

## 2. GENERAL SITUATION IN EACH PREFECTURE

We will look at the film business situation in each prefecture.

The film attendance in each prefecture in 2018 has not been announced to the public (Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan, released in January 2019). We obtained these figures as rough estimates based on the attendance in each prefecture cited in the "Special Service Industry Situation Research Report on Film Theaters" (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, 2009, 2010, 2013 and 2014, 2015 and 2017). We calculated the average percentage of attendance of each prefecture against the nationwide attendance cited in the above reports. Then, using the number of the nationwide attendance in 2018 reported by Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan, we multiplied this number by the percentage of each prefecture, to come up with the attendance of each prefecture in 2018.

From the numbers above, we can see that naturally, the prefectures with big cities and the "ordinance-designated cities" (bestowed higher autonomy) dominated the top of the list, such as Tokyo, Kanagawa, Osaka, Aichi, Saitama, Chiba, Fukuoka, Hyogo, Hokkaido and Shizuoka.

The above prefectures also occupied the top of the list of the number of screens. From 2017 to 2018, the number of screens increased by 40 nationwide, and from 2016 to 2017, that increased by 54. From 2015 to 2016, the number of screens increased by 39; from 2014 to 2015, the increase was 73, showing a constant increase. During the recent three years (2015-2018), the number of screens increased by 133. Tokyo (From 358 to 378, 20 screens increase), Aichi (258 to 292, 34 screen increase) and Chiba (199 to 209, 10 screen increase) are notable.

The average number of films a person went to see annually was obtained in each prefecture. The national average in 2018 was 1.3 films, slightly lower than 1.4 of 2017. Tokyo's number, 2.0 films, was the highest, followed by 1.6 of Kanagawa, Kyoto, Osaka, Ishikawa and Aichi.

The national average population per screen was 35,443. When this figure is lower, it means that there are more screens in the area, and the inhabitants feel the screens are easily accessible. The numbers in only two prefectures, Ishikawa (18,737) and Yamagata (19,461), were each, less than 20,000. The average numbers of films a person went to see annually in Ishikawa was also above the national average.

On the other end, the prefectures whose average population per screen exceeded 50,000 were: Kochi (64,171), Yamanashi (62,953), Miyazaki (59,985), Iwate (53,963), Nagasaki (53,578), Fukushima (53,220), and Tottori (50,956). In these prefectures, people live far from screens and the average numbers of films a person went to see annually was less than 1, with limited opportunities to watch films at theaters.

The inhabitants living in these prefectures are considered to enjoy less from film culture, however, each prefecture's situation is different. In the areas where there is no movie theater, traveling movie theaters are occasionally hosted at public venues. Recently, new types of independent film exhibitions have been increasing and new movements creating community spaces to watch films have been replacing movie theaters. Movie theaters obviously support local film culture, but we have to take it into consideration that rich film exhibition environments could be uncaptured in these film business statistics.

