

I. Film Exhibition at Theaters

General Situation in Each Prefecture

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At this point when this manuscript is written, the statistics of the film attendance of each prefecture have not been announced. Until 2019, “Special Service Industry Situation Research Report” (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) used to include the number of film theater attendance in each prefecture. This report was cancelled in 2020 when it was included and reorganized in the statistics of economic structures. Its 2020 report does not include the film audience size of each prefecture. In this almanac, we calculated the average share of the attendance in each prefecture against Japan's total attendance in each year, based on the “Special Service Industry Situation Research Report” from 2014 to 2019. We then multiplied these percentages by Japan's total attendance of 2020 in the “Japanese Film Industry Statistics” in order to obtain the rough attendance of each prefecture.

The average number of films a person went to see annually was obtained for each prefecture. The total attendance nationwide in 2020 showed a large decrease from the previous year, by around 54.5%. The average number of films a person went to see annually also decreased by 50%. The national average in 2020 was 0.8 films. Only four prefectures scored above 1.0: Tokyo (1.3), Kanagawa (1.0), Kyoto (1.0), and Osaka (1.0).

The number of screens in each prefecture was high, like that of attendance in the prefectures with big cities. From 2019 to 2020, the total number of screens nationwide increased by 37. During the last several years, this number has been constantly increasing. From 2015 to 2016, 29 screens were added; from 2016 to 2017, 54 screens; from 2017 to 2018, 61 screens; and from 2018 to 2019, 36 screens were added.

The national average **population per screen** was 34,273. 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 (18,538) and Yamagata (19,017), 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, six prefectures whose average population per screen exceeded 50,000 were: Kochi (68,858) , Yamanashi (62,016) , Fukushima (57,033) , Iwate (52,704) , Nagasaki (52,426) , and Tottori (50,127) , mostly the same prefectures as the previous year's. In these prefectures, the number of movie theaters and the average number of the films a person went to see annually were low. However, in these areas with less number of theaters, there have been a number of traveling screenings at public halls and other types of film exhibition activities not reflected in the number of theater screenings. We must keep in mind that rich film exhibition environments could be uncaptured in these film business statistics.

fig.26 General Situation in Each Prefecture (2020)

