

Film production in the UK – full year 2011 report

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

31 January 2012

1. Total film production in the UK

The aggregate UK spend of features that commenced principal photography in 2011 was £1,260 million, the highest figure recorded¹. Inward investment films contributed £1,007 million, also the highest total recorded. Co-productions contributed £59 million, up from £56.3 million in 2010, and domestic UK films £193.8 million, down from £213.9 million in 2010 and £250.2 million in 2009. Films produced with budgets under £500,000 are included in this analysis for the first time.

Table 1 UK spend of features produced in the UK, 2008 - 2011, £ million

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Co-productions	51.0	38.6	56.3	59.0
Domestic UK features	231.0	250.2	213.9	193.8
Inward investment feature films	432.9	834.6	979.7	1,007.1
Total	714.9	1,123.3	1,249.8	1,259.9

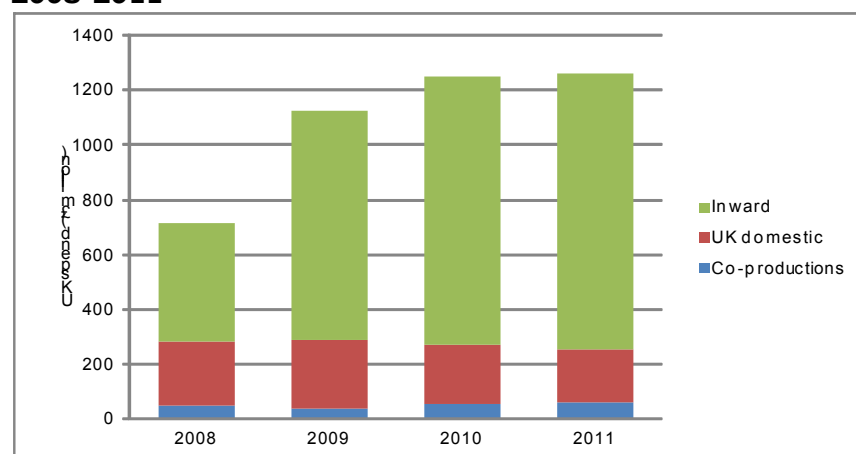
Source: BFI

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

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

Films with budgets under £500,000 are included in this analysis. For pre-2008 data on films with budgets \geq £500,000 see BFI 2011 Statistical Yearbook.

Figure 1 Value of UK spend of inward, domestic, co-production and total features, 2008-2011



Source: BFI

¹ Including the years before 2008. See page 147 of the BFI 2011 Statistical Yearbook.

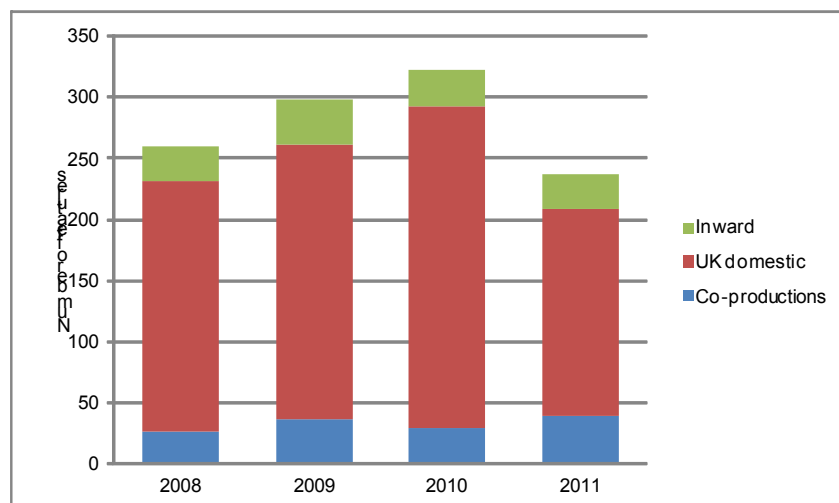
In 2011, there were 237 films produced in whole or part in the UK, down from 322 in 2010. 40 were co-productions, 169 were domestic UK features (of which 98 had budgets under £500,000) and 28 were inward investment films (Table 2). The decline in domestic productions was due to a 47% decrease in the number of low and micro-budget films. This could be partly due to a time lag in obtaining complete information on all low and micro-budget activity in the UK in 2011.

Table 2 Number of features produced in the UK, 2008 - 2011

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Co-productions	27	37	30	40
Domestic UK features	204	225	262	169
of which budgets under £500,000	122	136	184	98
Inward investment feature films	29	37	30	28
Total	260	299	322	237

Source: BFI
See notes to Table 1.

Figure 2 Number of inward, domestic, co-production and total features, 2008-2011



Source: BFI

Significant inward investment titles in 2011 included *Batman: The Dark Knight Rises*, *Jack the Giant Killer*, *Prometheus*, *Skyfall*, *Snow White and the Huntsman*, *World War Z* and *Wrath of the Titans*.

