

Film, high-end television and television animation production in the UK, January - September (Q1-Q3) 2014

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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1. Key points

- Total UK spend for film in Q1-Q3 2014 was £982 million (the highest since Q1-Q3 2011)
- Inward investment feature contributed the highest UK spend with £793 million. UK spend on domestic features came to almost £157 million.
- 163 films commenced principal photography, the lowest number of films in Q1-Q3 since the current data series started in 2008
- Total UK spend in last 12 months (Q4 2013-Q3 2014) was £1,149 million, of which £919 million was inward investment features, £188 million was domestic features and £42 million was co-productions.
- In Q1-Q3 2014, a total of 65 high-end television programmes commenced principal photography with a UK spend of £530 million. Of these, 42 were domestic programmes, with a UK spend of £153 million, 18 were inward investment with a UK spend of £265 million and 5 co-productions programmes with a UK spend of £19 million.
- A total of 18 domestic and co-production animation programmes started production in Q1-Q3 2014, with a total UK spend of £32 million, of which £28 million was for domestic programmes. No inward investment animation programmes commenced principal photography.

2. Film production in the UK in Q1-Q3 2014

The aggregate UK spend of feature films that commenced principal photography in Q1-Q3 2014 was £982 million, up from £919 million in Q1-Q3 2013 and the third highest after Q1-Q3 2009 (£1,040 million) and Q1-Q3 2011 (£1,113 million). See Table 1 and Figure 1.

Inward investment features contributed the highest UK spend, with £793 million; this is the highest since Q1-Q3 2011 (£922 million). Domestic features contributed £157 million. Of this over £150 million was from films with budgets of £500,000 or more; the highest since Q1-Q3 2010. Almost £7 million was from those with budgets of less than £500,000. Although this is the lowest Q1-Q3 UK spend for domestic films with budgets under £500,000 for the period shown it is mainly due to a time lag in obtaining complete information on all low and micro-budget activity in the UK in Q1-Q3 2014; as such this figure is likely to be revised upwards. However, overall domestic features UK spend in Q1-Q3 2014 is higher than domestic feature UK spend in Q1-Q3 2013. Co-production UK spend was the second lowest in the time period at £31 million, after Q1-Q3 2009 (£18 million).

Table 1 UK spend of features produced in the UK, Q1-Q3 2008 to Q1-Q3 2014, £ million

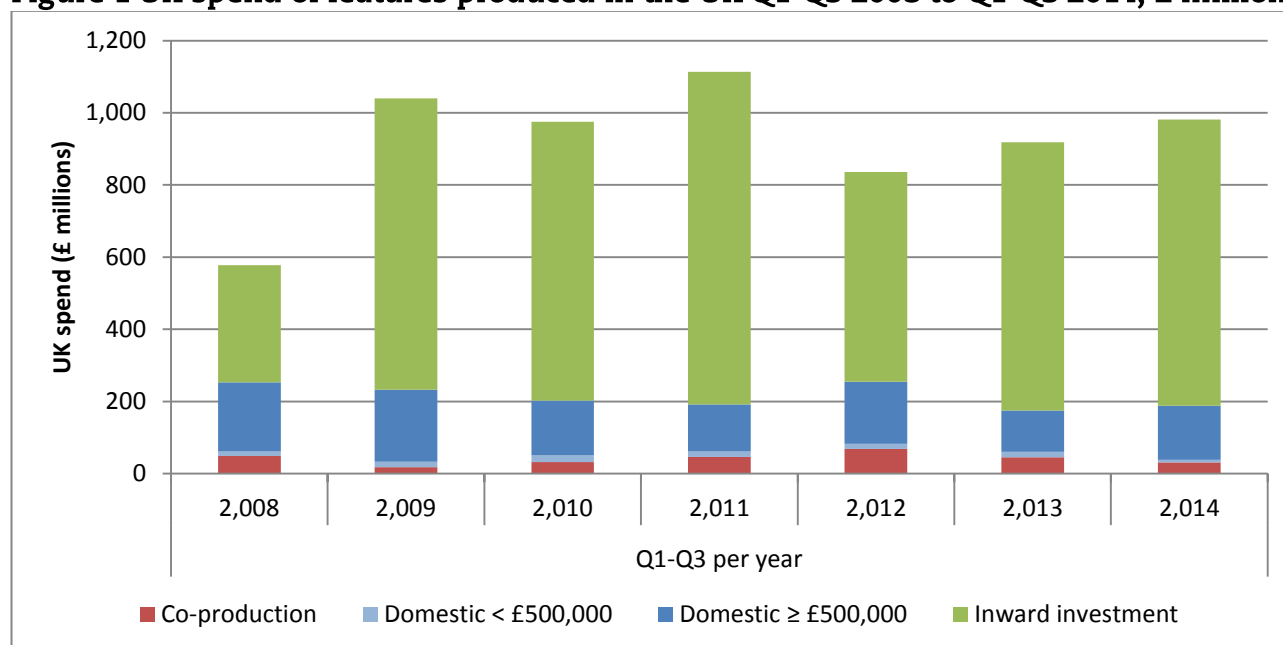
	Q1-Q3						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Co-productions	48.5	18.2	32.4	46.2	68.5	45.6	31.1
Domestic UK features	204.7	214.7	169.8	145.1	186.6	129.3	157.2
Of which budget ≥ £500,000	191.4	200.1	152.0	130.4	172.2	114.0	150.3
Of which budget < £500,000	13.2	14.6	17.8	14.7	14.4	15.3	6.9
Inward investment features	324.6	806.8	773.1	921.9	580.6	743.8	793.3
Total	577.8	1,039.7	975.4	1,113.2	835.7	918.6	981.6

