



2021 Mid-Year

THE STATE OF THE HOT 100 TOP 10



SELECT HIGHLIGHTS

*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 Q1 and Q2 2021's compositional and industry-related trends for the Billboard Hot 100 Top 10. What follows are a few select highlights from the report.

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2019 VS. 2020 COMPOSITIONAL TRENDS.....	PAGE 24

- 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.

Hot 100 Top 10 Overview

Forty-one songs charted in the Billboard Hot 100 Top 10 during the first half of 2021, 17 of which entered the Top 10 for the first time in Q2.

10

41

Hot 100
Top 10 Songs



11

Hot 100
#1 Hits



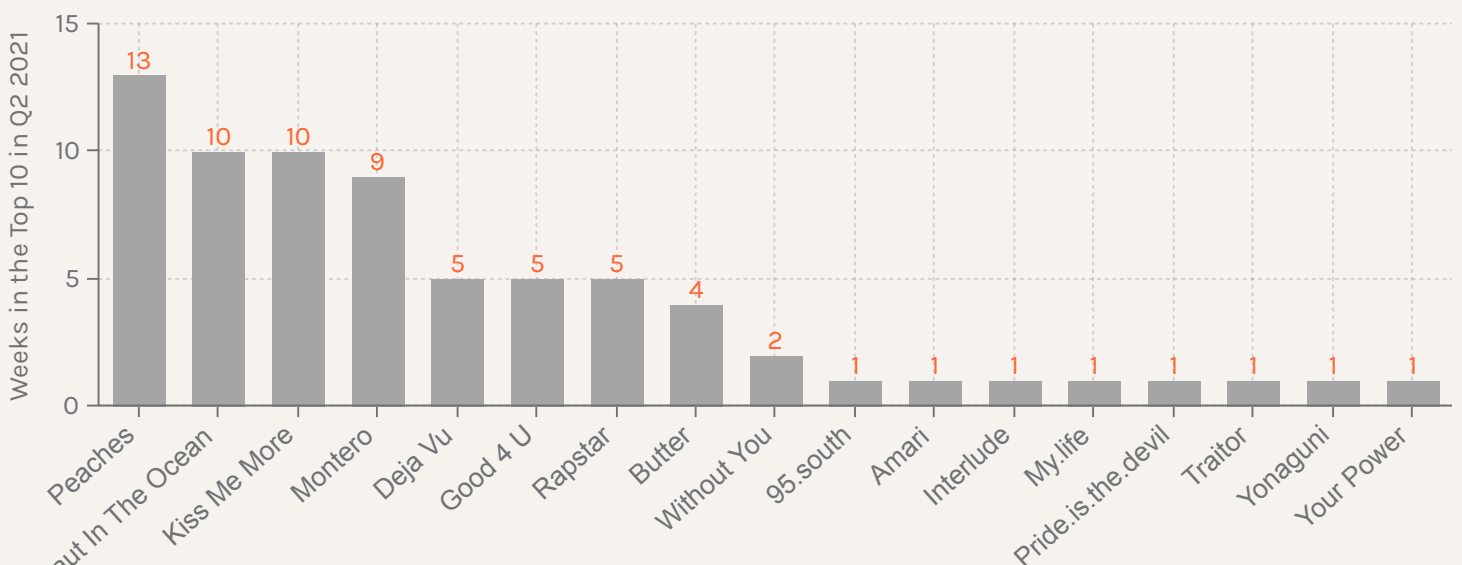
17

NEW SONGS IN
THE HOT 100
TOP 10 (Q2 2021)



- 95.south
- Amari
- Astronaut In The Ocean
- Butter
- Deja Vu
- Good 4 U
- Interlude
- Kiss Me More
- Montero (CMBYN)
- My.life
- Peaches
- Pride.is.the.devil
- Rapstar
- Traitor
- Without You
- Yonaguni
- Your Power

Staying Power: Weeks in the Top 10 in Q2 2021 (New Arrivals)





Performing Artists

Select Report Highlights

(Mid-Year 2021)

Performing Artists

Thirty-two primary artists and 11 featured artists charted in the Hot 100 Top 10 in the first half of 2021.



41

PERFORMING
ARTISTS

32

PRIMARY
ARTISTS

11

FEATURED
ARTISTS



#1
HITS

Primary Artists

Twelve primary artists scored a #1 hit, led by Olivia Rodrigo with two.



Olivia Rodrigo

Drivers License, Good 4 U



2

#1 HITS



9

WEEKS AT #1

- **24KGoldn**, *Mood*
- **Anderson .Paak**, *Leave The Door Open*
- **Ariana Grande**, *Save Your Tears (Remix)*
- **Bruno Mars**, *Leave The Door Open*
- **BTS**, *Butter*
- **Cardi B**, *Up*
- **Drake**, *What's Next*
- **Justin Bieber**, *Peaches*
- **Lil Nas X**, *Montero (Call Me By Your Name)*
- **Olivia Rodrigo**, *Drivers License, Good 4 U*
- **Polo G**, *Rapstar*
- **The Weeknd**, *Save Your Tears (Remix)*

Performing Artists

Primary Artists with More than One Top 10 Hit



J.Cole
*95.south, Amari, Interlude,
My.life, Pride.is.the.devil*



5

TOP 10 HITS



2

WEEKS IN THE
TOP 10



Olivia Rodrigo
*Deja Vu, Drivers License,
Good 4 U, Traitor*



4

TOP 10 HITS



21

WEEKS IN THE
TOP 10



Drake
*Laugh Now Cry Later, Lemon Pepper
Freestyle, Wants and Needs, What's Next*



