

The UK box office in 2017

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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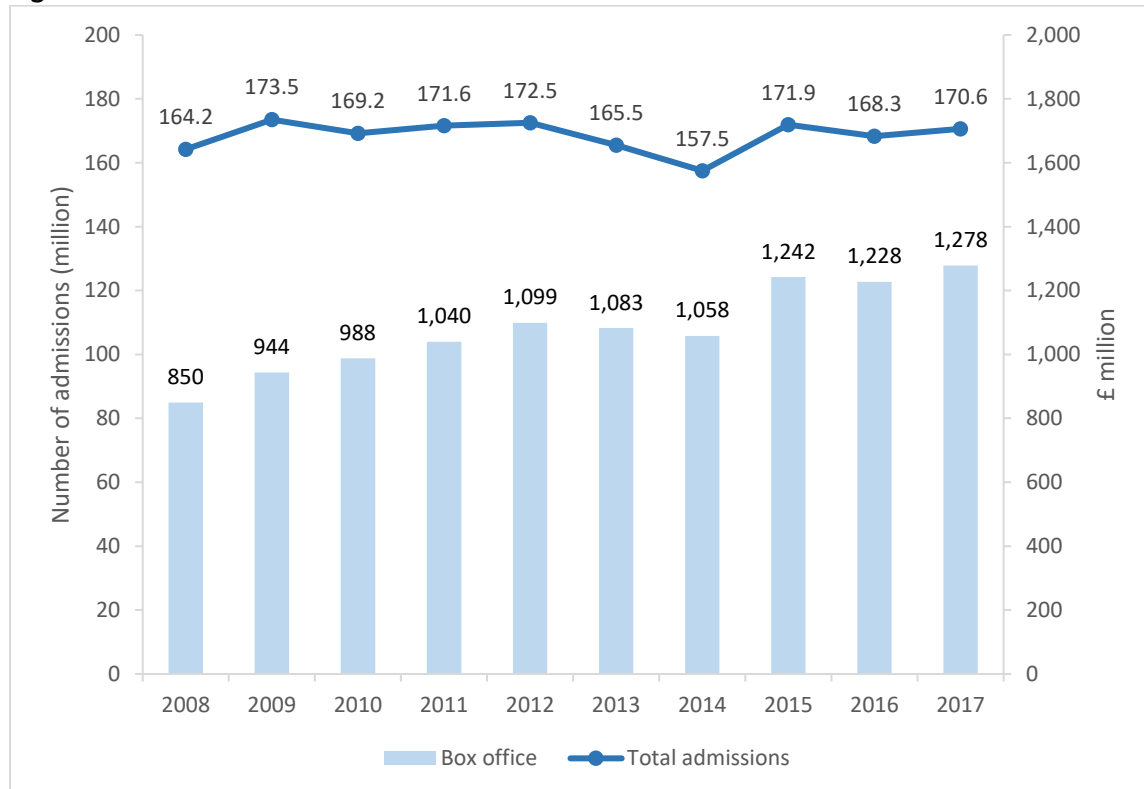
1. Key points

- UK cinema admissions in 2017 were 171 million, 1% higher than in 2016.
- The total box office in the UK and Republic of Ireland was £1,379.3 million, up 3.7% on 2016 and the UK only figure for the calendar year was up by 4.7%.
- The highest grossing film released in 2017 was *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, with earnings over £81 million, making it the fifth highest grossing film of all time at the UK Box Office. This was followed by two other UK/USA titles *Beauty and the Beast* (£72 million) and *Dunkirk* (£56 million).
- The top 20 films earned £732 million at the box office, accounting for 54% of the total box office.
- Six films earned more than £40 million in 2017, one more than in both 2016 and 2015. For the first time ever the entire top 20 films earned £20 million or more, three more than 2016.
- *Paddington 2* was the highest-grossing independent UK film of 2017 with takings of £41 million followed by *T2 Trainspotting* (£17 million) and *Baby Driver* (£13 million).
- The market share of independent UK films was 9%, with the share of US studio backed and other inward investment UK films at 28%.

