

The UK box office in 2016

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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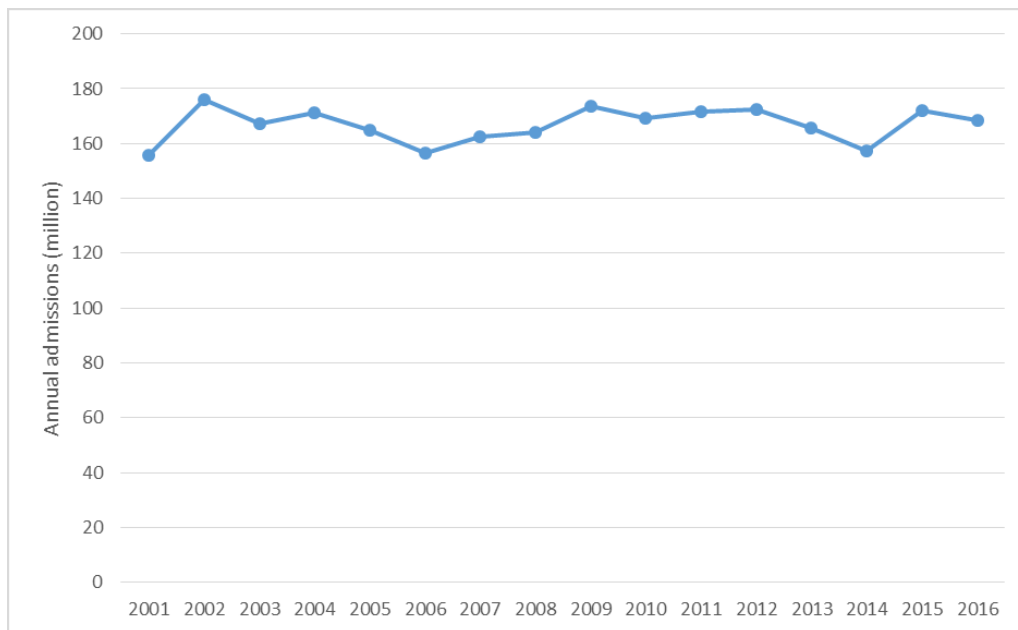
1. Key points

- UK cinema admissions in 2016 were 168 million, 2% lower than in 2015.
- The total box office in the UK and Republic of Ireland was £1,329.5 million, up 1.5% on 2015 but the UK only figure for the calendar year was down 1.1%.
- The highest grossing film released in 2016 was *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, with earnings over £64 million. This was followed by three other UK/USA titles *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* (£54 million), *Bridget Jones's Baby* (£48 million) and *The Jungle Book* (£46 million).
- Five films earned more than £40 million in 2016, the same number as in 2015. Seventeen films earned £20 million or more, one more than 2015.
- *Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie* was the highest-grossing independent UK film of 2016 with takings of £16 million followed by *Eddie the Eagle* and *Dad's Army* (£8.7 million each).
- The market share of independent UK films was 7%, with the share of US studio backed and other inward investment UK films at 27.5%.

2. UK cinema admissions

UK cinema admissions in 2016 were 168 million, 2% lower than in 2015 but slightly above the ten-year average figure of 167.7 million (Figure 1). The gross value of ticket sales in the UK and Republic of Ireland was £1,329.5 million, up 1.5% on 2015. However, the UK only figure for the calendar year was £1,227.5 million, slightly down (1.1%) from 2015 (£1,241.6 million).

Figure 1 Annual UK admissions 2001-2016



Source: CAA, comScore

The pattern of monthly cinema admissions is outlined in Table 1. Admissions in March were up 16% on the same period in 2015 due in most part to the release of *Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice*, *Zootropolis*, *Kung Fu Panda 3* and *London Has Fallen*. June's admissions fell by almost a fifth – Euro 2016 may have been a factor as well as the strength of the previous year when *Jurassic World* earned £50 million in a single month. Admissions in August and September were well ahead of 2015 – both up by around 26% - boosted by the success of *Finding Dory*, *Bridget Jones's Baby*, *Suicide Squad*, *Jason Bourne* and *The BFG*. Ticket sales in November and December could not quite match the strength of 2015's releases, which included the highest grossing film in UK history, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, and the fifth highest grossing, *SPECTRE*.