Domestic UK titles in 2011 included *Great Expectations*, *The Inbetweeners Movie*, *The Iron Lady*, *Now is Good*, *Postman Pat: The Movie*, *The Sweeney* and *Welcome to the Punch*.

Co-productions in 2011 included *360*, *Good Vibrations*, *Shadow Dancer* and *StreetDance 2 3D*.

2. UK and non-UK Films

In 2011, UK films accounted for £1,218 million out of a total UK spend of £1,259.9 million, as shown in Table 3. This reflects the fact that most inward investment titles are UK-qualifying films.

Table 3 UK spend of UK and non-UK features produced in the UK, 2008 - 2011, £ millions

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Non-UK films	24.2	47.6	10.5	41.9
UK films	690.7	1 075.7	1,239.3	1,218.0
Total	714.9	1,123.3	1,249.8	1,259.9

Source: BFI

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

UK films are those that are certified as UK or are de facto UK films by virtue of being made in whole or part in the UK by UK production companies.

Non-UK films are films that are produced and financed by overseas companies and are not certified as UK films.

Table 4 shows the production numbers for UK and non-UK films over the period 2008-2011. In 2011, 224 of the 237 films tracked were UK films; 13 were non-UK films.

Table 4 Number of UK and non-UK features produced in the UK, 2008 - 2011

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Non-UK films	14	24	6	13
UK films	246	275	316	224
Total	260	299	322	237

Source: BFI

See notes to Table 3.

3. US studio and independent films

The majority of UK spend (80%) was accounted for by US studio films (Table 5).

Table 5 UK spend of US studio and independent films produced in the UK, 2008 - 2011, £ million

	2008	2009	2010	2011
US Studio films	431.2	818.7	961.5	1,002.6
Independent films	283.7	304.6	288.4	257.3
Total	714.9	1,123.3	1,249.8	1,259.9

Source: BFI

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

A US studio film is one where one of the major US studios (or one of its specialist subsidiaries) is involved in the production stage of the film.

An independent film is one made by an independent production company or group of independent production companies.

US studio films are generally distributed in most territories by the parent studio. Independent films are usually distributed by different distributors in different territories.

Table 6 shows the breakdown between US studio films and independent films. Every year the majority of films were independent films, with 20 (8%) US studio-backed films in 2011.

Table 6 Number of US studio and independent films produced in the UK, 2008 - 2011

	2008	2009	2010	2011
US Studio films	24	27	18	20
Independent films	236	272	304	217
Total	260	299	322	237

Source: BFI

See notes to Table 5.

4. Independent UK films by category

Table 7 shows the UK spend by category for independent UK films. The aggregate UK spend fell from £299 million in 2009 to £247 million in 2011.

Table 7 UK spend of UK independent films by category, 2008 - 2011

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Co-productions	50.0	35.7	55.8	40.3
Domestic UK features	157.2	201.8	183.1	168.8
Inward investment feature films	73.5	61.8	41.0	37.9
Total	280.7	299.3	279.9	247.1

Source: BFI

Most independent UK films were domestic UK features or co-productions. A minority were inward investment features (Table 9). The latter were mainly Indian or independent US films produced in the UK and officially certified as UK films.

Table 9 Number of UK independent films by category, 2008 - 2011

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Co-productions	26	31	29	34
Domestic UK features	199	221	260	168
of which budgets under £500,000	122	136	184	98
Inward investment feature films	7	8	11	8
Total	232	260	300	210

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, 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.

Previous analyses focused on films with budgets over £500,000. This is the first statistics release to present an overview of all production at all budget levels from 2008 onwards. For pre-2008 data, see the BFI 2011 Statistical Yearbook.

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 feature is a feature 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) 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 feature** is a feature film 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 features are UK films 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, Olympics, Media and Sport.

An **inward feature co-production** is an official co-production that originates from outside the co-production treaty countries (usually from the USA) and which is attracted to the UK because of script requirements, the UK's infrastructure or UK film tax relief.

A **VFX-only film** is a film that has a substantial quantity of digital visual effects made in the UK at one of the UK's main VFX houses but no other UK spend.

Inward investment (INW) is the total of inward features, inward feature co-productions and VFX-only inward investment films. These are summed as the number of inward co-productions is usually low, so showing their budgets or UK spend separately would be disclosive.

A **UK film** is a film that has been certified as British by the DCMS or by the Certification Unit of the BFI (acting on the authority of the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics Media and Sport) or which is a *de facto* UK film by virtue of being made in whole or part in the UK by a UK production company.

A **US studio film** is a film that is produced in whole or part by one of the major US studios or one of the major US studios' specialist subsidiaries.

An **independent film** is a film made by an independent production company or group of independent production companies.

US studio films are generally distributed in most territories by the parent studio. Independent films are usually distributed by different distributors in different territories.

4. Disclosing individual film information

Individual film titles are not disclosed when the number of productions (co-production, domestic or inward) is low.

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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