



# TOP FILMS IN 2015

Image: *Legend* courtesy of StudioCanal



# TOP FILMS IN 2015

Three of the top four films released at the UK box office in 2015 were UK qualifying productions. The year's top title, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, became the highest earning film of all time in the UK with gross receipts of more than £122 million.

## FACTS IN FOCUS

- ▶ The biggest film of the year was *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* with takings of over £122 million, a new UK box office record.
- ▶ Sixteen films earned £20 million or over at the UK box office in 2015, two more than in 2014.
- ▶ Eight UK qualifying films featured in the top 20 films of the year, one of which was an independent UK film.
- ▶ *Legend*, with takings of £18 million, was the highest earning independent UK film of the year.
- ▶ The top 20 UK films grossed £511 million, 41% of the total UK box office.
- ▶ Independent UK films accounted for 16% of the total box office for the top 20 UK films, compared with 54% in 2014.
- ▶ Eleven UK qualifying films spent a total of 20 weeks at the top of the UK weekend box office charts.
- ▶ The box office revenue generated from 3D film screenings was £137 million. This was 11% of the overall box office, down from 12% in 2014.

## THE TOP 20 FILMS

The top performing release at the box office in the UK and Republic of Ireland in 2015 was *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, with earnings (to 21 February 2016) of over £122 million. Currently the all-time highest earning film at the UK box office, the latest instalment from the Star Wars franchise grossed more in its first four days alone (£34 million) than the final tallies of 12 of the titles in the year's top 20 chart. The second most popular release was the latest James Bond outing, *SPECTRE*, which earned £95 million, the third highest gross of all time at the UK box office, and a figure which ordinarily would have seen it top the annual chart. In addition to the leading two earners, six other UK qualifying films featured in the top 20, one of which was an independent title. There were five UK titles in the top 20 films of 2014, three of which were independent films.

Sixteen films earned £20 million or over at the UK box office in 2015, an increase from 14 in 2014 (Table 1). Sequels and franchises accounted for 12 of the top 20 films, the same as in 2014.

Action was the most popular genre in the 2015 list of top 20 films, in terms of both number of releases and box office takings. It accounted for six titles, including *SPECTRE*, *Jurassic World* and *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, which between them earned £285 million. Animation was in second place, again in terms of both number of releases and total box office takings, grossing £153 million from five releases. The record-breaking gross earned by *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* together with the takings from *The Martian* made sci-fi the third highest earning genre in the top 20 with £146 million.

**Table 1 Box office results for the top 20 films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2015**

	Title	Country of origin	Box office gross (£ million)	Number of opening weekend cinemas	Opening weekend gross (£ million)	Distributor
1	<i>Star Wars: The Force Awakens*</i>	UK/USA	122.3	676	34.0 +	Walt Disney
2	<i>SPECTRE*</i>	UK/USA	95.2	651	41.3 +	Sony Pictures
3	<i>Jurassic World*</i>	USA	64.5	619	19.4 +	Universal
4	<i>Avengers: Age of Ultron</i>	UK/USA	48.3	585	18.0 +	Walt Disney
5	<i>Minions*</i>	USA/Fra	47.7	601	11.7	Universal
6	<i>Inside Out*</i>	USA	39.3	608	7.4	Walt Disney
7	<i>Fast &amp; Furious 7</i>	USA	38.6	537	12.7	Universal
8	<i>Fifty Shades of Grey</i>	USA	35.1	585	13.6	Universal
9	<i>The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2</i>	USA/Ger	29.2	579	11.3 +	Lionsgate
10	<i>Home</i>	USA	25.4	531	6.0 +	20th Century Fox
11	<i>The Martian*</i>	UK/USA	23.5	582	6.6 +	20th Century Fox
12	<i>The Theory of Everything</i>	UK/USA	21.7	532	3.7 +	Universal
13	<i>Cinderella</i>	UK/USA	21.3	556	3.8	Walt Disney
14	<i>Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation</i>	UK/USA	21.2	572	5.4 +	Paramount
15	<i>Big Hero 6</i>	USA	20.7	501	4.3	Walt Disney
16	<i>Hotel Transylvania 2</i>	USA	20.4	563	6.3 +	Sony Pictures
17	<i>Legend</i>	UK/Fra/USA#	18.4	522	5.2 +	StudioCanal
18	<i>Taken 3</i>	Fra	17.8	483	6.7 +	20th Century Fox
19	<i>Pitch Perfect 2</i>	USA	17.4	497	5.0 +	Universal
20	<i>Mad Max: Fury Road</i>	USA/Aus	17.4	546	4.5 +	Warner Bros

Source: comScore, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative total up to 21 February 2016.

