

Closing the Gap?

Trends in the Gender Gap in Adolescents' Expected Occupational Status in Japan, 2015–2022



KEY TAKEAWAYS



The gender gap in adolescents' expected occupational status has significantly narrowed in Japan between 2015 and 2022.



However, the gap remains statistically significant in 2022 even after controlling for other factors.



Japan has not yet fully aligned with the global trend toward greater gender parity in expected occupational status.



The Japanese social and educational context helps explain both the narrowing and the persistence of the gap.

“Understanding how and why gender gaps persist is essential for building a more equitable future for the next generation.”



Study Period: 2015, 2018, 2022



Data Source: Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)



Population: 15-year-old students in Japan



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Thursday, 25 June 2026, 15:00-16:30

ZUB-3-314, Zürichbergstrasse 4, 8032 Zürich

Online: <https://uzh.zoom.us/j/62526300420?pwd=NabtSumJFX4ltQrUcSKrolOH9wnvZq.1>

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In many countries around the world, girls now aspire to higher-status occupations than boys. However, Japan has been an exception to this trend. This study examined how the gender gap in adolescents' expected occupational status—historically favoring boys—had changed in Japan in recent years, using data from the 2015, 2018, and 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). The results showed that this gender gap has significantly

narrowed over the past few years, but it remained statistically significant through 2022 when taking other variables into account. This finding suggests that Japan has not yet fully aligned with the broader global trend toward greater gender parity in expected occupational status. We discuss the Japanese context that may explain both the narrowing of this gap and its continued persistence.