

Outline of Okayama Prefecture

☀️ Overview of the Land of Sunshine, Okayama—Filled with natural features such as mountains, rivers, and the sea

Located in the center of the Sanyodo*, Okayama borders Hyogo Prefecture to the east and Hiroshima Prefecture to the west. It also borders Shikoku Island via the Seto Inland Sea to the south, and the Sanin region is located north of the prefecture. Okayama has played and continues to play an important role as a transportation hub within the Chugoku and Shikoku regions.

*The general name for the Seto Inland Sea coastal area which stretches from the east of Hyogo all the way west to Yamaguchi.

·Total Area

7,114.77km²

1.9% of Japan's total land area

Ranked 17th in Japan in terms of land area

·Geography

Okayama can distinctly be divided into three parts: the northern Chugoku Mountains and basin areas, the central hilly areas such as the Kibi Highlands, and the southern plains. The northern part of the prefecture is blessed with mountains and hot springs, while the southern part is blessed with the vast and calm Seto Inland Sea, decorated by beautiful scattered islets and islands.

·Water

The three rivers of Okayama (the Yoshii River, the Asahi River, and the Takahashi River), which originate in the Chugoku Mountains, are abundant with high-quality water that is used for domestic, industrial, and agricultural purposes.

- Total Population

1,876,265

- Number of Households

801,409

- Population Distribution

Approximately 1.2 million people live in either Okayama City or Kurashiki City, accounting for about 64% of the prefecture's population.

☀ Features of Okayama Prefecture

•The home of the ancient Kibi culture and the birthplace of the legends of Momotaro and Ura

Once rivaling Yamato Province, the Kibi region flourished as the birthplace of the ancient Kibi culture, which contributed greatly to the promotion of various industries, economy, and culture leading up to the present.

[The Legend of Momotaro, Part 1: Exploring the Origin of Momotaro \(link to video in Japanese\)](#)

[The Legend of Momotaro, Part 2: Another Face of Ura \(link to video in Japanese\)](#)



•Data of interest:

Okayama is ranked 16th in Japan in terms of the number of Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty, and Natural Monuments (including Special Sites).
(Okayama Prefecture: 73 sites, Nationwide total: 3,054 sites)



•The intersection of the Chugoku and Shikoku regions

Okayama has a well-developed transportation infrastructure, with a network of highways running the length and breadth of the prefecture, Shinkansen bullet trains and other railroads connecting the east, west, north, south, and west, and Okayama Momotaro Airport, which offers flights to domestic and international destinations.

•Data of interest:

Okayama is ranked 12th in Japan in terms of total highway length.
(Okayama Prefecture: 325km, National average: 255km)

Okayama is ranked 1st in Japan in terms of the highway construction rate (ratio of currently in-service highways to planned routes).
(Okayama Prefecture: 100%, National average: 85%)



·Manufacturing industry

Compared to the rest of the nation, Okayama has a higher productivity ratio within secondary sector industries, such as manufacturing. The Mizushima Marine Industrial District is home to large companies with advanced technological capabilities in a wide range of fields, including petroleum, chemicals, and steel, and accounts for approximately 50% of the prefecture's manufactured goods shipments.

[Mizushima Marine Industrial District, the Production and Logistics Base Supporting Okayama's Industries \(link to video in Japanese\)](#)

·Data of interest:

Okayama Prefecture's manufactured goods shipments are valued at 7,704,136,000,000 yen (with the Mizushima Marine Industrial District accounting for the production of 46.1% of this value).

(Source: 「2020年工業統計調査」(2020 Industrial Statistics Survey), Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications/Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)



·The Fruit Kingdom

Taking advantage of its mild climate, Okayama has developed as one of Japan's top-quality agricultural industries. The pride of Okayama—Shimizu white peaches, Muscat of Alexandria grapes, and Pione grapes—are the highest quality in the nation and have the largest cultivation area. They are also highly regarded overseas as part of the Okayama brand. Okayama also produces Okayama Yume white peaches, Aurora Black grapes, and Shine Muscat grapes.

·Data of interest:

Shimizu white peaches

Okayama is ranked 1st in Japan in terms of production.
(Cultivation area: 226.9 hectares, Share: 73%)

Muscat of Alexandria grapes

Okayama is ranked 1st in Japan in terms of production.
(Cultivation area: 44.4 hectares)

Pione grapes

Okayama is ranked 1st in Japan in terms of production.
(Cultivation area: 822.4 hectares, Share: 43.8%)



☀ Symbols of Okayama Prefecture

•Japanese green pheasant (Prefectural bird of Okayama)



The prefectural bird was chosen out of 10 candidates through a vote by prefectural residents in April 1994 as part of the prefecture's Corporate Identity campaign.

•Japanese red pine (Prefectural tree of Okayama)



Three candidates were selected by a council of representatives from various fields, which prefectural residents voted on, leading to the prefectural tree being established in September 1996.

•Peach blossom (Prefectural flower of Okayama)



Since peaches are Okayama Prefecture's specialty, peach blossoms have customarily been used as the prefectural flower since around 1950.

Key figures in comparison with national statistics

•Number of books borrowed from prefectural libraries

Ranked 1st in Japan

(Okayama Prefecture: 1,149,382, National average: 317,030)

•Number of members in volunteer crime prevention organizations (per 10,000 people)

Ranked 2nd in Japan

(Okayama Prefecture: 408.2, National average: 196.4)

•Number of universities and colleges (per 100,000 people)

Ranked 3rd in Japan

(Okayama Prefecture: 1.38, National average: 0.89)

•Percentage of garbage recycled

Ranked 4th in Japan

(Okayama Prefecture: 24.6%, National average: 20.0%)

•Number of museums

Ranked 7th in Japan

(Okayama Prefecture: 16, National total: 453)

•Number of doctors (per 100,000 people)

Ranked 5th in Japan

(Okayama Prefecture: 320.1, National average: 256.6)

•Ratio of job openings to job applicants

Ranked 5th in Japan

(Okayama Prefecture: 1.39, National average: 1.13)

•Ratio of female executives

Ranked 9th in Japan

(Okayama Prefecture: 27.1%, National average: 24.4%)