FILM INDUSTRY COMPANIES

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In the UK, the majority of film industry companies are in the production and post-production sectors, but most of these are small companies. The exhibition sector has the greatest proportion of large companies, the top 10 of which generated 92% of the sector's total turnover in 2015.

FACTS IN FOCUS

- In 2015, there were over 6,800 film production companies and almost 2,700 post-production companies in the UK.
- There were 420 film distributors and 230 film exhibitors.
- The majority of companies were small (turnover under £250,000).
- The production, post-production and distribution sectors were concentrated in London and the South East, while the exhibition sector was more dispersed.
- Outside London and the South East there were significant production and post-production clusters in the East of England, the South West and the North West.

NUMBER OF COMPANIES IN THE FILM INDUSTRY

The number of companies involved in the film industry has grown by 47% since 2010, compared to the UK all industries average of 17% (Table 1). The most substantial growth was seen in the number of video production (198%) and distribution (89%) companies, which might partly be explained by the rise in demand for online audiovisual content. The number of film production companies has increased by 42%. In this instance, the growth may reflect the number of special purpose vehicles (SPVs) created for specific productions but which remain in existence as companies after the completion of those titles. (These SPVs will usually only be involved in the production of one film). The number of film distribution and film exhibition companies has remained broadly stable since 2010.

In 2015 there were 6,805 film production companies, 2,660 film, video and TV post-production companies, 420 film distribution companies and 230 film exhibition companies.

Table 1 Number of companies by sub-sector, 2010-2015

Sub-sector	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Growth 2010-2015 (%)
Film production	4,795	4,845	5,190	5,450	6,090	6,805	41.9
Video production	855	1,105	1,470	1,905	2,200	2,545	197.7
Film, video and TV post-production*	2,365	2,265	2,205	2,240	2,465	2,660	12.5
Film distribution	395	420	415	395	405	420	6.3
Video distribution	45	45	60	75	80	85	88.9
Film exhibition	225	210	205	215	215	230	2.2
Total	**8,680**	**8,890**	**9,545**	**10,280**	**11,455**	**12,745**	**46.8**
UK all industries	2,100,370	2,080,860	2,149,190	2,167,580	2,263,645	2,449,415	16.6

Source: Office for National Statistics
Notes:
Data as at March 2015.
* Companies in the post-production sector usually work on films, commercials, videos and television programmes, and therefore have a combined statistical classification.

Video production company turnover saw the most substantial rise between 2010 and 2015 (70%) but film production and distribution companies accounted for the largest proportions of turnover in the period (Table 2).

In 2015, the turnover of film production companies was £2,967 million, an increase of 12% compared with 2010. Film, video and TV post-production company turnover was £1,478 million, an increase of 11% on 2010, and film exhibition company turnover was £1,339 million an increase of 39% compared with 2010.

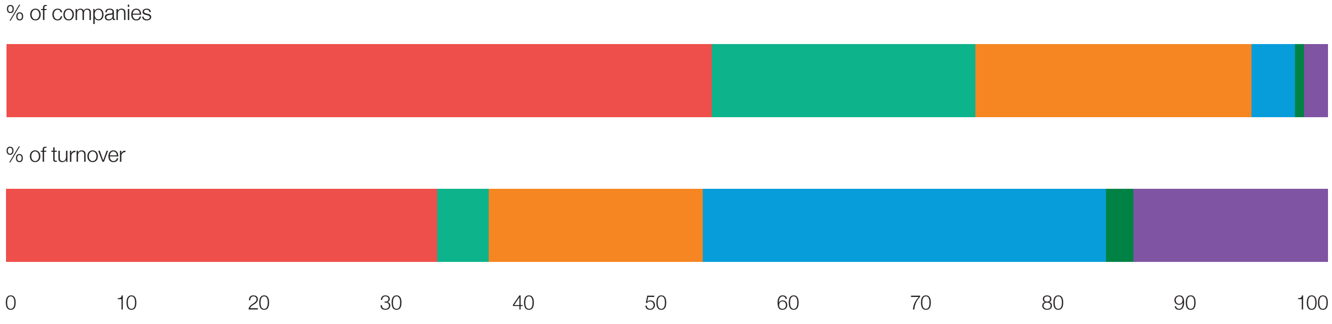
Table 2 Turnover of companies by sub-sector, £ 000, 2010-2015

