



TOP FILMS IN 2021

CONTENTS

Facts in focus	03
The top 20 films	04
The top 20 UK films	06
The top 20 UK independent films	07
Best weekend performances of UK films	08
Non-English language films	08
Documentaries	11
Re-releases	11
Releases and box office by genre	12
Releases and box office by BBFC classification	14

FACTS IN FOCUS

Five of the top 10 films released at the UK and Republic of Ireland box office in 2021 were UK qualifying productions. The list is headed by the latest James Bond outing *No Time to Die* which became the third highest earning film of all time in the UK with gross receipts of £97 million.

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- Five films earned £20 million or over at the UK and Republic of Ireland box office in 2021, up from one in 2020, but down from 17 in 2019.
 - Seven UK qualifying films featured in the top 20 films of the year, all UK/USA studio-backed films.
 - *The French Dispatch*, with takings of £4 million, was the highest earning UK independent film of the year.
 - The top 20 UK films made £238 million (£113 million in 2020; £527 million in 2019), 39% of the total box office.
 - The top 20 UK independent films made £27 million (£34 million in 2020; £145 million in 2019), 4% of the total box office.
 - Six UK qualifying films spent a total of 14 weeks at the top of the UK and Republic of Ireland weekend box office charts.
 - Foreign language films made £11 million at the UK and Republic of Ireland box office from 142 releases. The top earning foreign language release was *Demon Slayer the Movie: Mugen Train* (in Japanese).
 - Feature documentaries made £2 million at the UK and Republic of Ireland box office from 69 releases. The top earning documentary release was *Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)*.
 - Action was the highest grossing genre of the year with takings of £297 million. The top earning action title was *No Time to Die*.
 - There were more '15' releases than any other classification, but '12A' films generated the largest single share of the box office.
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Top films in 2021

The top 20 films

The top performing cinema release in the UK and Republic of Ireland in 2021 was *No Time to Die* with earnings (to 13 February 2022) of just under £97 million (Table 1). The 25th outing in the James Bond franchise – one of a host of big-tent releases rescheduled from 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic – became the third highest grossing film of all time at the UK and Republic of Ireland box office, behind 2015's *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (£123 million) and 2012's *Skyfall* (£103 million). The second most popular release of the year was *Spider-Man: No Way Home* with earnings (to 13 February 2022) of just under £93 million, a figure which ordinarily would have seen it top the annual chart. The top two films alone accounted for almost one third (31%) of the year's total theatrical gross.

Five films earned £20 million or over in 2021, up from only one in 2020 but significantly below a pre-pandemic

total of 17 in 2019. The top 20 films in 2021 had a combined gross of £451 million, which accounted for 72% of the total UK and Republic of Ireland box office. In 2020, the top 20 films earned £201 million (80% of the total gross), and in 2019 they earned £767 million (59%).

Seven of the top 20 releases in 2021 were UK qualifying films (the same as in 2020, but down from nine in 2019), all of which were UK studio-backed productions. Sequels and franchise films accounted for 16 of the top 20 titles compared with five in 2020 and 16 in 2019. Action and comedy were the two most popular genres, both in terms of number of releases and box office takings. Action accounted for seven titles, including *No Time to Die*, *Spider-Man: No Way Home* and *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, which between them earned £278 million, while comedy had three releases – *Free Guy*, *Space Jam: A New Legacy* and *Ghostbusters: Afterlife* – which grossed £41 million.



Image: *The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard* courtesy of Lionsgate Films

Table 1 Box office results for the top 20 films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2021

Rank	Title	Country of origin	Box office gross (£ million)	Widest point of release	Opening weekend gross (£ million)	Distributor
1	No Time to Die*	UK/USA	96.7	791	25.8	Universal
2	Spider-Man: No Way Home*	USA	92.8 [#]	694	31.9	Sony
3	Dune*	USA/Can	22.0	691	5.9	Warner Bros
4	Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings	USA/Aus	21.3	671	5.8	Walt Disney
5	Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway*	Aus/USA	20.5	648	4.6	Sony
6	Black Widow	UK/USA	18.8	653	7.0	Walt Disney
7	Venom: Let There Be Carnage	UK/USA	18.1	610	6.2	Sony
8	Free Guy	USA	16.9	655	2.6	Walt Disney
9	Fast & Furious 9	UK/USA	16.5	614	6.1	Universal
10	Eternals	UK/USA	14.9	651	5.5	Walt Disney
11	The Suicide Squad	USA	14.3	649	3.3	Warner Bros
12	Space Jam: A New Legacy	USA	12.9	640	1.4	Warner Bros
13	Jungle Cruise	USA	12.5	612	2.3	Walt Disney
14	A Quiet Place Part II	USA	11.8	625	3.6	Paramount
15	Ghostbusters: Afterlife*	USA/Can	11.5	662	4.3	Sony
16	The Addams Family 2*	USA/Can	10.3	676	2.0	Universal
17	The Croods: A New Age	USA	10.0	659	0.7	Universal
18	House of Gucci*	UK/USA	9.9	712	2.4	Universal
19	The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It	USA	9.6	516	2.7	Warner Bros
20	Cruella	UK/USA	9.5	585	1.5	Walt Disney

Source: Comscore, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative total up to 13 February 2022.

* Film still on release on 13 February 2022.

[#] At the time of writing (August 2022), earnings for *Spider-Man: No Way Home* had surpassed £96 million, making it the fourth highest grossing film of all time at the UK and Republic of Ireland box office.

The top 20 UK films

The top 20 UK qualifying films of 2021 had a combined gross of £238 million, which was 39% of the total UK and Republic of Ireland box office (Table 2). This is just over double the £113 million earned by the top 20 UK films released in 2020 (46% of the total box office), but less than half of the £527 million grossed in 2019 (41% of the total box office).

