

Outline of the Economy Watchers Survey

1. Purpose of the survey

The purpose of the survey is to promptly gain an accurate grasp of region-by-region economic trends. By enlisting the cooperation of people holding jobs that enable them to observe activity closely related to regional economy, these survey results can be used as basic material for assessing economic trends.

2. Scope of the survey

(1) Survey area

The survey covers eleven regions across the country: Hokkaido, Tohoku, Northern Kanto, Southern Kanto, Tokai, Hokuriku, Kinki, Chugoku, Shikoku, Kyushu, and Okinawa. Prefectures included in each region are as follows. (The January 2002 survey covered five regions: Hokkaido, Tohoku, Tokai, Kinki, and Kyushu. The survey conducted in February through September 2002 covered six regions: the five regions above plus Kanto.)

Region		Prefecture
Hokkaido		Hokkaido
Tohoku		Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Akita, Yamagata, Fukushima, Niigata
Kanto	Northern Kanto	Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Yamanashi, Nagano
	Southern Kanto	Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa
Tokai		Shizuoka, Gifu, Aichi, Mie
Hokuriku		Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui
Kinki		Shiga, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Nara, Wakayama
Chugoku		Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi
Shikoku		Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, Kochi
Kyushu		Fukuoka, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Oita, Miyazaki, Kagoshima
Okinawa		Okinawa
National		All of the above

(2) Survey coverage

2,050 people were selected from among those engaged in jobs in industries that enable them to observe any development that sensitively reflects economic activities, such as household activity, corporate activity, and employment. For region-by-region and sector-by-sector composition of the survey objects, see attachment.

3. Questions asked

- (1) Assessment of current economic conditions (direction)
- (2) Reasons for (1)
- (3) Additional explanation of (2) and explanation of specific conditions
- (4) Assessment of future economic conditions (direction)
- (5) Reasons for (4)
- (Reference) Assessment of current economic conditions (level)

4. Survey date and period

The survey is conducted on a monthly basis and runs from the 25th of every month to the end of the month.

5. Research organizations

Under the supervision of the Cabinet Office, a research institute was designated as the “Regional Research Organization” for each region to conduct regional surveys, and a research institute was designated as the “Coordinating Research Organization” to collect and analyze the findings of the surveys conducted by each research organization.

(Coordinating Research Organization)		Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting Co., Ltd.
(Regional Research Organizations)	Hokkaido	Hokkaido Research Institute for the Twenty-First Century Co., Ltd.
	Tohoku	Tohoku Regional Advancement Center
	Northern Kanto	Japan Economic Research Institute Co., Ltd.
	Southern Kanto	Japan Economic Research Institute Co., Ltd.
	Tokai	Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting Co., Ltd.
	Hokuriku	Hokuriku Economic Research Institute
	Kinki	Resona Research Institute Co., Ltd.
	Chugoku	Chugoku Regional Research Center
	Shikoku	Shikoku Economic Federation
	Kyushu	Kyushu Economic Research Center
	Okinawa	Nansei Shoto Industrial Advancement Center

6. DI (Diffusion Index) computation method

The following points are assigned in accordance with the one-to-five scale for each category of response, and the DI is calculated by multiplying the points by the component ratio of each response category.

	Better	Slightly better	Unchanged	Slightly worse	Worse
Assessment	Will get better (Good)	Will get slightly better (Slightly good)	Will remain unchanged (Neither good nor bad)	Will get slightly worse (Slightly bad)	Will get worse (Bad)
Point	+1	+0.75	+0.5	+0.25	0