

The UK box office January – September (Q1-Q3) 2014

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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1. Admissions

In the first nine months of the year, 114.4 million cinema tickets were sold in the UK, down 7.9% on the same period in 2013 (these figures include both admissions to films and to event cinema). Looking at the year to September 2014 (October 2013 to September 2014), 155.7 million cinema tickets were sold, which is 10.1% lower than the 173.2 tickets sold between October 2012 and September 2013 (Table 1). Up to the end of September, February and April were the only two months when 2014 admissions were higher than in the corresponding month of 2013. The higher admissions in February 2014 were largely due to the successes of *The Lego Movie* (the highest earning film of the year so far), *The Wolf of Wall Street* and *Mr Peabody and Sherman*. In April 2014 the films attracting the highest audiences were *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* and *Rio 2*. The largest falls in admissions from 2013 were seen in May and June. The films which contributed most to higher admissions in May 2013 than in May 2014 were *Iron Man 3*, *Star Trek Into Darkness* and *Fast & Furious 6*. The FIFA World Cup started in June 2014 and so cinema admissions could be expected to be lower than in June of the previous year because of the competition from televised football matches. In addition, there were some very successful films being shown at the cinema in June 2013, including *Despicable Me 2* (the highest grossing film of 2013), *Man of Steel* and *World War Z*.

Table 1 Monthly cinema admissions Jan-Sep 2013 and 2014

| | 2013 (million) | 2014 (million) | % change on 2013 |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| January | 17.08 | 15.19 | -11.1% |
| February | 13.96 | 14.33 | 2.7% |
| March | 10.89 | 10.36 | -4.8% |
| April | 11.89 | 12.68 | 6.7% |
| May | 15.61 | 12.60 | -19.3% |
| June | 13.03 | 10.40 | -20.2% |
| July | 14.32 | 13.28 | -7.3% |
| August | 17.64 | 17.07 | -3.2% |
| September | 9.89 | 8.52 | -13.8% |
| Jan-Sep total | 124.30 | 114.42 | -7.9% |
| Year to Sep | 173.18 | 155.66 | -10.1% |

Source: CAA, Rentrak

2. Box Office

In the first nine months of 2014, 528 films were released in cinemas in the UK with total box office takings (up to 26 October 2014) of £750.2 million. This is an increase of 20 releases compared with the first nine months of 2013, but a 9% decrease from the 2013 releases' aggregate box office of £825.8 million (to 27 October 2013).

The highest grossing release of the first three quarters of the year was *The Lego Movie*, which grossed over £34 million (to 26 October). In second place was the top UK independent film of January to September, *The Inbetweeners 2*, which earned

over £33 million up to 26 October (when it was still on release). These were followed by *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* (£33 million) and *Guardians of the Galaxy* (£28 million) in third and fourth places (Table 2).

Table 2 Top 20 films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, Jan-Sep 2014

| | Title | Country of origin | Box office gross (£m) | Distributor |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | The Lego Movie | Aus/USA/Den | 34.33 | Warner Bros |
| 2 | The Inbetweeners 2* | UK | 33.39 | Entertainment |
| 3 | Dawn of the Planet of the Apes | USA | 32.71 | 20th Century Fox |
| 4 | Guardians of The Galaxy* | UK/USA | 28.44 | Walt Disney |
| 5 | X-Men: Days of Future Past | USA | 27.13 | 20th Century Fox |
| 6 | How to Train Your Dragon 2* | USA | 24.69 | 20th Century Fox |
| 7 | The Amazing Spider-Man 2 | USA | 24.08 | Sony Pictures |
| 8 | The Wolf of Wall Street | USA | 22.70 | Universal |
| 9 | 12 Years a Slave | USA | 20.03 | eOne Films |
| 10 | Transformers: Age of Extinction | USA/China | 19.53 | Paramount |
| 11 | Maleficent* | UK/USA | 19.41 | Walt Disney |
| 12 | Captain America: The Winter Soldier | USA | 19.35 | Walt Disney |
| 13 | 22 Jump Street | USA | 18.61 | Sony Pictures |
| 14 | Godzilla | USA/Jap | 17.23 | Warner Bros |
| 15 | Bad Neighbours | USA | 16.03 | Universal |
| 16 | Rio 2 | USA | 15.78 | 20th Century Fox |
| 17 | Mrs. Brown's Boys D'Movie | UK | 14.72 | Universal |
| 18 | Lucy* | Fra | 14.32 | Universal |
| 19 | Mr. Peabody and Sherman | USA | 13.70 | 20th Century Fox |
| 20 | The Fault in Our Stars | USA | 11.43 | 20th Century Fox |

Source: Rentrak

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 26 October 2014.

Films with an asterisk (*) were still being exhibited on 26 October 2014.

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

The highest grossing UK independent release of the first nine months of the year was *The Inbetweeners 2* which grossed over £33 million. In second place was *Non-Stop* with earnings of over £9 million and *The Railway Man* was the third highest earning UK independent film with takings of more than £5 million (Table 3).

Table 3 Top 10 independent UK films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, Jan-Sep 2014

| | Title | Country of origin | Box office gross (£m) | Distributor |
|----|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | <i>The Inbetweeners 2</i> * | UK | 33.39 | Entertainment |
| 2 | <i>Non-Stop</i> | UK/USA# | 9.48 | StudioCanal |
| 3 | <i>The Railway Man</i> | UK/Aus | 5.33 | Lionsgate |
| | <i>Mandela: Long Walk to</i> | | | |
| 4 | <i>Freedom</i> | UK/SA | 4.43 | Pathé |
| 5 | <i>Pride</i> * | UK | 3.80 | Pathé |
| | <i>What We Did on Our</i> | | | |
| 6 | <i>Holiday</i> * | UK | 3.69 | Lionsgate |
| 7 | <i>Postman Pat: The Movie</i> | UK | 3.33 | Lionsgate |
| 8 | <i>Before I Go to Sleep</i> * | UK/USA# | 3.27 | StudioCanal |
| 9 | <i>Calvary</i> | UK/Ire | 2.93 | eOne Films |
| 10 | <i>Cuban Fury</i> | UK | 2.46 | StudioCanal |

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis

Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 26 October 2014.

Films with an asterisk (*) were still being exhibited on 26 October 2014

Non-Stop and *Before I Go to Sleep* 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 box office market share for all UK films in the first three quarters of 2014 was 24%. The share for UK independent films was 12% and the share for US studio-backed UK films (films wholly or part-financed by US studios but featuring UK cast, crew, locations, facilities, post-production and often UK source material) was 12%.

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:

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Tina McFarling, Press Officer, 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, tel + 44 (0)20 7173 3249

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