



Leveraging regional resources and talent

Promoting the service of industries and people in supporting communities

Okinawa Prefecture promotes the development of manufacturing, consumer commodification, and other secondary industries as part of its strategy to have such sectors play a pivotal role in Okinawa's economy. It is also the aim of the prefecture to expand accessible working-style choices and create comfortable working environments so that people possessing a diverse array of skills and capabilities may play an active role and reach their potential. Okinawa Prefecture seeks to construct a positive cycle of growth and distribution for companies operating in the prefecture and extend these benefits to improved income for workers.

Promoting diversity in manufacturing



Okinawa Flower and Food Festival promotes greater consumption and production of prefectural agricultural, forestry and fishery products



Okinawa Industrial Festival is the largest comprehensive trade fair of its kind in the prefecture



Shimazake Festa is a chance to enjoy spirits and awamori distilled in Okinawa

Promoting effective use of land formerly used by U.S. Forces Japan



Naha Shintoshin is clustered with parks, museums, shopping centers, and other amenities (Photo courtesy of Okinawa Times)



Site of the former Awase golf course in Kitanakagusuku village is now home to a large shopping mall, general hospital, and other complexes



Chatan Town Office is located in the municipality's Kuwae district

Implementing employment measures and job search assistance



Job-hunting seminars assist participants in acquiring work knowledge and skills





Comfortable islands to live on



Irapu-Ohashi Bridge connects Miyako and Irapu islands

Striving to enhance outlying islands attractiveness

Promoting industries leveraging island resources and charm

Okinawa Prefecture is promoting industries that help overcome disadvantages in transportation, logistics, digital infrastructure, human resources and other areas that outlying islands face and unlock their potential. Okinawa Prefecture aims to create sustainable industries, employment, and a positive economic cycle through tourism programs tapping into the rich natural environment, agriculture, forestry and fisheries industry promotions making use of the unique environments of these islands, local delicacies prepared with local ingredients, and other initiatives that invest in the distinctive characteristics of these islands.



Miyako Shimojishima Airport



Ferry service to Kudaka Island



Kitadaito Fishing Port



Okinawa Prefectural Yaeyama Hospital Courtesy of Okinawa Times

Making the most of outlying islands' distinctive features



Programs promoting island tourism and exchange allow participants to meet island residents and experience the appeal of these islands



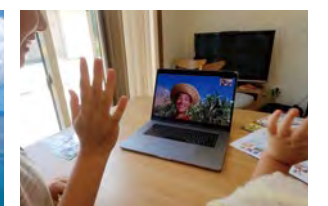
High-quality original products from Okinawa's outlying islands



Okinawa Ritou Fair is an event highlighting special products of outlying islands



Online programs provide a chance to encounter the charm of these outlying islands from home





Worldwide Uchinanchu Festivals have been held to gather the Uchinanchu diaspora back in their home Prefecture of Okinawa



Promoting international exchange and communicating messages of peace

Aiming to establish Okinawa as a hub for stability and peace in the Asia-Pacific region

Okinawa Prefecture seeks to form global exchange networks that take advantage of Okinawa's geographical location in the middle of East Asia, using it strategically to bind these connections together. Okinawa Prefecture also strives to expand and develop the Worldwide Uchinanchu Network, which has been built up over many years, and make sure that future generations carry on this effort. The prefecture communicates to people in Japan and throughout the world its wishes for peace that evolved out of the appalling history of the land battle fought here so as to contribute to building peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

Carrying on and developing the Uchinanchu network



The children of Okinawan heritage emigrants and Okinawan students of the same age holding a study program together to learn about the history, culture, and other aspects of Okinawa

Appealing for peace from Okinawa



The Cornerstone of Peace monument is inscribed with the names of all those who lost their lives during the Battle of Okinawa and other fighting at that time



Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum



Okinawa Memorial Service for All War Dead



Okinawa Peace Hall



Workshop where students study Battle of Okinawa records and remembrances so they will be able to tell the story to future generations



The Okinawa Peace Prize is awarded to individuals or groups that have contributed to building and maintaining peace in the Asia-Pacific region





Encouraging learning



Okinawa Prefectural Library also has a full selection of materials on the Ryukyus and Okinawa



Field work guided by the Himeyuri Peace Museum to study battle sites



Exchange program for elementary school students living on the Okinawa main island takes them to visit outlying islands



Striving to promote education

Raising spiritually-rich youth to feel attachment and pride in Okinawa —

Okinawa Prefecture endeavors to improve the education environment to develop in children solid academic skills, rich spirit, healthy body and other strengths that will enable each and every individual to carve out a rich and fulfilling life. Okinawa Prefecture also strives to create more opportunities for residents to meet people of many different backgrounds as well as learn about the culture, nature and other aspects of their communities and Okinawa.