Table 1 Monthly cinema admissions 2014-2016

| | 2014 (million) | 2015 (million) | 2016 (million) | % change on 2015 |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| January | 15.19 | 15.39 | 14.03 | -8.8% |
| February | 14.33 | 15.16 | 15.35 | 1.3% |
| March | 10.36 | 11.54 | 13.39 | 16.0% |
| April | 12.68 | 15.13 | 13.13 | -13.2% |
| May | 12.60 | 12.67 | 12.50 | -1.3% |
| June | 10.40 | 13.25 | 10.71 | -19.2% |
| July | 13.28 | 15.87 | 16.59 | 4.5% |
| August | 17.07 | 14.37 | 18.09 | 25.8% |
| September | 8.52 | 9.24 | 11.66 | 26.3% |
| October | 13.27 | 15.41 | 15.19 | -1.4% |
| November | 12.69 | 15.41 | 12.40 | -19.6% |
| December | 17.12 | 18.49 | 15.22 | -17.7% |
| Total | 157.50 | 171.93 | 168.26 | -2.1% |

Source: CAA, comScore

3. Top films released in 2016

The following analysis covers films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland in 2016, based on box office data up to and including the 22nd January 2017. The highest grossing film released in 2016 was *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* which has earned over £64 million. This was followed by three other UK qualifying titles *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* (£54 million), *Bridget Jones's Baby* (£48 million) and *The Jungle Book* (£46 million). Seventeen films earned £20 million or more, an increase of one title from 2015.

Table 2 Top 20 films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2016

| | Title | Country of origin | Box office Gross (£m) | Distributor |
|----|--|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* | UK/USA | 64.3 | Walt Disney |
| 2 | Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* | UK/USA | 54.3 | Warner Bros |
| 3 | Bridget Jones's Baby* | UK/USA/Fra | 48.2 | Universal |
| 4 | The Jungle Book* | UK/USA | 46.2 | Walt Disney |
| 5 | Finding Dory* | USA | 43.0 | Walt Disney |
| 6 | Deadpool | USA | 38.1 | 20th Century Fox |
| 7 | Captain America: Civil War | USA | 37.0 | Walt Disney |
| 8 | Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice | USA | 36.6 | Warner Bros |
| 9 | The Secret Life of Pets* | USA | 36.5 | Universal |
| 10 | Suicide Squad | USA | 33.6 | Warner Bros |
| 11 | The BFG | USA | 30.8 | eOne Films |
| 12 | Zootropolis | USA | 24.0 | Walt Disney |
| 13 | Trolls* | USA | 23.8 | 20th Century Fox |
| 14 | The Girl on the Train | USA | 23.7 | eOne Films |
| 15 | The Revenant | USA/HK/Tai | 23.4 | 20th Century Fox |
| 16 | Jason Bourne | UK/USA | 23.4 | Universal |
| 17 | Doctor Strange* | UK/USA | 23.2 | Walt Disney |
| 18 | X-Men Apocalypse | USA | 18.3 | 20th Century Fox |
| 19 | Moana* | USA | 18.2 | Walt Disney |
| 20 | Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip | USA | 17.1 | 20th Century Fox |

Source: comScore

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 22 January 2017.

* Film still being exhibited on 22 January 2017.

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

4. Top UK qualifying films released in 2016

The highest-grossing UK qualifying film of 2016 was *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (Table 3). In second place was *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* and in third *Bridget Jones's Baby*.

