

WAKAYAMA PREFECTURE

Latest update: August 2013



Prefecture's Flag

Main City: Wakayama

Population: 986,000 people, ranking 39/47 prefecture (2013) [1]

Area: 4,726 km² [2]



Geographical / Landscape description

Wakayama Prefecture faces the Pacific Ocean, and is located in the south-western part of the Kii Peninsula. 75% of the land is covered by forests and mountains. [2]

Climate

General mild climate.

Time zone

GMT +7 in summer (+8 in winter)

International dialling code: 0081

Recent history, culture

The prefecture is home of the Mt. Koya known as the world headquarters of the Koyasan Shingon sect of Japanese Buddhism since 819. Mt Koya and various pilgrimage roads along the forests of the prefecture were listed as World Heritage places. It is said that soy sauce was originally created by a priest living in Wakayama Prefecture during the Kamakura period (1185-1333). [2][3]

Economic overview

Wakayama is home to numerous companies pioneering the way into new fields with world-class technologies that have earned them major shares of their respective markets in Japan and around the world. [4]

Economic Indicators

	Wakayama Prefecture	All Japan
Population (2013) [1]	986,000	127,350,000
Unemployment rate (2012) [5]	3.8%	4.3%
GPD (2010) [6]	0.7% of Japan's	495 trillion Yen

Infrastructure

Road/railways

Wakayama City is one hour's drive from Osaka. [7]

Shipping

Wakayama Shimotsu Port is a Designated Key Port with regular connections to South Korea. New routes to China are expected to open. [7]

Civil Aviation

No local airport but good connections with Kansai International Airport. [7]

Living Environment

Wakayama Prefecture is an easygoing prefecture with a rich nature making it a good place for outdoor activities. The presence of many hot springs and beach resorts make it a popular destination for tourists seeking relaxation. [8]

Major types of economic activities

Agriculture, natural resources

Thanks to its climate, Wakayama Prefecture is an important site for fruit production. It supplies most of Japan with its high production of mikans (mandarin oranges) and plums. [2]

Manufacturing

In 2011, the manufacturing industry's shipment value was principally composed of iron & steel 28.6%, petroleum & coal 26.3%, and chemicals 10.9%. [9]

R&D, Innovation, Scientific research

The Industrial Technology Center of Wakayama Prefecture aims to promote research and development for the benefit of local industries.

Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established industries: petroleum, chemicals, steel, machinery and food industries. [4]

Financial/logistic support

- *Tax relief measures: conditional exemption from prefectural taxes
- *Various subsidies issued for new or expanded factories
- *Various subsidies and grants issued for new or expanded R&D facilities
- *Financing for industry expansion
- *Grants for local employment
- *Information related to the establishment procedures, building permits, etc.
- *Law-related and environment-related information
- *A public human resource agency supporting companies in finding the right employees within Wakayama

More info: <http://www.pref.wakayama.lg.jp/prefg/062200/investment/>

Setting up a business in Wakayama

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TEL: +81(0)73-441-2753 FAX: +81(0)73-422-1933
E-mail: e0622001@pref.wakayama.lg.jp

Other contacts:

Wakayama Prefecture
<http://www.pref.wakayama.lg.jp/english>
Industrial Technology Center of Wakayama Prefecture
<http://www.wakayama-kg.go.jp/>
Wakayama Industry Promotion Agency
<http://www.yarukiouendan.jp/>
Wakayama Tourism Federation
<http://www.wakayama-kanko.or.jp/world/english/index.html>

Sources and footnotes

- [1] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/2.htm>
- [2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wakayama_Prefecture
- [3] <http://www.wakayama-kanko.or.jp/world/english/index.html>
- [4] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/wakayama/>
- [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/wakayama/infra.html>
- [8] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/wakayama/living.html>
- [9] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/e-census/2012/sokuho/gaiyo.htm>

Wakayama Castle



Kumano Hayatama Taisha Shrine



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