



Film
Forever



FILM AND OTHER SCREEN SECTOR PRODUCTION IN 2014

BFI Research and Statistics

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FILM AND OTHER SCREEN SECTOR PRODUCTION IN 2014

THE VALUE OF FEATURE FILM PRODUCTION SPEND IN THE UK REACHED A RECORD HIGH OF £1.5 BILLION IN 2014, 84% OF WHICH WAS ASSOCIATED WITH INWARD INVESTMENT FEATURES. THE UK PRODUCTION SPEND OF QUALIFYING HIGH-END TELEVISION PROGRAMMES WAS £615 MILLION, WHILE THE SPEND OF ANIMATION PROGRAMMES WAS £37 MILLION.

FACTS IN FOCUS

- Total UK film production activity in 2014 was £1,475 million, up 35% from £1,093 million in 2013.
- There were 154 domestic UK features (225 in 2013), 32 co-productions (53 in 2013) and 37 inward investment features (45 in 2012).
- The UK spend associated with inward investment features was £1,233 million, up 40% from £879 million in 2013.
- Seventeen big budget films (£30 million or over) accounted for 89% of the total UK film production spend.
- The UK spend associated with inward investment high-end television (HETV) programmes was £287 million, just under half (47%) of the total UK HETV production spend.
- Between April and December 2014, the UK spend of qualifying video games production was £2.3 million.

THE VALUE OF UK FILM PRODUCTION

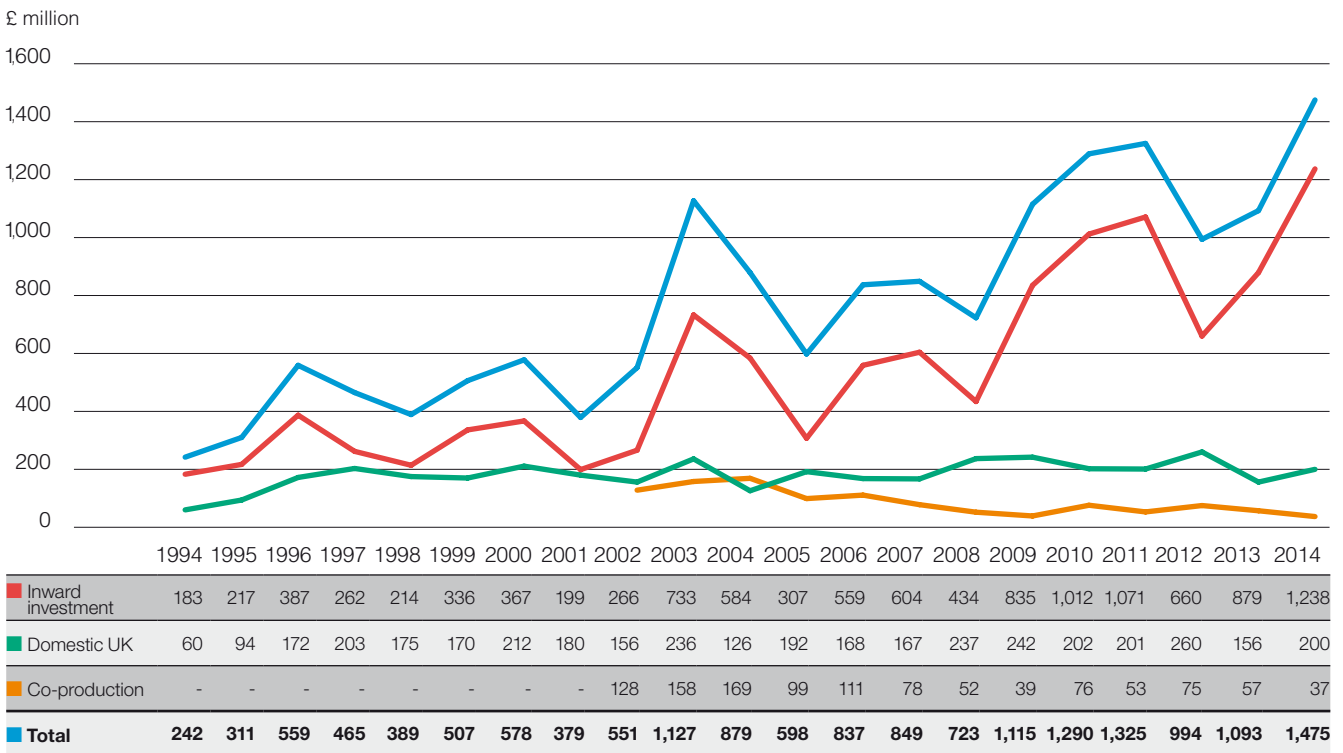
As Figure 1.1 shows, the aggregate UK spend of features that commenced principal photography in 2014 was £1,475 million, the highest figure since our records began, and an increase of 35% compared with 2013 (£1,093 million).