		Population		# of theaters	# of screens	Annual Attendance (rough calculation *)		Population per Screen	Attendance per Screen		# of films one went to see annually	
									2019	2020	2019	2020
	Nationwide	125,851,293	100%	595	3669	106,137,000	100%	34,301	53,891	28,928	1.5	0.8
1	Hokkaido	5,250,049	4.2%	22	112	3,100,000	2.5%	46,875	50,702	27,679	1.1	0.6
2	Aomori	1,230,715	1.0%	8	44	640,000	0.5%	27,971	28,000	14,545	1.0	0.5
3	Iwate	1,212,201	1.0%	7	23	470,000	0.4%	52,704	38,609	20,435	0.7	0.4
4	Miyagi	2,292,690	1.8%	10	78	1,820,000	1.4%	29,393	42,077	23,333	1.4	0.8
5	Akita	982,005	0.8%	5	20	430,000	0.3%	49,100	38,600	21,500	0.8	0.4
6	Yamagata	1,064,954	0.8%	8	56	970,000	0.8%	19,017	31,054	17,321	1.6	0.9
7	Fukushima	1,825,055	1.5%	5	32	760,000	0.6%	57,033	44,656	23,750	0.8	0.4
8	Ibaragi	2,854,131	2.3%	15	91	2,040,000	1.6%	31,364	41,678	22,418	1.3	0.7
9	Tochigi	1,932,091	1.5%	9	64	1,640,000	1.3%	30,189	50,484	25,625	1.7	0.8
10	Gunma	1,926,370	1.5%	8	52	1,680,000	1.3%	37,046	58,692	32,308	1.6	0.9
11	Saitama	7,343,453	5.8%	25	209	6,490,000	5.2%	35,136	56,450	31,053	1.6	0.9
12	Chiba	6,281,394	5.0%	25	220	5,710,000	4.5%	28,552	47,850	25,955	1.7	0.9
13	Tokyo	13,971,109	11.1%	83	413	18,270,000	14.5%	33,828	83,503	44,237	2.4	1.3
14	Kanagawa	9,216,009	7.3%	33	223	9,070,000	7.2%	41,327	83,970	40,673	1.8	1.0
15	Niigata	2,199,746	1.7%	10	64	1,520,000	1.2%	34,371	43,453	23,750	1.3	0.7
16	Toyama	1,034,670	0.8%	4	27	740,000	0.6%	38,321	51,889	27,407	1.3	0.7
17	Ishikawa	1,130,801	0.9%	9	61	1,020,000	0.8%	18,538	30,672	16,721	1.6	0.9
18	Fukui	762,679	0.6%	5	27	560,000	0.4%	28,247	38,296	20,741	1.3	0.7
19	Yamanashi	806,210	0.6%	4	13	500,000	0.4%	62,016	68,846	38,462	1.1	0.6
20	Nagano	2,034,971	1.6%	16	72	960,000	0.8%	28,263	24,208	13,333	0.9	0.5
21	Gifu	1,975,397	1.6%	8	56	1,390,000	1.1%	35,275	45,268	24,821	1.3	0.7
22	Shizuoka	3,618,972	2.9%	16	106	2,900,000	2.3%	34,141	49,915	27,358	1.5	0.8
23	Aichi	7,541,123	6.0%	37	281	7,470,000	5.9%	26,837	45,990	26,584	1.8	1.0
24	Mie	1,768,632	1.4%	10	63	1,370,000	1.1%	28,074	39,476	21,746	1.4	0.8
25	Shiga	1,412,415	1.1%	6	38	970,000	0.8%	37,169	47,026	25,526	1.3	0.7
26	Kyoto	2,568,427	2.0%	15	85	2,670,000	2.1%	30,217	61,250	31,412	1.9	1.0
27	Osaka	8,817,372	7.0%	32	224	8,930,000	7.1%	39,363	74,455	39,866	1.9	1.0
28	Hyogo	5,438,891	4.3%	24	120	3,750,000	3.0%	45,324	60,758	31,250	1.3	0.7
29	Nara	1,322,970	1.1%	4	34	860,000	0.7%	38,911	48,412	25,294	1.2	0.7
30	Wakayama	914,055	0.7%	5	30	580,000	0.5%	30,469	34,600	19,333	1.1	0.6
31	Tottori	551,402	0.4%	3	11	200,000	0.2%	50,127	39,545	18,182	0.8	0.4
32	Shimane	666,941	0.5%	2	15	460,000	0.4%	44,463	57,000	30,667	1.3	0.7
33	Okayama	1,882,356	1.5%	6	38	1,350,000	1.1%	49,536	61,333	35,526	1.3	0.7
34	Hiroshima	2,794,862	2.2%	15	79	2,190,000	1.7%	35,378	51,051	27,722	1.4	0.8
35	Yamaguchi	1,340,044	1.1%	5	30	780,000	0.6%	44,668	44,800	26,000	1.0	0.6
36	Tokushima	721,721	0.6%	3	19	300,000	0.2%	37,985	25,684	15,789	0.7	0.4
37	Kagawa	949,358	0.8%	5	26	820,000	0.7%	36,514	54,077	31,538	1.5	0.9
38	Ehime	1,326,487	1.1%	10	59	790,000	0.6%	22,483	24,881	13,390	1.1	0.6
39	Kochi	688,583	0.5%	2	10	370,000	0.3%	68,858	67,818	37,000	1.1	0.5
40	Fukuoka	5,108,038	4.1%	24	177	4,610,000	3.7%	28,859	48,383	26,045	1.7	0.9
41	Fukuoka	808,821	0.6%	4	21	470,000	0.4%	38,515	40,524	22,381	1.0	0.6
42	Nagasaki	1,310,660	1.0%	4	25	730,000	0.6%	52,426	53,640	29,200	1.0	0.6
43	Kumamoto	1,735,901	1.4%	9	58	970,000	0.8%	29,929	31,931	16,724	1.1	0.6
44	Oita	1,124,983	0.9%	10	44	750,000	0.6%	25,568	38,114	17,045	1.2	0.7
45	Miyazaki	1,063,324	0.8%	6	25	480,000	0.4%	42,533	50,222	19,200	0.8	0.5
46	Kagoshima	1,589,416	1.3%	7	39	790,000	0.6%	40,754	37,795	20,256	0.9	0.5
47	Okinawa	1,458,839	1.2%	12	55	790,000	0.6%	26,524	26,364	14,364	1.0	0.5

