Database of the Level of Citizens' Trust in the National Pension System/Government

Date of implementation: March 2009

Questionnaires

The following five questions refer to your idea of "fairness."

Q1 Would you agree that the government and administrative system treats you fairly?
    [Required]

        1.   Agree
        2.   Agree somewhat
        3.   Disagree somewhat
        4.   Disagree
        5.   Don't know

Q2 Would you agree that the government and administrative system treats citizens fairly?
    [Required]

        1.   Agree
        2.   Agree somewhat
        3.   Disagree somewhat
        4.   Disagree
        5.   Don't know

Q3 Would you agree that the government and administrative system treats people in your area fairly?
    [Required]

        1.   Agree
        2.   Agree somewhat
        3.   Disagree somewhat
        4.   Disagree
        5.   Don't know

Q4 Would you agree that the government and administrative system treats people in your situation fairly?
    [Required]

        1.   Agree
        2.   Agree somewhat
        3.   Disagree somewhat
        4.   Disagree
        5.   Don't know

Q5 Do you think that the world at present is basically fair? Please select one of the following options.
 [Required]

      1.   Yes
      2.   Yes, in most cases
      3.   Not really
      4.   Not at all
      5.   Don't know

The following questions refer to your idea of "trust."

Q6 Would you agree that most people are basically honest?
 [Required]

      1.   Agree
      2.   Agree somewhat
      3.   Disagree somewhat
      4.   Disagree
      5.   Don't know

Q7 Would you agree that you are someone who tends to trust people?
 [Required]

      1.   Agree
      2.   Agree somewhat
      3.   Disagree somewhat
      4.   Disagree
      5.   Don't know

Q8 Would you agree that most people are basically good and kind?
 [Required]

      1.   Agree
      2.   Agree somewhat
      3.   Disagree somewhat
      4.   Disagree
      5.   Don't know

Q9 Would you agree that most people trust others?
 [Required]

      1.   Agree
      2.   Agree somewhat
      3.   Disagree somewhat
      4.   Disagree
      5.   Don't know

Q10 Would you agree that most people can be trusted? [Required]

     1.   Agree
     2.   Agree somewhat
     3.   Disagree somewhat
     4.   Disagree
     5.   Don't know

How much do you trust the following three systems?
   Please enter a value of 50 if you feel that you neither trust nor do not trust the system in question or if it is difficult to say either way.
   If you do trust the system in question, please enter a value from 51 to 100, where 100 represents the greatest degree of trust.
   If you do not trust the system in question, please enter a value from 0 to 49, where 0 represents the lowest degree of trust.

Q11 To what extent to you trust Japan's political system (Diet members, the Diet, governors, local assembly members, etc.)
    [Required]

       Please select a value [   ]

Q12 To what extent do you trust Japan's administrative system (central government, the bureaucratic system, governors, local autonomous bodies, etc.)
    [Required]

       Please select a value [   ]

Q13 To what extent do you trust Japan's economic system (capitalism, market economy, industrial relations, employment system, etc.)
    [Required]

       Please select a value [   ]

In the following two questions, two points of view are shown about political issues. Please select the option that most closely matches your opinion.

Q14 As an economic measure, Japan should:
      (A) Increase public works (public investment) to stimulate corporate activity
      (B) Implement tax cuts to stimulate private consumption
[Required]

     1.   Basically agree with view A
     2.   More A than B
     3.   More B than A
     4.   Basically agree with view B
     5.   Don't know

Q15 When the public finance situation worsens, Japan should:
        (A) Cut spending on necessary services such as welfare to reduce expenditures
        (B) Issue deficit bonds to cover spending on necessary services such as welfare
[Required]

    1.   Basically agree with view A
    2.   More A than B
    3.   More B than A
    4.   Basically agree with view B
    5.   Don't know

In the following two questions, two points of view are shown about social issues.
Please select the option that most closely matches your opinion.

