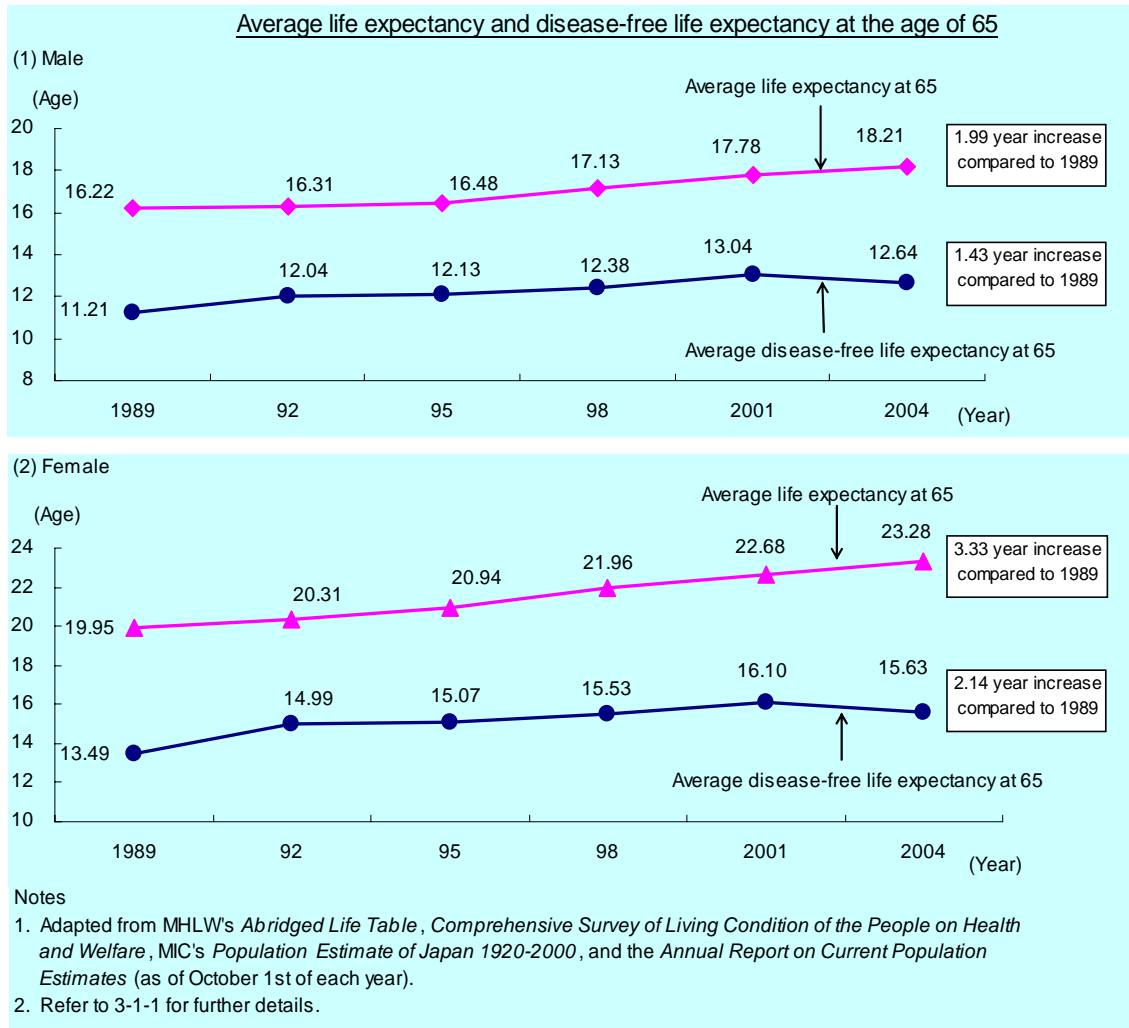


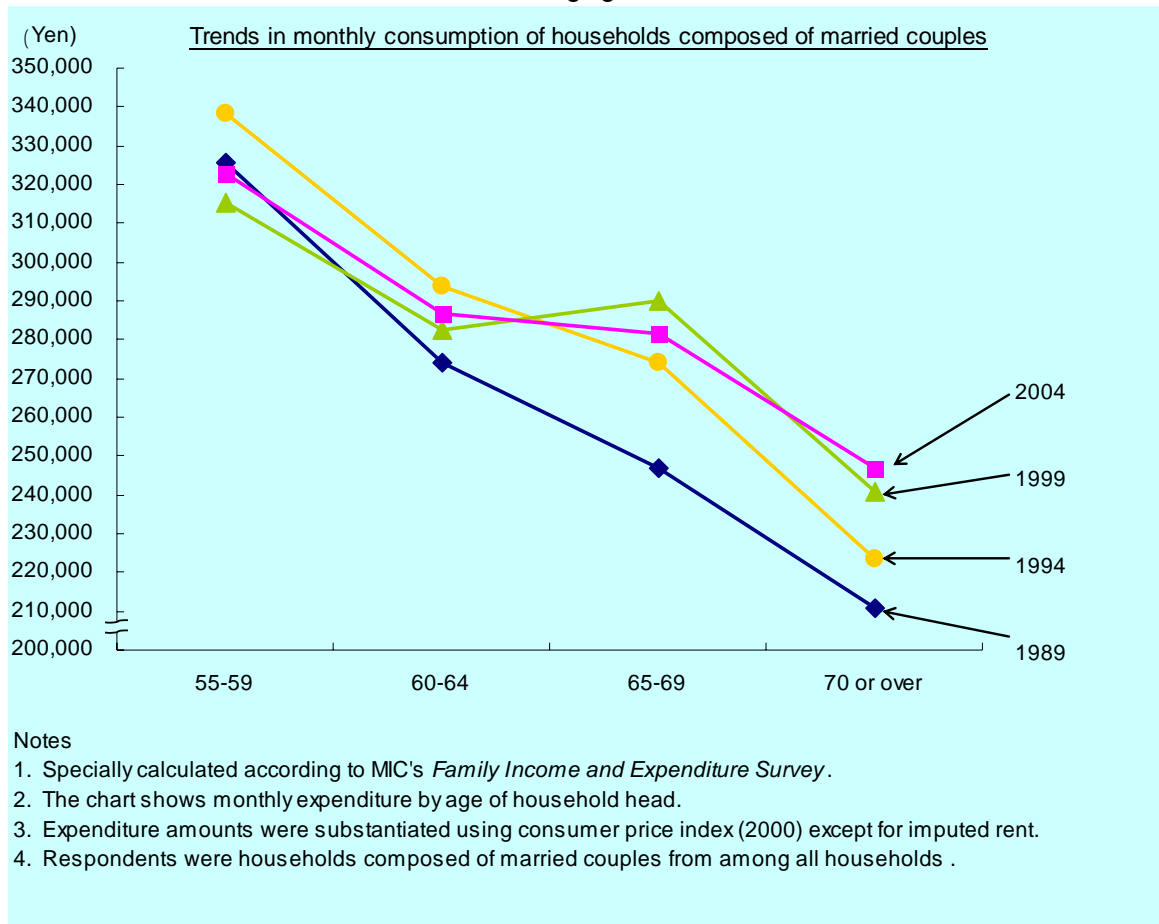
The healthy life expectancy of the Japanese is increasing as well as the average life expectancy, bringing new horizons to the elderly

Fig. 3-1-6 People can be healthier for a longer time



Expenditure goes down as people become older, but the decline is becoming less marked among the elderly. The will to consume of the elderly is high in recent years.

Fig. 3-1-12 There is an underlying strength in the will to consume of elderly people despite their aging

