

**White Paper on Consumer Affairs
2017**

[Summary]

**Consumer Affairs Agency,
Government of Japan**

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Reference: Collection and analysis of information on consumer accidents, etc., and measures taken by the Consumer Affairs Agency under the Consumer Safety Act (omitted)

- Consumer affairs consultation information registered with PIO-NET shown in this document is as of March 31, 2017.
- It takes some time before consumer affairs consultation information registered with PIO-NET is accepted by local consumer affairs centers. The numbers of consultations indicated in this document are subject to slight increase.
- The value M.T. indicated in survey results refers to the rate calculated by dividing the total count of answers by the number of respondents (N). This value usually exceeds 100% for questions that accept multiple answers.

Part 1 Trends in consumer issues and consumers' attitude/behavior

Chapter 1 Collection of information on consumer accidents and result of analysis

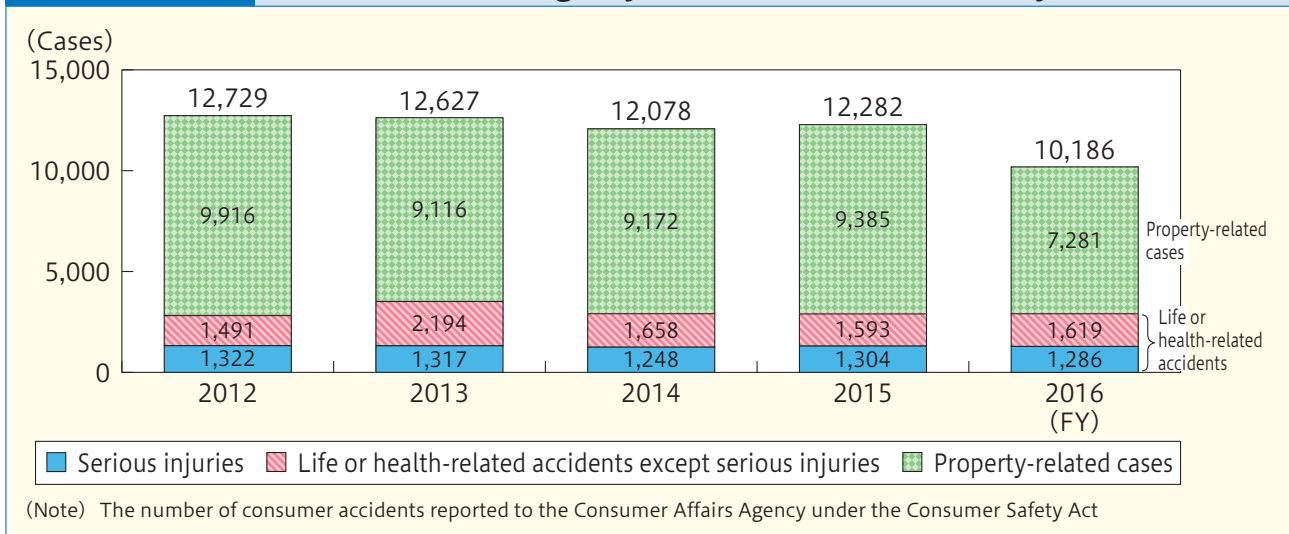
Section 1 Collection of information on consumer accidents reported to the Consumer Affairs Agency and result of analysis

10,186 cases of information on consumer accidents were reported to the Consumer Affairs Agency in FY2016.

- “Information on consumer accidents,” which are reported under the Consumer Safety Act, are divided into “life or health-related accidents” and “property-related cases.” “Life or health-related accidents” are further subdivided into “serious injuries” or “life or health-related accidents except serious injuries.”
- The number of “information on consumer accidents” reported to the Consumer Affairs Agency in FY2016 was 10,186, the number of “life or health-related accidents” was 2,905 and that of “property-related cases” was 7,281. The number of “serious injuries” (due to fires, falls, toppling, etc.) was 1,286.

Figure I-1-1-3

The number of information on consumer accidents reported to the Consumer Affairs Agency under the Consumer Safety Act



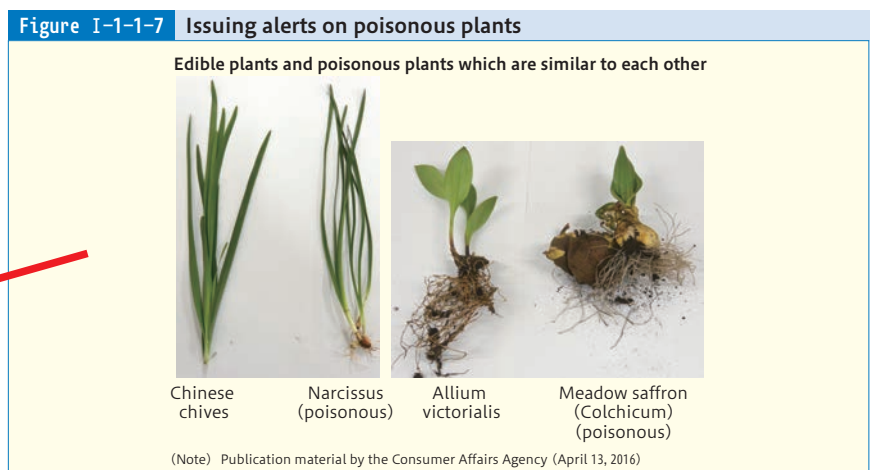
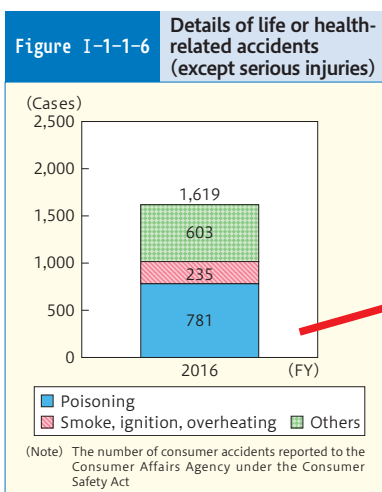
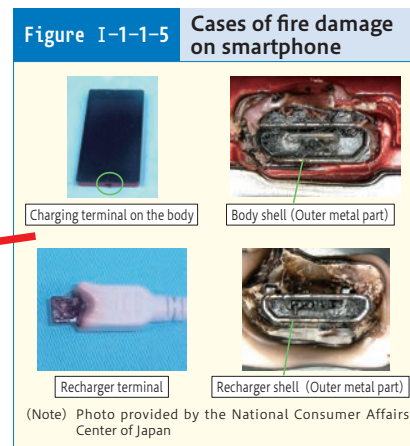
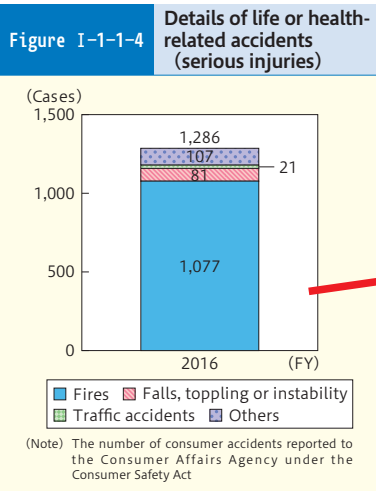
Part 1 Chapter 1 Section 1

Collection of information on consumer accidents reported to the Consumer Affairs Agency and result of analysis

About 80% of serious injuries were “fires.”

About 50% of life or health-related accidents except serious injuries were “poisoning.”

- In the information on consumer accidents in FY2016, about 80% of serious injuries were “fires.” The major causes of “fires” were from automobiles and home electrical appliances, as well as electronic devices such as smartphones and computers.
- About 50% of the life or health-related accidents except serious injuries were “poisoning” followed by “smoke, ignition, overheating.” Most of the “poisoning” cases were food poisoning from norovirus, campylobacteriosis, etc. at restaurants.
- In FY2016, we issued alerts for raising consumers’ awareness of food poisoning from poisonous plants.



Part 1 Chapter 1 Section 1

Collection of information on consumer accidents reported to the Consumer Affairs Agency and result of analysis

10 alerts were issued under the Consumer Safety Act on property-related cases in FY2016.

- Regarding the property-related cases reported under the Consumer Safety Act, 10 alerts were issued in FY2016 with the names of the businesses disclosed, under the Consumer Safety Act.
- Major cases were billing fraud cases in which they charged fees for the use of paywall, etc. by making consumers trust them by personating existing well-known companies and cases in which they lured consumers into non-existent in-home jobs.

Figure I-1-1-10 List of property-related cases through awareness raising under the Consumer Safety Act (FY2016)

Tactics	Specifics
Billing Fraud (3 cases)	They contact the consumers through Short Message Services (SMS) on the consumers' mobile phones by using an existing well-known company names, and demanding for the fake outstanding balance for the payment of usage fees for paid content.
Business opportunity related sales transaction (4 cases)	They solicit consumers who are looking for teleworking jobs on a website and force them to pay a substantial amount of money as a "website creation fee," etc.
Theatrical solicitation (2 cases)	They deceive consumers into thinking that they have a chance to recoup past fraud damage, by buying a foreign currency. The purchasing rate is approximately 2,900 times higher than the actual rate.
Deletion of personal information (1 case)	They deceive the consumers by telling them that a huge amount of application for the Tokyo Olympic Games tickets are made under the consumer's name. Afterwards they make the consumers pay in order to delete their personal information.

Figure I-1-1-11 Image of billing fraud tactics

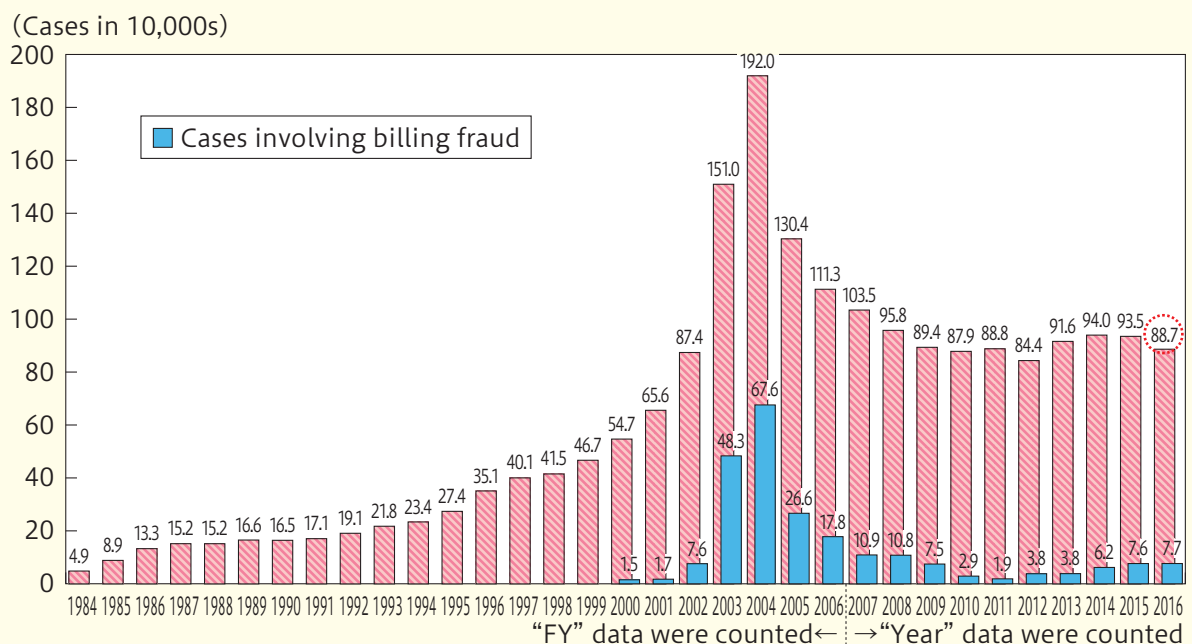


Part 1 Chapter 1 Section 3 Overview of consumer affairs consultation

The number of consumer affairs consultations in 2016 was as large as 887,000, still indicating a high level.

- The number of consumer affairs consultations in 2016 was 887,000.
- Although the number declined from 2015, it remained high.
- As informatization has spread further among a broad range of age groups, there was a rise in the number of consultations related to information and communications such as those related to the Internet.
- The number of consultations related to billing fraud was 77,000. It was nearly equal to the amount in the previous year, but an increase from 5 years ago.

Figure I-1-3-1 Changes in the number of consumer affairs consultations



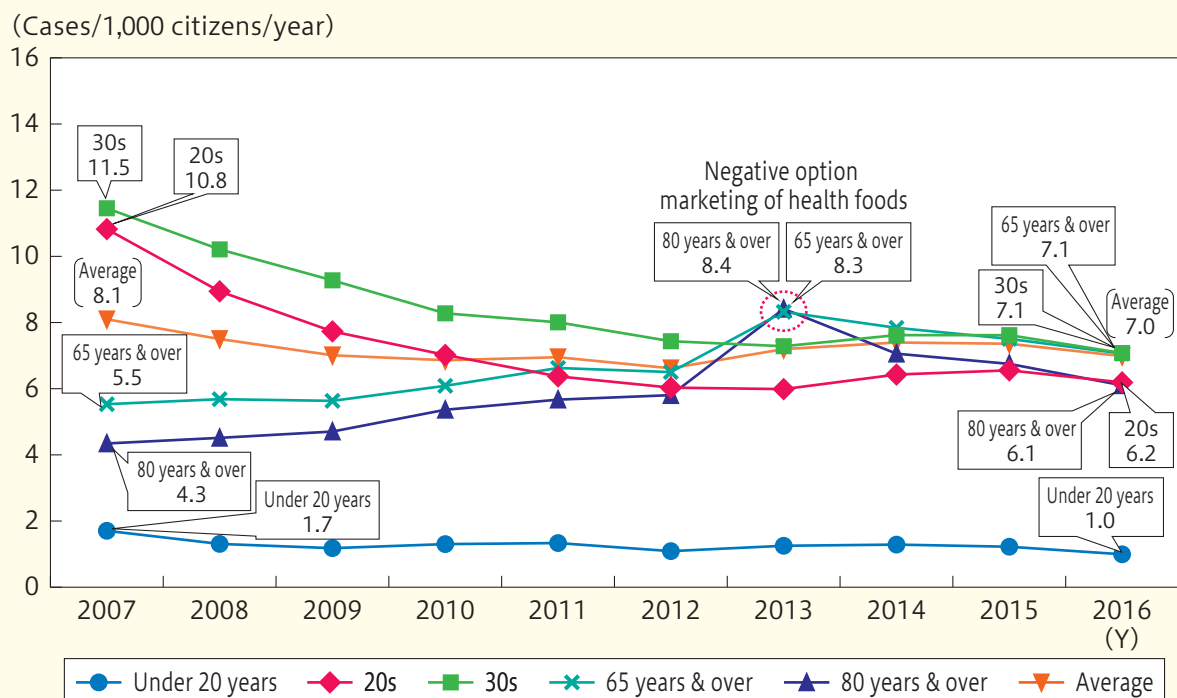
- (Notes)
1. Consumer affairs consultation information registered with PIO-NET (registration by March 31, 2017).
 2. For the period from FY1984 to FY2006, the data recorded in the “Annual Report on Consumer Affairs 2016” by the National Consumer Affairs Center of Japan were counted.
For the period from 2007 to 2016, “year” data were counted.
 3. “Billing fraud” refer to payment requests received from unfamiliar entities. Data collection in this category started in FY2000.
 4. From 2007, the number of consultations, excluding consultation offices, has been counted.

Part 1 Chapter 1 Section 3 Overview of consumer affairs consultation

The number of consumer affairs consultations per population in the age groups of 20s and 30s decreased.

- When we take a look at the changes in the number of consumer affairs consultations per 1,000 citizens, there were 10.8 cases in 2007 in the age group of 20s and that decreased to 6.2 cases in 2016. It also decreased in the age group of 30s, from 11.5 cases in 2007 to 7.1 cases in 2016. For the age group of 65 years & over, it increased from 5.5 cases in 2007 to 7.1 cases in 2016.
- The decrease in the youths seems to be attributable to the decrease of consultations related to street scams and the decline of consultations related to “adult websites” (refer to page 14).
- The reason for the increase in the older generation may include the enlightenment activities to encourage early reporting, and more consultations being conducted because of the strengthening of the protection system for the elderly, in addition to the increase of fraudulent tactics targeting the elderly.

Figure I-1-3-2 Changes in the number of consumer affairs consultations per 1,000 citizens

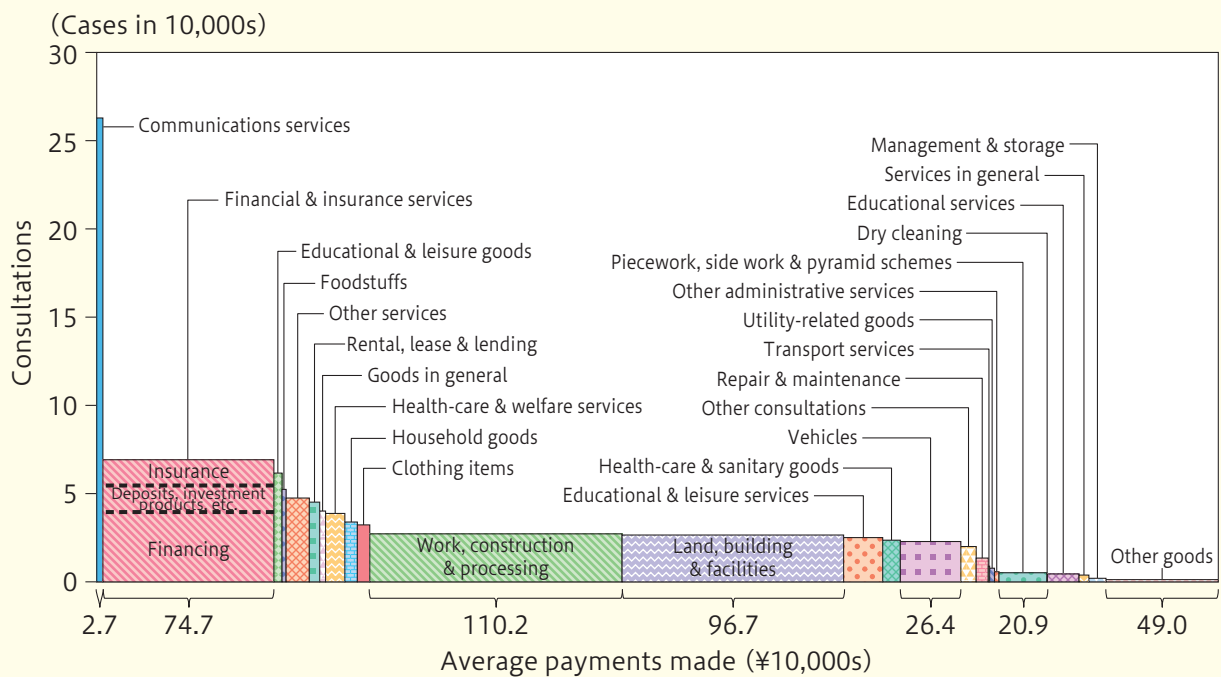


(Notes) 1. Consumer affairs consultation information registered with PIO-NET (registration by March 31, 2017), and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, “Population Estimates” (as of October 1 of each year).
 2. The average includes consultation cases in which people who asked for consultation did not either answer their age or the age has not been marked by the consultant.

Consultations related to “communications services” are by far the largest in number.

- The breakdown of the 2016 consultations by product/service type shows that “communications services,” which are mostly related to information and communications, including digital contents on a website, were by far the largest category in the number of consultations, with about 260,000 consultations received. However, payments made per case were small, at ¥27,000 on average.
- “Financial & insurance services” was the second largest category in the number of consultations.

