# I. Film Exhibition at Theaters

# The Number of Films Released and Film Titles

## **Number of Films Released**

Between 1955 and 2004, the number of films released at theaters was up and down but was roughly 550 to 650 films per year. In 2005, the number hit a record of 731 films and since then, has continued increasing. In 2013, for the first time, the number of films released was over 1,000, with more than 500 each of Japanese and foreign films. Since then, the number has always been over 1,000 every year. In 2019, 689 Japanese films and 589 foreign films, a total of 1,278 films, were released. In 2020, even during the COVID-19 pandemic, 506 Japanese films and 511 foreign films, a total of 1017 films were released in Japan (according to the Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan's statistics). Compared with the numbers in 2019, 183 less Japanese films and 78 less foreign films were released in 2020.

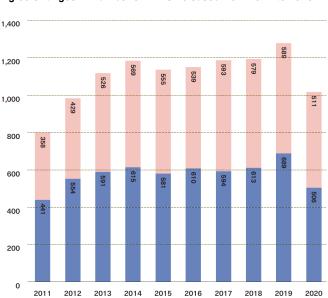


fig.06 Changes in Number of Films Released from 2011 to 2020

fig.07 Changes in Box Office Income from 2011 to 2020



	Box C	Office Income ()	(100 mil. yen)		Share
	Japanese	Foreign	Total	Japanese	Foreign
2011	995.31	816.66	1,811.97	54.9%	45.1%
2012	1,281.81	670.09	1,951.90	65.7%	34.3%
2013	1,176.85	765.52	1,942.37	60.6%	39.4%
2014	1,207.15	863.19	2,070.34	58.3%	41.7%
2015	1,203.67	967.52	2,171.19	55.4%	44.6%
2016	1,486.08	869.00	2,355.08	63.1%	36.9%
2017	1,254.83	1,030.89	2,285.72	54.9%	45.1%
2018	1,220.29	1,004.82	2,225.11	54.8%	45.2%
2019	1,421.92	1,189.88	2,611.80	54.4%	45.6%
2020	1,092.76	340.09	1,432.85	76.3%	23.7%

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

# of Released Filr

Total

799

983

1.117

1,184

1.136

1,149

1,187

1,192

1,278

1,017

Japanese

55.2%

56.4%

52.9%

51.9%

51.1%

53.1%

50.0%

51.4%

53.9%

49.8%

Foreign

358

429

526

569

555

539

593

579

589

511

Japanese

441

554

591

615

581

610

594

613

689

506

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

Share

Foreign

44.8%

43.6%

47.1%

48.1%

48.9%

46.9%

50.0%

48.6%

46.1%

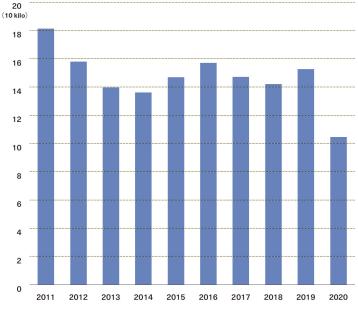
50.2%

#### **Box Office Incomes**

In 2020, the total box office income in Japan was: 109,276,000,000 yen for Japanese films (76.9% of that in the year before), 34,009,000,000 yen for foreign films (28.6% of that in the year before), and in total, 143,285,000,000 yen, 54.9% of that in the year before.

The box office income from foreign films was more affected by COVID-19. There was more than a 70% decrease from the year before. Many Hollywood films had their release dates postponed and only 4 films made more than 1 billion yen: STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER (released in December 2019), PARASITE (released in January 2020), TENET (released in September 2020) and CATS (released in January 2020). Under the pandemic, theatrical releases of some films were given up and shifted to online releases, while some films were released both in theaters and online. This unstable situation has continued. As of February 2021, many movie houses in Europe and the US were still closed, and the future impact of hybrid theatrical and online releases remains a concern even today. Not only Hollywood films but French and other films have not been released in their own countries, and some films' release dates have been pushed back while others have their Japanese releases as the world premiers.

It is not yet clear how the COVID-19 situation will work itself out or what form the theatrical releases will take in 2021, after the pandemic.



