

# KYOTO PREFECTURE



Prefecture's flag

**Main City:** Kyoto

**Population:** 2,623,000 people, ranking 16/47 prefecture (2013) [1]

**Area:** 4,612.71 km<sup>2</sup> [2]

Latest update: August 2013



## Geographical / Landscape description

Kyoto Prefecture is located almost in the centre of Honshu and of Japan. The prefecture is separated along the middle by the Tanba Mountains. [2]

## Climate

The presence of mountains in its centre makes the prefecture's climate very different with a snowy north and warmer south. [2]

## Time zone

GMT +7 in summer (+8 in winter)

**International dialling code:** 0081

## Recent history, culture

As the historic capital of Japan for more than 1000 years, Kyoto is the heart of traditional Japanese culture, born and developed within the walls of the imperial court and its aristocratic structure. Unsurprisingly, it is a must see place for foreign tourists in Japan. Kyoto's culture and beauty cannot be summarised in just a few sentences so please refer to the many websites and publications about Kyoto for further information. [2]

## Economic overview

The prefecture is the birthplace of innumerable world-renowned traditional arts that are passed down from generation to generation such as Nishijin brocade and unique Kyoto styles of Yuzen silk dyeing, dappled cloth, embroidery, braiding, Buddhist altar decorations, urushi lacquer ware, cabinet making, pottery, masonry, dolls, scroll mounting, inlaying and swords to name but a few.

The spirit that fostered these intricate traditional arts is the force behind the rise of many advanced technologies today: Kyoto is home to Shimadzu, Nintendo, Kyocera, Omron, Horiba, Murata Manufacturing, Rohm, NEC and other world-leading companies. Moreover, Kyoto's smaller businesses and the unique products and technologies they come up with are another of the prefecture's attractive features.

One of the stand-out characteristics of Kyoto's industry is that global high-tech IT-related companies sit alongside SMEs with advanced manufacturing technologies as well as traditional industries. The prefecture is working hard to develop the region into a major IT cluster by attracting new IT companies to the area and fostering new venture businesses. [3]

## Economic Indicators

	Kyoto Prefecture	All Japan
Population (2013) [1]	2,623,000	127,350,000
Unemployment rate (2012) [4]	4.9%	4.3%
GPD (2010) [5]	1.9% of Japan's	495 trillion Yen

## Infrastructure

### Road/railways

Kyoto is extremely close to the main cities of Osaka, Kobe and Nagoya both by car and by train. Kyoto Station is a major stop on the Tokaido Shinkansen line making it around 140 minutes from Tokyo when riding the fastest Nozomi bullet train. [6]

### Shipping

Kyoto's Maizuru Port is rapidly growing into a major centre for transit, both for people and goods with regular connections to China, South Korea and Russia. [6]

### Civil Aviation

Kyoto is just 75min away by train from Kansai International Airport near Osaka. [6]

### Living Environment

The prefecture is not only about Kyoto City, each region of it has its own appeal: the northern area faces the Japan Sea and has many scenic spots, the central area is rich in forests and industrial development, and the southern area where Kyoto City is located, offers a unique mix of modern and traditional culture. [2]

## Major types of economic activities

### Agriculture, natural resources

Fisheries in the north and some agriculture in the central area. [2]

### Manufacturing

In 2011, the manufacturing industry's shipment value was principally composed of the beverage industry (18.9%), transport machinery (11.4%) and food related products (8.8%). [7]

### R&D, Innovation, Scientific research

Various R&D projects in science related sectors have been implemented in recent years centred in the Kansai Science City, and Keihanna Science City, aiming to develop the science activities coordinating industries, academies and governmental entities.

Other organisations include the Advanced Scientific Technology & Management Research Institute that undertakes R&D, technical support and support for developing new technology-based businesses in a wide range of fields from software to mechatronics, nanotechnology and biotechnology. [8]

## Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

### Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established industries: high-tech and IT-related industries, chemical products, transportation and communication industries, traditional craft industries, ceramics, textiles, agriculture, fisheries, forestry.  
Emerging industries: nanotechnology and material production, biotechnology, environmental friendly-related industries, analytical equipment, solar batteries. [3][9]

### Financial/logistic support

\*Various subsidies for companies intending to establish or to expand their business in Kyoto, depending on the intended area and on the amount of the invested fixed asset

\*Subsidy for local employment

\*Several forms of preferential taxation

\*Low-interest financing + deferment, against stable employment

\*Support and information about Kyoto

\*Help with access to innovation facilities suitable to researchers and new businesses

\*Industry-Academia-Government Cooperation

More details: [http://www.kic-kyoto.jp/eng/incentive/kyoto\\_pref.html](http://www.kic-kyoto.jp/eng/incentive/kyoto_pref.html)

## Setting up a business in Kyoto

Trade and Commerce Division, Department of Commerce, Labor and Tourism  
Yabunouchi-cho, Nishiiru, Shinmachi, Shimotachiuri-dori, Kamikyo-ku, Kyoto 602-8570  
TEL: +81(0)75-414-4840 FAX: +81(0)75-414-4870

### Other contacts:

Kyoto Prefecture

<http://www.pref.kyoto.jp/en/index.html>

Advanced Scientific Technology & Management Research Institute

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

Kyoto Foreign Investment Promotion Committee

[http://www.kic-kyoto.jp/eng/incentive/kyoto\\_pref.html](http://www.kic-kyoto.jp/eng/incentive/kyoto_pref.html)

Kansai Science City

<http://www.kri-p.jp/english/>

Kyoto Tourism Federation

<http://www.kyoto-kankou.or.jp/english/>

### Sources and footnotes

[1] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jiinsui/2.htm>

[2] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyoto\\_prefecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyoto_prefecture)

[3] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/kyoto/>

[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/kyoto/infra.html>

[7] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/e-census/2012/sokuho/gaiyo.htm>

[8] <http://www.kri-p.jp/english/>

[9] [http://www.kic-kyoto.jp/eng/incentive/kyoto\\_pref.html](http://www.kic-kyoto.jp/eng/incentive/kyoto_pref.html)

Kinkakuji in Kyoto



Byodoin in Uji



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