

4. General Situation in Each Prefecture

At the time this manuscript was prepared, the statistics of the film attendance of each prefecture had not been announced. Until 2019, the “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. The 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 2021 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 2021 was 114,818,000, showing an 8% increase from that in 2020, however, around a 40% decrease from that in 2019. The average number of films a person went to see annually also decreased. The national average in 2021 was 0.8 films, far less than 1.5 in 2019. Only five prefectures scored above 1.0: Tokyo (1.4), Kanagawa (1.1), Kyoto (1.1), Osaka (1.1), and Aichi (1.0).

The number of screens in each prefecture was high, like that of attendance in the prefectures with big cities. From 2020 to 2021, the total number of screens nationwide increased by 18. During the last five years, this number has been constantly increasing between 30 to 60 screens: from 2015 to 2016, 52 screens were added; from 2016 to 2017, 33 screens; from 2017 to 2018, 39 screens; from 2018 to 2019, 57 screens; and from 2019 to 2020, 42 screens were added. During the last year, the increase was smaller. Until 2021, the number of screens has not shown any drastic decrease as was shown in the sizes of attendance and box office income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The national average population per screen was 34,034. 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 (16,084) and Yamagata (19,560), 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. Additionally, Ishikawa Prefecture added 10 screens of multi-screen theaters in 2021, and its number of screens is as high as those in other countries. Oita, Kumamoto and Okinawa scored high because multi-screen theaters opened in these prefectures in 2020-2021. On the other hand, six prefectures whose average population per screen exceeded 50,000 were: Kochi (68,231), Yamanashi (61,949), Fukushima (56,660), Akita (52,493), Iwate (52,012), and Nagasaki (51,866), mostly the same prefectures as the previous year’s. In these prefectures, the number of movie theaters and the average number of films a person went to see annually were low. However, in these areas with a lower number of theaters, there have been a number of traveling screenings at public auditoriums and other independent film exhibition activities not reflected in their number of theater screenings. We must keep in mind that rich film exhibition environments could be uncaptured in these film business statistics.