Sub-sector	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Growth 2010-2015 (%)
Film production	2,656,494	2,407,913	2,688,724	2,760,227	2,968,092	2,967,315	11.7
Video production	210,038	152,775	186,902	263,009	301,630	357,139	70.0
Film, video and TV post-production*	1,327,739	1,416,379	1,493,355	1,434,894	1,389,338	1,477,587	11.3
Film distribution	2,689,156	2,784,818	1,538,451	1,579,168	2,976,370	2,776,183	3.2
Video distribution	149,139	130,629	272,039	180,001	214,128	187,726	25.9
Film exhibition	963,578	1,183,590	1,277,739	1,261,656	1,275,566	1,339,267	39.0
Total	7,996,144	8,076,104	7,457,210	7,478,955	9,125,124	9,105,217	13.9

Source: Office for National Statistics
See notes to Table 1.

As Figure 1 shows, in 2015 although film distributors represented 3% of film industry companies, they accounted for 31% of film industry turnover. This reflects the dominant position of the UK subsidiaries of the major US studios in the film value chain. Film, video and TV post-production companies represented 21% of companies and 16% of total turnover.

Figure 1 Percentage of film and video companies and turnover by sub-sector, 2015



	% of companies	% of turnover
Film production	53.4	32.6
Video production	20.0	3.9
Film, video and TV post-production	20.9	16.2
Film distribution	3.3	30.5
Video distribution	0.7	2.1
Film exhibition	1.8	14.7

Source: Office for National Statistics

See notes to Table 1.

SIZE DISTRIBUTION OF FILM COMPANIES

The size distribution of film companies in 2015 is shown in Tables 3 to 6. In most sectors, the majority of companies were very small with an annual turnover of less than £250,000. In the film exhibition sector there were an equal number of companies with an annual turnover of less than £250,000 or £250,000 or more.

Table 3 Size distribution of film production companies, 2015

Turnover size band £ 000	Number	%	Turnover (£ 000)	%
5,000+	110	1.6	c	c
1,000 – 4,999	360	5.3	729,741	24.6
500 – 999	330	4.8	213,225	7.2
250 – 499	480	7.1	161,826	5.5
100 – 249	1,900	27.9	274,040	9.2
50 – 99	1,965	28.9	141,536	4.8
0 – 49	1,660	24.4	c	c
Total	**6,805**	**100.0**	**2,967,315**	**100.0**

Source: Office for National Statistics
Notes:
Data as at March 2015
'c' indicates the data have been made confidential by the Office for National Statistics to avoid disclosing details of individual companies.

Table 4 Size distribution of post-production companies, 2015

Turnover size band £ 000	Number	%	Turnover (£ 000)	%
5,000+	45	1.7	929,528	62.9
1,000 – 4,999	110	4.1	249,645	16.9
500 – 999	105	3.9	70,906	4.8
250 – 499	140	5.3	49,174	3.3
100 – 249	730	27.4	99,489	6.7
50 – 99	870	32.7	61,693	4.2
0 – 49	660	24.8	17,152	1.2
Total	**2,660**	**100.0**	**1,477,587**	**100.0**

Source: Office for National Statistics
Notes:
Data as at March 2015
Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Table 5 Size distribution of film distribution companies, 2015

Turnover size band £ 000	Number	%	Turnover (£ 000)	%
5,000+	25	6.0	c	c
1,000 – 4,999	45	10.7	c	c
500 – 999	45	10.7	c	c
250 – 499	40	9.5	c	c
100 – 249	110	26.2	15,670	0.6
50 – 99	75	17.9	5,330	0.2
0 – 49	80	19.0	1,628	0.1
Total	**420**	**100.0**	**2,776,183**	**100.0**

Source: Office for National Statistics
Notes:
Data as at March 2015.
'c' indicates the data have been made confidential by the Office for National Statistics to avoid disclosing details of individual companies.