\* Film still on release on 21 February 2016.

# Film made with independent (non-studio) US support or with the independent arm of a US studio.

+ Film had an extended opening weekend (the largest of which was a seven-day opening for *SPECTRE*).

## THE TOP 20 UK QUALIFYING FILMS

The top 20 UK films of 2015, shown in Table 2, had a combined gross of £511 million, which was 41% of the total UK box office. This was more than double the £239 million earned by the top 20 UK films released in 2014 (22% of the total box office) and is the highest combined box office gross for the top 20 UK films of any year since our records began. Fifteen UK films grossed more than £10 million in 2015, nine more than in 2014. The list is dominated by UK/USA collaborations, most of which were studio-backed productions. Six of the top 20 titles were UK independent films, four less than in 2014, and they accounted for 16% of the total box office for the top 20 UK films, a large decrease on 2014's 54% when the two highest earning UK films were independent titles.

The range of genres in the top 20 illustrates the variety of UK film production. The top UK qualifying release of 2015 was a sci-fi film and eight other genres were represented, including adventure, animation, biopic and comedy. Action, with a combined box office gross of nearly £193 million from five releases, was the highest earning genre in the chart.

**Table 2 Box office results for the top 20 UK qualifying films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2015**

Title	Country of origin	Box office gross (£ million)	Distributor
1 Star Wars: The Force Awakens*	UK/USA	122.3	Walt Disney
2 SPECTRE*	UK/USA	95.2	Sony Pictures
3 Avengers: Age of Ultron	UK/USA	48.3	Walt Disney
4 The Martian*	UK/USA	23.5	20th Century Fox
5 The Theory of Everything	UK/USA	21.7	Universal
6 Cinderella	UK/USA	21.3	Walt Disney
7 Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation	UK/USA	21.2	Paramount
8 Legend	UK/Fra/USA#	18.4	StudioCanal
9 Kingsman: The Secret Service	UK/USA	16.6	20th Century Fox
10 Ant-Man	UK/USA	16.3	Walt Disney
11 The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel	UK/USA#	16.0	20th Century Fox
12 Shaun the Sheep the Movie	UK/Fra	13.8	StudioCanal
13 The Lady in the Van*	UK/USA#	13.0	Sony Pictures
14 Terminator Genisys	UK/USA	11.1	Paramount
15 Everest	UK/USA/Ice	10.7	Universal
16 Into the Woods	UK/USA/Can	9.9	Walt Disney
17 Suffragette*	UK	9.9	Pathé
18 Pan*	UK/USA	9.2	Warner Bros
19 The Man from U.N.C.L.E.	UK/USA	6.5	Warner Bros
20 Far from the Madding Crowd	UK/USA#	6.2	20th Century Fox

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative total up to 21 February 2016.

\* Film still on release on 21 February 2016.

# Film made with independent (non-studio) US support or with the independent arm of a US studio.

## THE TOP 20 UK INDEPENDENT FILMS

The top 20 UK independent films of 2015, shown in Table 3, had a combined gross of £117 million, which was 9% of the total UK box office, a decrease on the 14% seen in 2014. Just over half of this total was earned by the top four independent releases, each of which grossed over £10 million. In 2014, three independent UK releases earned over £10 million, two of which (*Paddington* and *The Inbetweeners 2*) grossed over £30 million.

As in previous years the top 20 UK independent films had the widest variety of genres of all three top 20 charts, including comedy, horror, mystery, romance, sci-fi and thriller. Generating £36.5 million from four releases, biopic was the biggest earner followed by drama with £22.4 million from five releases. The list includes one animation – *Shaun the Sheep the Movie* and one documentary – *Amy*.