2. UK cinema admissions

UK cinema admissions in 2017 were 171 million, 1% higher than in 2016 and slightly above the ten-year average figure of 168.4 million (Figure 1). The gross value of ticket sales in the UK and Republic of Ireland was £1,379.3 million, up 3.7% on 2016. The UK only figure for the calendar year was £1,278.2 million, again slightly up (4.1%) from 2016 (£1,227.5 million).

Figure 1 Annual UK admissions and box office 2008-2017



Source: CAA, comScore
Data for the calendar year 2017

The month by month admissions are shown in Table 1. In the first four months of 2017 admissions were up compared to the same period in 2016. Admissions in March were up by almost 21% on the previous year, mainly due to the live action release of *Beauty and the Beast*. April was up 19% on 2016, when the latest instalment of the *Fast & Furious* series and *The Boss Baby* were major box office successes.

Admissions were down for May and June compared with 2016. Despite titles such as *Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2* (£41 million), *Wonder Woman* (£22 million) and *Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge* (19.5 million) being released; record breaking temperatures may have affected cinema going in these months.

July figures were up 7% on 2016 with *Dunkirk* and *Despicable Me 3* performing strongly. Whilst August's and September's figures were down compared to 2016 (August was the highest performing month of 2016 largely due to success of a handful of films including *Finding Dory* and *Bridget Jones's Baby*). During August 2017 *Dunkirk* crossed the £50 million mark and *Despicable Me 3* continued to perform well over the summer holidays. September's release of *It* opened with a weekend box office of over £10 million.

October saw comparatively low admissions, with no films released in the month making the year end top 20, the highest grossing film in the month was *Blade Runner 2049*. Admissions picked up again in

November and December with the release in November of the highest grossing UK Independent film of 2017 *Paddington 2* and in December the year's highest grossing film *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*. These figures could not quite match the strength of December 2015's releases, which included the highest grossing film in UK history, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, and the third highest grossing, *SPECTRE*.

Table 1 Monthly cinema admissions 2015-2017

	2015 (million)	2016 (million)	2017 (million)	% change on 2016
January	15.39	14.03	15.00	6.9
February	15.16	15.35	16.48	7.4
March	11.54	13.39	16.15	20.6
April	15.13	13.13	15.64	19.1
May	12.67	12.50	11.34	-9.3
June	13.25	10.71	9.58	-10.5
July	15.87	16.59	17.80	7.3
August	14.37	18.09	14.47	-20.0
September	9.24	11.66	10.78	-7.5
October	15.41	15.19	12.11	-20.3
November	15.41	12.40	14.09	13.6
December	18.49	15.22	17.16	12.8
Total	171.93	168.26	170.62	1.4

Source: CAA, comScore

3. Top films released in 2017

The following analysis covers films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland in 2017, based on box office data up to and including the 21st January 2018. The highest grossing film released in 2017 was *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* which has earned over £81 million, placing it as the fifth highest grossing film of all time at the UK Box Office. This was followed by two other UK qualifying titles: *Beauty and the Beast* (£72 million) and *Dunkirk* (£57 million). The top 20 films earned £732 million at the box office, accounting for 54% of the total box office. All of the films in the top 20 earned £20 million or more, the first time this has occurred since our records began in 2002.

Table 2 Top 20 films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2017

	Title	Country of origin	Box office Gross (£m)	Distributor
1	Star Wars: The Last Jedi*	UK/USA	81.4	Walt Disney
2	Beauty and the Beast*	UK/USA	72.4	Walt Disney
3	Dunkirk*	UK/USA	56.7	Warner Bros
4	Despicable Me 3	USA	47.9	Universal
5	Paddington 2*	UK/Fra	41.4	StudioCanal
6	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2	USA/NZ	41.0	Walt Disney
7	Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*	USA	32.5	Sony Pictures
8	It	USA	32.3	Warner Bros
9	Thor: Ragnarok	USA	31.1	Walt Disney
10	Spider-Man: Homecoming	USA	30.7	Sony Pictures
11	La La Land	USA/HKG	30.5	Lionsgate
12	Fast & Furious 8	USA	29.7	Universal
13	Sing*	USA/JPN	29.4	Universal
14	The Boss Baby	USA	29.1	20th Century Fox
15	The Lego Batman Movie*	USA/Den	27.4	Warner Bros
16	Kingsman: The Golden Circle	UK/USA	24.9	20th Century Fox
17	Murder on the Orient Express	UK/USA	24.1	20th Century Fox
18	Logan	USA	23.9	20th Century Fox
19	Fifty Shades Darker	USA	23.2	Universal
20	Wonder Woman	UK/USA	22.2	Warner Bros

Source: comScore

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 21 January 2018.

