

# The UK box office January – September 2013

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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More than 124 million cinema tickets were sold in the UK in the first nine months of 2013, up 0.6% on the same period in 2012 (Table 1). Admissions in January exceeded 17 million, up 26% on 2012, as December releases *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* and *The Life of Pi* continued to do strong business alongside 2013 releases *The Impossible*, *Les Misérables* and *Django Unchained*. Large differences in admissions compared with 2012 were also seen in April and May. April's admissions were 21% lower than in April 2012 but admissions in May 2013 were 16% higher than in May 2012. The high number of admissions in April 2012 was mainly due to the popularity of *Marvel Avengers Assemble*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists* and the 3D re-release of *Titanic*, which were showing in cinemas at that time. The main contributors to the high admissions in May 2013 were *Star Trek: Into Darkness*, *Iron Man 3*, *Fast and Furious 6* and *The Great Gatsby*.

**Table 1 Monthly cinema admissions Jan-Sep 2012 and 2013**

	2012 (million)	2013 (million)	% change on 2012
January	13.55	17.08	+26.0%
February	15.31	13.96	-8.8%
March	11.70	10.89	-7.0%
April	15.05	11.89	-21.0%
May	13.44	15.61	+16.1%
June	12.38	13.03	+5.3%
July	15.52	14.32	-7.7%
August	17.22	17.64	+2.4%
September	9.44	9.89	+4.7%
<b>Jan-Sep total</b>	<b>123.62</b>	<b>124.30</b>	<b>+0.6%</b>

Source: CAA, Rentrak

In the first nine months of 2013, 508 films were released in cinemas in the UK with total box office takings (up to 27 October 2013) of £825.8 million. This is an increase of 19 releases compared with the first nine months of 2012, and an increase of 4% over the 2012 releases' aggregate box office of £791.5 (to 31 October 2012).

The highest grossing release of the first three quarters of the year was *Despicable Me 2*, which grossed just under £47 million (to 27 October). In second place was *Les Misérables*, a UK film, which earned over £40 million to become the second highest

grossing musical of all time at the UK box office. These were followed by Marvel's *Iron Man 3* and Disney animation *Monsters University* in third and fourth places (Table 2).

**Table 2 Top 20 films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, Jan-Sep 2013**

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Country of origin</b>	<b>Box office Gross (£m)</b>	<b>Distributor</b>
1	Despicable Me 2 *	USA	46.98	Universal
2	Les Misérables	UK/USA	40.82	Universal
3	Iron Man 3	USA/China	36.97	Disney
4	Monsters University *	USA	30.26	Disney
5	Man of Steel	USA	29.95	Warner Bros
6	The Croods	USA	26.70	20th Century Fox
7	Star Trek Into Darkness	USA	25.82	Paramount
8	Fast & Furious 6	UK/USA	25.15	Universal
9	Wreck-It Ralph	USA	23.78	Disney
10	The Hangover 3	USA	19.32	Warner Bros
11	Django Unchained	USA	15.74	Sony Pictures
12	The Great Gatsby	Australia/USA	15.73	Warner Bros
13	Oz: The Great and Powerful	USA	15.28	Disney
14	World War Z	UK/USA	14.57	Paramount
15	Epic *	USA	13.74	20th Century Fox
16	The Wolverine	USA	13.70	20th Century Fox
17	The Impossible	Spain	13.30	eOne Films
18	The Smurfs 2 *	USA	12.10	Sony Pictures
19	Now You See Me	Fra/USA	11.13	eOne Films
20	A Good Day to Die Hard	USA	10.88	20th Century Fox

Source: Rentrak

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 27 October 2013.

Films with an asterisk (\*) were still being exhibited on 27 October 2013.

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

The highest grossing UK independent release of the first nine months of the year was *Quartet* which grossed over £8 million. In second and third places were *I Give It a Year* and *Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa*, both of which earned more than £6 million (Table 3).

**Table 3 Top 10 independent UK films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, Jan-Sep 2013**

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Country of origin</b>	<b>Box office Gross (£m)</b>	<b>Distributor</b>
1	Quartet	UK	8.40	eOne Films
2	I Give It a Year	UK/Fra	6.22	StudioCcanal
3	Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa *	UK	6.16	StudioCanal
4	Filth *	UK	3.64	Lionsgate
5	Red 2	UK/USA	2.89	eOne Films
6	All Stars	UK/Ger	2.40	Vertigo
7	Song for Marion	UK	2.06	eOne Films
8	Diana *	UK/Bel	1.87	eOne Films
9	Welcome to the Punch	UK	1.13	eOne Films
10	The Stone Roses: Made of Stone	UK	0.51	Picturehouse

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 27 October 2013.

Films with an asterisk (\*) were still being exhibited on 27 October 2013.

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

The box office market share for all UK films in the first three quarters of 2013 was 20%. The share of US studio-backed UK films (films wholly or part-financed by US studios but featuring UK cast, crew, locations, facilities, post-production and often UK source material) was 15% while independent UK films shared 5% of the market.

## Notes

1. Admissions data supplied by the Cinema Advertising Association/Rentrak.
2. Gross box office data supplied by Rentrak.
3. 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.

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