Population: from "Population Estimates" (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Statistics Bureau) Oct. 1, 2020.

of Theaters and Screens: from "List of Theaters" of Film Almanac (Kinema Jumbo-sha) and Japan Community Cinema Center's research.

* "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) published until 2019 included numbers of attendance in each prefecture. There are some differences in numbers of the nationwide attendance in "Japanese Film Industry Statistics." In this almanac, we calculated the average percentage of the attendance in each prefecture against Japan's total attendance in each year, based on the "Special Service Industry Situation Research Report" from 2014 to 2019. We then multiplied these percentages by Japan's total attendance of 2020 in the "Japanese Film Industry Statistics" in order to obtain the rough numbers of the film audience in each prefecture.

In Each Prefecture [Number of Screens]

The nationwide number of screens in Japan increased by 176 from 3,496 to 3,672 during the 10 years from 2011 to 2020. At the beginning of this period, the Great East Japan Earthquake took place on March 11, 2011; and around the same time, 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 elements, the number of screens decreased by as many as 146 from 3,496 in 2011 to 3,350 in 2012. However, after 2013, the number of screens has once again been increasing.

The prefectures where the number of screens has notably increased are: Tokyo (by 49 screens), Chiba (by 30 screens), Aichi (by 23 screens), and Okinawa (by 23 screens). During these 10 years, 37 multi-screen sites with 690 screens were added, and among them, 7 sites are in Chiba, 11 sites are in Tokyo, and 5 sites are in Aichi and Fukuoka each.

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) opened 21 sites and 201 screens between 2011 and 2020, becoming the biggest multi-screen theater chain in Japan. TOHO Cinemas has opened 18 sites and 170 screens during the last 10 years, including ones in city centers like Nihonbashi, Shinjuku, Ueno, Hibiya, and Ikebukuro, all of which have opened since 2016. In addition, Cinema Sunshine opened 5 sites with 44 screens, and United Cinema opened 7 sites with 73 screens.

During the last 10 years, 32 multi-screen sites and 275 screens were closed. The prefectures where the number of screens has decreased more than 10 during the last 10 years are: Hokkaido (by 15 screens), Miyagi (17 screens), Yamanashi (18 screens), Gunma (19 screens), and Gifu (20 screens). 1 to 3 multi-screen sites have been closed in each of these prefectures.

