

General Situation in Each Prefecture

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As for the **film attendance of each prefecture**, 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 **average number of films a person went to see annually** was obtained in each prefecture. The national average in 2019 was 1.5 films, higher by 0.2 than the 1.3 in the year before. Tokyo's number, 2.4, was higher by 0.4 than the 2.0 in the year before; and was followed by 1.9 of Kyoto and Osaka; 1.8 of Kanagawa and Aichi; 1.7 of Chiba, Tochigi, and Fukuoka; and 1.6 of Ishikawa, Yamagata, Saitama and Gunma. These were the prefectures with the number above the national average of 1.5 films, leaving all other prefectures with the number below the average.

The **number of screens in each prefecture** was high like that of attendance in the prefectures with big cities. From 2018 to 2019, the total number of screens nationwide increased by 36. From 2010 to 2012, its number dramatically decreased, however during the last several years, its number has been constantly increasing. From 2015 to 2016, 29 screens were added; from 2016 to 2018, 54 screens; and from 2017 to 2018, 61 screens were added.

The national average **population per screen** was 34,809. When this figure is lower, it means that there are more screens in the area, and the inhabitants feel that the screens are easily accessible. The numbers in only two prefectures, Ishikawa (18,642) and Yamagata (19,233) were between 10,000 and 19,999, and these are the “prefectures with many movie houses.” In these two prefectures, the average number of films a person went to see annually was also above the national average.

On the other hand, seven prefectures whose average population per screen exceeded 50,000 were: Kochi (63,425), Yamanashi (62,466), Miyazaki (59,540), Fukushima (57,630), Iwate (53,323), Nagasaki (53,008), and Tottori (50,515). In these prefectures, the number of movie theaters has remained low for several years. The average number of the films a person went to see annually was as low as 0.7 to 1.1, and the inhabitants living in these prefectures do not have easy access to film culture. However, in these areas with less theaters, there have been an increasing number of traveling screenings at public halls, and recently, many new types of independent exhibitions have been developed, creating community film exhibitions that supplement or replace conventional theaters. We must keep in mind that rich film exhibition environments could be uncouncted in these film business statistics.

