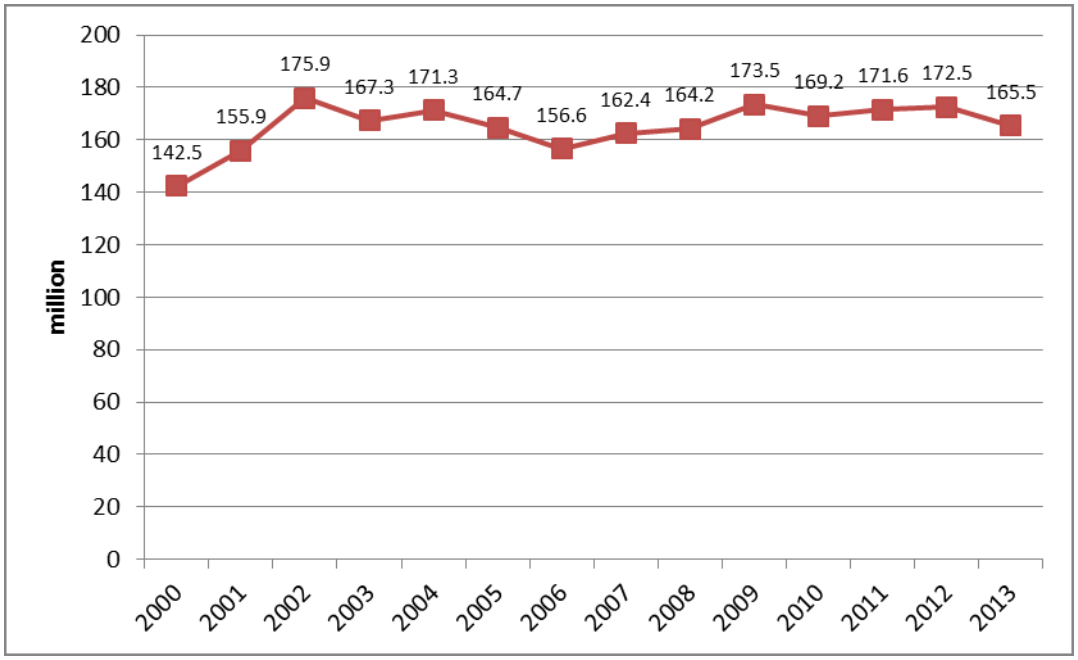
The UK box office in 2013

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

30 January 2014

UK cinema admissions in 2013 were 165.5 million, 4% lower than in 2012 (Figure 1). The gross value of those ticket sales was £1,083 million, down 1% on 2012.

Figure 1 Annual UK admissions 2000-2013



Source: CAA, Rentrak

The pattern of monthly cinema admissions is outlined in Table 1. Ticket sales in January were just over a quarter higher than the equivalent period in 2012, largely due to *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, *The Life of Pi* and the January release of *Les Misérables*. Admissions in February, March and, in particular, April were lower than for the same period of 2012. The films contributing to the higher admissions in this period in 2012 were *The Woman in Black*, *The Muppets*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* and, in April, *Marvel Avengers Assemble* and the 3D version of *Titanic* were both released.

Admissions in May and June were higher than for the same months in 2012, although June admissions were only slightly higher than in June 2012 when cinema had to compete for an audience with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the European Football championships. The titles which attracted the higher admissions in May 2013 included *Iron Man 3*, *Star Trek: Into Darkness*, *Fast & Furious 6* and *The Hangover Part III*.

Three films which were very popular with audiences, *The Amazing Spider-Man*, *Ice Age Continental Drift* and *The Dark Knight Rises*, were all released in July 2012 leading to that month's admissions being higher than for the same month in 2013. August and September admissions were higher in 2013 than in 2012, but this might be expected since cinema had to compete with the London Olympic and Paralympic Games in August and September 2012.

The UK box office's top film of all time, *Skyfall*, was released in October 2012, and played a major part, along with *Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted* and *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2*, in boosting admissions in October and November for 2012 which led to admissions in those months being more than 20% lower in 2013.

December admissions were higher in 2013 than in 2012, largely due to the audiences attracted by *Frozen*, *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* and *Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues.*

Table 1 Monthly cinema admissions 2012-2013

	2012 (million)	2013 (million)	% change on 2012
January	13.55	17.08	26.0
February	15.31	13.96	-8.8
March	11.70	10.89	-7.0
April	15.05	11.89	-21.0
May	13.44	15.61	16.1
June	12.38	13.03	5.3
July	15.52	14.32	-7.7
August	17.22	17.64	2.4
September	9.44	9.89	4.7
October	16.83	11.87	-29.5
November	17.64	13.67	-22.5
December	14.40	15.71	9.0
Total	172.50	165.54	-4.0

Source: CAA, Rentrak

The highest grossing film in 2013 was *Despicable Me 2*, with takings of £47.5 million (up to 19 January 2014). In second place was *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* (£41.6 million) and *Les Misérables* (£40.8 million). These three films were the only 2013 releases to take more than £40 million (up to 19 January).

