

# Film, high-end television and television animation production in the UK – half year (H1) 2014

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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- Total UK spend for film in H1 2014 was £744 million (the highest since H1 2011) yet the lowest number of films in H1 2008-H1 2014, 104, commenced principal photography.
- Inward investment feature contributed the highest UK spend with £600 million. UK spend on domestic features came to almost £121 million.
- In H1 2014, a total of 40 high-end television programmes commenced principal photography. Of these, 28 were domestic programmes, with a UK spend of £153 million, and 12 were inward investment and co-productions programmes, with a UK spend of £161 million.
- A total of eight domestic and co-production animation programmes started production in H1 2014, with a total UK spend of £78 million.

## 1. Film production in the UK in Q1 2014

The aggregate UK spend of feature films that commenced principal photography in the first half of 2014 was £690 million, up from £417 million in H1 2013 and the third highest after H1 2009 and H1 2011 (Table 1 and Figure 1). Inward investment features contributed the highest UK spend, with £545 million; this is the highest amount since H1 2011. Domestic features contributed £121 million, of which over £116 million was from films with budgets of £500,000 or more and almost £5 million from those with budgets of less than £500,000. This is the lowest H1 UK spend for domestic films with budgets under £500,000 for the period shown and it is mainly due to a time lag in obtaining complete information on all low and micro-budget activity in the UK in H1 2014; as such this figure is likely to be revised. However, overall domestic features UK spend in H1 2014 is higher than domestic feature UK spend in H1 2013. Co-production UK spend was lower than H1 2013, down from £25 million to £24 million and was the lowest UK spend of the three main production categories.

**Table 1 UK spend of features produced in the UK in Q1 2008–Q1 2014, £ million**

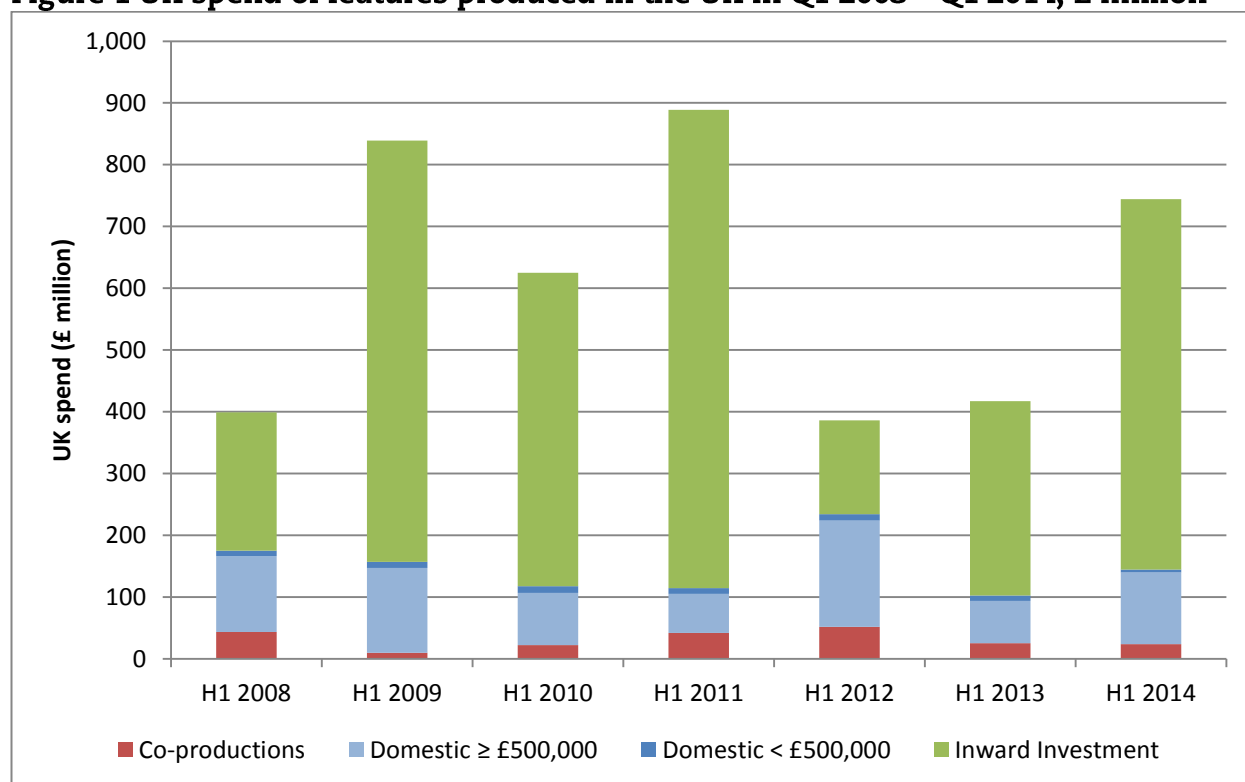
	H1 2008	H1 2009	H1 2010	H1 2011	H1 2012	H1 2013	H1 2014
Co-productions	43.2	9.6	21.9	41.9	51.7	25.2	23.9
Domestic UK features	131.6	147.5	95.7	72.6	182.7	77.3	120.7
Of which budget ≥ £500,000	123.1	137.5	84.9	63.1	172.2	68.5	116.1
Of which budget < £500,000	8.5	10.0	10.9	9.5	10.5	8.8	4.6
Inward investment features	224.4	682.0	507.5	774.4	151.7	314.6	599.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>399.3</b>	<b>839.2</b>	<b>625.1</b>	<b>889.0</b>	<b>386.1</b>	<b>417.0</b>	<b>744.4</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.

