

Film and other screen sector production in the UK, January – June (H1, Half Year) 2015

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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1. Key points

- Total spend on film production in the UK in H1 2015 was £594 million.
- Inward investment features contributed the highest UK spend with £518 million. Spend in the UK on domestic features was £61 million.
- Seventy-nine films commenced principal photography; 21 inward investment features, 46 domestic UK features, and 12 co-productions.
- Total production spend in the UK in the last 12 months (July 2014 – June 2015) was £1,199 million.
- In H1 2015, a total of 30 high-end television programmes commenced principal photography with a spend in the UK of £279 million.
- Of these, 19 were domestic programmes, with a UK spend of £151 million, and 11 were inward investment or co-production programmes with a UK spend of £128 million.
- The spend on HETV production in the UK in the last 12 months was £514 million.
- Spend in the UK on animation programmes over the last 12 months was £48 million, across 23 productions.
- Seven video games entered production in H1 2015. The total spend on video games in the UK in the last 12 months was £128 million.

2. Film production in the UK

The total spend in the UK of feature films that started principal photography in H1 2015 was £594 million, from 79 films (Table 1). Inward investment features accounted for the majority of this spend (£518 million), followed by domestic UK features (£61 million). The majority (92%) of the £61 million spent by domestic UK features was accounted for by 24 features budgeted at £500,000 and over. The spend in the UK on co-productions was £15 million across 12 productions.

Films which started principal photography during H1 included inward investment films *Beauty and the Beast* and *Knights of the Roundtable: King Arthur*; domestic UK films which went into production included *Florence Foster Jenkins* and *Extremis*.

It should be noted that due to a time lag in obtaining complete information on all low and micro-budget activity in the UK, data on the number and UK production spend of these films is likely to be revised upwards over time.

Table 1 Number and UK spend of features produced in the UK, H1 2015

	UK spend £ million	Number of features
Co-productions	15.1	12
Domestic UK features	60.9	46
<i>Of which budget</i> ≥ £500,000	55.8	24
<i>Of which budget</i> < £500,000	5.1	22
Inward investment features	517.5	21
Total	593.5	79

Source: BFI

Data are rounded to the nearest £0.1m so may not sum exactly to the totals shown.

Films are allocated to the calendar quarter in which principal photography commenced.

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

In the rolling 12 month period July 2014 to June 2015, total spend on film production in the UK was £1,199 million – a decrease of 23% on the July 2013 to June 2014 rolling year (Table 2). This spend was drawn from 167 films (Table 3). A breakdown of the total shows 41 inward investment features contributed 88% of total spend (£1,062 million); domestic UK features contributed £112 million, with £100 million spent by films with a budget of £500,000 and above. Co-productions contributed £26 million.

Table 2 UK spend of features produced in the UK, 2008/09 to 2014/15, £ million

	Rolling years: July - June						
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Co-productions	18.3	50.7	97.7	64.9	48.0	60.8	25.9
Domestic UK features	254.6	188.1	179.0	295.8	179.6	233.9	111.6
<i>Of which budget</i> ≥ £500,000	236.2	167.9	154.4	274.3	161.0	216.3	99.8
<i>Of which budget</i> < £500,000	18.5	20.2	24.6	21.5	18.5	17.7	11.8
Inward investment features	892.0	799.0	1,140.5	478.7	810.8	1,253.8	1,061.6
Total without films with budgets <£500,000*	1,146.5	1,017.6	1,392.6	817.9	1,019.8	1,530.8	1,187.3
Total	1,165.0	1,037.8	1,417.3	839.4	1,038.3	1,548.5	1,199.1

