

# OITA

## OITA Prefecture

# 2026

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日本一の

おんせん県おおいた  みりよく 味力も満載

## (1) Location of Oita Prefecture

Oita Prefecture is located in northern Kyushu, a region known as the “Gateway to Asia.” To its north is the Suou-nada, and to its east are the Iyo-nada and the Bungo Channel



## (2) Oita Prefecture's Municipalities

Oita Prefecture consists of 18 cities, towns, and villages (14 cities, 3 towns, and 1 village). Before the municipal mergers during the Heisei era, there were 58 municipalities (11 cities, 36 towns, and 11 villages).

The total population is approximately 1.07 million (as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025), and the municipality with the largest population is Oita City, where the prefectural office is based.

The total area is approximately 6,340 km<sup>2</sup>, and the municipality with the largest gross area is Saiki City (also the largest in Kyushu).

Region	Area March 1st, 2026 (km <sup>2</sup> )	Number of Households March 1st, 2026 (households)	Population March 1st, 2026 (people)		
			Total	Male	Female
Oita Prefecture	6,340.63 *A	499,444	1,070,137	510,788	559,349
Oita City	502.39	219,171	468,080	225,334	242,746
Beppu City	125.34 *a	55,613	110,915	50,369	60,546
Nakatsu City	491.38 *b	39,177	80,321	39,801	40,520
Hita City	666.03	25,405	57,640	27,473	30,167
Saiki City	903.14	27,811	60,035	27,968	32,067
Usuki City	291.26	14,322	32,456	15,231	17,225
Tsukumi City	79.48	6,379	13,759	6,485	7,274
Taketa City	477.53 *c	8,111	17,615	8,353	9,262
Bungotakada City	206.22	9,812	21,152	10,147	11,005
Kitsuki City	280.08	11,698	25,197	12,314	12,883
Usa City	438.99	21,948	48,691	23,187	25,504
Bungoono City	603.14	13,132	29,956	14,092	15,864
Yufu City	319.32 *a	14,036	32,192	15,361	16,831
Kunisaki City	318.09	11,699	23,528	11,414	12,114
Himeshima Island	6.99	782	1,449	673	776
Hiji Town	73.26	11,534	26,950	12,879	14,071
Kokonoe Town	271.37 *c	3,261	7,451	3,548	3,903
Kusu Town	286.60	5,553	12,750	6,159	6,591

\*A Because some boundary sections between Ōita Prefecture, Fukuoka Prefecture, and Kumamoto Prefecture are still undecided, these values are for reference only.

\*a Because parts of the boundaries of Beppu City and Yufu City are undecided, these values are for reference only.

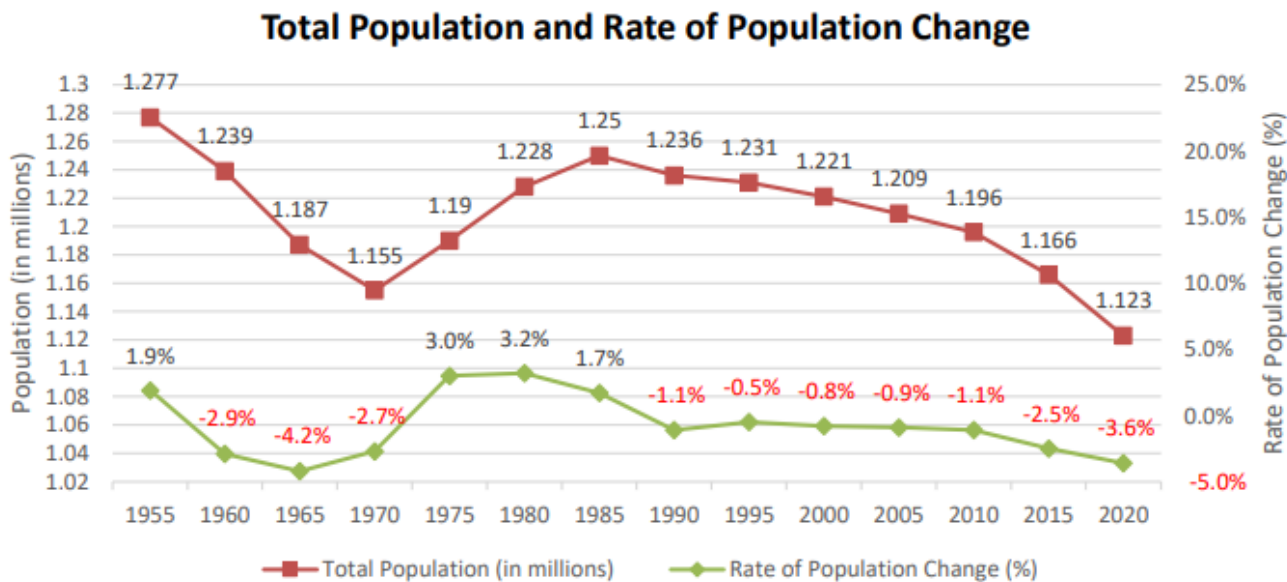
\*b Because parts of the boundaries between Nakatsu City and Soeda Town in Tagawa District, Fukuoka Prefecture, are undecided, the figures for Nakatsu City are for reference only.

