

# YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE



Prefecture's flag

**Main City:** Yamaguchi

**Population:** 1,424,000 people, ranking 25/47 prefecture (2013) [1]

**Area:** 6,110 km<sup>2</sup> [2]

Latest update: August 2013



## Geographical / Landscape description

Yamaguchi Prefecture is located in the westernmost part of Honshu, and is surrounded on three sides by the sea. The Chugoku mountain runs across the prefecture from East to West. [2]

## Climate

Yamaguchi Prefecture boasts a mild climate and is largely spared from natural disasters. [2]

## Time zone

GMT +7 in summer (+8 in winter)

**International dialling code:** 0081

## Recent history, culture

In the Taisho period (1912-1926) shipbuilding, chemical, machinery, and metal working plants were built in Yamaguchi's harbours in the Seto Inland Sea area. During the post-World War II Showa Period, Yamaguchi developed into one of the most industrialized prefectures in the country due to the establishment of petrochemical complexes. [3]

The prefecture is home to one of Japan's most original festivals: the Goldfish lantern festival. This is when the city of Yanai is "invaded" by some 2,000 goldfish shaped lanterns decorating the streets. Highlights include the giant lantern walk and lantern dance. [4]

## Economic overview

The industrial core of the prefecture operates in the raw materials sector. Chemicals, petroleum and metals have supported the local development in recent years. Moving with the times, the prefecture is beginning to develop new enterprises and new skills by coordinating cooperation between academic, private and public entities. [5]

## Economic Indicators

	Yamaguchi Prefecture	All Japan
Population (2013) [1]	1,424,000	127,350,000
Unemployment rate (2012) [6]	3.4%	4.3%
GPD (2010) [7]	1.2% of Japan's	495 trillion Yen

## Infrastructure

### Road/railways

Two expressways run east-west providing access to major cities. The shinkansen (bullet train) line has five stations in this prefecture. [8]

### Shipping

Yamaguchi prefecture has two specially designated ports and four other designated ports. Regular ferry services operate from Shimonoseki Port to Korea and China. [8]

### Civil Aviation

Yamaguchi Ube Airport only offers flights to and from Tokyo. [9]

### Living Environment

The prefecture offers an excellent natural environment with a good climate and is largely spared from natural disasters making it a comfortable place to live. [10]

## Major types of economic activities

### Agriculture, natural resources

Rice cultivation is the engine of local agriculture accounting for about 40% of it and covering 80% of all cultivated land. About 70% of the total area of the prefecture is wooded. [6]

### Manufacturing

In 2011, the manufacturing industry's shipment value was principally composed of transport machinery (27.9%), iron & steel (17.2%), and machinery equipment (7.9%). [11]

### R&D, Innovation, Scientific research

The prefecture is home to many basic materials industries. Local R&D centres mostly operate in this sector such as the Japan Ultra-high Temperature Materials Research Center which develops materials for high temperature use at 1500°C and above. [12]

## Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

### Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established industries: agriculture, forestry, fisheries, marine products, metal, chemicals, petroleum, transportation equipment and general machinery. [5] [13]

### Financial/logistic support

No recent incentive-related information found in English-language web pages. Data is only available in Japanese.

More information: <http://www.pref.yamaguchi.lg.jp/gyosei/kigyo-r/hojyokin/kigyoun.htm>

## Setting up a business in Yamaguchi

Yamaguchi Prefectural Government International Division  
1-1 Takimachi, Yamaguchi 753-8501  
TEL: +81(0)83-933-2340 FAX: +81(0)83-833-2358  
E-mail: [a12900@pref.yamaguchi.lg.jp](mailto:a12900@pref.yamaguchi.lg.jp)

## Other contacts:

Yamaguchi Prefecture

<http://www.pref.yamaguchi.lg.jp/foreign/english/index.html>

Japan Ultra-high Temperature Materials Research Center

<http://www.jutem.co.jp/en/index.html>

Yamaguchi Prefectural Industrial Technology Institute

<http://www.iti-yamaguchi.or.jp/>

Travel Guide Yamaguchi

<http://www.visit-jy.com/english/>

## Sources and footnotes

- [1] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/2.htm>
- [2] <http://www.pref.yamaguchi.lg.jp/foreign/english/outline.html>
- [3] <http://www.pref.yamaguchi.lg.jp/foreign/english/history.html>
- [4] <http://www.visit-jy.com/english/spot/detail.php?id=70>
- [5] <http://www.pref.yamaguchi.lg.jp/foreign/english/industry.html>
- [6] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/roudou/pref/index.htm>
- [7] [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)
- [8] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/yamaguchi/infra.html>
- [9] <http://www.yamaguchiube-airport.jp/>
- [10] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/yamaguchi/living.html>
- [11] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/e-census/2012/sokuho/gaiyo.htm>
- [12] <http://www.jutem.co.jp/en/index.html>
- [13] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/yamaguchi/>

## Kintai Bridge in Iwakuni City



Tsunoshima



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