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How do we perceive COVID-19 Crisis?

Yamaneko Research Institute Inc.

Platform for Social Innovation

MAY 1, 2020

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1. Objectives of the survey

This survey sought to shed light on the following questions: What is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on society and people's lives and how many people are struggling financially? How many people are concerned about their health and the health of their family members, and what outlook do people have for their lives if self-restraint measures are extended? How do people rate the government's response to COVID-19? Do people have different views on how the response to COVID-19 has been handled and efforts to balance those measures with the economy and what is the basis for those differing views?

This survey is non-partisan, and did not receive any funding from political parties or public institutions. The Platform for Social Innovation is a foundation focused on promoting diversity and contributing to society, and the president of Yamaneko Research Institute serves as a visiting executive fellow for the foundation. Please visit the Platform for Social Innovation website for more information about the foundation (http://www.sohatsu.or.jp/).

Yamaneko Research Institute, Inc. and Platform for Social Innovation retains the intellectual property rights to this survey, but anyone around the world can utilize the results provided they provide a proper citation. Also, for the benefit of society, we are not charging a fee for the secondary use of the content of this survey report. If you would like to use the survey data, please contact the Yamaneko Research Institute via its website (www.yamaneko.co.jp).

2. Survey and analysis methods

The Covid-19 Survey was conducted by the survey firm Nikkei Research Inc. In total, 2,229 men and women aged 18 and over with internet access took the survey online from April 27 to 28, 2020. 2,229 answers were collected and arranged by age. After data cleaning (see below), the total number of valid answers were 2,098 nationwide, broken down as follows: 18-19 years: 212, 20-29 years: 312, 30-39 years: 320, 40-49 years: 323, 50-59 years: 325, 60-69 years: 315, 70 years and above: 291.

To ensure an accurate segment analysis, we collected a sufficient number of respondents for each age group. The results other than the preliminary questions about gender, occupation, residential area (prefecture), and other attributes related to respondent profiles, were weighted back according to the population of each age group as of October 2019. Although the exact margin of error cannot be calculated, this method keeps the income bias low and results in a regional distribution that is approximately proportional to the population; however, because we did not secure a sufficient sample from small business owners and free-lancers, a separate survey will be needed to ascertain the economic circumstances and perceptions of those segments.

Due to the nature of internet panel surveys, however, some degree of bias exists because the respondents are internet users and may be more aware of the issues. We encouraged respondents to correct their answers to ensure that household income did not fall below individual income. In addition, after ensuring respondents did not mechanically choose the same answer for multiple questions, we cleaned the data by excluding those respondents who chose pensioner, homemaker, or unemployed for Q3 (occupation) and said they have not been working since before the crisis on Q13 (changes in work style) but did not chose "unemployed" on Q12 (concerns about unemployment). As a result, 131 of the 2,229 respondents were removed, leaving an actual total of 2,098.

In the question data in the appendix of this report, the initial questions pertaining to gender, age, income, education level, media consumption, and other attributes that provide an overall profile for each respondent, are not weighted back according to age.

In terms of how opinions are solicited, while some telephone surveys conducted by newspapers and other media outlets pose a second question of "If you would dare to choose one, which would it be?" given the fact that Japanese respondents tend to answer "neutral" or "I don't know." But this survey does not use such additional prompts. Rather, the survey presents the four-level opinion scale (ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree) and then "neither/I don't know." Respondents who are unable to find an answer that matches their position from among those four options will naturally move their line of sight to the fifth option (neutral / I don't know).

The survey results were analyzed by primarily using a segment analysis. The representative attribute in the segment analysis is age, but we also conducted segment analyses for employment type, household income, and political party performance rating. In the United States, where there is a stronger sense of party affiliation, segment analyses are typically conducted by asking respondents which political party they support, but in Japan, where the majority of voters identify as 'unaffiliated,' a looser definition of political party support is needed. For this reason, respondents were not asked to select one party that they support; rather, segments are divided according to respondents' performance rating levels for political parties.

If you have any questions about the survey methodology, please contact Yamaneko Research Institute via its website.

3. Results

3-1. Health concerns surrounding COVID-19

The psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Japanese citizens has mainly manifested in the form of concern about contracting the virus (either oneself or a member of one's family) and about developing a severe case of pneumonia after becoming infected. Over 40% of respondents indicated they were 'very concerned' about the potential impact of COVID-19 on their health, and about 50% said they were 'very concerned' about the potential impact on the health of a family member. While it is not uncommon for people to be concerned about various social conditions or security-related issues, it is exceptional for Japanese respondents to express such a high level of concern. Combined, the respondents indicating concern over impact on their own health or that of a family member accounted for nearly 90% of the total.

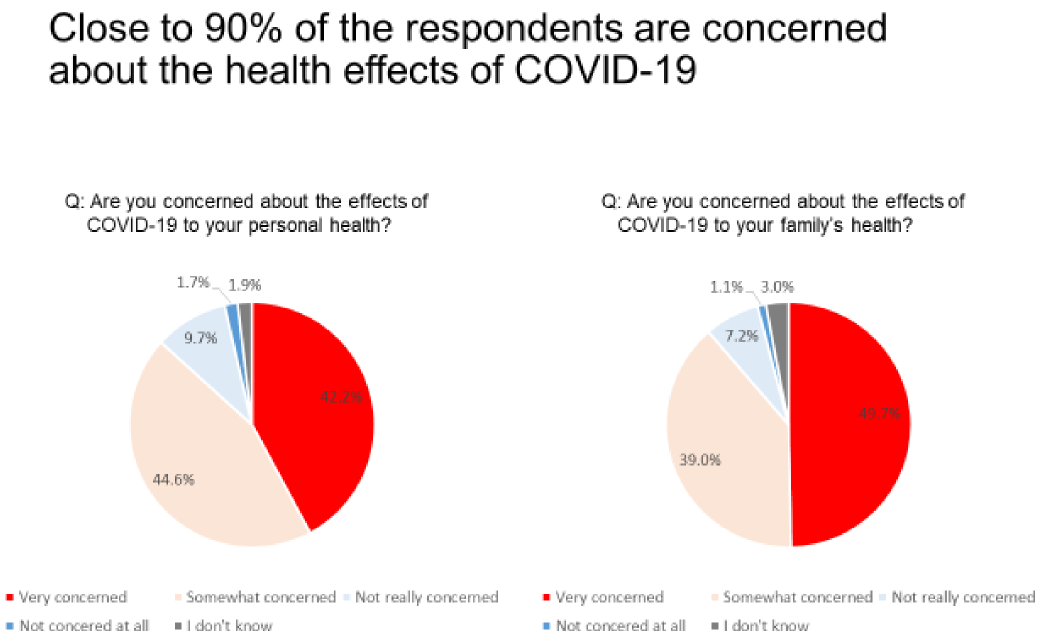

Fig. 1: Concern about COVID-19 impact on own health or that of family member

Although numerous forms of "fake news" and fear-inducing reports and programs surrounding COVID-19 have spread through various media, television has played an extremely important role in forming public opinion about COVID-19. Our survey found that concern levels among people who watch television every day were 15 points higher than among people who do not watch television, and 20 points higher than among people who only watch television moderately. Although results may naturally vary depending on the television channels and programs watched, the general trend suggests that concern levels experienced by people who watch television moderately are different from those of people who are glued to their television screens every day.

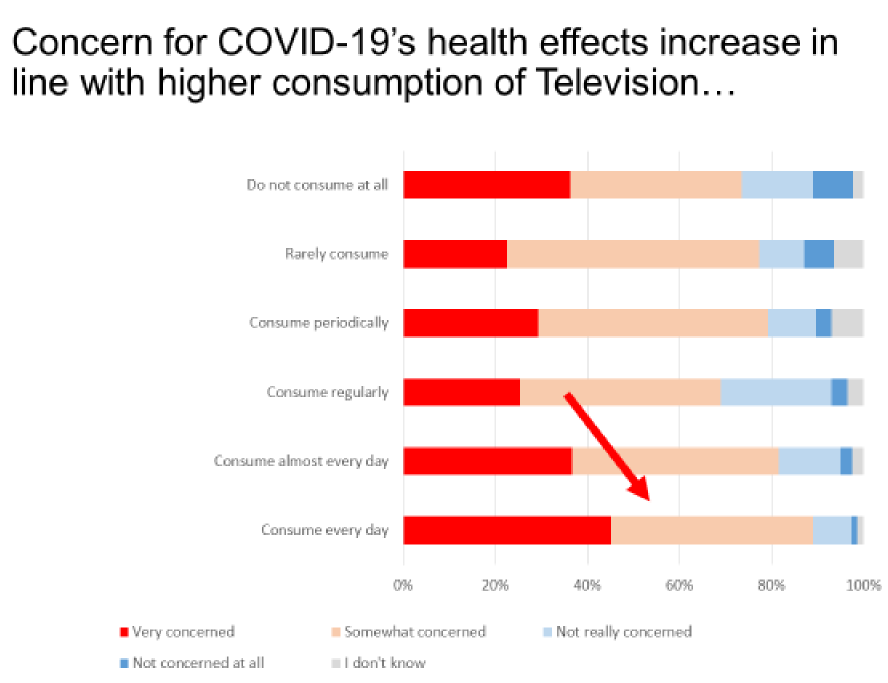

Fig. 2: Level of concern about own health among respondents based on television viewing habit

On the other hand, since the internet is a medium where various unconfirmed information spreads instantaneously through social media, it would seem reasonable to assume that internet usage also contributes to concern levels to a certain extent; however, our survey only found a 9-point difference in 'concern about own health' between people who do not use the internet at all and those who use the Internet every day (c.f., data in the appendix). Similarly, newspaper reading habits appeared to have little influence on concern levels.

