

The UK box office in 2015

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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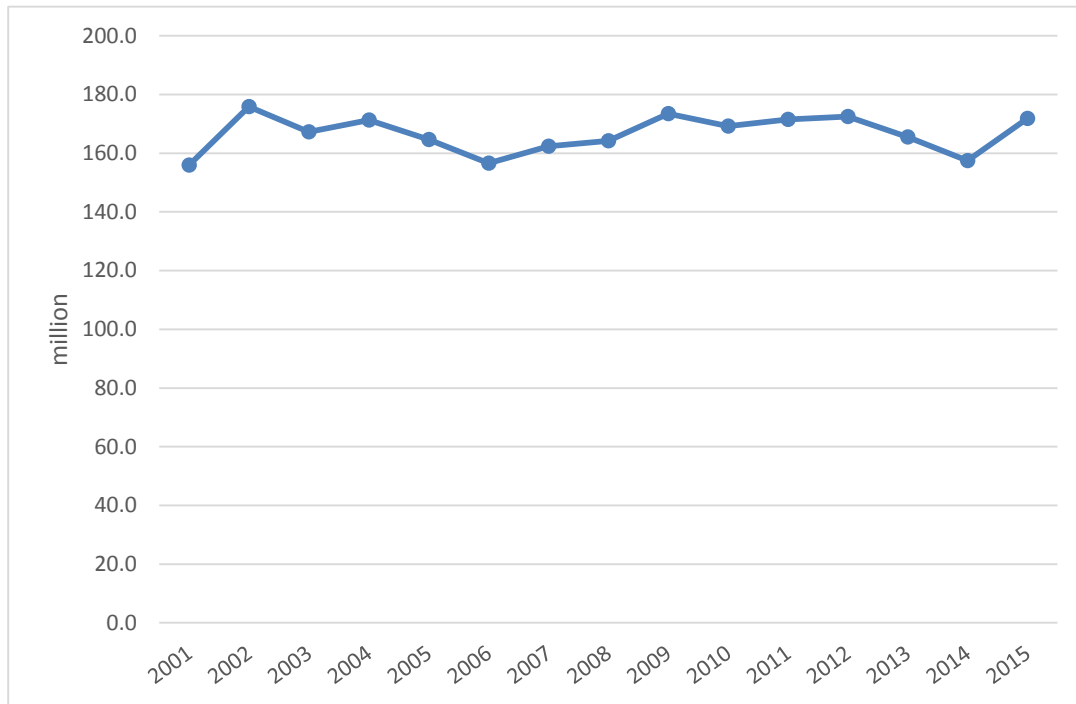
1. Key points

- UK cinema admissions in 2015 were 171.9 million, 9% higher than in 2014.
- The gross value of those ticket sales was £1,240 million, up 17% on 2014.
- The highest grossing film released in 2015 was *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, with takings of £114 million. This was followed by *SPECTRE* (£94.7 million) and *Jurassic World* (£64.5 million).
- Five films earned more than £40 million in 2015 compared with one film in 2014. Sixteen films earned £20 million or more, two more than 2014.
- *Legend* was the highest-grossing independent UK film of 2015 with takings of £18.4 million and *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* was in second place (£16 million). Eight independent UK films took £5 million or more, up from seven in 2014.
- The market share of independent UK films reached 11%, the third highest in 15 years.

2. UK cinema admissions

UK cinema admissions in 2015 were 171.9 million, 9% higher than in 2014 (Figure 1). The gross value of those ticket sales was £1,240 million, up 17% on 2014.

Figure 1 Annual UK admissions 2001-2015



Source: CAA, Rentrak

The pattern of monthly cinema admissions is outlined in Table 1.

All months except August had higher admissions in 2015 than in the corresponding month of 2014. The largest increases were in June and November, reflecting the success of *Jurassic World*, *Minions* then *SPECTRE* (a late October release) and *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2*.

The higher March and April admissions were partly due to the popularity of *Fast & Furious 7* and *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, both of which topped the box office chart for three weeks.

