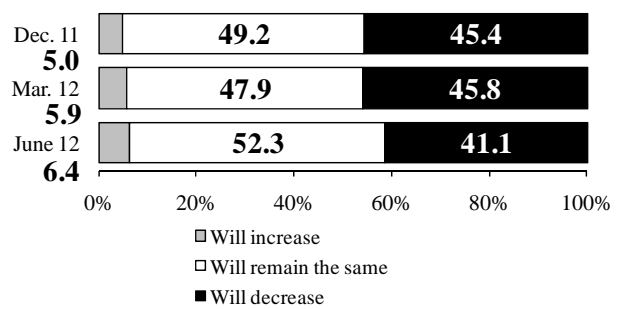
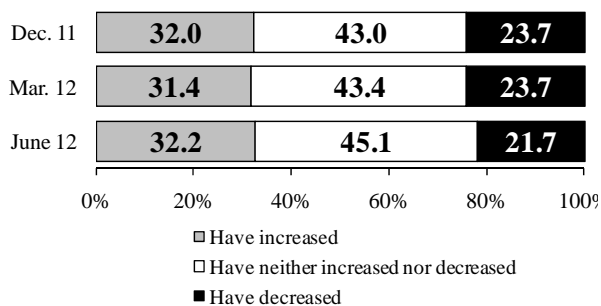
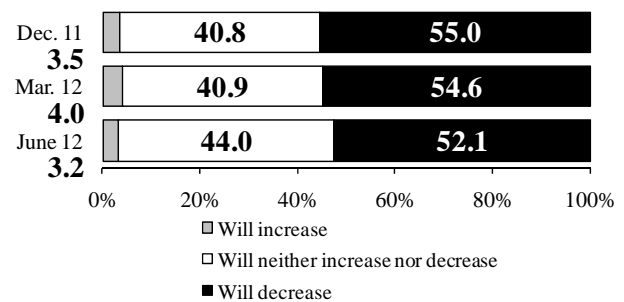


Chart 6 Spending (Questions 9 and 11)

(1) Present Spending Level Compared with One Year Ago



(2) Spending Level One Year from Now Compared with the Present

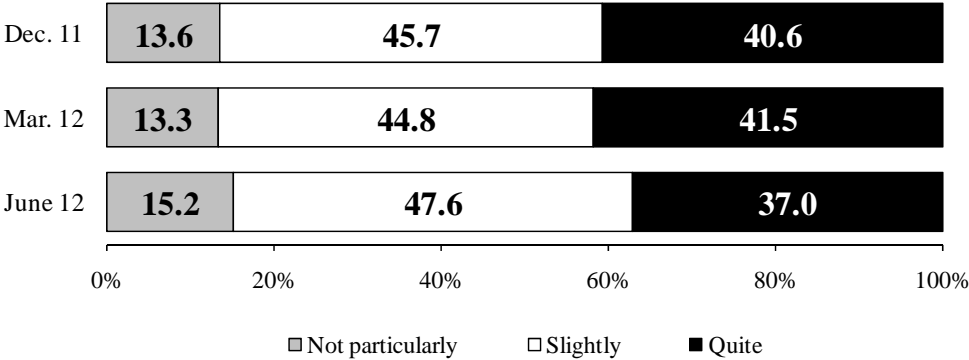


3. Employment conditions

When asked about concerns over employment and working arrangements over the next twelve months, the proportion of respondents¹ who answered that they were "quite" worried decreased, while the proportions of those who responded that they were "slightly" and/or "not particularly" worried increased.

¹ Respondents are workers who are company employees, executives, civil servants, or part-timers.

Chart 7 Concerns over Employment and Working Arrangements over the Next Twelve Months (Question 20 [workers¹])



Note: 1. Workers are company employees, executives, civil servants, or part-timers.

C. Perception of Price Levels

1. 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 gone down"³ decreased, while the proportion of those who felt that they "have remained almost unchanged" increased.

When asked to what extent price levels have changed compared with one year ago in terms of a specific figure, the average was plus 3.2 percent, down from plus 3.4 percent in the previous survey. The median was plus 0.0 percent, also falling from plus 0.5 percent in the previous survey.

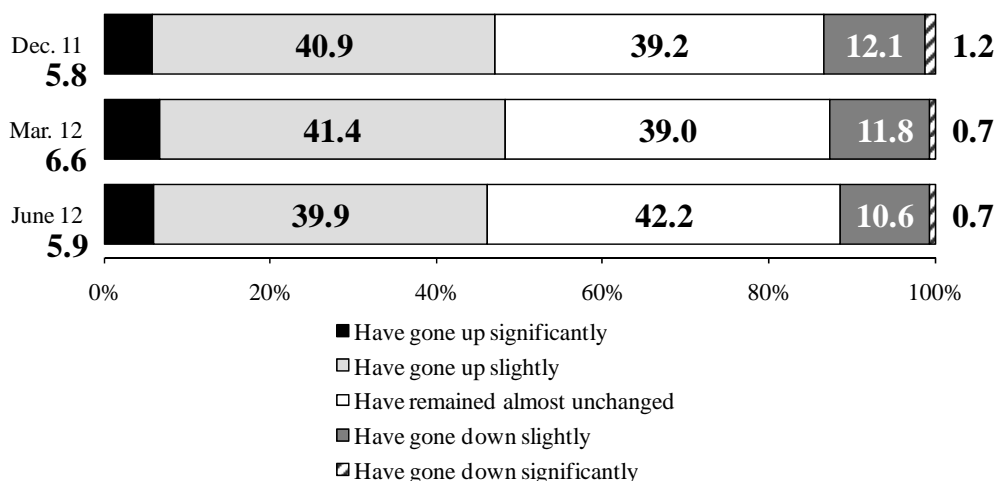
¹ Defined as "overall prices of goods and services the respondents purchase."

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



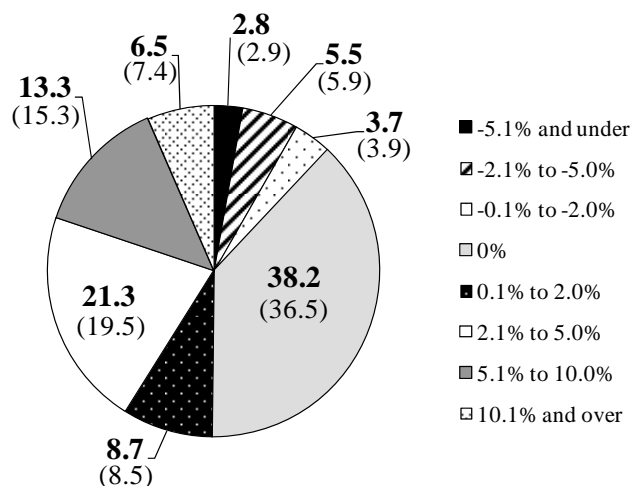
(2) Changes in Price Levels Compared with One Year Ago

	Average ¹	Median ²
Dec. 11	+3.2%	+0.5%
Mar. 12	+3.4%	+0.5%
June 12	+3.2%	+0.0%

Notes: 1. Calculated by excluding 0.5 percent of the highest and the lowest figures, respectively, in order to avoid extremes. (The simple average of this survey is plus 3.3 percent, and that of the previous survey in March 2012 was plus 3.4 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 2012).

3. Clockwise from vertical line, in order of 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, the proportions of respondents who expected that prices "will go up"¹ and/or "will go down"² decreased, while the proportion of those who expected that they "will remain almost unchanged" increased.

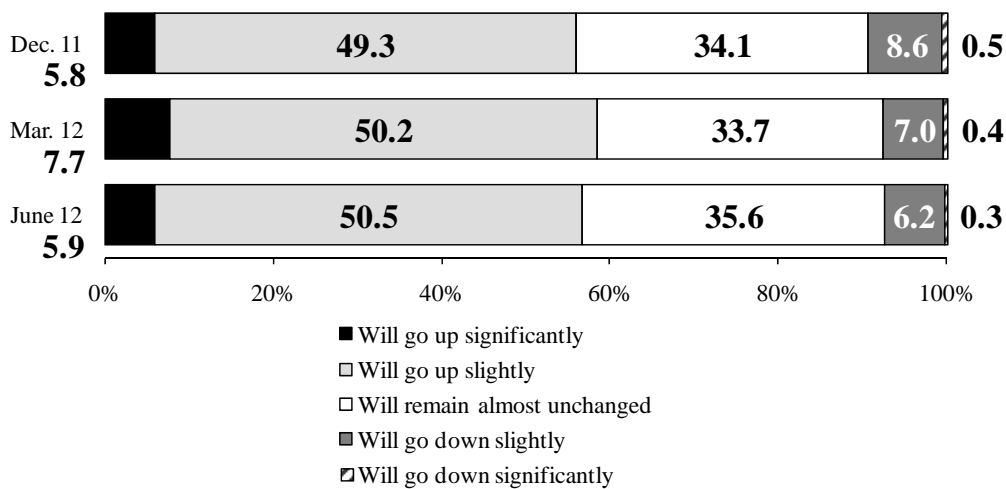
When asked to what extent price levels will change one year from now in terms of a specific figure, the average was plus 3.6 percent, down from plus 4.0 percent in the previous survey. The median was plus 2.0 percent, unchanged from the previous survey.

¹ "Will go up" comprises "will go up significantly" and "will go up slightly."

