

# SAGA PREFECTURE



Prefecture's Flag

**Main City:** Saga

**Population:** 840,000 people, ranking 42/47 prefecture (2013) [1]

**Area:** 2,439 km<sup>2</sup> [2]

Latest update: August 2013



## Geographical / Landscape description

Kyushu's smallest prefecture, Saga, is located on the northwest corner of the island. Largely rural outside of the two largest cities of Saga and Karatsu. Agricultural and forested lands comprise over 68% of the total prefectural area. [2]

## Climate

Saga Prefecture has a mild climate with an average temperate of about 16°C.[2]

## Time zone

GMT +7 in summer (+8 in winter)

**International dialling code:** 0081

## Recent history, culture

Due to its proximity to mainland Asia, Saga Prefecture has been an important gateway for the transmission of culture and trade throughout Japanese history. In modern times, Kashima City is home to the Gatalympics: a fun-filled competition during which participants compete in unique games and end up covered with mud. The games consist of silly, game-show type contests such as a mud sumo tournaments and a surf board race. It has grown into one of the most famous events of Saga Prefecture with Japanese and foreigners alike participating. [3][4]

## Economic overview

Out of all the prefectures in Kyushu, Saga Prefecture is geographically located the closest to Asia and is a strategically important region for transportation. Therefore, a wide variety of companies are located here, such as: processing and assembly companies from the fields of electric machinery and general machinery; primary materials companies from the fields of chemicals and metal products and producers from the fields of food and beverage. Its geographically superior characteristics enable it to support the activities and strategies of global companies. [5]

## Economic Indicators

	Saga Prefecture	All Japan
Population (2013) [1]	840,000	127,350,000
Unemployment rate (2012) [6]	3.8%	4.3%
GPD (2010) [7]	0.56% of Japan's	495 trillion Yen

## Infrastructure

### Road/railways

Many expressways and railroads serving Kyushu intersect within the prefecture and provide easy access to all Kyushu. The Kyushu Shinkansen (bullet train) was completed in 2011 and provides faster connections to/from Saga. [8]

### Shipping

Saga has two ports: Imari Port International Container Terminal and Karatsu International Port. There are also connection routes with China and Korea. [8]

### Civil Aviation

The Ariake Saga Airport with an international flight to China. [9]

### Living Environment

Saga is culturally rich with a vibrant local crafts and food culture, safe and comfortable environment and easy access to neighbouring prefectures. It is a place where residents can live and work in comfort. Local organisations also provide general consultation about daily life and legal matters to foreign residents. [10]

## Major type of activities of the economy

### Agriculture, natural resources

Vegetables and rice are the main outputs of local agriculture. In 2010 the prefecture ranked second for national production of onion, soybean and two-rowed barley. The area of cultivated land and number of farms saw a significant decrease in the last twenty years. Local beef is the main export toward Asian countries. [11]

### Manufacturing

In 2011, the manufacturing industry's shipment value was principally composed of food and related products (20.7%), chemicals (11.9%), and electronic components (10.7%). [12]

### R&D, Innovation, Scientific research

Saga Prefecture has been implementing various projects for the support of technological innovation through industry-academia-government collaboration. Main operating centres located in the prefecture are: Saga Prefectural Regional Industry Support Center, Kyushu Synchrotron Light Research Center, Institute of Ocean Energy, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) - Kyushu and Jofuku Frontier Lab.

For the environment and energy related industry, the prefecture aims to become a base for solar power generation in Japan and other Asian countries. For the next-generation, automotive industry, the prefecture aims to promote agglomeration of fuel cell-related companies and dissemination of all types of electric and hybrid vehicles. For the healthcare and food related industry, the prefecture seeks to develop new technologies and functional/health food products. [13]

## Opportunities for EU Investors / Exporters / Importers

### Promising sectors for cooperation

Long-established industries: agriculture, foodstuffs, transportation equipment, electrical machinery and equipment, electronic parts, metal products, chemicals, pulp and paper products, pottery. [5] [11]

## Financial/logistic support

No recent and verified incentive-related information found in the English web pages. Data available only in Japanese.

More information: [http://www.pref.saga.lg.jp/web/shigoto/\\_1159.html](http://www.pref.saga.lg.jp/web/shigoto/_1159.html)

## Setting up a business in Saga

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## Other Contacts:

Saga Prefecture

[http://www.pref.saga.lg.jp/web/\\_7787/saga-english.html](http://www.pref.saga.lg.jp/web/_7787/saga-english.html)

Institute of Ocean Energy

<http://www.ioes.saga-u.ac.jp/en/>

Jofuku Frontier Lab

<http://jofukulab.com/index.html>

Kyushu Synchrotron Light Research Center

<http://www.saga-ls.jp/>

National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology - Kyushu

<http://unit.aist.go.jp/kyushu/cie/index.html>

Saga Prefectural Regional Industry Support Center

<http://www.infosaga.or.jp/>

Saga Tourist Federation Information Center

<http://www.asobo-saga.jp/lang/english/>

## Sources and footnotes

- [1] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/2.htm>
- [2] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saga\\_prefecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saga_prefecture)
- [3] <http://www2.saganet.ne.jp/gatalym/gatalympic/gatalympic.htm>
- [4] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashima\\_Gatalympics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashima_Gatalympics)
- [5] <http://www.JETRO.go.jp/en/invest/region/saga/>
- [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/saga/infra.html>
- [9] <http://www.saga-airport.co.jp/>
- [10] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/saga/living.html>
- [11] [http://www.pref.saga.lg.jp/web/\\_7787/saga-english/administration/\\_70487.html](http://www.pref.saga.lg.jp/web/_7787/saga-english/administration/_70487.html)
- [12] <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/e-census/2012/sokuho/gaiyo.htm>
- [13] <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/saga/icinfo.html>

Yutoku-inari Shrine in Kashima



Karatsu Castle



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