Source: BFI

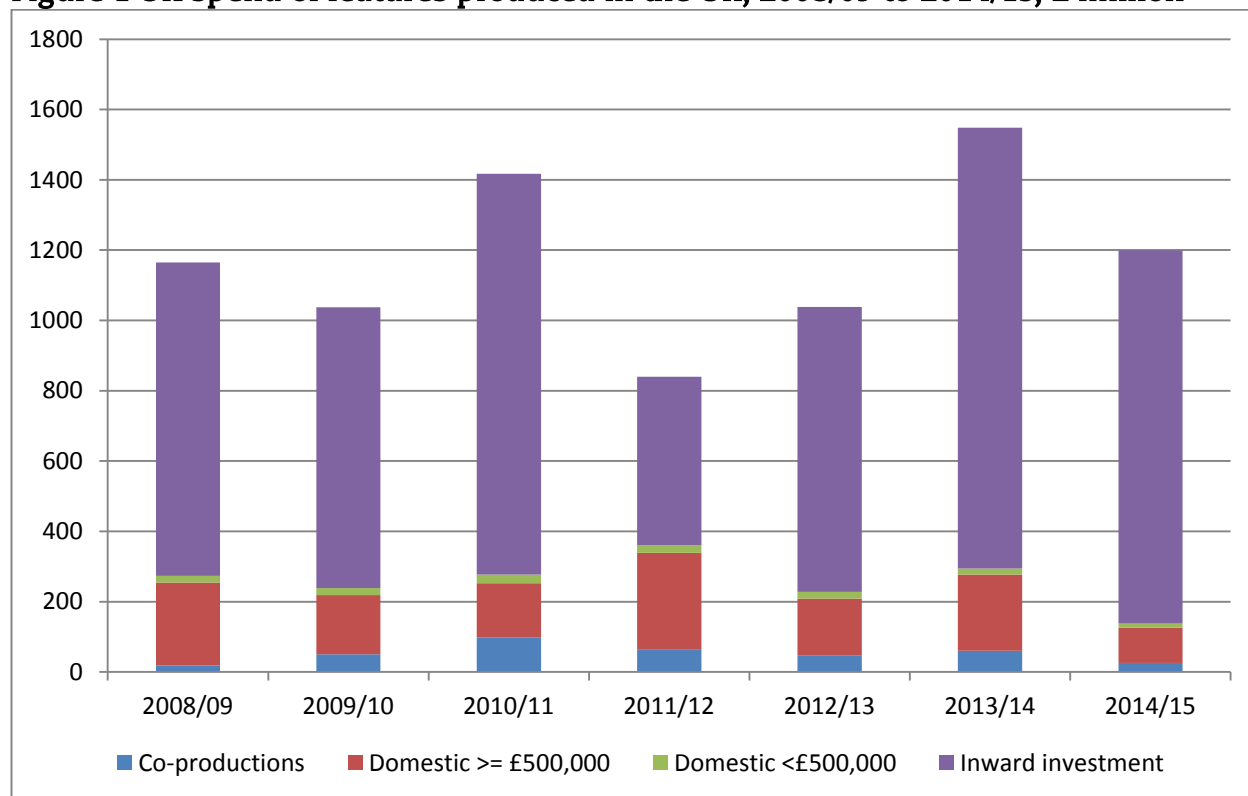
Data are rounded to the nearest £0.1m so may not sum exactly to the totals shown.

Films are allocated to the calendar quarter in which principal photography commenced.

*This refers to all films with a production spend <£500,000 in the UK, not just Domestic UK features.

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Figure 1 UK spend of features produced in the UK, 2008/09 to 2014/15, £ million



Source: BFI
 Films are allocated to the calendar quarter in which principal photography commenced.

There were 167 films that commenced principal photography in the UK in the rolling year from July 2014 to June 2015. Although this is the lowest figure in this time series, this figure is likely to be revised upwards in future. This is because there is a lag in obtaining complete data for domestic UK features with a budget of less than £500,000.

The number of co-productions was lower than in recent rolling years, and the number of inward investment features has remained stable over the last four rolling years (Table 3 and Figure 2).

Table 3 Number of features produced in the UK, 2008/09 to 2014/15

	Rolling years: July - June						
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Co-productions	23	50	47	48	38	50	22
Domestic UK features	255	279	283	285	238	204	104
Of which budget ≥ £500,000	90	79	72	91	64	77	50
Of which budget < £500,000	165	200	211	194	174	127	54
Inward investment features	34	29	36	40	38	42	41
Total without films with budgets <£500,000*	147	158	155	179	140	169	112
Total	312	358	366	373	314	296	167

