**Sampling risk** is actually occurs when the auditor applies the procedures to the sample to judge the entire population. Sampling risk is the risk that the auditors opinion would have been different if the procedures were applied to the entire population of the data.

Auditors when wanted to express any opinion, need a sort of homework in the shape of the audit evidences. Applying audit procedure an entire population is practically not possible because it is a time consuming process and the auditor has limited resources and time. He therefore cannot apply the procedures for the judgment to the entire population due to limited time and resources. For getting the evidences, he applies the procedure on the sample which is the small part of the population for forming an opinion. There is always a chance that the result which is obtained by this procedure applied on the sample would be erroneous. This is known as the sampling risk

### Sampling risk vs non sampling risk

Auditors always try their best to pick a sample that is representative of the population. However, it is not always possible to get a truly representative sample, due to bad luck or pure errors in judgment. the difference between sampling risk and non-sampling risk are given below

| **Sampling Risk** | **Non-Sampling Risk** |
| --- | --- |
| The risk that the auditor reaches an incorrect conclusion because the sample chosen is not representative of the population from which it was drawn | The risk that the auditor reaches an incorrect conclusion for any reason not related to sampling risk |
| The proper sampling method was selected and applied but failed to uncover material misstatements (i.e. unlucky) | Results from auditor failure (lack of due care) |
| Occurs because of the nature of sampling. Auditors can reduce sampling risk but cannot eliminate it entirely | Failure to apply effective or appropriate procedures (i.e. doing the wrong procedure) |
| Sampling risk can be reduced by giving every item an equal chance of selection and/or increasing sample size | Non-sampling risk can be reduced by increasing auditor competence and enhancing supervision of staff. |