

# Film production in the UK – full year 2012 report

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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## 1. Total film production in the UK

The aggregate UK spend of features that commenced principal photography in 2012 was £927 million, down from £1,297 million in 2011. Inward investment films contributed £631 million, domestic UK films £223 million and co-productions £73 million (Table 1 and Figure 1).

**Table 1 UK spend of features produced in the UK, 2008 - 2012, £ million**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Co-productions	51.5	38.5	74.6	62.3	73.2
Domestic UK features	235.7	249.5	201.6	192.4	223.5
Inward investment feature films	434.7	834.6	1,015.7	1,042.7	630.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>721.9</b>	<b>1,122.7</b>	<b>1,291.9</b>	<b>1,297.4</b>	<b>927.3</b>

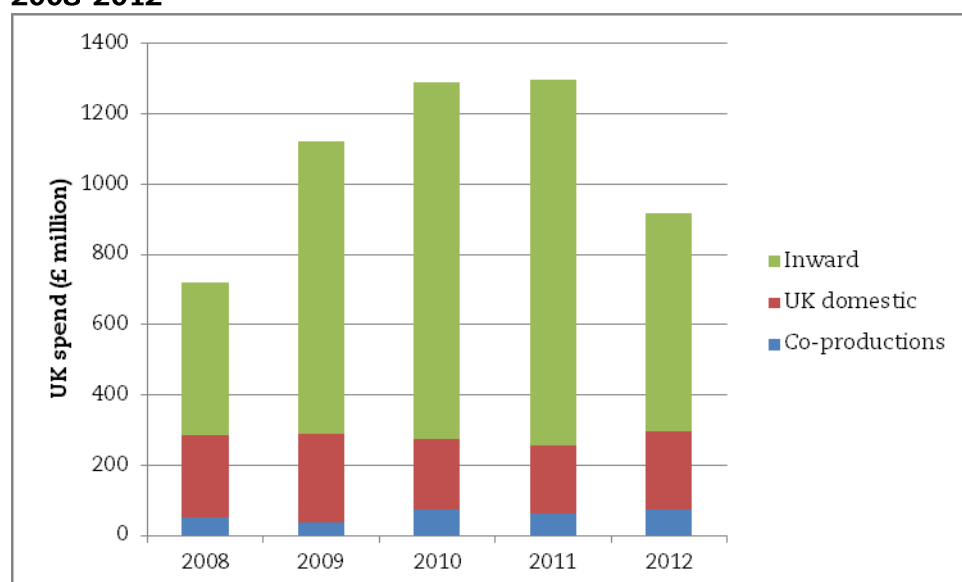
Source: BFI

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

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

Films at all budget levels are included in this analysis. For pre-2008 data restricted to films with budgets  $\geq$ £500,000 see the BFI 2012 Statistical Yearbook [www.bfi.org.uk/statisticalyearbook2012](http://www.bfi.org.uk/statisticalyearbook2012).

**Figure 1 Value of UK spend of inward, domestic, co-production and total features, 2008-2012**



Source: BFI

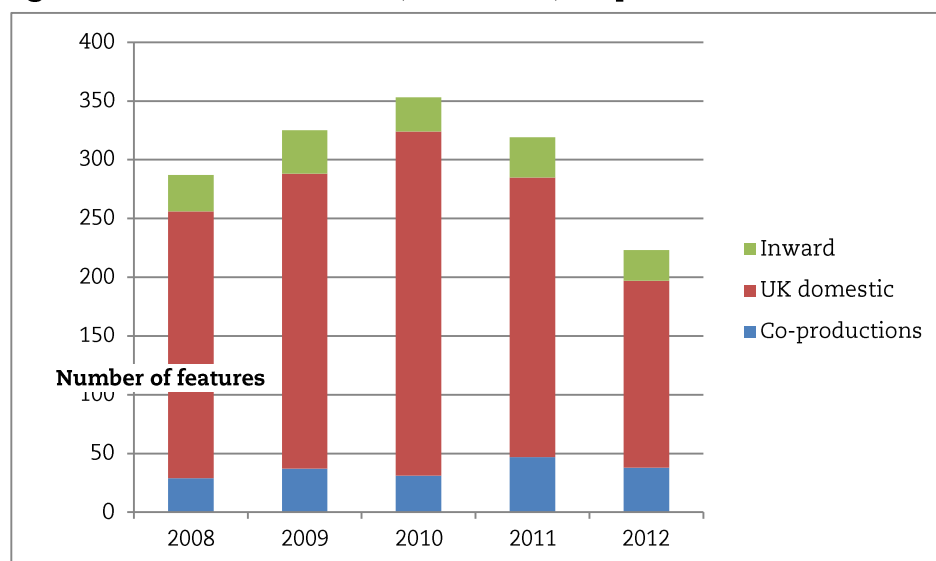
In 2012, there were 223 films produced in whole or part in the UK. Of these, 38 were co-productions, 159 were domestic UK features (of which 94 had budgets under £500,000) and 26 were inward investment films (Table 2 and Figure 2). The number of domestic productions made with budgets greater than or equal to £500,000 declined from 82 to 65, while the number of lower budget titles fell from 156 to 94. However, the latter can be explained in part by a time lag in obtaining detailed information on all low and micro-budget activity in the UK. For example, in 2011 the recorded number of low budget productions increased by 27% between the publication of the full year statistics release and the 2012 Statistical Yearbook.