Table 6 Size distribution of film exhibition companies, 2015

Turnover size band £ 000	Number	%	Turnover (£ 000)	%
5,000+	10	4.3	1,224,884	91.5
1,000 – 4,999	30	13.0	62,791	4.7
500 – 999	40	17.4	28,432	1.5
250 – 499	35	15.2	11,832	0.9
100 – 249	55	23.9	8,381	0.6
50 – 99	30	13.0	2,206	0.2
0 – 49	30	13.0	741	0.1
Total	**230**	**100.0**	**1,339,267**	**100.0**

Source: Office for National Statistics
Notes:
Data as at March 2015
Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding

NATIONAL/REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF FILM COMPANIES IN THE UK

Tables 7 and 8 show the national/regional distribution of film companies and film company turnover in 2015. Overall, 71% of film companies were concentrated in London and the South East, and over 78% of turnover was generated by companies located in these two regions. The London concentration was particularly strong for distribution (61% of companies and 97% of turnover) but the exhibition sector was more widely spread across the UK, with 74% of companies and 44% of turnover associated with companies based outside London.

While London and the South East dominate in production and post-production, there are significant regional centres, particularly in the East of England, the South West and the North West.

Table 7 National/regional distribution of film companies, 2015

	Film production		Post-production		Film distribution		Film exhibition		Total UK film	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
London	3,770	55.4	1,345	50.6	260	61.2	60	26.1	5,435	53.7
South East	1,090	16.0	500	18.8	70	16.5	35	15.2	1,695	16.8
East of England	455	6.7	180	6.8	30	7.1	15	6.5	680	6.7
South West	375	5.5	175	6.6	15	3.5	20	8.7	585	5.8
North West	225	3.3	105	3.9	10	2.4	20	8.7	360	3.6
Scotland	185	2.7	85	3.2	5	1.2	20	8.7	295	2.9
Yorkshire and The Humber	190	2.8	55	2.1	10	2.4	15	6.5	270	2.7
West Midlands	140	2.1	70	2.6	15	3.5	5	2.2	230	2.3
Wales	130	1.9	50	1.9	5	1.2	10	4.3	195	1.9
East Midlands	120	1.8	50	1.9	5	1.2	15	6.5	190	1.9
North East	70	1.0	25	0.9	0	–	5	2.2	100	1.0
Northern Ireland	50	0.7	20	0.8	0	–	10	4.3	80	0.8
UK	**6,800**	**100.0**	**2,660**	**100.0**	**425**	**100.0**	**230**	**100.0**	**10,115**	**100.0**

Source: Office for National Statistics
Notes:
Data as at March 2015.
The overall total differs from that in Table 1 as it excludes figures for video production and distribution.
Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Table 8 National/regional distribution of film company turnover, 2015

	Film production		Post-production		Film distribution		Film exhibition		Total UK film	
	Turnover (£ 000)	%	Turnover (£ 000)	%	Turnover (£ 000)	%	Turnover (£ 000)	%	Turnover (£ 000)	%
London	2,175,914	73.3	1,065,507	72.1	2,686,999	96.8	744,299	55.6	6,672,719	77.9
South East	353,715	11.9	253,664	17.2	c	c	12,951	1.0	c	c
East of England	82,404	2.8	32,554	2.2	32,864	1.2	44,832	3.3	192,654	2.3
South West	121,390	4.1	35,217	2.4	c	c	23,538	1.8	c	c
North West	43,139	1.5	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Wales	42,112	1.4	18,297	1.2	c	c	c	c	c	c
Scotland	28,464	1.0	c	c	c	c	16,074	1.2	c	c
Yorkshire and The Humber	46,838	1.6	9,387	0.6	c	c	c	c	c	c
East Midlands	23,974	0.8	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Northern Ireland	19,763	0.7	c	c	c	c	30,837	2.3	c	c
West Midlands	17,793	0.6	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
North East	11,809	0.4	3,242	0.2	c	c	c	c	c	c
Total UK	**2,967,315**	**100.0**	**1,477,587**	**100.0**	**2,776,183**	**100.0**	**1,339,267**	**100.0**	**8,560,352**	**100.0**

