

# Film, high-end television and television animation production in the UK, January - March (Q1) 2015

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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## 1. Key points

- Total spend on film production in the UK in Q1 2015 was £282 million.
- Inward investment features contributed the highest UK spend with £260 million. Spend in the UK on domestic features was £15 million.
- Thirty films commenced principal photography; seven inward investment features, 17 domestic UK features, and six co-productions.
- Total production spend in the UK in the last 12 months (April 2014 – March 2015) was £1,438 million.
- In Q1 2015, a total of 12 high-end television programmes commenced principal photography with a spend in the UK of £121 million.
- Of these, 6 were domestic programmes, with a spend of £51 million, and 6 were inward investment with a spend of £71 million.
- The spend on HETV production in the UK in the last 12 months was £530 million.
- Six television animation programmes commenced principal photography in Q1 2015, with a spend in the UK of £12 million. Spend in the last 12 months was £54 million.
- Three video games entered production in Q1 2015, with a spend in the UK in the last 12 months of £87 million.

## 2. Film production in the UK

The total spend in the UK of feature films that started principal photography in Q1 2015 was £282 million, from 30 films (Table 1). Inward investment features accounted for the majority of this spend (£260 million), followed by domestic UK features (£15 million). The majority (92%) of the £15 million spent by domestic UK features was accounted for by 17 features budgeted at £500,000 and over. The spend in the UK on co-productions was £7.5 million across six productions.

Films which started principal photography during Q1 included inward investment films *Peregrine's Home for Peculiars* and *Knights of the Roundtable: King Arthur*; domestic UK films which went into production included *Bad Education: The Movie* and *Extremis*.

It should be noted that due to a time lag in obtaining complete information on all low and micro-budget activity in the UK, data on the number and UK production spend of these films is likely to be revised upwards over time.

**Table 1 Number and UK spend of features produced in the UK, Q1 2015**

	UK spend £ million	Number of features
Co-productions	7.5	6
Domestic UK features	15.0	17
<i>Of which budget</i> ≥ £500,000	13.8	6
<i>Of which budget</i> < £500,000	1.2	11
Inward investment features	259.8	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>282.2</b>	<b>30</b>

Source: BFI

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

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

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

In the rolling 12 month period April 2014 to March 2015, total spend on film production in the UK was £1,436 million – an increase of 9% on the April 2013 to March 2014 rolling year (Table 2). This spend was drawn from 180 films (Table 3). A breakdown of the total shows 39 inward investment features contributed 89% of total spend (£1,285 million); domestic UK features contributed £122 million, with £112 million spent by films with a budget of £500,000 and above. Co-productions contributed £31 million, the lowest recorded figure in this time series.

**Table 2 UK spend of features produced in the UK, 2008/09 to 2014/15, £ million**

	Rolling years: April - March						
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Co-productions	40.9	37.5	86.4	50.6	68.7	65.1	30.9
Domestic UK features	175.1	253.1	192.6	241.6	202.8	221.6	122.3
<i>Of which budget</i> ≥ £500,000	161.9	232.9	168.6	221.4	184.2	205.6	111.6
<i>Of which budget</i> < £500,000	13.2	20.3	24.0	20.2	18.6	16.0	10.7
Inward investment features	684.2	676.1	1017.8	845.5	667.2	1031.4	1285.1
Total without films with budgets <£500,000*	886.2	944.6	1271.2	1115.6	916.0	1300.4	1426.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>900.2</b>	<b>966.7</b>	<b>1,296.8</b>	<b>1,137.7</b>	<b>938.7</b>	<b>1,318.1</b>	<b>1,438.2</b>

