

MID-YEAR 2025  
THE STATE OF THE

**B I L L B O A R D**

**H O T 1 0 0 T O P 1 0**

**What's driving the top 10 at the compositional level?**

*Select Report Highlights*

**HIT SONGS DECONSTRUCTED**

The #1 Source for Hit Songwriting Analysis and Trends

# About this Report:

***The State of the Hot 100 Top 10*** report analyzes the compositional characteristics of Billboard Hot 100 Top 10 hits.

- This report focuses exclusively on songs that charted in the Billboard Hot 100 Top 10 during the first half of 2025
- Data related to compositional characteristics are propriety to Hit Songs Deconstructed
- Songs are analyzed using the Hit Songs Deconstructed methodologies and do not make use of AI
- At times percentages may not add up to exactly 100% due to numbers being rounded up or down
- Data in this report excludes holiday songs

What follows are select highlights from *Mid-Year 2025 The State of the Hot 100* top 10 report.

# About Hit Songs Deconstructed

For over a decade, Hit Songs Deconstructed has been providing music creators and industry professionals with unparalleled insight into the craft and trends behind today's biggest hits.

Our mission is to empower our members with a competitive edge in a rapidly evolving musical landscape by providing a deep understanding of the songwriting and production techniques and compositional trends shaping current hits.

Through our cutting-edge tools—including analytics, in-depth reports, and acclaimed masterclasses—we deliver data-driven insights and practical resources that help songwriters, producers, and industry professionals refine their craft, harness emerging trends, and create music that truly resonate.

That's why today's top songwriters, producers, and leading publishers, labels, and universities rely on our proprietary data and analysis to stay ahead of the curve and make strategic creative and business decisions.

[www.HitSongsDeconstructed.com](http://www.HitSongsDeconstructed.com)



# 10

**38 Hot 100  
Top 10 Songs**



During the first half of 2025, 38 songs charted in the Top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100, with 7 hitting the top spot.

Behind these songs were  
25 performing artists, 122  
credited songwriters, 64  
credited producers, and  
10 record labels.

25

PERFORMING ARTISTS

122

CREDITED SONGWRITERS

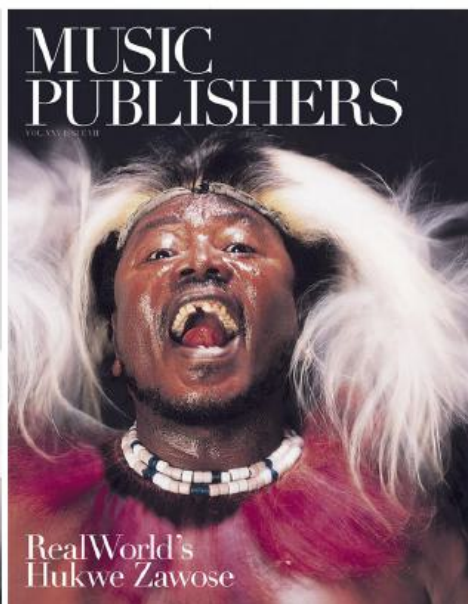
64

CREDITED PRODUCERS

10

RECORD LABELS

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# Republic Led The Way with 45% of Top 10s

