

## Chapter 1 Exhibitions at Film Theaters

### [1] General Situation

#### Changes in Number of Screens (1993–2017)

Multi-screen theaters (Cinema Complexes) are believed to have appeared for the first time in Japan in 1993. In this paper we will review the subsequent changes over time. In 2017, the total number of screens in Japan was 3,531, increasing by 55 from the year before.

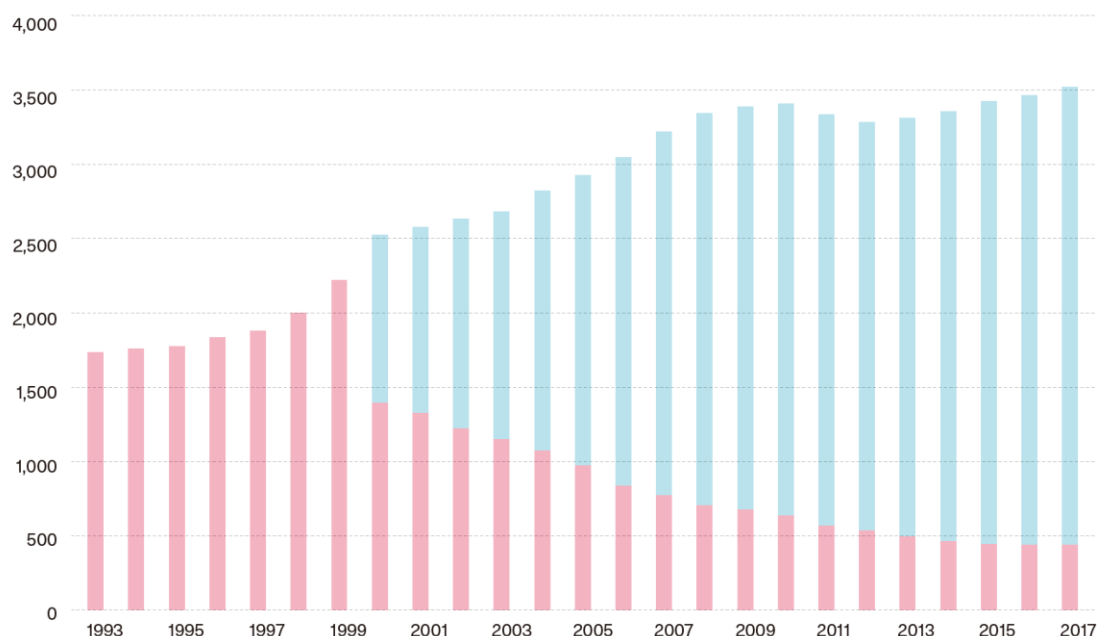
During the last 10 years, the total number of screens of multi-screen theaters increased to 3,109, as 839 screens were added at 90 multi-screen theaters (sites), occupying 88% of the total number of screens in Japan. From 2000 to 2016, the number of screens at other types of theaters decreased yearly, however, in 2017, it increased by 1 to become total 422. During the years of 2016 and 2017 combined, 22 theaters (139 screens) opened. Among them, 14 theaters and 120 screens belong to multi-screen theaters. There have been many multi-screen theaters added in city centers such as Toho Cinemas Sendai (9 screens in Aoba-district, Sendai City), Toho Cinemas Ueno (8 screens in Taito-district, Tokyo), J-Max Theater Toyama (8 screens in Toyama City), Midland Square Cinema 2 (7 screens in Nakamura-district, Nagoya City), Toho Cinemas Kashiwa (9

screens in Kashiwa City, Chiba Prefecture), and Aeon Cinema Theatus

Chofu (11 screens in Chofu City, Tokyo). Aeon Cinema opened 8 sites with 70 screens during these two years, dramatically adding to its theaters and screens.

