3. Work

Number of Employed Persons by Industry and Sex

The number of employed women continues to increase. By contrast, the number of employed men has declined since 1995, particularly in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, construction, and manufacturing.

Number of Dual-Income Households

Looking at the employment of wives in households in which their husbands are employed (as salaried workers), in 1980 the number of single-income households (man was employed) was nearly double the number of dual-income households, however in the 1990s the number of dual-income households surpassed the number of those in which only the man was employed, and it continues to be on an upward trend.

Note: Attention should be paid to the time-line of the data, because of revisions of the Japan Standard Industry Classification.

Source: “Labour Force Survey (Basic Tabulation),” MIC

Note: “Households consisting of an employed husband and a non working wife” refers to households in which the husband is employed in a non-agriculture and forestry sector and the wife is not employed.


1. “Households consisting of an employed husband and a non working wife” refers to households in which both the husband and the wife are employees in non-agriculture and forestry sectors.

2. “Dual-income households” refers to households in which both the husband and the wife are employees in non-agriculture and forestry sectors.

3. Actual numbers in brackets for 2010 and 2011 are national wide results that exclude Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Prefectures.
Women’s Labour Force Participation Rate by Age Group

The labour force participation rates of women in Japan by age group illustrates an “M-shaped curve” due to the burdens in the labour force participation of women around their thirties. The Women’s labour participation rates in most of other developed countries no longer shows M-shape.

Source: Japan: Data from “Labour Force Survey 2018 (Basic Tabulation)” MIC Other Countries: Data from “LABORSTA” and “ILOSTAT,” International Labour Organization (Data of United States as of 2018; Data of Sweden, France and Germany as of 2017)

Note: “Labour force participation rate” = Proportion of labour force participation (Employed persons + Unemployed persons) in total population 15 years and over

Women Employment Rate

The women employment rate from age 15 to 64 in Japan in 2017 is 67.4% and 16th among 35 OECD countries.

Source: Created from “OECD Stat,” OECD
Note: “Women employment rate” = the number of Women employed persons / Women population

Work History of Wives before and after Giving Birth to Their First Child

The percentage of women who continue working before and after giving birth to their first child had hovered around 40% but the percentage of women giving birth to their first child between 2010–2014 increased to 53.1%. “Before” means when finding out about pregnancy and “after” means when child was 1 year old.

Source: Data from “The National Fertility Survey,” the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research
### Type of Employment

The graph indicates the declining proportion of regular staffs in recent years. Particularly, proportion of women regular staffs have been declining since 1985, less than half since 2005, but it has turned upward since 2015.

Source:
Data of 1985 and 1995 come from “Special Survey of the Labour Force Survey” (every February) by the Management and Coordination Agency, while data of 2005 and after come from the “Labour Force Survey (Detailed Tabulation)” (annual average) by MIC. Caution is necessary for making chronological comparisons.

### Wage for Workers

The wage gap between men ordinary workers and women ordinary workers has been decreasing. The wage gap between ordinary workers and part-time workers also has been decreasing.

Source: Taken from “Basic Survey on Wage Structure,” MHLW
Note: “Wage” is calculated from the scheduled cash earnings in June of each year