Film Exhibition at Theaters

		Population		# of Theaters	# of Screens	Annual Attendance *estimate		Population per Screen	Attendance per Screen	Annual # of Films One Went to See
	Nationwide Total	126,251,220	100%	593	3,627	195,462,000	100%	34,809	53,891	1.5
1	Hokkaido	5,285,753	4.2%	22	114	5,780,000	3.0%	46,366	50,702	1.1
2	Aomori	1,246,291	1.0%	8	44	1,232,000	0.6%	28,325	28,000	1.0
3	Iwate	1,226,430	1.0%	7	23	888,000	0.5%	53,323	38,609	0.7
4	Miyagi	2,303,160	1.8%	10	78	3,282,000	1.7%	29,528	42,077	1.4
5	Akita	965,927	0.8%	5	20	772,000	0.4%	48,296	38,600	0.8
6	Yamagata	1,077,057	0.9%	8	56	1,739,000	0.9%	19,233	31,054	1.6
7	Fukushima	1,844,173	1.5%	5	32	1,429,000	0.7%	57,630	44,656	0.8
8	Ibaraki	2,868,041	2.3%	14	90	3,751,000	1.9%	31,867	41,678	1.3
9	Tochigi	1,942,312	1.5%	9	64	3,231,000	1.7%	30,349	50,484	1.7
10	Gunma	1,937,626	1.5%	8	52	3,052,000	1.6%	37,262	58,692	1.6
11	Saitama	7,337,330	5.8%	25	209	11,798,000	6.0%	35,107	56,450	1.6
12	Chiba	6,279,026	5.0%	25	220	10,527,000	5.4%	28,541	47,850	1.7
13	Tokyo	13,942,856	11.0%	84	398	33,234,000	17.0%	35,032	83,503	2.4
14	Kanagawa	9,200,166	7.3%	31	202	16,962,000	8.7%	45,545	83,970	1.8
15	Niigata	2,222,004	1.8%	10	64	2,781,000	1.4%	34,719	43,453	1.3
16	Toyama	1,042,998	0.8%	4	27	1,401,000	0.7%	38,630	51,889	1.3
17	Ishikawa	1,137,181	0.9%	9	61	1,871,000	1.0%	18,642	30,672	1.6
18	Fukui	767,742	0.6%	5	27	1,034,000	0.5%	28,435	38,296	1.3
19	Yamanashi	812,056	0.6%	4	13	895,000	0.5%	62,466	68,846	1.1
20	Nagano	2,049,653	1.6%	16	72	1,743,000	0.9%	28,467	24,208	0.9
21	Gifu	1,988,931	1.6%	8	56	2,535,000	1.3%	35,517	45,268	1.3
22	Shizuoka	3,639,226	2.9%	16	106	5,291,000	2.7%	34,332	49,915	1.5
23	Aichi	7,552,873	6.0%	40	295	13,567,000	6.9%	25,603	45,990	1.8
24	Mie	1,779,770	1.4%	10	63	2,487,000	1.3%	28,250	39,476	1.4
25	Shiga	1,413,959	1.1%	6	38	1,787,000	0.9%	37,209	47,026	1.3
26	Kyoto	2,583,140	2.0%	13	80	4,900,000	2.5%	32,289	61,250	1.9
27	Osaka	8,823,453	7.0%	32	224	16,678,000	8.5%	39,390	74,455	1.9
28	Hyogo	5,463,609	4.3%	24	120	7,291,000	3.7%	45,530	60,758	1.3
29	Nara	1,331,330	1.1%	4	34	1,646,000	0.8%	39,157	48,412	1.2
30	Wakayama	923,721	0.7%	5	30	1,038,000	0.5%	30,791	34,600	1.1
31	Tottori	555,663	0.4%	3	11	435,000	0.2%	50,515	39,545	0.8
32	Shimane	673,891	0.5%	2	15	855,000	0.4%	44,926	57,000	1.3
33	Okayama	1,891,346	1.5%	7	39	2,392,000	1.2%	48,496	61,333	1.3
34	Hiroshima	2,807,987	2.2%	15	79	4,033,000	2.1%	35,544	51,051	1.4
35	Yamaguchi	1,355,495	1.1%	5	30	1,344,000	0.7%	45,183	44,800	1.0
36	Tokushima	728,633	0.6%	3	19	488,000	0.2%	38,349	25,684	0.7
37	Kagawa	956,069	0.8%	5	26	1,406,000	0.7%	36,772	54,077	1.5
38	Ehime	1,338,811	1.1%	10	59	1,468,000	0.8%	22,692	24,881	1.1
39	Kochi	697,674	0.6%	3	11	746,000	0.4%	63,425	67,818	1.1
40	Fukuoka	5,110,113	4.0%	24	175	8,467,000	4.3%	29,201	48,383	1.7
41	Saga	814,211	0.6%	4	21	851,000	0.4%	38,772	40,524	1.0
42	Nagasaki	1,325,205	1.0%	4	25	1,341,000	0.7%	53,008	53,640	1.0
43	Kumamoto	1,746,740	1.4%	9	58	1,852,000	0.9%	30,116	31,931	1.1
44	Oita	1,133,970	0.9%	8	35	1,334,000	0.7%	32,399	38,114	1.2
45	Miyazaki	1,071,723	0.8%	5	18	904,000	0.5%	59,540	50,222	0.8
46	Kagoshima	1,601,711	1.3%	7	39	1,474,000	0.8%	41,070	37,795	0.9
47	Okinawa	1,454,184	1.2%	12	55	1,450,000	0.7%	26,440	26,364	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 Estimates" (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Statistics Bureau)

Attendance of Each Prefecture (estimate):

"Japanese Film Industry Statistics" (Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan, January 2020) includes no attendance in each prefecture. "Special Service Industry Situation Research Report: Film Theaters" (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, September 2019) includes 2017 numbers of attendance in each prefecture. The numbers in the above chart are based on the attendance of each prefecture in the above "Report" (2013, 2014, 2016 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 2019 attendance of the "Statistics"; the above came up with the rough attendance of each prefecture.

*As for the prefectures with no data, their figures were calculated by the prefecture's total numbers divided by the number of screens.