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

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

(1) One Year from Now Compared with the Present



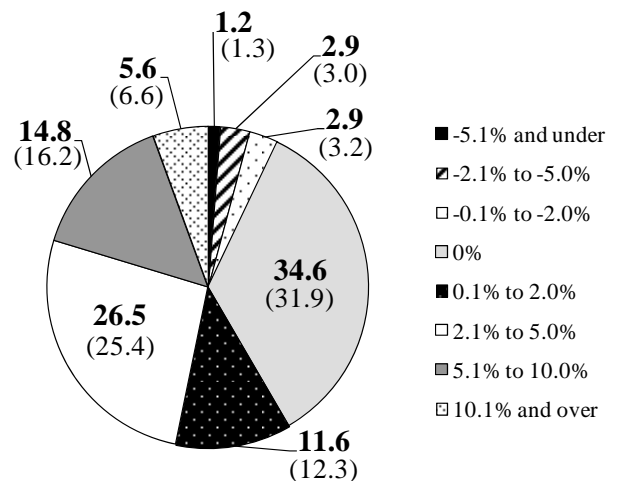
(2) Changes in Price Levels One Year from Now

	Average ¹	Median ²
Dec. 11	+3.6%	+2.0%
Mar. 12	+4.0%	+2.0%
June 12	+3.6%	+2.0%

Notes: 1. Calculated by excluding 0.5 percent of the highest and the lowest figures, respectively, in order to avoid extremes. (The simple average of this survey is plus 3.7 percent, and that of the previous survey in March 2012 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 2012).

3. Clockwise from vertical line, in order of 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, the proportion of respondents who expected that prices "will go up"¹ was unchanged from the previous survey, the proportion of those who expected that they "will remain almost unchanged" increased, and the proportion of those who expected that they "will go down"² decreased.

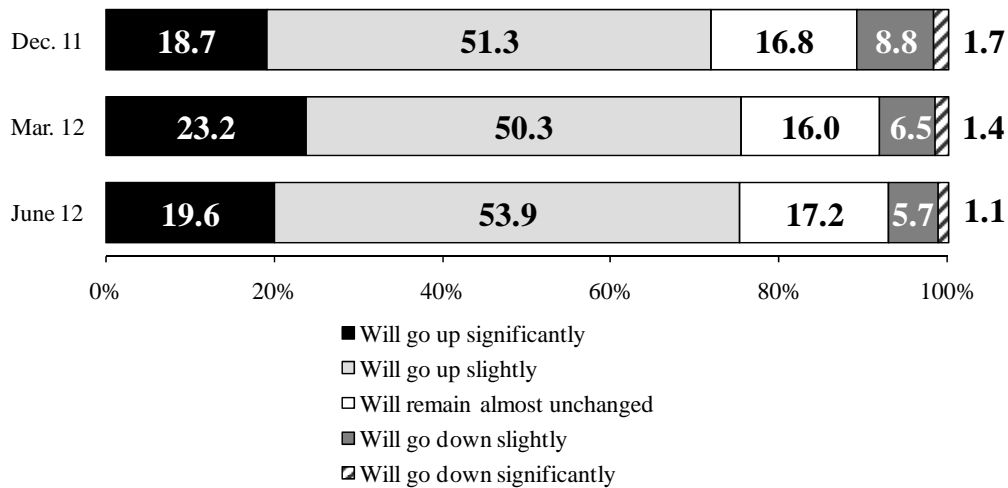
When asked about the specific rate of price change per year on average over the next five years, the average was plus 4.0 percent, down from plus 4.3 percent in the previous survey. The median was plus 2.0 percent, also falling from plus 2.5 percent in the previous survey.

¹"Will go up" comprises "will go up significantly" and "will go up slightly."

²"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



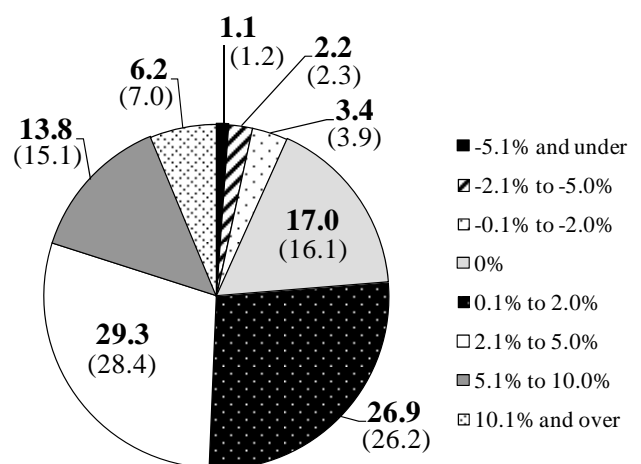
(2) Changes in Price Levels per Year on Average over the Next Five Years

	Average ¹	Median ²
Dec. 11	+4.0%	+2.0%
Mar. 12	+4.3%	+2.5%
June 12	+4.0%	+2.0%

Notes: 1. Calculated by excluding 0.5 percent of the highest and the lowest figures, respectively, in order to avoid extremes. (The simple average of this survey is plus 4.1 percent, as was that of the previous survey in March 2012 was plus 4.3 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 2012).

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

4. Comments on the rise and decline in prices

In terms of prices compared with one year ago, 45.8 percent of the respondents felt that prices "have gone up,"^{1,2} of which 84.6 percent chose "as rather unfavorable" to describe the price rise.

Meanwhile, 11.3 percent of the respondents felt that prices "have gone down."^{1,3} Within this group, the proportions of those who chose "as rather favorable" and "as rather unfavorable" to describe the price decline accounted for 32.4 percent and 30.5 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))

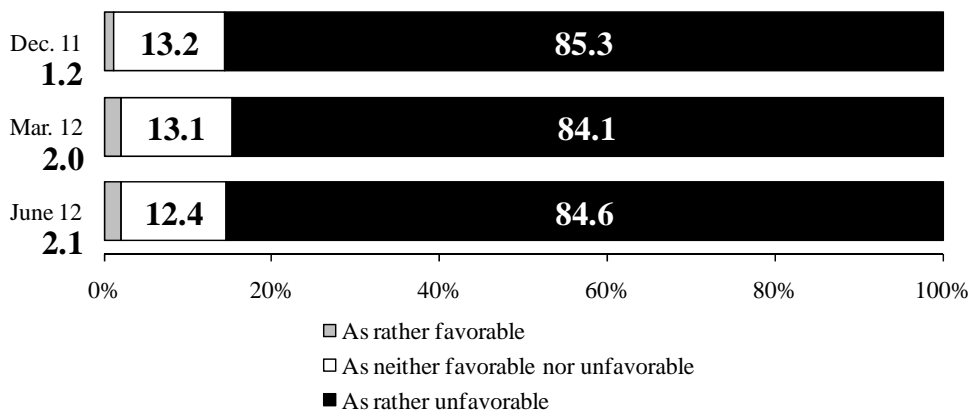
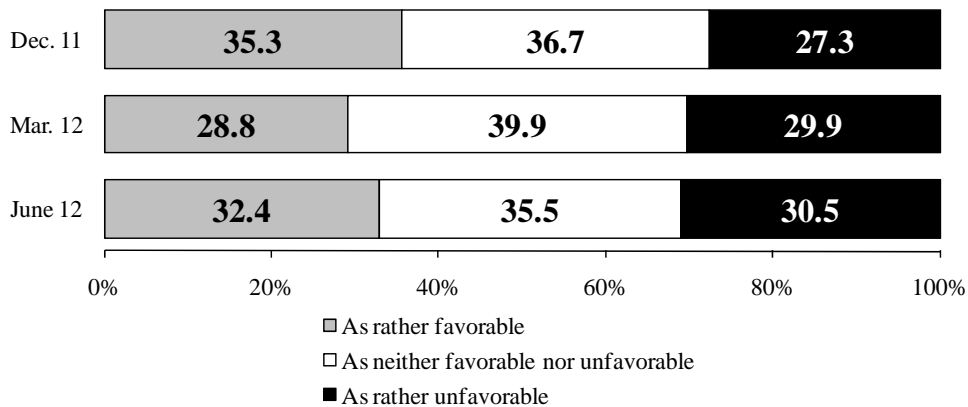


Chart 12 Comments on the Price Decline (Question 12-(b))

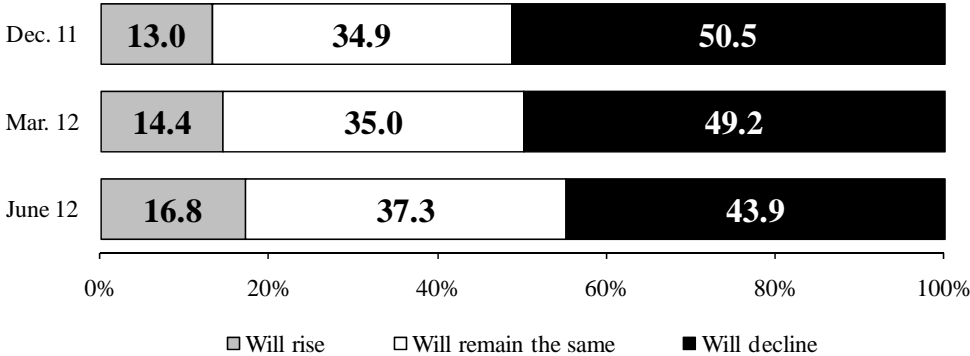


D. Future Developments in Land Prices

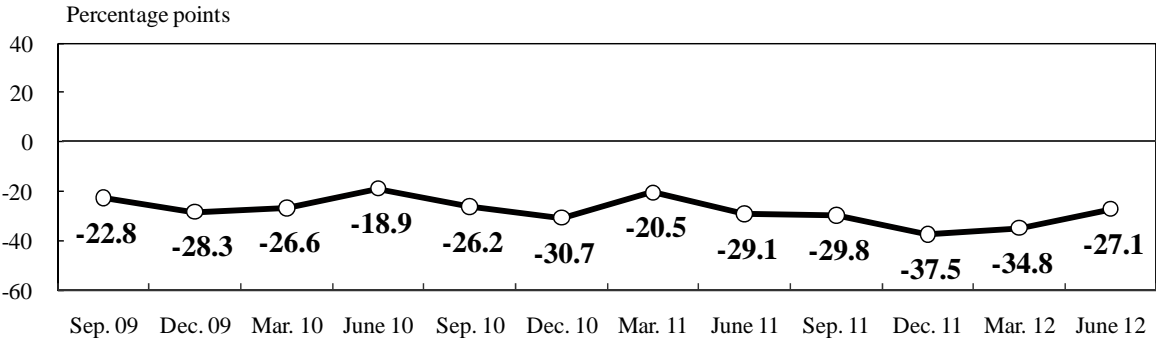
When asked about future developments in land prices, the proportion of respondents who answered that land prices "will rise" increased, while the proportion of those who stated that they "will decline" decreased, and thus the D.I. recorded a smaller negative percentage-point figure.

