

The UK box office, January-September (Q1-Q3) 2017

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

Revised release date: 2 November 2017

Original release date: 2 November 2017

Note: revised release, on 2 November, updating market share Q1-Q3 2017.

1. Key points

- UK cinema admissions in the first nine months of 2017 were 127 million, over 1% higher than the same period in 2016.
- The highest grossing film released between Q1-Q3 2017 was *Beauty and the Beast* with takings of over £72 million.
- *T2 Trainspotting* was the highest earning UK independent release of Jan-Sept 2017 with takings of just over £17 million.
- The market share of independent UK films was 8% in the first nine months of the year down from 11% for the same period in 2016.

2. Admissions

Over 127 million cinema tickets were sold in the UK in the first nine months of 2017, more than 1% up on the same period in 2016 (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.

Table 1 Monthly cinema admissions in the UK, Jan-Sep 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
July	16.59	17.80	+7.3
August	18.09	14.47	-20.0
September	11.66	10.78	-7.5
Jan-Sep total	125.45	127.25	+1.4
Year to Sep	174.76	170.06	-2.7

Source: CAA, comScore

3. Box Office

In the first nine months of 2017, 581 films were released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, with total box office takings of £966 million up to 19 October. The highest grossing release of the year so far is *Beauty and the Beast*, which had earned over £72 million to 19 October (Table 2). In second place was *Dunkirk* (£56 million), followed by *Despicable Me 3* (£47 million). The fourth film in the list is *Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2*. *It*, placing fifth, has taken nearly £32 million and has become the highest ever grossing horror film in the UK. *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-September 2017

	Title	Country of origin	Box office gross (£m)	Distributor
1	Beauty and the Beast	UK/USA	72.4	Walt Disney
2	Dunkirk*	UK/USA	56.5	Warner Bros
3	Despicable Me 3*	USA/Fra	47.2	Universal
4	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2	UK/USA	41.0	Walt Disney
5	It*	USA	31.7	Warner Bros
6	Spider-Man: Homecoming*	USA	30.5	Sony Pictures
7	La La Land*	USA	30.4	Lionsgate
8	Fast & Furious 8	USA	29.6	Universal
9	Sing*	USA/Jpn	29.2	Universal
10	The Boss Baby	USA	29.1	20th Century Fox
11	The LEGO Batman Movie	Den/USA	27.4	Warner Bros
12	Logan	USA	23.9	20th Century Fox
13	Fifty Shades Darker	USA	23.1	Universal
14	Wonder Woman*	UK/USA	22.2	Warner Bros
15	Kingsman: The Golden Circle*	UK/USA	21.8	20th Century Fox
16	War for the Planet Of The Apes	USA	20.8	20th Century Fox
17	Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge	UK/USA	19.5	Walt Disney
18	T2 Trainspotting	UK/USA	17.1	Sony Pictures
19	Kong: Skull Island	USA/Chn/Aus	15.9	Warner Bros
20	The Emoji Movie*	USA	14.7	Sony Pictures

Source: comScore

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 19 October 2017.

Films with an asterisk (*) were still being exhibited on 19 October 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 nine months of 2017. The highest grossing UK independent release was *T2 Trainspotting* which grossed over £17 million followed by *Baby Driver* with £13 million. In third place was *Victoria and Abdul* which achieved a box office of £9 million since its release in September.

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

	Title	Country of origin	Box office Gross (£m)	Distributor
1	T2 Trainspotting	UK/USA	17.1	Sony Pictures
2	Baby Driver*	UK/USA	13.0	Sony Pictures
3	Victoria and Abdul*	UK	9.0	Universal
4	Viceroy's House*	UK/Ind	4.1	Pathé
5	Their Finest*	UK	4.1	Lionsgate
6	Peppa Pig: My First Cinema Experience	UK	3.7	eOne Films
7	My Cousin Rachel*	UK/USA	2.6	20th Century Fox
8	Goodbye Christopher Robin*	UK/USA	2.3	20th Century Fox
9	Churchill*	UK	1.7	Lionsgate
10	Hampstead*	UK	1.6	eOne Films

Source: comScore, BFI RSU analysis

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 19 October 2017.

Films with an asterisk (*) were still being exhibited on 19 October 2017.

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

4. Market Share

The market share of UK films released between January and September 2017 was 37%, up from 30% for the same period in 2016. Of this, the share of UK independent films was 8% (down from 11% in Q1-Q3 2016) 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 29% (up from 19% in Q1-Q3 2016).

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 19 October 2017 for films released in the calendar year between 1 January and 30 September 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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