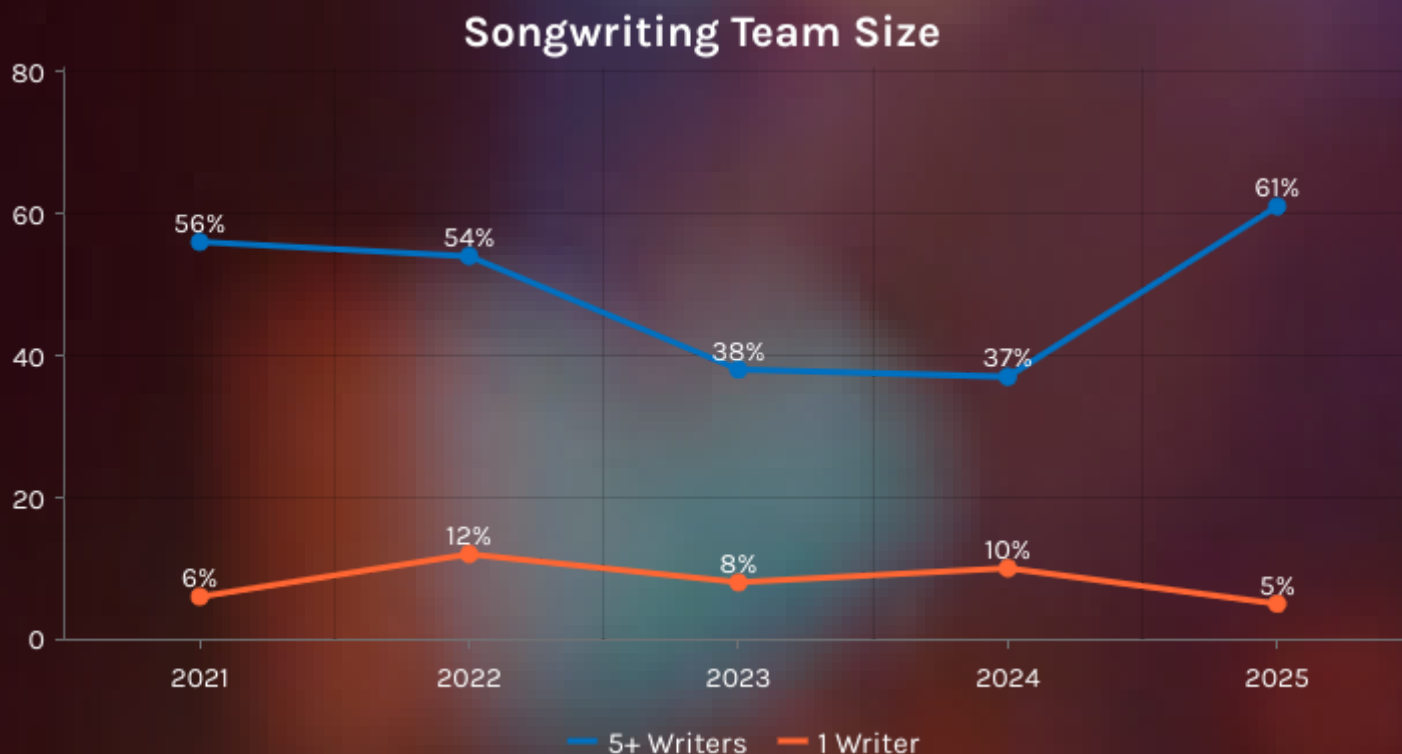


Republic was the top label, accounting for 45% of the year's top 10s (17 songs) and two #1s. Morgan Wallen led the pack with nine Top 10s (eight as a primary artist and one as a featured artist).

## Larger Songwriting Teams

Songwriting teams of five or more writers accounted for 61% of 2025's Top 10s, up notably from 37% in 2024.

Conversely, those credited to a single writer dropped from 10% to 5% of songs, both attributed to Drake ("Nokia" and "Gimme A Hug").



Six primary genres defined the sound of Top 10 hits during the first half of 2025, along with 27 sub-genres and influences, 25 prominent instruments, and seven lyrical themes.

