

# The UK box office in 2014

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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## 1. Key points

- UK cinema admissions in 2014 were 157.5 million, 5% lower than in 2013, and 9% lower than 2012.
- The gross value of those ticket sales was £1,058 million, down 2% on 2013.
- The highest grossing film released in 2014 was *The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies*, with takings of £40.3 million. This was followed by *The Lego Movie* (£34.3 million) and *Paddington* (£34.1 million)
- Only one film, *The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies*, earned more than £40 million compared with three films in 2013. Fourteen films earned £20 million or more, the same as 2013.
- *Paddington* was the highest-grossing independent UK film of 2014, with *The Inbetweeners 2* close in second place. Together, these two films took a total of £67.5 million compared with £21.2 million for the top two independent UK films in 2013 (*Philomena* and *Rush*). Seven films took £5 million or more compared with five in 2013.
- The market share of independent UK films reached almost 16%, the highest proportion since measurement began in 2001. For the first time, the market share of independent UK films was higher than that for US studio-backed UK films. This share was 10%, down from 15% in 2013.

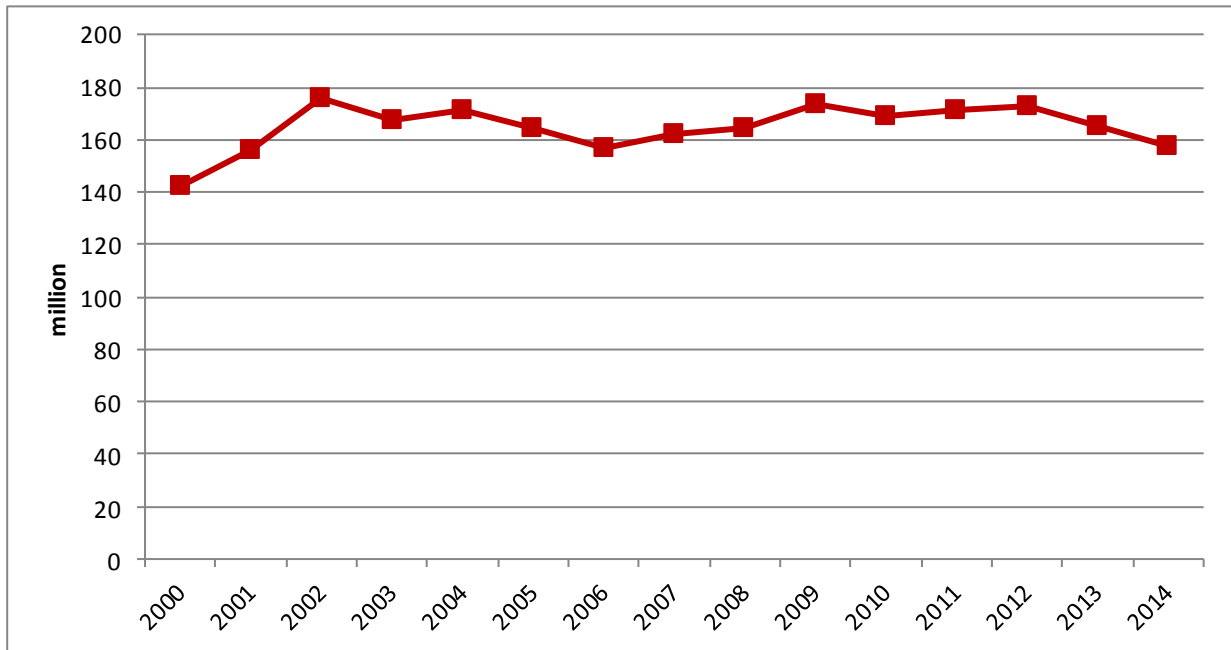
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<sup>1</sup> This version of the release has corrected an incorrect reference in Section 4 to 2014 instead of 2013. The data and findings are unchanged.

## 2. UK cinema admissions

UK cinema admissions in 2014 were 157.5 million, 5% lower than in 2013, and 9% lower than 2012 (Figure 1). The gross value of those ticket sales was £1,058 million, down 2% on 2013.

**Figure 1 Annual UK admissions 2000-2014**



Source: CAA, Rentrak

The pattern of monthly cinema admissions is outlined in Table 1.

