Prefectural Flower

**RENGE** : The Chinese Milk Vetch

The *renge* was chosen as Gifu’s Prefectural flower by the public in March 1954. This flower represents the idyllic scenery of spring time.

Prefectural Tree

**ICHII** : The Yew

The *ichii* was used to make *shaku*, or ornamental scepters used as offerings to the emperor in ancient times. The name *ichii* stems from the title of *Sho-Ichii*, the highest rank bestowed by the emperor to *shaku* manufacturers.

Prefectural Bird

**RAICHO** : The Ptarmigan

The *raicho* inhabits mountains in the Japan Alps at altitudes exceeding 2,400 meters above sea level. Its feathers are brown in summer, turning white in winter. This bird is a nationally protected species.

Prefectural Fish

**AYU** : The Sweetfish

The *ayu* is widely appreciated for its beautiful appearance and sweet taste. This fish is well-known all over the country for its association with *ukai*, cormorant fishing on the Nagara River.
Situated in the heartland of Japan

Gifu is one of Japan’s few landlocked prefectures, situated approximately in the center of the Japanese archipelago. It takes about 1 hour by train from Chubu Centrair International Airport to Gifu Prefecture.

Gifu is conveniently close to the three major cities of Japan: It takes about 1 hour and 40 minutes from Tokyo to Nagoya by bullet train (Shinkansen), about 50 minutes from Osaka to Nagoya by Shinkansen, and about 20 minutes from Nagoya to Gifu by local express train.

By the abolition of the han system and its replacement by the prefecture system (haihan-chiken) in July 1871, hans and prefectures, which were until then separately governed, were unified under the same control, and han was renamed to prefecture. As a result, nine prefectures in the Mino District and one in the Hida District (Takayama Prefecture) were established. In November 1871, the whole district of Mino was unified into one prefecture, Gifu. Takayama, which had initially joined Chikuma Prefecture (present Nagano Prefecture), was transferred to Gifu Prefecture in 1876. Later in 2005, Yamaguchi Village in Nagano Prefecture was incorporated into Gifu, resulting in the formation of Gifu Prefecture as it is today. Municipalities in Gifu Prefecture merged to form larger districts during the Meiji and Showa period. In 1889, there were 948 municipalities, but the figure decreased to 105 in 1961. Gifu Prefecture currently comprises 21 cities, 19 towns and 2 villages, totaling to 42 municipalities (as of July 2020).
**Land**

**Total land area:** 10,621 square kilometers  
**2.8% of Japan’s total landmass**  
**Ranked 7th out of 47 prefectures in Japan**

Gifu is situated approximately in the center of the Japanese archipelago, occupying a total land area of approximately 10,621 square kilometers, or 2.8% of Japan’s total landmass. Of this area, approximately one quarter is made up of highlands, which exceeds 1,000 meters above sea level. Gifu has a rich natural environment, with 80.7% of the prefecture covered by woods and forests. The northern and eastern parts are mountainous and the Nobi Plain expands across the southern part, where beautiful rivers flow, converging in the riverside area at sea level.

![The Nagara River flowing through the Nobi Plain](image)

**Distribution of Land Usage (2018)**

- **Woodlands and Forests:** 80.7%
- **State-owned Forests:** 16.7%
- **Privately Owned Forests:** 64.0%
- **Agricultural Lands:** 5.3%
- **Residential Areas:** 3.9%
- **Other:** 4.5%
- **Water surfaces, Rivers, and Waterways:** 2.7%
- **Roads:** 2.9%

**Source:** Gifu Prefectural Government

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**Climate**

**Average Monthly Temperature/ Precipitation in Gifu City and Takayama City**

There is a large difference in climate between the Mino and Hida regions.

There is a large difference in climate between the southern and northern regions of Gifu Prefecture. The average temperature from 1981 to 2010 in the Mino Region in the south including Gifu City is 15.8°C, whereas the Hida Region in the north including Takayama City is 11.0°C. Most of the Hida Region is covered with heavy snow in winter.

![Average Monthly Temperature/ Precipitation in Gifu City and Takayama City](image)

**Source:** Japan Meteorological Agency  
**Note:** Average temperature/precipitation figures from 1981 to 2010
The population of Gifu has been decreasing since 2005, being 1,988,931 in 2019, a decrease of 10,475 from the previous year. There are 774,484 households, resulting in an increase of 6,740 year on year. Each household has on average 2.57 family members in the 2019 survey, while the figure was 2.60 in 2018. These statistics indicate a trend towards a reduction in household size.

