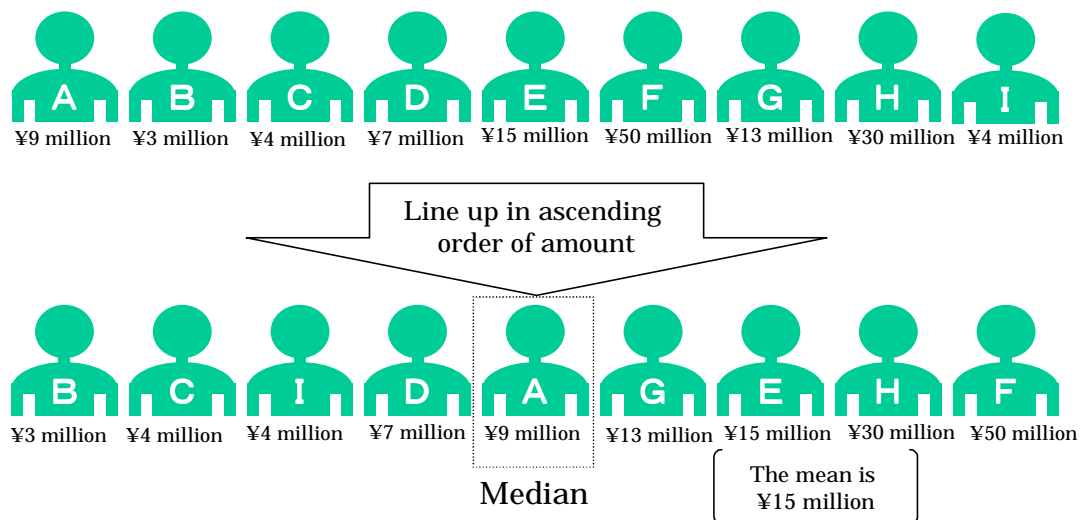


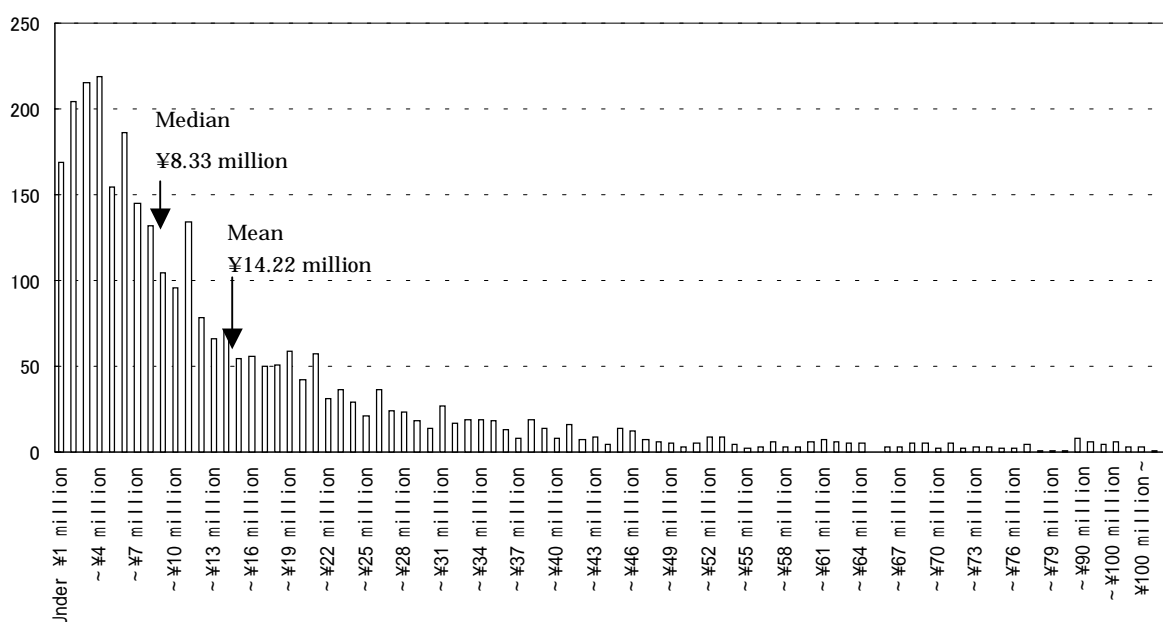
[BOX] Mean and Median

When told that the mean amount of financial assets of households covered in this survey is ¥14.22 million, many households will undoubtedly state that the amount is far more than what they have. This is due to the fact that the mean is skewed by a small number of households that have larger amounts of financial assets. For example, if nine of 10 households have ¥1 million, and the remaining household has ¥100 million, the mean for those 10 households is ¥10.9 million. Nine of those households might be surprised to find that the mean is ¥10.9 million. In this year's survey, the amount of financial assets for approximately 60% of 3,472 households having any financial assets is below the mean.

To offset this distortion of the true representation of households' financial assets due to the use of the mean, the median is used instead to allow a better look at typical household incomes and expenditures. The median is obtained by lining up all households in either ascending or descending order of amounts of financial assets and selecting the household located in the middle (see illustration below). This household's amount of financial assets is the median, which in this year's survey is ¥8.33 million. This means that exactly half of all households have financial assets above the median and another half have financial assets below the median. Thus the median is a truer representation of households' perceptions than the mean.



Distribution of Amounts of Financial Assets of Households Surveyed in 2002



Savings amount	Under ¥1 million	~¥2 million	~¥3 million	~¥4 million	~¥5 million	~¥6 million	~¥7 million
Number of households	169	204	215	219	154	186	145
Savings amount	~¥8 million	~¥9 million	~¥10 million	~¥15 million	~¥20 million	~¥25 million	~¥30 million
Number of households	132	104	96	403	258	174	115
Savings amount	~¥35 million	~¥40 million	~¥45 million	~¥50 million	~¥60 million	~¥70 million	Over ¥70 million
Number of households	100	62	50	33	50	41	55

End box