#### fig.08 Changes in Film Attendance Per Film from 2011 to 2020

	# of Released Films	Attendance	Attendance	Year on Year
		(x1,000)	per Film	
2011	799	144,726	181,134	
2012	983	155,159	157,842	-23,292
2013	1,117	155,888	139,560	-18,283
2014	1,184	161,116	136,078	-3,482
2015	1,136	166,630	146,681	10,604
2016	1,149	180,189	156,822	10,141
2017	1,187	174,483	146,995	-9,828
2018	1,192	169,210	141,955	-5,040
2019	1,278	194,910	152,512	10,557
2020	1,017	106,137	104,363	-48,149

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

#### The Scales of Film Releases

Japan Community Cinema Center (JCCC) creates the list of released films based on online information. In 2020, 482 Japanese films and 540 foreign films, a total of 1,022 films were released. These figures are slightly different from those of the Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan that lists 506 Japanese films and 511 foreign films, a total of 1017 films. We will see what films were released based on the JCCC data.

#### - The Scales of Film Releases

In 2020, 34 Japanese films and 14 foreign films were released at more than 300 theaters nationwide. Among Japanese films, DEMON SLAYER THE MOVIE: MUGEN TRAIN (released in October) was released at more than 400 theaters, and the regular popular animations such as DORAEMON THE MOVIE: NOBITA'S NEW DINOSAUR (released in August), SHINCHAN: CRASH! SCRIBBLE KINGDOM AND ALMOST FOUR HEROES (released in September), and STAND BY ME DORAEMON 2 (released in November) were each released at more than 350 theaters. Before 2020, such popular animations had occupied the top of the box office income list every year. However, in 2020, at the end of March, COVID-19 spread widely and in April, the first State of Emergency Declaration was proclaimed. Many animations made for children and family audiences such as DORAEMON series are usually released during the period from spring break to the Golden Week (from the end of April to the beginning of May) but in 2020, their release dates were postponed. After the movie theaters reopened, operation with only 50% capacity has been allowed and it has been hard to attract family audiences. It may take some time before a full-scale recovery will be realized. On the other hand, the films targeted at film fans and youth have been solidly attracting audiences. These include: FROM TODAY, IT'S MY TURN: THE MOVIE (released in July), YARN (released in August), STIGMATIZED PROPERTIES (released in August), THE VOICE OF SIN (released in October), and THE ASADAS! (released in October).

Among foreign films, 14 titles were released at more than 300 theaters, however, only two titles made more than 1 billion yen: TENET (released in September) and CATS (released in January). Those titles released at more than 300 theaters were all presented at multi-screen theaters.

The titles, both Japanese and foreign, which were released at more than 150 theaters, were mostly presented only at multiscreen theaters. The following titles were presented also at mini-theaters: THE CORNERED MOUSE DREAMS OF CHEESE (directed by Isao Yukisada), MOTHER (directed by Tatsushi Omori), ORA, ORA BE GOIN' ALONE (directed by Shuichi Okita), UNDER THE STARS (directed by Tatsushi Omori) and WIFE OF A SPY (directed by Kiyoshi Kurosawa).

122 foreign films were released at the scale of 50 to 149 theaters nationwide, a large increase from 75 films 2019. In particular, the number of films released at the scale of 50 to 69 theaters increased from 33 to 74, more than doubled. 104 Japanese films were released at the scale of 50 to 149 theaters, a decrease by 17 from 121 of the year before, but it was not a significant change.

The films belonging to the category of releases at the scale of 50 to 149 theaters are released at multi-screen theaters in some areas, while at mini- and conventional theaters in other areas. In 2020, the major foreign films were mostly unreleased in Japan, and multi-screen theaters began to show the kind of films which used to be shown at mini-theaters such as: THE TRAITOR (2019, directed by Marco Bellocchio), THE PUBLIC (2018, directed by Emillio Estevez), MATTHIAS AND MAXIME (2019, directed by Xavier Dolan), THE WILD GOOSE LAKE (2019, directed by Diao Yinan), MR. JONES (2019, directed by Agnieszka Holland), PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE (2019, directed by Céline Sciamma), and MARUMOI (2019, directed by Om Yuna). They also hosted retrospectives of classic films and looked for effective programming by trial and error.

