



FUKUOKA BUSINESS FACT BOOK

Fukuoka: The Ideal City for Business Expansion

Fukuoka City is ranked No. 1 in population growth and growth rate*1. Every year, more than 50 companies expand into Fukuoka City in search of business opportunities. In this section, we introduce the impetus behind Fukuoka City's growth and four key reasons why businesses choose Fukuoka.

*1: Among government-ordinance-designated cities (based on 2010–2020 national census data)

Fukuoka City, known as Japan's "Gateway to the rest of Asia," is one of Japan's largest cities with a population of 1.65 million. In fact, Fukuoka City is the only major city in Japan that does not have a Class A river, making it difficult to construct large-scale factories. However, the city flourished in the tertiary sector in fields such as IT, creative industries, and service industries. Fukuoka City is implementing its growth strategy in three phases: short-term, mid-term, and long-term.

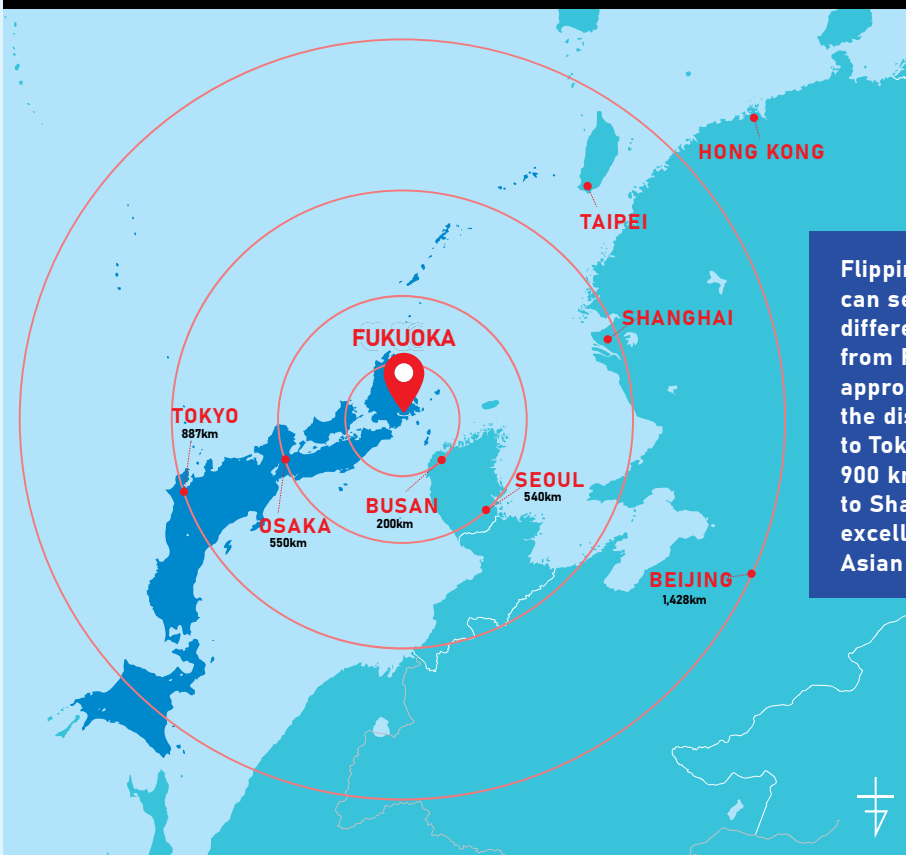
Short-Term Goal:
Boost visitor and tourist numbers
Fukuoka actively attracts meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE), while promoting its food and cultural appeal, represented by its famous *yatai* food stalls. This has boosted visitor numbers and generated significant economic benefits.

Mid-Term Goal:
Promote knowledge-creating industries
Under the banner of "Engineer-Friendly City," Fukuoka operates the Engineer Café, a facility to support and foster the growth and success of IT engineers. The city was also the first in Japan to

introduce an "Engineer Visa" scheme, which helps streamline and better facilitate hiring overseas engineers, thus increasing the number of IT and creative talent and companies within the city.

Long-Term Goal:
Break free from branch-based economy
Following its designation as a National Strategic Special Zone for Global Startup and Job Creation in 2014, Fukuoka has accelerated its support for startups, achieving the highest business-opening rate among 21 major cities in Japan. This makes it ideal for headquarters functions, and not just branch offices.

Fukuoka as seen from mainland Asia



Flipping the usual map around, we can see how Fukuoka looks from a different perspective. The distance from Fukuoka to Osaka is approximately 550 km, similar to the distance to Seoul. The distance to Tokyo, which is approximately 900 km, is almost the same as that to Shanghai, illustrating Fukuoka's excellent access to other major Asian cities.



