



**TURKISH
FILM INDUSTRY
2021
REPORT**



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Having started to come alive in the middle of 1990s, the 2000s have been the most productive and most successful years for Turkish film industry, both nationally and internationally. 408 films were released in Turkish theaters in 2019, 146 of them were local productions. In 2020 because of the restrictions due to the pandemic, the number of films released in Turkey was limited to 181. In 2021, after the restrictions were lifted in July, the market started to recover and 201 new films were released in the theaters. Among those, 78 were local productions. As in many other countries, some local films that could not be released theatrically made their premieres on streaming platforms like Netflix, MUBI or BluTV.

In 2020, the number of admissions for 58 Turkish films was 13.957.721. In 2021, 2.907.816 tickets were sold for 78 local films. When it is compared with 2020, there was an increase in the total number of theatrically released films, but market share for local films decreased

dramatically from 80,2% to 23%. Last year, for the first time in more than a decade Turkish films couldn't dominate the box office numbers in the local market.

Distribution

Free market conditions apply for the Turkish film distribution industry, with no subsidies or incentives. In 2021, 14 distribution companies were active in Turkey, among which UIP, WB, CGV Mars and CJ ENM dominated the market.

Among the 201 new releases in 2021 *Spider Man: No Way Home* became the most watched film with 1.849.954 admissions. In 2020, all of the top 10 films at the box office were Turkish productions. In 2021 only three Turkish films took part in the top ten. Although Turkish cinema manages to make popular films that draw millions of people to movie theaters during recent years, 2021 was not one of them. On the other hand the films that are not competitive in the commercial sense could only reach a limited admission figure.

2005-2021 Theatrical Release Data

Year	Total Admissions	Total Number of Films Released	Turkish Films	Admissions for Turkish Films	Share of Admissions for Turkish Films	Foreign Films	Admissions for Foreign Films	Share of Admissions for Foreign Films
2021	12.488.382	201	78	2.907.816	23%	123	9.580.566	77%
2020	17.414.757	181	58	13.957.633	80%	123	3.457.124	20%
2019	59.556.020	408	146	33.790.600	56%	262	25.765.420	44%
2018	70.408.244	427	170	44.616.187	63%	257	25.792.057	37%
2017	71.188.594	393	151	38.743.901	54%	242	32.44.693	46%
2016	58.287.316	356	135	31.102.760	53%	221	27.184.556	47%
2015	60.228.409	402	136	34.273.257	57%	266	25.955.152	43%
2014	61.248.838	357	108	35.781.569	58%	249	25.467.269	42%
2013	50.405.020	321	86	28.990.793	58%	235	21.414.227	42%
2012	43.935.763	281	61	20.487.442	47%	220	23.448.321	53%
2011	42.298.500	288	70	21.222.541	50%	218	21.075.959	50%
2010	41.064.394	252	65	21.706.524	53%	187	19.357.870	47%
2009	36.899.954	255	69	18.790.700	51%	186	18.109.254	49%
2008	38.465.046	265	50	23.074.291	60%	215	15.390.755	40%
2007	31.161.700	247	40	11.875.820	38%	207	19.285.880	62%
2006	34.860.844	238	34	17.800.496	51%	204	17.060.348	49%
2005	27.250.989	221	27	11.441.856	42%	194	15.809.133	58%

Support from Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Cinema for the Films Released in 2021

Film's Title	Support Year	Support Type	Support Amount (TL)	Support Amount (Euro) ¹	Admissions
1 Forgiveness (Af)	2017	First Feature	450.000	28.125	671
2 Food for Funeral (Ölü Ekmeği)	2017	Feature	850.000	53.125	1.037
3 In the Shadows (Gölgeler İçinde)	2017	Feature	950.000	59.375	1288
4 Karınca	2017	First Feature	900.000	56.250	3.385
5 The Cemil Show (Cemil Şov)	2018	First Feature	700.000	43.750	3.568
6 Penny Bank (Kumbara)	2018	First Feature	600.000	37.500	1.032
7 The Teacher (Muallim)	2018	Feature	1.000.000	62.500	2.120
8 Elli Kelimelik Mektuplar	2019	Feature	1.100.000	68.750	4.297
9 Milyonda Bir	2019	Feature	800.000	50.000	7170
10 Kuklalı Köşk 2: Orman Kâşifi	2020	Feature	900.000	56.250	48.221
11 Return of the Warriors (Müfrezze)	2020	Post-Production	200.000	12.500	1.235
12 Two Types of People (İnsanlar İkiye Ayrılır)	2020	Feature	750.000	46.875	28.579
13 Akif	2021	Post-Production	500.000	31.250	682.658