Chart 13 Perception of Future Developments in Land Prices (Question 18)

(1) Perception of Future Developments in Land Prices



(2) Developments in the Land Prices D.I.¹



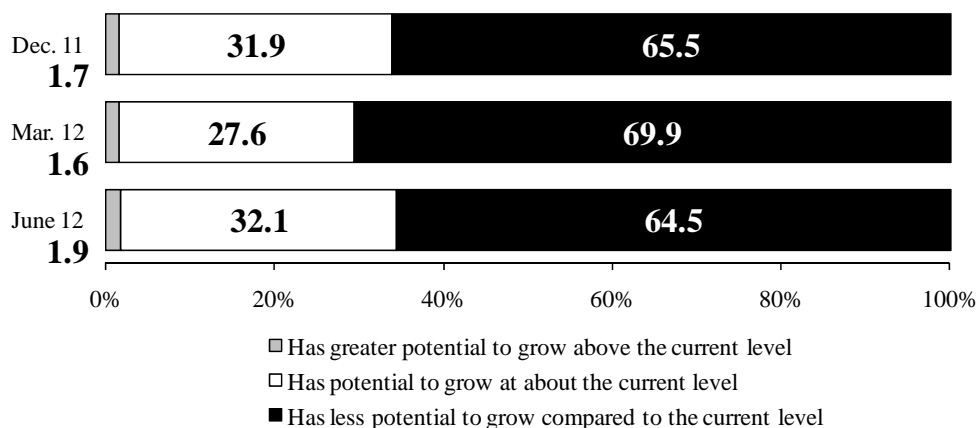
Note: 1. The land prices D.I. is calculated as the proportion of respondents who answered that land prices "will rise" minus the proportion of those who answered that they "will decline."

E. Growth Potential of the Japanese Economy

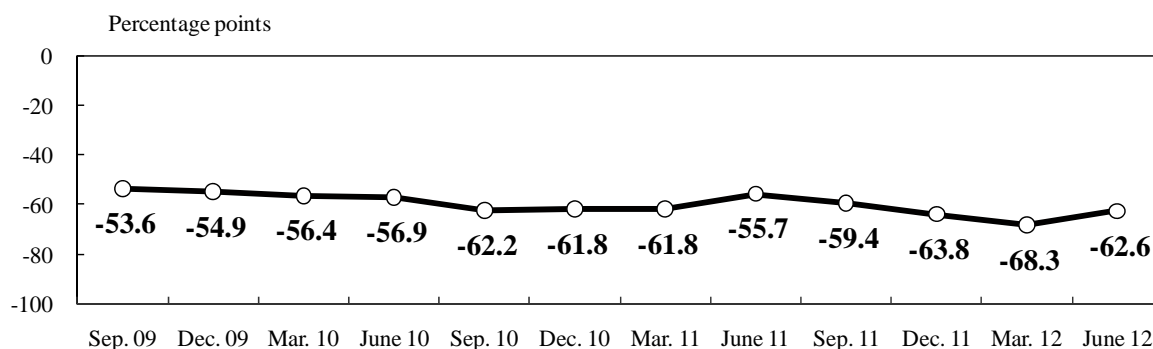
When asked about the Japanese economy's growth potential, the proportion of respondents who replied that the Japanese economy "has less potential to grow compared to the current level" decreased, and thus the D.I. recorded a smaller negative percentage-point figure.

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



Note: 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 above the current level" minus the proportion of those who answered that it "has less potential to grow compared to the current level."

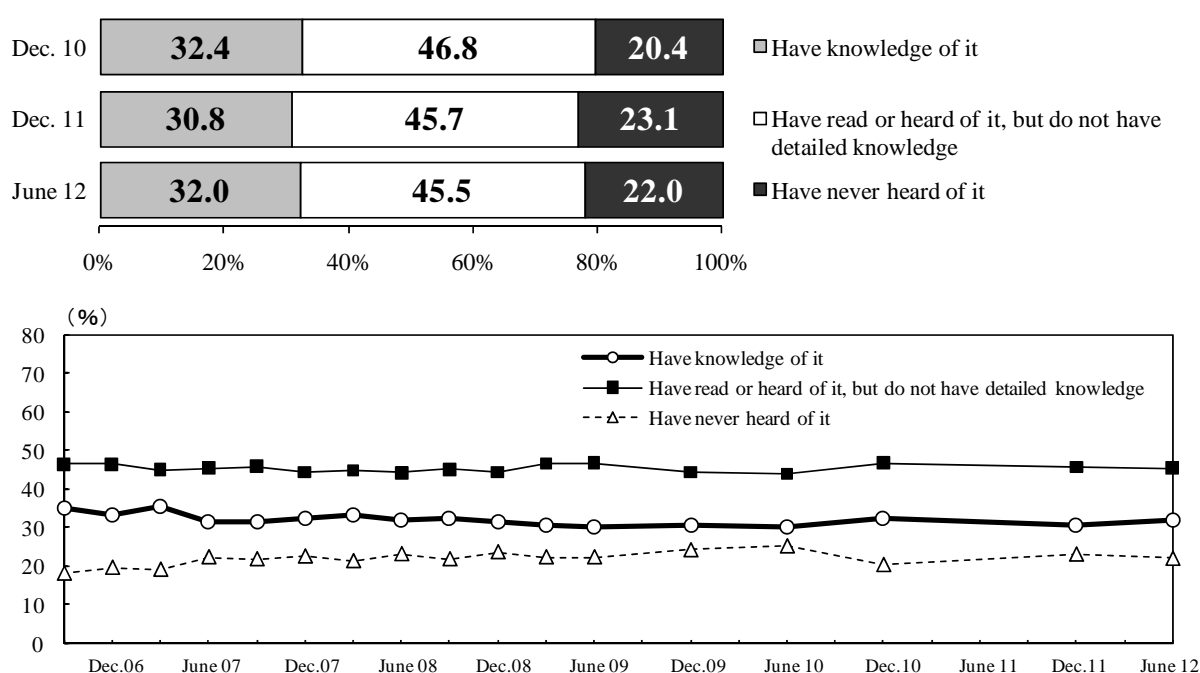
F. Degree of Recognition and Credibility of the Bank¹

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 "have knowledge of it" accounted for 32.0 percent (Chart 15 (1)) and 38.1 percent (Chart 16 (1)), respectively.

Chart 15 Recognition of Price Stability (Question 21)
(1) One of the Bank's Objectives Is to Maintain Price Stability¹



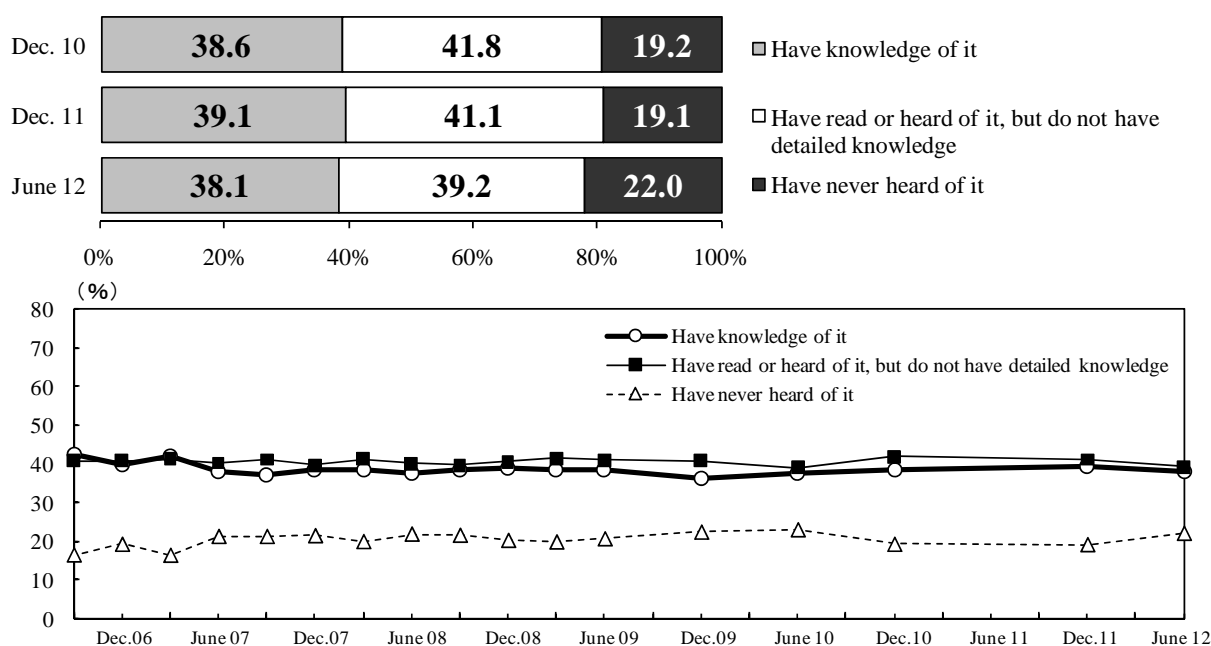
Note: 1. The results shown in the line chart are those of the surveys conducted in and after September 2006, when the current mail survey method was introduced.

