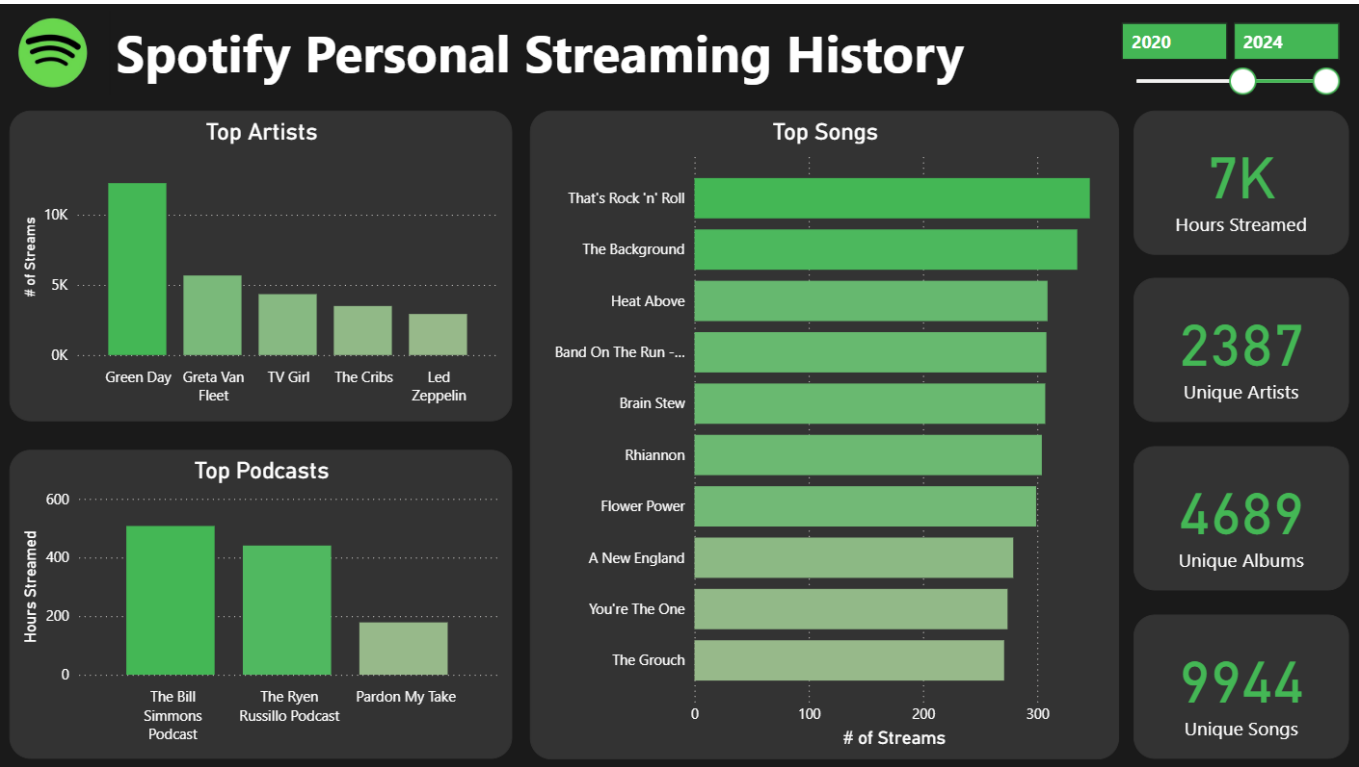


Spotify Personal Streaming Analysis



Project Background

Introduction

This project analyzes my personal Spotify streaming history from 2015–2024 to uncover listening habits and the evolution of my music taste using Power BI. Having been asked "What kind of music do you listen to?" more times than I could count, I began to wonder myself, and decided to take a data-driven look at my cumulative listening history. By exploring trends in what, when, and how I stream, this analysis aims to draw objective conclusions about how my listening preferences have developed over time, and where they might be heading next.

About the Data

The dataset used in this analysis contains detailed records of my personal streaming activity throughout the full lifespan of my Spotify account from 2015–2024. Each row represents a streamed song or podcast episode and includes metadata such as the date-time stamp (*ts*), identifying variables like track or episode name and artist or podcast name, and a key quantitative measure, duration played (*ms_played*). The data was delivered from Spotify via email, stored in 23 JSON files containing 327,123 total records. All files were combined and cleaned into one useable dataset titled *full_streaming_history*.

