

4.General Situation in Each Prefecture

The “Japanese Film Industry Statistics” of the Japanese Film Producers Association does not include the statistics of the film attendance of each prefecture. The “Special Service Industry Situation Research Report: Film Theaters” (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, until 2019) and the “Economic Census Activities Research” (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, once in every 5 years) include the number of film theater attendance in 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” of 2015, 2017, and 2018 (which listed the data of 2014, 2016, and 2017) and the “Economic Census Activities Research” of 2018 and 2023 (which listed the data of 2015 and 2020). We then multiplied these percentages by Japan’s total attendance 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 2022 was 152,005,000, showing a 32% increase from that in 2021, however, around a 22% decrease from that in 2019. The average number of films a person went to see annually was 1.2 films, as high as that in the first half of the 2010s. 9 prefectures scored above the national average of 1.2 films: Tokyo (1.9), Yamagata (1.8), Kyoto (1.5), Osaka (1.4), Kanagawa (1.4), Fukuoka (1.4), Chiba (1.3), Aichi (1.3) and Saitama (1.3).

The number of screens in each prefecture was high, like that of attendance, in the prefectures with big cities. From 2021 to 2022, the total number of screens nationwide decreased by 15. Until 2021, this number had been constantly increasing between 30 to 50 screens: from 2016 to 2017, 30 screens were added; from 2017 to 2018, 39 screens; from 2018 to 2019, 57 screens; and from 2019 to 2020, 42 screens were added. However, from 2021 to 2022, the number decreased.

The national average population per screen was 34,044. 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 (18,029) and Yamagata (19,277), 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. Oita (25,143), Kumamoto (25,261), Okinawa (27,197) and Fukuoka (27, 516) scored well with relatively low numbers because multi-screen theaters opened in these prefectures during the last 5 years.

On the other hand, 7 prefectures whose average population per screen exceeded 50,000 were: Kochi (67,571) , Yamanashi (66,802) , Fukushima (55,913) , Okayama (54,765), Akita (51,663), Iwate (51,327) , and Nagasaki (51,303) . In these prefectures, the number of films a person went to see annually was also low, below the national average. 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 uncouncted in these film business statistics.

[fig.27 General Situation in Each Prefecture \(2022\)](#)

In Each Prefecture [Number of Screens]

The nationwide number of screens in Japan increased by 310 from 3,362 to 3,672 during the 10 years from 2013 to 2022. On the other hand, the number of screens decreased by 15 in 2021-2022. 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 180 from 3,496 in 2011 to 3,316 in 2014. However, from 2014, the number of screens once again increased until 2021. In 2022, the number of the screens decreased by 15 compared with that in 2021, while several new multi-screen theaters are scheduled to open in 2023: 109 Cinemas Premium in Shinjuku and TOHO Cinemas Lala Port Kadoma (Kadoma City, Osaka) in April, Aeon Cinema Tonami (Tonami City, Toyama) and Cinema Sunshine Iizuka (Iizuka City, Fukuoka) in July, and TOHO Cinemas Sapporo Susukino in the fall.

The prefectures where the number of screens has notably increased are: Tokyo (by 66 screens), Osaka (by 34 screens), Saitama (by 26 screens), Okinawa (by 22 screens), and Chiba, Aichi and Kyoto (each by 21 screens). During these 10 years, 70 multi-screen sites with 671 screens were added, and among them, 10 sites are in Tokyo, 6 sites are in Chiba and Saitama, and 5 sites are in 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, occupying 40% of the total number of screens in 2022. Aeon Cinema (until 2013, Warner Mycal Cinemas) has opened 25 sites and 239 screens since 2013, becoming the biggest multi-screen theater chain in Japan. TOHO Cinemas has opened 16 sites and 156 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 47 screens, United Cinema opened 10 sites

with 98 screens, and Cinema Sunshine opened 5 sites and 47 screens. Other types of theaters have opened 58 sites and 96 screens during the last 10 years. In particular, 48 mini-theater sites and 82 screens have opened (including relocations and re-openings of once-closed theaters) during the last 10 years.