Table 2 Top 20 films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2013

	Title	Country of origin	Box office Gross (£m)	Distributor
1	Despicable Me 2 *	USA	47.46	Universal
2	The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug *	USA/NZ	41.59	Warner Bros
3	Les Misérables	UK	40.82	Universal
4	Iron Man 3	USA/China	36.97	Walt Disney
5	Frozen *	USA	34.17	Walt Disney
6	The Hunger Games: Catching Fire *	USA	33.79	Lionsgate
7	Monsters University *	USA	30.69	Walt Disney
8	Man of Steel	USA	29.95	Warner Bros
9	Gravity *	UK/USA	28.85	Warner Bros
10	The Croods *	USA	26.78	20th Century Fox
11	Star Trek: Into Darkness	USA	25.82	Paramount
12	Fast & Furious 6	UK/USA	25.27	Universal
13	Wreck-It Ralph	USA	23.78	Walt Disney
14	Thor: The Dark World *	UK/USA	19.85	Walt Disney
15	The Hangover Part III	USA	19.32	Warner Bros
16	Captain Phillips *	UK/USA	16.09	Sony Pictures
17	Django Unchained	USA	15.74	Sony Pictures
18	The Great Gatsby	Aus/USA	15.73	Warner Bros
19	Oz: The Great and Powerful	USA	15.28	Walt Disney
20	World War Z	UK/USA	14.57	Paramount

Source: Rentrak
Notes:
Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 19 January 2014.
* Film still being exhibited on 19 January 2014.
UK and Republic of Ireland are a single "territory" for film distribution purposes.

Philomena was the highest-grossing UK independent film of 2013 with box office takings of £10.8 million (up to 19 January 2014). This was the only UK independent film to take more than £10 million but, as Table 2 shows, three others, *Quartet*, *I Give It a Year* and *Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa* all took more than £5 million.

Table 3 Top 20 independent UK films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2013

	Title	Country of origin	Box office Gross (£m)	Distributor
1	Philomena *	UK	10.79	20th Century Fox
2	Quartet	UK	8.59	eOne Films
3	I Give It a Year	UK/Fra/Ger	6.22	StudioCanal
4	Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa	UK	6.17	StudioCanal
5	Sunshine on Leith *	UK	4.61	Entertainment
6	Filth	UK	3.90	Lionsgate
7	Red 2	UK/USA	2.90	eOne Films
8	All Stars	UK/Ger	2.50	Vertigo
9	One Chance	UK	2.46	Entertainment
10	The Harry Hill Movie *	UK	2.45	Entertainment
11	Song for Marion	UK	2.07	eOne Films
12	Diana	UK/Bel/Fra	1.94	eOne Films
13	The Counsellor *	UK	1.87	20th Century Fox
14	Moshi Monsters: The Movie *	UK	1.60	Universal
15	Le Week-End *	UK/Fra	1.44	Curzon
16	Welcome to the Punch	UK	1.17	eOne Films
17	Summer in February	UK	0.52	Metrodome
18	The Stone Roses: Made of Stone	UK	0.51	Picturehouse
19	How I Live Now	UK	0.48	eOne Films
20	The Look of Love	UK	0.47	StudioCanal

Source: Rentrak, BFI RSU analysis
Notes:
Box office gross = cumulative gross up to 19 January 2014.
* Film still being exhibited on 19 January 2014.
UK and Republic of Ireland are a single "territory" for film distribution purposes.

The market share of 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 16%, down from 23% in 2012 (Table 4). Independent UK films shared 6% of the market.