Creating an environment for lifelong learning



Mobile libraries travel around outlying islands to promote reading



Computer programming class for elementary school students



ICT is used to provide distance learning on outlying islands



Workshops on a variety of topics are held for prefectural residents





Educating the future of Okinawa

Developing people in a way that draws out and develops the individual's capabilities

Okinawa Prefecture promotes education that equips young people to be members of the international community and maintain a global outlook. The prefecture has furthered education that promotes international understanding to develop people with a broad vision and global mindset. Okinawa Prefecture also emphasizes professional education supporting the community and assisting people in acquiring cutting-edge knowledge and skills, training people for jobs in industry, and developing career skills.

Promoting programs fostering an international outlook



International exchange in Okinawa with high school students from Hawaii



Okinawan high school students are sent to universities in the United States where they experience university life



Okinawan high school students are sent to China where they gain a broad perspective through cross-cultural experiences



Class taught by an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT)



Elementary school students gaining librarian experience (JICA Okinawa Center)

Human resource development supporting industry



Interpreter guides provide foreign-language services for visitors from other countries and show them around the prefecture



Okinawa Prefectural Agriculture College educates agricultural producers with good business sense



Polytechnic School trains skilled laborers



Physicians and pharmacists support community health care



Area and location

Total area: **2,281.00 km²** (January 1, 2020)

Okinawa Prefecture is located at the southwestern tip of Japan. It lies along the Ryukyu arc, a curved volcanic island system extending from Kyushu to Taiwan. The prefecture comprises a total area of 2,281 km². It has four large islands, the Okinawa main island as well as Miyako, Ishigaki and Iriomote islands in addition to many other small islands including Iheya, Izena, Kume, Minamidaito, Irapu, Hateruma, Yonaguni, and Kerama islands. Okinawa Prefecture has a subtropical climate with an annual average temperature of approximately 24°C.

Source: Geospatial Information Authority of Japan

Change in population, labor force, and other key statistics

Classification	Unit	1972	1982	1992	2002	2007	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Target year of 2021
Total population	Thousand	960	1,130	1,239	1,336	1,368	1,403	1,412	1,419	1,426	1,434	1,440	1,444	1,448	1,454	1,440
Workforce	Thousand	373	469	562	625	647	666	674	682	682	700	710	718	732	746	719
Employed	Thousand	359	446	539	573	597	619	627	642	645	664	679	691	707	726	690
Unemployment rate	%	3.7	4.9	4.3	8.3	7.7	7.1	6.8	5.7	5.4	5.1	4.4	3.8	3.4	2.7	4.0
Gross prefectural production (nominal)	¥100 million	4,592	17,340	31,227	36,679	36,958	36,926	37,073	38,365	39,125	41,747	43,452	44,141	46,135	46,135	51,439

Sources: Population statistics from the National Census published by the Japan Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and Estimated Population published by the Statistics Division, Okinawa Prefecture (current as of October 1 each year)
 Workforce, employed and unemployment rate statistics from the Labor Force Survey published by the Statistics Division, Okinawa Prefecture (calendar year figures)
 Gross prefectural production statistics from the Prefectural Accounts published by the Statistics Division, Okinawa Prefecture with figures for 2018 and 2019 from the FY2018 Economic Outlook published by the Planning and Coordination Division, Okinawa Prefecture (annual figures)

