

IBARAKI PREFECTURE



Prefecture's flag

Main City: Mito

Population: 2,935,000 people, ranking 11/47 prefectures (2013) [1]

Area: 6,095.58 km² [2]

Latest update: August 2013



Geographical / Landscape description

The northern part to the north-western part is mountainous. Rivers run through an area of flat land in a basin. The Yamizo Mountains start with Mount Yamizo, the highest mountain in the prefecture (1,022 m) located at the border in the northwest, and the range stretches south going through the border with Tochigi Prefecture as far as Mount Kaba and Mount Tsukuba. The main features in the south-eastern part are the second largest lake in Japan, Kasumigaura, and another lake called Kitaura. There is a 190 km-long coastline in the eastern part. [2]

Climate

Temperatures vary from north to south across Ibaraki prefecture although average winter temperatures remain above freezing everywhere in Ibaraki. Rainfall can be heavy across the prefecture, but tends to be heaviest along the coast and in the mountainous north. [2]

Time zone

GMT +7 in summer (+8 in winter)

International dialling code: 0081

Recent history, culture

Ibaraki is known in Japan for its natto, or fermented soybeans and chestnuts; worldwide, Ibaraki is where the martial art of Aikido founded by Ueshiba Morihei, also known as Osensei, is born.

The capital Mito is home to Kairakuen, one of Japan's three most celebrated gardens, which is famous for having more than 3000 Japanese plum trees of over 100 varieties. [2]

Economic overview

The prefecture contains one of the largest industrial clusters in Japan. Hitachi City is the hub of the nation's electronics industry, the Kashima industrial complex is a key base for materials industries such as the petrochemicals industry, and Tsukuba City is the nation's largest science hub. In recent years, Komatsu, Hitachi Construction Machinery, and Fanuc have established new factories in Ibaraki as a part of their growth strategy. Ibaraki, a stone's throw away from the Tokyo metropolitan area, is well known as an industrial base. [3]

Economic Indicators

	Ibaraki Prefecture	All Japan
Population (2013) [1]	2,935,000	127,350,000
Unemployment rate (2012) [4]	3.9%	4.3%
GPD (2010) [5]	2.2% of Japan	495 trillion Yen

Infrastructure

Road/railways

Tsukuba Express: Allows travel between Akihabara Station in Tokyo and Tsukuba Station in 45 minutes, providing a strong push for business growth. The line features attractive subdivisions of sites for new businesses and residential districts created by land readjustment projects. [6]

Shipping

Ibaraki Prefecture has been developing the operations of its two designated ports, Ibaraki Port (Hitachi District, Hitachinaka District, and Oarai District) and Kashima Port, as a gateway to the world. [6]

Civil Aviation

In March 2010 Ibaraki Airport opened, becoming the third airport for the Tokyo Metropolitan Area. The airport offers regular scheduled flights to Shanghai, Kobe and Sapporo, and it meets the demand in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area for diverse air services including charter flights, low-cost carriers, etc. [6]

Living Environment

Ibaraki offers various means of support to foreigners living in the prefecture, with the aim of project for multicultural society promotion. The prefecture, the Ibaraki International Association, and the municipalities work together to provide information in many languages on their websites and text messages for mobile phones. They also operate a Foreign Consultation Center and organize volunteer interpreting services at medical facilities. [7]

Major types of economic activities

Agriculture, natural resources

In 2011, the gross agricultural output of Ibaraki Prefecture was 409.7 billion yen. After Hokkaido, Ibaraki is the 2nd most productive agricultural region of Japan. [8]

Manufacturing

Ibaraki's economy is dependent on the manufacturing enterprises located in the Kashima seaside industrial zone and the Hitachi region. In 2011, the manufacturing industry's shipment value was principally composed of chemicals (12.3%), machinery (10.2%) and food and related products (9.7%). [8][9]

R&D, Innovation, Scientific research

Various centres support the local R&D fields, for example, the Tsukuba Center, Inc. and the Hitachi Regional Technical Support Center. Research on nuclear energy is also a must in the prefecture with the Japan Atomic Energy Agency and the Ibaraki University Frontier Research Center for Applied Atomic Sciences located in it.

Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established industries: agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing industries, IT, electronic industry, heavy industry (chemical industry, iron and steel, machinery) light industry (food and beverages, plastics, ceramics).
Growing industries: new energy-related industries, energy saving-related industries, environment/recycling-related industries. [3][8]

Financial/logistic support

Incentives for the Special Reconstruction Zones:

*Exemption from and reduction of several prefectural taxes for corporations who establish new business office or facilities, or expand their existing offices or facilities for the operation in the covered sectors, and who increase its workers in the prefecture by five or more.

*Tax breaks for industries relevant to new energy and other sectors

*Promotion of renewable energy and smart communities (a feed-in tariff system (FIT) for the renewable energy industry)

More information: http://www.JETRO.go.jp/en/invest/reports/pdf/fukko_e.pdf

Setting up a business in Ibaraki

Industry Development Section – Tokyo Office

Nippon Building 5F, 2-6-2 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004

TEL: +81(0)3-3243-0845 FAX: +81(0)3-3243-0846

Other contacts:

Ibaraki Prefecture

<http://www.pref.ibaraki.jp/bukyoku/seikan/kokuko/en/>

Hitachi Regional Technical Support Center

<http://www.hits.or.jp/en/index.html>

Ibaraki University Frontier Research Center for Applied Atomic Sciences

http://www.fas.ibaraki.ac.jp/en/kenkyu_center/index.html

Japan Atomic Energy Agency

<http://www.jaea.go.jp/english/about/index.shtml>

Tsukuba Center, Inc.

<http://www.tsukuba-tci.co.jp/>

Official Tourism Information for Ibaraki Prefecture

<http://www.ibarakiguide.jp/en/index.html>

Sources and footnotes

- [1] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/2.htm>
- [2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibaraki_Prefecture
- [3] <http://www.JETRO.go.jp/en/invest/region/ibaraki/>
- [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/ibaraki/infra.html>
- [7] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/ibaraki/living.html>
- [8] <http://www.pref.ibaraki.jp/bukyoku/seikan/kokuko/en/data/index.htm>
- [9] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/e-census/2012/sokuho/gaiyo.htm>

Kairakuen Park in Mito



Lake Kasumigaura and Mt. Tsukuba



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