

Year-End 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 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

Elevate your music with hit song intelligence.

Join thousands of songwriters, producers, and industry pros using Hit Songs Deconstructed to create and release music that competes at the highest level.

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”

I'm such a better songwriter now, and it's in large part due to Hit songs Deconstructed - the reports, the masterclasses, and the private coaching. It has been a game-changer.

- Omar Zulfi, Songwriter/Producer



10

**64 Hot 100
Top 10 Songs**



During 2025, 64 songs charted in the top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100, with 7 hitting the top spot.

Behind these songs were 36 performing artists, 178 credited songwriters, 102 credited producers, and 10 record labels.

36

PERFORMING ARTISTS

178

CREDITED SONGWRITERS

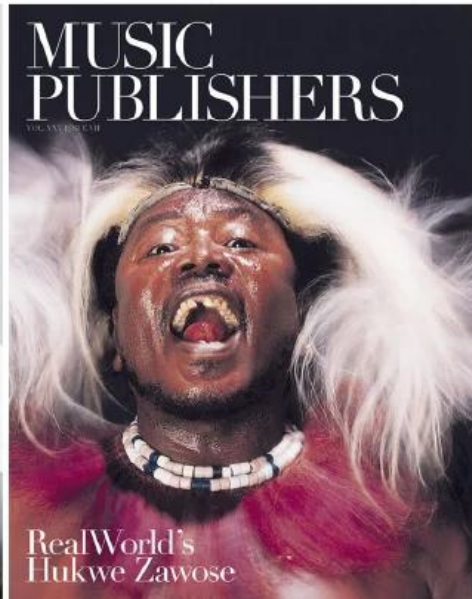
102

CREDITED PRODUCERS

10

RECORD LABELS

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Republic Led The Way with 53% of Top 10s



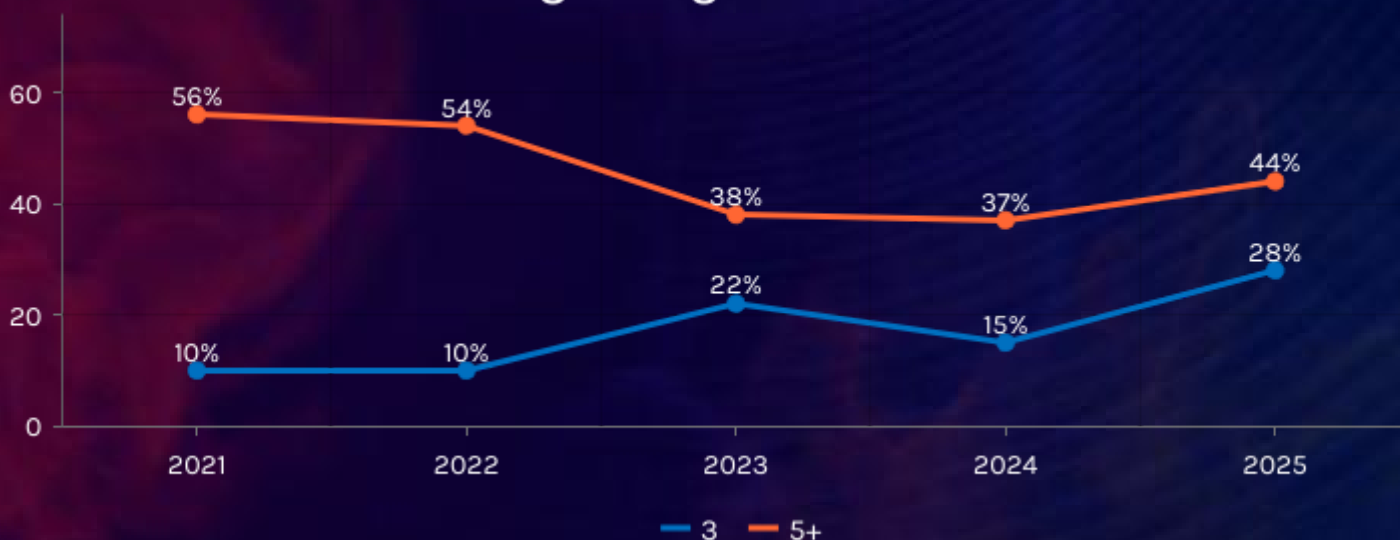
Republic was the top label in 2025, accounting for an impressive 53% of Hot 100 top 10s (34 songs) and four #1 hits. These included HUNTR/X's "Golden," Sabrina Carpenter's "Manchild," Taylor Swift's "The Fate of Ophelia," and Morgan Wallen and Tate McRae's "What I Want."

