

Yokote City

Overview of Yokote City

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Yokote: A city where you can feel
the beauty of the seasons and
the friendliness of the people

Opening up the future with the strength of everyone

Yokote: A city with sparkling people and communities



City Emblem

Our city emblem has been designed using the first Japanese hiragana character in the name of Yokote City (結), the first Japanese hiragana character in the name of Hiraka District (平) and the first letter in English from Yokote City (Y). The colors represent the harvest, rural areas and clear streams. This creates an image of a rural city that has abundant nature, heart and dreams with towns of refreshing and lively people.

In spring, the flowers bloom all at once with the thawing of the snow; in the hot summer, the abundant sunlight raises the crops; in autumn, the mountains quickly become seeped in a brocade of colors; and in winter, the heavy snow covers all. Yokote City in Akita Prefecture is an area full of color throughout the year with cherry blossom festivals in spring, passionate festivals in summer, harvests in autumn and serenity in winter.

This Yokote City is a city with many kind and gentle residents and strong relationships between people. This is maybe because Yokote City is where massive amounts of rice have been harvested since long ago. We are also blessed with a wonderful environment in which our children can learn and have fun with a carefree spirit.

This Yokote City has a life overflowing with the power of people that cannot be seen in numbers and data. Please make sure to visit our Yokote City at least once. We are sure Yokote City will also become your hometown too.

Population and Households
By Region (March 31, 2016) (Unit: People)

Region	Population	Male	Female	No. of Households
Yokote	36,429	17,190	19,239	14,743
Masuda	7,219	3,442	3,777	2,559
Hiraka	12,827	6,073	6,754	4,162
Omonogawa	9,509	4,512	4,997	3,152
Omori	6,352	2,967	3,385	2,277
Jumonji	13,008	6,179	6,829	4,662
Sannai	3,507	1,656	1,851	1,237
Taiyu	4,965	2,379	2,586	1,602
Total	93,816	44,398	49,418	34,394

Age Composition (March 31, 2016)

Category	Population	Component Ratio
Youth population (0 to 14)	9,919	10.57%
Working-age population (15 to 64)	51,156	54.53%
Old age population (65 and Over)	32,741	34.90%

Population Changes (October 2014 to September 2015)
 Natural changes: -889 people (519 births and 1,408 deaths)
 Social changes: -599 people (1,678 people moved in and 2,237 people moved out)
 No. of registered foreigners: 355 (December 31, 2015)
 Source: Basic Resident Register

Municipal Government Administration Based on the No. 2 Yokote City Comprehensive Plan (2016-2025)

The environment surrounding Yokote City is continuing to change greatly. This is due to changes in the structure of the population from a rapidly decreasing birthrate, aging population and depopulation. This is also due to progress in the decentralization of power and the diversification of the needs of our citizens. Furthermore, there is a need for government administration while the fiscal situation is becoming increasingly severe. Under such circumstances, we have formulated the No. 2 Yokote City Comprehensive Plan as our basic guideline for government administration. We are now working on building a sustainable city in response to the severe socio-economic environment. Together with this, we are striving to build an attractive city.

Key Goals of town planning



Basic Goals and Policies of Urban Planning

- 1 Build a city where everyone can live in good spirits**
We will create an environment where it is possible to raise children carefree and build a city where everyone can live healthily.
- 2 Build a city where everyone can enjoy learning and where everyone loves their hometown**
We will foster the power to live and rich hearts by enhancing learning opportunities and promoting sports.
- 3 Build a city where the beautiful nature and rich lifestyles are handed down to future generations**
We will build a city that protects the rich natural environment and lets people live with peace of mind.
- 4 Build a city of industry with vitality taking advantage of local resources**
We will aim to promote industry that brings in people and creates jobs by taking advantage of our attractive local resources.
- 5 Build a city where it is possible to live easily in comfort with peace of mind**
We will build a convenient and comfortable city by strengthening the urban infrastructure that supports people's lives.
- 6 Build a city where everyone can shine through the wisdom that everyone possesses**
We will build a city where our kind and always smiling residents play the leading role.
- 7 For plan implementation**
We will promote creative government administration to realize the feelings of our citizens while thinking about Yokote.

