

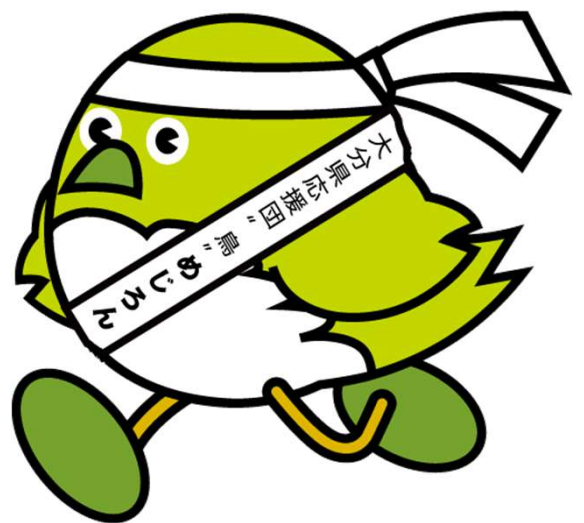
OITA

OITA Prefecture

2024

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おんせん県おおいた  みりよく 味力も満載

1. State of Oita Prefecture

(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. Suou-nada and Iyo-nada are both parts of the larger Seto Inland Sea. The Bungo Channel connects the sea to the Pacific Ocean.



(2) Oita Prefecture’s Municipalities.

Oita is made up of 18 municipalities (14 cities, 3 towns, 1 village). Before the great merger of municipalities in the Heisei period, there were 58 municipalities (11 cities, 36 towns, and 11 villages).

The total population is approximately 1,090,000 (As of March 1, 2024), and the municipality with the highest population is Oita City, where the Prefectural Office is based.

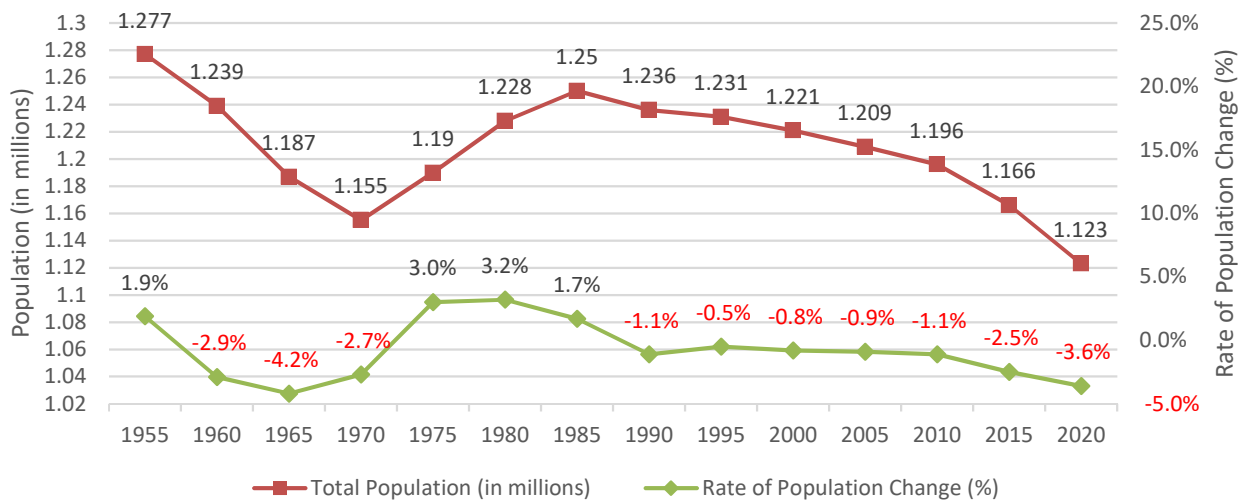
The total area is approximately 6,341 km², and Saiki City has the largest area both in the prefecture and in Kyushu.