Larger Songwriting Teams

Songwriting teams of five or more credited writers continued to be most common in 2025, rising from 37% in 2024 to 44% of songs.

However, the biggest year-over-year gainer was teams of three writers, which nearly doubled to 28% of songs. This increase was driven in part by the reunited collaboration between Taylor Swift, Max Martin, and Shellback, which yielded 10 top 10 hits from *The Life of a Showgirl* album.

Songwriting Team Size



Six primary genres defined the sound of 2025's Hot 100 top 10 hits, alongside 31 sub-genres and influences, 25 prominent instruments, and 8 lyrical themes.

6

PRIMARY GENRES

31

SUB-GENRES & INFLUENCES

25

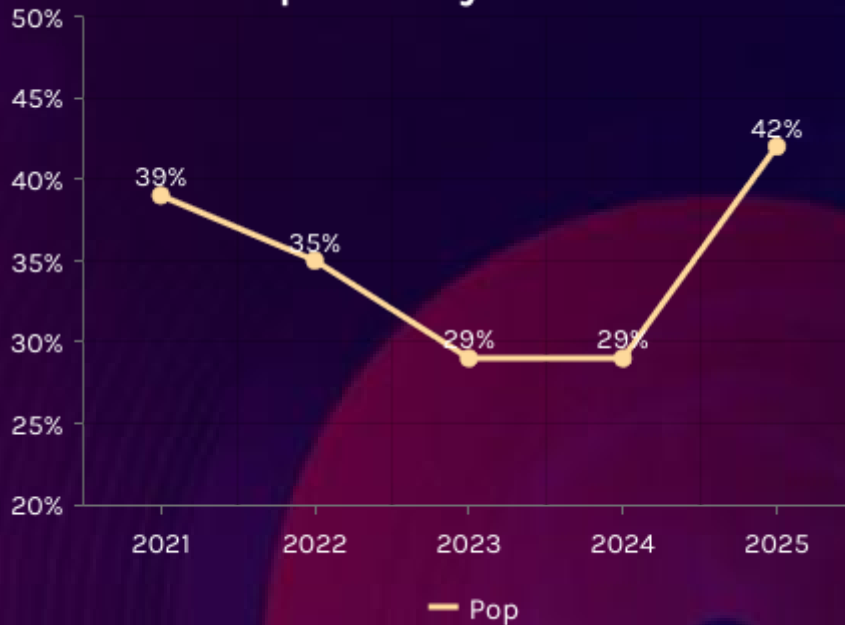
PROMINENT INSTRUMENTS

8

LYRICAL THEMES

Pop Back On Top

Pop Primary Genre



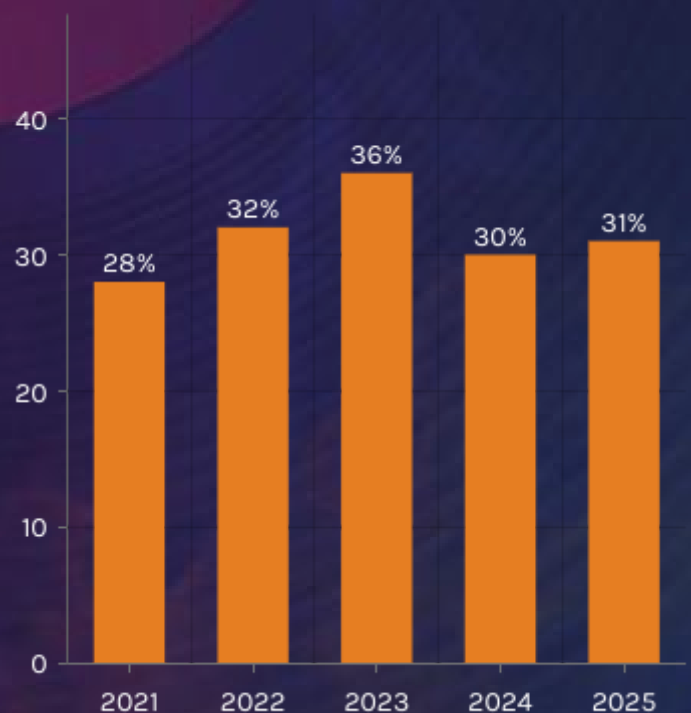
Pop was back on top in 2025, surpassing last year's leader - hip hop/rap - with a 42% share of the Hot 100 top 10, up from 29% in the year prior.

Retro

Retro influences were present in nearly one-third of 2025's Hot 100 top 10 hits, with the 1980s once again standing out as the most popular time period for the sixth consecutive year.