Five UK films earned over £10 million in 2021, compared with four in 2020 and 16 in 2019. The top 20 list is dominated by UK/USA collaborations, most of which

were studio-backed productions. Seven of the top 20 titles were UK independent films, down from 15 in 2020 and eight in 2019. These seven titles accounted for 8% of the total box office for the top 20 UK films, down from 30% in 2020 (when the shortfall in the number of studio releases due to the COVID crisis meant independent UK films took a greater than usual share of the box office) and 19% in 2019.

The number of genres in the top 20 illustrates the range of UK film production. Action, with a combined box office of £158 million from five titles (including the top earning film of the year, *No Time to Die*), was the highest earning genre, while eight other genres were represented: animation, biopic, comedy, family, fantasy, horror, musical, and sci-fi.

Table 2 Box office results for the top 20 UK films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2021

Rank	Title	Country of origin	Box office gross (£ million)	Widest point of release	Opening weekend gross (£ million)	Distributor
1	No Time to Die*	UK/USA	96.7	791	25.8	Universal
2	Black Widow	UK/USA	18.8	653	7.0	Walt Disney
3	Venom: Let There Be Carnage	UK/USA	18.1	610	6.2	Sony
4	Fast & Furious 9	UK/USA	16.5	614	6.1	Universal
5	Eternals	UK/USA	14.9	651	5.5	Walt Disney
6	House of Gucci*	UK/USA	9.9	712	2.4	Universal
7	Cruella	UK/USA	9.5	585	1.5	Walt Disney
8	Clifford the Big Red Dog*	UK/USA/Can	9.0	646	1.3	Entertainment One
9	The King's Man*	UK/USA	8.0	640	3.5	Walt Disney
10	The Matrix Resurrections*	UK/USA	7.6	645	2.7	Warner Bros
11	Ron's Gone Wrong*	UK/USA	4.7	602	0.9	Walt Disney
12	The French Dispatch*	UK/USA#	4.2	367	0.9	Walt Disney
13	The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard	UK/USA#	3.8	525	1.6	Lionsgate
14	Spirit Untamed*	UK/USA	3.4	568	0.6	Universal
15	Spencer	UK/Deu/USA#	2.8	650	0.5	STX Entertainment
16	People Just Do Nothing: Big in Japan	UK	2.3	446	0.9	Universal
17	Last Night in Soho*	UK/USA#	2.3	514	0.7	Universal
18	The Father	UK/Fra	2.1	634	0.4	Lionsgate
19	The Courier	UK	2.0	442	0.3	Lionsgate
20	Tom & Jerry: The Movie*	UK/USA	1.3	410	<0.1	Warner Bros

Source: Comscore, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative total up to 13 February 2022.

* Film still on release on 13 February 2022.

Film made with independent (non-studio) US support or with the independent arm of a US studio.

The top 20 UK independent films

The top 20 UK independent films of 2021, shown in Table 3, had a combined gross of £27 million (compared with £34 million in 2020 and £145 million in 2019). These films accounted for 4% of the overall UK and Republic of Ireland box office, down from 14% in 2020 and 11% in 2019.

The top grossing UK independent film in 2021 was *The French Dispatch* with earnings (to 13 February 2022) of

£4 million. The film is one of a number of inward investment titles in the top 20. (Other films in this category include *The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard*, 83 and *Chal Mera Putt 3*.)

Generating £12 million from six releases, comedy was the biggest earning genre across the top 20 while drama titles made up the greatest number of releases (eight). Comedies included the two top grossing titles *The French Dispatch* and *The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard*, while drama releases included *The Father* and *Supernova*. The list also includes two biopics, two thrillers, one family title and one romance.

Table 3 Box office results for the top 20 UK qualifying independent films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2021

Rank	Title	Country of origin	Box office gross (£ million)	Widest point of release	Opening weekend gross (£ million)	Distributor
1	<i>The French Dispatch</i> *	UK/USA#	4.2	367	0.9	Walt Disney
2	<i>The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard</i>	UK/USA#	3.8	525	1.6	Lionsgate
3	<i>Spencer</i>	UK/Deu/USA#	2.8	650	0.5	STX Entertainment
4	<i>People Just Do Nothing: Big in Japan</i>	UK	2.3	446	0.9	Universal
5	<i>Last Night in Soho</i> *	UK/USA#	2.3	514	0.7	Universal
6	<i>The Father</i>	UK/Fra	2.1	634	0.4	Lionsgate
7	<i>The Courier</i>	UK	2.0	442	0.3	Lionsgate
8	<i>A Boy Called Christmas</i>	UK/USA#	0.8	240	0.1	Sky Cinema
9	<i>Supernova</i>	UK	0.8	374	0.2	StudioCanal
10	<i>The Last Letter from Your Lover</i>	UK/Can/Fra	0.8	549	0.3	StudioCanal
11	<i>Dream Horse</i>	UK	0.7	542	0.2	Warner Bros
12	<i>Boxing Day</i>	UK	0.7	441	0.3	Warner Bros
13	<i>83</i>	UK/Ind	0.6	124	0.2	Reliance Big Entertainment
14	<i>Mothering Sunday</i>	UK	0.5	170	0.2	Lionsgate
15	<i>The Nest</i>	UK/Can	0.5	131	0.1	Picturehouse Entertainment
16	<i>The Last Bus</i>	UK	0.5	148	0.1	Parkland Entertainment
17	<i>The Electrical Life of Louis Wain</i> *	UK/USA#	0.4	273	0.1	StudioCanal
18	<i>Chal Mera Putt 3</i>	UK/Ind	0.4	54	0.2	Rhythm Boyz Entertainment
19	<i>Off the Rails</i>	UK	0.4	332	0.1	Munro Film Services
20	<i>Limbo</i>	UK	0.3	76	0.1	MUBI

Source: Comscore, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Box office gross = cumulative total up to 13 February 2022.

