

Turkish Film Industry 2012 Report

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. While the industry is in a growth trend, there was a small decrease in the number of films that were theatrically released in 2012. In 2011, a total of 288 films were released, of which 70 were Turkish. Meanwhile in 2012, 61 of total 281 releases were Turkish. Looking at the last 10 years of the theatrical releases in Turkey, 2012 has witnessed the second highest number of films, 2011 is still being in the first place.

In 2011, the number of admissions for 70 Turkish films has been 21,222,541. In 2012, 20,487,442 tickets were sold for 61 Turkish films. The decrease in the number of released Turkish films in 2012 caused a decline in the admissions for Turkish films. Despite that, the number of total admissions has increased from 42,298,500 in 2011 to 43,935,763 in 2012. While Turkish films represented 50% of total admissions in 2011, this figure dropped to 47% in 2012. Although there has been a decrease in the number of Turkish and foreign releases, the admissions per film increased. While the year 2012 witnessed the highest number of admissions among the last 22 years, it is observed that Turkey is still behind European countries in terms of admissions with proportion to the population. Though, the country still has a small film market compared to its population of 75 million. Considering that Turkey has a high potential for growth in the film industry, it is very important to mention that Turkish films still have the strength to dominate the local box office.

Distribution

Free market conditions apply for the Turkish film distribution industry, with no subsidies or incentives. 14 distribution companies have been active in Turkey in 2012, among which Özen Film, UIP, WB and Tiglon dominate 80% of the market.

Among the 281 new releases in Turkey in 2012, *Fetih 1453 (Conquest 1453)*, which tells the conquest of Istanbul, has been the film that reached the highest number of viewers for the last 25 years. It reached 6,565,850 admissions with 880 copies in 41 weeks. Another interesting fact is that 2012's top three films from among 281 were Turkish films. Apart from *Fetih 1453*, romantic drama *Evim Sensin* reached 2,691,726 admissions as number two and a comedy film *Berlin Kaplanı* was number three with 1,983,077 admissions. 7 out of 10 films that reached the highest number of viewers in 2012 were again Turkish films. With 1,873,911 admissions *Ice Age: Continental Drift*, with 1,416,725 admissions *Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2* and with 1,060,706 *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* were the only three foreign releases in top ten.

In spite of the fact that only seven of the top ten films were Turkish ones, the total number of admissions of these seven films represent 75% of total admissions of the 61 new Turkish releases in 2012. Looking at this picture, it goes without saying that increases in the numbers of productions and admissions do not support each other in the Turkish cinema. Although the Turkish cinema manages to make popular films that draw

millions of people to movie theaters during the recent years, films that are not competitive in the commercial sense can only reach a limited admission figure.

2005-2012 Theatrical Release Data - Turkey								
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 Film
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

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 61 in 2012. Currently, the support from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism is the only national support mechanism provided for local productions. Besides supporting national productions, an amendment was made to the VAT law in 2009 in order to increase international productions in Turkey and to subsidize co-productions. This has provided for the legal framework that would allow companies based abroad to rebate the VAT's of their costs incurred in Turkey. Last year, Best Picture Oscar winner *Argo* and the latest James Bond movie *Skyfall* had scenes that were shot in Turkey. Apart from this, the General Directorate of Intellectual Property and Cinema is in the process of drafting a law to allow for foreign films to be shot in Turkey. For more detailed information on this, you can visit the website <http://www.sinema.gov.tr>

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., these institutions have been organizing and mobilizing to become more active during the recent years. An example to these efforts is the Young Turkish Cinema, a movement initiated in 2010 by young Turkish directors and producers who shine out in international festivals, which aims at increasing cooperation, communication and solidarity between young filmmakers and supporting the development of various production and distribution models.

In 2012, 15 out of 61 newly released Turkish films have received support from the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism's production and post-production funding. The below table gathers the data on these supported films:

Support from Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Cinema for the Films Released in 2012						
	Film's Title	Support Year	Support Type	Support Amount (TL)	Support Amount (Euro)¹	2012 Admissions
1	Ateşin Düştüğü Yer (Where the Fire Burns)	2009	Feature	225,000	95,745	16,860
2	Kırık Midyeler (Broken Mussels)	2009	First Feature	200,000	85,106	170
3	Araf (Somewhere in Between)	2010	Feature	450,000	191,489	40,504
4	Babamın Sesi (Voice of My Father)	2010	Feature	280,000	119,148	15,183
5	Geriye Kalan (What Remains)	2010	Feature	250,000	106,382	6,811
6	Güzel Günler Göreceğiz (We Will See Good Days)	2010	First Feature	250,000	106,382	35,296
7	Yeraltı (Inside)	2010	Feature	350,000	148,936	53,537
8	Bu Son Olsun	2011	First Feature	300,000	127,659	78,053
9	Can	2011	Feature	250,000	106,382	10,302
10	Gözetleme Kulesi (Watchtower)	2011	Feature	250,000	106,382	11,959
11	Kurtuluş Son Durak	2011	First Feature	200,000	85,106	586,850
12	Mar	2011	Post production	70,000	29,787	3,474
13	Tepenin Ardı (Beyond the Hill)	2011	First feature	200,000	85,106	15,876
14	Yurt (Home)	2011	Post production	70,000	29,787	1,707
15	Vücut (Body)	2011	Post production	70,000	29,787	13,822

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

¹ The TL amounts were converted to Euro amounts through the annual average Euro/TL exchange rate of the year the support is given.