Notable examples include the #1s "Manchild" (Sabrina Carpenter) and "Squabble Up" (Kendrick Lamar), the latter featuring a sample from Debbie Deb's 1984 classic "When I Hear Music."

Retro Influences



THE ROAD TO THE

FIRST CHORUS

MAKING EVERY SECOND COUNT

Your chorus might be brilliant.

But if you don't hook the listener, they'll never get to hear it.

In today's skip-driven environment, the opening moments of your song are critical. This masterclass will show you how to master the most critical stretch of your song: From the first note through the first chorus.

The Anatomy of a Captivating Intro

Arrangement, dynamics, and hook techniques that grab attention and establish identity within seconds.

Building Momentum Toward the Chorus


How melody, lyrics, arrangement, and production work together to maintain engagement and drive energy forward.

Maximizing Chorus Impact

Melodic, lyrical, and structural techniques that make the chorus land harder emotionally and sonically.

Patterns, Payoffs & Pitfalls

Benchmarks, rhythmic and melodic patterns, and structural traps that lead to early skips.



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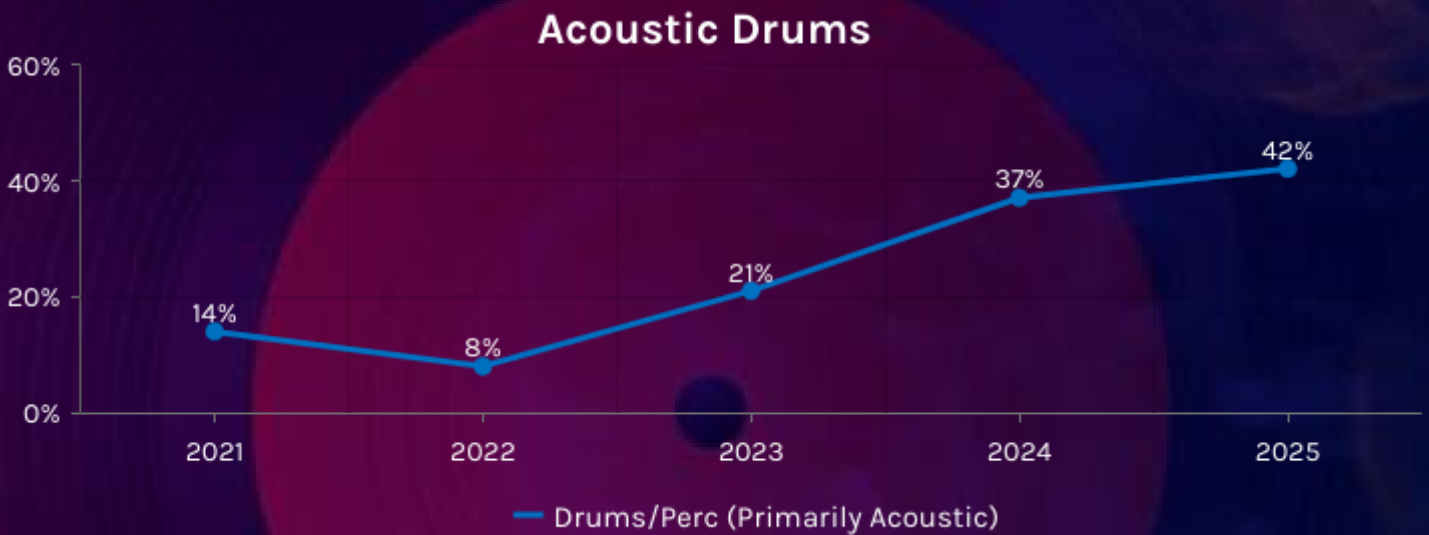
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Rise in Acoustic-Sounding Drums

