

# Film on UK television 2012

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

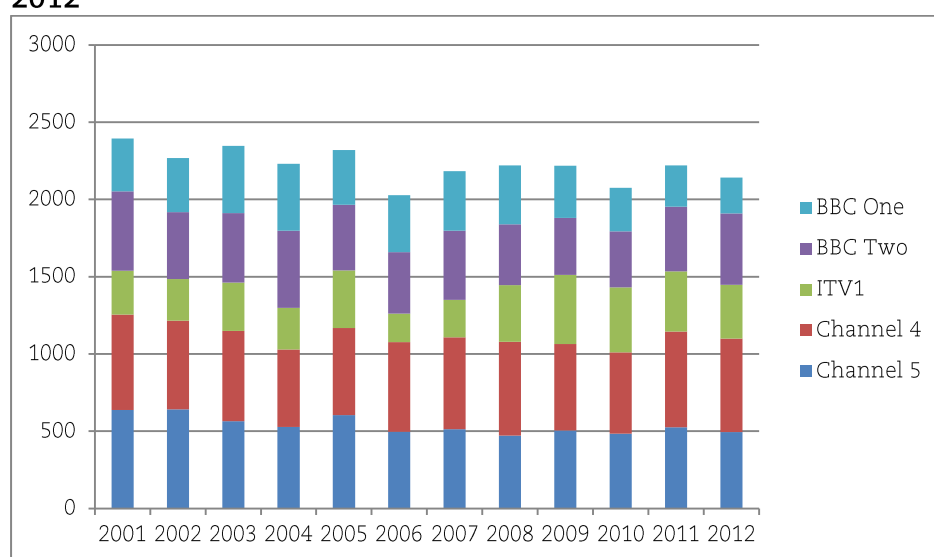
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## 1. The number of feature film transmissions

The five main terrestrial channels represent a significant platform for film viewings in the UK, accounting for 43% of the televised feature film audience and 33% of all feature film viewings in the UK in 2011<sup>1</sup>. This report outlines the number of UK and foreign language film transmissions on the terrestrial channels in 2012.

A total of 2,141 films were shown on the five main terrestrial channels in 2012, down 4% on 2011 (2,221 films). Channel 4 scheduled the most feature films (604) and BBC One the fewest (231) (Figure 1). The average number of film transmissions over the study period was 2,220.

**Figure 1 Number of feature films broadcast on terrestrial television, 2001-2012**



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>BBC One</b>	341	351	435	434	354	369	384	381	338	281	268	231
<b>BBC Two</b>	514	433	451	499	426	397	447	395	369	364	419	463
<b>ITV1</b>	285	269	312	268	373	184	243	367	446	419	388	348
<b>Channel 4</b>	617	574	584	503	562	581	595	606	561	526	621	604
<b>Channel 5</b>	637	641	565	527	605	496	513	472	504	485	525	495
<b>Total</b>	2,394	2,268	2,347	2,231	2,320	2,027	2,182	2,221	2,218	2,075	2,221	2,141

Source: Attentional, BFI RSU analysis

<sup>1</sup>BFI Statistical Yearbook 2012 ([www.bfi.org.uk/statisticalyearbook2012](http://www.bfi.org.uk/statisticalyearbook2012))

## 2. UK films on television

Just over one in five (21%) of all films broadcast were of UK origin, down slightly on 2011 (22%). Almost three in ten (29%) of films shown on BBC Two and ITV1 were UK titles (Table 1).

Recent UK titles, released theatrically in the eight years prior to TV broadcast, made up 7% of films televised in 2012. Almost 11% of films shown on BBC Two and just over 10% of films on BBC One were recent UK productions, as were 10% on ITV1.