Also during the last 10 years, 42 multi-screen sites and 357 screens have closed. The prefectures where the number of screens has decreased by 8 or more during the last 10 years are Gunma (10 screens) and Aomori (8 screens), due to the closing of multi-screen sites (Korona World Aomori and Previ Theater Isezaki Cinema). As for other types of theaters, 101 sites with 157 screens have closed nationwide.

[fig.28 Changes of the Number of Screens in Each Prefecture \(2013-2022\)](#)

Changes in Number of Theaters and Screens According to Theater Types in Each Prefecture (2013~2022)

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

In the Hokkaido and Tohoku Region, the number of screens in 2022 was 352, increasing by 5 from that in 2013; and the number of theaters in 2022 was 64, decreasing by 7 from that in 2013. Their number of screens occupied 9.6% of the nationwide number and the number of theaters occupied 10.9% (its population occupied 10.9% of the nationwide population). During the last 10 years, its population decreased by 6.3% (the national average was a decrease of 1.8%). Their decrease rate was more dramatic compared with that in other regions.

The population per screen in Hokkaido (46,275), Iwate (51,327), Akita (51,663), and Fukushima (55,913) were considerably higher than that of the nationwide average (34,034), meaning that these prefectures have fewer theaters.

In 2021-2022, the number of screens changed only in Aomori. In Aomori Prefecture, a multi-screen theater Korona World Aomori in Aomori City closed in August 2021. Forum Hachinohe in Hachinohe City was also closed in January 2023 due to its building demolition related to its area's redevelopment. In Hokkaido, Sugai Dinos Inc. operating Dinos Cinemas submitted an Application of the Civil Rehabilitation Law in May, 2022, and Dinos Cinemas Asahikawa closed in September. On the other hand, TOHO Cinemas multi-screen theater (10 screens) joined the

big-scale commercial facilities in the middle of Susukino District of Sapporo City and will open in the fall of 2023. In Iwate Prefecture, Art Forum will close in April 2023 at the Film Theater Street, due to the building demolition. 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 was re-opened by Sanno Machizukuri Co., Ltd. as its main operation force. After its crowdfunding, the theater reopened with 2 screens in March 2023.

During the last 10 years, notable changes have been as follows: Hokkaido's number of theaters have decreased by 5 and its number of screens decreased by 6; and Miyagi's number of screens decreased by 13. In Hokkaido, several conventional and mini-theaters closed between 2013 and 2015: Once closed Sapporo Toho Plaza reopened in 2020 after its renewal as the 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 reopened in 2018, and Aeon Cinema Shin-Rifu opened in 2021. The number of screens in Miyagi was 77 in 2022. In addition, Okada Planning operating Okada Theater in Ishinomaki City was once closed upon the damage of the Great East Japan Earthquake, however, started a traveling screening operation in the Tohoku Region.

In Iwate Prefecture, Miyako Cinemarine closed in 2016 but started screenings of new films twice a month using the same theater, and has continued to operate traveling screenings in Miyako, Kamaishi, Ozuchi, Iwaizumi, etc., in the prefecture. In addition, a new film exhibition venue, Cinema de Aeru, was founded in Miyako City, and after renovating an old warehouse, has operated a screening once a month.

In Akita City, Akita Forus Cinema Palais and others closed and there is no mini-theater. Then, a local film production company renovated an old traditional house in Akita City, created a small screening room with 16 seats, named it Out Crop Cinema, and started its regular operation in 2021. In Odate City, a wooden building structure Onari-za reopened in 2014, creating lots of buzz. In Fukushima Prefecture, Pole Pole Cinema Iwaki Onahama opened in 2018. In Iwaki City, in a hot spring town, a new mini-theater Kuramoto opened in 2019 near the Yumoto station and they host screenings around 4 days a week.

[fig.29 Hokkaido Tohoku Region](#)

Kanto Region [Ibaragi, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, and Kanagawa]

In the Kanto Region, the number of screens was 1,288 in 2022, increasing by 113 from that in

2013; and the number of theaters in 2022 was 202, decreasing by 11 from that in 2013. This region's number of screens occupied 35.1% of the nationwide number, and the number of theaters occupied 34.2%. The population during these 10 years increased by 2.0% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.8%), and the population in this region occupied 34.8% of the nationwide population.