August 2014 was particularly strong, with several major releases delaying their release until after the FIFA World Cup of that year and August 2015 fell short of the level of ticket sales generated by *The Inbetweeners 2* and *Guardians of the Galaxy* amongst others.

The eagerly anticipated arrival of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, which broke advanced booking records, contributed to an 8% increase in December admissions.

Table 1 Monthly cinema admissions 2013-2015

	2013 (million)	2014 (million)	2015 (million)	% change on 2014
January	17.08	15.19	15.39	1.3%
February	13.96	14.33	15.16	5.8%
March	10.89	10.36	11.54	11.4%
April	11.89	12.68	15.13	19.3%
May	15.61	12.60	12.67	0.5%
June	13.03	10.40	13.25	27.4%
July	14.32	13.28	15.87	19.5%
August	17.64	17.07	14.37	-15.8%
September	9.89	8.52	9.24	8.4%
October	11.87	13.27	15.41	16.1%
November	13.67	12.69	15.41	21.4%
December	15.71	17.12	18.49	8.0%
Total	165.54	157.50	171.93	9.2%

Source: CAA, Rentrak

3. Top films released in 2015

The following analysis covers films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland in 2015, based on box office data up to and including the 17th January 2016. The highest grossing film released in 2015 was *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* which, with takings of £114 million, also became the highest grossing film in UK box office history (without adjusting for inflation). This was followed by *SPECTRE* (£94.7 million) and *Jurassic World* (£64.5 million). Sixteen films earned £20 million or more, an increase of two titles from 2014.

Table 2 Top 20 films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2015

	Title	Country of origin	Box office Gross (£m)	Distributor
1	Star Wars: The Force Awakens*	UK/USA	113.96	Walt Disney
2	SPECTRE*	UK/USA	94.74	Sony Pictures
3	Jurassic World	USA	64.48	Universal
4	The Avengers: Age of Ultron	UK/USA	48.34	Walt Disney
5	Minions	USA/Fra	47.71	Universal
6	Inside Out*	USA	39.24	Walt Disney
7	Fast & Furious 7	USA	38.64	Universal
8	Fifty Shades of Grey	USA	35.05	Universal
9	The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2*	USA/Ger	29.05	Lionsgate
10	Home	USA	25.38	20th Century Fox
11	The Martian*	UK/USA	23.51	20th Century Fox
12	The Theory of Everything	UK/USA	21.71	Universal
13	Cinderella	UK/USA	21.30	Walt Disney
14	Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation	UK/USA	21.18	Paramount
15	Big Hero 6	USA	20.68	Walt Disney
16	Hotel Transylvania 2*	USA	20.08	Sony Pictures
17	Legend	UK/Fra/USA	18.36	StudioCanal
18	Taken 3	Fra	17.78	20th Century Fox
19	Pitch Perfect 2	USA	17.41	Universal
20	Mad Max: Fury Road	USA/Aus	17.40	Warner Bros

Source: Rentrak

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 17 January 2016.

* Film still being exhibited on 17 January 2016.

UK and Republic of Ireland are a single "territory" for film distribution purposes.

4. Top UK qualifying films released in 2015

The highest-grossing UK qualifying film of 2015 was *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (Table 3). In second place was *SPECTRE* and *The Avengers: Age of Ultron* (£48.3 million) was third. Fifteen UK qualifying films took £10 million or more in 2015 (up to 17 January 2016), up from seven in 2014.

Table 3 Top 20 UK qualifying films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2015