Treasure Trove of Food and Agriculture

Abundant harvests fostered by the fertile land

The abundant harvests of Yokote are produced by being nurtured in a climate with fertile soil and a large difference between the heat/cold. Yokote City is one the leading grain-producing regions in Akita Prefecture. However, in addition to rice, we boast many safe and delicious agricultural products here. These include apples, grapes, cherries, watermelons and shiitake mushrooms. Many people visit Yokote and crowd our streets here in search of the Yokote yakisoba (fried noodles) that won the Gold Grand Prix at the B-1 Grand Prix festival for local cuisine.

● Agriculture (February 1, 2010)
 Number of farming households: 8,920
 Work force: 10,747 (Sales farming households)
 Number of self-supporting farming households: 1,744
 Number of sales farming households: 7,176
 Principal occupation: 1,374 households
 With one other occupation: 1,382 households
 With two other occupations: 4,420 households
 Area of administered arable land: 16,201ha
 Rice fields: 14,684ha Fields: 617ha Tree orchards: 900ha
 Amount of agricultural production: 29.42 billion yen (FY2006 / Ranked 18th in Japan)
 Source: FY2010 Agriculture and Forestry Census



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- 5
- 1) Apple Plantation in Harvest Season
 - 2) Rice
 - 3) Osawa Grapes
 - 4) Jumonji Cherries
 - 5) Eggplant Sushi Rolls



Yokote Yakisoba (Fried Noodles)
 This is local cuisine that has been loved for many years in Yokote. This dish is made with boiled noodles made in Yokote with minced pork and cabbage serving as the ingredients. Yokote yakisoba is characterized by the fact it is cooked in sauce containing stock in each restaurant and then served with fried egg and vegetables pickled in soy sauce. There are about 50 Yokote Yakisoba Noren-kai affiliated restaurants in the city.

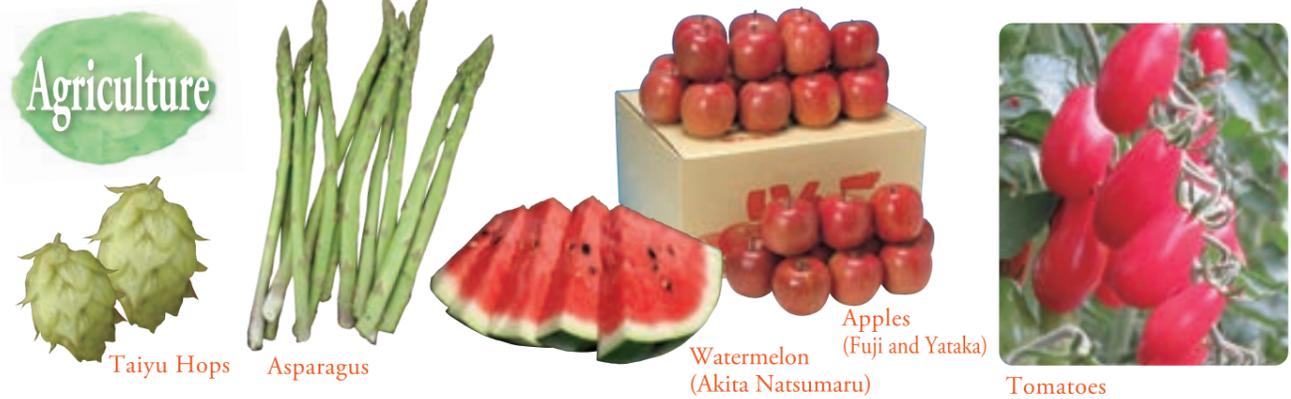


Jumonji Chinese Soba Noodles
 This is local cuisine eaten in the region centered on Jumonji. This dish is characterized by its Japanese-style soup and thin curly noodles lived up by dried sardine or bonito stock with light soy sauce.