Changes in Number of Screens in Each prefecture (2010-2019)

Film Exhibition at Theaters

The nationwide number of screens in Japan increased by 152 from 3,475 to 3,627 during the 10 years from 2010 to 2019. At the beginning of this period, the Great East Japan Earthquake took place on March 11, 2011; and between 2010 and 2013, a big change took place in the form of the theatrical digitalization (transition from film projection to DCP [Digital Cinema Package] projection). Because of these events, the number of screens decreased by more than 200 from 3,475 in 2010 to 3,290 in 2012; and 15 multi-screen sites with 118 screens closed. However, after 2013, the number of screens has once again been increasing, and in 2016, its number returned to 3,476, exceeding that in 2010.

The prefectures where the number of screens has notably increased during the last 10 years from 2010 to 2019 are: Chiba (by 26 screens), Tokyo (by 31 screens), Aichi (by 35 screens), Osaka (by 20 screens), and Okinawa (by 23 screens). During these 10 years, 77 multi-screen sites with 726 screens were added, and among them, 7 sites are in Chiba, 10 sites are in Tokyo, and 6 sites are in Aichi. The two cinema chains that are the main forces behind these increases during the past 10 years are TOHO Cinemas and Aeon Cinemas. Aeon Cinema (until 2013, Warner Mycal Cinemas) has opened 24 sites and 219 screens since 2010, becoming the biggest multi-screen theater chain in Japan with more than 90 sites. TOHO Cinemas has opened 17 sites and 160 screens during the last 10 years, including ones in city centers like Nihonbashi, Shinjuku, Ueno, and Hibiya. In addition, Cinema Sunshine opened 7 sites with 65 screens, and United Cinema opened 7 sites with 73 screens.

During the last 10 years, 27 multi-screen sites and 118 screens were closed. The prefectures where the number of screens has decreased more than 10 during the last 10 years are: Hokkaido (by 13 screens), Miyagi (17 screens), Gunma (20 screens), Kanagawa (18 screens), and Gifu (20 screens). 1 to 3 multi-screen sites have been closed in each of these prefectures.

Changes in Number of Screens in Each Prefecture (2009-2018)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		スクリーン数増減 (2010→2019)	
	Nationwide Total	3,475	3,338	3,290	3,318	3,364	3,437	3,476	3,530	3,591	3,627	100%	172
1	Hokkaido	127	122	119	118	114	113	114	114	114	114	3.1%	-13
2	Aomori	45	45	45	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	1.2%	-1
3	Iwate	27	27	25	25	25	25	23	23	23	23	0.6%	-4
4	Miyagi	95	64	64	64	64	64	73	72	78	78	2.2%	-17
5	Akita	23	23	22	21	21	21	22	20	20	20	0.6%	-3
6	Yamagata	47	47	47	47	56	56	56	56	56	56	1.5%	9
7	Fukushima	29	28	27	26	26	26	26	26	35	32	0.9%	3
8	Ibaraki	88	88	88	91	91	89	89	90	90	90	2.5%	2
9	Tochigi	58	58	58	58	57	57	64	64	64	64	1.8%	6
10	Gunma	72	71	62	62	62	63	61	61	63	52	1.4%	-20
11	Saitama	193	184	182	200	200	209	209	209	209	209	5.8%	16
12	Chiba	194	182	176	189	199	199	208	209	209	220	6.1%	26
13	Tokyo	367	353	342	336	335	358	359	365	378	398	11.0%	31
14	Kanagawa	220	217	216	216	218	208	209	209	209	202	5.6%	-18
15	Niigata	66	66	66	64	63	63	64	64	64	64	1.8%	-2
16	Toyama	24	23	23	23	23	23	31	27	27	27	0.7%	3
17	Ishikawa	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	61	61	61	1.7%	7
18	Fukui	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	27	0.7%	-4
19	Yamanashi	22	18	18	14	14	14	14	14	14	13	0.4%	-9
20	Nagano	65	67	66	65	65	63	63	72	72	72	2.0%	7
21	Gifu	76	60	60	60	56	56	56	56	56	56	1.5%	-20
22	Shizuoka	107	101	101	99	98	96	96	96	96	106	2.9%	-1
23	Aichi	260	251	247	247	258	258	273	293	293	295	8.1%	35
24	Mie	48	48	48	58	58	58	58	58	67	63	1.7%	15
25	Shiga	39	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	1.0%	-1
26	Kyoto	66	65	64	63	75	75	75	78	78	80	2.2%	14
27	Osaka	204	201	195	195	204	224	224	224	224	224	6.2%	20
28	Hyogo	123	115	113	116	117	126	120	119	120	120	3.3%	-3
29	Nara	33	34	34	34	25	34	34	34	34	34	0.9%	1
30	Wakayama	22	22	22	20	30	30	30	30	30	30	0.8%	8
31	Tottori	14	14	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	0.3%	-3
32	Shimane	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	0.4%	0
33	Okayama	29	28	28	28	39	39	39	39	39	39	1.1%	10
34	Hiroshima	84	78	78	77	72	72	71	71	81	79	2.2%	-5
35	Yamaguchi	35	35	31	24	30	30	30	30	30	30	0.8%	-6
36	Tokushima	9	8	10	10	10	10	10	19	19	19	0.5%	10
37	Kagawa	26	25	25	26	19	26	26	26	26	26	0.7%	0
38	Ehime	52	52	52	52	52	52	59	59	59	59	1.6%	7
39	Kochi	11	11	11	10	10	10	10	11	11	11	0.3%	0
40	Fukuoka	163	176	175	185	184	178	168	164	175	175	4.8%	11
41	Saga	27	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	0.6%	-6
42	Nagasaki	30	26	26	27	26	26	25	25	25	25	0.7%	-5
43	Kumamoto	52	50	50	50	50	49	49	49	49	58	1.6%	6
44	Oita	29	25	25	25	25	35	35	36	35	35	1.0%	6
45	Miyazaki	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	0.5%	0
46	Kagoshima	24	23	31	31	31	31	31	39	39	39	1.1%	15
47	Okinawa	32	31	31	31	31	40	41	41	42	55	1.5%	23