Revitalizing the city center to become the city leading Asia

Currently, Fukuoka is undergoing a once-in-a-century urban renewal, driven by projects such as Tenjin Big Bang and Hakata Connected. These projects are replacing many outdated buildings in the Tenjin and Hakata areas with innovative,

advanced business facilities equipped with cutting-edge technology. Companies expanding into Fukuoka tend either to create high-value-added businesses classified as knowledge-creating industries or to use the city as a site to establish new headquarters. Over 50 companies move to Fukuoka annually,

attracted by four major advantages:

- Business environment;
- Talented workforce;
- Quality of life; and
- BCP measures.

This booklet highlights these four points supported by other key facts about Fukuoka City.

Four key factors why businesses choose Fukuoka

1



An outstanding business environment offering exceptional convenience

(→P4)

2



A rich pool of highly-skilled, talented workers

(→P6)

3



A living environment that balances a fulfilling work and private life

(→P8)

4



An ideal location for both headquarters and backup functions

(→P9)

1

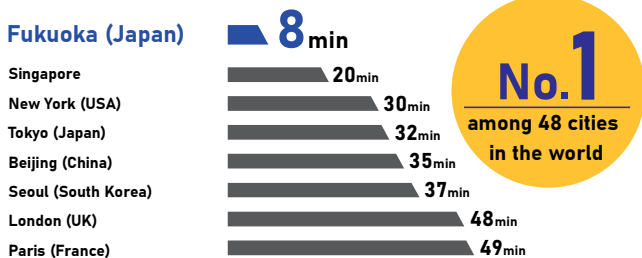
BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

An Outstanding Business Environment Offering Exceptional Convenience

One of Fukuoka City's greatest strengths lies in its exceptional accessibility; its easy access to the airport and excellent connectivity to destinations across Japan and the rest of Asia create an ideal environment for business. In addition, ongoing public-private initiatives are driving urban renewal, fueling significant growth and development.

Easy access to the airport

Access from the airport to the city center

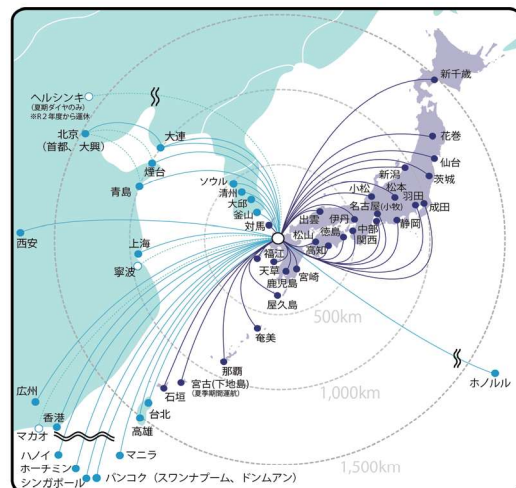
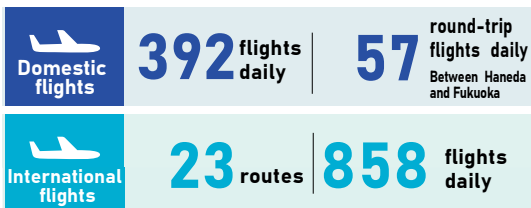


Source: "Global Power City Index YEARBOOK 2024: Ranking of World Cities' Comprehensive Power" (Institute for Urban Strategies The Mori Memorial Foundation)



Excellent connectivity

Flight Networks



Bullet train network

175* trains to Tokyo/Osaka daily

103* trains to Kagoshima daily

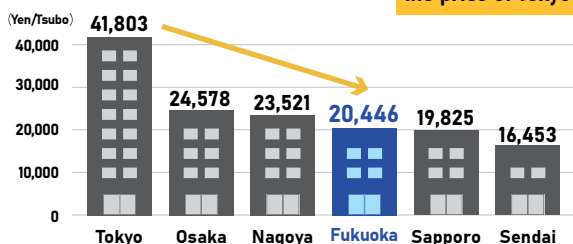
*Figures updated to reflect the spring 2025 timetable revision

Average office costs

Average office rent

Per tsubo (3.3 m²)

Around half the price of Tokyo



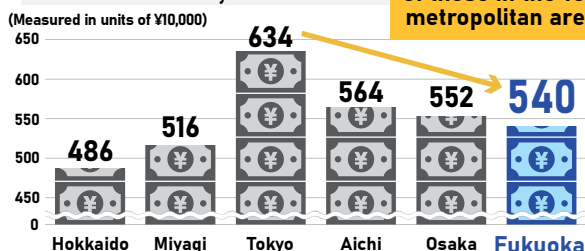
Source: Sankō Estate, February 2025, Office Market Report: Large-scale buildings (661 m² or more) in major station-front districts of six major cities.