**Table 2 Number of features produced in the UK, 2008 - 2012**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Co-productions	29	37	31	47	38
Domestic UK features	227	251	293	238	159
of which budgets >=£500,000	83	88	79	82	65
of which budgets <£500,000	144	163	214	156	94
Inward investment feature films	31	37	29	34	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>223</b>

Source: BFI  
See notes to Table 1.

**Figure 2 Number of inward, domestic, co-production and total features, 2008-2012**



Source: BFI

Significant inward investment titles in 2012 included *All You Need Is Kill*, *The Fast and the Furious 6*, *Jack Ryan*, *Maleficent* and *Thor: The Dark World*.

Domestic UK titles in 2012 included *Belle*, *Cuban Fury*, *The Double*, *How I Live Now*, *Les Misérables*, *The Look of Love*, *Sunshine on Leith* and *Spike Island*.

Co-productions in 2012 included *A Long Way Down*, *I Give It A Year*, *Long Walk to Freedom* and *The Railway Man*.

## 2. UK and non-UK Films

In 2012, UK films accounted for £900 million out of a total UK spend of £927 million, as shown in Table 3. This reflects the fact that most inward investment titles are UK-qualifying films.

**Table 3 UK spend of UK and non-UK features produced in the UK, 2008 - 2012, £ million**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Non-UK films	24.3	47.7	21.9	43.1	27.0
UK films	697.7	1,075.0	1,270.0	1,254.2	900.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>721.9</b>	<b>1,122.7</b>	<b>1,291.9</b>	<b>1,297.4</b>	<b>927.3</b>

Source: BFI

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

UK films are those that are certified as UK or are de facto UK films by virtue of being made in whole or part in the UK by UK production companies.

Non-UK films are films that are produced and financed by overseas companies and are not certified as UK films.

Table 4 shows the production numbers for UK and non-UK films over the period 2008-2012. In 2012, 218 of the 223 films tracked were UK films; 5 were non-UK films.

**Table 4 Number of UK and non-UK features produced in the UK, 2008 - 2012**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Non-UK films	15	25	6	15	5
UK films	272	300	347	304	218
<b>Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>223</b>

Source: BFI

See notes to Table 3.

## 3. US studio and independent films

The majority of UK spend (68%) was accounted for by US studio films (Table 5).

**Table 5 UK spend of US studio and independent films produced in the UK, 2008 - 2012, £ million**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
US Studio films	431.2	814.4	989.4	1,027.7	629.6
Independent films	290.8	308.3	302.5	269.7	297.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>721.9</b>	<b>1,122.7</b>	<b>1,291.9</b>	<b>1,297.4</b>	<b>927.3</b>

Source: BFI

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

A US studio film is one where one of the major US studios (or one of its specialist subsidiaries) is involved in the production stage of the film.

An independent film is one 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.

Table 6 shows the breakdown between US studio films and independent films. Every year the majority of films were independent films, with 14 (6%) US studio-backed films in 2012.

**Table 6 Number of US studio and independent films produced in the UK, 2008 - 2012**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
US Studio films	24	26	18	20	14
Independent films	263	299	335	299	209
<b>Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>223</b>

Source: BFI  
See notes to Table 5.

#### 4. Independent UK films by category

Table 7 shows the UK spend by category for independent UK films. The aggregate UK spend increased from £258 million in 2011 to £271 million in 2012.

**Table 7 UK spend of UK independent films by category, 2008 – 2012, £ million**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Co-productions	50.4	35.7	74.1	43.5	73.1
Domestic UK features	161.9	205.5	170.6	170.6	122.2
Inward investment feature films	75.3	61.7	37.9	44.2	75.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>287.7</b>	<b>302.9</b>	<b>282.7</b>	<b>258.2</b>	<b>270.7</b>

Source: BFI

Most independent UK films were domestic UK features or co-productions. A minority were inward investment features (Table 9). The latter were mainly Indian or independent US films produced in the UK and officially certified as UK films.

**Table 9 Number of UK independent films by category, 2008 - 2012**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Co-productions	27	31	30	40	37
Domestic UK features	222	248	291	237	153
of which budgets under £500,000	144	163	214	156	94
Inward investment feature films	9	7	10	13	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>204</b>

Source: BFI

## 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.

### 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 feature is a feature 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) 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 feature** is a feature film 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 features are UK films 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.

**Inward investment (INW)** is the total of inward features, inward feature co-productions and VFX-only inward investment films. These are summed as the number of inward co-productions is usually low, so showing their budgets or UK spend separately would be disclosive.

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**

Individual film titles are not disclosed when the number of productions (co-production, domestic or inward) is low.

#### **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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