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**Clifford Joseph Harris, Jr.** (born September 25, 1980), better known by his [stage names](/wiki/Stage_name) **T.I.** and **Tip** (stylized as **TIP**), is an American [hip hop](/wiki/Hip_hop_music) recording artist and actor from [Atlanta, Georgia](/wiki/Atlanta,_Georgia). He signed his first [major-label](/wiki/Major_record_label) record deal in 1999, with [Arista Records](/wiki/Arista_Records) subsidiary, [LaFace Records](/wiki/LaFace_Records). In 2001, T.I. formed the [Southern hip hop](/wiki/Southern_hip_hop) group [Pimp Squad Click](/wiki/P$C) (P$C), alongside his longtime friends and fellow Atlanta-based [rappers](/wiki/Rapping). Upon being released from Arista, T.I. signed to [Atlantic Records](/wiki/Atlantic_Records) and subsequently became the co-[chief executive officer](/wiki/Chief_executive_officer) (CEO) of his own label imprint, [Grand Hustle Records](/wiki/Grand_Hustle_Records), which he launched in 2003.[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) T.I. is also perhaps best known as one of the artists who popularized the hip hop subgenre [trap music](/wiki/Trap_music), along with [Young Jeezy](/wiki/Young_Jeezy) and [Gucci Mane](/wiki/Gucci_Mane).

T.I. has released nine [studio albums](/wiki/Studio_album), with seven of them reaching the top five of the US [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200) chart. Throughout his career, T.I. has also released several highly successful [singles](/wiki/Single_(music)), including "[Bring Em Out](/wiki/Bring_Em_Out_(song))", "[Whatever You Like](/wiki/Whatever_You_Like)", "[Live Your Life](/wiki/Live_Your_Life_(T.I._song))" (featuring [Rihanna](/wiki/Rihanna)), "[Dead and Gone](/wiki/Dead_and_Gone)" (featuring [Justin Timberlake](/wiki/Justin_Timberlake)), "[Ball](/wiki/Ball_(song))" (featuring [Lil Wayne](/wiki/Lil_Wayne)) and "[No Mediocre](/wiki/No_Mediocre)" (featuring [Iggy Azalea](/wiki/Iggy_Azalea)). He began to gain major recognition in 2003, following his first high-profile feature, on fellow Atlanta-based rapper [Bone Crusher's](/wiki/Bone_Crusher_(rapper)) hit single, "[Never Scared](/wiki/Never_Scared_(song))". He earned more prominence with the release of [*Trap Muzik*](/wiki/Trap_Muzik) (2003), which includes the [Top 40](/wiki/Top_40) hits, "[Rubber Band Man](/wiki/Rubber_Band_Man)" and "[Let's Get Away](/wiki/Let's_Get_Away)". The next year, T.I. appeared on [Destiny's Child's](/wiki/Destiny's_Child) international hit, "[Soldier](/wiki/Soldier_(Destiny's_Child_song))", alongside Lil Wayne. His subsequent albums, [*King*](/wiki/King_(T.I._album)) and [*T.I. vs. T.I.P.*](/wiki/T.I._vs._T.I.P.), generated high record sales and were supported by popular singles, such as "[What You Know](/wiki/What_You_Know)" and "[Big Shit Poppin'](/wiki/Big_Shit_Poppin'_(Do_It))", respectively.

T.I.'s sixth album, [*Paper Trail*](/wiki/Paper_Trail) (2008), became his most successful project, with the album being [certified gold](/wiki/RIAA_certification) for first-week sales of over 500,000 copies in the United States, additionally making it his third consecutive number one album. In 2013, T.I. was featured on [Robin Thicke's](/wiki/Robin_Thicke) hit single "[Blurred Lines](/wiki/Blurred_Lines)", alongside [Pharrell Williams](/wiki/Pharrell_Williams), which peaked at number one on several major music charts. In November 2013, T.I. announced that he had signed with [Columbia Records](/wiki/Columbia_Records), after his 10-year contract with Atlantic came to an end. He released his Columbia Records debut, [*Paperwork*](/wiki/Paperwork_(T.I._album)), in October 2014. In February 2016, T.I. announced he signed a distribution deal with [Roc Nation](/wiki/Roc_Nation), to release his tenth album. T.I. has won three [Grammy Awards](/wiki/Grammy_Awards), namely [Best Rap Solo Performance](/wiki/Best_Rap_Solo_Performance), [Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group](/wiki/Best_Rap_Performance_by_a_Duo_or_Group) and [Best Rap/Sung Collaboration](/wiki/Best_Rap/Sung_Collaboration).

T.I. has served two terms in [county jail](/wiki/County_jail), twice for probation violations and a federal prison bid for a U.S. federal weapons charge. While serving 11 months in prison, he released his seventh studio album, *No Mercy* (2010). T.I. has also had a successful acting career, starring in the films [*ATL*](/wiki/ATL_(film)), [*Takers*](/wiki/Takers), [*Get Hard*](/wiki/Get_Hard), [*Identity Thief*](/wiki/Identity_Thief_(film)), and [*Ant-Man*](/wiki/Ant-Man_(film)). He is also a published author, having written two novels *Power & Beauty* (2011) and *Trouble & Triumph* (2012), both of which were released to moderate success. T.I. has also starred in the American [reality television](/wiki/Reality_television) series [*T.I.'s Road to Redemption*](/wiki/T.I.'s_Road_to_Redemption) and [*T.I. & Tiny: The Family Hustle*](/wiki/T.I._&_Tiny:_The_Family_Hustle). In 2009, [*Billboard*](/wiki/Billboard_(magazine)) ranked him as the 27th Artist of the 2000s decade.[[3]](#cite_note-3)

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## Biography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

### 1980–2000: Early life and career beginnings[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

Clifford Joseph Harris Jr. was born on September 25, 1980, in [Atlanta](/wiki/Atlanta), [Georgia](/wiki/Georgia_(U.S._state)), the son of Clifford "Buddy" Harris, Sr. and Violeta Morgan.[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) He was raised by his grandparents in Atlanta's Center Hill neighborhood just off [Bankhead Highway](/wiki/Bankhead_Highway).[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[7]](#cite_note-7) His father resided in [New York](/wiki/New_York), and he would often go there to visit. Buddy Harris suffered from [Alzheimer's disease](/wiki/Alzheimer's_disease) and died from the disease.[[8]](#cite_note-8) T.I. began [rapping](/wiki/Rapping) at age eight.[[9]](#cite_note-9) He attended [Douglass High School](/wiki/Douglass_High_School_(Georgia)), but later dropped out. As a teenager, he [dealt drugs](/wiki/Illegal_drug_trade).[[10]](#cite_note-10)[[11]](#cite_note-11) By age 14, he had been arrested several times.[[9]](#cite_note-9) His [stage name](/wiki/Stage_name) originally came from his childhood [nickname](/wiki/Nickname) "Tip", after his paternal great-grandfather.[[12]](#cite_note-12) He was once known as Rubber Band Man, a reference to the custom of wearing rubber bands around the wrist to denote wealth in terms of drugs or money.[[13]](#cite_note-13) In 1996, T.I. befriended local rapper [Big Kuntry King](/wiki/Big_Kuntry_King), together they sold [mixtapes](/wiki/Mixtape) out of the trunk of their car. [Kawan "KP" Prather](/wiki/Kawan_%22KP%22_Prather), a record executive, discovered T.I. and then signed him to his record label Ghet-O-Vision Entertainment.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Upon signing with [Arista Records](/wiki/Arista_Records) subsidiary LaFace Records in 1999, he shortened his name from Tip to T.I., out of respect for Arista label-mate [Q-Tip](/wiki/Q-Tip_(rapper)).[[15]](#cite_note-15) T.I. relays the situation as: [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