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 Q1-Q3 2008 to Q1-Q3 2014, £ million



Source: BFI

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

There were 163 films that commenced principal photography in the UK in Q1-Q3 2014. Titles commencing principal photography in Q1-Q3 2014 included *Miss You Already*, *The Mind's End*, *Alice in Wonderland: Through the Looking Glass* and *Road Games*.

This is the lowest figure since 2008. It is mainly affected by the lag in obtaining complete data for domestic UK features with a budget of less than £500,000 mentioned above, and is likely to be revised upwards, but the numbers were also lower than recent years for both co-productions and inward investment films. However the number of domestic features with a budget of £500,000 or more was the highest since Q1-Q3 2011 (Table 2 and Figure 2).

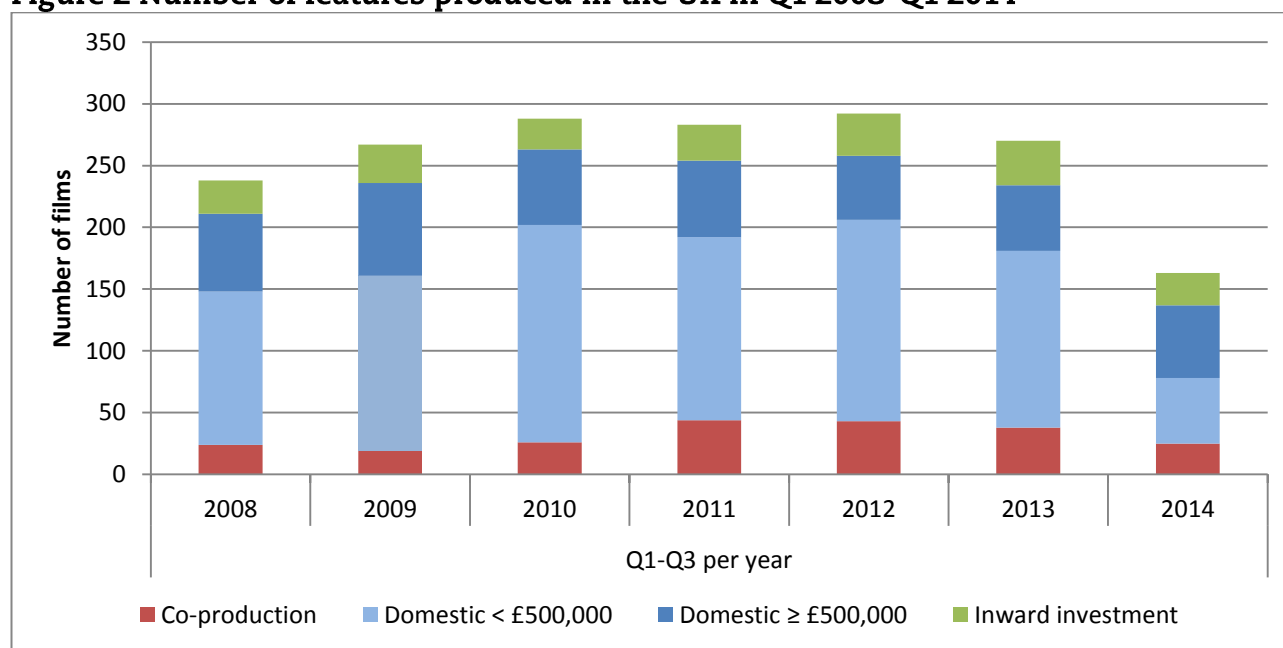
Table 2 Number of features produced in the UK, Q1-Q3 2008 to Q1-Q3 2014

