

The Hollywood Reporter reveals that pre-release tracking indicates Warner Bros. and Christopher Nolan's Batman finale, The Dark Knight Rises, will score a higher opening weekend than the last film, The Dark Knight. The 2008 superhero flick grossed \$158M in its opening weekend, and is currently the top opening 2D film (and was the top opening film overall until 3D films Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows: Part 2 and The Avengers were released). While tracking numbers for The Dark Knight Rises aren't that far behind The Avengers, the "epic conclusion" to Nolan's Batman trilogy lacks the benefit of a 3D release and has a much longer running time than Avengers. Still, TDKR is opening in several hundred IMAX theaters; the fact that it's the final installment in the Batman trilogy should also increase interest. According to those who have seen Monday's tracking numbers, unaided awareness for The Dark Knight

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