### 2001–02: ''I'm Serious'' and Atlantic Records deal[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

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T.I. released his debut album, [*I'm Serious*](/wiki/I'm_Serious), in October 2001 through [Arista Records](/wiki/Arista_Records).[[16]](#cite_note-16) The album spawned the eponymous single, which featured [Jamaican](/wiki/Jamaica) [reggae](/wiki/Reggae) artist [Beenie Man](/wiki/Beenie_Man). T.I.'s debut single, "I'm Serious," was released on June 26, 2001. The single received little airplay and failed to chart. The album features [guest appearances](/wiki/Guest_appearance) from his [Southern hip hop](/wiki/Southern_hip_hop) group [P$C](/wiki/P$C), [Jazze Pha](/wiki/Jazze_Pha), [Too Short](/wiki/Too_Short), [Bone Crusher](/wiki/Bone_Crusher_(rapper)), [Lil Jon](/wiki/Lil_Jon), [Pastor Troy](/wiki/Pastor_Troy) and [YoungBloodZ](/wiki/YoungBloodZ), as well as [Pharrell Williams](/wiki/Pharrell_Williams) of American record production team [The Neptunes](/wiki/The_Neptunes) (who called him "the [Jay-Z](/wiki/Jay-Z) of the South"),.[[17]](#cite_note-17) The [production](/wiki/Hip_hop_production) for *I'm Serious*, was handled by The Neptunes, [DJ Toomp](/wiki/DJ_Toomp), Madvac and The Grand Hustle Team. Despite the album's guests appearances and production team, the album peaked at number 98 and only sold 163,000 copies in the United States.[[18]](#cite_note-18) Critics pointed to the fact that many of the tracks sounded the same and that a few were blatant rip-offs.[[19]](#cite_note-19) Other critics commented saying, "T.I. claims to be the king of the South, but fails to show and prove. He does, however, have potential. If his talent ever matches his confidence, he may be headed for stardom."[[20]](#cite_note-20) Due to the poor commercial reception of the album, T.I. was dropped from [Arista Records](/wiki/Arista_Records).[[16]](#cite_note-16) He then formed [Grand Hustle Entertainment](/wiki/Grand_Hustle_Records) and began releasing several [mixtapes](/wiki/Mixtapes) with the assistance of [DJ Drama](/wiki/DJ_Drama).[[16]](#cite_note-16) He resurfaced in the summer of 2003, appearing on fellow Atlanta-based rapper and former label-mate [Bone Crusher's](/wiki/Bone_Crusher_(rapper)) hit single, "[Never Scared](/wiki/Never_Scared)." His mixtapes and mainstream exposure from "Never Scared", eventually recaptured major label attention and T.I. signed a [joint venture](/wiki/Joint_venture) deal with [Atlantic Records](/wiki/Atlantic_Records).[[21]](#cite_note-21)[[22]](#cite_note-22)

### 2003–05: ''Trap Muzik'' and ''Urban Legend''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|175px|right|Mug shot of T.I.](/wiki/File:T.I._mug_shot.jpg) T.I. released his second album [*Trap Muzik*](/wiki/Trap_Muzik) on August 19, 2003 through [Grand Hustle Records](/wiki/Grand_Hustle_Records); it debuted at number four and sold 109,000 copies in its first week.[[23]](#cite_note-23) It spawned the singles "[24s](/wiki/24's)", "[Be Easy](/wiki/Be_Easy_(T.I._Song))", "[Rubberband Man](/wiki/Rubberband_Man)" and "[Let's Get Away](/wiki/Let's_Get_Away)". The album features guest appearances from [8Ball & MJG](/wiki/8Ball_&_MJG), [Jazze Pha](/wiki/Jazze_Pha), [Bun B](/wiki/Bun_B) and [Mac Boney](/wiki/Mac_Boney); and was produced by Jazze Pha, [Kanye West](/wiki/Kanye_West), [David Banner](/wiki/David_Banner), Madvac and [DJ Toomp](/wiki/DJ_Toomp). Upon its release, *Trap Muzik* received generally favorable reviews from most music critics, who generally regarded it as a major improvement over his debut album, [*I'm Serious*](/wiki/I'm_Serious). This included [*Complex*](/wiki/Complex_(magazine)) naming the album one of the classic albums of the last decade in 2012.[[24]](#cite_note-24) on February 20, 2013 allhiphop.com placed it as #5 as the best southern [hip-hop](/wiki/Hip-hop) album of all time. In March 2004, a [warrant](/wiki/Warrant_(law)) was issued for T.I.'s arrest after he violated his [probation](/wiki/Probation) of a 1997 drug conviction.[[25]](#cite_note-25) He was sentenced to three years in [prison](/wiki/Prison).[[26]](#cite_note-26) While imprisoned in [Cobb County, Georgia](/wiki/Cobb_County,_Georgia), he filmed an unauthorized [music video](/wiki/Music_video).[[27]](#cite_note-27) One month later, he was allowed a [work release](/wiki/Work_release) program.[[28]](#cite_note-28) T.I. was on probation stemming from a 1998 [conviction](/wiki/Conviction) for violating a state controlled substances act and for giving false information. After being released on [probation](/wiki/Probation), he earned a litany of probation violations in several counties around Georgia for offenses ranging from possession of a [firearm](/wiki/Firearm) to possession of [marijuana](/wiki/Cannabis_(drug)).[[26]](#cite_note-26) In 2006, after appearing in an Atlanta court on (May 10) and having charges that he threatened a man outside a strip club last year dropped for lack of evidence, T.I. was arrested on an outstanding probation violation warrant from Florida. The warrant claimed that T.I. did not complete the required number of community service hours he was sentenced for a 2003 battery of a female sheriff deputy at University Mall in [Tampa](/wiki/Tampa,_Florida). T.I. was detained by several mall Security Guards at the time of the incident. According to [WSB-TV](/wiki/WSB-TV) Atlanta, the rapper's attorney said that the problem was nothing more than a "technical matter" between [Georgia](/wiki/Georgia_(U.S._state)) and [Florida](/wiki/Florida). The confusion arose because T.I. was also sentenced to community service in Georgia for driving with a suspended license, for which he did complete 75 hours of community service in his home state. The rapper was released on bail shortly after being arrested, and was expected to surrender to Florida state authorities the following week to resolve the matter.[[29]](#cite_note-29) T.I. released his third studio album, [*Urban Legend*](/wiki/Urban_Legend_(album)), in November 2004. It debuted at number seven on the US *Billboard* 200, selling 193,000 copies in its first week.[[23]](#cite_note-23) The album's [lead single](/wiki/Lead_single), "[Bring Em Out](/wiki/Bring_Em_Out_(song))", which was produced by [Swizz Beatz](/wiki/Swizz_Beatz), was released in January 2005 and became T.I.'s first top ten hit, peaking at number nine on the US [*Billboard* Hot 100](/wiki/Billboard_Hot_100), while the second single "[U Don't Know Me](/wiki/U_Don't_Know_Me_(T.I._song))" peaked at number twenty-three on the US *Billboard* Hot 100. His third single "[ASAP](/wiki/ASAP_(T.I._song))" reached number 75 on the US charts,[[30]](#cite_note-30) number 18 on the US R&B/Hip-Hop charts[[30]](#cite_note-30) and number 14 on the Rap chart.[[30]](#cite_note-30) T.I. filmed a dual music video for "ASAP" and "Motivation". However, "Motivation" only made it to number 62 on the US R&B/Hip-Hop singles chart.[[30]](#cite_note-30) In 2004, T.I. was featured on [Destiny's Child's](/wiki/Destiny's_Child) hit single "[Soldier](/wiki/Soldier_(Destiny's_Child_song))", alongside [New Orleans](/wiki/New_Orleans)-bred rapper [Lil Wayne](/wiki/Lil_Wayne), which peaked at number three on the Hot 100 chart.[[31]](#cite_note-31) In 2006, T.I. received two [Grammy Award](/wiki/Grammy_Award) nominations for [Best Song Collaboration](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Rap/Sung_Collaboration) ("Soldier" w/ [Destiny's Child](/wiki/Destiny's_Child) & Lil Wayne) and [Best Rap Solo Performance](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Rap_Solo_Performance) for "U Don't Know Me" at the [48th Grammy Awards](/wiki/48th_Grammy_Awards) ceremony. That same year he won Rap Artist of the Year, Rap Album Of The Year, Rap Album Artist Of The Year, Rap Song Artist of the Year and Video Clip Artist of the Year on the [Billboard Music Award](/wiki/Billboard_Music_Award) and Best Male Hip-Hop Artist on the [BET Awards](/wiki/BET_Awards).

