

## ***The Weekly Observer***

May 11-15, 2026

*The 224<sup>th</sup> edition of the weekly newsletter aggregating news on Japanese politics. This week focuses on Japan securing alternative oil and LNG supply, Takaichi's phone call with President Trump following his China visit, Defense Minister Koizumi's plan to travel to South Korea next month, ongoing deliberations on amending the Constitution, progress on key legislation being deliberated in the Diet session, the GOJ exploring the formulation of a supplementary budget, U.S. Treasury Secretary Bessent's visit to Japan, the GOJ's response to Anthropic's Claude Mythos AI model, the GOJ's chip subsidies for legacy semiconductors, the yen-dollar exchange rate canceling out half of the impact of market intervention in April, the current account balance in FY 2025, and more.*

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## **I. News of the Week**

### 1. Oil and LNG Tankers Head to Japan

- *Nikkei* [reported](#) Saturday that a tanker carrying liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the United Arab Emirates via the Strait of Hormuz is scheduled to arrive at Futtsu Port in Chiba Prefecture as early as May 18. This is the first LNG import since the effective blockade. Meanwhile, ENEOS [revealed](#) on Thursday that oil tanker “ENEOS ENDEAVOR” left the Persian Gulf via the Strait of Hormuz.
- On Friday, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry’s (METI) Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy [held](#) a resource/fuel subcommittee meeting, agreeing to “further explore issues” such as diversifying oil supply, improving the domestic supply system, and future oil reserves. Around half of Japanese tankers are [receiving](#) crude oil in Asian waters at sea to avoid the dangerous waters in the Middle East.
- The METI [announced](#) that the measure reducing the mandatory stockpile requirement for private reserves held by major oil distributors for fifteen days will be extended for a month starting May 16. This is the second time the requirement has been lowered. Meanwhile, Minister for Foreign Affairs Motegi Toshimitsu [announced](#) that four Japanese nationals aboard Japanese-related vessels stranded in the Persian Gulf had successfully passed through the Strait of Hormuz toward Japan.
- On Tuesday, Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae [stated](#) during a ministerial meeting on the Middle East situation that, “as of now, we have secured more than 70 percent of our June supply” of alternative sources of crude oil that does not pass through the strait. She also [stressed](#) that the GOJ had confirmed they could supply the raw materials for food packaging inks based on last year’s sales.
- Minister of Defense Koizumi Shinjiro [took part](#) in an online session of the multinational military mission for the Strait of Hormuz, which [affirmed](#) their commitment to using collective diplomatic, economic, and military capabilities to support freedom of navigation through the strait. Koizumi [noted](#) that “this participation does not preclude future participation in military missions.”
- *Asahi* [reported](#) Wednesday that the GOJ is considering how it would deploy the JSDF when the United States and Iran enter a final ceasefire agreement. Some proposals include “mine clearance,” the leading option, “maritime security operations” to protect human life at sea, and “zone defense” to defend designated waters in the Strait of Hormuz assigned to each participating country.

### 2. Foreign Policy Developments

- On Friday, Takaichi [held](#) a summit telephone talk with U.S. President Donald Trump, who was on his way back from a summit with President Xi Jinping in China. Trump explained his visit, after which the two leaders exchanged views on issues related to China. They reaffirmed the unwavering Japan-U.S. alliance.
- The South Korean Blue House [announced](#) that Takaichi will be visiting from May 19-20 for a summit meeting with President Lee Jae-myung in his hometown of Andong as part of shuttle diplomacy between the two countries. Meanwhile, *Asahi* [reported](#) that Takaichi is considering a visit to the United Kingdom and Italy before the G7 Summit in France from June 15-17 for summits with the respective leaders.
- Minister in charge of Women's Empowerment Kikawada Hitoshi [attended](#) the APEC Women and Economy Forum in Shanghai, explaining that the GOJ will work toward creating an environment where female researchers and others can fully utilize their abilities. Kikawada became the [first minister to visit](#) China since Takaichi made her “Taiwan contingency” remark in November 2025.
- On Tuesday, Motegi and OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann [held](#) a meeting and working dinner, issuing a “Cooperation Plan on Economic Security between Japan and the OECD.” The plan [covers](#) supply chain analysis on vulnerabilities and supply dependence for critical minerals, supporting the OECD AI kit for Southeast Asia, and analysis on the impact of subsidies for shipbuilding and steel industries.
- On Monday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kihara Minrou [said](#) that there are “no plans” for a Japan-Russia foreign ministerial meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN-related meetings in the Philippines in July, which Moscow allegedly offered to Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lawmaker Suzuki Muneo when he visited Russia this month. Kihara also [confirmed](#) that the GOJ is planning to dispatch officials to Russia to engage in dialogue with counterparts to protect Japanese assets in the country.
- *Nikkei* [reported](#) Saturday that the next Quad foreign ministerial meeting will be held in late May in India. The GOJ plans to send Motegi to the meeting. This would be the first foreign ministerial meeting since July 2025. India was supposed to host a summit last year but could not due to the deteriorating U.S.-India relations.

