



2020 in Review

THE STATE OF THE HOT 100 TOP 10



SELECT HIGHLIGHTS
FROM THE REPORT

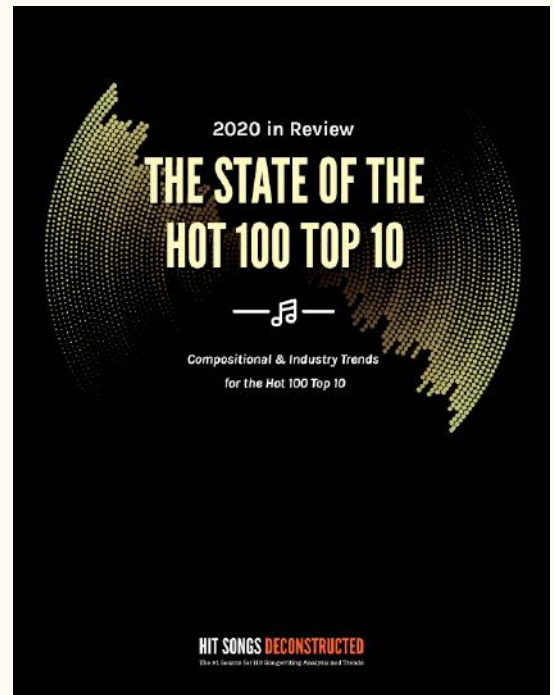
*Compositional and Industry Trends
for the Billboard Hot 100 Top 10*

HIT SONGS DECONSTRUCTED

The #1 Source for Hit Songwriting Analysis and Trends

The State of the Hot 100 Top 10 takes an in-depth look at the compositional and industry-related trends for the Billboard Hot 100 Top 10.

What follows are a few select highlights from the 100+ page report.



PAGE 2		SONGS & CREDITS
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PAGE 7		SONGWRITERS
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ABOUT THIS REPORT

- Data is for songs that charted in the Billboard Hot 100 Top 10 and excludes holiday songs.
- Data related to compositional characteristics are propriety to Hit Songs Deconstructed.
- Artist, songwriter, producer, label and charting information are aggregated from the PRO's, Billboard, and streaming platforms.
- All credits are from the date songs entered the Top 10.
- At times percentages may not add to 100% due to numbers being rounded up or down.
- Production teams (i.e. The Audibles) are counted as a single producer.


2020

IN REVIEW

10 **75**
Hot 100
Top 10 Songs

 Listen to Playlist

 **21**
Hot 100
#1 Hits

 Listen to Playlist

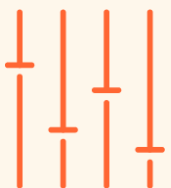
In 2020, 75 songs charted in the Top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100, 12 more than in 2019. 41% of them charted in the Top 10 for just one week, and 35% charted for 10 weeks or more. Twenty one charted at #1. Behind those songs were 55 primary artists and 23 featured artists, 265 credited songwriters, 119 credited producers, and 20 record labels.



70
PERFORMING
ARTISTS



265
CREDITED
SONGWRTITERS



119
CREDITED
PRODUCERS



20
RECORD
LABELS



Performing Artists

Select Report Highlights

(2020)

70 Performing Artists

2020

55
PRIMARY
ARTISTS

23
FEATURED
ARTISTS

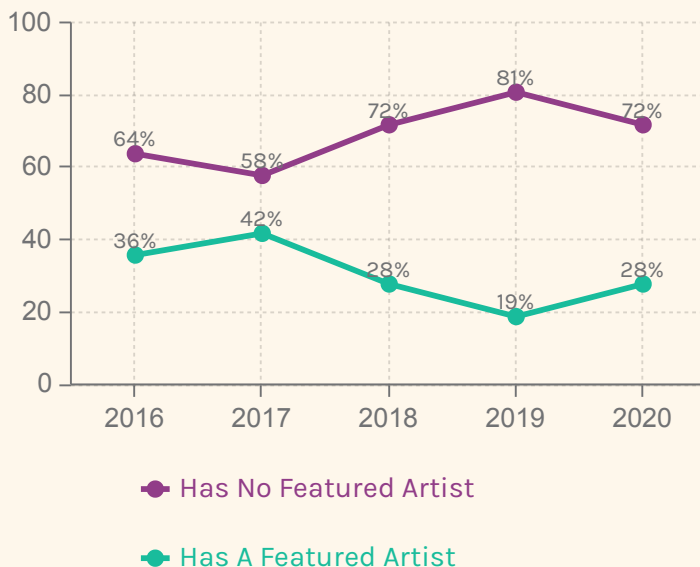
Seventy artists charted in the Hot 100 Top 10 in 2020. 55 were primary artists and 23 were featured artists.

Eight artists had both primary and featured artist credits on songs: DaBaby, Drake, Juice WRLD, Lil Baby, Megan Thee Stallion, Nicki Minaj, Roddy Ricch and Young Thug.

**Some primary artists are also featured artists.*

Songs with a Featured Artist

2016 - 2020



Songs with a featured artist increased in 2020.

Outside of hip hop, the percentage of songs with a featured artists remained essentially the same. However, within hip hop, the percentage of songs with a featured artist doubled.