fig.27 General Situation in Each Prefecture

		Population		# of theaters	# of screens	Attendance*		Population per screen	Attendance per Screen		# of films one went to see annually	
									2019	2021	2019	2021
	Nationwide	125,516,171		596	3687	106,137,000		34,034	53,891	28,787	1.5	0.8
1	Hokkaido	5,228,885	4.2%	22	112	3,360,000	2.7%	46,686	50,702	30,000	1.1	0.6
2	Aomori	1,221,305	1.0%	8	44	700,000	0.6%	27,757	28,000	15,909	1.0	0.6
3	Iwate	1,196,277	1.0%	7	23	510,000	0.4%	52,012	38,609	22,174	0.7	0.4
4	Miyagi	2,290,036	1.8%	10	77	1,960,000	1.6%	29,741	42,077	25,455	1.4	0.9
5	Akita	944,874	0.8%	5	18	460,000	0.4%	52,493	38,600	25,556	0.8	0.5
6	Yamagata	1,056,247	0.8%	8	54	1,050,000	0.8%	19,560	31,054	19,444	1.6	1.0
7	Fukushima	1,813,107	1.4%	5	32	820,000	0.7%	56,660	44,656	25,625	0.8	0.5
8	Ibaraki	2,839,227	2.3%	15	91	2,210,000	1.8%	31,200	41,678	24,286	1.3	0.8
9	Tochigi	1,922,445	1.5%	9	64	1,770,000	1.4%	30,038	50,484	27,656	1.7	0.9
10	Gumma	1,926,325	1.5%	8	52	1,820,000	1.5%	37,045	58,692	35,000	1.6	0.9
11	Saitama	7,340,945	5.8%	26	219	7,020,000	5.6%	33,520	56,450	32,055	1.6	1.0
12	Chiba	6,278,007	5.0%	25	220	6,180,000	4.9%	28,536	47,850	28,091	1.7	1.0
13	Tokyo	14,011,487	11.2%	85	414	19,770,000	15.8%	33,844	83,503	47,754	2.4	1.4
14	Kanagawa	9,236,428	7.4%	33	223	9,810,000	7.8%	41,419	83,970	43,991	1.8	1.1
15	Niigata	2,177,965	1.7%	10	64	1,640,000	1.3%	34,031	43,453	25,625	1.3	0.8
16	Toyama	1,025,409	0.8%	5	28	800,000	0.6%	36,622	51,889	28,571	1.3	0.8
17	Ishikawa	1,125,914	0.9%	9	70	1,100,000	0.9%	16,084	30,672	15,714	1.6	1.0
18	Fukui	760,209	0.6%	5	27	600,000	0.5%	28,156	38,296	22,222	1.3	0.8
19	Yamanashi	805,338	0.6%	4	13	540,000	0.4%	61,949	68,846	41,538	1.1	0.7
20	Nagano	2,020,372	1.6%	15	72	1,040,000	0.8%	28,061	24,208	14,444	0.9	0.5
21	Gifu	1,960,461	1.6%	8	56	1,500,000	1.2%	35,008	45,268	26,786	1.3	0.8
22	Shizuoka	3,608,498	2.9%	16	106	3,140,000	2.5%	34,042	49,915	29,623	1.5	0.9
23	Aichi	7,519,785	6.0%	36	269	8,080,000	6.4%	27,955	45,990	30,037	1.8	1.1
24	Mie	1,756,601	1.4%	10	63	1,480,000	1.2%	27,883	39,476	23,492	1.4	0.8
25	Shiga	1,409,157	1.1%	6	38	1,050,000	0.8%	37,083	47,026	27,632	1.3	0.7
26	Kyoto	2,561,358	2.0%	15	85	2,890,000	2.3%	30,134	61,250	34,000	1.9	1.1
27	Osaka	8,807,279	7.0%	33	234	9,670,000	7.7%	37,638	74,455	41,325	1.9	1.1
28	Hyogo	5,432,560	4.3%	24	120	4,050,000	3.2%	45,271	60,758	33,750	1.3	0.7
29	Nara	1,313,847	1.0%	4	34	930,000	0.7%	38,643	48,412	27,353	1.2	0.7
30	Wakayama	913,523	0.7%	5	30	620,000	0.5%	30,451	34,600	20,667	1.1	0.7
31	Tottori	549,002	0.4%	3	11	220,000	0.2%	49,909	39,545	20,000	0.8	0.4
32	Shimane	671,126	0.5%	3	16	500,000	0.4%	41,945	57,000	31,250	1.3	0.7
33	Okayama	1,876,934	1.5%	6	38	1,460,000	1.2%	49,393	61,333	38,421	1.3	0.8
34	Hiroshima	2,777,373	2.2%	15	79	2,370,000	1.9%	35,157	51,051	30,000	1.4	0.9
35	Yamaguchi	1,311,300	1.0%	5	31	840,000	0.7%	42,300	44,800	27,097	1.0	0.6
36	Tokushima	711,843	0.6%	3	19	320,000	0.3%	37,465	25,684	16,842	0.7	0.4
37	Kagawa	942,035	0.8%	5	26	880,000	0.7%	36,232	54,077	33,846	1.5	0.9
38	Ehime	1,320,782	1.1%	8	51	860,000	0.7%	25,898	24,881	16,863	1.1	0.7
39	Kochi	682,307	0.5%	2	10	400,000	0.3%	68,231	67,818	40,000	1.1	0.6
40	Fukuoka	5,127,048	4.1%	24	177	4,990,000	4.0%	28,966	48,383	28,192	1.7	1.0
41	Shiga	805,721	0.6%	4	21	510,000	0.4%	38,368	40,524	24,286	1.0	0.6
42	Nagasaki	1,296,657	1.0%	4	25	790,000	0.6%	51,866	53,640	31,600	1.0	0.6
43	Kumamoto	1,727,902	1.4%	10	68	1,050,000	0.8%	25,410	31,931	15,441	1.1	0.6
44	Oita	1,114,880	0.9%	10	44	810,000	0.6%	25,338	38,114	18,409	1.2	0.7
45	Miyazaki	1,061,016	0.8%	5	26	520,000	0.4%	40,808	50,222	20,000	0.8	0.5
46	Kagoshima	1,576,488	1.3%	7	39	850,000	0.7%	40,423	37,795	21,795	0.9	0.5
47	Okinawa	1,459,886	1.2%	11	54	850,000	0.7%	27,035	26,364	15,741	1.0	0.6

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' research.