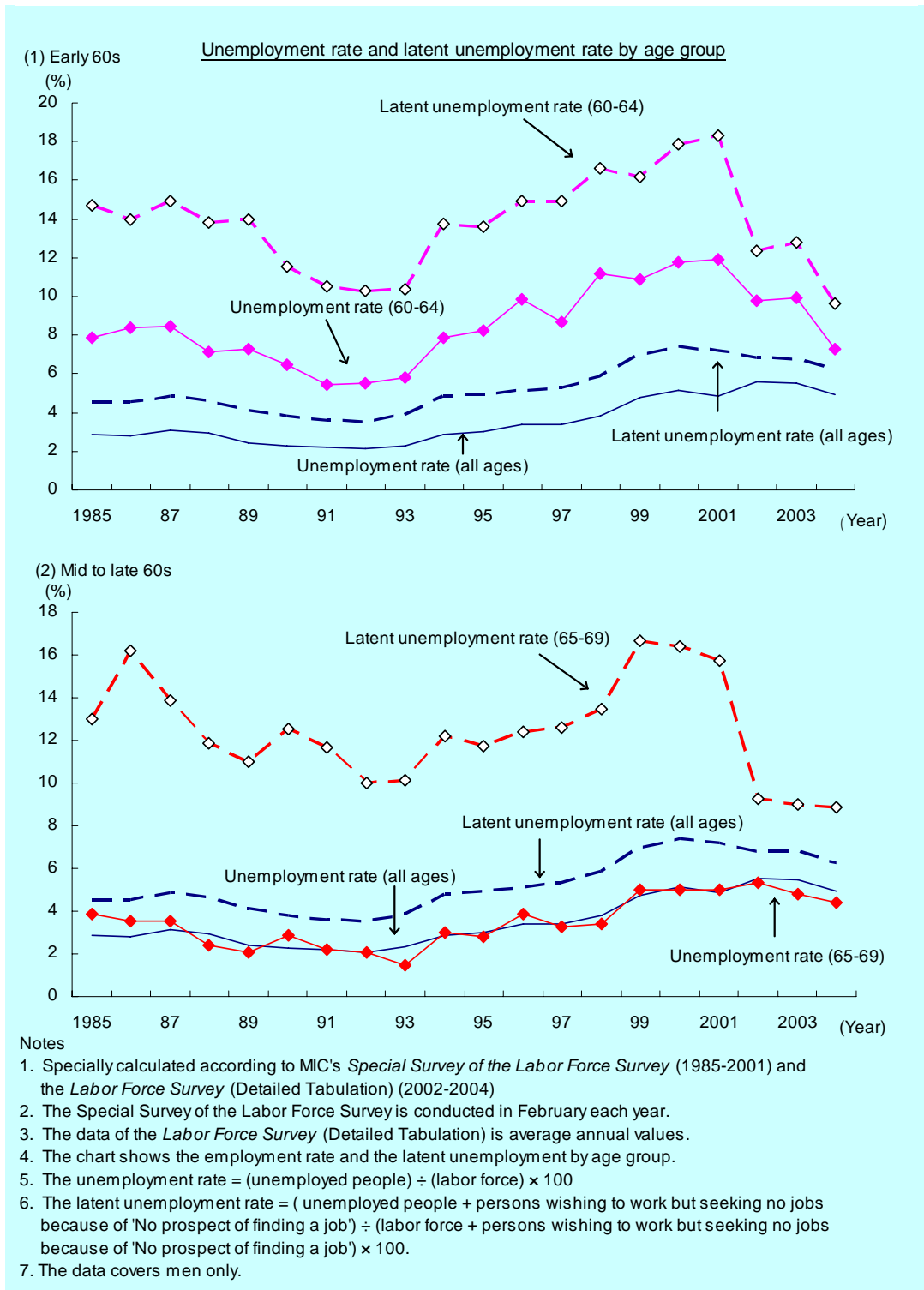


Part 2 The elderly employment: perceptions and reality

The latent unemployment rate among those in their 60s is extremely high, including those who want to work but are not seeking a job because of 'No prospect of finding a job'.

In particular, the unemployment rate of those in their late 60s is much the same as for the overall average age, but their latent unemployment rate is much higher.

