Case of Sakudaira Station

Sakudaira Station on the Hokuriku Shinkansen opened in 1997 in Saku City, which is roughly 170 km away from Tokyo, as part of the section opening between Tokyo and Nagano. A trip from Saku City to Tokyo, which used to take approximately 3 hours and 30 minutes using conventional line connections, now can be made in a mere 1 hour and 20 minutes since the Shinkansen went into service. To maximize the effect of opening this high-speed rail line, Saku City systematically developed 600,000m² of urban land around the station, transforming the landscape. As a result of high-speed rail, population and property taxes revenue around the station has increased dramatically. The enormity of the Shinkansen’s effect may also be grasped when one considers that many regional cities throughout Japan face a decreasing population.