\*c Because parts of the boundaries among Taketa City, Kokonoe Town in Kusu District, and Oguni Town in Aso District, Kumamoto Prefecture, are undecided, the figures for Taketa City and Kokonoe Town are for reference only.

※ The population and number of households figures are estimated values based on Ōita Prefecture's Monthly Floating Population Survey.

### (3) Population Trends

Oita Prefecture's population peaked at 1,277,000 in 1955 and has generally declined since. By 1970, the population had decreased to 1,155,000, but a period of growth followed, with the population reaching 1,250,000 in 1985. However, from 1985 onward, Oita has experienced a steady population decline, largely due to factors such as population concentration in the Tokyo metropolitan area and a nationwide decline in birth rates. By 2020, the population had fallen to 1,123,000, marking the highest rate of decline in the prefecture since 1965.

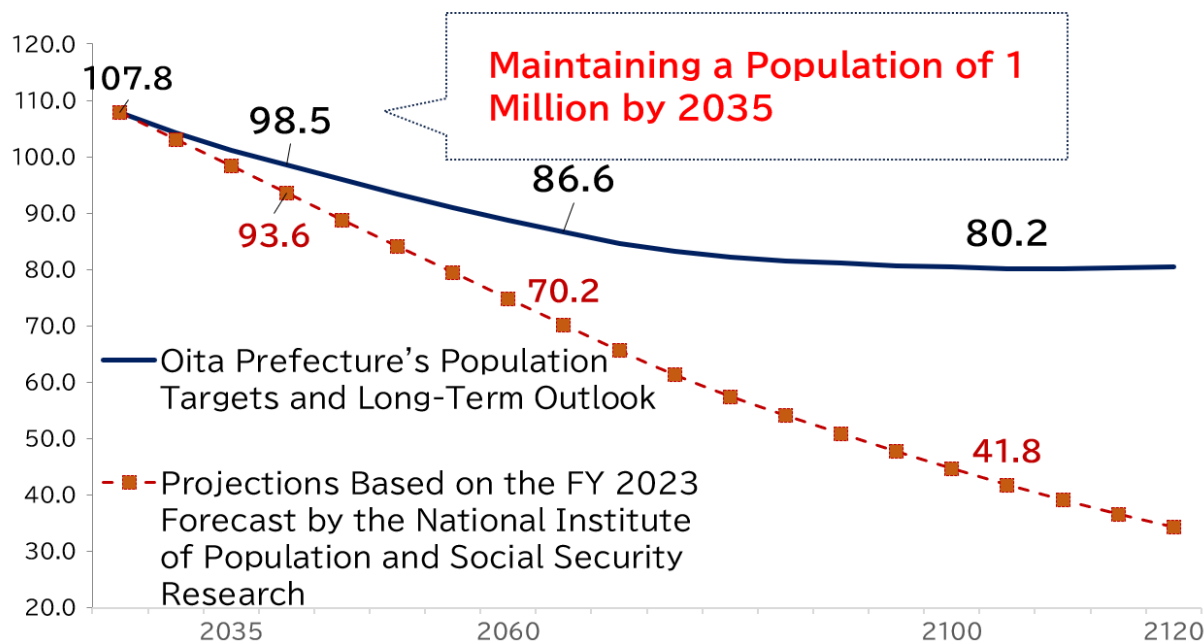


### (4) Future Population Estimates

According to projections by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, the population of Oita Prefecture is expected to decline to approximately 984,000 by 2035, falling below the one-million mark.

To address natural population changes, the prefecture aims to raise the total fertility rate to 1.84% (the birth rate desired by residents) by 2033. In terms of social population changes, measures will be implemented to increase the number of migrants and foreign workers, with the goal of surpassing the projected population by approximately 2,000 people. Through these combined efforts, Oita Prefecture seeks to maintain a population of one million by 2035.

