

The UK box office January – March (Q1) 2017

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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1. Key points

- UK cinema admissions in the first three months of 2017 were 47.6 million, over 11% higher than the same period in 2016 and the highest since 2002.
- The highest grossing film released in Q1 2017 was *Beauty and the Beast* with over £70 million, representing 19% of the box office.
- *T2: Trainspotting* was the highest earning UK independent release in Q1 2017 with a gross of almost £17 million.
- The market share of independent UK films reached 7% in the first quarter of the year.

2. Admissions

Over 47 million cinema tickets were sold in the UK in the first three months of 2017, up 11% on the same period in 2016 (Table 1). This represents the highest first quarter admissions since 2002 when there were 48.3 million cinema visits in the UK. Admissions for each individual month were higher than 2016 with tickets sales in January just below 15 million, 7% up on the previous January. These were driven by releases such as *La La Land*, *Sing* and December 2016 release *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*. February admissions were over 7% higher than 2016, with *The Lego Batman Movie* and *Fifty Shades Darker* among the most popular releases. Over 16 million admissions were also recorded in March, up almost 21% on the previous year, due in most part to the release of *Beauty and the Beast* which has grossed over £70 million to date and other releases such as *Logan* and *Kong: Skull Island*.

Table 1 Monthly cinema admissions in the UK, Q1 2016 and Q1 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
Q1 total	42.77	47.63	+11.4

Source: CAA, comScore

3. Box Office

A total of 187 films were released in the UK and Republic of Ireland in the first three months of 2017, with total box office takings of £369 million up to 23 April. The highest grossing release of the quarter was *Beauty and the Beast*, which had earned just over £70 million to 30 April. In second place was Academy Award winning *La La Land* (£30 million), followed by family animation *Sing*, with box office takings of over £28 million. The fourth film in the list is *The LEGO Batman Movie* which had taken over £27 million by 30 April (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. Two 18 certificate films - *Fifty Shades Darker* and *T2 Trainspotting* feature the top 10 chart.

Table 2 Top 10 films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, Q1 2017

	Title	Country of origin	Box office gross (£m)	Distributor
1	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i> *	UK/USA	70.1	Walt Disney
2	<i>La La Land</i> *	USA/HK	30.4	Lionsgate
3	<i>Sing</i> *	USA/Jap	28.6	Universal
4	<i>The LEGO Batman Movie</i> *	USA/Den	27.0	Warner Bros
5	<i>Logan</i> *	USA	23.8	20th Century Fox
6	<i>Fifty Shades Darker</i> *	USA	23.1	Universal
7	<i>T2 Trainspotting</i> *	UK/USA	17.0	Sony Pictures
8	<i>Kong: Skull Island</i> *	USA/Chi/Aus	15.8	Warner Bros
9	<i>Lion</i> *	Aus/USA/UK	11.7	Entertainment
10	<i>Split</i>	USA	11.3	Universal

Source: comScore

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 30 April 2017.

Films with an asterisk (*) were still being exhibited on 30 April 2017.

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

Table 3 shows the top UK independent films in the first three months of 2017. The highest grossing UK independent release was *T2 Trainspotting* which grossed almost £17 million, followed by *Viceroy's House* with box office earnings of just over £4 million. Documentaries *Dancer* and *Don't Take Me Home* also feature in the chart as well as the re-released original *Trainspotting*.

Table 3 Top 10 independent UK films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, Q1 2017

	Title	Country of origin	Box office Gross (£m)	Distributor
1	T2 Trainspotting	UK/USA	16.95	Sony Pictures
2	Viceroy's House*	UK/Ind	4.00	Pathé
3	Free Fire*	UK	0.93	StudioCanal
4	Denial*	UK/USA	0.89	eOne Films
5	The Lost City of Z*	UK/USA	0.68	StudioCanal
6	The Time of Their Lives*	UK	0.54	Vertigo Releasing
7	Another Mother' Son*	UK	0.29	Vertigo Releasing
8	Dancer*	UK/Rus/Ukr/USA	0.26	Dogwoof
9	Don't Take Me Home*	UK	0.10	National Amusements UK
10	Trainspotting (re)*	UK	0.08	Park Circus

Source: comScore, BFI RSU analysis

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 30 April 2017.

Films with an asterisk (*) were still being exhibited on 30 April 2017.

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

4. Market Share

The market share of UK independent films in the first quarter of 2017 was 7%. The market share of UK qualifying films overall was 28%.

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 30 April 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.

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

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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