Hoshimochi (Dried Rice Cake)

Osawa Grape Juice



Traditional Vegetables



Yagi Garlic



Sannai Carrots



Sannai Taro Cormels (Taro)



Fermented Products

Liquor



Miso



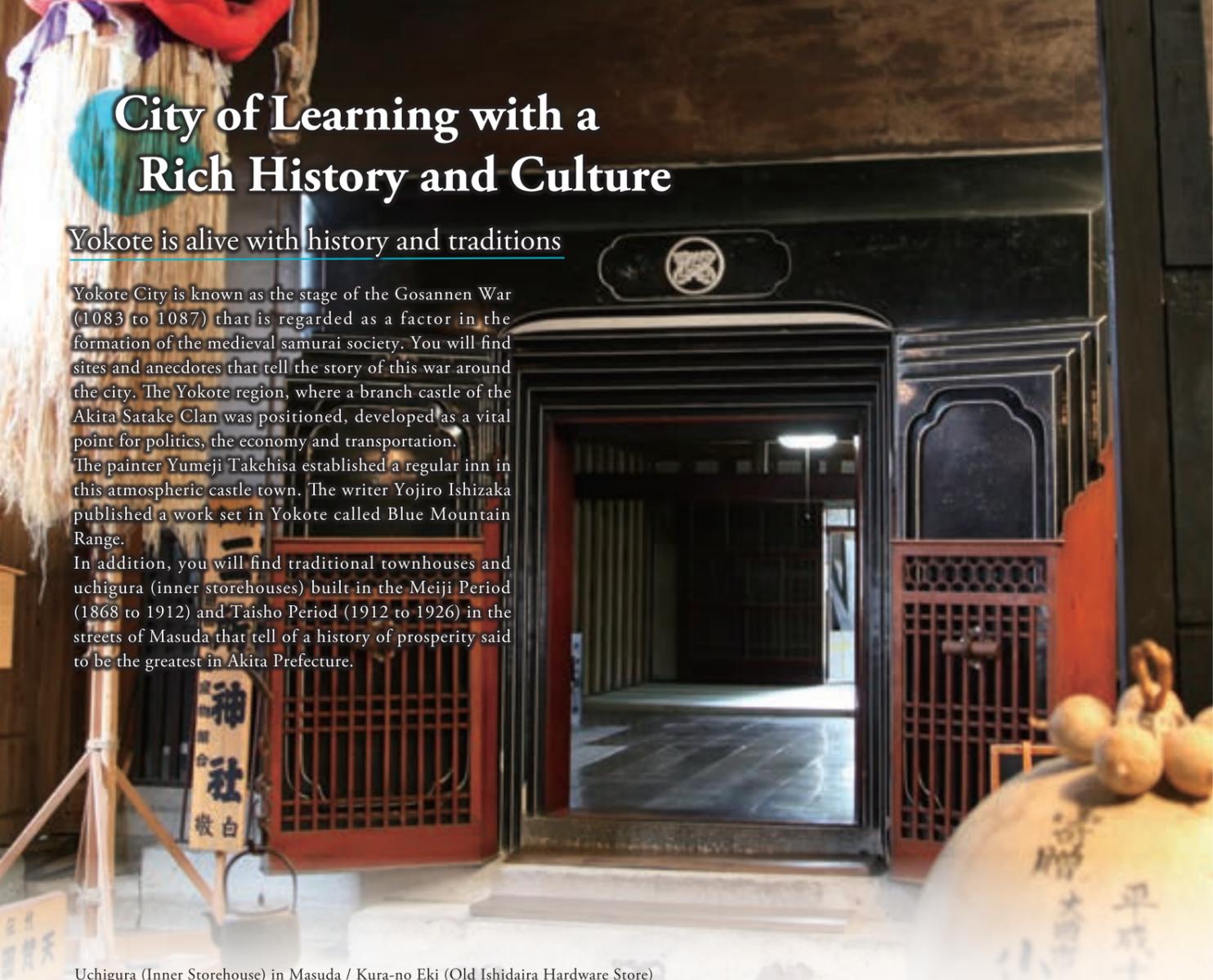
Pickles

City of Learning with a Rich History and Culture

Yokote is alive with history and traditions

Yokote City is known as the stage of the Gosannen War (1083 to 1087) that is regarded as a factor in the formation of the medieval samurai society. You will find sites and anecdotes that tell the story of this war around the city. The Yokote region, where a branch castle of the Akita Satake Clan was positioned, developed as a vital point for politics, the economy and transportation. The painter Yumeji Takehisa established a regular inn in this atmospheric castle town. The writer Yojiro Ishizaka published a work set in Yokote called Blue Mountain Range.