fig.27 Changes in Number of Screens in Each Prefecture

		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		2011→2020	2019→2020
	Nationwide	3,496	3,350	3,361	3,410	3,467	3,492	3,531	3,570	3,627	3,669		173	42
1	Hokkaido	127	121	120	117	113	114	114	114	114	112	3.1%	-15	-2
2	Aomori	45	45	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	1.2%	-1	0
3	Iwate	27	26	25	25	25	25	23	23	23	23	0.6%	-4	0
4	Miyagi	95	64	64	64	64	73	72	78	78	78	2.2%	-17	0
5	Akita	23	23	22	22	22	22	20	20	20	20	0.6%	-3	0
6	Yamagata	47	47	47	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	1.5%	9	0
7	Fukushima	28	28	27	27	26	26	26	35	32	32	0.9%	4	0
8	Ibaragi	88	86	96	89	89	89	90	90	90	91	2.5%	3	1
9	Tochigi	57	57	57	57	55	64	64	64	64	64	1.8%	7	0
10	Gunma	71	71	62	61	61	61	61	63	52	52	1.4%	-19	0
11	Saitama	193	184	200	200	209	209	209	209	209	209	5.8%	16	0
12	Chiba	190	183	199	199	208	208	209	209	220	220	6.1%	30	0
13	Tokyo	364	358	345	350	359	362	365	378	398	413	11.0%	49	15
14	Kanagawa	226	217	216	218	219	209	210	199	202	223	5.6%	-3	21
15	Niigata	66	66	65	65	64	64	64	64	64	64	1.8%	-2	0
16	Toyama	24	24	24	24	24	32	26	27	27	27	0.7%	3	0
17	Ishikawa	54	54	54	54	54	54	61	61	61	61	1.7%	7	0
18	Fukui	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	27	27	27	0.7%	-4	0
19	Yamanashi	31	18	18	14	14	14	14	13	13	13	0.4%	-18	0
20	Nagano	68	65	64	63	63	63	72	72	72	72	2.0%	4	0
21	Gifu	76	60	60	56	56	51	56	56	56	56	1.5%	-20	0
22	Shizuoka	110	99	98	98	97	96	96	96	106	106	2.9%	-4	0
23	Aichi	258	251	247	258	258	275	293	292	295	281	8.1%	23	-14
24	Mie	48	48	58	58	58	58	58	63	63	63	1.7%	15	0
25	Shiga	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	1.0%	0	0
26	Kyoto	66	66	65	76	75	75	78	78	80	85	2.2%	19	5
27	Osaka	211	205	198	206	226	224	224	224	224	224	6.2%	13	0
28	Hyogo	123	111	120	117	127	121	121	119	120	120	3.3%	-3	0
29	Nara	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	0.9%	0	0
30	Wakayama	22	21	21	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	0.8%	8	0
31	Tottori	14	14	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	0.3%	-3	0
32	Shimane	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	0.4%	0	0
33	Okayama	28	28	28	39	39	39	39	39	39	38	1.1%	10	-1
34	Hiroshima	83	78	78	77	72	72	71	80	79	79	2.2%	-4	0
35	Yamaguchi	35	25	25	32	30	30	30	30	30	30	0.8%	-5	0
36	Tokushima	9	10	10	10	10	10	19	19	19	19	0.5%	10	0
37	Kagawa	26	26	26	26	25	26	26	26	26	26	0.7%	0	0
38	Ehime	52	52	52	52	52	59	59	59	59	59	1.6%	7	0
39	Kochi	11	11	11	10	10	10	11	11	11	10	0.3%	-1	-1
40	Fukuoka	181	189	185	185	185	178	164	175	175	177	4.8%	-4	2
41	Fukuoka	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	0.6%	1	0
42	Nagasaki	30	26	26	26	26	25	25	25	25	25	0.7%	-5	0
43	Kumamoto	51	50	50	50	50	49	49	49	58	58	1.6%	7	0
44	Oita	27	25	25	25	35	35	35	36	35	44	1.0%	17	9
45	Miyazaki	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	25	0.5%	7	7
46	Kagoshima	23	30	30	31	30	31	39	39	39	39	1.1%	16	0
47	Okinawa	32	32	32	32	40	42	41	42	55	55	1.5%	23	0

Changes in Number of Theaters and Screens According to Theater Types in Each prefecture

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 2020 was 365, decreasing by 27 from that in 2011; and the number of theaters in 2020 was 65, decreasing by 19 from that in 2011. Their number of screens occupied 10% of the nationwide number, and the number of theaters occupied 10.9%. During the last 10 years, its population decreased by 5.8% (the national average was a decrease of 1.5%). Their decrease rate was more dramatic compared with that in other regions. In 2020, its population occupied 11.0% of the nationwide population.