Inward investment films contributed £1,233 million (84%) towards the total UK film production spend in 2014, an increase from £879 million (80%) in 2013. Some of the big budget films contributing to this figure were *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, *The Jungle Book*, *Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb* and *Spectre*.

Domestic UK features, including *Bill*, *Everest* and *Shaun the Sheep* spent £200 million in the UK, up £44 million (28%) from 2013. Official and unofficial co-productions had a UK spend of £37 million, down from £57 million in 2013. These included *Autobahn*, *Queen of the Desert* and *Urban Hymn*.

Figure 1.1 also shows that since 1994, both the growth and annual variation in the total value of UK spend has principally been driven by inward investment and how it fluctuates from year to year. The UK spend of domestic UK films has been broadly stable over this period, fluctuating around an average of £181 million per year, while there has been a decline in the UK spend of co-productions following changes to the UK film tax relief in 2007.

Figure 1.1 UK spend of feature films produced in the UK, 1994-2014, £ million



Source: BFI

Notes:

Data are rounded to the nearest £0.1m so may not sum exactly to the totals shown.

Films are allocated to the calendar year in which principal photography commenced.

Films with budgets under £500,000 are included in this analysis after 2008.

Numbers have been revised on the basis of new information received since publication of the 2014 Statistical Yearbook.

Inward investment feature films include inward co-productions and VFX-only films.

Measurement:

The above numbers include only the UK spend associated with productions shot or post-produced in whole or in part in the UK.

Spend is allocated to the year in which principal photography started or to the year in which the visual effects were undertaken in the case of VFX-only films.

Table 1.1 distinguishes UK independent films from UK/USA studio films and non-UK films made partly or wholly in the UK. In 2014, UK independent films accounted for 25% of the production spend in the UK, a fall from 30% in 2013.

Table 1.1 Value of UK spend of UK/USA studio and UK independent films, 2004-2014, £ million

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
UK/USA studio films	558	236	588	566	410	772	983	1,008	667	757	1,100
UK independent films	314	357	234	265	289	296	285	277	319	327	369
Non-UK films	6	5	15	18	24	48	22	41	8	9	7
Total	879	598	837	849	723	1,115	1,290	1,325	994	1,093	1,475