* Film still on release on 13 February 2022.

Film made with independent (non-studio) US support or with the independent arm of a US studio.

Best weekend performances of UK films

The imposition of a second months-long national lockdown at the start of 2021 meant cinemas were closed for a significant part of the year. In total, there were only 33 weeks when a majority of cinemas were able to open (including periods when venues were operating at reduced capacity due to rules on social distancing). A total of 16 films topped the UK weekend

box office charts over this period. Six of these were UK qualifying titles, which spent a total of 14 weeks at number one (Table 4). In 2020, when cinemas were fully open for 31 weeks, six UK films held the top spot for a total of 17 weeks.

No Time to Die, Daniel Craig’s final outing as James Bond, topped the weekend charts for longer than any other UK film in 2021. Its four weeks at the top were not consecutive, however; after three weeks at number one, it was knocked off the top spot for one week by the sci-fi epic *Dune* but returned to head the chart for a final week on its fifth weekend on release. The only UK independent film to top the weekend charts in the year was *The Hitman’s Wife’s Bodyguard*, which held the top spot for one week.

Table 4 UK films at number one in the weekend box office charts, 2021

Title	First week at top	Opening weekend gross (£ million)*	Box office gross (£ million)	Distributor	Number of weeks at number one
The Hitman’s Wife’s Bodyguard	18/06/2021	1.6	3.8	Lionsgate	1
Fast & Furious 9	25/06/2021	6.1	16.5	Universal	2
Black Widow	09/07/2021	7.0	18.8	Walt Disney	3
No Time to Die	01/10/2021	25.8	96.7	Universal	4
Eternals	05/11/2021	5.5	14.9	Walt Disney	2
House of Gucci	26/11/2021	2.4	9.9	Universal	2

Source: Comscore, BFI RSU analysis
 Notes:
 Box office gross = cumulative total up to 13 February 2022.
 * Includes theatrical grosses generated over the three-day weekend plus revenues from any previews.
 Only includes films shown during periods when a majority of cinemas were open, even if under social distancing regulations.

Non-English language films

Films in 35 different languages (including English and Irish) were released in the UK and Republic of Ireland in 2021 (Table 5), slightly more than in 2020 (33) but fewer than in 2019 (42).

Foreign language films accounted for 33% of all theatrical releases in the year and earned £11 million (2% of overall box office gross). In 2020, these films accounted for 8% of total box earnings, but this was primarily due to the success of one film, the Oscar® winning black comedy *Parasite* (in Korean) which alone

earned £12 million. (In 2019, foreign language films generated 2% of overall box office.)

There were 142 foreign language film releases in 2021, down from 145 in 2020 and 326 in 2019. After English, the most common language in terms of number of releases was Punjabi (18 releases) but Japanese was the highest earning non-English language with an overall gross of £2.2 million. Foreign language films were shown, on average, at 43 sites at their widest point of release compared to an average of 183 for English language films.

One Irish language film was released during the year – *Arracht* – a period drama set during the Irish Potato Famine.

Table 5 Languages of films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2021 (ranked by gross box office)

Rank	Main language	Number of releases	Box office gross (£ million)	Box office share (%)
	English	300	605.3	98.2
1	Japanese	13	2.2	0.4
2	Hindi	11	1.8	0.3
3	Punjabi	18	1.8	0.3
4	Danish	4	1.0	0.2
5	Polish	12	0.9	0.1
6	French	14	0.8	0.1
7	Telugu	10	0.5	0.1
8	Malayalam	6	0.4	0.1
9	Tamil	7	0.4	0.1
10	German	8	0.3	0.1
	Other (24 languages)	39	0.8	0.1

Source: Comscore, BBFC, IMDb, BFI RSU analysis

Note: Figures as at 13 February 2022.



Image: 83 courtesy of Reliance Big Entertainment

Table 6 shows the top 20 foreign language films in the UK and Republic of Ireland in 2021. In recent years Hindi language films have dominated this category in terms of box office so have been shown in a separate chart. As this was not the case in 2021, releases in Hindi are included in the table with all other non-English language films.

The top earning release not in the English language in 2021 was the Japanese anime *Demon Slayer the Movie: Mugen Train* with earnings of £1.2 million. The film was the only foreign language title to break the £1 million barrier and is one of three Japanese films in the top 20.

Eleven of the top 20 titles are in languages from the Indian sub-continent, two of which are India/UK collaborations – the cricket drama, *83* (in Hindi) and the comedy *Chal Mera Putt 3* (in Punjabi). Both of these films made extensive use of UK locations. Overall the top 20 includes four films in Punjabi, three in Hindi, two in Malayalam and one each in Tamil and Telugu. Six of the top 20 titles are in European languages, the top grossing of which is the 2020 Oscar® and BAFTA winning comedy drama *Another Round* (in Danish).

Table 6 Top 20 foreign language films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2021

Rank	Title	Country of origin	Box office gross (£ million)	Distributor	Main language
1	Demon Slayer the Movie: Mugen Train	Jpn	1.23	Sony	Japanese
2	Another Round	Dnk/Swe/Nld	0.90	StudioCanal	Danish
3	83	UK/Ind	0.59	Reliance Big Entertainment	Hindi
4	Sooryavanshi	Ind	0.58	Reliance Big Entertainment	Hindi
5	Honsla Rakh	Ind	0.47	White Hill Studios	Punjabi
6	Chal Mera Putt 3	UK/Ind	0.40	Rhythm Boyz Entertainment	Punjabi
7	My Hero Academia: World Heroes' Mission	Jpn	0.37	Sony	Japanese
8	Qismat 2	Ind	0.33	Zee Studios International	Punjabi
9	Dziewczyny z Dubaju	Pol	0.32	Phoenix	Polish
10	Petite Maman	Fra	0.30	MUBI	French
11	Titane*	Fra/Bel	0.26	Altitude	French
12	Kurup	Ind	0.24	RFT Films	Malayalam
13	Puaada	Ind	0.22	Zee Studios International	Punjabi
14	Moonbound	Deu/Aut	0.21	Signature Entertainment	German
15	Tadap	Ind	0.19	Walt Disney	Hindi
16	Annaatthe	Ind	0.19	Qube Cinema	Tamil
17	Pushpa: The Rise	Ind	0.16	Sun Media	Telugu
18	Drive My Car	Jpn	0.16	Modern Films	Japanese
19	Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea	Ind	0.14	Sun Media	Malayalam
20	The Truffle Hunters	Ita/Gre/USA	0.14	Sony	Italian

