

Film and other screen sector production in the UK, January - March (Q1) 2017

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

4 May 2017

1. Key points

- Total spend on film production in the UK in Q1 2017 was £652 million, the highest since records began.
- Inward investment and co-production features contributed the highest UK spend with £620 million. Spend in the UK on domestic features was £32 million.
- Thirty four films started principal photography; 17 inward investment and coproduction features and 17 domestic UK features.
- Total production spend in the UK in the last 12 months (April 2016 – March 2017) was £1,908 million the highest since records began.
- In Q1 2017, a total of 17 high-end television programmes started principal photography with a spend in the UK of £145 million.
- Of these, ten were domestic programmes, with a spend of £77 million, and six were inward investment with a spend of £68 million.
- The spend on HETV production in the UK in the last 12 months was £830 million, the highest since records began.

2. Film production in the UK

The total spend in the UK of feature films that started principal photography in Q1 2017 was £652 million, from 34 films (Table 1). Inward investment and co-production features accounted for the majority of this spend (£620 million), with domestic UK features accounting for £32 million.

Films which started principal photography during Q1 included; inward investment films *Mary Poppins Returns* and *Avengers: Infinity Wars* co-productions *The Aftermath* and *Cold War* and domestic UK films which went into production included *The Favourite* and *Been So Long*.

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 2017

	UK spend £ million	Number of features
Domestic UK features	31.8	17
Inward investment and co-productions	619.8	17
Total	651.6	34

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 2016 to March 2017, total spend on film production in the UK was £1,908 million – an increase of 27% on the April 2015 to March 2016 making it by some distance the highest recorded figure since analysis began in 2002 (Table 2). This spend was drawn from 209 films (Table 3). A breakdown of the total shows 56 inward investment features contributed 86% of total spend (£1,637 million); this is considerably higher than any other UK Spend figure since analysis began. Domestic UK features contributed £237 million, with £228 million spent by films with a budget of £500,000 and above. Co-productions contributed £34 million from 21 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, 2010/11 to 2016/17, £ million

	Rolling years: April - March						
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Co-productions	90.2	48.3	69.2	68.7	56.8	44.3	33.8
Domestic UK features	191.1	247.4	213.2	248.9	150.9	239.6	237.2
<i>Of which budget</i>							
<i> ≥ £500,000</i>	166.7	226.5	192.9	225.3	126.9	219.8	227.6
<i> < £500,000</i>	24.4	20.9	20.3	23.6	24.0	19.8	9.6
Inward investment features	879.3	851.6	676.3	1,068.4	1,391.8	1,223.7	1,636.7
Total without films with budgets <£500,000*	1,134.5	1,124.3	936.2	1,360.7	1,573.5	1,485.9	1,897.8
Total	1,160.6	1,147.3	958.7	1,386.0	1,599.5	1,507.5	1,907.7

Source: BFI

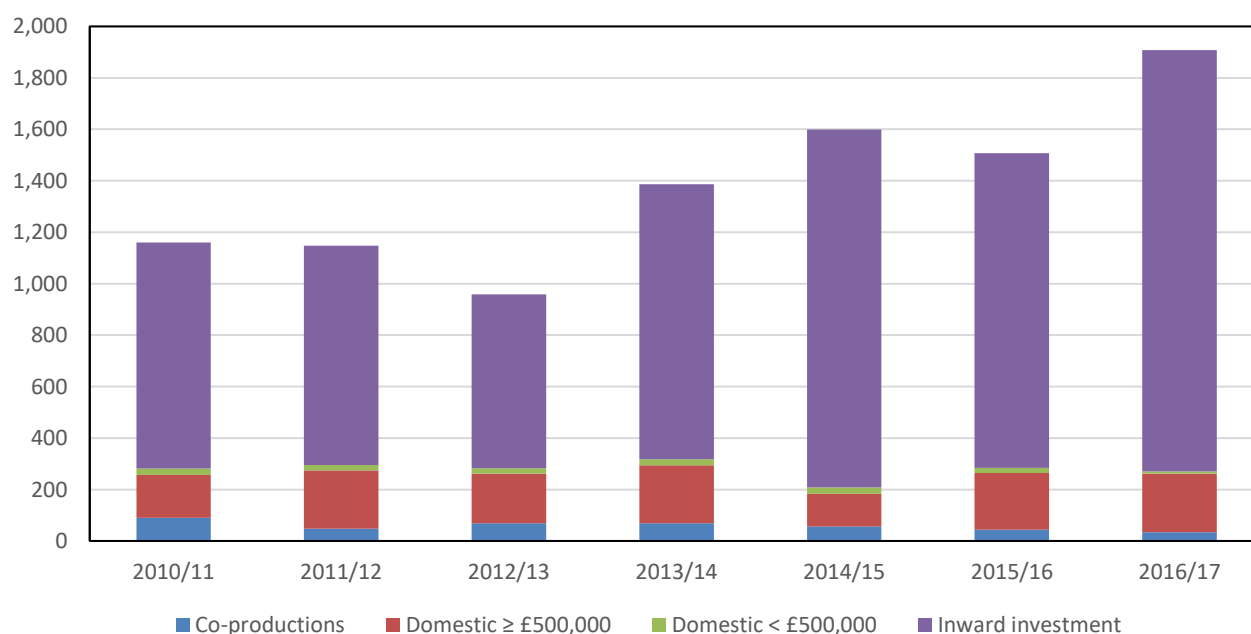
Data are rounded to the nearest £0.1m so may not sum exactly to the totals shown.