**Table 3 Box office results for the top 20 UK independent films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2015**

	Title	Country of origin	Box office gross (£ million)	Distributor
1	Legend	UK/Fra/USA <sup>#</sup>	18.4	StudioCanal
2	The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel	UK/USA <sup>#</sup>	16.0	20th Century Fox
3	Shaun the Sheep the Movie	UK/Fra	13.8	StudioCanal
4	The Lady in the Van*	UK/USA <sup>#</sup>	13.0	Sony Pictures
5	Suffragette*	UK	9.9	Pathé
6	Far from the Madding Crowd	UK/USA <sup>#</sup>	6.2	20th Century Fox
7	Brooklyn*	UK/Can/Ire	5.6	Lionsgate
8	The Woman in Black: Angel of Death	UK/Can/USA <sup>#</sup>	5.0	eOne Films
9	Amy	UK	3.8	Altitude
10	Spooks: The Greater Good	UK	3.3	20th Century Fox
11	Ex Machina	UK/USA <sup>#</sup>	2.9	Universal
12	Woman in Gold	UK/USA <sup>#</sup>	2.9	Entertainment
13	Macbeth	UK/Fra	2.9	StudioCanal
14	Mr Holmes	UK/USA <sup>#</sup>	2.7	eOne Films
15	Testament of Youth	UK	2.2	Lionsgate
16	The Bad Education Movie	UK	2.0	Entertainment
17	45 Years	UK	1.8	Curzon Artificial Eye
18	A Little Chaos	UK	1.6	Lionsgate
19	The Lobster	UK/Fra/Gre	1.5	Picturehouse/Element
20	A Royal Night Out	UK	1.5	Lionsgate

Source: comScore, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative total up to 21 February 2016.

\* Film still on release on 21 February 2016.

<sup>#</sup> Film made with independent (non-studio) US support or with the independent arm of a US studio.

## THE TOP 3D FILMS

Thirty-four 3D films were released in 2015, generating £137 million (to 21 February 2016) from their 3D screenings. This aggregate gross from 3D screenings represents 11% of the UK and Republic of Ireland box office, down from 12% in 2014.

The top 20 3D releases in 2015 are listed in Table 4. *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* had the highest 3D takings whilst *Paranormal Activity: Ghost Dimension 3D*, at 68%, had the highest proportion of total gross from 3D screens. (The 3D grosses in the table do not include takings from IMAX screenings.) On average the percentage of films' total box office taken in 3D screenings has decreased from a high point in 2010. Excluding films which were shown only on 3D screens, the median 3D takings as a percentage of total takings has fallen from 71% in 2010 to 25% in 2015. This suggests that overall enthusiasm for the 3D format is waning.

**Table 4 Top 20 3D releases in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2015 (ranked by 3D gross)**

	Title	Total gross (£ million)	3D gross (£ million)	3D as % of total gross	Number of 3D sites	Distributor
1	Star Wars: The Force Awakens*	122.3	34.6	28	546	Walt Disney
2	Jurassic World*	64.5	20.6	32	511	Universal
3	Avengers: Age of Ultron	48.3	13.2	27	504	Walt Disney
4	The Martian*	23.5	8.0	34	462	20th Century Fox
5	Minions*	47.7	7.7	16	476	Universal
6	Inside Out*	39.3	4.9	13	490	Walt Disney
7	Mad Max: Fury Road	17.4	4.8	28	450	Warner Bros
8	The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2	29.2	3.9	14	472	Lionsgate
9	Everest	10.7	3.9	36	488	Universal
10	San Andreas	11.5	3.8	33	424	Warner Bros
11	Big Hero 6	20.7	3.6	18	432	Walt Disney
12	Home	25.4	3.2	13	402	20th Century Fox
13	Ant-Man	16.3	3.1	19	446	Walt Disney
14	Terminator: Genisys	11.1	2.9	26	441	Paramount
15	Paranormal Activity: Ghost Dimension 3D	4.0	2.7	68	362	Paramount
16	Hotel Transylvania 2	20.4	1.8	9	373	Sony Pictures
17	Poltergeist	4.0	1.8	46	369	20th Century Fox
18	Jupiter Ascending	4.4	1.6	37	355	Warner Bros
19	Pan*	9.2	1.6	17	413	Warner Bros
20	The Divergent Series: Insurgent	8.0	1.6	20	388	eOne Films

Source: comScore

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative total up to 21 February 2016.