Artists with the most Top 10 Hits:



Justin Bieber

Songs

- 10,000 Hours
- Holy
- Intentions
- Monster
- Stuck With U
- Yummy

6

TOP 10 HITS

35

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10



Juice WRLD

Songs

- Come & Go
- Conversations
- Hate the Other Side
- Life's A Mess
- Smile
- Wishing Well

6

TOP 10 HITS

3

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10



Ariana Grande

Songs

- 34+35
- Positions
- Rain On Me
- Stuck With U

4

TOP 10 HITS

13

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10



Taylor Swift

Songs

- Cardigan
- Exile
- The 1
- Willow

4

TOP 10 HITS

3

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10

FILM & TELEVISION MUSIC MONTHLY

It's no secret. Latin Artists are taking over!

LATIN MUSIC IN SYNC

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A&R

JOEL T. JORDAN

Joel T. Jordan is the clever and adventurous founder of **Synchtank**, the premier online music management, sales, and licensing solution.

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Most #1 Hits



Ariana Grande

Rain On Me, Stuck With U



3

#1 HITS



3

WEEKS AT #1

Most Weeks at #1



Roddy Ricch

The Box



1

#1 HIT



11

WEEKS AT #1

21 primary artists had a credit on a #1 hit.

- **24kGoldn**, *Mood*
- **6ix9ine**, *Trollz*
- **Ariana Grande**, *Rain On Me, Stuck With U, Positions*
- **BTS**, *Dynamite, Life Goes On*
- **Cardi B**, *WAP*
- **DaBaby**, *Rockstar*
- **Doja Cat**, *Say So (Remix)*
- **Drake**, *Toosie Slide*
- **Harry Styles**, *Watermelon Sugar*
- **Jason Derulo**, *Savage Love (Laxed - Siren Beat)*
- **Jawsh 685**, *Savage Love (Laxed - Siren Beat)*
- **Justin Bieber**, *Stuck With U*
- **Kid Cudi**, *THE SCOTTS*
- **Lady Gaga**, *Rain On Me*
- **Megan Thee Stallion**, *Savage (Remix)*
- **Nicki Minaj**, *Trollz*
- **Post Malone**, *Circles*
- **Roddy Ricch**, *The Box*
- **Taylor Swift**, *Cardigan, Willow*
- **The Weeknd**, *Blinding Lights*
- **Travis Scott**, *THE SCOTTS, Franchise*



Songwriters

Select Report Highlights

(2020)

265

Songwriters

with Top 10 Hits

2020

Of the 265 credited songwriters that charted in the Hot Top 10 in 2020, 98 scored #1 hits.



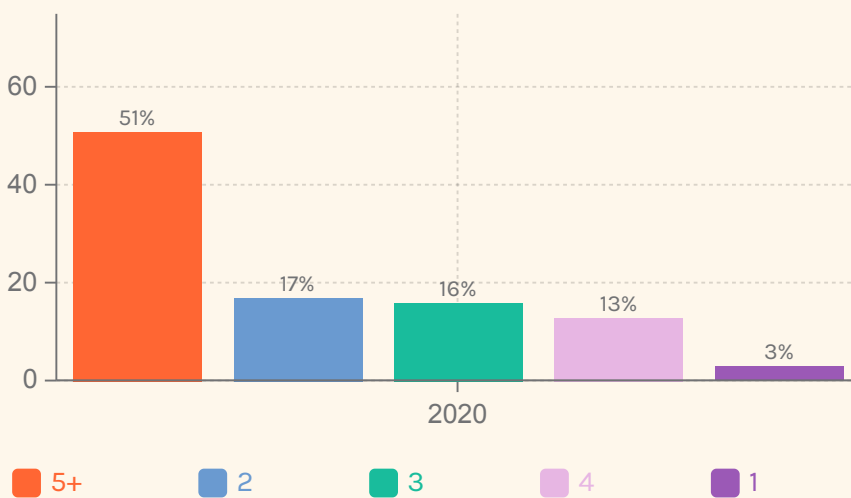
#1 HITS

98 songwriters have a credit on a #1 hit.

2020

Songwriter Team Size

2020

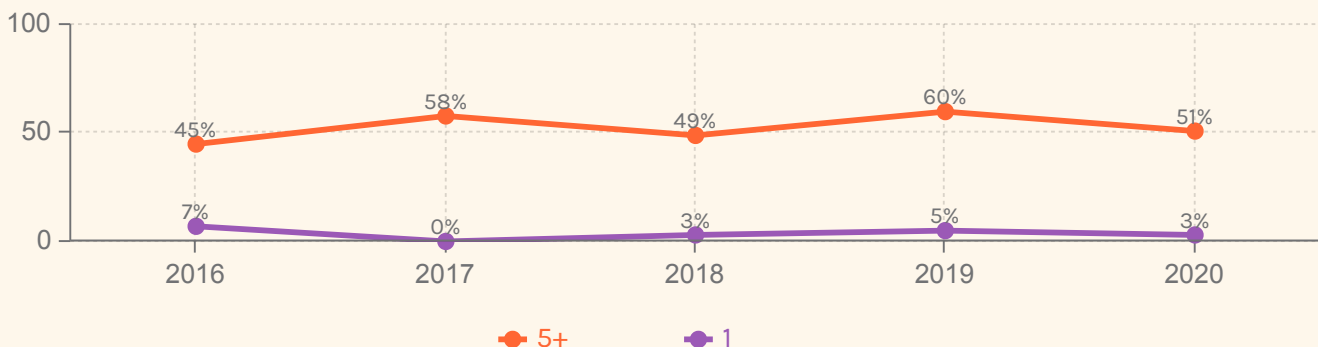


Songwriting team sizes of five or more continued to be the most popular, while writers who go it alone continued to be scarce.

