KYOTO PREFECTURE

Main City: Kyoto
Population: 2,623,000 people, ranking 16/47 prefecture (2013) [1]
Area: 4,612.71 km² [2]

Geographical / Landscape description
Kyoto Prefecture is located almost in the centre of Honshu and of Japan. The prefecture is separated along the middle by the Tanba Mountains. [2]

Climate
The presence of mountains in its centre makes the prefecture’s climate very different with a snowy north and warmer south. [2]

Time zone
GMT +7 in summer (+8 in winter)

International dialling code: 0081

Recent history, culture
As the historic capital of Japan for more than 1000 years, Kyoto is the heart of traditional Japanese culture, born and developed within the walls of the imperial court and its aristocratic structure. Unsurprisingly, it is a must see place for foreign tourists in Japan. Kyoto’s culture and beauty cannot be summarised in just a few sentences so please refer to the many websites and publications about Kyoto for further information. [2]

Economic overview
The prefecture is the birthplace of innumerable world-renowned traditional arts that are passed down from generation to generation such as Nishijin brocade and unique Kyoto styles of Yuzen silk dyeing, dappled cloth, embroidery, braiding, Buddhist altar decorations, urushi lacquer ware, cabinet making, pottery, masonry, dolls, scroll mounting, inlaying and swords to name but a few.

The spirit that fostered these intricate traditional arts is the force behind the rise of many advanced technologies today: Kyoto is home to Shimadzu, Nintendo, Kyocera, Omron, Horiba, Murata Manufacturing, Rohm, NEC and other world-leading companies. Moreover, Kyoto’s smaller businesses and the unique products and technologies they come up with are another of the prefecture’s attractive features.

One of the stand-out characteristics of Kyoto’s industry is that global high-tech IT-related companies sit alongside SMEs with advanced manufacturing technologies as well as traditional industries. The prefecture is working hard to develop the region into a major IT cluster by attracting new IT companies to the area and fostering new venture businesses. [3]
Economic Indicators

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<th>Kyoto Prefecture</th>
<th>All Japan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (2013) [1]</td>
<td>2,623,000</td>
<td>127,350,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (2012) [4]</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
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<td>GPD (2010) [5]</td>
<td>1.9% of Japan’s</td>
<td>495 trillion Yen</td>
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Infrastructure

Road/railways
Kyoto is extremely close to the main cities of Osaka, Kobe and Nagoya both by car and by train. Kyoto Station is a major stop on the Tokaido Shinkansen line making it around 140 minutes from Tokyo when riding the fastest Nozomi bullet train. [6]

Shipping
Kyoto’s Maizuru Port is rapidly growing into a major centre for transit, both for people and goods with regular connections to China, South Korea and Russia. [6]

Civil Aviation
Kyoto is just 75min away by train from Kansai International Airport near Osaka. [6]

Living Environment
The prefecture is not only about Kyoto City, each region of it has its own appeal: the northern area faces the Japan Sea and has many scenic spots, the central area is rich in forests and industrial development, and the southern area where Kyoto City is located, offers a unique mix of modern and traditional culture. [2]

Major types of economic activities

Agriculture, natural resources
Fisheries in the north and some agriculture in the central area. [2]

Manufacturing
In 2011, the manufacturing industry's shipment value was principally composed of the beverage industry (18.9%), transport machinery (11.4%) and food related products (8.8%). [7]

R&D, Innovation, Scientific research
Various R&D projects in science related sectors have been implemented in recent years centred in the Kansai Science City, and Keihanna Science City, aiming to develop the science activities coordinating industries, academies and governmental entities.

Other organisations include the Advanced Scientific Technology & Management Research Institute that undertakes R&D, technical support and support for developing new technology-based businesses in a wide range of fields from software to mechatronics, nanotechnology and biotechnology. [8]
Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established industries: high-tech and IT-related industries, chemical products, transportation and communication industries, traditional craft industries, ceramics, textiles, agriculture, fisheries, forestry.
Emerging industries: nanotechnology and material production, biotechnology, environmental friendly-related industries, analytical equipment, solar batteries. [3][9]

Financial/logistic support

*Various subsidies for companies intending to establish or to expand their business in Kyoto, depending on the intended area and on the amount of the invested fixed asset
*Subsidy for local employment
*Several forms of preferential taxation
*Low-interest financing + deferment, against stable employment
*Support and information about Kyoto
*Help with access to innovation facilities suitable to researchers and new businesses
*Industry-Academia-Government Cooperation

More details: http://www.kic-kyoto.jp/eng/incentive/kyoto_pref.html

Setting up a business in Kyoto

Trade and Commerce Division, Department of Commerce, Labor and Tourism
Yabunouchi-cho, Nishiiru, Shinmachi, Shimotachibiru-dori, Kamikyo-ku, Kyoto 602-8570
TEL: +81(0)75-414-4840 FAX: +81(0)75-414-4870

Other contacts:

Kyoto Prefecture
Advanced Scientific Technology & Management Research Institute
http://www.astem.or.jp/english/
Kyoto Foreign Investment Promotion Committee
http://www.kic-kyoto.jp/eng/incentive/kyoto_pref.html
Kansai Science City
http://www.kri-p.jp/english/
Kyoto Tourism Federation
http://www.kyoto-kankou.or.jp/english/

Sources and footnotes

Kinkakuji in Kyoto

Byodoin in Uji

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