### 2006: ''King'' and ''ATL''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|T.I. at the](/wiki/File:T.I._by_Carla.jpg) [Summer Jam](/wiki/Summer_Jam) concert in [Pittsburgh](/wiki/Pittsburgh), [Pennsylvania](/wiki/Pennsylvania) on July 23, 2006. T.I.'s fourth album, [*King*](/wiki/King_(T.I._album)), debuted at number one on the [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200) chart in the first half of 2006, selling 522,000 copies in its first week.[[32]](#cite_note-32) T.I. released "[Front Back](/wiki/Front_Back)" and "Ride with Me" as [promotional singles](/wiki/Promotional_recording) prior to the release of the album. The singles garnered little attention. The album's lead single "[What You Know](/wiki/What_You_Know)," became a [hit](/wiki/Hit_single) in the U.S. and helped promote not only the album, but also [*ATL*](/wiki/ATL_(film))*,* the film T.I. starred in that coincided with the album's release. The album also spawned the singles, "[Why You Wanna](/wiki/Why_You_Wanna)," "[Live in the Sky](/wiki/Live_in_the_Sky)," and a [remix](/wiki/Remix) of "[Top Back](/wiki/Top_Back)," which was also included on the Grand Hustle [compilation album](/wiki/Compilation_album) [*Grand Hustle Presents: In da Streetz Volume 4*](/wiki/Grand_Hustle_Presents:_In_da_Streetz_Volume_4)*.* *King* earned numerous awards and nominations including a Grammy Award nomination for [Best Rap Album](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Rap_Album). He was also featured on newly signed Grand Hustle artist [Young Dro's](/wiki/Young_Dro) debut single "[Shoulder Lean](/wiki/Shoulder_Lean)", which reached the top ten on the U.S. Hot 100 and #1 on the U.S. [Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs](/wiki/Hot_R&B/Hip-Hop_Songs) and [Hot Rap Tracks](/wiki/Hot_Rap_Tracks).

"What You Know" won a [Grammy Award for Best Rap Solo Performance](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Rap_Solo_Performance) and was nominated for [Best Rap Song](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Rap_Song) at the [49th Grammy Awards](/wiki/49th_Grammy_Awards).[[33]](#cite_note-33) Also that year, T.I. collaborated with [Justin Timberlake](/wiki/Justin_Timberlake) for "[My Love](/wiki/My_Love_(Justin_Timberlake_song))," which proved to be a worldwide hit, and won a [Grammy Award for Best Rap/Sung Collaboration](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Rap/Sung_Collaboration) with Timberlake at the 49th Annual Grammy Awards[[33]](#cite_note-33) and also won Best Male Hip-Hop Artist at the BET Awards for the second straight time. He then served as a featured performer on "[We Takin' Over](/wiki/We_Takin'_Over)" by [DJ Khaled](/wiki/DJ_Khaled) also featuring [Akon](/wiki/Akon), [Fat Joe](/wiki/Fat_Joe), [Rick Ross](/wiki/Rick_Ross), [Birdman](/wiki/Birdman_(rapper)) and [Lil Wayne](/wiki/Lil_Wayne).

### 2007: ''T.I. vs. T.I.P.'' and federal weapons charges[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

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T.I. released his fifth album, [*T.I. vs. T.I.P.*](/wiki/T.I._vs._T.I.P.), on July 3, 2007. The lead single from the album was "[Big Shit Poppin' (Do It)](/wiki/Big_Shit_Poppin'_(Do_It))," which was produced by [Mannie Fresh](/wiki/Mannie_Fresh) and was released to radio stations on April 17, 2007. The second single, "[You Know What It Is](/wiki/You_Know_What_It_Is)" featuring [Wyclef Jean](/wiki/Wyclef_Jean), was released June 12, 2007. *T.I. vs. T.I.P.* sold 468,000 copies in the United States, according to [Nielsen SoundScan](/wiki/Nielsen_SoundScan), and debuted at number one on the [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200) and the Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart. It was T.I.'s second chart-topper in a row: [*King*](/wiki/King_(T.I._album)) opened at number one on the Billboard 200 with 522,000 copies in late March 2006.[[34]](#cite_note-34) The album included guest performances from [Jay-Z](/wiki/Jay-Z), [Busta Rhymes](/wiki/Busta_Rhymes), Wyclef Jean, [Nelly](/wiki/Nelly), and [Eminem](/wiki/Eminem), and production by Eminem, [Jeff Bass](/wiki/Bass_Brothers), Mannie Fresh, [Grand Hustle](/wiki/Grand_Hustle_Records#DJs_and_producers), [The Runners](/wiki/The_Runners), [Just Blaze](/wiki/Just_Blaze), Wyclef Jean and [Danja](/wiki/Danja_(musician)). Absent from this album's production lineup was T.I.'s longtime producer DJ Toomp and The Neptunes. In October 2007, T.I. released his third single, "[Hurt](/wiki/Hurt_(T.I._song))," featuring Busta Rhymes and [Alfamega](/wiki/Alfamega).

