# Random Sampling - Show Me the Money! 

## INTRODUCTION

1. Name your favorite movie of all time.
2. On average, how much money do you think a movie grosses (earns) in theaters?
3. Take a guess at the title of the top-grossing movie of 2013.
4. What do you think was the maximum amount grossed by a movie in 2013?

## Sampling Methods

5. Take a look at the list of the 200 top-grossing movies of 2013 and select 10 that you saw (or wanted to see) in theaters. For purposes of this activity, we will consider these 200 movies as a small population. In practice, populations are often much larger than 200 individuals, sometimes reaching the hundreds of millions or more. Write the titles of those movies in the table below, along with the amount they grossed in 2013. Notice that the listing of movies gives the gross income rounded to the nearest tenth of a million, so that a movie listed as earning $\$ 191.5$ really grossed $\$ 191,500,000$. The order in which you write the movies in the table below does not matter.

| Movie Title | Gross Income (Millions) |
| :--- | :--- |
|  |  |
|  |  |
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|  |  |
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|  |  |

6. Compute and record the mean gross income for the 10 movies you selected. This number is called the sample mean.
7. Is your sample mean the same as all the other sample means computed by the other students in your class?

It's probably not surprising to you that your sample mean differs from those of other students because you have most likely chosen different samples. The fact that different samples yield different statistics (in this case different sample means) is called sampling variability.
8. Combine your results with those of your classmates by creating a dotplot of sample means on the board. Then, record this dotplot on the number line below, carefully labeling the axis.

| 1 | 50 | 100 | 150 | 200 | 250 | 300 | 350 | 40 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

9. Based on the previous dotplot, without any calculations, what do you suppose the mean gross income for the population of all 200 movies might be?

The method you used to take samples from the population is based on your experience and interest in movies. It turns out that this is not a particularly good way to sample if you wish to generate samples that are representative (good images) of the population. Instead of using human experience, judgment, or interest to choose samples, statisticians use chance to select samples from large populations. Samples selected by a chance process are called random samples.
10. Your instructor will give you instructions on how to use random chance to select 10 movies from the population of 200 movies. You will draw chips from a container, use a table of random digits, or use technology to generate 10 random numbers from 1-200. Find the ID numbers in the table below that match your randomly chosen numbers. Record the ID number, title of the movie, and gross income in the following table.

| ID <br> Number | Movie Title | Gross Income <br> (Millions) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |
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11. Compute and record the mean gross income for the 10 movies you selected. This number is called the sample mean, but this time the sample mean has been generated by a random sample. Is your sample mean the same as all the other sample means computed by the other students in your class?
12. Combine your results with those of your classmates by creating a dotplot of sample means on the board. Then, record this dotplot on the number line below, carefully labeling the axis.

| 150 | 100 | 200 | 250 | 300 | 450 | 4 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

13. Based on the previous dotplot, without any calculations, what do you suppose the mean gross income for the population of all 200 movies might be?
14. Is your guess for the mean gross income from a random sample somewhat different from your guess when you chose your own sample?
15. The population's mean gross income for the population of all 200 movies is $\$ 54.4$ million. Go back to your dotplots in \#8 and \#12 and draw a vertical line on your number line at 54.4. Did the sample means from you and your classmates do a pretty good job of estimating the population mean when you chose your sample by thinking of movies you saw or wished to see? How about when you obtained your samples through chance? What have you learned about the use of random samples from populations?
16. With enough time, you and your classmates could continue drawing random samples of 10 movies, computing the sample mean for each sample, and building the dotplot in \#12 above. In order to save time, your instructor will show you a simulation of this process using Fathom software. When the simulation is finished, create a rough sketch of the resulting dotplot below. Label the horizontal axis and draw two vertical lines: one at the center of all the dots and one at the population mean.