Annual attendance: "Japanese Film Industry Statistics" (Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan, January) 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.

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 322, from 3,365 to 3,687 during the 10 years from 2012 to 2021. 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 174 from 3,496 in 2011 to 3,322 in 2014. However, from 2014, the number of screens has once again been increasing.

The prefectures where the number of screens has notably increased are: Tokyo (by 55 screens), Saitama (by 35 screens), Chiba (by 34 screens), Osaka (by 30 screens), and Okinawa (by 23 screens). During these 10 years, 69 multi-screen sites with 661 screens were added, and among them, 6 sites are in Chiba, 10 sites are in Tokyo, and 5 sites are in Saitama, Aichi, and Osaka, each around the big cities.

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) have opened 25 sites and 239 screens since 2012, becoming the biggest multi-screen theater chain in Japan. TOHO Cinemas has opened 16 sites and 157 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 9 sites with 91 screens. Other types of theaters have opened 50 sites and 84 screens during the last 10 years. In particular, 43 mini-theater sites and 75 screens have opened (including relocations and re-openings of once-closed theaters) during the last 10 years.

Also during the last 10 years, 28 multi-screen sites and 228 screens have closed. The prefectures where the number of screens has decreased more than 10 during the last 10 years are Gunma (19 screens) and Fukuoka (12 screens), due to the closing of multi-screen sites. As for other types of theaters, 136 sites and 229 screens have closed nationwide.

fig.28 Changes in Number of Screens in Each Prefecture (2011-2020)

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		2012→2021	2020→2021
	Nationwide	3,365	3,365	3,416	3,468	3,501	3,531	3,570	3,627	3,669	3,687		322	18
1	Hokkaido	121	120	117	113	114	114	114	114	112	112	3.1%	-9	0
2	Aomori	45	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	1.2%	-1	0
3	Iwate	26	25	25	25	25	23	23	23	23	23	0.6%	-3	0
4	Miyagi	64	64	64	64	73	72	78	78	78	77	2.1%	13	-1
5	Akita	23	22	22	22	22	20	20	20	20	18	0.5%	-5	-2
6	Yamagata	47	47	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	54	1.5%	7	-2
7	Fukushima	28	27	27	26	26	26	35	32	32	32	0.9%	4	0
8	Ibaraki	86	96	89	89	89	90	90	90	91	91	2.5%	5	0
9	Tochigi	57	57	57	55	64	64	64	64	64	64	1.7%	7	0
10	Gumma	71	62	61	61	61	61	63	52	52	52	1.4%	-19	0
11	Saitama	184	200	200	209	209	209	209	209	209	219	5.7%	35	10
12	Chiba	186	199	199	208	208	209	209	220	220	220	6.0%	34	0
13	Tokyo	359	346	351	359	362	365	378	398	413	414	11.3%	55	1
14	Kanagawa	217	216	218	219	209	210	199	202	223	223	6.1%	6	0
15	Niigata	66	66	65	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	1.7%	-2	0
16	Toyama	24	24	24	24	32	26	27	27	27	28	0.7%	4	1
17	Ishikawa	54	54	54	54	54	61	61	61	61	70	1.7%	16	9
18	Fukui	31	31	31	31	31	31	27	27	27	27	0.7%	-4	0
19	Yamanashi	18	18	14	14	14	14	13	13	13	13	0.4%	-5	0
20	Nagano	65	64	63	63	63	72	72	72	72	72	2.0%	7	0
21	Gifu	60	60	60	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	1.5%	-4	0
22	Shizuoka	101	99	98	97	96	96	96	106	106	106	2.9%	5	0
23	Aichi	251	247	258	258	275	293	292	295	281	269	7.7%	18	-12
24	Mie	48	58	58	58	58	58	63	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	65	64	76	75	75	78	78	80	85	85	2.3%	20	0
27	Osaka	204	199	207	226	224	224	224	224	224	234	6.1%	30	10
28	Hyogo	111	120	117	127	124	121	119	120	120	120	3.3%	9	0
29	Nara	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	0.9%	0	0
30	Wakayama	22	21	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	0.8%	8	0
31	Tottori	14	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	0.3%	-3	0
32	Shimane	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	16	0.4%	1	1
33	Okayama	28	28	39	39	39	39	39	39	38	38	1.0%	10	0
34	Hiroshima	78	78	77	72	72	71	80	79	79	79	2.2%	1	0
35	Yamaguchi	35	25	32	30	30	30	30	30	30	31	0.8%	-4	1
36	Tokushima	10	10	10	10	10	19	19	19	19	19	0.5%	9	0
37	Kagawa	25	26	26	25	26	26	26	26	26	26	0.7%	1	0
38	Ehime	52	52	52	52	59	59	59	59	59	51	1.6%	-1	-8
39	Kochi	11	11	10	10	10	11	11	11	10	10	0.3%	-1	0
40	Fukuoka	189	185	185	185	179	164	175	175	177	177	4.8%	-12	0
41	Saga	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	0.6%	1	0
42	Nagasaki	26	26	26	26	25	25	25	25	25	25	0.7%	-1	0
43	Kumamoto	50	50	50	50	49	49	49	58	58	68	1.6%	18	10
44	Oita	25	25	25	35	35	35	36	35	44	44	1.2%	19	0
45	Miyazaki	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	25	26	0.7%	9	1
46	Kagoshima	31	31	31	31	31	39	39	39	39	39	1.1%	8	0
47	Okinawa	32	32	32	40	42	41	42	55	55	54	1.5%	22	-1