**Figure 1 UK spend of features produced in the UK in Q1 2008 – Q1 2014, £ million**



Source: BFI

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

There were 104 films that commenced principal photography in the UK in H1 2014, the lowest of the time period (H1 2008-H1 2014). H1 2012 had the highest number of films that commenced principal photography with 194 films. For H1 2014, 17 films were co-productions (a decrease on H1 2013, with 22 co-productions), 73 were domestic UK features and 14 were inward investment films (Table 2 and Figure 2). For domestic features, 40 films had budgets of £500,000 or more and 33 were films with budgets under £500,000. The numbers of domestic and inward investment features were the lowest and second lowest respectively of the time period; this is likely to be due to a time lag in obtaining complete information on all production activity in the UK in H1 2014, in particular for low budget films, and are likely to be revised.

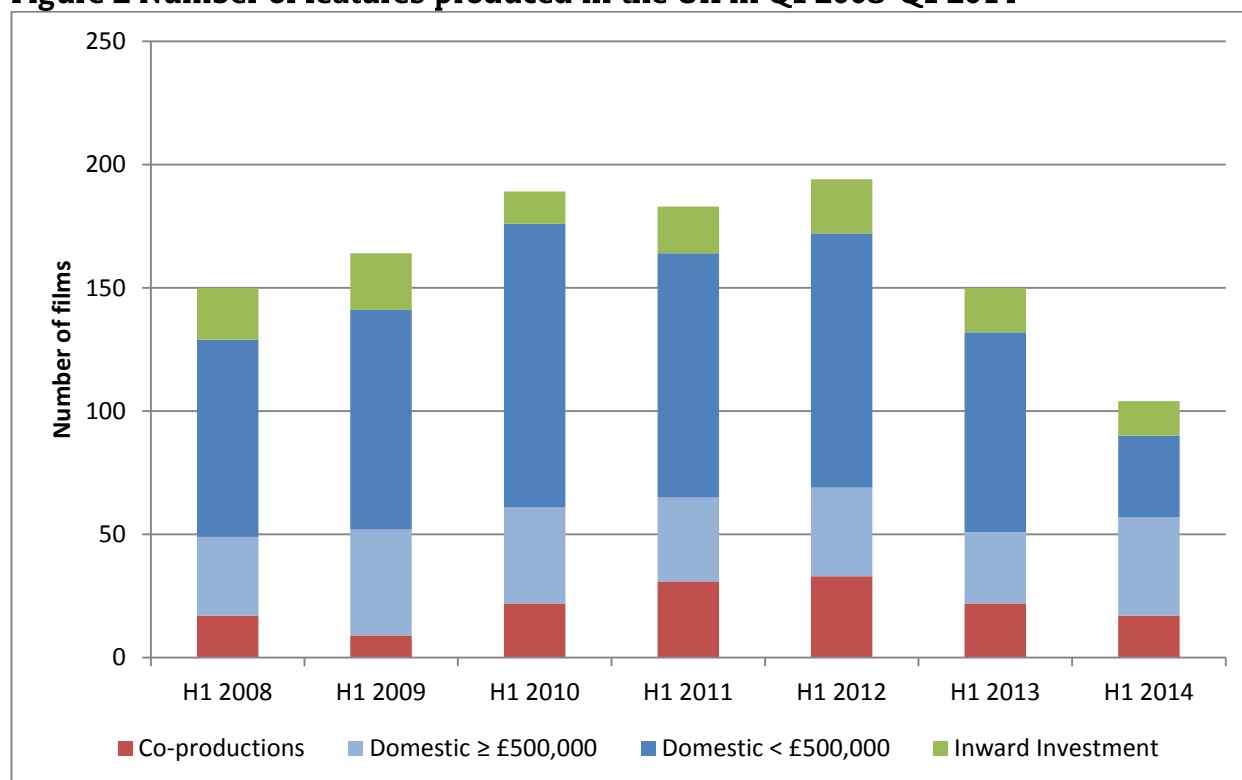
**Table 2 Number of features produced in the UK in Q1 2008 – Q1 2014**