| ID | Movie Title | Total <br> Gross (Millions) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 001 | The Hunger Games: Catching Fire | 424.7 |
| 002 | Iron Man 3 | 409.0 |
| 003 | Frozen | 400.7 |
| 004 | Despicable Me 2 | 368.1 |
| 005 | Man of Steel | 291.0 |
| 006 | Gravity | 274.1 |
| 007 | Monsters University | 268.5 |
| 008 | The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug | 258.4 |
| 009 | Fast \& Furious 6 | 238.7 |
| 010 | Oz The Great and Powerful | 234.9 |
| 011 | Star Trek Into Darkness | 228.8 |
| 012 | Thor: The Dark World | 206.4 |
| 013 | World War Z | 202.4 |
| 014 | The Croods | 187.2 |
| 015 | The Heat | 159.6 |
| 016 | We're the Millers | 150.4 |
| 017 | American Hustle | 150.1 |
| 018 | The Great Gatsby (2013) | 144.8 |
| 019 | The Conjuring | 137.4 |
| 020 | Identity Thief | 134.5 |
| 021 | Grown Ups 2 | 133.7 |
| 022 | The Wolverine | 132.6 |
| 023 | Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues | 125.2 |
| 024 | Lone Survivor | 125.1 |
| 025 | G.I. Joe: Retaliation | 122.5 |
| 026 | Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 | 119.8 |
| 027 | Now You See Me | 117.7 |
| 028 | The Wolf of Wall Street | 116.9 |
| 029 | Lee Daniels' The Butler | 116.6 |
| 030 | The Hangover Part III | 112.2 |
| 031 | Epic | 107.5 |
| 032 | Captain Phillips | 107.1 |
| 033 | Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa | 102.0 |
| 034 | Pacific Rim | 101.8 |
| 035 | This is the End | 101.5 |
| 036 | Olympus Has Fallen | 98.9 |
| 037 | 42 | 95.0 |
| 038 | Elysium | 93.1 |
| 039 | Planes | 90.3 |
| 040 | The Lone Ranger | 89.3 |
| 041 | Oblivion | 89.1 |
| 042 | Insidious Chapter 2 | 83.6 |
| 043 | Saving Mr. Banks | 83.3 |
| 044 | Turbo | 83.0 |
| 045 | 2 Guns | 75.6 |
| 046 | White House Down | 73.1 |
| 047 | Mama | 71.6 |
| 048 | Safe Haven | 71.3 |
| 049 | The Smurfs 2 | 71.0 |
| 050 | The Best Man Holiday | 70.5 |


| ID | Movie Title | Total Gross (Millions) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 051 | Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters | 68.6 |
| 052 | A Good Day to Die Hard | 67.3 |
| 053 | Warm Bodies | 66.4 |
| 054 | Jack the Giant Slayer | 65.2 |
| 055 | The Purge | 64.5 |
| 056 | Last Vegas | 63.9 |
| 057 | Ender's Game | 61.7 |
| 058 | Prisoners | 61.0 |
| 059 | After Earth | 60.5 |
| 060 | The Secret Life of Walter Mitty | 58.2 |
| 061 | Escape From Planet Earth | 57.0 |
| 062 | 12 Years a Slave | 56.7 |
| 063 | Free Birds | 55.8 |
| 064 | Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters | 55.7 |
| 065 | Evil Dead (2013) | 54.2 |
| 066 | Red 2 | 53.3 |
| 067 | Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas | 52.5 |
| 068 | Tyler Perry's Temptation: Confessions of a Marriage Counselor | 52.0 |
| 069 | The Call | 51.9 |
| 070 | Pain and Gain | 49.9 |
| 071 | Gangster Squad | 46.0 |
| 072 | Jurassic Park 3D | 45.4 |
| 073 | The Internship | 44.7 |
| 074 | Instructions Not Included | 44.5 |
| 075 | Snitch | 42.9 |
| 076 | Riddick | 42.0 |
| 077 | A Haunted House | 40.0 |
| 078 | 47 Ronin | 38.4 |
| 079 | August: Osage County | 37.7 |
| 080 | Philomena | 37.7 |
| 081 | The Family (2013) | 36.9 |
| 082 | Walking with Dinosaurs | 36.1 |
| 083 | Carrie (2013) | 35.3 |
| 084 | Texas Chainsaw 3D | 34.3 |
| 085 | R.I.P.D. | 33.6 |
| 086 | Blue Jasmine | 33.4 |
| 087 | Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain | 32.2 |
| 088 | Side Effects (2013) | 32.2 |
| 089 | Scary Movie 5 | 32.0 |
| 090 | The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones | 31.2 |
| 091 | Delivery Man | 30.7 |
| 092 | Grudge Match | 29.8 |
| 093 | One Direction: This is Us | 28.9 |
| 094 | Kick-Ass 2 | 28.8 |
| 095 | Dallas Buyers Club | 27.3 |
| 096 | Rush (2013) | 26.9 |
| 097 | The Host (2013) | 26.6 |
| 098 | The World's End | 26.0 |
| 099 | 21 and Over | 25.7 |
| 100 | Her (2013) | 25.6 |