### 3. Defense/Security Developments

- On Friday, the GOJ [released](#) a meeting summary from the expert panel reviewing the three strategic national security documents. Experts [commented](#) on the impact of high-performance AI models like “Claude Mythos” on defense policy, as well as arguments in favor of introducing nuclear-powered submarines.

- *Mainichi* [revealed](#) that the LDP's recommendations concerning the three strategic documents will not mention review of the Three Non-Nuclear Principles and refers to nuclear submarines as "utilization of next-generation propulsion systems." The recommendations will [not explicitly mention](#) a GDP ratio target for spending, instead referring to NATO's 5 percent and South Korea's 3.5 percent of GDP spending goal.
- *Nikkei* [reported](#) that Minister of Defense Koizumi Shinjiro plans to visit South Korea at the end of June to meet with Minister of National Defense Ahn Gyu-back. This is part of "shuttle diplomacy"; Ahn visited Japan back in January.
- *Yomiuri* [reported](#) that the GOJ plans to provide Cambodia with equipment for the army and navy as part of the first "official security assistance" (OSA) provision to the country. An agreement is expected to be signed in June. Japan aims to deepen maritime cooperation as Cambodia strengthens cooperation with China.
- On Thursday, the Second Japan-EU Security and Defense Dialogue was [held](#) in Tokyo. The two sides held discussions to materialize security and defense cooperation in fields such as maritime security, cyber, disinformation, Women, Peace and Security (WPS), space, disarmament, and non-proliferation.
- *Jiji* [reported](#) Sunday that the GOJ is mulling whether or not to change the language in the three strategic national security documents concerning China from the "greatest strategic challenge" to "threat." This would constitute an escalation at a time when Japan-China ties are cold. Some hawkish elements within the ruling parties believe that the deteriorating security environment warrants a change in language.

#### 4. Ruling and Opposition Parties Disagree on Amendments to the Constitution

- On Thursday, the Legislative Bureau of the Lower House and Secretariat of the Commission on the Constitution [presented](#) an image draft for the "emergency situations clause" in relation to amending the Constitution. It defines "emergency situation" as large-scale natural disasters, large-scale outbreaks of infectious diseases, disruption of social order, armed attacks, and situations equivalent to the above. In such cases, the Cabinet can declare an "emergency making it difficult to hold elections" after Diet approval, enabling extension of lawmakers' terms in office.
- The draft [states](#) that there will be an upper limit on the extension of lawmakers' terms in office, though it refers to opinions such as six months to a year. It also states that the Cabinet can issue "emergency ordinances and emergency fiscal measures" with the same legal enforceability as laws with ex post facto approval by the Diet.
- The Commission [discussed](#) the draft, with the ruling parties and the Democratic Party for the People (DPFP) arguing that the emergency situations clause should be

stipulated in the Constitution. Meanwhile, the opposition Centrist Reform Alliance (CRA) opposed, arguing that priority should be given to enacting legislation that ensures elections can be held even in emergencies, such as by allowing absentee voting from evacuation shelters.

- At the moment, the ruling parties and DPFP support; the CRA and Team Mirai remain cautious; and *Sanseitō* and the Japan Communist Party oppose. The opposition parties [criticized](#) the LDP for emphasizing that there were “points of agreement” toward the swift drafting of language to amend the Constitution.
- The LDP argues that an agreement to draft the language had been reached between five ruling and opposition parties in 2024. The LDP’s Shindo Yoshitaka said that the discussions should focus on drafting and that “we can put a pin” in the discussions around extending lawmakers’ terms in office.
- Following Thursday’s session, the LDP and the Japan Innovation Party (*Nippon Ishin no Kai*) [held](#) a session of its drafting council on Friday. The two parties agreed to continue discussions, though there are some differences on what the amendments should look like. For instance, the LDP believes Diet approval of an “emergency situation” can be on a majority vote, while *Ishin* wants it to be a supermajority. *Ishin* also wants to set up a constitutional court for ex post facto legal review.