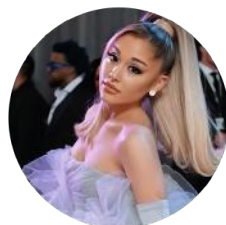
4

TOP 10 HITS



5

WEEKS IN THE
TOP 10



Ariana Grande
*34+35, Positions, Save Your
Tears (Remix)*



3

TOP 10 HITS



25

WEEKS IN THE
TOP 10



Justin Bieber
Anyone, Holy, Peaches



3

TOP 10 HITS



19

WEEKS IN THE
TOP 10



BTS
Butter, Dynamite



2

TOP 10 HITS



5

WEEKS IN THE
TOP 10



The Weeknd
*Blinding Lights, Save Your
Tears (Remix)*



2

TOP 10 HITS



25

WEEKS IN THE
TOP 10

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A studio microphone on a stand is the central focus, with a guitar visible in the lower-left corner. The background is a blurred recording studio. The text is overlaid in white on a dark, semi-transparent background.

Songwriters

Select Report Highlights

(Mid-Year 2021)

Songwriters

In the first half of 2021, 158 credited songwriters charted in the Hot 100 Top 10.



158

CREDITED
SONGWriters

Songwriters with Three or More Top 10 Hits

Nine songwriters scored three or more hits. They are led by J. Cole with five, followed by Daniel Nigro, Drake and Olivia Rodrigo with four each.



J. Cole

95.south, Amari, Interlude, My.life, Pride.is.the.devil

10

5

TOP 10 HITS



2

WEEKS IN THE TOP 10

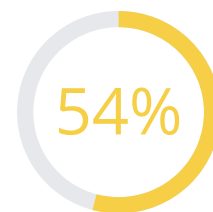
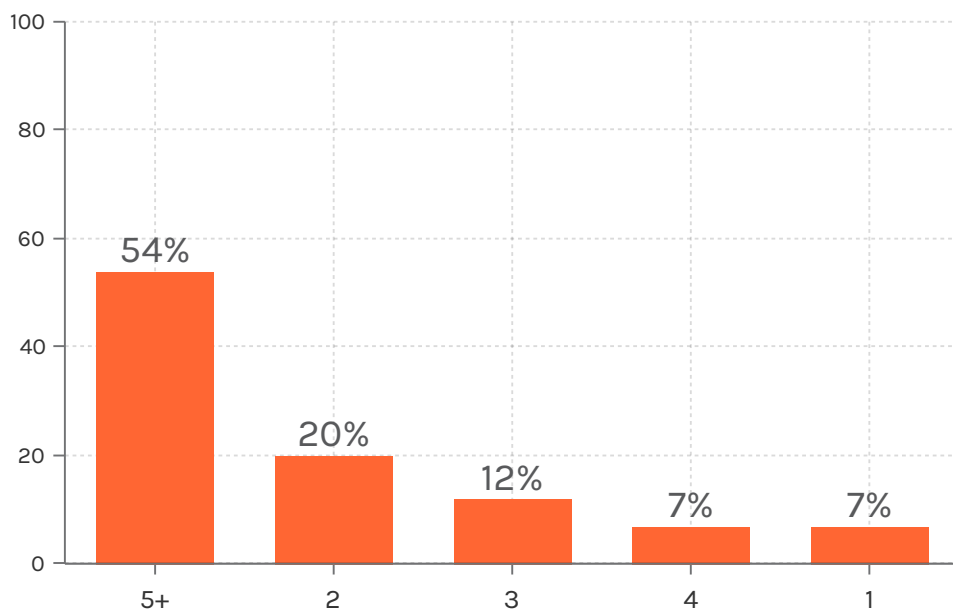
- **Ariana Grande (3)**, 34+35, *Positions, Save Your Tears (Remix)*
- **Daniel Nigro (4)**, *Deja Vu, Drivers License, Good 4 U, Traitor*
- **Drake (4)**, *Laugh Now Cry Later, Lemon Pepper Freestyle, Wants And Needs, What's Next*
- **J. Cole (5)**, *95.south, Amari, Interlude, My.life, Pride.is.the.devil*
- **Justin Bieber (3)**, *Anyone, Holy, Peaches*
- **Mr. Franks (3)**, 34+35, *Holy, Positions*
- **Omer Fedi (3)**, *Montero (Call Me By Your Name), Mood, Without You*
- **Olivia Rodrigo (4)**, *Deja Vu, Drivers License, Good 4 U, Traitor*
- **Tommy Brown (3)**, 34+35, *Holy, Positions*

Songwriters

Songwriting team sizes of five or more have consistently been the most popular over the last five years, a trend that held steady in the first half of 2021. Only three songs had a single writer credit, all of which were penned by J. Cole.