	H1 2008	H1 2009	H1 2010	H1 2011	H1 2012	H1 2013	H1 2014
Co-productions	17	9	22	31	33	22	17
Domestic UK features	112	132	154	133	139	110	73
Of which budget ≥ £500,000	32	43	39	34	36	29	40
Of which budget < £500,000	80	89	115	99	103	81	33
Inward investment features	21	23	13	19	22	18	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>104</b>

Source: BFI

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

**Figure 2 Number of features produced in the UK in Q1 2008–Q1 2014**



Source: BFI

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

Titles commencing principal photography in H1 2014 included *Star Wars Episode VII*, *Autobahn*, *Legend* and *The Museum of Innocence*.

## 2. High-end television – British productions and co-productions

In this release high-end television programmes (HETV) statistics are reported for H1 2014 only because HETV production tracking commenced in line with the completion of the legislation procedures for HETV tax relief in August 2013 (despite the relief being backdated to 01 April 2013). Therefore, data for first six months of 2013 are not available.

The aggregate UK spend for high-end television programmes (HETV) that commenced principal photography in the first half of 2014 was almost £314 million. Domestic HETV contributed £153 million and inward investment and co-production HETV contributed almost £161 million. For disclosure reasons, the UK spend for inward investment and co-productions have been aggregated (Table 3).

**Table 3 UK spend of high-end television programmes produced in the UK H1 2014, £ million**

	H1 2014
Domestic UK	152.9
Co-production	160.7*
Inward Investment	
<b>Total</b>	<b>313.6</b>

\* Aggregate UK spend for co-production and inward investment HETV  
Data are rounded to the nearest £0.1m so may not sum exactly to the totals shown.  
HETV are allocated to the period according to the date principal photography commenced.

A total of 40 HETV programmes commenced principal photography in H1 2014. Of these, 28 were domestic HETV and 12 were inward investment and co-production HETV. For disclosure reasons, the number of inward investment and co-productions programmes have been combined (Table 4).

**Table 4 Number of high-end television programmes produced in the UK, H1 2014**

	H1 2014
Domestic UK	28
Co-production	12*
Inward Investment	
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>

\* Aggregate UK spend for co-production and inward investment HETV  
HETV are allocated to the period according to the date principal photography commenced.

Titles commencing principal photography in H1 2014 included *Da Vinci's Demons*, *The Passing Bells* AKA *Great War*, *Marvellous* and *Scott and Bailey*.

### **3. Television animation – British productions and co-productions**

As with HETV, animation programmes (ANM) statistics are reported for H1 2014 only because ANM production tracking commenced in line with the completion of the legislation procedures for ANM tax relief in August 2013 (despite the relief being backdated to 01 April 2013). Therefore, data for first six months of 2013 are not available.

In H1 2014, a total of eight domestic and co-production ANM started production and they had a total UK spend of £78 million. No inward investment ANM started production in this period. Data for co-production and domestic ANM cannot be shown separately for disclosure reasons.

Titles commencing principal photography in H1 2014 included *Mr Bean 2015*, *Puffin Rock* and *WW1: My Life, My Family*.

## 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 and television animation programmes, only programmes 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.

An **inward feature co-production** is an official co-production that originates from outside the co-production treaty countries (usually from the USA) and which is attracted to the UK because of script requirements, the UK's infrastructure or UK film tax relief.

A **VFX-only film** is a film that has a substantial quantity of digital visual effects made in the UK at one of the UK's main VFX houses but no other UK spend.

A **UK film** is a film that has been certified as British by the DCMS or by the Certification Unit of the BFI (acting on the authority of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport) or which is a *de facto* UK film by virtue of being made in whole or part in the UK by a UK production company.

A **US studio film** is a film that is produced in whole or part by one of the major US studios or one of the major US studios' specialist subsidiaries.

An **independent film** is a film made by an independent production company or group of independent production companies.

US studio films are generally distributed in most territories by the parent studio. Independent films are usually distributed by different distributors in different territories.

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

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

##### **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 has been granted to the following:

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