While it is natural for people to feel anxiety when confronted with an unknown contagious disease, it is clear that further fact-finding surveys are necessary to determine whether the concern levels are appropriate given the actual risk, and whether concerns are giving rise to secondary adverse effects in the form of loss of sleep, stress, and instability in family relationships.

In particular, our survey showed that people who are exposed to COVID-19 information on a daily basis via television—and, to a lesser extent, newspapers, magazines, or even the Internet—tend to have higher anxiety levels. Interestingly, radio was the only medium that showed a diverging trend, as people who listened to the radio on a daily basis tended to exhibit slightly less concern about the impact of COVID-19 on their own health. We believe this demonstrates the importance of structuring one's day in such a way as to avoid non-stop consumption of COVID-19 information and engage with topics that are less serious in nature (in relative terms) and unrelated to the disease.

Elderly men are the demographic most susceptible to severe cases of pneumonia caused by COVID-19. It would therefore be reasonable to assume that the degree of concern about the disease would vary by age group, but the results of our survey reveal that concern pervades society as a whole and that there is not much difference in concern levels by age group.

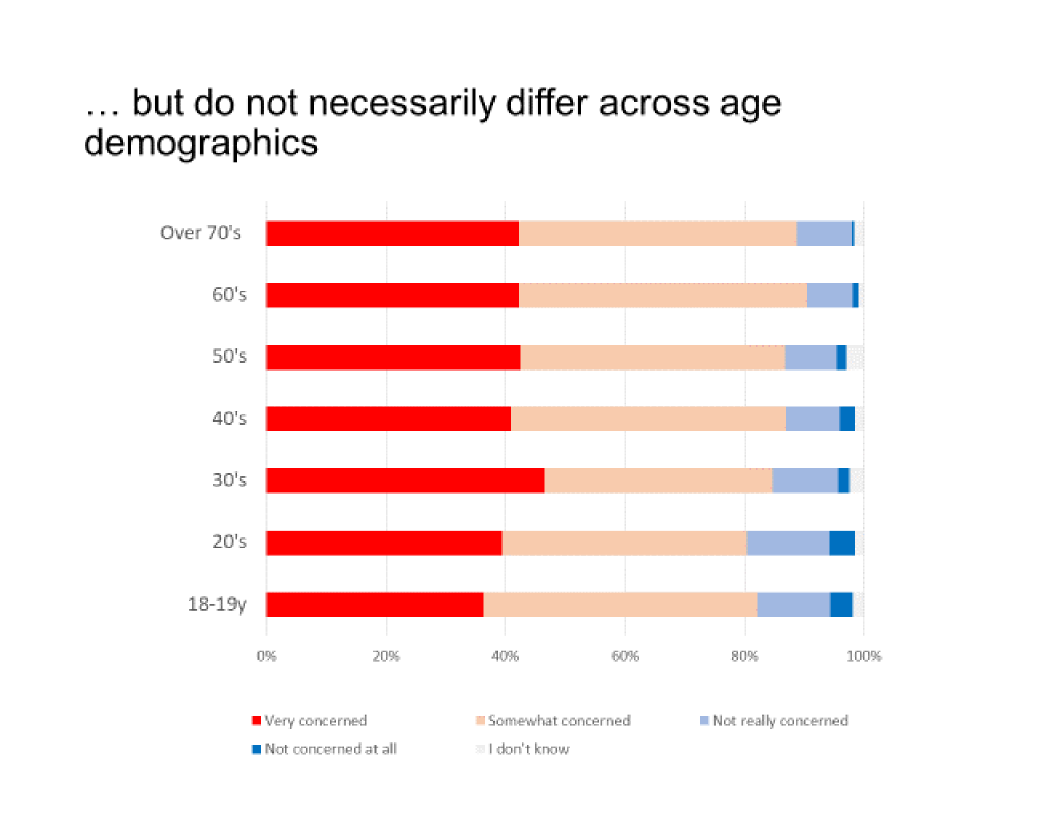

Fig. 3: Degree of concern about health due to COVID-19

3-2. Impact of COVID-19 on work and income conditions

We asked people to indicate how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected their income by selecting the appropriate response. In terms of individual income, nearly 70% (i.e., the majority) of respondents revealed their income had more or less remained unchanged, while nearly 30% reported a drop in income. Turning to family income, 36% of respondents indicated their income had decreased. This means more than one-third of Japanese households have already suffered a decline in income. In addition, when asked about their outlook for household income in the future, 52% of respondents anticipated a drop in income, and 17% were worried about a sharp drop in income.

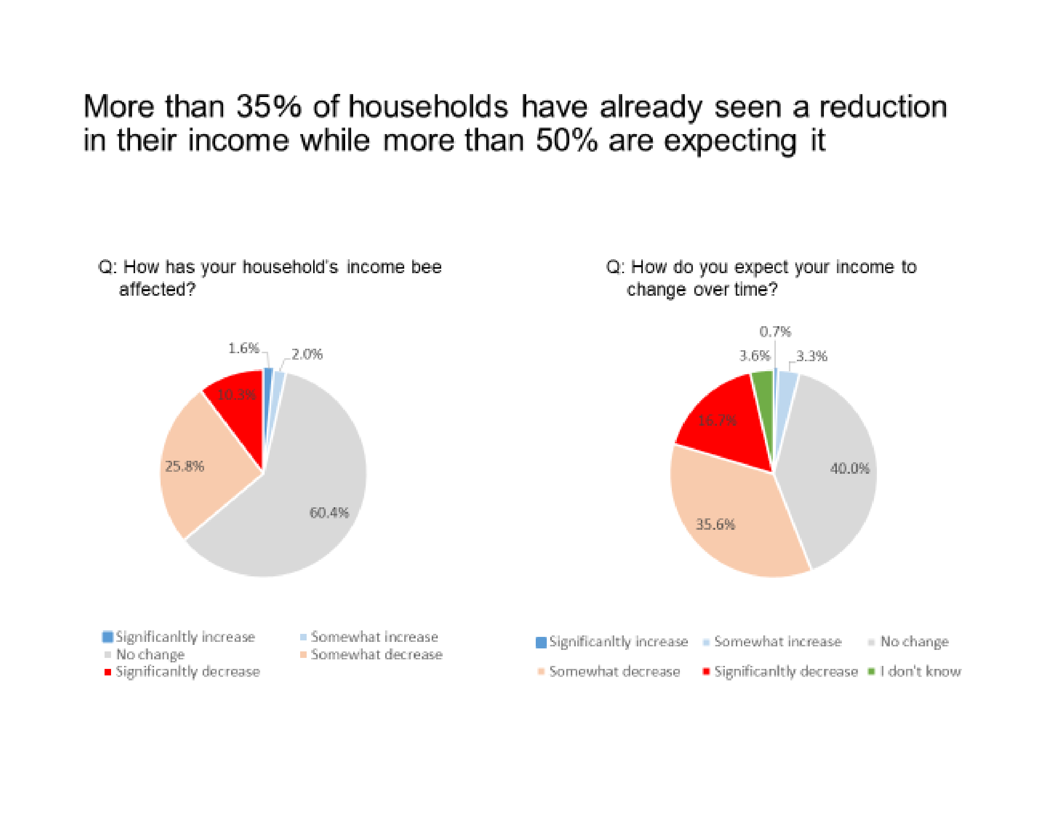

Fig. 4: Changes in household income due to COVID-19, and future outlook

However, there were major differences in responses by employment type, as expected. As shown in Figure 5 (see next page), temporary and part-time workers have suffered a steeper decline in income than full-time or contract employees, who are believed to have been mainly affected by drops in overtime pay and commuting allowances due to a transition toward telework. At the same time, the survey revealed that many students have been unable to work part time. In addition, freelancers and self-employed workers have been hit particularly hard financially, with more than 50% reporting a drop in income.