On October 13, 2007, federal authorities arrested T.I. four hours before the [BET Hip-Hop Awards](/wiki/BET_Awards) in Atlanta.[[35]](#cite_note-35) He was charged with two felonies — [possession of three unregistered machine guns and two silencers](/wiki/National_Firearms_Act), and [possession of firearms by a convicted felon](/wiki/Gun_Control_Act). The arrest was made in the parking lot of a downtown shopping center, which a witness identified as the [Walgreens](/wiki/Walgreens) drug store at the corner of North and Piedmont Avenues. T.I. was arrested after allegedly trying to purchase the guns from a "cooperating witness" with the [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives](/wiki/Bureau_of_Alcohol,_Tobacco,_Firearms_and_Explosives). According to federal officials, the witness had been cooperating with authorities a few days prior to the T.I. arrest, when the cooperating witness was arrested on charges of trying to [purchase guns from a federal agent](/wiki/Straw_purchase). The witness had been working as T.I.'s bodyguard since July, authorities said.[[36]](#cite_note-36)[[37]](#cite_note-37)T.I. walked out of the Atlanta United States District Court after appearing before U.S. Magistrate Judge Alan J. Baverman on October 26, 2007. Judge Alan J. Baverman required T.I. post a $3 million bond, $2 million in cash and $1 million in equity on property he owns. The rapper was required to remain at home except for medical appointments and court appearances. The only people allowed to live with him were his girlfriend and children. Visitors were required to be approved by the court.

### 2008–09: ''Paper Trail'' and prison sentence[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) T.I.'s [suppression hearing](/wiki/Exclusionary_rule) was scheduled for February 19, 2008. The performer later pleaded guilty to U.S. federal weapons charges. He was sentenced to an undefined prison sentence, a year of [house arrest](/wiki/House_arrest) and 1,500 hours of [community service](/wiki/Community_service). In an interview with [MTV](/wiki/MTV) about serving prison time, T.I. stated, "Presumably, while I'm there, I'll be able to strategize my comeback." He went on to say that he would not "just be sitting still doing nothing".[[38]](#cite_note-38) At that time T.I. collaborated with [Mariah Carey](/wiki/Mariah_Carey) on the "[I'll Be Lovin' U Long Time](/wiki/I'll_Be_Lovin'_U_Long_Time)" remix, peaking at number 58 on the U.S. Hot 100 and number 36 on the [Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs](/wiki/Hot_R&B/Hip-Hop_Songs).

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While under [house arrest](/wiki/House_arrest), T.I. began writing lyrics down on paper for his following album.[[39]](#cite_note-39) The first [promotional single](/wiki/Promotional_recording) from the album, "[No Matter What](/wiki/No_Matter_What_(T.I._song))," was released in April 2008. The music video was released on June 2008 on MTV's [FN Premieres](/wiki/FNMTV). The second promotional single was "[Swing Ya Rag](/wiki/Swing_Ya_Rag)" which featured vocals and production from [Swizz Beatz](/wiki/Swizz_Beatz).[[40]](#cite_note-40) The official [lead single](/wiki/Lead_single) was "[Whatever You Like](/wiki/Whatever_You_Like)," released in July 2008, and became his most successful single of his career so far, breaking the record for the highest jump to number one on the *Billboard* Hot 100, jumping from number 71 to number one and also becoming T.I.'s first solo number one on the chart. T.I. released his sixth album, [*Paper Trail*](/wiki/Paper_Trail), in September 2008. The title of the album refers to the lyrics he had written down on paper. Like many other rappers, T.I. abandoned this style of rapping after his debut album [*I'm Serious*](/wiki/I'm_Serious) by just memorizing lyrics. His representative explained that T.I. wanted to "take more time to really put something down [this time]".[[41]](#cite_note-41) The album debuted at number one on the [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200) selling 568,000 copies in the United States.[[42]](#cite_note-42) The second single from the album, "[Swagga Like Us](/wiki/Swagga_Like_Us)", featuring [Kanye West](/wiki/Kanye_West), [Jay-Z](/wiki/Jay-Z) and [Lil Wayne](/wiki/Lil_Wayne), debuted and peaked at number five on the *Billboard* Hot 100. With the third single "[Live Your Life](/wiki/Live_Your_Life_(T.I._song))" featuring [Rihanna](/wiki/Rihanna), T.I. broke his own record on the *Billboard* Hot 100 when it jumped from number 80 to the number one.[[42]](#cite_note-42) The fourth single "[Dead and Gone](/wiki/Dead_and_Gone)", featuring [Justin Timberlake](/wiki/Justin_Timberlake), peaked at number two for five weeks on the *Billboard* Hot 100, eventually going on to be nominated during the [52nd Grammy Awards](/wiki/52nd_Grammy_Awards) for both "Best Rap/Sung Collaboration" and "Best Rap Song". During the [51st Grammy Awards](/wiki/51st_Grammy_Awards), he was nominated for four Grammy Awards, eventually winning Best Rap Performance by a Duo Or a Group for "[Swagga Like Us](/wiki/Swagga_Like_Us)". "[Remember Me](/wiki/Remember_Me_(T.I._song))", featuring [Mary J. Blige](/wiki/Mary_J._Blige), was released digitally on July 7, 2009. It was the planned first single from the re-release of T.I.'s sixth studio album, "Paper Trail", but the re-release was eventually shelved. The single peaked at number 29 on the *Billboard* Hot 100. On October 6, "[Hell of a Life](/wiki/Hell_of_a_Life)" was released digitally and went on to peak at number 54 on the *Billboard* Hot 100. In 2009, T.I. appeared as himself on an episode of [*Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List*](/wiki/Kathy_Griffin:_My_Life_on_the_D-List). On the episode, he took the comedian to [Roscoe's House of Chicken and Waffles](/wiki/Roscoe's_House_of_Chicken_and_Waffles) in LA and gave her a lesson on how to "swagger."[[43]](#cite_note-43) [thumb|200px|right|T.I. in 2009.](/wiki/File:T.I._at_Bumbershoot.jpg) On November 21, 2008, T.I. testified in the murder trial of a member of his entourage and a close friend, Philant Johnson (1980–2006), who was murdered in a shooting that occurred after a post-concert party at a club in Cincinnati. T.I. has dedicated several songs to Johnson, from the single version of "[Live in the Sky](/wiki/Live_in_the_Sky)" to his more recent hit "[Dead and Gone](/wiki/Dead_and_Gone)" where Johnson's grave can be seen in the video.[[44]](#cite_note-44) On March 27, 2009, U.S. District Judge [Charles A. Pannell, Jr.](/wiki/Charles_A._Pannell,_Jr.) sentenced T.I. to one year and one day in prison and ordered to pay $100,300 for federal weapons charges; T.I. had his sentence reduced from a maximum 10 years and a $250,000 fine with a [plea bargain](/wiki/Plea_bargain).[[45]](#cite_note-45)[[46]](#cite_note-46) On May 26, 2009, T.I. began serving his [sentence](/wiki/Sentence_(law)) in [Forrest City, Arkansas](/wiki/Forrest_City,_Arkansas).[[47]](#cite_note-47) Two days prior to being imprisoned, T.I. performed a farewell concert at the [Philips Arena](/wiki/Philips_Arena) in [Atlanta](/wiki/Atlanta), [Georgia](/wiki/Georgia_(U.S._state)).[[48]](#cite_note-48) T.I. was released from FCC Forrest City on December 22, 2009[[49]](#cite_note-49) and was moved into a [halfway house](/wiki/Halfway_house) in [Atlanta](/wiki/Atlanta).[[50]](#cite_note-50) T.I. had the [Federal Bureau of Prisons](/wiki/Federal_Bureau_of_Prisons) ID 59458-019 and was released from CCM Atlanta on March 26, 2010.[[51]](#cite_note-51) After his release from prison, he was subjected to an [audit](/wiki/Audit) of his finances, drug counseling, [DNA testing](/wiki/DNA_profiling), and random searches of his property.[[52]](#cite_note-52)