Source: Office for National Statistics
Notes:
Data as at March 2015.
'c' indicates the data have been made confidential by the Office for National Statistics to avoid disclosing details of individual companies.
The geographic distribution of turnover is given by the location of the company, not its local units, so a London concentration may be overstated for companies such as cinema chains which have local units around the UK.
The overall total differs from that in Table 2 as it excludes figures for video production and distribution.
Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

LEADING FILM PRODUCTION COMPANIES IN THE UK

Drawing on the BFI Research and Statistics Unit's production database and public information, Table 9 presents the production companies involved in the greatest number of UK feature film projects between 2013 and 2015. Three companies topped the list with a total of nine films each for the period – Working Title Films, which had the highest combined budget of the three (£177 million; equivalent to a mean budget per film of £20 million), Vertigo Films (combined budget of £45 million) and Pinewood Pictures (combined budget of £37 million). North Bank Entertainment produced eight films, but had the lowest combined budget at £500,000.

Table 9 Production companies involved in five or more UK productions, ranked by number of films, 2013-2015

Production company	Number of films	Estimated combined budget (£ million)	Selected titles
Working Title Films	9	177	The Danish Girl; Everest; The Theory of Everything
Vertigo Films	9	45	Monsters: Dark Continent; Pudsey the Dog: The Movie; Walking on Sunshine
Pinewood Pictures	9	37	Pressure; The Riot Club; Spooks: The Greater Good
North Bank Entertainment	8	0.5	Kill Kane aka Blood Relations; Poltergeist Activity; Robert the Doll
Scott Free Productions	7	235	Exodus: Gods and Kings; Get Santa; The Martian
Altitude Film Entertainment	7	15	Big Game; Kill Your Friends; Tiger House
Passion Pictures	7	5	I Am Ali; The Green Prince; Chuck Norris vs. Communism
Richwater Films	7	2	Age of Kill; Top Dog; We Still Kill the Old Way
Sixteen Films	6	12	I, Daniel Blake; Jimmy's Hall; War Book
Pulse Films	6	6	20,000 Days on Earth; American Honey; The Possibilities Are Endless
MoliFilms Entertainment	6	5	Golden Years; Montana; North v South
Fulwell 73	6	3	The Guvnors; Level Up aka London Underground; One Direction: Where We Are – The Concert Film
Roast Beef Productions	6	1	Jungle Sisters; The Russian Woodpecker; Tierra Caliente
Green Screen Productions	5	12	Bliss!; Dusty and Me aka Slapper and Me; The Journey
Film & Music Entertainment	5	5	Lost in Karastan; The President; StreetKids United II – The Girls From Rio
Unstoppable Entertainment	5	5	The Anomaly; Legacy; We are Monster
Tiger Lily Films	5	5	The Lovers and the Despot; The Ones Below; Remainder
Runaway Features	5	4	Dangerous Mind of a Hooligan; The Disappearance of Lenka Wood; White Collar Hooligan 3
The Fyzz Facility	5	3	A Patch of Fog; Scottish Mussel; The Survivalist
Hopscotch Films	5	2	Atomic: Living in Dread and Promise; The Carer; I Am Belfast
Third Films	5	2	Blood Cells; Bypass; Light Years
Templeheart Films	5	2	He Who Dares; Heretiks; The Last Scout

Source: BFI
Notes:
Companies ranked by number of films produced, then by estimated combined budget.
'Estimated combined budget' is the sum of the estimated budgets of all the films associated with the named company. It is not a measure of that company's contribution to the budget. Most films had a number of production companies associated with them and financing came from a variety of sources including National Lottery funding, UK film tax relief, equity investment, US studio investment, distributor minimum guarantees and television pre-sales.
The table includes companies associated with five or more films over the three-year period.

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