The only two solo writers in 2020 are Tones and I (*Dance Monkey*) and 6ix9ine (*Gooba*).

5 Year Trends

Songwriter Team Size



Songwriters with the most Top 10 Hits:

Drake was the top performing artist writer with seven Top 10 hits, including the #1 hit *Toosie Slide*, and 40 weeks in the Top 10. OZ was the top behind-the-scenes writer, scoring five Top 10 hits and spending 25 weeks in the Top 10. Ariana Grande scored the most #1 hit songwriting credits, with three (*Positions*, *Rain On Me*, *Stuck With U*).



Drake

Greece, *Laugh Now Cry Later*,
Life Is Good, *Mr. Right Now*,
Pain 1993, *Popstar*, *Toosie Slide*

10

7
TOP 10
HITS



40
WEEKS IN
THE TOP 10



Juice WRLD

Come & Go, *Conversations*,
Godzilla, *Hate the Other Side*, *Life's*
A Mess, *Smile*, *Wishing Well*

10

7
TOP 10
HITS



4
WEEKS IN
THE TOP 10



Justin Bieber

10,000 Hours, *Holy*,
Intentions, *Monster*,
Stuck With U, *Yummy*

10

6
TOP 10
HITS



35
WEEKS IN
THE TOP 10



OZ

Greece, *HIGHEST IN THE*
ROOM, *Life Is Good*,
Popstar, *Toosie Slide*

10

5
TOP 10
HITS



25
WEEKS IN
THE TOP 10



Ariana Grande

34+35, *Positions*, *Rain*
On Me, *Stuck With U*

10

4
TOP 10
HITS



13
WEEKS IN
THE TOP 10



Taylor Swift

Cardigan, *Exile*,
The 1, *Willow*

10

4
TOP 10
HITS



3
WEEKS IN
THE TOP 10

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A person with curly hair is shown in profile from the chest up, looking towards the right. They are wearing a dark, long-sleeved shirt. The background is a blurred office or studio environment with a computer monitor and a microphone visible. The overall lighting is low and moody.

Producers

Select Report Highlights

(2020)

Of the 119 credited producers that charted in the Hot 100 Top 10 in 2020, 38 scored #1 hits.