In 2019, 22% of foreign films were released at multi-screen theaters only, 24% of those were released at both multi-screen theaters and mini-theaters, and 54% of those were released at mini-theaters only. In 2020, 19% of foreign films were released at multi-screen theaters only, 39% of those were released at both multi-screen theaters and mini-theaters, and 43% of those were released at mini-theaters only. The foreign films released at both multi-screen theaters and mini-theaters increased by 15%, while those released only at mini-theaters decreased by 11%. Because the releases of the block-busters or big-budget American films were stopped, the diversification of programming at multi-screen theaters (were forced to be) increased. There is no clear boundary between the major big-budget films for multi-screen theaters and art house type and

independent films for mini-theaters.

Nonetheless, many films were screened only at mini-theaters. 268 Japanese films and 266 foreign films were released at less than 49 theaters. Among these, 186 Japanese films (69%) and 162 foreign films (61%) were released only at minitheaters. They include films highly received at international film festivals and of well-known directors including YOUNG AHMET (2019, directed by Dardenne brothers), A HIDDEN LIFE (2019, directed by Terrence Malick), ABOUT ENDLESSNESS (2019, directed by Roy Andersson), MARTINE EDEN (2019, directed by Pietro Marcello), and THE PAINTED BIRD (2019, directed by Václav Marhoul); and important documentaries including THE CAPOTE TAPES (2019, directed by Ebs Burnough), DEAD SOULS (2018, directed by Wang Bing), TALKING ABOUT TREES (2019, directed by Suhaib Gasmelbari), THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD (2018, directed by Peter Jackson), etc.

In Japan, the titles only released at mini-theaters include documentaries such as PRISON CLUB (2019, directed by Kaori Sakaue), ZERO (2019, directed by Kazuhiro Soda), REIWA UPRISING (2019, directed by Kazuo Hara), and JAZZ KISSA BASIE: SWIFTY'S BALLAD (2020, directed by Tetsuya Hoshino); films by important directors such as THE REAL THING (2020, directed by Koji Fukada), UNRELIABLE (2020, directed by Kazuyuki Izutsu), and BOLT (2020, directed by Kaizo Hayashi); and ambitious films by young directors such as AINU MOSIR (2020, directed by Takeshi Fukunaga), DROSTE (2020, directed by Junta Yamaguchi), CENOTE (2020, directed by Kaori Oda) and VIDEOPHOBIA (2020, directed by Daisuke Miyazaki).

Japanese Films															
# of Theaters Where Films Were Released	2020		Multi-screen Theaters only		i-screen and -Theaters	Mini-The only	eaters	2019		Multi-so Theater		Multi-sc Mini-Th		Mini-The only	aters
more than 300	34	8%	34	0		0		43	7%	43		0		0	
150-299	34	8%	26	8		0		39	7%	38		1		0	
100–149	35	8%	20	15		0		47	8%	28		19		0	
70–99	32	7%	17	15		0		32	6%	16		14		2	
50–69	37	8%	16	17		4		42	7%	22		16		4	
30–49	49	11%	12	21		16		55	10%	28		15		12	
10–29	89	20%	18	13		58		125	22%	42		21		62	
less than 9	130	30%	12	6		112		194	34%	13		18		163	
Subtotal	440	100%	155 35	5% 95	22%	190	43%	577		230	40%	104	18%	243	42%
others	42							73		_					
(single screening at a series, etc.)															
Total	482							650							
less than 49 theaters	268							374							
those released only at mini-theaters of the above	186	69%						237	63%						
Foreign Films															
# of Theaters Where Films Were Released	2020		Multi-screen Theaters only		i-screen and -Theaters	Mini-The only	eaters	2019		Multi-so Theater		Multi-sc Mini-Th		Mini-The only	aters
more than 300	14	3%	14	0		0		32	6%	32		0		0	
150–299	13	3%	11	2		0		18	4%	16		2		0	
70–149	48	12%	9	35		4		42	8%	17		23		2	
50–69	74	18%	7	56		11		33	6%	3		20		10	
30–49	91	22%	6	37		48		97	19%	4		44		49	
10–29	123	30%	20	28		75		174	34%	25		27		122	
less than 9	52	13%	11	2		39		118	23%	17		9		92	
Subtotal	415	100%	78 19	0% 160	39%	177	43%	514		114	22%	125	24%	275	54%
others	125							128		_					
(single screening at a series, etc.)	-														
Total	540							642							
less than 49 theaters	266							389							
those released only at	162	61%						263	68%						
mini-theaters of the above															