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

Changes in Number of Theaters and Screens According to Theater Types in Each Prefecture (2012-2021)

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 and the pandemic period of 2020-2021.

Hokkaido and Tohoku Region [Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Akita, Yamagata, and Fukushima]

In the Hokkaido and Tohoku Region, the number of screens in 2021 was 360, increasing by 6 from that in 2012; and the number of theaters in 2021 was 65, decreasing by 13 from that in 2012. Their number of screens occupied 9.8% of the nationwide number. During the last 10 years, its population decreased by 5.9% (the national average was a decrease of 1.6%). Their decrease rate was more dramatic compared with that in other regions. In 2021, its population occupied 11.0% of the nationwide population.

The population per screen in Hokkaido (46,686), Iwate (52,012), Akita (52,493), and Fukushima (56,660), were considerably higher than that of the nationwide average (34,034), meaning that these prefectures have fewer theaters.

In 2020-2021, the number of screens changed in Miyagi, Akita, and Yamagata. In Miyagi Prefecture, MOVIX Rifu (with 12 screen) in Rifu City closed in October 2020, and Aeon Cinema Shin-Rifu (with 11 screen) opened in March 2021. In Akita Prefecture, Lumiere Akita (with 5 screen) inside Akita Station Building Alve closed in May 2020, however, re-opened as Alve Theater with 3 screens in December 2020. In Yamagata Prefecture, Tsuruoka Machinaka Kinema closed in May 2020. Many citizens and film fans all over Japan wanted it to re-open, and it re-opened by Sanno Machizukuri Co., Ltd. as its main operation force. In October to December 2021, they started screenings as its “pre-open” operation, and are preparing for its re-opening in the winter of 2022. In Aomori Prefecture, Aomori Korona Cinema World closed in August 2021.

During the last 10 years, notable changes were as follows: Hokkaido's number of theaters decreased by 8 and its number of screens decreased by 9; and Miyagi's number of screens decreased by 13. In Hokkaido, several conventional and mini-theaters closed between 2011 and 2015: Sapporo Toho Plaza, Dinos Cinema, Sasori-za, Cine Tokachi Prince Theater, Theater Voice in 2013, and so on. Once closed Sapporo Toho Plaza reopened in July 2020 after its renewal as mini-theater Satsugeki.