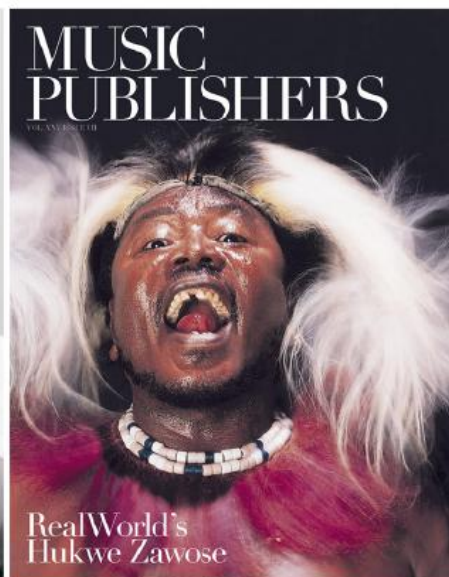
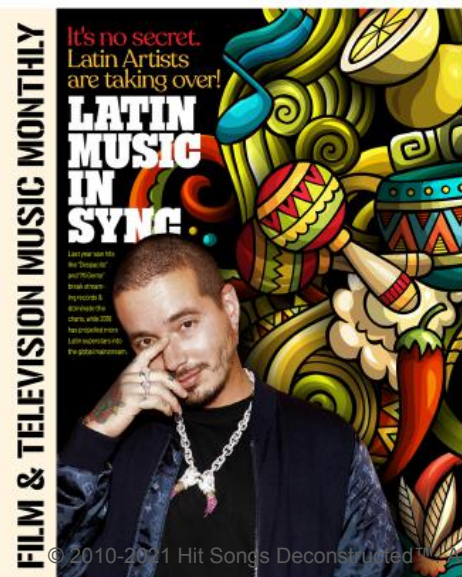
Songwriter Team Size

Q1-Q2 2021



5+ Songwriters

In the first half of 2021, 54% of songs had five or more credited songwriters.



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Songwriters



#1
HITS

Fifty-one songwriters scored a #1 hit in the first half of 2021. Of them, only three scored more than one: Daniel Nigro and Olivia Rodrigo (*Drivers License*, *Good 4 U*) and Omer Fedi (*Montero*, *Mood*)

- Daniel Nigro, *Drivers License*, *Good 4 U*
- Olivia Rodrigo, *Drivers License*, *Good 4 U*
- Omer Fedi, *Montero*, *Mood*
- 24kGoldn, *Mood*
- Aaron Simmonds, *Peaches*
- Alex Bilo, *Butter*
- Anderson .Paak, *Leave The Door Open*
- Andrew Watt, *Peaches*
- Ariana Grande, *Save Your Tears (Remix)*
- Belly, *Save Your Tears (Remix)*
- Blake Slatkin, *Mood*
- Brody Brown, *Leave The Door Open*
- Bruno Mars, *Leave The Door Open*
- Cardi B, *Up*
- DaHeala, *Save Your Tears (Remix)*
- D'Mile, *Leave The Door Open*
- Daniel Caesar, *Peaches*
- David Biral, *Montero*
- Denzel Baptiste, *Montero*
- DJ SwanQo, *Up*
- Drake, *What's Next*
- Einer Bankz, *Rapstar*
- Felisha King, *Peaches*
- Giveon, *Peaches*
- HARV, *Peaches*
- iann dior, *Mood*
- Jenna Andrews, *Butter*
- Joshua Baker, *Up*
- Justin Bieber, *Peaches*
- KBeaZy, *Mood*
- Keavan Yazdani, *Peaches*
- Lil Nas X, *Montero*
- Louis Bell, *Peaches*
- Maneesh, *What's Next*
- Max Martin, *Save Your Tears (Remix)*
- Oscar Holter, *Save Your Tears (Remix)*
- Pardison Fontaine, *Up*
- Polo G, *Rapstar*
- RM, *Butter*
- Rob Grimaldi, *Butter*
- Ron Perry, *Butter*
- Roy Lenzo, *Montero*
- Sean Island, *Up*
- Sean Leon, *Peaches*
- Sebastian Garcia, *Butter*
- Shndo, *Peaches*
- Stephen Kirk, *Butter*
- Supah Mario, *What's Next*
- Synco, *Rapstar*
- The Weeknd, *Save Your Tears (Remix)*
- Yung DZA, *Up*

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 keyboard visible. The lighting is soft and focused on the person's face.

Producers

Select Report Highlights

(Mid-Year 2021)

Producers

Producers with Three or More Top 10 Hits

40
CREDITED PRODUCERS



Daniel Nigro

Deja Vu, Drivers License, Good 4 U, Traitor

10

4

TOP 10
HITS



21

WEEKS IN
THE TOP 10



Tommy Brown

34+35, Holy, Positions

10

3

TOP 10
HITS



12

WEEKS IN
THE TOP 10



Omer Fedi

Montero (Call Me By Your Name), Mood, Without You

10

3

TOP 10
HITS



23

WEEKS IN
THE TOP 10



J. Cole

Amari, Interlude, My.life

10

3

TOP 10
HITS



2

WEEKS IN
THE TOP 10



Mr. Franks

34+35, Holy, Positions

10

3

TOP 10
HITS



12

WEEKS IN
THE TOP 10



T-Minus

Amari, Interlude, Pride.is.the.devil

10

3

TOP 10
HITS

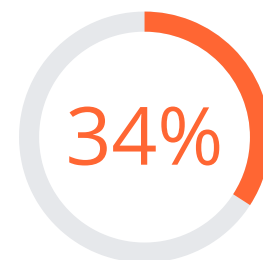
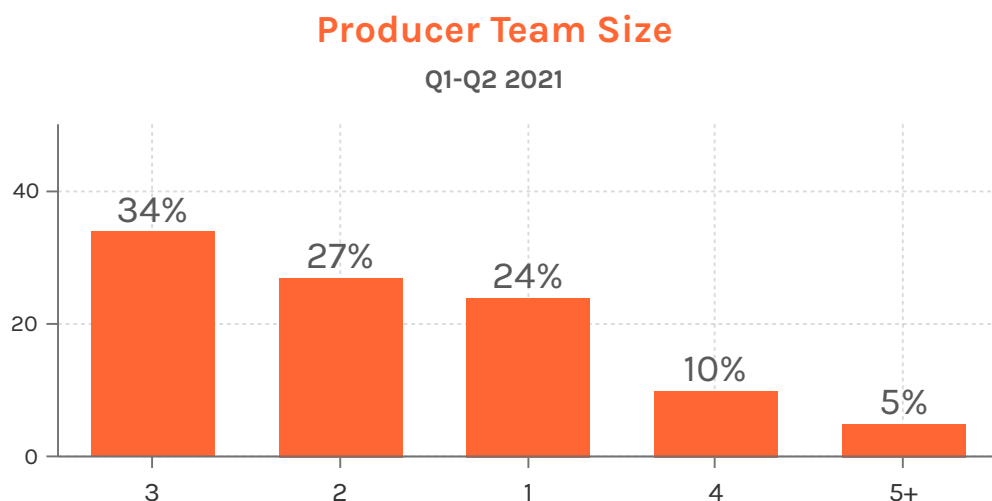


