

KOCHI PREFECTURE



Prefecture's Flag

Main City: Kochi

Population: 746,000 people, ranking 45/47 prefecture (2013) [1]

Area: 7,104 km² [2]

Latest update: August 2013



Geographical / Landscape description

Kochi Prefecture comprises the southwestern part of the island of Shikoku, facing the Pacific Ocean. It is the largest but least populous of Shikoku's four prefectures. Most of the province is mountainous with few plains. As of 1 April 2012, 7% of the total land area of the prefecture was designated as Natural Parks. [2]

Climate

One of the Japanese prefectures with the highest number of sunny days in a year. Despite this, certain areas also record some of the highest amounts of rainfall in Japan. [2]

Time zone

GMT +7 in summer (+8 in winter)

International dialling code: 0081

Recent history, culture

Kochi Prefecture gave birth to Sakamoto Ryoma (1836 - 1867) one of the most famous historic people of Japan. Sakamoto was a prominent figure that drove Japan during the turbulent period that led to the great political reforms of the Meiji Restoration of 1868. In 2003, the Kochi Airport was renamed to the Kochi Ryoma Airport in his honour and the Sakamoto Ryoma Memorial Museum is a main feature in local tourism. [3] [4]

Economic overview

Due to its size, Kochi has one of the lowest GDP in Japan. Its industry mainly operates in the agriculture and food related sectors making it one of Japan's breadbaskets. [5]

Toward the development of a recycling-oriented society, Kochi Prefecture has also demonstrated its tremendous potential across a variety of fields in working with companies in the prefecture to promote some of Japan's leading business ventures. [6]

Economic Indicators

	Kochi Prefecture	All Japan
Population (2013) [1]	746,000	127,350,000
Unemployment rate (2012) [7]	3.8%	4.3%
GPD (2010) [8]	0.4% of Japan's	495 trillion Yen

Infrastructure

Road/railways

Construction of expressways to better connect some parts of the prefecture is on-going. [9]

Shipping

Kochi Port offers routes to Korea. [9]

Civil Aviation

Kochi Ryoma Airport with domestic flights only. [10]

Living Environment

A rich and varied natural environment in a quiet area of Japan far from the hustle and bustle of larger cities' buzzing makes the prefecture a nice place to relax and live.

Major types of economic activities

Agriculture, natural resources

Kochi's climate is perfect for agriculture; the main products include eggplant, cucumbers and garlic. Due to its geographical location, fishing has long been a part of Kochi's culture and a significant aquaculture sector has also developed. With 84% of the prefecture covered in lush forests, forestry is also a vital part of the economy. [11][12][13]

Manufacturing

In 2011, the manufacturing industry's shipment value was principally composed of food and related products (13.6%), electronic components (12%), and pulp and paper products (11%). [14]

Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established industries: agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, forestry industries, paper, electronics. [6][15]

Financial/logistic support

No recent incentive-related information found in English-language web pages. Data available only in Japanese.

More information: <http://www.pref.kochi.lg.jp/~richi/html/contents/yugu.html>

Setting up a business in Kochi

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Other contacts:

Kochi Prefecture

<http://www.pref.kochi.lg.jp/english/>

Kochi Industrial Promotion Center

<http://www.joho-kochi.or.jp/>

Official Kochi Tourism Website

<http://www.attaka.or.jp/>

Sources and footnotes

- [1] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/2.htm>
- [2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kochi_prefecture
- [3] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sakamoto_Ryoma
- [4] <http://www.attaka.or.jp/>
- [5] <http://www.pref.kochi.lg.jp/english/overview-introduction.html>
- [6] <http://www.JETRO.go.jp/en/invest/region/kochi/>
- [7] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/roudou/pref/index.htm>
- [8] http://www.esri.cao.go.jp/jp/sna/sonota/kenmin/kenmin_top.html
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- [13] <http://www.pref.kochi.lg.jp/english/industry-agriculture.html>
- [14] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/e-census/2012/sokuho/gaiyo.htm>
- [15] <http://www.pref.kochi.lg.jp/english/>

Kochi castle



Tosa Shrine



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