Source: BFI

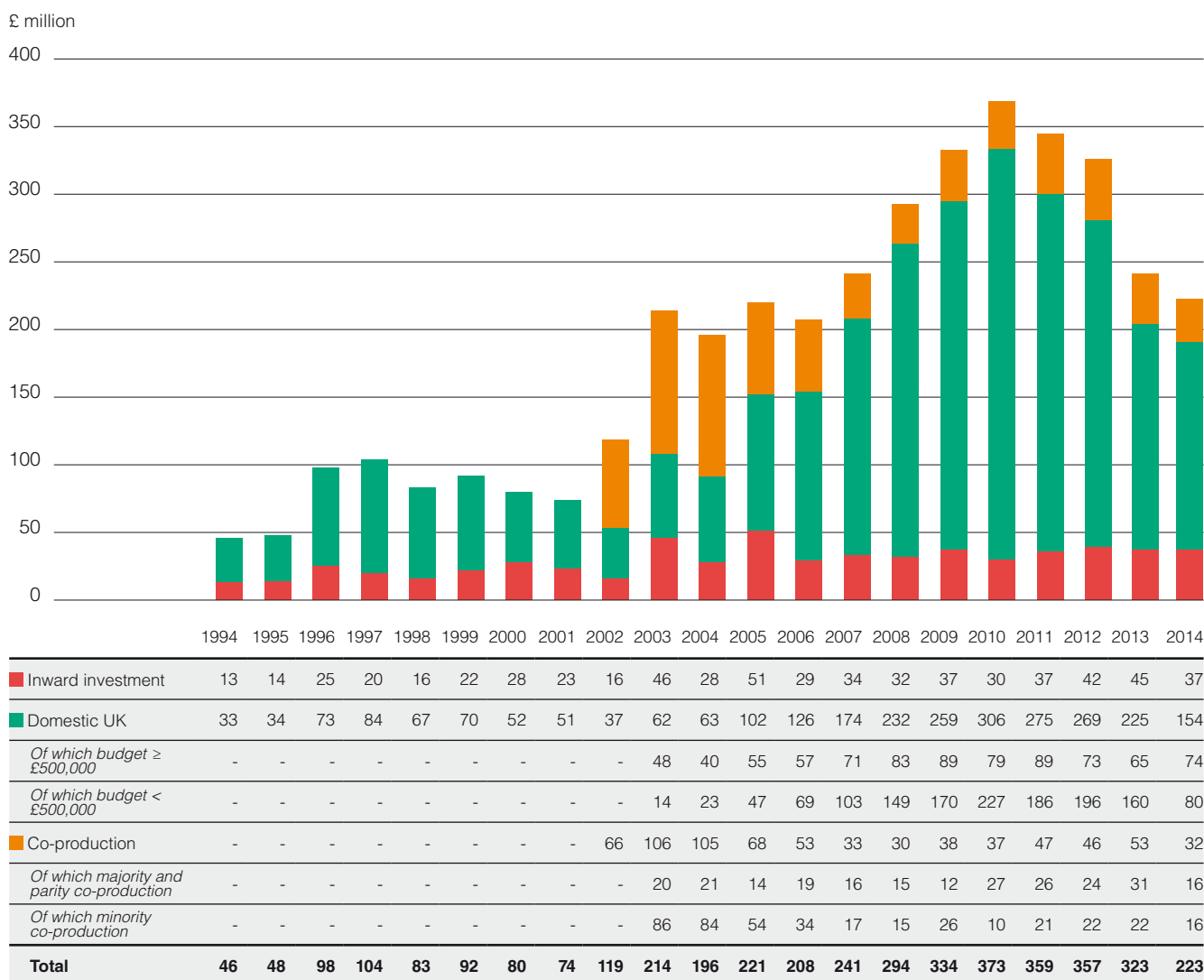
See notes to Figure 1.1.

THE VOLUME OF UK FILM PRODUCTION

As Figure 1.2 shows, the number of films produced in the UK grew from 46 in 1994 to a peak of 373 in 2010. From 2008 onwards, the data collected include feature films with budgets of less than £500,000 which partially explains the increase. (Prior to 2008 the collection of data on films at this budget level was not comprehensive.) The number of co-productions fell from 2007, reflecting a tightening in co-production certification requirements, followed by the introduction of the new film production tax relief based on a film's UK spend rather than the entirety of the production budget. Minority co-productions saw the greatest reduction.

In 2014, 223 films were produced wholly or in part in the UK, down from 323 in 2013. Of these, 32 were co-productions, 154 were domestic UK features (of which 80 had budgets of under £500,000) and 37 were inward investment films. The biggest fall was in domestic UK features with budgets of under £500,000, which were down from 160 in 2013 to 80. However, there is often a delay in acquiring full data on low and micro-budget feature film activity in the UK, and the numbers for the last two years are likely to be revised upwards.

Figure 1.2 Number of feature films produced in the UK, 1994-2014



Source: BFI RSU

Notes:

Inward investment includes inward investment co-productions from 2002 and a small number of visual effects (VFX) only titles from 2007.

UK co-productions not available by shoot date prior to 2002.

Data for 2003-2013 updated since publication of the 2014 Statistical Yearbook.

Includes both official and unofficial co-productions.

Majority co-production means a co-production in which the UK investment is the largest single national investment (not necessarily an absolute majority).

