

SUMMARY 2017

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 2017 statistics gather information from as many as 35 companies, working groups as well as Cirko – Center for New Circus in addition to traditional touring circus, Sirkus Finlandia.

Circus productions by Dance Theatre Hurjaruuth are shown 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 2017 specify the work of circus companies and artists operating both with and without state support. The statistics include 10 circus companies and one circus center, for which state support was granted in 2017. 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 major productions to private gigs and outdoor spectacles. Productions are therefore divided into "shows" and "other performances". The amount of performances and spectators of co-produced shows are specified 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 these statistics. A lot of activity within e.g. social circus and circus for social inclusion is neither included in this chart, nor the large number of youth circus performances.

Number of performances and spectators

The number of circus performances compiled in the statistics of 2017 was altogether 1.445. Out of these, the contemporary circus companies and circus center produced altogether 1.213 performances.

The aggregate attendance of the circus performances in 2017 was 390.915 spectators. Out of these performances, the contemporary circus companies gathered an audience of 198.415 spectators.

During the year 2017 circus companies and the circus center organised altogether 680 performances in Finland (in 2016: 816) and 533 performances abroad (in 2016: 486). The aggregate attendance of Finnish contemporary circus companies in the year of 2017 was 73.831 spectators in Finland (in 2016: 94.259) and 124.655 spectators abroad (in 2016: 140.684). Compared to the previous year the numbers of performances and spectators in Finland show a decrease (perf. -17%, spect. -22%) and abroad an increase in performances (+10%) and decrease in spectators (-11%). The aggregate number of performances and spectators is still higher than average of the last five years.

Performances outside of Finland

It is characteristic of the international nature of circus art that almost a half (45%) of the performances and almost two-thirds of the spectators (65%) for Finnish contemporary circus companies' own productions took place outside of Finland. In 2016, the share of performances abroad was more than a third (38%) and of spectators almost two-thirds (62%).

Finnish circus companies' tours reach all corners of the world. During 2017 Finnish circus companies visited a total of 30 countries: besides 23 European countries also in Brazil, China, Israel, Japan, Panama, South Korea and the USA.

Repertoire and audience development

The circus companies and working groups included in the statistics produced altogether 28 first premieres in 2017. The statistics include a selected list of repertoires for the companies.

Circus companies' activities are diverse. In addition to performing, events for audience development, such as workshops for school children and audience discussions, are compiled in their own chart for the first time. During the year 2017 circus companies and circus center reported organising 92 events for audience development and the events gained attendance of 6.870 participants. Functions such as lectures and workshops for performing arts professionals and instructing recreational circus activities are not included in the figures of audience development.

Further information at CircusInfo Finland's website www.sirkusinfo.fi.