OSAKA PREFECTURE

Main City: Osaka
Population: 8,861,000 people, ranking 3/47 prefectures (2013) [1]
Area: 1,899 km² [2]

Geographical / Landscape description
Osaka is the second smallest prefecture in Japan and home of the third largest city of Japan. As of 1 April 2012, 11% of the total land area of the prefecture was designated as natural park. [2]

Climate
Osaka belongs to the humid subtropical climate zone. Its winters are generally mild and rarely see snowfall. Spring in Osaka starts off mild, but ends up being hot and humid. Summers are very hot and humid. Fall sees a cooling trend with the early part of the season resembling summer while the latter part resembles winter. [2]

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

International dialling code: 0081

Recent history, culture
Osaka City’s historic background as a city of commerce helped shape today’s Osaka. It played a major role in distribution, trade, and industry in Japan and it is now further developing to become an international city. [3]

Economic overview
Osaka has long been known for its small and medium-sized manufacturing companies. Some of the world’s leading companies, firms with unique technologies and skills and a highly skilled labour force are all found across Osaka. Clustered in the bay area, environmental and new-energy industries have been stepping up their activities in recent years. Furthermore, biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries are clustering in northern Osaka, and strategic initiatives are advancing to develop Osaka into a world-class bio-cluster through industry, academia, and governmental collaboration, given its excellent research environment. [4]

Economic Indicators

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<tr>
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<th>Osaka Prefecture</th>
<th>All Japan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (2013) [1]</td>
<td>8,861,000</td>
<td>127,350,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (2012) [5]</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>GPD (2010) [6]</td>
<td>7.3% of Japan’s</td>
<td>495 trillion Yen</td>
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Infrastructure

Road/railways
Being a major trade centre of Japan, Osaka has excellent connections with other parts of the country. Tokyo is only 2 hours 30 mins away by the Nozomi bullet train. [7]
Shipping

Osaka Port and Kobe Port were designated as an integrated Strategic International Container Port. Improved efficiencies relating to logistic operations across the ports system will transform it into a key hub in Asia. [7]

Civil Aviation

Kansai International Airport is one of Japan’s main airports with regular flights to major European countries and the rest of the world. [8]

Living Environment

Osaka offers alternative choices for housing, from super high-rise apartments to houses in leafy hillside areas, as well as excellent living environments that are located close to workplaces. Many foreigners choose to live in the peaceful residential Hanshin district. [9]

Major types of economic activities

Manufacturing, construction

In 2011, the manufacturing industry's shipment value was principally composed of chemicals (11.4%), petroleum and coal (8.6%) and iron and steel (8%). [10] The prefecture is home of many manufacturing companies specialised in the electronics, pharmaceutical, machinery, device, chemical, food, and construction industries. [11]

R&D, Innovation, Scientific research

Presence of one of the most important Bio Cluster of Japan, combining academic-government-industry entities promoting R&D in the fields of biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical. Memorandums have been executed with bio clusters in Belgium, Germany and other countries in the world to further develop international cooperation. [12]

Services

The service, wholesale and retail industries combined represent more than 40% of Osaka’s total GDP. [11]

Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established industries: metal products, general machinery, plastics, electrical machinery and equipment, pulp and paper, food products.

Financial/logistic support

*Various types of subsidies available under specific conditions
*Tax support measures in the Special Zones
*Low-interest loans
*Free temporary office space for up to 6 months (except for telephone, fax and copy charges)
*Venture Incubation Offices
*Business-to-business matchmaking
*Support for daily life
*Various information and consultation services for companies thanks to a network of specialists developed by the prefecture (a fee is often required for these services)

More information: [http://www.o-bic.net/e/setup/](http://www.o-bic.net/e/setup/)
# Setting up a business in Osaka

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Division</th>
<th>Investment Promotion Division</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Osaka Business and Investment Center</td>
<td>Sakishima Bld.25F, 1-14-16 Nankoukita, Suminoe-ku, Osaka 559-8555</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honmachi-bashi, Chuo-ku, Osaka, 540-0029</td>
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<td>Tel: +81(0)6-6944-6298 FAX: +81(0)6-6944-6293</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other contacts:

- Osaka Prefecture
- Center for Advanced Science and Innovation
  [http://www.casi.osaka-u.ac.jp/index-e.html](http://www.casi.osaka-u.ac.jp/index-e.html)
- Monodzukuri Business Information-center Osaka
- National Institute of Biomedical Innovation
- Osaka Bio Cluster
- Osaka Bioscience Institute
  [http://www.obi.or.jp/about_e.html](http://www.obi.or.jp/about_e.html)
- Osaka Foundation for Trade and Industry
  [http://www.mydome.jp/ibo_exporters/search.cgi](http://www.mydome.jp/ibo_exporters/search.cgi)
- Technology Research Institute of Osaka Prefecture
- Osaka Tourist Guide

Sources and footnotes

1. [http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/2.htm](http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/2.htm)
11. [http://o-bic.net/e/attractive/accumulation.html](http://o-bic.net/e/attractive/accumulation.html)
A canal in Osaka City

Osaka castle

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