

A scene from the movie 'The Imitation Game' is shown in the background. Benedict Cumberbatch, as Alan Turing, is on the right, wearing a grey suit and tie, looking at a small object in his hand. On the left, a soldier in a brown military uniform and helmet is looking towards him. The setting is a trench with brick buildings in the background.

TOP FILMS OF ALL TIME AT THE UK BOX OFFICE

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Image: *The Imitation Game* courtesy of StudioCanal

TOP FILMS OF ALL TIME AT THE UK BOX OFFICE

SKYFALL REMAINS THE TOP EARNING FILM OF ALL TIME AT THE UK BOX OFFICE, WHILE TITLES BASED ON UK CHARACTERS AND STORIES CONTINUE TO LEAD THE CHART WITH 13 OF THE TOP PERFORMING 20 FILMS.

FACTS IN FOCUS

- *Skyfall* tops the list of highest grossing films at the UK box office. The top film of 2014, *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*, is at number 37 in the list.
- *Titanic* remains at the top spot in the inflation-adjusted box office chart, with *Skyfall* in second place.
- Sequels and franchise films make up 16 of the all time top 20 chart, whilst 10 are UK/USA collaborations.
- The highest grossing films of 2013 and 2014 earned less than any other top performing film of the year between 2001 and 2014.
- Three new releases, *Paddington*, *The Imitation Game* and *The Inbetweeners 2* appear in the chart of all time top independent UK films.

TOP 20 FILMS AT THE UK BOX OFFICE, 1989-2014

Table 1.1 shows the top 20 films of all time at the UK box office. The chart features no films released in 2014; the highest grossing title of the year was *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* whose takings of £41 million make it the all time 37th top earning release at the UK box office.

The list is dominated by franchise movies, including four of the eight Harry Potter titles, the first of the Hobbit trilogy, all three of the Lord of the Rings trilogy and the first three James Bond films to star Daniel Craig. Only four of the top 20 films are neither sequels nor franchise titles, namely *Avatar* (although three sequels to this film are currently in pre-production), *The Full Monty*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Titanic*. Ten of the top 20 films are UK/USA collaborations and 13 of the top 20 are based on stories and characters created by UK writers such as Ian Fleming, JK Rowling and JRR Tolkien, which shows the sustained appetite for home-grown material amongst British audiences.

RANKING ALL TIME TOP FILMS

In the absence of admissions data on individual films, top films can only be measured in terms of earnings at the box office. Inflation is a key factor affecting earnings and this needs to be borne in mind against some of the figures quoted in this report (however, some figures are adjusted for inflation). Most of this report relates to actual box office receipts from 1989 onwards (although coverage of box office figures for some high grossing films goes back to 1975), so can be categorised as all time top films since it is unlikely that anything produced before 1989 will have earned more in nominal terms.

Table 1.1 Top 20 films at the UK box office, 1989-2014

	Title	Country of origin	UK box office total (£ million)	Distributor	Year of release
1	Skyfall	UK/USA	102.9	Sony Pictures	2012
2	Avatar	USA	94.0	20th Century Fox	2009
3	Titanic [#]	USA	80.1	20th Century Fox	1998/2012
4	Toy Story 3	USA	74.0	Walt Disney	2010
5	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2	UK/USA	73.1	Warner Bros	2011
6	Mamma Mia!	UK/USA	68.5	Universal	2008
7	Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone	UK/USA	66.1	Warner Bros	2001
8	The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring	USA/NZ	63.0	Entertainment	2001
9	The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King	USA/NZ	61.1	Entertainment	2003
10	The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers	USA/NZ	57.6	Entertainment	2002
11	Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace [#]	USA	56.4	20th Century Fox	1999/2012
12	The Dark Knight Rises	UK/USA	56.3	Warner Bros	2012
13	Casino Royale	UK/USA/ Czech	55.6	Sony Pictures	2006
14	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets	UK/USA	54.8	Warner Bros	2002
15	Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest	USA	52.5	Walt Disney	2006
16	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1	UK/USA	52.5	Warner Bros	2010
17	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey	USA/NZ	52.3	Warner Bros	2012
18	The Full Monty	UK/USA	52.2	20th Century Fox	1997
19	Marvel Avengers Assemble	USA	51.9	Walt Disney	2012
20	Quantum of Solace	UK/USA	51.2	Sony Pictures	2008

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Figures have not been inflation adjusted.

Box office gross = cumulative total up to 22 February 2015.

[#] The box office grosses for *Titanic* and *Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace* include the grosses from their original releases plus the grosses from their 3D re-releases in 2012.

INFLATION-ADJUSTED TOP 20 FILMS AT THE UK BOX OFFICE, 1975-2014

Table 1.2 shows an inflation-adjusted box office chart based on the top 20 highest grossing films released in the UK since 1975 (when coverage of leading titles begins).

With the takings from its original 1998 release plus the takings from its 3D re-release in 2012, *Titanic* remains the highest grossing film of all time at the UK box office with earnings of £110 million in 2014 terms. *Skyfall* is in second place with £107 million and *Avatar* is third with £104 million.

