

## Turkish Film Industry 2014 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. Whilst a total of 290 films were released in 2012, of which 60 were Turkish, in 2013 a total of 321 films were released and 86 of them were local productions. In 2014 there was a leap forward, 357 films were released and 108 of them were Turkish. Thus, for the first time since 1983, more than 100 local films have been theatrically released in Turkey.

In 2013, the number of admissions for 86 Turkish films has been 28.990.793. In 2014, 35.781.569 tickets were sold for 108 Turkish films. When it is compared with 2013, there was a 30% increase in total number of theatrically released films and a 23% increase in total admissions. Market share for local films was 58% in 2014 as it was last year. While the year 2014 witnessed the highest number of admissions among the last twenty five 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, and as such it has a high potential for growth and it is very important to mention that Turkish films still have the strength to dominate local box office.

### Distribution

Free market conditions apply for the Turkish film distribution industry, with no subsidies or incentives. 19 distribution companies have been active in Turkey, among which UIP, WB and Pinema dominate the market.

Since October 2013 virtual print fee (VPF) application is operated. Due to the structure of Turkish film industry, producers pay VPF. However there isn't a consensus in the industry regarding the method of fee payment.

Films are still distributed with digital and analogue copies. Investment for digital distribution has been increasing and in 2014 65% of the theaters had digital projectors.

Among the 357 new releases in 2014, *Recep İvedik 4* became the most watched film with 7.369.098 admissions. In 2014, 9 of top 10 films at box office were Turkish productions. In spite of the fact that nine of the top ten films were Turkish ones, the total number of admissions of these nine films represent 65% of total admissions of the 108 new Turkish releases. 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, the films that are not competitive in the commercial sense can only reach a limited admission figure.

In November 2013 Turkey met with a new distribution model which was arranged for the sake of independent films that had struggle to find a theater to be released. Başka Sinema (Alternative Cinema) became the new distribution model for well liked national and international films. From November 2013 till the end of 2013 Başka Sinema showed 9 films in 4 theaters. With the inclusion of new theaters in 2014, nearly 100 films were shown by Başka Sinema.

2005-2014 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 Admissions for Foreign Films
2014	<b>61.248.838</b>	357	108	35.781.569	58%	249	25.467.269	42%
2013	<b>50.405.020</b>	321	86	28.990.793	58%	235	21.414.227	42%
2012	<b>43.935.763</b>	281	61	20.487.442	47%	220	23.448.321	53%
2011	<b>42.298.500</b>	288	70	21.222.541	50%	218	21.075.959	50%
2010	<b>41.064.394</b>	252	65	21.706.524	53%	187	19.357.870	47%
2009	<b>36.899.954</b>	255	69	18.790.700	51%	186	18.109.254	49%
2008	<b>38.465.046</b>	265	50	23.074.291	60%	215	15.390.755	40%
2007	<b>31.161.700</b>	247	40	11.875.820	38%	207	19.285.880	62%
2006	<b>34.860.844</b>	238	34	17.800.496	51%	204	17.060.348	49%
2005	<b>27.250.989</b>	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 86 in 2013 and 108 in 2014. The support from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism was the only national support mechanism for local productions till 2015. Yeni Film Fonu (New Film Fun) which was founded by not-for-profit cultural institution Anadolu Kültür and İstanbul Independent Film Festival, starts to support films beginning from this year.

Besides supporting national productions, in order to increase international productions in Turkey and subsidize co-productions, an amendment was made to the VAT law in 2009. This has provided for the legal infrastructure that would allow companies based abroad to rebate the VAT's of their costs incurred in Turkey. Best Picture Oscar winner *Argo* and latest James Bond movie *Skyfall* had the scenes that were shot in Turkey. Also many scenes of Russell Crowe's directorial debut, *The Water Diviner* was shot in İstanbul and Çanakkale. Apart from this, the General Directorate of Intellectual Property and Cinema is drafting a law to allow for foreign films to be shot in Turkey. For detailed information you can visit the website <http://www.sinema.gov.tr>

In June 25th 2012 a new declaration about the support for the service export which earns foreign exchange came into force by Ministry of Economy. With the regulations in the declaration, it was expected that film industry would have received support for distribution and marketing. However the demands of the industry and the content of the declaration didn't overlap, that's why industry can't benefit from these new regulations.