Average wage

Average annual income

For a worker in the information and communications industry

IT talent acquisition costs 85%^{*1} of those in the Tokyo metropolitan area^{*2}



*1 Annual salary + bonuses combined. Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, 2024, Basic Wage Structure Survey
*2 Tokyo metropolitan area=Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama, and Chiba prefectures.

Column

Urban Development Initiatives in Fukuoka City

Fukuoka's growing city center

Two major projects—Tenjin Big Bang and Hakata Connected—are creating a globally competitive business environment, driving Fukuoka's transformation into Asia's business hub.



Startup support

In 2012, Fukuoka declared itself a Startup City, pioneering a wide range of support programs nationwide.

The Fukuoka Growth Next facility (FGN) in the Daimyō area is jointly operated by Fukuoka City and several private companies.

No.1
business opening
rate among 21 cities



Kyushu University Academic City

With the relocation of Kyushu University to Ito Campus in 2018, an academic research project integrating education, research, and industry has emerged. The new concentration of R&D functions in this "research city" is expected to spark new business creation through industry-academia collaboration.



Team Fukuoka

Established in 2020, this team of industry-academia-government organizations promotes attracting international financial functions. Its goal: to build an international financial city that continuously generates innovation by attracting domestic and global asset management and fintech companies.

In less than 5 years, it has already attracted 35 domestic and international companies.

Global startup network

Fukuoka is building a global startup network to help local startups expand overseas and enable top international startups to thrive in Fukuoka. Currently, our partnerships span 17 hubs across 12 countries and regions.



Engineer Café

The Engineer Café is a community hub for IT engineers, aspiring IT engineers, and anyone involved in IT-related engineering. The facility offers free coworking spaces and hosts events to encourage collaboration and innovation.

2

HUMAN RESOURCES A Rich Pool of Highly-Skilled, Talented Workers

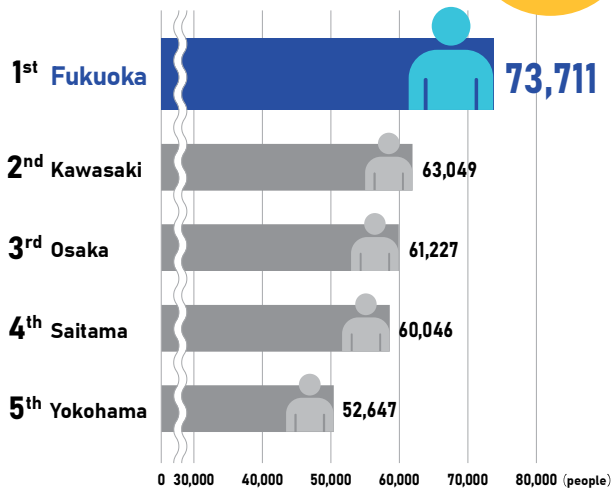
Fukuoka City continues to see steady population growth, ranking No. 1 among government-ordinance-designated cities in both the number and rate of population increase. In particular, young and talented human resources, the future drivers of business innovation, are flocking to Fukuoka from around the Kyushu region.



