

TOKUSHIMA PREFECTURE



Prefecture's Flag

Main City full name: Tokushima

Population: 771,000 people, ranking 44/47 prefecture (2013) [1]

Area: 4,144 km² [2]

Latest update: August 2013



Geographical / Landscape description

Tokushima Prefecture is located in the eastern part of Shikoku, the 4th largest island composing Japan. Mountainous areas make up approximately 80% of Tokushima's total land area. [2]

Climate

The southern part of the prefecture is warmer, winters are mostly dry but summers are rainy. The northern area with its mountain chain averaging the 2000m is more prone to heavy snowfall. [2]

Time zone

GMT +7 in summer (+8 in winter)

International dialling code: 0081

Recent history, culture

The Shikoku pilgrimage circuit, linking 88 temples located in the Shikoku region is said to have been founded around the year 815 by the famous Buddhist monk Kobo Daishi (Kukai) to protect pilgrims and others from misfortune. Traditionally the pilgrimage is made on foot, taking a month or more, but in modern times many people travel by car or bus over part or all of the circuit. Tokushima is home to 24 of those temples and the starting point of the circuit. Another aspect of the prefecture's culture is the Awa Odori, the largest dance festival in Japan, attracting over 1.3 million tourists every year. [3]

Economic overview

In addition to local industries such as pharmaceutical, food, machinery, and metal-related industries, companies with a global market share in LED and lithium-ion battery are located in the prefecture. Concerning the LED industry, in particular, more than 100 related companies are aggregated through projects such as the LED Valley Project. There are also many industries related to information and communications such as call centres because of the advancement of information infrastructure. The fibre optic network in Tokushima is one of the best in Japan. [4]

Economic Indicators

	Tokushima Prefecture	All Japan
Population (2013) [1]	771,000	127,350,000
Unemployment rate (2012) [5]	4.1%	4.3%
GPD (2010) [6]	0.6% of Japan's	495 trillion Yen

Infrastructure

Road/railways

The Kobe-Awaji-Naruto Expressway makes the trip by car from Tokushima City to Osaka City in two hours and to Kobe City in one hour. [7]

Shipping

Tokushima Komatsushima Port operates regular routes to China, Korea and Thailand for the exports, while imports come mainly from China and USA, plus other Asian countries in a lesser proportion. [8]

Civil Aviation

Tokushima Airport operates flights to Tokyo and Fukuoka. [1]

Living Environment

As a quiet prefecture (except during the Awa Odori festival in August) and with abundant nature, Tokushima is a good place to live.

Major types of economic activities

Agriculture, natural resources

Tokushima has a plethora of agricultural resources and is the site of large-scale production of many different types of vegetables, of which the Naruto sweet potatoes are its main product. [2][10]

Manufacturing

In 2011, the manufacturing industry's shipment value was principally composed of chemicals (35.7%), electronic components (12%), and electrical machinery (11.2%). [11]

R&D, Innovation, Scientific research

Centred on the LED Valley Tokushima cluster, many private companies at the cutting edge of Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology and public entities joined their efforts to extend R&D capacities within this sector. As a result, Tokushima Prefecture is one of the most important areas in the world for LED development with local companies owning 30% of the world share of white LEDs.

Another local cluster, the Tokushima Health and Medicine Cluster coordinate private and public entities in R&D toward pharmaceutical products.

Also located in the prefecture with the aim of promotion and progress of local industrial technology and food processing is the Tokushima Prefectural Industrial Technology Center. [12][13][14]

Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established industries: agricultural and marine products, food processing, wood manufacturing, metal products, traditional crafts, chemicals. growing industries: light emitting diodes (LED). [4][10]

Financial/logistic support

- *Subsidies for site location
- *Subsidies for IT-related businesses
- *R&D-related support
- *Office rent subsidies
- *Subsidies for LED-related, environment-related and medical-related industries
- *Subsidies for new or additional construction of factories
- *Financial assistance for job creation
- *Subsidies according to the amount of the fixed assets investment and to the number of newly hired employees
- *Prefectural tax exemption system
- *Company establishment loans
- *Consultation support for site location
- *Technical support provided by various research institutes as the Tokushima Prefectural Industrial Technology Center
- *Collaborative research with the University of Tokushima

More information: <http://www.topia.ne.jp/english/business/>
<http://www.pref.tokushima.jp/promoting/yuguseido/index.html>

Setting up a business in Tokushima

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Tokushima Prefecture
<http://www.pref.tokushima.jp/english/>
LED Valley Tokushima
<http://led-valley.jp/english/>
Tokushima Health and Medicine Cluster
<http://www.cluster-tokushima.net/>
Tokushima Prefectural Industrial Technology Center
http://www.itc.pref.tokushima.jp/05_english/english.shtm
Tokushima International Strategies Center
<http://www.topia.ne.jp/english/>
Tokushima Prefectural Tourism Association
<http://www.topia.ne.jp/english/tourism/>

Sources and footnotes

- [1] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/2.htm>
- [2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokushima_Prefecture
- [3] <http://www.topia.ne.jp/english/tourism/hc.html>
- [4] <http://www.JETRO.go.jp/en/invest/region/tokushima/>
- [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/tokushima/infra.html>
- [8] <http://port-of-tk.betoku.jp/category/0034642.html>
- [9] <http://www.tokushima-airport.co.jp/>
- [10] <http://www.topia.ne.jp/english/business/>
- [11] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/e-census/2012/sokuho/gaiyo.htm>
- [12] <http://led-valley.jp/english/>
- [13] <http://www.cluster-tokushima.net/>
- [14] http://www.itc.pref.tokushima.jp/05_english/english.shtm

Awa Odori



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