

AOMORI PREFECTURE

Latest update: August 2013



Prefecture's flag

Main City: Aomori city

Population: 1,338,000 people, ranking 31/47 prefectures (2013) [1]

Area: 9,606 km² [2]



Geographical / Landscape description

Aomori Prefecture is located on the northernmost tip of Honshu facing Hokkaido, with the Tsugaru Strait in between. Aomori Prefecture has a rich and varied nature of mountains, parks and lakes. [2]

Climate

Aomori prefecture's climate is cool for the most part with an average temperature of 10°C. Variations in climate exist between the eastern (Pacific Ocean side) and the western (Japan Sea side) parts of the prefecture. This is in part due to the Ou Mountains that run north to south and divide the two regions. The western side is subject to heavy monsoons and little sunshine. The eastern side receives little sunlight during the summer months with temperatures staying relatively low. [2]

Time zone

GMT +7 in summer (+8 in winter)

International dialling code: 0081

Recent history, culture

Aomori is well known for its tradition of Tsugaru-jamisen, a virtuosic style of shamisen (a three-stringed Japanese musical instrument) playing. The prefecture is also known for its Nobuta Matsuri, one of Japan's most impressive festivals with giant floats of brave warrior-figures carried through the centre of Aomori City. [2]

Economic overview

Aomori, as an energy-efficient prefecture, aims to shift to a low-carbon society by strongly promoting the introduction of renewable energy such as wind energy, photovoltaic energy, hydraulic power, and biomass energy, as well as by introducing next-generation cars such as electric cars and plug-in hybrids that can utilize those clean energies. [3]

Economic Indicators

	Aomori Prefecture	All Japan
Population (2013) [1]	1,338,000	127,350,000
Unemployment rate (2012) [4]	5.3%	4.3 %
GPD (2010) [5]	0.9% of Japan's	495 trillion Yen

Infrastructure

Road/railways

In 2010 the Tohoku Shinkansen (bullet train) reached Aomori City, the seat of the prefectural government. Tokyo Station can be reached from Shin-Aomori Station in as little as three hours by the fastest train, enabling people to travel from the main cities in Aomori to the Tokyo metropolitan area and back within a day. [6]

Shipping

The Port of Mutsu Ogawara, the Port of Aomori, and the Port of Hachinohe are specially-designated ports that run domestic feeder routes connecting with the Port of Yokohama as well as domestic RORO trade routes connecting with the major cities in Japan. In addition, these ports maintain regular container routes connecting with North America, Korea and China. [6]

Civil Aviation

All major cities in Japan can be reached from the Aomori and Misawa Airports. [6]

Major types of economic activities

Agriculture, natural resources

Aomori prefecture is one of the foremost agricultural prefectures of Japan, boasting the highest production of apples, nagaimo yam, garlic, and burdock root.

With a forest area of approximately 66% of total land, the prefecture promotes responsible and sustainable forestry practices.

Aomori prefecture is surrounded by the sea on three sides, including the sheltered Mutsu Bay. Thanks to these favourable conditions, the waters surrounding Aomori are highly productive. [7]

Manufacturing

According to final product value, the composition of industry in Aomori prefecture in 2011 saw nonferrous metals (23.7%) followed by foodstuffs (20.5%) and machinery & equipment (8.4%) in the top ranking. [8]

Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established industries: agriculture, forestry and fisheries, retail trade (food and beverages), manufacturing industries (nonferrous metals, foodstuffs, steel, pulp/paper, and electronic components), tourism-related industries.

Growing industries: promotion of low-carbon industries, green date centres, hybrid automobile components, wind farms. [3][7]

Financial/ Logistic support

*Subsidy support for initial capital investment in buildings and machinery

*A number of large-scale industrial parks helping to subsidize site acquisition

*Deduction of electricity charges offered to relevant businesses in areas surrounding nuclear reprocessing plants in Rokkasho-mura and Misawa.

*Possibility of an exemption from property tax and corporate tax in some municipalities for three to five years.

More information: <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/aomori/>

<http://www.pref.aomori.lg.jp/hojokin/>

Setting up a business in Aomori

Department Of Commerce, Industry And Labor Industry Location Division
1-1-1 Nagashima, Aomori-city, Aomori Prefecture 030-8570
TEL: +81(0)17-734-9381 FAX: +81(0)17-734-8109

Other contacts:

Aomori Prefecture

<http://www.pref.aomori.lg.jp/foreigners/>

Aomori Tourism and Convention Association

http://www.atca.info/atca_language/index_en.html

Sources and footnotes

- [1] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/2.htm>
- [2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aomori_Prefecture
- [3] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/aomori/>
- [4] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/roudou/pref/index.htm>
- [5] http://www.esri.cao.go.jp/jp/sna/sonota/kenmin/kenmin_top.html
- [6] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/aomori/infra.html>
- [7] http://www.pref.aomori.lg.jp/foreigners/english_industries.html
- [8] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/e-census/2012/sokuho/gaiyo.htm>

Iwakisan, in Hirosaki and Ajigasawa, Aomori



Nebuta Festival



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