#### 5. Key Legislation Tracker (221st Special Diet Session)

- **In the Diet:**
  - **Amended Economic Security Promotion Act:** [Passed](#) by the Lower House Committee on the Cabinet on Friday. Revised to include provisions such as requiring the GOJ to promptly consider necessary measures to prevent situations that could jeopardize the safety of the nation and its citizens in relation to economic activities (with the Middle East in mind).
  - **Amended Health Insurance Act:** Discussions in the Upper House [began](#) on Wednesday. The Constitutional Democratic Party and Komeito plan to submit an amendment that explicitly calls for consideration of low- and middle-income earners should there be a change to increase the out-of-pocket maximum for high-cost medical expenses.
  - **Act to Establish the Disaster Management Agency:** [Passed](#) by the Lower House Special Committee on Disasters on Thursday. It is expected to be enacted by the end of the special Diet session on July 17.
- **Cabinet Decision:**

- **Amended Code of Criminal Procedure:** [Approved](#) on Friday. As a general rule, the bill prohibits the prosecution from appealing a decision to grant a retrial, while creating room for exceptions when there is sufficient evidence. The CRA, Team Mirai, and Japan Communist Party [submitted](#) a counter-bill fully banning prosecution appeals.
- **Amended Copyright Act:** [Approved](#) on Friday. It establishes a “right of public performance and communication to the public” that allows not only songwriters and composers but also singers and record companies to receive royalties for background music played in commercial facilities and other venues.
- **In Discussion:**
  - NHK [reported](#) on Wednesday that the GOJ will postpone submission of legislation to expand the legal use of maiden names given the tight schedule of the Committees on the Cabinet until the end of the Diet session, which are expected to deliberate the bill to criminalize desecration of the national flag.

## 6. Key Political Developments

- *Yomiuri* [reported](#) Friday that the GOJ has started exploring the formulation of a FY 2026 supplementary budget to continue gasoline subsidies expected to run out of funds in June and utility subsidies for the hot summer months. Takaichi will need to make a decision by the end of the month to enact by the end of the Diet session. The GOJ will also consider adding to the reserve fund instead of formulating an emergency economic stimulus package for faster enactment.
- The Committees on Fundamental National Policies [agreed](#) to hold the first political party leaders’ debate on May 20. Six party leaders will discuss policy issues with Takaichi. This is the most number of party leaders participating in the debate.
- Speaker of the Lower House Mori Eisuke [said](#) that he aims to enact amendments to the Imperial House Law, preparing to present a cross-party proposal to the cross-party council by the end of the month. The parties are discussing 1) female members of the Imperial Family retaining status after marriage and 2) male descendants of former Imperial families adopted into the family. The CRA, which had not voiced its position and remains divided on the matter, [supported](#) the first and said that the second “could be considered for institutionalization.”
- The LDP’s project team exploring a bill to criminalize desecration of the national flag [presented](#) a framework proposal but postponed approval due to concerns raised over the subject of punishments and penalties. The purpose of the bill was stated as being to “protect the general public’s sentiment of cherishing the national flag,” while

subject of punishments was defined as “the act of defacing a national flag in a manner that causes significant distress or disgust to others.” Some lawmakers said excessive regulations outside “public spaces” like on social media would have a “chilling effect on the public.” Meanwhile, the ruling and opposition parties [agreed](#) on Thursday to aim for enactment of legislation to demand stronger measures from social media platforms to restrict the spread of misinformation during elections.

- On Wednesday, the political parties involved in the working level talks of the “National Council on Social Security” [generally agreed](#) on a framework regarding the design of the refundable tax credit aimed at reducing the burden on working-age people with low- to middle-incomes and encouraging employment. The GOJ [projected](#) at an expert panel meeting on Friday that Japanese households with ¥3.75 million of income shoulder a ¥270,000 higher burden than the average in the United States, Germany, and France when it comes to taxes and insurance premiums.
- *Yomiuri* [reported](#) Sunday that the GOJ will set up a new cross-ministry “Reskilling and Workforce Recruitment Promotion Council” soon to encourage labor mobility and secure talent in the seventeen key growth sectors like AI and semiconductors. The measures are expected to be included in the GOJ’s growth strategy to be compiled in the summer. Ministries are working with industry organizations under their jurisdiction to clarify the necessary skills and compensation packages and promote the development of retraining programs by organizations and universities.

