

Film on UK television 2009

UK Film Council Research and Statistics Unit

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A total of 2,218 films were shown on the five main network channels in 2009, virtually unchanged from 2008 (2,221 films). Channel 4 scheduled the most feature films (561) and BBC1 the fewest (338), as Table 1 shows.

22% of all films broadcast were of UK origin, again virtually the same level as 2008 (23%). Almost one in every three films shown on BBC2 and over a quarter of ITV1's film output was British.

7% of films televised in 2009 were recent UK titles (ie released theatrically in the 8 years prior to TV broadcast). Almost 13% of films shown on BBC1 were recent UK productions, as were one in ten BBC2 films.

The proportion of recent UK films shown on the main networks has increased over the last eight years, from 3% in 2002 to 7% last year, as Figure 2 shows. This reflects the increase in the total number of films produced in the UK over the last decade and the shortened window between theatrical and free-to-air TV broadcast for films funded by BBC Films and Film Four.

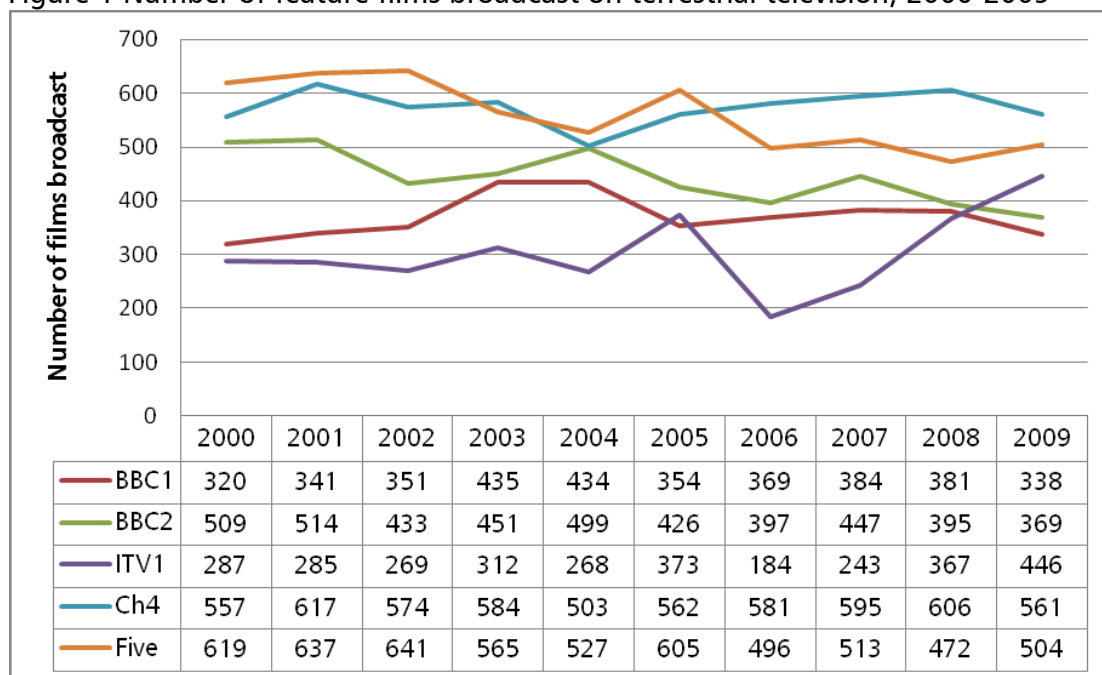
Recent UK films broadcast on BBC1 in 2009 included *Becoming Jane*, *London to Brighton*, *Severance* and *Flushed Away*. On BBC2, some of the highlights were *Man on Wire*, *Miss Potter*, *The History Boys*, *Starter for Ten*, *Grow Your Own* and *Red Road*. ITV1 screened *Casino Royale*, *United 93*, *The Constant Gardener* and *Pride and Prejudice*. *Happy-Go-Lucky*, *Hunger*, *Donkey Punch*, *Sunshine* and *Straightheads* featured on Channel 4 over the year, while Five screened *Revolver*, *The Da Vinci Code* and *An American Haunting*.