Figure I-1-3-3 The number of consumer affairs consultations and average payments made, by product/service type (Y2016)

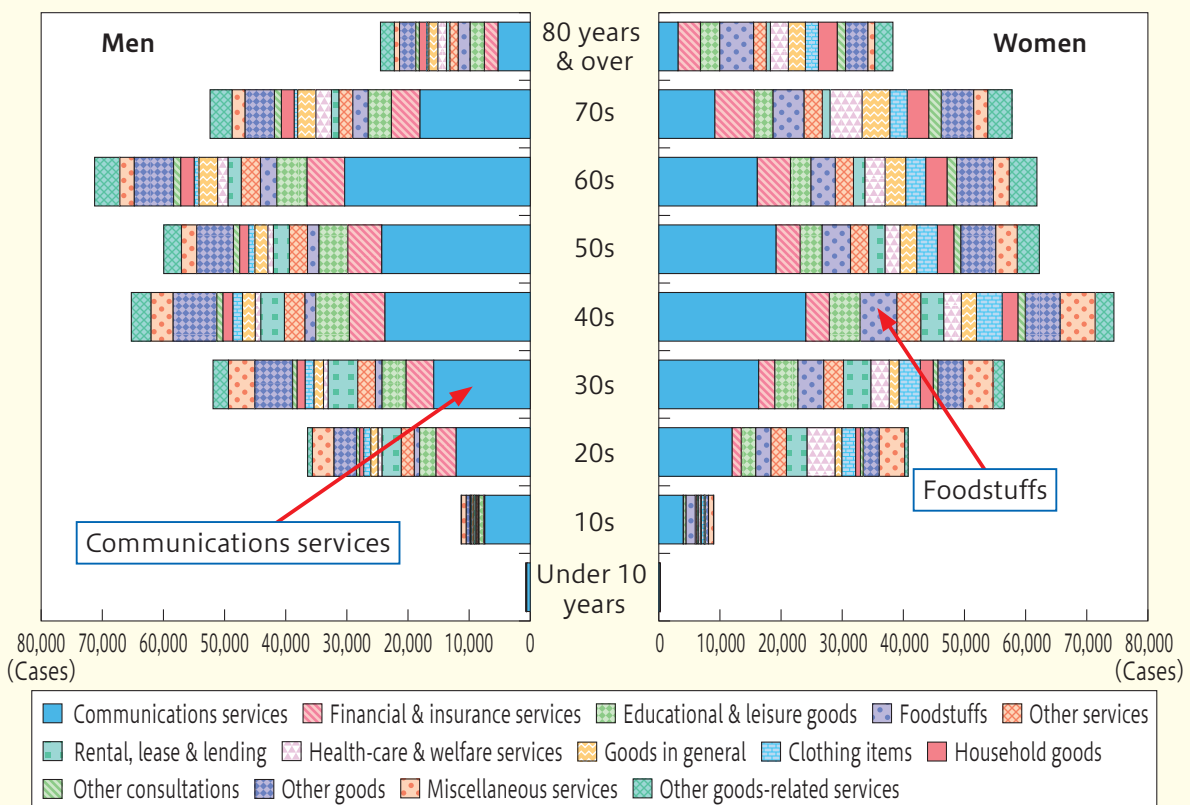


(Notes) 1. Consumer affairs consultation information registered with PIO-NET (registration by March 31, 2017).
 2. The vertical axis represents the number of consultations for each product category. The width along the horizontal axis represents average payments made for each product category.
 3. Product categories are arranged in descending order of the number of consultations.
 4. The average payments made were calculated by the Consumer Affairs Agency, assuming that the payment was zero in the cases with “No answer (No input).”
 5. “Transport and communications services” were divided into “Transport services” and “Communications services.”
 6. “Financial & insurance services” consist of financing, deposits, investment products, etc., and insurance, and the breakdown of consultation cases (and not the breakdown of average payments made) is shown. The breakdown of average payments made for “Financial & insurance services” is as follows: ¥116,000 for financing, ¥2,654,000 for deposits, investment products, etc., and ¥489,000 for insurance.

Consultations related to “communications services” are common in a wide range of age groups.

- Many of the consumer affairs consultations were related to “communications services,” such as digital content, Internet connection lines, mobile phones and other communications services, in a wide range of age groups.
- The number of consultations was higher in the age group of 60s for men and 40s for women.
- There were more consultations related to women than men, regarding “foodstuffs”, etc. such as health foods, etc.

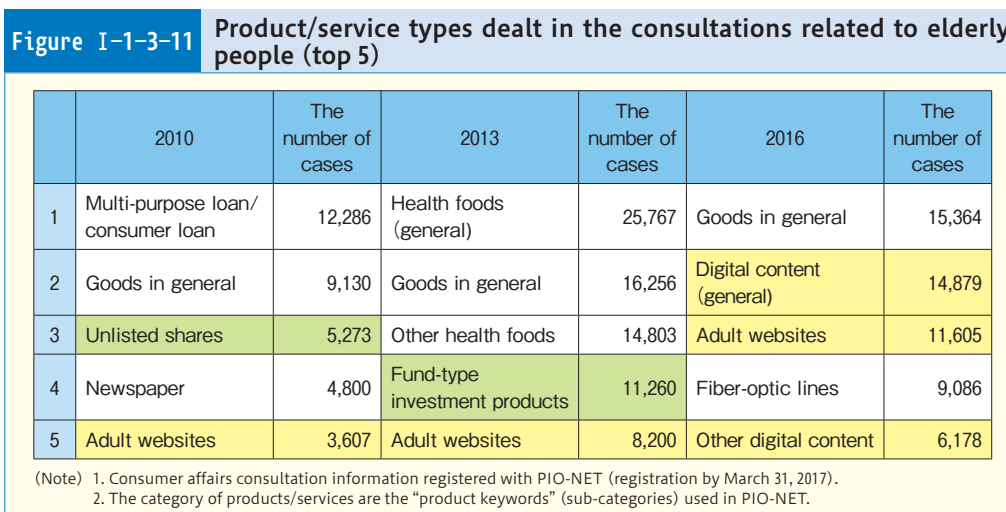
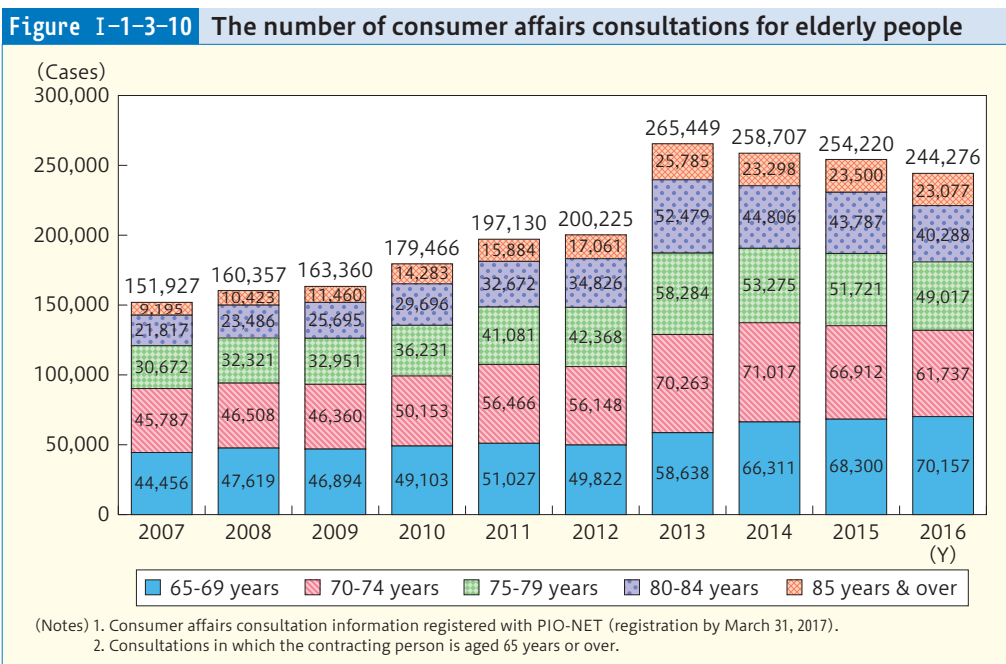
Figure I-1-3-7 The percentage of consumer affairs consultations by product/service type, by gender and age group (Y2016)



(Notes) 1. Consumer affairs consultation information registered with PIO-NET (registration by March 31, 2017).
 2. “Other goods” refer to the sum of the following product categories: utility-related goods; health-care & sanitary goods; vehicle; land, building & facilities; and other goods. “Other goods-related services” refer to the sum of dry cleaning; work, construction & processing; repair & maintenance; and management & storage. “Miscellaneous services” refer to the sum of service in general; transport services; educational services; education & leisure services; piecework, side work & pyramid schemes; and other administrative services.
 3. “Transport & communications services” were divided into “Transport services” and “Communications services.”

Consumer affairs consultations for the elderly are still at a high level.

- The number of consumer affairs consultations for the elderly peaked in 2013, and though it has been in a downward trend, the level was still high.
- Consultations on digital content, etc. among the consultations related to the Internet increased in 2016. On the other hand, consultations about financial products have decreased. Consultations related to receiving suspicious phone calls often include cases without any specific information about the products.

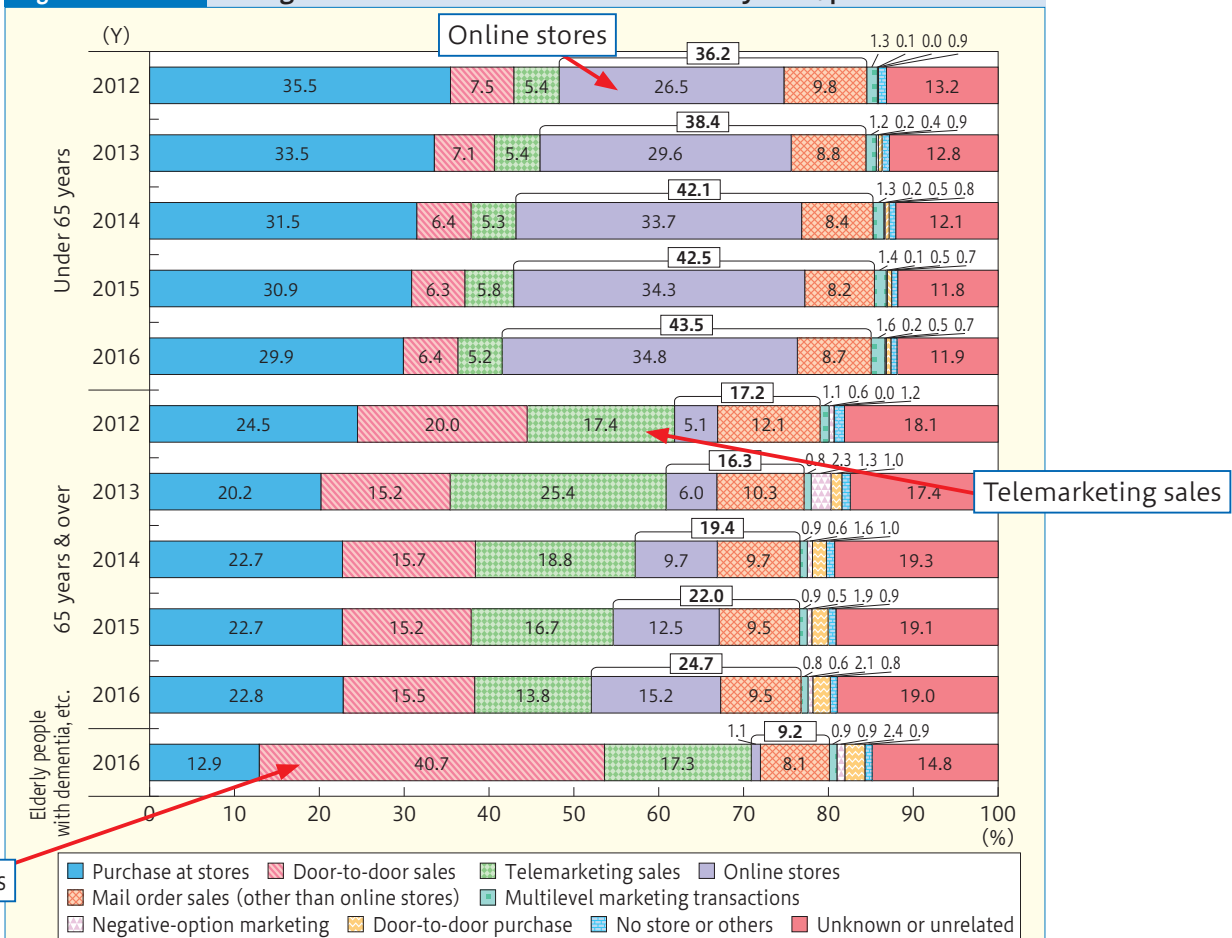


“Goods in general” mainly refers to the products that are difficult to be categorized.

The percentage of consultations about “online stores” increased.

- The breakdown of consultations by sales/purchase methods indicate that the percentage of “purchase at stores” is declining, while that of “online stores” is increasing. Consultations for consumers aged under 65 years account for 34.8% of the total.
- Among consultations related to the elderly aged 65 years & over, the ratio of “telemarketing sales” accounting for the large proportion in recent years has decreased and instead “online stores” have increased.
- “Door-to-door sales” accounts for over 40% in the elderly people with dementia, etc., where they are considered to have lower judgement ability.

Figure I-1-3-14 Changes in the breakdown of consultations by sales/purchase method

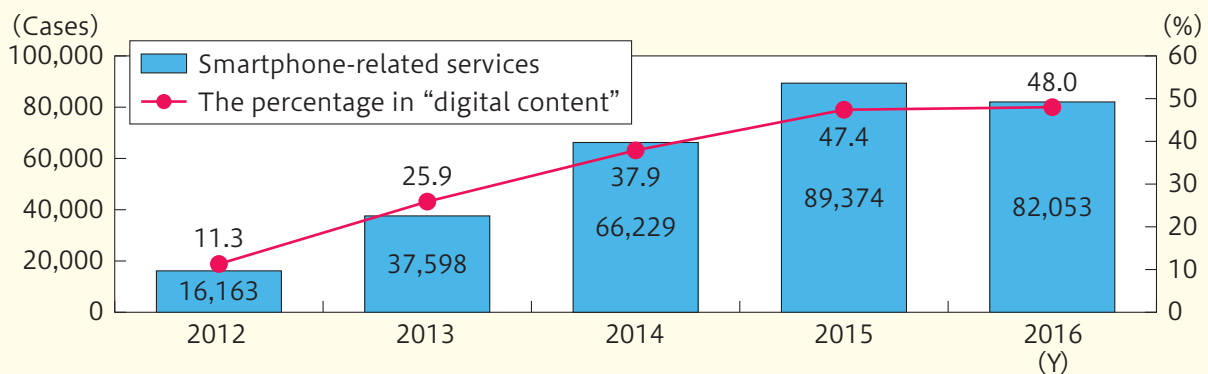


(Notes) 1. Consumer affairs consultation information registered with PIO-NET (registration by March 31, 2017).
 2. “Door-to-door purchase” was added as a new category on February 21, 2013 due to a revision to the Act on Specified Commercial Transactions.
 3. The scope of “online stores” is wider than what are commonly called online stores and includes website access charges (typically for adult websites) and digital content such as online games. The fact that online stores mentioned in the context of consumer affairs consultation information include these items should be kept in mind when data are examined.
 4. Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.

The percentage of consultations on problems related to access to the Internet using smartphones increased.

- For consultations related to “digital content” involving the usage of websites, the percentage of consultations claiming problems associated with smartphones has increased from approximately 10% in 2012 to 48.0% in 2016.
- The number of consultations on “smartphone-related services” in which users accessed digital content such as “adult websites” and “dating websites” through smartphones was 82,000 in 2016.

Figure I-1-4-1 Consultations on smartphone-related services

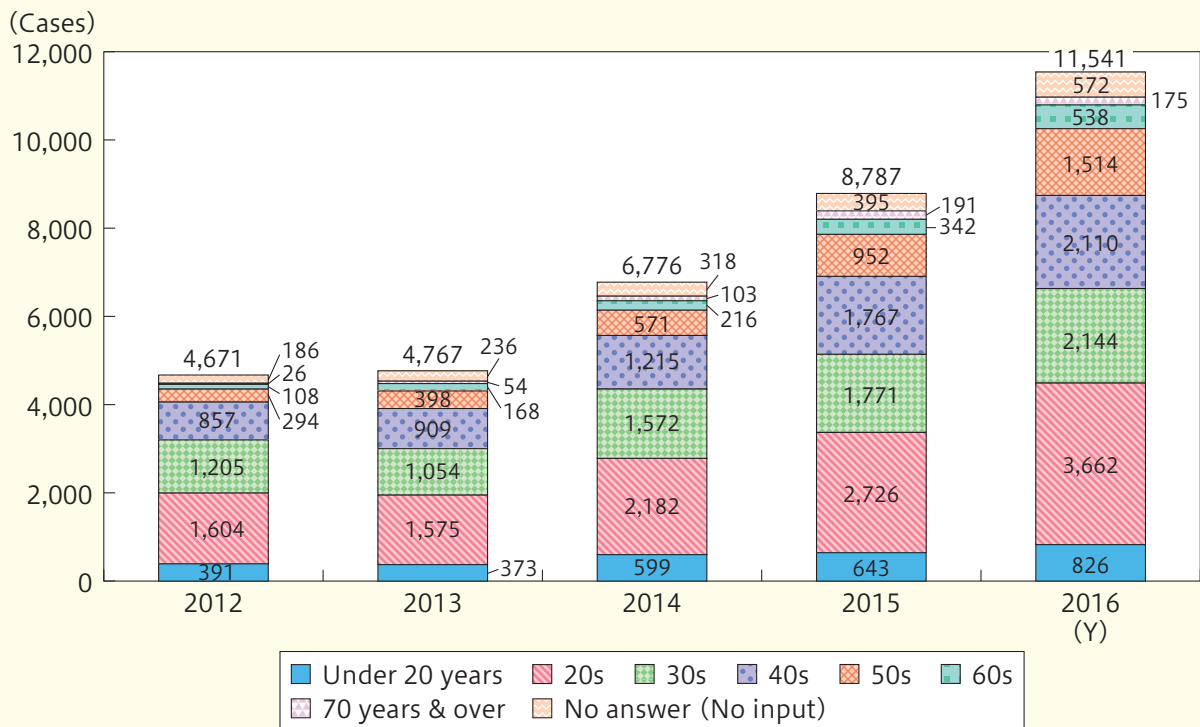


(Note) Consumer affairs consultation information registered with PIO-NET (registration by March 31, 2017).

Consultations related to troubles involving SNS are increasing.

- The number of consumer affairs consultations related to troubles arising from SNS (Social Networking Service) is on the increase, and over 11,000 cases were reported in 2016.
- From 2012 to 2016, the number of consultations increased 2.5 times, about 5 times more in the age groups of 50s and 60s, and about 7 times in 70 years & over. An increase was especially noted among middle-aged and elderly consumers, and 1.5 times higher for women than men.
- There are various types of consultations, including “I was lured into a dating website through SNS and I registered, but it seems fishy.”, “I saw an advertisement about side work on SNS and registered on the website, purchased points over and over, and finally realized it was a fraud.”, etc.

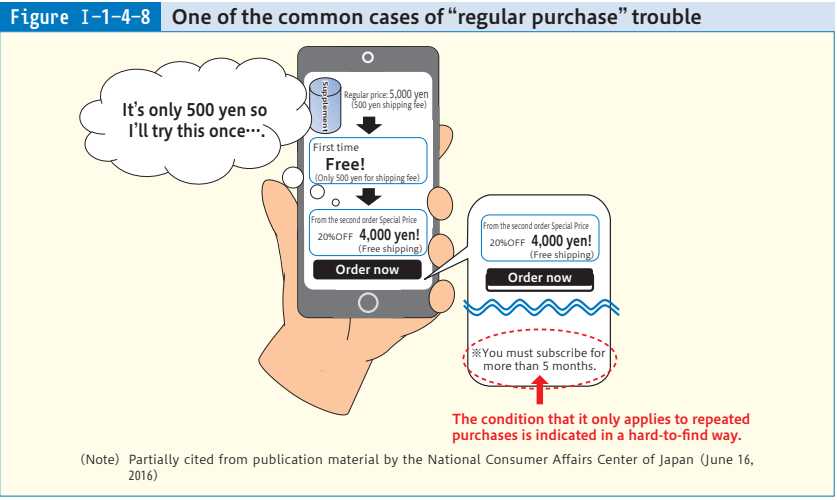
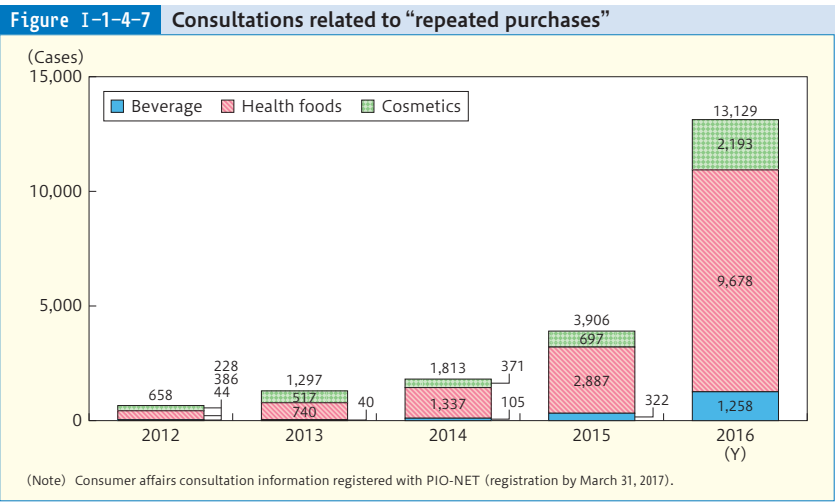
Figure I-1-4-5 Consultations related to SNS



(Note) Consumer affairs consultation information registered with PIO-NET (registration by March 31, 2017).