| ID | Movie Title | Total Gross (Millions) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 101 | Escape Plan | 25.1 |
| 102 | Don Jon | 24.5 |
| 103 | The Incredible Burt Wonderstone | 22.5 |
| 104 | The Big Wedding | 21.8 |
| 105 | Mud | 21.6 |
| 106 | Baggage Claim | 21.6 |
| 107 | The Way, Way Back | 21.5 |
| 108 | The Book Thief | 21.5 |
| 109 | The Place Beyond the Pines | 21.4 |
| 110 | Homefront | 20.2 |
| 111 | Broken City | 19.7 |
| 112 | Beautiful Creatures (2013) | 19.5 |
| 113 | Runner Runner | 19.3 |
| 114 | You're Next | 18.5 |
| 115 | Quartet | 18.4 |
| 116 | Admission | 18.0 |
| 117 | Nebraska | 17.7 |
| 118 | Parker | 17.6 |
| 119 | Enough Said | 17.6 |
| 120 | Dark Skies | 17.4 |
| 121 | The Counselor | 17.0 |
| 122 | Jobs | 16.1 |
| 123 | Fruitvale Station | 16.1 |
| 124 | About Time | 15.3 |
| 125 | The Last Exorcism Part II | 15.2 |
| 126 | Spring Breakers | 14.1 |
| 127 | Inside Llewyn Davis | 13.2 |
| 128 | The Last Stand | 12.1 |
| 129 | Out of the Furnace | 11.3 |
| 130 | Dead Man Down | 10.9 |
| 131 | Getaway (2013) | 10.5 |
| 132 | Bullet to the Head | 9.5 |
| 133 | Tyler Perry Presents Peeples | 9.2 |
| 134 | Battle of the Year | 8.9 |
| 135 | Movie 43 | 8.8 |
| 136 | Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom | 8.3 |
| 137 | Before Midnight | 8.1 |
| 138 | Dhoom 3 | 8.0 |
| 139 | Machete Kills | 8.0 |
| 140 | Paranoia | 7.4 |
| 141 | Black Nativity | 7.0 |
| 142 | The Spectacular Now | 6.9 |
| 143 | The Grandmaster | 6.6 |
| 144 | All Is Lost | 6.3 |
| 145 | Believe | 6.2 |
| 146 | The Bling Ring | 5.8 |
| 147 | Pulling Strings | 5.8 |
| 148 | Closed Circuit | 5.8 |
| 149 | The Wizard of Oz (3D/IMAX) | 5.6 |
| 150 | Chennai Express | 5.3 |


| ID | Movie Title | Total Gross (Millions) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 151 | The Company You Keep | 5.1 |
| 152 | 20 Feet from Stardom | 4.9 |
| 153 | Jerusalem | 4.6 |
| 154 | Much Ado About Nothing (2013) | 4.3 |
| 155 | Frances Ha | 4.1 |
| 156 | Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani | 3.8 |
| 157 | The To-Do List | 3.5 |
| 158 | Metallica Through the Never | 3.4 |
| 159 | Emperor | 3.3 |
| 160 | Journey to the South Pacific | 3.3 |
| 161 | Stand Up Guys | 3.3 |
| 162 | The Fifth Estate | 3.3 |
| 163 | Top Gun 3D | 3.0 |
| 164 | In a World | 3.0 |
| 165 | Home Run | 2.9 |
| 166 | The Great Beauty | 2.9 |
| 167 | Filly Brown | 2.9 |
| 168 | Ram-Leela | 2.7 |
| 169 | Grace Unplugged | 2.5 |
| 170 | The Sapphires | 2.5 |
| 171 | The Gatekeepers | 2.4 |
| 172 | I'm In Love With a Church Girl | 2.4 |
| 173 | No (2013) | 2.3 |
| 174 | Trance | 2.3 |
| 175 | The East | 2.3 |
| 176 | Renoir | 2.3 |
| 177 | The Christmas Candle | 2.3 |
| 178 | Blue Is the Warmest Color | 2.2 |
| 179 | Oldboy (2013) | 2.2 |
| 180 | Krrish 3 | 2.2 |
| 181 | Austenland | 2.2 |
| 182 | The Saratov Approach | 2.1 |
| 183 | 2013 Oscar Nominated Short Films | 2.1 |
| 184 | Blackfish | 2.1 |
| 185 | The Iceman (2013) | 2.0 |
| 186 | Fill the Void | 1.8 |
| 187 | Girl Rising | 1.7 |
| 188 | The Attack | 1.7 |
| 189 | Stoker | 1.7 |
| 190 | Unfinished Song | 1.7 |
| 191 | Bhaag Milkha Bhaag | 1.6 |
| 192 | Love is All You Need | 1.6 |
| 193 | Stories We Tell | 1.6 |
| 194 | Race 2 | 1.6 |
| 195 | Bless Me Ultima | 1.6 |
| 196 | Kon-Tiki | 1.5 |
| 197 | Disconnect | 1.4 |
| 198 | Girl Most Likely | 1.4 |
| 199 | I'm So Excited | 1.4 |
| 200 | Wadjda (U.S. only) | 1.3 |

