

An Overview of Sendai

History

In the year 1600, the feudal lord Date Masamune relocated his castle to Sendai. The choice was based upon several factors, one being that Sendai was located in the middle of his territories and functioned as a center of transportation. Additionally, Sendai had access to a vast plains area and had potential for great development. Since then, Sendai has flourished as one of Japan's largest castle towns.

Sendai was established as a city in 1889. Various regional offices for national government organizations, related to military, judicial, transportation, and communication affairs, came to be located in the city, leading to its reputation as the "Capital of Tohoku (northeast Japan)." The city also came to be known as an "Academic City," because of the numerous educational institutions found in the city, exemplified by Tohoku Imperial University.

After World War II, Sendai's urban development progressed through war reconstruction projects and city planning projects, and numerous national government organizations came to Sendai as the country's economy recovered. During the 1960s, Japan's economic boom expanded the domestic market, and many companies opened branch offices in the city. Sendai significantly increased its role as a core administrative city during this period.

In April 1989, Sendai became the 11th designated city (major city) in Japan, and continues to flourish as the center of northeast Japan (the Tohoku region).

Location and Topography

Sendai City is located around the center of the Tohoku region, at 38°16_05_N, 140°52_10_E (the location of Sendai City Hall). The city's borders are defined by the Ou Mountains in the west and the Pacific Ocean in the east. Its area is 786.35km², and is 50.58km wide (east-west), and 31.20 km long (north-south). Located in the northwestern part of the city are the Zao Quasi-National Park and the Funagata Mountain Range (a prefectural natural park). With mountains rising to heights of over 1,000 meters, approximately 60% of the city's area is covered by forests. Rolling hills spread to the east of the mountains, and the Hirose River, the Natori River, and the Nanakita River flow east through these hills into the Pacific Ocean. Sendai is a city that developed on the river terraces formed by these rivers.

Climate

Although Sendai is located at a relatively high latitude, its temperature extremes are moderate, owing to its maritime climate. Snowfall is light in the city, because of the dry northwestern wind that blows over the Ou Mountains in the winter. The city's average yearly temperature is 12.8 °C, and its yearly precipitation is 1,256.7 mm. 73% of Sendai's yearly precipitation falls in the six months from May to October.

Municipal Area

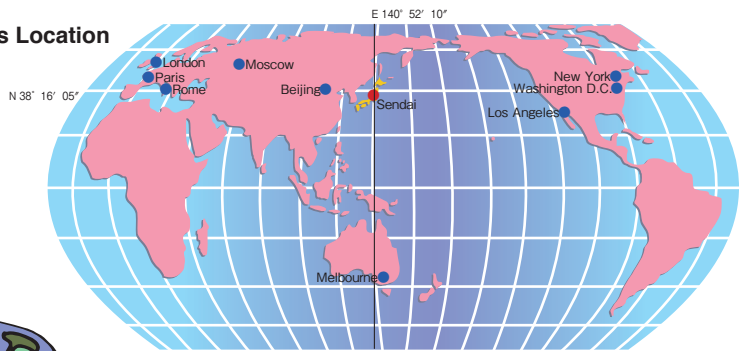
Sendai's area was a mere 17.45km² when it was first incorporated on April 1st, 1889. However, the city absorbed surrounding local governments seven times between 1928 and 1988, increasing its area to the present figure of 786.35 km².

Population

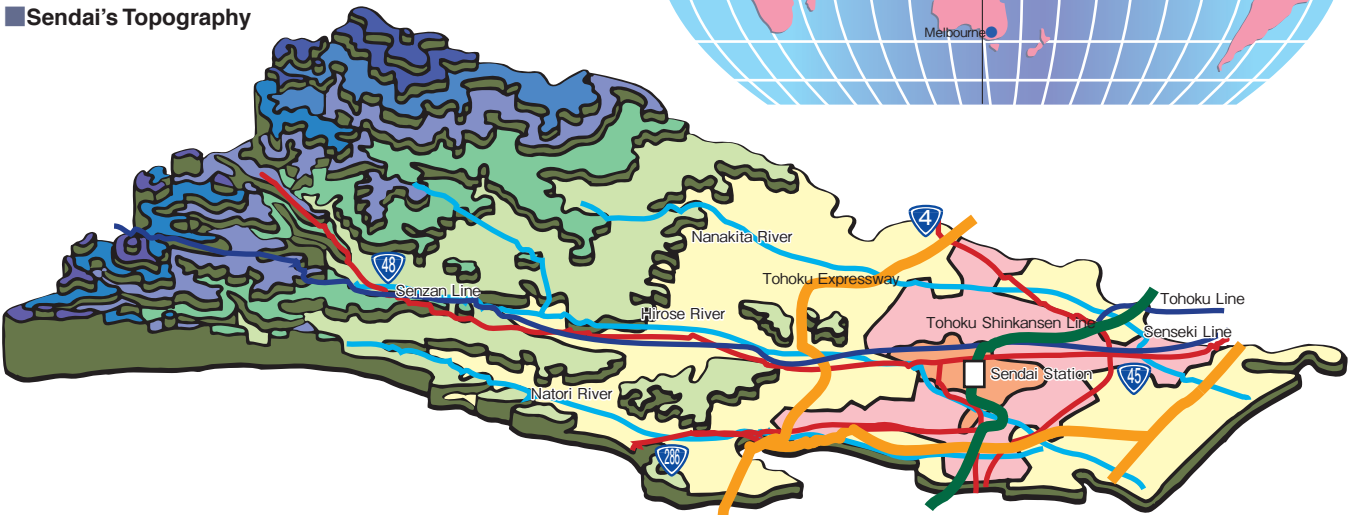
When Sendai was incorporated, the city had only 86,000 residents. Sendai subsequently absorbed many surrounding local governments, and steadily increased its population over the years, excluding temporary drops related to wars. The city experienced particularly significant growth from the late 1960s to the early 1970s, when it firmly established its role as the center of the Tohoku Region.