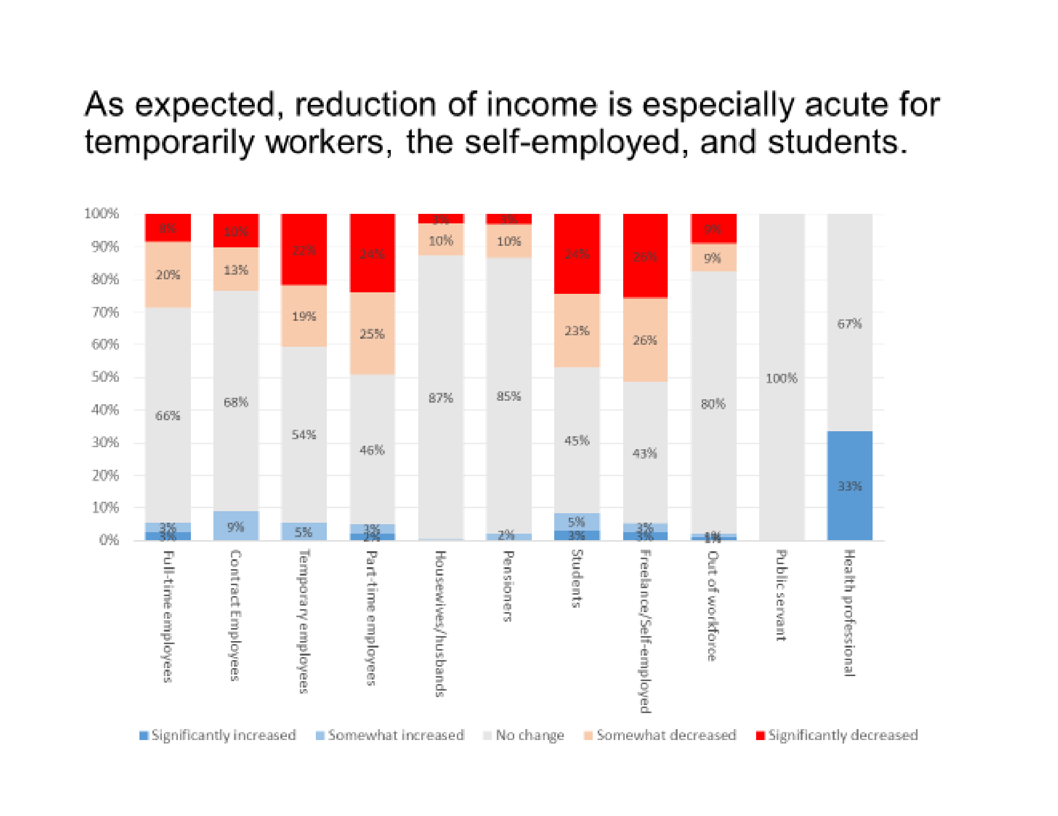

Fig. 5: Changes in individual income due to COVID-19 (by employment type)

Unlike in countries such as Germany, where employers have been permitted to transition full-time employees to non-permanent positions in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, the regulations governing dismissals of full-time employees in Japan have not been relaxed. Consequently, the Japanese unemployment rate has not exhibited the rapid growth seen in other countries to date. While many employers are struggling with cash flow at present, estimates by TDB (according to the *NHK Special* documentary aired on April 25, 2020) suggest that, if the economic shutdown persists in its current state and assuming the government does not roll out additional measures, over 600,000 companies may go bankrupt from November 2020. This in turn raises the risk of massive worker layoffs starting shortly before the projected wave of bankruptcies.

In light of the above, our survey asked about people's employment concerns, and of the people currently employed, 47% responded they were concerned about their employment.

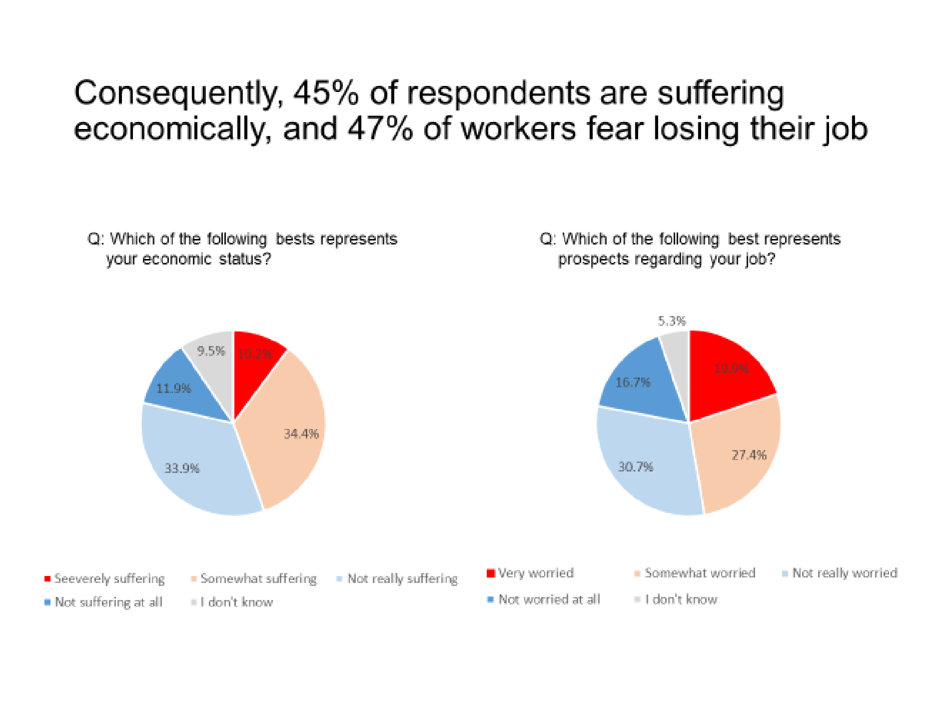

Fig. 6: Employment concerns and current lifestyle struggles due to COVID-19

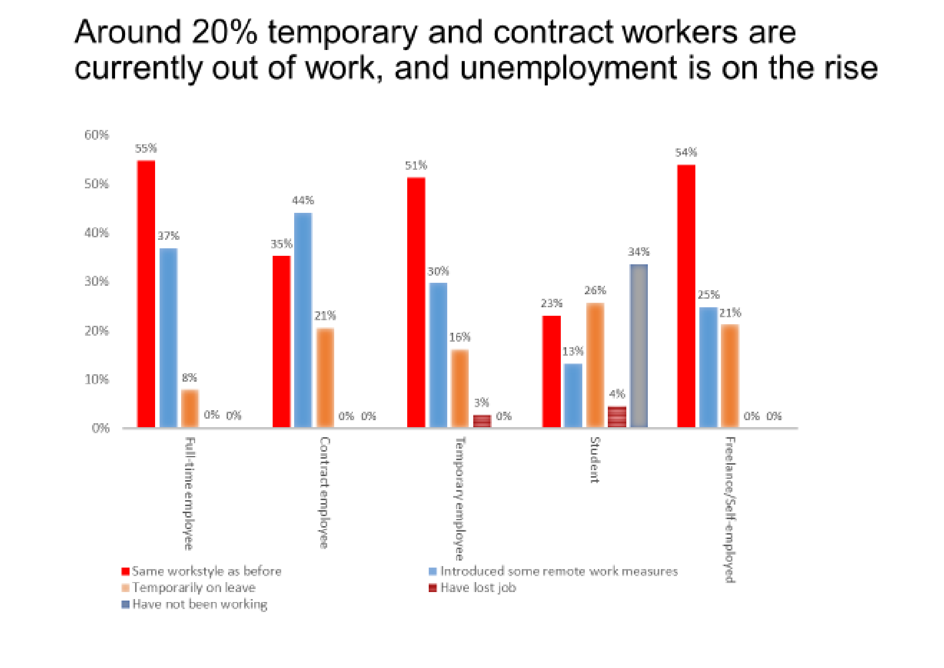

Fig. 7: Changes in work style due to COVID-19 (by employment type)

In addition, when we surveyed how many people are currently working remotely, on leave from work, or have lost their job due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 7), we found that 21% of contract employees, freelancers, and self-employed workers, and 16 to 26% of part-time workers including student were on leave from work. It will take time before the number of people who are on leave from work or have lost their job appear in the unemployment rate, but 3–4% of temp workers and part-time workers have already lost their job. As often observed in the initial stage of a recession, our survey confirmed that non-regular workers function as an employment control valve that absorbs shocks in the economy. If the economy remains locked in the current self-restraint mode, the aforementioned workers will likely join the ranks of the unemployed next.

