

# The UK box office January – March (Q1) 2014

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

Revised Publication: 3 February 2015 (see Note 1)

## 1. Admissions

Just under 40 million cinema tickets were sold in the UK in the first three months of 2014, down 5% on the same period in 2013 (Table 1). Admissions in January were 11% down on January 2013, which exceeded 17 million. The very high January 2013 admissions were largely due to the popularity of December 2012 releases *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* and *The Life of Pi* which continued to do strong business alongside 2013 releases *The Impossible*, *Les Misérables* and *Django Unchained*. The top films of January 2014 were *The Wolf of Wall Street*, *12 Years a Slave*, *American Hustle* and *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*. February was the only month of the first quarter when 2014 admissions were higher than 2013 admissions. The most popular film in February 2014 was *The Lego Movie*, which was also the highest grossing film of the first three months of 2014. Also making significant contributions to February's admissions were *Mr. Peabody and Sherman*, *The Wolf of Wall Street* and *RoboCop*.

**Table 1 Monthly cinema admissions in the UK, Q1 2013-2014**

	<b>2013 (million)</b>	<b>2014 (million)</b>	<b>% change on 2013</b>
January	17.08	15.19	-11.1
February	13.96	14.33	+2.7
March	10.89	10.36	-4.8
<b>Q1 total</b>	<b>41.93</b>	<b>39.88</b>	<b>-4.9</b>

Source: CAA, Rentrak

## 2. Box Office

In the first three months of 2014, 157 films were released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, with total box office takings of £232 million, up to 13 April. The highest grossing release of the quarter was animation *The Lego Movie*, which earned £33 million to 13 April. In second place was *The Wolf of Wall Street* (£23 million), followed by Oscar® winner *12 Years a Slave*, with box office takings of £20 million. The fourth film in the list is *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, which was released on 28 March, but had taken nearly £15 million by 13 April (Table 2).

**Table 2 Top 10 films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, Q1 2014**

	Title	Country of origin	Box office gross (£m)	Distributor
1	<i>The Lego Movie</i> *	USA	32.5	Warner Bros
2	<i>The Wolf of Wall Street</i> *	USA	22.7	Universal
3	<i>12 Years a Slave</i> *	USA	20.0	eOne Films
4	<i>Captain America: The Winter Soldier</i> *	USA	14.6	Walt Disney
5	<i>Mr. Peabody and Sherman</i> *	USA	13.0	20th Century Fox
6	<i>The Grand Budapest Hotel</i> *	USA/Ger	9.9	20th Century Fox
7	<i>Non-Stop</i> *	UK/USA	9.4	StudioCanal
8	<i>RoboCop</i> *	USA	8.0	StudioCanal
9	<i>300: Rise of an Empire</i> *	USA	7.8	Warner Bros
10	<i>Last Vegas</i>	USA	7.0	Universal

Source: Rentrak

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 13 April 2014.

Films with an asterisk (\*) were still being exhibited on 13 April 2014.

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

Table 3 shows the top UK independent films of the first three months of 2014. The highest grossing UK independent release was *Non-Stop* which grossed over £9 million. At number six in the list, with box office of £1 million to 13 April, is *Under the Skin* which was released on 14 March and played at a maximum of just 85 cinemas (compared with more than 300 for all the films above it in the list).

**Table 3 Top 10 independent UK films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, Q1 2014**

	Title	Country of origin	Box office Gross (£m)	Distributor
1	<i>Non-Stop</i> *	UK/USA#	9.4	StudioCanal
2	<i>The Railway Man</i> *	UK/Aus	5.2	Lionsgate
3	<i>Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom</i>	UK/SA	4.4	Pathè
4	<i>Cuban Fury</i> *	UK	2.5	StudioCanal
5	<i>Starred Up</i> *	UK	1.4	20th Century Fox
6	<i>Under the Skin</i> *	UK/USA#	1.0	StudioCanal
7	<i>A Long Way Down</i> *	UK/Ger	0.9	Lionsgate
8	<i>The Invisible Woman</i> *	UK/USA#	0.8	Lionsgate
9	<i>The Zero Theorem</i> *	UK/Rom/Fra	0.1	Sony Pictures
10	<i>Bastards</i>	UK	0.03	Curzon Film World

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 13 April 2014.

Films with an asterisk (\*) were still being exhibited on 13 April 2014.

# *Non-Stop*, *Under the Skin* and *The Invisible Woman* were made with independent (non-studio) US support.

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

### **3. Market Share**

The market share of UK films was 17%. The market share of UK independent films was 12%, with just a 5% share for UK studio-backed films as only two of these films (The Monuments Men and Muppets Most Wanted) were released in the first three months of 2014 (UK studio-backed films are films wholly or part-financed by US studios but featuring UK cast, crew, locations, facilities, post-production and often UK source material).

## Notes

### 1. Revision

This release has been revised due to a change in classification of the film *12 Years a Slave* from UK/USA to non-UK.

### 2. 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.

### 3. 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.

### 4. 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.

### 5. 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  
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  
Nick Mason Pearson, Director of Press and Public Affairs, BFI  
Judy Wells, Head of Press and PR, BFI  
Tina McFarling, Media Advisor, Press and PR, 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 revised by Alex Tosta, Research and Statistics Unit, BFI,  
[alex.tosta@bfi.org.uk](mailto:alex.tosta@bfi.org.uk) tel + 44 (0)20 7173 4815

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