(2) The Bank Conducts Its Current Monetary Policy by Controlling a Short-term Interest Rate



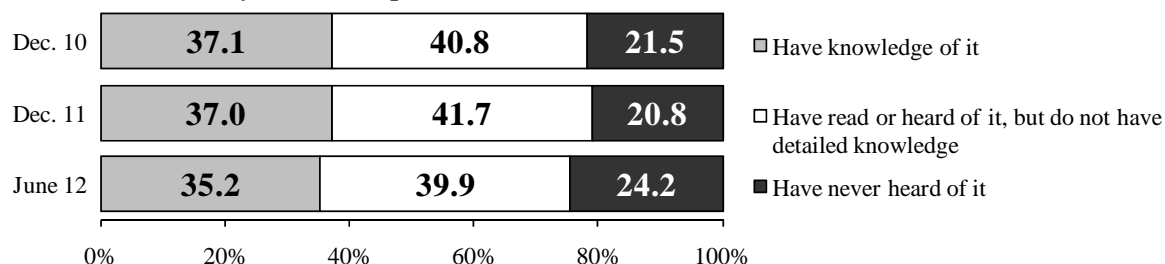
Chart 16 Recognition of Financial System Stability (Question 22)

(1) One of the Bank's Objectives Is to Maintain Financial System Stability¹

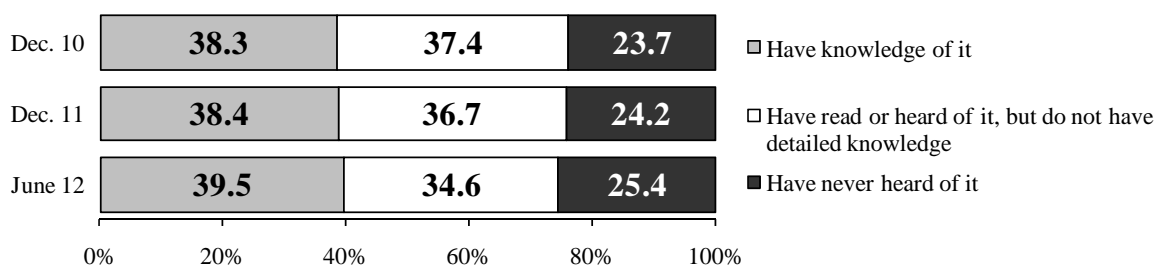


Note: 1. The results shown in the line chart are those of the surveys conducted in and after September 2006, when the current mail survey method was introduced.

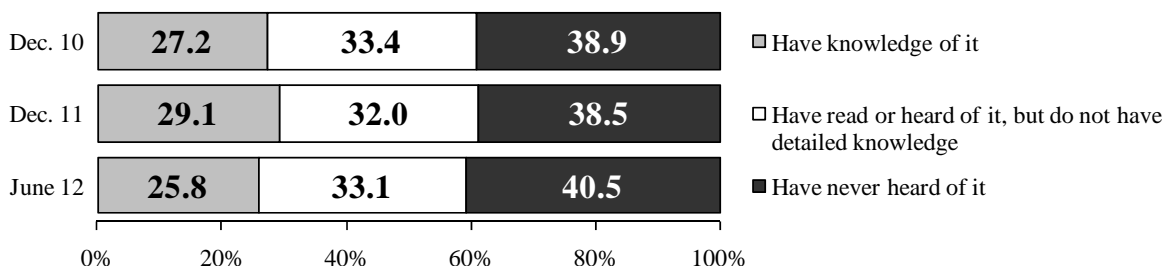
(2) The Bank Provides Safe Settlement Instruments with the Highest Settlement Finality, Such as Banknotes and Current Accounts at the Bank, and Operates Its Own Funds Transfer System and Settlement System for Japanese Government Securities



(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 electronic 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 electronic banking services, the proportion of respondents who indicated that they "have knowledge of it" accounted for 51.5 percent.

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



3. Condition of Bank of Japan notes

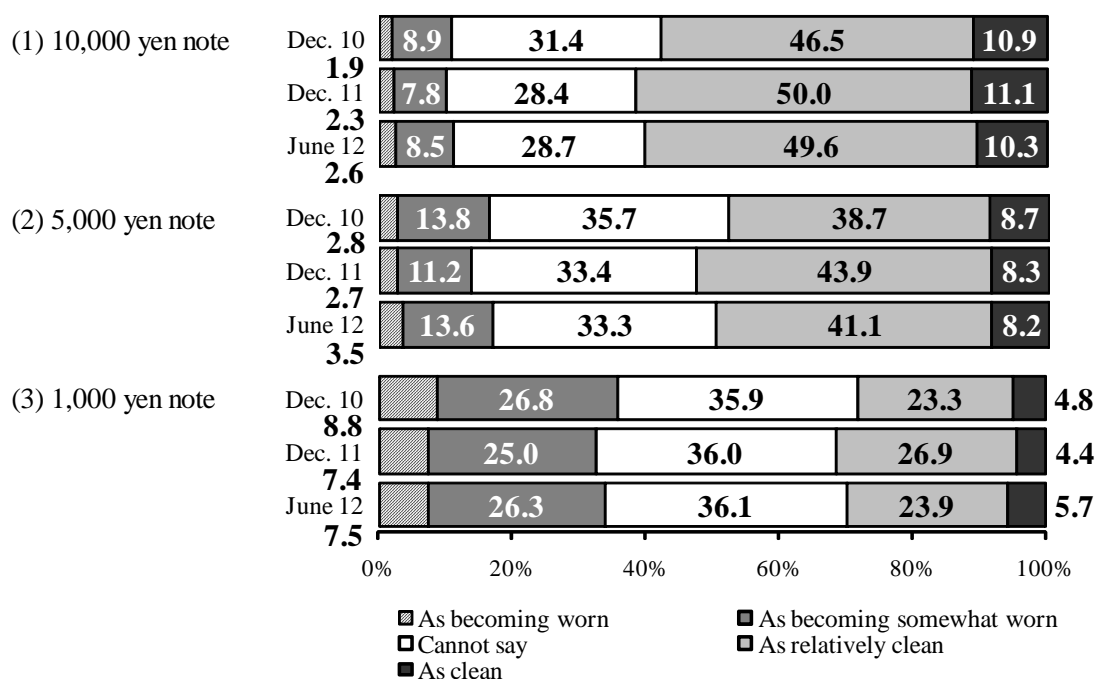
When asked about the condition of Bank of Japan notes, high-denomination banknotes were considered cleaner than low-denomination banknotes, as in the 48th round of the survey (conducted in December 2011, the last time this question was asked).

The proportion of respondents who chose "as clean"¹ to describe the condition of each denomination decreased, while the proportion of those who chose "as worn"² to describe it increased.

¹ "As clean" comprises "as clean" and "as relatively clean."

² "As worn" comprises "as becoming worn" and "as becoming somewhat worn."

Chart 18 Condition of Bank of Japan Notes (Question 25)



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 "have an interest in the Bank's activities,"¹ that the Bank "is related"² to our lives, and that the Bank "is contributing"³ to our lives accounted for 24.2 percent, 72.4 percent, and 44.4 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, the proportion of respondents who chose "as not clear enough"⁴ to describe the Bank's explanations to the public accounted for 61.9 percent. 41.2 percent of all respondents stated that they "have confidence"⁵ in the Bank, while the proportion of respondents who indicated that they "do not have confidence"⁶ in the Bank accounted for 9.3 percent.

All respondents who chose "as not clear enough"⁴ to describe the Bank's explanations to the public were asked for their reasons (Chart 20), "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 "have confidence"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 "do not have confidence"⁶ in the Bank were asked for their reasons (Chart 22), and the responses "because the Bank's activities are not contributing to price stability and financial system stability," "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 does not maintain a neutral position in conducting its policy" were frequently chosen.

¹ "Have an interest in the Bank's activities" comprises the choices "often pay attention" and "have an interest to some extent" that are found in the questionnaire.

² "Is related" comprises "is related" and "is somewhat related."

³ "Is contributing" comprises "is contributing" and "is somewhat contributing."

⁴ "As not clear enough" comprises "as not clear enough" and "as somewhat unclear."

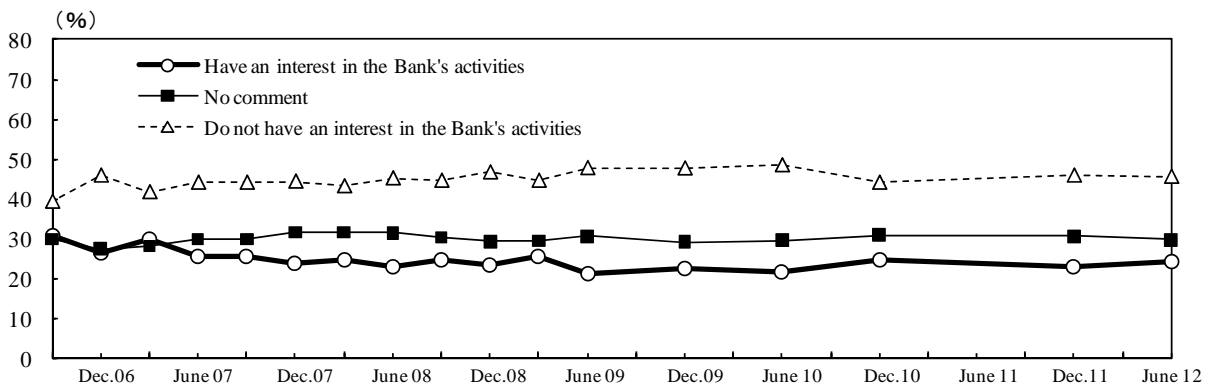
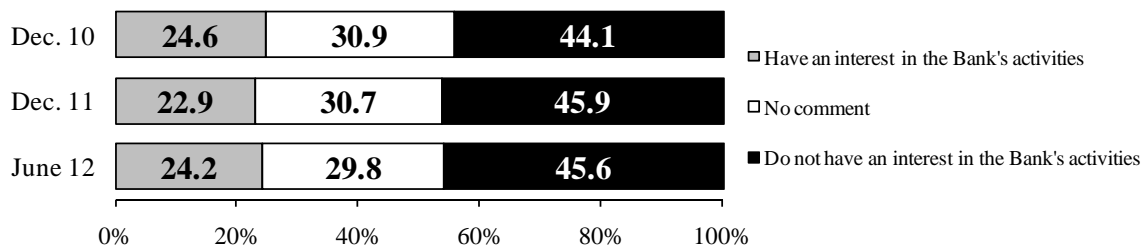
⁵ "Have confidence" comprises "have confidence" and "have confidence to some extent."