2

WEEKS IN
THE TOP 10

Producers

The most common producer team size was three during the first half of 2021, accounting for 34% of songs.



3 Producers
In the first half of 2021, 34% of songs were produced by teams of three



- Daniel Nigro, *Drivers License*, Good 4 U
- Omer Fedi, *Montero*, Mood
- Alexander 23, *Good 4 U*
- Blake Slatkin, *Mood*
- Bruno Mars, *Leave The Door Open*
- D'Mile, *Leave The Door Open*
- DJ SwanQo, *Up*
- Einer Bankz, *Rapstar*
- HARV, *Peaches*
- KBeaZy, *Mood*
- Maneesh, *What's Next*
- Max Martin, *Save Your Tears (Remix)*
- Oscar Holter, *Save Your Tears (Remix)*
- Rob Grimaldi, *Butter*
- Ron Perry, *Butter*
- Roy Lenzo, *Montero*
- Sean Island, *Up*
- Shndo, *Peaches*
- Stephen Kirk, *Butter*
- Supah Mario, *What's Next*
- Synco, *Rapstar*
- Take A Daytrip, *Montero*
- The Weeknd, *Save Your Tears (Remix)*
- Yung DZA, *Up*



Record Labels

Select Report Highlights

(Mid-Year 2021)

Record Labels

Twelve record labels had songs charting in the Hot 100 Top 10 in the first half of 2021. Interscope and Republic tied for the most with ten each.



12
RECORD
LABELS

- 300
- Atlantic
- Columbia
- Def Jam
- EMG
- Interscope
- RCA
- Republic
- Rimas
- S-Curve
- Warner
- Warner Music Nashville

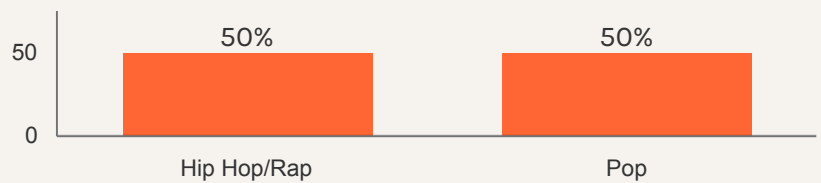
Labels with the Most Top 10 Hits

(Q1-Q2 2021)

10
SONGS



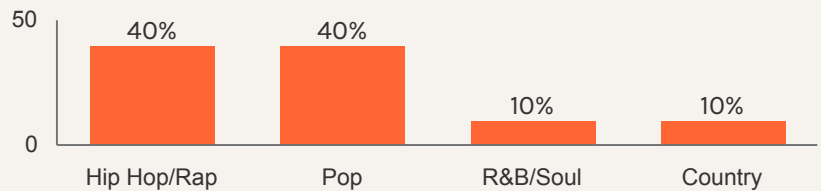
Interscope Q1-Q2 2021
Genre Breakdown



10
SONGS



Republic Q1-Q2 2021
Genre Breakdown



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“

I have taken many songwriting classes over the last couple of years, and HSD has been the **most useful course I've taken.**

- Brent Baccetti

If you put in the time and work into this course, **you will see the results.** This class met my expectations and even more.

- Frank V

The team was passionate, professional and dedicated. **I would HIGHLY recommend** this masterclass to anyone who is serious about making music.

- Kory Fulton

Hit Songs Deconstructed has really **pushed my music to a competitive level.**

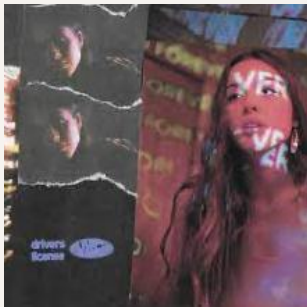
- JULAPINK

”

<https://www.hitsongsdeconstructed.com/matrix>

2021 TikTok Hits

While just about every Top 10 hit has been used and promoted on TikTok, there are some hits that overwhelmingly owe their initial rise to fame to the app. In the first half of 2021, the most notable were *Drivers License*, *Astronaut In The Ocean*, *Mood* and *What You Know Bout Love*, which were featured in a combination of dances, trends, comedic sketches and more.



1

PEAK CHART
POSITION



16

WEEKS
IN THE TOP 10

Drivers License
Olivia Rodrigo



1

PEAK CHART
POSITION



31

WEEKS
IN THE TOP 10

Mood
24kGoldn (feat. iann dior)



6

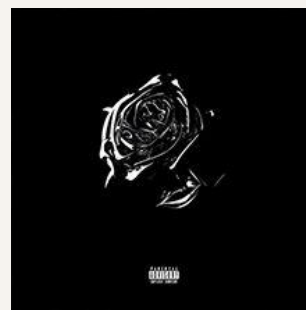
PEAK CHART
POSITION



10

WEEKS
IN THE TOP 10

Astronaut In The Ocean
Masked Wolf



9

PEAK CHART
POSITION



4

WEEKS
IN THE TOP 10

What You Know Bout Love
Pop Smoke



#1 Hit Spotlight

Select Report Highlights
(Mid-Year 2021)

#1 Hit Spotlight

Olivia Rodrigo's *Drivers License* was the top performing #1 hit, spending eight weeks at the top spot during the first half of 2021.