## Projections for Total Population



## (5) Special Features of Oita Prefecture

Oita Prefecture is blessed with a warm climate, rich natural resources from both land and sea, and an abundance of fresh, safe food nurtured by that environment. The region is home to numerous cultural and historical treasures, such as Usa-jingu Shrine, the Rokugo Manzan temple complex, and the iconic Usuki Stone Buddhas carved directly into cliffsides.

Oita also boasts Japan's highest number of hot spring sources and the largest volume of hot spring water. Remarkably, of the ten types of hot spring in the world, Oita Prefecture contains eight.

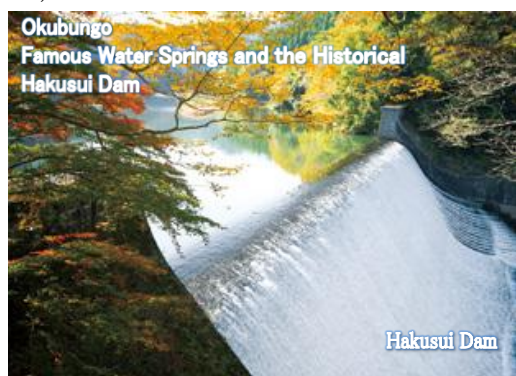
In addition, Oita is renowned for its exceptional local foods, including premium "The OITA" brand products such as Seki-aji and Seki-saba fish, Oita Wagyu beef, kabosu citrus, and shiitake mushrooms, offering a culinary experience as rich as its natural and cultural heritage.



Beppu Bay boasts the highest yield of hot spring water and the highest number of hot spring sources in all of Japan. Visitors enjoy the bountiful variety of hot springs on offer and can relax at the aquarium, theme park, and other attractions that overlook the sea.



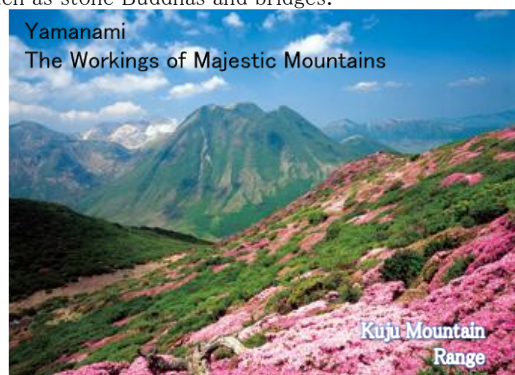
In this area lies the distinct scent of history. Hita flourished as a "Imperial Fief" under the direct control of the shogun during the Edo Shogunate. Its townscape from days of yore and the culture of the townspeople from the Edo period still lingers. In Nakatsu, the elegant charm of its castle town is well alive. The whole of Shinyabakei is a picturesque landscape interwoven with curiously shaped boulders, summits, and shallow streams.



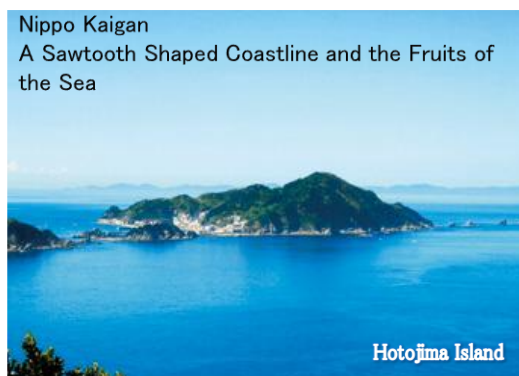
In the upper and middle river basins of the clear Ono River, bountiful nature gives life to highly beloved, pure waters. Taketa, one of Kyushu's "little Kyotos," is a castle town containing monuments of times gone by that bring to the mind the prosperity of days of yore, such as the Oka Castle Ruins.



Usa prospered with the Buddhist Hachiman culture that was once concentrated in Usa-jingu Shrine. And in Kunisaki Peninsula blossomed the unique Buddhist culture "Rokugomanzan." This area is also rich in stone creations, such as stone Buddhas and bridges.



Including the Kuju mountain range, with peaks of over 1,700 m., this area is enveloped by the Sobo-Katamuki mountain range, Mt. Yufu, and other magnificent mountains. Visitors can hike the mountains, walk the highlands, and witness Mother Nature changing her colors throughout each season. As well as heal themselves with relaxing mountain hot springs.



In Nippo Kaigan Quasi National Park, the beautiful sawtooth shaped coastline continues throughout southern Oita Prefecture. In Usuki and Saiki, where the aura of former fiefdoms still lingers, the seaside castle towns are filled with atmosphere. The fruits of the sea that hail from the Bungo Channel are superb in quality, including seki-aji and seki-saba fish.