6

PRIMARY GENRES

27

SUB-GENRES & INFLUENCES

25

PROMINENT INSTRUMENTS

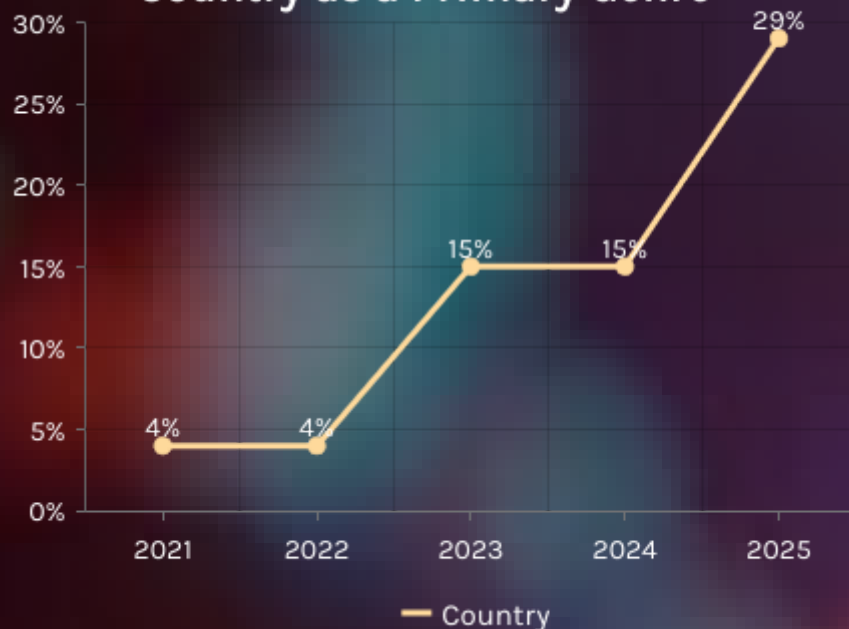
7

LYRICAL THEMES



# Country Surpasses Hip Hop and Pop

Country as a Primary Genre



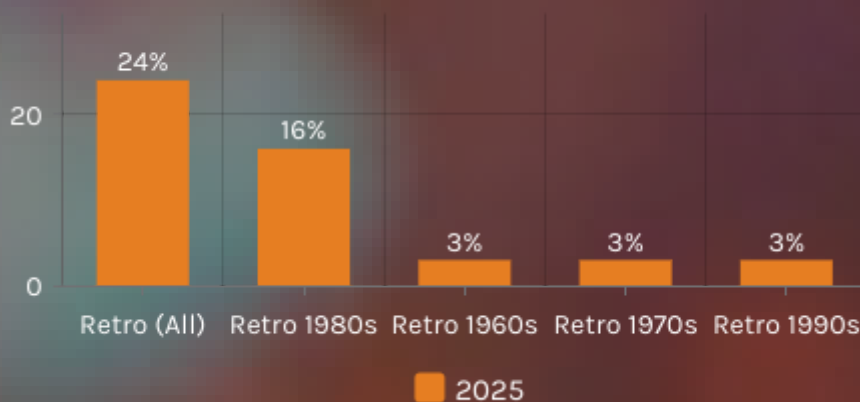
Country became the leading primary genre in the Hot 100 Top 10 during the first half of 2025, accounting for 29% of entries—a dramatic rise from just 4% in 2021–2022.

This surge was driven largely by Morgan Wallen, who appeared on 9 of the year's 11 Country Top 10s.

## Retro

Retro influences were present in nearly one-quarter of 2025's Top 10s, with the 1980s standing out as most popular time period for the fifth consecutive year. Notable examples include the #1 hits “Manchild” by Sabrina Carpenter and “Squabble Up” by Kendrick Lamar, the latter heavily sampling Debbie Deb's 1984 song, “When I Hear Music.”