## I Exhibition at Film Theaters

### General Situation in Each Prefecture 2018

		Population	# of Theaters	# of Screens	Annual Attendance *rough estimate	Population per Screen	Attendance per Screen	# of Films One Went to See Annually
	<b>Nationwide</b>	126,531,448	584	3570	170,119,000	35,443	47,652	1.3
1	<b>Hokkaido</b>	5,320,082	22	114	5,141,000	46,667	45,096	1.0
2	<b>Aomori</b>	1,262,823	8	44	1,221,000	28,701	27,750	1.0
3	<b>Iwate</b>	1,240,522	7	23	837,000	53,936	36,391	0.7
4	<b>Miyagi</b>	2,313,215	10	78	2,957,000	29,657	37,910	1.3
5	<b>Akita</b>	980,684	5	20	723,000	49,034	36,150	0.7
6	<b>Yamagata</b>	1,089,806	8	56	1,443,000	19,461	25,768	1.3
7	<b>Fukushima</b>	1,862,705	5	35	1,287,000	53,220	36,771	0.7
8	<b>Ibaraki</b>	2,882,943	14	90	3,671,000	32,033	40,789	1.3
9	<b>Tochigi</b>	1,952,926	9	64	2,713,000	30,514	42,391	1.4
10	<b>Gunma</b>	1,949,440	9	63	2,691,000	30,943	42,714	1.4
11	<b>Saitama</b>	7,322,645	25	209	10,285,000	35,037	49,211	1.4
12	<b>Chiba</b>	6,268,585	24	209	8,900,000	29,993	42,584	1.4
13	<b>Tokyo</b>	13,843,403	81	378	27,508,000	36,623	72,772	2.0
14	<b>Kanagawa</b>	9,179,835	30	199	14,881,000	46,130	74,779	1.6
15	<b>Niigata</b>	2,245,057	10	64	2,476,000	35,079	38,688	1.1
16	<b>Toyama</b>	1,050,246	4	27	1,341,000	38,898	49,667	1.3
17	<b>Ishikawa</b>	1,142,965	9	61	1,800,000	18,737	29,508	1.6
18	<b>Fukui</b>	773,731	5	27	934,000	28,657	34,593	1.2
19	<b>Yamanashi</b>	818,391	4	13	766,000	62,953	58,923	0.9
20	<b>Nagano</b>	2,063,865	16	72	1,666,000	28,665	23,139	0.8
21	<b>Gifu</b>	1,999,406	8	56	2,318,000	35,704	41,393	1.2
22	<b>Shizuoka</b>	3,656,487	15	96	4,462,000	38,088	46,479	1.2
23	<b>Aichi</b>	7,539,185	38	292	11,719,000	25,819	40,134	1.6
24	<b>Mie</b>	1,790,376	10	63	2,181,000	28,419	34,619	1.2
25	<b>Shiga</b>	1,412,881	6	38	1,647,000	37,181	43,342	1.2
26	<b>Kyoto</b>	2,591,779	13	78	4,170,000	33,228	53,462	1.6
27	<b>Osaka</b>	8,824,566	32	224	14,058,000	39,395	62,759	1.6
28	<b>Hyogo</b>	5,483,450	24	119	6,721,000	46,079	56,479	1.2
29	<b>Nara</b>	1,340,070	4	34	1,403,000	39,414	41,265	1.0
30	<b>Wakayama</b>	934,051	5	30	624,000	31,135	20,800	0.7
31	<b>Tottori</b>	560,517	3	11	420,000	50,956	38,182	0.7
32	<b>Shimane</b>	679,626	2	15	699,000	45,308	46,600	1.0
33	<b>Okayama</b>	1,899,739	7	39	1,968,000	48,711	50,462	1.0
34	<b>Hiroshima</b>	2,819,962	15	80	3,553,000	35,250	44,413	1.3
35	<b>Yamaguchi</b>	1,368,495	5	30	1,076,000	45,617	35,867	0.8
36	<b>Tokushima</b>	736,475	3	19	458,000	38,762	24,105	0.6
37	<b>Kagawa</b>	961,900	5	26	1,274,000	36,996	49,000	1.3
38	<b>Ehime</b>	1,351,510	10	59	1,329,000	22,907	22,525	1.0
39	<b>Kochi</b>	705,880	3	11	591,000	64,171	53,727	0.8
40	<b>Fukuoka</b>	5,111,494	25	175	7,546,000	29,209	43,120	1.5
41	<b>Saga</b>	819,110	3	20	789,000	40,956	39,450	1.0
42	<b>Nagasaki</b>	1,339,438	4	25	1,244,000	53,578	49,760	0.9
43	<b>Kumamoto</b>	1,756,442	8	49	1,823,000	35,846	37,204	1.0
44	<b>Oita</b>	1,142,943	9	36	1,128,000	31,748	31,333	1.0
45	<b>Miyazaki</b>	1,079,727	5	18	795,000	59,985	44,167	0.7
46	<b>Kagoshima</b>	1,613,969	7	39	1,483,000	41,384	38,026	0.9
47	<b>Okinawa</b>	1,448,101	10	42	1,394,000	34,479	33,190	1.0

**# of Theaters and Screens** | from "List of Theaters" of "Film Almanac" (Jiji Press/Kinema Jumbo-sha) and "Film Exhibition Activities Almanac"(Japan Community Cinema Center)

**Population** | from "Population Estimate" (Ministry of Finances Statistics Bureau)

**Attendance of Each Prefecture** (Estimate) | "Japanese Film Industry Statistics" (Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan, Jan. 2019) includes no attendance in each prefecture. "Special Service Industry Situation Research Report: Film Theaters" (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Sept. 2018) includes 2016 numbers of attendance in each prefecture. The numbers in the above chart are based on the attendance of each prefecture in the above "Report" (2009,2009,2013,2014,2015 and 2017), calculating the average share of the attendance in each prefecture against the national total; calculate the average close figures of the number of attendance in the "Report" and the nationwide attendance in the "Japanese Film Industry Statistics"; multiply them by the 2018 attendance of the "Statistics"; and come up with the rough attendance of each prefecture.