There was a rapid increase in the health food consultations which were supposed to be a trial but turned out to be repeated purchases.

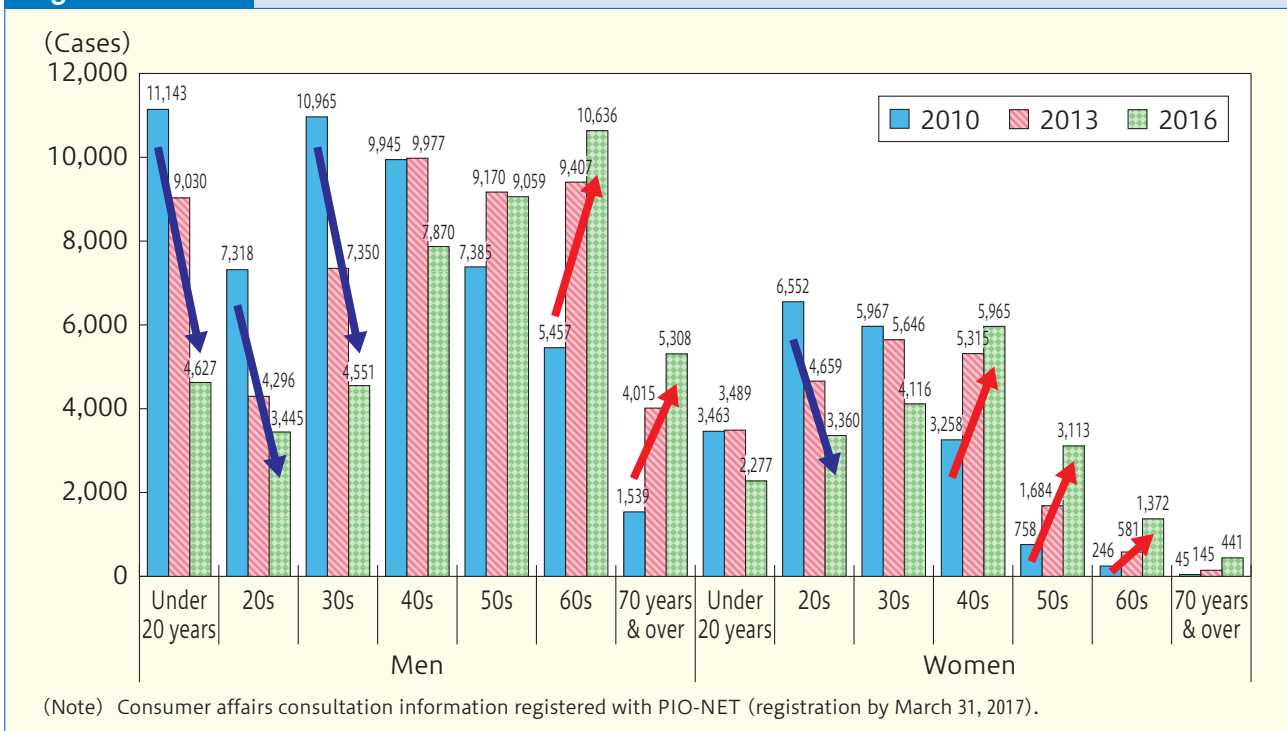
- There was a rapid increase in consultations in 2016, where consumers ordered health foods such as weight loss supplements or cosmetics as a “trial” via online stores, etc., but it turned out to be repeated purchases.
- More than 80% of the consultations were related to women, and 20% of them were related to women in the age groups of 10s and 20s.
- Common cases were, consumers believed it was a “trial” or “one-time purchase” but in fact, the contract turned out to be for repeated purchases. Examples are; “I tried to unsubscribe but the phone call cannot be connected,” “When I tried to unsubscribe, they charged me the regular price,” etc.
- There are cases in which conditions were explained that this is only applicable for repeated purchases, but in small letters, or in a different window.



Consultations related to adult websites have decreased among the youth, but increased among middle-aged and elderly consumers.

- The number of consultations related to “adult websites” was dominant regardless of gender or age.
- As for the number of consultations in 2010, 2013 and 2016, there was a decrease for men under 20 years to their 40s, while an increase was seen for those in their 50s & over. The number of consultations for men in their 60s was the highest.
- While it decreased for women under 20 years to their 30s, it increased for those in their 40s & over.
- It seems that the middle-aged and elderly consumers, who are not used to using smartphones, are the ones involved in problems.
- There is a possibility that although they face billing fraud, the youths tend “to ignore them.”

Figure I-1-4-2 Consultations related to adult websites (men and women)

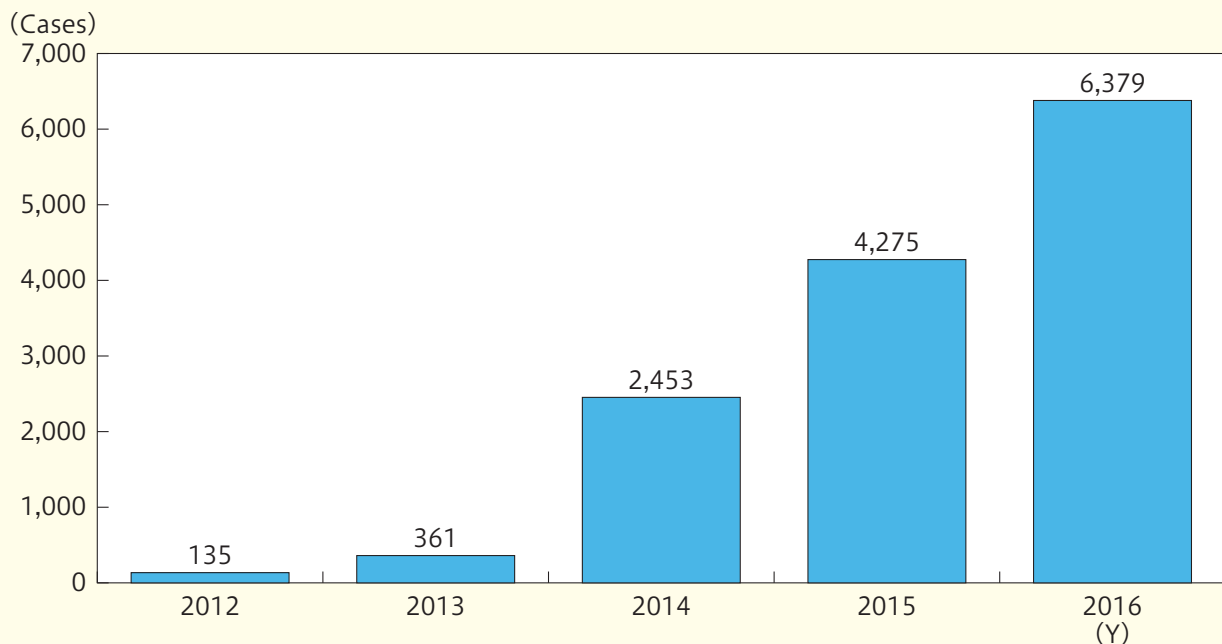


People suffer secondary damage by trying to solve adult websites problems.

- Recently, there is an increase in secondary damages such as, receiving a large bill due to contacting a detective agency, etc. to solve adult websites billing.
- There are cases in which consumers access websites of or call detective agency, etc., which advertise “damage recovery,” on online advertisements using names which consumers may confuse with public consumer consultation offices (such as “Consumers O X Center”).
- Among the consultations concerning secondary damage, people in their 40s who are also the highest in all age groups for consultations related to adult websites was the highest, but the number is also remarkable for people in their 20s and 30s, who frequently search on the Internet.

Figure I-1-4-3

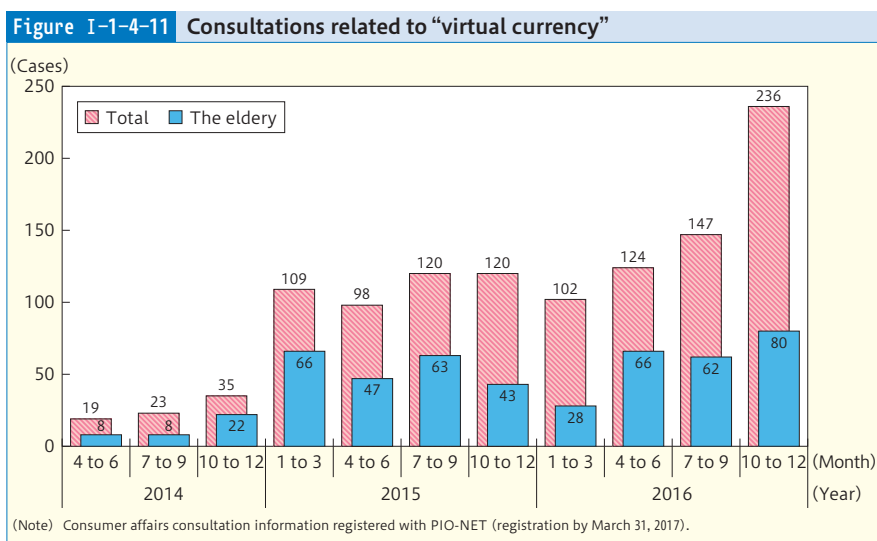
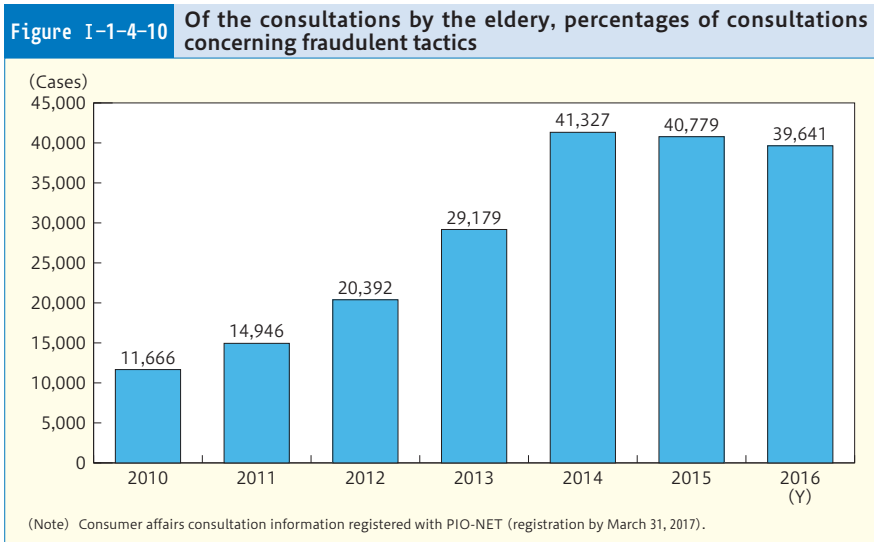
Conslutations related to detective agencies, etc., which pretends to solve issues related to adult websites



(Note) Consumer affairs consultation information registered with PIO-NET (registration by March 31, 2017).

Caution is required for fraudulent tactics involving the elderly.

- The number of consultations related to fraudulent tactics involving the elderly remains high.
- Recently, investment solicitation problems are prominent such as cases involving the purchase of “virtual currency” or “rental owner agreements.”
- It is important to continue awareness activities to protect the safety of the elderly.



Consultations related to fraudulent tactics: Consultations registered with PIO-NET as “fraud,” “billing fraud,” “loan security fraud” or “refund fraud” categories, which were chosen when consumers or the local consumer affairs centers, etc. had a strong impression that the businesses had the intention to carry out fraud.

Part 1 Chapter 1 Section 5

Experience of consumer harm and problems / estimated amounts of harm and problems

Losses from harm and problems to consumers amounted to an estimated 5.2 trillion.

- Consumers who said they had experienced some kind of consumer harm and problems with products or services purchased in the past year accounted for 7.7%.
- The losses from harm and problems to consumers (total expenditures on products and services associated with consumer harm and problems) in 2016 amounted to an estimated 5.2 trillion.
- This amount expresses how much economic losses consumers suffered due to recognized harm and problems, as measured by the value of products/services involved.

Figure I-1-5-1 Experience of consumer harm and problems associated with purchased products and services

	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
Found product functionality/quality or service quality much poorer than expected	6.1%	7.9%	8.2%	5.9%
Found actual products/services markedly different from what had been advertised or represented	2.5%	4.9%	4.8%	3.2%
Was charged far more than expected	0.8%	2.4%	2.7%	1.0%
Suffered damage from contract/cancellation problems	0.4%	1.1%	1.2%	0.9%
Had safety or health problems (e.g., injury, illness)	0.5%	1.3%	1.8%	0.8%
Concluded a contract/purchase as a result of an unfaithful sales method or pitch	0.4%	1.4%	1.7%	0.8%
Made (or promised) payments to businesses as a result of fraud	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%
Experienced other consumer harm	0.7%	1.6%	1.8%	0.9%
Experienced any of the above	8.0%	10.6%	10.9%	7.7%

(Notes) 1. Consumer Affairs Agency, "Basic Survey on Consumer Life". The percentage of valid responses was 60.1% in the FY2016 survey, 65.1% in the FY2015 survey, 64.5% in the FY2014 survey and 65.3% in the FY2013 survey.
2. Answers to the question, "Regarding products and services you have purchased in the past year, have you experienced any of the following in the past year?"

Figure I-1-5-4 Estimated losses from harm and problems to consumer

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Contract/purchase value	Approx. ¥6.5 tn.	Approx. ¥7.8 tn.	Approx. ¥7.4 tn.	Approx. ¥5.9 tn.
Payment made (including credit granted)*	Approx. ¥6.0 tn.	Approx. ¥6.7 tn.	Approx. ¥6.7 tn.	Approx. ¥5.2 tn.
Payment made	Approx. ¥5.4 tn.	Approx. ¥5.5 tn.	Approx. ¥6.0 tn.	Approx. ¥4.7 tn.

* Payment made (including credit granted)* is calculated by adding future payments, such as the amount charged on credit cards, to the payments already made.

(Notes) 1. The number of cases is estimated from the results of the Basic Survey on Consumer Life with respect to the answers to the following question: "Regarding products and services you have purchased in the past year, have you experienced any of the following in the past year?" The options given were (1) Had safety or health problems (e.g., injury, illness); (2) Found product functionality/quality or service quality much poorer than expected; (3) Was charged far more than expected; (4) Found actual products/services markedly different from what had been advertised or represented; (5) Concluded a contract/purchase as a result of an unfaithful sales method or pitch; (6) Suffered damage from contract/cancellation problems; (7) Made (or promised) payments to businesses as a result of fraud; and (8) Experienced other consumer harm
2. Average payments made are calculated from consumer affairs consultation information for 2016 registered with PIONET (registration by January 31, 2017).
3. Total expenditures on products and services associated with consumer harm and problems.
4. The above amounts are estimates made through the following procedure: "the probability of occurrence" of consumer harm and problems was obtained from "Basic Survey on Consumer Life," and then it was multiplied by the average payment per case calculated from consumer affairs consultation information. The estimates also include corrections, such as additions based on the assumption that there are some latent cases experienced by the elderly.
5. The survey on which these estimates are based relies on consumers' perceptions. It should therefore be noted that the perception of consumer harm and problems varies between respondents and the results may include errors due to such nature of the awareness survey.

Part 1 Chapter 2

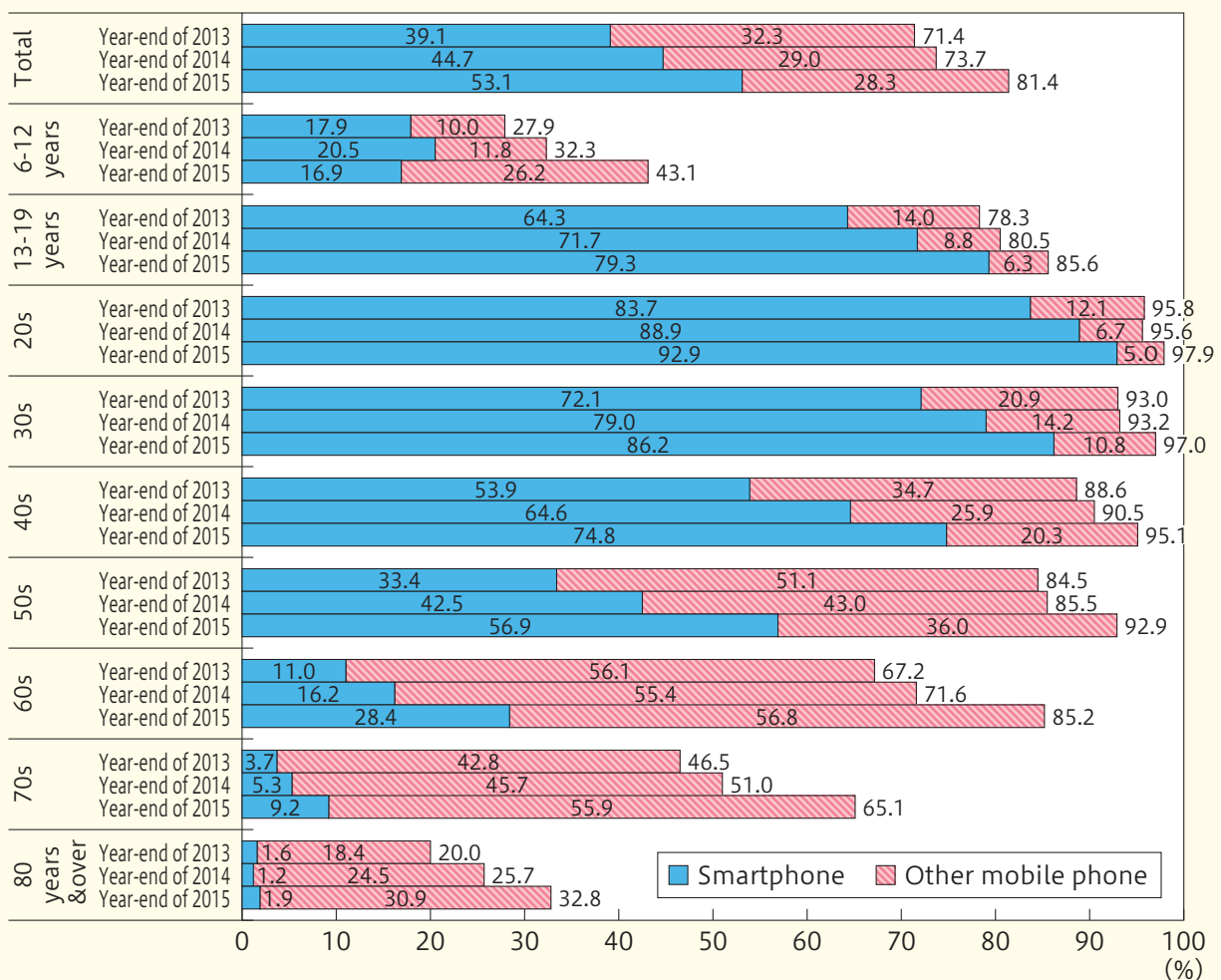
Consumer-related socioeconomic situation and consumers' attitude/behavior

Section 1 Consumer-related socioeconomic situation

Smartphones are becoming popular in all generations.

- Smartphones have become more widespread, and as of the end of 2015, 53.1% owned a smartphone.
- As of the end of 2015, about 90% of people in their 20s or 30s own smartphones.
Even in the 10s: 80% for 13 years & over, an increase of 7.6 points from the previous year.
- For people in their 50s and 60s, the year-on-year growth rate is significant, meaning that more and more middle-aged and elderly consumers own smartphones.

Figure I-2-1-21 Ratio of people who own mobile phone for each age group



(Note) Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, "Communication Usage Trend Survey."

FinTech is not well known, but users give it a high rating.

- Nowadays, the trend of providing FinTech (new financial services utilizing IT, such as automatic household accounts book service) is seen all over the world, and in the future it is expected that users will increase in Japan as well.
- 78.3% of respondents said “I do not know” about FinTech.
- Of those who answered, “Yes, I do.,” 3.5% answered “mobile payment,” 1.4% answered “personal property management,” etc. Although these numbers are low, about half of the users responded that they are “using it on a daily basis,” and 95.6% said that they felt it was “convenient.”
- On the other hand, among non-users, 77.6% said “I do not intend to use it.”