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, one of three Harry Potter films in the list, is at number four, with inflation-adjusted earnings of £90 million. All three *Lord of the Rings* films make the chart with *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* in fifth place (£86 million). *Jaws* (1975), the oldest release in the list, is in sixth place with an adjusted gross of £81 million. Two other classic releases from the 1970s remain in the top 20: the original *Star Wars* (1977) appears at number 15 with £76 million and *Grease* (1978) is 17th with £69 million.

Table 1.2 Top 20 highest grossing films at the UK box office, 1975-2014 (inflation adjusted¹)

	Title	Country of origin	UK box office total (2014 £ million)	Distributor	Year of release
1	Titanic [#]	USA	110.0	20th Century Fox	1998/2012
2	Skyfall	UK/USA	106.5	Sony Pictures	2012
3	Avatar	USA	104.3	20th Century Fox	2009
4	Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone	UK/USA	90.2	Warner Bros	2001
5	The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring	USA/NZ	85.9	Entertainment	2001
6	Jaws	USA	81.3	UIP	1975
7	Toy Story 3	USA	79.5	Walt Disney	2010
8	The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King	USA/NZ	79.4	Entertainment	2003
9	Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace [#]	USA	77.6	20th Century Fox	1999/2012
10	Mamma Mia!	UK/USA	77.5	Universal	2008
11	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2	UK/USA	76.9	Warner Bros	2011
12	Jurassic Park	USA	76.8	UIP	1993
13	The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers	USA/NZ	76.6	Entertainment	2002
14	The Full Monty	UK/USA	75.7	20th Century Fox	1997
15	Star Wars	USA	75.7	20th Century Fox	1977
16	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets	UK/USA	72.8	Warner Bros	2002
17	Grease	USA	69.3	UIP	1978
18	Casino Royale	UK/USA/ Czech	66.6	Sony Pictures	2006
19	Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest	USA	62.9	Walt Disney	2006
20	E.T., The Extra-Terrestrial	USA	62.5	UIP	1982

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

¹ The 2014 £ is calculated using the HMT UK GDP deflator which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gdp-deflators-at-market-prices-and-money-gdp-march-2015-quarterly-national-accounts>. The basis of calculating the inflation-adjusted figures has changed since previous issues of the Yearbook.

[#] The box office grosses for *Titanic* and *Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace* include the grosses from their original releases plus the grosses from their 3D re-releases in 2012.

HIGHEST GROSSING FILMS OF THE YEAR AT THE UK BOX OFFICE, 2001-2014

Table 1.3 lists the highest grossing films of the year at the UK box office for the period 2001-2014. The years 2013 and 2014 have seen the lowest box office earnings for a top film despite recording respectively the second and fifth highest annual box office totals in the period¹. The top earning film of 2014, *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* (£41 million), had the lowest gross for a number one film during the period, while the top earner of 2013, *Despicable Me 2*, had the second lowest takings with £47.5 million. These films follow a number of years of high and record breaking box office takings for a top earning film: *Skyfall* grossed £103 million in 2012, both *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2* (2011) and *Toy Story 3* (2010) earned over £73 million and *Avatar* grossed £94 million in 2009. From 2001 to 2007 there was a downward trend in box office earnings by a top film of the year, falling from the £66 million grossed by the first Harry Potter instalment to the £50 million taken by the fifth film in the series.

Eight of the 14 top earning films of the year listed in the chart are UK/USA collaborations and 10 of the 14 titles are based on stories and characters created by UK writers.

Table 1.3 Highest grossing films of the year at the UK box office, 2001-2014

Year	Highest grossing film	Country of origin	UK box office total (£ million)	UK box office total (2014 £ million ¹)
2001	Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone	UK/USA	66.1	90.2
2002	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets	UK/USA	54.8	72.8
2003	The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King	USA/NZ	61.1	79.4
2004	Shrek 2	USA	48.2	61.0
2005	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire	UK/USA	49.2	60.5
2006	Casino Royale	UK/USA/Czech	55.6	66.6
2007	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix	UK/USA	49.9	58.0
2008	Mamma Mia!	UK/USA	68.5	77.5
2009	Avatar	USA	94.0	104.3
2010	Toy Story 3	USA	74.0	79.5
2011	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2	UK/USA	73.1	76.9
2012	Skyfall	UK/USA	102.9	106.5
2013	Despicable Me 2	USA	47.5	48.3
2014	The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies	USA/NZ	41.2	41.2

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

¹ See note to Table 1.2.

Box office gross = cumulative total up to 22 February 2015.

TOP 20 UK QUALIFYING FILMS AT THE UK BOX OFFICE, 1989-2014

The list of the all time top 20 UK films is dominated by US studio-backed features but two independent films, *The King's Speech* and *The Inbetweeners Movie*, are at numbers 16 and 17 in the list (Table 1.4). *Skyfall* is at number one and the two previous James Bond films to star Daniel Craig also appear in the top 20. All eight Harry Potter films appear in the list, with 2011's *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2* in second place.