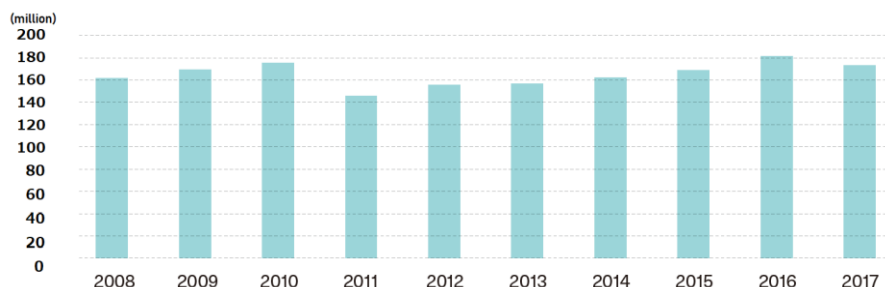
Other types of theaters have endeavored to find new ways of theater operation by presenting unique profiles and hosting barrier-free screenings regularly. During the last two years, such theaters opened as Cinema Chupki Tabata (Kita-district, Tokyo), Amaya-za Theater (Naka City, Ibaragi Prefecture), Cinekoya (Fujisawa City, Kanagawa Prefecture), Kokoro o ugokasu eigakan (Musashino City, Tokyo), Ueda Eigeki (Ueda City, Nagano Prefecture), Demachi-za Theater (Kyoto City, Kyoto Prefecture) and Weekend Kinema M (Kochi City, Kochi Prefecture). These theaters each operate one screen, and an accompanying bakery, café, bookstore (small library) and so on, to present something more than a movie theater. Amaya-za Theater, Ueda Eigeki, and Weekend Kinema M opened in local areas of population less than 200,000 and they work with their local communities by presenting collaborative events.

#### Changes in the Number of Screens



	Screens	Multi-Screens
1993	1,734	—
1994	1,758	—
1995	1,776	—
1996	1,828	—
1997	1,884	—
1998	1,993	—
1999	2,221	—
2000	2,524	1,123
2001	2,585	1,259
2002	2,635	1,396
2003	2,681	1,533
2004	2,825	1,766
2005	2,926	1,954
2006	3,062	2,230
2007	3,221	2,454
2008	3,361	2,677
2009	3,396	2,723
2010	3,412	2,774
2011	3,339	2,774
2012	3,290	2,765
2013	3,318	2,831
2014	3,364	2,911
2015	3,437	2,996
2016	3,476	3,055
2017	3,531	3,109

#### The Number of The Theater Attendance



	Attendance (1,000)
2008	160,491
2009	169,297
2010	174,358
2011	144,726
2012	155,159
2013	155,888
2014	161,116
2015	166,630
2016	180,189
2017	174,483

From "Japanese Film Industry Statistics" (Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan)

### Changes in Attendance (2008–2017)

In 2017, the Japanese nationwide cinema attendance was 174,483,000, decreasing by 5,706,000 (3.2%) from 2016 when the attendance was the highest since 2000. Nonetheless, the attendance in 2017 shows a solid result thanks to the success of *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* (124 billion yen box office income) and popular anime series such as *CONAN THE DETECTIVE*, *DORAEMON* and *DESPICABLE ME*.

### Changes in Number of Theaters and Screens according to Theater Type (2008–2017)

During the last 10 years, the number of theaters has fallen to 587, decreasing by 118. On the other hand, the number of screens has increased by 170.

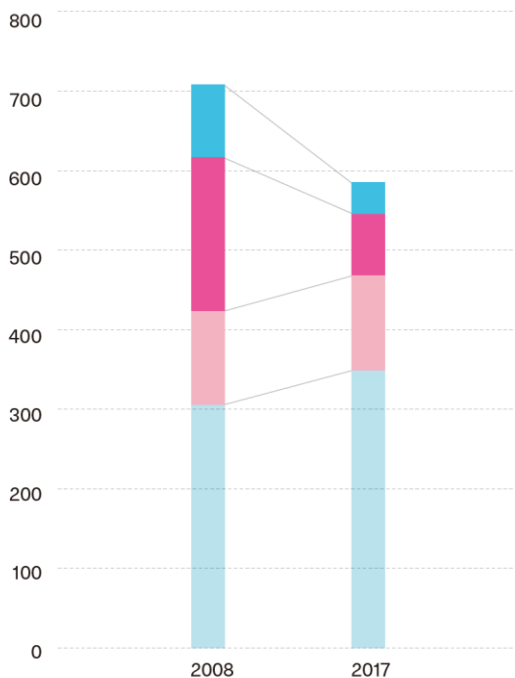
If we look at the statistics according to theater type, multi-screen theaters have increased the most, with a current total number of 349 theaters and 3,109 screens, increasing by 42 theaters and 432 screens during the last 10 years. Between 2000 and 2008, 20 to 30 new multi-screen theaters were created every year, and its number has been

constantly increasing. After 2008, the pace slowed down and 5 to 10 new theaters have appeared annually. During the last 10 years, 68 new multi-screen theaters opened and 26 have closed.