\*As for the prefectures with no date, their number are calculated by the prefecture's total numbers divided by the number of screens.

## I Exhibition at Film Theaters

### Changes in Number of Screens in Each Prefecture 2009-2018

The nationwide number of screens in Japan increased by 172 from 3,398 to 3,570 during the 10 years from 2009 to 2018. During these 10 years, there were two critical events. The first one was the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011. The second one was the movie theater's digitalization (a shift from film to DCP). This theater digitalization, for the most part, completed by 2013. From 2010 to 2012, the number of screens decreased by more than 120, and 15 multi-screen theaters with 118 screens closed. However, after 2013, the number has been once again increasing.

The prefectures where numbers of screens have notably increased during the last 10 years are: Aichi (by 38 screens), Kyoto (by 24 screens), Yamagata (by 21 screens), Chiba (by 21 screens) and Osaka (by 17 screens). In the prefectures with big cities, multi-screen theaters have been opening in city centers. During the last 3 years (2015-2018), notable increases were seen in Aichi (by 34 screens), Tokyo (by 20 screens) and Chiba (by 10 screens).

The two cinema chains that are the main forces behind these increases are TOHO Cinemas and Aeon Cinemas. During the last 10 years, 72 multi-screen theaters opened with 675 screens. Aeon Cinema (until 2013, Warner Mycal Cinemas) has opened 23 sites (theaters) and 212 screens since 2009, becoming the biggest multi-screen theater chain in Japan with more than 90 sites. TOHO Cinemas has also been attracting a lot of attention by opening 16 sites and 155 screens during the last 10 years, including ones in city centers like Nihonbashi, Shinjuku and Ueno and Hibiya.

Prefectures where the numbers of screens have significantly decreased during the last 10 years are: Miyagi (by 17 screens), Gifu (by 20 screens) and Hokkaido (by 10 screens). During the last three years from 2015 to 2018, Miyagi increased its number by 14 screens. In the Tohoku Region, its number increased in 2018 by the opening of a new multi-screen theater with 9 screens in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture.

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### Changes in Number of Screens in Each Prefecture 2009-2018