Region	Area October 1, 2023 (km ²)	Number of Households March 1, 2024 (Households)	Population July 1, 2023 (Persons)		
			Total	Male	Female
Oita Prefecture	6,340.70	495,119	1,090,789	519,256	571,533
Oita City	502.39	215,441	471,676	226,787	244,889
Beppu City	125.34	54,917	112,459	51,084	61,375
Nakatsu City	491.44	38,481	81,265	39,894	41,371
Hita City	666.03	25,262	59,446	28,290	31,156
Saiki City	903.14	28,193	62,497	28,960	33,537
Usuki City	291.20	14,487	33,918	15,930	17,988
Tsukumi City	79.48	6,563	14,558	6,853	7,705
Taketa City	477.53	8,320	18,564	8,711	9,853
Bungo-Takada City	206.24	9,737	21,537	10,325	11,212
Kitsuki City	280.08	11,781	26,170	12,729	13,441
Usa City	439.05	22,034	50,281	23,893	26,388
Bungo-Ono City	603.14	13,430	31,478	14,731	16,747
Yufu City	319.32	13,467	32,228	15,272	16,956
Kunisaki City	318.10	11,847	24,596	11,817	12,779
Himeshima Village	6.99	804	1,538	719	819
Hiji Town	73.26	11,376	27,340	13,075	14,265
Kokonoe Town	271.37	3,298	7,884	3,756	4,128
Kusu Town	286.60	5,681	13,354	6,430	6,924

(3) Changes in Population

Oita Prefecture’s population has continued to fall since it peaked at 1,277,000 people in 1955. By 1970 the population had fallen to 1,155,000 people, but there was a trend of population growth later, and in 1985 the population was 1,250,000. However, from 1985 onwards, there has been a continued trend of population decrease in Oita due to factors such as the concentration of people in the Tokyo area and a declining population. In 2020, there were 1,123,000 people in Oita. This was the biggest rate of population decline in the prefecture since 1965.

Total Population and Rate of Population Change



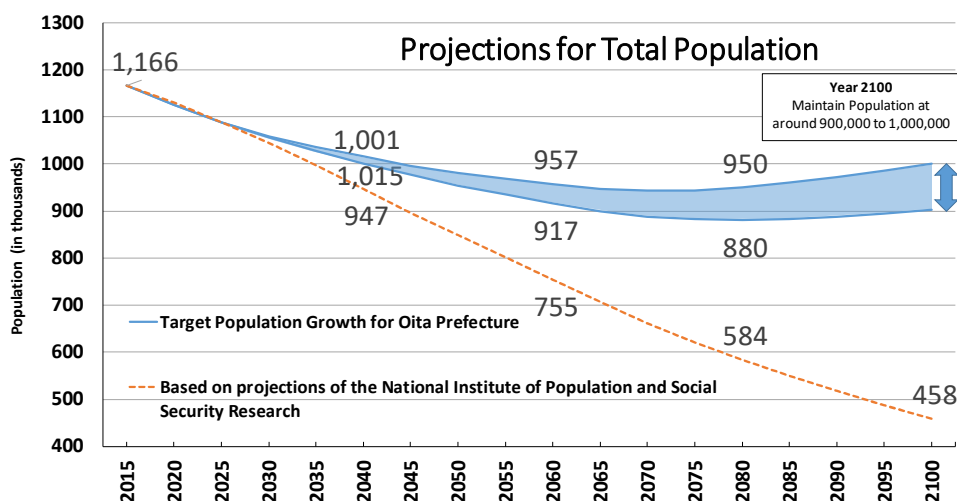
(4) Future Population Estimates

Oita’s population will likely face continued decline if no further action is taken, estimated to drop to 458,000 by year 2100.

On the other hand, if the prefecture meets the expectations of residents by providing support in areas such as marriage, childbirth and child care in conjunction to encouraging long-term residence among the younger generations, the population is projected to remain at around 900,000–1,000,000 in year 2100 through natural growth.

Regional revitalization is a key component to maintaining Oita’s population. In particular, it is crucial that the prefecture fulfils the following objectives concerning total fertility rate, number of births, and social growth through migration in and out of Oita.

