

# Film production in the UK – Full Year 2009 Report

UK Film Council Research and Statistics Unit

19 January 2010

## 1. Total film production in the UK

There were 125 films with budgets of £500k or more produced in whole or part in the UK in 2009, approximately the same as in 2008 (126) and 2007 (127). Twenty-two were co-productions, 71 were domestic UK features and 32 were inward investment films. Over the period since 2003 there has been a decline in the number of co-productions, partly offset by a rise in the number of domestic UK films, as shown in Table 1. The number of inward investment films in 2009 (32) was slightly higher than in 2006-2008.

**Table 1: Number of features produced in the UK, 2003 - 2009**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Co-productions	106	105	65	51	28	22	22
Domestic UK features	45	41	51	55	70	77	71
Inward investment feature films	45	28	48	28	29	27	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>125</b>

Source: UK Film Council

Data for films with budgets  $\geq$  £500,000

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

Data have been revised since the publication of the Q3 2009 report. See notes at the end of the report for details.

The UK spend of features produced in whole or part in the UK from 2003 to 2009 is shown in Table 2. In 2009, the aggregate UK spend was £956.9 million, making 2009 the second highest year on record<sup>1</sup>. Inward investment films contributed £752.7 million, the highest total recorded. Co-productions contributed £35 million, down from £48.9 million in 2008, and domestic UK films £169.2 million, down from £207.2 million in 2008 but higher than in 2006 and 2007.

**Table 2: UK spend of features produced in the UK, 2003 - 2009, £ millions**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Co-productions	169.1	169.2	97.3	109.2	74.1	48.9	35.0
Domestic UK features	227.8	126.8	178.7	157.5	155.4	207.2	169.2
Inward investment feature films	732.9	583.8	306.5	558.7	595.1	356.8	752.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1129.8</b>	<b>879.8</b>	<b>582.4</b>	<b>825.4</b>	<b>824.5</b>	<b>613.0</b>	<b>956.9</b>

Source: UK Film Council

See notes to Table 1.

<sup>1</sup> Including the years before 2003. See page 138 of the UK Film Council 2009 Statistical Yearbook.

Significant inward investment titles in 2009 included *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part I*, *Robin Hood*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *Clash of the Titans*, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, *Your Highness*, *Inception*, *London Boulevard* and *Gnomeo and Juliet*.

Domestic UK titles in 2009 included *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang*, *Centurion*, *Blitz*, *Tamara Drewe*, *St Trinian's II: The Legend of Fritton's Gold*, *It's a Wonderful Afterlife* and *Nowhere Boy*.

Co-productions in 2009 included *Mr Nice*, *Route Irish*, *The Ghost Writer*, *Neds* and *Tracker*.

## 2. UK and Non-UK Films

Table 3 shows the production numbers for UK and non-UK films over the period 2003-2009. In 2009, 110 of the 125 films tracked were UK films; 15 were non-UK films.

**Table 3: Number of UK and non-UK features produced in the UK, 2003 - 2009**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Non-UK films	7	5	5	5	7	13	15
UK films	189	169	159	129	120	113	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>125</b>

Source: UK Film Council

Data for films with budgets  $\geq$  £500,000

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.

Most UK spend is accounted for by UK films. In 2009, UK films accounted for £915.9 million out of a total UK spend of £956.9 million, as shown in Table 4. This reflects the fact that most inward investment titles are UK-qualifying films.

**Table 4: UK spend of UK and non-UK features produced in the UK, 2003 - 2009, £ millions**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Non-UK films	16.9	6.2	4.3	14.2	18.0	23.2	41.0
UK films	1,112.9	873.6	578.1	811.2	806.5	589.8	915.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,129.8</b>	<b>879.8</b>	<b>582.4</b>	<b>825.4</b>	<b>824.5</b>	<b>613.0</b>	<b>956.9</b>

Source: UK Film Council

See notes to Table 3.

### 3. US Studio and Independent Films

Table 5 shows the breakdown between US studio films and independent films. Every year the majority of films were independent films, but a significant minority (26 out of 125 in 2009) were US studio films.