Source: Comscore, BBFC, IMDb, BFI RSU analysis, distributor websites

Notes:

Figures as at 13 February 2022.

* Film still on release on 13 February 2022

Box office grosses are shown to two decimal places to better distinguish between titles.

Documentaries

The highest grossing feature documentary released at the UK and Republic of Ireland box office in 2021 was *Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)*, with earnings of just over £500,000 (Table 7). The film, which explores the legacy of the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival, features concert performances from many of the top soul and gospel music acts of the time, including Mahalia Jackson, B.B. King and Nina Simone. Three other films in the top 10 centre around concert footage: the biographical films *The Sparks Brothers* and *Phil Lynott: Songs for While I'm Away*, and the re-release of the 1959 film *Jazz on a Summer's Day*, which is set in and around the previous year's Newport Jazz Festival.

Four of the top 10 titles, including *The Sparks Brothers*, are UK qualifying productions. One of the films, *The Truffle Hunters*, also appears in the top 20 foreign language releases of the year.

In total, 69 feature documentaries were released at the UK box office in 2021, representing 16% of all theatrical releases. This was up from 2020 when 42 feature documentaries were released (11% of all releases) but below the pre-pandemic figure of 99 releases (13% of the total) in 2019. These films earned £2.1 million, which equates to 0.3% of the overall box office gross, up from £0.4 million in 2020 (0.2% of total box office) but less than the £7.8 million (0.6% of total box office) generated in 2019. Coverage includes both concert and non-concert films but excludes event cinema releases; for further information see the Exhibition chapter.

Table 7 Top 10 feature documentaries released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2021

Rank	Title	Country of origin	Box office gross (£ million)	Widest point of release (sites)	Distributor
1	Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)	USA	0.51	142	Walt Disney
2	The Alpinist	Aus/USA	0.31	108	Dogwoof
3	The Sparks Brothers	UK/USA	0.25	86	Universal
4	The Truffle Hunters	Ita/Gre/USA	0.14	38	Sony
5	Phil Lynott: Songs For While I'm Away	Ire	0.11*	36	Break Out Pictures
6	The Rescue	UK/USA	0.09	19	Dogwoof
7	The Reason I Jump	UK/USA	0.08	52	Picturehouse Entertainment
8	Quant	UK	0.07	140	Studio Soho
9	Jazz on a Summer's Day (1959)	USA	0.04	98	Curzon
10	The Lost Leonardo	Dnk/Swe/Fra	0.04	31	Dogwoof

Source: Comscore, BFI RSU analysis
 Notes:
 Figures as at 13 February 2022.
 * This gross only covers the 2021 theatrical release in the Republic of Ireland. The film was released in the UK in 2020 (where it grossed £0.01 million).
 Box office grosses are shown to two decimal places to better distinguish between titles.

Re-releases

In 2021, 60 classic or contemporary titles were re-released in the UK and Republic of Ireland, up from 48 in 2020 and 41 in 2019. According to Comscore, these films accounted for 14% of the year's theatrical releases (13% in 2020, 5% in 2019) and grossed £3.8 million, 0.6% of the total box office. It should be noted that these figures only cover mainstream re-releases tracked by Comscore; they do not include one-off or limited season screenings shown by individual venues or festivals.

Over half (52%) of the total box office for this category in 2021 was generated by the year's two top grossing

re-releases, the UK studio-backed title *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* (£1.3 million) and the American comedy *Elf* (£630,000). These two titles exemplify the main factors behind a decision to re-release a title theatrically. In general, films are re-issued to coincide with significant milestones – 2021 was the 20th anniversary of the launch of the first film in the blockbuster *Harry Potter* franchise – or become regular fixtures in a seasonal release schedule, as with Christmas favourite *Elf*.

In addition to *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, there are two further UK qualifying films in the top 10 list – *Love Actually* and *A Clockwork Orange* – both of which are also studio-backed titles (Table 8).

Table 8 Top 10 film re-releases in the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2021

Rank	Title (year of original release)	Country of origin	Box office gross (£ million)	Widest point of release (sites)	Distributor
1	Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (2001)	UK/USA	1.33	498	Warner Bros
2	Elf (2003)	USA	0.63	480	Park Circus
3	It's A Wonderful Life (1946)	USA	0.34	226	Park Circus
4	The Matrix (1999)	USA	0.20	370	Warner Bros
5	Scream (1996)	USA	0.16	305	Paramount
6	Rocky IV (1985)	USA	0.11	223	Park Circus
7	Dune (1984)	USA	0.08	337	Lionsgate
8	Love Actually (2003)	UK/USA/Fra	0.07	100	Park Circus
9	The Grinch (2000)	USA	0.07	98	Park Circus
10	A Clockwork Orange (1972)	UK/USA	0.06	249	Warner Bros

Source: Comscore, BFI RSU analysis

Notes:

Figures as at 13 February 2022.

Box office grosses are shown to two decimal places to better distinguish between titles.