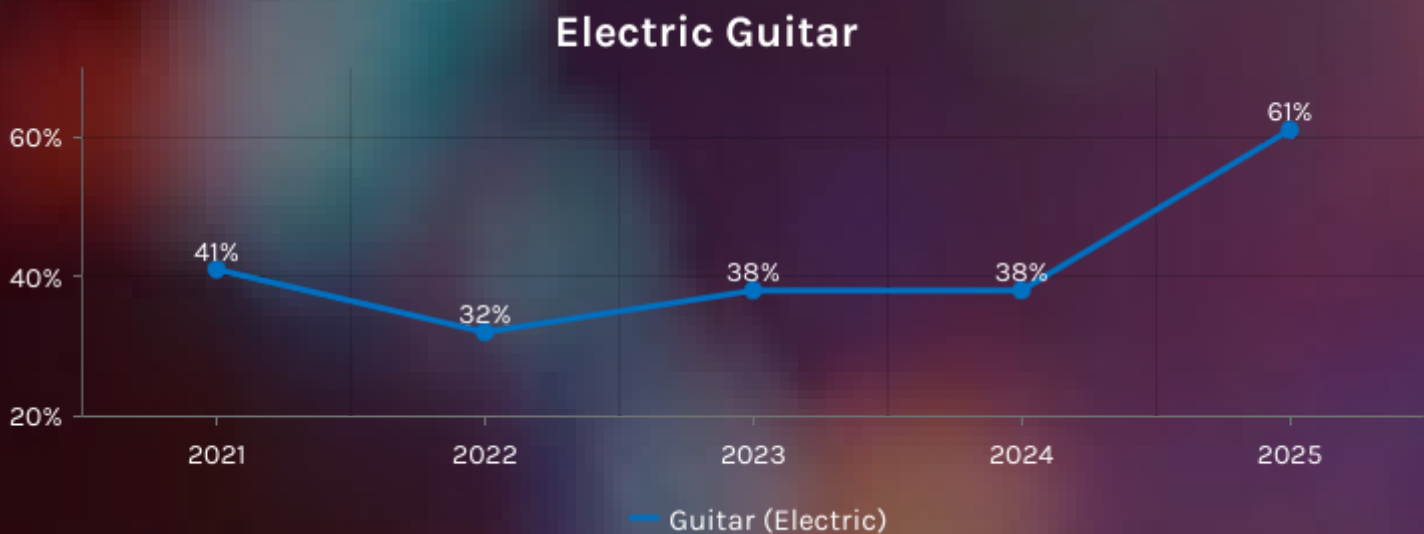
Retro Influences





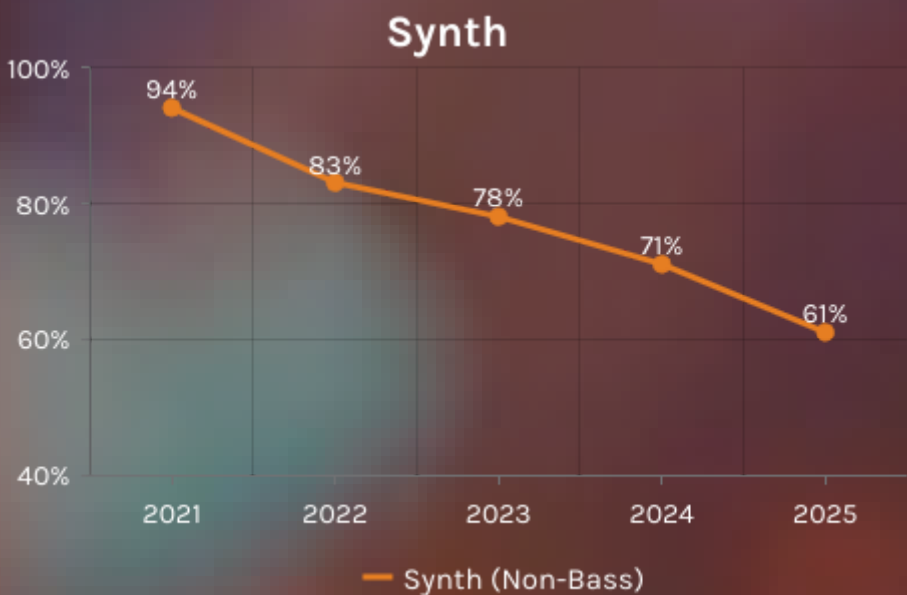
# More Guitar

Use of electric guitar skyrocketed from 38% of songs in 2024 to 61% in 2025, it's highest level in over a decade. While nearly half featured a country influence, it was used in other stylistically diverse hits including "A.P.T." by Bruno Mars and ROSE, "Lose Control" by Teddy Swims," and "Anxiety" by Doechii, the latter which includes a guitar sample from Gotye and Kimbra's 2011 hit, "Somebody That I Used To Know."