Total fertility rate 1.83 by 2025	Number of births Approx. 9,000/yr by 2025	Growth through social factors Maintain equilibrium by 2025
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Source: Oita Population Vision (March 2020 Revision)

(5) Special Features of Oita Prefecture

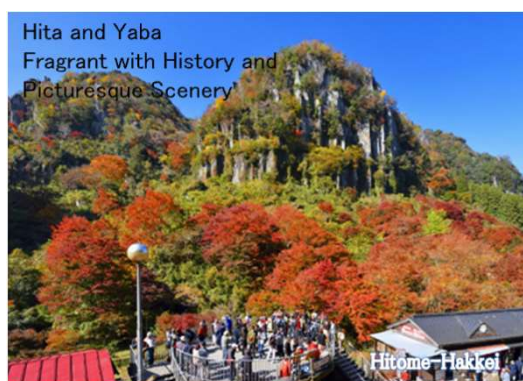
Oita Prefecture is blessed with a warm climate, bountiful nature from both the land and sea, and fresh and safe food from that nature. There are many resources within the area, such as important historical cultural heritage sites like Usa-jingu Shrine, Rokugo Manzan, and stone Buddhas carved out of rock faces, including the Usuki Stone Buddhas.

Furthermore, the hot springs that stretch out all throughout the prefecture boast the highest yield of hot spring water and highest number of sources in all of Japan. Of the 10 different types of hot springs in the world, Oita Prefecture contains 8.

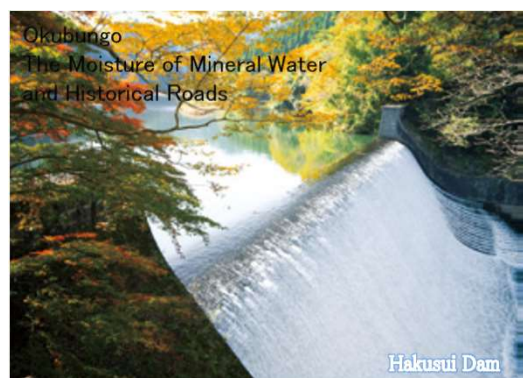
Still yet, Oita is full of marvelous foodstuffs including high quality "The OITA" food products such as seki-aji and seki-saba fish, Oita wagyu beef, as well as kabosu citrus and shiitake mushrooms.



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.



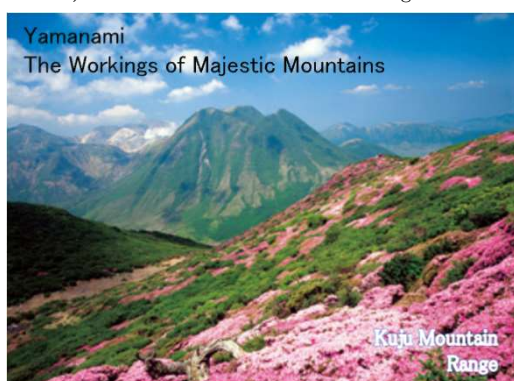
In this area lies the distinct scent of history. Hita flourished as a "Imperial Fief" under the direct control of the shogun during the Edo Shogunate. Its townscape from days of yore and the culture of the townspeople from the Edo period still lingers. In Nakatsu, the elegant charm of its castle town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



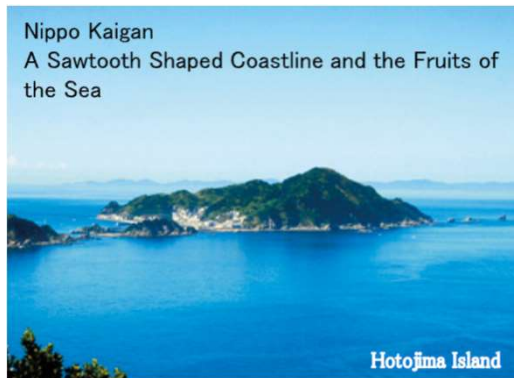
In the upper and middle river basins of the clear Ono River, bountiful nature gives life to highly beloved, pure waters. Taketa, one of Kyushu's "little Kyotos," is a castle town containing monuments of times gone by that bring to the mind the prosperity of days of yore, such as the Oka Castle Ruins.



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, with its abundance of nature, has many things that it does better than anywhere else in Japan. In particular, Oita boasts 100% of the nation's share of shichitoui production.