## (6) Oita Prefecture's Specialties in Japan

Oita Prefecture is blessed with abundant natural resources, and excels in many areas on a national level. Notably, it holds 100% of Japan's production share of Shichitoui, a traditional type of rush grass.



Total Number of Hot Spring Sources  
5,094 (FY 2024)  
Hot Spring Yield  
293,000 Kl/min (FY 2024)



Installed Capacity of Geothermal Facilities  
174,000 kW(FY 2021)



Municipal-Designated Tangible Cultural Properties (Structures)  
759 (in 2025)



Number of Road Tunnels  
577 (FY 2022)



Kabosu Production Output  
4,700 metric tons (in 2024)



Dried Shiitake Production Output  
554 metric tons (in 2024)



Shichitoui Production Output  
6 metric tons (in 2024)



Saffron (Stamen/Pistil) Production Output  
9kg (in 2024)



Madake Bamboo Production Output 12,200 bundles(in 2024)



Hozuki Flower Production Output  
1,181,000 cut flowers (cut flowers only in 2023)



Limestone Production Output  
23,767,000 metric tons (FY 2024)



Hiramé (olive flounder) Production Output  
418 metric tons (in 2024)

## (7) The History of Oita Prefecture

In ancient times, the area now known as Oita Prefecture was called Toyo Province. At the end of the 7th century, it was divided into two separate provinces: Bungo and Buzen.

In the 8th century, Usa Hachimangu Shrine flourished as the head shrine of over 40,000 Hachiman shrines across Japan. Around the same time, a unique Buddhist culture called "Rokugo Manzan" blossomed on the Kunisaki Peninsula.

In the early 13th century, during the Kamakura period, the Otomo clan entered the region to protect it and went on to rule for approximately 400 years. Under the leadership of Sorin Otomo, the clan governed six provinces in northern Kyushu, including Buzen. As a Christian daimyo, Sorin actively embraced Christianity and Western culture. This openness brought Chinese and Portuguese ships to the Funai Domain (modern-day Oita City) and Usuki, where trade with the West (known as Nanban Trade) thrived, and the region prospered as a hub of international exchange.

However, at the end of the 16th century, under the unification efforts of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the Otomo clan was stripped of its territory, and the region fell into political fragmentation. For the next 300 years, during the Edo period, the land was divided into numerous small feudal domains.

Despite this fragmentation, vibrant castle town cultures developed throughout the prefecture, fostering a spirit of independence and giving rise to many individuals of notable character and talent.

With the dawn of the Meiji Era, Japan underwent major political and administrative reforms. Bungo Province was reorganised into Oita Prefecture, and Buzen Province became Kokura Prefecture.

Later, administrative changes saw the districts of Shimoge and Usa incorporated into Oita Prefecture, shaping the borders of the prefecture as we know them today.

3 <sup>rd</sup> Century	Theory that Yamatai was founded in Usa.
~720	"Bungo Fudoki" is created
731	Usa Hachimangu becomes a government shrine. Rokugo-manzan culture is developed primarily in the Kunisaki Peninsula.
1551	Visit from Francis Xavier.
1871	Founding of Oita in accordance with the abolition of feudal domains and the establishment of prefectures.
1876	Shimoge and Usa District are incorporated into Oita Prefecture, and the territory of modern Oita Prefecture is settled.
1962	The prefectural office building is erected in its current location.
2006	Large-scale municipal reorganization in the Heisei period refines Oita into 18 municipalities.

## (8) Legendary Figures of Oita Prefecture

(Early Modern Era: The Azuchi–Momoyama Period, The Edo Period)

**Sourin Otomo**

(Sengoku Warlord: 1530–1587)

A Christian feudal lord who protected and endorsed Christianity, quickly adopted Western culture, and joined in friendship with Portugal.

**Kanbei Kuroda**

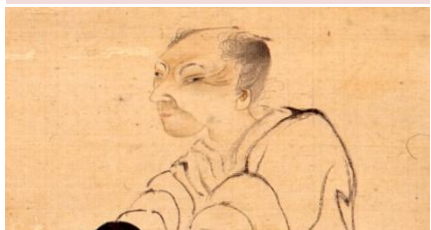
(Sengoku Warlord: 1546–1604)

A close adviser to Hideyoshi Toyotomi and a talented strategist who supported national unification under one warlord.

**Ryotaku Maeno**

(Nakatsu Domain Doctor: 1723–1804)

Translated the anatomy text “Anatomische Tabellen” with Genpaku Sugita and published it as the “*Kaitai Shinsho*”.