	Q1-Q3						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Co-productions	24	19	26	44	43	38	25
Domestic UK features	187	217	237	210	215	196	112
Of which budget ≥ £500,000	63	75	61	62	52	53	59
Of which budget < £500,000	124	142	176	148	163	143	53
Inward investment features	27	31	25	29	34	36	26
Total	238	267	288	283	292	270	163

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.

For the first time, this release looks at UK spend and the number of films produced in the UK in a rolling year, highlighting the changes in spend in the last 12 months and the previous 12 month periods back to 2008. This is to give a broader impression of production trends in the UK. In this release the rolling year period covered is Q4 2008-Q3 2009 to Q4 2013 to Q3 2014.

In the time period Q4 2008-Q3 2014, aggregate UK spend has consistently been above £1 billion for each 12 month period. Looking back over the last 12 months (Q4 2013-Q3 2014), the aggregate UK spend of feature films that commenced principal photography was £1,149 million, up from £1,088 million in the previous 12 months, Q4 2012-Q3 2013 (Table 2 and Figure 2). This is the third highest of the time period after Q4 2008-Q3 2009 (£1,184 million) and Q4 2010-Q3 2011.

Inward investment features contributed the highest UK spend, with £919 million; this is the highest amount since Q4 2010-Q3 2011. Domestic features contributed £188 million, the second lowest of the period, after Q4 2010-Q3 2011, with £177 million. Of this almost £179 million was from films with budgets of £500,000 or more and over £9 million from those with budgets of less than £500,000. This is the second lowest UK spend for domestic films with budgets under £500,000 for the period shown. Co-production UK spend was the second lowest in the time period at £42 million, being the lowest since Q4 2008 – Q3 2009 (£21 million). UK spend for this production category was consistently the lowest UK spend of the three main production categories in the time period.

Table 3 UK spend of features produced in the UK, rolling year, Q4 2008 to Q3 2014, £ million

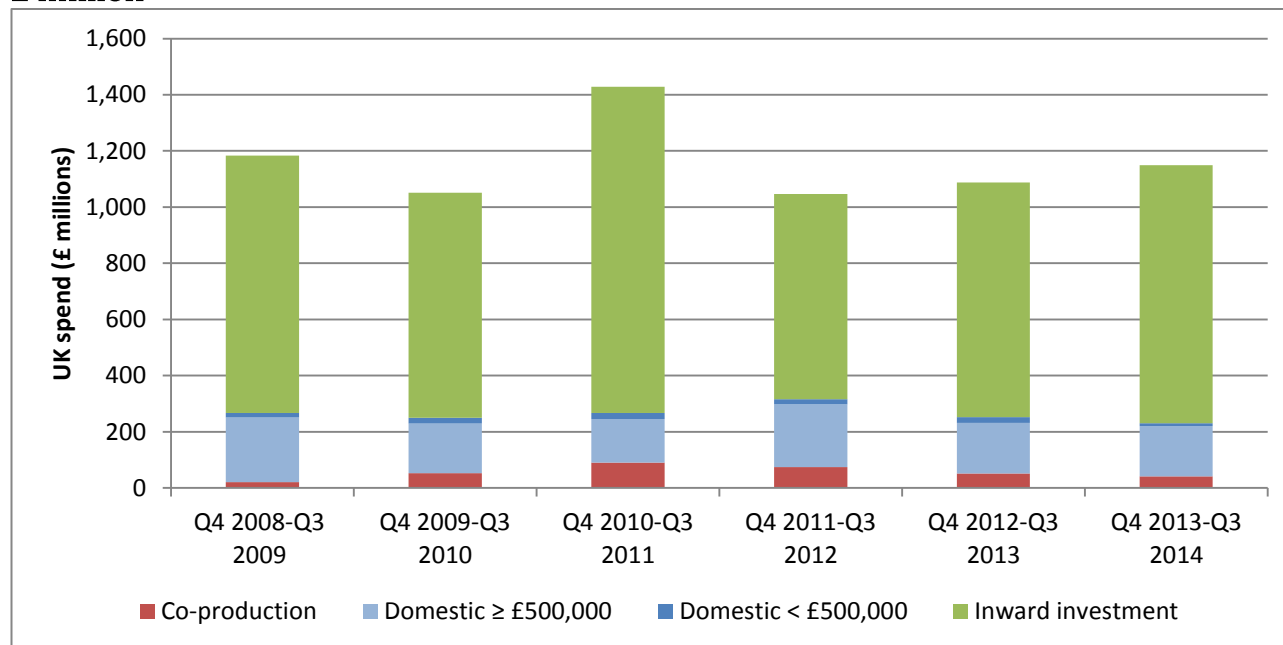
	Q4 2008 - Q3 2009	Q4 2009 - Q3 2010	Q4 2010 - Q3 2011	Q4 2011 - Q3 2012	Q4 2012 - Q3 2013	Q4 2013 - Q3 2014
Co-productions	21.4	53.0	90.1	74.7	52.0	41.9
Domestic UK features	245.8	197.3	177.1	241.8	200.5	188.4
Of which budget ≥ £500,000	229.4	176.1	155.4	223.0	179.7	178.9
Of which budget < £500,000	16.3	21.2	21.7	18.8	20.7	9.4
Inward investment features	916.6	800.9	1,160.8	729.7	835.6	919.0
Total	1,183.7	1,051.2	1,428.0	1,046.3	1,088.1	1,149.2