Parity co-production means a co-production in which the UK and at least one other country contributed equal largest investments.

Minority co-production means a co-production in which at least one other country made a larger investment than the UK.

A total of 19 UK/USA studio films were produced wholly or in part in the UK in 2014 (Table 1.2). These few films accounted for the majority of UK production spend. UK independent films made up almost 91% of all films produced in the UK, a similar percentage to 2013. Although the number of independent films (202) looks lower than for other recent years, due to the delay in acquiring full data on low and micro-budget feature film activity, this figure is likely to be revised upwards over time.

Table 1.2 Numbers of UK/USA studio and independent films, 2004-2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
UK/USA studio films	14	15	22	18	14	14	16	14	17	20	19
UK independent films	177	200	179	211	264	295	350	326	332	294	202
Non-UK films	5	6	7	12	16	25	7	19	8	9	2
Total	196	221	208	241	294	334	373	359	357	323	223

Source: BFI

Note: Data for 2004-2013 updated since publication of the 2014 Statistical Yearbook.

PRODUCTIONS BY GENRE, 2012-2014

Table 1.3 and Figure 1.3 show a breakdown of production by genre for the years 2012-2014. The drama and documentary genres accounted for the highest proportion of films, at 16% and 21% respectively, but only 8% and 2% of total UK spend. These were followed by comedy and thriller which accounted for 15% and 14% of films respectively, and 7% and 9% of UK spend. The biggest spending genre was action, which accounted for 38% of UK spend, but only 6% of films.

Table 1.3 Genre of production in the UK, 2012-2014 (ranked by share of UK spend)

Genre	Number of films	% of total films	Budget (£ million)	% of total budget	UK spend (£ million)	% of total UK spend
Action	57	6.3	1,992.3	37.5	1,364.5	38.3
Thriller	123	13.6	440.2	8.3	313.1	8.8
Adventure	18	2.0	599.2	11.3	302.1	8.5
Sci-fi	27	3.0	376.8	7.1	273.2	7.7
Drama	142	15.7	441.3	8.3	272.0	7.6
Comedy	133	14.7	370.7	7.0	257.8	7.2
Fantasy	10	1.1	243.2	4.6	195.4	5.5
Horror	68	7.5	146.4	2.8	101.5	2.9
Biopic	26	2.9	158.3	3.0	100.5	2.8
Music/dance	8	0.9	104.0	2.0	93.6	2.6
Romance	34	3.8	103.3	2.0	67.8	1.9
War	10	1.1	111.6	2.1	64.8	1.8
Documentary	186	20.6	98.3	1.9	62.8	1.8
Crime	43	4.8	28.4	0.5	23.5	0.7
Animation	5	0.6	22.9	0.4	17.2	0.5
Mystery	6	0.7	10.7	0.2	9.1	0.3
Other	7	0.8	64.0	1.2	43.6	1.2
Total	903	100.0	5,311.6	100.0	3,562.4	100.0

Source: BFI

Notes:

The data have been presented for a three-year period to show as many genres as possible without disclosing the budgets of individual films.

Figures/percentages may not sum to totals due to rounding.

The genre 'Other' includes genres, 'Family' and 'Western'.

Figure 1.3 Genre of production of UK films 2012-2014 (number of films)

	%
Documentary	20.5
Drama	15.7
Comedy	14.7
Thriller	13.6
Horror	7.5
Action	6.3
Crime	4.7
Romance	3.7
Sci-fi	2.9
Biopic	2.8
Other	7.0



Source: BFI

Notes:

The data differ from those in Table 1.3 as they do not include non-UK films.

Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Looking at the breakdown by genre of UK independent films alone over the three-year period (Table 1.4), the pattern was fairly similar. The main differences were that comedy, thriller, drama and biopic accounted for a much greater proportion of UK spend than for all films produced in the UK (54% compared with 26%), and action and adventure accounted for a lower proportion (20% compared with 47%).