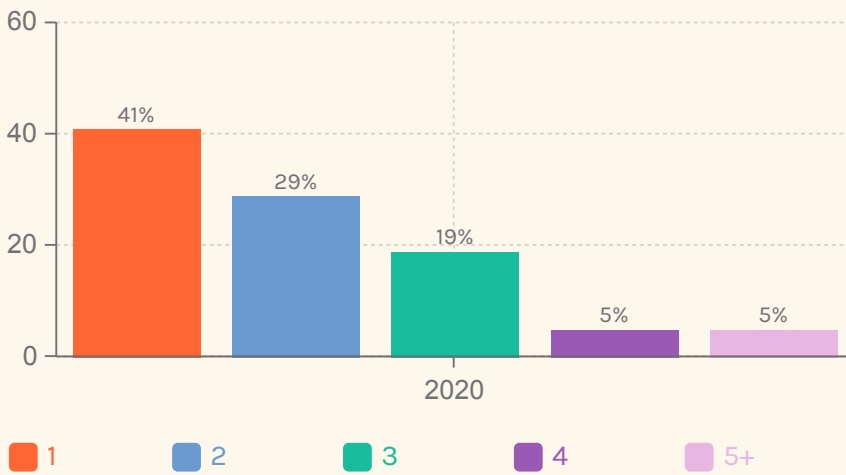
119
Producers
with Top 10 Hits
2020



38 producers have a credit on a #1 hit.
2020

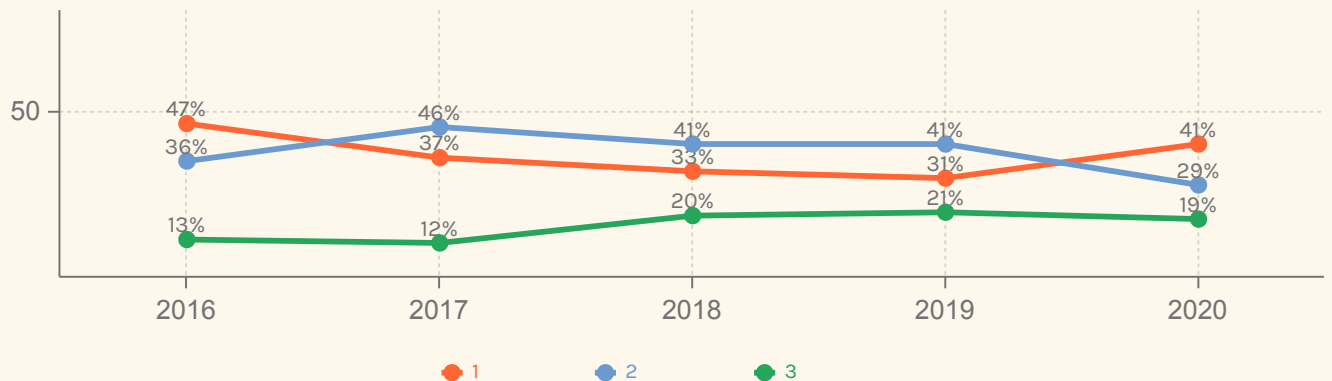
Producer Team Size

2020



Unlike songwriting teams, which tend to be much larger, producer teams got even smaller in 2020. In fact, songs with a single producer surpassed those with two for the first time since 2016, and only four songs featured a producer team of five or more – *For The Night*, *Go Crazy*, *Holy* and *Lemonade*.

5 Year Trends Producer Team Size



Producers with the most Top 10 Hits:

OZ, in addition to being the top behind-the-scenes songwriter of 2020, was also the top producer with five Top 10 hits.

FINNEAS and Aaron Dessner followed close behind with four, each.



OZ

Songs

Greece
HIGHEST IN THE ROOM
Life Is Good
Popstar
Toosie Slide



5

TOP 10 HITS



25

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10



FINNEAS

Songs

everything i wanted
Lose You to Love Me
My Future
Therefore I Am



4

TOP 10 HITS



13

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10



Aaron Dessner

Songs

Cardigan
Exile
The 1
Willow



4

TOP 10 HITS



3

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10



Record Labels

Select Report Highlights

(2020)

20 Record Labels

Republic was the top record label for the seventh straight year, landing 19 Top 10 hits and seven #1s. And while the label's Top 10s in 2019 were mainly

pop, in 2020 it was a near-even split between pop and hip hop. Interscope followed close behind with 16 Top 10s and two #1s.

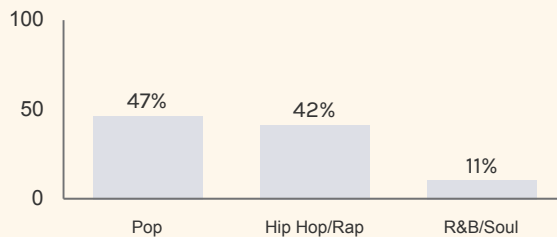
- 300
- Atlantic
- Big Loud Records
- Capitol
- Columbia
- Columbia Nashville
- Def Jam
- EMG
- Epic
- Republic
- HITCO
- Internet Money Records
- Interscope
- RCA
- Rimas
- ScumGang Records
- Ten Thousand Projects
- Vertigo
- Warner
- Warner Music Nashville

Labels with the most Top 10 Hits:

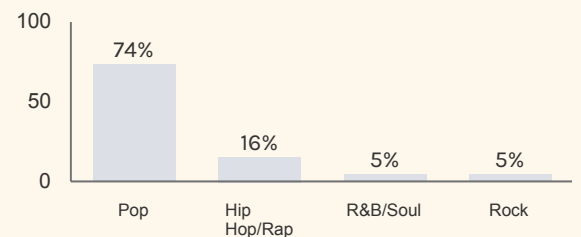


Republic
19 Songs
7 #1 Hits

Republic 2020
Genre Breakdown

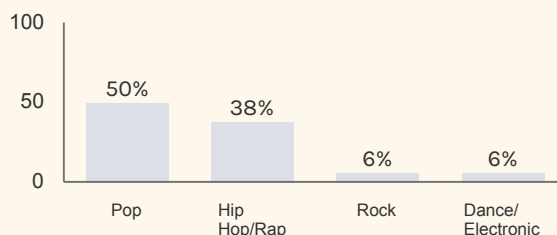


Republic 2019
Genre Breakdown

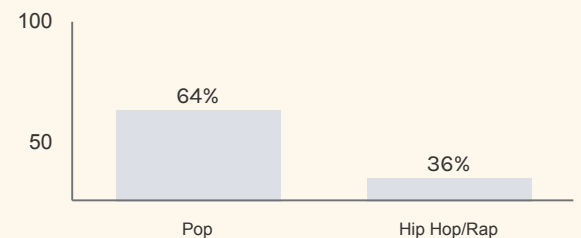


Interscope
16 Songs
2 #1 Hits

Interscope 2020
Genre Breakdown

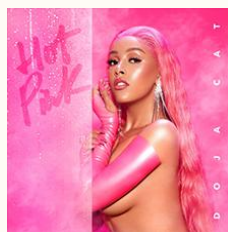


Interscope 2019
Genre Breakdown



TikTok Hits

The popular social media app TikTok was responsible for the success of many a Hot 100 Top 10 hit this year. Save for *Blueberry Faygo*, all were in the Top 10 for at least 13 weeks, and four hit the top spot on the chart.