Genre in the Statistical Yearbook

For statistical purposes, the BFI Research and Statistics Unit assigns a primary genre to every film released in the UK. This is not meant to be prescriptive but helps gauge the relative popularity of different genres on a consistent basis from year to year. The list of genres is based on conventions commonly used within the industry and by published sources such as the BFI's Collections Information Database, the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC), the Internet Movie Database (IMDb) and distributors' websites.

Releases and box office by genre

Table 9 shows the relative popularity of different genres at the box office in the UK and Republic of Ireland in 2021. The pattern of box office by genre each year is usually determined by a small number of high grossing releases. For the seventh consecutive year, action was the top earning genre with a total gross of £297 million. The two highest earning films of the year, *No Time to Die* and *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, were both action titles and their combined box office take (to 13 February 2022) represented 64% of the genre's overall gross. Drama had the largest share of releases (30%) but earned only 3% of the total box office gross.

Table 9 also shows the average number of sites at the widest point of release (WPR) for each genre. The top genre by WPR in 2021 was sci-fi (420) followed by biopic (345) and musical (313). For all three of these genres the average WPRs are based on low numbers of releases, many of which were heavily promoted by the major US studios. The sci-fi films included *Dune* (WPR of 691) and *The Matrix Resurrections* (645); the biopic titles included *House of Gucci* (WPR of 712) and *Spencer* (650); and the musicals included *West Side Story* (WPR of 683) and *In the Heights* (638). At the opposite end of the scale, the average WPR for the documentary genre was 22. The feature documentary with the widest release was *Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)* with a WPR of 142.

Five of the top performing titles by genre are UK qualifying productions which highlights the variety of story types for successful British films. Three of the films are studio-backed productions – *No Time to Die*, *Eternals* and *House of Gucci* – and two are independent titles – *The Last Letter from Your Lover* and *Rise of the Footsoldier: Origins*.

Table 9 Films released in the UK and Republic of Ireland by genre, 2021 (ranked by gross box office)

Genre	Number of releases	% of releases	Box office gross (£ million)	% of total box office	Average number of sites at widest point of release	Top performing title
Action	52	11.8	296.7	48.2	210	No Time to Die
Comedy	54	12.2	65.1	10.6	138	Free Guy
Animation	38	8.6	58.2	9.4	260	The Addams Family 2
Horror	24	5.4	40.8	6.6	277	A Quiet Place Part II
Family	8	1.8	29.6	4.8	187	Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway
Sci fi	4	0.9	29.6	4.8	420	Dune
Drama	134	30.3	20.6	3.3	78	Nomadland
Musical	8	1.8	15.5	2.5	313	West Side Story
Adventure	6	1.4	15.2	2.5	243	Jungle Cruise
Fantasy	3	0.7	14.9	2.4	263	Eternals
Biopic	5	1.1	13.4	2.2	345	House of Gucci
Thriller	10	2.3	8.2	1.3	173	The Forever Purge
Suspense	12	2.7	4.5	0.7	117	Old
Documentary	69	15.6	2.1	0.3	22	Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)
Romance	13	2.9	1.5	0.2	77	The Last Letter from Your Lover
Crime	2	0.5	0.3	<0.1	137	Rise of the Footsoldier: Origins
Total	442	100.0	616.2	100.0	138	

Source: Comscore, BFI RSU analysis

Note: Figures/percentages may not sum to totals due to rounding.

BBFC classification

All films in the UK must carry a classification indicating their suitability for exhibition in premises licensed for cinematic exhibition by local authorities. The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) provides age ratings for the majority of films aimed at theatrical release, although local authorities may grant their own classification if they decide to do so.

The symbols used by the BBFC, and their meanings, are given below.

U (Universal)	Suitable for all
PG (Parental Guidance)	General viewing, but some scenes may be unsuitable for young children
12A	No-one younger than 12 may see a '12A' film in a cinema unless accompanied by an adult
15	No-one younger than 15 may see a '15' film in a cinema
18	No-one younger than 18 may see an '18' film in a cinema

Releases and box office by BBFC classification

Table 10 shows a breakdown of 2021 releases by BBFC film classification. It shows that, as in most years, more '15' films (42%) were released than any other category while the largest share of box office gross was earned by '12A' films (60%).

Table 10 All releases in the UK and Republic of Ireland by BBFC film classification, 2021

	Number of releases	% of all UK releases	Box office gross (£ million)	% of gross box office	Top performing title
U	30	6.8	58.2	9.4	Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway
PG	50	11.3	52.5	8.5	The Addams Family 2
12A	137	31.0	367.3	59.6	No Time to Die
15	186	42.1	124.0	20.1	Venom: Let There Be Carnage
18	36	8.1	14.2	2.3	Halloween Kills
No classification	3	0.7	<0.1	<0.1	Kunjeldho
Total	442	100.0	616.2	100.0	

