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# Testing Market Integration for Japanese Retail Fish Markets

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## ABSTRACT

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We investigated the convergence and integration of the five Japanese regional retail fish markets for ten different fish species to find out the regional market inter-relationships for the markets of these fish species. We hypothesized that fish products that are more standardized throughout Japan tend to have a more integrated market, and markets that are integrated are likely to show price information flow from central market with high consumption and faster speed of information processing to regional markets with lower consumption and slower information processing. The results suggested that product standardization, and price information flow from markets of large cities with high consumption and faster speed of information processing are important factors for the Japanese regional retail fish markets to be integrated.

**KEYWORDS** Japanese retail fish market; market integration; convergence test; Granger causality

**JEL** C32, Q13, Q22