The number of conventional theaters has decreased to less than half during the last 10 years, to 80 theaters and 185 screens, decreasing by 115 theaters and 218 screens. Multi-screen theaters have increased in the city centers where conventional theaters have closed. Some conventional theaters changed themselves to mini- and repertory theaters (Hikari-za in Utsunomiya City, Chiba Theater, Shiojiri Azuma-za, Nagano Roxy Theater, etc.), and some closed and later re-opened as mini- and repertory theaters (Onari-za, Yokohama Cinemarine, Takada Sekaikan, Toyooka Gekijo, Theater Shiema, Hita Liberte, etc.). The total number of conventional, mini- and repertory theaters has remained relatively steady, while the percentages of each have changed.

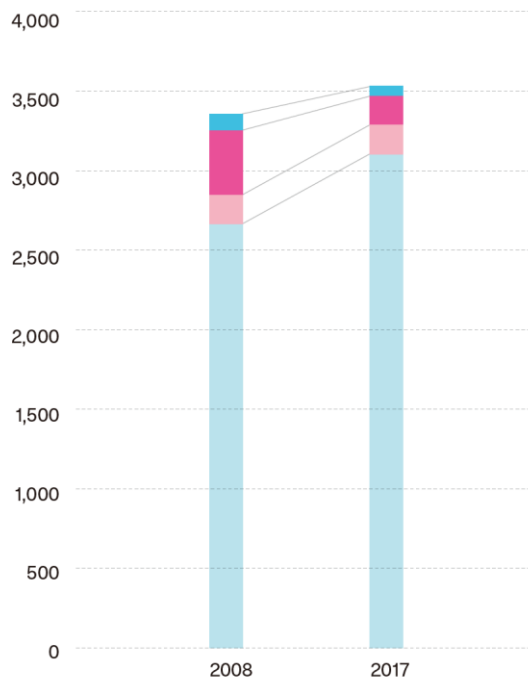
The number of adult film theaters has decreased to less than half its original number during the last 10 years, to 39 theaters and 45 screens, decreasing by 44 theaters and 49 screens.

Changes in Number of Theaters (Sites) according to Theater Type



	2008	2017	2008→2017
Multi-screen Theaters	307	349	42
Mini-Repertory Theaters	120	119	-1
Conventional Theaters	195	80	-115
Adult Theaters	83	39	-44
<b>Total</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>-118</b>

Change in Number of Screens according to Theater Type



	2008	2017	2008→2017
Multi-screen Theaters	2,677	3,109	432
Mini-Repertory Theaters	187	192	5
Conventional Theaters	403	185	-218
Adult Theaters	94	45	-49
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,361</b>	<b>3,531</b>	<b>170</b>

### Changes in Numbers of Theaters and Screens according to Theater Type in Local Areas (2008-2017)

In 2017, the total number of movie theaters in Japan was 587, decreasing by 118 (about 20%) during the last 10 years. Meanwhile, the total number of screens in Japan has increased by 170 to 3,531. Only in the Hokkaido and Tohoku Region, the numbers have decreased. Their population has also decreased by 5.2%, higher than that in other regions where the number of theaters has decreased and the number of screens has increased slightly.

When comparing the number of screens to population in the Kanto and Chubu Region, their screen increase rate is higher than their population increase rate. Particularly in Chubu, where they have 20.2% of the nation's screens and 16.8% of the nation's population, a difference is approximately 3%. Multi-screen theaters have increased in all regions in terms of both the number of theaters and the number of screens. Particularly in the Kanto Region, the number of theaters has increased by 12 and the number of screens by 127; in the Kinki Region, the number of theaters has increased by 9 and the number of screens by 110.