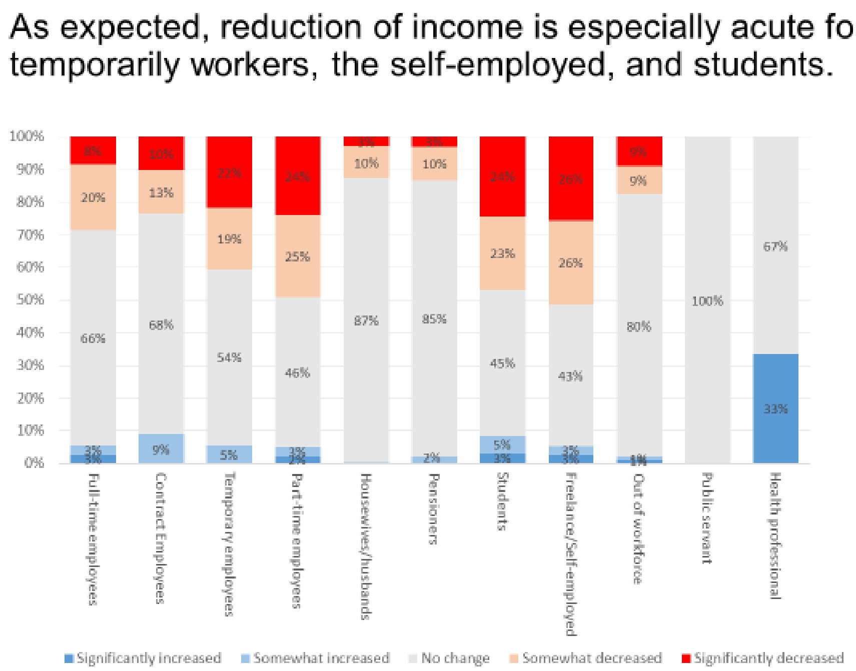

Fig. 8: Payment of wages or equivalent compensation (by employment type)

In addition, based on the wage payment conditions shown in Figure 8, the wages of contract employees and temp workers have declined compared to full-time employees, civil servants, and medical and elderly care workers, who continue to enjoy high payment rates. The share of respondents who indicated they have seen a reduction in wages or are not being paid at all was 22% for temp workers and 24% for part-time workers. Freelancers and self-employed workers make up the segment that is most prone to adverse effects from self-restraint and work suspensions. Over the half of respondents in this segment indicated that their compensation has declined, and 26% said they had seen a dramatic drop in their income or not been paid at all.

3-3. Extension of self-restraint and state of emergency periods

In our survey, we also gauged people's attitude toward a potential extension of the self-restraint and state of emergency periods amid the COVID-19 pandemic. We first asked how long respondents would be able to tolerate their current self-restraint lifestyle, and subsequently asked if the state of emergency declared by the government should be lifted. In response to the first question, many respondents said they could tolerate one more month of self-restraint. On the state of emergency, 46% of respondents felt it should be extended for another month, 11% of respondents thought it should be lifted on May 6, 2020 as promised.

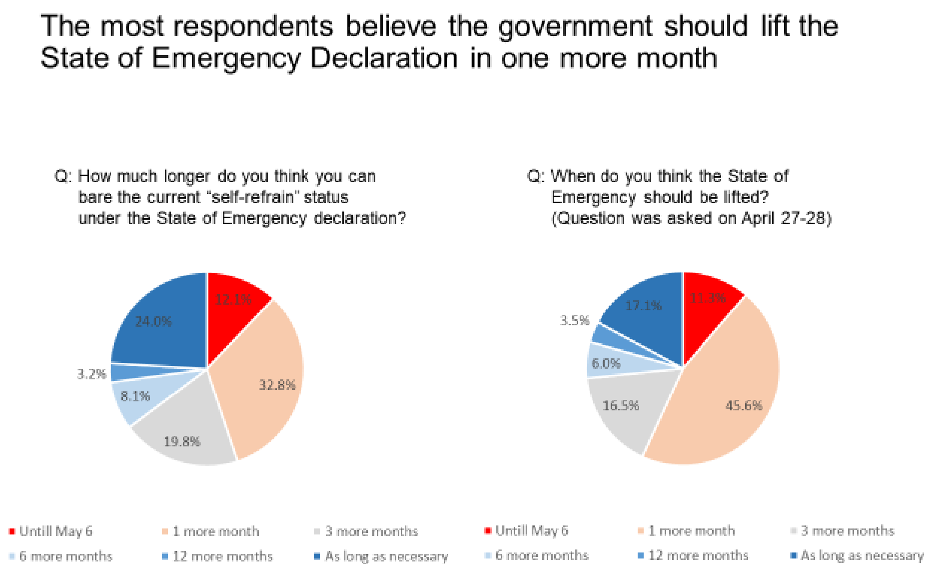

Fig. 9: Opinions on tolerable self-restraint period and lifting of state of emergency

Here again, opinions diverged by employment type. As shown in Figure 10 (see next page), responses on how long self-restraint could be tolerated varied by employment type.

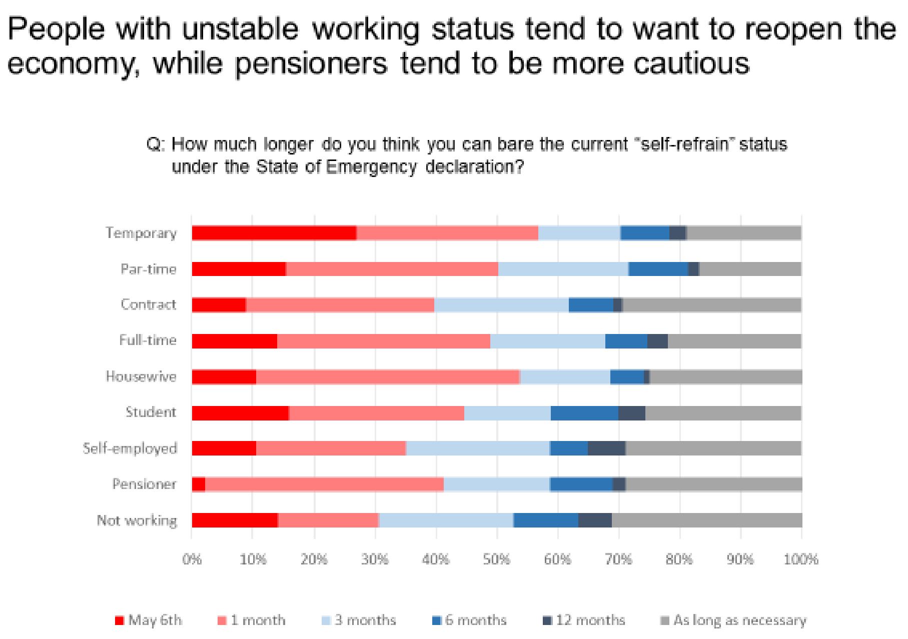

Fig. 10: Tolerable self-restraint period by employment type

The workers who are currently facing the highest pressure are temp workers and part-time workers. For freelancers and self-employed workers, we can infer that conditions are vastly different based on business type and industry. Conversely, pensioners are unsurprisingly facing the least pressure; however, the survey also showed that full-time homemakers will not be able to cope with self-restraint for much longer, as they shoulder the bulk of the everyday burdens caused by self-restraint—specifically, the impact from school closures and remote work.

As mentioned above, about half of employed workers are concerned about their employment, but people who are not financially affected by a self-restraint lifestyle, such as pensioners, are inclined to support an extension of the self-restraint period.

Next, we inquired about when self-restraint should be lifted for school closures, restaurants/bar closures, shortened working hours, operations at other commercial facilities, and travel (Figure 11). The majority of respondents said another month of self-restraint in these areas would be the maximum they could tolerate, but many also indicated self-restraint should be extended in the case of travel. With regard to school closures, 70% of fulltime homemakers in their 20's to 40's believe school closures should end within 1 month.

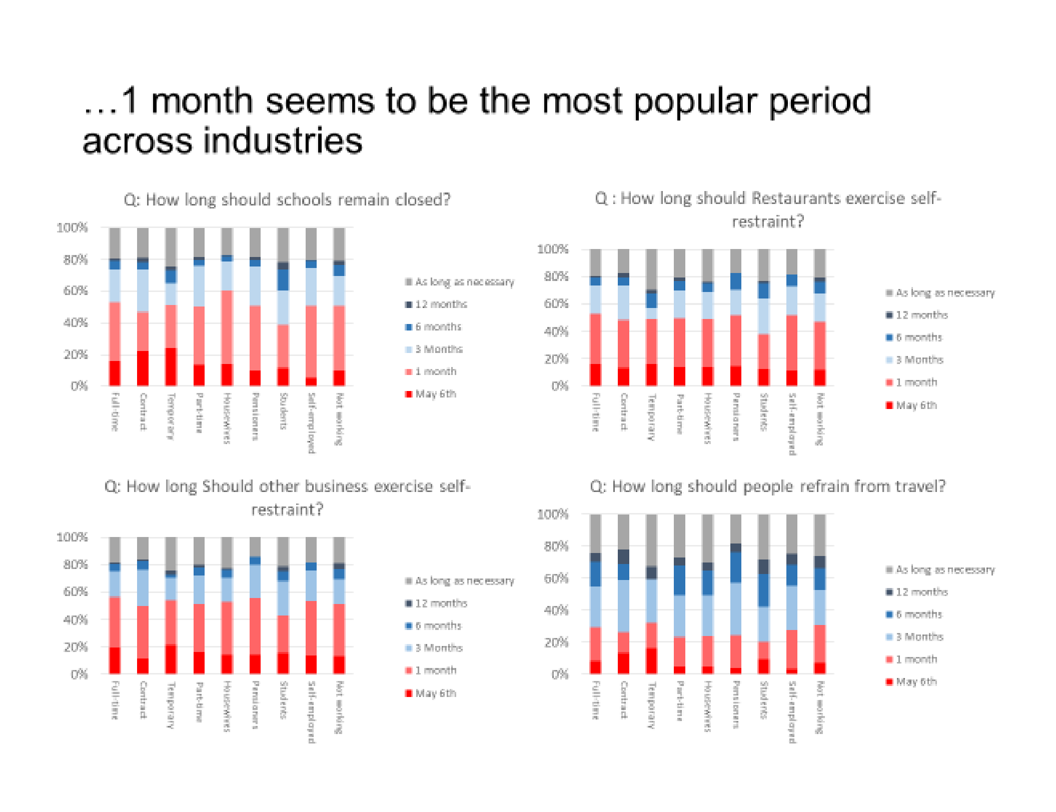

Fig. 11: Suitable self-restraint period by area (by employment type)

