

## **Determinants of Trust in Local Government: A Comparison with the Case of Central Government**

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### *Abstract*

Citizens' trust in government is indispensable for government to function well. It creates their support for government policies and enables government to use power effectively. The purpose of this paper is to examine the determinants of trust in local government among Japanese citizens. Using the results of original survey data, this paper estimates ordered logit models that explain the degree of individuals' trust in local government. The estimation results show that the degree of trust strongly depends on an individual's amount of personal contact with local government and moderately depends on local government performance that is evaluated on the basis of his/her economic and working conditions. Personal experiences have a stronger influence on trust in local government than in central government. Individuals with definite convictions concerning the role of government tend to trust central government less than local government. Neither the burden of taxation nor demographic characteristics such as age, education, or gender affect trust in local government. Finally, local government employees are more likely to trust local government than other individuals.