During the period between 2021 and 2022, the number of screens changed largely in Saitama and Tokyo. In Saitama Prefecture, United Cinema Chichibu opened in July 2022 and 7 screens were added. In Tokyo, old theaters one after another closed permanently or temporarily. In May 2021, Uplink Shibuya closed, and Iwanai Hall, a pioneer of mini-theaters, closed in July 2022 after 54-year operation. In November, a repertory theater Ginrei Hall founded in 1974 closed due to its building demolition, and is looking for a new location. In December, Shibuya TOEI, directly operated by Toei Co., Ltd. since 1953, closed. Bunkamura Le Cinema closed in April 2023 due to its building renovation, and will reopen in June 2023 at the location having been occupied by Shibuya TOEI.

On the other hand, two mini-theaters started operation in Tokyo in 2022. In January, Shimokita_Ekimae_Cinema K2 (with 1 screen and 71 seats) opened along the railway in Shimokitazawa. In September, Stranger (with 1 screen and 49 seats) opened in front of Kikukawa station of Tokyo Metropolitan subway's Shinjuku line. In the whole Kanto Region, 2 theaters and 6 screens were added during the last year.

In the Kanto Region, 24 multi-screen theaters have opened during the last 10 years, and 23 among them are located in the metropolitan area of 4 prefectures (Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba and Kanagawa). Especially in Tokyo, since 2014, 9 multi-screen theaters have opened around the city center area including TOHO Cinemas Hibiya and Grand Cinema Sunshine Ikebukuro. During the last 10 years in Tokyo, 8 multi-screen theaters and 92 screens have been added. The multi-screen theaters opened in Saitama and Chiba mostly belong to a "road-side" model joining in big commercial facilities. 9 new theaters have opened in these two prefectures together during the last 10 years, including Aeon Cinema Kawaguchi and United Cinema Terrace Mall Matsudo.

In Tokyo, during the last 10 years since 2013, 11 mini-theaters and 9 conventional theaters have closed. The closing of Cinema Rise (in 2016) and Kichijoji Baus Theater (in 2014), symbols of the mini-theater culture, drew attention. Many conventional theaters loved by film fans for a long time and known for creating cinema culture in Tokyo also closed, including: TOHO Cinemas Nichigeki, Shinjuku Milano, Yurakucho Subaru-za, and Shibuya Tokyu. On the other hand, mini-theaters also opened including Chupki Tabata, Japan's first barrier-free movie house, Uplink Kichijoji, Kino Cinema Tachikawa Takashimaya SC and others. As a whole, 66 screens have been added during the last 10 years.

In Kanagawa Prefecture, during the last 10 years, 2 multi-screen theaters have closed while 2 multi-screen theaters opened in 2022 including Aeon Cinema Zama and T Joy Yokohama. 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 including Yokohama Cinemarine, Cinema Novecento, Kino Cinema Yokohama Minato Mirai, Cine-koya, and Atsugi no Eigakan kiki.

In this region, the numbers of theaters and screens were both decreased in Ibaragi and Gunma prefectures. In Ibaragi, multi-screen theater Iwai Cinema Sunshine in Bando City closed in 2013, while mini-theater Amaya-za opened in Naka City in 2017, and Cinema Sunrise Hitachi opened in Hitachi City in 2020. As a result, Ibaragi added 1 theater and lost 4 screens. In Gunma, multi-screen theater Previ Isezaki closed in 2019, while in Takasaki's city center, Takasaki Denkikan, with its long history, revived in 2014 as a repertory theater. As a whole, only the number of screens decreased by 10.

In this region, 109 Cinemas Premium Shinjuku is scheduled to open in April 2023 in the commercial district Kabuki-cho, and 6 more multi-screen theaters are expected to open around city centers in and after 2023.

[fig.30 Kanto Region](#)

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

In the Chubu Region, the number of screens in 2022 was 694, increasing by 31 from that in 2013; and the number of theaters in 2022 was 104, decreasing by 10 from that in 2013. The region's number of screens occupied 18.9% of the nationwide number; and the number of theaters occupied 17.6%. During these 10 years, its population decreased by 3.1% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.8%), and the population outside of Aichi Prefecture decreased. The region's population occupied 16.7% of the nationwide population.