The population per screen in Hokkaido (46,875), Iwate (52,704), Akita (49,100), and Fukushima (57,033), were considerably higher than that of the nationwide average (34,273), meaning that these prefectures have fewer theaters.

During the last 10 years, notable changes were as follows: Hokkaido's number of theaters decreased by 10 and its number of screens decreased by 15; and Miyagi's number of theaters decreased by 4 and its number of screens decreased by 17. In Hokkaido, several conventional and mini-theaters closed between 2011 and 2014: Sapporo Toho Plaza and Dinors Cinema in 2011, Cine Tokachi Prince Theater in 2012, Theater Voice in 2013, and Sasori-za in 2014. There was a conventional theater in each of Asahikawa City, Bibai City, and Nayoro Town, but all of them closed. Sapporo Toho Plaza, having been operated as a rental theater after closing in 2011, reopened in July 2020 after its renewal as Satsugeki (with 4 screens).

In Miyagi Prefecture, movie houses were severely damaged by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. Okada Theater in Ishinomaki City was destroyed, leading to its closure, and 2 multi-screen theaters in Sendai City (Sendai Korona World and Izumi Korona World) temporarily closed after the 2011 earthquake, followed by their permanent closing. At one time, Miyagi's number of screens dropped from 95 to 64. However, TOHO Cinemas Sendai opened in 2016, and Theater Forte, which was closed after the 2011 earthquake, re-opened as United Cinema Forte Miyagi-Ogawara in 2018. By 2019, the number of screens was increased by 14 to 78. In October 2020, MOVIX Rifu in Rifu City closed, however, in March 2021, Aeon Cinema Shin-Rifu opened. In 2018, Sakurai Pharmacy Central Hall, a mini-theater loved by the community for a long time, was closed and Forum Sendai became the only mini-theater in Sendai City.

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 Akita City of Akita Prefecture, Lemiére Akita (with 5 screen) inside Akita Station Building Alve, closed in May 2020. The local film fans were relieved when this site reopened as Alve Theater (with 3 screen) in December 2020. In Akita City, Akita Forum Cinema Palais and Theater Play Town closed and there is no mini-theater. However, in Odate City, a family who moved in from another area reopened the old Onari-za movie house, and it has become a popular theater creating lots of buzz.

In the Hokkaido and Tohoku Region, Yamagata Prefecture increased its number of screens mostly due to the opening of 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 to multi-screen theaters at a relatively early stage. This is behind Yamagata Prefecture's maintaining their number of screens prefecture-wide. In May 2020, Tsuruoka Machinaka Kinema, a movie house opened in Tsuruoka City in Yamagata Prefecture in 2010 and operated by a company specialized in building communities, closed. Many citizens and film fans from all over Japan requested its reopening, and various plans have been discussed in order to reopen this theater.

There are many areas in this region with no theaters at all, not only the areas along the Pacific Ocean shore. Historically, traveling screenings have been active. Miyako Film Life Co-op's Miyako Cinemarine was closed, however, they collaborate with the traveling screenings in Miyako, Kamaishi, Otsuchi, Iwaizumi, etc., and screenings at public halls, as well as hosting film festivals. In Miyako City, a new film exhibition venue, Cinema de Aeru was founded. With population shrinking, the activities providing local people with film culture and the experience of watching films on a big screen are becoming increasingly important in areas with no theaters.

Kanto Region

In the Kanto Region, the number of screens was 1,270 in 2020, increasing by 81 from that in 2011; and the number of theaters in 2020 was 198, decreasing by 20 from that in 2011. This region's number of screens occupied 34.6% of the nationwide number, and the number of theaters occupied 33.2%. The population during these 10 years increased by 2.1% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.5%), and the population in this region occupied 34.6% of the nationwide population.