Number of Onsen Sources
5,090 (at the end of 2022)
Onsen Yield
295kL/min (at the end of 2022)



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



Designated Prefectural Tangible Cultural Properties (Structures)
757 buildings (as of May 1, 2023)



Number of Road Tunnels
562 (as of Mar 31, 2021)



Kabosu Production
5,900 metric tons (in 2021)



Shiitake Production
769 metric tons (in 2022)



Shichitoui Production
10 metric tons (in 2022)



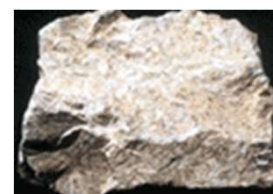
Saffron (Stamen/Pistil) Production
12kg (in 2022)



Japanese Bamboo Production
21,900 bundles (in 2022)



Hozuki Flower Production
1,157,000 cut flowers (in 2022)



Limestone Production
25,351,000 metric tons (in 2022)



Hiramé (olive flounder) production
528 metric tons (in 2022)

(7) The History of Oita Prefecture

In olden days, Oita Prefecture was called Toyo Province and was separated into two provinces called Bunzen and Bungo at the end of the 7th century.

In the 8th century, Usa Hachimangu prospered as the head shrine of the 40,000 Hachiman shrines in the country. Furthermore, a unique Buddhist culture called "Rokugo-manzan" blossomed on the Kunisaki Peninsula.

At the beginning of the 13th century (the Kamakura period), the Otomo clan entered the province in order to protect it and subsequently reigned for a period of 400 years. During the period of Sourin Otomo in particular, the Otomo clan had dominion over six provinces in northern Kyushu, including Bunzen. As a Christian daimyo (Japanese feudal lord), Sourin Otomo was very proactive in introducing Christianity and Western culture. Chinese ships and Portuguese ships entered the Funai Domain (modern day Oita City) and Usuki, allowing "Nanban Trade" to occur in full swing, and they prospered as international cities.

Under Hideyoshi Toyotomi, the Otomo clan was forced to relinquish its domains at the end of the 16th century, and they became extremely divided. During the 300 years that followed, the age of small feudal domains separating from each other continued, and as the culture of castle towns blossomed all throughout the prefecture, the spirit of autonomy and independence rose and brought forth talented people filled with individuality.

With the arrival of the Meiji Era, major prefectural reform was put into effect. Bungo Province became Oita Prefecture and Bunzen Province became Kokura Prefecture.

Later, prefectures were again reorganized, and both the districts of Shimoge and Usa were incorporated into Oita Prefecture, thereby giving us today's prefectural territory.

3 rd Century	Yamatai founded in Usa (theory)
~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 *Seiyō Jijō*. 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 immortal 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