#### fig.09 The Scales of Films Released at Theaters in 2020

## -Kinds of Films Released

482 Japanese films were released in 2020, about 74% of those in the year before, including 367 new theatrical films and animations, 60 documentaries, 13 ODS (Other Digital Stuff) on theatrical performances and live music concerts, and 8 special projects introducing shorts, films by young directors, and others with a total of 42 films.

The number of documentary films was not as large as the 71 released in 2019, however, many documentaries were released in theaters. Films like MISHIMA: THE LAST DEBATE, WHY YOU CAN'T BE PRIME MINISTER, HARIBOTE and EL PEPE: A SUPREME LIFE attracted attention, and were also presented at multi-screen theaters drawing large audiences. After the State of Emergency Declaration was proclaimed. distribution company Tofoo and director Kazuhiro Soda created an online site named "Temporary Built Movie Houses" and Soda's ZERO was released online first, followed by its release at movie theaters after they reopened.

About 60 animated films were released from popular series whose prior films in the series had been released at more than 300 theaters, but now saw modest release at 15-19 theaters, mostly multi-screen theaters. In June after the State of Emergency Declaration was lifted, many movie houses had a hard time in the middle of the situation when the releases of new titles were postponed. Four titles produced by Studio Ghibli, NAUSICAA OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND, PRINCESS MONONOKE, SPIRITED AWAY and TALES FROM EARTHSEA, were released at 372 theaters under an impressive catchphrase, "Once in a lifetime, see Ghibli films at theaters."

We tracked down 8 projects of Japanese special film series (excluding classic films shown at repertory theaters), and most were showing films by young directors. They were all shown at mini-theaters like Ikebukuro Cinema Rosa and Theatre Shinjuku.

13 ODS were released, a large decrease from 3 of 2019.

## **Foreign Films**

415 foreign films were released in 2020, about 81% of the 514 foreign films in 2019. The former includes 288 new theatrical films and animations, 38 documentaries, 31 ODS, 14 revival screenings of classic film's digital restoration versions, and 12 special series with 49 films. In addition, 125 films were shown only at 1 to 3 theaters in Tokyo as special screenings. The total number including the latter is 540 films.

While the releases of a number of new films were postponed, 12 special series with 49 classic films were released as revival screenings. These series included Jean-Paul Belmondo Masterpieces, Federico Fellini Film Festival Upon the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of His Birth Year, and Michel Legrand and Directors of French New Wave, all attracting good responses. Mini retrospectives of directors Robert Bresson and Frederick Muller, and Trilogy of Sergei Loznitsa, AUSTERLITZ, STATE FUNERAL and THE TRIAL, also attracted attention. At multi-screen theaters, Nolan Summer Festival presented 4 films directed by Christopher Nolan including DUNKIRK, THE

DARK KNIGHT RISES, INCEPTION, and INTERSTELLAR, and drew a number of film fans. A series of 4 films featuring Bruce Lee was also presented upon the revival release of ENTER THE DRAGON: DIRECTOR'S CUT (1973).

Among the revival release of the classic film's digital restoration versions, big budget films like BACK TO THE FUTURE (1985), BACK TO THE FUTURE PART II (1989), BACK TO THE FUTURE PART III (1990), TOTAL RECALL (1990), and APOCALYPSE NOW: FINAL CUT, were popular among many film fans, along with classic films such as CHILDREN OF PARADISE (1945), experimental films like L'ANGE (1982), classic film JAZZ ON A SUMMER'S DAY (1959), THE LEGEND OF THE PIANIST ON THE OCEAN (1998) and THE ELEPHANT MAN (1980).