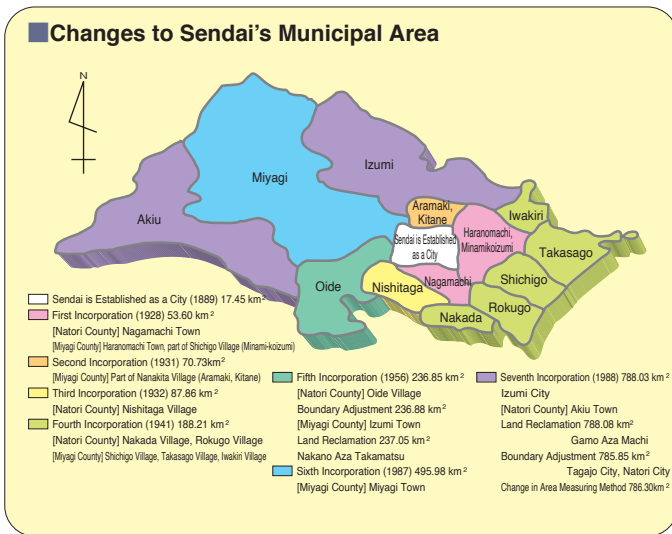
Although Sendai's growth dropped off after this period, it still continues to grow at a rate higher than other major cities in Japan, and its population exceeded one million in May of 1999. Sendai's estimated population as of May, 2023 is 1,098,221.

Sendai's Location

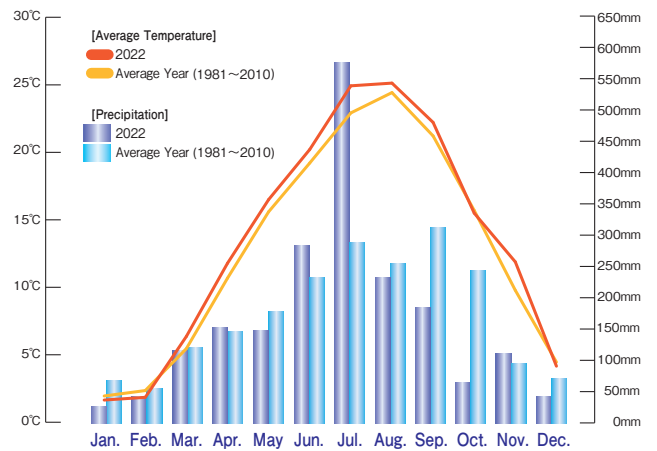


Sendai's Topography





Monthly Average Temperature and Precipitation



Industry

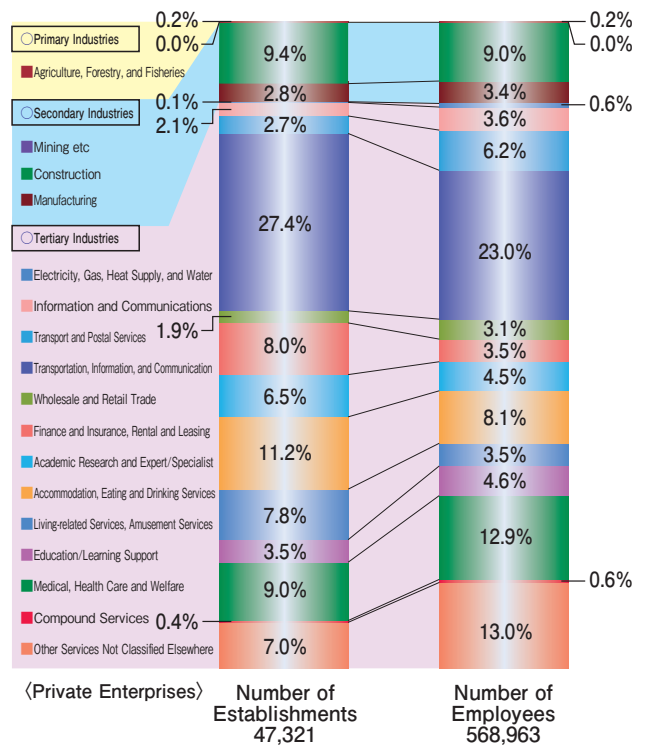
The majority of Sendai's industries are tertiary industries, mainly commerce and service. Since the ratio of branch offices to companies within the city limits is the highest among Japan's ordinance-designated cities, Sendai is said to have a "branch office economy."