Executive Summary

From 2015–2019, the total hours streamed on my Spotify account increased by over 1100%, reflecting a period of rapidly growing engagement. Streaming volume peaked in 2019 and has remained relatively stable since 2020.

Listening behavior varied by day of week and season. Weekday activity was consistently higher than weekends, with notable dips in total streaming during the summer months when I spend more time outdoors and away from devices. Peak listening hours occurred between 12:00–2:00 P.M. and again between 7:00–9:00 P.M.

During the earlier years of my account, I frequently skipped tracks while exploring a wider range of new artists. Over time, my skip rate has decreased while I continued to explore a consistently high number of new artists. By 2024, my listening habits included a more balanced mix of content types, with increased podcast consumption and broader music genre representation.

Data Preparation

Data Aggregation

- Loaded all 23 files into Power Query and used *Append Queries as New* to insert all records into one usable dataset titled ***full_streaming_history***.
 - Since the column names and data structure in each original source file matched, no additional manipulation was required to standardize the data.
- After combining the datasets, I would typically disable loading for each individual query to optimize model performance. However, since each source file contains sensitive personal information, I removed them completely.
 - Before deleting the individual queries, I created a static duplicate of ***full_streaming_history*** to eliminate external dependencies and secure the model for public sharing.

Data Cleaning

Deleted Columns

- ***ip_addr***, ***conn_country***, and ***platform*** to protect sensitive personal information.
- ***audiobook_title***, ***audiobook_uri***, ***audiobook_chapter_uri***, and ***audiobook_chapter_title***, as audiobooks are not a significant part of my listening profile.
- ***incognito_mode***, as this feature was never used on my account.

Renamed Columns

- ***spotify_track_uri*** → ***track_id***
- ***spotify_episode_uri*** → ***episode_id***
- ***master_metadata_track_name*** → ***track_name***
- ***master_metadata_album_artist_name*** → ***artist_name***
- ***master_metadata_album_album_name*** → ***album_name***
- ***episode_show_name*** → ***show_name***

Created Columns

- ***sec_played***, ***min_played***, and ***hrs_played*** as alternative measures of record duration.
- ***month_streamed***, ***hr_of_day_streamed***, and ***day_of_week_streamed*** to facilitate analysis of listening patterns.
- ***month_abbr*** to include abbreviated month names.
- ***day_of_week_id*** and ***month_abbr*** to override default alphabetical sorting of categorical data.

- **is_track** to indicate records representing songs and **is_episode** to indicate podcast episode records.
- **media_type** to assign either 'Track' or 'Episode' to each record for labeling visuals.