\* Film still on release on 21 February 2016.

The 3D grosses do not include takings from IMAX screenings, but IMAX revenues contribute to the total gross.

The recent growth of the IMAX market in the UK means we are now able to extend our coverage to include data on large format 3D box office results for the first time. Table 5 lists the top 20 3D releases on IMAX-enabled screens in 2015. The total box office gross generated by 3D IMAX screenings in 2015 was £31 million, which was 2% of the overall box office. (This is double the total of £16 million achieved in 2014.) Almost half of 2015's 3D IMAX earnings were generated by the year's top film, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (£15 million).

When combining 3D and 3D IMAX revenues, two films took over half of their total box office from these screenings, *The Walk* (75%) and *Everest* (51%), whereas one film – *Paranormal Activity: Ghost Dimension 3D* – earned more than half its final box office total from non-IMAX 3D screenings alone. The figures suggest that while audiences are increasingly selective about which films they choose to watch in the 3D format, they will still pay premium prices for new technologies that are perceived to offer an enhanced film-going experience.

**Table 5 3D IMAX releases in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2015 (ranked by IMAX 3D gross)**

	Title	Total gross (£ million)	IMAX 3D gross (£ million)	IMAX 3D as % of total gross	Number of IMAX 3D sites	Distributor
1	Star Wars: The Force Awakens*	122.3	14.5	12	41	Walt Disney
2	Jurassic World*	64.5	5.4	8	36	Universal
3	Avengers: Age of Ultron	48.3	3.5	7	33	Walt Disney
4	Everest	10.7	1.5	15	39	Universal
5	Mad Max: Fury Road	17.4	1.5	9	32	Warner Bros
6	Terminator: Genisys	11.1	0.9	8	35	Paramount
7	Ant-Man	16.3	0.9	6	35	Walt Disney
8	Jupiter Ascending	4.4	0.6	13	31	Warner Bros
9	San Andreas	11.5	0.5	4	33	Warner Bros
10	The Walk	1.4	0.4	30	38	Sony Pictures
11	Big Hero 6	20.7	0.3	1	32	Walt Disney
12	The Divergent Series: Insurgent	8.0	0.3	4	31	eOne Films
13	Pixels	8.4	0.2	3	35	Sony Pictures
14	Seventh Son	0.9	0.1	10	32	Universal
15	Inside Out*	39.3	0.1	<1	1	Walt Disney
16	The Martian*	23.5	<0.1	<1	18	20th Century Fox

Source: comScore

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative total up to 21 February 2016.

\* Film still on release on 21 February 2016.

The 3D grosses do not include takings from IMAX screenings, but IMAX revenues contribute to the total gross.

Again, looking at box office earnings for 3D screenings excluding IMAX revenues, if we compare the average takings per site for 3D sites with the average takings for 2D sites for a particular film, it provides a measure of the relative popularity of 3D viewings compared with 2D viewings for that film. Looking at the ratio of 3D site averages to 2D site averages, the higher the value the more popular were the film's 3D viewings compared with its 2D viewings.

Table 6 shows the top 20 films ranked by this ratio of 3D average box office per site to 2D average box office per site. The list includes the top films by this ranking from 3D films released between 2012 and 2015 which were shown at a minimum of five sites in both 3D and 2D formats. Ten of the films in the list are 2012 releases, seven are 2013 releases and three are 2014 releases. Tellingly there are no 2015 releases in the list. The chart again suggests that enthusiasm for the 3D format is diminishing.