Table 3 Top 20 UK qualifying films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2016

| | Title | Country of origin | Box office Gross (£m) | Distributor |
|----|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | <i>Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*</i> | UK/USA | 64.3 | Walt Disney |
| 2 | <i>Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*</i> | UK/USA | 54.3 | Warner Bros |
| 3 | <i>Bridget Jones's Baby*</i> | UK/USA | 48.2 | Universal |
| 4 | <i>The Jungle Book*</i> | UK/USA | 46.2 | Walt Disney |
| 5 | <i>Jason Bourne</i> | UK/USA | 23.4 | Universal |
| 6 | <i>Doctor Strange*</i> | UK/USA | 23.2 | Walt Disney |
| 7 | <i>Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie</i> | UK/USA | 16.1 | 20th Century Fox |
| 8 | <i>Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*</i> | UK/USA | 12.3 | 20th Century Fox |
| 9 | <i>London Has Fallen</i> | UK/USA | 11.0 | Lionsgate |
| 10 | <i>The Conjuring 2: The Enfield Case</i> | UK/USA | 11.0 | Warner Bros |
| 11 | <i>Alice Through the Looking Glass</i> | UK/USA | 10.0 | Walt Disney |
| 12 | <i>Me Before You</i> | UK/USA | 9.7 | Warner Bros |
| 13 | <i>The Legend of Tarzan</i> | UK/USA | 9.2 | Warner Bros |
| 14 | <i>Eddie the Eagle</i> | UK/USA/Ger | 8.7 | Lionsgate |
| 15 | <i>Dad's Army</i> | UK/USA | 8.7 | Universal |
| 16 | <i>The Danish Girl</i> | UK/Ger/Den/Bel | 7.5 | Universal |
| 17 | <i>Now You See Me 2</i> | UK/USA | 6.3 | eOne Films |
| 18 | <i>The Huntsman: Winter's War</i> | UK/USA | 5.3 | Universal |
| 19 | <i>Grimsby</i> | UK/USA | 5.3 | Sony Pictures |
| 20 | <i>Eye in the Sky</i> | UK/USA | 5.1 | eOne Films |

Source: comScore, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 22 January 2017.

* Film still being exhibited on 22 January 2017.

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

5. Top independent UK films released in 2016

Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie, grossing £16 million, was the highest-earning independent UK film of 2016 followed by *Eddie the Eagle* and *Dad's Army* (Table 4).

Table 4 Top 20 independent UK films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2016

| | Title | Country of origin | Box office Gross (£m) | Distributor |
|----|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie | UK/USA# | 16.1 | 20th Century Fox |
| 2 | Eddie the Eagle | UK/USA/Ger# | 8.7 | Lionsgate |
| 3 | Dad's Army | UK/USA# | 8.7 | Universal |
| 4 | The Danish Girl | UK/Ger/Den/Bel | 7.5 | Universal |
| 5 | Grimsby | UK/USA# | 5.3 | Sony Pictures |
| 6 | Eye in the Sky | UK/RSA | 5.1 | eOne Films |
| 7 | A Street Cat Named Bob* | UK | 4.3 | Sony Pictures |
| 8 | Brotherhood | UK | 3.7 | Lionsgate |
| 9 | David Brent: Life on the Road | UK | 3.6 | eOne Films |
| 10 | Florence Foster Jenkins* | UK/Fra | 3.2 | 20th Century Fox |
| 11 | I, Daniel Blake* | UK/Fra/Bel | 3.2 | eOne Films |
| 12 | Swallows and Amazons* | UK | 3.1 | StudioCanal |
| 13 | A United Kingdom* | UK/USA/Cze | 2.3 | 20th Century Fox |
| 14 | Bastille Day | UK/Fra/USA# | 2.0 | StudioCanal |
| 15 | High-Rise | UK/Bel | 2.0 | StudioCanal |
| 16 | Our Kind of Traitor | UK/Fra/Lux | 1.3 | StudioCanal |
| 17 | My Scientology Movie* | UK/USA# | 1.1 | Altitude |
| 18 | The Girl With All the Gifts | UK | 1.1 | Warner Bros |
| 19 | Youth | UK/Ita/Fra/Swi | 1.0 | StudioCanal |
| 20 | Criminal | UK/USA# | 0.9 | Lionsgate |

Source: comScore, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 22 January 2017.

* Film still being exhibited on 22 January 2017.