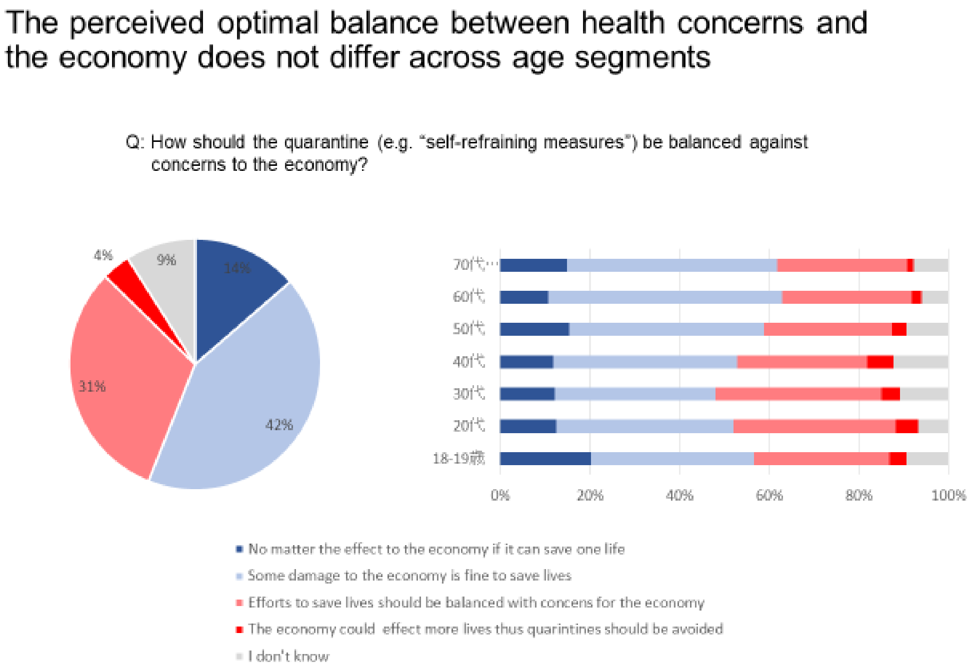

Fig. 12: Measures to prevent infection, and balancing economic concerns

Meanwhile, young people were found to be similarly concerned about their own health and that of their families, dispelling the commonly held misconception that there are major divisions in attitude between generations.

As is evident from Figure 12, young people aged 18–19 do not feel a sense of urgency about the economy with the exception of those that are struggling financially and are at risk of having to suspend their studies. Instead, we understand that people in their 30s— the majority of whom must provide financially for their families, raise children, and are often forced to work under the threat of infection—are far more concerned about their employment and the economic outlook. In other words, when it comes to the issue of self-restraint in relation to COVID-19, our survey shows that attitudes reflect differences by employment type rather than a generational divide.

3-4. Support for the government's response

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Japanese government has declared a state of emergency, and the resulting self-restraint measures have hurt various economic sectors and household incomes. The government has prepared a supplementary budget to finance a range of economic stimulus measures, including subsidies to sustain businesses, an emergency micro-loan program, and one-time relief payments. How have these initiatives been received by the general public?

With regard to the government's initial plan to issue ¥300,000 in cash handouts to low-income households, only 32% of respondents indicated they supported the measure, while 57% said they did not support it. In contrast, 71% of respondents supported the revised government plan to make a one-time ¥100,000 relief payment to all Japanese citizens. In other words, the initially proposed approach of offering support to citizens as a function of their degree of financial struggle does not appear to have gained the support of the general public. While this is of course a byproduct of the fact that over one-third of all households have suffered a drop in income, it nonetheless highlights the difficulty in gaining broad support for a program that mainly provides assistance to low-income families.

On the other hand, 65% of respondents supported subsidies to sustain businesses, which mainly target small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and self-employed workers who have seen their monthly income drop by half or more from the previous year. This suggests the government's intention of supporting SMEs, freelancers, and self-employed workers who are struggling due to suspended operations or self-restraint in sales activities, is properly resonating with the general public.

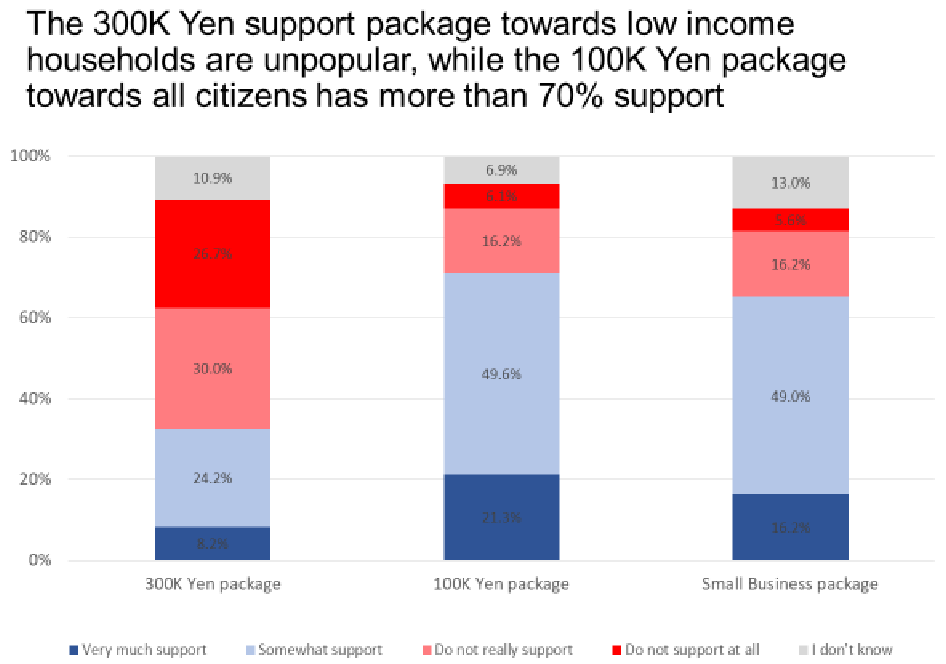

Fig. 13: Support for individual economic stimulus measures

The ¥100,000 payment is only issued to people who apply for it. 93% of respondents indicated they will apply for it, and only 1.9% said they will not. As for how the ¥100,000 will be used, 47% of respondents said they will allocate the funds toward living expenses, which is evidence that people are already struggling to pay their bills. Of the remaining respondents (just over half), 20% were sufficiently well-off not to have to use any of the funds for living expenses, and 32% indicated they would partially allocate the funds toward living expenses.

When asked if they would consider donating the funds, 22% said they were considering a donation, and 3% replied they would feel comfortable donating (or had already donated) the entire ¥100,000 or a larger amount.

However, the majority of respondents were unsure which organization to support. The survey found that well-known organizations and organizations promoted on television still have the strongest pull for donations. On the other hand, we learned that some respondents also use the internet, social media, or their private networks to select an organization to support. Accordingly, we can infer that the COVID-19 pandemic has started to foster a spirit of mutual support.