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 3 UK spend of features produced in the UK, rolling year, Q4 2008 to Q3 2014, £ million



Source: BFI

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

3. High-end television – British productions and co-productions

In this release high-end television programmes (HETV) statistics are reported for Q1-Q3 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 nine months of 2013 are not available.

The aggregate UK spend for high-end television programmes that commenced principal photography in Q1-Q3 of 2014 was over £529 million. Domestic HETV contributed £245 million inward investment contributed the highest UK spend at £265 million and co-production HETV contributed the least at almost £19 million (Table 4).

Table 4 UK spend of high-end television programmes produced in the UK Q1-Q3 2014, £ million

	Q1-Q3 2014
Co-production	19.0
Domestic UK	245.2
Inward Investment	265.2
Total	529.5

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.

A total of 65 HETV programmes commenced principal photography in Q1-Q3 2014. Domestic HETV contributed the highest number of programmes at 42, inward investment contributed 18 programmes and co-production contributed the fewest with 5 programmes (Table 5).

Table 5 Number of high-end television programmes produced in the UK, Q1-Q3 2014

	Q1-Q3 2014
Co-production	5
Domestic UK	42
Inward Investment	18
Total	65

Source: BFI

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

Titles commencing principal photography included *Olympus*, *This is England '90*, *The Hollow Crown Season 2* and *The Casual Vacancy*.

4. Television animation programmes – British productions and co-productions

As with HETV, animation programmes (ANM) statistics are reported for Q1-Q3 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 nine months of 2013 are not available.

The aggregate UK spend for ANM that commenced principal photography in Q1-Q3 of 2014 was over £32 million. Domestic ANM contributed over £27 million and co-productions contributed almost £5 million. There were no inward investment productions for the period (Table 6).

Table 6 UK spend of animation programmes produced in the UK Q1-Q3 2014, £ million

	Q1-Q3 2014
Co-production	4.7
Domestic UK	27.5
Inward Investment	-
Total	32.2

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

Animation programmes are allocated to the period according to the date principal photography commenced.

A total of 18 ANM programmes commenced principal photography in Q1-Q3 2014. Domestic ANM contributed the highest number of programmes at 14 and there were four co-productions (Table 7).

Table 7 Number of high-end television programmes produced in the UK, Q1-Q3 2014

	Q1-Q3 2014
Co-production	4
Domestic UK	14
Inward Investment	-
Total	18

Animation programmes are allocated to the period according to the date principal photography commenced.

Titles commencing principal photography in H1 2014 included *The Rubbish World of Dave Spud* and *Scream Street*.

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.

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 or if you wish to make a complaint, in the first instance please contact us using the named contact details listed below

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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