	Title	Country of origin	Box office Gross (£m)	Distributor
1	Star Wars: The Force Awakens*	UK/USA	113.96	Walt Disney
2	SPECTRE*	UK/USA	94.74	Sony Pictures
3	The Avengers: Age of Ultron	UK/USA	48.34	Walt Disney
4	The Martian*	UK/USA	23.51	20th Century Fox
5	The Theory of Everything	UK/USA	21.71	Universal
6	Cinderella	UK/USA	21.30	Walt Disney
7	Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation	UK/USA	21.18	Paramount
8	Legend	UK/Fra/USA	18.36	StudioCanal
9	Kingsman: The Secret Service	UK/USA	16.59	20th Century Fox
10	Ant-Man	UK/USA	16.32	Walt Disney
11	The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel	UK/USA	16.01	20th Century Fox
12	Shaun the Sheep Movie	UK	13.75	StudioCanal
13	The Lady in the Van*	UK/USA	12.31	Sony Pictures
14	Terminator Genisys	UK/USA	11.09	Paramount
15	Everest	UK/USA/Ice	10.68	Universal
16	Into the Woods	UK/USA/Can	9.86	Walt Disney
17	Suffragette*	UK	9.86	Pathé
18	Pan*	UK/USA	9.12	Warner Bros
19	The Man From UNCLE	UK/USA	6.46	Warner Bros
20	Far From the Madding Crowd	UK/USA	6.21	20th Century Fox

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 17 January 2016.

* Film still being exhibited on 17 January 2016.

UK and Republic of Ireland are a single "territory" for film distribution purposes.

5. Top independent UK films released in 2015

Legend, grossing £18.4 million, was the highest-earning independent UK film of 2015 (Table 4), with *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* in second place. Eight films took £5 million or more, up from seven in 2014.

Table 4 Top 20 independent UK films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2015

	Title	Country of origin	Box office Gross (£m)	Distributor
1	<i>Legend</i>	UK/Fra/USA#	18.36	StudioCanal
2	<i>The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel</i>	UK/USA#	16.01	20th Century Fox
3	<i>Shaun the Sheep Movie</i>	UK	13.75	StudioCanal
4	<i>The Lady in the Van*</i>	UK/USA#	12.31	Sony
5	<i>Suffragette*</i>	UK	9.86	Pathé
6	<i>Far From The Madding Crowd</i>	UK/USA#	6.21	20th Century Fox
7	<i>Brooklyn*</i>	UK/Can/Ire	5.29	Lionsgate
8	<i>The Woman in Black: Angel of Death</i>	UK/Can/USA#	5.02	eOne Films
9	<i>Amy</i>	UK	3.76	Altitude
10	<i>Spooks: The Greater Good</i>	UK	3.28	20th Century Fox
11	<i>Ex Machina</i>	UK/USA#	2.89	Universal
12	<i>Woman in Gold</i>	UK/USA#	2.89	Entertainment
13	<i>Macbeth</i>	UK/Fra	2.86	StudioCanal
14	<i>Mr Holmes</i>	UK/USA#	2.63	eOne Films
15	<i>Peppa Pig: The Golden Boots</i>	UK	2.33	eOne Films
16	<i>Testament of Youth</i>	UK	2.15	Lionsgate
17	<i>The Bad Education Movie</i>	UK	2.04	Entertainment Curzon Artificial Eye
18	<i>45 Years</i>	UK	1.82	
19	<i>A Little Chaos</i>	UK	1.58	Lionsgate
20	<i>A Royal Night Out</i>	UK	1.51	Lionsgate

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 17 January 2016.

* Film still being exhibited on 17 January 2016.

Film made with independent (non-studio) US support or with the independent arm of a US studio
UK and Republic of Ireland are a single "territory" for film distribution purposes.

6. Market share of independent UK films

The market share of independent UK films reached 11%, the third highest of the last 15 years but down from 16% in 2014 which was the highest proportion since measurement began in 2001. The market share of US studio backed UK qualifying titles was 34%, the highest since our records began (Table 5). The main contributors to this share were the UK certified titles *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, *SPECTRE* and *The Avengers: Age of Ultron*.

Table 5 Theatrical market share of UK films by studio and independent titles, 2001-2015

Year	Market share of UK qualifying films produced with US studio backing (%)	Market share of UK independent films (%)
2001	21.2	3.8
2002	16.1	6.5
2003	12.5	3.4
2004	19.5	3.9
2005	26.2	6.9
2006	14.4	4.7
2007	21.8	6.8
2008	25.4	5.7
2009	8.5	8.2
2010	18.6	5.4
2011	22.6	13.1
2012	22.8	9.3
2013	15.5	6.6
2014	10.7	16.1
2015	33.9	10.6