## 7. Bessent Visits Japan Before the Trump-Xi Summit

- On Sunday, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent [posted](#) on X that he will be visiting Japan ahead of President Trump’s visit to China to meet with Takaichi, Minister of Finance Katayama Satsuki, and other government officials.
- On Tuesday, Bessent [explained](#) that he discussed “the very strong U.S.-Japan bilateral relationship, U.S.-Japan strategic investment, critical minerals, and President Trump’s visit to China” with Takaichi.
- Bessent also [met](#) with Katayama the same day, exchanging views on a wide range of global economic issues such as the prospects for the situation in the Middle East and its implications for financial markets and responses to growing cyber threats associated with advances in AI.
- Bessent [met](#) with Motegi, reaffirming their commitment to further advancing economic cooperation and to the steady implementation of the Japan-U.S. tariff agreement. They discussed regional affairs in the Indo-Pacific region, including issues related to China.

- Bessent [met](#) with Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Akazawa Ryosei, agreeing to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy and critical minerals. They reaffirmed that both Japan and the United States will continue to faithfully implement last year's tariff agreement.

#### 8. GOJ Scrambles to Address "Claude Mythos" Risks

- On Tuesday, Takaichi [instructed](#) relevant Cabinet ministers to prepare measures against high-performance AI models like Anthropic's Claude Mythos that may be used to attack critical infrastructure. Mythos is said to be capable of dramatically enhancing the ability to identify IT system vulnerabilities.
- Minister for Digital Transformation Matsumoto Hisashi [revealed](#) after the meeting that a cross-ministry council will be set up with the National Cyber Office in the lead. The council will [meet](#) for the first time on May 18. The GOJ [plans to expand](#) the target of enhanced cybersecurity measures to the fifteen critical infrastructure sectors, including telecommunications and utilities.
- The Japan Financial Services Agency [launched](#) a new public-private working group on Thursday to reinforce cybersecurity measures for financial systems, [sharing](#) information on cyber threats and trends in AI technology, as well as discussing countermeasures such as IT system upgrades. The group includes Japan's three megabanks and key domestic and foreign IT vendors like Anthropic, OpenAI, Microsoft, IBM, NTT DATA, Hitachi, and Fujitsu.
- Mitsubishi UFJ Bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, and Mizuho Bank will [reportedly gain access](#) to Claude Mythos as early as this month. Bessent reportedly informed Katayama during their meeting on Tuesday. The GOJ had been asking for access to the AI model that had been restricted to forty to fifty foreign entities. The banks will [set up](#) a specialized team to implement updates to resolve system issues.
- The LDP HQ for National Cybersecurity Strategy chaired by former Digital Minister Taira Masaaki [submitted](#) recommendations to the GOJ on Thursday urging for an improvement in cyber response capabilities. It [notes](#) that AI makes it easier to spread large amounts of fake and misinformation, pointing out that "the threat of influence operations by foreign forces is becoming more serious."
- On Friday, Taira [met](#) with Michael Sellitto, Head of Global Affairs at Anthropic, discussing the heightened risks of cyber attacks with the emergence of high-performance AI models like Claude Mythos. Taira stated that Sellitto informed him that Anthropic "would like to cooperate fully in any way possible."