In 2021-2022, the number of screens changed notably in Ishikawa and Yamanashi Prefectures. In Ishikawa Prefecture, Aeon Cinema Hakusan in Hakusan City opened in 2021, while a nearby theater Aeon Cinema Okyozuka closed. As a whole in Ishikawa, the number of theaters decreased by 1, and that of screen decreased by 8, however, the number of screens per population of Ishikawa was 18,029, still the highest in Japan. In Yamanashi Prefecture, an adult movie house Konan Gekijo closed in 2021 and Theater Central Be-kan became the only movie house in Kofu City.

In this region, the numbers of conventional and adult theaters have decreased during the last 10 years from 2013 to 2022. Takada Sekai-kan in Niigata Prefecture, Nagano Roxi/Nagano

Shochiku Aioi-za, Ueda Eigeki, and Shiojiri Higashi-za in Nagano Prefecture, and Royal Gekijo and CINEX in Gifu Prefecture had been loved by local fans for a long time, and all changed their programming from that of conventional theaters to that of mini-theaters and repertory theaters, seeking new opportunities.

In Tokamachi City in Niigata Prefecture, a mini-theater Tokamachi Cinema Paradise closed in 2018. On the other hand, café cinema Gashima Cinema opened in 2017 with 5 days a week operation in Sadogashima Island.

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 DaFriendsxHOTORIZA.

In Nagano Prefecture, Shinsei Gekijo in Chino City closed in 2013, however, its building has been used as a main site for the Tateshina Kogen Film Festival commemorating Yasujiro Ozu.

In Ueda City, Ueda Eigeki re-opened in 2017, and its non-profit organization revived an operation with one screen of the former Ueda Denki-kan as Traum Raise in July 2020. Since 2021, they have been engaged in film exhibition programs for children with local non-profit organizations, presenting Ueda Children Cinema Club and Weekend Children Movie House.

In Aichi Prefecture, 5 multi-screen theaters have opened since 2014, and 4 of them are Aeon Cinemas. TOHO Cinemas Nagoya Bay City and 3 other multi-screen theaters have closed. No mini theaters have closed or opened during the last 10 years, however, Meien Shogekijo announced that it would close temporarily in March 2023. On the other hand, Mitsukoshi Eiga Gekijo, closed temporarily since 2020, reopened in March 2023.

In Shizuoka Prefecture, Sasaki Kogyo Inc. opened its second theater Cinema Sunshine Lala Port Numazu in Numazu City in 2019, while conventional theaters Numazu Takarazuka and Numazu Yurau-za closed in 2015, and only Shizuoka Toho Kaikan has survived among conventional theaters.

In Niigata, Fukui, Yamanashi, and Gifu Prefectures, the number of theaters and that of screens both decreased. In Niigata, the only surviving conventional theater and adult movie theater both have closed or stopped operation during the last 10 years. In Fukui Prefecture, one-hundred-year old Fukui Cinema closed in 2018. In Yamanashi, Koho Cinema and Theatre Isawa, both with a long history, closed (the former in 2013 and the latter in 2018). In Gifu, in 2014, the only theater in Hida, Takayama Asahi-za, closed. Since then, the movie theater situation has not changed.

[fig.31 Chubu Region](#)

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

In the Kinki Region, the number of screens in 2022 was 603, increasing by 69 from that of 2013; and the number of theaters in 2022 was 96, decreasing by 5 from that of 2013. 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 2.4% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.8%), and this regional population 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 2021 and 2022, there were a variety of changes. In Osaka, an adult film theater Kokumei Shogei closed in December 2021, and Theatre Umeda (with 4 screens), having led mini-theater culture in the Kansai Region, closed in September 2022, which is not reflected in the chart. In Hyogo, conventional theater Kobe Kokuai Shochiku, directly operated by Shochiku Col., closed in March 2022, and reopened as a mini-theater Kino Cinema Kokusai Shochiku in April 2022 operated by Kinoshita Group. KAVC Cinema of Kobe Art Village Center that had operated a film exhibition business for a long time, stopped its operation at the end of March 2022.

Toyooka Gekijo, the only movie house in the north of Hyogo Prefecture, reopened in 2014, however, closed in August 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Its former employees and others established an institute named Toyooka Community Cinema, and reopened its exhibition in March 2023. A multi-screen theater Otsu Alex Cinema in Shiga Prefecture closed in March 2022, and Aeon Cinema Nishiyamato in Nara Prefecture closed in August 2022.