		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2009→2018
	<b>Nationwide</b>	3,398	3,412	3,339	3,290	3,318	3,364	3,437	3,476	3,531	3570	<b>172</b>
1	<b>Hokkaido</b>	124	124	122	119	118	114	113	114	114	114	<b>-10</b>
2	<b>Aomori</b>	45	45	45	45	44	44	44	44	44	44	<b>-1</b>
3	<b>Iwate</b>	27	27	27	25	25	25	25	23	23	23	<b>-4</b>
4	<b>Miyagi</b>	95	95	64	64	64	64	64	73	72	78	<b>-17</b>
5	<b>Akita</b>	23	23	23	22	21	21	21	21	20	20	<b>-3</b>
6	<b>Yamagata</b>	35	47	47	47	47	56	56	56	56	56	<b>21</b>
7	<b>Fukushima</b>	27	29	28	27	26	26	26	26	26	35	<b>8</b>
8	<b>Ibaraki</b>	88	88	88	88	91	91	89	89	90	90	<b>2</b>
9	<b>Tochigi</b>	58	58	58	58	58	57	57	64	64	64	<b>6</b>
10	<b>Gunma</b>	72	71	71	62	62	62	63	61	61	63	<b>-9</b>
11	<b>Saitama</b>	193	193	184	182	200	200	209	209	209	209	<b>16</b>
12	<b>Chiba</b>	188	190	182	176	189	199	199	208	209	209	<b>21</b>
13	<b>Tokyo</b>	364	357	353	342	336	335	358	359	365	378	<b>10</b>
14	<b>Kanagawa</b>	198	216	217	216	216	218	208	209	210	199	<b>1</b>
15	<b>Niigata</b>	66	66	66	66	64	63	63	64	64	64	<b>-1</b>
16	<b>Toyama</b>	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	31	26	27	<b>3</b>
17	<b>Ishikawa</b>	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	61	61	<b>7</b>
18	<b>Fukui</b>	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	27	<b>-4</b>
19	<b>Yamanashi</b>	22	22	18	18	14	14	14	14	14	13	<b>-9</b>
20	<b>Nagano</b>	64	60	67	66	65	65	63	63	72	72	<b>8</b>
21	<b>Gifu</b>	76	76	60	60	60	56	56	56	56	56	<b>-20</b>
22	<b>Shizuoka</b>	102	101	101	101	99	98	96	96	96	96	<b>-6</b>
23	<b>Aichi</b>	254	258	251	247	247	258	258	273	293	292	<b>38</b>
24	<b>Mie</b>	48	48	48	48	58	58	58	58	58	63	<b>15</b>
25	<b>Shiga</b>	39	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	<b>-1</b>
26	<b>Kyoto</b>	54	66	65	64	63	75	75	75	78	78	<b>24</b>
27	<b>Osaka</b>	206	198	201	195	195	204	224	224	224	224	<b>17</b>
28	<b>Hyogo</b>	123	124	115	113	116	117	126	120	121	119	<b>-3</b>
29	<b>Nara</b>	33	25	34	34	34	25	34	34	34	34	<b>1</b>
30	<b>Wakayama</b>	22	22	22	22	20	30	30	30	30	30	<b>8</b>
31	<b>Tottori</b>	14	14	14	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	<b>-3</b>
32	<b>Shimane</b>	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	<b>0</b>
33	<b>Okayama</b>	29	28	28	28	28	39	39	39	39	39	<b>10</b>
34	<b>Hiroshima</b>	82	83	78	78	77	72	72	71	71	80	<b>-2</b>
35	<b>Yamaguchi</b>	35	35	35	31	24	30	30	30	30	30	<b>-5</b>
36	<b>Tokushima</b>	10	9	8	10	10	10	10	10	19	19	<b>10</b>
37	<b>Kagawa</b>	26	25	25	25	26	19	26	26	26	26	<b>0</b>
38	<b>Ehime</b>	43	52	52	52	52	52	52	59	59	59	<b>16</b>
39	<b>Kochi</b>	11	11	11	11	10	10	10	10	11	11	<b>0</b>
40	<b>Fukuoka</b>	164	163	176	175	185	184	178	168	164	175	<b>11</b>
41	<b>Saga</b>	27	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	<b>-7</b>
42	<b>Nagasaki</b>	30	30	26	26	27	26	26	25	25	25	<b>-5</b>
43	<b>Kumamoto</b>	53	52	50	50	50	50	49	49	49	49	<b>-3</b>
44	<b>Oita</b>	29	29	25	25	25	25	35	35	35	36	<b>7</b>
45	<b>Miyazaki</b>	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	<b>0</b>
46	<b>Kagoshima</b>	24	23	23	31	31	31	31	31	39	39	<b>15</b>
47	<b>Okinawa</b>	32	32	31	31	31	31	40	41	41	42	<b>10</b>

from "List of Theaters" of "Film Almanac" (Jiji Press/Kinema Jumbo-sha) and "Film Exhibition Activities Almanac"(Japan Community Cinema Center)

## I Exhibition at Film Theaters

### Changes in Number of Theaters and Screens according to Theater Types in Each Prefecture 2009-2018

We will see how the number of theaters and that of screens have changed according to theater types in each prefecture during the last 10 years.

#### Hokkaido and Tohoku Region

In the Hokkaido and Tohoku Region, the number of screen in 2018 was 370, decreasing by 6 from that in 2009; and the number of theaters in 2018 was 65, decreasing by 17 from that in 2009. Their number of screens occupied 10% of the nationwide number, and the number of theaters occupied 11%. During the last 10 years, its population decreased by 5.5% (the national average was a decrease of 1.0%). This decrease rate was more dramatic compared with that in other regions. Its population occupied 11.1% of the nationwide population.