#### 9. Economic Security and Tech Developments

- *Nikkei* [reported](#) Friday that the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's (METI) 2026 White Paper on Manufacturing Industries stated that a survey of efforts related to economic security found that only 20 percent of the approximately 1,600 manufacturing companies surveyed were considering specific measures. The report stressed that “it is important to foster a sense of crisis through the mindset of management, internal collaboration, and dialogue with business partners.”
- *Nikkei* [reported](#) Thursday that the METI will expand subsidies for the domestic production of legacy semiconductors rather than cutting-edge chips, with projects with an investment amount of less than ¥30 billion will also be eligible for support. The subsidy conditions will be amended by the end of the month.
- On Wednesday, the LDP Special Committee on Ocean Development [finalized](#) its recommendations to the GOJ on developing maritime drones, urging the GOJ to make upfront investments to increase procurement and drive market expansion. The recommendations also [urge](#) the GOJ to construct a specialized ship to accelerate the development of mud including rare earths around Minamitorishima (Tokyo).
- Takaichi [met](#) with Japan Business Federation (*Keidanren*) Chair Tsutsui Yoshinobu, revealing that the GOJ will work to ensure that research funding for universities and national research institutions effectively doubles, with the aim of realizing a “new technology-oriented nation.” Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) [commenced](#) calls for proposals for a program supporting research utilizing AI, providing up to ¥3 billion for projects such as developing foundation AI models to streamline scientific research.
- On Tuesday, the LDP Digital Society Promotion HQ's “Next-Generation AI and On-Chain Finance Initiative Project Team” [finalized](#) recommendations to the GOJ, explicitly stating that the GOJ should aim to establish a public-private platform involving countries across Asia. It would be designed to share challenges related to technology and legal systems, as well as examples of how these have been addressed.
- Minister in charge of Economic Security Onoda Kimi [announced](#) that the GOJ signed a memorandum of cooperation with India on quantum technology, which establishes a framework to explore future collaboration, with a focus on dialogue regarding research innovation in the field of quantum science, industry-academia partnerships, human resource development, and exchange activities.

## 10. Key Economic/Financial Developments

- On Friday, the yen [hit](#) a new low against the dollar, falling below the level reached after the yen-buying intervention at the end of April. The yen fell to the upper ¥158

range against the dollar on Friday, erasing half of the gains made following the intervention. This calls into question the effectiveness of the intervention.

- Katayama [announced](#) that she will be attending the G7 finance ministers and central bank governors' meeting in Paris, France, from May 17-20. The ministers are expected to discuss the impact of the turmoil in the Middle East on the global economy, as well as the development of a supply chain that is not dependent on China to ensure a stable supply of critical minerals, including rare earth elements.
- *Nikkei* [reported](#) Thursday that the GOJ and ruling parties plan to tighten requirements for requesting the convening of an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders, raising the threshold for voting rights from “3 percent or more” to a level on par with major countries. The conditions for proposing agenda items will also be tightened to prevent the abuse of authority by individual shareholders acting in bad faith and to improve the business environment for companies. The GOJ aims to submit amendments to the Companies Act in 2027.
- *Nikkei* [reported](#) Wednesday that the Ministry of Labor, Health and Welfare (MHLW) will conduct a survey in July and August to examine how companies are implementing the discretionary work hour system, assessing working hours, employee satisfaction, and the current status of informed consent and health protection. The *Keidanren* [finalized](#) recommendations on the discretionary work system, calling for an expansion of the scope of covered work and noted the need to establish mechanisms to prevent long working hours and to introduce allowances as an alternative to overtime pay. This takes into account opposition from labor unions.
- On Tuesday, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) [issued](#) “main opinions” from its monetary policy meeting on April 27-28. A member of the policy board commented on the situation in the Middle East, [stating](#), “even if the outlook remains uncertain, it is entirely possible that a decision to raise interest rates will be made at the next meeting or subsequent meetings.” This comes as the yield on newly issued ten-year JGBs, an indicator of long-term interest rates, [rose](#) to a twenty-nine year high of 2.545 percent that day, as investors sold bonds out of concern that inflation will accelerate in Japan due to the rising oil prices amid turmoil in the Middle East.
- On Monday, Takaichi [instructed](#) Katayama to move forward with fundamental reforms to the budget formulation process, including the creation of a “new investment framework” to be utilized for crisis management investments and other purposes. Meanwhile, a civilian member of the GOJ's [Economic and Fiscal Policy Council](#) [proposed](#) that the GOJ should continuously publish multiple fiscal indicators, not a single one like primary balance, to enhance public confidence in fiscal

management. The member emphasized the need to determine the financial situation from multiple perspectives.