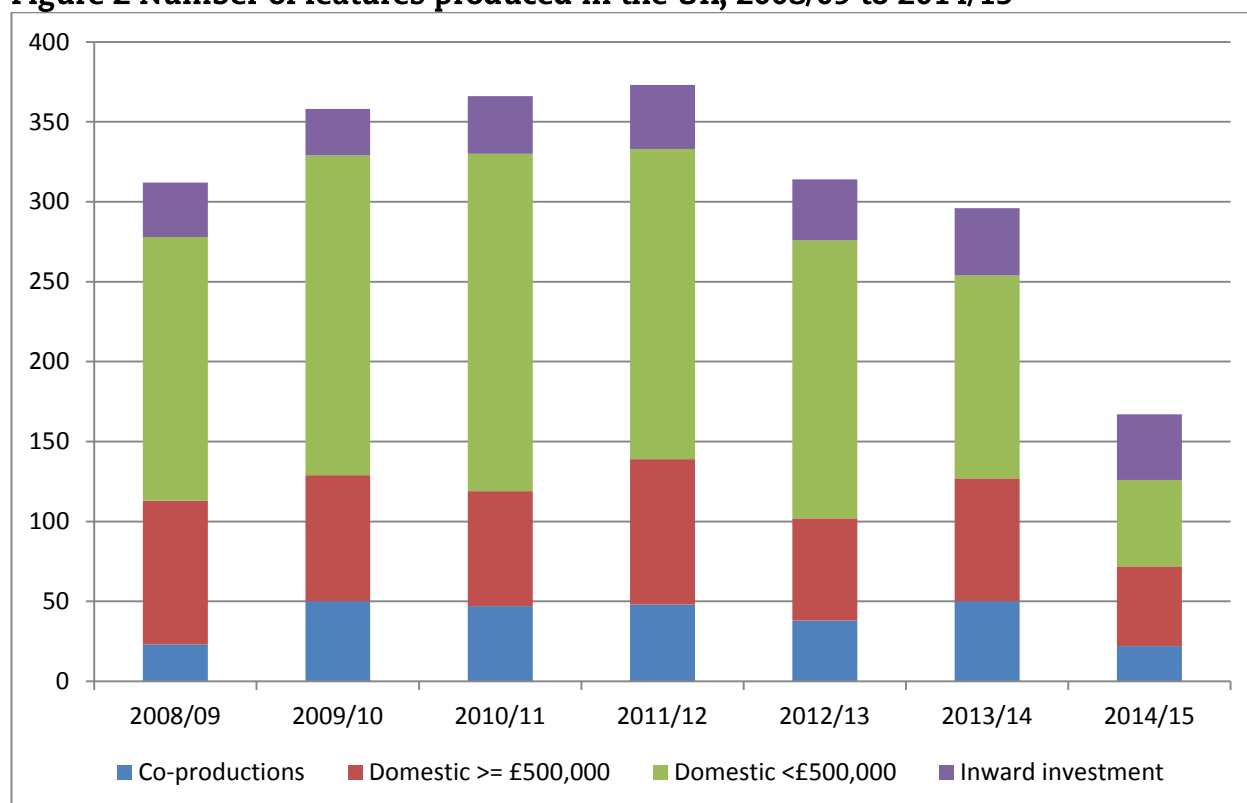
Source: BFI

Films are allocated to the calendar quarter in which principal photography commenced.

*This refers to all films with a production spend <£500,000 in the UK, not just Domestic UK features.

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Figure 2 Number of features produced in the UK, 2008/09 to 2014/15



Source: BFI

Films are allocated to the calendar quarter in which principal photography commenced.

3. High-end television production in the UK

Thirty high-end television programmes (HETV) commenced principal photography in the first half of 2015, with a total spend in the UK of £279 million. Titles included *You, Me and the Apocalypse*, *Downton Abbey Series 6* and *Outlander Season 2*. Domestic HETV accounted for 54% of spend in the UK (£151 million), with inward investment and co-production HETV programmes accounting for 46% (£128 million) (Table 4).

Table 4 Number and UK spend of high-end television programmes produced in the UK, H1 2015

	UK spend £ million	Number of programmes
Domestic UK	150.8	19
Inward investment and co-production	127.9	11
Total	278.7	30

Source: BFI

Data are rounded to the nearest £0.1m so may not sum exactly to the totals shown.

HETV are allocated to the calendar quarter in which principal photography commenced.

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

These statistics report on high-end television programmes (HETV) from April 2013 onwards only, because HETV production tracking commenced in line with the completion of the legislation procedures for the HETV tax relief in August 2013 (although the relief was applicable to production spend and backdated to 1 April 2013).

Between 2013/14 and 2014/15 the number of HETV productions fell slightly from 80 to 72, with total spend in the UK falling from £641 million to £514 million. In the latest rolling year (July 2014 to June 2015), the 26 inward investment and co-production HETV programmes made up 51% of spend in the UK, while the 45 domestic UK productions accounted for 49% (Table 5).