During the last 10 years, notable changes include Hokkaido's number of theaters decreased by 10 and its number of screens decreased by 10; and Miyagi's number of theaters decreased by 4 and its number of screens decreased by 17. In Hokkaido, conventional theaters closed in Sapporo City (Marion Cinema in 2009, Sapporo Toho Plaza in 2011, Dinos Cinema in 2011 and others) and mini-theater Sasori-za in 2014. In other cities, community-operated theaters such as Cine Tokachi Prince Theater closed in 2012, and Theater Voice in 2013. In Miyagi, there were 95 screens in 2008. However, 2 multi-screen theaters in Sendai City (Sendai Korona World with 12 screens and Izumi Korona World with 10 screens) permanently closed after their temporary closing upon the 2011 earthquake. At one time, its number dropped to 64 screens. However, TOHO Cinemas Sendai (with 9 screens) opened in 2016; Theater Forte which was closed after the 2011 earthquake, re-opened as United Cinema Fote Miyagi-Ogawara in 2018. During the last 3 years, its number increased by 14 screens to 78 screens.

Miyako Cinemarine, a movie theater operating traveling screenings along the sea shore of Iwate Prefecture after the 2011 earthquake, closed in September 2016, leaving this seashore area with no movie theater. In the Hokkaido and Tohoku Region, Yamagata Prefecture increased its number of screens notably by 21 screens and 3 theaters, due mostly to the opening of 2 multi-screen theaters (Forum Higashine and Aeon Cinemas Tendo). In Yamagata, the local theater owners changed from conventional theaters to multi-screen theaters at a relatively early stage, thus, maintaining the number of screens prefecture-wide.

In Iwate, Akita and Fukushima Prefectures, the number of screens per population is low, thus the population per screen is high: 53,936 in Iwate, 49,034 in Akita and 53,220 in Fukushima. These figures are much higher than the national average. In Fukushima, Polepole Cinema Iwaki Onahama opened in 2018 with 9 screens, and its situation has been improved. There are many areas in this region with no theaters at all, not just limited to the areas along the Pacific Ocean shore. Historically, traveling screenings taking advantage of public venues have been active. In Odate City, Akita Prefecture, local people reopened movie house Onari-za in 2014 after it was temporarily closed. Miyako Cinemarine continues to host monthly screenings, and independent film exhibition activities started in cities such as Miyako, Kamaishi, Rikuzen-Takada, etc., after the 2011 earthquake. With population shrinking, the activities providing local people with film culture and the experience of watching films on a big screen should become increasingly important in areas with no theaters.

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### **Kanto Region**

In the Kanto Region, the number of screens was 1,212 in 2018, increasing by 47 from that in 2009; and the number of theaters in 2018 was 192, decreasing by 33 from that in 2009. This region's number of screens occupied 34% of the nationwide number, and the number of theaters occupied 33%. The population during these 10 years increased by 2.3% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.0%), and the population increased in the 4 prefectures of Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo and Kanagawa. The population in these four prefectures occupied 34% of the nationwide population.

During the last 10 years in this region, 19 multi-screen theaters opened, and 18 out of 19 opened in the metropolitan area of Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba and Kanagawa Prefectures. In Tokyo, 7 multi-screen theaters have opened since 2014. In this region, only in Gunma Prefecture, the number of screens decreased, due to the closing of Ota Korona World Theater.

In Tokyo during these 10 years, multi-screen theaters increased by 6 theaters and 63 screens, while other theaters decreased by 32 theaters and 53 screens. Since 2010 in Tokyo, 15 mini-theaters and repertory theaters, 17 conventional theaters and 5 adult theaters have closed. Particularly in Shibuya, 8 mini-theaters (Cinema Rise, Cine Quinto, Human Trust Cinema Bunkamura-dori, Cine Saison Shibuya, Ebisu Garden Cinema, etc.) closed and attracted attention.

In other areas, theaters loved by many fans for a long time closed such as: TOHO Cinemas Nichigeki, Ginza Cine Pathos, Asakusa Meiga-za, Sangenjaya Cinema, Shinjuku Milano-za, Ueno Tokyu, and Kichijoji Baus Theater. However, as we described above, 7 multi-screen theaters have opened since 2014 in the middle of Tokyo, and in 2018, Uplink Kichijoji, a mini-theater with 5 screens, opened in Kichijoji (in the suburbs), making a film theater map change drastically. It was announced that in 2019, a new multi-screen theater will open in Ikebukuro (in one of the shopping centers) and there will be more changes. More multi-screen theaters kept opening in Saitama, Chiba and Kanagawa, and it looks like multi-screen theaters will continue to increase in big city centers.