According to the 2021 Economic Census for Business Activity, there are 47,321 business establishments in the city, of which 97 (0.2%) are in primary industry, 5,800 (12.3%) are in secondary industry, and 41,424 (87.5%) are in tertiary industry. Furthermore, there are 568,963 employees in the city, of which 1,060 (0.2%) are employed in primary industry, 70,972 (12.5%) are employed in secondary industry, and 496,931 (87.3%) are employed in tertiary industry.

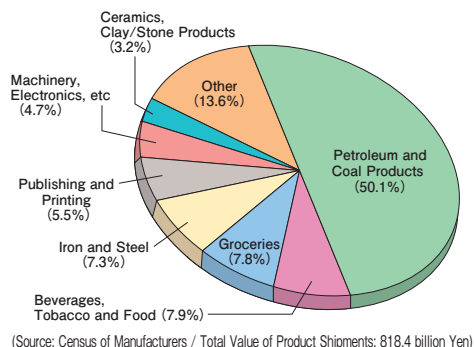
According to the 2021 Economic Census for Business Activity, the value of manufactured goods shipments, etc.* in Sendai's manufacturing industry was 818.4 billion yen, with petroleum and coal (410.2 billion yen), beverages, tobacco and feed manufacturing (64.4 billion yen), and food manufacturing (63.7 billion yen) accounting for a large share of the industry.

* Value of manufactured goods shipments, processing fee income, other income

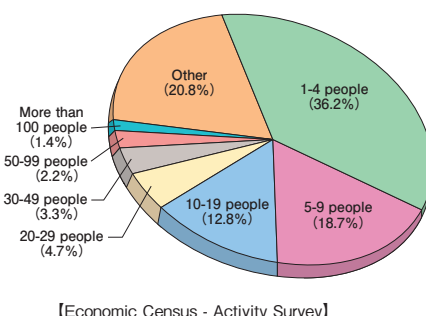
Establishments and Employees by Industry (2021)



Value of Product Shipments by Industry (2021)



Establishments by Persons Engaged (2021)



Sendai City Basic Plan [Formulated in March 2021]

The Sendai City Basic Plan is formulated as a guideline for community development directing the vision of the city that Sendai aims to achieve, and directions toward its realization. Additionally it targets to promote community development together with those involved in Sendai, even in the future when facing difficulties predicting the future.

Planning period

The planning period is 10 years, from Fiscal year 2021 to 2030. In addition, since the plan is a long-term guideline for administrative management, the vision of the city that Sendai aims to achieve pertains to the mid-21st century (around 2050).

Vision of Community Development

Sendai has adopted "The Greenest City" SENDAI as its city planning vision based on the aim of taking the first step to challenge pushing the concept of "City of Trees" to a new stage by deepening and combining the urban individualities cultivated by Sendai over the years, and creating synergies.

In order to achieve a sustainable future and pass on the city of Sendai, known as the "City of Trees," to the future as a place that its residents can be proud of, "est" has been added to the word "green," which relates to the phrase "City of Trees." Various cherished meanings have been added to the direction of the community development to highlight the concept that shows our constant strive for the highest achievements.

Vision of the city in the future

The four existing strengths and urban individualities of "Environment," "Coexistence," "Learning," and "Vitality" that the city has cultivated over the years have been reviewed and deepened in order to develop four new goals towards "A community that lives with the blessings of nature," "A symbiotic community where diversity drives society," "A community full of opportunities for leaning and experience," and "A community of creativity and possibilities."

Towards the realization of this vision of the city, Sendai is committed to further enhance its capacity to respond to social changes, such as by actively incorporating digital technologies in a wide range of fields, in order to protect its safe and secure infrastructure from crises.

The City of Sendai also aims to be a city of choice that attracts many people, by refining and communicating both locally and externally its advantages as a city where lush green nature and urban functions coexist.

Challenge Project

Eight challenge projects have been set up, focusing on maximizing Sendai's characteristics while combining the diverse strengths not only of the city, but also of residents and local communities mainly.

- ① The City of Trees and Water Project
- ② Disaster Prevention and Environmental City Project
- ③ Psychological Companionship Project
- ④ Community Collaboration Projects
- ⑤ The Blossoming Smiles for Children Project
- ⑥ Life Design Project
- ⑦ TOHOKU Future Project
- ⑧ City Center Revitalization Project

Direction of community development / direction of community development for each ward

Four directions for community development, and directions for ward-specific community development based on detailed local characteristics were formulated to promote initiatives that correspond to the complex and diversifying needs of communities, and aim to realize a comfortable community environment to live in.

Municipal Management to Create the Future

The basic stance, policy of urban structure formation, and measures to be taken by the city toward realization of the vision of community planning are presented.

Promotion of the Plan

The plan shows initiatives to promote the Basic Plan and a policy for progress.

Conceptual Diagram of the Community Development Vision and the Vision of the City in the Future