Say So
Doja Cat



1

PEAK CHART
POSITION



16

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10



Savage
Megan Thee Stallion



1

PEAK CHART
POSITION



14

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10



Roses (Remix)
SAINT JHN



4

PEAK CHART
POSITION



13

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10



Blueberry Faygo
Lil Mosey



8

PEAK CHART
POSITION



4

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10



Mood
24kGoldn (feat. iann dior)



1

PEAK CHART
POSITION



18

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10



Roxanne
Arizona Zervas



4

PEAK CHART
POSITION



18

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10



Savage Love
Jason Derulo, Jawsh 685



1

PEAK CHART
POSITION



16

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10



Whats Poppin
Jack Harlow (feat. DaBaby, Lil Wayne & Tory Lanez)



2

PEAK CHART
POSITION



13

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10



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HOT 100
TOP 10

Seven primary genres played a role in 2020's Hot 100

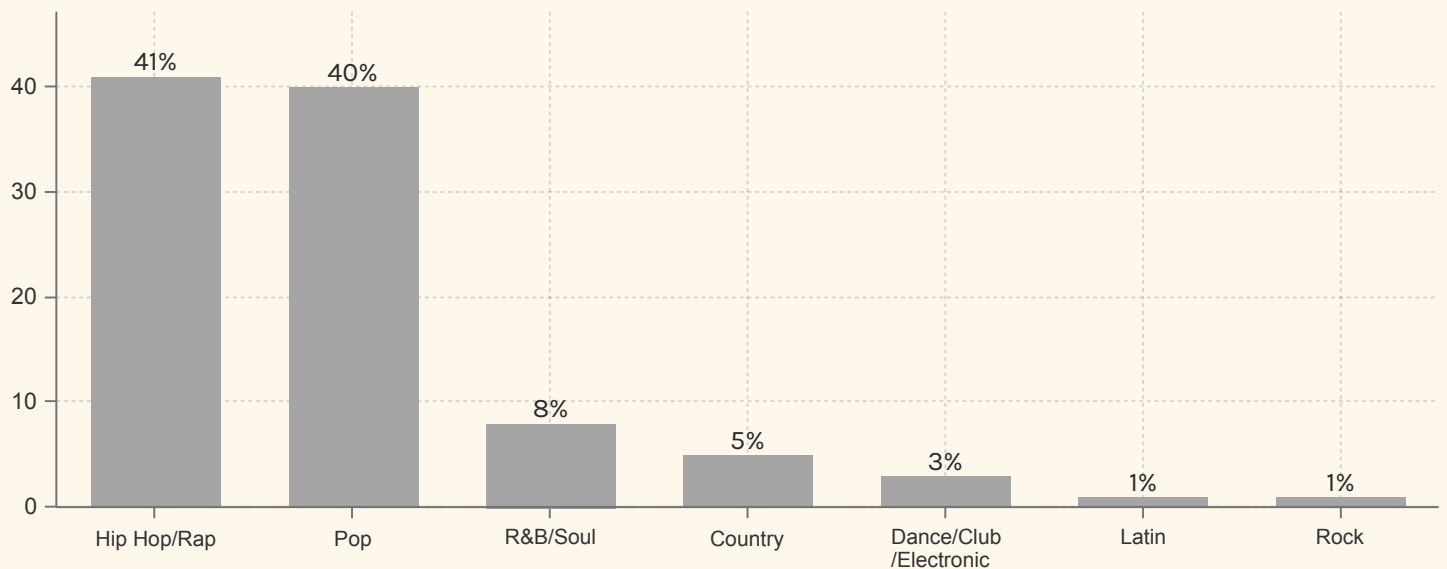
Top 10 hits. They include hip hop, pop, R&B, country, dance/club/electronic, Latin, and rock.

While 2018 was the year of hip hop and 2019 marked pop's return, 2020 saw both primary genres running neck and neck, accounting for near-equal percentages of the Top 10.

Despite country's low overall popularity as a primary genre in the Hot 100 Top 10, more country songs charted in 2020 than the previous four years combined.

7 Primary Genres

Primary Genre
Hot 100 Top 10



33

Sub-Genres & Influences

Thirty-three sub-genres and influences shaped the sound and vibe of 2020's Hot 100 Top 10 hits. They were composed of 24 sub-genres, 4 time-period influences and five geographic influences.