During the last 10 years, Kyoto (by 21 screens) and Osaka (by 34 screens) Prefectures showed notable increase in their number of screens. In Kyoto, Aeon Cinema Kyoto Katsuragawa, a multi-screen theater, opened in 2014; Demachi-za, a mini-theater, opened in 2017; Kyoto Minami Kaikan reopened in August 2019 increasing its number of screens from 1 to 3; and Uplink Kyoto opened in 2020. In Nishi Maizuru, a "semi-movie house" (café cinema) Cine Grulla, opened in 2019 and has operated 4-5 days a week.

In Osaka, Theatus Shisaibashi and TOHO Cinemas Seven Park Amami opened in 2021, and 5 multi-screen theaters opened during the last 10 years. On the other hand, a total of 8 mini-theaters, conventional and adult film theaters closed, and as a whole the number of theaters decreased by 4 and the number of screen increased by 34.

In Hyogo Prefecture, OS Cinemas Kobe Harborland opened in 2013, and Earth Cinemas Himeji opened in 2015. In Himeji City, 3 theaters closed including Himeji Daigeki Cinema, Cine Palace Sanyo-za, and Himeji OS. In Kobe City, Cinema KOBE was operating one of its two screens as an adult movie venue, however, since 2021, both screens have become mini-theater venues.

In Mie Prefecture, Jisto Cinema Iga Ueno closed in March 2018 and currently there is no

theater in Iga City. In Wakayama Prefecture, Aeon Cinemas Wakayama opened in 2014, and in the cities of Wakayama, Gobo, Tanabe, and Shingu, Jisto Cinema, a conventional theater, has continued to operate. However, adult theaters closed in 2013. As a whole, 9 screens were added during the last 10 years.

[fig.32 Kinki Region](#)

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 2022 was 272, increasing by 16 from that in 2013, and the number of theaters in 2022 was 48, decreasing by 5 from that in 2013. The number of screens in this region occupied 7.4% of the nationwide number, and that of theaters was 8.1%. During these 10 years, the region's population decreased by 5.4% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.8%), and its population occupied 8.6% of the nationwide population.

The prefectures whose number of screens changed notably in 2021-2022 were Shimane, Okayama and Ehime Prefectures. In Shimane, Onozawa Cinema reopened in January 2022 where Digital Theater Masuda Chuo was operating until 2008 in Masuda City. In Okayama Prefecture, Merpa (4 screens) in front of Okayama Station closed in January 2022 due to the area's redevelopment plan. Jolie Toho (1 screen) in Okayama City was renamed Merpa and has continued to operate with 1 screen. In Ehime Prefecture, multi-screen theater Cinema Sunshine Daikaido in the city center of Matsuyama City closed in January 2021, making the number of theaters decrease by 1 and that of screens decrease by 5.

In the Chugoku and Shikoku Region, the numbers of other types of theaters except that of multi-screen theaters have decreased during the 10 years from 2013 to 2022.

In Hiroshima Prefecture, a multi-screen theater Aeon Cinema Hiroshima Seifu-Shinto (with 9 screens) opened in Hiroshima City in 2018, while Cine Twin Shintenchu in the middle of Hiroshima City closed in 2013, Cine Twin Hondori closed in 2016, and Cinefuku Daikoku-za, with a long history in Fukuyama City also closed in 2014.

In Yamaguchi Prefecture, a multi-screen theater Cinema Sunshine Shimonoseki (with 8 screens) opened in Shimonoseki City in the shopping mall where mini-theater Theater Zero was located, then, Theater Zero closed in 2014. 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 Kochi Prefecture, an adult film theater Kochi Shogekijo closed in 2013. In Kochi City,

Weekend Kinema M opened in 2017, however, temporarily closed in January 2019, and prepares to reopen at a new location in 2023. In Yurihama Town in Tottori Prefecture, Zig Theater opened in 2021 renovating an abandoned elementary school building and screening one project (for about 10 days) every month regularly. In Tokushima Prefecture, Ufotable Cinema opened in 2021 operated by an animation production company and screening mostly animations. After Aeon Cinema Tokushima opened in 2017, the former changed its programming to that of a mini-theater.