Table 1.4 Independent UK productions by genre, 2012-2014

Genre	Number of films	% of total films	Budget (£ million)	% of total budget	UK spend (£ million)	% of total UK spend
Action	39	4.7	312.6	20.7	193.4	19.1
Comedy	125	15.1	274.2	18.1	190.0	18.7
Thriller	115	13.9	239.6	15.9	149.7	14.8
Drama	137	16.5	172.6	11.4	122.5	12.1
Biopic	25	3.0	146.4	9.7	88.6	8.7
Romance	32	3.9	74.3	4.9	48.8	4.8
Documentary	177	21.4	71.9	4.8	48.2	4.8
Horror	62	7.5	33.4	2.2	31.0	3.1
Sci-fi	25	3.0	32.0	2.1	24.2	2.4
Fantasy	7	0.8	30.3	2.0	24.2	2.4
Crime	43	5.2	28.4	1.9	23.5	2.3
Animation	5	0.6	22.9	1.5	17.2	1.7
War	8	1.0	17.5	1.2	12.8	1.3
Adventure	10	1.2	14.2	0.9	10.6	1.0
Mystery	6	0.7	10.7	0.7	9.1	0.9
Other	12	1.4	29.9	1.5	20.4	1.5
Total	828	100.0	1,510.9	100.0	1,014.3	100.0

Source: BFI

Note: Figures/percentages may not sum to totals due to rounding.

The genre 'Other' includes genres 'Music/dance', 'Family' and 'Western'.

BUDGET TRENDS

The median budget of domestic UK features was £430,000 in 2014, an increase from £220,000 in 2013 (Table 1.5). It should be noted that the 2014 median is likely to be revised downwards, due to the delay in acquiring budget data for low and micro-budget productions.

The median budget for inward investment features was £17.3 million, up from £11.0 million in 2013, while for co-productions the median budget increased from £1.38 million to £1.53 million.

Table 1.5 Median feature film budgets, £ million, 2009-2014

Production category	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Inward Investment	18.45	16.55	17.64	1.95	11.01	17.34
Domestic UK	0.20	0.13	0.16	0.15	0.22	0.43
Co-production	1.35	2.61	1.20	1.05	1.38	1.53

Source: BFI

Notes:

Median budget is the middle value of budgets when ordered lowest to highest (ie there are equal numbers of films above and below the median). The median in this case is a better measure of central tendency than the mean, as it avoids the upward skew of a small number of high budget productions. Includes films with budgets of less than £500,000.

Data for 2009-2013 updated since publication of the 2014 Statistical Yearbook.

Data in this table are shown to two decimal places to gain a clearer picture of change over the time period for domestic UK films.

SIZE DISTRIBUTION OF BUDGETS

The budget size distribution for the three main categories of films made in 2014 is shown in Tables 1.6 to 1.8.

For inward investment features, the 16 films with budgets of £30 million or over (43% of all inward features) accounted for 89% of the total budget for this category. There were six inward features with budgets of less than £5 million (14% of inward features), which accounted for 1% of the total budget for these films.

Table 1.6 Size distribution of budgets, inward investment features, 2014

Budget band	Number	Total budget in band (£ million)	% of total budget
≥£30 million	16	1,685.0	89.2
£10 - £29.9 million	11	155.8	8.2
£5 - £9.9 million	4	28.9	1.5
<£5 million	6	19.2	1.0
Total	37	1,888.8	100.0

Source: BFI

Note: Figures/percentages may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Just over half of domestic UK features (52%) had budgets of under £500,000, and only 14 productions (9%) had budgets of £5 million or over (Table 1.7). The domestic UK features in the highest budget band accounted for 58% of this category's aggregate budget, while those in the lowest budget band accounted for 5%.

Table 1.7 Size distribution of budgets, domestic UK features, 2014

Budget band	Number	Total budget in band (£ million)	% of total budget
≥£5 million	14	149.6	58.4
£2 - £4.9 million	17	51.1	20.0
£0.5 - £1.9 million	43	41.5	16.2
<£0.5 million	80	13.8	5.4
Total	154	256.0	100.0

Source: BFI

Six of the 32 co-productions produced in 2014 had budgets of £5 million or over, accounting for 59% of the total budget in this category (Table 1.8). The six co-productions with budgets of under £500,000 accounted for 2% of the total budget.