In contrast, the number of conventional theaters has decreased by 35 and the number of screens by 61 in Kanto, in addition, the number of theaters has decreased by 22 and the number of screens by 44 in Kinki. In their early days, multi-screen theaters were built along the major highways in the suburbs, however during the last 10 years, they have spread to the city centers. During this same time, conventional theaters in the big city's centers of Tokyo, Osaka and Hyogo Prefectures began to close. A large number of mini- and repertory theaters are concentrated in Kanto (82 screens out of the nationwide number of 192, making 42%). However, several in Tokyo around Shibuya began to close, with 5 screens having closed since 2008 in Kanto.

The number of adult film theaters has decreased in all areas, however, Okura Theater in Ueno re-opened in 2010 after its renovation.

## Changes in Numbers of Theaters and Screens according to Theater Type in Local Areas (2008-2017)

	2017		2008		2008→2017	
	Sites	Screens	Sites	Screens	Sites	Screens
<b>Hokkaido and Tohoku</b>						
Multi-Screen Theaters	40	305	39	302	1	3
Mini- and Repartory Theaters	8	17	10	16	-2	1
Conventional Theaters	13	30	28	51	-15	-21
Adult Theaters	3	3	7	8	-4	-5
<b>Hokkaido and Tohoku total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>-22</b>
<b>Kanto</b>						
Multi-Screen Theaters	116	1,071	104	944	12	127
Mini- and Repartory Theaters	52	81	55	86	-3	-5
Conventional Theaters	23	49	58	110	-35	-61
Adult Theaters	4	7	16	20	-12	-13
<b>Kanto total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>1,208</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>-38</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Chubu</b>						
Multi-Screen Theaters	70	645	62	550	8	95
Mini- and Repartory Theaters	17	24	15	20	2	4
Conventional Theaters	14	34	34	74	-20	-40
Adult Theaters	10	10	20	21	-10	-11
<b>Chubu total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Kinki</b>						
Multi-Screen Theaters	54	499	45	389	9	110
Mini- and Repartory Theaters	20	35	20	33	0	2
Conventional Theaters	12	37	34	81	-22	-44
Adult Theaters	11	12	18	21	-7	-9
<b>Kinki total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Chugoku and Shikoku</b>						
Multi-Screen Theaters	31	245	25	192	6	53
Mini- and Repartory Theaters	10	15	11	17	-1	-2
Conventional Theaters	8	17	20	43	-12	-26
Adult Theaters	3	4	8	9	-5	-5
<b>Chugoku and Shikoku</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Kyushu and Okinawa</b>						
Multi-Screen Theaters	38	344	32	300	6	44
Mini- and Repartory Theaters	12	20	9	15	3	5
Conventional Theaters	10	18	21	44	-11	-26
Adult Theaters	8	9	14	15	-6	-6
<b>Kyushu and Okinawa total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Nationwide</b>						
Multi-Screen Theaters	349	3,109	307	2,677	42	432
Mini- and Repartory Theaters	119	192	120	187	-1	5
Conventional Theaters	80	185	195	403	-115	-218
Adult Theaters	39	45	83	94	-44	-49
<b>Nationwide total</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>3,531</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>3,361</b>	<b>-118</b>	<b>170</b>