During the last 10 years in this region, 26 multi-screen theaters opened, and 24 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. In July 2020, TOHO Cinemas Ikebukuro (with 10 screens) opened inside Hareza Ikebukuro, a half-governmental, half-commercial business facilities created after Toshima City Hall and Public Auditorium were demolished in Ikebukuro. TOHO Cinemas Tachihi opened in Tachikawa City in September. During the last 10 years, the number of multi-screen theaters has increased by 8 theaters with 92 screens, while the number of other types of theaters has decreased by 28 theaters with 43 screens. Since 2011, 15 mini- and repertory theaters closed. The closing of Cinema Rise, a symbol of the mini-theater culture, drew attention in 2016. In 2020, Yujiku Asagaya permanently closed after its temporary closing. In addition, many conventional theaters loved by film fans for a long time and creating cinema culture in Tokyo closed, including: TOHO Cinemas Nichigeki (in 2018), Ginza Cine Pathos (in 2013), Asakusa Meiga-za (in 2012), Shimbashi Bunka Gekijo/Shimbashi Roman Gekijo (in 2014), Sangenjaya Cinema (in 2014), Shinjuku Milano-za (in 2014), and Ueno Tokyu (in 2012). On the other hand, 7 mini-theaters opened including Chupki Tabata, Japan's first barrier-free movie house (in 2016), Uplink Kichijoji with 5 screens (in 2018), Kinoshita Group's Kino Cinema Tachikawa Takashimaya SC (in 2019) and so on. Some mini-theaters are scheduled to open in 2021. The map of Tokyo film theaters keeps changing.

In Kanagawa, during the last 10 years, 3 multi-screen theaters closed including Aeon Cinema Tsukimino, 109 Cinemas MM Yokohama, and MOVIX Honmoku; however, in June 2020, Aeon Cinema Zama and T Joy Yokohama with 9 screens inside Yokohama Station Building NeWoMan Yokohama opened. As for other types of theaters, Yokohama New Theater in Isesaki-

cho, loved by the community for a long time, closed in 2018. On the other hand, 5 mini-theaters opened including Yokohama Cinemarine, Cinema Novecento, Kino Cinema Yokohama Minato Mirai, Cine-koya, and Atsugi no Eigakan kiki. In addition, in October 2019, Typhoon #19 attacked many areas in Japan, and Kawasaki City Museum was flooded. Numerous valuable items in its collection including films and film related documents were damaged severely, and the restoration work has continued.

In Gunma Prefecture, 2 multi-screen theaters, Ota Korona World and Previ Isezaki, closed. On the other hand, in Takasaki City, Takasaki Eiga-kan, with its long history, revived in 2014 as a repertory theater. As a result, in Gunma, the number of theaters decreased by 1, and the number of screens decreased by 19.

In Ibaragi Prefecture, mini-theater Amaya-za opened in Naka City, and Cinema Sunrise Hitachi opened in Hitachi City, both in 2017.

Chubu Region

In the Chubu Region, the number of screens in 2020 was 707, decreasing by 11 from that in 2011; and the number of theaters in 2020 was 109, decreasing by 24 from that in 2009. The region's number of screens occupied 19.3% of the nationwide number; and the number of theaters occupied 18.3%. During these 10 years, its population decreased by 2.5% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.5%), and the population outside of Aichi Prefecture decreased. The region's population in 2020 occupied 16.8% of the nationwide population.

In Aichi Prefecture, 5 multi-screen theaters opened during the last 10 years, and the number of screens kept increasing through 2018. In 2019, Kinoshita Hall (with 1 screen) in Nagoya City, Toyota Grand (with 2 screens) in Toyota City, and Handa Korona World (with 11 screens) in Handa City closed, and in November 2020, TOHO Cinemas Nagoya Bay City (with 12 screens) closed, thereby, shifting the number of screens to decreasing over the last 2 years. However, the population per screen of Aichi Prefecture was 26,837, and the number of screens is the highest among the prefectures with big cities.

The number of screens per population of Ishikawa Prefecture is the highest in Japan. During the last 10 years, there have not been many changes except for the closing of Aeon Cinema Shin-Komatsu in 2017. In March 2020, Ekimae Cinema in Kanazawa City, a movie house with more than 60 years of history, closed.