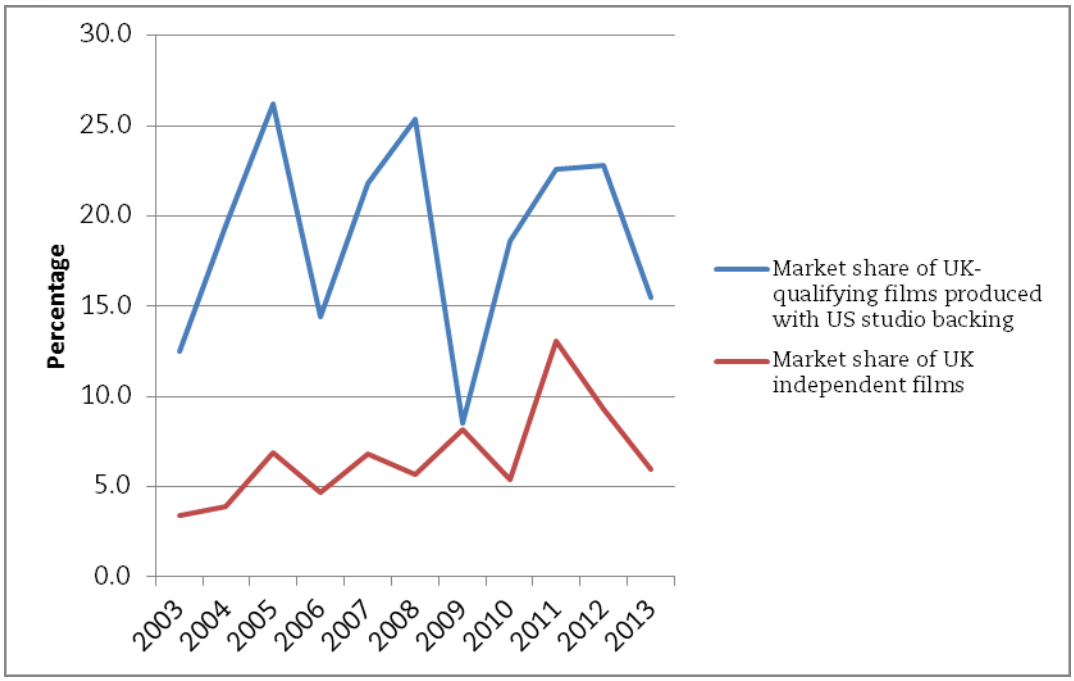
Table 4 Theatrical market share of UK films by studio and independent titles, 2003-2013

Year	Market share of UK qualifying films produced with US studio backing (%)	Market share of UK independent films (%)
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	15.5	6.0

Source: BFI
Note:
2013 market share calculation based on grosses up to and including 19 January 2014

The fluctuating pattern of UK market share is shown in Figure 2 with the annual figure dependent on a small number of high-grossing titles. The average UK independent market share for the ten-year period was 7% with an upward trend from the low of 3% in 2003.

Figure 2 UK films' share of the UK theatrical market 2003-2013



Source: BFI

A total of 46 3D films were released in 2013, slightly more than 2012's 43 releases. The total gross from 3D screenings was £204.2 million, which represents an 18% market share, the same as in 2012 but down from 20% in 2011 and 24% in 2010. The top 3D release in 2013 was *Gravity* which, to date, has earned 79% of its total gross in 3D, the highest percentage of the top 10 3D releases (Table 5).

Table 5 Top 10 3D releases, 2013

	Title	3D gross (£m)	Total gross (£m)	3D as % of gross	Number of 3D sites	Distributor
1	Gravity *	22.8	28.8	79.1	486	Warner Bros
2	The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug *	16.6	41.6	40.0	488	Warner Bros
3	Iron Man 3	16.5	37.0	44.6	485	Walt Disney
4	Despicable Me 2 *	12.1	47.5	25.4	456	Universal
5	Man of Steel	11.2	30.0	37.5	493	Warner Bros
6	Star Trek: Into Darkness	10.0	25.8	38.8	488	Paramount
7	The Croods *	9.8	26.8	36.6	434	20th Century Fox
8	Wreck-It Ralph	9.5	23.8	39.8	423	Walt Disney
9	Frozen *	8.8	34.2	25.8	452	Walt Disney
10	Oz: The Great and Powerful	8.0	15.3	52.1	467	Walt Disney

Source: Rentrak
Notes:
Box office gross = cumulative gross to 19 January 2014.
* Film still being exhibited on 19 January 2014.
The 3D figures do not include IMAX screenings, although IMAX revenues contribute to the total gross.

Notes

1. Admissions data supplied by the Cinema Advertising Association/Rentrak.
2. The value of the UK box office in 2013 (£1,083 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 19 January 2014 for films released in the calendar year.
3. Gross box office data supplied by Rentrak.
4. 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.

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
Tim Cagney, Deputy Chief Executive, BFI
Carol Comley, Head of Strategic Development, BFI
Wendy Parker, Deputy Head of Strategic Development, BFI
Ben Roberts, Head of Film Fund, BFI
Chris Travers, Director of Communications, Marketing and Audiences, BFI
Nick Mason Pearson, Director of Press and Public Affairs, BFI
Emma Hewitt, Head of 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 prepared by Nick Maine, Research and Statistics Unit, BFI, nick.maine@bfi.org.uk, tel + 44 (0)20 7173 3249

(end)