The digital era has significantly altered the landscape of physical albums. While some forms, like vinyl, have almost disappeared, others such as cassette and CD continue to be popular. This infographic aims to help you understand the role of physical albums in the market and how people have been interacting with them over this 45-year period.

### The Evolution of Physical Album

As the digital era rises, physical albums lose their glory that they used to have. While some forms of physical albums have gone completely extinct, a few others still manage to remain. This infographic is aimed to help you understand the role that physical albums played within the market and how people have been interacting with them over this 45-year time period.

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### The Role of Physical Albums

The chart to the left is the representation of the total sales value of different forms of musical albums that were sold in the United States from 1973 to 2018. We see the physical types of music fall behind as technology advances and music becomes more portable and widely available for purchase to the masses.

This graph shows that over the 45 years:
- Vinyl Records grossed $103.9 billion dollars, 2.43% of total sales revenue.
- Cassettes grossed ~$102 billion dollars, 2.38% of total sales revenue.
- CDs grossed ~$294.9 billion dollars, 6.88% of total sales revenue.
- Other Forms grossed ~$3.2 trillion dollars, 88.31% of total sales revenue.
- Revenue made from all platforms of music: ~$4.2 trillion dollars.

This Pie chart illustrates the vast difference in sales between the older physical versions of music that we focused on, versus the newer digital versions of music type. The ‘Other Forms’ include: 8-Track, Download, Subscription, and Streaming Services.

### How Much Have People Spent on Physical Albums

The chart to the right shows us the annual sale value for the three types of physical music forms that we are focusing on: Vinyl, Cassette, and CD. We see a similar pattern occur with all the types of music, that they start strong and peak right before the next form of music gets introduced. When a new music form enters the market the previous type of music falls off drastically and basically bottoms out at 0 until it becomes obsolete. We also see that as new forms are introduced, more people are reached by the music and therefore sales increase.

### How Much Are Your Physical Albums Worth Now?

In the Line chart below, the information reveals the ups and downs that our 3 physical music forms have gone through in the 45-year span we are measuring. We see that CD's topped the chart at an average of $52.50 per CD and surprisingly that vinyl, the oldest music studied, has come back and currently costs the most per unit at ~$25.00.

### Source:
Recording Industry Association of America