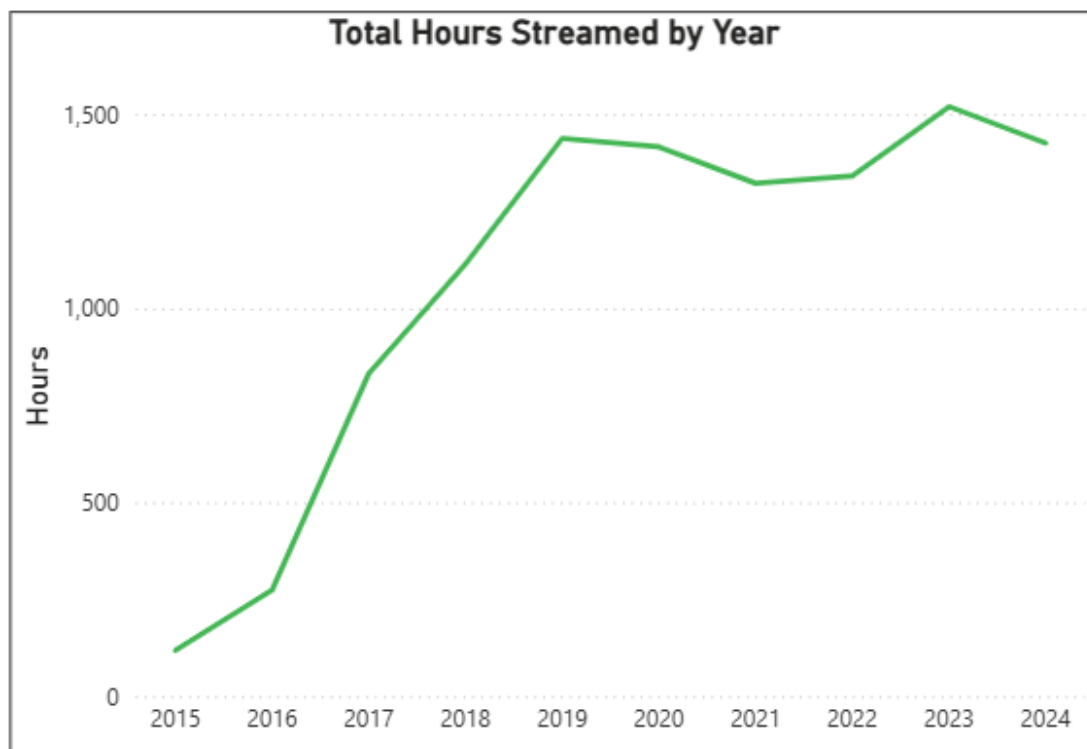
Changed Data Types

- Converted all indicator variables from TRUE/FALSE to 1/0 (Whole Number) for compatibility in visuals.

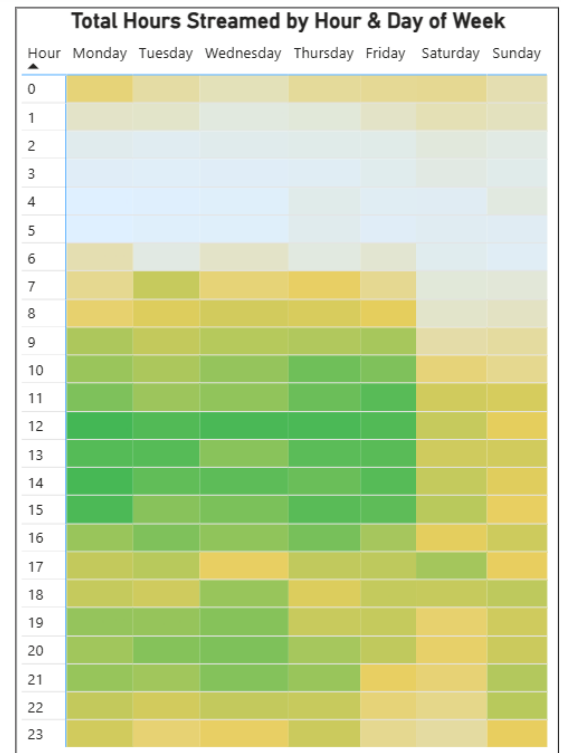
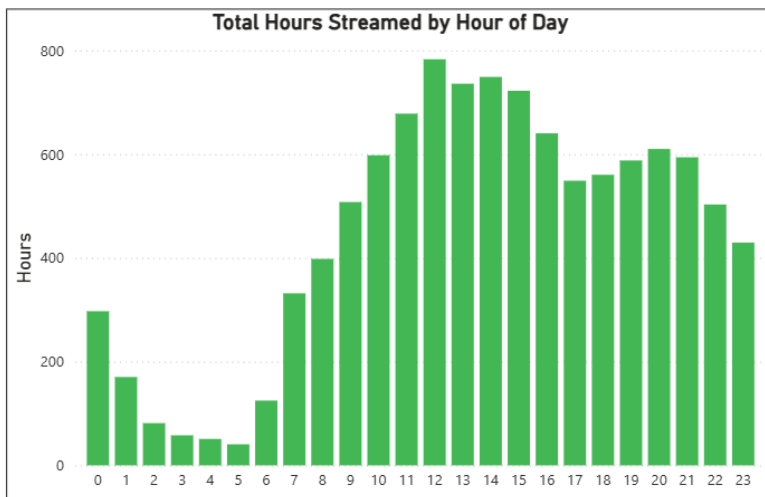
Summary of Insights