### 2010–11: ''No Mercy'' and drug charges[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) On March 26, 2010, T.I. was released from the [halfway house](/wiki/Halfway_house).[[53]](#cite_note-53) Soon after his release he was in the studio working on his seventh studio album titled *King Uncaged*.[[54]](#cite_note-54) [Jim Jonsin](/wiki/Jim_Jonsin), the producer who previously worked with him on his single, ["Whatever You Like"](/wiki/Whatever_You_Like_(T.I._song)) and R&B singer [Trey Songz](/wiki/Trey_Songz), were scheduled to work on the project.

T.I. made his first public appearance since prison, stepping out with then fiancée [Tameka "Tiny" Cottle](/wiki/Tameka_Cottle) in support of her [Alzheimer's](/wiki/Alzheimer) research fundraiser "For the Love of Our Fathers" at Atlanta's Opera venue. "I am very well, very happy to be seen," said T.I., who joined Cottle onstage at the end of the benefit.[[55]](#cite_note-55) T.I. released a new promotional single titled "[I'm Back](/wiki/I'm_Back_(song))" on March 8, 2010.[[56]](#cite_note-56) The single peaked at #44 on Billboard's Hot 100 charts.[[57]](#cite_note-57) Around this time, he made a featured guest appearance on [Diddy-Dirty Money's](/wiki/Diddy-Dirty_Money) single "[Hello Good Morning](/wiki/Hello_Good_Morning)", the single peaked at #27 in US and charted internationally in eight other countries.[[58]](#cite_note-58) He also made a guest appearance on [Larry King Live](/wiki/Larry_King_Live) on May 13, to discuss with [Larry King](/wiki/Larry_King) about his nine-month prison term on federal gun charges and other topics.[[59]](#cite_note-59) T.I. released a promotional [soundtrack](/wiki/Soundtrack) single entitled, "[Yeah Ya Know (Takers)](/wiki/Yeah_Ya_Know_(Takers))" on May 24.[[60]](#cite_note-60) It peaked at number forty-four on Billboard Hot 100 and number sixty-eight on Canadian Hot 100.[[57]](#cite_note-57) T.I. released another promotional single entitled; "[Got Your Back](/wiki/Got_Your_Back)" which featured American [R&B](/wiki/Contemporary_R&B) singer [Keri Hilson](/wiki/Keri_Hilson) and peaked at number thirty-eight in the US.[[57]](#cite_note-57) Later, T.I. made more featured single appearances such as Jamie Foxx's single "[Winner](/wiki/Winner_(Jamie_Foxx_song))" also featuring Justin Timberlake and [Drake's](/wiki/Drake_(entertainer)) single "[Fancy](/wiki/Fancy_(Drake_song))" also featuring Swizz Beatz. Both singles made charted on the Billboard charts peaking at the top 50.

Prior to the album's release T.I. decided to release a [mixtape](/wiki/Mixtape) titled *Fuck a Mixtape*; the move was somewhat controversial due to its title, with many feeling he was insulting the Mixtape format. T.I. has addressed the issue by stating that it was a response to all the people who told him to just focus on an album and not on a mixtape. T.I. further defended his decision to release a mixtape by saying: "I already have 60, 70 songs. A lot of these songs are period pieces that speak volumes to what's going on right now. If I hold onto them next year or the year after, they'll be dated, because my life will be in another direction. If I'm not gonna put it on the album — and they all can't make the album — then they might as well have another platform to present it to the world".[[61]](#cite_note-61) On September 1, T.I. and his wife [Tiny](/wiki/Tameka_Cottle) were arrested on drug charges in [Los Angeles](/wiki/Los_Angeles).[[62]](#cite_note-62) The arrest for drug charges led to T.I. being sentenced on October 15, 2010 to 11 months in prison for violating the terms of his probation, specifically for possessing ecstasy, testing positive for opiates and associating with a convicted felon, namely his [P$C](/wiki/P$C) cohort [C-Rod](/wiki/C-Rod).[[63]](#cite_note-63) On October 25, the drug charges against T.I. were dropped.[[64]](#cite_note-64) Following his arrest, T.I. scrapped *King Uncaged* as the title for his seventh studio album and renamed it [*No Mercy*](/wiki/No_Mercy_(T.I._album)), due to his new prison sentencing. He then released the lead single from the newly titled album, "[Get Back Up](/wiki/Get_Back_Up_(T.I._song))" featuring Chris Brown, on the same day that he was sentenced back to prison for violating the terms of his probation.[[65]](#cite_note-65) "Get Back Up" peaked at number seventy in the US.[[57]](#cite_note-57) On November 1, T.I. reported back to the Forrest City Federal Facility to serve his 11-month sentence.[[66]](#cite_note-66) His date of release was set to be September 29, 2011.[[51]](#cite_note-51) *No Mercy* was released on December 7, 2010. The album peaked at number four in the US and it sold over 159,000 copies in its first week.[[67]](#cite_note-67) RIAA certified *No Mercy* Gold with over 500,000 copies sold. His second and final single from the album was "[That's All She Wrote](/wiki/That's_All_She_Wrote)" his second collaboration with [Eminem](/wiki/Eminem), and was released on December 19, peaking at number eighteen in the US.[[57]](#cite_note-57) T.I. was nominated for two Grammy Awards for [Best Rap Solo Performance](/wiki/Best_Rap_Solo_Performance) for "I'm Back" and [Grammy Award for Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Rap_Performance_by_a_Duo_or_Group) (Fancy with Drake and Swizz Beatz) at the [53rd Grammy Awards](/wiki/53rd_Grammy_Awards). He was also nominated for a [Soul Train Music Award](/wiki/Soul_Train_Music_Award) for Best Hip Hop Song of the Year for "Got Your Back" and he earned three [BET Hip Hop Awards](/wiki/BET_Hip_Hop_Awards) nominations for Hustler of the Year, Made You Look Award, and Best Club Banger for "Hello Good Morning".