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

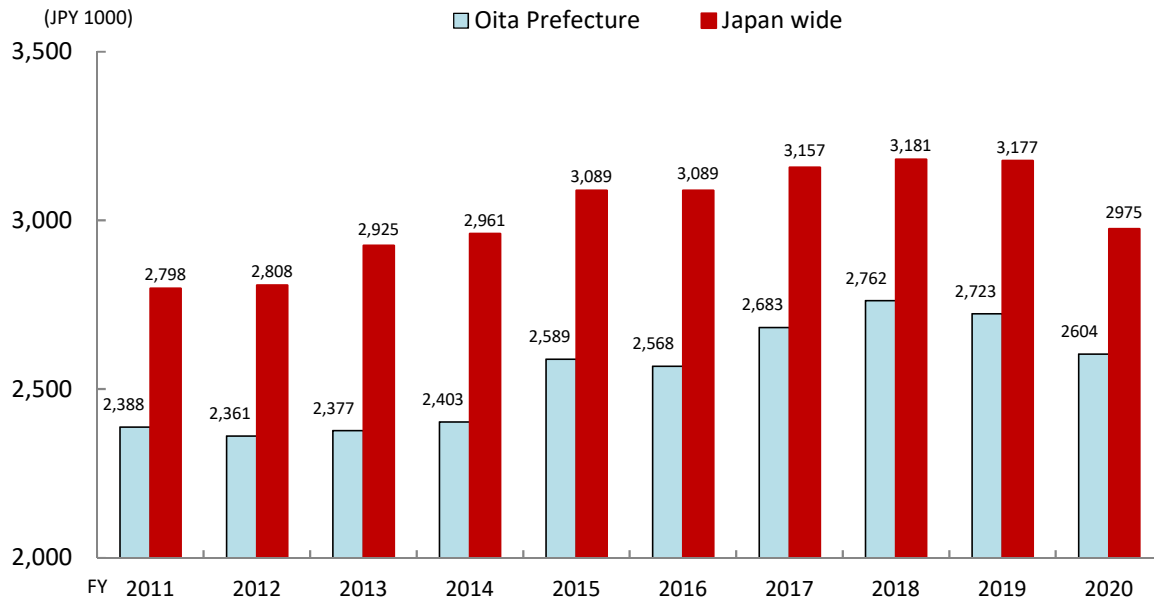
Tatsuo Takayama

(Nihonga Painter: 1912-2007)
Developed works that blurred the line between Nihonga and Western art

(1) Prefecture GDP

The prefectural income per capita in the 2020 fiscal year was 2,604,000 yen.

Shifts in the Per Capita Prefectural Income and the Disparity of the Corresponding National Income

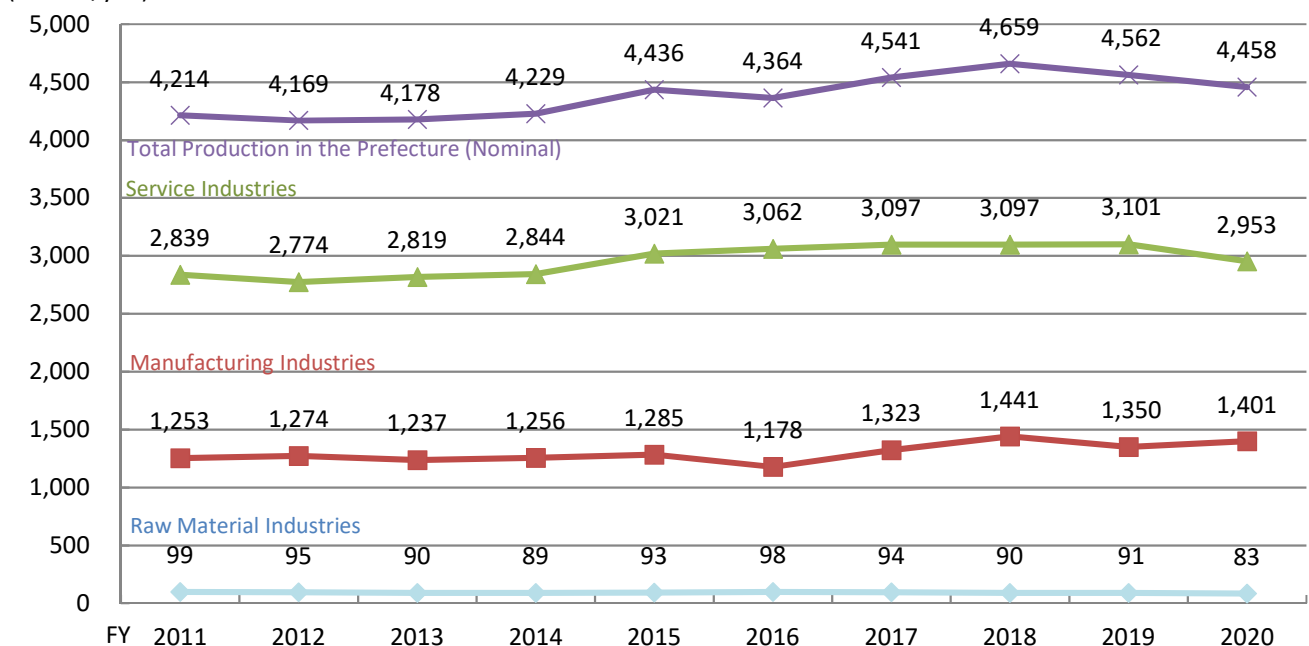


Source: Prefectural Statistics Division

(2) Industrial Organization

In the 2020 fiscal year, (nominal) gross production within the prefecture amounted to approximately 4.5 trillion yen and has tended to stay in the same range in recent years. Service industries have the greatest gross production, as well as the greatest number of employees. They are followed by manufacturing industries, and then finally raw material industries.