Ticket sales were higher than the equivalent period in 2013 in February (up 3%, when the most popular release was *The Lego Movie*); April (up 7%, due to *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*); October (up 12%, when the most popular release was *Gone Girl*); and December (up 5% due to a number of major releases - *Paddington*, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1*, *Interstellar* and *The Imitation Game*).

Ticket sales were lower than the equivalent period in the other months, most significantly in January (11% lower mainly due to the release in 2013 of a number of major films: *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, *The Life of Pi* and *Les Misérables*); May/June (where admissions were 20% lower than 2013, as there were fewer major releases during this period to the FIFA World Cup, with titles such as *How To Train Your Dragon 2* and *Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes* not released until late June/July); and September (when admissions were 14% lower than 2013).

**Table 1 Monthly cinema admissions 2012-2014**

	<b>2012 (million)</b>	<b>2013 (million)</b>	<b>2014 (million)</b>	<b>% change on 2013</b>
January	13.55	17.08	15.19	-11.1
February	15.31	13.96	14.33	2.7
March	11.70	10.89	10.36	-4.8
April	15.05	11.89	12.68	6.7
May	13.44	15.61	12.60	-19.3
June	12.38	13.03	10.40	-20.2
July	15.52	14.32	13.28	-7.3
August	17.22	17.64	17.07	-3.2
September	9.44	9.89	8.52	-13.8
October	16.83	11.87	13.27	11.9
November	17.64	13.67	12.69	-7.2
December	14.40	15.71	17.12	9.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>172.50</b>	<b>165.54</b>	<b>157.50</b>	<b>-4.9</b>

Source: CAA, Rentrak

### 3. Top films released in 2014

The following analysis covers films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland in 2014, based on box office data up to and including the 18th January 2015. The highest grossing film released in 2014 was *The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies*, with takings of £40.3 million. This was followed by *The Lego Movie* (£34.3 million) and *Paddington* (£34.7 million). Only *The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies* earned more than £40 million compared with three films in 2013. Fourteen films earned £20 million or more, the same as 2013.

**Table 2 Top 20 films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2014**

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Country of origin</b>	<b>Box office Gross (£m)</b>	<b>Distributor</b>
1	<i>The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies*</i>	NZ/USA	40.33	Warner Bros
2	<i>The Lego Movie</i>	Aus/US/Den	34.33	Warner Bros
3	<i>Paddington*</i>	UK	34.07	StudioCanal
4	<i>The Inbetweeners 2</i>	UK	33.39	Entertainment
5	<i>Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes</i>	USA	32.72	20th Century Fox
6	<i>The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1*</i>	USA	30.96	Lionsgate
7	<i>Guardians Of The Galaxy</i>	UK/USA	28.54	Walt Disney
8	<i>X-Men: Days Of Future Past</i>	USA	27.13	20th Century Fox
9	<i>How To Train Your Dragon 2</i>	USA	25.08	20th Century Fox
10	<i>The Amazing Spider-Man 2</i>	USA	24.08	Sony Pictures
11	<i>The Wolf Of Wall Street</i>	USA	22.70	Universal
12	<i>Gone Girl*</i>	USA	22.37	20th Century Fox
13	<i>Interstellar*</i>	USA	20.52	Warner Bros
14	<i>12 Years A Slave</i>	USA	20.03	eOne Films
15	<i>Transformers: Age Of Extinction</i>	USA/China	19.54	Paramount
16	<i>Maleficent</i>	UK/USA	19.45	Walt Disney
17	<i>Captain America: The Winter Soldier</i>	USA	19.35	Walt Disney
18	<i>22 Jump Street</i>	USA	18.61	Sony Pictures
19	<i>Godzilla</i>	USA/Japan	17.23	Warner Bros
20	<i>Bad Neighbours</i>	USA	16.03	Universal

Source: Rentrak

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 18 January 2015.

\* Film still being exhibited on 18 January 2015.

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

#### 4. Top UK films released in 2014

The highest-grossing UK film of 2014 was *Paddington* (Table 3). In second place was *The Inbetweeners 2* (£33.4 million) and *Guardians of the Galaxy* (£28.5 million) was third. Three UK qualifying films took £20 million or more (up to 18 January), compared with four in 2013. Six UK films took £10 million or more in 2014, compared with seven in 2013.