Population growth

Cities with the largest population increase from October 2015 to October 2020

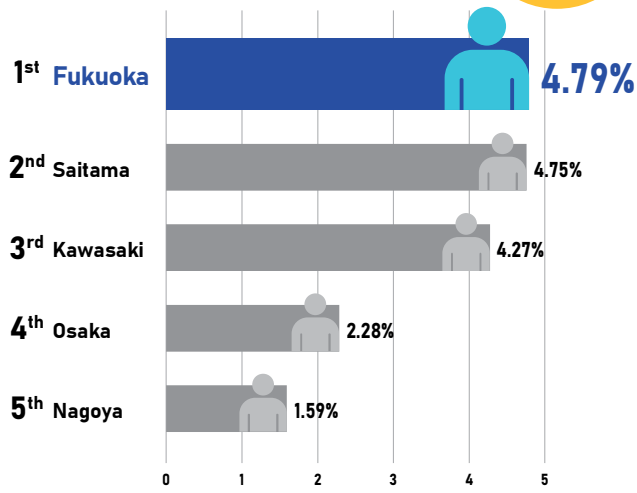
No. 1
among metropolises



Source: Statistics Bureau of Japan, October 1, 2020, National Census

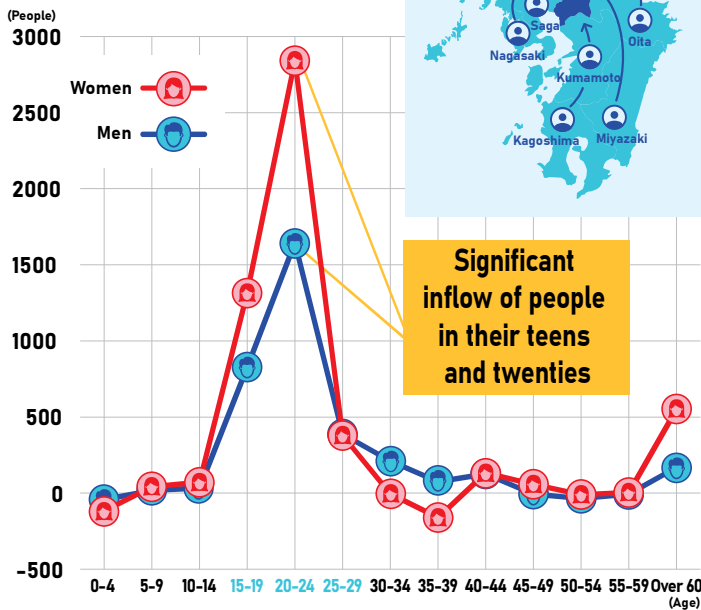
Cities with the highest population increase from October 2015 to October 2020

No. 1
among metropolises



Source: Statistics Bureau of Japan, October 1, 2020, National Census

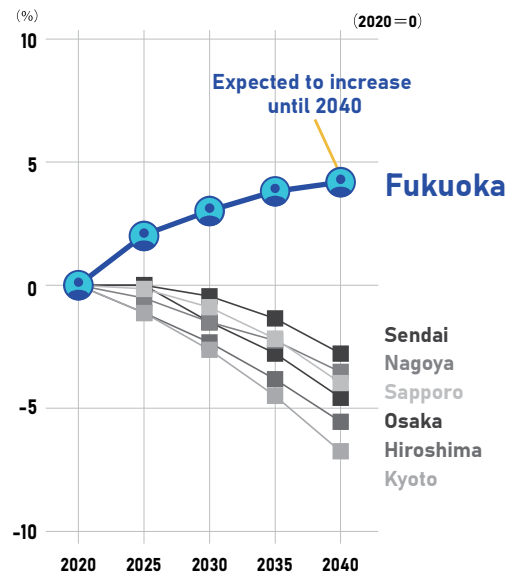
Net migration into Fukuoka City



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, 2024, Report on Population Movement Based on Basic Resident Register

Future population projections of major cities*

*Excluding Tokyo Metropolitan area



Source: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, 2023, Regional Future Population Projections for Japan (Fukuoka City estimates by Fukuoka City)



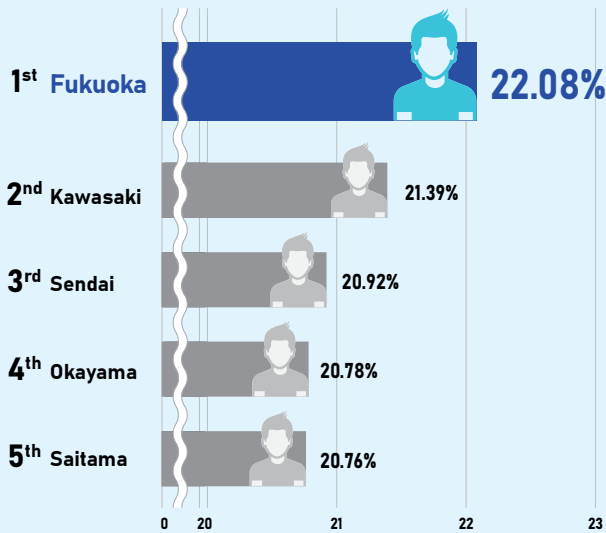
Young talent

Proportion of young people in their teens and twenties

Increase in population aged 0-14 also ranks No.1 among government-ordinance-designated cities

*National Census [2010→2020]

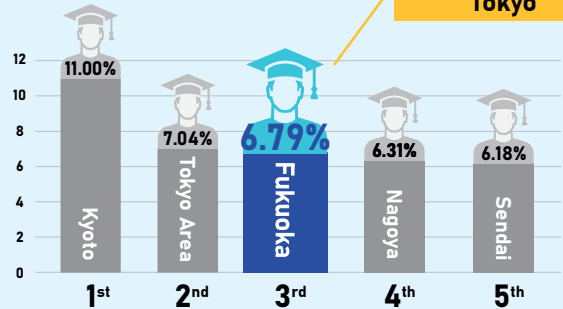
No.1
among metropolises



Source: Statistics Bureau of Japan. 2020. *National Census* (Basic Population Aggregation compiled by Fukuoka City) Population and proportion of ages 10-29 exclude unknown ages.