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

Changes in Number of Theaters and Screens according to Theater Types in Each Prefecture (2010-2019)

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 screens in 2019 was 367, decreasing by 26 from that in 2010; and the number of theaters in 2019 was 65, decreasing by 20 from that in 2010. 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 6.0% (the national average was a decrease of 1.4%). Their decrease rate was more dramatic compared with that in other regions. In 2019, its population occupied 11.0% of the nationwide population.

The population per screen in Hokkaido (46,667), Iwate (53,936), Akita (49,034), and Fukushima (53,220), were considerably higher than that of the nationwide average (35,443), meaning that these prefectures have fewer theaters.

During the last 10 years, notable changes were as follows: Hokkaido's number of theaters decreased by 11 and its number of screens decreased by 13; 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 (Sapporo Toho Plaza and Dinos Cinema in 2011) and mini-theater Sasori-za closed in 2014. In other cities, community-operated theaters such as Cine Tokachi Prince Theater closed in 2012, Theater Voice in 2013 and others. There was a conventional theater in each of Asahikawa City, Bibai City, and Nayoro Town, but all of them closed.

In Miyagi, there were 95 screens in 2010. However, the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake destroyed Okada Theater in Ishinomaki City, leading to its close, and 2 multi-screen theaters in Sendai City (Sendai Korona World and Izumi Korona) temporarily closed after the 2011 earthquake, followed by their permanent closing. At one time, Miyagi's number dropped to 64 screens. However, TOHO Cinemas Sendai opened in 2016; Theater Forte, which was closed after the 2011 earthquake, re-opened as United Cinema Forte Miyagi-Ogawara in 2018. By 2019, its number was increased by 14 to 78 screens. In 2018, Sakurai Pharmacy Central Hall, a mini-theater loved by the community, was closed.

In Iwate Prefecture, Miyako Cinemarine, a movie theater managed by Miyako Film Life Co-op and operating traveling screenings along the seashore after the 2011 Earthquake, closed in September 2016. As a result, there is currently no movie theater in this seashore area. In Odate City of Akita Prefecture, local people reopened the movie house Onari-za in 2014 after it was temporarily closed.

In the Hokkaido and Tohoku Region, Yamagata Prefecture increased its number of screens mostly due to the opening of 3 theaters: Tsuruoka Machinaka Kinema and Forum Higashine in 2010, and Aeon Cinemas Tendo in 2014. In Fukushima Prefecture, the number of screens also increased when Polepole Cinema Iwaki Onahama opened in 2018. In Yamagata, the local theater owners changed their theaters from conventional type to multi-screen theaters at a relatively early stage. This is behind Yamagata Prefecture's maintaining their number of screens prefecture-wide.