Figure I-2-1-30 Degree of convenience as perceived by users and non-users

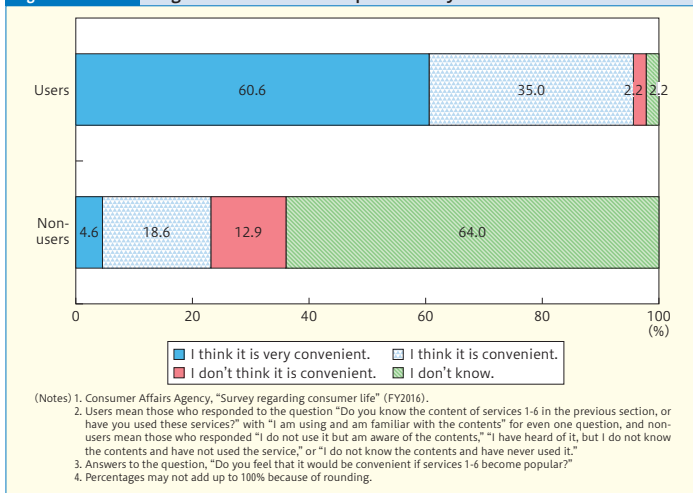
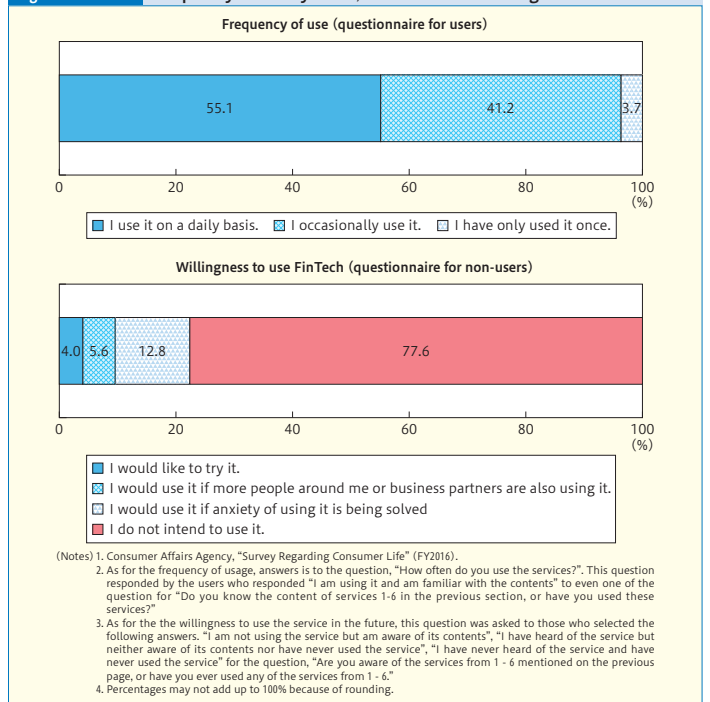


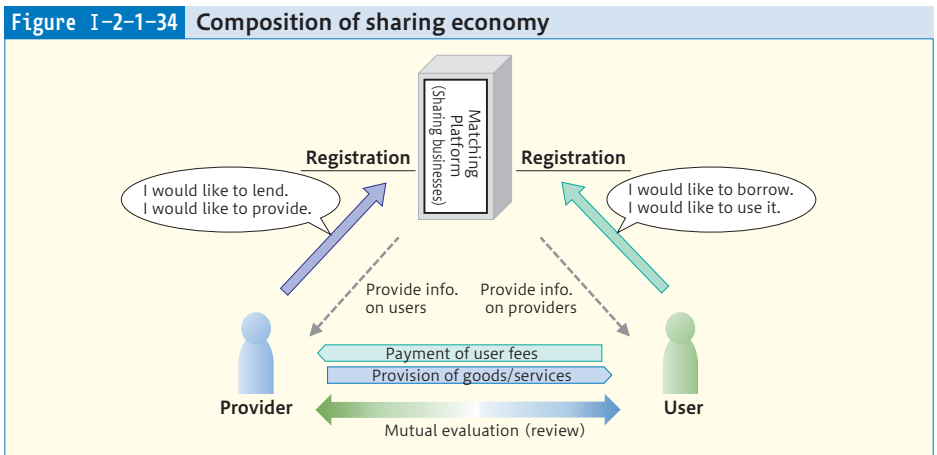
Figure I-2-1-31 Frequency of use by users, and non-users' willingness to use FinTech



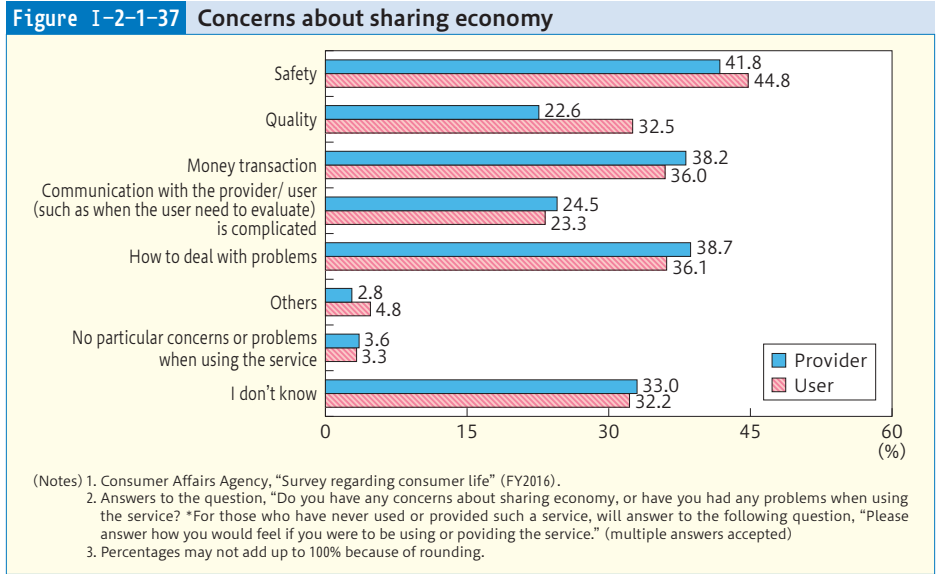
Part 1 Chapter 2 Section 1 Consumer-related socioeconomic situation

Although sharing economy is not well known, there is an interest in the sharing of goods, and most concerns are related to safety, etc.

- Sharing economy means economic activities in which personal property (vacant rooms of one’s home, vehicles, etc.) and abilities (skills, knowledge, etc.) are made available to other individuals via an online matching platform (sharing businesses).
- Regarding domestic sharing economy, 88.4% responded “I don’t know about it.”
- Regarding future use, “goods” service was the highest, yet, the percentage remains low.
- Regarding concerns about the sharing economy, “safety,” “money transactions,” and “how to deal with problems” were concerns of both providers and users which was as high as 40%.



Classification of sharing	Classification of service
Sharing of space	Home sharing (including stayed at private residences)
	Unused facilities
Sharing of goods	Flea market app
	Rental services
Sharing of movement	Car sharing
	Ride sharing
Sharing of skills	Housekeeping service
	Child Care
	Knowledge



Part 1 Chapter 2 Section 2 Consumers' attitude and behavior

Among answers to “How do you spend money?”, the percentage of “eating” was the largest. Other than eating, answers include “fashion,” etc. for young people, and “medical care” for the elderly.

- Among the things people are currently spending money on, the percentage of “eating” was the largest regardless of age.
- In the late 10s, 20s and 30s, people spend money on “fashion” and “beauty/how to dress appropriately,” but also on “savings.”
- For those in their 30s and 40s, there is a high percentage for “education (children’s education).”
- For those aged 60 years & over, the percentage for “medical care” increased, and money is also spent on “travel” and “social activities.”

Figure I-2-2-3 How you spend your money

① Things people are currently spending money on (%)

	Late 10s		20s		30s		40s		50s		60s		70 years & over	
1	Eating	69.1	Eating	71.2	Eating	73.8	Eating	69.8	Eating	69.2	Eating	68.1	Eating	69.2
2	Fashion	50.2	Fashion	52.1	Fashion	39.3	Education (children's education)	47.7	Social activities	27.4	Medical care	36.1	Medical care	49.3
3	Watching sports, movies, concerts, etc.	34.6	Social activities	45.2	Education (children's education)	34.8	Home-related expenses	28.4	Home-related expenses	25.8	Travel	31.8	Social activities	27.8
4	Beauty/how to dress appropriately	33.9	Beauty/how to dress appropriately	41.7	Home-related expenses	31.2	Fashion	26.5	Communication (telephone, Internet, etc.)	25.4	Social activities	29.1	Beauty/how to dress appropriately	27.4
5	Savings	27.9	Savings	34.4	Savings	30.2	Beauty/dress appropriately	25.8	Beauty/how to dress appropriately	25.0	Beauty/how to dress appropriately	26.5	Travel	26.2
							Social activities	25.8						
	M.T.=332.9		M.T.=456.4		M.T.=440.0		M.T.=422.1		M.T.=419.6		M.T.=405.1		M.T.=383.0	

(Notes) 1. Consumer Affairs Agency, “Basic Survey on Consumer Life” (FY2016).

2. Answers to the question, “Which of the followings are you currently spending money on?” (multiple answers accepted)

3. No. of respondents: late 10s = 301, 20s = 482, 30s = 810, 40s = 1,028, 50s = 983, 60s = 1,199, 70 years & over = 1,206

Part 1 Chapter 2 Section 2 Consumers' attitude and behavior

For those who are less than 60 years old, people want to put money into “savings” and the areas in which they want to save money on are “fashion” and “communications.”

- Regarding what to spend money on, “savings” was mentioned in a wide range of ages from the late 10s to 50s. Even in the 30s and 40s, concerns for the future was indicated with responses such as “preparation for post-retirement.”
- Regarding what to save money on, the percentage of respondents who answered “cars” was high across all generations. There is a trend of not purchasing cars not only for young consumers but also for middle-aged and elderly consumers.
- Consumers in their late 10s intend to save money on “eating” and “communications (telephone, Internet, etc.),” and those in their 30s to 60s intend to save money on “fashion” and “communications (telephone, Internet, etc.)”

Figure I-2-2-3 How you spend your money

② What I'd like to start spending money on/What I'd like to continue to spend money on (%)

	Late 10s	20s	30s	40s	50s	60s	70 years & over
1	Fashion 57.8	Savings 67.2	Savings 68.4	Savings 59.8	Preparation for post-retirement 54.7	Eating 47.2	Eating 54.7
2	Eating 56.1	Eating 57.5	Eating 54.2	Eating 46.9	Savings 49.2	Preparation for post-retirement 44.4	Medical care 38.6
3	Savings 55.5	Beauty/how to dress appropriately 51.2	Education (children's education) 50.6	Preparation for post-retirement 45.1	Eating 47.0	Travel 43.8	Preparation for old age 32.8
4	Beauty/how to dress appropriately 49.8	Travel 50.2	Travel 45.6	Education (children's education) 44.5	Travel 42.9	Health/relaxation 29.4	Health/relaxation 29.3
5	Watching sports, movies, concerts, etc. 37.9	Fashion 48.3	Preparation for post-retirement 41.5	Travel 35.7	Health/relaxation 30.4	Medical care 29.0	Travel 28.2
	M.T.=511.0	M.T.=622.8	M.T.=588.3	M.T.=504.7	M.T.=483.2	M.T.=416.4	M.T.=370.6

③ What I'd like to save money on/What I'd like to continue save money on (%)

	Late 10s	20s	30s	40s	50s	60s	70 years & over
1	Eating 34.2	Communication (telephone, Internet, etc.) 45.2	Communication (telephone, Internet, etc.) 50.1	Communication (telephone, Internet, etc.) 45.3	Fashion 41.3	Fashion 42.0	Fashion 32.0
2	Communication (telephone, Internet, etc.) 32.2	Cars 35.1	Fashion 40.7	Fashion 39.9	Communication (telephone, Internet, etc.) 38.9	Cars 39.4	Cars 28.3
3	Cars 29.6	Medical care 34.9	Cars 38.9	Cars 38.0	Cars 38.6	Household appliances/AV equipment 33.9	Not Available 26.2
4	Services for childcare, nursing care, housekeeping, etc. 28.9	Pet-related expenses 34.2	Household appliances/AV equipment 32.7	Eating 34.0	Household appliances/AV equipment 31.8	Communication (telephone, Internet, etc.) 32.0	Home-related expenses 25.4
5	Home-related expenses 28.2	Home-related expenses 32.8	Eating 32.3	Household appliances/AV equipment 33.5	Eating 31.6	Home-related expenses 31.9	Household appliances/AV equipment 25.2
	M.T.=523.3	M.T.=601.5	M.T.=577.3	M.T.=547.8	M.T.=497.3	M.T.=511.3	M.T.=398.6

(Notes) 1. Consumer Affairs Agency, “Basic Survey on Consumer Life” (FY2016).

2. Answers to the question, ② “Which of the following would you like to spend money or continue to spend money for?” (multiple answers accepted)

3. Answers to the question, ③ “Which of the following areas would you like to start saving or continue to save money for?” (multiple answers accepted)

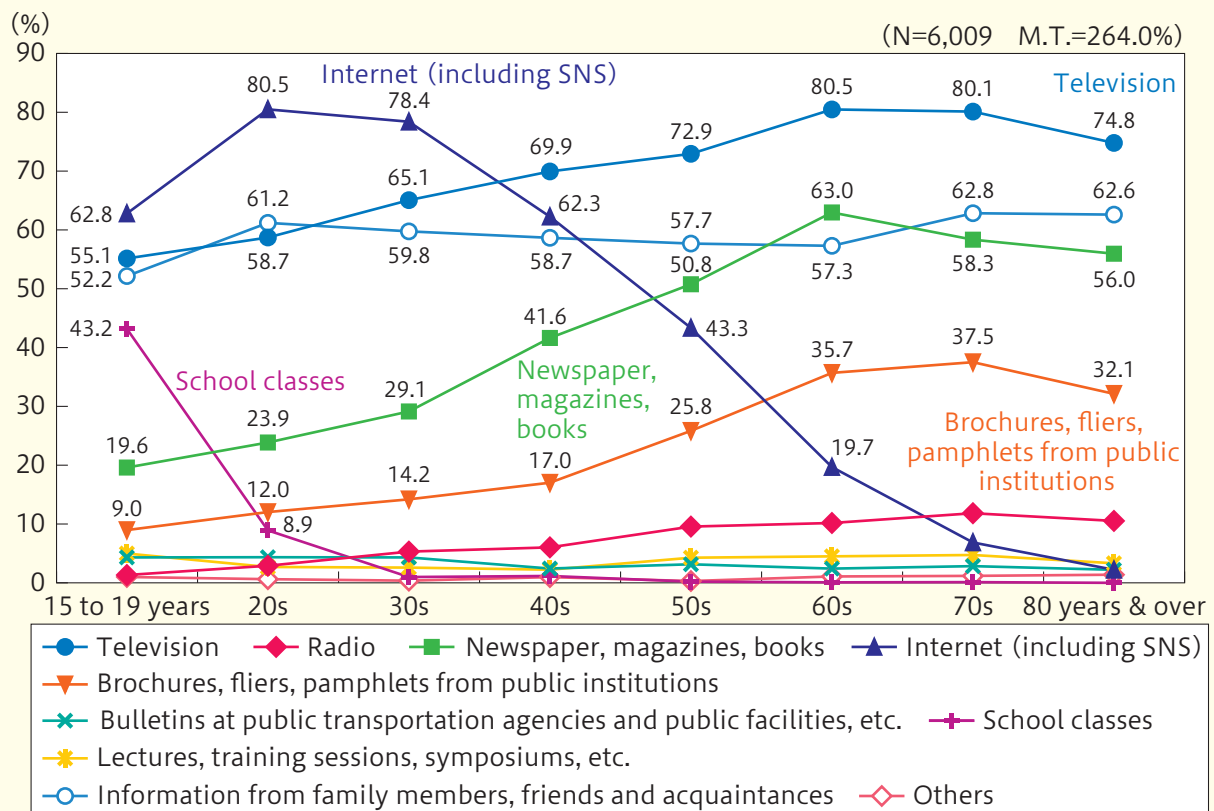
4. No. of respondents: late 10s = 301, 20s = 482, 30s = 810, 40s = 1,028, 50s = 983, 60s = 1,199, 70 years & over = 1,206

Part 1 Chapter 2 Section 2 Consumers' attitude and behavior

To gather information on avoiding consumer problems, consumers under 40 years use the Internet.

- The information sources consumers look for to avoid consumer problems varies by age.
- “Television” is high among all ages, especially for those in their 50s & over, which exceeds 70%.
- From the late 10s to the 30s, the “Internet (including SNS)” was the highest exceeding 60%. However, it was less than 20% for those in their 60s & over.
- In the late 10s, “School classes” exceeded 40%.

Figure I-2-2-10 Information sources used to avoid problems



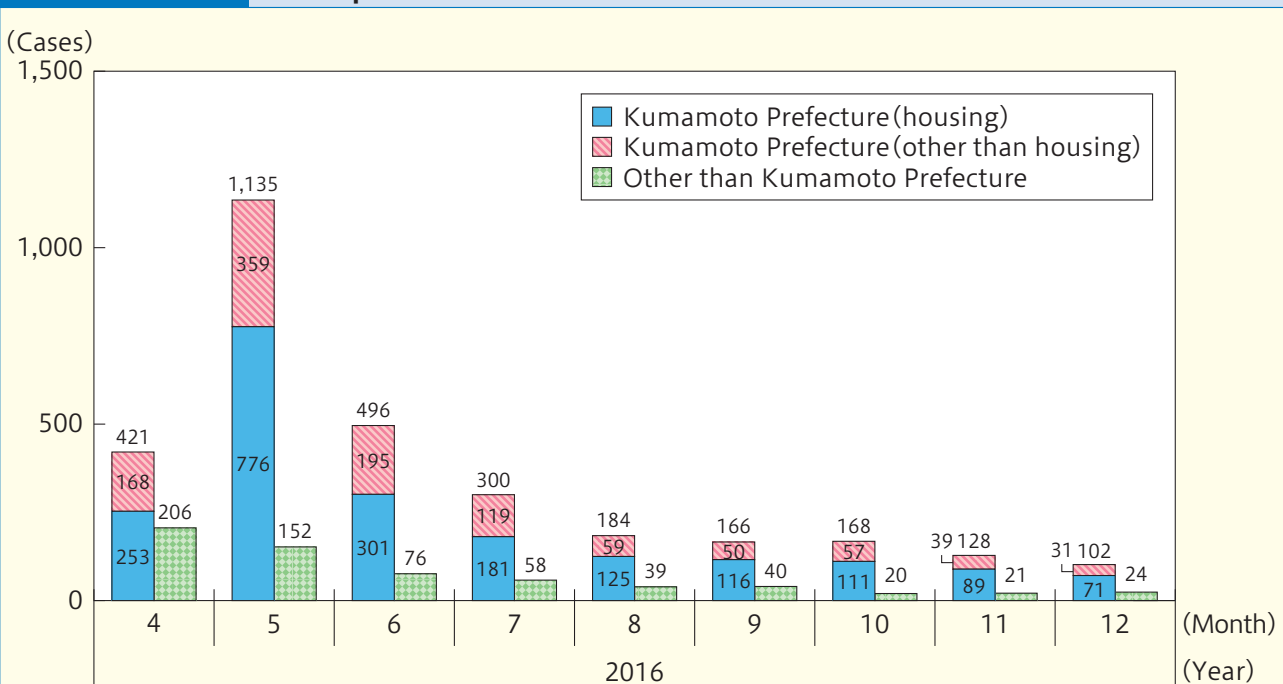
(Notes) 1. Consumer Affairs Agency, “Basic Survey on Consumer Life” (FY2016).

2. Answers to the question, “Which of the following information sources do you use to avoid consumer problems?” (up to 3 responses)

Consultations related to the Kumamoto earthquake are mostly on housing.

- The number of consultations related to the Kumamoto earthquake exceeded 1,000 in the month following the earthquake (May 2016), but then decreased to 126 in December 2016.
- As for the content of consultations for people who lived in Kumamoto Prefecture, about 60-70% consisted of housing-related matters such as “real-estate leases” and “work and construction.”
- As for the consultations for people who did not live in Kumamoto Prefecture, consultations included many travel-related matters such as “domestic package tours” and “arranged trips,” but in May and June, there were more consultations related to “donation.”

