

YAMAGATA PREFECTURE



Prefecture's flag

Main City: Yamagata

Population: 1,143,000 people, ranking 35/47 prefecture (2013) [1]

Area: 6,652 km² [2]

Latest update: August 2013



Geographical / Landscape description:

Yamagata Prefecture is located in the southwest corner of Tohoku, facing the Sea of Japan 300km north of Tokyo. It borders Niigata Prefecture and Fukushima Prefecture to the south, Miyagi Prefecture to the east, and Akita Prefecture to the north. All of these boundaries are marked by mountains, with most of the population residing in a limited central plain. As of 1 April 2012, 17% of the total land area of the prefecture was designated as Natural Parks. [2]

Climate:

The climate of Yamagata Prefecture is characterized by long, hot, humid summers and long, snowy winters. Both spring and autumn are short, the former often cold, the latter often warm, but both are quite dry and sunny. Winter temperatures rarely fall below -10°C in populated areas and they frequently rise above 30°C in July and August. [2]

Time zone:

GMT +7 in summer (+8 in winter)

International dialling code: 0081

Recent history, culture

The most famous festival in Yamagata is likely the Hanagasa Matsuri: over three days nearly 10,000 participants dance traditional dances called Hanagasa while parading through the streets. The festival is one of the big three of Tohoku region and attracts as many as 1,000,000 spectators from all across Japan and abroad. [3]

Economic overview

Yamagata Prefecture features a concentration of technologically-oriented companies engaged in everything from materials and parts fabrication to final product production. Originating with the iron casting for which Yamagata became famous roughly 900 years ago, Yamagata has honed and refined its machining techniques over the years, becoming renowned as one of the Tohoku region's most technologically rich areas offering superior precision machinery components. Furthermore, Yamagata is making headway on its cutting-edge "Cluster of Industries related to Organic Electronics" and "Project for the Development of Ultra Precision Machining Technology" projects. [4]

Economic Indicators

	Yamagata Prefecture	All Japan
Population (2013) [1]	1,143,000	127,350,000
Unemployment rate (2012) [5]	3.5%	4.3%
GPD (2010) [6]	0.76% of Japan's	495 trillion Yen

Infrastructure

Road/railways

Yamagata Prefecture is bordered by the Sea of Japan with the Yamagata Expressway, a major transportation artery for eastern Japan, running through its interior. This connects with the Tohoku Expressway, which travellers can use to reach Tokyo in approximately four hours. The Yamagata Shinkansen (bullet train) runs longitudinally through the prefecture, with the express Shinkansen travelling between Yamagata and Tokyo in two hours and thirty minutes and between Yonezawa and Tokyo in two hours. [7]

Shipping

From Sakata Port, routes operate to Busan in Korea and to Tianjin and Dalian in China. Sakata Port is expected to see an increase in operation as a gateway to the booming markets of East Asia and Russia. In addition, Sakata Port has been designated as Recycle Port and is attracting firms in the recycling industry. [7]

Civil Aviation

Yamagata Prefecture hosts two airports, Yamagata Airport and Shonai Airport, with domestic flights to Tokyo and Osaka. [8][9]

Living Environment

Yamagata Prefecture is blessed with abundant nature and sceneries like the Mogami River that have been made famous by Matsuo Basho (1644-1694) in his haiku poems. Yamagata is also the only prefecture in Japan in which each municipality is blessed with hot springs. Bountiful nature, delicious and safe foods, and the high quality of life make Yamagata Prefecture an attractive place to live and work. [10]

Major types of economic activities

Agriculture, natural resources

Yamagata is well-known as an agricultural prefecture, with products including rice, beef, cherries, grapes, apples, pears and so on. [11]

Manufacturing

Yamagata prefecture is well known for its constellation of manufacturing industries (monozukuri). Yamagata has about 1,300 manufacturing enterprises. Its field is wide, and various high-quality products are produced and exported to the world. In terms of the total shipping of manufactured products in 2011, Yamagata's main industries were: information & communication (19.7%), electronic components (13.7%) and foodstuff (12.1%). [11] [12]

R&D, Innovation, Scientific research

Various projects are implemented in the prefecture.

The Organic Electronics Valley Project is designed to create a local industry in organic electroluminescence. Yamagata is actively working to increase Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLEDs) use and build OLED related industries in the prefecture also providing incentives to companies operating in that sector. The Research Institute for Organic Electronics is internationally recognized as the base Centre of Excellence.

The Yamagata Research Institute of Technology forms the core of a group of 1600 companies, universities, and other research institutions working together to form Yamagata's very own Ultra High Precision Processing Cluster. The Institute for Advanced Biosciences, Keio University, is a pioneer in the new life science field of "Integrated Systems Biology" and biotechnology studies. [13][14]

Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established and traditional industries: agriculture, forestry and fisheries, manufacturing industries (communication devices, electronic parts, semiconductors), chemical products, ceramics, cast-iron metalwork, knit clothing, carpet making, woodcraft.

Growing industries: nanotechnology, organic electro-luminescence industry, ultra-high precision processing technology, machinery processing, biotechnology. [4][11][14]

Financial/logistic support

Financial

*Low interest loans: 0.9% interest rate

*Subsidies

*Tax benefits: reduction or exemption from some prefectural taxes

Consultation and information service support:

*One-stop Support Center consulting companies on necessary paperwork and procedures and assisting in human resource development necessary for manufacturing

R&D and training support:

*Support institutions: Yamagata Research Institute of Technology (consultations about implementing new technologies, perform joint research projects, engage in research and development, and help to train technicians);

More information: http://www.pref.yamagata.jp/sr/quest/index_e.html

Setting up a business in Yamagata

Industry Promotion Division, Department of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Yamagata Prefectural Government
2-8-1 Matsunami, Yamagata-city, Yamagata Prefecture 990-8570

TEL: +81(0)23-630-2690 FAX: +81(0)23-630-2695

E-mail: ykogyo@pref.yamagata.jp

http://www.pref.yamagata.jp/sr/quest/index_e.html

Other contacts:

Yamagata Prefectural Government

<http://www.pref.yamagata.jp>

Institute for Advanced Biosciences

<http://www.iab.keio.ac.jp/en/>

Research Center for Organic Electronics Yamagata University

<http://organic.yz.yamagata-u.ac.jp/en/index.html>

Research Institute for Organic Electronics

<http://www.organic-electronics.jp>

Yamagata Research Institute of Technology

<http://www.yrit.pref.yamagata.jp/>

Yamagata Tourist Information Center

<http://yamagatakanko.com/>

Sources and footnotes

- [1] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/2.htm>
- [2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yamagata_prefecture
- [3] <http://www.hanagasa.jp/en/>
- [4] <http://www.JETRO.go.jp/en/invest/region/yamagata/>
- [5] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/roudou/pref/index.htm>
- [6] http://www.esri.cao.go.jp/jp/sna/sonota/kenmin/kenmin_top.html
- [7] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/yamagata/infra.html>
- [8] <http://www.shonai-airport.co.jp/>
- [9] <http://www.yamagata-airport.co.jp/index-en.html>
- [10] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/yamagata/living.html>
- [11] <http://www2.yz.yamagata-u.ac.jp/mot/asia/en/yamagata/industry01.html>
- [12] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/e-census/2012/sokuho/gaiyo.htm>
- [13] <http://www.pref.yamagata.jp/ou/shokokanko/110012/kokusai/english/industry.html>
- [14] <http://www.pref.yamagata.jp/sr/quest/english/invest/innovation.html>

View of Yamadera



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