* Film still being exhibited on 21 January 2018.

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

4. Top UK qualifying films released in 2017

The top 20 UK films are dominated with UK/USA productions (16 films) with the top film in the table being *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (Table 3). In second place was *Beauty and the Beast* and in third *Dunkirk*.

Table 3 Top 20 UK qualifying films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2017

	Title	Country of origin	Box office Gross (£m)	Distributor
1	Star Wars: The Last Jedi*	UK/USA	81.4	Walt Disney
2	Beauty and the Beast*	UK/USA	72.4	Walt Disney
3	Dunkirk*	UK/USA	56.7	Warner Bros
4	Paddington 2*	UK/Fra	41.4	StudioCanal
5	Kingsman: The Golden Circle	UK/USA	24.9	20th Century Fox
6	Murder on the Orient Express*	UK/USA	24.1	20th Century Fox
7	Wonder Woman	UK/USA	22.2	Warner Bros
8	Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales	UK/USA	19.5	Walt Disney
9	The Justice League	UK/USA	17.4	Warner Bros
10	Trainspotting 2	UK	17.1	Sony Pictures
11	Baby Driver	UK/USA	13.1	Sony Pictures
12	Alien: Covenant	UK/USA	12.9	20th Century Fox
13	Victoria and Abdul	UK	10.1	Universal
14	Transformers: The Last Knight	UK/USA	9.5	Paramount
15	The Mummy	UK/USA	8.7	Universal
16	Assassin's Creed	UK/USA	8.0	20th Century Fox
17	The Hitman's Bodyguard	UK/USA	7.3	Lionsgate
18	The Death of Stalin*	UK/Fra/Bel	5.1	eOne Films
19	King Arthur: The Legend of the Sword	UK/USA	4.9	Warner Bros
20	Geostorm	UK/USA	4.3	Warner Bros

Source: comScore, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 21 January 2018.

* Film still being exhibited on 21 January 2018.

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

5. Top independent UK films released in 2017

Paddington 2: The Movie, grossing £41 million, was the highest-earning independent UK film of 2017 followed by *T2 Trainspotting* and *Baby Driver* (Table 4).

Table 4 Top 20 independent UK films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2017

	Title	Country of origin	Box office Gross (£m)	Distributor
1	Paddington 2*	UK/Fra	41.4	Studiocanal
2	T2 Trainspotting	UK	17.1	Sony Pictures
3	Baby Driver	UK/USA	13.1	Sony Pictures
4	Victoria and Abdul	UK	10.1	Universal
5	The Death of Stalin*	UK/Fra/Bel	5.1	eOne Films
6	Viceroy's House	UK/Ind	4.1	20th Century Fox
7	Their Finest	UK	4.1	Lionsgate
8	Goodbye Christopher Robin*	UK/USA	2.9	20th Century Fox
9	My Cousin Rachel	UK	2.6	20th Century Fox
10	Breathe	UK	1.7	STX Entertainment
11	Churchill	UK	1.7	Lionsgate
12	Hampstead	UK	1.6	eOne Films
13	47 Meters Down	UK	1.3	eOne Films
14	The Limehouse Golem	UK	1.3	Lionsgate
15	The Sense of an Ending	UK	1.2	StudioCanal
16	Free Fire	UK/USA	1.0	StudioCanal
17	Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool*	UK	1.0	Lionsgate
18	Loving Vincent*	UK/Pol	1.0	Altitude Films
19	Denial	UK/USA	0.9	eOne Films
20	God's Own Country	UK	0.9	Picturehouse Entertainment

Source: comScore, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 21 January 2018.