During the last 10 years, 38 non-multi-screen theaters have opened (including reopening theaters), and 15 are concentrated in the Kanto Region. Particularly in Kanagawa Prefecture, new types of mini-theater have begun to open, such as Cinema Amigo (Zushi City), Cine-koya (Fujisawa City), Atsugi no Eigakan Kiki (the former Amyu Atsugi, in Atsugi City), Yokohama Cinemarine and Cinema Novecento (Yokohama City).

Also, 9 adult film theaters closed and the number of such theaters fell to 4 with 7 screens. Ueno Okura Theater re-opened in 2010 after its renovation.

### **Chubu Region**

In the Chubu Region, the number of screens in 2018 was 708, increasing by 16 from that in 2009; and the number of theaters in 2018 was 109, decreasing by 25 from that in 2009. The region's number of screens occupied 20% of the nationwide number; and the number of theaters occupied 19%. During these 10 years from 2009 to 2018, its population decreased by 2.2% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.0%), and the population outside of Aichi Prefecture decreased. The region's population in 2018 was 16.8% of the nationwide population.

In the 6 prefectures outside of Toyama, Ishikawa and Aichi, the numbers of theaters and screens both decreased. Particularly in Gifu Prefecture, the number of screens decreased by 20. This is mostly due to the closing of a multi-screen theater United Cinemas Shinsei. In the whole Chubu Region, during these 10 years, 16 multi-screen theaters opened. Among them, 10 theaters opened in Shizuoka and Aichi Prefectures together, and in Aichi between 2016 and 2017, 4 multi-screen

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theaters with 38 screens opened. The number of screens per population of Ishikawa Prefecture is the highest in Japan. That of Aichi Prefecture is also high among the prefectures with big cities (Aichi's population per screen is 25, 819).

The number of conventional and adult theaters have decreased nationwide.

Takada Sekai-kan in Niigata Prefecture, Nagano Roxy/Nagano Shochiku Aioiza, Ueda Eigeki, and Shiojiri Higashi-za in Nagano Prefecture, changed their programming from that of a conventional theater with big commercial films to that of mini- and repertory theater, creating new images. In Shizuoka Prefecture, during these 10 years, 11 conventional theaters closed. In Niigata and Toyama Prefectures, there are no conventional and adult theaters, but only multi-screen and mini-/repertory theaters. In Fukui Prefecture, one-hundred-year old Fukui Cinema closed in 2018. In Toyama, multi-screen theater Toyama Theater Daitokai, and mini-theater Forza Sogawa (operated by a collaborative organization) closed in 2016. That year, a new multi-screen theater JMAX Theater Toyama (8 screens) opened, as well as Hotori-za taking over Forza Sogawa's programming. In Niigata Prefecture, a mini-theater Tokamachi Cinema Paradise, which operated from 2007, closed in 2018 in Tokamachi City with its population of 50,000. On the other hand, Gashima Cinema opened with 5 days a week operation in Satogashima Island.

### **Kinki Region**

In Kinki, the number of screens in 2018 was 586, increasing by 61 from that of 2009; and the number of theaters in 2018 was 94, decreasing by 18 from that of 2009. This region's number of screens and that of theaters both occupied 16.4% of the nationwide numbers. During these 10 years, the region's population decreased by 0.5% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.0%), and this regional population in 2018 occupied 17.6% of the nationwide population. In Shiga and Osaka Prefectures, their populations increased.

In the years from 2016 to 2017, no multi-screen theaters opened. However, in November 2018, Aeon Cinemas Tsuminami opened in Mie Prefecture.

It is a national trend that conventional theaters have been transformed to multi-screen theaters in big city centers. In Hyogo and Osaka Prefectures, conventional theaters began to close. In Osaka during these 10 years, 10 closed and there is no conventional theater now. (There are 7 mini- and repertory theaters with 14 screens.) In Hyogo, 8 conventional theaters were closed. Among them, Toyooka Gekijo changed its management, and after a large-scale renovation, it re-opened with a mini-theater-like programming. In Mie Prefecture, Jisto Cinema Iga Ueno closed in March 2018 and there is no conventional theater. In Kyoto Prefecture, the number of screens increased by 24 because 2 multi-screen theaters with 12 screens opened in Kyoto City. A mini-theater Demachi-za opened, and a classic mini-theater Kyoto Minami-Kaikan, which was popular for a long time, temporarily closed for moving and will reopen in summer of 2019.