**Table 3 Top 20 UK films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2014**

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Country of origin</b>	<b>Box office Gross (£m)</b>	<b>Distributor</b>
1	<i>Paddington*</i>	UK	34.07	StudioCanal
2	<i>The Inbetweeners 2</i>	UK	33.39	Entertainment
3	<i>Guardians Of The Galaxy</i>	UK/USA	28.54	Walt Disney
4	<i>Maleficent</i>	UK/USA	19.45	Walt Disney
5	<i>The Imitation Game*</i>	UK/USA	15.19	StudioCanal
6	<i>Mrs. Brown's Boys D'Movie</i>	UK	14.72	Universal
7	<i>Non-Stop</i>	UK/USA	9.48	StudioCanal
8	<i>Fury</i>	UK/USA	8.32	Sony Pictures
9	<i>Exodus: Gods And Kings*</i>	UK/USA/Spain	7.91	20th Century Fox
10	<i>Edge Of Tomorrow</i>	UK/USA	7.88	Warner Bros
11	<i>Muppets Most Wanted</i>	UK/USA	7.67	Walt Disney
12	<i>Nativity 3: Dude, Where's My Donkey?*</i>	UK	7.49	eOne Films
13	<i>Mr. Turner*</i>	UK/Fra/Ger	6.63	eOne Films
14	<i>The Monuments Men</i>	UK/USA/Ger	6.18	20th Century Fox
15	<i>The Railway Man</i>	UK/Aus	5.33	Lionsgate
16	<i>Dracula Untold</i>	UK/USA	4.89	Universal
17	<i>Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom</i>	UK/South Africa	4.43	Pathé
18	<i>What We Did On Our Holiday*</i>	UK	4.09	Lionsgate
19	<i>Pride</i>	UK	3.98	Pathé
20	<i>Postman Pat</i>	UK	3.51	Lionsgate

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 18 January 2015.

\* Film still being exhibited on 18 January 2015.

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

## 5. Top independent UK films released in 2014

*Paddington* was the highest-grossing independent UK film of 2014 (Table 4), with *The Inbetweeners 2* close in second place. Together, these two films took a total of £67.5 million compared with £21.2 million for the top two independent UK films in 2013 (*Philomena* and *Rush*). Seven films took £5 million or more compared with five in 2013.

**Table 4 Top 20 independent UK films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2015**

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Country of origin</b>	<b>Box office Gross (£m)</b>	<b>Distributor</b>
1	Paddington*	UK	34.07	StudioCanal
2	The Inbetweeners 2	UK	33.39	Entertainment
3	The Imitation Game*	UK/USA#	15.19	StudioCanal
4	Non-Stop	UK/USA#	9.48	StudioCanal
5	Nativity 3: Dude, Where's My Donkey?*	UK	7.49	eOne Films
6	Mr. Turner*	UK/Fra/Ger	6.63	eOne Films
7	The Railway Man	UK/Aus	5.33	Lionsgate
8	Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom	UK/South Africa	4.43	Pathé
9	What We Did On Our Holiday*	UK	4.09	Lionsgate
10	Pride	UK	3.98	Pathé
11	Postman Pat	UK	3.51	Lionsgate
12	Before I Go to Sleep	UK/USA#	3.34	StudioCanal
13	Calvary	UK/Ire	2.93	eOne Films
14	The Hundred-Foot Journey	UK/UAE/USA#	2.81	eOne Films
15	Cuban Fury	UK	2.46	StudioCanal
16	A Most Wanted Man	UK/Ger	2.06	eOne Films
17	Belle	UK	1.86	20th Century Fox
18	Pudsey The Dog: The Movie	UK	1.77	Vertigo
19	The Quiet Ones	UK/USA#	1.62	Lionsgate
20	The Two Faces of January	UK	1.62	StudioCanal

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 18 January 2015.

\* Film still being exhibited on 18 January 2015.

# Film made with independent (non-studio) US support

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

## 6. Market share of independent UK films

The market share of independent UK films reached almost 16%, the highest proportion since measurement began in 2001. For the first time, the market share of independent UK films was higher than that for US studio-backed UK films. This share was 10%, down from 15% in 2013 (Table 5).