When I Listened: Temporal Patterns

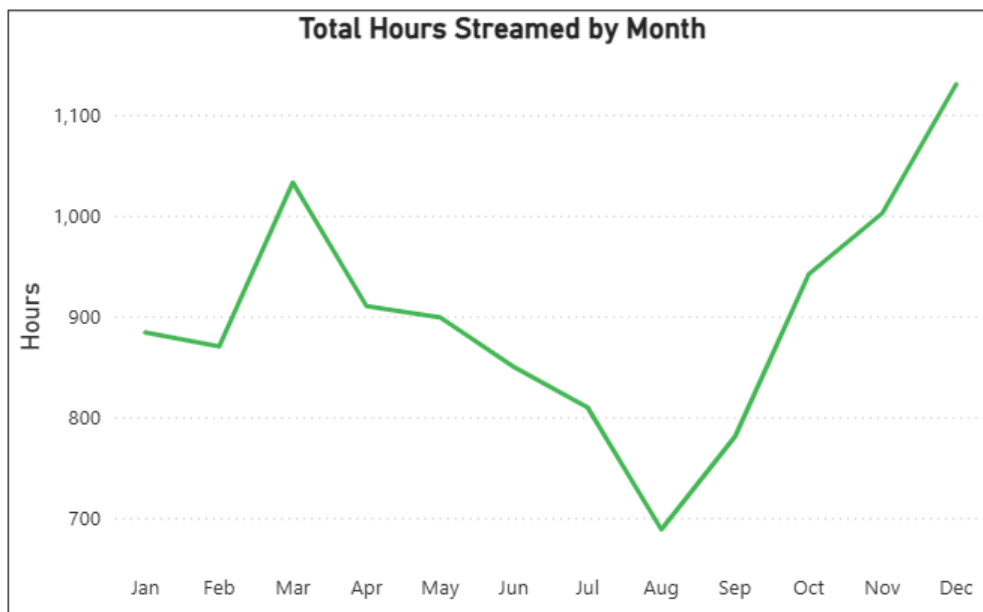
- Total hours streamed per year increased by 1112% from 2015–2019, representing a period of rapid early growth in activity.
- Streaming has remained consistent since 2019, with a change of -0.8% in total hours between 2019 and 2024.



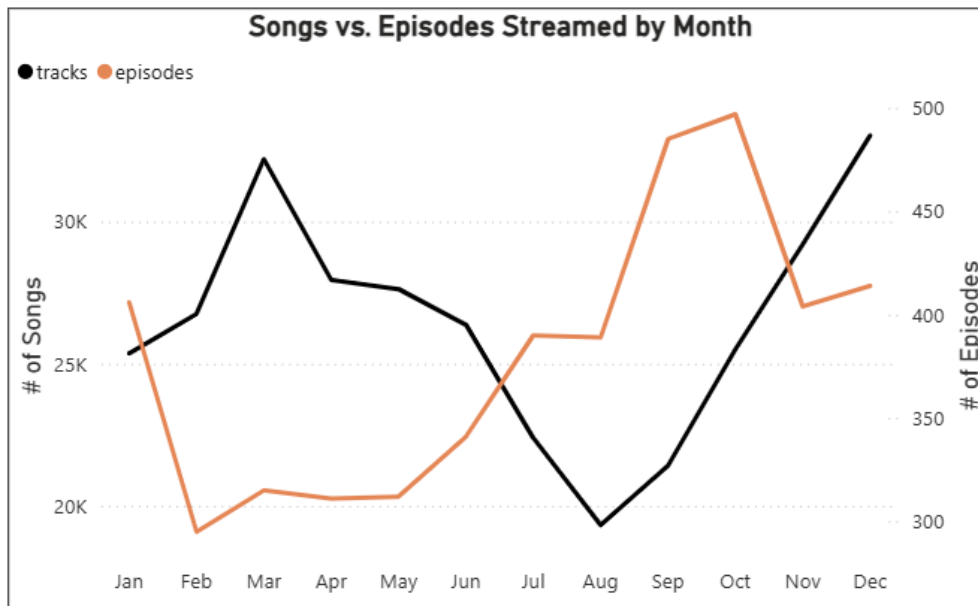
- I most frequently streamed from 12:00–2:00 P.M., with an additional spike from 7:00–9:00 P.M.
- Weekday streaming was consistent and followed the same time-of-day patterns. Weekend activity was lower overall and exhibited no clear temporal patterns.