There are many areas in this region with no theaters at all, not just the areas along the Pacific Ocean shore. Historically, traveling screenings taking advantage of public venues have been active. Okada Planning in Ishinomaki City lost its theater by tsunami but has been avidly engaged in traveling screenings. Miyako Film Life Co-op also collaborates with the traveling screenings in Miyako, Kamaishi, Otsuchi, Iwaizumi, etc., and at the newly opened public halls in the victimized areas by 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.

Kanto Region

In the Kanto Region, the number of screens was 1,235 in 2019, increasing by 43 from that in 2010; and the number of theaters in 2019 was 196, decreasing by 32 from that in 2010. 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 2.1% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.4%), and the population increased in the 4 prefectures of Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo and Kanagawa. In 2019, the population in this region occupied 34.5% of the nationwide population.

During the last 10 years in this region, 26 multi-screen theaters opened, and 23 out of the 26 opened in the metropolitan areas of Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba, and Kanagawa Prefectures. In Tokyo, 9 multi-screen theaters have opened since 2014.

Notably, 2 theaters and 20 screens closed in Gunma Prefecture, and 5 theaters and 18 screens in Kanagawa Prefecture closed, a

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decrease in both the number of theaters and screens. In Gunma, two multi-screen theaters, Ota Korona World Theater and Previ Isesaki, closed and the number of the multi-screen theaters in this prefecture decreased from 7 to 5. In Kanagawa, 3 theaters closed including Aeon Cinema Tsukimino, 109 Cinemas MM Yokohama and MOVIX Honmoku, and multi-screen theaters decreased from 22 to 20. In addition, Yokohama New Theater in Isesaki-cho, loved by the community for a long time, closed. On the other hand, in Kanagawa Prefecture, 5 mini-theaters opened during the last 10 years, including Yokohama Cinemarine and Cinema Novecento, Kino Cinema Yokohama Minato Mirai, Cine-koya and Atsugi no Eigakan kiki. In other areas, mini-theater Amaya-za opened in Naka City of Ibaragi Prefecture in 2017, and in Takasaki City of Gunma Prefecture, Takasaki Eiga-kan, with its long history, revived in 2014 as a repertory theater.

In Tokyo, multi-screen theaters increased by 7 theaters and 79 screens, while other theaters decreased by 30 theaters and 48 screens. Since 2010 in Tokyo, 19 mini-theaters and repertory theaters and 18 conventional theaters have closed. Especially in Shibuya, during the last 10 years, 6 mini-theaters (Cinema Rise, Shibuya Theater TSUTAYA, Theater N Shibuya, Cine Saison Shibuya, Cinema Angelika, etc.) closed; and when Cinema Rise, a symbol of mini-theater culture, closed in 2016, it attracted attention. In other areas, several theaters popular among many fans for a long time and helped make film culture in Tokyo diverse, closed, such as: Asakusa Meiga-za and Ueno Tokyu in 2012, Ginza Cine Pathos in 2013, Shimbashi Bunka Theater/Shimbashi Roman Theater, Sangenjaya Cinema, Shinjuku Milano-za and Kichijoji Baus Theater in 2014, and TOHO Cinemas Nichigeki in 2018. However, on the other hand, Cinema Chupki Tabata, Japan's first barrier-free movie house, opened in 2016, and 8 more mini-theaters opened including Uplink Kichijoji in 2018, Kinoshita Group's Kino Cinema Tachikawa Takashimaya SC in 2019, and others. In 2019, a new multi-screen theater Grand Cinema Sunshine (12 screens) opened in Ikebukuro, changing Tokyo's cinema map. There are 4 adult film theaters with 7 screens and in 2010, Ueno Okura Theater re-opened after its renovation.

In October 2019, Typhoon # 19 attacked many areas in Japan and Kawasaki City Museum was flooded. As of March 2020, the Museum's reopening has not been planned. Many valuable items in its collection including films and film related documents were damaged severely, and the restoration work has only just begun.

Chubu Region

In the Chubu Region, the number of screens in 2019 was 721, increasing by 16 from that in 2009; and the number of theaters in 2019 was 112, decreasing by 24 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, its population decreased by 2.3% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.4%), and the population outside of Aichi Prefecture decreased. The region's population in 2019 occupied 16.8% of the nationwide population.

In the 5 prefectures outside of Toyama, Ishikawa, Nagano, 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 the multi-screen theater United Cinemas Shinsei in 2011, and in 2014, the only movie house in Hida area, Takayama Asahi-za, unfortunately closed.

