

Film production in the UK – Jan to Sept 2010

UK Film Council Research and Statistics Unit

21 October 2010

There were 88 films with budgets of £500k or more that commenced principal photography in the UK in the first nine months of 2010, the lowest number of the last eight years. Ten were co-productions, 55 were domestic UK features and 23 were inward investment films (Table 1 and Figure 1).

Table 1: Number of features produced in the UK, Q1-Q3 2003 to Q1-Q3 2010

	2003 Q1-Q3	2004 Q1-Q3	2005 Q1-Q3	2006 Q1-Q3	2007 Q1-Q3	2008 Q1-Q3	2009 Q1-Q3	2010 Q1-Q3
Co-productions	80	81	48	46	22	20	12	10
UK domestic features	39	31	39	44	53	62	69	55
Inward investment feature films	35	20	28	20	26	24	30	23
Total	154	132	115	110	101	106	111	88

Source: UK Film Council

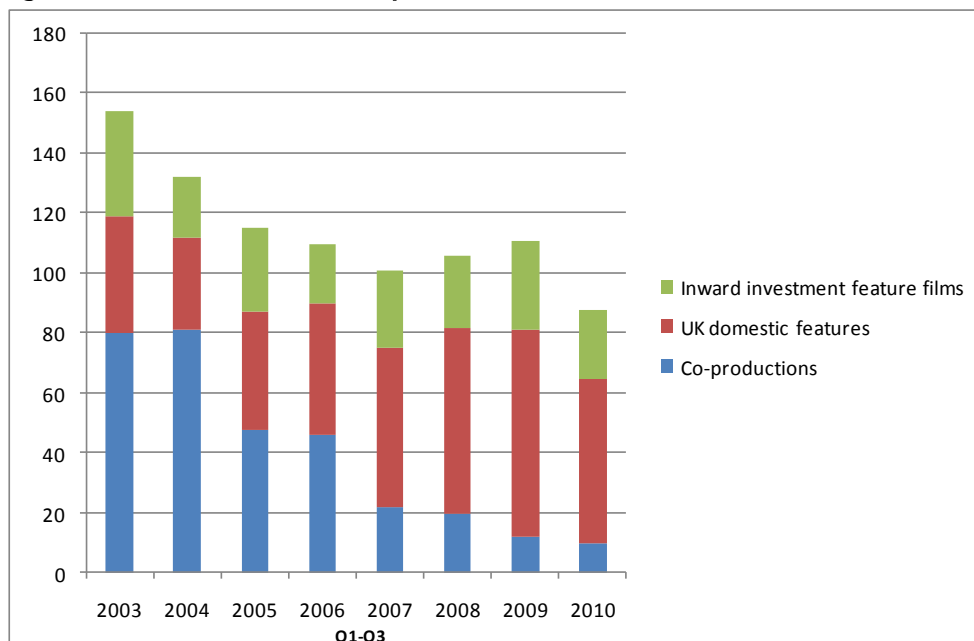
Data for films with budgets >= £500k.

"Q1-Q3" means films commencing principal photography between 1 January and 30 September in each year.

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

See notes at the end of this release for the full definitions applied.

Figure 1: Number of features produced in the UK, Q1-Q3 2003 to Q1-Q3 2010



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Significant inward investment titles shooting in Q3 2010 include *Captain America: The First Avenger*, *War Horse*, *X-Men: First Class* and *WE* which join the already-reported titles *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part II*, *John Carter of Mars*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* and *Hugo Cabret* which commenced shooting in H1 2010.

Domestic UK titles commencing production in Jan-Sept 2010 included *Johnny English Reborn*, *Burke & Hare*, *Wuthering Heights*, *The Awakening*, *The Hot Potato* and *Hunky Dory*.

Four co-productions began shooting in the third quarter of 2010, taking the Jan-Sept total to ten. Significant co-productions shooting in Jan-Sept 2010 were *Will*, *Africa United* and *Ultramarines: A Warhammer 40,000 Movie*.

The UK spend of features that commenced principal photography in the first nine months of 2010 was £936.1 million, the second highest since 2003. Overall production spend was down £47.1 million compared to Jan-Sept 2009 (£983.2m) and £402.7 million higher than Jan-Sept 2008 (£533.4m) (Table 2 and Figure 2). The bulk of the activity (£780.1m) was accounted for by inward investment productions, that is films which are substantially financed and controlled from abroad (mostly from the USA) but shot in whole or part in the UK. The value of domestic production declined to £130.3m but there has been a recovery in the UK spend of co-productions, up 50% to £25.7m.