In addition, you will find traditional townhouses and uchigura (inner storehouses) built in the Meiji Period (1868 to 1912) and Taisho Period (1912 to 1926) in the streets of Masuda that tell of a history of prosperity said to be the greatest in Akita Prefecture.



Uchigura (Inner Storehouse) in Masuda / Kura-no Eki (Old Ishidaira Hardware Store)



Brush of Nanzan Ebisuya
Gosannen War Picture Scroll Writing

This is a picture scroll depicting one of the most famous battles in history. This battle occurred when Minamoto no Yoshiie intervened in internal fighting among the Kiyohara Clan that held strength in northern Tohoku in the late Heian Period (794 to 1185). This picture scroll sees the national important cultural property Gosannen War Picture Scroll Writing replicated by the local painter Nanzan Ebisuya. This has been listed as a cultural property of the city and is now displayed in the Gosannen War Kanazawa Museum.

From the First Volume Ganko-no Midare (Disturbance of the Flying Geese) in a Picture Scroll Depicting the Gosannen War



Shimotsuki Kagura (Ancient Shinto Music and Dancing) in Horwasanhaushiwake Shrine (Nationally Listed Intangible Folk Cultural Property)



Old Nishinkan Building (Prefectural Listed Tangible Cultural Property)



Yojiro Ishizaka Literature Memorial Museum



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Health Promotion with Sports

Yokote: Sports City

Yokote was declared to be a sports city in Yokote Gymnasium on April 20, 2013 with the participation of about 1,000 sports officials and citizens. The declaration was made that all citizens would come together to promote sports with healthy urban planning and local revitalization. The purpose of this declaration is for all citizens to encounter sports that they will love their whole lives and to live healthily. We are aiming to be a city where everyone - from children to adults - can feel the wonderfulness of being involved in sports.

- 1) Challenge Day with the Participation of All Citizens
- 2) Cycling
- 3) Yokote Wakasugi Cup
- 4) Sports YUKIYOSE World Championships
- 5) Walking Day
- 6) Kenko-no Eki (Health Station)

Sights in Yokote to See and Enjoy

Yokote is a city with fun seasonal festival

Yokote City has a wealth of seasonal events, traditions and tourist attractions. Our regional treasures come with recommendations from our proud residents and have won a reputation as being worth visiting from tourists here. Please make sure to get in touch with the charms of Yokote.

● Number of Tourists (FY2015) (Unit: Thousands of people)

Event/Festival	No. of Tourists	FY2015 Dates	Event/Festival	No. of Tourists	FY2015 Dates
Kamakura	470	2/14~2/16	Taiyu Summer Festival	10	7/29
Bonden (Braham-Deva)	43	2/16~2/17	Ha Ha Ha Festival	8	8/8
Cherry Blossom Festival	70	4/18~5/6	Okuri Bon Festival	115	8/15~16
Mato Park Cherry Blossom Festival	36	4/25~5/6	Masuda Fireworks	48	9/14
Omori Resort Village Phlox Festival	36	5/19~5/27	Asamai Hachiman Shrine Festival	14	9/15~9/16
Iris Festival	53	6/30~7/8	Taro Cormel Festival in Tsunogake	39	9/16
Cherry Festival	8	6/20~7/15	Chrysanthemum Festival	25	10/27~11/5



1) Kamakura (Snow Hut) in Yokote
 2) Asahi Okayama Bonden (Braham-Deva) Figure Dedication Festival
 3) Taro Cormel Festival in Sannai
 4) Yokote Chrysanthemum Festival
 5) Yokote Park
 6) Moss Phlox in Omori Resort Village
 7) Yokote Sparkler Event
 8) Okuri Bon Festival in Yokote
 9) Iris Flowers in Asamai Park
 10) Wash Tub Rowing Competition



Our Treasure: The Children Who Will Nurture the Future

Yokote is the city of smiles -
from children to the elderly

The smiling faces of the citizens of Yokote City are truly lovely. We offer a variety of child care support so that the children who are the treasure of our region can be brought up healthily. We are working on enhancing our welfare activities and medical care system so that everyone can live with smiles on their faces no matter what their age or whether or not they have a disability.

