

Ease of living in Shiga

Nature Environment



With Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan in the center of the prefecture, it is surrounded by the Ibuki Mountains joining with the Suzuka Mountains to the east, the Hira Mountains to the west and the Konan Alps in the south. Many rivers flow into Lake Biwa from these mountains, with fertile plains spreading across below.

Lake Biwa was designated as a national resource in September 2015 when the 'law related to the protection and renewal of Lake Biwa' was enacted.

Shiga Prefecture is proactively working toward the comprehensive conservation of the environment starting with Lake Biwa, in order to protect this nature and pass it on to the coming generations.

History Culture

As Shiga Prefecture is close to Kyoto and has Lake Biwa, it was known since long ago as the land of Omi (which means 'nearby lake').

Shiga Prefecture has been the scene for a great deal of history, from the age when Otsu was the capital under Emperor Tenchi, to the Warring States Period when it was a stage where famous generals such as Oda Nobunaga who built Azuchi Castle through to Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Akechi Mitsuhide and Azai Nagamasa left their mark. There are many historical traces that tell the story of each period within the prefecture, including buildings of immense cultural value such as the world heritage site of Enryaku-ji Temple in Mount Hiei and the national treasure of Hikone Castle, filling the area of Omi with cultural and historical romance. It is ranked 4th in the nation for the number of designated national treasures and important cultural properties (fine arts and crafts).



Food

Shiga Prefecture has many delicious foods and spirits thanks to being blessed by Lake Biwa.

The most representative ingredients include world famous Omi Beef, along with Omi rice and Omi tea that is highly regarded nationally. There is also much loved regional

cuisine such as the richly flavored Funazushi that uses the Nigoro-buna fish that is a species endemic to Lake Biwa.

Japanese Sake is frequently brewed thanks to the quality water that flows from the mountains on all sides as well as the earth that is well suited for making rice, meaning many varieties of local sake can be enjoyed.



Shiga Prefecture key data

Average Age

1st	Okinawa	42.1
2nd	Aichi	44.3
3rd	Shiga	44.5

National Average 47.3
(2015 National Census/Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

The ratio of secondary sector of industry that makes up the prefecture's gross production

1st	Shiga	41.0%
2nd	Mie	40.4%
3rd	Shizuoka	39.5%

National Average 24.1%
(2013 Shiga Prefecture Economic Census/Shiga Prefecture Statistics Division)

Percentage of young people under the age of 15

1st	Okinawa	17.5%
2nd	Shiga	14.6%
3rd	Saga	14.2%

National Average 12.8%
(2014 Population Estimate/Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

Rate of increase in independent housing

1st	Shiga	9.9%
2nd	Hyogo	9.6%
3rd	Saitama	8.2%

National Average 4.2%
(2013 Housing and Land Survey/Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

Rate of increase in households with smartphones

1st	Shiga	66.2%
2nd	Tokyo	65.7%
3rd	Fukui	61.3%

(2014 National Survey of Family Income and Expenditure/Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

Number of books borrowed from public libraries

1st	Tokyo	8.41
2nd	Shiga	8.27
3rd	Okayama	6.36

National Average 5.37
(Libraries of Japan Statistics and Registration 2015/Japanese Library Association)

Overview of Made In Shiga Corporate Location Grant Delivery Criteria

Policy for cases of large-scale invitation/large-scale investment			Standard Policy		
Policy Overview	Policy Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering the location of a head office, mother factory or research and development facility in a growth industry → Fostering of new large-scale invitations or major investments in growth industries that will be the core of Shiga prefecture's economy in terms of employment and taxation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering investment in growth industries within the prefecture Fostering the location of head offices, mother factories or research and development facilities in a growth industries for which locations can also be forecast for the future Fostering investment in facilities for innovative medium and small enterprises 	
	Types of Location	New Establishment	Expansion	New Establishment	Expansion
	Eligible Timeframe	2015 - 2018 (4 years)		2015 - 2018 (4 years)	
	Eligible Regions	All regions within the prefecture		All regions within the prefecture	
	Eligible Fields	Environment, medicine, next-generation automobiles, aerospace, industrial robots, advanced electronic parts or advanced materials. Head office, mother factory or center for research and development capabilities.		Must fulfill criteria A and criteria B [Criteria A: The business content corresponds with either (1) or (2)] (1) Environment, medicine, next-generation automobiles, aerospace, industrial robots, advanced electronic parts, advanced materials (2) Corresponds with the designated integrated industries according to the basic plan of the business location promotion act (Restricted to the manufacturing industry. However, will be restricted to manufacturing, logistics and warehousing industries in the special regions of (5).) [Criteria B: corresponds to either (3) or (4) or (5)] (3) In cases where the head office is relocated from another prefecture, or in cases that have mother factories or research and development capabilities (4) In cases where a factory from overseas or another prefecture is consolidated within the prefecture (5) In cases where the location is in a priority region or a special region * Priority region...A town or city that is below 0.67 on the most recent financial capability index * Special region...A region where the New Shinkansen Line Vacancy Succession Plan is in effect	
Grant Requirements	Investment Scale Requirements (excludes land acquisition costs)	5 billion yen or over	3 billion yen or over	Large Companies: 1 billion yen or over Medium and Small Companies: 200 million yen or over 50 million yen or over for the special regions of *(5)	Large Companies: 500 million yen or over Medium and Small Companies: 100 million yen or over 50 million yen or over for the special regions of *(5)
	Employment Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of increase in local permanent employees: 20 or more (of which 5 or more must be new graduates) Achieving the ratio according to employment obligations (disabled persons employment ratio of 2% or over) based on the disabled persons employment ratio scheme. (Applicable if there are 50 or more employees) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of increase in local permanent employees Large Companies: 10 or more Medium and Small Companies: 2 or more (Included number of new graduates Large Companies: 3 or more Medium and Small Companies: 1 or more) 	
	Ease of Work Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be registered as a "Shiga Prefecture Promotion of Work-Life Balance Company" by the governor. Must be certified as a "Shiga Prefecture Promotion of Active Women Company" by the governor. 		Same as to the left	
	Other Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be registered as a company who makes use of the Shiga Prefecture Business Information Homepage "WORK Shiga" Must have assigned an internal fair recruitment selection/human rights promotion officer Must put into action procedures based on the business action plan policy of the "Shiga Prefecture Criteria for the Promotion of Creating a Low Carbon Society" Signing of the location contract with Shiga Prefecture The same type of grant funding from a national or independent administrative agency will be excluded from the corresponding grant expenses for investment plans that are eligible for subsidies. The continuation of operations for 10 years or over after operations began (Violations could result in the full or partial return of subsidies.) 		Same as to the left	
		—	For those establishing a new building with an architectural area of 500 m ² or over	—	For those establishing a new building with an architectural area of 500 m ² or over (Restricted to a head office, production facility, or research facility)
Subsidy Content	Subsidy Ratio	Within 5% of the fixed asset investment figure		Within 5% of the fixed asset investment figure (Within 10% for cases that correspond to (5))	
	Grant Limit	1 billion yen		100 million yen (150 million yen for cases that correspond to (5))	
	Offer Method	Payment in installments at a maximum of 100 million yen per year		Payment in installments at a maximum of 40 million yen per year	

It is necessary to consult with the contact person from the speculation stages of location planning in order to be eligible for grant funding. Please contact us for details.

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