8 Weeks at #1

Song: *Drivers License*

Primary Performing Artist: Olivia Rodrigo

Songwriters: Daniel Nigro, Olivia Rodrigo

Producer: Daniel Nigro

Record Label: Interscope

Drivers License

Key Compositional Characteristics

- **Primary Genre:** Pop
- **Sub-Genres/Influences:** Alt/Indie, Ballad/Power Ballad, Pop, Singer/Songwriter
- **Lead Vocal Delivery Type:** Sung
- **Lyrical Theme:** Love/Relationships
- **Song Title Placement:** Verse
- **Length:** 3:57
- **Tempo:** 72 BPM
- **Key:** Bb Major
- **Form:** I-A-B-A-B-C-B
- **First Chorus Appearance:** 0:53 / 22% of the way into the song
- **Prominent Instruments:** Bass (Synth), Claps, Drums/Perc (Primarily Electronic), Piano (Acoustic), Sound Effects, Strings (String Section), Synth (Non-Bass)

#1 Hit Spotlight

Eleven songs charted at #1 in the Billboard Hot 100 during the first half of 2021.

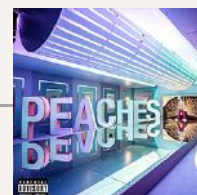
Butter

BTS



Peaches

Justin Bieber
(feat. Daniel
Caesar &
Giveon)



Drivers License

Olivia Rodrigo



Rapstar

Polo G



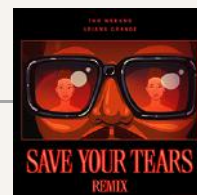
Good 4 U

Olivia Rodrigo



Save Your Tears (Remix)

The Weeknd &
Ariana Grande



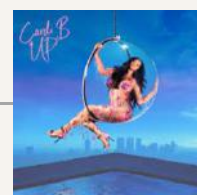
Leave The Door Open

Bruno Mars &
Anderson .Paak



Up

Cardi B



Montero (Call Me By Your Name)

Lil Nas X



What's Next

Drake



Mood

24kGoldn (feat.
iann dior)

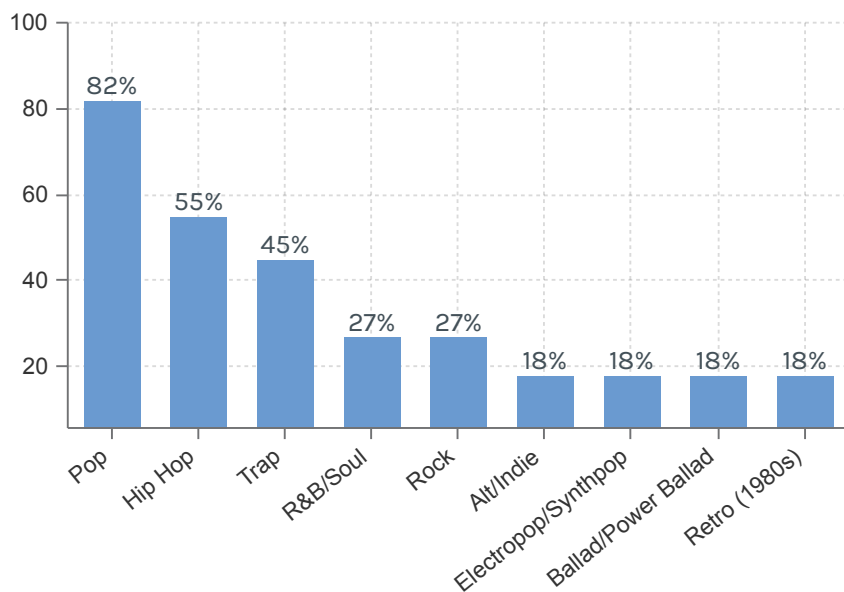


#1 Hit Spotlight

Below are select compositional characteristics for the 11 songs that charted at #1 during the first half of 2021.

Sub-Genres & Influences

Featured in 2 or More #1 Hits

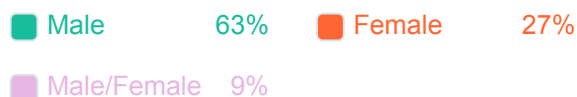
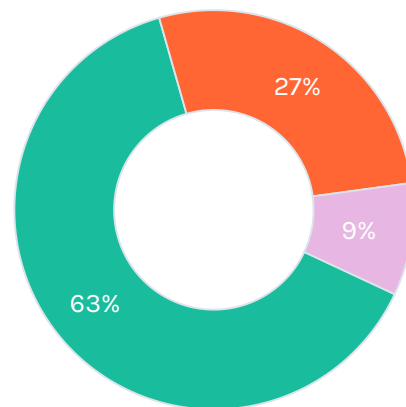
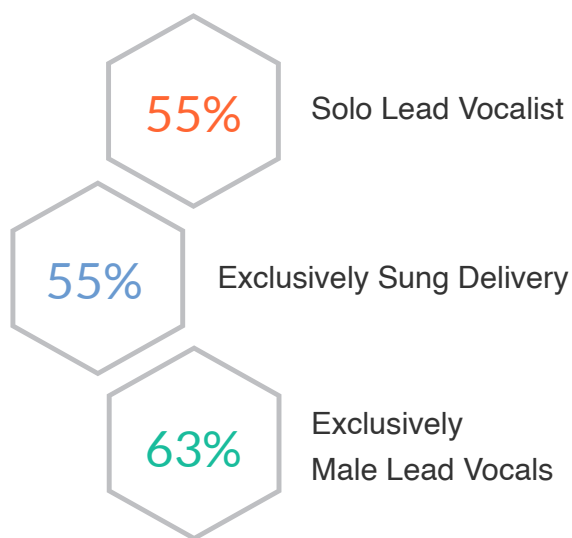