Fig. 3-2-7 Latent unemployment is high among those in their 60s

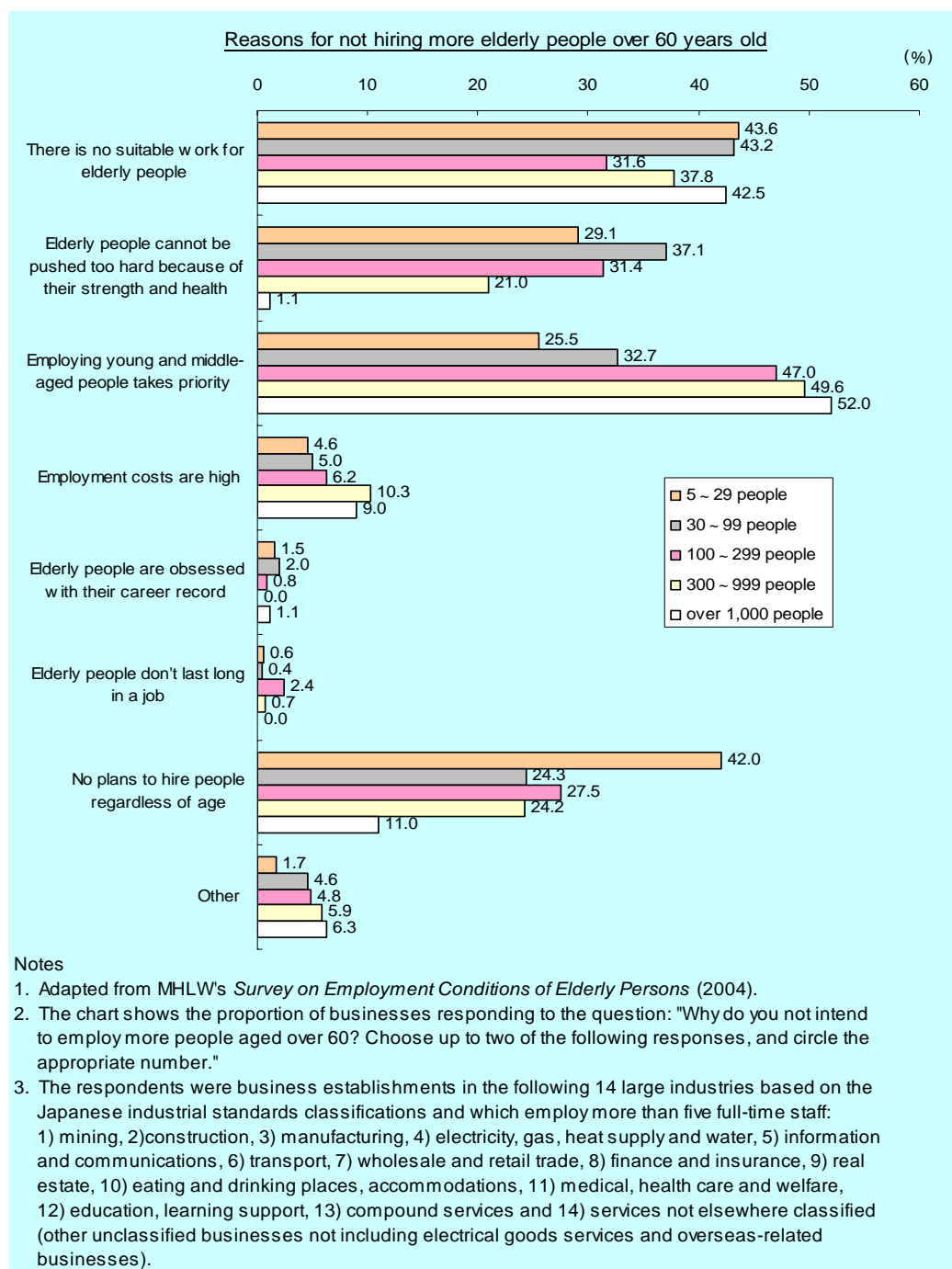


## Barriers preventing elderly people from working

The reasons why businesses take a passive stance towards employing people over 60 are:

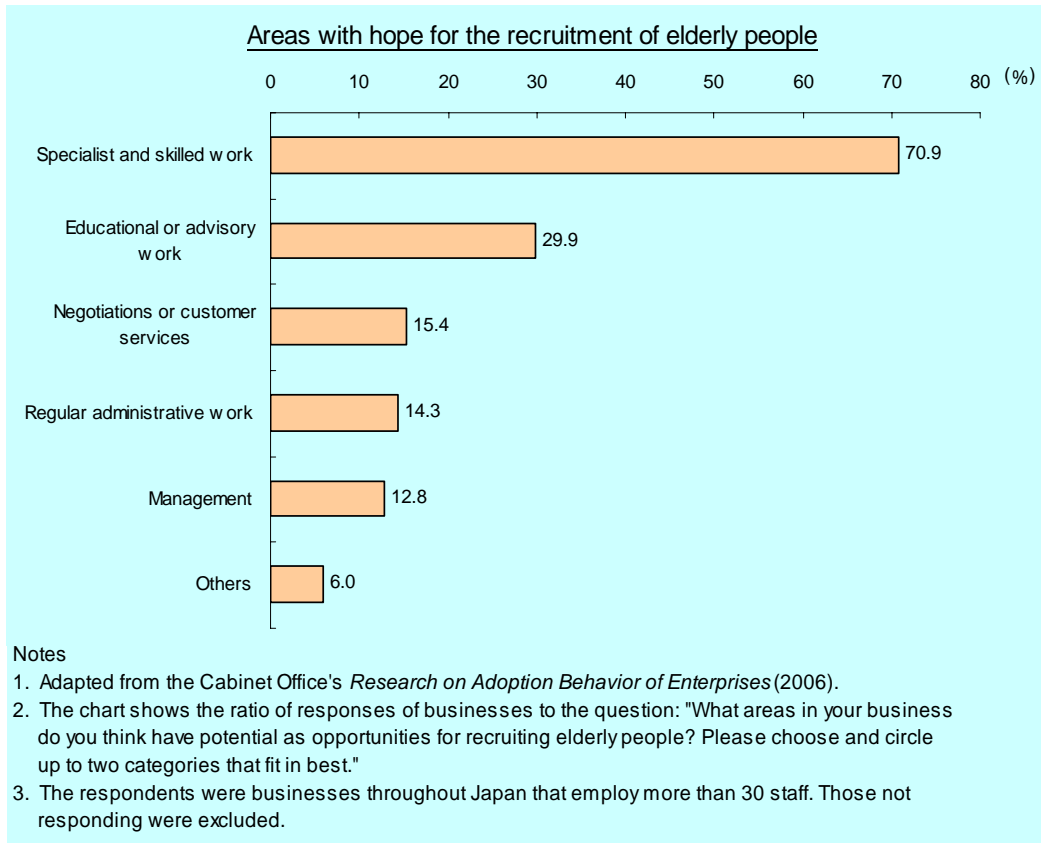
- 1) There are not enough jobs suitable for the elderly
- 2) There is a perception that employing elderly people does not fit in with the rearing and use of younger people.
- 3) No steps are being taken to find ways of compensating for the physical disadvantages of the elderly.

Fig. 3-2-14 The number of elderly people employed is not increasing because there is 'no suitable work for them'



The elderly can more easily take an active part in the workplace by brushing up specialized skills, developing communication skills to pass on techniques and advise the younger generation.

Fig. 3-2-20 There is work for elderly people in the fields requiring specialist knowledge and skills, and in educational or advisory work