24

Sub-Genres

4

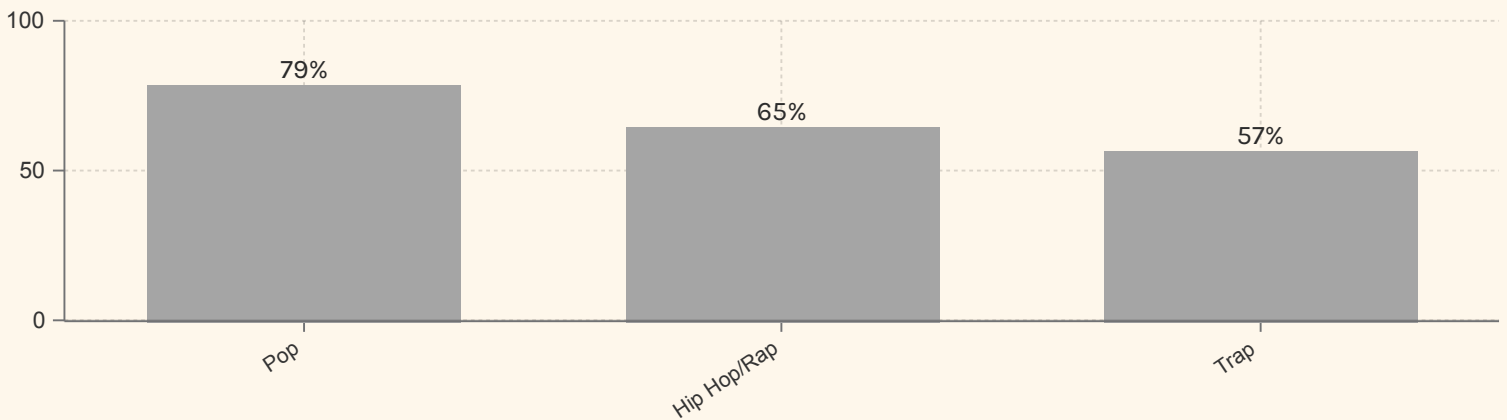
Time-Period Influences

5

Geographic Influences

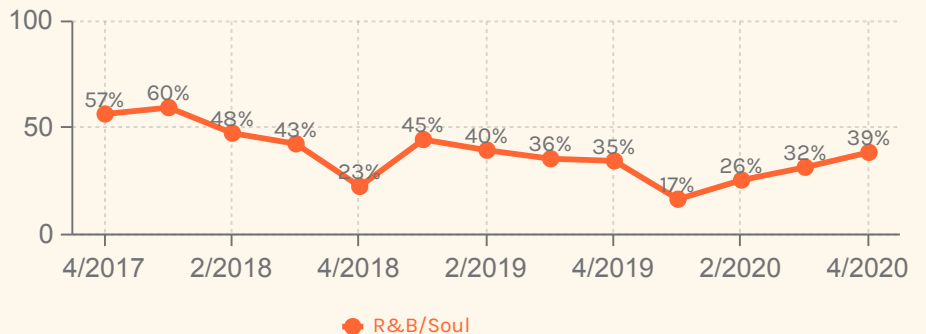
Sub-Genres & Influences Across All Primary Genres

Featured in 50% or More Top 10 Hits



Although R&B as an influence has been on a relatively steady decline for several years now, there was a quarter-over-quarter increase in songs with an R&B influence from Q1 to Q4 2020.

R&B's Influence Across the Top 10



8 Lyrical Themes

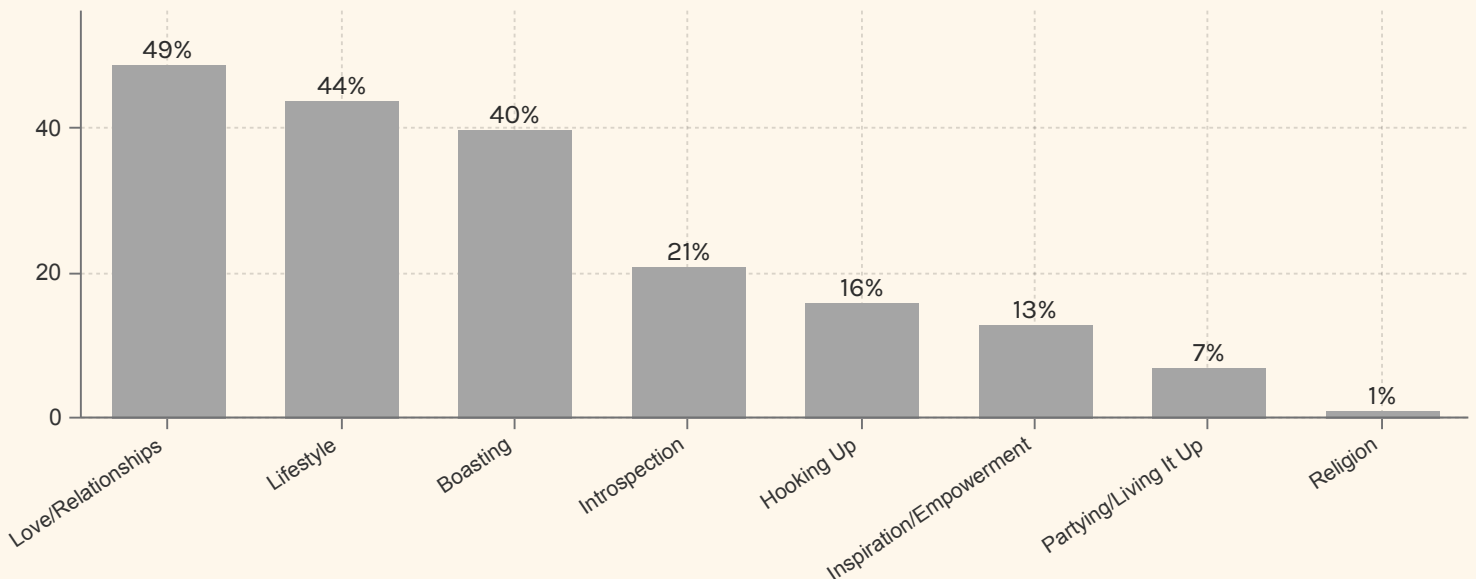
Eight lyrical themes defined the narratives of 2020's Hot 100 Top 10 hits.