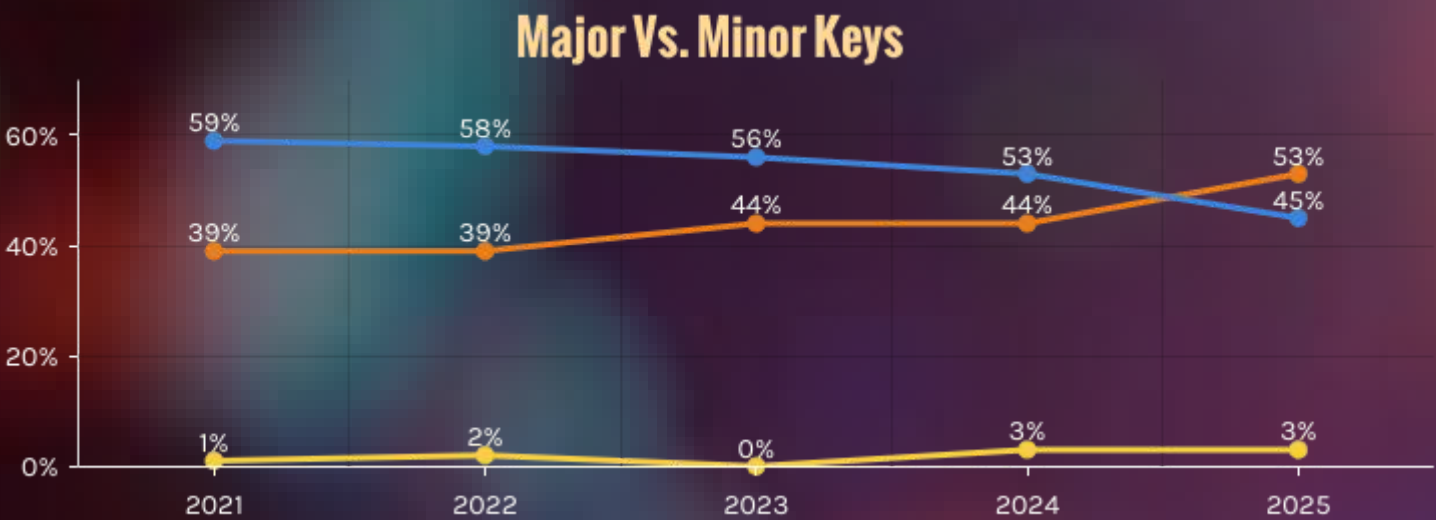
# Less Synth

While still used in the majority of Top 10 hits, songs featuring synths continued to decline during the first half of 2025, dropping to 61% of songs. This was their lowest level in over a decade.



# A Major Shift

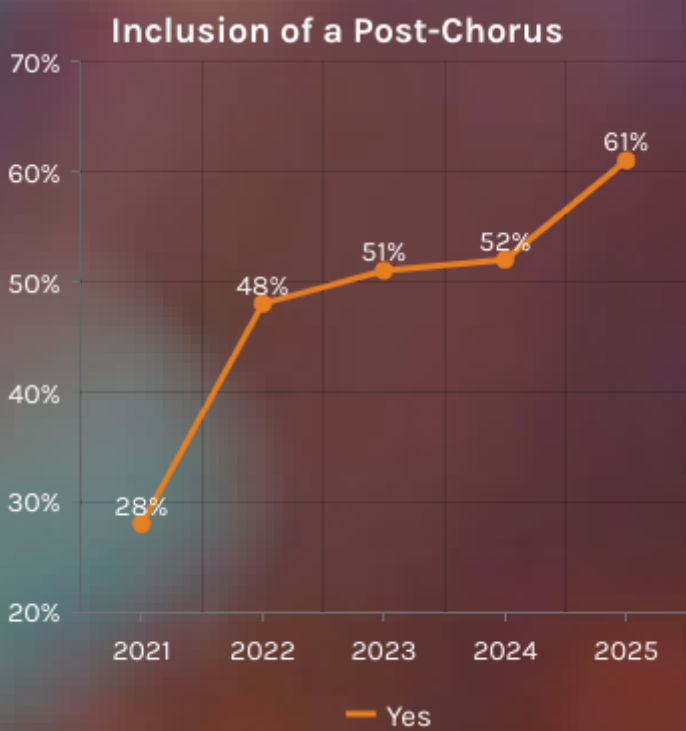
For the first time in a decade, Top 10s in a major key surpassed those in a minor key with a 53%/45% split between them.