In Miyagi Prefecture, movie houses were severely damaged by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. Ruined by the earthquake and tsunami, some movie houses temporarily closed, then, permanently closed. In 2012, Miyagi's number of screens dropped from 95 to 64. However, TOHO Cinemas Sendai opened in 2016, United Cinema Forte Miyagi-Ogawara re-opened in 2018, and Aeon Cinema Shin-Rifu opened in March 2021. The number of screen in Miyagi was 77 in 2021. In 2018, mini-theater Sakurai Pharmacy Central Hall closed and Forum Sendai became the only mini-theater in Sendai City.

In Iwate Prefecture, Miyako Cinemarine closed in September 2016. As a result, there is currently no movie theater in this seashore area. In Akita City, Akita Forus Cinema Palais and Theater Play Town closed and there is no mini-theater. However, a local film production company renovated an old traditional house in Akita City and created a small screening room with 16 seats, named it Out Crop Cinema, and started its regular operation in November

2021. 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 Yamagata Prefecture, Aeon Cinemas Tendo opened in 2014, and in Fukushima Prefecture, Polepole Cinema Iwaki Onahama opened in 2018. In each of these prefectures, the number of screens has increased.

There are many areas in this region with no theaters at all. Historically, traveling screenings have been active. Miyako Film Life Co-op's Miyako Cinemarine closed, however, they collaborate with the traveling screenings in Miyako, Kamaishi, Otsuchi, Iwaizumi, etc., and screenings at public auditoriums, as well as hosting film festivals. In Miyako City, a new film exhibition venue, Cinema de Aeru was founded. With population shrinking, 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 [Ibaragi, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, and Kanagawa]

In the Kanto Region, the number of screens was 1,283 in 2021, increasing by 123 from that in 2012; and the number of theaters in 2021 was 201, decreasing by 10 from that in 2012. This region's number of screens occupied 34.8% of the nationwide number, and the number of theaters occupied 33.7%. The population during these 10 years increased by 2.2% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.6%), and the population in this region occupied 34.7% of the nationwide population.

During the period between 2020 and 2021, the number of screens changed largely in Saitama and Tokyo. In Saitama Prefecture, Aeon Cinema Kawaguchi (with 10 screens) opened in June 2021. In Tokyo, TOHO Cinemas Ikebukuro opened in July 2020 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 2020. Furthermore, in June 2021, Cinema Neko opened in Ome City, the first movie house in 30 years. In January 2022, Shimokita Ekimae Cinema K2 opened in the redevelopment area where there used to be railways of Higashi Kitazawa and Setagaya-Daita stations of the Odakyu line. On the other hand, in January 2022, Iwanami Hall made an announcement that it was going to close at the end of July, creating a shock wave inside and outside of Japan. In addition, Uplink Shibuya closed in May 2021, and Ebisu Gardens Cinema closed in February 2021. However, as a whole in the Kanto Region, 2 theaters and 1 screen were added.

During the last 10 years in this region, 25 multi-screen theaters opened, and 23 out of the 25 opened in the metropolitan areas of Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba, and Kanagawa Prefectures.

In Tokyo, 10 multi-screen theaters have opened since 2014. While 8 multi-screen theaters with 92 screens were added during the last 10 years, the number of other types of theaters has decreased by 23 theaters with 37 screens. Since 2012, 21 mini-theaters and repertory theaters have closed. The closing of Cinema Rise (in 2016) and Kichijoji Baus Theater (in 2014), symbols of the mini-theater culture, drew attention. Also during the last 10 years, many conventional theaters loved by film fans for a long time and known for creating cinema culture in Tokyo closed, including: TOHO Cinemas Nichigeki, Ginza Cine Pathos, Asakusa Meiga-za, Shimbashi Bunka Gekijo/Shimbashi Roman Gekijo, Sangenjaya Cinema, Shinjuku Milano-za, and Ueno Tokyu. 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 mini-theater Kino Cinema Tachikawa Takashimaya SC (in 2019) and others. As a whole, 55 screens were added during the last 10 years.