### Population in Hokkaido and Tohoku

2017	14,184,298
2008	14,967,929
Change	-783,631
Change rate	-5.2%

### Population in Kanto

2017	43,308,185
2008	41,977,907
Change	1,330,278
Change rate	3.2%

### Population in Chubu

2017	21,358,592
2008	21,817,704
Change	-459,112
Change rate	-2.1%

### Population in Kinki

2017	22,438,361
2008	22,713,651
Change	-275,290
Change rate	-1.2%

### Population in Chugoku and Shikoku

2017	11,158,369
2008	11,614,144
Change	-455,775
Change rate	-3.9%

### Population in Kyushu and Okinawa

2017	14,362,159
2008	14,600,938
Change	-238,779
Change rate	-1.6%

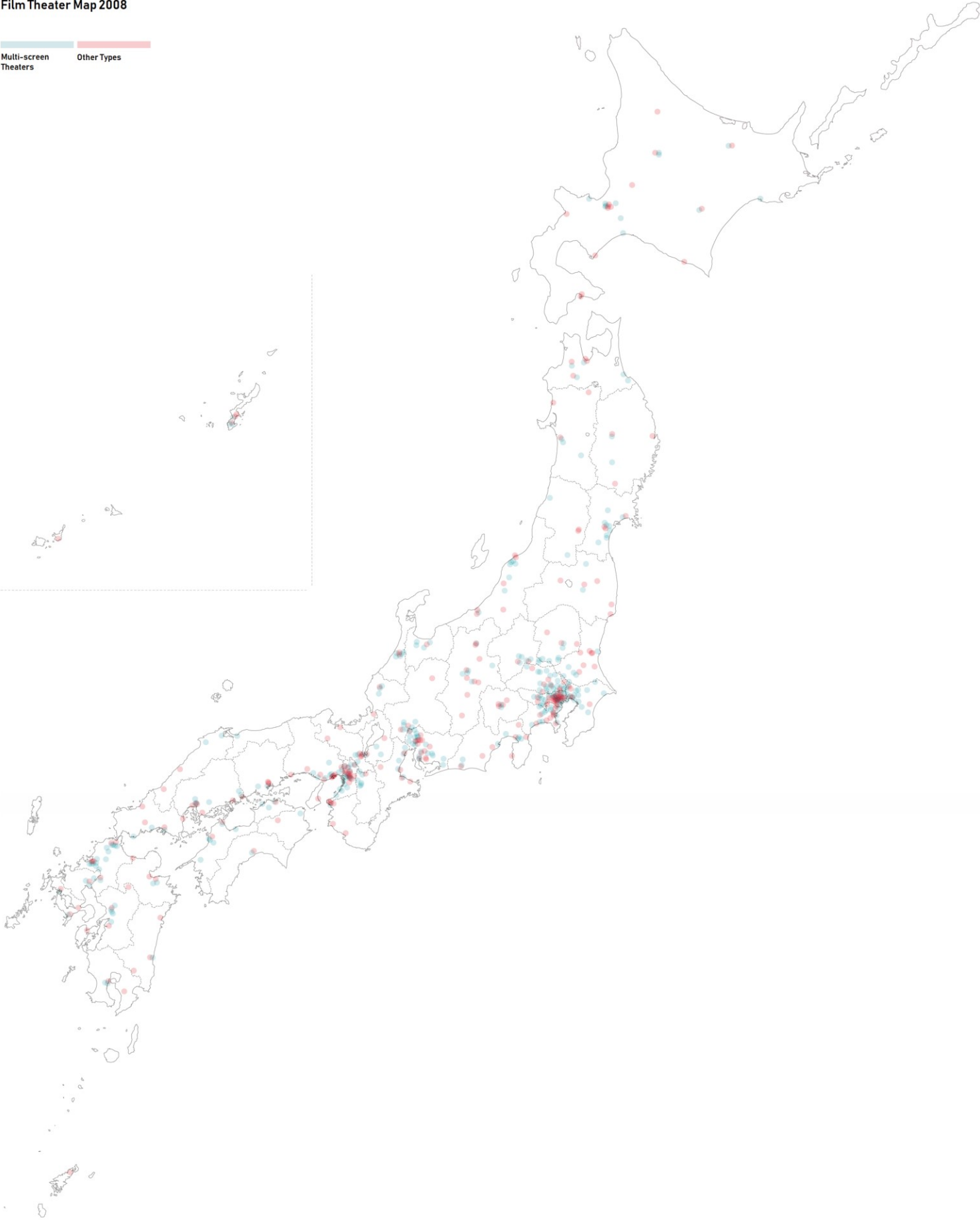
### Population of Japan

2017	126,809,964
2008	127,692,273
Change	-882,309
Change rate	-0.7%

# of Theaters (Sites) and Screens: From "Film Almanac 2009" (Jiji Eiga Tsushin-sha), and "Film Exhibition Activities Almanac 2006".  
Population: from "Population Statistics" (October 1, 2017) based on the census by each prefecture.

Multi-screen  
Theaters

Other Types



Film Theater Map 2017

Multi-screen  
Theaters

Other Types