# Hookier Hits

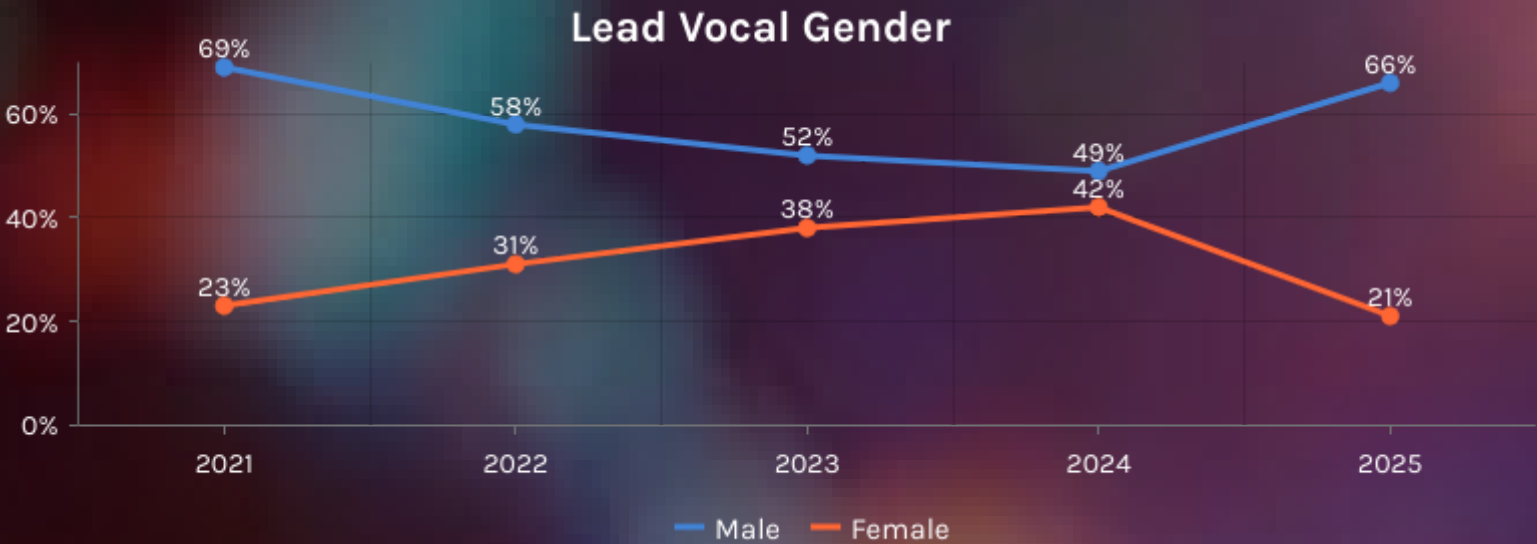
Hot 100 Top 10 hits that include a post-chorus "hook center" in their framework rose to 61% of songs in 2025, their highest level in over a decade.

The outro surpassed the vocal break as the most popular post-chorus section for the first time since 2020.



