

# CHIBA PREFECTURE

Latest update: August 2013



Prefecture's flag

**Main City:** Chiba

**Population:** 6,192,000 people, ranking 6/47 prefecture (2013) [1]

**Area:** 5,156.15 km<sup>2</sup> [2]



## Geographical / Landscape description

Chiba Prefecture is located in the Kanto region and the Greater Tokyo Area. With the exception of the large-scale Keiyo Industrial Zone in the northeast, the entirety of the coast of Chiba Prefecture is protected as two quasi-national parks and one prefectural natural park under the national park system of Japan. As of 1 April 2012, 6% of the total land area of the prefecture was designated as Natural Parks. [2]

## Climate

Chiba Prefecture has a warm oceanic climate that is mild in winter and relatively cool in summer, as it is surrounded on three sides by the sea. [2]

## Time zone

GMT +7 in summer (+8 in winter)

**International dialling code:** 0081

## Recent history, culture

Chiba's culture flourished in particular under the Edo Shogunate (1603-1867), when the centre of power of Japan lay just next to Chiba. Sawara (presently part of Katori City), a commerce town, prospered so much from the flow of goods along the Tonegawa River that it was said to rival Edo. Against this backdrop, Chiba made its own mark on Japanese culture. [3]

## Economic overview

Chiba Prefecture has the advantage of being located adjacent to Tokyo, the national capital, and it is the site of both Narita International Airport, which handles international airline passengers and freight from around the world, and the Port of Chiba, which boasts one of the largest volume of freight handled in Japan. The prefecture also boasts an advanced network of extensive trunk highways, including the Tokyo Bay Aqua-line, making it a superior location for efficient access to Japanese and global markets. Makuhari New City is home to foreign-financed and foreign-owned companies in a wide range of industries, as well as to Makuhari Messe, Japan's largest convention facility, making it an international business city with facilities for work, housing, study, and recreation. [4]

## Economic Indicators

	Chiba Prefecture	All Japan
Population (2013) [1]	6,192,000	127,350,000
Unemployment rate (2012) [5]	4.1%	4.3%
GPD (2010) [6]	3.8% of Japan's	495 trillion Yen

## Infrastructure

### Road/railways

Chiba Prefecture has a fully developed network of expressways that link every area of the National Capital Region, cities in the prefecture, and Narita International Airport.

Chiba Prefecture is linked to central Tokyo by JR and private railway networks, which also covers every city in the prefecture. It takes approximately 40 minutes to travel from Chiba Station to Tokyo Station. In July 2010, the Keisei Narita Airport Line opened, linking central Tokyo to Narita International Airport in just over 30 minutes. [7]

### Shipping

The Port of Chiba (a special major port) is one of the largest in Japan in terms of the volume and value of freight handled. In addition to handling resources such as liquid natural gas, crude oil, and iron ore, the port is also expanding its role as a container logistics port. [7]

### Civil Aviation

Chiba Prefecture is home to Narita International Airport, which has more international air traffic than any other airport in Japan, and can be thought of as "Japan's Front Door." Narita International Airport is about 30 minutes from the city of Chiba and it is Japan's largest port of entry in terms of value of goods handled. [7]

### Living Environment

The prefecture hosts some important places such as the Narita International Airport (real gateway to the world), Tokyo Disney Resort (kingdom of entertainment) or the Makuhari Mess (place of many international fairs and events).

## Major types of economic activities

### Agriculture, natural resources

Chiba Prefecture, which has a mild climate and fertile soil, is one of the major agricultural prefectures in Japan. The agricultural output of the prefecture is ranked third nationwide. Additionally, there are many items occupying the top position in production amount nationwide such as Japanese radish and pears, while rice, flowers and livestock also hold high positions across the nation.

With both open sea and inland bay waters, the prefecture of Chiba is a rich and varied fishing ground. Chiba is one of the world's top three fishing grounds in terms of the variety of kinds of fish and shellfish that can be caught. [8]

### Manufacturing

In 2010, industry in Chiba Prefecture was ranked 7th in Japan for shipment value of manufactured goods. The foremost industries are chemical industry (22.5%), petroleum industry (19.8%), and steel industry (14.5%). [9] In the inland area, industrial parks are being developed taking the area's strengths into consideration. The welcoming of cutting-edge and growth industries is actively promoted. [8]

### R&D, Innovation, Scientific research

Kazusa Akademia Park was developed as a hub for research and academic-industrial alliance in cutting edge technology. Top class research institutes in biotechnology such as the Kazusa DNA Research Institute and the Biological Resources Preservation and Supply Facility are located in the centre of the park. Incubation facilities are located around the core facilities which aim to support spin-off and start-up companies to develop new technologies and innovations. [10]

## Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

### Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established industries: petroleum industry, chemicals industry, steel industry, processing and assembly industries, food products, agriculture, fisheries, tourism-related industries. [4] [8]

### Financial/logistic support

- \*Office lease subsidy for Foreign-Affiliated Companies, depending on the number of employees
- \*Subsidies for companies intending to locate in industrial parks, toward the cost of installing environmental preservation and research facilities
- \*Loans under specific conditions
- \*A conditional three-year exemption from business tax, real property acquisition tax, fixed assets tax
- \*Incubation facilities provided by the Foreign Affiliates Start-up Center (FASuC):  
Subsidized small-to medium-size rental office spaces at reasonable cost, well-suited for companies taking their first steps in Japan
- \*Wide range of free consulting services and support at the Chiba Investment Support Center
- \*Various support services for small businesses

More information: <http://www.businesssupport-chiba.jp/eng/incentive>

### Setting up a business in Chiba

Chiba Investment Support Center (CISC)  
WBG Marib East 23F, 2-6 Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba-city, Chiba Prefecture 261-7123  
TEL: +81(0)43-271-4011 FAX: +81(0)43-271-4480  
<http://www.businesssupport-chiba.jp/eng/>

### Other contacts:

- Chiba Prefecture  
<http://www.pref.chiba.lg.jp/english/>
- Biological Resources Preservation and Supply Facility  
<http://www.bio.nite.go.jp/e/index.html>
- Chiba Overseas Business Support Center  
<http://www.cobsc.jp/e/index.html>
- Kazusa Akademia Park  
<http://www.kazusa-ap.jp/en/>
- Kazusa DNA Research Institute  
<http://www.kazusa.or.jp/e/index.html>
- Makuhari Messe  
<http://www.m-messe.co.jp/en>
- Narita Airport  
<http://www.narita-airport.jp/en/>
- Chiba Prefecture Tourism  
<http://www.chiba-tour.jp/>

Sources and footnotes

- [1] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/2.htm>
- [2] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiba\\_Prefecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiba_Prefecture)
- [3] <http://www.pref.chiba.lg.jp/english/outline/cultivated.html>
- [4] <http://www.JETRO.go.jp/en/invest/region/chiba/>
- [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](http://www.esri.cao.go.jp/jp/sna/sonota/kenmin/kenmin_top.html)
- [7] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/chiba/infra.html>
- [8] <http://www.pref.chiba.lg.jp/english/introduction/industry.html>
- [9] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/e-census/2012/sokuho/gaiyo.htm>
- [10] <http://www.kazusa-ap.jp/en/research/>

Katori Shrine in Katori City



Mount Tomi



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