In November 2013 Turkey met with a new distribution model which was arranged for the sake of independent films that have struggled to find a theater to be released. BAŞKA SİNEMA (Alternative Cinema) became the new distribution model for well-liked national and international films. Since its foundation, BAŞKA SİNEMA has screened more than 300 independent films in select theaters. They were able to release 27 films in 2021.

Support

A considerable increase has been recorded in terms of production of Turkish films thanks to support provided by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism since 2005 and the increasing admission numbers of Turkish films. While only 9 Turkish films were released in 2002, this figure has increased to 146 in 2019. While the guilds and the trade unions for the audiovisual industry in Turkey are not yet as powerful as their counterparts in Europe or the U.S., there are ten active institutions in the industry. With the new regulations in intellectual property law, activity and effectiveness of these institutions will increase.

In 2021, 13 out of 78 newly released Turkish films received support from the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism's production funding. This table gathers the data on these supported films.

¹ The TL amounts were converted to Euro amounts through the average Euro/TL.

Number of Films Received Support from Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Cinema

Year	Feature	First Feature	Post Production	Total
2005	14	0	0	14
2006	10	8	1	19
2007	24	11	6	41
2008	16	14	2	32
2009	16	11	5	32
2010	15	17	7	39
2011	23	23	12	58
2012	25	11	5	41
2013	15	7	0	22
2014	39	15	0	54
2015	35	14	0	49
2016	27	9	4	40
2017	18	12	0	30
2018	26	12	2	40
2019	25	13	0	38
2020	16	9	4	29
2021	27	12	3	42

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European Co-Productions

Among the Turkish films released in 2021, one of them had an European co-producer: *When I'm Done Dying (Bir Nefes Daha)*, dir. Nisan Dağ. Although there is a significant increase in the number of Turkish productions in recent years, the same increase can't be observed in the number of co-productions. In January 2019, a new law was passed regarding the support from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Besides local productions, the Ministry started to support Turkish co-producers contributing to the production of foreign films. 2 films, which have European co-producers, were supported by the Ministry in 2021. The law also introduces %30 tax incentive to foreign productions that are fully or partially shot in Turkey..

Television

Since the deregulation of the monopoly of public broadcasting and establishment of private TV channels in 1990, TV productions and commercials have been important venues for developing the technological and human capital for Turkish Cinema. Although TV networks do not commission TV films, there is a huge market for TV series. Recently, Turkish TV series have started to access the Middle Eastern, North African and Balkan markets, where they are followed with much interest. With the new law passed in January 2019, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture starts to support TV productions as well.

Average support received from Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Cinema

Year	First Feature	Feature	Post Production
2005	52.976 €	0	0
2006	61.133 €	83.333 €	10.000 €
2007	91.319 €	70.757 €	16.225 €
2008	77.083 €	67.857 €	10.000 €
2009	93.229 €	66.666 €	19.000 €
2010	117.333 €	71.588 €	20.000 €
2011	84.057 €	73.913 €	24.166 €
2012	109.333 €	69.700 €	22.666 €
2013	129.636 €	90.476 €	0
2014	168.589 €	102.380 €	0
2015	161.607 €	92.634 €	0
2016	182.748 €	120.274 €	35.855 €
2017	223.492 €	108.521 €	0
2018	99.462 €	141.749 €	68.548 €
2019	101.648 €	132.000 €	0
2020	73.099 €	102.960 €	20.394 €
2021	46.875 €	73.842 €	18.750 €

Turkey - Film Industry Fact Sheet (2021)

Average price per ticket	23,8 TL / 1,50 €
Number of screens	2698
Total Number of Films Released	201
Local Films Released	78
Total Admissions	12.488.382
Box Office Gross of Local Films	55.167.157 TL / 3.447.947 €
Box Office Gross	285.571.443 TL / 17.848.215 €
Admissions for Local Films	2.907.816
Share of Local Films	%23

INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIMS (2002-2021)

- 2021** *Brother's Keeper (Okul Tıraşı)* by Ferit Karahan won Berlinale Panorama FIPRESCI Prize; *Commitment Hasan (Bağlılık Hasan)* by Semih Kaplanoğlu made its world premiere at Cannes Film Festival Un Certain Regard section; *Anatolian Leopard (Anadolu Leoparı)* by Emre Kayış won FIPRESCI Prize at Toronto Film Festival; *Between Two Dawns (İki Şafak Arasında)* by Selman Nacar won Best Feature Film at Torino Film Festival; *The Criminals (Suçlular)* by Serhat Karaaslan was in the shortlist for Best Live Action Short Film Oscar; *The List of Those Who Love Me (Beni Sevenler Listesi)* by Emre Erdoğan won Best Cinematography at Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival.
- 2020** *Ghosts (Hayaletler)* by Azra Deniz Okyay won Grand Prize at Venice Critics' Week; *When I'm Done Dying (Bir Nefes Daha)* by Nisan Dağ won Best Director at Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival; *You Know Him (Nasıpse Adayız)* by Ercan Kesal made its world premiere at Rotterdam Film Festival Voices section; *In the Shadows (Gölgeler İçinde)* by Erdem Tepegöz was in main competition at Moscow Film Festival.
- 2019** *A Tale of Three Sisters (Kız Kardeşler)* by Emin Alper was in main competition at Berlinale, won Best Director at Sarajevo Film Festival; *Noah Land (Nuh Tepesi)* by Cenk Ertürk won Best Actor and Best Screenplay at Tribeca Film Festival - International Narrative Competition; Short film *Black Sun (Siyah Güneş)* by Arda Çiltepe won Best International Short Film at Locarno Film Festival.
- 2018** *The Wild Pear Tree (Ahlat Ağacı)* by Nuri Bilge Ceylan was in main competition at Cannes Film Festival; *The Pigeon (Güvercin)* by Banu Sivacı premiered at Berlin Film Festival's Generation 14plus section, won Best Youth Feature at Asia Pacific Screen Awards and Best Director at Sofia Film Festival; *The Announcement (Anons)* by Mahmut Fazıl Coşkun won Special Jury Prize at Venice Film Festival's Horizons section; *Dead Horse Nebula (Nebula)* by Tarık Aktaş won Best Emerging Director at Locarno Film Festival; *Sibel* by Guillaume Giovanetti & Çağla Zencirci won FIPRESCI Prize and Prize of the Ecumenical Jury at Locarno Film Festival; *Çınar* by Mustafa Karadeniz won Best Screenplay at Shaken Aimanov Film Festival; *Saf* by Ali Vatansever premiered at Toronto Film Festival; *The Pillar of Salt (Tuzdan Kaide)* premiered at Berlin Film Festival's Forum section; *The Pigeon Thieves (Güvercin Hırsızları)* was in main competition at Sarajevo Film Festival, *Kardeşler (Brothers)* by Ömür Atay was in main competition at Karlovy Vary Film Festival; *Yuva* by Emre Yeksan made its world premiere at Venice Film Festival Biennale College section.
- 2017** *Yellow Heat (Sarı Sıcak)* by Fikret Reyhan won Best Director at Moscow Film Festival; *Something Useful (İşe Yarar Bir Şey)* by Pelin Esmer won Best Screenplay at Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival; *Inflame (Kaygı)* by Ceylan Özgün Özçelik premiered Berlin Film Festival's Panorama section; *The Gulf (Körfez)* by Emre Yeksan premiered at Venice Film Festival - Critics' Week; *More (Daha)* by Onur Saylak was in main competition of Karlovy Vary Film Festival; *Meteors (Meteorlar)* by Gürcan Keltek won Swatch Art Peace Hotel Award at Locarno Film Festival, Best Documentary at Bratislava International Film Festival, International Dox Award at Dokufest International Documentary and Short Film Festival, Best Feature at Milan Film Festival and Human Rights Award at Buenos Aires International Festival of Independent Cinema.
- 2016** *Album* by Mehmet Can Mertoğlu won France 4 Visionary Award at Cannes Film Festival - Critics Week, Best Film at Sarajevo Film Festival; *Big Big World (Koca Dünya)* by Reha Erdem won Jury Prize at Venice Film Festival's Horizons section; *Cold of Kalandar (Kalandar Soğuşu)* by Mustafa Kara won Best Film at Asia Pacific Screen Awards; *The Swaying Waterlily (Rüzgârda Salınan Nilüfer)* by Seren Yüce won Best Screenplay at Montreal Film Festival.
- 2015** *Mustang* by Deniz Gamze Ergüven was Foreign Language Film Oscar nominee; *Frenzy (Abluka)* by Emin Alper won Jury Prize at Venice Film Festival; *Until I Lose My Breath (Nefesim Kesilene Kadar)* by Emine Emel Balcı premiered at Berlin Film Festival's Forum section; *Snow Pirates (Kar Korsanları)* by Faruk Hacıhafizoğlu was in Generation Kplus Competition of Berlin Film Festival; *Tuesday (Salı)* by Ziya Demirel was in Cannes Film Festival's official short film competition.
- 2014** *Winter Sleep (Kış Uykusu)* by Nuri Bilge Ceylan won Golden Palm at Cannes Film Festival; *The Blue Wave (Mavi Dalga)* by Zeynep Dadak and Merve Kayan was in Generation Kplus Competition of Berlin Film Festival; *Come to My Voice (Sesime Gel)* by Hüseyin Karabey was in Generation 14plus Competition of Berlin Film Festival; *Seaburners (Kumun Tadı)* by Melisa Önel premiered Berlin Film Festival's Forum section; *The Lamb (Kuzu)* by Kutluğ Ataman was screened at the Panorama section of the Berlin Film Festival; short film *Ağrı and the Mountain (Ağrı ve Dağ)* by Hasan Serin was in Generation Kplus Competition of the Berlin Film Festival; *Sivas* by Kaan Müjdecici won Jury Prize at Venice Film Festival; *Song of My Mother (Annemin Şarkısı)* by Erol Mintaş won Best Film and Best Actor prizes at Sarajevo Film Festival.
- 2013** *Particle (Zerre)* by Erdem Tepegöz won Best Film and Best Actress at Moscow Film Festival
- 2012** *Beyond the Hill (Tepenin Ardı)* by Emin Alper won Caligari Film Prize at Berlin Film Festival, won Best Film at Asia Pacific Screen Awards; *Mold (Küf)* by Ali Aydın won Lion of the Future at Venice Film Festival

