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Introduction to Niigata Prefecture

Location and Topography

Niigata prefecture is located in the center of the Japan Sea coast. It is surrounded by the Echigo and Hida mountain ranges, as well as the Asahi, Iida, and Joshinetsu area mountains. The fifth largest prefecture in Japan, Niigata has a total area of 12,852.0km². 75 percent of this land is mountainous, and the remaining 25 percent is comprised of plains.

There are many mountains ranging in height from 1,500m to 3,000m situated along the prefectural borders. The Agano and Shinano rivers that originate from these mountains flow down through the Niigata plain, while the Sabaishi and Sekikawa rivers flow into the Kariwa and Takada plains, respectively. The remaining areas in the prefecture consist of mountains. The tall mountains near the prefectural borders are very steep and are surrounded by deep valleys, with streams flowing in between. Weak geological conditions make these areas especially vulnerable to problems related to land erosion. The Joetsu and Chuetsu regions are recognized as the areas with the highest number of landslides in the country.

Topographic Map



Annual Precipitation

