

The Future of Business in Pittsburgh

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Forging New Ties: Nippon Steel's Historic Investment in Pittsburgh

While the acquisition of Pittsburgh-based U.S. Steel by Nippon Steel is currently pending regulatory approval, the deal marks a significant milestone in the relationship between Japanese companies and Pittsburgh. This \$15 billion investment underscores Nippon Steel's strategic interest in Pittsburgh's steel industry, with a clear focus on innovation, sustainability, and long-term growth.



The Edgar Thomson Steel Works. (◆OldBoerParty at English Wikipedia, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

Takahiro Mori, Vice Chairman of Nippon Steel and head of global operations, emphasized the company's commitment to preserving U.S. Steel's legacy in Pittsburgh, a region globally recognized for its historically significant role in steel production. He confirmed that both U.S. Steel's name and headquarters will remain in Pittsburgh, and announced plans to relocate Nippon's U.S. headquarters from Houston to Pittsburgh, further deepening the business ties between Pittsburgh and Japan.

The acquisition is poised to enhance the global competitiveness of the new entity, building on advanced technologies and commitment to sustainability. Mori has reassured stakeholders of Nippon Steel's dedication to the Pittsburgh region, stating that all existing labor agreements will be honored, with no plans for layoffs, plant closures, or moving production overseas. He remains confident that the deal will close by the end of 2024, setting the stage for a new era of collaboration and opportunity in Pittsburgh's steel industry. This landmark acquisition could pave the way for increased Japanese investment in Pittsburgh's diverse industries, extending beyond the steel sector and further strengthening Japan-US economic ties.

Anime Convention Highlights Appeal of Japanese Culture in Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh's vibrant cultural scene continues to attract diverse and passionate audiences, as evidenced by the recent success of Tekko, Pennsylvania's largest anime convention. Attracting nearly 12,000 unique and diverse fans from across the country and the world to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Tekko showcased the city's growing appeal to fans of Japanese pop culture and its capacity to host large-scale international events.



Tekko took place July 18-21 in Pittsburgh.
(<https://www.facebook.com/share/Qim1JtJ5QzWGq6H6/>)

Far more than just another anime convention, Tekko offers a deep dive into Japanese culture, featuring Japanese arcade games, J-rock, J-fashion, and educational programming. The convention featured a mix of local and international elements, including performances by Japanese rock music act Ash Da Hero and Pittsburgh Taiko, a drumming group inspired by Japanese traditions. The convention's economic impact extends beyond tourism, with a thriving market for anime-related merchandise and services. Tekko, which is presented by the Pittsburgh Japanese Culture Society, will return to Pittsburgh July 17-20, 2025.

Pittsburgh Business News and Updates

- Pittsburgh's innovation funding outperforms national trends
(<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2023/03/06/pittsburgh-s-innovation-funding-outperforms-trends.html>)
- Mine Vision Systems lands contract with large silver mining firm ahead of its Series A raise
(<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/inno/stories/profiles/2023/02/16/mine-vision-systems-hecla-contract-series-a.html>)
- Gecko Robotics land new work with the US Navy
(<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/03/a-ship-scaling-robot-is-getting-new-work-with-the-us-navys-fleet/>)
- Initiative launches on patient safety and technology in health care
(<https://triblive.com/local/regional/regional-initiative-launches-on-patient-safety-and-technology-in-health-care/>)
- Pittsburghers' 'loyalty' could attract companies to expand here
(<https://technical.ly/civic-news/pittsburgh-economy-league-vitals-report-workforce-turnover/>)



About Ryan

Ryan O'Shea is a JETRO Investment Advisor focused on connecting Japanese companies to opportunities in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is the host of Future Grind, a podcast that explores the ethics and impact of emerging science and technology, and also works with the Pittsburgh Robotics Network. In 2017, Ryan co-founded an artificial intelligence startup that was named a Top 10 team in the IBM Watson AI XPRIZE. Ryan has represented NASA and CalTech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a Solar System Ambassador and serves both as a World Economic Forum Global Shaper and an ambassador for Pittsburgh AI. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh & serves on the boards of multiple non-profit organizations.