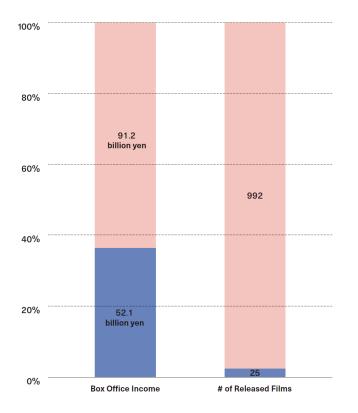
Foreign ODS were shown mostly at multi-screen theaters including series of MET LIVE VIEWING, BRITISH ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, NATIONAL THEATER LIVE, etc.

Japanese Films	2020		2019
Firest-Run Films (Animations)	63	67%	94
First-Run Films (Fictions)	304	80%	380
Documentaries	60	85%	71
ODS	13	41%	32
Special Project (shorts, young directors, etc.)	42	58%	73
Total	482		650
Foreign Films	2020	前年比	2019
First-Run Films (Animations)	16	100%	16
First-Run Films (Fictions)	272	82%	330
Documentaries	33	60%	55
ODS	31	66%	47
Classic Film Digital Restroations	14	40%	35
12 Special Project (Classic Digital Revivals)	49	158%	31
Subtotal of the above	415	81%	514
1-3 Theaters Only	125	98%	128
Total	540	84%	642
Japanese + Foreign Films	1022		1292

#### fig.10 Types of Films Released in 2020

## Films That Made More Than 1 Billion Yen Box Office Income/Films That Made Less Than 1 Billion Box Office Income

In 2020, 25 films made more than 1 billion yen box office income (65 films in 2019), occupying 2.5% of the total of 1,017 films released in Japan. The total box office income from these 25 films was: Japanese films with 85.63 billion yen, foreign films with 16.14 billion yen, and in total, 91.23 billion yen, 63.7% of the total box office income of Japan. This is a large decrease from 76.9% in 2019 and we can see the effects of the postponements and cancellation of major films due to COVID-19.



## fig.11 Films That Made More Than 1 Billion Yen Box Office Income [2020]

#### fig.12 Films That Made More Than 1 Billion Yen Box Office Income [2011-2020]

Box offic		0 thousand yen)				
	Total	More Than 1 E	Billion Yen	Less than 1 Billion Yen		
		B.O. Income	Ratio	B.O. Income	Ratio	
2011	1,812	1,313	72.4%	499	27.6%	
2012	1,952	1,391	71.3%	561	28.7%	
2013	1,942	1,379	71.0%	563	29.0%	
2014	2,070	1,411	68.2%	659	31.8%	
2015	2,171	1,595	73.5%	576	26.5%	
2016	2,355	1,763	74.9%	592	25.1%	
2017	2,286	1,618	70.8%	667	29.2%	
2018	2,225	1,563	70.2%	662	29.8%	
2019	2,611	2,009	76.9%	602	23.1%	
2020	1,433	912	63.7%	521	36.3%	
# of Films Released		More Than 1 B	Billion Yen	Less than 1 Bi	lion Yen	
	Total	B.O. Income	Ratio	B.O. Income	Ratio	
2011	799	54	6.8%	745	93.2%	
2012	983	59	6.0%	924	94.0%	
2013	1117	56	5.0%	1061	95.0%	
		49	4.1%	1135	95.9%	
2014	1184	49	4.170	1133	27.27	
2014 2015	<u>1184</u> 1136	<u>49</u> 61	5.4%	1075	$-\frac{99.9\%}{94.6\%}$	

