

## **Yasugi Port**

Starting in the early 1600s, a significant portion of the iron produced in the regions of Okuizumo and Hōki (western Tottori Prefecture) was shipped out through the port of Yasugi. Yasugi is situated on Lake Nakaumi, whose calm waters and easy access to the Sea of Japan made it a good location from which to transport metals produced in the neighboring mountains. Over time, the town grew into a thriving shipping center.

The map shows where different types of wholesalers set up warehouses in Yasugi. The many gray-colored areas represent brokers who specialized in iron and steel. Shops that dealt in rice and cotton were also common, as were restaurants and inns that catered to the crowds of merchants who passed through the town.

Yasugi had thrived as a port town, but once it was connected to the San'in Line railway in 1908, it became cheaper to transport goods by train than by boat. With the profits from water transport now lost to railway companies, local industry shifted its focus, and Yasugi became a production center for high-grade steel.