

GB



ology@github

80s Number One Hits

2018-03-30 BY GENE

Recently I harvested all the number one singles of the 1980s from this [comprehensive Billboard charts database](#).

Naturally, I whipped up some handy perl code (not shown here) to analyze the records and get the following results.

First of all, there are 522 weeks, 155 artists, and 232 songs.

The top number of number one hits by artist is:

...

MICHAEL JACKSON with SIEDAH GARRETT => 1

...

PAUL MCCARTNEY & MICHAEL JACKSON => 1

...

BON JOVI => 4

PRINCE => 4

DARYL HALL & JOHN OATES => 5

GEORGE MICHAEL => 5

PHIL COLLINS => 6

MADONNA => 7

MICHAEL JACKSON => 7

WHITNEY HOUSTON => 7

The top number of weeks spent at number one, by artist is:

```
...
MICHAEL JACKSON with SIEDAH GARRETT => 1
...
PAUL McCARTNEY & MICHAEL JACKSON => 6
...
LIONEL RICHIE => 10
PRINCE => 10
PHIL COLLINS => 11
DARYL HALL & JOHN OATES => 12
WHITNEY HOUSTON => 13
GEORGE MICHAEL => 14
OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN => 14
MADONNA => 15
MICHAEL JACKSON => 21
```

Finally, here are the top weeks spent at number one, by song:

```
...
JOHN LENNON - (Just Like) Starting Over => 5
MICHAEL JACKSON - Rock With You => 5
PRINCE - When Doves Cry => 5
VAN HALEN - Jump => 5
BLONDIE - Call Me => 6
IRENE CARA - Flashdance...What A Feeling => 6
KENNY ROGERS - Lady => 6
MADONNA - Like A Virgin => 6
PAUL McCARTNEY & MICHAEL JACKSON - Say Say Say => 6
SURVIVOR - Eye Of The Tiger => 6
THE J. GEILS BAND - Centerfold => 6
JOAN JETT AND THE BLACKHEARTS - I Love Rock'n'Roll => 7
MICHAEL JACKSON - Billie Jean => 7
PAUL McCARTNEY with STEVIE WONDER - Ebony And Ivory => 7
THE POLICE - Every Breath You Take => 8
DIANA ROSS & LIONEL RICHIE - Endless Love => 9
KIM CARNES - Bette Davis Eyes => 9
OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN - Physical => 10
```

That's right: "Physical" by Olivia Newton-John was the biggest single of the 80s; staying at number one for 10 straight weeks, early in the decade.

But it was *definitely* Michael Jackson's decade for sheer volume of hits (9) and weeks on the charts (28).

FILED UNDER: DATA, MUSIC
TAGGED WITH: BILLBOARD

Epistemologist-at-large

^ Top