Proportion of students

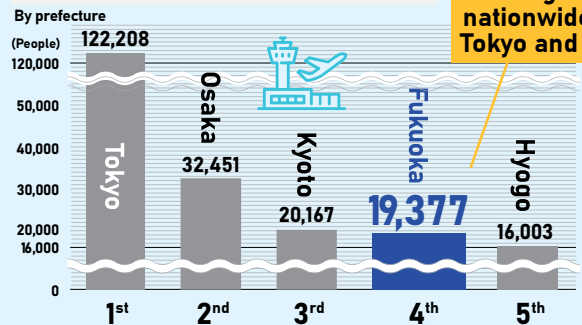
Ranked 3rd nationwide after Tokyo



Source: "Statistical Yearbook for Major Cities / 2021" and "2020 National Census"

Number of international students

Among the top nationwide after Tokyo and Osaka



Source: Japan Student Services Organization. 2024. *Survey on Enrollment Status of International Students for FY2024*

Number of schools and students

(By city)

Over 7,000 STEM graduates annually

	Number of universities				Number of students			
	Universities	Junior colleges	Vocational schools	Total	Universities	Junior Colleges	Vocational Schools	Total
Fukuoka	14	9	86	109	73,541	3,328	31,492	108,361
Sapporo	16	5	78	99	51,464	1,228	16,885	69,577
Sendai	11	4	58	73	49,701	2,225	15,745	67,671
Saitama	3	1	32	36	15,699	284	8,313	24,296
Chiba	8	3	33	44	27,487	1,151	8,952	37,590
Tokyo (23 Wards)	102	25	324	451	577,549	5,496	109,148	692,193
Yokohama	16	2	59	77	88,223	655	19,358	108,236
Kawasaki	7	3	7	17	25,921	522	1,134	27,577
Nagoya	19	6	115	140	106,217	1,636	39,891	147,744
Kyoto	29	7	50	86	152,409	2,013	11,849	166,271
Osaka	15	8	159	182	36,279	2,435	55,392	94,106
Kobe	17	4	43	64	63,722	725	11,105	75,552
Hiroshima	12	3	41	56	31,606	873	8,266	40,745
Kitakyushu	9	4	31	44	21,409	1,014	5,889	28,312
Kumamoto	7	1	35	43	24,875	394	6,779	32,048

Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. 2024. *FY2024 Basic School Survey*

RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENT

3

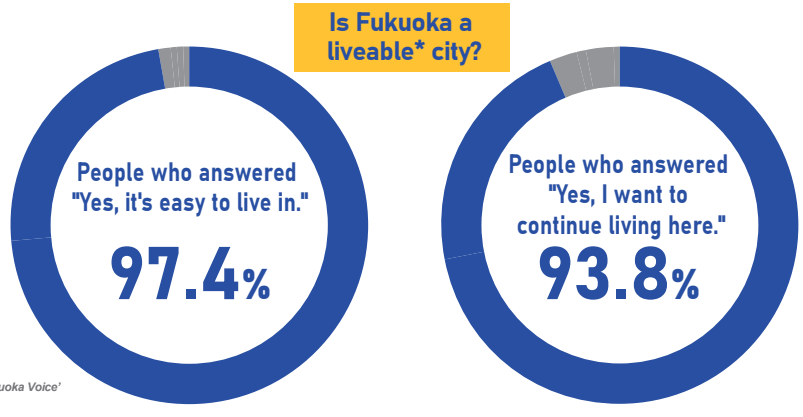
A Living Environment that Balances a Fulfilling Work and Private Life

Ranked No.1 in the "Most Liveable City" ranking. Fukuoka City is known for its top-level living environment nationwide. Short commuting times and affordable prices create a friendly environment for working families and those raising children.