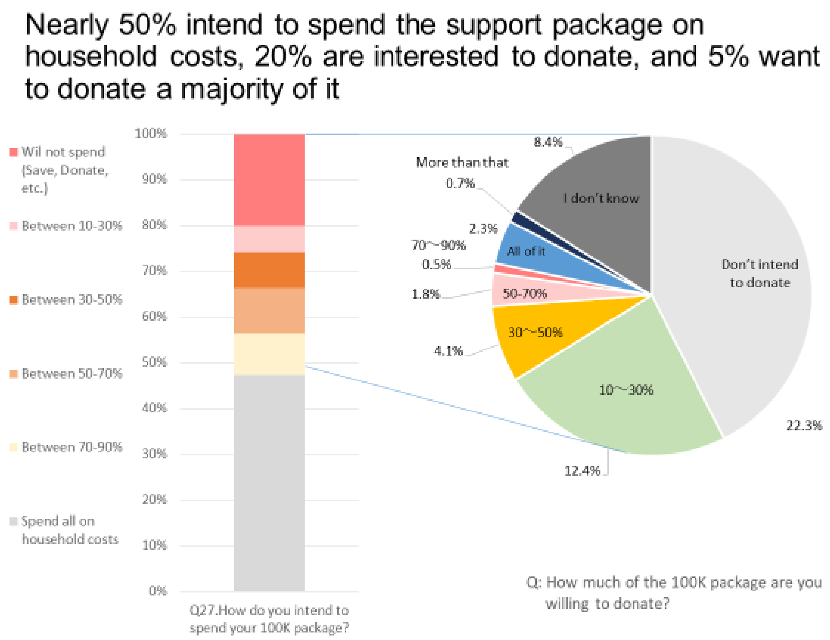

Fig.　14: Usage of one-time relief payments and interest in donations

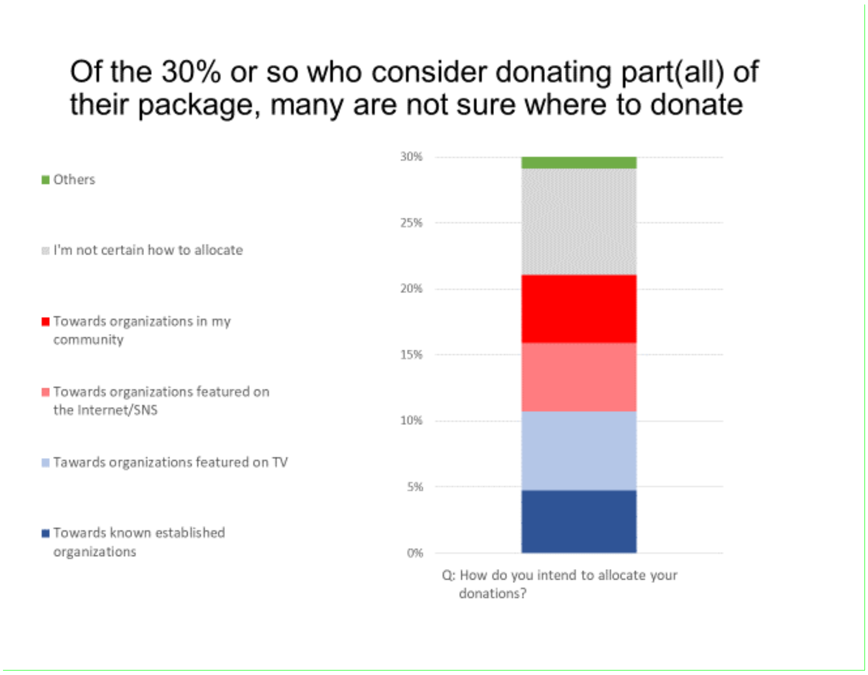

Fig.　15: Collection of information to decide on donation recipient

When asked to provide their top two potential donation recipients, 19% of respondents said they were considering donating to a medical cause (hospital, healthcare workers, medical supplies, etc.). This was the top response, followed by welfare facilities such as elderly homes and facilities for people with disabilities, which are most vulnerable to COVID-19, and restaurants or bars. These results imply that public awareness about the adverse effects of self-restraint policies on cultural and retail establishments is not necessarily high, and illustrate there is need for a concerted support campaign led by initiatives by affected industries and shopping districts to raise such awareness.

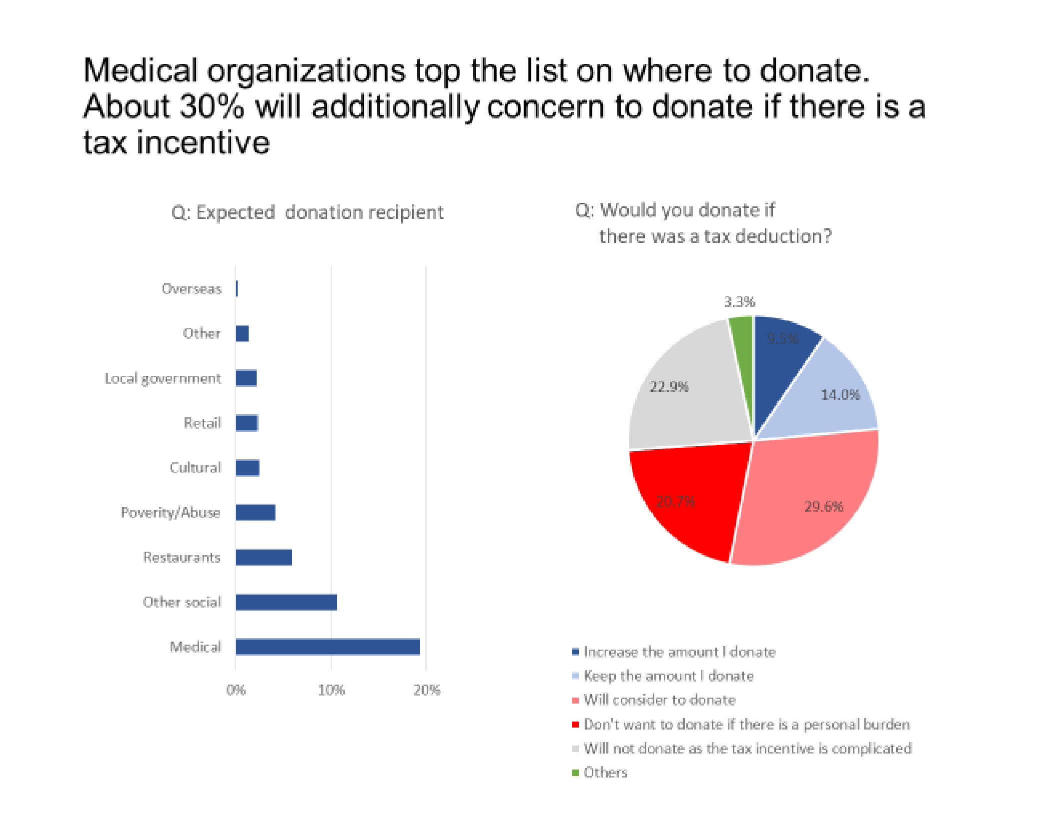

Fig. 16: Potential donation recipients and consideration of donation based on tax incentives

When asked if tax incentives for donations similar to "the hometown tax scheme" would affect their intention to donate, an additional 30% of respondents said they would consider a donation under such a scenario, while 10% said they would consider raising the amount of their donation. Meanwhile, almost one quarter of respondents said they were hesitant to donate under such a scenario because they were not familiar with tax exemptions for donations.

Japan does not have a sufficiently established culture of making charitable contributions, so it needs to develop more creative programs or initiatives resembling the firmly established the hometown tax scheme to support struggling industries.

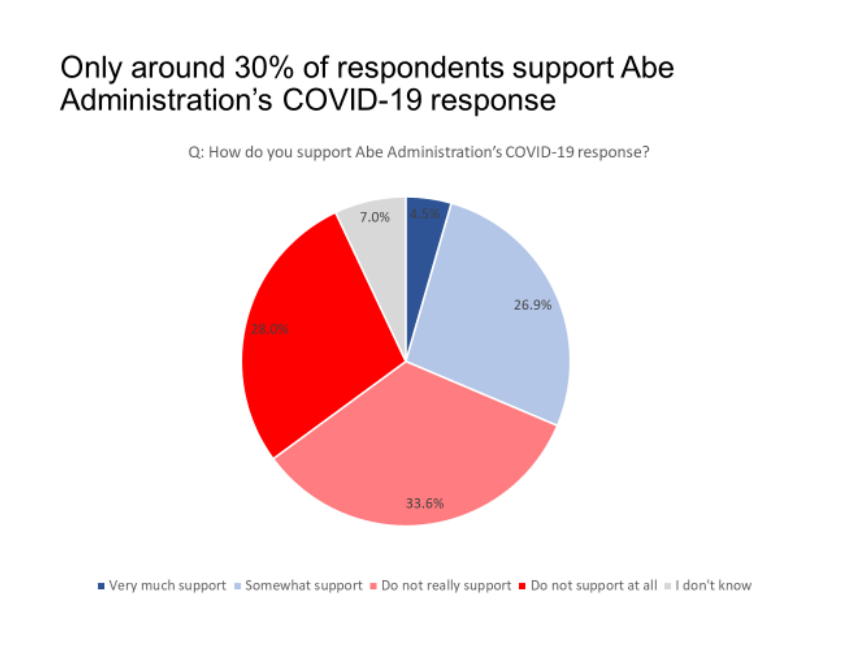

Fig. 17: Performance rating for the government's response to COVID-19 crisis

The government's overall response to the COVID-19 crisis has been fiercely criticized from the start, and our survey similarly showed that only 31% of respondents gave a positive performance rating to the government's response. Meanwhile, 62% of respondents said they did not give positive performance rating to the government's response. Health concerns were the primary reason for nearly 90% of respondents in this group, but many people also cited financial predicaments as a major reason.

Meanwhile, neither the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP: the ruling party) nor the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDP: the largest opposition party) have seen a rise in support in connection with the response to the COVID-19 crisis, which shows that concerns transcend party boundaries. This is not surprising as (1) strong supporters of the LDP or any other party are generally people who have a certain degree of financial leeway, and (2) people working in employment types that are most vulnerable to the pressures of self-restraint measures and people who struggle to make ends meet have no political affiliation. As a result, their voices are unlikely to have an impact on the political landscape.