Table 1 Feature films broadcast on terrestrial television, 2009

Channel	Number of films broadcast	Number of UK films broadcast	UK film as % of total	Number of recent* UK films broadcast	Recent* UK as % of total film slots
BBC1	338	63	19	43	12.7
BBC2	369	119	32	35	9.5
ITV1	446	117	26	36	8.1
Ch 4	561	129	23	33	5.9
Five	504	59	12	7	1.4
Total	2,218	487	22	154	6.9

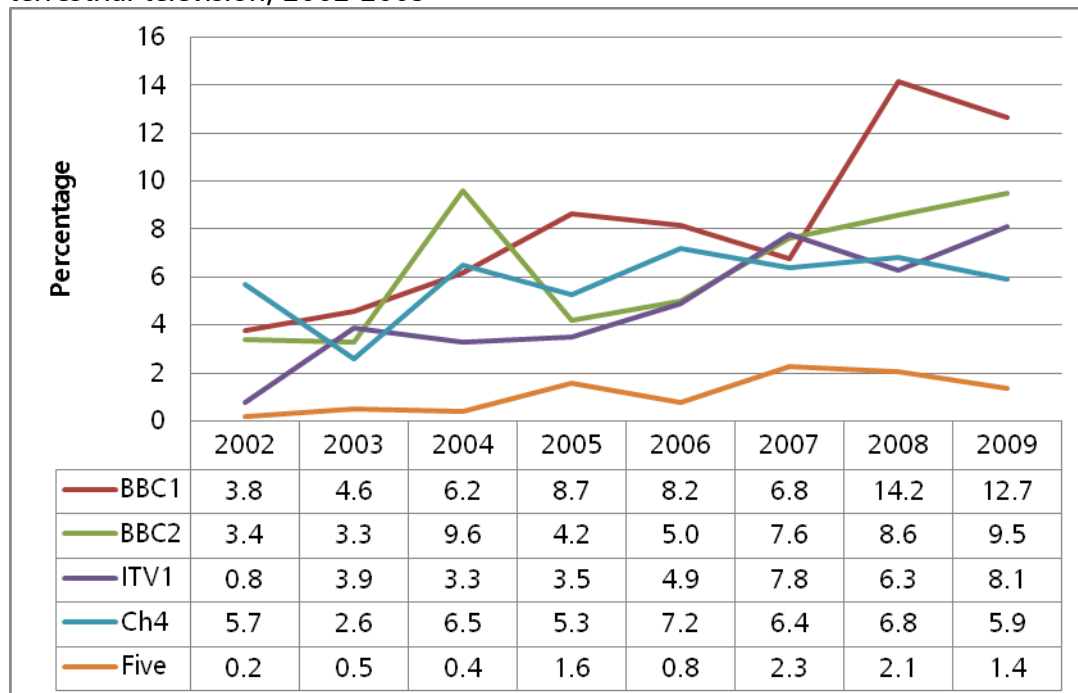
Source: Attentional, UK Film Council RSU analysis. * A recent film is one which has been theatrically released, or intended for theatrical release, in the UK since 2001.

Figure 1 Number of feature films broadcast on terrestrial television, 2000-2009



Source: Attentional, UK Film Council RSU analysis

Figure 2 Recent UK films as a percentage of the total number of films broadcast on terrestrial television, 2002-2009



Source: Attentional, UK Film Council RSU analysis

Notes

1. Details of feature film transmissions on UK television are assembled from the schedules by Attentional (www.attentional.com). The data reported are all films shown on terrestrial television in the calendar year and the data are a census not a sample. Country of origin is allocated by the UK Film Council Research and Statistics Unit and the UK share is calculated on that basis.
2. 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

Pre-release access under paragraph 3 of the Pre-release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008 was granted to the following persons to assist with making public comment or answering official questions about the statistics shortly after their time of publication:

Stephen Bristow, Head of Government Relations, UK Film Council
Carol Comley, Head of Strategic Development, UK Film Council
Oliver Foster, Head of Press and Public Affairs, UK Film Council
Tina McFarling, Head of Industry Relations, UK Film Council
Eleanor Melinn, Web and Communications Co-ordinator, UK Film Council
Tara Milne, Press and Public Affairs Officer, UK Film Council
Oliver Rawlins, Head of Communications, UK Film Council
John Woodward, Chief Executive Officer, UK Film Council
Jon Zeff, Director, Media, DCMS
Paul Heron, Deputy Director, Media (Creative Industries), DCMS
Keith Smith, Deputy Director, Media (Broadcasting), DCMS
Chris Dawes, Head of Broadcasting Regulation and Content Policy, DCMS
Wendy Parker, Head of Film Policy, DCMS
Stephen Rosser, Head of Public Service Broadcasting Policy, DCMS
Stewart Kemsley, Film Policy Adviser, DCMS
Simon Oliver, Senior Press Officer, DCMS