Source: Comscore, BBFC, BFI RSU analysis

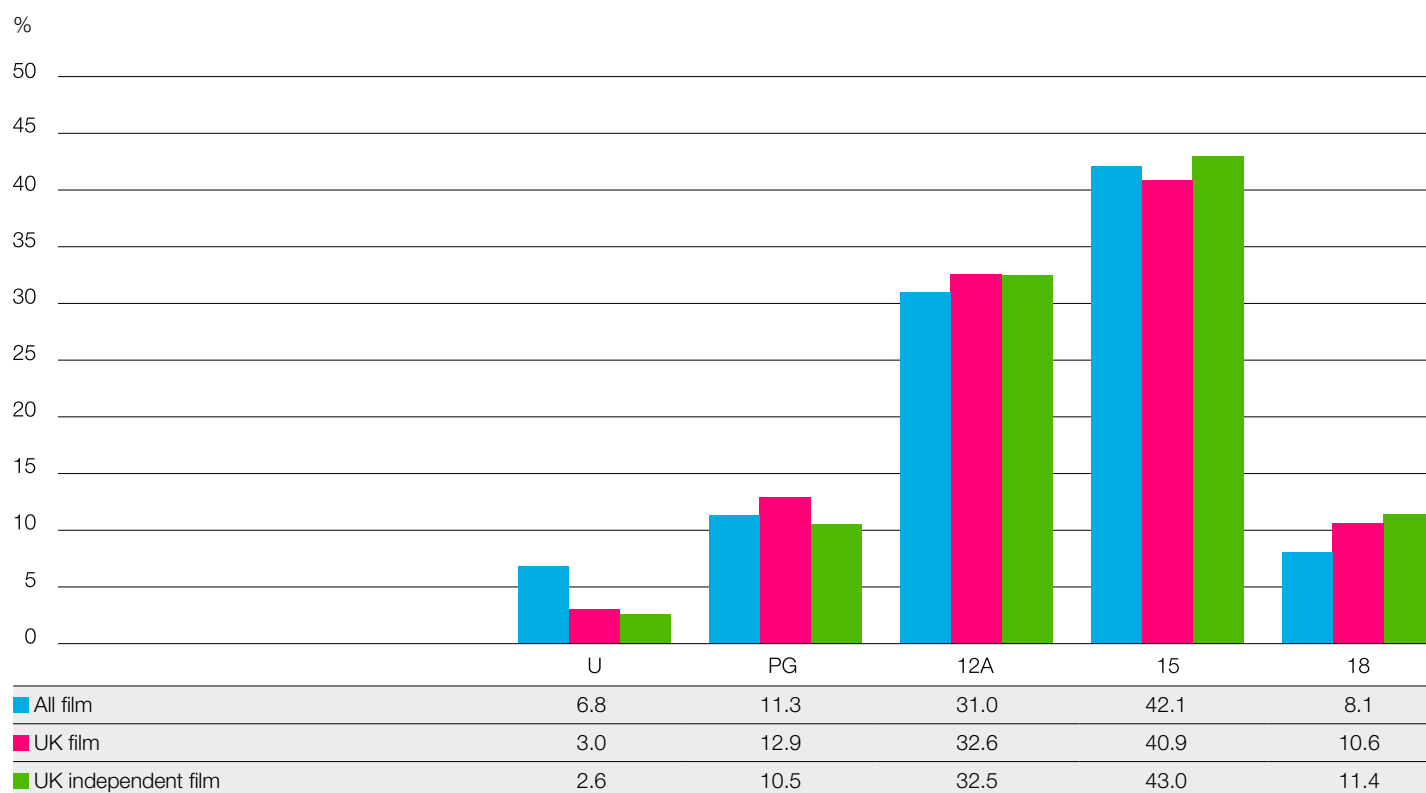
Note: Figures as at 13 February 2022.

Figures 1 and 2 show a comparison of the share of releases and gross box office by BBFC classification for all films, UK films and UK independent films in 2021. The top two classifications by share of releases were the same across all three categories of film, with the '15' rating accounting for the highest proportion of releases, followed by '12A'. However, the highest earning classifications differed between the film categories. For both all films and UK films the '12A' rating was the top earner followed by '15', while for UK independent films the reverse was true with '15' the top earning classification followed by '12A'.

As previously noted, films with a '12A' classification generated 60% of total box office for all films; this rose to

66% of total box office for UK films but was 34.5% for UK independent films. Eight of the top 10 highest earning films in 2021 were '12A' titles, including the year's two stand-out box office earners, *No Time to Die* and *Spider-Man: No Way Home*. (The top earning UK independent film with a '12A' rating was *Spencer* which ranked at 34 in the overall box office chart.) The '15' classification generated 47% of the total gross earned by UK independent films in 2021 compared with 20% for all films and 23% for UK films. Four of the top 10 UK independent films were '15' rated releases, including the category's top two earners, *The French Dispatch* and *The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard*.

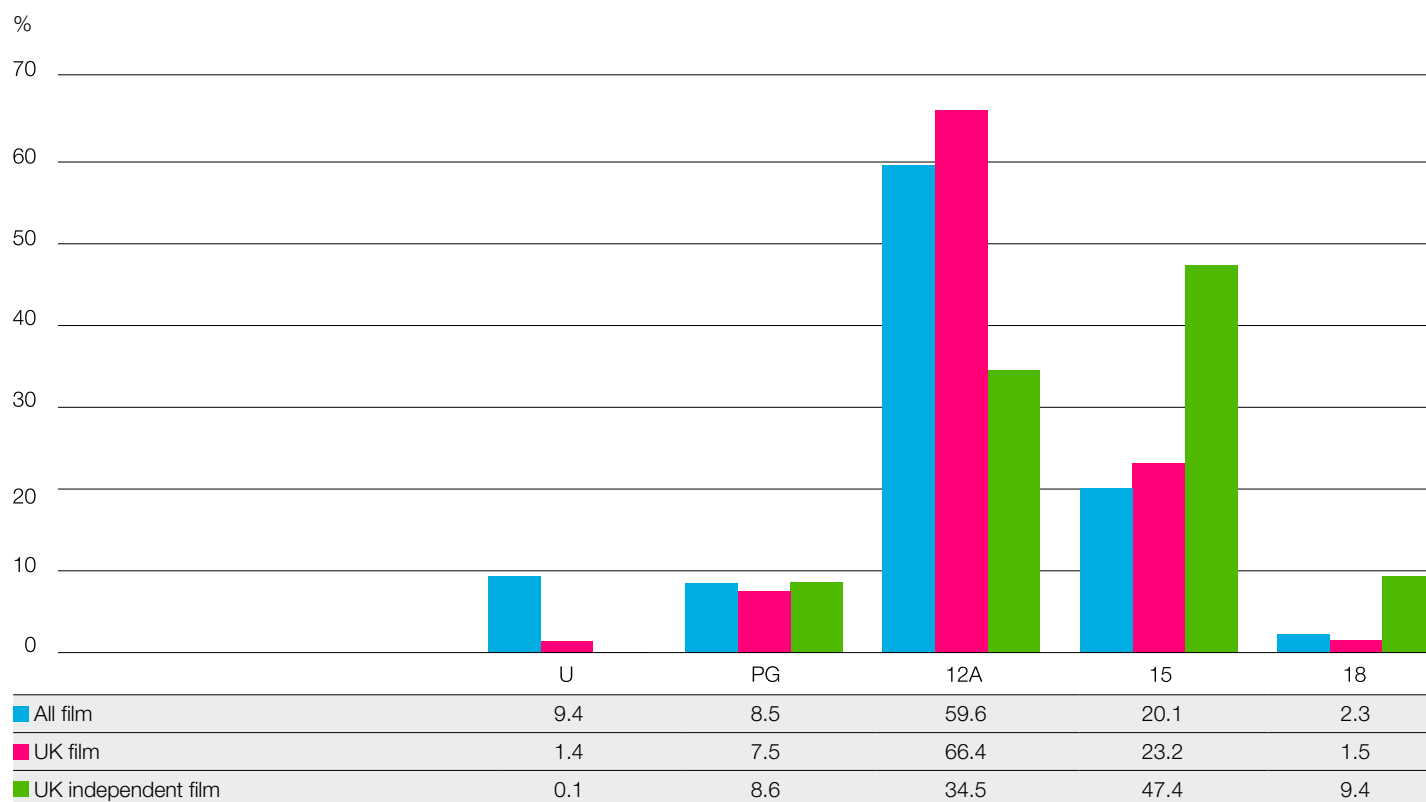
Figure 1 Percentage of releases by BBFC film classification for all films, UK films and UK independent films, 2021