The latest addition to the list is 2013's *Les Misérables* (£41 million), which is in 19th place. With takings of £37 million (to 22 February 2015), the highest earning UK film of 2014, *Paddington*, falls outside the top 20 at number 21. The top 11 UK films have all earned over £50 million at the UK box office.

Table 1.4 Top 20 UK qualifying films at the UK box office, 1989-2014

	Title	Country of origin	UK box office total (£ million)	Distributor	Year of release
1	<i>Skyfall</i>	UK/USA	102.9	Sony Pictures	2012
2	<i>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2</i>	UK/USA	73.1	Warner Bros	2011
3	<i>Mamma Mia!</i>	UK/USA	68.5	Universal	2008
4	<i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i>	UK/USA	66.1	Warner Bros	2001
5	<i>The Dark Knight Rises</i>	UK/USA	56.3	Warner Bros	2012
6	<i>Casino Royale</i>	UK/USA/ Czech	55.6	Sony Pictures	2006
7	<i>Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets</i>	UK/USA	54.8	Warner Bros	2002
8	<i>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1</i>	UK/USA	52.5	Warner Bros	2010
9	<i>The Full Monty</i>	UK/USA	52.2	20th Century Fox	1997
10	<i>Quantum of Solace</i>	UK/USA	51.2	Sony Pictures	2008
11	<i>Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince</i>	UK/USA	50.7	Warner Bros	2009
12	<i>Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix</i>	UK/USA	49.9	Warner Bros	2007
13	<i>Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire</i>	UK/USA	49.2	Warner Bros	2005
14	<i>The Dark Knight</i>	UK/USA	49.1	Warner Bros	2008
15	<i>Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban</i>	UK/USA	46.1	Warner Bros	2004
16	<i>The King's Speech</i>	UK	45.7	Momentum	2011
17	<i>The Inbetweeners Movie</i>	UK	45.0	Entertainment	2011
18	<i>Bridget Jones's Diary</i>	UK/USA	42.0	UIP	2001
19	<i>Les Misérables</i>	UK/USA	40.8	Universal	2013
20	<i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i>	UK/USA	37.8	Warner Bros	2005

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Figures have not been inflation adjusted.

Box office gross = cumulative total up to 22 February 2015.

TOP 20 INDEPENDENT UK FILMS AT THE UK BOX OFFICE, 1989-2014

Table 1.5 lists the top 20 all time highest earning independent (that is, made without US major studio involvement) UK titles. The two highest grossing independent British films are both 2011 releases. *The King's Speech* and *The Inbetweeners Movie* each took more than £45 million at the UK box office. Three 2014 releases appear in the list: in third place is *Paddington*, the highest grossing UK film of the year with takings of £37 million (up to 22 February 2015), *The Inbetweeners 2* is fourth with £33 million and *The Imitation Game* is ninth with £16 million (up to 22 February 2015). Nine of the top 20 UK independent films have grossed more than £15 million and each of the top five have earned over £30 million.

Table 1.5 Top 20 independent UK films at the UK box office, 1989-2014

	Title	Country of origin	UK box office total (£ million)	Distributor	Year of release
1	<i>The King's Speech</i>	UK	45.7	Momentum	2011
2	<i>The Inbetweeners Movie</i>	UK	45.0	Entertainment	2011
3	<i>Paddington*</i>	UK/Fra	36.9	StudioCanal	2014
4	<i>The Inbetweeners 2</i>	UK	33.4	Entertainment	2014
5	<i>Slumdog Millionaire</i>	UK	31.7	Pathé	2009
6	<i>Four Weddings and a Funeral</i>	UK	27.8	Carlton	1994
7	<i>The Woman in Black</i>	UK/USA/Swe [#]	21.3	Momentum	2012
8	<i>The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel</i>	UK/USA/Ind [#]	20.4	20th Century Fox	2012
9	<i>The Imitation Game*</i>	UK/USA [#]	16.2	StudioCanal	2014
10	<i>Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy</i>	UK/Fra/Ger	14.2	StudioCanal	2011
11	<i>Trainspotting</i>	UK	12.4	PolyGram	1996
12	<i>St Trinian's</i>	UK	12.3	Entertainment	2007
13	<i>Gosford Park</i>	UK/USA [#]	12.3	Entertainment	2002
14	<i>StreetDance 3D</i>	UK/Ger/Ita	11.8	Vertigo Films	2010
15	<i>Kick-Ass</i>	UK/USA [#]	11.8	Universal	2010
16	<i>Bend it Like Beckham</i>	UK/Ger	11.6	Lionsgate	2002
17	<i>Philomena</i>	UK	11.1	Pathé	2013
18	<i>Run, Fat Boy, Run</i>	UK/USA [#]	11.0	Entertainment	2007
19	<i>Kevin and Perry Go Large</i>	UK	10.5	Icon	2000
20	<i>East is East</i>	UK	10.4	Film Four	1999

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Figures have not been inflation adjusted.

Box office gross = cumulative total up to 22 February 2015.

* Film still on release on 22 February 2015.

Film made with independent (non-studio) US support.



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