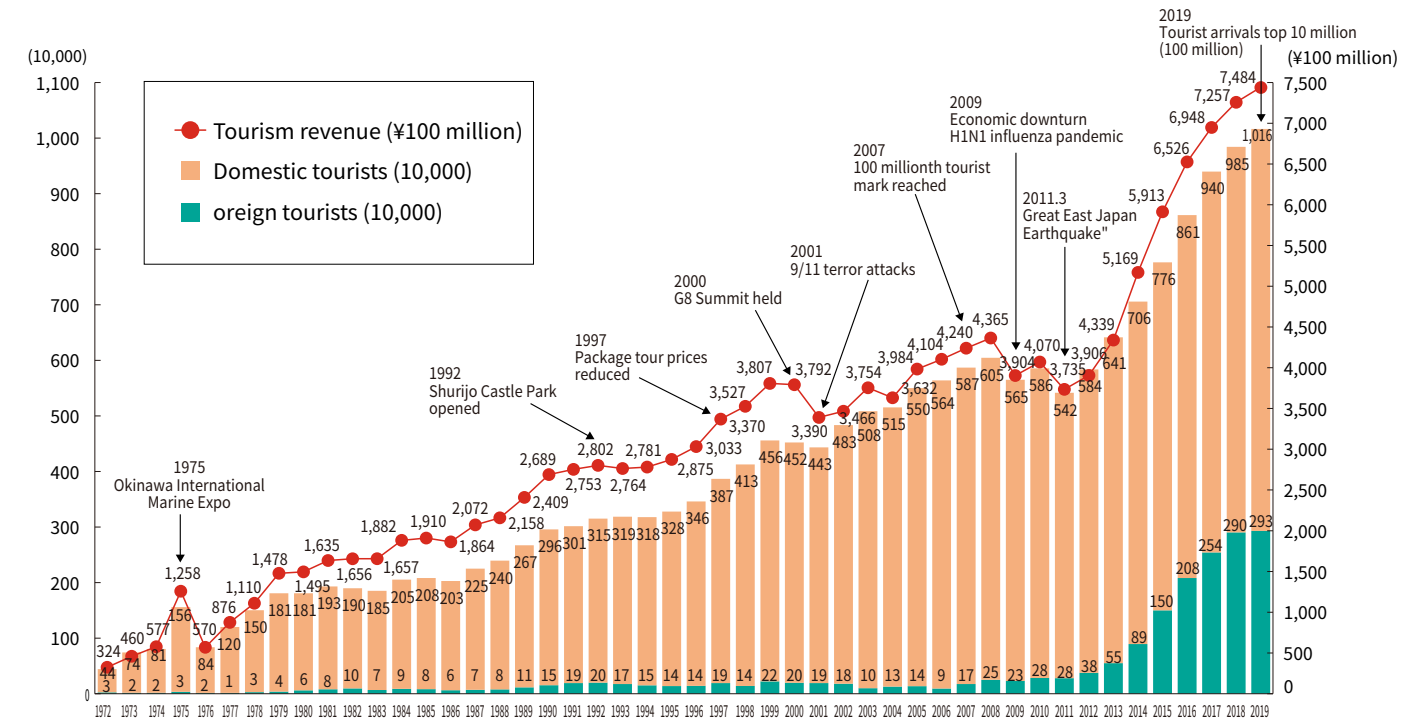
(Notes) 1. All figures for target year 2021 are the forecasted figures given in Okinawa's 21st Century Vision.
 2. Because the Prefectural Accounts are retroactively revised with the annual release of official statistics, figures for fiscal years marked with an (*) are discontinuous with the preceding fiscal years.

Key economic indices

nominal	Unit	1972	1982	1992	2002	2007	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total prefectural income (nominal)	¥100 million	5,013	18,226	31,929	37,869	38,717	38,978	38,954	40,420	41,426	44,032	45,975	46,742
Dependence on bases	%	15.5	7.4	4.9	5.4	5.5	5.1	5.6	5.2	5.9	5.2	5.2	6.0
Fiscal dependence (prefectural)	%	23.5	34.8	37.4	40.3	37.7	39.4	40.1	39.5	40.6	38.5	37.7	37.9
Fiscal dependence (national)	%	17.9	18.6	21	24.1	22.2	24.4	24.6	24.5	24.4	24.0	24.0	23.8
Trade balance (prefectural)	%	△28.3	△22.7	△8.8	△20.1	△18.1	△14.2	△15.0	△16.0	△15.8	△16.6	△16.0	△17.2
Trade balance (national)	%	2	0.9	2.2	1.3	1.5	△0.9	△1.7	△1.7	△1.6	△0.1	1.0	0.9
Prefectural per capita income	¥1,000	440	1,364	2,038	2,052	2,023	1,981	1,971	2,054	2,059	2,192	2,315	2,349
National per capita income	¥1,000	740	1,848	2,967	2,855	3,068	2,805	2,820	2,938	2,983	3,070	3,091	3,164
Income gap	%	59.5	73.8	68.7	71.9	65.9	70.6	69.9	69.9	69.0	71.4	74.9	74.2