**Chikuden Tanomura**

(Nanga Painter: 1777–1835)

Established a unique world of elegance through poems, prose, and paintings. A number of his masterpieces are now Important Cultural Properties.

**Tansou Hirose**

(Confucian Scholar: 1782–1856)

Established one of greatest private schools of the early modern period, *Kangien*. From his 3,000 followers came many talented persons.

**Petro Kasui Kibe**

(Priest: 1587–1639)

Passed through Jerusalem on his way to Rome to become a priest. Became a martyr after returning to Japan.

**Goryu Asada**

(Astronomer: 1734–1799)

Stands among the likes of Galileo and Newton. Namesake of a moon crater.

**Nagatsune Okura**

(Agronomist: 1768–1860)

Studied agricultural technology in all of Kyushu and from Osaka to Tohoku.

(Modern Era: The Meiji Period and Beyond)

**Yukichi Fukuzawa**

(Philosopher: 1835–1901)

Founder of Keio University, writings include *Gakomon no Susume* and *Seiyo Jijo*. Famous as the face of the 10,000 yen note.

**Rentaro Taki**

(Composer: 1879–1903)

Emerged like a comet in the music world of the Meiji Period. Left behind timeless compositions such as “*Kojo no Tsuki*” and “*Hana*.” Died at age 23.

**Yaeko Nogami**

(Novelist: 1885–1985)

Began to write novels after receiving guidance from Soseki Natsume and published many works, including *Kaijin Maru* and *Hideyoshi and Rikyu*.

**Sadaji Futabayama**

(Sumo Wrestler: 1912–1968)

*Fuseishutsu no Yokozuna, The God of Sumo, The Sumo Saint of Showa*. Boasted an unprecedented 69 consecutive wins as the 35th yokozuna.

**Ichirobe Minami**

(Construction Contractor: 1836–1919)

Devoted efforts to the development of projects such as the Hirose Iro Irrigation Canal, and irrigation projects.

**Ryukei Yano**

(Politician: 1850–1931)

Pupil of Yukichi Fukuzawa and author of the political novel *Keikoku Bidan*.

**Takehiko Kureshima**

(Children’s Author: 1874–1960)

“Japanese Hans Christian Anderson” Penned the nursery rhyme “*Yuyake Koyake*”.

**Teikichi Hori**

(Military Personnel: 1883–1959)

An intellectual vice admiral who longed for peace and disarmament.

**Fumio Asakura**

(Sculptor: 1883–1964)

Produced a plethora of masterpieces such as “*Hakamori*.” Established the style known as “naturalistic realism.”

**Heihachiro Fukuda**

(Nihonga Painter: 1892–1974)

Created unique decorative depictions with vivid color and bold composition.

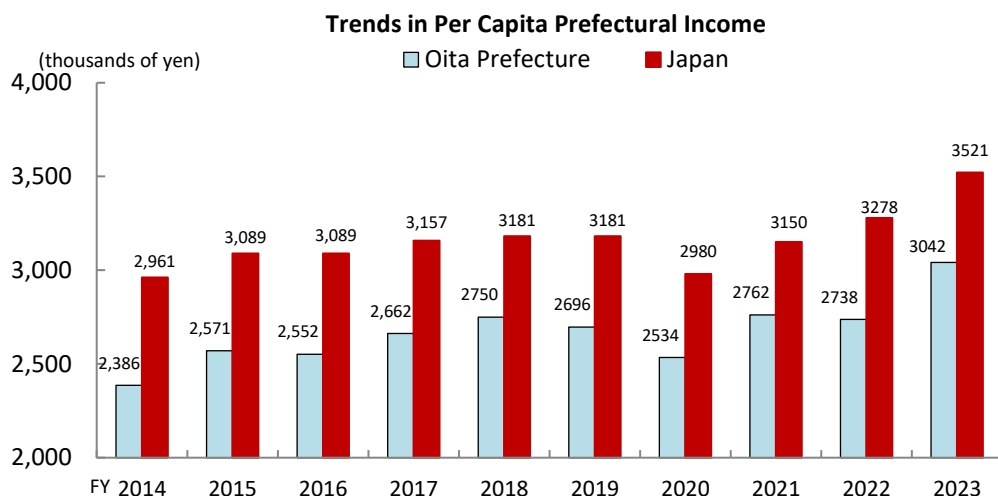
**Tatsuo Takayama**

(Nihonga Painter: 1912–2007)

Developed works that blurred the line between Nihonga and Western art.