Figure I-2-2-16 Changes in the number of consultations related to the Kumamoto earthquake



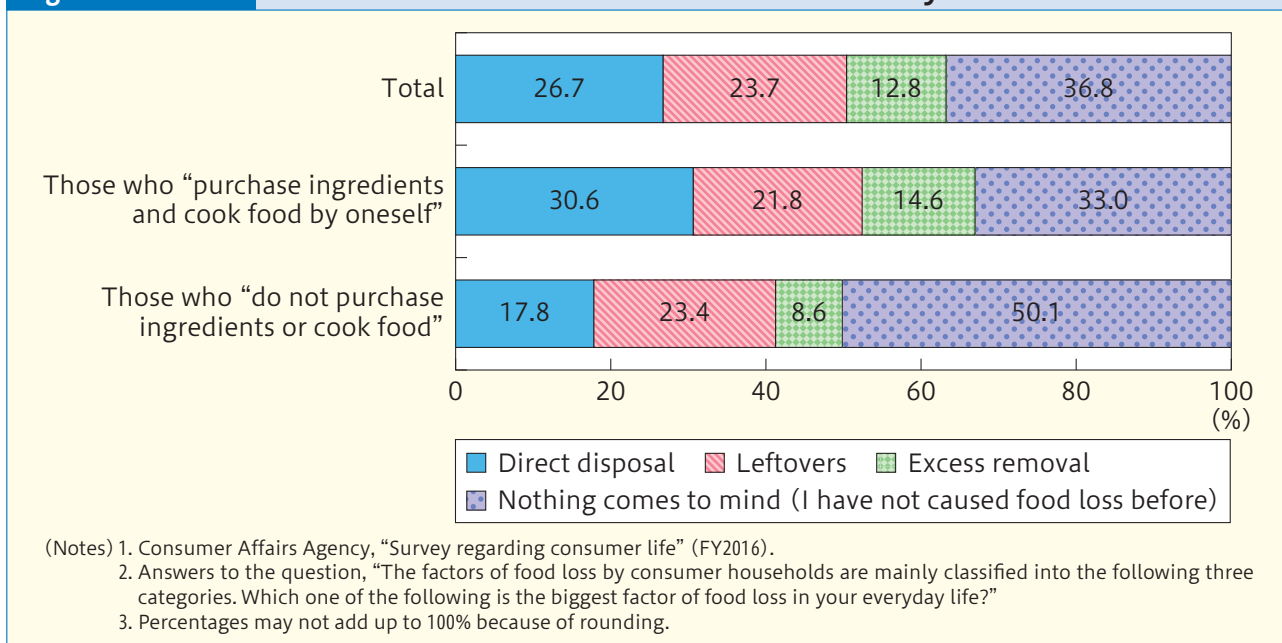
(Notes) 1. Consumer affairs consultation information registered with PIO-NET (registration by March 31, 2017).
 2. The number of consultations is the number of those accepted since April 14, 2016.
 3. “Housing” includes “real estate lease,” “work and construction,” “repair service” and “hot-water supply system.”

Part 1 Chapter 2 Section 2 Consumers' attitude and behavior

Direct disposal and leftovers are major factors of food loss due to consumer households.

- When asked what comes to mind as the biggest factor for food loss by consumer households in everyday life, 26.7% of respondents answered “direct disposal” and 23.7% answered “leftovers.” The above two account for about 50%. Conversely, 36.8% said “Nothing comes to mind (I have not caused food loss before).”
- Regarding the meanings of “freshness date” and “expiration date,” 64.9% answered “I know.” Meanwhile, when asked what they take into consideration when shopping, 27.3% answered “The date to eat.”

Figure I-2-2-18 What comes to mind as factors for food loss by consumer households



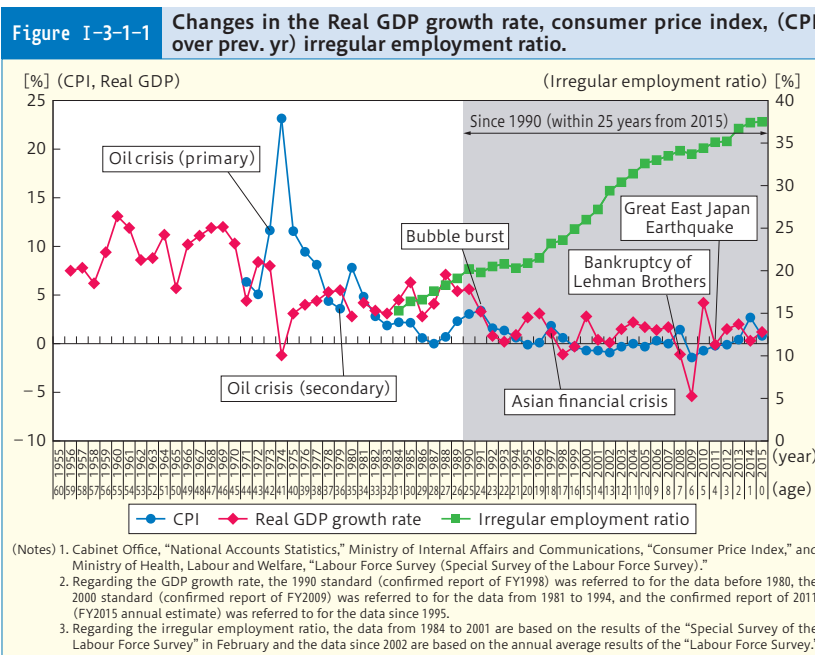
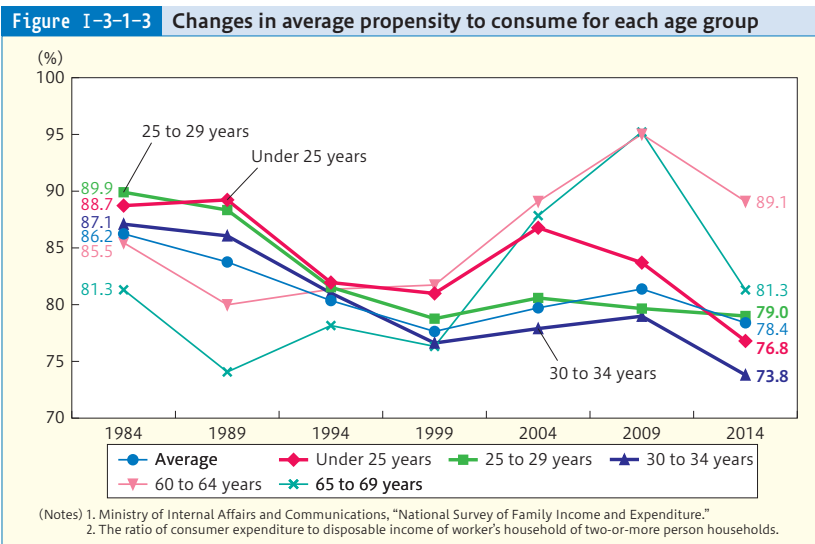
“Direct disposal” means the discarding of food as it is, without being used or provided as an ingredient for cooking or food products because of being past the freshness date, etc.
 “Leftovers” means the discarded food without being eaten though being used or provided.
 “Excess removal” means the discarding of eatable parts of food exceedingly at the time of removal for uneatable parts, such as when peeling the skin from a radish.

Part 1 Chapter 3 Feature Consumption by the youth

Section 1 Consumer behavior of the youth

The propensity for consumption in young people declined.

- The average propensity for consumption has been declining in a long-term trend in all age groups on average, but it has been declining much more in the 20s and early 30s, indicating that young people are careful about consumption.
- Today's young people grew up in a time where the economy continued to grow slowly and the irregular employment ratio rose, and they seem to be concerned about their future.



Part 1 Chapter 3 Section 1 Consumer behavior of the youth

In the consumption by the youth, there are trends such as “less purchase of alcohol beverages” and “less purchase of automobiles”

- “Expenses related to automobiles” has considerably decreased for men, but has increased for women.
- As for the consumption by the youth of one-person households, there is a decreasing trend in the “alcoholic beverages” and “clothing” by both men and women when examined per item.

Figure I-3-1-7 Average monthly expenditure of commodity (Expenses related to automobiles)

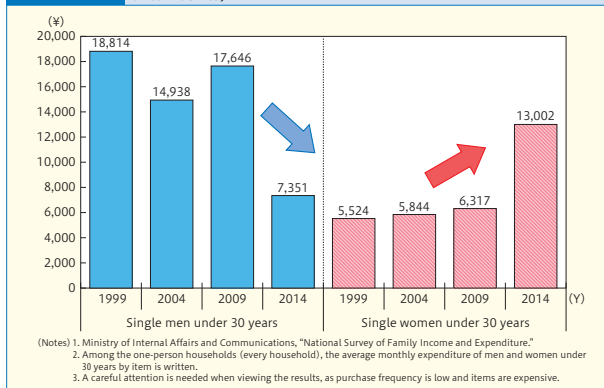


Figure I-3-1-8 Average monthly expenditure of commodity (alcoholic beverages)

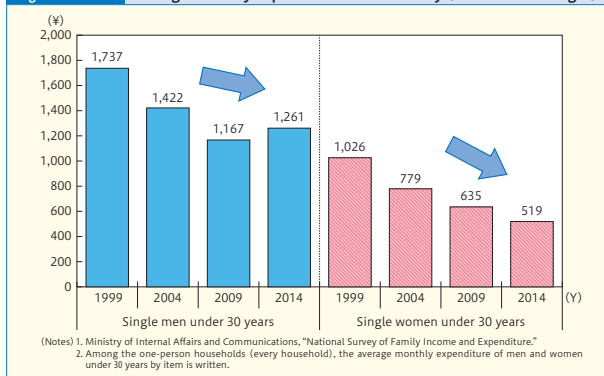
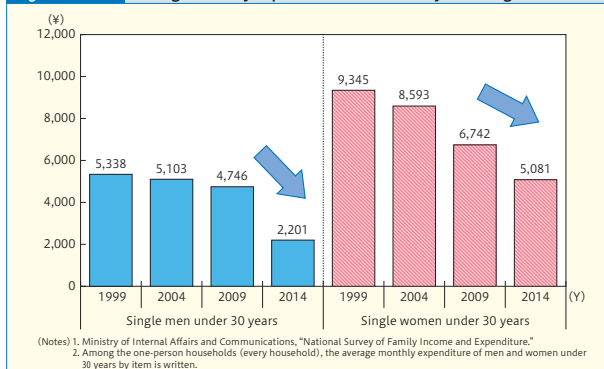
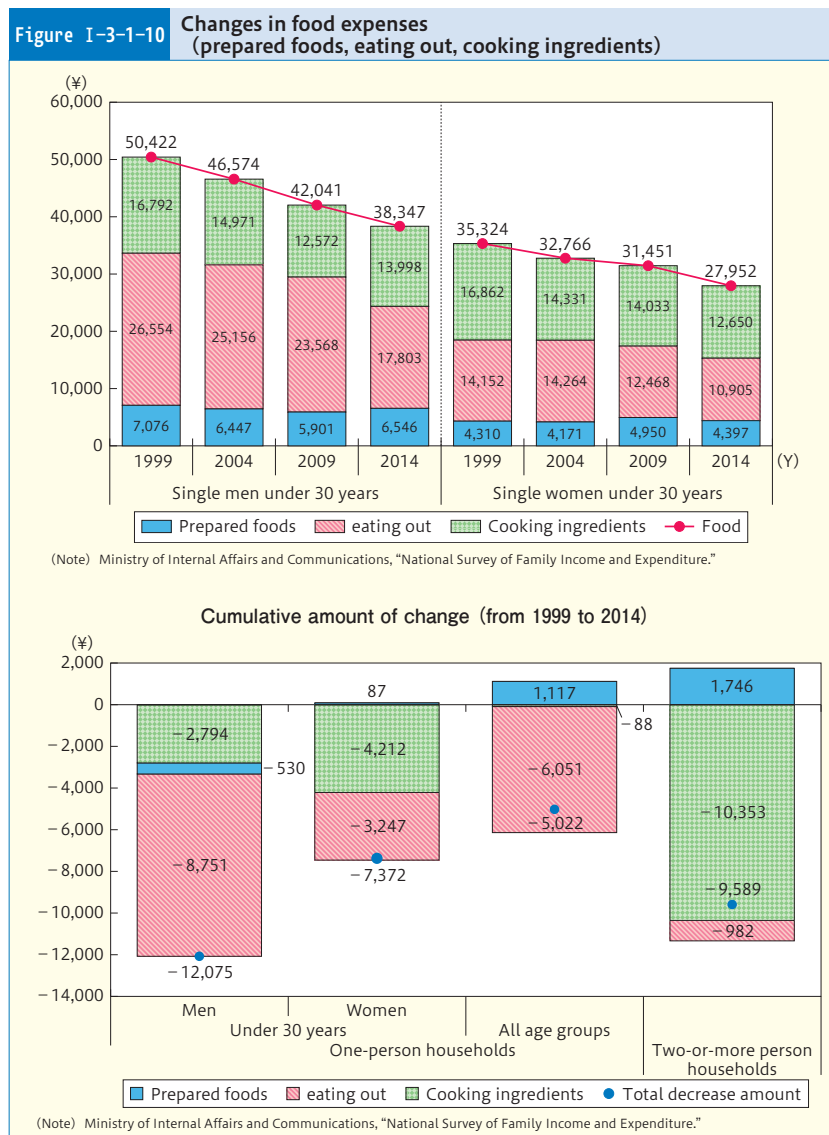


Figure I-3-1-9 Average monthly expenditure of commodity (clothing)



Expenditure on eating out has decreased for men of one-person households.

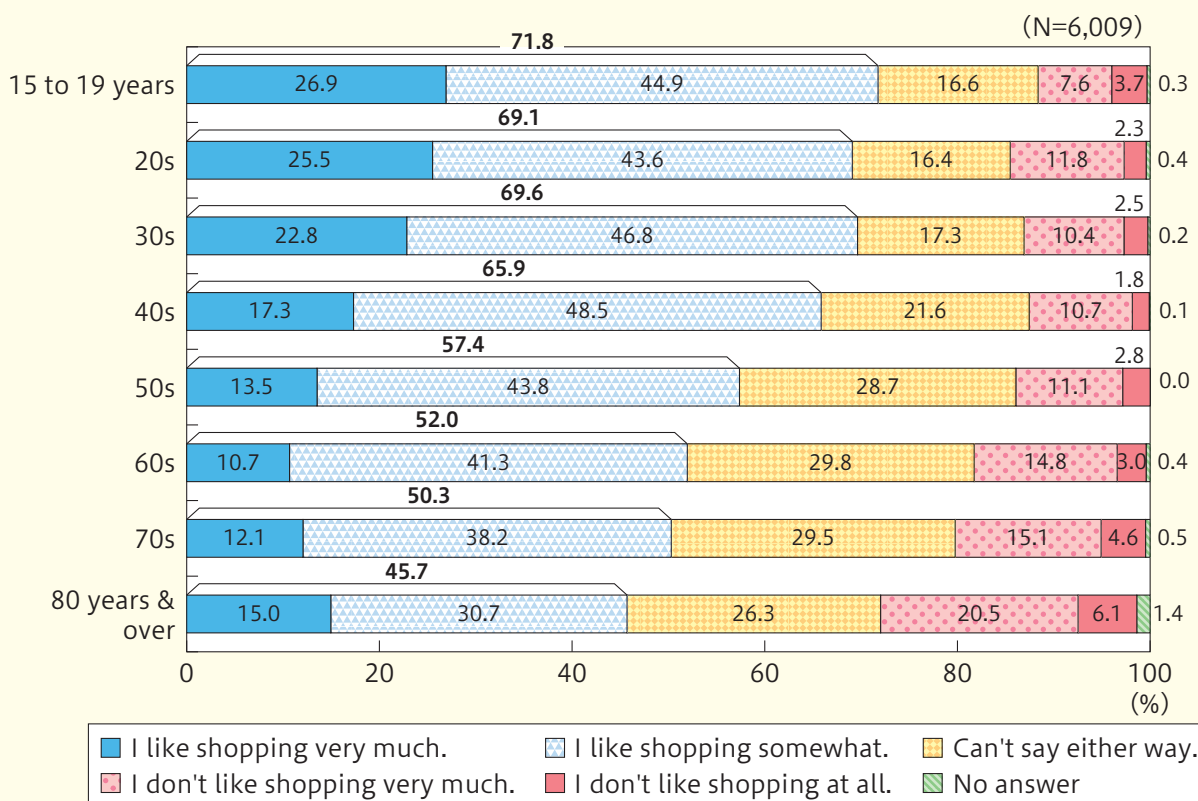
- Although many consumers think they spend money on “eating” (refer to page 21), expenditure on food are on decline.
- For the fluctuations in each category under expenditure on food, expenditure on eating out has considerably dropped for men under 30 years of one-person households, while for women under 30 years, the expenditure on “cooking ingredients” has significantly decreased.
- For two-or-more person households, expenditure on “cooking ingredients” has declined overall, while the expenditure on “prepared foods” has increased.



Many of the youth like shopping, but their consumption is frugal.

- For people ranging from the late 10s to 30s, about 70% of respondents answered “I like shopping” (“I like shopping very much” + “I like shopping somewhat”), and this percentage is higher than the elderly people.
- On the other hand, consumption by the youth tend to be frugal. Things the youth are currently spending money on or wish to spend money on in their future is “savings.” (refer to pages 21 and 22).
- To the question, “Do you carefully examine the functions, quality, prices, etc. before purchasing?” a high proportion of the youth chose “Yes, I certainly do.”, indicating their strong awareness towards such points.

Figure I-3-1-11 Ratio of those who answered “I like shopping”

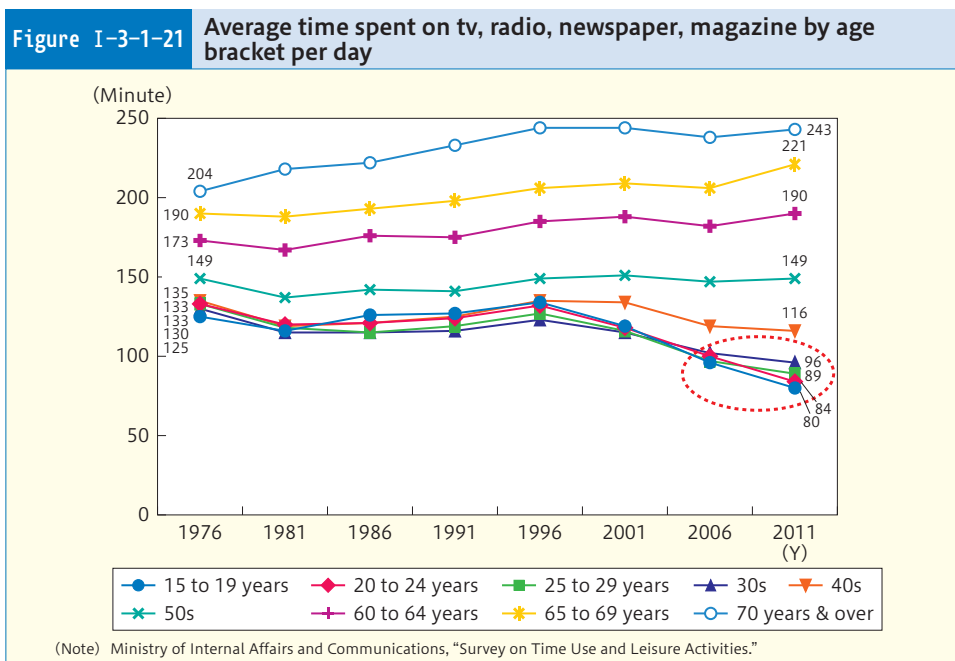
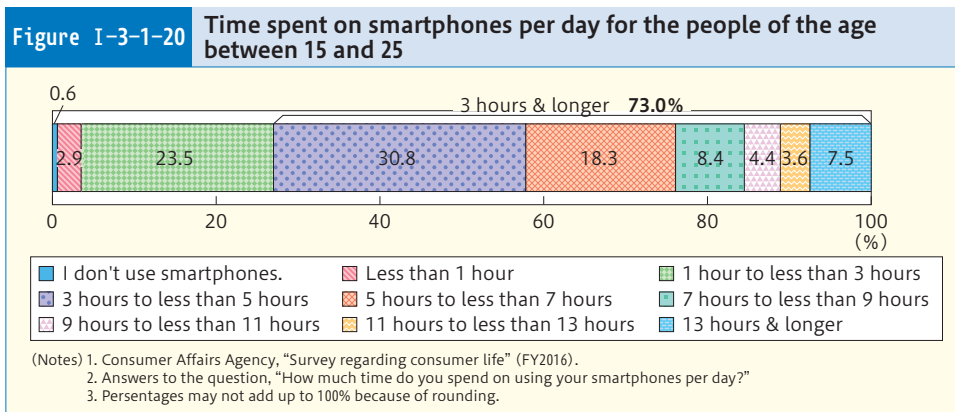


(Notes) 1. Consumer Affairs Agency, “Basic Survey on Consumer Life.” (FY2016).
 2. Answers to the question, “With regard to your own consumption behavior, to what extent does the statement “I like shopping” apply to you?”
 3. Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.

