TOYAMA PREFECTURE

Prefecture’s Flag

Main City: Toyama City
Population: 1,077,000 people, ranking 37/47 prefecture (2013) [1]
Area: 4,247 km² [2]

Geographical / Landscape description

Toyama is a topographically impressive prefecture. Mountains wall the prefecture on three sides and the deep bay rests nestled in the crook formed by the rolling plains. With its central position in the Japan Sea region and a history laden with contact with the Asian continent, Toyama is at the centre of activities in the Japan Sea region. As of 1 April 2012, 30% of the total land area of the prefecture was designated as Natural Parks. [2]

Climate

Snowy winters and the Foehn influence makes the summers warmer than nearby areas. [2]

Time zone:

GMT +7 in summer (+8 in winter)

International dialling code: 0081

Recent history, culture

In anticipation of the coming importance of the Japan Sea region, Toyama has worked to form relationships and head exchanges with other countries in the region. Friendly relations have been formed with Primorsky, Russia, Liaoning Province, China and others. Toyama is striving to become a base for active exchange in the Japan Sea region. [3]

Economic overview

In recent years, chemical and machinery-related corporations have been developing new businesses within Toyama in the area of electronic materials, and a number of outside companies have been moving into the prefecture. Currently, Toyama has the No. 1 industrial concentration along the Sea of Japan. [4]

Economic Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Toyama Prefecture</th>
<th>All Japan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (2013) [1]</td>
<td>1,077,000</td>
<td>127,350,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate(2012) [5]</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
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<td>GPD (2010) [6]</td>
<td>0.8% of Japan’s</td>
<td>495 trillion Yen</td>
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Infrastructure

Road/railways

By train, Toyama is located at a little more than 3h from major cities: Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya. [7]
Shipping

Fushiki-Toyama Port was selected as one of five Comprehensive Hub Ports and has regular container ship services operating to China, South Korea, Russia and Thailand. [7]

Civil Aviation

Toyama Airport with regular flights to China, Russia, Korea and Taiwan. [8]

Living Environment

The prefecture ranks top in Japan as for home ownership and household size, with good infrastructures and a low level of natural disaster, Toyama offers its residents the finest living environment. [9]

Major types of economic activities

Agriculture, natural resources

The prefecture is well known for its production of rice. [10]

Manufacturing

In 2011, the manufacturing industry's shipment value was principally composed of chemicals (13.7%), machinery equipment (12%), and electronic components (11.6%). [11]

Toyama’s main industries can be found in the pharmaceutical sector. With 300 years of history in the machinery and metal-related sector, the prefecture become the site of the leading aluminium industry in the nation and a global manufacturer of fasteners, and the IT-related industry, with a concentration of manufacturers of underlying/materials, electronic/functional components and serves as a base for component supply, fabrication, etc., to device makers. [12]

R&D, Innovation, Scientific research

A number of industry support facilities are located in Toyama, including Toyama Industrial Technology Center (which carries out materials-related research, lifestyle-related product research, and mechanical electronics-related research), Toyama Monozukuri Research and Development Center (which has 26 high-tech R&D devices), Toyama Institute of Information Systems (which provides support for information- and communications-related industries), and Toyama New Industry Organization (which offers comprehensive technology, management, and information-related consultation facilities). [4]

Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established industries: agriculture, forestry and fisheries, biotechnology, high-tech industries (IT, Robots, deep seawater-related industries), pharmaceutical industries. [10]

Financial/logistic support

No English recent and verified data could be identified. Some data in Japanese available.

Setting up a business in Toyama

Industrial Location & Trade Division, Toyama Prefectural Government
1-7 Shinsogawa, Toyama-city, 930-8501
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Other contacts:
Toyama Prefecture
http://www.pref.toyama.jp/english/index.html
Toyama Industrial Technology Center
http://www.itc.pref.toyama.jp/english/eng_index.html
Toyama Institute of Information Systems
http://www.toyama-tic.co.jp/
Toyama Monozukuri Research and Development Center
http://www.tonio.or.jp/monozukuri/
Toyama New Industry Organization
http://www.tonio.or.jp/
Toyama Prefectural Tourism Association

Sources and footnotes
Great Buddha in Takaoka

View of Toyama City

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