

Commerce



Migration to the Shibetsu are began to increase with the opening of railroad service to the area in 1900. Subsequently, rice dealers, general merchants, butchers, fishmongers, confectioners, drapers, and innkeepers began to open up shop along these railroad stops. As settlements began to expand into the interior of the area, towns began to spring up in Kamishibetsu, Tayoro, Onnebetsu and other areas bringing even more prosperity to these shopping districts.

After 1965, the arrival of large-scale retailers such as supermarkets and department stores to the area led to a decline in the number of private businesses. Later, the expansion of major chain stores into the suburbs, increases in the speed at which goods could be distributed, and the globalization of information, would lead to a drastic change in the commerce of Shibetsu.