In Niigata, Fukui, Yamanashi, Gifu, and Shizuoka Prefectures, the number of theaters and that of screens both decreased. Particularly, it is noteworthy that the number of screens decreased by 18 in Yamanashi, and by 20 in Gifu. In Yamanashi, Gran Park Toho (with 8 screens) and Kofu Musashino Cinema Five (with 5 screens) both closed in 2011, followed by two historical movie houses, Koho Cinema in 2013 and Theatre Isawa in 2018. In Gifu, United Cinema Shinsei, a multi-screen theater with 16 screens, closed in 2011, and in 2014, the only theater in Hida, Takayama Asahi-za, closed disappointing many film fans. Royal Gekijo and CINEX in Gifu City currently present mini-theater programs.

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. Cinema Point, a conventional theater in Nagano City, closed in June 2020.

In Shizuoka Prefecture, during the past 10 years, 8 conventional and 1 adult theaters closed, and only Shizuoka Toho Kaikan has survived among conventional theaters. In Niigata and Toyama Prefectures, there are no conventional or adult theaters. In Fukui Prefecture, one-hundred-year old Fukui Cinema closed in 2018.

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, the former Forza Sogawa was renovated and Shin-Hotori-za opened there. Hotori-za also operates film exhibition activities at a restaurant named Da Friends in Takaoka City, as Hotori-za Satellite House.

In Tokamachi City (population 50,000) in Niigata Prefecture, the mini-theater Tokamachi Cinema Paradise, operating since 2007, closed in 2018. On the other hand, Gashima Cinema opened with 5 days a week operation in Sadogashima Island.

Kinki Region

In the Kinki Region, the number of screens in 2020 was 594, increasing by 52 from that of 2011; and the number of theaters in 2019 was 96, decreasing by 16 from that of 2011. This region's number of screens occupied 16.2%, and that of theaters occupied 16.1% of the nationwide numbers. During these 10 years, the region's population decreased by 2.1% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.5%), and this regional population in 2020 occupied 17.7% of the nationwide population. In all prefectures in the Kinki Region, population decreased during the last 10 years.

During the last 10 years, the number of screens largely increased in Mie (by 15) and Kyoto (by 19).

In Kyoto Prefecture, Aeon Cinema Kyoto Katsuragawa, a multi-screen theater with 12 screens, opened in 2014; Demachi-za, a mini-theater, opened in 2017; Kyoto Minami Kaikan reopened in August 2019 increasing its number of screen from 1 to 3; and Uplink Kyoto opened in April 2020. In Nishi Maizuru, a "semi-movie house" (café cinema) Cine Grulla, opened operating at night and over the weekends. On the other hand, 2 historical movie houses closed including Shin Kyogoku Cine La Liebe and Gion Kaikan, stopping their operations.

In most big city centers, conventional theaters have shifted to multi-screen theaters. It stands out that in Hyogo and Osaka Prefectures, conventional theaters began to close. In Osaka during these 10 years, 7 closed and there is no conventional theater now. In February 2020, a multi-screen theater Fuse Line Cinema (with 7 screens) closed in Higashi-Osaka City.

In Hyogo Prefecture, 6 conventional theaters were closed during the last 10 years. Among them, Toyooka Gekijo changed its management, and after a large-scale renovation, it re-opened in 2014 with a program including mini-theater programming. In Mie Prefecture, Jisto Cinema Iga Ueno closed in March 2018 and there is now no conventional theater.

In Nara Prefecture, there is no increase or decrease of the number of theaters during the last 10 years. 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, Aeon Cinemas Wakayama opened in 2014, and in the cities of Gobo, Tanabe, and Shingu, Jist Cinema, a conventional theater, has continued to operate. However, two adult theaters closed. In Shiga Prefecture, there has been almost no change during the last 10 years.