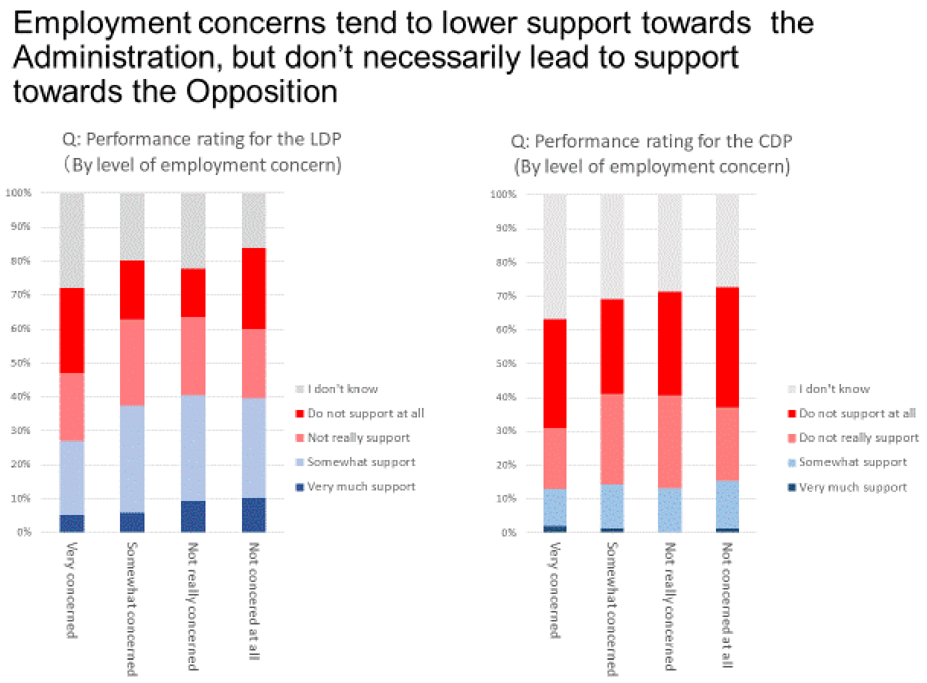

Fig. 18: Concerns over employment and performance rating for major political parties

Figure 18 shows the performance ratings for political parties by level of employment concern. Although people who are deeply concerned about employment typically do not exhibit strong support for the LDP (ruling party), there has not been a major increase in voices that do not support the LDP. That said, it is also inaccurate to assume people with strong concerns over employment therefore give a positive performance rating the CDP (the largest opposition party).

While support for political parties tends to be clear-cut among people with stable incomes and the elderly, concern over employment does not necessarily result in an upswell of support for a particular party; however, just because the people's voices are unlikely to affect the political status quo, that does not mean the government can afford to take no action. The longer the self-restraint period persists under a state of emergency, the more concerns over employment will grow. While much of the media attention has focused on the extremely high levels of concern over health among the Japanese public, economic concerns, which are reflected in concerns about employment and bankruptcy, are an area where government initiatives are urgently needed.

4. List of survey responses

In the following table, the responses to S1 - S3 and Q2 - Q6 have not been adjusted according to the population for each age group, but the responses to Q7 - Q35 have.

S1: What is your gender? (Select only one)	
Male	51.0%
Female	49.0%

S2: What is your age? (Select only one)	
18 – 19 years	212
20 – 29 years	312
30 – 39 years	320
40 – 49 years	323
50 – 59 years	325
60 – 69 years	315
70 years and above	291
(* Respondents were asked to indicate their actual age, not their age group.)	

S3: Which prefecture do you live in? (Select only one)			
Hokkaido	8.0%	Mie	1.3%
Aomori	1.2%	Shiga	1.1%
Iwate	1.3%	Kyoto	1.9%
Miyagi	3.1%	Osaka	7.1%
Akita	1.0%	Hyogo	4.6%
Yamagata	1.0%	Nara	1.0%
Fukushima	1.1%	Wakayama	0.6%
Ibaraki	0.7%	Tottori	0.8%
Tochigi	0.4%	Shimane	0.9%
Gunma	0.4%	Okayama	2.9%
Saitama	2.2%	Hiroshima	4.6%
Chiba	2.5%	Yamaguchi	2.1%
Tokyo	6.8%	Tokushima	1.1%

Kanagawa	3.6%	Kagawa	1.9%
Niigata	1.7%	Ehime	1.7%
Toyama	1.0%	Kochi	0.7%
Ishikawa	0.7%	Fukuoka	8.5%
Fukui	0.3%	Saga	0.9%
Yamanashi	0.4%	Nagasaki	1.2%
Nagano	1.0%	Kumamoto	2.0%
Gifu	1.9%	Oita	0.9%
Shizuoka	2.3%	Miyazaki	0.8%
Aichi	6.1%	Kagoshima	1.6%
		Okinawa	1.1%

Q2: What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Select only one)	
Junior high school	2.3%
High school	37.3%
Junior college or technical junior college	20.2%
Four-year university	35.0%
Graduate school	4.6%
Other (dropped out of university, etc.)	0.6%

Q3: Please choose the response that applies to you regarding your current employment. (Select only one)	
Permanent employee	39.7%
Contract employee	3.2%
Temporary employee	1.8%
Part-time or casual worker	13.3%
Full-time homemaker	11.2%
Pensioner	4.6%
Student	10.8%
Other (Please specify)	5.9%
Unemployed	9.5%

Q4: Please choose the response that applies to you regarding your personal annual income. (Select only one)	
1 million yen or less	30.8%
1.01 – 3 million yen	29.0%
3.01 – 5 million yen	20.9%
5.01 – 7 million yen	10.7%
7.01 – 10 million yen	6.0%
10.01 million yen or more	2.7%

Q5: Please choose the response that applies to you regarding your household's annual income. (Select only one)	
1 million yen or less	6.1%
1.01 – 3 million yen	16.8%
3.01 – 5 million yen	27.2%
5.01 – 7 million yen	21.5%
7.01 – 10 million yen	17.0%
10.01 – 15 million yen	8.0%
15.01 million yen or more	3.4%

Q6: Please choose the responses that apply to you regarding your daily media consumption. (Select one for each item)

	Television	Radio	Newspapers	Magazines	Online content (excluding personal blogs)	Personal blogs
I use it every day.	71.8%	8.4%	28.6%	1.8%	50.1%	7.1%
I use it almost every day.	14.0%	7.7%	8.9%	2.5%	23.6%	7.1%
I use it regularly but not every day.	4.1%	10.5%	6.9%	11.4%	9.6%	10.4%

I use it to some degree but not regularly.	2.8%	11.8%	6.4%	20.6%	6.5%	14.0%
I almost never use it.	3.0%	22.4%	13.9%	34.4%	4.4%	21.1%
I never use it.	4.3%	39.2%	35.4%	29.2%	5.8%	40.3%

——————— *The following responses are age-corrected. ———————

Q7: How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your personal income? (Select only one)	
It increased significantly	1.7%
It increased somewhat	2.5%
No change	67.7%
It decreased somewhat	17.5%
It decreased significantly	10.6%

Q8: How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your household's income? (Select only one)	
It increased significantly	1.6%
It increased somewhat	2.0%
No change	60.4%
It decreased somewhat	25.8%
It decreased significantly	10.3%

Q9: Please choose the response that applies to you the most regarding the outlook for your household's annual income. (Select only one)	
I think it will increase significantly.	0.7%
I think it will increase slightly.	3.3%
I don't think it will change	40.0%
I think it will decrease slightly.	35.6%
I think it will decrease significantly.	16.7%
Don't know	3.6%

Q10: Please choose the response that applies to you the most regarding your concern about the effects of COVID-19 on your health. (Select only one)

Very concerned	42.2%
Somewhat concerned	44.6%
Not very concerned	9.7%
Not concerned at all	1.7%
Neutral / I don't know	1.9%

Q11: Please choose the response that applies to you the most regarding your concern about the effects of COVID-19 on your family's health. (Select only one)	
Very concerned	49.7%
Somewhat concerned	39.0%
Not very concerned	7.2%
Not concerned at all	1.1%
Neutral / I don't know	3.0%

Q12: Are you concerned about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on your employment? (Select only one)	
Very concerned	13.7%
Somewhat concerned	18.8%
Not very concerned	21.1%
Not concerned at all	11.5%
Not working	31.3%
Neutral / I don't know	3.7%

Q13: How has your work style changed? (Select only one)	
No change	34.8%
I am working from home and have reduced the frequency of office visits	20.7%
I am on temporary leave	11.5%
I lost my job	1.8%
I was not working before	31.2%

Q14: How has your salary or other remuneration changed? (Select only one)	
No change	47.3%
It decreased somewhat	11.4%
It decreased significantly	7.3%
I am not being paid / I am unemployed	4.7%
I was not working before	29.3%