Recent UK films broadcast on BBC One in 2012 included *The Infidel*, *London River*, *Shank*, *Somers Town* and *Tamara Drewe*. Some of the highlights on BBC Two were *Archipelago*, *Brighton Rock*, *Bright Star*, *The Duchess*, *Glorious 39*, *Man on Wire*, *Nativity!*, *Tormented*, *You Instead* and *The Young Victoria*. ITV1 screened *Atonement*, *The Boat the Rocked*, *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, *Mr Bean's Holiday* and *Quantum of Solace*. *127 Hours*, *Attack the Block*, *Exit Through the Gift Shop*, *The Inbetweeners Movie*, *Le Donk and Scor-zay-zee*, *Submarine* and *Wuthering Heights* featured on Channel 4 over the year, while Channel 5 screened *Layer Cake*, *Outlaw* and *Revolver*.

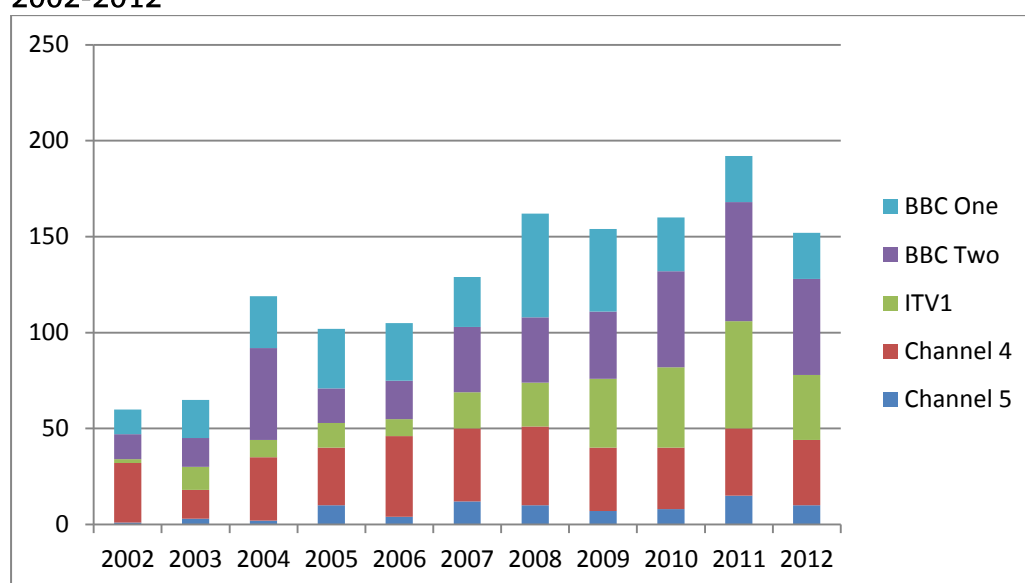
**Table 1 UK feature films broadcast on terrestrial television, 2012**

Channel	Number of films broadcast	Number of UK films broadcast	UK film as % of total	Number of recent* UK films broadcast	Recent* UK as % of total film slots
<b>BBC One</b>	231	39	17	24	10
<b>BBC Two</b>	463	134	29	50	11
<b>ITV1</b>	348	102	29	34	10
<b>Channel 4</b>	604	114	19	34	6
<b>Channel 5</b>	495	54	11	10	2
<b>Total</b>	2,141	443	21	152	7

Source: Attentional, BFI RSU analysis. \*A recent film is one which has been theatrically released, or intended for theatrical release, in the UK since 2004.

The number of recent UK films shown on the main terrestrial channels increased in the nine years from 2002-2011, from 60 in 2002 to 192 (Figure 2). However, the figure declined in 2012.