Source: BFI

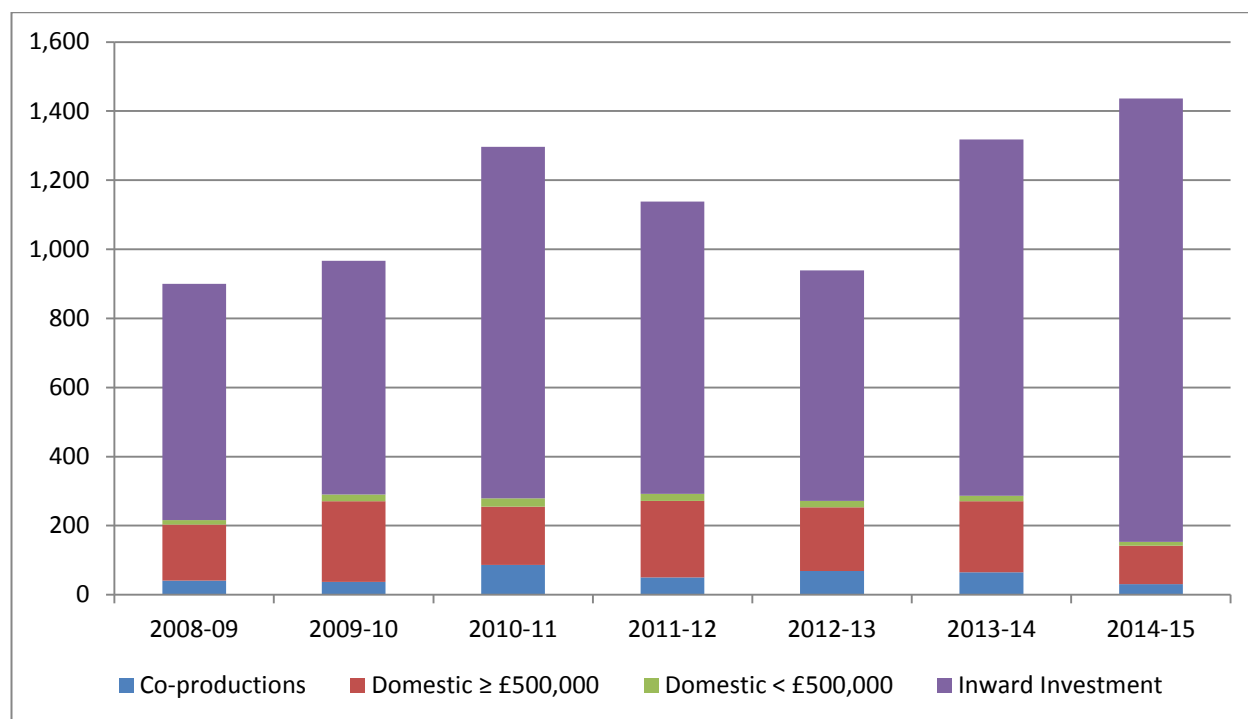
Data are rounded to the nearest £0.1m so may not sum exactly to the totals shown.

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

\*This refers to all films with a production spend <£500,000 in the UK, not just Domestic UK features.

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

**Figure 1 UK spend of features produced in the UK, 2008/09 to 2014/15, £ million**



Source: BFI  
Films are allocated to the calendar quarter in which principal photography commenced.

There were 180 films that commenced principal photography in the UK in the rolling year from April 2014 to March 2015. Although this is the lowest figure since the rolling year from April 2008 to March 2009, this figure is likely to be revised upwards in future. This is because there is a lag in obtaining complete data for domestic UK features with a budget of less than £500,000.

The number of co-productions was lower than in recent rolling years, and the number of inward investment features has remained stable over the last four rolling years (Table 3 and Figure 2).

**Table 3 Number of features produced in the UK, 2008/09 to 2014/15**

	Rolling years: April - March						
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Co-productions	29	45	45	42	40	56	25
Domestic UK features	214	283	291	284	250	217	116
Of which budget ≥ £500,000	83	86	80	89	70	78	57
Of which budget < £500,000	131	197	211	195	180	139	59
Inward investment features	29	33	33	40	41	40	39
Total without films with budgets <£500,000*	133	147	141	149	127	152	116
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>180</b>

