

'Les Misérables' Soundtrack Tops Billboard Album Chart

The soundtrack to the big screen adaptation of Broadway musical *Les Misérables* topped the Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, edging out British folk rockers Mumford & Sons.

Les Misérables sold 92,000 albums in the week, according to data from Nielsen SoundScan, a 32 percent decline from last week for the star-studded production featuring the singing of Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway and Hugh Jackman. It was the No. 2 album last week.

The soundtrack had the poorest showing for a No. 1 album since Christian hip-hop and pop artist tobyMac's *Eye on It* topped the chart in September with 69,000 in sales.

Mumford & Sons' *Babel* rose to the second spot from No. 8, finishing behind *Les Mis* by only a thousand albums sold. The British band's second album was boosted by a sale price and heavy promotion on the Apple iTunes Store.

Country-pop star Taylor Swift, whose album *Red* spent the past four weeks atop the chart, dropped to third.

American Idol winner Phillip Phillips' *The World from the Side of the Moon* took fourth and British boy band One Direction's *Take Me Home* was fifth on the chart.

U.S. album sales for last week, which totaled million, rose 8 percent compared to the same week last year.

A total of million songs were downloaded last week, a 5 percent increase from last year.

(Reporting by Eric Kelsey, editing by Jill Serjeant and Jackie Frank)