## (1) Prefectural Economy

Per Capita Prefectural Income for FY 2023 was ¥3,042,000.

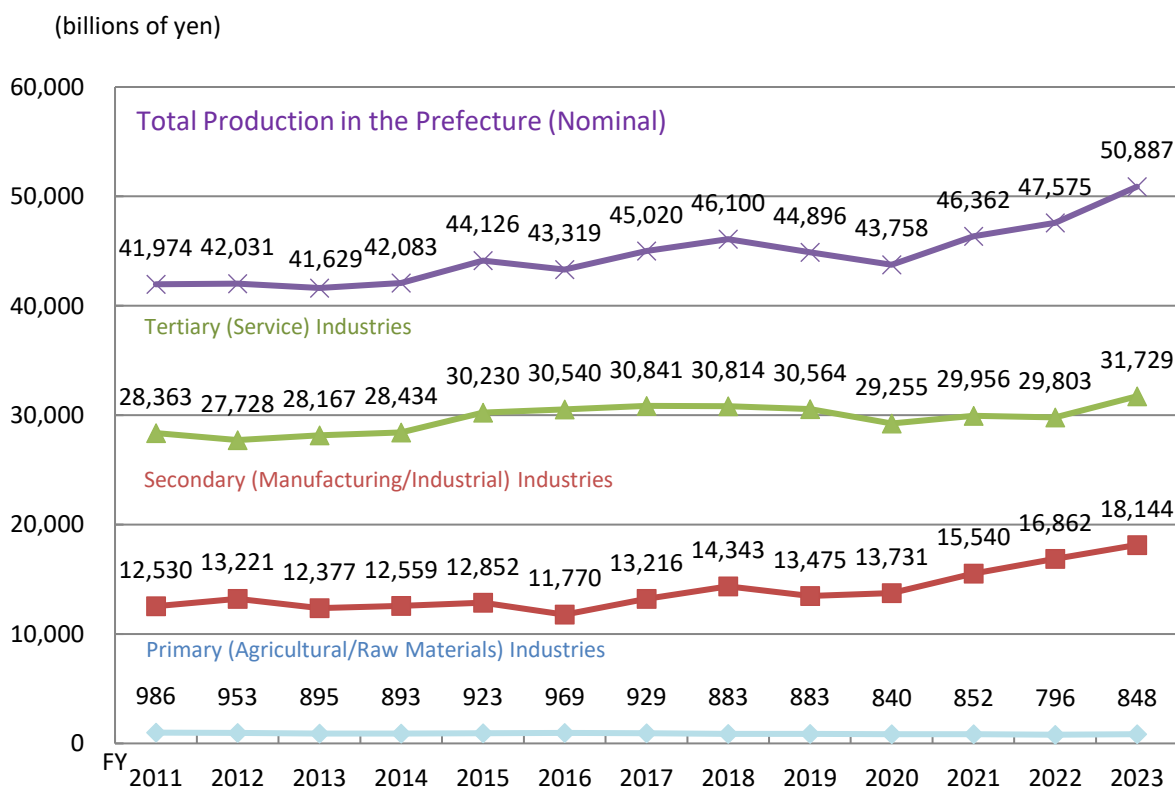


Source: Prefectural Statistics and Survey Division

## (2) Industrial Organisation

In FY 2023, Oita Prefecture's Nominal Gross Prefectural Domestic Product (GPP) was approximately ¥5.0887 trillion, the highest since FY 2011.

Additionally, in terms of production value for FY 2021 and the number of employed persons in FY 2020, were highest in the tertiary (service) industry, followed by the secondary (manufacturing/industrial) industry, and then the primary (agricultural/raw materials) industry, in that order.



Source: Prefectural Statistics and Survey Division

### (3) The State of Oita Industry

#### ① The Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery Industries

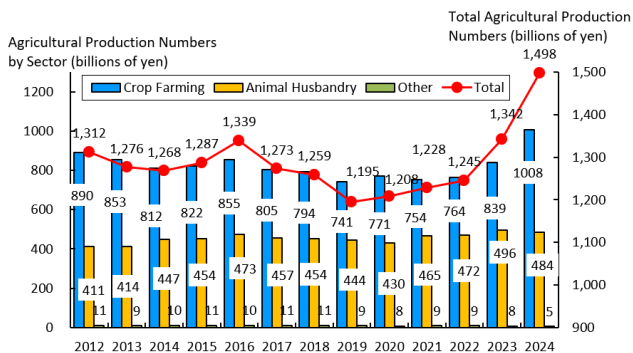
In agriculture, diverse farming operations are conducted throughout the prefecture, taking advantage of local geographical conditions in each area. These include horticultural products such as vegetables (green onions, bell peppers, high-sugar-content sweet potatoes, berries, etc.), fruit trees (Japanese pears, kabosu citrus, etc.), and ornamental flowers (ground cherries, etc.), as well as livestock production centered on beef cattle.

