

Film and other screen sector production in the UK, January - March (Q1) 2016

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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1. Key points

- Total spend on film production in the UK in Q1 2016 was £200 million.
- Inward investment and co-production features contributed the highest UK spend with £176 million. Spend in the UK on domestic features was £24 million.
- Twenty seven films started principal photography; ten inward investment and coproduction features and 17 domestic UK features.
- Total production spend in the UK in the last 12 months (April 2015 – March 2016) was £1,337 million.
- In Q1 2016, a total of 13 high-end television programmes started principal photography with a spend in the UK of £97 million.
- Of these, nine were domestic programmes, with a spend of £45 million, and four were inward investment with a spend of £52 million.
- The spend on HETV production in the UK in the last 12 months was £684 million.

2. Film production in the UK

The total spend in the UK of feature films that started principal photography in Q1 2016 was £200 million, from 27 films (Table 1). Inward investment and co-production features accounted for the majority of this spend (£176 million), with domestic UK features accounting for £24 million.

Films which started principal photography during Q1 included co-production *A Storm in the Stars*; inward investment films *Allied* and *Final Portrait*; domestic UK films which went into production included *Mad to be Normal* and *Journeyman*.

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 2016

	UK spend £ million	Number of features
Domestic UK features	24.3	17
Inward investment and co-productions	175.8	10
Total	200.0	27

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 2015 to March 2016, total spend on film production in the UK was £1,337million – a decrease of 13% on the April 2014 to March 2015 rolling year which was the highest since our records began (Table 2). This spend was drawn from 197 films (Table 3). A breakdown of the total shows 50 inward investment features contributed 82% of total spend (£1,093 million); domestic UK features contributed £209 million, with £198 million spent by films with a budget of £500,000 and above. Co-productions contributed £35 million from 26 films, the lowest recorded figure in this time series and continuing a downward trend over the past three years.

Table 2 UK spend of features produced in the UK, 2009/10 to 2015/16, £ million

	Rolling years: April - March						
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Co-productions	37.6	90.2	48.3	69.0	66.1	35.4	35.3
Domestic UK features	255.0	190.9	245.9	213.5	240.3	140.3	208.5
<i>Of which budget ≥ £500,000</i>	234.4	166.7	225.2	193.4	219.7	120.4	197.5
<i>Of which budget < £500,000</i>	20.7	24.2	20.7	20.0	20.6	19.9	11.1
Inward investment features	815.0	879.3	856.3	675.9	1,102.3	1,356.6	1,093.2
Total without films with budgets <£500,000*	1,085.1	1,130.7	1,129.1	928.2	1,302.9	1,489.6	1,311.7
Total	1,107.7	1,160.3	1,150.5	958.4	1,408.7	1,532.3	1,337.0