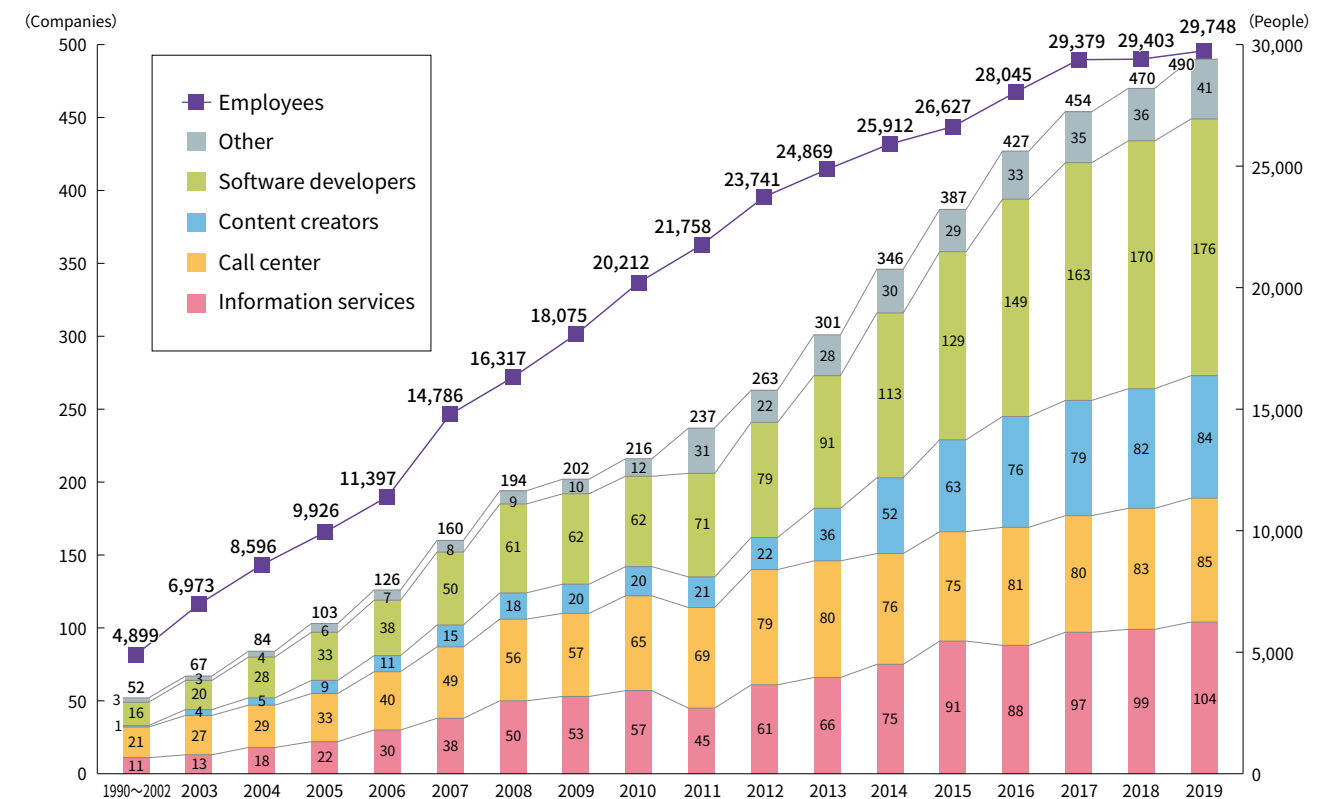
Source: Prefectural Accounts published by the Statistics Division, Okinawa Prefecture and National Accounts published by the Cabinet Office.
 (Notes) 1. Dependence on bases = Military-related receipts / total prefectural income (nominal) ×100
 2. Fiscal dependence = (Government final consumption expenditures + gross fixed capital formation by public sectors) / total prefectural income (total national income) (nominal) / 100
 3. Trade balance = Net exports / total prefectural income (total national income) (nominal) ×100
 4. Income gap = Prefectural per capita income / National per capita income ×100

Change in number of tourist arrivals and tourism revenue



* Source: Tourist arrivals are from the Inbound Tourism Statistics published by Okinawa Prefecture and tourism revenue from the Survey on Tourism Statistics published by Okinawa Prefecture.
 * Source: General Survey of Tourism published by the Tourism Policy Division, Okinawa Prefecture
 * Tourism revenue figures are for calendar years through 2005 and then fiscal years for 2006 and thereafter.
 * Foreign tourists include individuals disembarking under special provisions.