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2011 *Once Upon a Time in Anatolia (Bir Zamanlar Anadolu'da)* by Nuri Bilge Ceylan won Grand Jury Prize at Cannes Film Festival

2011 *Our Grand Despair (Bizim Büyük Çaresizliğimiz)* by Seyfi Teoman was in main competition at Berlin Film Festival

2010 *Majority (Çoğunluk)* by Seren Yüce won Lion of the Future at Venice Film Festival

2010 *Honey (Bal)* by Semih Kaplanoğlu won Golden Bear at Berlin Film Festival

2009 *Pandora's Box (Pandora'nın Kutusu)*, Yeşim Ustaoglu won Golden Shell - Best Film and Best Actress at San Sebastian Film Festival

2009 *Wrong Rosary (Uzak İhtimal)* by Mahmut Fazıl Coşkun won Tiger Award at Rotterdam Film Festival

2008 *Three Monkeys (Üç Maymun)* by Nuri Bilge Ceylan won Best Director at Cannes Film Festival

2008 *My Marlon and Brando (Gitmek)* by Hüseyin Karabey won Best New Narrative Filmmaker Award at Tribeca Film Festival

2006 *Climates (İklimler)* by Nuri Bilge Ceylan won FIPRESCI Prize at Cannes Film Festival

2002 *Distant (Uzak)* by Nuri Bilge Ceylan won Grand Prix and Best Actor Prize at Cannes Film Festival

Sources: Box Office Türkiye, Cinema General Directory, Turkish Statistical Institute