In early June 2011, T.I. said in a letter: "I'll be releasing a record in the near future (couple of weeks tops) to hold y'all over til I get back in action." On June 30, 2011, a new song was released onto T.I.'s official website and on his official [YouTube](/wiki/YouTube) channel – titled "We Don't Get Down Like Y'all", which features fellow [Grand Hustle](/wiki/Grand_Hustle) rapper [B.o.B](/wiki/B.o.B) on the hook. While commenting on the song, T.I. said in another letter; "It's a song that I did soon after my release last time. What inspired me to write this record was the differences in how we do us and how they do them suddenly became incredibly evident in just a very short period of time." It was originally only available on [Atlantic Records's](/wiki/Atlantic_Records) online store.[[68]](#cite_note-68)[[69]](#cite_note-69)[[70]](#cite_note-70) The song was available on iTunes and other vendors, such as Spotify on August 9 and it peaked at number seventy-eight in the US.

On August 31, T.I. was released from Forrest City Correctional Facility in Arkansas at 7:29 a.m. and was sent to a community living facility to serve out the rest of his 11-month prison sentence. He then released a statement on Twitter saying: "The storm is over & da sun back out. IT'S OUR TIME TO SHINE SHAWTY!!!!! Welcome to the beginning of our Happy Ending!!!!"[[71]](#cite_note-71) T.I. inked a deal with [VH1](/wiki/VH1) for a new [reality show](/wiki/Reality_show) that will follow him as he re-adjusts to life as a free man after the incarceration and he also announced he working on a novel entitled, *Power & Beauty* which was set to be released in October.[[72]](#cite_note-72) He was sent back to federal custody on September 1, less than 48 hours after his release due to a dispute involving T.I. taking a luxury bus from a prison in Arkansas to a halfway house facility in Atlanta. T.I.'s attorney, Steve Sadow, told the [Associated Press](/wiki/Associated_Press) that the [Federal Bureau of Prisons](/wiki/Federal_Bureau_of_Prisons) has moved T.I. to a different facility and clarified that the dispute was not drug related.[[73]](#cite_note-73) T.I. was later released from prison and was sent back to the halfway house, where he was released on September 29, at midnight.[[74]](#cite_note-74)

### 2011–13: ''Trouble Man: Heavy Is the Head''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

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On September 30, 2011, T.I. released "[I'm Flexin'](/wiki/I'm_Flexin')", the first promotional single from his upcoming eighth studio album. The song features vocals and production from [Big K.R.I.T.](/wiki/Big_K.R.I.T.) T.I. reunited with [Young Jeezy](/wiki/Young_Jeezy) on "[F.A.M.E.](/wiki/F.A.M.E._(song))" for Jeezy's album [*TM103*](/wiki/TM103).[[75]](#cite_note-75)[[76]](#cite_note-76) "I'm Flexin" peaked at number sixty-six on Billboard Hot 100, while "F.A.M.E." peaked at number sixty-seven on Billboard Hip Hop/R&B. On October 18, T.I. made appearances on [The Howard Stern Show](/wiki/The_Howard_Stern_Show) and [The View](/wiki/The_View_(U.S._TV_series)) to promote his new novel, *Power & Beauty: A Love Story of Life on the Streets* and discuss other issues involving his time in prison. Later that day, he released the second promotional single, "[Here Ye, Hear Ye](/wiki/Here_Ye,_Hear_Ye)" featuring [Pharrell Williams](/wiki/Pharrell_Williams) under the alias *Sk8brd*.[[77]](#cite_note-77)[[78]](#cite_note-78)[[79]](#cite_note-79) After his release from prison, T.I. appeared on several [remixes](/wiki/Remix) including; "Spend It" by [2 Chainz](/wiki/2_Chainz), "[Sleazy](/wiki/Sleazy_(Kesha_song))" by [Kesha](/wiki/Kesha), "[Niggas in Paris](/wiki/Niggas_in_Paris)" with [Jay-Z](/wiki/Jay-Z) and [Kanye West](/wiki/Kanye_West), "[Hard White (Up in the Club)](/wiki/Hard_White_(Up_in_the_Club))" by [Yelawolf](/wiki/Yelawolf) also featuring [Slaughterhouse](/wiki/Slaughterhouse_(group)), "[Ima Boss](/wiki/Ima_Boss)" by [Meek Mill](/wiki/Meek_Mill) alongside a freestyle over [Drake's](/wiki/Drake_(entertainer)) "[Headlines](/wiki/Headlines_(Drake_song))", and [Lil Wayne's](/wiki/Lil_Wayne) "[She Will](/wiki/She_Will)". He was also featured on southern rapper [Future's](/wiki/Future_(rapper)) second single "Magic", taken from his debut studio album [*Pluto*](/wiki/Pluto_(Future_album)), which was the first song he hopped on after his release from prison according to Future.