Source: BFI

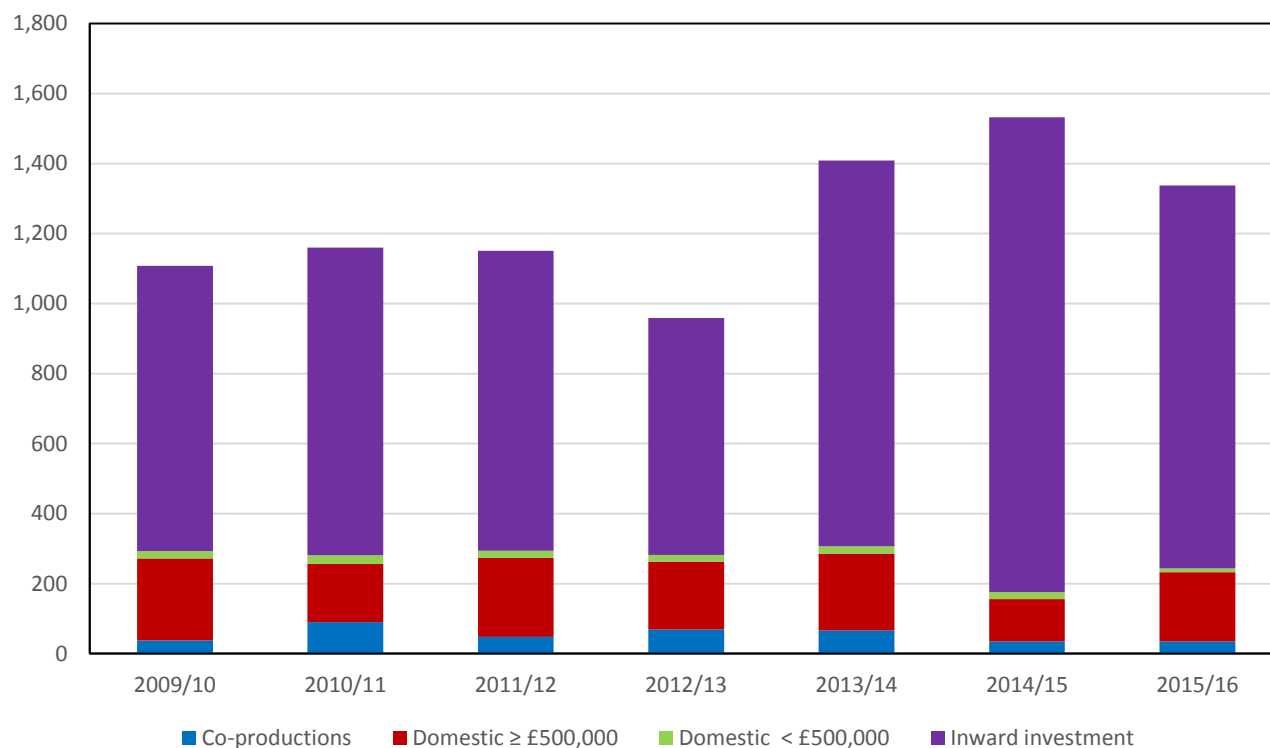
Data are rounded to the nearest £0.1m so may not sum exactly to the totals shown.

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, 2009/10 to 2015/16, £ million



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

There were 197 films that started principal photography in the UK in the rolling year from April 2015 to March 2016. Although this is the lowest figure since the rolling year from April 2009 to March 2010, 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 has decreased as it did in the previous rolling year (2014/15), and the number of inward investment features has declined from the previous rolling year, however it is still the second highest in the period analysed. (Table 3 and Figure 2).

Table 3 Number of features produced in the UK, 2009/10 to 2015/16

	Rolling years: April - March						
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Co-productions	46	45	43	42	59	37	26
Domestic UK features	286	291	292	265	253	193	121
Of which budget ≥ £500,000	86	79	94	72	80	66	65
Of which budget < £500,000	200	212	198	193	173	127	56
Inward investment features	35	32	41	43	42	58	50
Total without films with budgets <£500,000*	149	139	155	131	155	150	128
Total	367	368	376	350	354	288	197