- Total streaming volume varied seasonally. Three of the four highest-volume months occurred in the fall (October–December), while the four lowest-volume months fell in the summer (June–September).



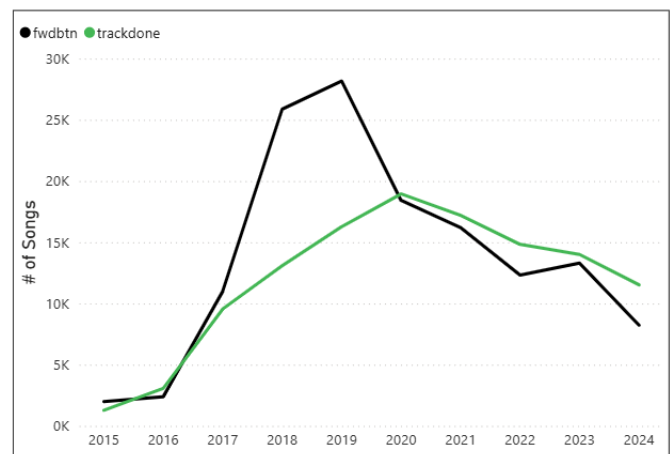
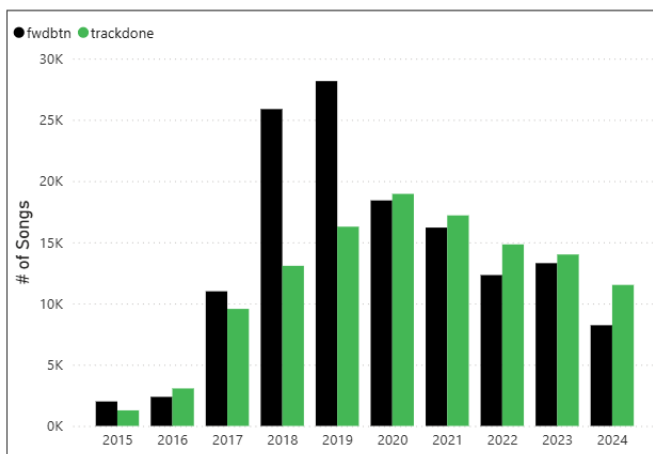
- Within this overall trend that depicts all media types, songs and podcast episodes followed markedly different seasonal paths.
- Monthly song volume closely followed the overall streaming trend, while podcast activity exhibited a contrasting seasonal pattern.



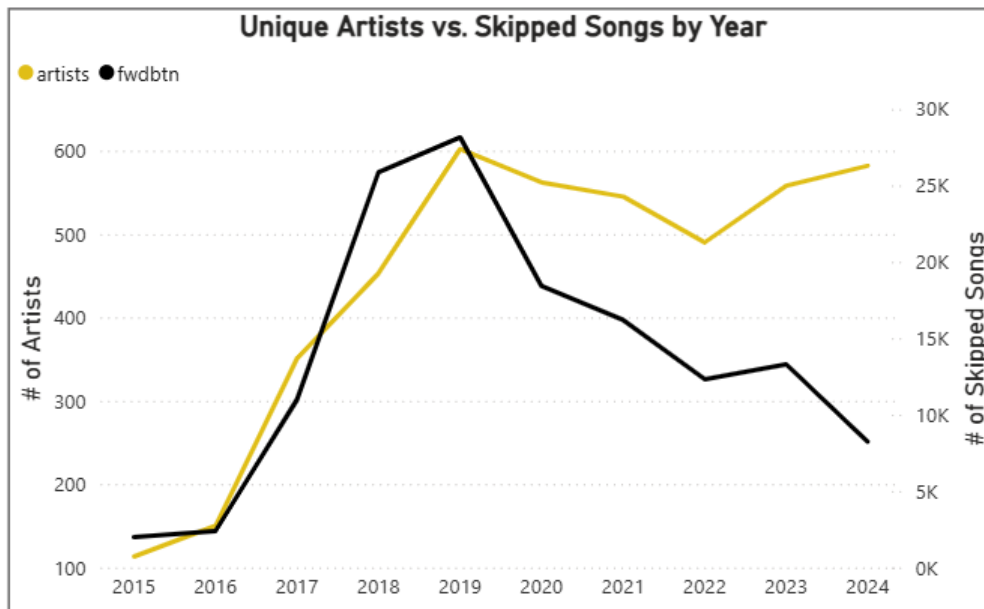
How I Listened: Streaming Behaviors

- The percentage of songs skipped peaked in 2018–2019, when more than half of all tracks played were skipped before completion. Starting in 2020, my skip rate steadily declined, dropping to 35% in 2024.