Shifts in (Nominal) Gross Production Within the Prefecture



Source: Prefectural Statistics Division

(3) The State of Oita Industry

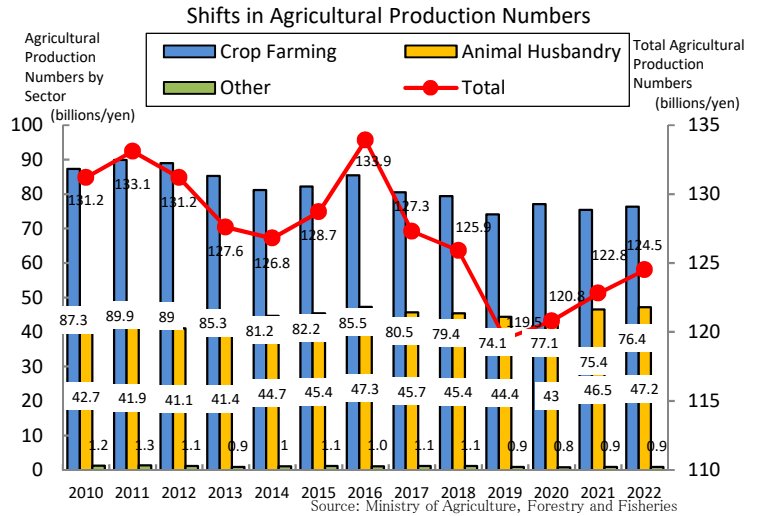
① The Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery Industries

Agriculture

The agricultural industry uses rice at its foundation and has horticultural crops, such as vegetables (green onions, tomatoes, strawberries, and more), fruits (pears, kabosu citrus, and more), flowering plants (chrysanthemums, sweet pea, and more), as well as animal husbandry that focuses on beef cattle. Diverse varieties of agriculture that make use of locational benefits take place throughout the prefecture.

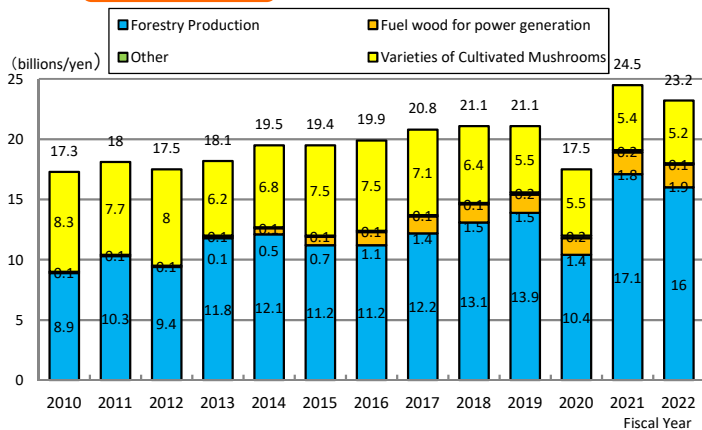
The forestry industry includes lumber production of Japanese cedar trees, concentrated primarily in Hita and Saiki, as well as shiitake mushroom production, concentrated primarily in Bungo-Ono and Taketa.

The fishery industry operates with the aim of producing primarily medium to high grade fish that have a high price per individual unit.