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, Okayama and Tottori, the population per screen is between about 50,000 and 68,000, indicating prefectures with very few theaters.

In Shimane Prefecture, the Shimane Film Festival has been hosting screenings in various areas of the prefecture and circulating its programs to the areas with no theaters. In Kochi, Cinema Shikoku, operating traveling screenings, opened a screening venue Tosapic Theater in Kochi City and is screening films regularly. In Okayama Prefecture, a library in Maniwa City in the middle of the mountains has a monthly film screening. In March 2022, a permanent film exhibition venue Victory Theater was created, and they are operating a film festival in March 2023. In Maniwa City, elementary and junior high schools are engaged in film education programs, providing their local people with opportunities of watching films on a big screen in the areas with no movie houses.

[fig.33 Chugoku Shikoku Region](#)

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

In the Kyushu and Okinawa Region, the number of screens in 2022 was 463, increasing by 76 from that in 2013; and the number of theaters was 76 in 2022, increasing by 8 from that in 2013. The number of screens in this region occupied 12.6% of the nationwide number, and the number of theaters was 12.9%. During these 10 years, the region's population decreased by 2.8% (Japan's average was a decrease of 1.8%), occupying 11.3% of the nationwide population in 2022. In Fukuoka and Okinawa Prefectures, their population increased.

In Fukuoka Prefecture, TOHO Cinemas Tenjin (Main Building) closed in 2017, while TOHO Cinemas Lala Port Fukuoka opened in April 2022 inside a commercial project Lala Port Fukuoka in the suburbs of Fukuoka City. In Fukuoka City, there was only one mini-theater, KBC Cinema, for a long time, until 2020 when Kinoshita Group added Kino Cinema Tenjin. Fukuoka City Public Library presents screenings every day in its Auditorium Ciné-là, functioning as a

repertory theater.

In August 2022, a repertory theater Ogura Showa-kan in Kita-Kyushu City caught fire at Tanga Market and unfortunately was burned down completely. Through a signature gathering and crowdfunding activity started by people in the film business and fans, its reconstruction has been planned, targeting its reopening in December 2023.

In Saga Prefecture, there used to be no movie houses outside of Saga City after 2009. In October 2019, a mini-theater named Theater Enya opened in Karatsu City, the first movie house in about 30 years in this city. In Nagasaki Prefecture, there has been no particular change during the last 10 years except the closing of an adult film theater Nagasaki Sennichi Gekijo. There are movie theaters only in Nagasaki City (United Cinema Nagasaka, TOHO Cinemas Nagasaki, and Nagasaki Central Gekijo) and in Sasebo City (Sasebo Cinema Box Taiyo).

In Kumamoto Prefecture, Kumamoto Piccadilly opened in 2021 inside the Kumamoto Station Building. TOHO Cinemas Kumamoto Sakuramachi opened in 2019. During the 10 years from 2013 to 2022, 1 theater and 18 screens were added.

In Oita Prefecture, TOHO Cinemas Amu Plaza Oita opened inside the Oita Station Building in 2015, and in 2020, a local theater company Central Kanko opened Central Cinema Sanko in the suburbs of Nakatsu City. 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 Miyazaki Prefecture, a multi-screen theater Wonder Attic Cinema (with 7 screens) opened in 2020 inside the Miyazaki Station Building. Miyazaki Kinema-kan moved to a new location, renovated, and reopened in April 2021 adding 2 more screens.

In Okinawa Prefecture, a multi-screen theater Cinema Rycom (with 9 screens) opened inside the commercial facilities in 2015, constructed on the site of the land returned by the US military base in Kitanakagusuku Village. In 2019, United Cinema PARCO CITY Urasoe opened in Urasoe City. In Okinawa City, a café cinema named Theater Donut opened in 2015, and mini-theater Cinema Plaza House 1954 opened in 2016. On the other hand, the oldest movie house in Okinawa, Shuri Theater closed in April 2022 due to the passing of its owner and the people around have been searching for the way preserve this theater. As a whole in Okinawa Prefecture, 3 theaters and 22 screens have been added during the 10 years.

[fig.34 Kyushu Okinawa Region](#)