Source: Comscore, BBFC, BFI RSU analysis

Note: Figures as at 13 February 2022.

Figure 2 Percentage of gross box office by BBFC film classification for all films, UK films and UK independent films, 2021

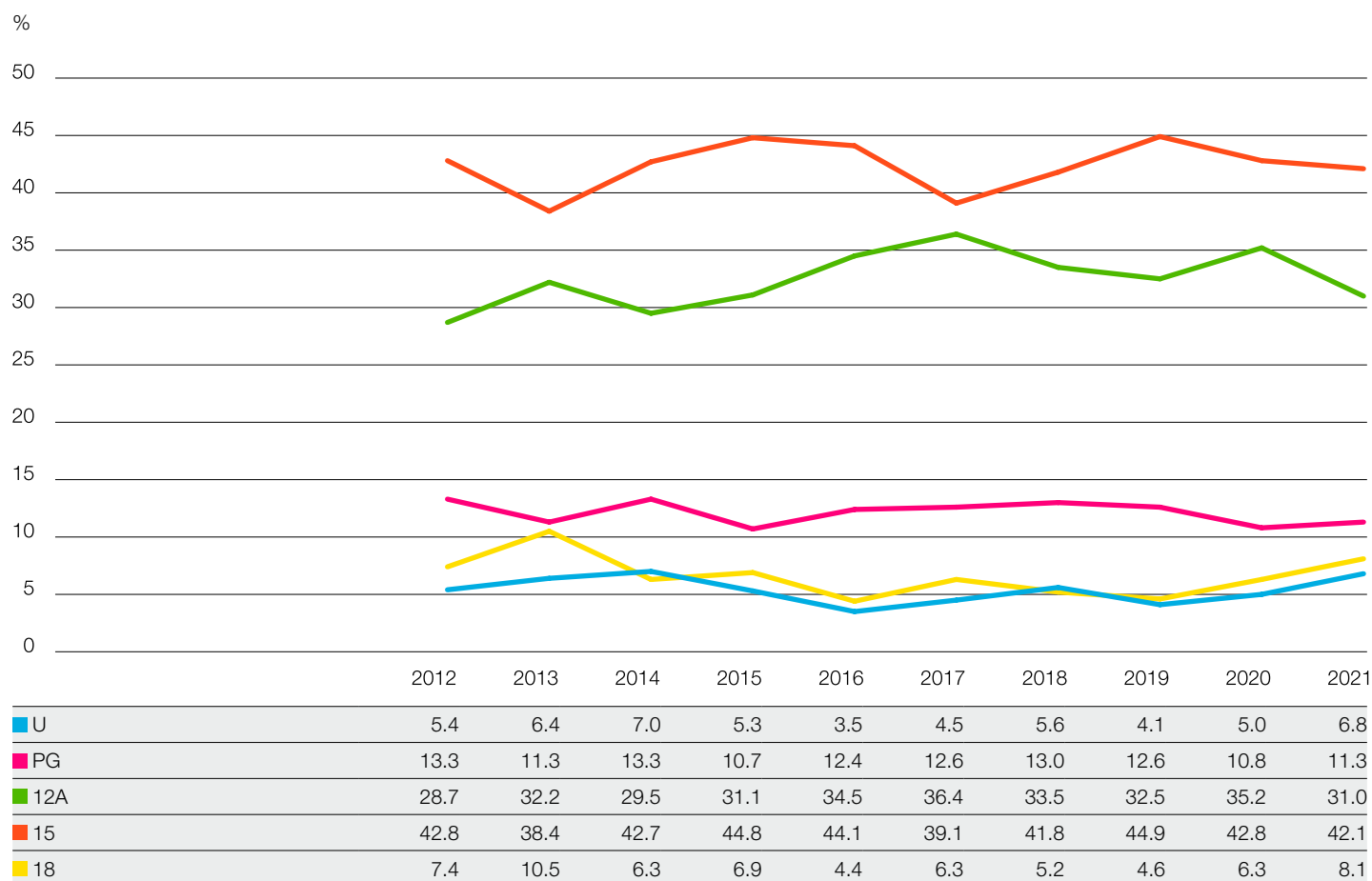


Source: Comscore, BBFC, BFI RSU analysis

Note: Figures as at 13 February 2022.