Love/relationships, lifestyle and boasting were the three most popular.

The boasting and introspection themes have both been generally on the rise over the last five years while lifestyle remained steady compared to 2019.

Love/relationships dropped off significantly when compared to 2019, which goes hand-in-hand with the decrease in pop hits, where the theme is most popular.

Lyrical Themes
Hot 100 Top 10

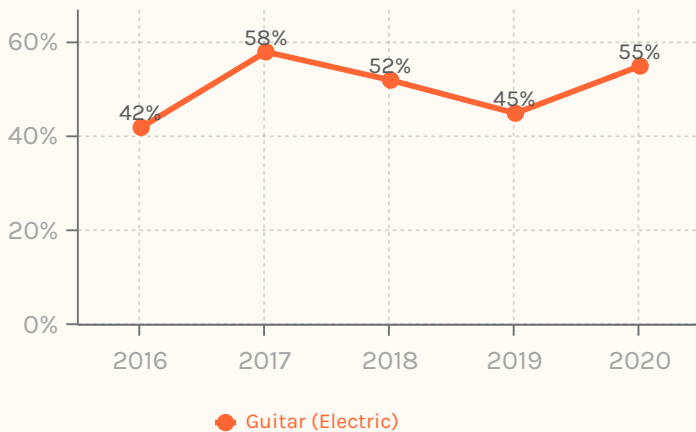


23 Prominent Instruments

Twenty-three main instruments were used to shape the sound of the Hot 100 Top 10 in 2020.

Hot 100 Top 10: Non-Hip Hop (2016-2020)

Instruments On the Rise

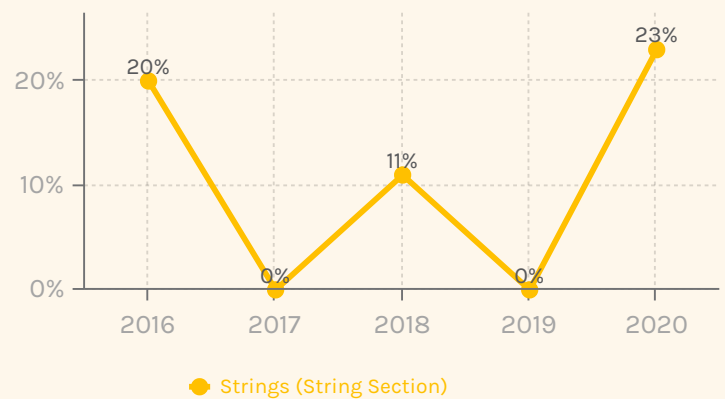


Following a two-year decline, the use of electric guitar outside of the hip hop genre notably rose in popularity. In 2020, it was the seventh most popular instrument and was featured in over half of non-hip hop hits.

Within the hip hop genre, there has been a notable increase in songs featuring a string section, present in almost a quarter of all songs.

Hot 100 Top 10: Hip Hop (2016-2020)

Instruments On the Rise





#1 Hits

(2020)



#1 HIT SPOTLIGHT

Twenty-one songs charted at #1 in the Billboard Hot 100 during in 2020.

The Box spent the most time at #1, holding the top spot for 11 consecutive weeks. It was followed by Rockstar (DaBaby featuring Roddy Ricch) at seven weeks and Mood (24 Goldn) rounding out the top 3 at six weeks.



Blinding Lights
The Weeknd



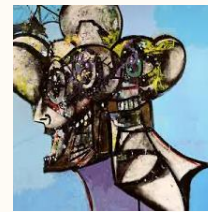
Cardigan
Taylor Swift



Circles
Post Malone



Dynamite
BTS



Franchise
Travis Scott



Life Goes On
BTS



Mood
24kGoldn
(feat. iann dior)



Positions
Ariana Grande



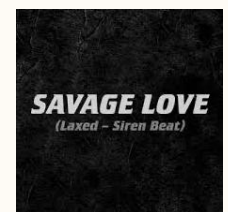
Rain On Me
Lady Gaga,
Ariana Grande



Rockstar
DaBaby
(feat. Roddy Ricch)



Savage (Remix)
Megan Thee Stallion
(feat. Beyoncé)



Savage Love
Jason Derulo,
Jawsh 685



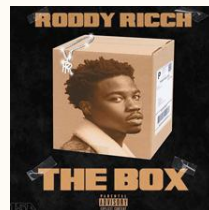
Say So (Remix)
Doja Cat
(feat. Nicki Minaj)



Stuck With U
Justin Bieber,
Ariana Grande



THE SCOTTS
Travis Scott, Kid Cudi



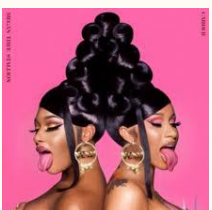
The Box
Roddy Ricch



Toosie Slide
Drake



Trollz
6ix9ine, Nicki Minaj



WAP
Cardi B, Megan
Thee Stallion



Watermelon Sugar
Harry Styles



Willow
Taylor Swift

21 #1 Hits

In 2020, the top performing #1 hit was Roddy Ricch's *The Box*.