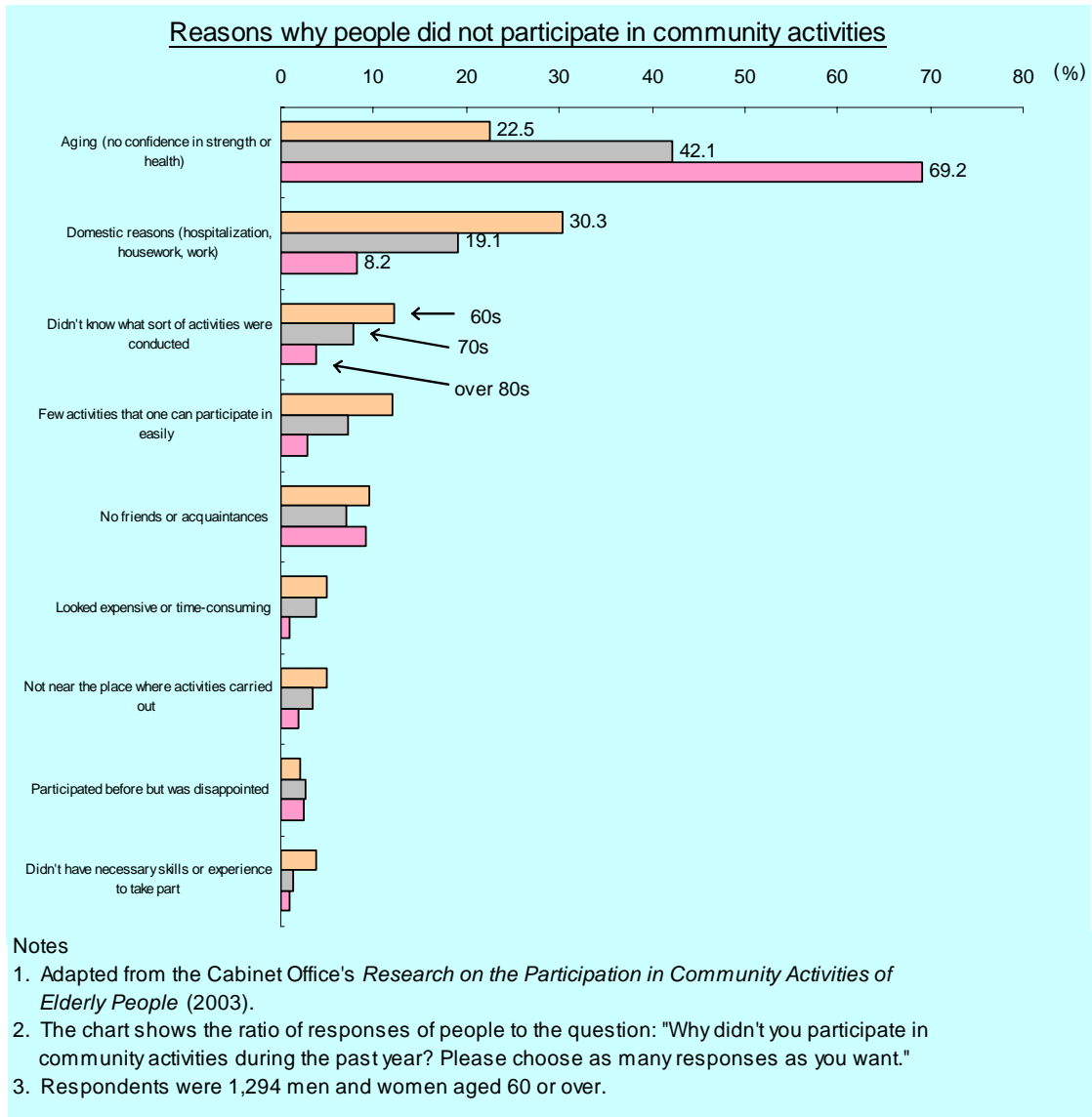
Part 3 Elderly people's lifestyles and social contribution

Barriers preventing elderly people from making a contribution to society

Elderly people's participation in social contribution is relatively passive because:

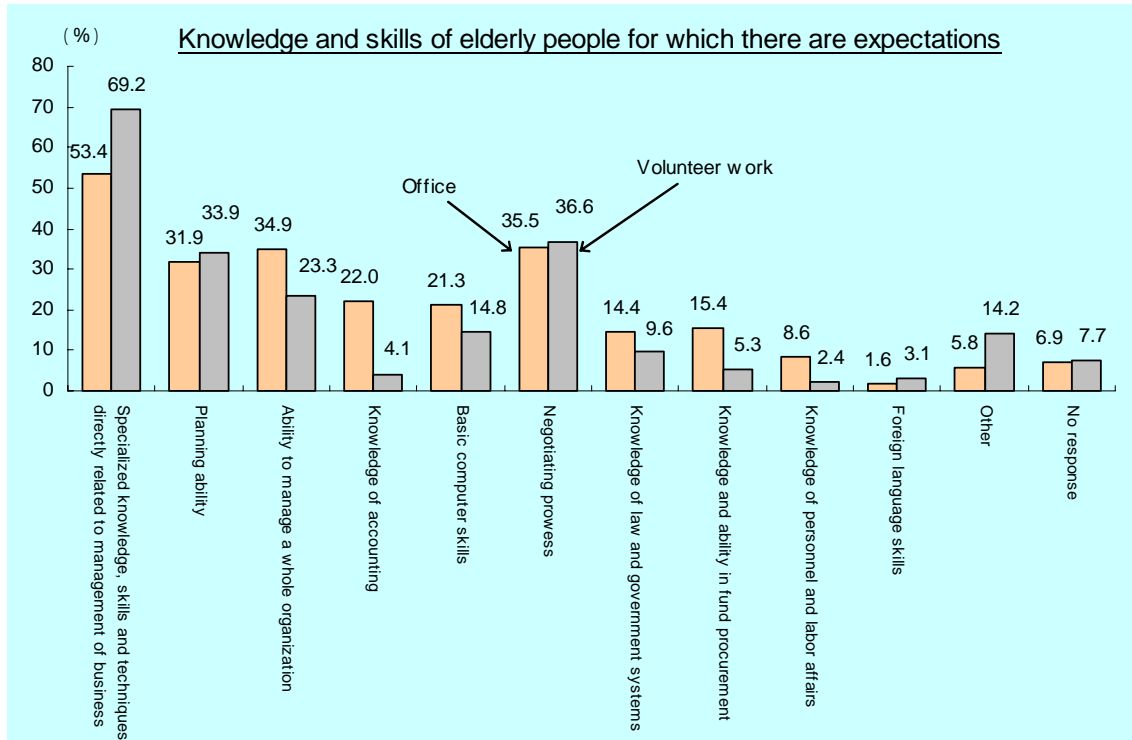
- 1) There is a lack of information about activities
- 2) They don't have friends or acquaintances to participate together with

Fig. 3-3-6 Lack of acquaintances and information are barriers to participating



NPO (non-profit organizations) have great expectations about the specialized skills and negotiating prowess of elderly people.

Fig. 3-3-14 There are expectations for the specialized knowledge, skills and negotiating prowess of elderly people



Notes

1. Adapted from the *Policy Research Report on the Participation in Society by the Elderly* (NPO research edition, 2005) compiled by the Study Group for the Comprehensive Promotion of Elderly People's Participation in Society.
2. The chart shows the responses of NPOs to the question: "What sort of knowledge and skills are important to your organization's work regardless of the age of those participating? Of these, what sort of knowledge and skills do you particularly hope will be endowed through the participation of elderly people? Please choose up to three that are the most important."
3. The respondents were 1,131 NPOs that were listed on the websites of the Cabinet Office or prefectures as of January 2005.

(1) Developments towards breaking down the barriers to the employment of elderly people

*Elderly people start up a business      a residential services cooperative based in Saitama Prefecture*

After retiring, seven elderly people decided, using their accumulated work experience and the techniques they had learned at an advanced institute of technology, to establish a cooperative carrying out redecoration and furniture manufacturing. Their income from the business is small, but they are able to work at their own pace.

*Collaboration between elderly and young people helps to pass down precision machining technology      a precision machinery company based in Chiba Prefecture*

Elderly and experienced engineers used to be reluctant to teach other people about the skills that they had acquired, but after the company made the rearing of young workers an important evaluation criteria the passing down of skills has become smoother, and the elderly workers feel a greater satisfaction.

(2) Developments towards breaking down the barriers to the social contribution of elderly people

*Elderly people in the community offer mutual support      a welfare NPO based in Chiba Prefecture*

The members, 80% of whom are over 65, use special point card-type tickets to mutually provide home-visit nursing care services in areas not covered by care insurance.

*Elderly people finding a sense of achievement in community-based child-rearing support      a child-care support NPO based in Kanagawa Prefecture*

Around 80% of the child-care supporters are aged between 55 and 80; they feel that they have their own role, and can make use of the experience and lessons from their own child rearing.

*Elderly people who are active overseas, utilizing their business experience and skills      an overseas contribution NPO based in Tokyo*

With a wealth of human resources, mainly former employees of trading houses, the NPO provides specialists to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The elderly people dispatched to various countries provide advice on an array of matters such as promoting exports and local industries.

\* \* \*

Active elderly people improve the child-rearing capabilities in the community

- Nowadays elderly people are healthier and more active in a variety of fields. If they can use their abundant experience to participate in social contribution more actively, it will be of significant assistance in supporting child-rearing in the community.