



### What is Marketing ROI (return on investment)?

In simple terms, your return on investment, or ROI, is a performance measurement used to evaluate if your marketing is working. When you spend money on marketing, you need to know the value that it is bringing to your company.

Companies do not always see the value in marketing campaigns. Marketing efforts can be hard to quantify, but once you know your ROI and what is working for your company, you can continue to develop and grow your marketing efforts.

The proper use of marketing ROI measurements is capable of comparing investment options as diverse as a direct marketing campaign, a dedicated sales force, a retail distribution channel and an Internet marketing campaign.

**— Jim Lenskold** President and Founder, Lenskold Group



### How do you measure ROI?

There are two different ways to approach (and measure) ROI.

The first is simple ROI. This is the most basic way to calculate the ROI of a marketing campaign. In this measurement, marketing in integrated into the overall business calculations with the formula below.

Simple ROI makes the assumption that all sales growth is directly related to marketing campaigns.

The second ROI is calculated based on campaign attribution. This calculation factors in organic sales data. Look at the last 12 months before you run a campaign to figure out if there is organic growth in place. Once you have this data, you can adjust your ROI calculations to more accurately reflect the marketing campaign.



### Why do I need to know my ROI?

Calculating marketing return can help guide your business decisions and help you get more bang for your buck when it comes to marketing. Here are some ways your ROI will help your business.

#### Optimize marketing budget

Whether you are part of a large corporation or a small business, you have a marketing budget. Being able to accurately calculate your ROI will let you know what marketing performs best, how to allocate your spending, and when to increase your marketing budget.

#### Measure success

You want to improve and build on your success. Without baseline measurements of your marketing campaigns, you will never understand the impact of your marketing efforts. Once you understand the impact of individual campaigns, you'll be able to determine what campaigns and platforms are performing the best for your company.

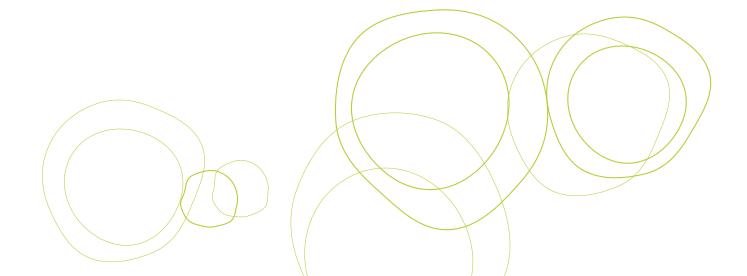


## What is a good marketing ROI?

Marketing ROI is going to vary for every business and industry. Every organization is different, and there will be unique factors that apply to your company and industry.

In general, the average marketing ROI is typically a 5:1 ratio. Exceptional ROI being around a 10:1 ratio. ROI below a 2:1 ratio considered not profitable.

Your ROI isn't only going to be measured by your calculations and sales performance. Your marketing plan should have clear goals, and achieving those goals will be a measure of your success. Goals that traditional ROI won't measure are things like brand awareness, social engagement, community growth, and becoming a thought leader in your industry. These can be measured in other ways to ensure your marketing goals are on track and your marketing strategy is successful.







## How can I increase my ROI?

Before you try to increase your ROI, make sure you know what your baselines are. You can't measure progress if you don't know where you are starting from. Track your ROI with every change you make, and use that data to continuously improve.

#### The message

This should be obvious, but the message and design of your marketing has a considerable influence on its effectiveness.

#### The audience

Make sure to get the right message to the right audience. Certain people will be more receptive to certain messages. Getting the right message to the right audience can have a significant impact on effectiveness.

### The frequency

Your marketing has the most impact the first time a customer sees it, but repetitive exposure will reinforce your brand and message.