In forestry, timber production of Japanese cedar (sugi) centered in Hita City and Saiki City, and dried shiitake mushroom production centered in Bungo-Ono City and Taketa City are thriving.

In fisheries, fishing vessel operations such as catching Seki-aji and Seki-saba, as well as aquaculture of yellowtail, flounder, and other species are conducted.

#### Agriculture

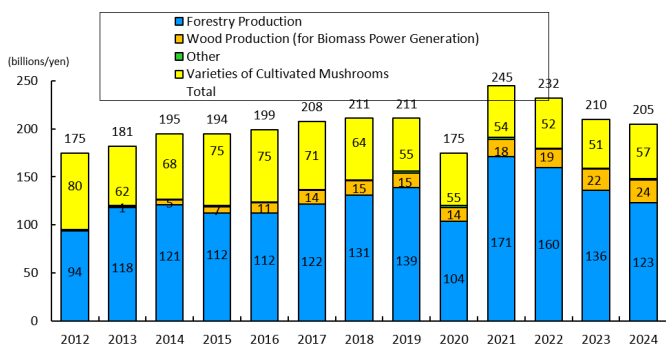
Trends in Agricultural Production Numbers



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

#### Forestry

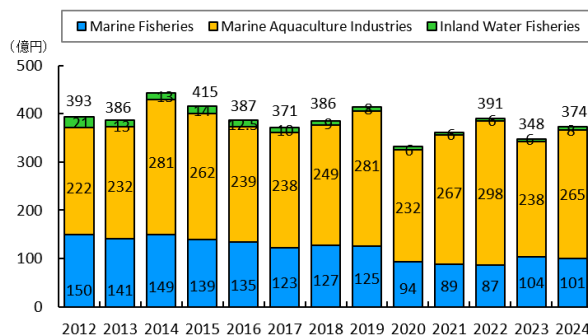
Trends in Forestry Production Numbers



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

#### Fishery

Trends in Fishery Production Numbers



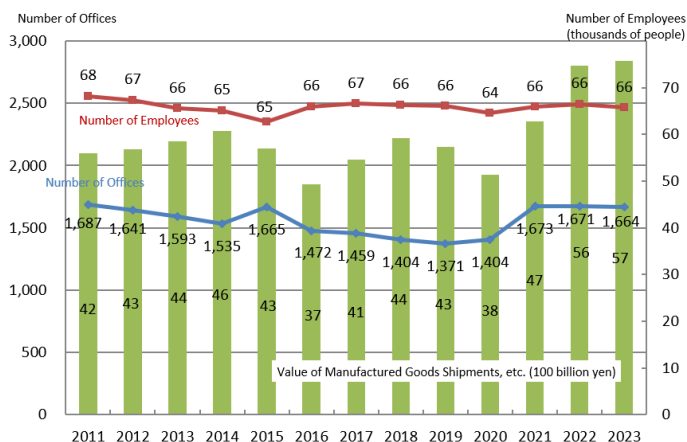
Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Prefectural Fisheries Promotion Division

#### ② Commerce and Industry

Oita Prefecture is home to a well-balanced range of industries, including steel, petroleum, chemicals, semiconductors, machinery, automobiles, and medical equipment. In FY 2023, the value of manufactured goods shipments totaled approximately 5.7 trillion yen, ranking second in Kyushu.

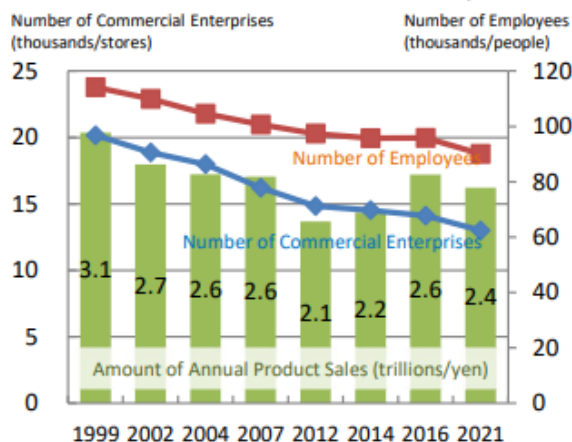
As for commerce, the number of commercial establishments has been on the decline. The annual value of goods sold in 2021 was approximately 2.4 trillion yen.

