

UK film production – First half year (H1) 2009

UK Film Council Research and Statistics Unit

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The return of inward investment films to UK studios in 2009 has given the UK its best H1 production figures since 2004. The total UK spend value in H1 2009 was £535.1 million, compared with £363 million in H1 2008 and £402.5 million in H1 2007. Of the total of £535.1 million, £436.2 million was accounted for by inward investment films.

Table 1: UK film production, H1 2007, 2008 and 2009

	H12007		H12008		H12009	
	Number of films	UK spend value £m	Number of films	UK spend value £m	Number of films	UK spend value £m
Co-productions	11	18.2	14	41.6	3	8.9
Domestic UK	35	78.9	29	113.8	33	89.9
Inward	20	305.3	17	207.6	12	436.2
Total	66	402.5	60	363.0	48	535.1

Source: UK Film Council

Data for films with budgets \geq £500k.

'H1' = first half of the year, ie films commencing principal photography between 1 January and 30 June in each year.

Data are rounded to the nearest £0.1m so may add up exactly to the totals shown.

Significant inward investment titles in H1 2009 include *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part I*, *Untitled Robin Hood Adventure*, *Clash of the Titans*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *London Boulevard* and *Never Let Me Go*.

There were 33 UK domestic productions in H1 2009, with a UK spend value of £89.9 million. Prominent UK domestic titles in H1 2009 were *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang*, *Dagenham Girls*, *Chatroom*, *It's a Wonderful Afterlife*, *Centurion*, *The Great Ghost Rescue* and *Nowhere Boy*.

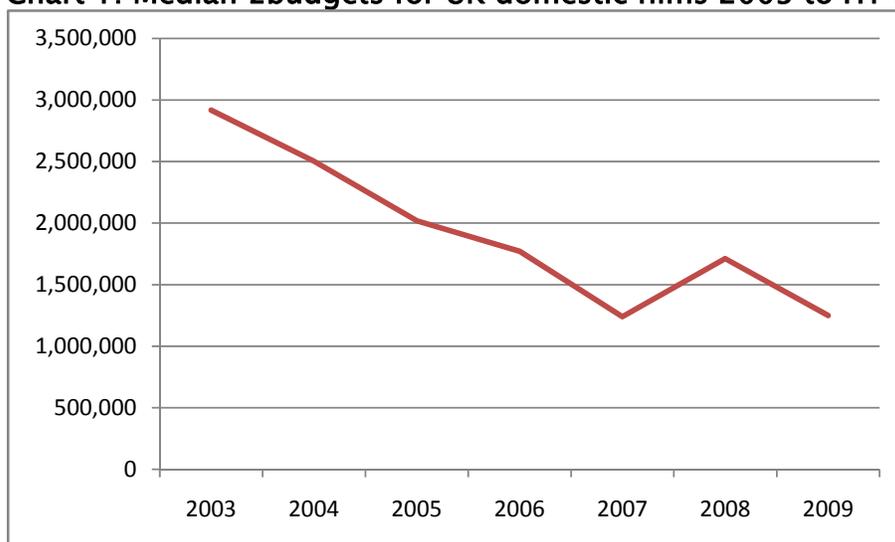
The number of co-productions continued the pattern of recent quarters, there being only three in H1 2009 to a UK spend value of £8.9 million. The

sharp decline in co-productions over the last two years is attributable to the effect on co-productions of the reformed film tax relief, which is now payable on UK spend only, rather than the full production budget. The three co-productions in H1 2009 were *Outcast*, *Mr Nice* and *The Ghost*.

Falling budgets for domestic UK films

A significant trend in the UK production statistics is the fall in average and median budgets for UK domestic films. The average budget for UK domestic films has fallen from £5.6 million in 2003 to £3.3 million in H1 2009. Over the same period, the median domestic UK film budget has fallen from £2.9 million to £1.3 million, as shown in Chart 1.

Chart 1: Median £budgets for UK domestic films 2003 to H1 2009



Source: UK Film Council

Note: data relate to films with budgets \geq £500k only.

For more information on UK film production, see *UK Film Council 2009 Statistical Yearbook*, Chapter 17, page 134.

Table 2: UK production H1 2003 to H1 2009

	H1 2003		H1 2004		H1 2005		H1 2006		H1 2007		H1 2008		H1 2009	
	Number	Value												
COP	50	85.3	40	65.5	29	40.5	39	74.1	11	18.2	14	41.6	3	8.9
DOM	24	114.7	17	55.0	25	85.2	32	116.3	35	78.9	29	113.8	33	89.9
INW total	19	440.0	16	520.7	15	159.6	10	283.4	20	305.3	17	207.6	12	436.2
Total	93	640.0	73	641.3	69	285.4	81	473.7	66	402.5	60	363.0	48	535.1

Source: UK Film Council

COP = co-productions

DOM = UK domestic films

INW total = sum of Inward, inward co-production and VFX-only.

“Value” = UK spend value in £ millions.

Notes

1. UK Film Council production tracking

The UK Film Council production tracking system attempts to track all films with budgets greater than £500k produced in whole or part in the UK (ie it is a census, not a sample).

Sources of information include industry tracking forums, Skillset, trade press and internet sources, the Office of the British Film Commissioner, UK film certification data and direct approaches to film producers.

Some films with budgets less than £500k are picked up as a result of this process, but we do not have comprehensive coverage of very low budget films so we publish data only on films with budgets of £500k+

Only productions with some UK spend on shooting, visual effects or post-production are included.

Spend is allocated to the year, half year and quarter in which principal photography starts.

2. 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 defined as a feature film which is substantially financed and controlled from outside the UK and 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 UK Film Council Certification Unit on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, 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 tax incentives

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.

Pre-release Access

Under the terms of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, statutory 24 hours pre-release access to this statistical release was granted to the following:

Tina McFarling, Head of Industry Relations
Oliver Rawlins, Head of Communications
Stephen Bristow, Head of Government Relations
John Woodward, Chief Executive Officer
Colin Brown, British Film Commissioner
Carol Comley, Head of Strategic Development