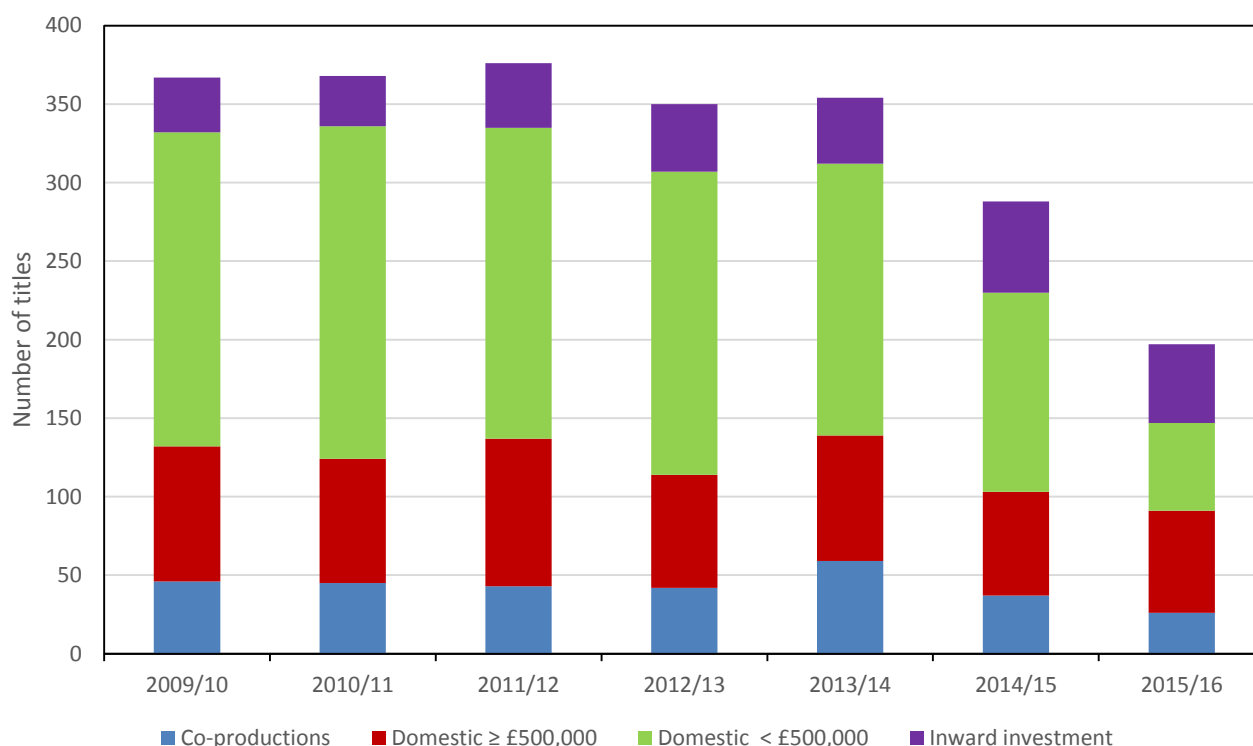
Source: BFI

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, 2009/10 to 2015/16



Source: BFI

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

3. High-end television production in the UK

Thirteen high-end television programmes (HETV) started principal photography in the first quarter of 2016, with a total spend in the UK of £97 million. Titles included *Rillington Place*, *Fortitude - Series 2* and *Cold Feet - Series 6*. Inward Investment HETV accounted for 53% of spend in the UK (£52 million), with domestic HETV programmes accounting for 47% (£45 million) (Table 4).

Table 4 Number and UK spend of high-end television programmes produced in the UK, Q1 2016

	UK spend £ million	Number of programmes
Co-production	-	-
Domestic UK	45.4	9
Inward Investment	51.9	4
Total	97.4	13

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 2015/16, the number of HETV productions rose slightly, from 72 to 78. Across the last three rolling years the total spend in the UK has consistently risen, in 2013/14 it was £609 million rising to £684 million in 2015/16. In the latest rolling year (April 2015 to March 2016), the 21 inward investment and co-productions made up 51% of spend in the UK, while the 57 domestic UK productions accounted for 49% (Table 5).

Table 5 Number and UK spend of high-end television programmes produced in the UK, 2013/14 – 2015/16

	Rolling Years: April- March					
	UK spend £ million			Number of programmes		
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Domestic UK	290.4	325.9	338.2	53	59	57
Inward investment and co-production	318.9	307.1	345.5	19	33	21
Total	609.3	632.9	683.7	72	92	78

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.

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.

Statistics on Video Games, Television Animation and Children's television will be reported in the forthcoming release: British Film, High End Television, Animation programmes, Video Games and Children's television certification Q1 2016 (Publication Date: 4th May 2016)

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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