⁶ "Do not have confidence" comprises "do not have confidence" and "do not particularly have confidence."

Chart 19 Interest in, Recognition of, and Evaluation of the Bank (Question 23)¹

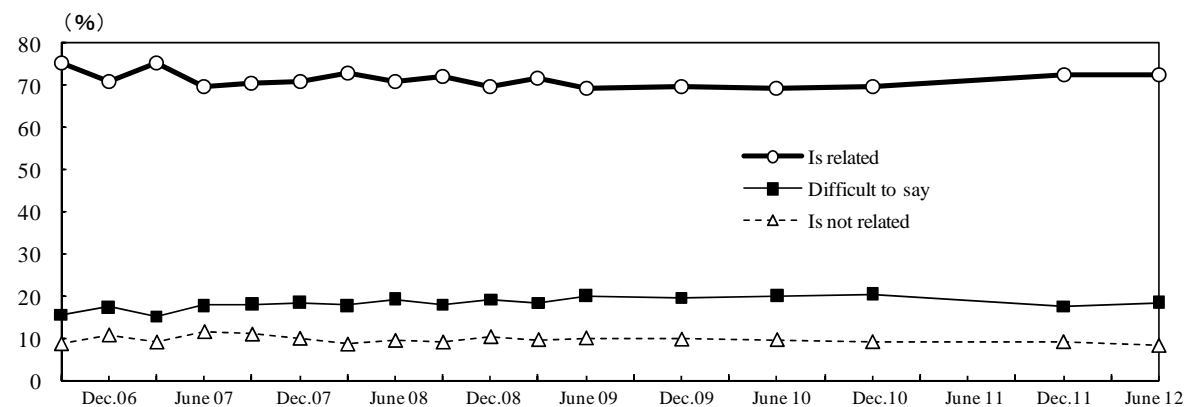
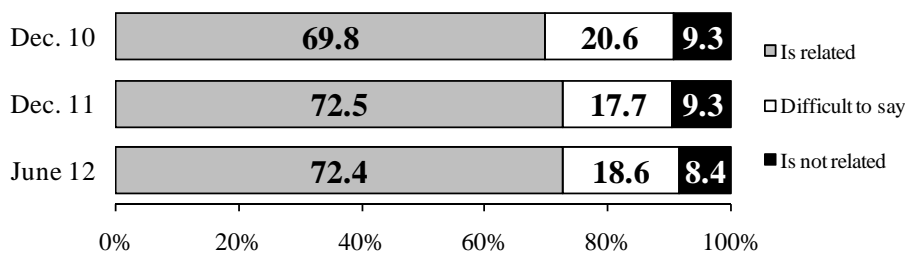
1. The results shown in the line charts below are those of the surveys conducted in and after September 2006, when the current mail survey method was introduced.

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



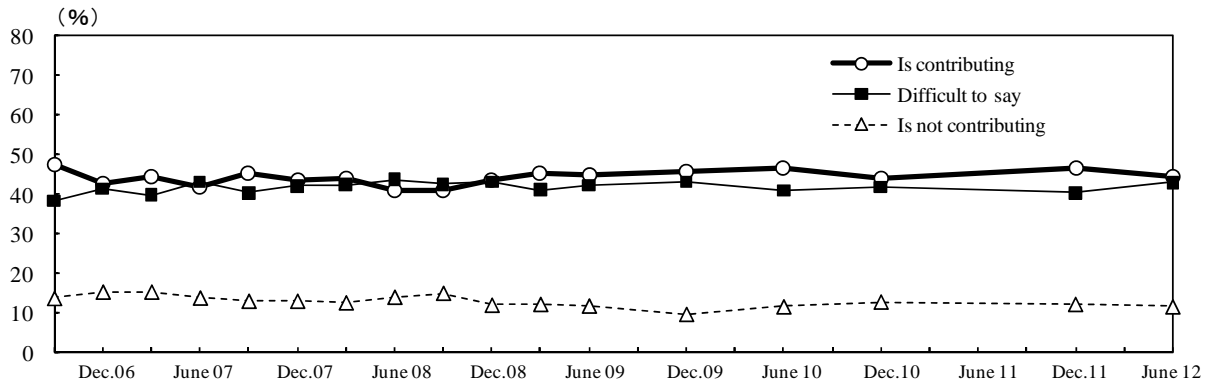
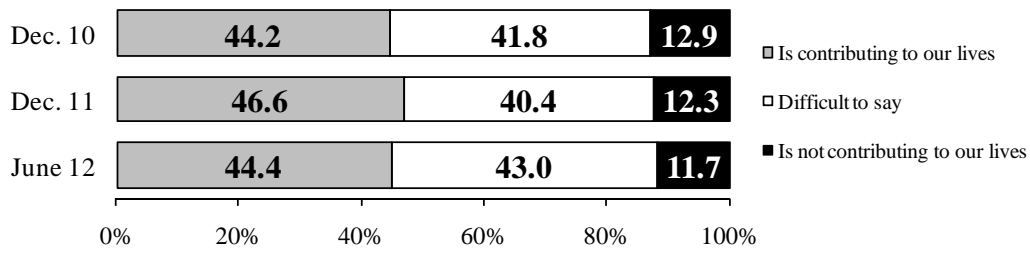
Notes: 1. "Have an interest in the Bank's activities" comprises the choices "often pay attention" and "have an interest to some extent" that are found in the questionnaire.
 2. "Do not have an interest in the Bank's activities" comprises "do not have any interest" and "do not pay particular attention."

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



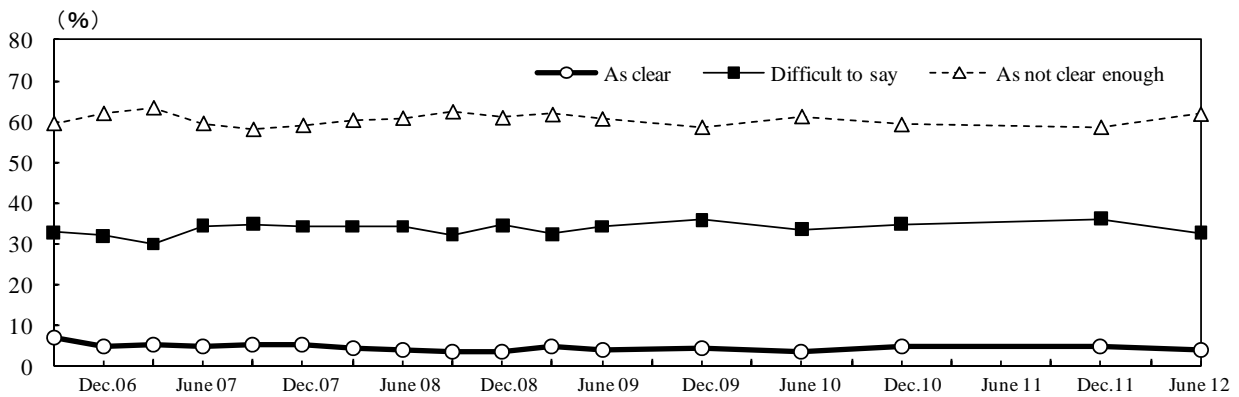
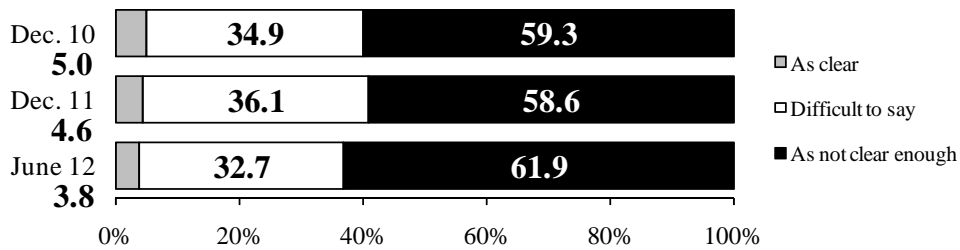
Notes: 1. "Is related" comprises the choices "is related" and "is somewhat related" that are found in the questionnaire.
 2. "Is not related" comprises "is not related" and "is not particularly related."

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



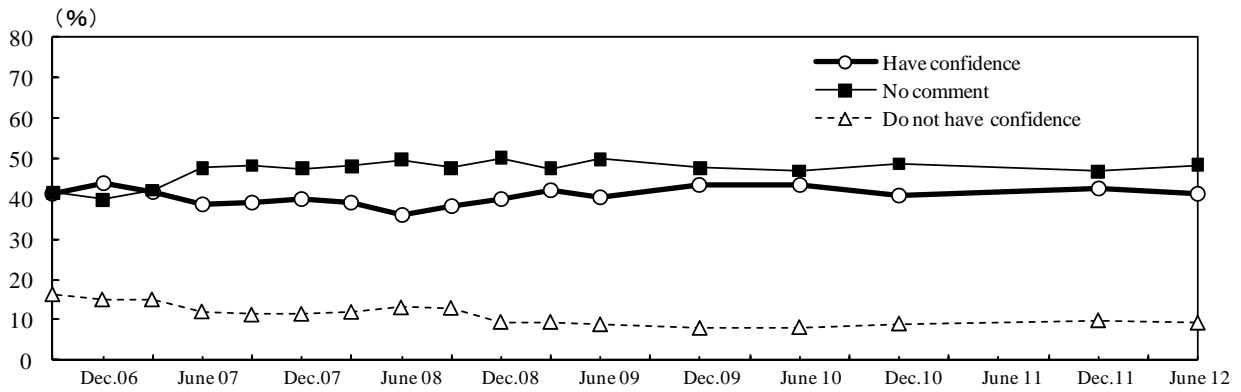
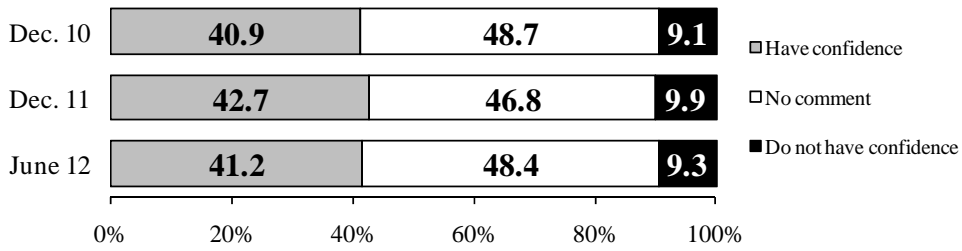
Notes: 1. "Is contributing" comprises the choices "is contributing" and "is somewhat contributing" that are found in the questionnaire.
 2. "Is not contributing" comprises "is not contributing" and "is not particularly contributing."