In Kanagawa Prefecture, during the last 10 years, 2 multi-screen theaters closed including Aeon Cinema

Tsukimino and 109 Cinemas MM Yokohama; on the other hand, in March 2020, Aeon Cinema Zama (with 10 screen) opened, followed by T Joy Yokohama (with 9 screens) in June 2020 inside Yokohama Station Building. As for other types of theaters, Yokohama New Theatre in Isesaki-cho, loved by the community for a long time, closed in 2018. Meanwhile, 5 mini-theaters have opened since 2014 including Yokohama Cinemarine, Cinema Novecento, Kino Cinema Yokohama Minato Mirai, Cine-koya, and Atsugi no Eigakan kiki. In October 2019, Typhoon #19 impacted 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 while it was decided to demolish the building itself.

In Gunma Prefecture, both the numbers of theaters and screens were decreased. 2 multi-screen theaters, Ota Korona World and Plabi Isezaki, were closed, resulting in the decrease by one theater and 19 screens. On the other hand, in Takasaki City, Takasaki Eiga-kan, with its long history, revived in 2014 as a repertory theater. In Ibaragi Prefecture, mini-theater Amaya-za opened in Naka City in 2017, and Cinema Sunrise Hitachi opened in Hitachi City in 2020.

Chubu Region [Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Yamanashi, Nagano, Gifu, Shizuoka, and Aichi]

In the Chubu Region, the number of screens in 2021 was 705, decreasing by 11 from that in 2012; and the number of theaters in 2021 was 108, increasing by 35 from that in 2012. The region's number of screens occupied 19.1% of the nationwide number; and the number of theaters occupied 18.1%. During these 10 years, its population decreased by 2.8% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.6%), and the population outside of Aichi Prefecture decreased. The region's population in 2021 occupied 16.7% of the nationwide population.

In 2020-2021, the number of screens changed notably in Ishikawa, Nagano and Aichi Prefectures. In Ishikawa Prefecture, Hakusan City, a suburb of Kanazawa City, Aeon Cinema Hakusan (with 10 screens) opened in July 2021. In Nagano Prefecture, Cinema Point, a conventional theater in Nagano City, closed in June 2020, and Ueda Eigeki re-opened one screen of the former Ueda Denki-kan as Traum Raise in July 2020. In Aichi Prefecture, TOHO Cinemas Nagoya Bay City (with 12 screens) closed in November 2020. In Aichi, 5 multi-screen theaters have opened since 2014, and the number of screens has kept increasing. On the other hand, Kinoshita Hall (Nagoya City), Toyota Grand (Toyota City), and Handa Korona World (with 11 screens) closed in 2019, and TOHO Cinemas Nagoya Bay City closed in November 2020, thereby, shifting the number of screens to decreasing. 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 was the highest in Japan. In 2021, Aeon Cinema Hakusan opened and Ishikawa's population per screen became 16,084, falling to the levels in Korea and Germany. In March 2020, Ekimae Cinema in Kanazawa City, a movie house with more than 60 years of history, closed.

In Niigata, Fukui, Yamanashi, and Gifu Prefectures, the number of theaters and that of screens both decreased. In Yamanashi Prefecture, 2 multi-screen theaters (Gran Park Toho and Kofu Musashino Cinema Five) closed in 2011, followed by two historical movie houses, Koho Cinema in 2013 and Theatre Isawa in 2018. The statistics in the chart do not show that an adult movie house Konan Gekijo closed in November 2021 and a movie theater in Kofu City became the only one with Theater Central Be-kan. In Gifu Prefecture, United Cinema Shinsei, a multi-screen theater, closed in 2011, and in 2014, the only theater in Hida, Takayama Asahi-za, closed. Since then, the movie theater situation has not changed. Royal Gekijo and CINEX in Gifu City currently present mini-theater programs.

Royal Gekijo particularly attracts attention because it screens only non-digital films.