Data	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Welfare (March 31, 2016) No. of nursery schools: 32 (No. of children enrolled in nursery schools in the city: 2,854) No. of intensive-care old people's homes: 18 No. of designated home-visit care offices: 26 Livelihood Protection (March 31, 2016) No. of households under protection: 648 (No. of people under protection: 870) National Health Insurance No. of member households (March 31, 2016): 13,781 No. of insured people (March 31, 2016): 23,820 Latter-stage Elderly Healthcare Insurance No. of insured people (March 31, 2016): 19,061 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health and Sanitation (March 31, 2016) No. of hospitals: 4 No. of beds (hospitals and general clinics): 1,345 No. of general clinics: 83 No. of dental clinics: 42



Enhancement of Child Welfare
The basic philosophy of the Yume Hagukumu Yukinko Plan is to provide a city full of smiles where children and parents are raised in the community. Under this philosophy, we are initiating measures to provide support in various childcare settings. For example, we are developing and operating nursery schools, licensed children's schools, after-school clubs and the Yokote Children's Center. We also pay a child-care allowance.

Childcare Support Information Site
We have set up the Yokote City Childcare Information Site Hagu-Hagu. This site is packed with childcare support information - it offers a variety of information on events for children and childcare maps.
<http://www.haguhagu-yokote.jp/>

Comprehensive Community Care System
We are implementing various measures together with everyone in the region to deepen bonds in the community and further strengthen a local society where people support and help each other. We are doing this so that everyone living in Yokote City can continue to do so with purpose in the community that they are familiar with.

Urban Development Resistant to Disasters

Yokote is aiming to be a city where people can live with peace of mind

Yokote City was also affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake that struck on March 11, 2011. Tremors with a seismic intensity of 5-lower were observed here and there were power outages. We are now aiming to be a city where people can live with peace of mind. For example, we have formulated the Yokote City Regional Disaster Prevention plan using this earthquake as a lesson to ensure the means to convey information in an emergency, secure evacuation sites and develop a flood hazard map.

Data	
● No. of emergency dispatches	
No. of traffic accidents: 189	
No. of emergency dispatches: 3,617	
No. of fires: 49	



Yokote City Disaster Prevention Radio
These are radios with a disaster prevention administration function to automatically switch on in the event of an emergency and broadcast disaster information from the city using the radio waves of Yokote Kamakura FM.



- 1) Flood Prevention Training
- 2) Yokote City Firefighting Headquarters / Fire Station
- 3) Disaster Prevention Practice with Citizens



Nui Tec Corporation



Akita Adamant Co., Ltd.



Aiming to Be a Lively and Vibrant City Supporting Rich Lifestyles

Yokote will become a city where everyone can work

Yokote City is a leading area for automobile-related companies in the prefecture. We are working on the promotion of industry by taking advantage of these. In addition, we provide various support and incentive systems to welcome everyone in these companies. As an example, we are drawing on the strengths of companies to build a vibrant city by backing up the manufacturing of firms and by providing generous support to IT-related enterprises. Furthermore, we are also focusing our efforts on promoting commerce. We are achieving this by supporting efforts that assist shopping districts and stimulate economic activities in the community.



Creating Environments to Learn

Yokote will become a city that raises people who will open up the future

The academic achievements of Yokote City are in the top class across Japan. We are striving to develop people who will open up the future with love and pride for their hometown of Yokote City toward the realization of high aspirations and dreams by each and every individual - from children to adults.

