

THE FORCE AWAKENS PREVIEW

BY THE NUMBERS

STAR WARS AT THE BOX OFFICE

“Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens” is anticipated to break box office records and gross more than \$1 billion in domestic box office sales, which would put it nearly a *quarter-billion* dollars ahead of current record holder “Avatar” (\$760M). That fervor could not be any more different from the release of “Star Wars” nearly 40 years ago, which premiered on just a few dozen screens. In fact, 20th Century Fox was so concerned about how it would perform versus other summer films that it moved up its premiere to the Wednesday before Memorial Day to give a few days at theaters without big head-to-head competition. Needless to say, they had nothing to worry about. Here’s a look back at how each film in the “Star Wars” franchise performed at the domestic box office:

STAR WARS

Release: May 25, 1977
Opening Weekend Box Office:
\$1,554,475 in 43 theaters
Box Office Total: \$307,263,857 in
1,750 theaters
1977 Average Ticket Cost: \$2.23

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

Release: May 21, 1980
Opening Weekend Box Office:
\$4,910,483 in 126 theaters
Box Office Total: \$209,398,025 in
1,278 theaters
1980 Average Ticket Cost: \$2.69

RETURN OF THE JEDI

Release: May 25, 1983
Opening Weekend Box Office:
\$23,019,618 in 1,002 theaters
Box Office Total: \$252,583,617 in
1,764 theaters
1983 Average Ticket Cost: \$3.15

STAR WARS: EPISODE I – THE PHANTOM MENACE

Release: May 19, 1999

Opening Weekend Box Office:
\$64,820,970 in 2,970 theaters
Box Office Total: \$431,088,295 in
3,126 theaters
1999 Average Ticket Cost: \$5.06

STAR WARS: EPISODE II – ATTACK OF THE CLONES

Release: May 16, 2002
Opening Weekend Box Office:
\$80,027,814 in 3,161 theaters
Box Office Total: \$302,191,252 in 3,161
theaters
2002 Average Ticket Cost: \$5.80

STAR WARS: EPISODE III – REVENGE OF THE SITH

Release: May 19, 2005
Opening Weekend Box Office:
\$108,435,841 in 3,661 theaters
Box Office Total: \$380,270,577 in
3,663 theaters
2005 Average Ticket Cost: \$6.41

Sources: BoxOfficeMojo.com,
National Association of Theater
Owners

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