55%

POP

PRIMARY GENRE

Lead Vocal Gender

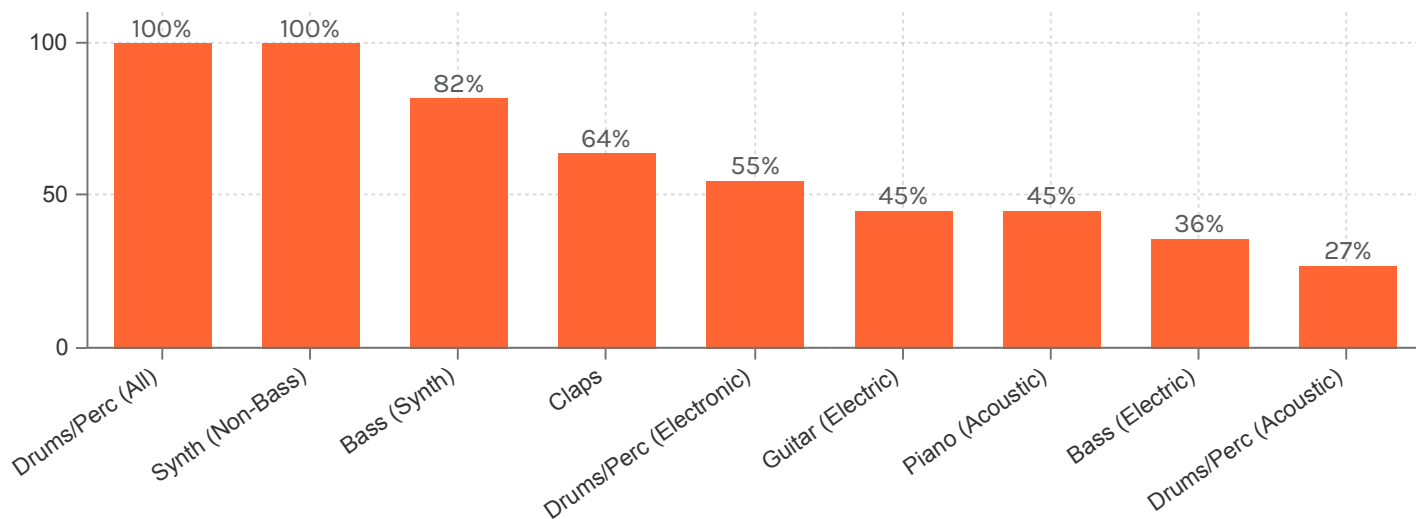


#1 Hit Spotlight

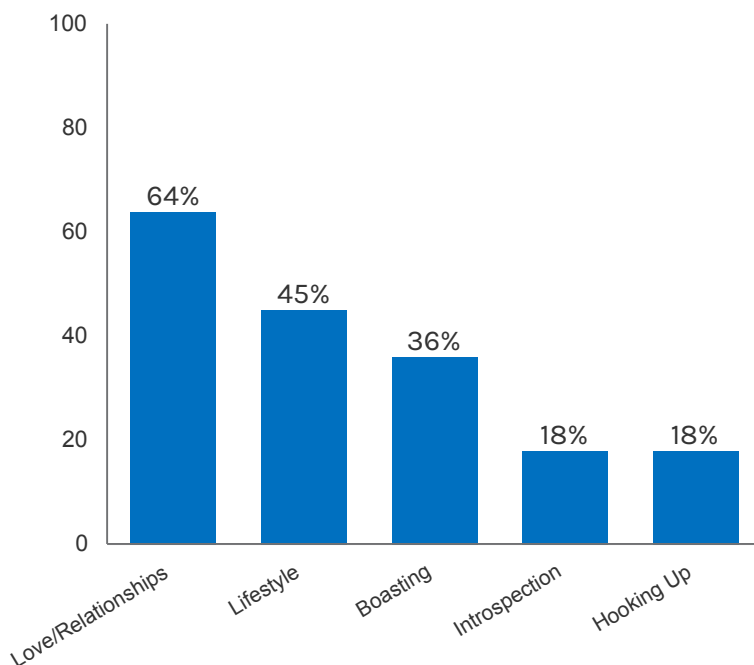
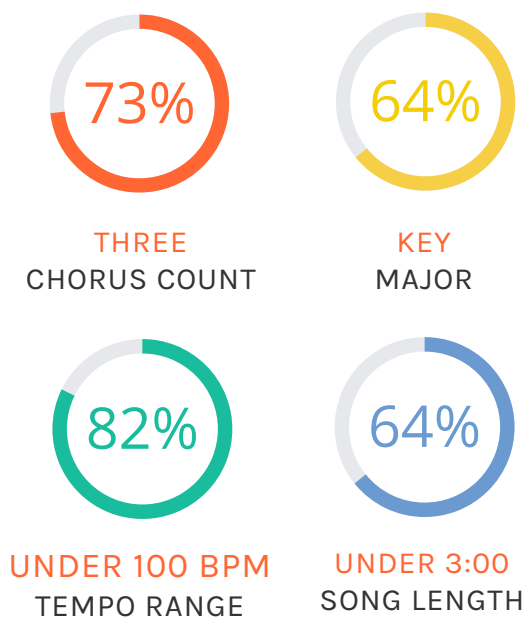
Below are select compositional characteristics for the 11 songs that charted at #1 during the first half of 2021.