**Table 6 Top 20 3D films ranked by ratio of 3D site average box office to 2D site average box office, 2012-2015**

	Title	Year of release	3D gross (£ 000)	3D sites	3D site average (£)	2D gross (£ 000)	2D sites	2D site average (£)	Ratio of 3D site average to 2D site average
1	Cathedrals of Culture	2014	13	11	1,182	<1	5	50	23.6
2	Gravity	2013	25,733	506	50,856	2,581	430	6,003	8.5
3	Monsters, Inc. 3D	2013	2,247	365	6,157	208	180	1,155	5.3
4	Kochadaiiyaan	2014	68	5	13,584	89	33	2,705	5.0
5	Dredd	2012	4,238	383	11,066	127	52	2,435	4.5
6	Finding Nemo 3D	2013	1,118	330	3,388	128	171	749	4.5
7	Life of Pi	2012	23,981	439	54,626	5,894	454	12,983	4.2
8	Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away	2013	148	186	793	8	40	201	3.9
9	Texas Chainsaw 3D	2013	1,922	270	7,117	74	40	1,841	3.9
10	The Darkest Hour	2012	1,188	340	3,495	136	137	989	3.5
11	Silent Hill: Revelation 3D	2012	1,602	318	5,038	247	169	1,464	3.4
12	Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters	2013	2,939	376	7,817	468	195	2,402	3.3
13	Kac Wawa	2012	54	42	1,282	16	40	402	3.2
14	Beauty and the Beast 3D	2012	2,648	365	7,253	339	137	2,472	2.9
15	I, Frankenstein	2014	1,170	359	3,260	222	189	1,175	2.8
16	Doctor Who: The Day of the Doctor	2013	1,777	407	4,366	58	33	1,764	2.5
17	Wrath of the Titans	2012	5,202	401	12,973	2,240	400	5,600	2.3
18	John Carter	2012	3,316	418	7,932	927	270	3,432	2.3
19	Raaz 3D	2012	132	16	8,269	70	19	3,674	2.3
20	Prometheus	2012	15,610	441	35,398	7,372	462	15,957	2.2

Source: Rentrak

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative total up to 21 February 2016.

Includes films that were shown at a minimum of five 3D and five 2D sites.

The 3D and 2D box office grosses are shown rounded to the nearest £1,000, but site averages and ratios of site averages are calculated from unrounded data.

The 3D grosses do not include takings from IMAX screenings.

Data updated since publication of the 2015 Statistical Yearbook.



## BEST WEEKEND PERFORMANCES OF UK FILMS

A total of 29 films topped the UK weekend box office charts over the course of 2015. Eleven of these were UK titles, which spent a total of 20 weeks at number one (Table 7). In 2014, six UK films achieved the number one slot in the weekend charts for a total of nine weeks.

Three of the UK films, including the independent title *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, topped the weekend charts for three consecutive weeks while a further three topped the charts for two weeks, although one of these, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, was to continue as the number one film in the weekend charts for a further two weeks in January 2016.

*The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* and *Legend* were the only two UK independent films to hold the number one spot in 2015. Their combined four-week run matched the total achieved in 2014 by *The Inbetweeners 2* and *Paddington* which both held the top spot for two weeks.

**Table 7 UK films at number one in the weekend box office charts, 2015**

Title	First week at top	Opening weekend gross (£ million)	Box office gross (£ million)	Distributor	Number of weeks at number one
The Theory of Everything	02/01/2015	3.7	21.7	Universal	1
The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel	27/02/2015	3.8	16.0	20th Century Fox	3
Cinderella	27/03/2015	3.8	21.3	Walt Disney	1
Avengers: Age of Ultron	24/04/2015	18.0	48.3	Walt Disney	3
Ant-Man	17/07/2015	4.0	16.3	Walt Disney	1
Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation	31/07/2015	5.4	21.2	Paramount	1
Legend	11/09/2015	5.2	18.4	StudioCanal	1
Everest	18/09/2015	3.2	10.7	Universal	2
The Martian*	02/10/2015	6.6	23.5	20th Century Fox	2
SPECTRE*	30/10/2015	41.3	95.2	Sony Pictures	3
Star Wars: The Force Awakens*+	18/12/2015	34.0	122.3	Walt Disney	2

Source: comScore, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative total up to 21 February 2016.

\* Film still on release on 21 February 2016.

+ *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* continued at number one for a further two weeks in January 2016.



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