Skipped vs. Finished Songs by Year

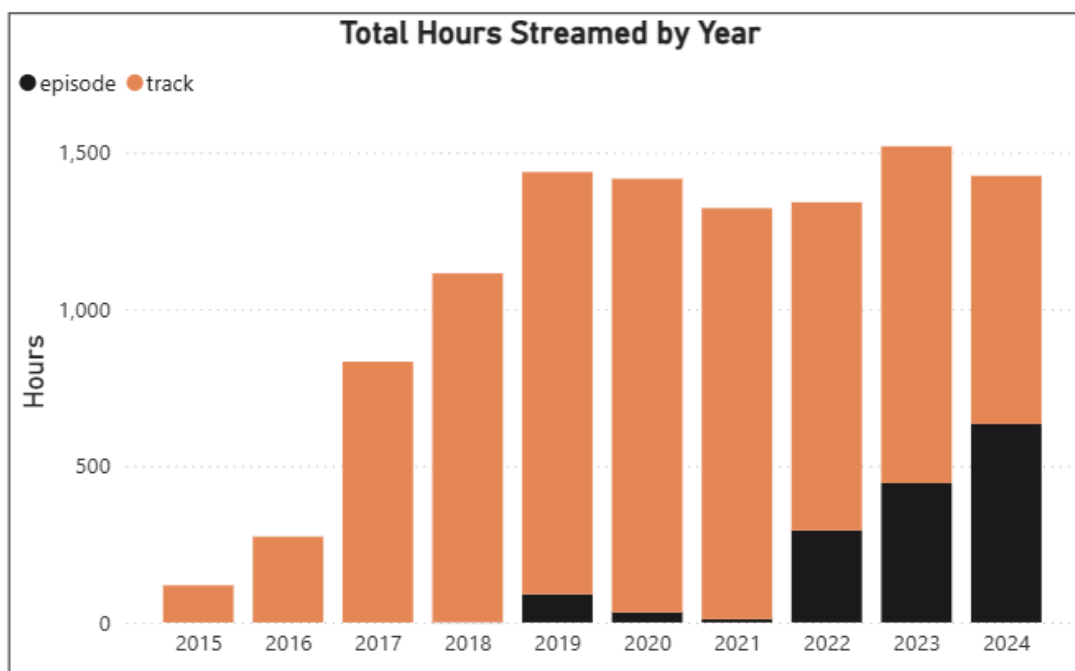


- From 2015–2019, the number of unique artists I streamed grew in tandem with my skip rate. This trend reversed in 2020, as I continued exploring a consistent number of artists each year, while the number of songs I skipped declined significantly.



What I Listened To: Evolution of Taste

- From 2015–2021, podcast episodes accounted for just 2% of my total streaming hours. That figure grew to 32% from 2022–2024, reflecting a major shift in the type of media I regularly streamed.
- Over 80% of my total podcast streaming hours were spent listening to just three shows.



