FUKUOKA PREFECTURE

Main City: Fukuoka  
Population: 5,088,000 people, ranking 9/47 prefecture (2013)  
Area: 4,846 km²

Geographical / Landscape description
Fukuoka Prefecture faces the sea on three sides, bordering the Saga, Oita, and Kumamoto prefectures and facing Yamaguchi Prefecture across the Kanmon Straits.  
Fukuoka includes the two largest cities on Kyushu, Fukuoka and Kitakyushu, and much of Kyushu’s industry. It also includes a number of small islands near the north coast of Kyushu.

Climate
Fukuoka Prefecture enjoys a mild, temperate climate and an appropriate amount of rain, which allows residents to live comfortably throughout the year. Although it sometimes snows in winter, especially in the mountains, it seldom snows in urban areas.

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

International dialling code: 0081

Recent history, culture
Fukuoka prefecture boasts some unique cultural features such as the 700 year old Kowakamai, Japan’s oldest singing and dancing performance, that is held only once a year in the Shinto shrine in Oe and the Toro Doll of Yame Fukushima, that has been designated as one of Japan’s most important intangible folk-cultural assets.

Economic overview
Fukuoka has strong trade relationships with nearby Asian countries as well as with the USA and European countries.  
In Germany a representative office has been established to further promote relations between the EU and the prefecture. Being the most dynamic prefecture in Kyushu, Fukuoka can be considered the business and transportation hub of the region. Known in Japan as a source of innovation, many internationally known Japanese companies have a strong presence in the prefecture. The prefecture keeps promoting itself abroad and aims to further develop business opportunities and innovation with overseas partners especially in sectors like: ICT, semiconductors, automotive, biotechnology, environmental technology, hydrogen energy, nanotechnology, robotics and content industry.

Economic Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fukuoka Prefecture</th>
<th>All Japan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (2013)</td>
<td>5,088,000</td>
<td>127,350,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (2012)</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
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<td>GPD (2010)</td>
<td>3.6% of Japan’s</td>
<td>495 trillion Yen</td>
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### Infrastructure

**Road/railways**

As a connection area between Kyushu and Honshu regions, local transportation infrastructures are well developed. The Shinkansen bullet train line links Fukuoka to Tokyo in 5 hours, to Nagoya in 3.5 hours and to Osaka in 2.5 hours. Thanks to the Kyushu Shinkansen, that fully opened in 2011, access to the southern area of Kyushu became faster. [7]

**Shipping**

Both Hakata Port and the Kita-Kyushu Port operate international container routes to Asian countries. [8]

**Civil Aviation**

There are two main airports in the prefecture. Located just 10min from Fukuoka City, the Fukuoka Airport operates many international routes mostly to Asian countries but also has a direct flight to the Netherlands, and the smaller Kitakyushu Airport with one connection to Korea, which operates more as a cargo and distribution base. [8]

**Living Environment**

A dynamic prefecture with many touristic spots, a rich food culture and even an internet TV station, the prefecture’s traditions make Fukuoka a place with a high quality of life. Recently established the Fukuoka International Business Association is an organisation aiming to become a networking and information gathering base for foreign businesspeople active in Fukuoka and Kyushu in general. [3][9]

### Major type of activities of the economy

**Manufacturing**

In 2011, the manufacturing industry's shipment value was principally composed of transportation equipment (27.8%), iron & steel (11.8%) and food and related products (10.5%). [10]

As the main manufacturing sector, the local automotive industry boasts a strong 1.5 million car production output making the prefecture a major hub in Japan and all of Asia. [11]

**R&D, Innovation, Scientific research**

To keep up with its reputation as an innovative prefecture, Fukuoka is making many efforts to develop cooperation between academic, industrial and public entities with the aims of creating a fruitful R&D and business environment in the region.

Various centres covering many industrial sectors have been established like the Fukuoka Industry, Science & Technology Foundation, the Fukuoka Research Center for Recycling Systems, the Fukuoka Software Research Park and the Institute of System LSI Design Industry and the Kyushu Semiconductor Industries & Electronics Technology Innovation Association.

Other initiatives and environmental related clusters have also been created like the e-ZUKA Try Valley, the Fukuoka Strategy Conference for Hydrogen Energy, the Robotics Industry Development Council, the Kitakyushu Ecotown Project and the Omuta Ecotown Plan, [11]

### Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

**Promising sectors for cooperation**

Long-established industries: ICT, semiconductors, automotive, foodstuffs.

Growing industries: biotechnology, environmental technology, hydrogen energy, nanotechnology, robotics, content industry. [11]
**Financial/Logistic support**

*Subsidies granted depending on the industry type, on generated new employment and on the capital investment*

*Long-term business support through various information and consultation services provided by the Fukuoka Investment Promotion Center*

*Business matching services*


**Setting up a business in Fukuoka**

Fukuoka Foreign Investment Promotion Center  
7-7 Higashi-koen, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka-city, Fukuoka Prefecture 812-8577  
TEL: +81(0)92-643-3430  FAX: +81(0)92-643-3431  
[http://www.investfk.jp/](http://www.investfk.jp/)

**Other contacts:**

Fukuoka Prefecture  

Fukuoka Prefecture Frankfurt Representative Office  

e-ZUKA Try Valley  

Fukuoka Bio Valley Project  
[http://fbv.fukuoka.jp/](http://fbv.fukuoka.jp/)

Fukuoka International Business Association  
[http://www.fiba.jp/](http://www.fiba.jp/)

Fukuoka Industry, Science & Technology Foundation  
[http://www.ist.or.jp/english/index.html](http://www.ist.or.jp/english/index.html)

Fukuoka Research Center for Recycling Systems  
[http://www.recycle-ken.or.jp/english/](http://www.recycle-ken.or.jp/english/)

Fukuoka Software Research Park  
[http://www.fukuoka-srp.co.jp/](http://www.fukuoka-srp.co.jp/)

Fukuoka Strategy Conference for Hydrogen Energy  

Institute of System LSI Design Industry  
[http://www.ist.or.jp/lsi/](http://www.ist.or.jp/lsi/)

Kitakyushu Ecotown Project  

Kyushu Economic Federation  

Kyushu Semiconductor Industries & Electronics Technology Innovation Association  

Omuta Ecotown Plan  
[http://www.ecosanc.or.jp/english/index_e.html](http://www.ecosanc.or.jp/english/index_e.html)

Robotics Industry Development Council  

Fukuoka Prefecture Tourist Association  
Sources and footnotes


Fukuoka Tower in Fukuoka City
Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine, Daizafu City

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