Prominent Instruments

Used in 25% or More of #1 Hits



Lyrical Themes





Hot 100 Top 10 2020 vs. Q1 & Q2 2021

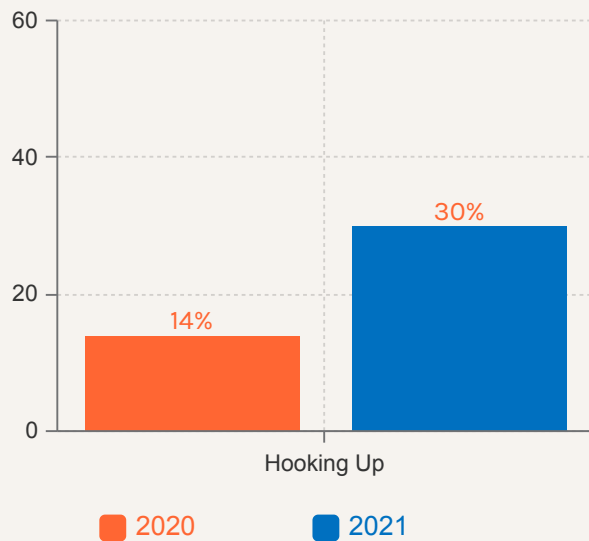
How is the first half of 2021 shaping up
when compared to 2020?

Select Report Highlights

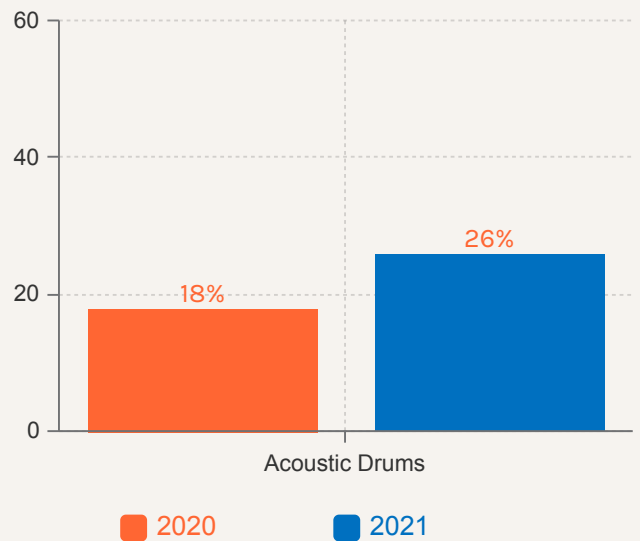
Non-Hip Hop 2020 vs. Q1 & Q2 2021

How are non-hip hop hits in the first half of 2021 shaping up when compared to 2020?