In Nara Prefecture, during these 10 years, the number of theaters increased by 1 and may not look significant. However, there were big changes: 2 multi-screen theaters closed (Cinema Dept Yuraku Cinema with 8 screen and MOVIX Kashihara with 9 screens), while 2 opened (Cinema Sunshine Yamato-Kohriyama with 9 screens and United Cinema Kashihara with 9 screens). In Nara, there are no other theaters beyond multi-screen theaters, however, the Nara International Film Festival operates regular screenings throughout the year, not just during the time of the festival.

In Wakayama Prefecture, there have not been many changes except the opening of Aeon Cinemas Wakayama in 2014. In the cities of Gobo, Tanabe and Shingu, a conventional theater Jist Cinema has continued to operate.

## **I Exhibition at Film Theaters**

### **Chugoku and Shikoku Region**

The number of screens in the Chugoku and Shikoku Region in 2018 was 290, increasing by 26 from that in 2009, and the number of theaters in 2018 was 53, decreasing by 8 from that in 2009. The number of screens in this region occupied 8% of the nationwide number, and that of theaters was 9%. During these 10 years, the region's population decreased by 4.2% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.0%), and the 2018 population occupied 8.8% of the nationwide population.

There were not many changes during these 10 years in numbers. The prefectures whose numbers of screens increased by more than 10 screens are: Okayama and Tokushima with one multi-screen theater each opened; and Ehime Prefecture with 2 opened. Ehime's number of screens per population is the third largest after Ishikawa and Yamagata Prefectures. During these 10 years, there was no change in Shimane and Kagawa Prefectures.

In Hiroshima Prefecture, a multi-screen theater with 9 screens opened in Hiroshima City, while 5 conventional theaters with 9 screens, 2 mini-and repertory theaters and 2 adult film theaters closed, making little to no difference in comparison of numbers.

Likewise in Yamaguchi Prefecture, one multi-screen theater with 8 screens opened, while 4 conventional and mini-theaters closed with 10 screens, resulting in no conventional theater. In the prefectural capital city of Yamaguchi, there has been no movie theater, however, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media has been compensating for this situation by presenting a mini-theater like programming every weekend. In Kochi Prefecture, mini-theater Weekend Kinema M opened in October 2017, taking advantage of an empty building space in the middle of the shopping area in Kochi City.

In the Japan Sea shore areas in Chugoku and in Shikoku, the area with no theaters has spread. In Shimane Prefecture, the Shimane Film Festival has been hosting in various areas of the prefecture, providing their local people with opportunities of watching films on a big screen.

### **Kyushu and Okinawa Region**

In the Kyushu and Okinawa Region, the number of screens in 2018 was 404, increasing by 28 from that in 2009; and the number of theaters was 71, decreasing by 3 from that in 2009. The number of screens in this region occupied 11% of the nationwide number, and the number of theaters was 12%. During these 10 years, the region's population decreased by 2.0% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.0%), resulting in 11.3% the nationwide population.

In this region, during these 10 years, three prefectures increased their numbers of screens by more than 10. In Fukuoka Prefecture, United Cinemas Fukuoka Momochi reopened in 2018, after it was temporarily closed in 2016, resulting in the increase of 24 screens prefecture-wide. In Kagoshima Prefecture, two multi-screen theaters opened, and in Okinawa Prefecture, one multi-screen theater and two mini-theaters opened.

In Saga Prefecture, one multi-screen theater closed, resulting in no theater in the areas outside of Saga City. In Nagasaki Prefecture, a conventional theater closed in both Sasebo City and Isahaya City, resulting in there being no theaters except in Nagasaki City and Sasebo City. In Miyazaki Prefecture, there was no change during these 10 years. In Nagasaki and Miyazaki Prefectures, the number of screens per population is low, thus the population per screen is high: 55,578 in Nagasaki, and 59,985 in Miyazaki.

In Fukuoka Prefecture, two mini-theaters (Cineterie Tenjin and Cine Libre Hakata Station) closed in Fukuoka City, resulting in one mini-/repertory theater in this city. Fukuoka City Public Library presents screenings every day in its Auditorium



## **I Exhibition at Film Theaters**

Cinera, functioning as a repertory theater.

In Okinawa Prefecture, two small theaters opened: Theater Donuts in Okinawa City in 2015, and Yui Road Theater in Ishigaki City in 2018.