

The Simpsons

How one of the most influential and longest running cartoon series on TV fared over time

LEGEND

IMDb Rating

9.0+ 8.5+ 8.0+ 7.5+ 7.0+ 6.5+ 6.0+ < 6.0 N/A



"Writers and producers left the show to continue on with their careers and new writers either failed to emphasize the heartfelt values each character possessed or betrayed those values entirely." [3]
"The shows began to rely on outlandish plots rather than layered, masterfully crafted narratives." [1]

Figure Right: Only a small fraction of the original creative force behind the show remained on the team after Season 8.

Season 2–9: "Simpsons Mania" [2]

Orig. Air Year
U.S. viewers
(millions, per episode)

Avg. U.S. viewers
(millions, per season)

The Simpsons completely transformed television. Rather than embrace the virtues of the American family like every other show of that time, The Simpsons seem to be actively mocking them....it was seen as an expression of anti-authority in early 1990s. However, as time passed by, the show itself became the pop culture, and gradually lost its cynical edge and ability to be truly satire. [1]

1990

1995

2000

2005

2010

2015

Post Season 9: "Zombie Simpsons" [4]

Avg. IMDb rating
(per season)

"I never watch this show anymore, but some of the stuff in seasons 4-6 had me rolling on the floor.
Great memories." — IMDb user

"If you flip on FOX at 8pm on Sundays, you will see a program that bills itself as "The Simpsons". It is not "The Simpsons". That show, the landmark piece of American culture that debuted on 17 December 1989, went off the air more than a decade ago. The replacement is a hopelessly mediocre imitation that bears only a superficial resemblance to the original. It is the unwanted sequel, the stale spinoff, the creative dry hole that is kept pumping in the endless search for more money. It is Zombie Simpsons." [4]

→ Season
Episode
↓

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	8.2	8.2	8.6	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.9	8.3	9.1	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.4	6.3	7.5	6.7	7.2	7.1	6.3	7.2	6.4	7.0	5.8	5.9	6.6	
	7.8	8.3	7.7	8.1	9.0	8.1	8.3	9.2	7.4	8.2	7.5	7.4	7.1	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.9	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.3	7.1	6.9	6.7		
	7.5	8.2	8.2	9.0	8.6	6.0	8.3	8.0	8.1	7.5	7.5	7.1	7.2	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	7.2	6.3	6.8	6.6	6.9	6.5	6.5	7.2		
	7.8	8.1	8.7	7.8	8.9	8.5	8.7	7.7	8.1	8.0	7.7	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	6.6	7.3	7.1	6.9	7.1	7.3	7.1	6.7	6.7	6.7	7.3	7.5	
	8.1	7.5	8.5	8.4	8.7	8.3	8.5	8.2	8.2	7.3	7.8	7.2	7.7	6.8	7.2	7.1	6.9	6.9	7.1	6.6	6.7	7.2	6.3	7.1	6.3	6.8		
	7.6	8.0	7.7	8.2	8.0	9.0	8.5	8.0	7.7	7.6	7.3	7.7	7.1	7.3	6.6	7.3	6.9	6.8	6.7	7.1	6.7	6.5	7.8	6.5	6.5	7.9	6.8	
	7.7	7.7	8.2	7.8	7.7	8.0	9.0	7.8	7.7	8.0	7.1	7.3	6.9	7.1	7.2	6.7	7.0	7.1	7.1	6.8	6.4	6.8	7.2	7.0	6.9	6.3		
	7.5	8.1	7.9	8.8	8.4	9.0	8.0	8.5	7.5	8.2	7.3	8.0	7.3	7.3	6.8	7.3	6.9	6.8	6.7	7.2	6.3	7.2	6.3	6.3	6.8			
	7.4	7.8	8.8	8.5	8.5	8.0	7.5	9.0	7.6	7.8	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	6.8	7.3	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.8	6.8	6.6		
	7.8	8.8	8.2	8.7	8.2	7.8	8.3	7.8	5.1	7.7	6.9	7.5	7.1	6.6	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.3	7.0	6.9	7.0	6.6	7.2	7.3	6.8		
	8.3	8.2	8.2	9.0	8.1	8.9	8.3	8.6	7.7	6.9	7.3	6.9	6.5	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.4	7.0	7.1	6.8	7.0	6.8	5.7	6.5	6.4	5.8		
	7.9	8.0	8.5	8.0	8.5	8.0	7.5	9.0	7.5	7.8	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.0	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.3	6.8	6.6	6.2	6.6	6.5	7.1		
	8.0	8.5	8.0	8.8	8.4	9.0	8.0	8.5	7.5	8.2	7.3	8.0	7.3	7.3	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.8	7.0	8.2	6.9	7.6	7.6	6.8	8.4	
	7.5	8.1	7.9	8.8	8.4	9.0	8.0	8.5	7.5	8.2	7.3	8.0	7.3	7.3	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.1	6.9	7.6	6.8	6.6		
	7.6	8.6	9.0	7.9	7.9	8.9	8.8	8.1	8.0	7.6	7.0	6.9	6.6	5.6	5.6	7.2	6.7	7.2	7.3	7.3	6.9	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.5		
	8.0	8.2	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.0	8.7	8.7	7.8	7.3	7.4	7.6	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.3	7.0	6.9	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.7	6.4			
	8.5	7.7	8.1	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.3	7.6	7.6	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.8	7.2	7.1	7.1	6.9	6.6	7.4	5.8	6.9	7.1			
	7.9	7.9	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.6	7.7	7.9	7.8	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.1	6.9	6.6	7.4	6.8	6.2	6.7	6.7		
	8.4	8.2	7.7	7.5	8.1	8.8	7.9	7.9	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.0	7.1	6.6	6.2	7.2	7.1	8.1	7.2	7.2	6.9	7.3	6.7	6.8	6.4			
	8.0	7.7	8.2	8.0	8.3	8.3	8.0	8.5	7.3	7.9	7.0	7.1	6.6	6.2	7.2	6.6	7.7	7.2	7.2	6.9	7.0	4.5	7.0	6.7	6.9	6.9		
	7.8																											
	8.2																											
	9.1																											

References:
[1] Excerpt of transcript from YouTube video: The Fall of Simpsons: How it Happened. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-KqFNbCcyFkk&feature=youtu.be>
[2] Simpson Mania: The History of TV's First Family. Steve Dale, 1990..
[3] The Fall of The Simpsons: How it Happened. <https://datacratics.com/2018/08/15/build-a-ggplot-the-fall-of-the-simpsons>
[4] Zombie Simpsons: How the Best Show Ever Became the Broadcasting Undead. Charlie Sweatpants. Published May 16, 2012.