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, 2010/11 to 2016/17, £ million



Source: BFI

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

There were 209 films that started principal photography in the UK in the rolling year from April 2016 to March 2017. Although this is the lowest figure in the analysed range, 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 (2015/16), and the number of inward investment features has declined from the previous rolling year, however it is still the third highest in the period analysed. (Table 3 and Figure 2).

Table 3 Number of features produced in the UK, 2010/11 to 2016/17

	Rolling years: April - March						
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Co-productions	45	43	42	61	43	31	21
Domestic UK features	292	293	267	273	218	195	132
<i>Of which budget ≥ £500,000</i>	79	95	72	82	70	79	78
<i>Of which budget < £500,000</i>	213	198	195	191	148	116	54
Inward investment features	32	41	44	38	61	60	56
Total without films with budgets <£500,000*	139	155	133	157	160	151	151
Total	369	377	353	372	322	286	209

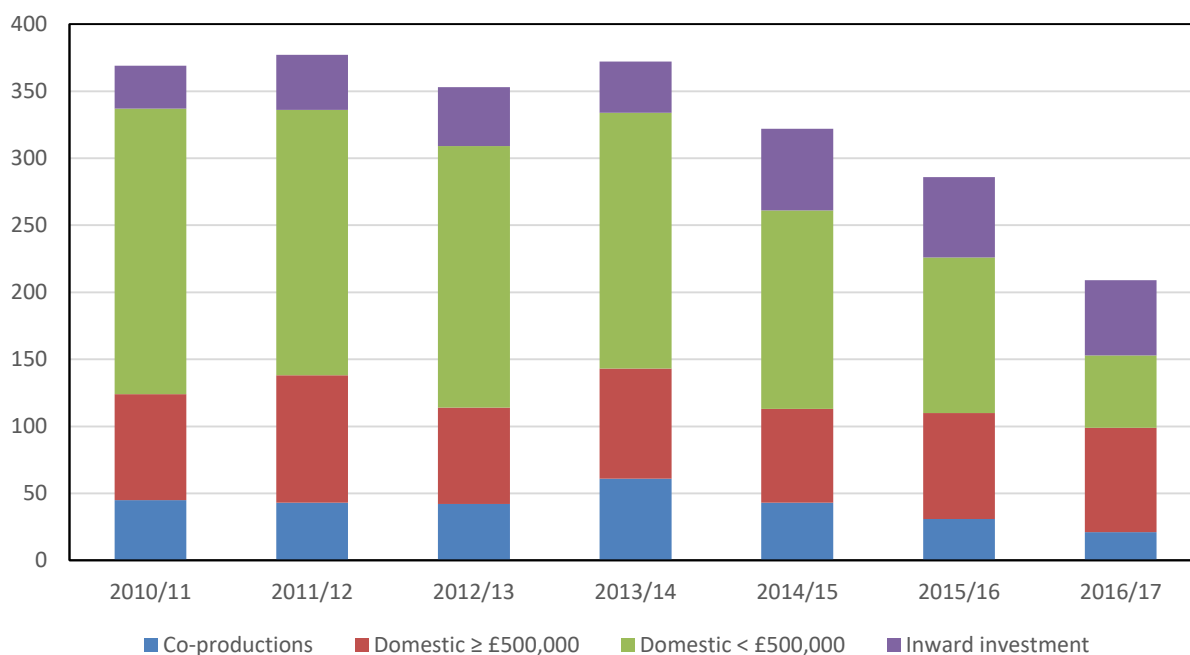
Source: BFI

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, 2010/11 to 2016/17



Source: BFI

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

3. High-end television production in the UK

Seventeen high-end television programmes (HETV) started principal photography in the first quarter of 2017, with a total spend in the UK of £145 million. Titles included *Philip K Dick's Electric Dreams*, *The Woman in White* and *Victoria - Series 2*.

Domestic HETV programmes accounted for 53% of spend in the UK (£77 million) with Inward Investment HETV accounting for 47% (£68 million) (Table 4).

Table 4 Number and UK spend of high-end television programmes produced in the UK, Q1 2017

	UK spend £ million	Number of programmes
Co-production	-	-
Domestic UK	77.1	10
Inward Investment	67.7	7
Total	144.8	17

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).

Across the last four rolling years the total spend in the UK has consistently risen, in 2013/14 it was £630 million rising to £830 million in 2016/17. In the latest rolling year (April 2016 to March 2017), inward investment and co-productions made up 62% of spend in the UK, while domestic UK productions accounted for 38% (Table 5).

Table 5 UK spend of high-end television programmes produced in the UK, Rolling Years: April- March 2013/14 – 2016/17

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Domestic UK	291.7	342.1	383.3	318.8
Inward investment and co-production	338.5	305.6	401.2	511.2
Total	630.2	647.7	784.5	830.0

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.

Between 2013/14 and 2015/16, the number of HETV productions rose from 73 to 99. In the latest rolling year (April 2016 to March 2017), domestic UK productions accounted for 38% of productions in the UK while inward investment and co-productions made up 40% (Table 6).

Table 6 Number of high-end television programmes produced in the UK, Rolling Years: April- March 2013/14 – 2016/17

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Domestic UK	53	60	65	59
Inward investment and co-production	20	34	24	40
Total	73	94	89	99

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, 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.

Statistics on **Video Games**, **Television Animation** and **Children's Television** will be reported in the release: British film and other screen sectors certification Q1 2017 (Publication Date; 11th May 2017).

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 five 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

6. Pre-release Access

This release has been prepared according to the Code of Practice for Official Statistics published by the UK Statistics Authority (2010). Pre-release access has been granted to the following:

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