

# The UK box office January – September 2015

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

Publication: 05 November 2015

## Key points

- UK cinema admissions in the three quarters of 2015 were over 122 million, 7% higher than the same period in 2014.
- The highest grossing film released in the period was *Jurassic World*, taking over £64 million at the box office.
- The top UK independent film was *Legend*, which took over £18 million.
- The market share of UK qualifying films was 33%, and the market share of UK independent films was 11%.

In the first nine months of the year, 122.6 million cinema tickets were sold in the UK, up 7.2% on the same period in 2014 (these figures include both admissions to films and to event cinema). Looking at the year to September 2015 (October 2014 to September 2015), 165.7 million cinema tickets were sold, which is 6.5% higher than the 155.6 tickets sold between October 2013 and September 2014 (Table 1).

Up to the end of September, all months except August had higher admissions in 2015 than in the corresponding month of 2014. The largest increases were in June and July, this was due to the release of three of the year's highest grossing films; *Jurassic World*, *Inside Out* and *Minions*. It is also partially attributable to the low attendances of these months in 2014 during the period of the Football World Cup when there was strong competition from televised football matches. The higher March and April 2015 admissions reflected the popularity of *Fast & Furious 7* and *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, both of which topped the box office chart for three weeks. The lower admissions in August 2015 reflect the release of two of 2014 biggest films in August of that year: *The Inbetweeners 2* and *Guardians of the Galaxy*.

**Table 1 Monthly cinema admissions Jan-Sep 2014 and 2015**

	2014 (million)	2015 (million)	% change on 2014
January	15.19	15.39	1.3%
February	14.33	15.16	5.8%
March	10.36	11.54	11.4%
April	12.68	15.13	19.3%
May	12.60	12.67	0.5%
June	10.40	13.25	27.4%
July	13.28	15.87	19.5%
August	17.07	14.37	-15.8%
September	8.52	9.24	8.4%
<b>Jan-Sep total</b>	<b>114.42</b>	<b>122.62</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
<b>Year to Sep</b>	<b>155.66</b>	<b>165.70</b>	<b>6.5%</b>

Source: CAA, Rentrak

In the first nine months of 2015, 634 films were released in cinemas in the UK with total box office takings (up to 22 October 2015) of £879.3 million. This is an increase

of 107 releases compared with the first nine months of 2014, and a 17% increase from the 2014 releases' aggregate box office of £750.2 million (to 26 October 2014).

The highest grossing release of the first three quarters of the year was *Jurassic World*, which grossed over £59 million (to 22 October). In second place was *Avengers: Age of Ultron* which earned over £48 million up to 22 October. These were followed by *Fast & Furious 7* (£38 million) and *Inside Out* (£38 million) in third and fourth places (Table 2).

**Table 2 Top 20 films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, Jan-Sep 2015**

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Country of origin</b>	<b>Box office gross (£m)</b>	<b>Distributor</b>
1	Jurassic World*	USA	64.35	Universal
2	The Avengers: Age of Ultron	UK/USA	48.34	Walt Disney
3	Minions*	USA	46.83	Universal
4	Inside Out*	USA	38.61	Walt Disney
5	Fast & Furious 7	USA	38.53	Universal
6	Fifty Shades of Grey	USA	35.05	Universal
7	Home	USA	25.33	20th Century Fox
8	The Theory of Everything	UK/USA	21.52	Universal
9	Cinderella	UK/USA	21.28	Walt Disney
10	Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation	USA	21.16	Paramount
11	Big Hero 6	USA	20.64	Walt Disney
12	Legend*	UK	18.06	StudioCanal
13	Taken 3	France	17.67	20th Century Fox
14	Mad Max: Fury Road	Aus/USA	17.40	Warner Bros
15	Pitch Perfect 2	USA	17.39	Universal
16	Kingsman: The Secret Service	UK/USA	16.44	20th Century Fox
17	Ant-Man	USA	16.32	Walt Disney
18	The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel	UK/USA	15.65	20th Century Fox
19	Shaun the Sheep Movie	UK/France	13.74	StudioCanal
20	American Sniper	USA	13.73	Warner Bros

Source: Rentrak

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 22 October 2015.