In Aichi, 6 multi-screen theaters opened during the last 10 years, and the number of screens increased by 35 from 260 to 295. The number of screens per population of Ishikawa Prefecture is the highest in Japan. The number of screens per population of Aichi Prefecture was 25,603, and the number of screens is the highest among the prefectures with big cities.

The numbers of conventional and adult theaters have decreased nationwide. Takada Sekai-kan in Niigata Prefecture, Nagano Roxi/Nagano Shochiku Aioi-za, Ueda Eigeki, and Shiojiri Higashi-za in Nagano Prefecture, all changed their programming from that of a conventional theater to that of mini- and repertory theater, creating new images.

In Shizuoka Prefecture, during these 10 years, 10 conventional and 2 adult theaters closed, although the number of screens increased as multi-screen theaters increased. Only Shizuoka Toho Kaikan has survived among conventional theaters. In Niigata and Toyama Prefectures, there are no conventional and adult theaters. In Fukui Prefecture, one-hundred-year old Fukui Cinema closed in 2018. In Yamanashi Prefecture, two historical movie houses closed: Koho Cinema in 2013 and Theater Isawa in 2018. In Aichi Prefecture, the only movie house in Nishio City, Nishio Theater, stopped its operation in 2011. Its building, registered as a Modern Industry Heritage Site, was demolished in 2014.

In Toyama Prefecture, multi-screen theater JMAX Theater Toyama opened in 2016, and Toyama Theater Daitokai closed in 2018. Mini-theater Forza Sogawa (operated by a community collaborative organization) closed in 2016 and Hotori-za Theater took over its programming. In 2020, Forza Sogawa is expected to reopen. 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 the Kinki Region, the number of screens in 2019 was 589, increasing by 54 from that of 2010; and the number of theaters in 2019 was 94, decreasing by 22 from that of 2010. This region's number of screens occupied 16.2% and that of theaters occupied 15.9% of the nationwide numbers. During these 10 years, the region's population decreased by 1.9% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.4%), and this regional population in 2019 occupied 17.7% of the nationwide population. In all prefectures except Shiga, populations decreased.

During the last 10 years, the number of screens in three prefectures largely increased in Mie (by 15), Kyoto (by 14), and Osaka (by 20), where 2-3 multi-screen theaters were added each.

In most big city centers, conventional theaters have shifted to multi-screen theaters. In the Kinki Region, it stands out that 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. In Hyogo, 6 conventional theaters were closed. Among them, Toyooka Gekijo changed its management, and after a large-scale renovation, it re-opened with a program including mini-theater programming. In Mie Prefecture, Jisto Cinema Iga Ueno closed in March 2018 and there is no conventional theater. The reasons behind the closing of conventional theaters were the impact of multi-screen theaters and the need of big scale investment for digitalization.

In Kyoto Prefecture, the number of screens increased by 14 largely because 2 multi-screen theaters with 12 screens opened in Kyoto City. Furthermore, a mini-theater Demachi-za opened in 2017, and Kyoto Minami Kaikan reopened in August 2019, adding two more screens, an increase from 1 to 3. In April 2020, Uplink Kyoto is expected to open. In Nishi-Maizuru, a "semi-movie house" Cine Grulla, opened operating at night and over the weekends. On the other hand, two historical movie houses closed including Shin Kyogoku Cine La Liebe and Gion Kaikan, stopping their operations.

In Nara Prefecture, based on the statistics, the number of theaters increased by 1 during the last 10 years, and the change may not look significant. However, 2 multi-screen theaters closed (Cinema Dept Yuraku Cinema and MOVIX Kashihara), and 2 opened (Cinema Sunshine Yamato-Koriyama and United Cinema Kashihara).

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. However, two adult film theaters closed.

Chugoku and Shikoku Region

The number of screens in the Chugoku and Shikoku Region in 2019 was 289, increasing by 14 from that in 2010, and the number of theaters in 2019 was 53, decreasing by 9 from that in 2010. The number of screens in this region occupied 8% of the nationwide number, and that of theaters was 8.9%. During these 10 years, the region's population decreased by 4.6% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.4%), and the 2019 population occupied 8.7% of the nationwide population.