Trends in the Shipment of Manufactured Goods



Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Economic Structure Survey, etc.)

Shifts in the Amount of Annual Commodity Sales



Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

# 8. Map & Symbols of Oita Prefecture

**高速道路**  
(大分ICからの距離・km)

大分IC	0.0
別府IC	14.8
日出JCT	22.0
湯布院IC	38.7
九重IC	51.0
玖珠IC	60.5
日田IC	85.2

**東九州自動車道**

中津IC	55.1
宇佐IC	46.2
速見IC	25.3
日出JCT	22.0
別府IC	14.8
大分IC	0.0
大分米良IC	7.8
臼杵IC	28.0
津久見IC	35.0
佐伯IC	48.0
蒲江IC	68.4

**航空路線**

東京線	羽田
成田	
大阪線	伊丹
名古屋線	中部

**鉄道路線 (JR九州)**

<b>日豊本線</b>	(小倉) - 中津 - 東中津 - 今津 - 天津 - 豊前善光寺 - 柳ヶ浦 - 豊前長洲 - 宇佐 - 西屋敷 - 立石 - 中山香 - 杵築 - 大神 - 日出 - 晴谷 - 豊後豊岡 - 亀川 - 別府大学 - 別府 - 東別府 - 西大分 - 大分 - 牧 - 高城 - 鶴崎 - 大 - 在 - 坂ノ市 - 幸崎 - 佐志生 - 下ノ江 - 熊崎 - 上臼杵 - 臼杵 - 津久見 - 日代 - 浅海井 - 狩生 - 海崎 - 佐伯 - 上岡 - 直見 - 直川 - 重岡 - 宗太郎 - (鹿児島)
<b>ゆふ高原線 (豊肥本線)</b>	(久留米) - 夜明 - 光岡 - 日田 - 豊後三芳 - 豊後中川 - 天ヶ瀬 - 杉河内 - 北山田 - 豊後森 - 恵良 - 引治 - 豊後中村 - 野矢 - 由布院 - 南由布 - 湯平 - 庄内 - 天神山 - 小野屋 - 鬼瀬 - 向之原 - 豊後国分 - 賀来 - 南大分 - 古国府 - 大分
<b>阿蘇高規格線 (豊肥本線)</b>	(熊本) - 豊後萩 - 玉来 - 豊後竹田 - 朝地 - 緒方 - 豊後清川 - 三重町 - 菅尾 - 犬飼 - 竹中 - 中判田 - 大分大学前 - 数戸 - 滝尾 - 大分
<b>日田線</b>	(小倉) - 大鶴 - 今山 - 夜明 - 光岡 - 日田

**凡例**

	高速道路
	(4車線化事業中)
	地域高規格道路
	(事業中)
	(調査中)
	国道



市町村数 14市 3町 1村  
(令和4年7月1日現在)  
面積 6,340.70km<sup>2</sup>  
(令和4年4月1日現在)

人口	大分県	1,113,749人
	大分市	474,926人
年齢別人口比率*	0~14歳	12.0%
	15~64歳	54.3%
	65歳以上	33.7%

R3.10.1(大分県の推計人口)  
\*年齢別人口比率は、人口総数から年齢不詳分を除いた数を採用しています。

東京・大阪・名古屋

大分空港



※令和4年7月1日現在

**Prefectural Flower**  
Bungo Plum Blossom



Selected August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1966

The Bungo plum has been a well-known specialty of Bungo since long ago. Its flowers are large and tinged with pink.

**Prefectural Bird**  
Japanese White-Eye (Mejiron)



Designated as the "Prefectural Bird" on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1966.

The Japanese white-eye can be found throughout the Japan, but those in Oita Prefecture are especially admired for their vibrant colouring and frequent, cheerful chirping. nationwide as the Bungo white-eye, they are held dearly by the people of Oita.

**Oita Prefecture**  
Cheering Squad "Bird"  
Mejiron

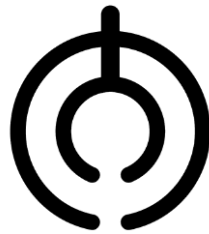


Born December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Created as the mascot character for the 63rd National Sports Festival of Japan, Mejiron remains active to this day as Oita Prefecture's Cheering Squad "Bird."

Height: 20.08 dried shiitake  
Weight: 200.8 kabosu citrus

# OITA Prefecture



大分県



おんせん県おおいた  
×  
HELLO KITTY

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