T.I. revealed the title of his eighth studio album to be [*Trouble Man*](/wiki/Trouble_Man_(T.I._album)). The title was partly inspired by [Marvin Gaye's](/wiki/Marvin_Gaye) [1972 song of the same name](/wiki/Trouble_Man_(Marvin_Gaye_song)), he revealed on [*Billboard*](/wiki/Billboard_(magazine)). In a previous interview with [*Rolling Stone*](/wiki/Rolling_Stone_(magazine)); he said he was debating between two titles, *Trouble Man* and *Kill the King*. The third promotional single "Pyro", was released on November 21.[[80]](#cite_note-80) On December 5, his new reality show "[T.I. and Tiny: The Family Hustle](/wiki/T.I._and_Tiny:_The_Family_Hustle)" premiered on [Vh1](/wiki/Vh1) at 9p after the first full episodes were [leaked](/wiki/Internet_leak) onto the internet.[[81]](#cite_note-81) In preparation for the album, T.I. released a mixtape entitled, *Fuck da City Up* on New Year's Day. Two songs off the mixtape charted on the *Billboard* [Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs](/wiki/Hot_R&B/Hip-Hop_Songs), "Popped Off", featuring vocals and production from [Dr. Dre](/wiki/Dr._Dre) and "This Time of Night" featuring [Nelly](/wiki/Nelly), respectively.[[82]](#cite_note-82) While on set for the "[Strange Clouds](/wiki/Strange_Clouds_(song))" music video, [MTV](/wiki/MTV) interviewed [B.o.B](/wiki/B.o.B) and confronted him of a rumor that he and T.I. are working on a collaborative album. B.o.B responded: "The joint album, it actually started as a joke. Tip would always refer to me as 'the Martian', and in one of his lyrics, he said, 'It's the man and the Martian,' and we said, 'Man that could be an album title.' We kinda just played around with it. But it seems to be taking form in a very organic way."[[83]](#cite_note-83) On December 1, 2011, B.o.B appeared on [New York City's](/wiki/New_York_City) [Hot 97](/wiki/WQHT) radio station and confirmed that he and T.I. are indeed working on a collaborative album titled *The Man and the Martian*.[[84]](#cite_note-84)[[85]](#cite_note-85) On March 1, 2012, T.I. announced he signed [Iggy Azalea](/wiki/Iggy_Azalea), [Chipmunk](/wiki/Chipmunk_(rapper)) and [Trae Tha Truth](/wiki/Trae_Tha_Truth) to [Grand Hustle Records](/wiki/Grand_Hustle_Records).[[86]](#cite_note-86)[[87]](#cite_note-87) He was [executive producer](/wiki/Executive_producer) on Azalea's debut [extended play](/wiki/Extended_play) [*Glory*](/wiki/Glory_(EP)) and was featured on her debut single "Murda Bizness", which premiered March 26, 2012.[[88]](#cite_note-88) On March 30, T.I. released a [snippet](/wiki/Wikt:snippet) of "[Love This Life](/wiki/Love_This_Life)", *Trouble Man****s promotional single, produced by Mars of 1500 or Nothin'. The song was officially released on April 2, where the song peaked at number eight-one in the US.***[***[89]***](#cite_note-89) T.I. joined singer [Sean Kingston](/wiki/Sean_Kingston) for his new single "[Back 2 Life (Live It Up)](/wiki/Back_2_Life_(Live_It_Up))". He shot the video for the track, which also sampled [Soul II Soul's](/wiki/Soul_II_Soul) 1989 chart-topping hit "[Back to Life (However Do You Want Me)](/wiki/Back_to_Life_(However_Do_You_Want_Me))".[[90]](#cite_note-90) The song peaked at number fifty-two in Canada. During his visit to [Angie Martinez's](/wiki/Angie_Martinez) radio show, he revealed that the album will be released on September 4. He recorded collaborations with [Trey Songz](/wiki/Trey_Songz) and [Usher](/wiki/Usher_(singer)). *"It's just a dope, dope collabo". "Usher and Tip, two Atlanta natives,"* [Rico Love](/wiki/Rico_Love) told Rap-Up.com. *"This time I finally feel like they got a record that's gonna be a humongous hit."* T.I.'s [VH1](/wiki/VH1) [reality show](/wiki/Reality_show) [*T.I. and Tiny: The Family Hustle*](/wiki/T.I._and_Tiny:_The_Family_Hustle) was renewed for a second season, which aired on September 3.[[91]](#cite_note-91) T.I. released another promotional song off *Trouble Man* on May 15, entitled "Like That".[[92]](#cite_note-92) T.I. appeared on Trey Songz's second single off his album [*Chapter V*](/wiki/Chapter_V_(Trey_Songz_album)) titled "[2 Reasons](/wiki/2_Reasons)".[[93]](#cite_note-93) The song peaked at number forty-three in the US. Another promotional single off *Trouble Man*, entitled "[Go Get It](/wiki/Go_Get_It)" was released on July 17. The song peaked at number seventy-seven and number eighty-six in Canada.

In September, T.I. appeared on [*106 & Park*](/wiki/106_&_Park) to promote his book "Trouble & Triumph", a sequel to his previous novel "Power & Beauty". During his visit, he announced a new release date for his album set for December 18. He revealed that the album will feature collaborations from Pharrell, [André 3000](/wiki/André_3000), [CeeLo Green](/wiki/CeeLo_Green), [R. Kelly](/wiki/R._Kelly), Lil Wayne, and [ASAP Rocky](/wiki/ASAP_Rocky). He also stated that he's working on a women's clothing line from [A.K.O.O.](/wiki/A.K.O.O_Clothing) He later released a new song "Trap Back Jumpin'", which he premiered during his visit on Angie Martinez's radio show.[[94]](#cite_note-94)[[95]](#cite_note-95) On October 9, 2012, T.I. was featured on the annual [BET Hip Hop Awards](/wiki/BET_Hip_Hop_Awards) cypher, alongside his Grand Hustle artists [Iggy Azalea](/wiki/Iggy_Azalea), [B.o.B](/wiki/B.o.B), [Chip](/wiki/Chip_(rapper)) and [Trae tha Truth](/wiki/Trae_tha_Truth).[[96]](#cite_note-96) A song titled "[Ball](/wiki/Ball)", was released on October 16, as the [lead single](/wiki/Lead_single) from his upcoming eighth studio album. The song featured fellow American [rapper](/wiki/Rapper) [Lil Wayne](/wiki/Lil_Wayne) and was [produced](/wiki/Hip_hop_production) by American [record producer](/wiki/Record_producer) [Rico Love](/wiki/Rico_Love), alongside Earl & E.<ref name=RicoLoveInterview>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The song peaked at number fifty in the US and number fifty-eight in the Canada. On October 23, he previewed twelve tracks from the album at its listening party in [New York City](/wiki/New_York_City), and also revealed their titles. The tracks previewed feature artists such as [Kendrick Lamar](/wiki/Kendrick_Lamar).<ref name=TITracksPreview>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

