

# TOCHIGI PREFECTURE



Prefecture's flag

**Main City:** Utsunomiya

**Population:** 1,987,000 people, ranking 18/47 prefectures (2013) [1]

**Area:** 6,408.28 km<sup>2</sup> [2]



## Geographical / Landscape description:

Located in the centre of the landlocked prefecture is the largest open plain in the Kanto region. The northern part is characterized by high mountains: Shirane (2,578 m), Nantai (2,484 m) and Nasudake (1,917 m). [2]

## Climate:

The climate of Tochigi may be classified as a humid temperate zone with broad variations in temperature. Winters are arid with dry winds, while summers are humid with frequent thunderstorms. [2]

## Time zone:

GMT +7 in summer (+8 in winter)

**International dialling code:** 0081

## Recent history, culture

In the early 17th century, Japan was unified by the shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu. After his death, the Toshogu shrine was built in Nikko on what the shoguns thought of as holy ground to protect and worship Ieyasu. Today, it is one of the most touristic places of Japan. A motto says: Don't say 'magnificent' until you've seen Nikko. [2]

## Economic overview

Tochigi is home to numerous foreign corporations that are involved in the manufacturing industries, including manufacturers of transportation equipment such as automobile components, medical and pharmaceutical products, electrical machinery, production machinery, and chemical products. Some foreign corporations have based their Japanese headquarters in the prefecture, while others have set up factories and research and development offices. [3]

## Economic Indicators

	Tochigi Prefecture	All Japan
Population (2013) [1]	1,987,000	127,350,000
Unemployment rate (2012) [4]	3.7%	4.3%
GPD (2010) [5]	1.6% of Japan's	495 trillion Yen

## Infrastructure

### Road/railways

It takes approximately 50 minutes to travel from Tokyo to Utsunomiya by Shinkansen (bullet train). [6]

### Civil Aviation

There is no prefectural airport. The nearest, Fukushima Airport, is approximately an hour's drive from Utsunomiya while 3 hours are needed to reach Narita International Airport to the east of Tokyo. [6]

## Major types of economic activities

### Agriculture, natural resources

Rice, vegetables, and livestock are the heart of Tochigi's agricultural products. Notably, Tochigi boasts national leadership in the production of strawberries and Chinese Chives. [7]

### Manufacturing

In 2011, the manufacturing industry's shipment value was principally composed of transportation equipment (18.4%), chemicals (9.4%) and beverages (7.7%).

Globally powerful industrial giants in various fields such as automobiles, electronics, and precision machinery have placed their centres of research and development and manufacturing in this prefecture. Tochigi is home to Kiyohara Industrial Complex, one of the largest inland industrial complexes in Japan. [8][9]

### R&D, Innovation, Scientific research

The Tochigi Prefecture Industrial Technology Center provides support for corporations in their development of new technology & products and encourages their technological advancement.

The Tochigi Industrial Exchange Center offers support to businesses starting new enterprises in new fields of industry.

Tochigi Prefecture promotes the "Food Valley Tochigi" project; a collaboration platform between industrial, academic and governmental entities to develop the food sector in all its aspects: agriculture, food manufacturing, distribution, sales, and food service. [10]

## Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

### Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established industries: automobiles, aircraft, medical components and pharmaceuticals, and other machines used in industry, high-tech industries, agriculture, traditional industries. [3][9]

### Financial/logistic support

- \*Various subsidy and funding systems according to the sought objective
- \*Investment tax reductions, low-interest loans and relaxation of industrial location regulations
- \*The "One Company, One Technology" policy, recognising private enterprises which specialize in a particular kind of technique and helping them to further develop it and continue to improve it
- \*The "Business Partner System" through which a guidance, advice and on the field monitoring are offered by a particular prefectural employee whenever necessary
- \*Several industrial technology centres supporting small and medium-sized businesses, established in Gunma, on technology and R&D issues
- \*Special further education and training programs for employees developed according to local business needs

More information: <http://www.pref.tochigi.lg.jp/kogyo/english/index.html>

## Setting up a business in Tochigi

Department of Industry, Labor and Tourism, Tochigi Prefecture  
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E-mail : [kokusai@pref.tochigi.lg.jp](mailto:kokusai@pref.tochigi.lg.jp)

### Other contacts:

Tochigi Prefecture  
<http://www.pref.tochigi.lg.jp/>  
Food Valley Tochigi  
<http://foodvalley-tochigi.jp/>  
Tochigi Industrial Promotion Center  
<http://www.tochigi-iin.or.jp/>  
Tochigi Prefecture Industrial Technology Center  
<http://www.iri.pref.tochigi.lg.jp/>  
Tochigi Tourism Association  
<http://www.tochigiji.or.jp/en-index.html>

### Sources and footnotes

- [1] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/2.htm>
- [2] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tochigi\\_Prefecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tochigi_Prefecture)
- [3] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/tochigi/>
- [4] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/roudou/pref/index.htm>
- [5] [http://www.esri.cao.go.jp/jp/sna/sonota/kenmin/kenmin\\_top.html](http://www.esri.cao.go.jp/jp/sna/sonota/kenmin/kenmin_top.html)
- [6] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/tochigi/infra.html>
- [7] <http://www.pref.tochigi.lg.jp/english/intro/agricultureforestry.html>
- [8] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/e-census/2012/sokuho/gaiyo.htm>
- [9] <http://www.pref.tochigi.lg.jp/english/intro/industrycommerce.html>
- [10] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/tochigi/icinfo.html>

Toshogu Shrine in Nikko



Kegon falls



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