Q15: Please choose the response that applies to you the most regarding your lifestyle (Select only one)	
I am struggling severely	10.2%
I am struggling somewhat	34.4%
I am not struggling much	33.9%
I am not struggling at all	11.9%
Neutral / I don't know	9.5%

Q16: How much longer do you think you can tolerate the current self-restraint measures under the state of emergency declaration? (Select only one)	
Until May 6	12.1%
One more month	32.8%
Three more months	19.8%
Six more months	8.1%
One more year	3.2%
As long as necessary	24.0%

Q17: Most elementary, junior high, and high schools are currently closed. How much longer do you think they should remain closed? (Select only one)	
Until May 6	13.9%
One more month	39.9%
Three more months	21.1%
Six more months	5.2%
One more year	1.6%
As long as necessary	18.3%

Q18: Restaurants have been asked to operate on shortened hours between 5:00 and 20:00 or to temporarily close. How much longer do you think they should continue adhering to this request for restraint? (Select only one)	
Until May 6	14.3%
One more month	36.8%
Three more months	20.5%
Six more months	7.4%
One more year	1.4%
As long as necessary	19.6%

Q19: Aside from some shops including supermarkets and home centers, other commercial facilities have been requested to restrain their business activities? How much longer do you think they should continue adhering to this request for restraint? (Select only one)	
Until May 6	16.5%
One more month	38.2%
Three more months	19.9%
Six more months	5.5%
One more year	1.6%
As long as necessary	18.3%

Q20: People have been requested to refrain from travel? How much longer do you think they should continue adhering to this request for restraint? (Select only one)	
Until May 6	6.9%
One more month	21.1%
Three more months	26.6%
Six more months	15.3%
One more year	5.7%
As long as necessary	24.4%

Q21: What level of economic impact do you feel is acceptable to reduce the number of people dying from COVID-19? Select the answer that best reflects your feelings. (Select only one)	
Even a severe impact on the economy is acceptable to save as many lives as possible.	13.3%
Some degree of impact on the economy is acceptable to reduce the number of victims	43.6%
Efforts to reduce the number of victims should be balanced with the severity of the economic impact	30.8%
Self-restraint should be avoided as the economic impact will affect the fate of many people	3.4%
Neutral / I don't know	8.9%

Q22: The request for self-restraint due to COVID-19 is expected to cause the unemployment rate to rise. Select the answer that best reflects your feelings. (Select only one)	
Even if I lose my job, maximum self-restraint should be exercised	20.2%
Maximum self-restraint should be exercised because it is not very likely	27.8%

that I will lose my job	
If I am going to lose my job the self-restraint request should be ended	10.5%
I oppose the self-restraint request because increasing unemployment any more is not acceptable	6.4%
Neutral / I don't know	35.1%

Q23: The government initially planned to provide a ¥300,000 cash handout to low-income households that suffered a loss of income. How do you rate the government's performance on this issue? (Select only one)	
Very high	8.2%
Somewhat high	24.2%
Somewhat low	30.0%
Very low	26.7%
Neutral / I don't know	10.9%

Q24: Now the government plans to provide a ¥100,000 cash handout to every resident. How do you rate the government's performance on this issue? (Select only one)	
Very high	21.3%
Somewhat high	49.6%
Somewhat low	16.2%
Very low	6.1%
Neutral / I don't know	6.9%

Q25: Which policy do you prefer: the ¥300,000 cash handout for low-income households or the ¥100,000 cash handout for every resident? (Select only one)	
¥300,000 cash handout for low-income households	12.0%
¥100,000 cash handout for every resident	57.2%
I like them both equally	13.0%
I like neither	7.8%
Neutral / I don't know	10.0%

Q26: A simple application is required to receive the ¥100,000 cash handout. Do you plan to apply? (Select only one)	
Definitely	69.7%
Probably	23.9%
Probably not	1.3%

Definitely not	0.6%
Neutral / I don't know	4.5%

Q27: How do you plan to use the ¥100,000 cash handout? (Select only one)	
I will spend it all on living expenses	47.1%
I will spend 70 - 90% on living expenses	9.0%
I will spend 50 - 70% on living expenses	9.9%
I will spend 30 - 50% on living expenses	7.6%
I will spend 10 - 30% on living expenses	5.9%
I will spend none on living expenses (use it for something else or save it all)	19.9%

Q28: If you receive the ¥100,000 cash handout, how much would you be willing to donate to your preferred cause? (Select only one)	
I don't plan to donate any	22.3%
I would donate 10 - 30%	12.4%
I would donate 30 - 50%	4.1%
I would donate 50 - 70%	1.8%
I would donate 70 - 90%	0.5%
I would donate all ¥100,000	2.3%
I am already donating / plan to donate more	0.7%
I don't know	8.4%

Q29: If you decide to donate your cash handout, how will you gather information to decide on the recipient? Please choose the response that applies to you the most. (Select only one)	
I will donate to a well-known organization that I already know	4.8%
I will decide after gathering information from television, newspapers, and other media outlets.	6.0%
I will decide after gathering information from the internet and social media.	5.2%
I will decide based on information from personal acquaintances and local ties.	5.1%
I am unclear on how to choose a recipient.	8.1%
Other	0.9%

Q30: What kind of organizations would you like to support with your donation? Select your

top one or two choices.　(Up to two)	
Arts (e.g., theaters, performers)	2.5%
Eating and drinking establishments (e.g., restaurants, cafes, pubs)	5.9%
Retailers (e.g., book stores, variety stores, family-run shops)	2.3%
Medical (e.g., hospitals, medical practitioners, medical supplies)	19.4%
Social services (e.g., nursery schools, facilities for the disabled, facilities for the elderly)	10.6%
Consultation centers for poverty, abuse, etc.	4.1%
Local governments	2.2%
Foreign institutions	0.2%
Other	1.4%

Q31: Would you donate to COVID-19 relief efforts if you could receive a tax deduction for a large portion of your donation like the hometown tax scheme? (Select only one)	
I am willing to add to the amount I was thinking about donating	9.5%
I will donate the same amount I was thinking about donating	14.0%
I did not intend to donate, but now I might	29.6%
I still do not want to donate because it would cost me money	20.7%
I will not donate because I am not familiar with how the tax deduction works	22.9%
Other	3.3%

Q32: The government is planning to provide up to ¥1 million to self-employed workers and freelancers and up to ¥2 million to small and medium-sized enterprises whose sales have fallen by half or more compared to the same month last year. How do you rate the government's performance on this issue? (Select only one)	
Very high	16.2%
Somewhat high	49.0%
Somewhat low	16.2%
Very low	5.6%
Neutral / I don't know	13.0%

Q33: The government is offering individuals emergency interest-free small loans of ¥100,000 or up to ¥200,000 if you meet certain conditions. Would you consider applying for one of these loans instead of using a commercial loan? (Select only one)	
Definitely	3.1%

Maybe	8.3%
Probably not	40.2%
Definitely not	32.6%
Neutral / I don’t know	15.9%

Q34: When do you think the government should lift the state of emergency? (Select only one)	
It should be lifted once on May 6	11.3%
It should be extended one more month	45.6%
It should be extended three more months	16.5%
It should be extended six more month	6.0%
It should be extended one more year	3.5%
Neutral / I don’t know	17.1%

Q35: If the self-restraint measures continue beyond May 6, what kind of economic measures do you think the government should enact? (Select only one)	
It is impossible to enact any more economic measures, so self-restraint measures should be stopped.	4.5%
The current economic measures are adequate even if self-restraint measures are prolonged.	13.5%
More economic measures should be enacted even if it means increasing the national debt somewhat.	46.5%
More economic measures should be enacted regardless of the country’s fiscal situation.	19.6%
Neutral / I don’t know	16.0%

Q36: Please choose the response that best reflects your performance rating of the Abe administration’s COVID-19 response. (Select only one)	
Very high	4.5%
Somewhat high	26.9%
Somewhat low	33.6%
Very low	28.0%
Neutral / I don’t know	7.0%

Q37: This is a question about Japanese political parties. Please choose the response that best reflects your performance rating for each party. (Select one for each item)					
	Very high	High	Low	Very low	Neutral / I don't know
Liberal Democratic Party	6.7%	29.7%	24.5%	21.2%	18.0%
Constitutional Democratic Party	1.2%	14.2%	27.8%	30.0%	26.8%
Komeito	3.8%	24.1%	25.8%	22.1%	24.1%
Japan Innovation Party	7.3%	25.4%	23.0%	16.9%	27.4%
Japanese Communist Party	2.4%	10.9%	23.9%	33.0%	29.8%
Democratic Party for the People	0.9%	8.0%	26.8%	32.4%	32.0%
Reiwa Shinsengumi	1.9%	7.1%	18.2%	39.8%	33.0%
Social Democratic Party	0.7%	5.9%	21.4%	38.8%	33.1%
The Party to Protect the People from NHK	1.0%	3.6%	14.0%	52.7%	28.7%

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INQUIRIES

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