

## Shizuoka boasts of enduring companies: the oldest founded in Kamakura Era

A survey conducted by Tokyo Shoko Research Ltd (TSR) has revealed that 728 companies in Shizuoka Prefecture have been operating their businesses for over 100 years, which ranks Shizuoka as 7<sup>th</sup> among all prefectures in Japan.

The Numazu branch of TSR which conducted a sample survey in Shizuoka Pref. commented, "The research shows that Shizuoka has been developed as an industrial area since former days, in addition to Japan's other three metropolitan areas as well as ancient capitals.

Some enterprises, including a sake brewery in Izu Peninsula area, were launched during the Kamakura Period (1185-1333). A total of five corporations, four in eastern as well as one in western and central Shizuoka each, were founded prior to Azuchi-Momoyama Period (1568-1600). During the Edo Era (1603-1867), 63 companies were established in central Shizuoka and this number surpassed that of eastern and western Shizuoka: 29 and 21, respectively.

Among the 728 companies, only 22 companies (3%) had annual sales of more than 10 billion yen, while the remaining 466 companies (64%) had less than 500 million yen income. Most of the lasting firms are relatively small in size and their business operations have been confined to the commercial areas of central Shizuoka.

### 県内に多い「長寿企業」—最古は鎌倉時代

東京商工リサーチがまとめた企業の実態調査によると、県内の創業100年を超える「長寿企業」は728社で全国7位だった。県内分を抽出調査した同リサーチ沼津支店は「企業が多い3大都市圏や歴史ある古都にこそ及ばないが、県内に古くから産業が栄えていたことがしのばれる」と話している。

創業年代は、伊豆の酒造会社など鎌倉時代の創業が最古。安土桃山時代以前は東部が4社、中西部は1社ずつ。江戸時代は中部が63社で、東部の29社、西部21社を大きく上回る。

売上高別では100億円以上の大企業が22社で3%にとどまる一方、年商5億円未満が466社と全体の64%で、長寿企業の多くを近隣商圈で事業展開する中小企業が占めているとみられる。

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