

Film production in the UK – Full Year 2010 Report

UK Film Council Research and Statistics Unit

20 January 2011

1. Total film production in the UK

There were 119 films with budgets of £500k or more produced in whole or part in the UK in 2010, down from 144 in 2009. Nineteen were co-productions, 72 were domestic UK features and 28 were inward investment films (Table 1). Over the period 2003-2010 there has been a decline in the number of feature films shot in the UK, due mainly to a fall in the number of co-productions (Figure 1).

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

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Co-productions	106	105	65	51	29	23	26	19
Domestic UK features	45	40	51	57	70	81	83	72
Inward investment feature films	45	28	49	28	29	29	35	28
Total	196	173	165	136	128	133	144	119

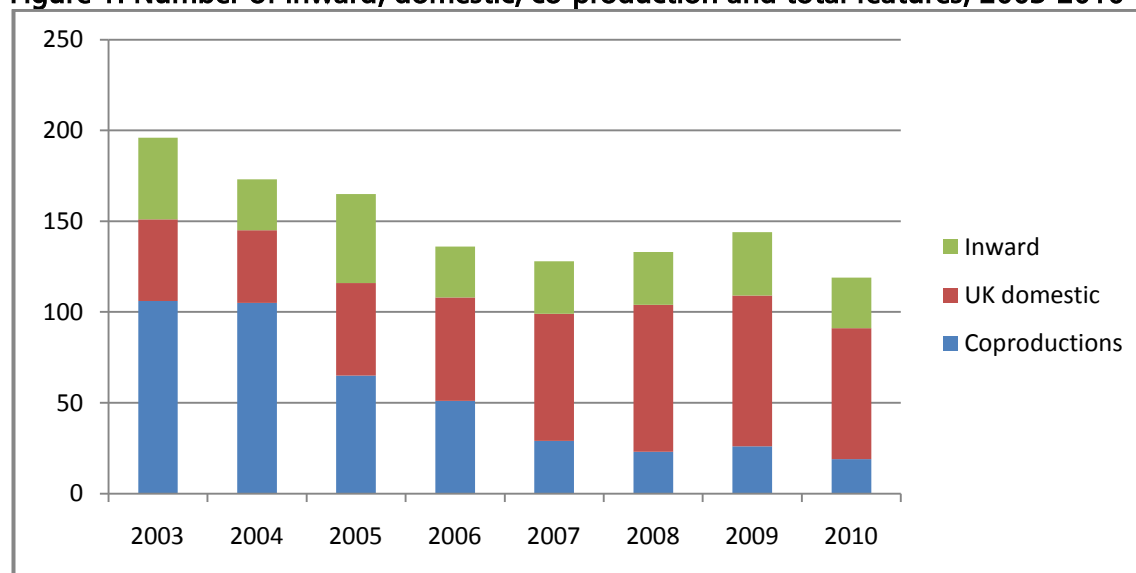
Source: UK Film Council

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 2010 report. See notes at the end of the report for details.

Figure 1: Number of inward, domestic, co-production and total features, 2003-2010



Source: UK Film Council

Data for films with budgets \geq £500,000

The UK spend of features that commenced principal photography from 2003 to 2010 is shown in Table 2 and Figure 2. In 2010, the aggregate UK spend was £1,155 million, making 2010 the highest year on record¹. Inward investment films contributed £928.9 million, the highest total recorded. Co-productions contributed £52 million, up from £35.9 million in 2009, and domestic UK films £174.1 million, down from £224.4 million in 2009 and £214.8m in 2008.

Table 2: UK spend of features produced in the UK, 2003 - 2010, £ millions

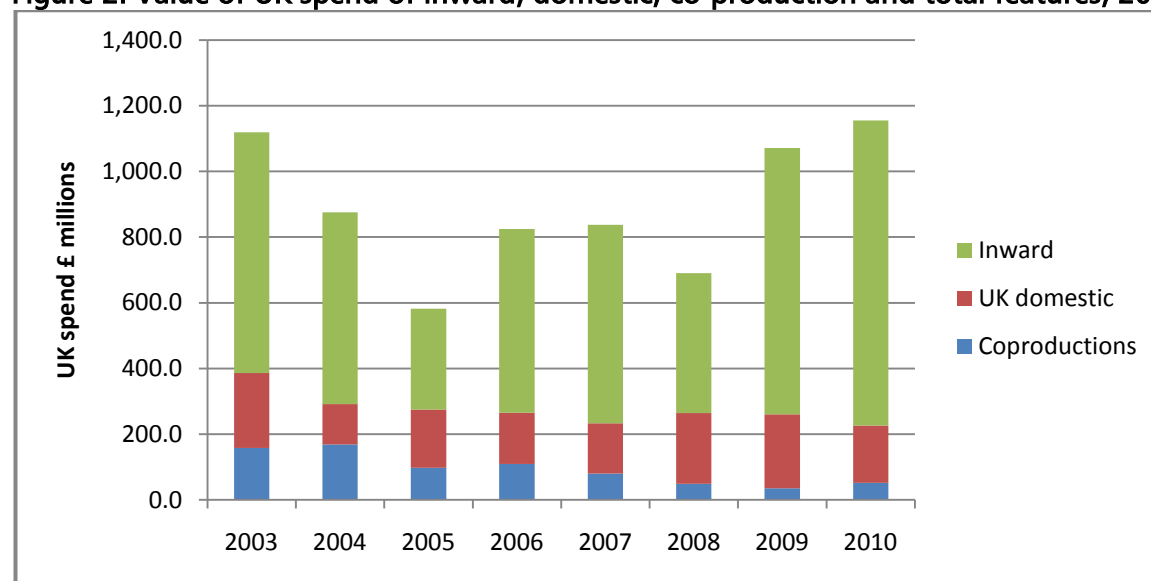
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Co-productions	158.3	169.2	97.3	109.2	80.0	49.2	35.9	52.0
Domestic UK features	227.8	122.3	177.5	156.6	153.1	214.8	224.4	174.1
Inward investment feature films	732.9	583.8	307.0	558.7	604.1	425.9	810.7	928.9
Total	1,119.0	875.3	581.7	824.5	837.2	690.0	1,071.0	1,155.0

Source: UK Film Council

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

See notes to Table 1.

