

SUMMARY 2016

The coverage of Finnish circus statistics

These circus statistics concern professional Finnish circus performances. The circus statistics comprise both contemporary circus companies and traditional touring circuses.

The compilation of statistics on circus began in 2006. Traditional circus was included in 2007. The number of circus companies included in the statistics has grown steadily: from five companies in 2006 to twenty circus companies in 2012. The 2016 statistics gather information from as many as 38 companies, working groups as well as Cirko – Center for New Circus in addition to two traditional touring circuses, Sirkus Finlandia and Sirkus Caliba of which the latter is included for the first time.

Circus productions by Dance Theatre Hurjaruuth are shown also in the chart, but the numbers are not included in the total amount of circus performances. Dance Theatre Hurjaruuth is included in the dance statistics.

The figures of 2016 specify the work of circus companies operating both with and without state support. The statistics include 9 circus companies and one circus center, for which state support was granted in 2016. The figures of state support for circus companies can be found on the chart of 'Incomes in circus groups outside the financing law'.

These statistics cover circus performances ranging from larger creations set up for a stage to solo performances and outdoor spectacles. Productions are therefore divided into stage performances and other gigs. The amount of performances and spectators of co-produced stage performances is shown in separate columns. All the total figures have deductions made of mutual co-productions, mutual guest performances and double bills.

Some traditional circus companies are missing from the statistics. A lot of activity within e.g. social circus and circus for social inclusion is not included in this chart, nor the large number of Finnish youth circus performances.

Number of performances and spectators

The number of circus performances compiled in the statistics of 2016 was altogether 1.726. Out of these, the contemporary circus companies produced altogether 1.302 performances.

The aggregate attendance of the circus performances was 446.650 spectators in 2016. Out of these performances, the contemporary circus companies gathered an audience of 234.943 spectators.

During the year 2016 circus companies and the circus center organised altogether 816 performances in Finland (in 2015: 495) and 486 performances abroad (in 2015: 532). The aggregate attendance of Finnish contemporary circus companies in the year of 2016 was 94.259 spectators in Finland (in 2015: 59.051) and 140.684 spectators abroad (in 2015: 118.991). Compared to the previous year the numbers of performances and spectators in Finland show an increase (perf. +65%, spect. +60%) and abroad a decrease in performances (-9%) and increase in spectators (+18%). The increase of performances and spectators in Finland is partly due to the increasing number of companies included in the statistics.

Performances outside of Finland

It is characteristic of the international nature of circus art that more than a third (38%) of the performances and almost two-thirds of the spectators (62%) for Finnish contemporary circus companies' own productions took place outside of Finland. In 2015, the share of performances abroad was more than a half (53%) and of spectators more than two-thirds (69%).

Finnish circus companies' tours reach all corners of the world. During 2016 Finnish circus companies visited a total of 32 countries: besides 19 European countries also in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, South Korea, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates and the USA.

Repertoire

The circus companies and working groups included in the statistics produced altogether 46 first premieres in 2016. The statistics include a selected list of repertoires for the companies.

Further information at Circus Info Finland's website www.sirkusinfo.fi.