Part 1 Chapter 3 Section 1 Consumer behavior of the youth

80% of the youth think smartphones are necessary.
70% of them use smartphones 3 hours or more a day.

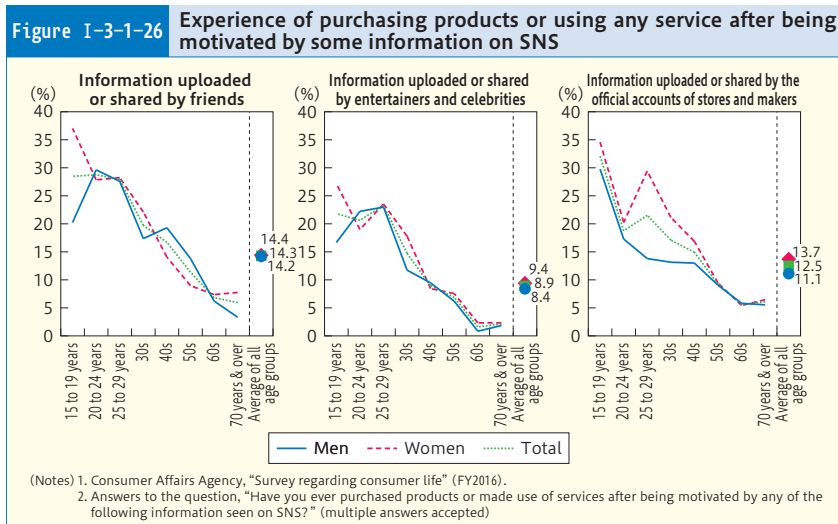
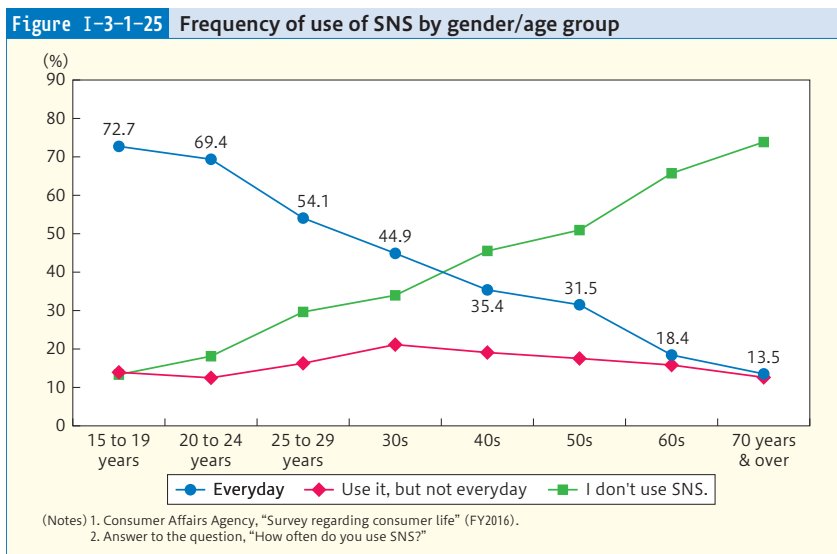
- The attitude of the youth changed as informatization progressed.
- Many of the youth own smartphones, and use them for obtaining information, communicating, transmitting information, etc. According to the “Basic Survey on Consumer Life,” 80% of the youth think smartphones or cell-phones as necessities for living.
- 73% of the youth use smartphones for 3 hours or more a day.
- For this reason, less time is spent on watching television, listening to the radio, reading newspapers, etc. since 1996.



Part 1 Chapter 3 Section 1 Consumer behavior of the youth

The youth use smartphones for various purposes, and they also purchase products influenced by SNS.

- The main purposes of using smartphones are, for a wide range of age groups, searching information on websites, making phonecalls and sending e-mails. The youth frequently uses SNS or read the news on the Internet.
- The youth mostly use smartphones, and use SNS “everyday.” The ratio of users is 72.7% for people in the late 10s, and 69.4% for people in their early 20s. The number of female users is slightly larger.
- Many people in the late 10s and 20s are influenced by the information on SNS posted by their friends or celebrities, and thus purchase products or make use of certain services.

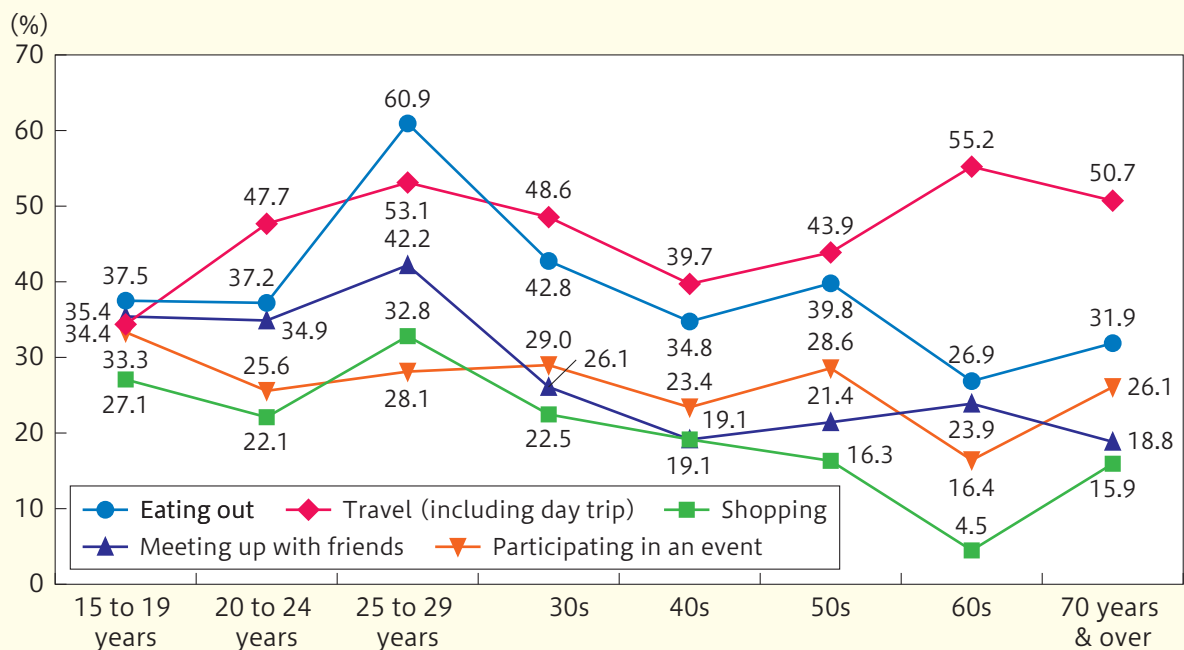


Part 1 Chapter 3 Section 1 Consumer behavior of the youth

There is an behavior to do activities and consume for doing things to post information on SNS among the youth.

- The youth, especially those in their late 20s, take photos for the purpose of , uploading photos or videos on SNS when they go out eating, etc.
- The ratio of “eating out,” “shopping” or “meeting up with friends” are relatively higher among the youth compared to other age groups; and they “consume for doing things.” Percentage of “travel,” is also as high as that for those in their 60s & over.

Figure I-3-1-28 Activities done with a purpose of taking photos or videos

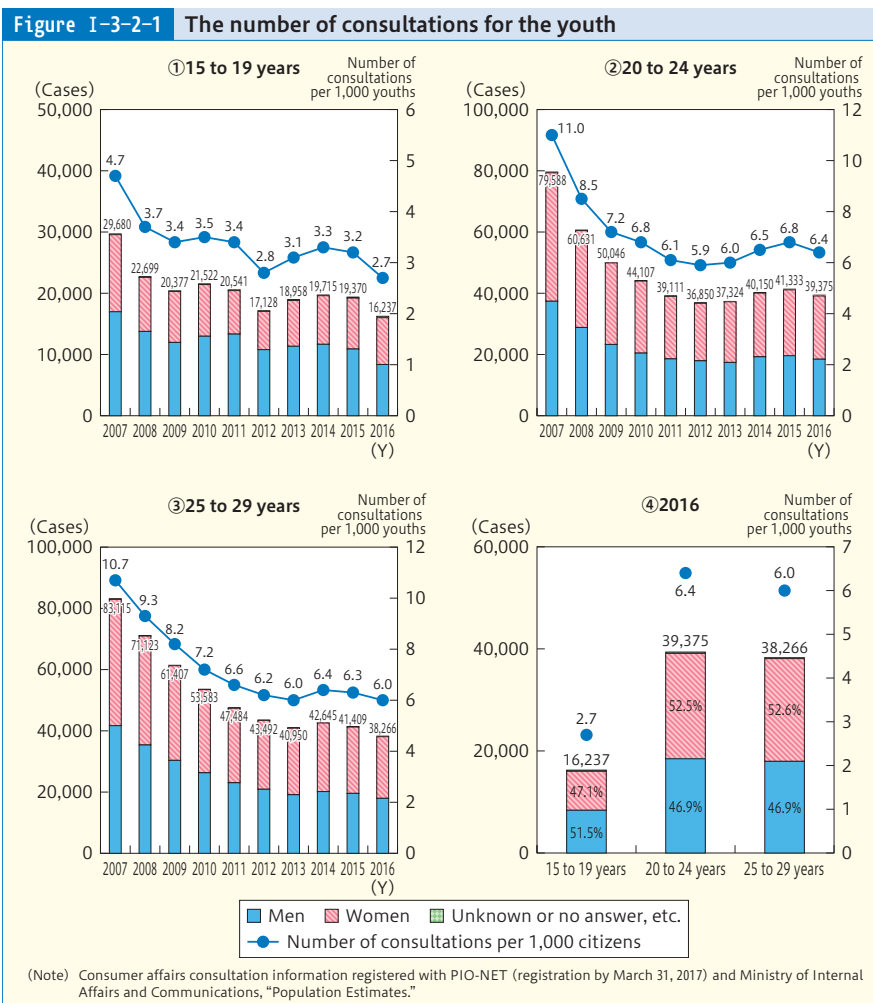


(Notes) 1. Consumer Affairs Agency, “Survey regarding consumer life” (FY2016).

2. Answers to the question, “Have you ever done any of the following with a purpose of taking photos or videos for uploading?,” out of those who answered “often do” or “sometimes do” posting of photos or videos on SNS (multiple answers accepted).

The number of consumer affairs consultations by the youth is declining.

- In any age group out of late 10s, early 20s and late 20s, the number of consultations related to the youth is decreasing in a long-term viewpoint, even when the population factor is taken into consideration.
- As they come of age and start their life as a member of the society, the number of consultations related to the people in their early 20s was approximately 39,000 in 2016, which is 2.4 times more of the number for late 10s.
- Although over 50% of the consultations in the late 10s were related to men, for people in their early 20s and late 20s, more than 50% of the consultations were related to women.
- As one of the reasons for this decreasing trend, although troubles arising from SNS is increasing, more than 60% of the late 10s and early 20s search on the Internet to find information and it is possible to discuss that they avoid troubles by themselves.



Part 1 Chapter 3 Section 2 Consumer problems related to the youth

There are many troubles involving digital content or new life.

- Common consultations among the youth, for both men and women, are the issues of digital content related to “adult websites,” “dating website,” etc.
- Many of the consultations related to women regarding beauty, such as health foods and beauty salons. Consultations on debts are also increasing for people of 20 years & over, especially for men.
- There are cases in which people encounter in troubles (contract for renting apartments, payment of television subscription charges, newspaper subscription charges, Internet connection lines, etc.) when they leave their homes and start new, independent life to enter into universities or become members of the society.

Figure I-3-2-4 The number of consultations for the youth by product/service type (Y2016)

Men						
	15 to 19 years		20 to 24 years		25 to 29 years	
	Number of cases	8,369	Number of cases	18,461	Number of cases	17,960
1	Adult websites	2,660	Adult websites	2,025	Rented apartments	1,650
2	Digital content (general)	507	Rented apartments	1,080	Adult websites	1,420
3	Television broadcasting service (general)	337	Multi-purpose loan/consumer loan	1,074	Multi-purpose loan/consumer loan	1,068
4	Online games	310	Digital content (general)	851	Digital content (general)	911
5	Other digital content	267	Goods in general	649	Fiber-optic lines	613
6	Dating website	227	Fiber-optic lines	618	Ordinary or small vehicle	570
7	Goods in general	191	Ordinary or small vehicle	608	Goods in general	554
8	Rented apartments	150	Dating website	550	Other digital content	453
9	Ordinary or small vehicle	141	Other piecework and side work	536	Dating website	384
10	Fiber-optic lines	141	Other digital content	494	Mobile data communications	379
11	Mobile phone services	116	Mobile phone services	390	Mobile phone services	371
12	Other consultations (general)	106	Mobile data communications	357	Wedding ceremony	280
13	Newspaper	104	Other services	289	Online games	267
14	Motorcycle	92	Detective agencies	283	Other services	256
15	Business classes	88	Television broadcasting service (general)	278	Internet connection lines (general)	248

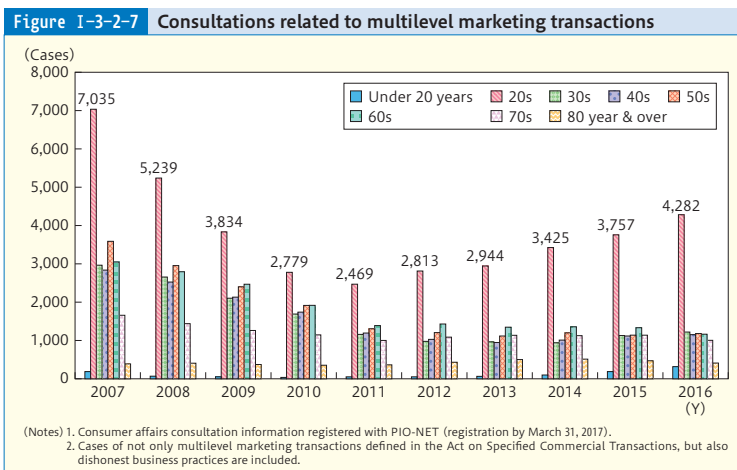
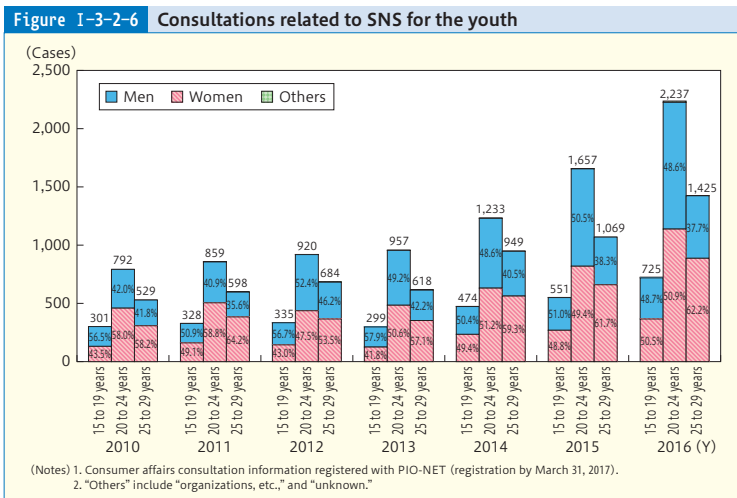
Women						
	15 to 19 years		20 to 24 years		25 to 29 years	
	Number of cases	7,640	Number of cases	20,656	Number of cases	20,131
1	Adult websites	1,559	Adult websites	2,000	Rented apartment	1,740
2	Other health foods	719	Rented apartment	1,188	Adult websites	1,360
3	Digital content (general)	496	Digital content (general)	1,028	Digital content (general)	1,100
4	Other digital content	268	Hair removal treatments	913	Other digital content	589
5	Television broadcasting service (general)	251	Dating website	617	Goods in general	578
6	Health foods (general)	233	Other digital content	531	Dating website	570
7	Enzyme foods	174	Goods in general	527	Multi-purpose loan/consumer loan	509
8	Vegetable drinks	162	Other health foods	524	Fiber-optic lines	461
9	Rented apartments	155	Mobile data communications	504	Mobile data communications	457
10	Goods in general	139	Slimming treatments	475	Mobile phone services	432
11	Concerts	134	Other piecework and side work	417	Hair removal treatments	411
12	Hair removal treatments	109	Facial treatments	407	Other health foods	407
13	Mobile phone services	107	Detective agency	405	Wedding ceremony	367
14	Dating website	105	Fiber-optic lines	401	Medical services	311
15	Other consultations (general)	104	Multi-purpose loan/consumer loan	389	Detective agency	294

(Notes) 1. Consumer affairs consultation information registered with PIO-NET (registration by March 31, 2017).
 2. The category of products/services are the product keywords (sub-categories) used in PIO-NET.
 3. Items with an equal number of consultations are listed in the order of their keywords.

Cream: Digital content, Green: Cases largely observed in new life, Yellow-green: Relating to debts, Blue: Matters commonly consulted for men, Pink: Matters commonly consulted for women (beauty related)

Consultations related to troubles arising from SNS are increasing.
 Consultations related to multilevel marketing are seen among the youth.

- Troubles arising from SNS are on an increase. There are several types of problems, and 60% of those are for women in their late 20s .
- Although the number of consultations related to “multilevel marketing transactions” (including dishonest business practices) has decreased than before, it is increasing among the youth.
- Many of the causes of troubles are being solicited by friends or colleagues right after they become the age of 20. For the past few years, there are also cases of being solicited by people whom one has never met but knows through SNS.
- The prominent consultation cases of 2016 include “Earning money through affiliations of online foreign casinos, and earning money in accordance with the number of people one recruits”, etc.



Part 1 Chapter 3 Section 2 Consumer problems related to the youth

The percentage of the youth encountering such troubles related beauty is high.

- Among young women, many of their consultations are related to beauty such as “esthetic services,” “medical cosmetic treatment,” etc. Most of the troubles are cancellations of a contract such as “I went to a beauty salon recommended by my friend and made a contract, but since my family is against it, I want to cancel my contract in midway stage,” etc.
- “Health foods” such as diet supplements, etc. and “cosmetics” are also prominent, and many troubles concerning “repeated purchases” have occurred in 2016.
- Furthermore, there are consultations related to “contracts on being a model or a TV star,” including cases such as “being suggested to take profile pictures, which as a result turned out to be charged for a huge amount for the shooting.”

Figure I-3-2-8 Consultations related to esthetic services (2016/women)

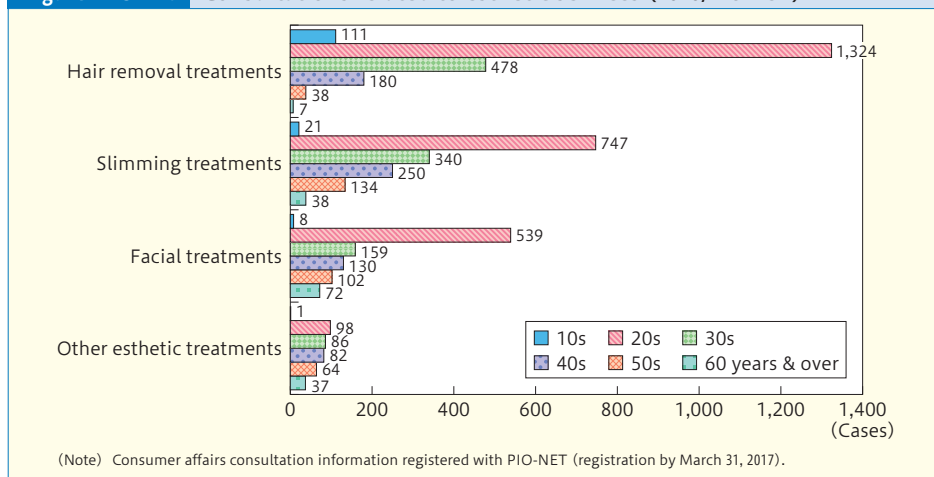
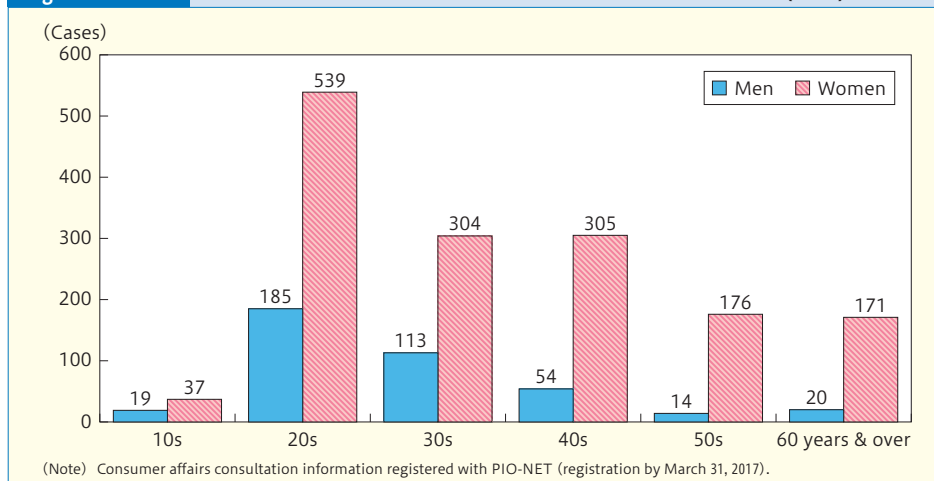


Figure I-3-2-9 Consultations related to medical cosmetic treatments (2016)



Use of the “comedy” and “Internet,” activities by the youth themselves, etc.