# Male Leads Rebound

Following a steady decline between 2021 to 2024, male-led Top 10s surged to 66% in 2025. Conversely, female-led songs experienced a sharp drop, falling from 42% in 2024—after four consecutive years of growth—to just 21% in 2025.



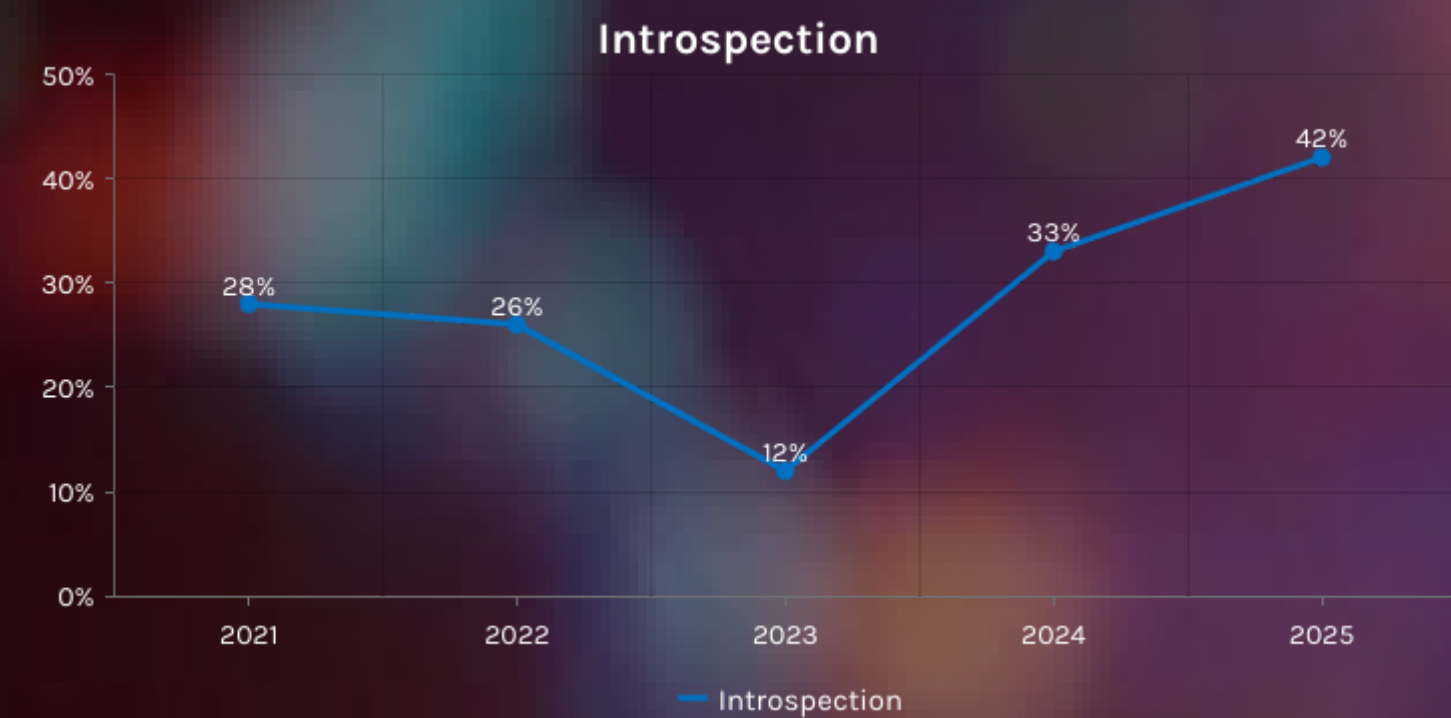
# Going it Alone

Songs with a solo lead vocalist continued to rise for the fifth straight year, reaching their highest level in over a decade at 74% of songs.



# Looking Inward

The theme of introspection rose to its highest level in over a decade at 42% of songs. The theme traversed an array of genres and styles, including "Anxiety" by Doechii, "Pink Pony Club" by Chappell Roan, and "Smile" by Morgan Wallen.



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