Table 5 Number and UK spend of high-end television programmes produced in the UK, 2013/14 – 2014-15

	UK spend £ million		Number of programmes	
	July 2013 – June 2014	July 2014 – June 2015	July 2013 – June 2014	July 2014 – June 2015
Domestic UK	323.6	250.8	57	46
Inward investment and co-production	317.2	262.9	23	26
Total	640.8	513.7	80	72

Source: BFI

HETV are allocated to the calendar quarter in which principal photography commenced.

Inward investment and co-production have been combined to avoid disclosing budgets for individual productions.

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

4. Television animation programme production in the UK

Data on the number and UK spend of animation programmes for H1 2015 is not provided in this release for disclosure reasons, due to the relatively low number of productions in this category. Further information will be published in subsequent releases of these statistics.

Animation programme statistics are reported from April 2013 onwards, because animation production tracking commenced in line with the completion of the legislation procedures for the animation programmes tax relief in August 2013 (although the relief was backdated to 1 April 2013).

Between 2013/14 and 2014/15, the number of television animation productions fell from 40 to 23, with spend in the UK falling from £82 million to £48 million. In the latest rolling year (July 2014 to June 2015), the 15 domestic productions accounted for 86% of spend in the UK (Table 6).

Table 6 Number and UK spend of animation programmes produced in the UK, 2013/14 – 2014-15

	UK spend £ million		Number of programmes	
	June 2013 – July 2014	June 2014 – July 2015	June 2013 – July 2014	June 2014 – July 2015
Domestic UK	57.6	41.0	29	15
Inward investment and co-production	24.0	6.5	11	8
Total	81.5	47.5	40	23

Source: BFI

Animation productions are allocated to the calendar quarter in which principal photography commenced.

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

5. Video games production in the UK

Seven video games commenced production between January and June 2015, with a total spend in the UK of £27.2 million.

Video games statistics are reported from April 2014 onwards, in line with video games production tracking which started with the introduction of the video games tax relief on 1 April 2014.

Between July 2014 and June 2015, 24 video games entered production, with a combined spend in the UK of £128.3 million (Table 7).

Table 7 Number and UK spend of video games produced in the UK, July 2014 – June 2015

	UK spend £ million	Number of productions
Total	128.3	24

Source: BFI

Notes

1. BFI Research and Statistics Unit production tracking

The Research and Statistics Unit production tracking system attempts to track all films produced in whole or part in the UK (i.e. it is a census, not a sample).

Sources of information include the British Film Commission, industry tracking forums, Creative Skillset, trade press and internet sources, UK film certification data and direct approaches to film producers.

Only productions with some UK spend on shooting, visual effects or post-production are included.

Spend is allocated to the calendar year, half year and quarter in which principal photography starts.

For high-end television, television animation programmes and video games, only productions officially certified as British are included.

2. Revisions

Production tracking is a continuous process and numbers are updated each quarter to reflect newly tracked films, updated budget or UK spend information and postponements or cancellations. Adjustments apply to previous periods as well as to the most recent reported period. The tables in this report contain revised data.

3. Definitions

A **domestic** (indigenous) UK production is a feature film, HETV programme or television animation programme made by a UK production company that is produced wholly or partly in the UK.

A **UK co-production** is a co-production (other than an inward co-production) feature film, HETV programme or television programme involving the UK and other country partners usually under the terms of a bilateral co-production agreement or the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production.

An **inward investment production** is a feature film, HETV programme or television animation programme which is substantially financed and controlled from outside the UK, where the production is attracted to the UK because of script requirements, the UK's infrastructure or UK tax incentives. Many (but not all) inward productions are UK films, HETV programmes or animation programmes by virtue of their UK cultural content and the fact that they pass the cultural test administered by the BFI Certification Unit on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

UK spend is the 'value of the production activities in the UK' for Cultural Test/Production Costs Test films and 'UK expenditure' for co-productions (bilateral and European Convention).

UK spend for co-productions may include some expenditure on UK goods and services which took place outside the UK.

4. Disclosing individual film information

Spend data are not disclosed when the number of productions (co-production, domestic or inward) is three or fewer.

5. 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, please contact us using the named contact details listed below.

6. 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 was granted to the following:

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7. Statistical contact details

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