- Various actors such as local governments are implementing measures on consumer education specifically for the youth, regarding the consumer problems they face. Such measures include the following:
 - Measures using “comedy” or the “Internet”
 - Measures considering the times when their environment changes, such as when they graduate from high school and become members of society
 - Measures initiated by the youth themselves, including high school or university students
 - Cases of the employing experts on consumer education in local regions, who connect consumer administration with schools
- There is a cooperation among the local governments, etc., where they receive consultations on consumer affairs by the youth.

Figure I-3-3-3

Special site: “Knock out bad guys with comedy!”



*You can watch videos on YouTube, when you click on the picture of each comedian.

Tokyo: Measures using “comedy” or the “Internet” (website)

Figure I-3-3-15

Website introducing the activities of young creators of a living



Hyogo Prefecture: The youth themselves establishing a group (website)

For realizing a truly fulfilling life, the participation of the youth is indispensable.

- Today's youth grew up in the time when there was employment destabilization and experienced a long-term sluggish growth within the economical conditions. Therefore, they are strongly concerned about their future, and according to the survey, there is a trend of their consumer attitude being frugal and cautious.
- Since their childhood, they have been raised in an environment where the Internet, etc. are used, and thus they are skillful in communication through the use of IT. Information on SNS, etc. influences their consumption behavior.

[Distribution of time]

Mobile phones, smartphones, etc. are indispensable for their living. A large number of people use phones for more than 3 hours or more a day.

[Collection of information]

The Internet for collecting information is frequently used. Consumer attitude is influenced by SNS, and purchase reviews, etc.

[Posting of information]

People posting information regarding personal affairs on SNS, etc., and sometimes do activities in order to share them on SNS.

- In order to raise the effectiveness of the measures for the youth to support them in becoming independent consumers (consumer education, etc.),
 - ① It is necessary to match the needs and interests of the youth.
 - ② Active involvement and participation of the youth themselves (active learning) is thought to be effective.

Especially, the participation of the youth is important.

- ✓ Messages from the youth are easily conveyed to the people in the same or a slightly younger age group.
 - ✓ The youth themselves can learn more, and their growth to become a leader can be expected.
 - ✓ They are more skillful in conveying messages with videos and picture than the older age groups.
- To realize a truly fulfilling life, it is indispensable for the youth themselves to actively take part, as consumers who use and popularize the products and services which corresponds to innovative technologies such as IoT, Artificial Intelligence (AI), etc., as well as understanding their attitude as they are ahead of the changes of the time.

Part 2 Implementation of consumer policy

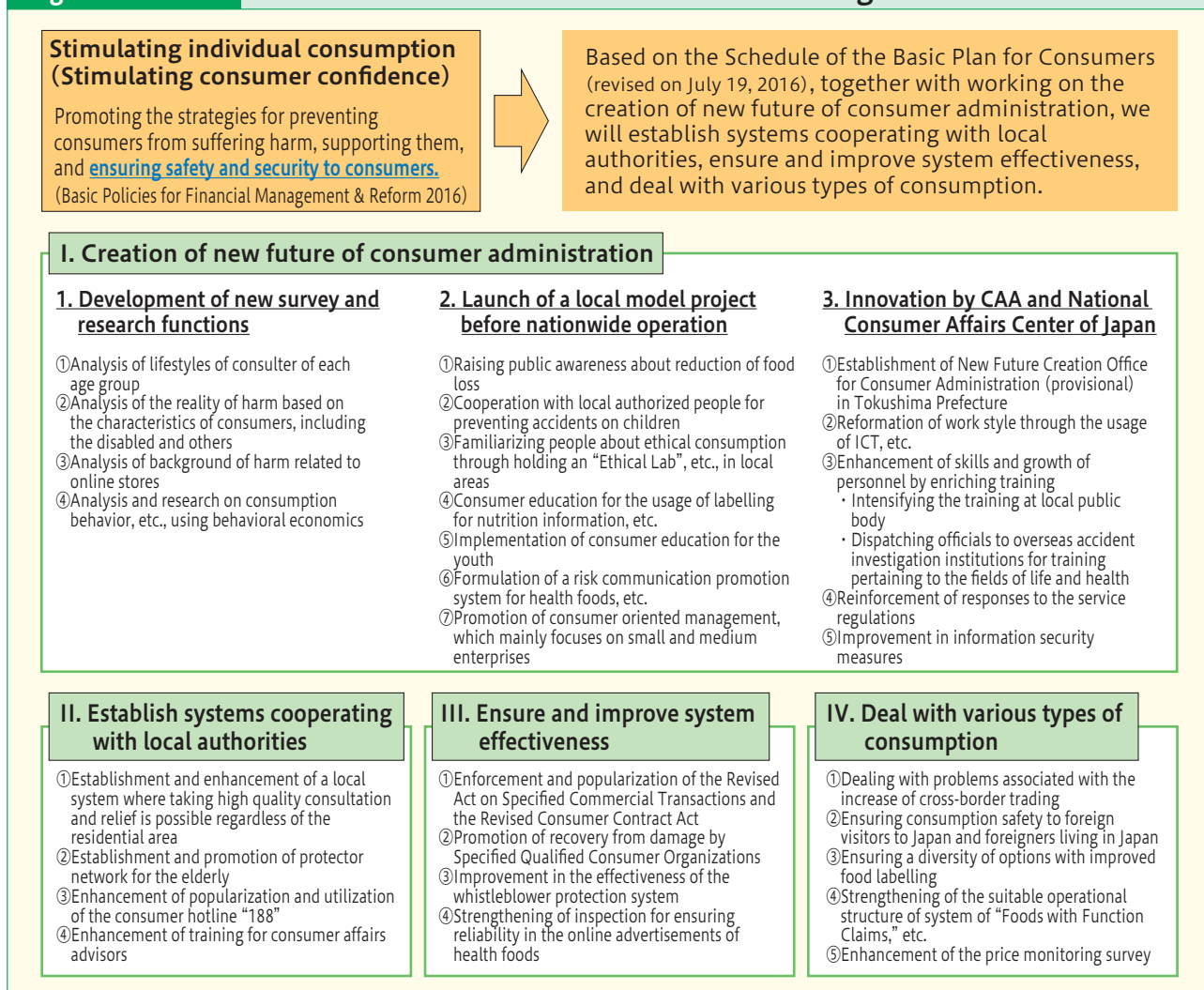
Chapter 1 Major consumer policy at the Consumer Affairs Agency

Section 1 Measures to secure safety and to remove anxiety in consumers' life

Towards ensuring “safe and secure living” for every consumer.

- Based on the “Schedule of the Basic Plan for Consumers,” the Consumer Affairs Agency settled the “Measures for Safe & Secure Consumer Living 2016.”
- While creating new future of consumer administration, we will establish systems cooperating with local authorities, ensure and improve of system effectiveness, and deal with various types of consumption.

Figure II-1-1-3 Measures for Safe & Secure Consumer Living 2016



Changes in the care labeling of washing for textile goods, etc.

- Textile Goods Quality Labeling Regulation has been revised based on the “Household Goods Quality Labeling Act,” and the care labeling of washing for textile goods, etc. has changed on December 1, 2016.
- The number of washing symbols increased from 22 to 41, and provides more detailed information on the handling of textile goods; therefore the number of problems which occur when washing is expected to decrease.
- As the care labeling of washing has been globally harmonized, it would be easier to understand the proper manner to maintain textile goods, etc.

Main points of the new care labeling of washing

It consists of a combination of “main symbols,” “additional descriptives” and “numbers.”

● Five main symbols

*Symbols are indicated in the following order.



● Additional descriptives and numbers

Agitation strength, temperature, and prohibition are represented with symbols and numbers rather than letters.

<p><Strength> Indicated under the main symbol</p>	<p><Temperature> Indicated within the main symbol</p>	<p><Prohibited></p>
<p>Without a bar: Normal Treatment</p> <p>—: Mild Treatment</p> <p>===: Very Mild Treatment</p> <p>The more the bar is, the milder the strength becomes</p> <p><Ex.></p>	<p><Code> <Figure></p> <p>「●」 「●●」 「●●●」 <Ex.> </p> <p>Low → High</p> <p>The temperature of the tumble drying and ironing and pressing is indicated by the 「dot(·)」. The more the 「·」 is, the higher the temperature becomes.</p> <p><Ex.></p> <p>The figure refers to the maximum temperature of the washing liquid at domestic treatment.</p> <p><Ex.></p>	<p></p> <p>A cross superimposed on the main symbol refers to “Don’t”</p> <p><Ex.></p>

Promoting the optimization of food labelling

- In April 2015, the new food labelling system was introduced under the Food Labelling Act.

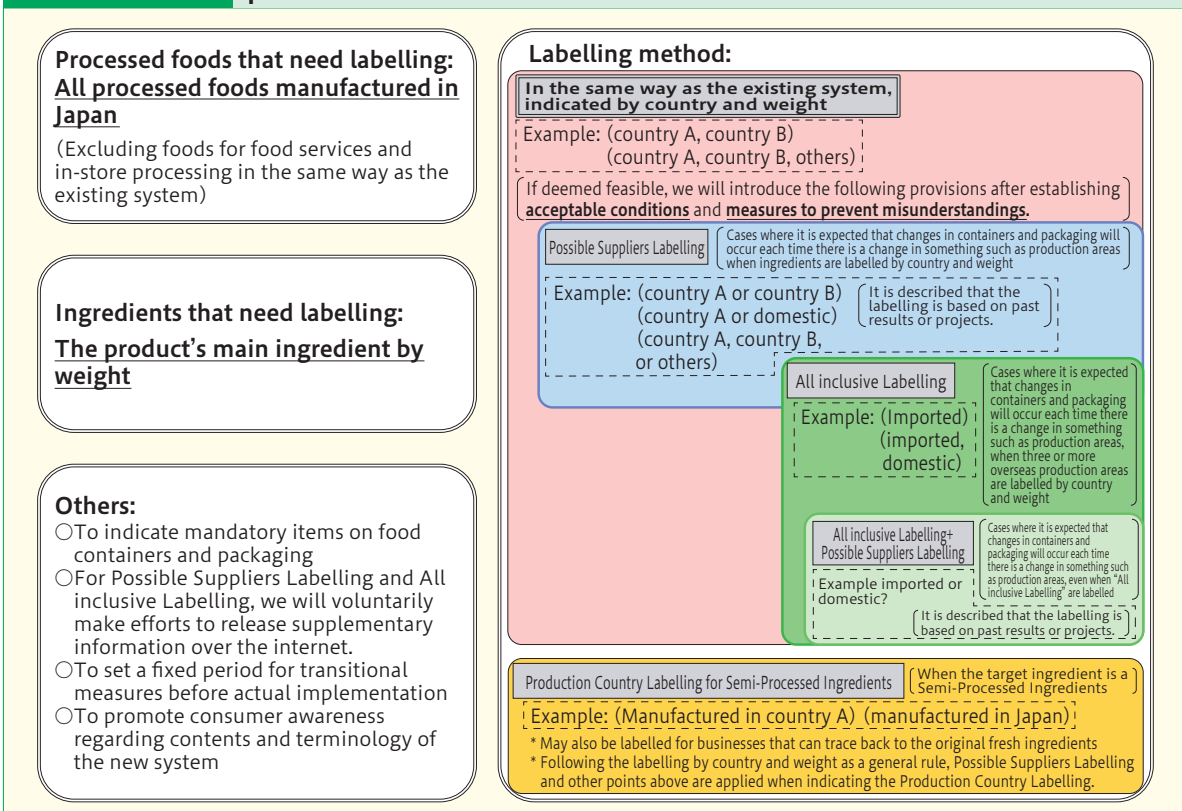
Individual issues in FY2016 include the following:

- ① Food labelling for online sale
- ② To display the origin of ingredients in processed foods
- ③ To discuss the handling of nutrients (vitamins and minerals) of foods with function claims or foods whose active ingredients are not clear

Based on the reports, we will proceed with revising this system.

- In September 2016, a permit was revoked for foods for specified health use in which the amount of active ingredients was smaller than that at the time of permission. A post-purchase survey was conducted and steps were taken to prevent this from recurring.

Figure II-1-3-3 Enlargement of the labelling of the origin of ingredients in processed foods (November 2016)



Part 2 Chapter 1 Section 5

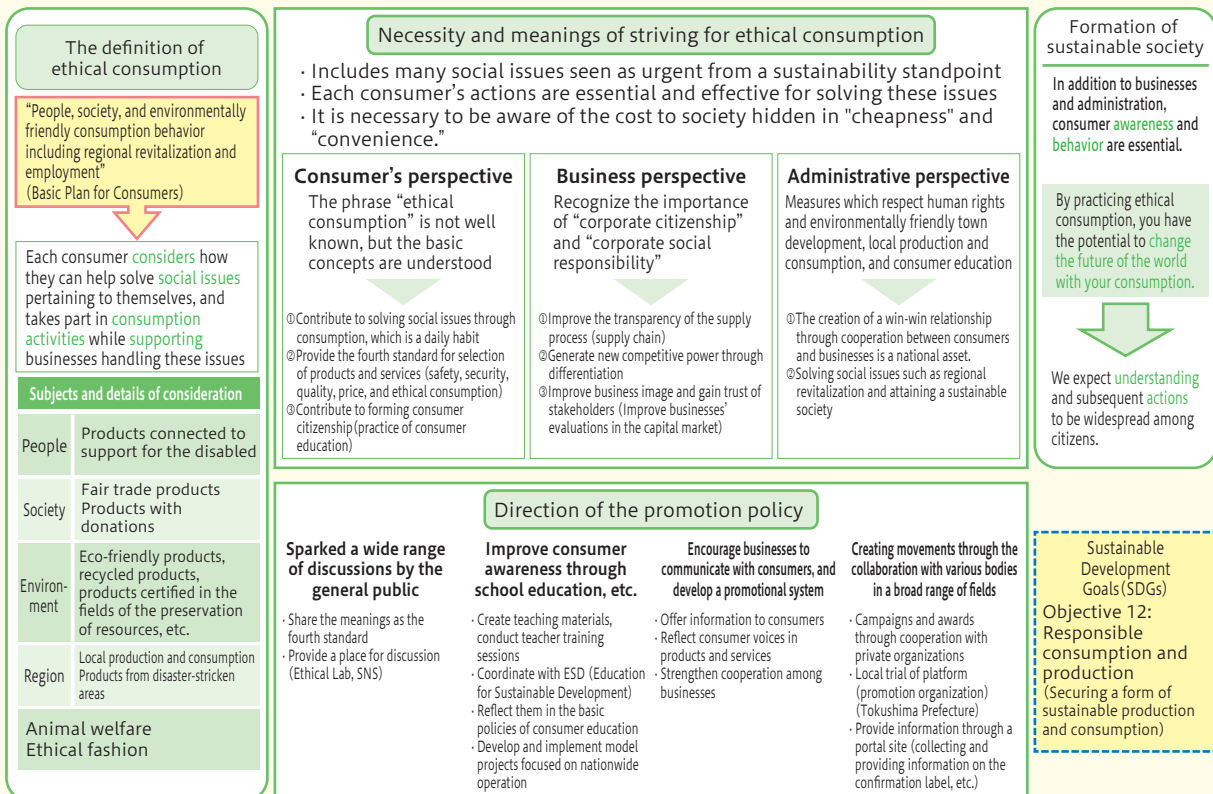
Formation of a society in which consumers can make a choice and take action by themselves

Promotion of “ethical consumption.”

- While being aware of the social costs such as burdens and impacts on society and the environment, and the security and sustainability of fairness within and between generations, it is important to actively choose products and services that are manufactured using an environmentally and socially friendly process and distribution method, as well as building interest in ethical consumption, consumption behavior that takes post-consumption disposal into consideration.
- Because it is important that the consumers themselves are aware of ethical consumption and take actions voluntarily, we will continue to promote the significance and necessity of ethical consumption together with the government and the private sector.

Figure II-1-5-5 Your consumption habits will change the future of the world

April 2017 “Ethical Consumption” Research Committee Summary
(Chairman: Ryoichi Yamamoto, Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo)



Part 2 Chapter 1 Section 5

Formation of a society in which consumers can make a choice and take action by themselves

Promotion of consumer-oriented management.

- In order to promote widespread consumer-oriented management, the consumer-oriented management promotion organization “Platform” was established in October 2016. The platform consists of business associations, consumer groups, the Consumer Affairs Agency and other administrative bodies. Promotional activities such as “voluntary declaration of consumer-orientation and follow-up activities” are developed nationwide.
- A list of businesses that voluntarily chose to become consumer-oriented companies and each business’s voluntary declaration can be seen on the promotion organization’s web page via Consumer Affairs Agency website.
- In the future, we will consider the announcement and awarding of excellent examples of companies participating in “voluntary declaration of consumer-orientation and follow-up activities.”

Figure II-1-5-6 Definition of consumer-oriented management

Consumer-oriented management is where businesses have/are:

General consumers’ viewpoints

- Put ensuring of consumer’s rights and increase of interests as the heart of their operations, from the general consumers’ viewpoints

Providers of sound market

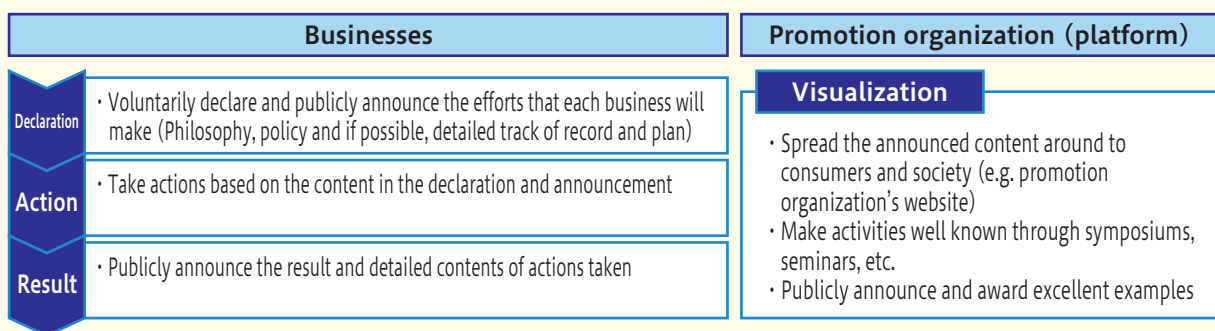
- Gain consumers’ trust as providers of sound market through ensuring consumer safety and fairness of trade, and providing information necessary for consumers

Awareness of social responsibility

- Operate business while being aware of their own social responsibilities, working towards creating a sustainable and desirable society

*Not limited to businesses dealing directly with consumers. ➡ **Deepening communication with consumers**

Figure II-1-5-9 Voluntary declaration of consumer-orientation and follow-up activities



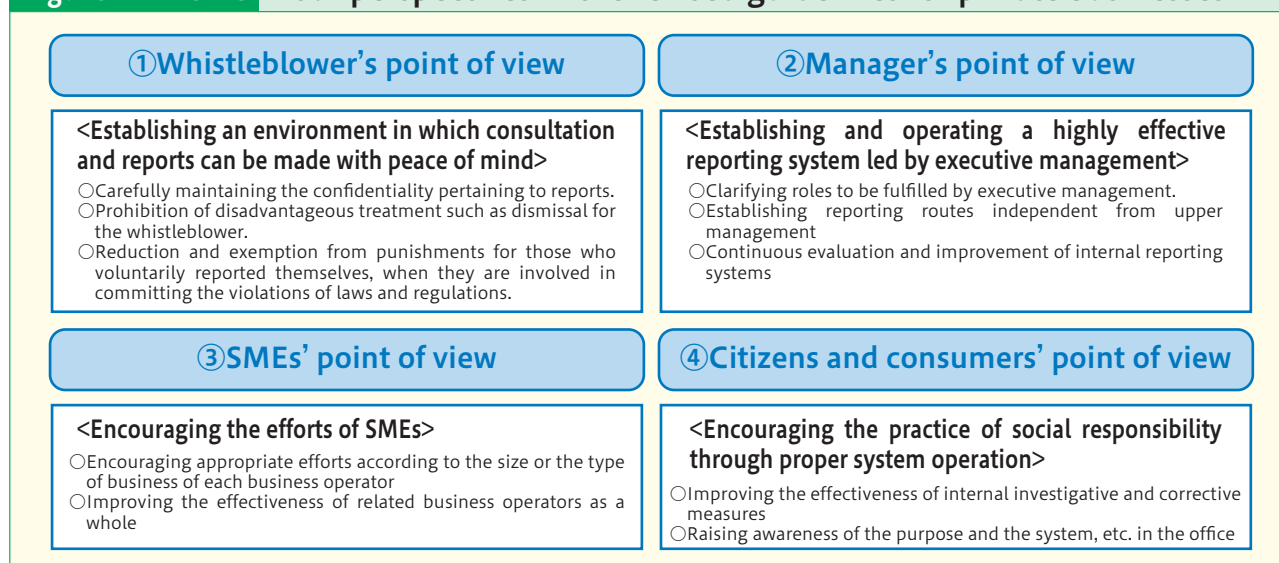
Part 2 Chapter 1 Section 5

Formation of a society in which consumers can make a choice and take action by themselves

Improving effectiveness of whistleblower protection system.