Figure 2: Value of UK spend of inward, domestic, co-production and total features, 2003-2010



Source: UK Film Council

Data for films with budgets >= £500,000

Significant inward investment titles in 2010 included *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*, *Captain America: The First Avenger*, *War Horse*, *Hugo Cabret*, *John Carter of Mars* and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2*.

¹ Including the years before 2003. See page 135 of the UK Film Council 2010 Statistical Yearbook.

Domestic UK titles in 2010 included *Horrid Henry: The Movie*, *Johnny English Reborn*, *Attack the Block*, *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*, *Wuthering Heights* and *The Deep Blue Sea*.

Co-productions in 2010 included *Will*, *Africa United* and *Dredd*.

2. UK and Non-UK Films

Table 3 shows the production numbers for UK and non-UK films over the period 2003-2010. In 2010, 113 of the 119 films tracked were UK films; 6 were non-UK films.

Table 3: Number of UK and non-UK features produced in the UK, 2003 - 2010

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Non-UK films	7	5	6	6	7	14	20	6
UK films	189	168	159	130	121	119	124	113
Total	196	173	165	136	128	133	144	119

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 2010, UK films accounted for £1,148.5 million out of a total UK spend of £1,155.0 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 - 2010, £ millions

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Non-UK films	16.9	6.2	4.8	15.2	18.0	24.2	45.6	6.5
UK films	1,102.1	869.1	576.9	809.2	819.2	665.8	1,025.3	1,148.5
Total	1,119.0	875.3	581.7	824.5	837.2	690.0	1,071.0	1,155.0

Source: UK Film Council

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

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, with 18 (15%) US studio-backed films in 2010.

Table 5: Number of US Studio and Independent films produced in the UK, 2003 - 2010

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
US Studio films	29	16	20	26	21	25	26	18
Independent films	167	157	145	110	107	108	118	101
Total	196	173	165	136	128	133	144	119

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 2010, US studios accounted for £919.5 million (80%) of the total UK spend.

Table 6: UK spend of US Studio and Independent films produced in the UK, 2003 - 2010, £ millions

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
US Studio films	763.1	563.2	240.5	602.8	582.3	442.4	797.3	919.5
Independent films	356.0	312.1	341.2	221.6	254.9	247.6	273.7	235.5
Total	1,119.0	875.3	581.7	824.5	837.2	690.0	1,071.0	1,155.0

Source: UK Film Council

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

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 - 2010

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
UK independent films	162	154	144	110	104	104	109	96
Non-UK independent films	5	3	1	0	3	4	9	5
Total	167	157	145	110	107	108	118	101

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 - 2010, 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 - 2010, £ millions

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
UK independent films	352.2	310.8	340.7	221.6	252.8	244.6	268.3	230.0
Non-UK independent films	3.8	1.3	0.5	0.0	2.1	3.0	5.4	5.5
Total	356.0	312.1	341.2	221.6	254.9	247.6	273.7	235.5

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 – 2010, the number of independent UK co-productions fell from 101 to 18, while the number of independent domestic UK features rose from 38 to 79 in 2009, falling back to 69 in 2010.

Table 9: Number of UK independent films by category, 2003 - 2010

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Co-productions	101	102	64	51	27	22	23	18
Domestic UK features	38	38	45	50	68	76	79	69
Inward investment feature films	23	14	35	9	9	6	7	9
Total	162	154	144	110	104	104	109	96

Source: UK Film Council

Table 10 shows the corresponding UK spend by category for independent UK films. The aggregate UK spend fell from £352 million in 2003 to £230 million in 2010, but within this total the shares changed substantially. In 2003 co-productions accounted for the largest single share (44%), whereas in 2010 the majority (58%) was accounted for by independent domestic UK features.

Table 10: UK spend of UK independent films by category, 2003 - 2010

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Co-productions	154.0	167.6	94.5	109.2	78.7	48.2	34.5	51.5
Domestic UK features	108.1	93.4	119.2	74.0	128.3	141.0	176.0	134.0
Inward investment feature films	90.1	49.8	127.0	38.4	45.8	55.4	57.8	44.5
Total	352.2	310.8	340.7	221.6	252.8	244.6	268.3	230.0

Source: UK Film Council

6. Median budgets of Independent UK films

Table 11 shows the median budget for independent UK films (with budgets of at least £500k) from 2003 to 2010. Between 2004 and 2008 the median budget declined from £3.5m to £1.7m but has since increased to £2.3m in 2010.

Table 11: Median budget of UK independent films, 2003 – 2010

Year	Median budget £m
2003	3.1
2004	3.5
2005	2.5
2006	2.8
2007	1.8
2008	1.7
2009	2.0
2010	2.3

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 produced in whole or part in the UK (i.e. it is a census, not a sample). In 2010 we began tracking feature films with budgets less than £500k, but we do not have comprehensive historical coverage of these lower budget films so we publish data only for films with budgets of £500k+. However, an analysis of these films will appear in the forthcoming Statistical Yearbook.

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.

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.

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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