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 Azuma-za in Nagano Prefecture, all changed their programming from that of conventional theaters to that of mini-theaters and repertory theaters, creating new opportunities. In Shizuoka Prefecture, since 2011, 8 conventional and one adult theaters have 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. Hotori-za Theater, during the COVID-19 pandemic in June 2020, moved to the former location of the renovated Forza Sogawa and opened as a new Hotori-za. Hotori-za also opened a cinema café, starting a permanent film exhibition at a restaurant in Takaoka City in July 2020, as DaFriends x HOTORIZA.

In Tokamachi City in Niigata Prefecture, the mini-theater Tokamachi Cinema Paradise, having operated for 10 years, closed in 2018. On the other hand, Gashima Cinema opened with 5 days a week operation in Sadogashima Island.

Kinki Region [Mie, Shiga, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Nara, and Wakayama]

In the Kinki Region, the number of screens in 2021 was 604, increasing by 82 from that of 2012; and the number of theaters in 2021 was 97, decreasing by 8 from that of 2012. This region's number of screens occupied 16.4%, and that of theaters occupied 16.3% of the nationwide numbers. During these 10 years, the region's population decreased by 2.2% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.6%), and this regional population in 2021 occupied 17.7% of the nationwide population. In all prefectures in the Kinki Region, population decreased during the last 10 years.

During the period between 2020 and 2021, the number of screens notably changed only in Osaka Prefecture. In Osaka City, Theatras Shinsaibashi (with 7 screens) opened in March 2021, and TOHO Cinemas Seven Park Amami (with 10 screens) opened in July 2021. On the other hand, in February 2020, a multi-screen theater Fuse Line Cinema (with 7 screens) closed in Higashi-Osaka City. The chart does not show that in March 2022, Otsu Alex Cinema (with 5 screens) closed in March 2022. In Hyogo, Kobe Kokusai Shochiku (with 4 screens) in Kobe City closed in March 2022, and in the next month, re-opened as mini-theater Kino Cinema Kobe Kokusai. In Tanba City, Ebisu Cinema opened in August 2021. Toyooka Gekijo changed its management, and after a large-scale renovation, it re-opened in 2014 with a program including mini-theater programming. Then, it announced in February 2022 that it would close in long-term after August 2022, searching for a way to survive. Uplink Kyoto opened in June 2020, however, Tokyo Theatre took over its theater management in January 2022.

During the last 10 years, the following prefectures showed notable increase in their number of screens: Mie (by 15 screens), Kyoto (by 20 screens), and Osaka (by 30 screens). 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. On the other hand, 2 historical movie houses, Shin Kyogoku Cine La Liebe and Gion Kaikan, closed stopping their operations.

In most big city centers, conventional theaters have shifted to multi-screen theaters, and this stands out in Hyogo and Osaka Prefectures, where many conventional theaters have closed. In Osaka during these 10 years, 7 have closed and there is no conventional theater now. In Hyogo Prefecture, 6 conventional theaters have closed during the last 10 years. In Mie Prefecture, Xyst Cinema Iga Ueno closed in March 2018 and there is now no conventional theater. In Nara Prefecture, there has been no increase or decrease of the number of theaters during the last 10 years. In Wakayama Prefecture, Aeon Cinemas Wakayama opened in 2014, and in the cities of Gobo, Tanabe, and Shingu, Xyst 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

[Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, and Kochi]

The number of screens in the Chugoku and Shikoku Region in 2021 was 281, increasing by 13 from that in 2012, and the number of theaters in 2021 was 50, decreasing by 8 from that in 2012. The number of screens in this region occupied 7.6% of the nationwide number, and that of theaters was 8.4%. During these 10 years, the region's population decreased by 5.2% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.6%), the largest decrease in Japan, and the 2021 population occupied 8.6% of the nationwide population.

There were not many changes during these 10 years in numbers. The prefectures whose number of screens changed notably are Shimane and Yamaguchi. In Shimane, Onozawa Cinema reopened in January 2022 where Digital Theater Masuda Chuo was operating until 2008 in Masuda City (with population of 45,000). In Yurihama City in Tottori, Zig Theater opened in July 2021 renovating the abandoned elementary school building and screening one project (for about one week) every month regularly. Otherwise, there has not been much change. In Okayama and Tokushima Prefectures, a multi-screen theater opened, adding 10 screens and 9 screens each. 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 one adult theater closed.