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



Notes: 1. "As clear" comprises the choices "as clear" and "as somewhat clear" that are found in the questionnaire.
 2. "As not clear enough" comprises "as not clear enough" and "as somewhat unclear."

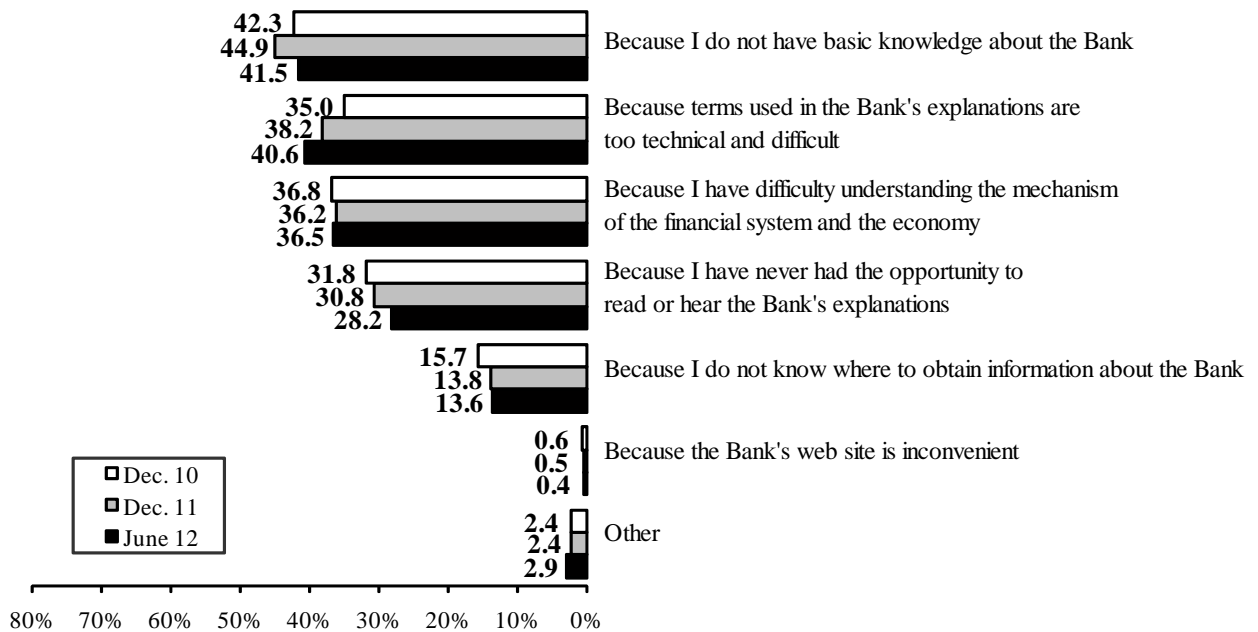
(5) Confidence in the Bank^{1,2}



Notes: 1. "Have confidence" comprises the choices "have confidence" and "have confidence to some extent" that are found in the questionnaire.

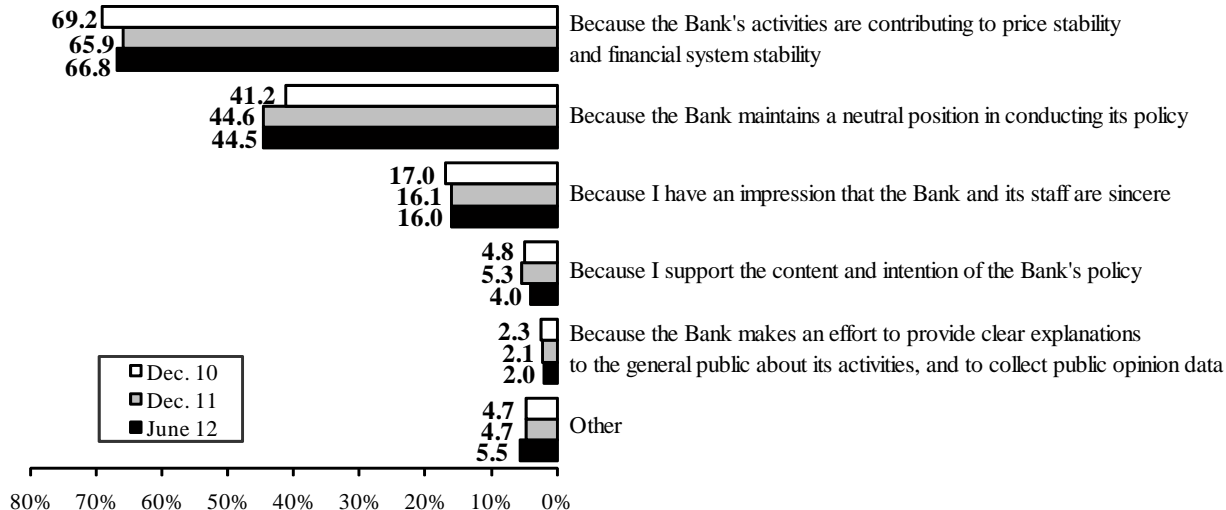
2. "Do not have confidence" comprises "do not have confidence" and "do not particularly have confidence."

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



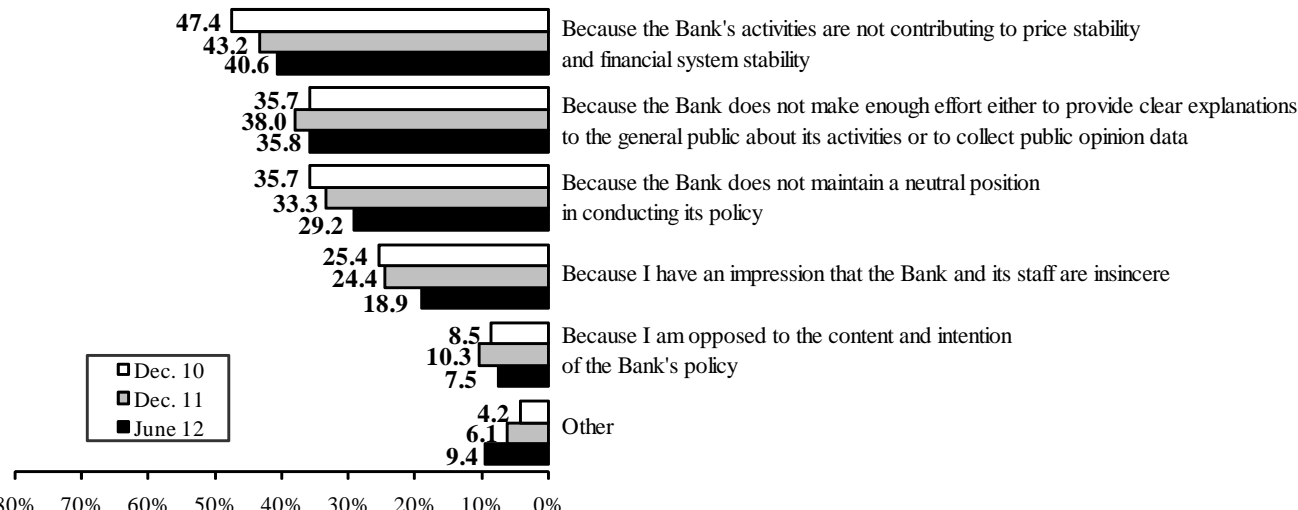
Note: 1. Up to two answers were allowed.

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

	50th round of the survey (June 2012) ¹ (A)	Population of the survey ^{1,2} (B)	Difference between (A) and (B) ³ (A) - (B)	Samples (reference) ¹
By sex				
Male	47.3	48.3	-1.0	48.5
Female	52.7	51.7	1.0	51.5
By age				
20–29	11.2	13.2	-2.0	13.3
30–39	16.3	17.3	-1.0	17.8
40–49	16.2	16.2	0.0	16.3
50–59	17.2	15.3	1.9	15.2
60–69	20.8	17.5	3.3	17.7
70–	18.2	20.4	-2.2	19.8
By region				
Hokkaido	4.1	4.4	-0.3	4.1
Tohoku	7.8	7.4	0.4	7.5
Kanto	32.6	33.2	-0.6	33.3
Hokuriku	4.3	4.3	0.0	4.1
Chubu	15.5	14.0	1.5	14.3
Kinki	16.6	16.2	0.4	16.5
Chugoku	6.2	5.9	0.3	6.0
Shikoku	2.8	3.2	-0.4	3.0
Kyushu	10.1	11.4	-1.3	11.3

Notes: 1. Percent.

2. Based on the population of municipalities recorded in the Basic Resident Registers as of March 31, 2011. For municipalities with deficiencies in data recorded as of the end of the fiscal year (March 31, 2011), the population data used for these municipalities are as of March 31, 2010.

3. Percentage points.

V. Complete Questionnaire and Results

Bold numbers refer to the rate of responses for each menu of choices against total respondents for each question (percent; the second decimal place is rounded off^{1,2,3}).

¹ Only one choice is allowed except where otherwise noted.

² Because of rounding, response ratios do not necessarily add up to 100 percent even for questions that allow for only one choice.

³ Figures in parentheses represent results of the previous survey (March 2012) except where otherwise noted.