The number of registered foreign residents in Gifu Prefecture amounts to 57,606. Among them, there are 13,202 Filipinos, 12,218 Brazilians, 11,833 Chinese, and 8,449 Vietnamese. The combined population of these four nationalities accounts for 79.3% of the total number of registered foreign residents in the prefecture.
Economy

Agriculture

Major Agricultural and Livestock Products (2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Production Volume</th>
<th>National Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>107,600 t</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut</td>
<td>665 t</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Kaki&quot; Japanese Persimmon</td>
<td>13,900 t</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Summer Radish</td>
<td>6,100 t</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinach</td>
<td>10,000 t</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td>22,700 t</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Soybean</td>
<td>1,310 t</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef Cattle</td>
<td>31,300 heads</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Cattle</td>
<td>5,710 heads</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horticultural Potted Plant</td>
<td>17,600,000 pieces</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Large Variety of Products

A large variety of agricultural products, which are suited to the natural features of each region, are grown throughout the year in Gifu Prefecture. Rice is cultivated in the plains of southwestern Gifu due to the warm climate in the region. Vegetables, including summer-autumn tomatoes, spinach, and natsu daikon summer radish are produced in the cooler summer climate of the high altitude plateaus in the Chuno, Tono, and Hida Regions. Beef and dairy cattle are raised in the mountain areas.
Industry

Proportion of Shipment Value of Manufactured Products by Industry (2018)
(Establishments with 4 or More Employees)

Shipment Value of Manufactured Goods: 5,889.7 billion yen

With regard to the value of manufactured goods shipments among the industries of Gifu Prefecture, transportation equipment was highest at 1114.8 billion yen (18.9% of the total shipment value), followed by production machinery at 565.4 billion yen (9.6%). As to the number of business places, ceramic, stone and clay products (711 business places: 13.0% of the total number) is the highest in the manufacturing sector, followed by fabricated metal products (701: 12.8%), and production machinery (573: 10.4%).

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

Export

Proportion of Exports by Industry (2018)

Total exports: 666.8 billion yen

Four key industries accounted for over 70% of the total exports from Gifu Prefecture. The breakdown of these industries by product area is as follows: the manufacture of transportation equipment ranked highest at 211.8 billion yen (31.8% of the total amount), followed by the manufacture of machinery used in production at 141.5 billion yen (21.2%), the manufacture of electronic parts, devices and circuits at 83.0 billion yen (12.4%), and the manufacture of ceramic, stone and clay products at 47.1 billion yen (7.1%).

Source: Gifu Prefectural Government
Number of Tourists by Destination Type (2018)

Thanks to its rich tourist resources, approximately 46 million tourists visit Gifu in one year.

Gifu Prefecture is endowed with a beautiful natural environment represented by magnificent mountains, pristine streams and traditional culture, all of which have long been cherished by the local residents. A large number of people visit Gifu to experience a wide range of these great features. Tourists visiting historical and cultural destinations account for the highest proportion of tourists visiting Gifu Prefecture among all destination types, followed by roadside stations and other rest areas, sports and recreation, urban tourism (shopping and cuisine), hot springs and health promotion, and natural attractions.

Number of Overnight Visitors by Country / Region

The cumulative number of overnight visitors from other countries to Gifu has increased largely in recent years, reaching 1,281,280.

The number of Chinese tourists is the largest among overnight visitors from other countries accounting for 41.1% of the total, followed by Taiwan (13.8%) and Hong Kong (7.1%).
## Facts about Gifu Prefecture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gifu Prefecture</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Land Area</td>
<td>10,621.29</td>
<td>377,975.24</td>
<td>km²</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of Forest Area to Total Land Area</td>
<td>79.2</td>
<td>64.5</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>1,987</td>
<td>126,167</td>
<td>thousand person</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Density</td>
<td>187.1</td>
<td>338.3</td>
<td>persons/km²</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Life Expectancy (Male)</td>
<td>81.00</td>
<td>80.77</td>
<td>years old</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Life Expectancy (Female)</td>
<td>86.82</td>
<td>87.01</td>
<td>years old</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Prefectural Product (Gross Domestic Product)</td>
<td>7,768.9</td>
<td>547,586.0</td>
<td>billion yen</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefectural Income per Person (National Income per Person)</td>
<td>2,849</td>
<td>3,164</td>
<td>thousand yen</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Agricultural Product</td>
<td>110.4</td>
<td>9,055.8</td>
<td>billion yen</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry (Shipment Value of Manufactured Products) *Establishments with 4 or more Employees</td>
<td>5,889.71</td>
<td>331,809.38</td>
<td>billion yen</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce (Annual Sales of Commercial Goods)</td>
<td>4,840.46</td>
<td>581,626.35</td>
<td>billion yen</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Overnight Visitors from Overseas *Those who stayed at accommodation facilities with 10 or more employees</td>
<td>1,281,280</td>
<td>101,306,450</td>
<td>person-night</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity of Hydro-energy Generation (Potential Water Power)</td>
<td>13,651</td>
<td>136,848</td>
<td>GWh</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Difference Index of Consumer Prices (National Average of 255 Cities: 100) *Composite Index Excluding the Imputed Service of Owner-occupied Dwellings</td>
<td>97.3</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>2019 (<strong>Annual average</strong>)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources**

1. Geospatial Information Authority of Japan. *Land Survey of Prefectures, City, Ward, Town and Village*
2. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. *Census of Agriculture and Forestry*
5. Gifu Prefectural Government. *Annual Report on Prefectural Accounts*
7. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. *Gross Agricultural Output*
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10. Japan Tourism Agency. *Statistical Research on Overnight Travel*
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**Note**

Figures for the sum of breakdown and total may not match in some cases due to rounding calculations.