Average Support Received from Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Cinema			
Year	Feature	First Feature	Post-production
2005	€67,058	0	0
2006	€77,383	€105,485	€12,618
2007	€48,773	€89,566	€20,538
2008	€40,326	€85,894	€12,658
2009	€118,011	€84,388	€24,050
2010	€148,523	€90,613	€25,316
2011	€106,402	€93,560	€30,590
2012	€139,574	€88,978	€28,936

European Co-Productions

As a member of Eurimages since 1990, Turkey annually takes part in 4 majority co-productions and 2 minority co-productions on average. Among the 70 films released in 2011, only eight had European co-producers: *Love and Revolution* (Serkan Acar), *Once Upon a Time in Anatolia* (Nuri Bilge Ceylan), *Our Grand Despair* (Seyfi Teoman), *Future Lasts Forever* (Özcan Alper), *Labyrinth* (Tolga Örnek), *Hair* (Tayfun Pirselimoglu), *Sinyora Enrika ile İtalyan Olmak* (Ali İlhan) and *Yangın Var* (Murat Saraçoğlu). Meanwhile, five out of the 61 Turkish films released in 2012 had European co-producers. These films were: *Beyond the Hill* (Emin Alper), *Code Name Venus* (Tamer Garip), *Somewhere in Between* (Yeşim Ustaoglu), *Voice of My Father* (Zeynel Doğan, Orhan Eskiköy) and *Watchtower* (Pelin Esmer). Majority co-productions are conducted mostly with Greece, Germany and France.

Television

Since the deregulation of the monopoly of the public broadcasting and establishment of private TV channels in 1990, TV productions and advertising films industry have been important venues for developing the technological and human capital for the 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.

Turkey – Film Industry Fact Sheet (2012)

Average price per ticket (2012)	TL 9,60 / € 4,1
Average price per ticket (2011)	TL 9,42 / € 4
Price for a loaf of bread	TL 1,00 / €0,42
Number of screens (2011)	1968
Total Number of Films Released (2012)	281
Local Films Released (2012)	61
Total Admissions (2012)	43,935,763
Box Office Gross of Local Films (2012)	TL 179,393,949.70 / € 76,337,850
Box Office Gross	TL 421,883,398.22 / € 179,524,850
Admissions for Local Films (2012)	20,487,442
Admissions for Local Films (2011)	21,222,541
Share of Local Films (2011)	47%
Average Budget for Local Productions	€ 500,000

Ministry of Culture and Tourism's Production Support (2011)	€100,000 –€200,000 (42 features, 12 first features)
INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIMS (2002-2012)	
2012: Tepenin Ardı (Beyond the Hill) by Emin Alper wins Caligari Film Prize at Berlin Film Festival and wins Best Film at Asia Pacific Film Awards; Küf (Mold) by Ali Aydın wins Lion of the Future at Venice Film Festival	
2011: Bir Zamanlar Anadolu'da (Once Upon a Time in Anatolia) by Nuri Bilge Ceylan wins Grand Jury Prize at Cannes Film Festival	
2011: Bizim Büyük Çaresizliğimiz (Our Grand Despair) by Seyfi Teoman was in competition at Berlin Film Festival	
2010: Çoğunluk (Majority) by Seren Yüce wins Lion of the Future at Venice Film Festival	
2010: Bal (Honey) by Semih Kaplanoğlu wins Golden Bear in Berlin Film Festival	
2009: Pandora'nın Kutusu (Pandora's Box), Yeşim Ustaoglu wins Golden Shell - Best Film and Best Actress Awards at San Sebastian Film Festival	
2009: Uzak İhtimal (Wrong Rosary) by Mahmut Fazıl Coşkun wins Tiger Award at Rotterdam Film Festival	
2008: Üç Maymun (Three Monkeys) by Nuri Bilge Ceylan wins Best Director at Cannes Film Festival	
2008: Gitmek (My Marlon and Brando) by Hüseyin Karabey wins Best New Narrative Filmmaker Award at Tribeca Film Festival	
2006: İklimler (Climates) by Nuri Bilge Ceylan wins FIPRESCI Prize at Cannes Film Festival	
2002: Uzak (Distant) by Nuri Bilge Ceylan wins Grand Prix and Best Actor Prize at Cannes Film Festival	

Sources: Antrakt Sinema Gazetesi, Box Office Türkiye, Altyazı Aylık Sinema Dergisi