Question 1

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

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Have improved. | 4.5 | (| 1.9 |) |
| (b) Have remained the same. | 51.3 | (| 40.3 |) |
| (c) Have worsened. | 44.0 | (| 57.5 |) |

Question 2

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

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Media reports. | 31.3 | (| 34.7 |) |
| (b) Economic indicators and statistics. | 12.7 | (| 13.2 |) |
| (c) Business performance of the company I work for,
or of my own company. | 35.2 | (| 34.2 |) |
| (d) Income level for myself or other family members. | 48.1 | (| 48.5 |) |
| (e) Bustle of shopping streets and amusement quarters. | 24.9 | (| 25.4 |) |
| (f) Other. | 3.6 | (| 3.3 |) |

Question 3

How would you describe the current economic conditions?

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) As favorable. | 0.1 | (| 0.1 |) |
| (b) As somewhat favorable. | 2.6 | (| 1.2 |) |
| (c) As neither favorable nor unfavorable. | 20.6 | (| 17.0 |) |
| (d) As somewhat unfavorable. | 52.4 | (| 52.5 |) |
| (e) As unfavorable. | 24.2 | (| 29.0 |) |

Question 4

How do you foresee economic conditions one year from now?

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Will improve. | 7.8 | (| 6.7 |) |
| (b) Will remain the same. | 58.1 | (| 55.9 |) |
| (c) Will worsen. | 33.8 | (| 37.1 |) |

Question 5

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

- | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Too low. | 53.1 | (| 54.1 |) |
| (b) Appropriate. | 32.1 | (| 30.0 |) |
| (c) Too high. | 11.5 | (| 12.6 |) |

Question 6

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

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Have become somewhat better off. | 3.6 | (| 4.0 |) |
| (b) Difficult to say. | 49.0 | (| 47.3 |) |
| (c) Have become somewhat worse off. | 47.0 | (| 48.3 |) |

If you chose (a) in Question 6, please answer Question 6-(a). If you chose (c), please answer Question 6-(b). For remaining respondents, please skip questions 6-(a) and 6-(b) and go on to Question 7.

Question 6-(a)

Why do you think your household circumstances have become better off? (Choose all applicable answers.)

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Because my salary and business income have increased. | 54.3 | (| 69.7 |) |
| (b) Because my income, such as interest income and dividend payments, has increased. | 4.9 | (| 0.0 |) |
| (c) Because I gained special income from sales of real estate. | 2.5 | (| 1.1 |) |
| (d) Because prices have declined. | 8.6 | (| 0.0 |) |
| (e) Because the value of assets such as real estate and stocks has increased. | 0.0 | (| 0.0 |) |
| (f) Because the number of dependents in my family has decreased. | 19.8 | (| 18.0 |) |
| (g) Other. | 21.0 | (| 16.9 |) |

Question 6-(b)

Why do you think your household circumstances have become worse off? (Choose all applicable answers.)

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Because my salary and business income have decreased. | 64.1 | (| 65.8 |) |
| (b) Because my income, such as interest income and dividend payments, has decreased. | 15.8 | (| 16.6 |) |
| (c) Because I purchased real estate. | 3.6 | (| 3.3 |) |
| (d) Because prices have risen. | 28.2 | (| 29.9 |) |
| (e) Because the value of assets such as real estate and stocks has declined. | 11.8 | (| 11.2 |) |
| (f) Because the number of dependents in my family has increased. | 10.1 | (| 6.5 |) |
| (g) Other. | 20.1 | (| 20.3 |) |

Question 7

How has your income (or other family members' income) changed from one year ago?

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Has increased. | 7.5 | (| 6.7 |) |
| (b) Has remained the same. | 47.2 | (| 44.5 |) |
| (c) Has decreased. | 45.2 | (| 48.7 |) |

Question 8

What do you expect your income (or other family members' income) will be one year from now?

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Will increase. | 6.4 | (| 5.9 |) |
| (b) Will remain the same. | 52.3 | (| 47.9 |) |
| (c) Will decrease. | 41.1 | (| 45.8 |) |

Question 9

How have you (or other family members) changed spending patterns compared with one year ago?

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Have increased. | 32.2 | (| 31.4 |) |
| (b) Have neither increased nor decreased. | 45.1 | (| 43.4 |) |
| (c) Have decreased. | 21.7 | (| 23.7 |) |

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

Question 9-(a)

Why have you increased your (or other family members') spending? (Choose all applicable answers.)

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Because my income has increased. | 6.4 | (| 6.0 |) |
| (b) Because my income is likely to increase in the future. | 1.1 | (| 1.4 |) |
| (c) Because the value of non-financial assets such as real estate has increased. | 0.5 | (| 0.3 |) |
| (d) Because the value of financial assets such as stocks and bonds has increased. | 0.4 | (| 0.3 |) |
| (e) Because I purchased real estate such as a house. | 4.6 | (| 4.8 |) |
| (f) Because I purchased consumer durable goods such as a car. | 20.3 | (| 23.1 |) |
| (g) Because my spending rose due to an increased number of dependents in my family. | 29.7 | (| 25.8 |) |
| (h) Because the costs of consumer goods and services have risen. | 45.1 | (| 45.2 |) |
| (i) Other. | 30.0 | (| 29.2 |) |

Question 9-(b)

Why have you decreased your (or other family members') spending? (Choose all applicable answers.)

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Because my income has decreased. | 68.3 | (| 71.3 |) |
| (b) Because my income is not likely to increase in the future. | 45.1 | (| 48.9 |) |
| (c) Because the value of non-financial assets such as real estate has decreased. | 5.3 | (| 7.2 |) |
| (d) Because the value of financial assets such as stocks and bonds has decreased. | 9.3 | (| 11.7 |) |
| (e) Because my spending has fallen due to a decreased number of dependents in my family. | 11.1 | (| 7.5 |) |
| (f) Other. | 11.1 | (| 7.7 |) |

Question 10-1

How have you (or other family members) changed your attitude toward everyday spending such as on living and educational expenses compared with one year ago?

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Have increased. | 10.0 | (| 8.4 |) |
| (b) Have neither increased nor decreased. | 53.7 | (| 51.5 |) |
| (c) Have decreased. | 34.5 | (| 38.7 |) |

Question 10-2

How have you (or other family members) changed your attitude toward selective spending such as on hobby and leisure activities (spending other than asked in Question 10-1) compared with one year ago?

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Have increased. | 4.6 | (| 3.8 |) |
| (b) Have neither increased nor decreased. | 37.5 | (| 35.2 |) |
| (c) Have decreased. | 56.9 | (| 60.0 |) |

Question 11

Do you plan to increase or decrease your spending within the next twelve months?

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Will increase. | 3.2 | (| 4.0 |) |
| (b) Will neither increase nor decrease. | 44.0 | (| 40.9 |) |
| (c) Will decrease. | 52.1 | (| 54.6 |) |

Question 12

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

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|---|------|---|
| (a) Have gone up significantly. | 5.9 | (| 6.6 |) |
| (b) Have gone up slightly. | 39.9 | (| 41.4 |) |
| (c) Have remained almost unchanged. | 42.2 | (| 39.0 |) |
| (d) Have gone down slightly. | 10.6 | (| 11.8 |) |
| (e) Have gone down significantly. | 0.7 | (| 0.7 |) |

Note: 1. They are defined as overall prices of goods and services you purchase (hereafter the same).

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). For remaining respondents, please skip questions 12-(a) and 12-(b) and go on to Question 13.

Question 12-(a)

How would you describe your opinion of the price rise?

- | | | | | |
|---|------|---|------|---|
| (a) As rather favorable. | 2.1 | (| 2.0 |) |
| (b) As rather unfavorable. | 84.6 | (| 84.1 |) |
| (c) As neither favorable nor unfavorable. | 12.4 | (| 13.1 |) |

Question 12-(b)

How would you describe your opinion of the price decline?

- | | | | | |
|---|------|---|------|---|
| (a) As rather favorable. | 32.4 | (| 28.8 |) |
| (b) As rather unfavorable. | 30.5 | (| 29.9 |) |
| (c) As neither favorable nor unfavorable. | 35.5 | (| 39.9 |) |

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."

Compared with one year ago, prices have gone **up** about percent.
down

Average¹ : **plus 3.2** (**plus 3.4**) percent
Median² : **plus 0.0** (**plus 0.5**) percent

Notes: 1. Calculated by excluding 0.5 percent of the highest and the lowest figures, respectively, in order to avoid extremes. (The simple average of this survey is plus 3.3 percent, and that of the previous survey was plus 3.4 percent.)

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

Question 14

In which direction do you think prices will move one year from now?

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|---|------|---|
| (a) Will go up significantly. | 5.9 | (| 7.7 |) |
| (b) Will go up slightly. | 50.5 | (| 50.2 |) |
| (c) Will remain almost unchanged. | 35.6 | (| 33.7 |) |
| (d) Will go down slightly. | 6.2 | (| 7.0 |) |
| (e) Will go down significantly. | 0.3 | (| 0.4 |) |

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

Average¹ : **plus 3.6** (**plus 4.0**) percent
Median² : **plus 2.0** (**plus 2.0**) percent

- Notes: 1. Calculated by excluding 0.5 percent of the highest and the lowest figures, respectively, in order to avoid extremes. (The simple average of this survey is plus **3.7** 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

In which direction do you think prices will move over the next five years?

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Will go up significantly. | 19.6 | (| 23.2 |) |
| (b) Will go up slightly. | 53.9 | (| 50.3 |) |
| (c) Will remain almost unchanged. | 17.2 | (| 16.0 |) |
| (d) Will go down slightly. | 5.7 | (| 6.5 |) |
| (e) Will go down significantly. | 1.1 | (| 1.4 |) |

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

- Notes: 1. Calculated by excluding 0.5 percent of the highest and the lowest figures, respectively, in order to avoid extremes. (The simple average of this survey is plus **4.1** percent, and that of the previous survey was plus **4.3** percent.)
2. The number that appears in the middle when the answers are listed in numerical order.

Question 18

What do you foresee as future developments in land prices?