The pattern of releases by classification was fairly consistent between 2012 and 2021 (Figure 3). The '15' rating was the most common classification each year, followed by '12A' and 'PG'. The share of releases for films rated '15' over the period was mainly around 42%-45%, while the '12A' and 'PG' ratings together accounted for a similar share. Since 2012, the slow decline in the 'PG' classification has been compensated by a rising trend in the '12A' rating. The 'U' and '18' classifications accounted for the smallest percentages of releases over the period.

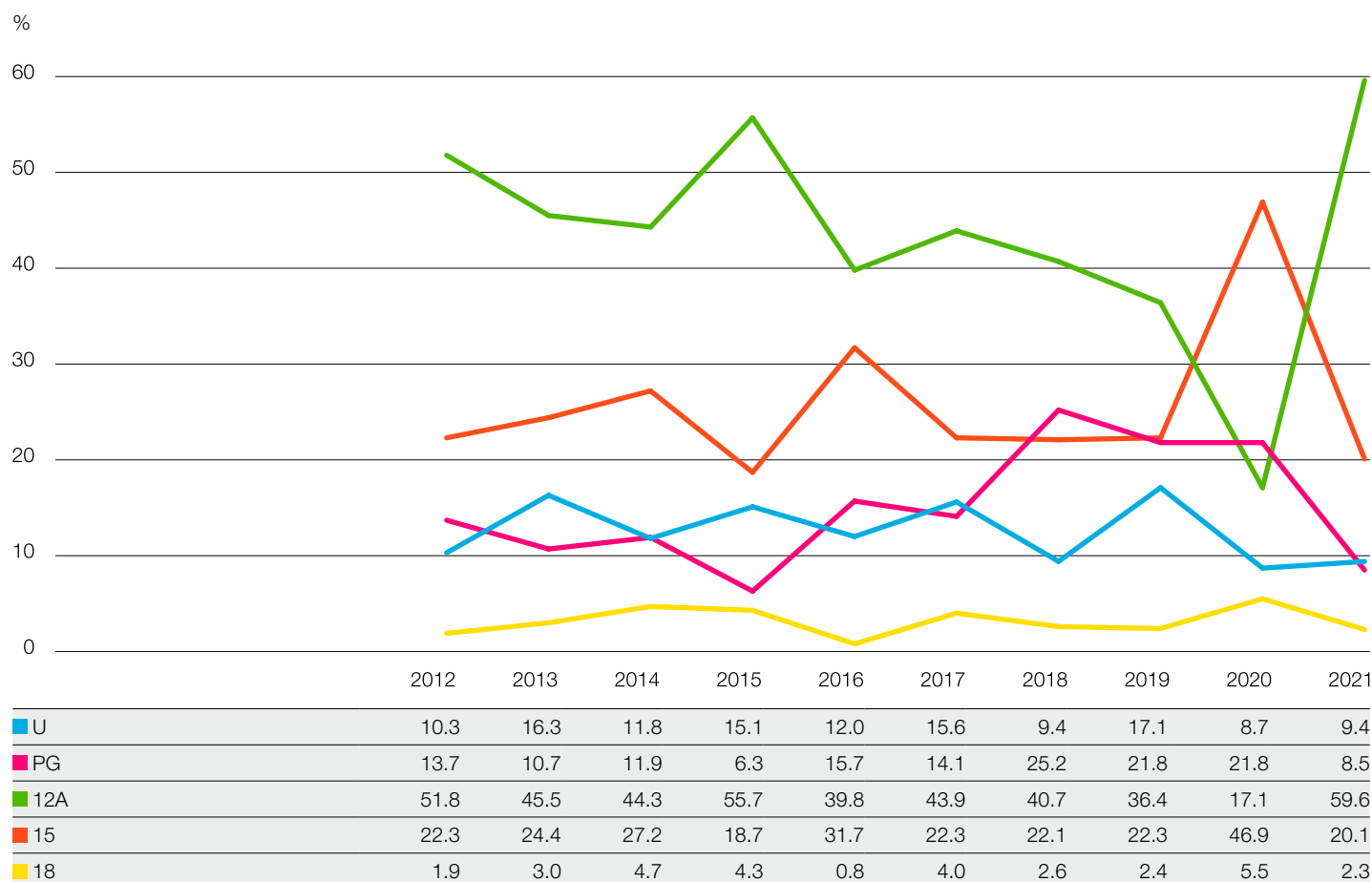
Figure 3 Percentage of releases in the UK and Republic of Ireland by film classification, 2012-2021



Source: Comscore, BBFC, BFI RSU analysis
Note: Figures as at 13 February 2022.

As Figure 4 shows, while the shares of box office by film classification vary from year to year, the rankings of the classifications by box office have been broadly consistent. Between 2012 and 2021, the '12A' rating was the top earner, apart from in 2020, while the '18' rating was the lowest earner. (The drop in share for '12A' films in 2020 is primarily related to the reduction in the number of big budget studio titles released in the year which typically include a significant proportion of high earning films with a '12A' rating.) With the exception of 2018 (when it was third) and 2020 (when it was first) the '15' rating was the second highest earning classification over the period. The 'PG' and 'U' ratings swapped third and fourth place throughout the period, again with the exception of 2020 (when 'PG' rated films were the second highest earning classification), although this was due primarily to the fall in the share for '12A' films.

Figure 4 Percentage of gross box office of releases in the UK and Republic of Ireland by film classification, 2012-2021



Source: Comscore, BBFC, BFI RSU analysis

Note: Figures as at 13 February 2022.



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