Chugoku and Shikoku Region

The number of screens in the Chugoku and Shikoku Region in 2020 was 288, increasing by 15 from that in 2011, and the number of theaters in 2020 was 52, decreasing by 8 from that in 2011. The number of screens in this region occupied 7.9% of the nationwide number, and that of theaters was 8.7%. During these 10 years, the region's population decreased by 4.9% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.5%), and the 2020 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 1 multi-screen theater each opened. During these 10 years, there was no change in numbers in Shimane and Kagawa Prefectures.

In Hiroshima Prefecture, a multi-screen theater Aeon Cinema Hiroshima Seifu-Shinto with 9 screens opened in Hiroshima City in 2018, while 3 conventional theaters, 2 mini- and repertory theaters, and 2 adult theaters closed.

In Yamaguchi Prefecture, a multi-screen theater Cinema Sunshine Shimonoseki with 8 screens opened in Shimonoseki City in 2014, while 5 conventional and mini-theaters with 13 screens closed, 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 showing films every weekend.

In Ehime Prefecture, there were 8 multi-screen theaters. Ehime's number of screens per population, 22,483, is the third largest after Ishikawa and Yamagata Prefectures, and there are many screens for its population.

In the Chugoku Region's Japan Sea shore areas and in Shikoku, there are not many theaters. Some prefectures have only 2-3 theaters altogether. In the 5 prefectures of Kochi, Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, and Yamaguchi, the population per screen is between 44,000 and 69,000, becoming prefectures with very few theaters. In Kochi, Weekend Kinema M temporarily closed in January 2019, and is scheduled to reopen at a new location in 2021.

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 2020 was 447, increasing by 65 from that in 2011; and the number of theaters was 77, increasing by 5 from that in 2011. The number of screens in this region occupied 12.2% of the nationwide number, and the number of theaters was 12.9%, about a 2% increase. During these 10 years, the region's population decreased by 1.5% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.5%), resulting in 11.3% of the nationwide population in 2020. In Fukuoka and Okinawa Prefectures, their population increased.

In this region, during these 10 years, three prefectures increased their numbers of screens by more than 10. In Oita and Kagoshima Prefectures each, 2 multi-screen theaters opened, and in Okinawa Prefecture, the number of screens increased

by 23 where 2 multi- screen theaters and 3 mini-theaters opened.

In Okinawa Prefecture, 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, 2 small theaters opened: Theater Donuts (in Okinawa City) in 2015, and Yui Road Theater (in Ishigaki City) opened as Japan's south-most small theater in Japan in 2018. However, during COVID-19 pandemic, the latter was closed for a long term, prompting its ex-employees to set up a movement, Society to Protect Yui Cinema: The Revival Project of Japan's South-most Small Theater, working for its re-opening.

In Oita Prefecture, TOHO Cinemas Amu Plaza Oita opened in 2015, and Central Cinema Sanko (8 screens) opened inside Aeon Mall Sanko in Nakatsu City in March 2020. In Oita Prefecture, there is no conventional theater, however in Oita City, after Central Cinema closed in 2010, its basement theater reopened as Cinema 5bis. A historical movie house, Beppu Bluebird Theater, currently operates with a mini-theater-like programming, hosting film festivals and gaining popularity. In Hita City, Hita Cinematheque Liberte has been operating as a mini-theater accompanying a cafe and gallery since 2009.

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, Kinoshita Group's third movie house, opened. In addition, Fukuoka City Public Library presents screenings every day in its Auditorium Ciné-là, functioning as a repertory theater.

In Saga Prefecture, there used to be no movie house outside of Saga City after 2009. 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 movie house 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 7 more screens.

In Miyazaki Prefecture, there was no change during these 10 years. In November 2020, Wonder Attic Cinema (7 screens) opened inside a shopping mall Amu Plaza Miyazaki in front of Miyazaki station, and Miyazaki Kinema-kan with 2 screens moved to a new location, reopening a theater in April 2021 with 4 screen.