11 Weeks at #1

Primary Performing Artist: Roddy Ricch

Songwriters: 30 Roc, Roddy Ricch

Producer: 30 Roc

Record Label: Atlantic

Key Compositional Characteristics

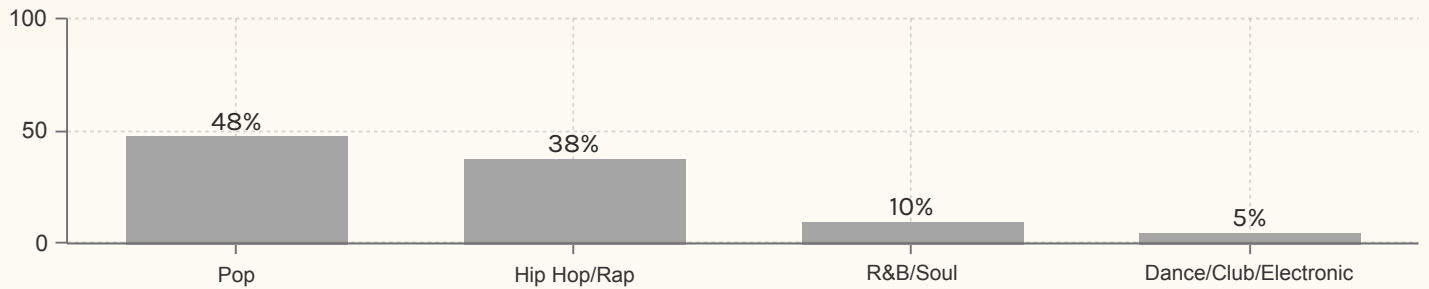
- **Primary Genre:** Hip Hop
- **Sub-Genres/Influences:** Classical, Trap
- **Lead Vocal Delivery Type:** Sung & Rapped Combo
- **Lyrical Themes:** Boasting, Lifestyle
- **Song Title Placement:** Chorus
- **Length:** 3:16
- **Tempo:** 58 BPM
- **Key:** Bb Minor
- **Form:** I-B-A-B-A-B-O
- **First Chorus Appearance:** 0:16 / 8% of the way into the song
- **Prominent Instruments:** Bass (Synth), Claps, Drums/Perc (Primarily Electronic), Piano (Electric), Strings (String Section), Synth (Non-Bass)



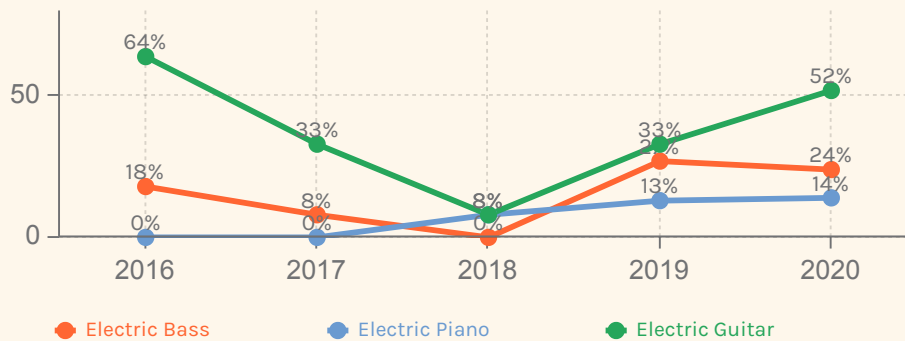
For the second year in a row, pop was the most popular primary genre among #1 hits, accounting for nearly one-half of songs. However, its prominence in 2020 was down significantly from its 73% peak in 2019.

Hip hop came in second, accounting for roughly one-third of #1 hits. Additionally, there were two R&B #1 hits, *Say So* (Doja Cat featuring Nicki Minaj) and *Stuck With U* (Ariana Grande, Justin Bieber). And for the first time since 2016, we saw a dance song chart at #1, Ariana Grande and Lady Gaga's *Rain On Me*.

Primary Genre Hot 100 #1 Hits



Electric Instrumentation Hot 100 #1 Hits

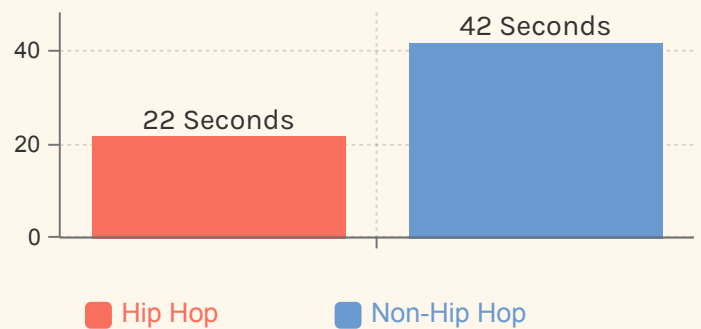


There has been a resurgence of traditional electric instruments, including electric bass, piano, and guitar.

While non-hip hop #1 hits had their first chorus occurring on average at 42 seconds, hip hop's average first chorus occurrence was 22 seconds.

Average First Chorus Occurrence

Hip Hop vs. Non-Hip Hop #1 Hits



THESE ARE JUST
A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM

Year in Review

THE STATE OF THE HOT 100 TOP 10



Compositional & Industry Trends
for the Hot 100 Top 10

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