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 10 active institutions in the industry. With the new regulations in intellectual property law, activity and effectivity of these institutions will increase. Besides these institutions, a movement named Young Turkish Cinema was initiated in 2010 by young Turkish directors and producers, which aims at increasing cooperation, communication and solidarity between young filmmakers and supporting the development of various production and distribution models.

In 2014, 36 out of 108 newly released Turkish films have received support from the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism's production and post-production funding. This table gathers the data on these supported films.

<b>Support from Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Cinema for the Films Released in 2014</b>						
	<b>Film's Title</b>	<b>Support Year</b>	<b>Support Type</b>	<b>Support Amount (TL)</b>	<b>Support Amount (Euro)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Admissions</b>
<b>1</b>	Kış Uykusu (Winter Sleep)	2013	Feature	750.000	267.857	304.782
<b>2</b>	Mandıra Filozofu (Dairy Philosopher)	2013	Feature	250.000	89.285	956.571

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

3	Peri Masalı	2012	Feature	300.000	107.142	43.790
4	İksir	2012	Feature	300.000	107.142	110.077
5	Yunus Emre: Aşkın Sesi (Yunus Emre: Voice of Love)	2012	Feature	300.000	107.142	83.786
6	Kusursuzlar (Impeccables)	2011	Feature	250.000	89.285	8.439
7	Şarkı Söyleyen Kadınlar (Singing Women)	2011	Feature	300.000	107.142	7.170
8	Mavi Dalga (Blue Wave)	2011	First feature	200.000	71.428	5.167
9	Mavi Ring (The Blue Van)	2011	First feature	200.000	71.428	1.582
10	Lal	2011	Feature	250.000	89.285	10.385
12	Cennetten Kovulmak (The Fall From Heaven)	2011	First feature	250.000	89.285	7.244
13	Köksüz (Nobody's Home)	2011	First feature	250.000	89.285	8.111
14	Daire (Circle)	2010	Feature	300.000	107.142	2.241
15	Ferahfeza (Ships)	2010	First feature	200.000	71.428	703
16	Soğuk (Cold)	2012	Feature	400.000	142.857	7.722
17	Bensiz	2012	First feature	200.000	71.428	6.546
18	Göl Zamanı	2011	First feature	300.000	107.142	915
19	Toprağa Uzanan Eller	2011	First feature	200.000	71.428	2.141
20	Biz Babasız Büyüdük	2011	Feature	250.000	89.285	248
21	Ben O Değilim (I Am Not Him)	2012	Feature	250.000	89.285	3.682

22	Balık (Fish)	2011	Feature	250.000	89.285	8.690
23	Hay Way Zaman: Dersim'in Kayıp Kızları (Unburied in the Past- The Missing Girls of Dersim)	2013	Documentary Feature	30.000	10.714	2.658
24	Sivas	2011	First feature	200.000	71.428	16.002
25	Unutma Beni İstanbul (Do Not Forget Me Istanbul)	2011	Post production	70.000	25.000	153
26	Deniz Seviyesi (Across the Sea)	2013	First feature	250.000	89.285	4.098
27	Annemin Şarkısı (Song of My Mother)	2012	First feature	250.000	89.285	9.990
28	Evliya Çelebi Ölümsüzlük Suyu (Evliya Çelebi: The Fountain of Youth)	2011	Feature	400.000	142.857	44.639
29	Kumun Tadı (Seaburners)	2011	First feature	250.000	89.285	2.550
30	Asfalt Çiçekleri	2011	First feature	200.000	71.428	557
31	Seni Seviyorum Adamım	2012	Feature	400.000	142.857	144.039
32	Fakat Müzeyyen Bu Derin Bir Tutku	2013	Feature	400.000	142.857	71.042
33	Yağmur: Kıyamet Çiçeği (Rain: Flower of Apocalypse)	2013	Feature	400.000	142.857	58.993
34	Gittiler Sair ve Meçhul (Gone 'The Other and the Unknown')	2013	Feature	300.000	107.142	209
35	Aşk-ı Suzan	2011	First feature	250.000	89.285	225

<b>36</b>	Sesime Gel (Come to My Voice)	2012	Post production	70.000	25.000	4.224
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<b>Number of Films Received Support from Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Cinema</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Feature</b>	<b>First Feature</b>	<b>Post Production</b>	<b>Total</b>
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

<b>Average support received from Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Cinema</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>First Feature</b>	<b>Feature</b>	<b>Post Production</b>
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

### European Co-Productions

Among the films released in 2014, 8 of them were co-productions: *Singing Women* (Reha Erdem), *Blue Wave* (Zeynep Dadak, Merve Kayan), *The Blue Van* (Ömer Leventoğlu), *Winter Sleep* (Nuri Bilge Ceylan), *I Am Not Him* (Tayfun Pirselimoglu), *Sivas* (Kaan Müjdeci), *Across the Sea* (Nisan Dağ, Esra Saydam), *Song of My Mother* (Erol Mintaş) were co-productions.