5.3%

5.2%

4.5%

5.1%

2.5%

1088

1125

1138

1213

992

94.7%

94.8%

95.5%

94.9%

97.5%

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

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

61

62

54

65

25

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

1149

1187

1192

1278

1017

No.	Month Released	Title	Income	Distribution Company
1	Oct.	Demon Slaver the Movie: Mugen Train	(x100 million yen)	Toho/Aniplex
	July	From Today, It's My Turn: The Movie		Toho
	July	The Confidence Man JP: Princess		Toho
	Aug.	Doraemon the Movie: Nobita's New Dinosaur		Toho
	Aug.	Stigmatized Properties	23.4	Shochiku
	Aug.	Yarn	22.7	Toho
	Sept.	Violet Evergarden: The Movie	21.3	Shochiku
	Jan.	Kaiji: Final Game	20.6	Toho
	Aug.	Fate/Stay Night: Heaven's Feel - III. Spring Song	19.5	Aniplex
0	Dec. 2019	My Hero Academia: Heroes Rising	17.9	Toho
1	Dec. 2019	Tora-san, Wish You Were Here	14.7	Shochiku
2	Feb.	Howling Village	14.1	Toho
3	Feb.	Wotakoi: Love Is Hard for Otaku	13.4	Toho
4	Oct.	The Voice of Sin	12.2	Toho
5	Oct.	The Asadas	12.1	Toho
6	Feb.	Stolen Identity 2	11.9	Toho
7	Sept.	Shinchan: Crash! Scribble Kingdom and Almost Four Heroes	11.8	Toho
8	Dec. 2019	Kiss Me at the Stroke of Midnight	11.7	Shochiku
9	Dec. 2019	Lupin III: The First	11.6	Toho
20	Dec. 2019	Murders At The House Of Death	10.9	Toho
1	Jan.	Al Amok	10	WB
		Total	750.9	

## fig.13 Films That Made More Than 1 Billion Yen Box Office Income in 2020 [Japanese Films]

## fig.14 Films That Made More Than 1 Billion Yen Box Office Income in 2020 [Foreign Films]

No.	Month	Title	Box Office	Distribution
	Released		Income	Company
			(x100 million yen)	
1	Dec. 2019	Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker	73.2	WDS
2	Jan.	Parasite	47.4	Bitters End
3	Sept.	TENET	27.3	WB
4	Jan.	Cats	13.5	Toho-Towa
		Total	161.4	

## fig.15 20 Top Box Office Income Films in 2020

No.	Month Released	Title	Box Office Income	Distribution Company
1	Oct.	Demon Slayer the Movie: Mugen Train		Toho/Aniplex
2	Dec. 2019	Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker		WDS
3	July	From Today, It's My Turn: The Movie	53.7	Toho
4	Jan.	Parasite	47.4	Bitters End
5	July	The Confidence Man JP: Princess	38.4	Toho
6	Aug.	Doraemon the Movie: Nobita's New Dinosaur	33.5	Toho
7	Sept.	TENET	27.3	WB
8	Aug.	Stigmatized Properties	23.4	Shochiku
9	Aug.	Yarn	22.7	Toho
10	Sept.	Violet Evergarden: The Movie	21.3	Shochiku
11	Jan.	Kaiji: Final Game	20.6	Toho
12	Aug.	Fate/Stay Night: Heaven's Feel - III. Spring Song	19.5	Aniplex
13	Dec. 2019	My Hero Academia: Heroes Rising	17.9	Toho
14	Dec. 2019	Tora-san, Wish You Were Here	14.7	Shochiku
15	Feb.	Howling Village	14.1	Toho
16	Jan.	Cats	13.5	Toho-Towa
17	Feb.	Wotakoi: Love Is Hard for Otaku	13.4	Toho
18	Oct.	The Voice of Sin	12.2	Toho
19	Oct.	The Asadas	12.1	Toho
20	Feb.	Stolen Identity 2	11.9	Toho
		Total	856.3	
		Box Office Income of 2020	1432.9	2611.8(2019)
		Box Office Income of the Total Films That Made More Than 1 Billion Yen	912.3	2008.8(2019)
		Ratio	63.7%	76.9%(2019)

Box Office Income of 2020	1432.9	2611.8(2019)
Box Office Income of the Total Films That Made More Than 1 Billion Yen	912.3	2008.8(2019)
Ratio	63.7%	76.9%(2019)
From Japanese Film Industry Statistics (Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan)		