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Will rise. | 16.8 | (| 14.4 |) |
| (b) Will remain the same. | 37.3 | (| 35.0 |) |
| (c) Will decline. | 43.9 | (| 49.2 |) |

Question 19

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

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| (a) Has greater potential to grow above the current level. | 1.9 | (| 1.6 |) |
| (b) Has potential to grow at about the current level. | 32.1 | (| 27.6 |) |
| (c) Has less potential to grow compared to the current level. | 64.5 | (| 69.9 |) |

Question 20

In consideration of the situation over the next twelve months, are you worried about your (or other family members') employment or working arrangements (pay, job position, and benefits) at the current workplace?

	All respondents	Workers ¹
(a) Not particularly.	13.3 (12.6)	15.2 (13.3)
(b) Slightly.	47.7 (44.3)	47.6 (44.8)
(c) Quite.	36.9 (40.6)	37.0 (41.5)

Note: 1. Workers are company employees, executives, civil servants, or part-timers.

Questions 21 through 25 ask about your knowledge of the Bank of Japan (hereafter "the Bank").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 48th round of the survey, conducted in December 2011.

Question 21

Questions 21-(1) and 21-(2) ask about price stability, which is one of the Bank's two objectives. Please choose the most applicable level of your knowledge relative to these questions.

Question 21-(1)

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

(a) Have knowledge of it.	32.0 (30.8)
(b) Have read or heard of it, but do not have detailed knowledge.	45.5 (45.7)
(c) Have never heard of it.	22.0 (23.1)

Question 21-(2)

Do you know that the Bank conducts its current monetary policy by controlling a short-term interest rate?

(a) Have knowledge of it.	25.0 (28.0)
(b) Have read or heard of it, but do not have detailed knowledge.	45.5 (43.1)
(c) Have never heard of it.	28.8 (28.4)

Question 22

Questions 22-(1), 22-(2), 22-(3), and 22-(4) ask about financial system stability, which is one of the Bank's two objectives. Please choose the most applicable level of your knowledge relative to these questions.

Question 22-(1)

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

(a) Have knowledge of it.	38.1 (39.1)
(b) Have read or heard of it, but do not have detailed knowledge.	39.2 (41.1)
(c) Have never heard of it.	22.0 (19.1)

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) Have knowledge of it.	35.2 (37.0)
(b) Have read or heard of it, but do not have detailed knowledge.	39.9 (41.7)
(c) Have never heard of it.	24.2 (20.8)

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) Have knowledge of it. | 39.5 | (| 38.4 |) |
| (b) Have read or heard of it, but do not have detailed knowledge. | 34.6 | (| 36.7 |) |
| (c) Have never heard of it. | 25.4 | (| 24.2 |) |

Question 22-(4)

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

- | | | | | |
|---|------|---|------|---|
| (a) Have knowledge of it. | 25.8 | (| 29.1 |) |
| (b) Have read or heard of it, but do not have detailed knowledge. | 33.1 | (| 32.0 |) |
| (c) Have never heard of it. | 40.5 | (| 38.5 |) |

Question 23

Questions 23-(1), 23-(2), 23-(3), 23-(4), and 23-(5) ask about your view of the Bank. Please make the most applicable choice relative to these questions.

Question 23-(1)

Do you have an interest in the Bank's activities?

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|---|------|---|
| (a) Often pay attention. | 5.3 | (| 5.1 |) |
| (b) Have an interest to some extent. | 18.9 | (| 17.8 |) |
| (c) No comment. | 29.8 | (| 30.7 |) |
| (d) Do not pay particular attention. | 30.9 | (| 32.9 |) |
| (e) Do not have any interest. | 14.7 | (| 13.0 |) |

Question 23-(2)

Do you think that the Bank is related to our lives?

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|---|------|---|
| (a) Is related. | 37.2 | (| 36.7 |) |
| (b) Is somewhat related. | 35.2 | (| 35.8 |) |
| (c) Difficult to say. | 18.6 | (| 17.7 |) |
| (d) Is not particularly related. | 5.5 | (| 6.2 |) |
| (e) Is not related. | 2.9 | (| 3.1 |) |

Question 23-(3)

Do you think that the Bank is contributing to our lives?

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|---|------|---|
| (a) Is contributing. | 16.4 | (| 16.7 |) |
| (b) Is somewhat contributing. | 28.0 | (| 29.9 |) |
| (c) Difficult to say. | 43.0 | (| 40.4 |) |
| (d) Is not particularly contributing. | 7.7 | (| 8.2 |) |
| (e) Is not contributing. | 4.0 | (| 4.1 |) |

Question 23-(4)

How would you describe the Bank's explanations to the public?

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|---|------|---|
| (a) As clear. | 0.7 | (| 0.5 |) |
| (b) As somewhat clear. | 3.1 | (| 4.1 |) |
| (c) Difficult to say. | 32.7 | (| 36.1 |) |
| (d) As somewhat unclear. | 41.6 | (| 38.0 |) |
| (e) As not clear enough. | 20.3 | (| 20.6 |) |

Question 23-(5)**Do you have confidence in the Bank?**

- | | | |
|--|------|----------|
| (a) Have confidence. | 13.2 | (13.8) |
| (b) Have confidence to some extent. | 28.0 | (28.9) |
| (c) No comment. | 48.4 | (46.8) |
| (d) Do not particularly have confidence. | 6.5 | (7.4) |
| (e) Do not have confidence. | 2.8 | (2.5) |

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 skip questions 23-(a), 23-(b), and 23-(c) and go on to Question 24.

Question 23-(a)**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. | 40.6 | (38.2) |
| (b) Because I do not have basic knowledge about the Bank. | 41.5 | (44.9) |
| (c) Because I have difficulty understanding the mechanism of the financial system and the economy. | 36.5 | (36.2) |
| (d) Because I have never had the opportunity to read or hear the Bank's explanations. | 28.2 | (30.8) |
| (e) Because I do not know where to obtain information about the Bank. | 13.6 | (13.8) |
| (f) Because the Bank's web site is inconvenient. | 0.4 | (0.5) |
| (g) Other. | 2.9 | (2.4) |

Question 23-(b)**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. | 66.8 | (65.9) |
| (b) Because I support the content and intention of the Bank's policy. | 4.0 | (5.3) |
| (c) Because the Bank maintains a neutral position in conducting its policy. | 44.5 | (44.6) |
| (d) Because the Bank makes an effort to provide clear explanations to the general public about its activities, and to collect public opinion data. | 2.0 | (2.1) |
| (e) Because I have an impression that the Bank and its staff are sincere. | 16.0 | (16.1) |
| (f) Other. | 5.5 | (4.7) |

Question 23-(c)**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. | 40.6 | (43.2) |
| (b) Because I am opposed to the content and intention of the Bank's policy. | 7.5 | (10.3) |
| (c) Because the Bank does not maintain a neutral position in conducting its policy. | 29.2 | (33.3) |
| (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. | 35.8 | (38.0) |
| (e) Because I have an impression that the Bank and its staff are insincere. | 18.9 | (24.4) |
| (f) Other. | 9.4 | (6.1) |

Question 24**Do you know that electronic 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 electronic banking services?**

- | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------------|
| (a) Have knowledge of it. | 51.5 | (50.6) |
| (b) Have read or heard of it, but do not have detailed knowledge. | 27.5 | (27.6) |
| (c) Have never heard of it. | 20.3 | (21.0) |

Question 25

Questions 25-(1), 25-(2), and 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) As becoming worn. | 2.6 | (2.3) |
| (b) As becoming somewhat worn. | 8.5 | (7.8) |
| (c) Cannot say. | 28.7 | (28.4) |
| (d) As relatively clean. | 49.6 | (50.0) |
| (e) As clean. | 10.3 | (11.1) |

Question 25-(2)**How would you describe the condition of 5,000 yen notes?**

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| (a) As becoming worn. | 3.5 | (2.7) |
| (b) As becoming somewhat worn. | 13.6 | (11.2) |
| (c) Cannot say. | 33.3 | (33.4) |
| (d) As relatively clean. | 41.1 | (43.9) |
| (e) As clean. | 8.2 | (8.3) |

Question 25-(3)**How would you describe the condition of 1,000 yen notes?**

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| (a) As becoming worn. | 7.5 | (7.4) |
| (b) As becoming somewhat worn. | 26.3 | (25.0) |
| (c) Cannot say. | 36.1 | (36.0) |
| (d) As relatively clean. | 23.9 | (26.9) |
| (e) As clean. | 5.7 | (4.4) |

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. | 47.3 (47.4) |
| (b) Female. | 52.7 (52.6) |

Question 27

What age group are you in?

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| (a) 20–29. | 11.2 (9.8) |
| (b) 30–39. | 16.3 (14.0) |
| (c) 40–49. | 16.2 (17.1) |
| (d) 50–59. | 17.2 (16.7) |
| (e) 60–69. | 20.8 (21.7) |
| (f) 70–. | 18.2 (20.6) |

Question 28

What is your field of occupation?

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| (a) Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. | 2.6 (2.5) |
| (b) Self-employed, working for a family business, or professional worker. | 9.6 (9.7) |
| (c) Regular employee (company employee, executive, and civil servant). | 35.2 (33.9) |
| (d) Non-regular employee (part-timer). | 15.9 (15.3) |
| (e) Other (full-time homemaker, student, pensioner, unemployed, etc.). | 36.3 (37.8) |

Question 29

How much income did you and your partner 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. | 37.7 (41.5) |
| (b) 3 million or more but less than 5 million yen. | 29.9 (27.2) |
| (c) 5 million or more but less than 10 million yen. | 22.6 (20.9) |
| (d) 10 million yen or greater. | 5.4 (5.5) |
| (e) No income. | 2.9 (3.8) |

Question 30

Which of the following describes the composition of your family?

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| (a) Single-person household (live by myself). | 11.7 (10.9) |
| (b) Married-couple household (myself and my partner). | 25.8 (26.0) |
| (c) Two-generation family (nuclear family). | 48.0 (49.6) |
| (d) Three-generation family (extended family). | 11.3 (10.7) |
| (e) Other (household consisting only of siblings, friends, or grandparents and grandchildren, etc.). | 2.0 (2.6) |

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| (a) Offered comments. | 18.9 (18.8) |
| (b) Offered no comments. | 81.1 (81.2) |