**Table 5 Theatrical market share of UK films by studio and independent titles, 2001-2014**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Market share of UK qualifying films produced with US studio backing (%)</b>	<b>Market share of UK independent films (%)</b>
2001	21.2	3.8
2002	16.1	6.5
2003	12.5	3.4
2004	19.5	3.9
2005	26.2	6.9
2006	14.4	4.7
2007	21.8	6.8
2008	25.4	5.7
2009	8.5	8.2
2010	18.6	5.4
2011	22.6	13.1
2012	22.8	9.3
2013	15.4	6.8
2014	10.4	15.5

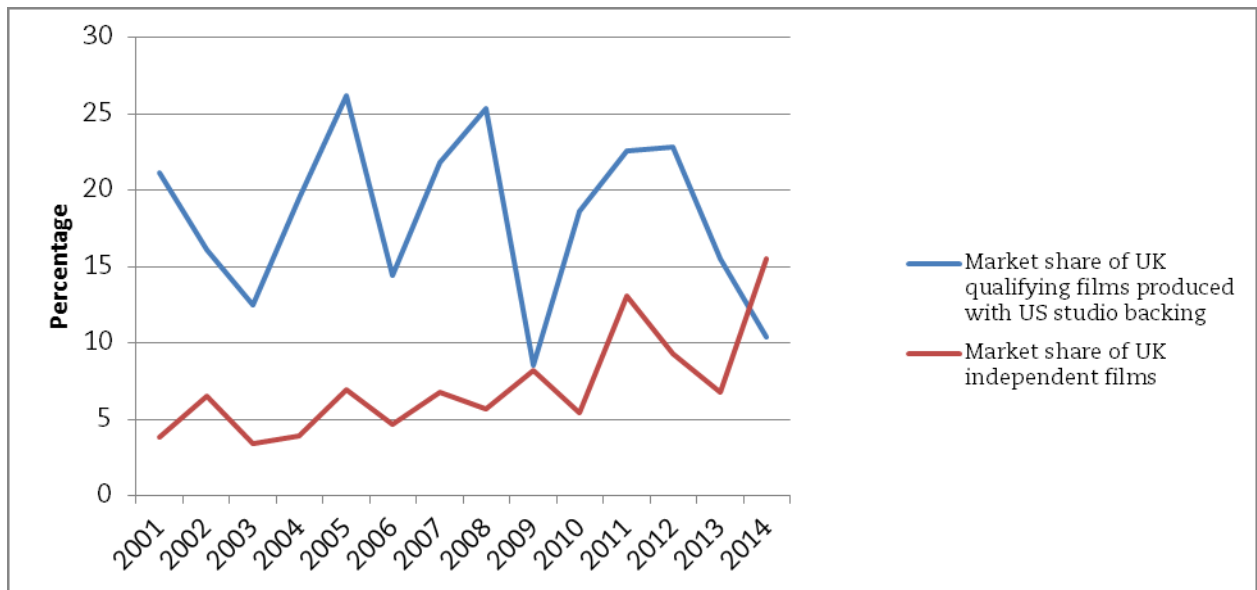
Source: BFI

Note:

2014 market share calculation based on grosses up to and including 18 January 2015

Figure 2 shows the fluctuating patterns of UK market share with the annual figure dependent on a small number of high-grossing titles. The average UK independent market share for the ten-year period from 2005-2014 was 8% with an upward trend from the lowest point of 3% in 2003.

**Figure 2 UK films' share of the UK theatrical market 2001-2014**



Source: BFI



## Notes

### 1. Data

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

The value of the UK box office in 2014 (£1,058 million) refers to the gross value of UK ticket sales in the calendar year. Subsequent analysis of individual titles and market shares includes box office gross in the UK and Republic of Ireland up to and including 18 January 2014 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.

Most UK films in the analysis (including the major UK/USA films) fall into the first group – films officially certified as British.

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.

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Amanda Nevill, Chief Executive, BFI  
Ben Roberts, Head of Film Fund, BFI  
Fiona Cookson, Head of External Affairs, BFI  
Richard Shaw, Director of Communications, Marketing and Audiences, BFI  
Carol Comley, Head of Strategic Development, BFI  
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Judy Wells, Head of Press and PR, BFI  
Tina McFarling, Media Advisor, Press and PR, BFI  
Sajid Javid, Secretary of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
Nick King, Department for Culture, Media and Sport

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 Vivienne Avery, Research and Statistics Unit, BFI,  
[vivienne.avery@bfi.org.uk](mailto:vivienne.avery@bfi.org.uk), tel + 44 (0)20 7173 3248

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