Table 1.8 Size distribution of budgets, co-productions, 2014

Budget band	Number	Total budget in band (£ million)	% of total budget
≥£5 million	6	57.9	59.2
£2 - £4.9 million	8	26.0	26.6
£0.5 - £1.9 million	12	12.1	12.3
<£0.5 million	6	1.9	1.9
Total	32	97.8	100.0

Source: BFI

Note: Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

BIG BUDGET PRODUCTIONS, 2009-2014

The importance to UK spend of a small number of big budget productions – usually inward investment films – is demonstrated in Table 1.9. In 2014, the 17 films with budgets of £30 million or over accounted for 74% of UK production spend. All except one of these films were inward investment features.

Table 1.9 Big budget films' contribution to UK spend, 2009-2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of films with budgets ≥£30 million	16	13	17	10	16	17
Value of associated UK spend (£ million)	748.9	960.6	1,009.8	634.3	773.5	1,098.0
Total UK spend (£ million)	1,115.4	1,290.2	1,325.2	994.4	1,092.8	1,475.1
Big budget film % of UK spend	67.1	74.5	76.2	63.8	70.8	74.4

Source: BFI

Note: Data for 2009-2013 updated since publication of the 2014 Statistical Yearbook.

UK SPEND AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PRODUCTION BUDGET

Table 1.10 shows UK spend as a percentage of the total production budget for inward investment, domestic UK and co-production films. UK domestic films had the highest proportion of UK spend in 2014 (78%), followed by inward investment films at 66%. Co-productions had the lowest percentage of UK spend (38%).

Table 1.10 UK spend as percentage of total production budget, 2009-2014

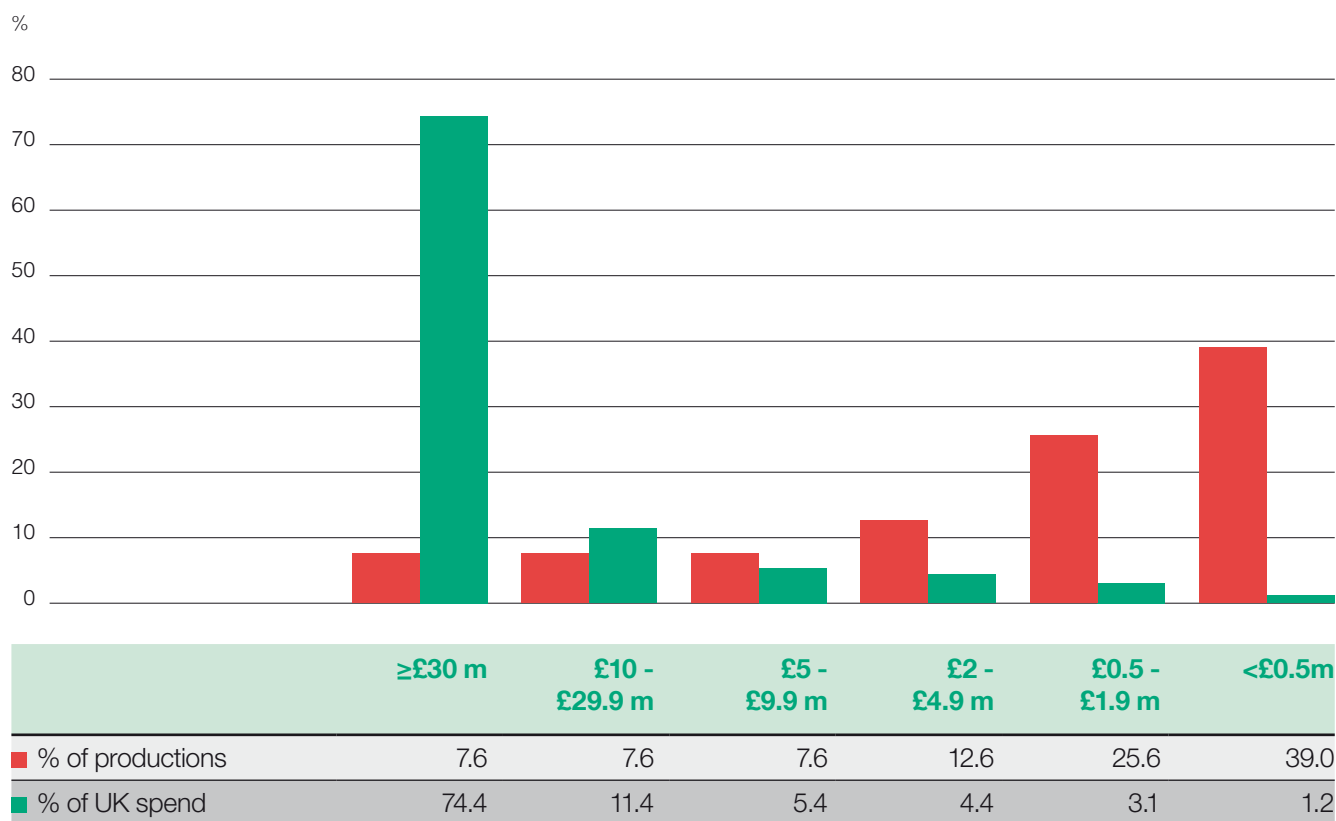
Production category	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Inward investment	50.9	71.7	55.9	70.5	63.9	65.7
Domestic UK	81.4	89.9	86.5	89.1	89.6	78.1
Co-production	37.2	41.7	36.2	45.7	43.6	38.2