In Yamaguchi Prefecture, a multi-screen theater Cinema Sunshine Shimonoseki (with 8 screens) opened in Shimonoseki City in 2014, while all 4 conventional theaters in 2012 and one mini-theater Theater Zero in 2014 closed. 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 diverse kinds of films every weekend.

In Ehime Prefecture, there are 7 multi-screen theaters and one mini-theater, and Ehime's population per screen is 25,898, making the number of screen per population the fifth largest in Japan. In Kagawa Prefecture, there has been no notable change during the last 10 years, and in Kochi Prefecture, there has been no change in numbers except the closing of an adult film theater Kochi Sho-gekijo in 2013. In Kochi, Weekend Kinema M opened in 2017, however, temporarily closed in January 2019, and is scheduled to reopen at a new location in 2022. 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 their prefectures. In Kochi, Tottori, and Okayama, the population per screen is between about 50,000 and 68,000, becoming prefectures with very few theaters. In Yamaguchi and Shimane, their population per screen is each over 40,000.

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 the mountains has 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

[Fukuoka, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Oita, Miyazaki, Kagoshima, and Okinawa]

In the Kyushu and Okinawa Region, the number of screens in 2021 was 454, increasing by 63 from that in 2012; and the number of theaters was 75 in 2021, increasing by 6 from that in 2012. The number of screens in this region occupied 12.3% of the nationwide number, and the number of theaters was 12.6%. During these 10 years, the region's population decreased by 1.5% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.6%), occupying 11.3% of the nationwide population in 2021. In Fukuoka and Okinawa Prefectures, their population increased.

During the period between 2020 and 2021, Kumamoto, Miyazaki, and Okinawa Prefectures showed changes in their numbers of screens. In Kumamoto Prefecture, Kumamoto Piccadilly (with 10 screens) opened inside Amu Plaza Kumamoto, new commercial facilities inside Kumamoto Station Building. TOHO Cinemas Kumamoto Sakuramachi (with 9 screens) opened inside commercial facilities Sakuramachi Kumamoto in September 2019. In Miyazaki Prefecture, Miyazaki Kinema-kan with 2 screens moved to a new location, renovated, and reopened in April 2021 adding two more screens. In 2020, Wonder Attic Cinema (with 7 screens) opened inside Miyazaki Station Building. In Okinawa Prefecture, Yui Road Theater (in Ishigaki City) opened in 2018 as Japan's southernmost small theater in Japan. However, it was closed long-term in April 2020, prompting its ex-employees to set up a movement, the Society to Protect Yui Cinema, working for its re-opening.

In this region, during the last 10 years, multi-screen theaters kept opening, and in Kumamoto, 2 multi-screen theaters opened, adding 18 screens.

In Oita Prefecture, TOHO Cinemas Amu Plaza Oita (with 10 screens) opened inside Oita Station Building in 2015, and Central Cinema Sanko (8 screens) opened inside Aeon Mall Sanko in Nakatsu City in March 2020, adding 19 screens. In Oita Prefecture, there is no conventional theater in the numbers, however 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 Okinawa, United Cinema started business in 2019, and United Cinema PARCO CITY Urasoe (with 11 screens) opened. In Okinawa City, mini-theater Cinema Plaza House 1954 opened, in addition to the opening of Theater Donuts in 2015, and the number of screen in Okinawa Prefecture increased largely by 23 during the last 10 years.

In Fukuoka Prefecture, TOHO Cinemas Tenjin (Main Building) closed in March 2017, in addition to the closings of mini-theaters, conventional, and adult theaters, and the number of screens decreased by 12 during the last 10 years. On the other hand, multi-screen theater TOHO Cinemas Lala Port Fukuoka (with 9 screens) opened in April 2022 inside Mitsui Shopping Park Lala Port Fukuoka on the previous site of Fukuoka City Green Market. In Fukuoka City, there was only one mini-theater, KBC Cinema, for a long time until Kino Cinema Tenjin, Kinoshita Group's third movie house, opened in April 2020. 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 about 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.