

Super Mario Galaxy Movie Breaks Box Office Records - Intermediate - EN

Entertainment

English

Article

The Super Mario Galaxy Movie raced out of the gate with a huge \$34 million on Wednesday in the United States and Canada. That gave it the best opening day of 2026 and the biggest opening Wednesday ever seen in April. What makes the number even more striking is that it was reached without preview screenings adding to the total.

The earlier Super Mario Bros. Movie opened in Easter week of 2023 and went on to collect \$146.3 million in three days and \$204.6 million in five days. Universal believes the new sequel may reach about \$128.2 million over three days and \$186 million over five days. Even if that result ends below the first film, it would still be a major success by modern box office standards.

Viewers are responding well so far. The Rotten Tomatoes audience score is 91%, although that is a little below the 95% earned by the 2023 movie. Critics are much less impressed, giving the new film 44%. Still, family audiences often make the biggest difference during holiday playtime, especially when schools are closed and moviegoing rises on Friday and Saturday.

If the forecast holds, the movie will have the biggest domestic opening of the year. It could also join Shrek, Toy Story, and Minions as one of the few animated franchises with two movies opening above \$100 million in three days. That would show how powerful the Mario brand remains with audiences. It would also confirm that Nintendo's characters still have unusual drawing power in theaters.

Vocabulary Words List

out of the gate	right from the start
opening day	the first day a movie plays in theaters
opening Wednesday	the first Wednesday performance of a movie
preview screenings	showings before the main release date
total	the full amount
earlier	happening before now
collect	to earn or gather money
three days	the first three days of release
five days	the first five days of release
sequel	a movie that continues an earlier film
major success	a very strong result
box office	movie ticket sales
standards	usual levels used for comparison
viewers	people watching the movie
audience score	a rating from regular moviegoers
critics	people who review films
impressed	showing strong approval
family audiences	groups of parents and children watching together
holiday	a special day when many people are off work or
playtime	free time for fun activities
moviegoing	the activity of going to the movies

rises	goes up
forecast	a prediction of what may happen
holds	stays true
domestic opening	ticket sales in the U.S. and Canada at release
animated franchises	series of animated movies
brand	a famous name connected to a product
remains	continues to be
audiences	groups of people watching
powerful	strong and important

Fill In The Blanks Listening Practice

The Super Mario Galaxy Movie raced _____ with a huge \$34 million on Wednesday in the United States and Canada. That gave it the best _____ of 2026 and the biggest _____ ever seen in April. What makes the number even more striking is that it was reached without _____ adding to the total.

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If the _____ holds, the movie will have the biggest _____ of the year. It could also join Shrek, Toy Story, and Minions as one of the few _____ with two movies opening above \$100 million in _____. That would show how powerful the Mario _____ remains with audiences. It would also confirm that Nintendo's characters still have unusual drawing power in theaters.

Vocabulary Retention Quiz

1. How much did The Super Mario Galaxy Movie earn on Wednesday in the U.S. and Canada?
2. Why is the \$34 million opening especially notable?
3. What five-day opening does Universal expect for the sequel?
4. How do audience and critic reactions differ?
5. Which animated franchises are mentioned as comparisons?

Discussion Questions

Why do some movies perform strongly even when critics dislike them? How important are holiday weekends to box office success? What makes a movie franchise stay popular over time?

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