There is a significant increase in the number of Turkish productions, but the same increase can't be observed in the number of co-productions. Because there is no direct support system for co-productions and the existing support systems are not operated with the participation of producers. Therefore a portfolio of producers who are willing to make international productions can't be created. Due to regulations, support system of Ministry of Culture and Tourism is only open to co-productions if the film's main producer is Turkish. Besides that Turkey can't benefit from Creative Europe programme which supports audiovisual industries in EU countries because Turkey is still trying to become a EU member.

### 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 (2014)

Average price per ticket	10,6 TL / 3,79 €
Price for a loaf of bread	1,00 TL / 0,36 €
Number of screens / Digital screens	2200 / 1430
Total Number of Films Released	357
Local Films Released	108

Total Admissions	61.248.838
Box Office Gross of Local Films	358.412.978 TL
Box Office Gross	652.906.733 TL
Admissions for Local Films	35.781.569
Share of Local Films	%58
<b>INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIMS (2002-2014)</b>	
<p><b>2014:</b> Kış Uykusu (Winter Sleep) by Nuri Bilge Ceylan wins Golden Palm at Cannes Film Festival, Mavi Dalga (Blue Wave) by Zeynep Dadak and Merve Kayan was in Generation Kplus Competition of the Berlin Film Festival, Sesime Gel (Come to my Voice) by Hüseyin Karabey was in Generation 14plus Competition of the Berlin Film Festival, Seaburners (Kumun Tadı) by Melisa Önel was screened at the Forum section of the Berlin Film Festival, Kuzu (The Lamb) by Kutluğ Ataman was screened at the Panorama section of the Berlin Film Festival, short film Ağrı ve Dağ (Ağrı and the Mountain) by Hasan Serin was in Generation Kplus Competition of the Berlin Film Festival, Sivas by Kaan Müjdeci won Jury Prize at Venice Film Festival and Song of My Mother by Erol Mintaş won Best Film and Best Actor prizes at Sarajevo Film Festival.</p>	
<p><b>2013:</b> Zerre (Particle) by Erdem Tepegöz wins Best Film and Best Actress at Moscow Film Festival</p>	
<p><b>2012:</b> Tepenin Ardı (Beyond the Hill) by Emin Alper wins Caligari Film Prize at Berlin Film Festival, wins Best Film at Asia Pacific Film Awards; Küf (Mold) by Ali Aydın wins Lion of the Future at Venice Film Festival</p>	
<p><b>2011:</b> Bir Zamanlar Anadolu'da (Once Upon a Time in Anatolia) by Nuri Bilge Ceylan wins Grand Jury Prize at Cannes Film Festival</p>	
<p><b>2011:</b> Bizim Büyük Çaresizliğimiz (Our Grand Despair) by Seyfi Teoman was in competition at Berlin Film Festival</p>	
<p><b>2010:</b> Çoğunluk (Majority) by Seren Yüce wins Lion of the Future at Venice Film Festival,</p>	
<p><b>2010:</b> Bal (Honey) by Semih Kaplanoğlu wins Golden Bear in Berlin Film Festival</p>	
<p><b>2009:</b> Pandora'nın Kutusu (Pandora's Box), Yeşim Ustaoglu wins Golden Shell - Best Film and Best Actress Awards at San Sebastian Film Festival</p>	
<p><b>2009:</b> Uzak İhtimal (Wrong Rosary) by Mahmut Fazıl Coşkun wins Tiger Award at Rotterdam Film Festival</p>	
<p><b>2008:</b> Üç Maymun (Three Monkeys) by Nuri Bilge Ceylan wins Best Director at Cannes Film Festival</p>	
<p><b>2008:</b> Gitmek (My Marlon and Brando) by Hüseyin Karabey wins Best New Narrative Filmmaker Award at Tribeca Film Festival</p>	



**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: Box Office Türkiye, Sinema General Directory*