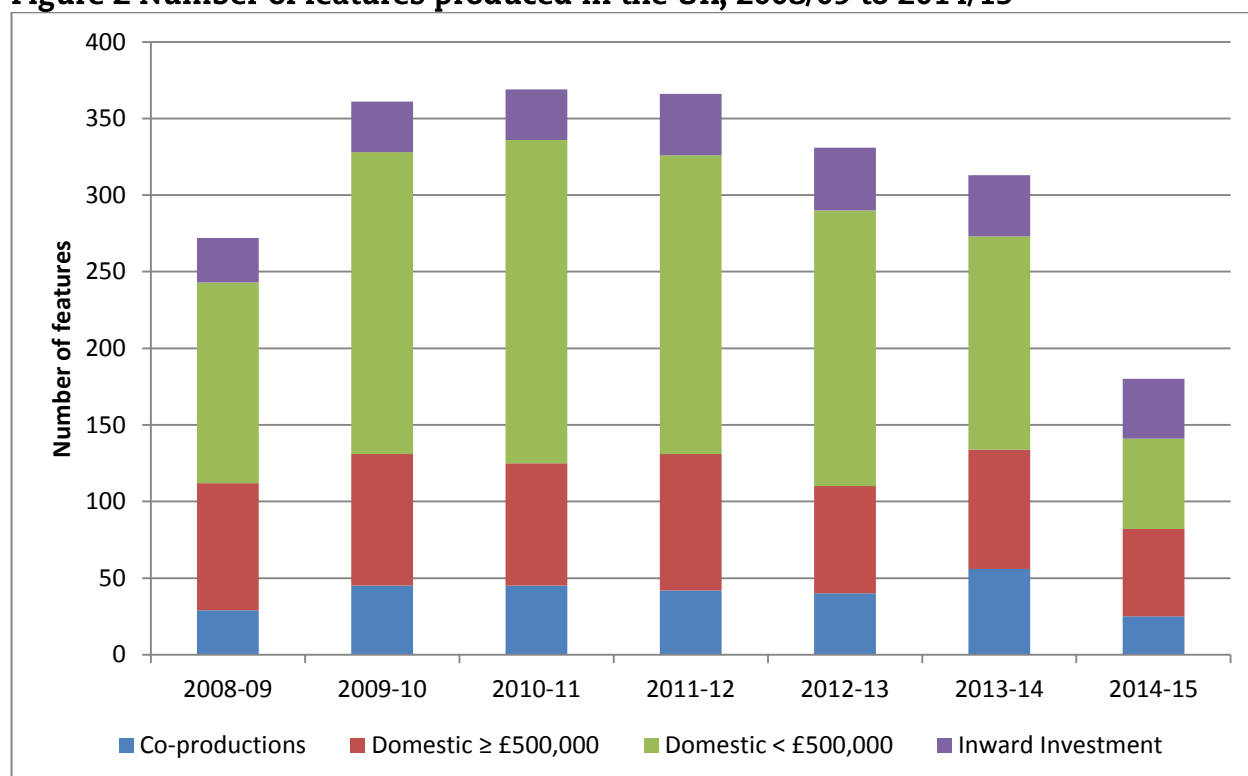
Source: BFI

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

\*This refers to all films with a production spend <£500,000 in the UK, not just Domestic UK features.

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

**Figure 2 Number of features produced in the UK, 2008/09 to 2014/15**



Source: BFI

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

### 3. High-end television production in the UK

Twelve high-end television programmes (HETV) commenced principal photography in the first quarter of 2015, with a total spend in the UK of £121 million. Titles included *Apocalypse Slough*, *Downton Abbey Series 6* and *Close to the Enemy*. Inward investment HETV accounted for 58% of spend in the UK (£71 million), with domestic HETV programmes accounting for 42% (£51 million) (Table 4).

**Table 4 Number and UK spend of high-end television programmes produced in the UK, Q1 2015**

	UK spend £ million	Number of programmes
Co-production	-	-
Domestic UK	50.6	6
Inward Investment	70.6	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>121.1</b>	<b>12</b>

Source: BFI

Data are rounded to the nearest £0.1m so may not sum exactly to the totals shown. HETV are allocated to the calendar quarter in which principal photography commenced. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

These statistics report on high-end television programmes (HETV) from April 2013 onwards only, because HETV production tracking commenced in line with the completion of the legislation procedures for the HETV tax relief in August 2013 (although the relief was applicable to production spend and backdated to 1 April 2013).

Between 2013/14 and 2014/15, the number of HETV productions rose slightly, from 70 to 77. Conversely, their total spend in the UK fell slightly from £540 million to £530 million. In the latest rolling year (April 2014 to March 2015), the 28 inward investment and co-productions made up 52% of spend in the UK, while the 49 domestic UK productions accounted for 48% (Table 5).