Films with an asterisk (\*) were still being exhibited on 22 October 2015.

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

The highest grossing UK qualifying release of the first nine months of the year was *The Avengers: Age of Ultron* which grossed over £48 million. In second place was *The Theory of Everything* with earnings of over £21 million and *Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation* which was the third highest earning UK film with takings of more than £21 million (Table 3).

**Table 3 Top 10 UK qualifying films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, Jan-Sep 2015**

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Country of origin</b>	<b>Box office gross (£m)</b>	<b>Distributor</b>
1	<i>The Avengers: Age of Ultron</i>	UK/USA	48.34	Walt Disney
2	<i>The Theory of Everything</i>	UK/USA	21.52	Universal
3	<i>Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation</i>	UK/USA	21.16	Paramount
4	<i>Cinderella</i>	UK/USA	21.28	Walt Disney
5	<i>Legend*</i>	UK	18.06	StudioCanal
6	<i>Kingsman: The Secret Service</i>	UK/USA	16.44	20th Century Fox
7	<i>The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel</i>	UK/USA/Ind	15.65	20th Century Fox
8	<i>Shaun the Sheep Movie</i>	UK/France	13.74	StudioCanal
9	<i>Everest</i>	UK	10.49	Universal
10	<i>Into the Woods</i>	UK/USA/Can	9.86	Walt Disney

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 22 October 2015.

Films with an asterisk (\*) were still being exhibited on 22 October 2015

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 *Legend* which has so far grossed over £18 million. In second place was *Shaun the Sheep Movie* with earnings of over £13.7 million and *Far From the Madding Crowd* was the third highest earning UK independent film with takings of more than £6 million (Table 4).

**Table 4 Top 10 independent UK films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, January to September 2015**

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Country of origin</b>	<b>Box office gross (£m)</b>	<b>Distributor</b>
1	<i>Legend*</i>	UK	18.06	StudioCanal
2	<i>Shaun The Sheep Movie</i>	UK/France	13.74	StudioCanal
3	<i>Far From The Madding Crowd</i>	UK/USA	6.21	20th Century Fox
4	<i>The Woman in Black: Angel of Death</i>	UK/USA/Can	5.02	eOne Films
5	<i>Spooks: The Greater Good</i>	UK	3.25	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Fox
6	<i>Ex Machina</i>	UK/USA	2.89	Universal
7	<i>Woman In Gold</i>	UK/USA	2.89	Entertainment Film
8	<i>Mr Holmes</i>	UK/USA	2.61	eOne Films
9	<i>Suite Francaise</i>	UK/Fra	2.27	eOne Films
10	<i>Testament Of Youth</i>	UK	2.09	Lionsgate

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 22 October 2015.

Films with an asterisk (\*) were still being exhibited on 22 October 2015.

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 2015 was 33%. The share for UK independent films was 11% and the share for 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 22%.

## Notes

### 1. Data

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

### 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:

Amanda Nevill, Chief Executive, BFI  
Fiona Cookson, Director of External Affairs, BFI  
Ben Roberts, Director of Film Fund, BFI  
Richard Shaw, Director of Marketing, Communications 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  
Emma Hewitt, Deputy Head of Press and PR, BFI  
Tina McFarling, Media Advisor, BFI  
Jane Glastonbury, Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
James Butler, Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
Ken Hunt, Department for Culture, Media and Sport

### Statistical contact details

This release was prepared by Ian Cade, Research and Statistics Unit, BFI, [ian.cade@bfi.org.uk](mailto:ian.cade@bfi.org.uk), tel + 44 (0)20 7173 3249

(end)