* Film still being exhibited on 21 January 2018.

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 2017 was 9.5%, up from 7.4% in 2016. The market share of US studio backed UK qualifying titles and other inward investment films was 27.9%, slightly lower than the share in 2016 (Table 5).

Table 5 Theatrical market share of UK films by studio and independent titles, 2008-2017

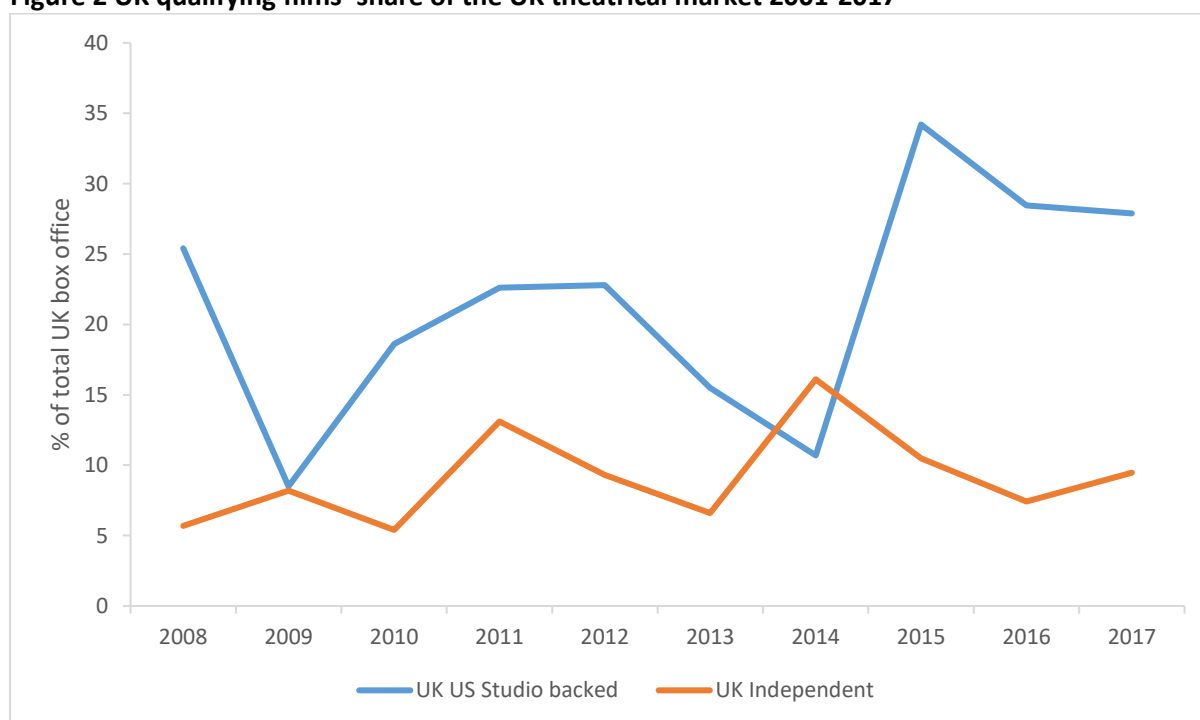
Year	Market share of UK/US studio backed titles and other inward investment films (%)	Market share of UK independent films (%)
2008	25.4	5.7
2009	8.5	8.2
2010	18.6	5.4
2011	22.6	13.1
2012	22.8	9.3
2013	15.5	6.6
2014	10.7	16.1
2015	34.2	10.5
2016	28.5	7.4
2017	27.9	9.5

Source: BFI

2017 market share calculation based on grosses up to and including 21 January 2018

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 2008-2017 was 9.2%.

Figure 2 UK qualifying films' share of the UK theatrical market 2001-2017



Source: BFI

2017 market share calculation based on grosses up to and including 21 January 2018

Notes

1. Revision

The percentage increase on 2016 column in Table 1 Monthly cinema admissions 2015-2017 showed incorrect data. This has been changed to show the correct percentage change.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Pre-release Access

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