Table 2: UK spend of features produced in the UK, Q1-Q3 2003 to Q1-Q3 2010

	2003 Q1-Q3	2004 Q1-Q3	2005 Q1-Q3	2006 Q1-Q3	2007 Q1-Q3	2008 Q1-Q3	2009 Q1-Q3	2010 Q1-Q3
Co-productions	115.2	119.5	73.5	100.9	54.7	46.4	17.1	25.7
UK domestic features	184.9	104.8	122.6	143.4	126.5	185.5	177.2	130.3
Inward investment feature films	608.9	538.1	246.2	431.5	592.0	301.5	788.9	780.1
Total	909.0	762.4	442.2	675.8	773.2	533.4	983.2	936.1

Source: UK Film Council

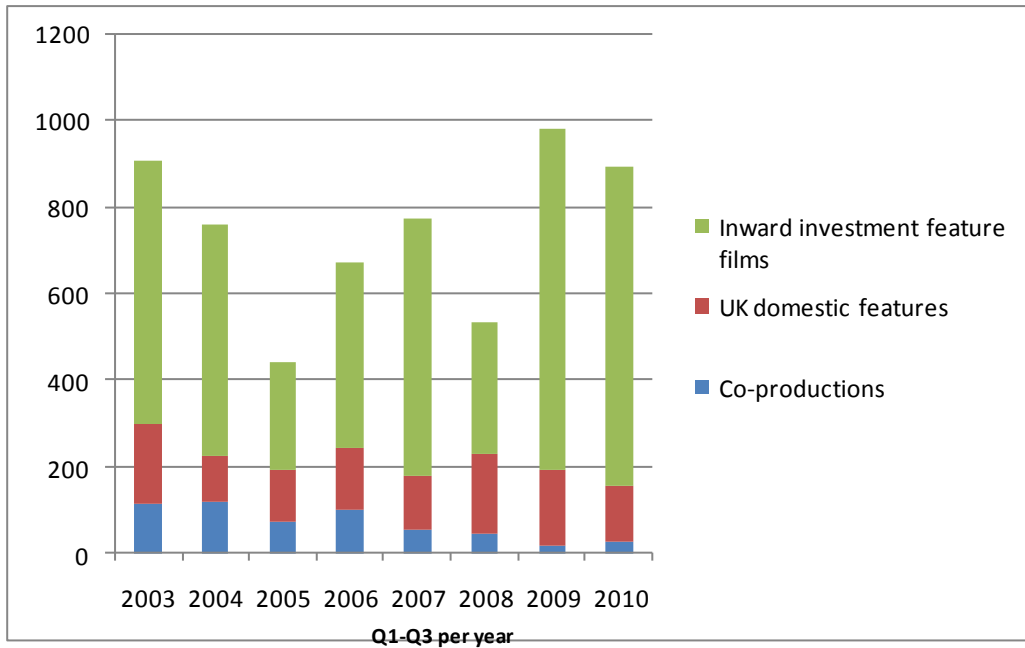
Data for films with budgets \geq £500k.

"Q1-Q3" means films commencing principal photography between 1 January and 30 September in each year.

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

See notes at the end of this release for the full definitions applied.

Figure 2: UK spend on features produced in the UK, Q1-Q3 2003 to Q1-Q3 2010



Source: UK Film Council
 Data for films with budgets \geq £500,000
 Q1-Q3 means films commencing principal photography between 1 January and 30 September in each year

Overall, the statistics demonstrate a continuation of the divergent trend we have reported in recent releases. The inward investment sector remains buoyant with UK spend figures approaching last year's record level but there are pressures on domestic films with a year-on-year decline in both the number and value of indigenous features (down 20% and 26% respectively).

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 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.

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/cancellations. Adjustments apply to previous periods as well as the most recent reported period.

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

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Statistical contact details

This release was prepared by Sean Perkins, Research and Statistics Unit, UK Film Council, sean.perkins@ukfilmcouncil.org.uk, tel 020 7861 7503.

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