Top of the Charts

Each year the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry announces the year's most popular album sold. Since 2001, Adele's 21 is the only album to be number one for two years in a row.

**TOP SELLING ALBUM BY YEAR (in millions)**

- 2018: The Greatest Showman, Various Artists
- 2017: ÷, Ed Sheeran
- 2016: Lemonade, Beyoncé
- 2015: 25, Adele
- 2014: Frozen, Various Artists
- 2013: Midnight Memories, One Direction
- 2012: 21, Adele
- 2011: 21, Adele
- 2010: Recovery, Eminem
- 2009: I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle
- 2008: Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends, Coldplay
- 2007: High School Musical 2, Various Artists
- 2006: High School Musical, Various Artists
- 2005: X&Y, Coldplay
- 2004: Confessions, Usher
- 2003: Come Away with Me, Norah Jones
- 2002: The Eminem Show, Eminem
- 2001: Hybrid Theory, Linkin Park

Steady Decline of Album Sales

Through the years, total album sales have steadily declined. With advances in technology, digital formats of music have become increasingly popular. This has led to the decrease in physical sales with an increase in digital and streaming services.

**TOTAL ALBUM SALES BY FORMAT**

The Death of CDs

In just 17 years, digital downloads and vinyl purchases have started to overtake the majority of album sales. CDs were once the preferred choice. As technology has advanced, consumers resort to digital downloads because of their convenience.