

# GIFU PREFECTURE

Latest update: August 2013



Prefecture's Flag

**Main City:** Gifu City

**Population:** 2,055,000 people ranking 17/47 prefecture (2013) [1]

**Area:** 10,621 km<sup>2</sup> [2]



## Geographical / Landscape description

One of the few landlocked prefectures in Japan. In the Hida Region, located in northern Gifu, mountain peaks exceed 3,000 metres above sea level. In contrast, in the Mino Region, situated in southern Gifu, the Kiso, Nagara, and Ibi Rivers flow into the Nobi Plain. [2]

## Climate

Because the Mino region is surrounded by low mountains, the temperature fluctuates through the year, from hot summers to cold winters. Many temperature records of Japan are registered in that area. In the opposite, the Hida region is more famous for its harsh winters, bringing extremely heavy snowfall. [2]

## Time zone

GMT +7 in summer (+8 in winter)

**International dialling code:** 0081

## Recent history, culture

Historically, the prefecture served as the centre of sword making in all of Japan, and with a 700 year old tradition, the city of Seki has been nicknamed the "city of swords" and is thought to make the best swords in Japan. Every year all major kendo experts meet in Seki for an annual competition. [2] [3]

## Economic overview

Gifu Prefecture is a member of the Greater Nagoya Initiative (GNI). It has a strong manufacturing industry which ships a great quantity of transportation equipment and machinery, general equipment and machinery, electrical equipment and machinery, plastics and more. It is home to a large number of technologically sophisticated small and medium-sized companies and possesses a diverse range of knowledge - from foundational technology to advanced technology - which gives it its manufacturing strength.

Gifu develops both its established, core equipment and machinery manufacturing companies as well as cultivates a concentration of diverse industries, such as die-making, pressing, parts fabrication, etc., in the areas surrounding these companies. Furthermore, the foundational technology of these industries helps support the development of leading-edge industries. In particular, industries like die-making and cutting help meet the strict quality demands of the aerospace and electrical machinery industries so that they can maintain their preeminent place in the world. At the same time, Gifu abounds in distinctive, local industries, such as textiles and clothing, ceramics, furniture and woodworking, knives, and papermaking, which are rooted in the local cultures and traditions. [4]

## Economic Indicators

	Gifu Prefecture	All Japan
Population (2013) [1]	2,055,000	127,350,000
Unemployment rate (2012) [5]	3.4%	4.3%
GPD (2010) [6]	1.4% of Japan's	495 trillion Yen

## Infrastructure

### Road/railways

Gifu is conveniently close to the three metropolises of Japan : It takes 1h40 from Tokyo to Nagoya by bullet train; 51 minutes from Osaka to Nagoya by Shinkansen; and 19 minutes from Nagoya to Gifu by local train. [7]

### Shipping

In order strengthen its competitiveness as an international port, Port Nagoya is undertaking experimental and pioneering initiatives through the joint cooperation of the national government, the private sector and the port management which will realize “ports costs and service levels beyond those of the other major ports in Asia”. [7]

### Civil Aviation

Gifu is at less than 1h by train from the Chubu Centrair International Airport. [7]

### Living Environment

Gifu is inexpensive when compared with big cities in terms of rent and other living costs; it offers more living space and shorter commuting times as well, making it a comfortable place to live. [8]

## Major types of economic activities

### Agriculture, natural resources

A large variety of agricultural products are grown mainly rice and vegetable. Beef and dairy cattle are raised on the mountains, while rivers are the bases for fisheries and aquaculture [9]

### Manufacturing

Manufacturing has been thriving in Gifu throughout its history, and has been the key industry of the prefecture with a percentage of employees involved in manufacturing well above Japan average. Today's leading industries are automotive and aerospace-related parts and materials manufacturers. [9] [10]

In 2011, the manufacturing industry's shipment value was principally composed of transport machinery (15.4%), plastics (8.3%), and metallic products (7.5%). [11]

### R&D, Innovation, Scientific research

Softopia Japan is a cluster of IT-related companies, ranging from start-ups and venture businesses to world-leading global IT corporations. It is involved in research and development, human resource development, developing new businesses and clustering IT businesses and promoting their technology. [12]

## Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

### Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established industries: aerospace, automotive, ceramics, woodwork, furniture, paper, plastics, foodstuffs, fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture. [4] [9]

## Financial/logistic support

A "Guide to Business Establishment in Gifu" in English, including available investment incentives, is currently under construction. Japanese data are available.

More information: <http://www.pref.gifu.lg.jp/English/business/>  
<http://www.pref.gifu.lg.jp/sangyo-koyo/kigyo-ritchi-shien/ritchishien-itshinko/kigyo-yuchi/yugusochi/>

## Setting up a business in Gifu

Business Investment Promotion Division  
2-1-1 Yabuta-minami, Gifu-city, Gifu Prefecture 500-8570  
TEL: +81(0)58-272-8371 FAX: +81(0)58-278-2659

## Other contacts:

Gifu Prefecture

<http://www.pref.gifu.lg.jp/English/>

Greater Nagoya Initiative

<http://greaternagoya.org>

Softopia Japan

<http://www.softopia.or.jp/english>

Technological innovation Center Gifu

<http://www.tic-g.rd.pref.gifu.jp>

Gifu Prefecture Tourism Federation

<http://travel.kankou-gifu.jp/en/>

## Sources and footnotes

- [1] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/2.htm>
- [2] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gifu\\_Prefecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gifu_Prefecture)
- [3] <http://www.city.seki.lg.jp/0000002179.html>
- [4] <http://www.JETRO.go.jp/en/invest/region/gifu/>
- [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/gifu/infra.html>
- [8] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/gifu/living.html>
- [9] <http://www.pref.gifu.lg.jp/English/info/gifu/1.html>
- [10] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/gifu/icinfo.html>
- [11] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/e-census/2012/sokuho/gaiyo.htm>
- [12] <http://www.softopia.or.jp/english/>

Traditional housing in Shirakawago



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