Liveability

Resident survey about Fukuoka

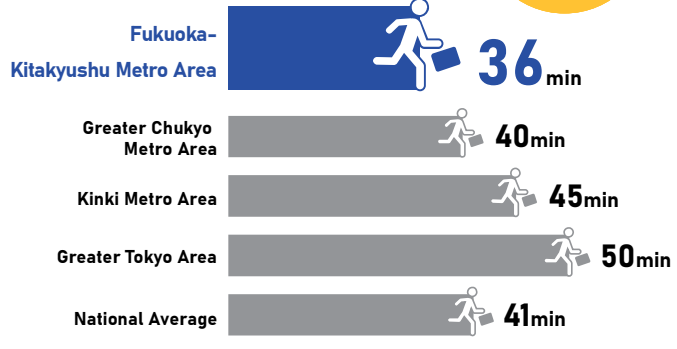


Source: Fukuoka City, 2024, FY2024 Awareness Survey on City Administration 'Fukuoka Voice'
 *"Liveable" includes both "Liveable" and "Somewhat liveable" responses.

Commuting time to work and school

One-way weekday journey time
 About **60%** of commuters take less than **30 minutes**

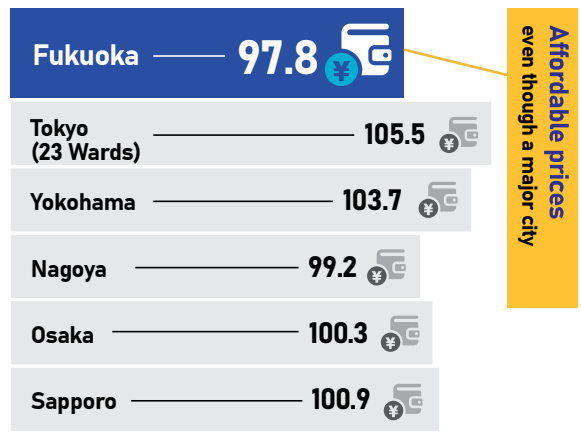
No.1
 among top 7 major areas



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, 2021, FY2021 Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities (Questionnaire A: Average time* by activity type.)
 *Average time excludes those who did not commute or attend school.

Consumer Price Index

(Comparison of 21 top major cities) (Relative to a national average of 100)



Source: Fukuoka Growth 2024

Most desirable cities to live in

No.1
 nationwide 5 years in a row

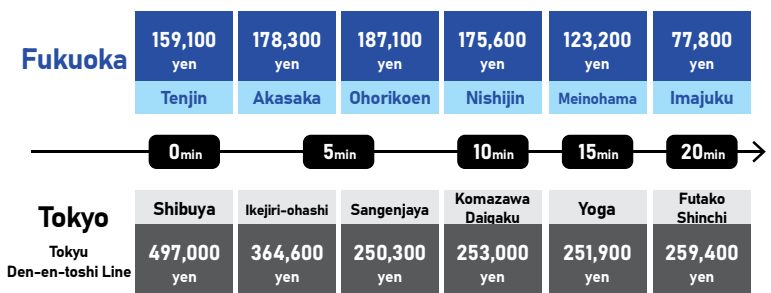
Rank	2022	2023	2024
1	Fukuoka	Fukuoka	Fukuoka
2	Naha	Naha	Naha
3	Yokohama	Yokohama	Yokohama
4	Sendai	Sendai	Sendai
5	Sapporo	Osaka	Sapporo

Source: Daijō Trust Construction, YEAR, Most Livable City Ranking – Municipality Ranking: National Edition

Housing rent

*2LDK to 3DK (50-60 m²), within a 10-minute walk from the station

Rent is less than half of Tokyo's



Source: Real estate and housing information site "LIFULL HOME'S"

4

BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN

An Ideal Location for Both Headquarters and Backup

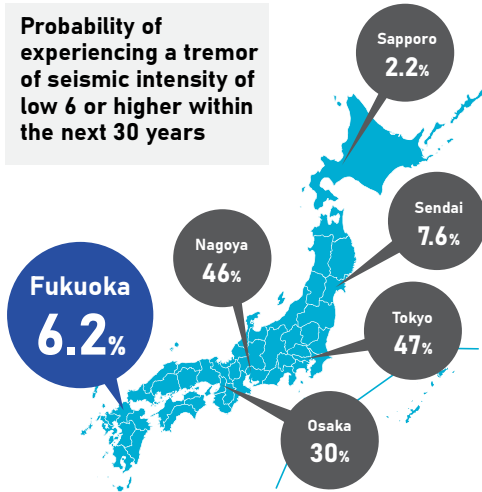
An important point for companies establishing regional bases is BCP (Business Continuity Planning). Fukuoka City is located at a safe distance from Tokyo and Osaka and is the only city among the five major metropolitan areas situated facing the Sea of Japan, known to have lower seismic intensity compared to Japan's Pacific coast, which makes simultaneous disasters from earthquakes or tsunamis at the same time as the capital of Tokyo much less likely.