Change number of IT companies located in Okinawa and number of employees





Prefectural Flower: Deigo (Indian coral bean)

The Deigo tree, originally from India, is a deciduous broad-leaved tree of the pulse family. Between March and May, beautiful crimson flowers bloom in racemes along its sprays all the way to the very tips. The deep red flower is an appropriate symbol for these southern islands of Okinawa, serving a very important role in promoting tourism. Furthermore, the Deigo tree has great economic value as well as being a precious material for handicrafts as the trunk is used in making traditional Ryukyuan lacquerware. These were the main reasons why the Deigo was chosen as Okinawa's prefectural flower. (Designated in 1972)



Prefectural Tree: Ryukyu Matsu (Ryukyu Pine)

The fully-grown Ryukyu pine, indigenous to Okinawa, reaches heights of 15 meters. As it ages, the crown extends out laterally, forming gracefully-shaped branches. The Ryukyu pine is often planted along roadsides and used to create scenic beauty, bonsai, and windbreaks. It also provides substantial economic benefits, as it grows very easily. For these reasons, the Ryukyu pine was chosen as the prefectural tree. The Government of the Ryukyu Islands declared the Ryukyu pine as its prefectural tree on February 7th, 1966. (Designated in 1972)



Prefectural Bird: Noguchi-Gera (Okinawan Woodpecker)

This rare species is the only member of a single-species genus of woodpeckers found nowhere else in the world. Its habitat is exclusively in the northern part of the main Okinawa island and has been designated as a natural treasure of Japan. This species was discovered by a British man in 1886, and was first presented to the public two years later. In 1960, it was designated as a natural treasure by the Government of the Ryukyu Islands. As its numbers have declined, the Okinawan woodpecker is now critically endangered and will become extinct if not protected. For these reasons, it was selected as the prefectural bird. (Designated in 1972)



Prefectural Fish: Takasago (Banana Fish, locally known as Gurukun)

This beautiful colorful fish, which measures roughly 25 centimeters in length, is a familiar part of life in Okinawa. It is a tropical fish inhabiting warm waters from Okinawa to the Indian Ocean. Banana fish may be caught year-round and hauls have increased annually. It is an important species for Okinawa, constituting a large portion of catches in Okinawa's drive-net fishing industry. This popular fish is commonly served in family meals. For these reasons, it was designated as the prefectural fish. (Designated in 1972)



Prefectural Butterfly: Ogomadara (Tree Nymph)

The tree nymph is part of the family Nymphalidae and one of the biggest butterflies in Japan. It has white wings with black spots, fluttering its wings in a slow elegant manner. Its pupae are yellow-colored. The tree nymph is well known and widely distributed throughout Okinawa Prefecture. For these reasons, it was selected as the prefectural butterfly. (Designated in 2020)

Prefectural People's Song

Poem by Seiko Miyasato
 Edited by Selection Committee for Okinawa Prefectural People's Song
 Composed Shigeru Shiroma

- The day breaks over the clean ocean
 Clouds are cleared over the peaceful islands
 Dawn bell sounds throughout the world
 We now face the glorious morning
 Gone are the days of trials
 Oh! We solemnly swear
 We swear eternal peace on Okinawa
- The Black Current runs around the islands
 Green mountains and rivers glowing
 We, the fellow citizens are stirred up
 To build a new, independent and prosperous Okinawa
 Now, let us build eternal peace
 On our home islands
- The skies are filled with lights
 Stain the Deigo flowers with brilliant color
 The folk culture inherited for generations
 Now brilliantly shines over our home islands
 Let us create our own culture
 For future Okinawa

Prefectural symbol



The outer circle of this symbol represents the ocean. The white circle symbolizes a peace-loving Okinawa and the inner circle symbolizes a globally developing Okinawa. In short, the mark symbolizes "Ocean," "Peace" and "Development."

Outline of Okinawa Prefecture

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