Source: BFI

Notes: Data for 2009-2013 updated since publication of the 2014 Statistical Yearbook.

Figure 1.4 underlines that a small proportion (8%) of titles with a UK spend of £30 million or over are responsible for the majority (74%) of UK production spend. Conversely, 39% of films have a UK spend of less than £500,000, but they represent just 1% of production investment in the UK.

Figure 1.4 Percentage of productions and UK spend by category of UK spend, 2014



Source: BFI

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

DOMESTIC UK PRODUCTIONS BY TERRITORY OF SHOOT

Table 1.11 analyses domestic UK productions in 2014 according to whether they were wholly shot in the UK, or shot partly or wholly abroad. The majority (118 out of 154) were shot exclusively in the UK, while 36 films were shot partly or wholly outside the UK. The non-UK spend of domestic productions in 2014 as a proportion of their total budget was 22%.

Table 1.11 Domestic UK productions by territory of shoot, 2014

Shooting in...	Number of films	Budget (£ million)	Non-UK spend (£ million)	Non-UK spend as % of total budget
UK only	118	156.3	4.1	2.6
UK and other / wholly outside the UK	36	99.7	52.0	52.2
Total domestic UK productions	154	256.0	56.1	21.9

Source: BFI

Note: Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Table 1.12 shows the number of shoots by territory for domestic UK films. Because some films were shot in two or more territories, the total number of shoots was greater than the total number of films. There were 10 shoots in the USA, seven in Russia and four in France.

Table 1.12 Domestic UK production, shoots by territory or region, 2014

Territory of shoot	Number of shoots
UK	161
USA	10
Russia	7
France	4
Afghanistan	3
Hungary	3
Jordan	2
Nepal	2
Other	5
Total	197

Source: BFI

CO-PRODUCTIONS BY TERRITORY OF SHOOT

In contrast to domestic UK films, co-productions were usually shot partly or wholly abroad, as Table 1.13 shows; only two out of 32 films were shot wholly in the UK.

Table 1.13 Co-productions by territory of shoot, 2014

Shooting in...	Number of films	Budget (£ million)	Non-UK spend (£ million)	Non-UK spend as % of total budget
UK only	2	c	c	c
UK and other	21	c	c	c
Wholly outside the UK	9	c	c	c
Total domestic UK productions	32	97.8	60.4	61.8

Source: BFI

Note: Includes both official and unofficial co-productions.

'c' indicates that budget information has not been given to avoid disclosing budgets for individual productions.

The country distribution of co-production shoots is shown in Table 1.14. As most co-productions were shot in two or more territories, the total number of shoots was greater than the total number of films. The majority of shoots were in the UK or elsewhere in Europe. Three shoots took place in Canada and Morocco, and two in India.