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 in 2016 was 7.4%, down from 10.5% in 2015. The market share of US studio backed UK qualifying titles and other inward investment films was 27.5%, the second highest since our records began (Table 5). The main contributors to this share were the UK certified titles *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* and *Bridget Jones's Baby*.

Table 5 Theatrical market share of UK films by studio and independent titles, 2001-2016

| Year | Market share of UK/US studio backed titles and other inward investment films (%) | 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 | 34.2 | 10.5 |
| 2016 | 27.5 | 7.4 |

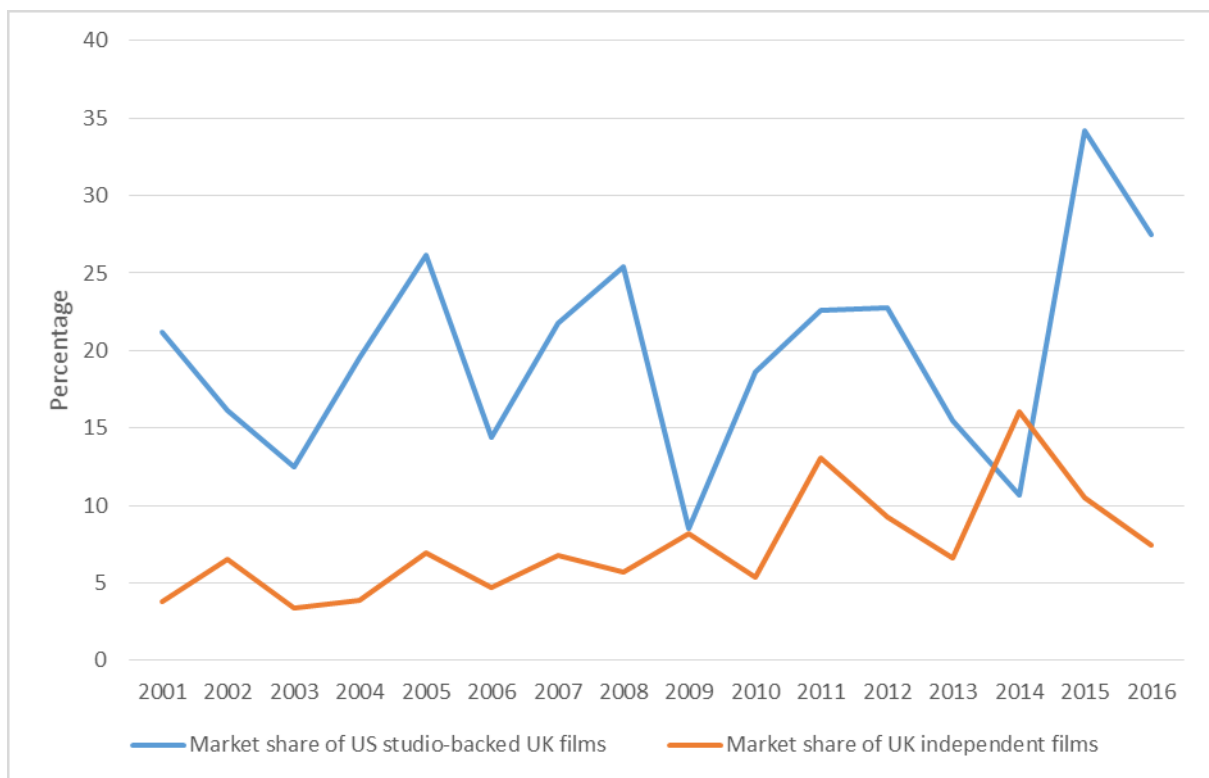
Source: BFI

Note:

2016 market share calculation based on grosses up to and including 22 January 2017

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 2007-2016 was 8.9%.

Figure 2 UK qualifying films' share of the UK theatrical market 2001-2016



Source: BFI

Notes

1. Data

Admissions data supplied by the Cinema Advertising Association/comScore. Box office data supplied by comScore.

The value of the UK box office in 2016 (£1,227.5 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 22 January 2017 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

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4. 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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