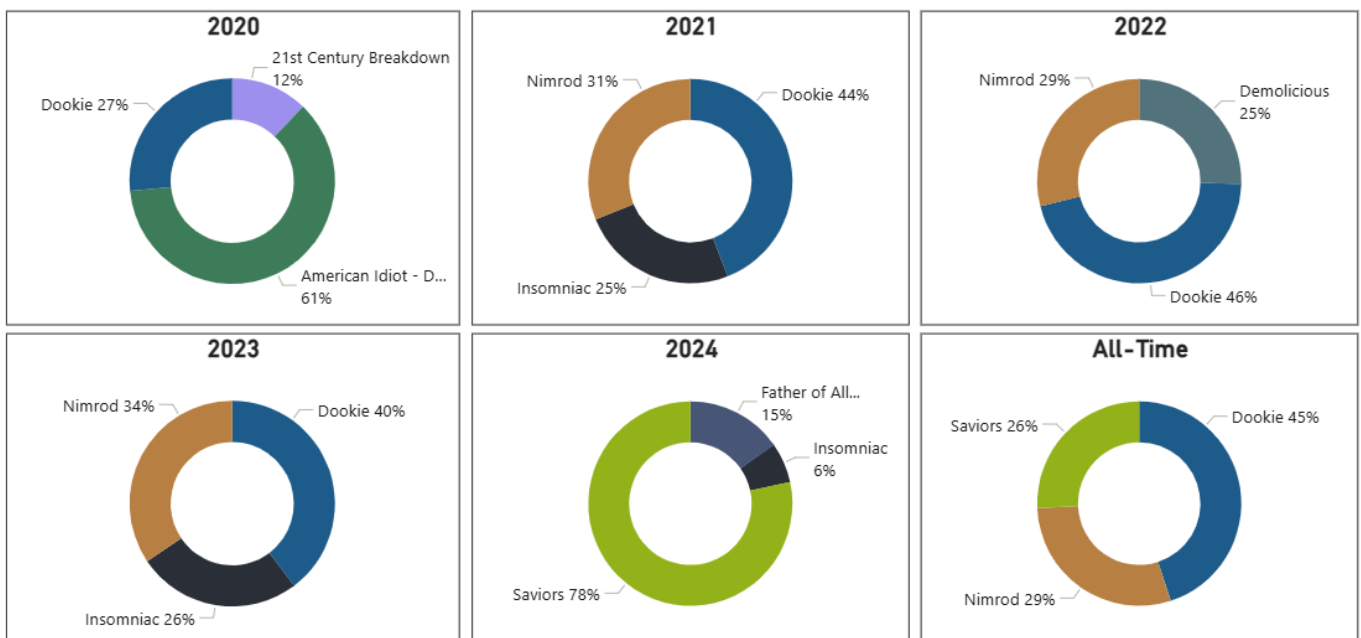
- From 2015–2020, my most streamed artist each year was a rapper. Since 2021, each top artist has been a rock band, signaling a major shift in genre preference.

Most Streamed Artist by Year

2015 Childish Gambino <i>Rap</i>	➔	2016 Rae Sremmurd <i>Rap</i>	➔	2017 Young Thug <i>Rap</i>	➔	2018 Travis Scott <i>Rap</i>	➔	2019 Travis Scott <i>Rap</i>	➔
2020 Lil Uzi Vert <i>Rap</i>	➔	2021 Green Day <i>Rock</i>	➔	2022 Greta Van Fleet <i>Rock</i>	➔	2023 Greta Van Fleet <i>Rock</i>	➔	2024 Green Day <i>Rock</i>	

- Green Day has emerged as my most consistently streamed artist in recent years.
- The majority of my Green Day streaming has been spent listening to classic albums. However, after spending a significant amount of time listening to the 2024 release, *Saviors*, my all-time streaming mix includes longtime favorites and newer releases.

Most-Streamed Green Day Albums by Year



Reflections & Recommendations

Reflections

- My weekday streaming was significantly higher than weekends, reflecting a structured routine with more opportunities to listen after lunch and in the evening. Streaming activity on weekends and during the summer notably decreased, due to spending more time outdoors and in social settings.
- The frequency of my podcast streaming closely mirrors the NFL calendar. Streaming rises steadily beginning in May after the draft, peaks during the regular season, and tapers off late in the playoffs when there are fewer games to discuss. These trends align with periods when my regularly streamed podcasts release new episodes focused on NFL topics, which I am most likely to listen to.
- As my annual streaming volume increased, so did my number of skipped songs, peaking in 2019. What I originally viewed as impatience was actually an indication that I was branching out to other genres.

Since 2020, my

- I listen to a healthy mix of rock, alternative and bluegrass. This is a major shift from my high school and early college years, where I streamed mostly rap. Covid rock.
- Much of my early streaming as a teenager was focused on rap music
- Around the turn of the decade, I began to stream almost exclusively rock I listen to Green Day and Greta Van Fleet more than any other artists.
- Over the past two years, rock is still my favorite genre. I have been streaming bluegrass and alternative artists more frequently,

Recommendations