There were not many changes during these 10 years in numbers. The prefectures whose number of screens increased or decreased by more than 10 screens are Okayama and Tokushima Prefectures with one multi-screen theater each opened. During these 10 years, there was no change in numbers in Shimane, Kagawa, and Kochi Prefectures.

In Hiroshima Prefecture, a multi-screen theater with 9 screens opened in Hiroshima City, while 3 conventional theaters, 2 mini-and repertory theaters and 1 adult film theater closed. Likewise in Yamaguchi Prefecture, 1 multi-screen theater with 8 screens opened, while 5 conventional and mini-theaters closed with 13 screens, resulting in no conventional theater in the prefecture. In the prefectural capital city of Yamaguchi, there has been no movie theater after Yamaguchi Scala-za closed in 2012. However, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media has been compensating for this situation by presenting mini-theater like programming every weekend. In Ehime Prefecture, there were 8 multi-screen theaters. Ehime's number of screens per population is the third largest after Ishikawa and Yamagata Prefectures.

In the Japan Sea shore areas in Chugoku and in Shikoku, there are not many theaters. Some prefectures have only 2-3 theaters altogether. In the prefectures of Kochi, Tottori, Okayama, Yamaguchi, and Shimane, the population per screen is between 44,000 and 63,000, becoming the prefectures with very few theaters. In Shimane Prefecture, the Shimane Film Festival has been hosting screenings in various areas of the prefecture, and in Okayama Prefecture, a library in Maniwa City in the middle of mountains hosts a monthly film screening. These projects in the areas with no movie houses have become regular programs 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 2019 was 426, increasing by 51 from that in 2010; and the number of theaters was 73, remaining the same as that in 2010. The number of screens in this region occupied 11.7% of the nationwide number, and the number of theaters was 12.3%. During these 10 years, the region's population decreased by 2.3% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.4%), resulting in 11.3% of the nationwide population in 2019.

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, resulting in the increase of 18 screens prefecture-wide. In Kagoshima Prefecture, 2 multi-screen theaters opened, and in Okinawa Prefecture, 2 multi-screen theaters and 3 mini-theaters opened, resulting in the increase of 23 screens prefecture-wide. In Okinawa in 2019, United Cinema PARCO CITY Urasoe (11 screens) opened in Urasoe City, and in Okinawa City, mini-theater Cinema Plaza House 1954 opened. In addition, two small theaters opened, Theater Donuts (in Okinawa City) in 2015, and Yui Road Theater (in Ishigaki City) in 2018.

In Fukuoka Prefecture, two mini-theaters (Cineterie Tenjin and Cine Libre Hakata Station) closed in Fukuoka City, resulting in one mini-/repertory theater, KBC Cinema, in this city. In April 2020, Kino Cinema Tenjin, the third movie house operated by Kinoshita Group, is expected to open. In addition, Fukuoka City Public Library presents screenings every day in its Auditorium Cinera, functioning as a repertory theater. In Iizuka City, Iizuka Cinema Central closed in 2008, and an NPO group took over its management, however, this new entity again closed in 2013. Currently, the theater now named Iizuka Central Theater is used exclusively for popular live performances.

In Saga Prefecture, the multi-screen theater Warner Mycal Cinemas Kamimine in Kamimine Town closed in 2010, resulting in no theater in the areas outside of Saga City. In October 2019, the mini-theater named Theater Enya opened in Karatsu City, the first movie house in 30 years. In Nagasaki Prefecture, a conventional theater closed in both Sasebo City and Isahaya City in 2011, resulting in no theaters except in Nagasaki City and Sasebo City.

In Kumamoto Prefecture, the earthquake in 2016 severely damaged many areas, however, no theater closed as a result. In 2019, TOHO Cinemas Kumamoto Sakuramachi opened, adding 6 more screens. In Oita Prefecture, during the last 10 years, all of the conventional theaters have closed. After Central Cinema in Oita City closed in 2010, its basement theater reopened as Cinema 5 bis. In Beppu City, Beppu Bluebird Theater has become a movie house including mini-theater-like programming and hosting film festivals. In Hita City, Hita Cinematheque Liberte has been operated as a mini-theater accompanying a cafe and gallery since 2009. In Oita City, TOHO Cinemas Amu Plaza Oita opened in 2015.

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: 53,008 in Nagasaki and 59,540 in Miyazaki. The number of the films a person went to see in 2019 was less than 1 in these prefectures.