● Education (May 1, 2015)		
Category	No. of Schools	No. of Children/Students
Elementary schools	19	4,214
Junior high schools	8	2,393
High schools	6	2,912
Kindergartens	4	214

Source: Basic School Survey 2015



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- 1) Nature Observation Workshop
- 2) Fire Station Tour
- 3) Library English Speaking Meeting (Alphabet Soup)
- 4) Handcraft Workshop
- 5) Making Experience (Kneading Experience)

Statistics of Yokote City

Location and City Conditions

Yokote City is located inland in the southern part of Akita Prefecture. Eight villages, towns and cities (Yokote City, Masuda Town, Hiraka Town, Omonogawa Town, Omori Town, Jumonji Town, Sannai Village and Taiyu Village) merged on October 1, 2005 to create the second largest city in Akita Prefecture with a population of 104,000.

The east is located in the Ou Mountains while the west is located in the center of Yokote Basin surrounded by the Dewa Hills. The city stretches out 45.4km east to west and 35.2km north to south. Omono River (which is joined by Naruse River that starts in the Ou Mountains and Kaize River) and Yokote River run through the region. This has led to fertile rice fields being formed in the central part of the region.

Location Longitude: North latitude 39 degrees 18 minutes
Latitude: East longitude 140 degrees 33 minutes

Total area 693.04km²
(Source: 2008 National Area Survey by Municipality/Prefecture (GSI Technical Document: E2-No. 61))

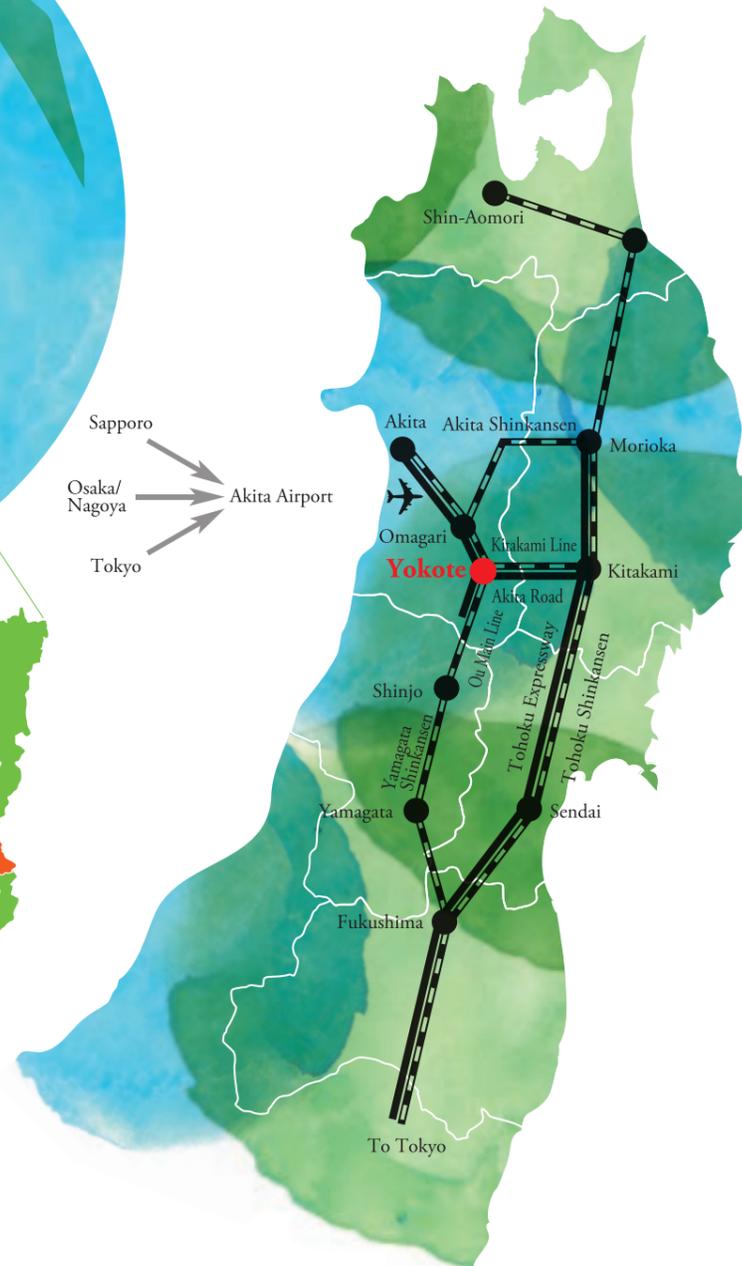
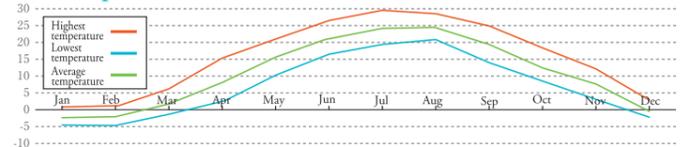
Expanse East to west: 45.4km
North to south: 35.2km