**Table 5: Number of US Studio and Independent films produced in the UK, 2003 - 2009**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
US Studio films	29	16	20	26	21	22	26
Independent films	167	158	144	108	106	104	99
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>125</b>

Source: UK Film Council

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.

In every year except for 2005, the majority of UK spend was accounted for by US studio films (Table 6). In 2009, US studios accounted for £728.5 million (76%) of the total UK spend.

**Table 6: UK spend of US Studio and Independent films produced in the UK, 2003 - 2009, £ millions**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
US Studio films	763.1	563.2	240.5	602.8	573.3	371.2	728.5
Independent films	366.8	316.6	341.9	222.6	251.3	241.8	228.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,129.8</b>	<b>879.8</b>	<b>582.4</b>	<b>825.4</b>	<b>824.5</b>	<b>613.0</b>	<b>956.9</b>

Source: UK Film Council

See notes to Table 5.

### 4. UK and non-UK Independent films

Table 7 shows the breakdown between UK and non-UK independent films. Each year the great majority of independent films produced in whole or part in the UK were UK independent films.

**Table 7: Number of UK and non-UK Independent films, 2003 - 2009**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
UK independent films	162	155	144	108	103	101	94
Non-UK independent films	5	3	0	0	3	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>99</b>

Source: UK Film Council

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 8 shows the UK spend associated with UK and non-UK independent films. In 2003 - 2009, UK independent films accounted for over 99% of the UK spend associated with independent films made in whole or part in the UK.

**Table 8: UK spend of UK and non-UK Independent films, 2003 - 2009, £ millions**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
UK independent films	363.0	315.3	341.9	222.6	249.2	239.8	226.2
Non-UK independent films	3.8	1.3	0.0	0.0	2.1	2.0	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>366.8</b>	<b>316.6</b>	<b>341.9</b>	<b>222.6</b>	<b>251.3</b>	<b>241.8</b>	<b>228.4</b>

Source: UK Film Council

See notes to Table 7.

## 5. Independent UK films by category

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

Over the period 2003 – 2009, the number of independent UK co-productions fell from 101 to 20, while the number of independent domestic UK features rose from 38 to 68.

**Table 9: Number of UK independent films by category, 2003 - 2009**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Co-productions	101	102	64	51	26	21	20
Domestic UK features	38	39	45	48	68	74	68
Inward investment feature films	23	14	35	9	9	6	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>94</b>

Source: UK Film Council

Table 10 shows the corresponding UK spend by category for independent UK films. The aggregate UK spend fell from £363 million in 2003 to £226 million in 2009, but within this total the shares changed substantially. In 2003 co-productions accounted for the largest single share (45%), whereas in 2009 the majority (62%) was accounted for by independent domestic UK features.

**Table 10: UK spend of UK independent films by category, 2003 - 2009**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Co-productions	164.8	167.6	94.5	109.2	72.8	41.6	34.3
Domestic UK features	108.1	97.9	120.4	74.9	130.6	144.8	140.3
Inward investment feature films	90.1	49.8	127.0	38.4	45.9	53.5	51.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>363.0</b>	<b>315.3</b>	<b>341.9</b>	<b>222.6</b>	<b>249.2</b>	<b>239.8</b>	<b>226.2</b>

Source: UK Film Council

## 6. Median budgets of Independent UK films

Table 11 shows the median budget for independent UK films from 2003 to 2009. Over this period the median budget (for films with budgets of at least £500k) fell from £3.1 million to £1.9 million.

**Table 11: Median budget of UK independent films, 2003 – 2009**

Year	Median budget £m
2003	3.1
2004	3.5
2005	2.5
2006	2.8
2007	1.9
2008	1.8
2009	1.9

Source: UK Film Council

The median value is the middle value, i.e. there are equal numbers of films with budgets above and below the median (to a budget level of £500k).

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## 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 (i.e. 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 for 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 calendar year, half year and quarter in which principal photography starts.

### 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. During the summer of 2009 the Research and Statistics Unit conducted a reconciliation between British film certification data for 2003 and 2004 and production records for the same period. This resulted in significant revisions to the production data for 2003 and 2004. The tables in this report contain the 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 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

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 UK Film Council (acting on the authority of the Secretary of State for Culture 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.

### **Pre-release Access**

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