Earthquake risk



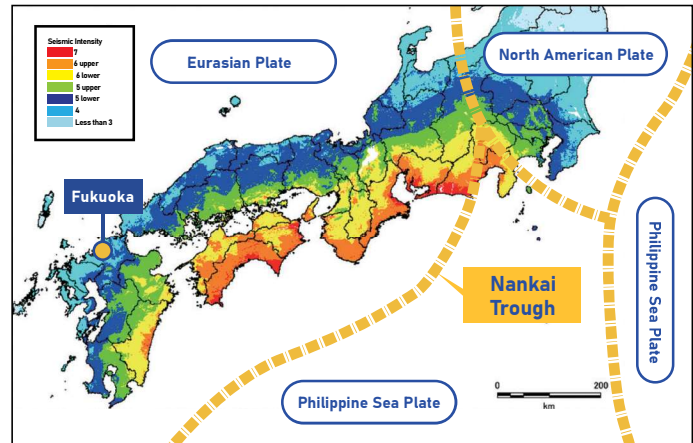
Probability of experiencing a tremor of seismic intensity of low 6 or higher within the next 30 years



Probability values taken from locations of prefectural government offices (Tokyo: Tokyo Metropolitan Government) and Hokkaido regional offices.

Source: National Seismic Hazard Maps 2020 Edition

Nankai Trough megaquake seismic intensity analysis



Source: 'Report Materials of the Nankai Trough Megaquake Countermeasure Working Group' (Central Disaster Management Council - Disaster Countermeasure Promotion Committee - Nankai Trough Megaquake Countermeasure Working Group)

Typhoon risk



Number of typhoons approaching Fukuoka City

Typhoon where the eye of the storm passed within a 300 km radius of Fukuoka District Meteorological Observatory

Year	Number
2017	3
2018	5
2019	3
2020	2
2021	3
2022	3

Fewer typhoons approach Fukuoka than expected.

Source: Fukuoka District Meteorological Observatory, Disaster Prevention and Crisis Management Division, Citizens Bureau

Number of typhoons making landfall by prefecture

From 1951 to Typhoon No.26 in 2024

Rank	Prefecture	Number
1	Kagoshima	44
2	Kochi	26
3	Wakayama	25
4	Shizuoka	22
5	Nagasaki	18
6	Miyazaki	14
7	Aichi	12
8	Chiba	9
9	Kumamoto	8
10	Tokushima	7

Only one landfall in Fukuoka Prefecture, and this was outside of Fukuoka City

Source: 'Typhoon Statistics' (Japan Meteorological Agency)

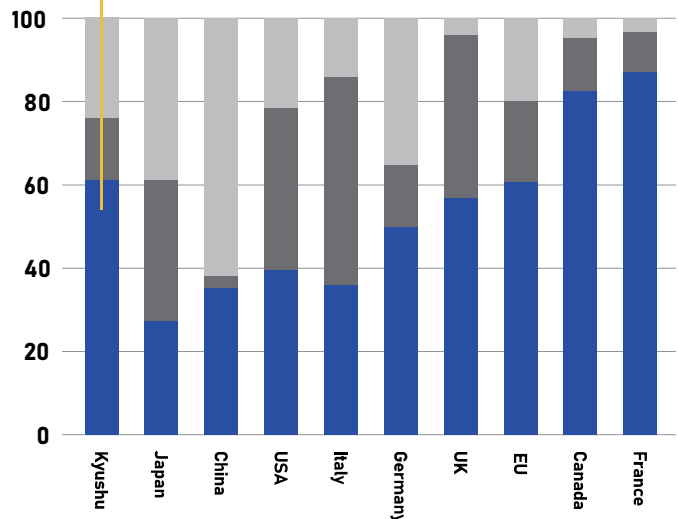
Proportion of clean energy use



Non-fossil fuel energy

61%

■ Non-fossil fuels (renewable sources, hydroelectric, nuclear)
■ Natural gas
■ Other (coal, petroleum, etc.)