Temperature

Source: Japan Meteorological Agency Monthly Report

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
2008													
Average	△2.0	△1.7	3.7	10.8	15.3	19.6	24.0	23.7	20.3	14.2	6.9	2.7	11.4
Highest	0.2	1.3	8.4	17.0	21.5	25.0	28.6	28.7	26.2	19.3	11.8	6.6	16.2
Lowest	△4.6	△4.7	△0.3	4.9	10.1	14.7	20.2	19.9	15.4	9.9	3.0	△0.7	7.3
2010													
Average	△0.6	△1.2	1.9	7.5	14.6	21.0	24.7	27.2	21.2	14.5	7.6	2.5	11.7
Highest	1.9	2.5	5.7	12.9	20.0	26.5	29.6	32.3	25.9	19.9	12.3	5.9	16.3
Lowest	△3.3	△4.7	△1.5	3.1	9.8	16.3	21.2	23.2	17.4	10.3	3.3	△0.4	7.9
2012													
Average	△2.9	△2.9	1.8	8.5	15.0	19.6	23.6	26.7	23.9	14.2	6.8	△0.2	11.2
Highest	△0.5	0.2	5.4	14.5	20.1	25.5	28.4	32.4	29.3	19.4	10.6	2.5	15.7
Lowest	△5.9	△6.2	△1.7	3.4	10.7	14.8	19.5	21.9	19.6	9.7	3.5	△2.9	7.2
2014													
Average	△1.8	△1.5	2.0	8.1	15.5	21.5	24.1	24.2	19.0	12.7	7.6	△0.1	10.9
Highest	0.9	1.4	5.8	15.1	22.0	27.1	29.5	28.5	25.1	18.6	12.6	2.2	15.7
Lowest	△4.7	△4.6	△1.4	2.2	10.2	17.3	19.8	21.2	14.6	8.0	3.4	△2.8	6.9

Temperature in 2014



Population

● Census: Preliminary Figures (October 1, 2015)
*Exact figures are scheduled to be announced in October 2016

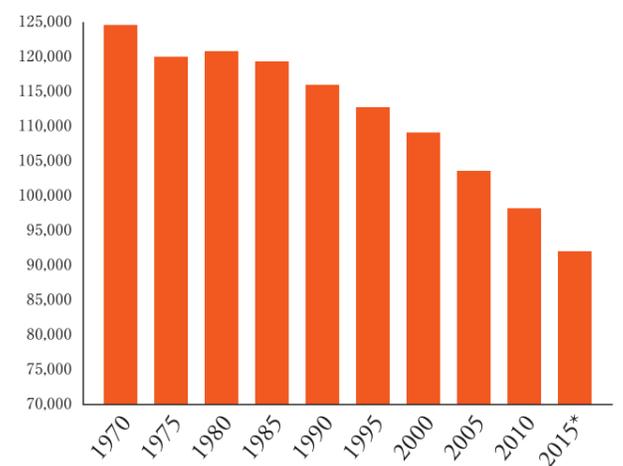
Population	No. of Households
92,214	31,493
43,262 men	
48,952 women	

Population Changes

Year	Population
1970	124,160
1975	119,716
1980	120,479
1985	119,088
1990	115,761
1995	112,600
2000	109,004
2005	103,652
2010	98,367
2015*	92,214