Songs featuring primarily acoustic-sounding drums continued to rise for the third straight year in 2025, surpassing those with primarily electronic-sounding drums for the first time since 2014. Appearing in 42% of songs, their use spanned multiple genres, including pop, country, R&B/soul, and rock.



Less Synth

While still present in the majority of songs, synth usage continued to decline for the fourth straight year, dropping from 94% of songs in 2021 to 69% in 2025.



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.

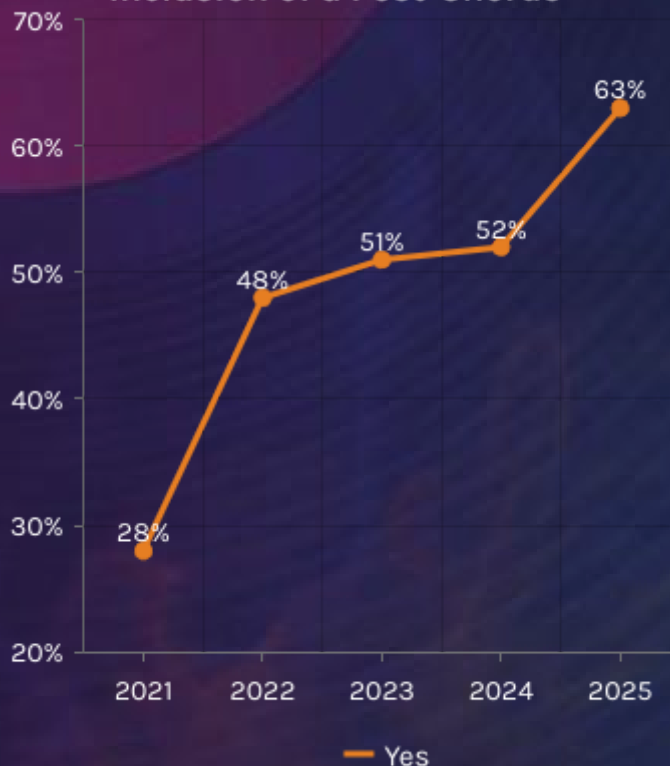
Introspection



Hookier Hits

The inclusion of a post-chorus “hook center” continued to rise for the third straight year, accounting for 63% of Hot 100 top 10 hits in 2025 - its highest level in over a decade.

Inclusion of a Post-Chorus



YOU'VE SEEN THE HIGHLIGHTS. NOW GET THE FULL STORY.



The complete 42-page report reveals:

- Which genres, sub-genres and influences are on the rise and in decline
- Which lyrical themes are driving hit song narratives
- How instrumentation choices are evolving
- The five most common keys
- The most popular intro & outro characteristics
- Song structure trends
- And much more!

Plus, You'll Get Two Bonus 2025 Reports



Get the Facts and Learn Exactly
What's Driving Today's Most Successful Songs!

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