## 11. State of the Economy

- On Friday, the BOJ [announced](#) that the corporate goods price index (CGPI) in April rose 4.9 percent from the same month last year to 132.8, pushed up by rising crude oil prices for chemical products and other goods driven by the deteriorating situation in the Middle East. The growth rate [increased](#) two points from March, the first high point in three years and since the onset of the Russia-Ukraine war.
- On Wednesday, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) [announced](#) that Japan ran a ¥34.52 trillion current account surplus in FY 2025, a 15 percent increase since FY 2024 and the third consecutive year that the surplus hit record levels. This was [driven](#) by growth in exports of semiconductors and other goods, which helped the trade balance return to a surplus for the first time in five years.
- Japan ran a ¥1.36 trillion trade surplus in FY 2025, a huge improvement from the ¥3.03 trillion deficit in FY 2024. Export volume increased 3.3 percent to ¥111.35 trillion, while import volume fell 0.8 percent to ¥109.98 trillion. The impact of the turmoil in the Middle East was limited, with falling prices for oil, coal, and other commodities driving down import costs.
- The Cabinet Office (CAO) [issued](#) the Economy Watchers Survey for April, which found that the seasonally adjusted diffusion index surveying the current economic climate fell 1.4 points from March to 40.8, the second consecutive month that the index fell due to concerns about the situation in the Middle East. The CAO [maintained](#) the assessment that the “economy has recently shown some weakness in its movement of picking up, mainly against the backdrop of a decline in economic sentiment caused by the situation in the Middle East.”
- On Tuesday, the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (RENGO) [announced](#) the fifth summary of responses from FY 2026 spring wage negotiations, which [found](#) that the average wage hike, which combines base pay and regular pay raises, was 5.05 percent. The wage hike for small- and medium-sized enterprises was below 5 percent at 4.81 percent.

## II. Public Opinion Poll

- An NHK poll [released](#) on Monday found that the Takaichi Cabinet’s approval rating was 61 percent, the same as April, while disapproval was 23 percent, up one point.

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- 32 percent of respondents said that they support the Takaichi Cabinet because it has executive ability; 27 percent said because it seems better than the alternatives; and 19 percent said because they have high hopes for its policies.
  - 32 percent of respondents said that they do not support the Cabinet because they have no hopes for its policies; 27 percent said because they do not trust the prime minister; and 17 percent said because it does not include a party they support.
  - 45 percent of respondents said that they somewhat approve of the GOJ's diplomatic efforts related to the situation in Iran; 29 percent said they somewhat disapprove; 11 percent said they strongly disapprove; and 8 percent said they strongly approve.
  - 46 percent of respondents said that they somewhat approve of the GOJ's response to concerns around surging crude oil prices and the stable supply of petroleum-related products; 32 percent said they somewhat disapprove; and 8 percent each said strongly disapprove and approve.
  - 43 percent of respondents said that they are very concerned about surging crude oil prices and the stable supply of petroleum-related products; 38 percent said they are somewhat concerned; 11 percent said they are not very concerned; and 4 percent said they are not concerned at all.
  - 65 percent of respondents said that they believe it is necessary to conserve energy in light of the situation in the Middle East, while 25 percent said they do not believe it is necessary.
  - 52 percent of respondents said that they oppose the revision of rules around exporting defense equipment, while 35 percent said they support it.
  - 39 percent of respondents said that they do not believe the consumption tax cut will have much of an impact as an inflation relief measure; 33 percent said they believe it will have somewhat of an impact; 14 percent said they believe it will not have any impact; and 7 percent said they believe it will have a great impact.
  - 48 percent of respondents said that they believe the consumption tax cut does not have to be zero if it is implemented earlier; 25 percent said there is no need for a tax cut; and 18 percent said it should be zero even if it takes time.
  - 70 percent of respondents said that they support the proposal to maintain the status of female Imperial family members even after marriage, while 15 percent said they oppose it.
  - 49 percent of respondents said that they support the proposal to adopt a male descendant of the former Imperial family into the Imperial Household, while 33 percent said they oppose it.
- The survey also collected data on the latest approval ratings of political parties.

Political Party	Approval Rating (%)
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Liberal Democratic Party	35.4 (-2.8)
Centrist Reform Alliance	2.9 (+0.4)
Japan Innovation Party	2.1 (-0.8)
Democratic Party for the People	3.6 ( $\pm$ 0)
Japan Communist Party	2.7 (+0.1)
Reiwa Shinsengumi	1.3 (+0.5)
Suffrage Party (Sanseitō)	2.6 (-0.1)
Japan Conservative Party	0.8 (-0.6)
Socialist Democratic Party	0.2 (-0.2)
Team Mirai	1.9 (+0.1)
Constitutional Democratic Party	2.5 (-0.2)
Komeito	1.1 (-0.7)
Independent (No Party)	37.1 (+4.3)