

# The UK box office, first half year (H1) 2017

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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## 1. Key points

- UK cinema admissions in the first six months of 2017 were 84 million, over 6% higher than in 2016.
- The highest grossing film released in the first half of 2017 was *Beauty and the Beast*.
- *T2 Trainspotting* was the highest earning UK independent release of H1 2017.
- The market share of independent UK films was 8% in the first half of the year.

## 2. Admissions

Over 84 million cinema tickets were sold in the UK in the first six months of 2017, up over 6% on the same period in 2016 (Table 1). Admissions in January were almost 7% up on January 2016 with the top releases including *La La Land*, *Sing* and December 2016 release *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*. February admissions were 7% higher than 2016, with the most popular films including *Lego Batman* and *Fifty Shades Darker*. March admissions were up 21% on the same period in 2016 due in most part to the release of the live action version 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. *Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2* was the highest grossing film in May but overall earnings were 9% down on 2016 and despite *Wonder Woman* earning £20 million, June's admissions fell by 10% as the UK experienced some record breaking summer temperatures.

**Table 1 Monthly cinema admissions in the UK, H1 2016-2017**

	2016 (million)	2017 (million)	% change on 2016
January	14.03	14.99	+6.8
February	15.35	16.48	+7.4
March	13.39	16.15	+20.6
April	13.13	15.64	+19.1
May	12.50	11.34	-9.3
June	10.71	9.58	-10.5
<b>H1 total</b>	<b>79.11</b>	<b>84.19</b>	<b>+6.4</b>

Source: CAA, comScore

### 3. Box Office

In the first six months of 2017, 421 films were released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, with total box office takings of £649 million up to 23 July. The highest grossing release of the half year was *Beauty and the Beast*, which had earned over £72 million to 23 July. In second place was *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* (£41 million), followed by *La La Land* (£30 million). The fourth film in the list is *Despicable Me 3* which had grossed over £30 million (Table 2). *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* earned £14 million in the first quarter of 2017 but does not appear in this table because it is a December 2016 release.

**Table 2 Top 20 films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, January-June 2017**

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Country of origin</b>	<b>Box office gross (£m)</b>	<b>Distributor</b>
1	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i> *	UK/USA	72.4	Walt Disney
2	<i>Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2</i> *	UK/USA	41.0	Walt Disney
3	<i>La La Land</i>	USA	30.4	Lionsgate
4	<i>Despicable Me 3</i> *	USA/Fra	30.3	Universal
5	<i>Fast &amp; Furious 8</i>	USA	29.6	Universal
6	<i>Sing</i>	USA/Jap	29.0	Universal
7	<i>The Boss Baby</i> *	USA	28.8	20th Century Fox
8	<i>The LEGO Batman Movie</i> *	Den/USA	27.4	Warner Bros
9	<i>Logan</i>	USA	23.9	20th Century Fox
10	<i>Fifty Shades Darker</i>	USA	23.0	Universal
11	<i>Wonder Woman</i> *	UK/USA	21.9	Warner Bros
12	<i>Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge</i> *	UK/USA	19.5	Walt Disney
13	<i>T2 Trainspotting</i>	UK/USA	17.0	Sony Pictures
14	<i>Kong: Skull Island</i>	USA/CHN/Aus	15.9	Warner Bros
15	<i>Alien: Covenant</i>	UK/USA	12.9	20th Century Fox
16	<i>Lion</i>	Aus/USA/UK	11.8	Entertainment
17	<i>Split</i>	USA	11.3	Universal
18	<i>Get Out</i> *	USA	10.3	Universal
19	<i>Baby Driver</i> *	UK/USA	10.1	Sony Pictures
20	<i>Baywatch</i> *	USA	9.6	Paramount

Source: comScore

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 23 July 2017.

Films with an asterisk (\*) were still being exhibited on 23 July 2017.

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

Table 3 shows the top UK independent films of the first six months of 2017. The highest grossing UK independent release was *T2 Trainspotting* which grossed almost £17 million followed by *Baby Driver* with £10.1 million.

**Table 3 Top 10 independent UK films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, January-June 2017**

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Country of origin</b>	<b>Box office Gross (£m)</b>	<b>Distributor</b>
1	T2 Trainspotting	UK/USA	17.0	Sony Pictures
2	Baby Driver*	UK/USA	10.1	Sony Pictures
3	Viceroy's House	UK/Ind	4.1	Pathé
4	Their Finest	UK	4.0	Lionsgate
	Peppa Pig: My First Cinema			
5	Experience*	UK	3.6	eOne Films
6	My Cousin Rachel*	UK/USA	2.4	20th Century Fox
7	Churchill*	UK	1.5	Lionsgate
8	Hampstead*	UK	1.4	eOne Films
9	The Sense of an Ending	UK/USA	1.2	StudioCanal
10	Free Fire	UK	1.0	StudioCanal

Source: comScore, BFI RSU analysis

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 23 July 2017.

Films with an asterisk (\*) were still being exhibited on 23 July 2017.

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

#### 4. Market Share

The market share of UK films in the first half of 2017 was 38.5% (Table 3). Of this, the share of UK independent films was 8% and studio-backed films (wholly or part-financed by US studios but featuring UK cast, crew, locations, facilities, post-production and often UK source material) accounted for 30.5%.

**Table 3 Theatrical market share of UK film by studio and independent titles, 2008-2017 H1**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017 H1</b>
<b>Market share of UK films produced with US studio backing (%)</b>	25.4	8.5	18.6	22.6	22.8	15.5	10.7	34.2	28.5	30.5
<b>Market share of UK independent films (%)</b>	5.7	8.2	5.4	13.1	9.3	6.6	16.1	10.5	7.4	8.0
<b>Total UK film market share (%)</b>	31.1	16.7	24.0	35.7	32.1	22.2	26.8	44.7	35.9	38.5

Source: BFI

## Notes

### 1. Data

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

Analysis of individual titles and market shares includes box office gross in the UK and Republic of Ireland up to and including 23 July 2017 for films released in the calendar year between 1 January and 30 June 2017.

### 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.

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

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Richard Shaw, Director of Communications, Marketing and Audiences, BFI  
Carol Comley, Head of Film Policy, BFI  
Nick Mason Pearson, Head of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs, BFI  
Judy Wells, Head of Press and PR, BFI  
Tina McFarling, Media Advisor, Press and PR, BFI  
Colette Geraghty, PR consultant, BFI  
James Butler, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport  
Sophie Reece-Trapp, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport  
Ken Hunt, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

### Statistical contact details

This release was prepared by Sean Perkins, Research and Statistics Unit, BFI,  
[sean.perkins@bfi.org.uk](mailto:sean.perkins@bfi.org.uk) tel + 44 (0)20 7173 3248

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