- Although some results have been seen after the enforcement of the Whistleblower Protection Act in April 2006, even in recent years there have been scandals in which a company's internal reporting system does not function and inappropriate actions were taken in administrative bodies, in this context, improving the effectiveness of the whistleblower protection system is an important issue.
- From June 2015, a “conference for improving the effectiveness of the whistleblower protection system” was held. The first report was published in March 2016, and the final report was compiled in December of the same year.
- Based on the first report, in December 2016, the guidelines for business operators were significantly revised and expanded.
- In March 2017, guidelines for the national administrative bodies were amended and announced.
- In the future, we will promote measures such as introducing a system to evaluate and certify private businesses that establish and operate highly effective internal reporting systems.

Figure II-1-5-15 Four perspectives in the revised guidelines for private businesses



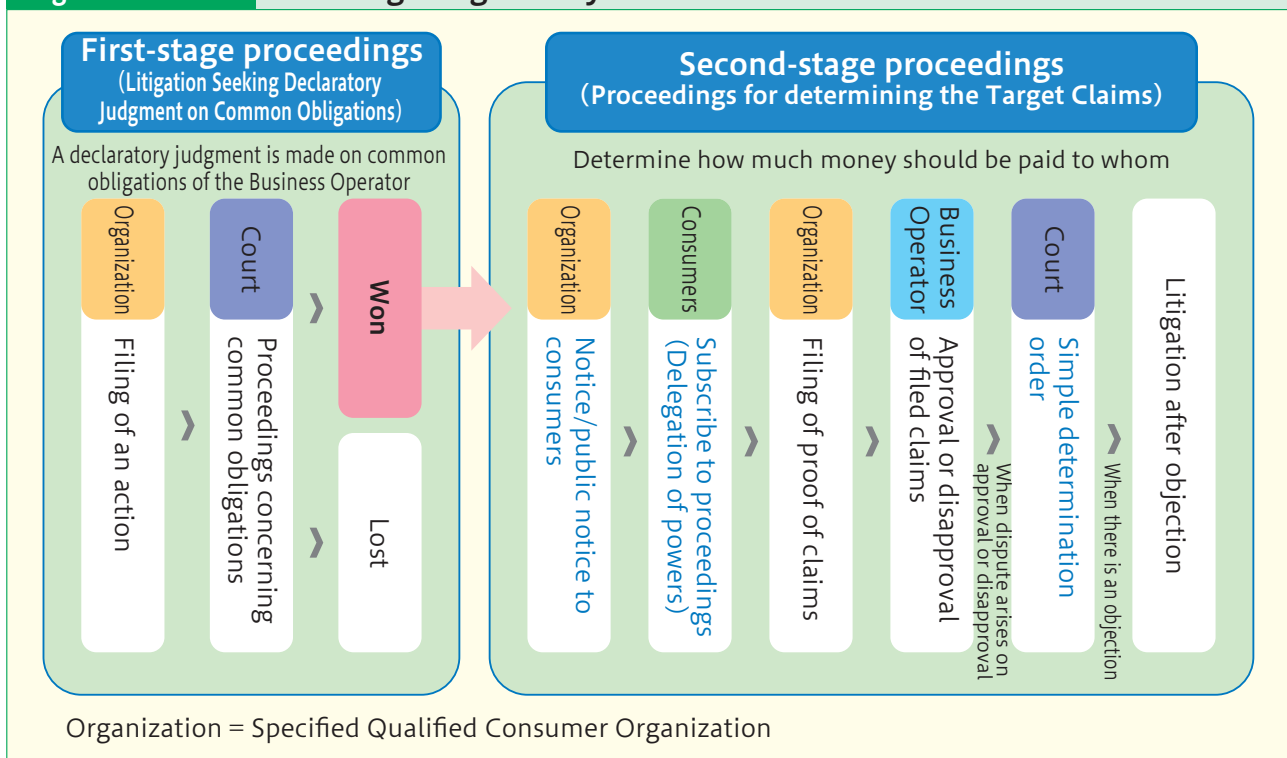
Part 2 Chapter 1 Section 6

Establishment of frameworks for consumer relief system and protecting their interests

Enforcement of the Act on Special Measures Concerning Civil Court Proceedings for the Collective Redress for Property Damage Incurred by Consumers.

- The Act on Special Measures Concerning Civil Court Proceedings for the Collective Redress for Property Damage Incurred by Consumers came into effect (October 1, 2016) to allow the collective recovery of the damages that commonly occurred to a considerable number of consumers.
- A Specified Qualified Consumer Organization (see Note) will act as the plaintiff to proceed with the two-stage litigation system.
- In order to achieve an even more effective operation of consumer organization litigation system, amendments to the law and other necessary measures were taken.

Figure II-1-6-1 Two-stage litigation system



(Note) Specified Qualified Consumer Organizations are qualified consumer organizations (15 organizations as of April 2017) certified by the Prime Minister as those capable of proper performance on the court proceedings for consumer damage recovery.

Promotion of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in September 2015 with the purpose of realizing a society where “no one will be left behind.” These universal goals are described to be achieved by both developed and developing countries by 2030.
- In Japan, the “SDGs Promotion Headquarters”, headed by the Prime Minister was established, and the “SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles” was formulated based on specifying priority issues from Japan’s domestic and international efforts.
- The Consumer Affairs Agency is involved in:
 - ◆ Research on ethical consumption, etc.
 - ◆ Promoting public awareness of ethical consumption (e.g. holding an “Ethical Lab” in local regions)
 - ◆ Expansion of the national campaign to reduce food loss “NO-FOODLOSS PROJECT”
 - ◆ Development of the “Project for Child Injury Prevention”, etc.

Figure II-1-6-6

Sustainable Development Goals
(Source: United Nations Information Centre)



Part 2 Chapter 1 Section 7

Establishment of the consumer administration systems of the national and local governments

Work towards strengthening local consumer administration.

- It is necessary to further strengthen local consumer administration, so that consumers will be able to receive high-quality consultation and relief services as well as to ensure their safety and remove their anxiety anywhere they live.
- 5 goals were set in “the campaign for strengthening local consumer administration.” Objectives were set related to the establishment of Regional Councils for Ensuring Consumer Safety after the Consumer Safety Act was revised in March 2015 (enacted on April 1, 2016).

Figure II-1-7-8 Progress of “the campaign for strengthening local consumer administration”

<p><Goal 1> To make all regions have a consultation system</p> <p>1-1 To make all municipalities have a consultation office</p>	<p>[End of March 2015 → End of April 2016]</p> <p><Local governments without a consultation system></p> <p>0 municipalities → 0 municipalities</p>
<p><Goal 2> Quality improvement of consultation systems</p> <p>2-1 To promote the establishment of local consumer affairs centers</p> <p>① All cities and towns with a population of 50,000 or over</p> <p>② Over 50% of municipalities with a population of less than 50,000</p> <p>[Consumer affairs consultant]</p> <p>2-2 Hired by over 50% of local municipalities</p> <p>2-3 Increase in the ratio of qualified staff to over 75%</p> <p>2-4 Increase in training participation rate to 100% (each fiscal year)</p>	<p>[April 1, 2015 → April 1, 2016]</p> <p><Prefectures with a consultation system (The number of municipalities with the system, the number of qualified people, etc.)></p> <p>20 prefectures → 24 prefectures (469 municipalities → 485 municipalities)</p> <p>12 prefectures → 15 prefectures (413 municipalities → 467 municipalities)</p> <p>38 prefectures → 39 prefectures (1,288 municipalities → 1,327 municipalities)</p> <p>24 prefectures → 22 prefectures (2,659 people → 2,701 people)</p> <p>5 prefectures → 9 prefectures (average participation rate : 89.9% → 91.8%)</p>
<p><Goal 3> To make all regions have a qualified consumer organization</p> <p>3-1 Promotion of the establishment of qualified consumer organizations in 3 regions (Tohoku, Hokuriku, and Shikoku), where there are no qualified consumer organizations</p>	<p>[April 1, 2015 → April 1, 2017]</p> <p><The number of qualified consumer organizations></p> <p>12 organizations → 14 organizations</p> <p>“Specified Non-profit Organization Consumer Net Okayama” (authorized on December 8, 2015)</p> <p>“Specified Non-profit Organization Saga Consumer Forum” (authorized February 23, 2016)</p>
<p><Goal 4> Promotion of consumer education</p> <p>4-1 Development of a consumer education promotion plan, and the establishment of the Regional Councils on Consumer Education Promotion (all prefectures and government-designated cities)</p>	<p>[End of October 2015 → End of October 2016]</p> <p><Production of a promotion plan></p> <p>30 prefectures, 6 government-designated cities → 41 prefectures · 12 government-designated cities</p> <p><Establishment of regional councils></p> <p>39 prefectures, 11 government-designated cities → 45 prefectures, 14 government-designated cities</p>
<p><Goal 5> Establishment of a “protector network”</p> <p>5-1 Establishment of the Regional Councils for Ensuring Consumer Safety (All cities and towns with a population of 50,000 or over)</p>	<p>[As of January 2017]</p> <p><Number of municipalities with the Council> 21 municipalities</p>

Part 2 Chapter 1 Section 7

Establishment of the consumer administration systems of the national and local governments

More usage and popularization of consumer hotline “188 (I-ya-ya).”

- The “consumer hotline,” whose number is common nationwide, will connect consumers to a nearby consultation office for consumer affairs established by local governments.
- To allow consumers to remember and use the number more easily, the number of the “consumer hotline” became 3-digit “188 (I-ya-ya, which implies irritation)” in July 2015. The number of calls almost doubled, from the time when the 10-digit number was used.
- 3.3% of people knew the “name,” “number,” and “content” of the consumer hotline. This figure is 6.0% for people of 70 years & over, and 2.0% in the 10s.
- We are conducting awareness spreading activities such as flier distribution, etc. in campaigns to prevent the elderly from being involved in fraud and trouble. In the future we will also proceed with promoting such activities to the youth.

Figure II-1-7-10 Flier of “consumer hotline” 188

2015年7月1日(水)より
3桁化スタート!

「消費者ホットライン」188

このようにして、困った時は消費生活相談窓口にご相談ください。

断つても強引な勧誘が続く…

無料と聞いたのに、高額な請求をされた…

アダルトサイトに登録され、請求画面が表示された…

危ない、おかしいと思ったことは、ありませんか?

自転車の幼児座席が破損して子供がケガをした。危険な製品だと感じた。

まつ毛エクステーションの施術を受けてから目が痛い。施術に問題があると思った。

※ケガをしたり痛みを感じたら、まずは医療機関で受診してください。

困ったときは一人で悩まずに、「消費者ホットライン」188に御相談ください。

地方公共団体が設置している身近な消費生活センターや消費生活相談窓口を御案内します。

「消費者ホットライン」188 御案内の流れ

188を押す ■ のアナウンスが流れます。アナウンスに従って、■ の操作をお願いします。

「こちらは消費者ホットラインです。最寄りの相談窓口を御案内いたしますので、お住まいの郵便番号が分かる方は1を、そうでない方は2を押してください。」

郵便番号が分かる	郵便番号が分からない
1を押す	2を押す
<p>「お住まいの郵便番号を7桁で入力してください。」</p> <p>お住まいの郵便番号を押す</p> <p>〒 <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> - <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p>	<p>固定電話から</p> <p>「お住まいの地域を選択してください。〇〇市は1を、〇〇市は2を…押してください。」</p> <p>お住まいの地域の番号を押す</p>
<p>「現在相談を受け付けている最寄りの相談窓口へおつなぎいたします。この通話は、〇〇秒ごとに、およそ〇〇円の通話料金で御利用いただけます。」</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">※最寄りの窓口が受け付けていない時間帯などは、窓口の名称、電話番号及び受付時間のアナウンスが流れます。</p> <p style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px;">注) 相談窓口へつなげた時点から、通話料金の御負担が発生します(相談は無料です)。</p>	
<p>最寄りの消費生活相談窓口</p>	<p>お住まいの市区町村の消費生活センターや消費生活相談窓口</p> <p>お住まいの都道府県の消費生活センターなど</p>

市区町村の窓口が開所していない場合など、都道府県の窓口を御案内することもあります。

【お願い】消費生活相談は、1回の相談では終わらない場合があります。相談窓口の直連の電話番号を御案内しますので、相談の続きは、直連の電話番号へ電話してください。

操作が分からなくなったら… どのように操作すれば良いのかわからなくなったら、しばらくそのままお待ちください。最寄りの都道府県の消費生活センターなどへ御案内します。

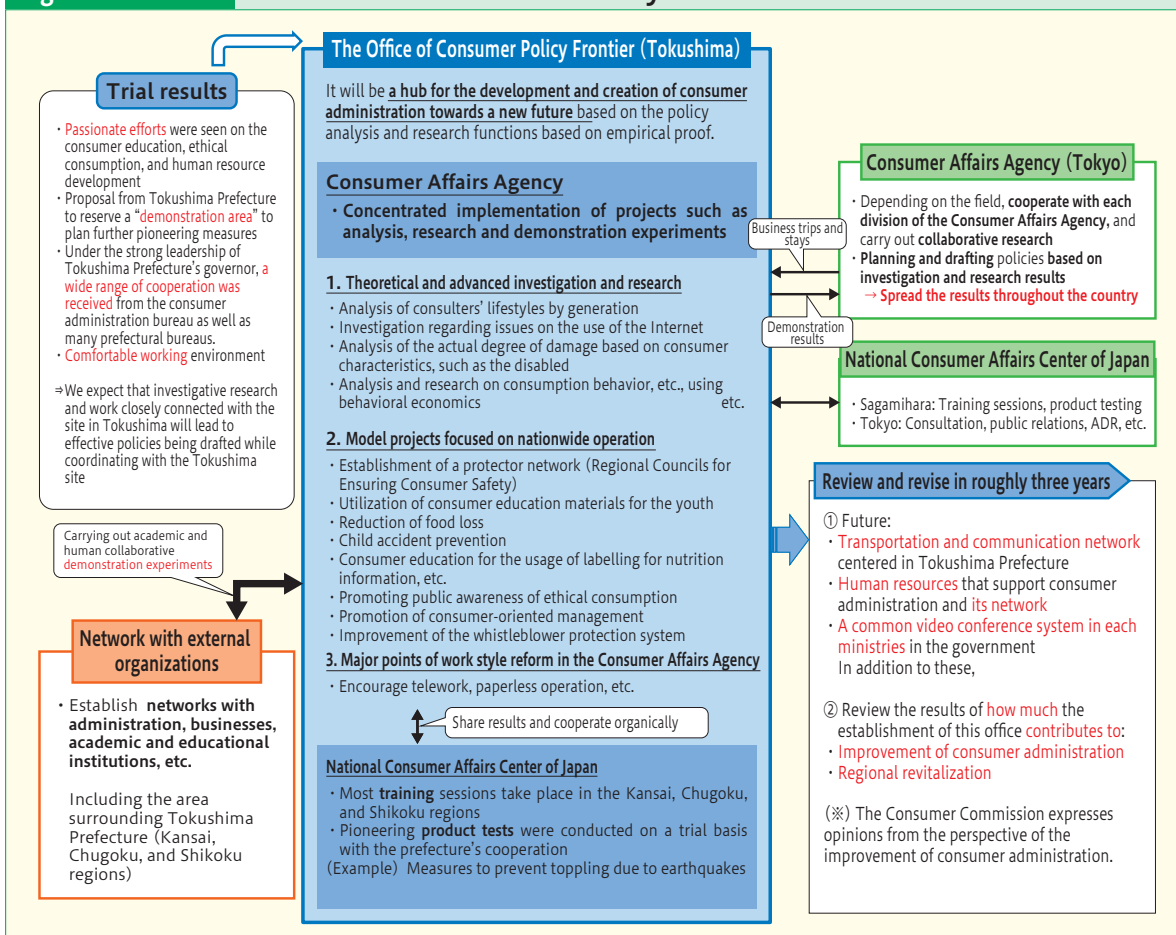
Part 2 Chapter 1 Section 7

Establishment of the consumer administration systems of the national and local governments

Establishment of the Office of Consumer Policy Frontier

- Received a proposal for relocation from Tokushima Prefecture based on the “Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy Comprehensive Strategy” (approved at the Cabinet meeting on December 27, 2014) and examined it via trial operations, etc. that were carried out in March and July of 2016.
- Based on the trials, etc. the decision was made to establish the “Office of Consumer Policy Frontier” in Tokushima Prefecture in FY2017.
- In this office, having obtained the cooperation of Tokushima Prefecture, we will conduct the following intensively:
 - ① Theoretical and advanced investigation and research
 - ② Model projects focused on nationwide operation
 etc.
- We will review and revise them based on the work environment and the office’s results in roughly three years.

Figure II-1-7-12 The Office of Consumer Policy Frontier



Part 2 Chapter 2 focuses on the results of policies implemented in FY2016, including those carried out by related ministries

Section 1 Ensuring of the safety of consumers

- 1. Working towards accident prevention**
- 2. Information collection of consumer accidents & preventing their occurrence/spread**
- 3. Accurate and quick cause investigations of accidents & preventing reoccurrence**
- 4. Ensuring food safety**

Section 2 Enhancement of labelling and ensuring of trust

- 1. Raising public awareness about the Act against Unjustifiable Premiums and Misleading Representations, and its strict enforcement**
- 2. Familiarizing & improving fair labelling of products and services**
- 3. Providing accurate information in food labelling, and strict enforcement of related laws and regulations**

Section 3 Actualization of proper transactions

- 1. Strict enforcement & revisions of cross-products/services laws and regulations**
- 2. Fair purchases of products and services**
- 3. Fair purchases meeting the advancement of ICT**
- 4. Preventing and cracking down on crime including fraud**
- 5. Appropriate standards & measurements**

Section 4 Formation of a society in which consumers can make a choice and take action by themselves

- 1. Ensuring transparency in consumer policies and reflecting consumer opinions**
- 2. Promoting consumer education**
- 3. Facilitating & supporting voluntary efforts by consumer groups, businesses and their associations**
- 4. Fair & free competition and ensuring appropriateness of fair utility rates**
- 5. Promoting environmentally conscious consumption behavior and business activities**

Section 5 Establishment of frameworks for consumer relief system and protecting their interests

- 1. Consumer relief and facilitating the resolution of consumer complaints and disputes**
- 2. Protecting and promoting consumers' interests meeting the development of an advanced information and communication society**
- 3. Protecting and promoting consumer's interest adapted to globalization of consumer life**

Section 6 Establishment of the consumer administration systems of the national and local governments

- 1. Enhancing and strengthening administrative organization of the state**
- 2. Structural development at local level**