### Great! What are the next steps?

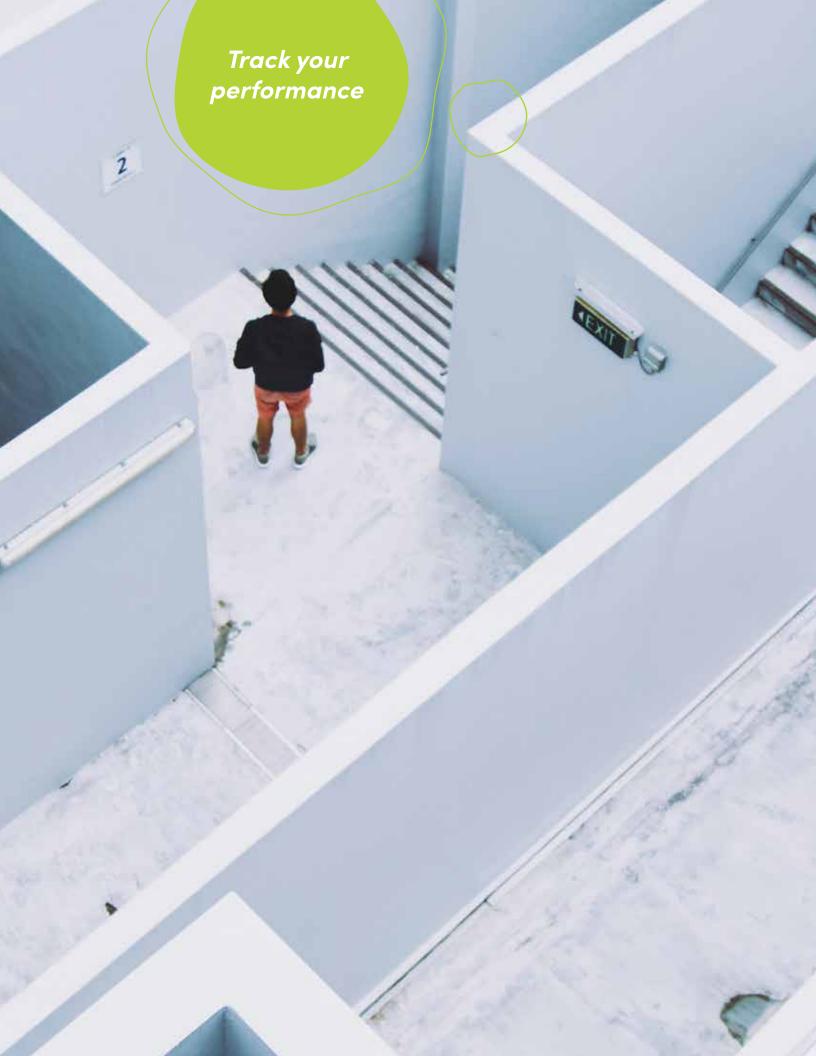
Getting started may seem like a big step, but don't get overwhelmed. Marketing goals are not always defined by sales and numbers, and your needs will be unique to your business.

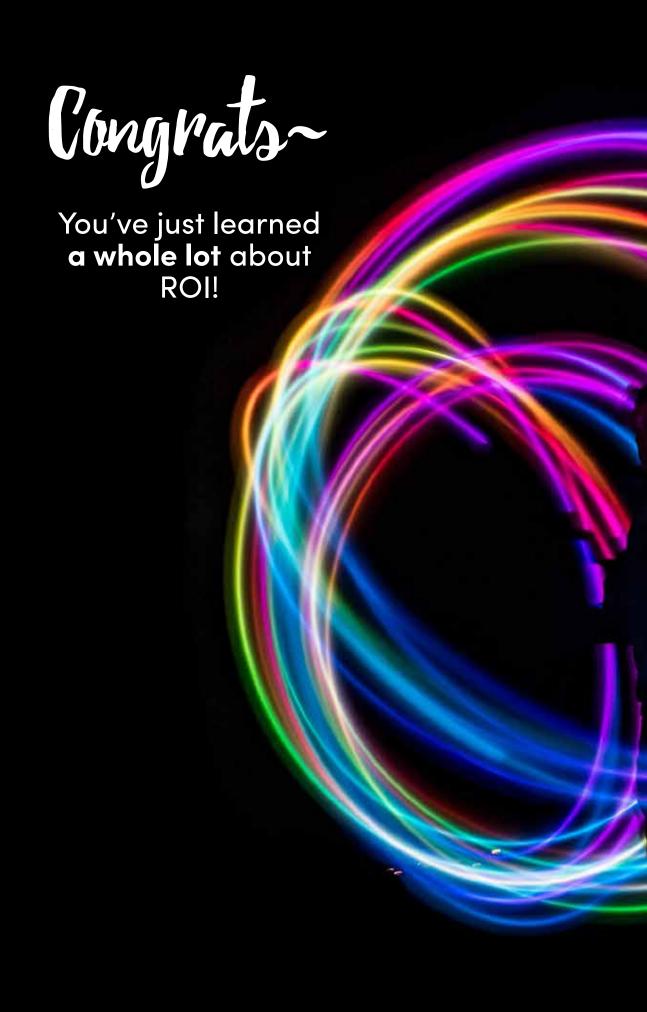
There will be a learning curve, but the benefit is fine-tuned metrics that work for your company. Start small, tracking the performance you can, and build on the data for future campaigns.

Once you have a plan of action for tracking your marketing ROI, you're in a great position for future success. Your data will allow you to optimize your overall marketing strategy and identify and implement top-performing marketing campaigns.

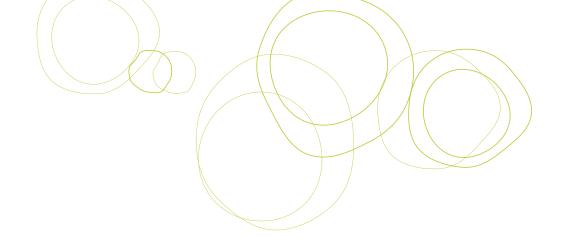
When you say ROI, do you mean "return on investment" or "risk of inaction"?

**— Paul Gillin** Social Media Speaker, Adviser, Author and Trainer









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