Q16 Regarding child care:
        (A) Mothers should be full-time housewives
        (B) Mothers should be able to work if they so choose
 [Required]

    1.   Basically agree with view A
    2.   More A than B
    3.   More B than A
    4.   Basically agree with view B
    5.   Don't know

Q17 Regarding primary education:
        (A) Children should have to complete a course of compulsory education (elementary and middle school)
        (B) Children should not have to complete a course of compulsory education, as they can make use of free schools and the like.
[Required]

    1.   Basically agree with view A
    2.   More A than B
    3.   More B than A
    4.   Basically agree with view B
    5.   Don't know

In recent years, there has been discussion on the topic of whether or not to introduce a framework for the national pension that would guarantee a minimum payment for daily expenses. The payments would be paid for entirely through taxation.
The following question refers to the framework of such a pension.

Q18 Please select the response from the two options below that best describes your opinion regarding a framework for the pension system.
(A) The amount of pension payments received should depend on the amount of premiums paid
(B) Irrespective of the amount of premiums paid, everyone should receive the minimum amount of payments necessary for daily life
[Required]

1.   Basically agree with view A
2.   More A than B
3.   More B than A
4.   Basically agree with view B
5.   Don't know

The following question refers to your opinion as to the future of the Japanese pension system.
On February 23, 2009, the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry released an estimate stating that by 2038 benefits paid through employee pensions (the "benefit level") would be equivalent to 50.1% of after-tax income for those currently in work.(In 2009, the benefit level was 62.3%)
However, this level is calculated using a basic scenario which assumes the following conditions, among others: total fertility rate: 1.26; wage growth rate: 2.5%; rate of return on deposits: 4.1%.
If the conditions are set to the most pessimistic values, the benefit level would be 43.1% in 2048. For the most optimistic values, the benefit level would be 54.6% in 2032.

Q19 Which of the following do you think will be the benefit level in the year 2038?
[Required]

1.   60 or more (the same as the present level)
2.   50% (equivalent to government estimates)
3.   40% or less (lower than government estimates)
4.   Don't know

The following question refers to use of tax revenue.

Q20 What percentage of its total expenditure do you feel that the government should allocate, respectively, to the next generation (those aged less than 15 years old), the working generation (those aged 15-64), and the elderly (those aged 65 or over)?
Of a budget of 100 units, what do you think would be the ideal allocation between these groups?
[Required]
*Please ensure the sum of each row equals 100
(Example: Next generation: 30, Working generation: 40, Elderly: 30)

Next generation: please enter a number   [   ]
Working generation: please enter a number   [   ]
Elderly: please enter a number   [   ]

Q21 What is the size of the area in which you live? If you are unsure, please enter the name of the area in the box.
[Required]

1.   The 23 Ordinance-Designated Wards of Tokyo
2.   A city of over 300,000 people
3.   A city of 200,001 - 300,000 people
4.   A city of 100,000 - 200,000 people
5.   A city, town or village of less than 100,000 people
6.   Don't know [FA Required]

Q22 Which of the following best describes your household?   The meaning of "household" here is "a collection of individuals living together and sharing expenses."
[Required]

1.   Living alone
2.   Husband and wife living alone
3.   Husband, wife and child(ren) (without children's spouses)
4.   Single parent and child(ren) (without children's spouses)
5.   Couples of two generations (parental couple and child/spouse couple)
6.   Single parent and child(ren) with spouse(s)
7.   Three-generation household
8.   Other household
9.   Don't know

Q23 What was the approximate annual income of your household last year?
[Required]

1.   Less than 2,000,000 yen
2.   200,000 or more - less than 400,000 yen
3.   400,000 or more - less than 600,000 yen
4.   600,000 or more - less than 800,000 yen
5.   800,000 or more - less than 10,00,000 yen
6.   10,000,000 or more - less than 15,000,000 yen
7.   15,000,000 yen or more
8.   Do not wish to answer/don't know