

Force behind *Star Wars* anniversary

Star Wars celebrates its 30th birthday as one of the all-time moneymaking movie franchises. Filmgoers have turned out in full force since the Skywalker saga was released on May 25, 1977, generating more than \$4.3 billion in global box office receipts and an out-of-this-world \$13.5 billion in merchandising



Movie	Director	Gross (worldwide)
<i>Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope</i> (1977)	George Lucas	\$797.9m
<i>Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back</i> (1980)	Irvin Kershner	\$533.8m
<i>Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi</i> (1983)	Richard Marquand	\$572.7m
<i>Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace</i> (1999)	George Lucas	\$922.4m
<i>Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones</i> (2002)	George Lucas	\$648.2m
<i>Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith</i> (2005)	George Lucas	\$848.5m
TOTAL:		\$4,323.5m
<i>Titanic</i> (1997) – All-time highest grossing movie	James Cameron	\$1,835.3m

Sources: Lucasfilm, IMDb

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