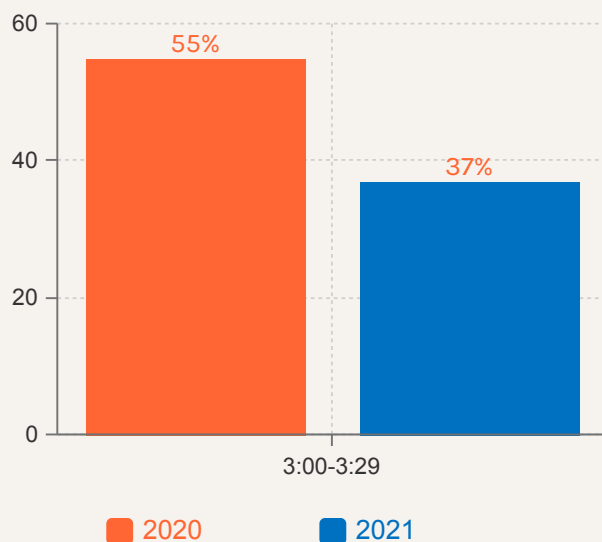
Lyrical Themes



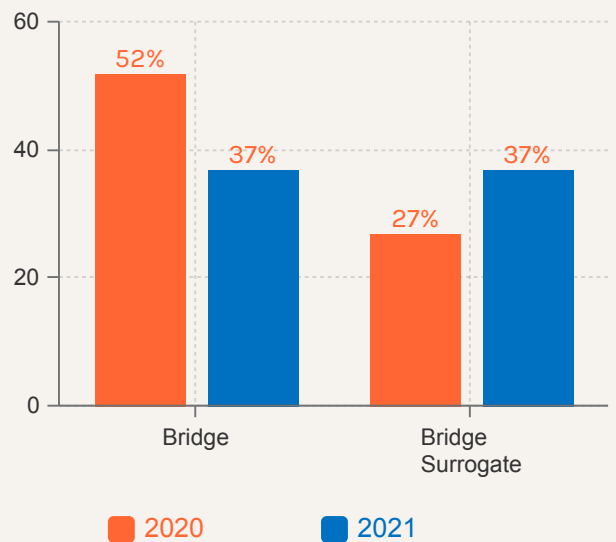
Instrumentation



Song Length



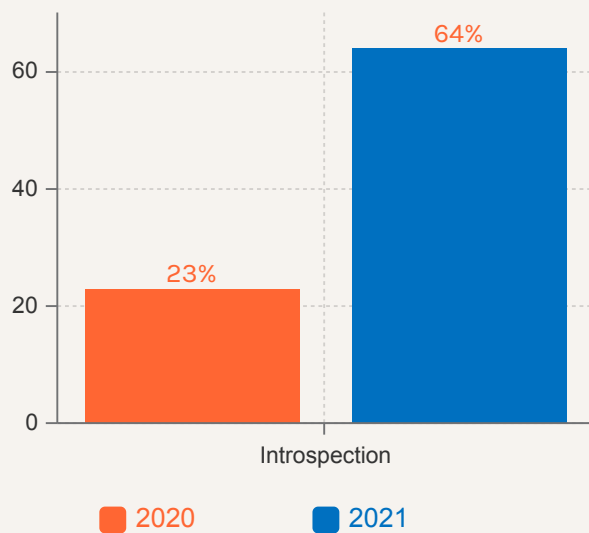
"D" (Departure) Sections



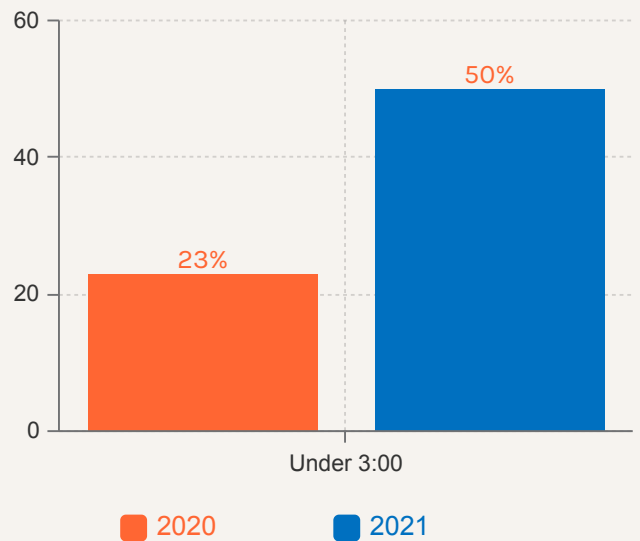
Hip Hop 2020 vs. Q1 & Q2 2021

How are hip hop hits in the first half of 2021 shaping up when compared to 2020?

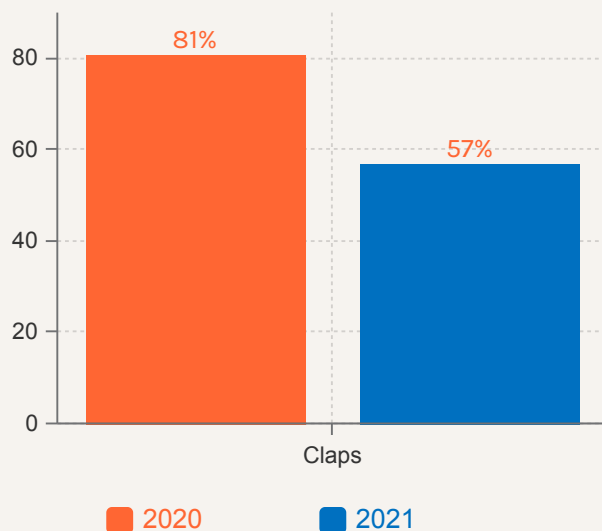
Lyrical Themes



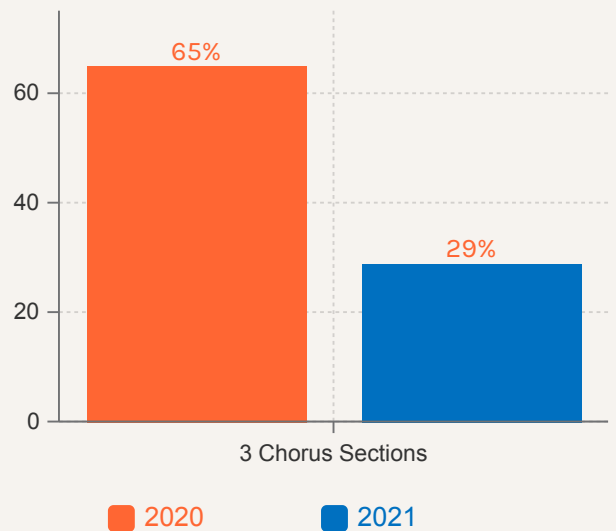
Song Length



Instrumentation



Chorus Sections



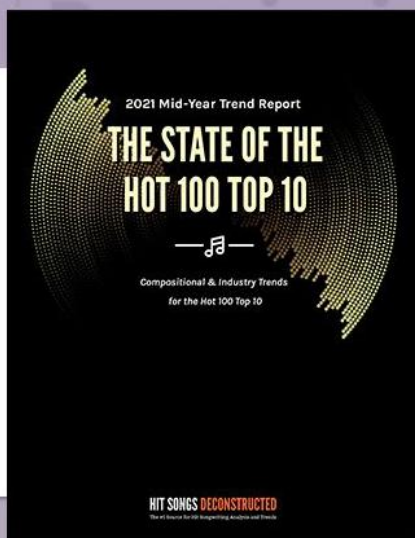
What's the state of the Hot 100 Top 10?

Who are today's key industry players and influencers? Which compositional characteristics are most prominent in the Top 10? Which are on the rise and which are in decline?

Today's hits are changing faster than ever.

To stay ahead of the curve, it's critical to proactively stay on top of what's driving today's most successful songs at the compositional level.

This 100+ page report will get you in tune with how today's most successful songs, and the players behind them, are evolving!



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