

Operational Base of Saitama Prefecture

Features and Attractiveness of Saitama Prefecture

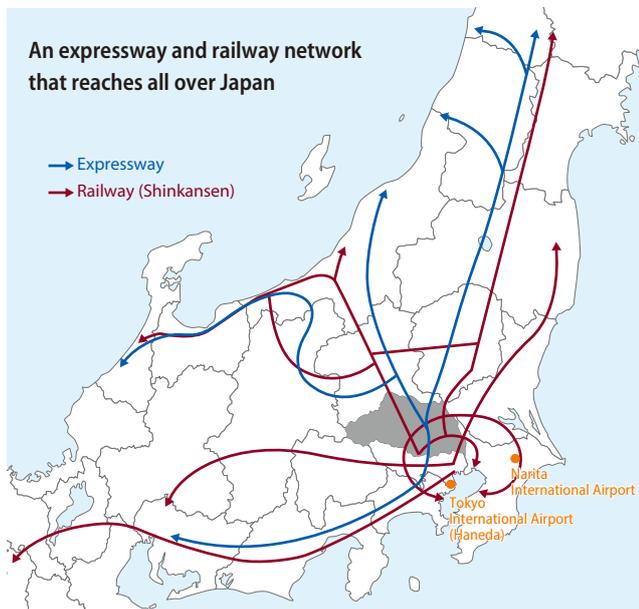
Saitama Prefecture, the Bank's operating base, has a vibrant economy. The prefecture is blessed with a favorable climate and topography, has a well-developed transportation infrastructure, including expressway and railway networks, and has a highly concentrated population and industry.

Well-developed Expressway and Railway Networks

Saitama Prefecture is located in the heart of the Tokyo metropolitan area, which is home to one-third of Japan's population (approximately 40 million people), and the prefecture has a well-developed network of expressways and railways. The Kanetsu, Tohoku, and Joban expressways run north to south through the prefecture, while the Metropolitan Inter-City Expressway (Ken-O-do) and the Tokyo Gaikan Expressway run east to west. The Ken-O-do provides access to the Tomei and Chuo Expressways, and also connects with the Higashi-Kanto Expressway, which extends to Narita International Airport, east Japan's gateway to the sky. This has attracted logistics and production bases to the prefecture. As for railways, Saitama Prefecture is directly connected to both Tokyo and other key cities via the Hokkaido, Tohoku, Akita, Yamagata, Joetsu and Hokuriku Shinkansen (bullet trains), which originate in Omiya.



Ken-O-do Kawajima Interchange area
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A Favorable Climate and Topography

Located on the borders of Tokyo and six prefectures, Saitama Prefecture is an inland prefecture on the Kanto Plain, and all parts are less than 100 km from central Tokyo.

Saitama Prefecture covers 3,798 square kilometers and accounts for around 1% of Japan's land area. The area of prefectural land covered by mountains is less than the national average, while the area of lowlands and tableland is greater. Rivers account for 3.90% of the prefecture's area, the highest figure for a prefecture in the country.

It is very comfortable to live in because it has more clear days annually than anywhere else in Japan, and has few natural disasters.

Fifth Largest Prefecture by Population

The population of Saitama Prefecture is 7.31 million (estimated population as of June 1, 2018), the highest level ever. It has the fifth largest prefectural population in Japan.

Fifth Largest Economy in Japan

Total production in Saitama Prefecture is about ¥20 trillion, making its prefectural economy the fifth largest in Japan. Also, over the past 10 years, the increase in Saitama's total production has been the second greatest in Japan, as the prefecture's economy continues to grow.

Collection of Diverse Manufacturing Industries

Saitama Prefecture has a diverse range of local industries centered on the automotive-related industry. With the prefecture's strong transportation infrastructure, including the Ken-O-do, the relatively small number of natural disasters, as well as inexpensive land prices despite being adjacent to central Tokyo, over the 10 years from 2008 to 2017 there was a net influx of 861* companies to the prefecture, the highest number in the country.

* Based on Teikoku Databank Survey