Source: Agency for Natural Resources and Energy 'International Comparison of Renewable Energy (Power Generation Ratio)' partially modified *Kyushu data from Kyushu Electric Power website

Greater Fukuoka City Map



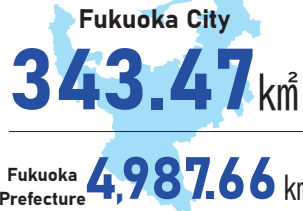
(最新版) © 2025 ZENRIN CO., LTD. Z25BB第4320号 国土院院政の50万分之一地方図、2万5千分地形図及び電子地形図を5000メートルに縮小して作成

Basic Information about Fukuoka City

City emblem

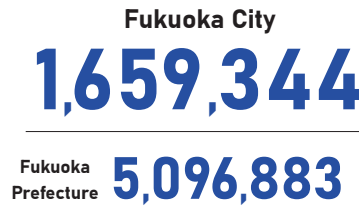


Area

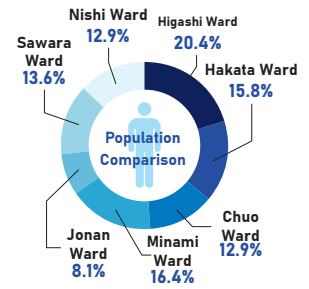


Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, 2024.
FY2024 Survey of Area by Prefecture, City, Ward, Town and Village

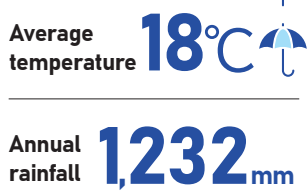
Population



As of January 1, 2025
(Fukuoka City General Affairs and Planning Bureau, Statistical Survey Division)

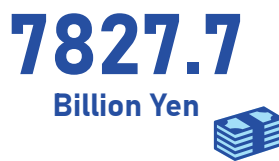


Climate



Source: Fukuoka City, 2023. Fukuoka City Statistical Yearbook, FY2023 Edition

Gross City Product



Source: Fukuoka City, 2021. FY2021 Data

Industry breakdown

(Gross city product by economic activity)



Source: Fukuoka City, 2021. FY2021 Data

Sister and partner cities

Sister / Friendship cities

Oakland, USA	Ipoh, Malaysia
Guangzhou, China	Busan Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea
Bordeaux, France	Atlanta, USA
Auckland, New Zealand	Yangon, Myanmar

Sister ports

Port of Auckland, New Zealand

Trade cooperation ports

Port of Oakland, USA
Port of Antwerp-Bruges, Belgium

Friendship ports

Port of Shanghai, China
Port of Guangzhou, China

Mutual exchange ports

Port of Dalian, China
Port of Tianjin, China

Key industries and functions Fukuoka City aims to attract

Knowledge-creating industries

Research and development in ICT, software related to automobiles and robotics/digital content and design/nanotechnology-based R&D/semiconductor-related R&D, such as system LSI design/machinery design, etc.

Health, medical, and welfare industries

R&D of medical devices, welfare devices, pharmaceuticals, health-function foods, etc.

Environment and energy industries

R&D of energy technologies such as solar batteries and hydrogen energy/recycling technologies/R&D related to purification of soil and water/biotechnology-based R&D, etc.

Logistics industries

Freight transportation, warehousing, etc.

Urban manufacturing

Manufacturing or processing of products needed in urban areas, such as food manufacturing and printing-related industries.

Foreign and foreign-affiliated companies^{*1}

For first-time entry into Japan: Businesses operating in Japan for the first time

For secondary entry: Businesses involved in the above five priority sectors or financial businesses^{*2}, offering R&D or services

Head office functions

Divisions that manage operations of multiple offices or company-wide operations
Research institutes, training centers

Call centers, etc.

Centralized customer support, such as inquiries, guidance, and order-taking using telephone, internet, PBX, CTI systems, etc. Centralized information processing, such as data management and administrative processing

*1 Eligible companies include foreign companies (those established under foreign law, or with their main offices abroad) and foreign-affiliated companies (domestic companies in which over 50% of shares or investment is held by foreign companies or individuals).

*2 Eligible businesses include banks, insurance companies, auditing firms, securities companies, etc., licensed under relevant laws.

Business Attraction Section
Investment Promotion Department
Economy, Tourism and Culture Bureau

Phone Number: 092-711-4849

Fax Number: 092-711-4354

Email: invest@city.fukuoka.lg.jp

Address: 1-8-1 Tenjin, Chuo Ward, Fukuoka City, 810-8620

Fukuoka City Tokyo Office <For Businesses in the Kanto Region>

Phone Number: 03-3261-9712

Fax Number: 03-5267-7895

E-mail: tokyooffice.GAPB@city.fukuoka.lg.jp

Address: 12F Nippon Toshi Center Kaikan, 2-4-1

Hirakawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 102-0093

