

NARA PREFECTURE

Latest update: August 2013



Prefecture's Flag

Main City: Nara

Population: 1,385,000 people, ranking 30/47 prefecture (2013) [1]

Area: 3,691 km² [2]



Geographical / Landscape description

Nara Prefecture is part of the Kansai region of Japan. Landlocked, mountainous areas occupy about 60% of the prefecture's land. [2]

Climate

The climate of Nara Prefecture is mainly warm. However, there are important differences between the north-western basin area and the mountains which constitute the rest of the prefecture. Annual accumulated rainfall is one of the highest in Japan. [2]

Time zone:

GMT +7 in summer (+8 in winter)

International dialling code: 0081

Recent history, culture

As the former capital of Japan, before Kyoto, Nara contains many archeological digs and culturally rich sites making it a special place to visit for tourists. Several of its centuries old buildings are listed as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO, such as the Todaiji temple which is the largest wooden structure in the world and home to the world's largest bronze statue of the Buddha. [3]

Economic overview

Nara Prefecture has a well-developed traditional industry of lacquer, Japanese paper, and pottery etc., some of which dates back to the Nara Period (710 to 794). Due to its location, economic dependency on Osaka characterizes today's Nara Prefecture as many inhabitants commute to Osaka to work or study. [2][4]

Economic Indicators

	Nara Prefecture	All Japan
Population (2013) [1]	1,385,000	127,350,000
Unemployment rate (2012) [5]	4.3%	4.3%
GPD (2010) [6]	0.7% of Japan's	495 trillion Yen

Infrastructure

Road/railways

Nara Prefecture is developing a network of railways centred on the Yamato plains with the main objective of securing access to Osaka, Kyoto, Mie, and Nagoya. [7]

Living Environment

Nara Prefecture is a safe and secure place that can reduce unseen costs as it suffers little damage from natural disasters and has equally few instances of fire and traffic accidents. It therefore allows companies to conduct safe and secure corporate activities. [8]

Major types of economic activities

Manufacturing

In 2011, the manufacturing industry's shipment value was principally composed of food and related products (12.4%), electrical machinery (12.9%), and transport machinery (9.3%). [9]

Companies operating in high-tech industries such as electronic devices, machine tools, auto parts, etc. are present in the prefecture creating a cluster of core corporations. [10]

R&D, Innovation, Scientific research

Nara has a cluster of solar-battery related industries centred around the Sharp Corporation's Katsuragi Factory (in Katsuragi City), which boasts the top share in solar batteries. The prefecture also promotes the utilization of new energy and energy conservation technologies. By utilizing the results of cutting-edge research conducted by the Nara Institute of Science and Technology, located in the Takayama District of Kansai Science City, the prefecture is expected to develop new and functional materials and commercialize them, thereby creating industrial products that contribute to reducing environmental burdens. [10]

Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established industries: electronic components, devices, office machinery and furniture manufacture, food processing. [4]

Financial/logistic support

No recent and confirmed incentive-related information available in English. Available data is in Japanese.

More information: <http://www.pref.nara.jp/2668.htm>

Setting up a business in Nara

Business Investment Promotion Division Industry and Employment Development Department

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Other contacts:

Nara Prefecture

<http://www.pref.nara.jp/>

Nara Institute of Science and Technology

<http://www.naist.jp/en/>

Naracity Tourist Association

<http://narashikanko.or.jp/en/>

Sources and footnotes

- [1] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/2.htm>
- [2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nara_prefecture
- [3] <http://narashikanko.or.jp/en/>
- [4] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/nara/>
- [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
- [7] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/nara/infra.html>
- [8] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/nara/living.html>
- [9] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/e-census/2012/sokuho/gaiyo.htm>
- [10] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/nara/icinfo.html>

Great Buddha Hall of Todaiji in Nara



Cherry blossoms at Yoshinoyama



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