*Preliminary figures given for 2015

Population Changes Graph



Living

Home ownership rate	84.5%	(Oct 1, 2010)
No. of people per household	3.02	
Water supply penetration rate	81.5%	(May 31, 2016)
Water flushing rate (public and agriculture)	70.5%	(May 31, 2016)
Garbage collection rate	32,607t	(FY2014)
Recycling rate	5,108t	(FY2014)

Financial Affairs

Initial Budget (FY2016)

Total	95,869,800,000yen
Ordinary accounting	50,671,600,000yen
Corporate accounting	28,593,400,000yen
Special accounting (Excluding the amount for normal accounting)	16,604,800,000yen

Financial Affairs Situation (FY2014 Ordinary Accounting)

Financial capability index (three-year average)	0.33
Debt expenditure ratio	9.0%
Current account balance ratio	88.9%
Bond issuance limit ratio	7.0%
Real debt service ratio	9.7%

Amount on hand in reserves	16,280,814,000yen
Amount of hand in municipal bonds	65,621,900,000yen
Amount of hand in municipal bonds (total accounting)	108,631,000,000yen

Income and Expenditure Situation (FY2014 Ordinary Accounting)

Total revenues	57,431,813,000yen
Total expenditures	55,496,348,000yen

Municipal Assets (End of FY2015)

Land (Acreage)	67,540,263m ²
Buildings (Total floor area)	615,892m ²

Access to Yokote City

Railroad		
The journey times do not include any waiting time. (The waiting time varies depending on the number of stops.)		
Section		Time Required
Akita - Yokote	JR Ou Main Line	Approx. 1 hour and 10 minutes
Morioka - Omagari - Yokote	Akita Shinkansen / JR Ou Main Line	Approx. 1 hour and 30 minutes
Sendai - Omagari - Yokote	Akita Shinkansen / JR Ou Main Line	Approx. 2 hours and 50 minutes
Tokyo - Omagari - Yokote	Akita Shinkansen / JR Ou Main Line	Approx. 3 hours and 30 minutes
Sendai - Kitakami - Yokote	Tohoku Shinkansen / JR Kitakami Line	Approx. 2 hours and 10 minutes
Tokyo - Kitakami - Yokote	Tohoku Shinkansen / JR Kitakami Line	Approx. 4 hours
Yamagata - Shinjo - Yokote	Yamagata Shinkansen / JR Ou Main Line	Approx. 3 hours
Tokyo - Shinjo - Yokote	Yamagata Shinkansen / JR Ou Main Line	Approx. 5 hours

Bus		
■ Lake & Port (For Tokyo/Yokohama)	Lake Tazawa - Kakuonodate - Omagari - Yokote - Tokyo - Yokohama - Kamakura - Fujisawa	

■ Green Liner	Yuzawa - Jumonji - Yokote - Sendai
■ Highway Bus (For Akita)	Omagari - Rokugo - Yokote - Sendai

■ Airport	Akita - Yokote - Yuzawa
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Car		
Calculated based on 100km/h on the Tohoku Expressway and 80km/h on the Akita Expressway		
Section		Time Required
Akita - Yokote		Approx. 1 hour
Kitakami - Yokote		Approx. 50 minutes
Sendai - Yokote		Approx. 2 hours and 10 minutes
Tokyo - Yokote		Approx. 5 hours and 30 minutes

Airplane		
Section		Time Required
Tokyo: Haneda - Akita		Approx. 1 hour and 10 minutes
Nagoya: Chubu - Akita		Approx. 1 hour and 30 minutes
Osaka: Itami - Akita		Approx. 1 hour and 40 minutes
Sapporo: New Chitose - Akita		Approx. 1 hour and 10 minutes

- Means of Connecting from Akita Airport
- Airport Liner (Shared taxi) (Approx. 1 hour and 20 minutes to Yokote)
- Airport shuttle bus (Approx. 40 minutes to the West Exit of Akita Station and approx. 1 hour from JR Akita Station to JR Yokote Station)
- Rental car (Approx. 1 hour)
- Means of Connecting from Narita Airport to Haneda Airport
- Airport shuttle bus (Approx. 1 hour and 20 minutes to Terminal 2 of Haneda Airport)