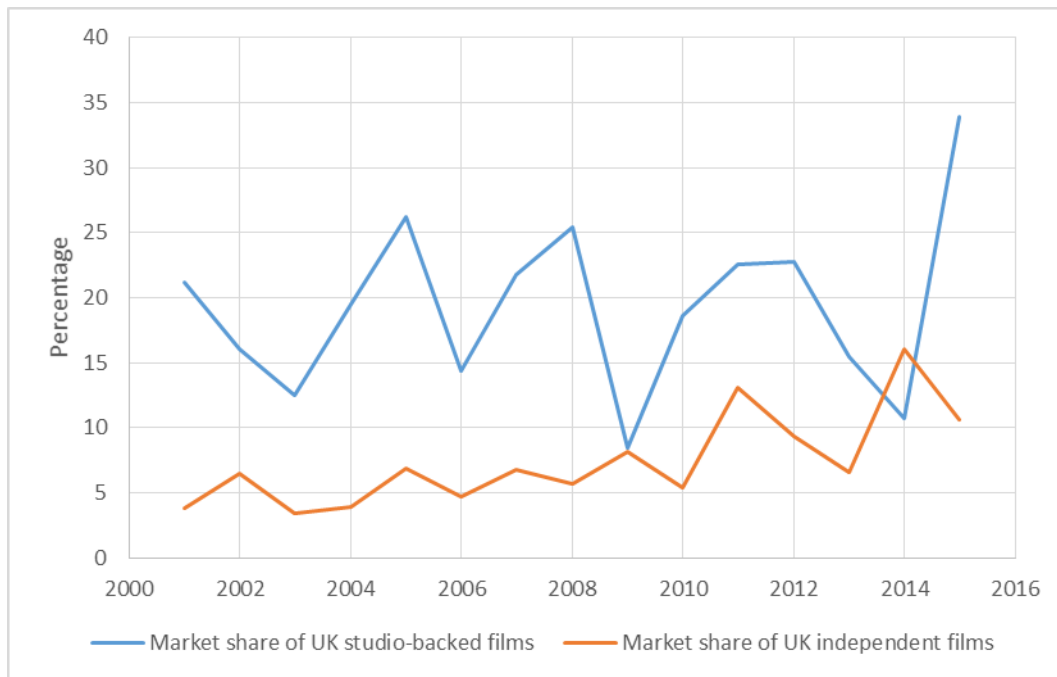
Source: BFI

Note:

2014 market share calculation based on grosses up to and including 17 January 2016

Figure 2 shows the fluctuating patterns of UK market share with the annual figure dependent on a small number of high-grossing titles. The average UK independent market share for the ten-year period from 2006-2015 was 8.7% with an upward trend from the lowest point of 3% in 2003.

Figure 2 UK qualifying films' share of the UK theatrical market 2001-2015



Source: BFI

Notes

1. Data

Admissions data supplied by the Cinema Advertising Association/Rentrak. Gross box office data supplied by Rentrak.

The value of the UK box office in 2015 (£1,240 million) refers to the gross value of UK ticket sales in the calendar year. Subsequent analysis of individual titles and market shares includes box office gross in the UK and Republic of Ireland up to and including 17 January 2016 for films released in the calendar year.

2. Definitions

Country of origin is allocated by the BFI Research and Statistics Unit. For the purposes of this analysis, a **UK film** is one which is certified as such by the UK Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under Schedule 1 of the Films Act 1985, via the Cultural Test, under one of the UK's official co-production agreements or the European Convention on Cinematographic Coproduction; a film which has not applied for certification but which is obviously British on the basis of its content, producers, finance and talent; or (in the case of a re-release) a film which met the official definition of a British film prevailing at the time it was made or was generally considered to be British at that time. Most UK films in the analysis (including the major UK/USA films) fall into the first group – films officially certified as British.

An **independent film** is produced without creative or financial input from the major US studio companies. These are Fox Entertainment Group, NBC Universal, Paramount Motion Pictures Group, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Walt Disney Motion Pictures Group and Warner Bros Entertainment.

3. 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 shown below.

4. Pre-release Access

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