**Figure 2 Number of recent UK films broadcast on terrestrial television, 2002-2012**



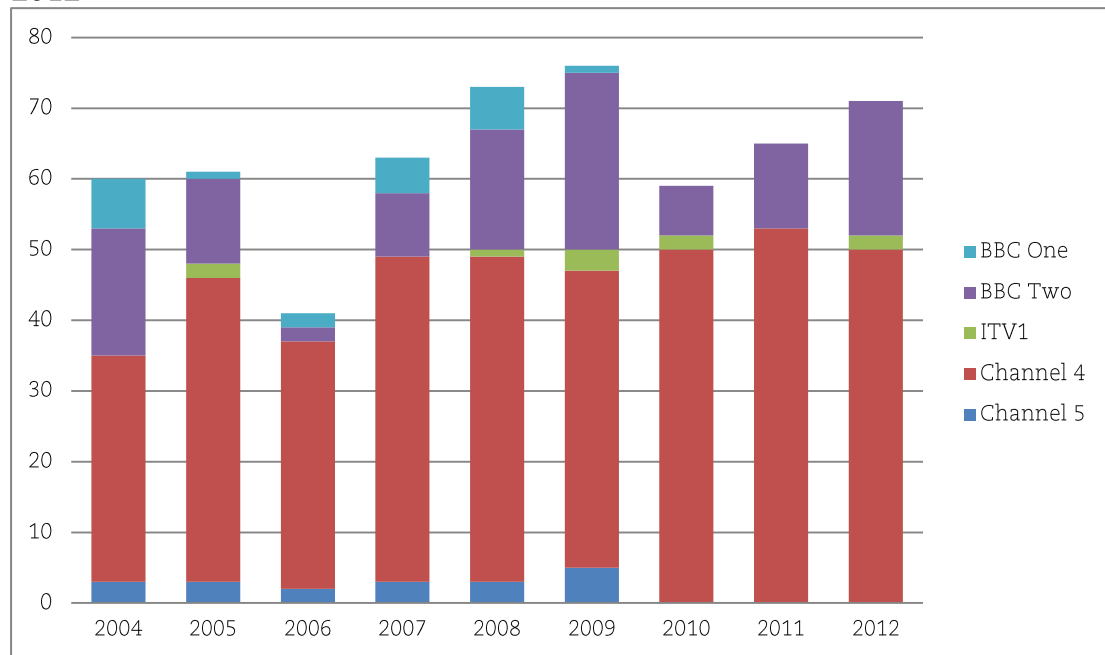
Channel	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
BBC One	13	20	27	31	30	26	54	43	28	24	24
BBC Two	13	15	48	18	20	34	34	35	50	62	50
ITV1	2	12	9	13	9	19	23	36	42	56	34
Channel 4	31	15	33	30	42	38	41	33	32	35	34
Channel 5	1	3	2	10	4	12	10	7	8	15	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>152</b>

Source: Attentional, BFI RSU analysis

### 3. Foreign language films on UK television

A total of 71 foreign language films were shown across the five main terrestrial channels in 2012, the third highest figure of the last nine years (Figure 3). The leading broadcaster of foreign language films continued to be Channel 4 which screened 50 in total including *A Prophet*, *Death of Mr Lazarescu*, *Kaminey*, *Little Red Flowers*, *Mic Macs*, *The Millennium Trilogy*, *My Name is Khan*, *Red Cliff* and *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*. BBC2 broadcast *The Counterfeiters*, *The Market: A Tale of Trade*, *Moliere*, *The Science of Sleep*, *The Silence of Lorna*, *Sugar*, *Summer Hours*, *Tsotsi* and *XXY*. No foreign language films were broadcast on BBC One or Channel Five.

**Figure 3 Foreign language films broadcast on terrestrial television, 2004-2012**



Channel	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
BBC One	7	1	2	5	6	1	0	0	0
BBC Two	18	12	2	9	17	25	7	12	19
ITV1	0	2	0	0	1	3	2	0	2
Channel 4	32	43	35	46	46	42	50	53	50
Channel 5	3	3	2	3	3	5	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>71</b>

Source: Attentional, BFI RSU analysis

## Notes

1. Details of feature film transmissions on UK television are assembled from the schedules by Attentional ([www.attentional.com](http://www.attentional.com)). The data reported are all films shown on terrestrial television in the calendar year and the data are a census not a sample. Country of origin is allocated by the BFI Research and Statistics Unit and the UK share is calculated on that basis.
2. 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.
3. A full analysis of feature film on digital multichannel and pay-TV channels will appear in the forthcoming BFI Statistical Yearbook 2013.

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