**Table 5 Number and UK spend of high-end television programmes produced in the UK, 2013/14 – 2014-15**

	UK spend £ million		Number of programmes	
	Apr 2013 – Mar 2014	Apr 2014 – Mar 2015	Apr 2013 – Mar 2014	Apr 2014 – Mar 2015
Domestic UK	287.9	251.6	53	49
Inward investment and co-production	252.5	278.1	17	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>540.4</b>	<b>529.8</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>77</b>

Source: BFI

HETV are allocated to the calendar quarter in which principal photography commenced. Inward investment and co-production have been combined to avoid disclosing budgets for individual productions. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

#### 4. Television animation programme production in the UK

Six television animation programmes commenced principal photography in January – March 2015, with a total spend in the UK of £11.5 million. Titles included *Digby Dragon*, *Newzoids* and *Wissper*. This data is not broken down further by production category in this release, to avoid disclosing budgets for individual programmes.

Animation programme statistics are reported from April 2013 onwards, because animation production tracking commenced in line with the completion of the legislation procedures for the animation programmes tax relief in August 2013 (although the relief was backdated to 1 April 2013).

Between 2013/14 and 2014/15, the number of television animation productions fell from 44 to 25, with spend in the UK falling from £94 million to £58 million. In the latest rolling year (April 2014 to March 2015), the 19 domestic productions accounted for 92% of spend in the UK (Table 6).

**Table 6 Number and UK spend of animation programmes produced in the UK, 2013/14 – 2014-15**

	UK spend £ million		Number of programmes	
	Apr 2013 – Mar 2014	Apr 2014 – Mar 2015	Apr 2013 – Mar 2014	Apr 2014 – Mar 2015
Domestic UK	70.5	49.3	34	19
Inward investment and co-production	23.0	4.4	10	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>93.5</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>25</b>

Source: BFI

HETV are allocated to the calendar quarter in which principal photography commenced.

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

#### 5. Video games production in the UK

Three video games commenced production between January and March 2015. Their total spend in the UK and production category is not given in this report, to avoid disclosing budgets for individual productions.

Video games statistics are reported from April 2014 onwards, in line with video games production tracking which started with the introduction of the video games tax relief on 1 April 2014.

Between April 2014 and March 2015, 24 video games entered production, with a combined spend in the UK of £87 million (Table 7).

**Table 7 Number and UK spend of video games produced in the UK, April 2014 – March 2015**

	UK spend £ million	Number of productions
<b>Total</b>	<b>86.9</b>	<b>24</b>

## Notes

### 1. BFI Research and Statistics Unit production tracking

The Research and Statistics Unit production tracking system attempts to track all films produced in whole or part in the UK (i.e. it is a census, not a sample).

Sources of information include the British Film Commission, industry tracking forums, Creative Skillset, trade press and internet sources, UK film certification data and direct approaches to film producers.

Only productions with some UK spend on shooting, visual effects or post-production are included.

Spend is allocated to the calendar year, half year and quarter in which principal photography starts.

For high-end television, television animation programmes and video games, only productions officially certified as British are included.

### 2. Revisions

Production tracking is a continuous process and numbers are updated each quarter to reflect newly tracked films, updated budget or UK spend information and postponements or cancellations. Adjustments apply to previous periods as well as to the most recent reported period. The tables in this report contain revised data.

### 3. Definitions

A **domestic** (indigenous) UK production is a feature film, HETV programme or television animation programme made by a UK production company that is produced wholly or partly in the UK.

A **UK co-production** is a co-production (other than an inward co-production) feature film, HETV programme or television programme involving the UK and other country partners usually under the terms of a bilateral co-production agreement or the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production.

An **inward investment production** is a feature film, HETV programme or television animation programme which is substantially financed and controlled from outside the UK, where the production is attracted to the UK because of script requirements, the UK's infrastructure or UK tax incentives. Many (but not all) inward productions are UK films, HETV programmes or animation programmes by virtue of their UK cultural content and the fact that they pass the cultural test administered by the BFI Certification Unit on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

**UK spend is** the 'value of the production activities in the UK' for Cultural Test/Production Costs Test films and 'UK expenditure' for co-productions (bilateral and European Convention).

UK spend for co-productions may include some expenditure on UK goods and services which took place outside the UK.

#### **4. Disclosing individual film information**

Spend data are not disclosed when the number of productions (co-production, domestic or inward) is three or fewer.

#### **5. Feedback**

We welcome feedback from users of our statistics releases to help us improve what we do. If you have any feedback on these statistics, please contact us using the named contact details listed below.

#### **6. Pre-release Access**

This release has been prepared according to the Code of Practice for Official Statistics published by the UK Statistics Authority (2009). Pre-release access was granted to the following:

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