Table 1.14 Co-productions, shoots by territory or region, 2014

Country	Number of shoots
UK	23
Czech Republic	6
Canada	3
France	3
Morocco	3
Republic of Ireland	3
Switzerland	3
Austria	2
India	2
Lithuania	2
Other Europe	3
Other	4
Total	57

Source: BFI

PRODUCTION COMPANY ACTIVITY LEVELS

UK film production in 2014 was dispersed among a large number of production companies, as shown in Table 1.15. The BFI Research and Statistics Unit recorded 391 production companies associated with films shot in the UK or co-productions involving the UK in the year, a decrease from 420 in 2013. Of these, 363 (93%) were associated with a single feature. These were a mixture of distinct production companies and special purpose vehicles set up to make a single film.

Table 1.15 Film production company activity, 2014

Number of features per company	Number of companies
3	9
2	19
1	363
Total	391

Source: BFI RSU

Note: Includes all production categories.

THE VALUE OF HIGH-END TELEVISION PRODUCTION

Table 1.16 shows that the total UK production spend for high-end television programmes (HETV) produced in the UK in 2014 was £615 million. Domestic productions were the largest contributor to the total (£310 million), followed by inward investment projects (£287 million). At just under half (47%), the proportion associated with inward investment HETV was lower than that for film production (84%). As the tax relief for HETV productions first became available in April 2013, this data shows the impact of the relief for a full calendar year for the first time.

Domestic HETV productions in 2014 included *Atlantis Series 2* (13 episodes), *Call the Midwife Series 4* (8 episodes plus Christmas special) and *Mr Selfridge Series 3* (10 episodes), while inward investment productions included *Galavant Series 1* (8 episodes), *Game of Thrones Series 5* (10 episodes) and *Da Vinci's Demons Series 3* (10 episodes).

Table 1.16 UK spend and number of qualifying high-end television productions*, 2014

Production category	UK spend (£ million)	Number of productions
Inward investment	286.7	22
Domestic UK	309.5	60
Co-production	19.0	5
Total	615.2	87

Source: BFI

* A high-end television production can be a single programme or a television series.

GENRE OF HIGH-END TELEVISION PRODUCTION

Table 1.17 shows a breakdown of qualifying HETV productions by genre. The most common genre was drama, accounting for 40 productions (46% of the total) and £278 million (45%) of UK spend. The second was crime, accounting for 15 productions and 18% of UK spend.

Table 1.17 Genre of qualifying high-end television production*, 2014

Genre	Number of productions	% of total productions	Budget (£ million)	% of total budget	UK spend (£ million)	% of total UK spend
Drama	40	46.0	344.3	46.6	277.5	45.1
Crime	15	17.2	126.7	17.2	108.7	17.7
Thriller	6	6.9	75.0	10.2	67.0	10.9
Comedy	11	12.6	52.3	7.1	46.6	7.6
Other	15	17.2	140.2	19.0	115.5	18.8
Total	87	100.0	738.4	100.0	615.2	100.0

Source: BFI

Notes:

* A high-end television production can be a single programme or a television series.

The data in this table show the primary genre assigned by the BFI Research and Statistics Unit.

Figures/percentages may not sum to totals due to rounding.

THE VALUE OF ANIMATION PRODUCTION

Table 1.18 shows that the total UK spend of the 22 qualifying animation programmes produced in the UK in 2014 was £37 million. Unlike film and HETV production, most of this spend (87%) was attributed to domestic UK projects. As with HETV productions, this data shows the impact of the tax relief for animation production for a full calendar year for the first time.

Table 1.18 UK spend and number of qualifying animation productions*, 2014

Production category	UK spend (£ million)	Number of productions
Domestic UK	32.0	16
Co-production and inward investment	4.8	6
Total	36.8	22

Source: BFI

Notes:

Co-production and inward investment have been combined to avoid disclosing budget data for individual titles.

* An animation production can be a single programme or a television series.

THE VALUE OF VIDEO GAMES PRODUCTION

In April 2014, the UK government extended the coverage of creative sector tax reliefs to include video games production. The total UK spend of the nine qualifying video games produced in the UK between April and December 2014 was £2.3 million. Data covering whole calendar years will be available in future editions of this Yearbook.



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