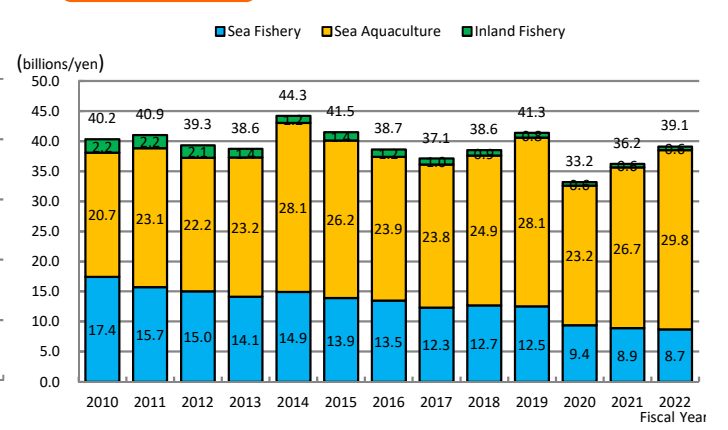
Forestry

Shifts in Forestry Production Numbers



Fishery

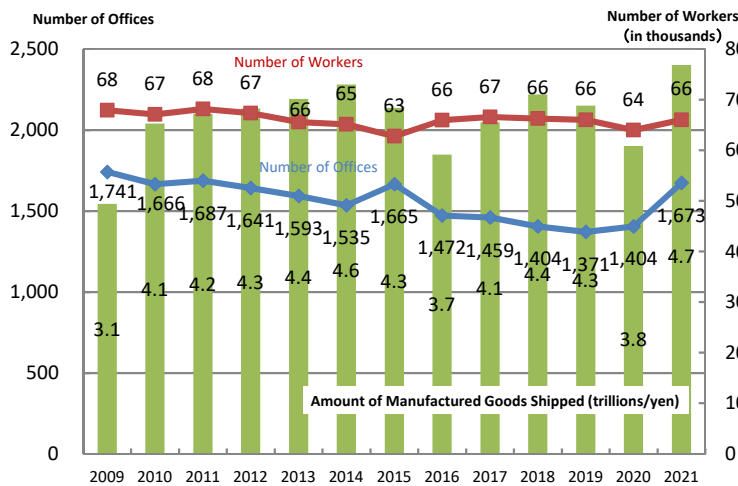
Shifts in Fishery Production Numbers



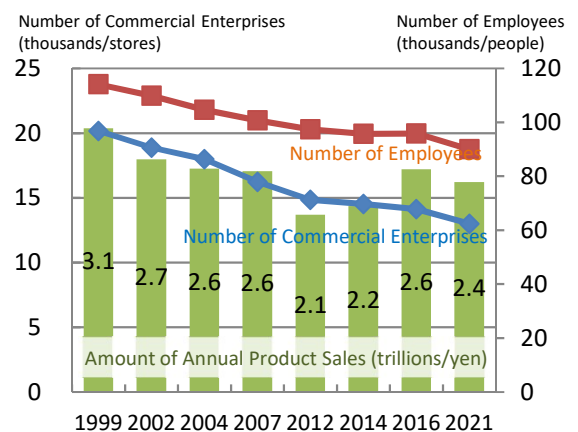
② Commerce and Industry

In Oita Prefecture, there is a healthy balance of a wide range of industries, including iron, petroleum, chemistry, semiconductors, machinery, automobiles, and medical care equipment. The number of manufactured goods shipped (in 2021) totaled to approximately 4.7 trillion yen. (2nd in Kyushu) In the business arena, the number of offices is continuing to decline. The annual commodity sales figures (in 2021) totaled to approximately 2.4 trillion yen.

Shifts in the Shipment of Manufactured Goods



Shifts in the Amount of Annual Commodity Sales





Prefectural Flower:
Bungo Plum Blossom



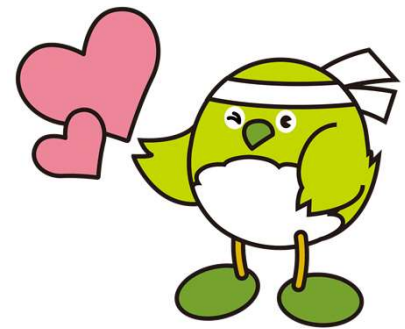
Selected August 16th, 1966
The Bungo plum has been a well-known specialty of Bungo since long ago. Its flowers are large and tinged with pink.

Prefectural Bird
Japanese White-Eye
(Mejiro)



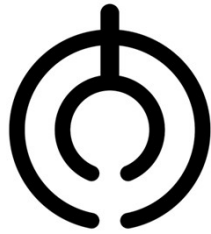
Selected February 1st, 1966
The Japanese white-eye can be found throughout the country, but as the white eye of Oita Prefecture are beautifully colored and chirp frequently, they have long been famous nationwide as the Bungo white-eye. They are held dear by Oitans.

Oita Prefecture
Cheering Squad "Bird"
Mejiron



Born December 24th, 2004
Born as the mascot character for the 63rd National Sports Festival of Japan, Mejiro 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