In the following month, T.I. leaked the illustrated cover art from his newly named album entitled, [*Trouble Man: Heavy is the Head*](/wiki/Trouble_Man:_Heavy_is_the_Head) along with the track list and a few newly added features from the album. T.I. explained, "I think it's a lot more urban than [*Paper Trail*](/wiki/Paper_Trail), and less apologetic than [*No Mercy*](/wiki/No_Mercy_(T.I._album)). I think it's more diversified than [*T.I. vs. T.I.P.*](/wiki/T.I._vs._T.I.P.) though. It's got a lotta heart, it's got a lotta edge. It's a creative album. It's probably harder than most of the shit that's coming out right now."[[97]](#cite_note-97) "Sorry" featuring Andre 3000 was released as the fifth promotional single via iTunes on November 27.[[98]](#cite_note-98) "Sorry" peaked at number 36 on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs. Then "Hello" featuring [CeeLo Green](/wiki/CeeLo_Green) was released to iTunes on December 11 as the sixth promotional single.[[99]](#cite_note-99)[[100]](#cite_note-100) The album debuted at number two on the US [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200), with first-week sales of 179,000 copies in the United States.[[101]](#cite_note-101)[[102]](#cite_note-102) As of September 2, 2013, it has sold 502,000 copies.[[103]](#cite_note-103) Shortly before *Trouble Man: Heavy Is the Head* was released, T.I. announced he would release the sequel as his next album, titled *Trouble Man II: He Who Wears the Crown*. The sequel is due to T.I. recording more material than needed, being cited by T.I. as much as 120 songs.[[104]](#cite_note-104) In early January 2013, [B.o.B](/wiki/B.o.B) announced an upcoming Grand Hustle [compilation album](/wiki/Compilation_album) titled *Hustle Gang*.[[105]](#cite_note-105)[[106]](#cite_note-106) On January 18, 2013 it was announced T.I. drew a close to his 10-year contract with Atlantic records the month before, after releasing *Trouble Man: Heavy Is the Head*.[[107]](#cite_note-107) It was reported he proposed a $75 million deal for any label that wants to provide a home for him and his imprint. [TMZ](/wiki/TMZ) reported that T.I. has drawn up the details, which include "3 albums, 10-20 percent of publishing, touring, merchandise, film and TV rights, corporate endorsement deals, as well as exclusive signing of all Grand Hustle artists".[[107]](#cite_note-107) T.I. was also allegedly being coaxed by some of the biggest names in the industry. There were reports that [Jay-Z](/wiki/Jay-Z) was looking to sign T.I., hoping to add him to the [Roc Nation](/wiki/Roc_Nation) roster. T.I. also had an exclusive dinner at Katana with [Dr. Dre](/wiki/Dr._Dre), who is thought to have proposed an [Interscope](/wiki/Interscope) signing to the rapper. T.I. had also met with [Sony](/wiki/Sony_Music_Entertainment), who offered him $50 Million, and spoke with Universal later that week.[[107]](#cite_note-107) In February 2013, T.I. revealed he chose "Hello", as the third official single from *Trouble Man: Heavy Is the Head*.[[108]](#cite_note-108) According to T.I., the CeeLo Green-featured song was selected due to its heavy radio play. On March 8, 2013 T.I. told [Rap-Up](/wiki/Rap-Up) that he was already 60-70% completed with *Trouble Man II: He Who Wears the Crown*.[[109]](#cite_note-109) He also spoke on the Grand Hustle compilation, *Hustle Gang*, which B.o.B announced earlier in January.[[105]](#cite_note-105)[[109]](#cite_note-109) In March 2013, T.I. revealed he would soon be filming the music video for "Hello".[[109]](#cite_note-109) On March 19, 2013 T.I. performed "Hello" on [*Jimmy Kimmel Live!*](/wiki/Jimmy_Kimmel_Live!).[[110]](#cite_note-110) In March, T.I. and [B.o.B](/wiki/B.o.B) filmed the music video for "[Memories Back Then](/wiki/Memories_Back_Then)", a song featuring [Kendrick Lamar](/wiki/Kendrick_Lamar) and Kris Stephens. The song, which was recorded for *Trouble Man: Heavy Is the Head*, originally [sampled](/wiki/Sampling_(music)) "[Somebody That I Used to Know](/wiki/Somebody_That_I_Used_to_Know)", as performed by [Gotye](/wiki/Gotye). T.I. said to [Rap-Up](/wiki/Rap-Up). Although the track failed to appear on *Trouble Man*, due to sample-clearance issues, it was released as the lead single from the *Hustle Gang* compilation album.[[111]](#cite_note-111)[[112]](#cite_note-112)

### 2013–present: Leaving Atlantic and album trilogy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

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On March 26, 2013, T.I. appeared alongside [Pharrell](/wiki/Pharrell_Williams), on Robin Thicke's lead single "[Blurred Lines](/wiki/Blurred_Lines)" from his [album of the same name](/wiki/Blurred_Lines_(album)). The song quickly became a worldwide hit and peaked at number one on the *Billboard* Hot 100, making it T.I.'s fourth number one Hot 100 single. The song has also reached number one in 13+ countries, including the United Kingdom and Germany.[[113]](#cite_note-113)[[114]](#cite_note-114) In March 2013, Lil Wayne announced T.I. would be co-headlining the second [*America's Most Wanted Tour*](/wiki/America's_Most_Wanted_Tour). T.I. explained that the tour would begin on July 5 and go through September 1, 2013.[[115]](#cite_note-115) American rappers [French Montana](/wiki/French_Montana) and 2 Chainz, were later confirmed to join the tour, among others.[[116]](#cite_note-116)[[117]](#cite_note-117) The first *America's Most Wanted Tour*, had taken place five years prior and featured [Young Jeezy](/wiki/Young_Jeezy), [Soulja Boy](/wiki/Soulja_Boy), [Pleasure P](/wiki/Pleasure_P), [Jeremih](/wiki/Jeremih) and [Young Money](/wiki/Young_Money).[[118]](#cite_note-118) On May 21, 2013, T.I. released a single titled "[Wit Me](/wiki/Wit_Me)" featuring [Lil Wayne](/wiki/Lil_Wayne). The song was released in promotion for the tour and peaked at number 80 on the Hot 100 chart.[[119]](#cite_note-119)[[120]](#cite_note-120) [thumb|left|250px|T.I. performing in 2014.](/wiki/File:T.I_56.jpg) In a July 2013 interview, with Power 98 FM, T.I. spoke on his then-upcoming album, *Trouble Man II: He Who Wears the Crown*. While he didn't reveal many album specifics, he did promise a project that would make whoever decides to distribute the album very "happy": "I've been working on this one since the last one dropped. I haven't decided exactly where I'm going to take [the new album] yet as far as a company for distribution, but wherever I take it, there's going to be some happy people in that building."[[121]](#cite_note-121) In September 2013, T.I. was featured throughout Lil Wayne's twelfth solo mixtape [*Dedication 5*](/wiki/Dedication_5). On September 1, 2013, it was revealed that T.I. would be featured on American pop star [Lady Gaga's](/wiki/Lady_Gaga) album [*ARTPOP*](/wiki/Artpop), on the song "Jewels n' Drugs", alongside fellow American rappers [Too Short](/wiki/Too_Short) and [Twista](/wiki/Twista). Another pop star, [Britney Spears](/wiki/Britney_Spears), later announced T.I. would appear on her song "Tik Tik Boom", from her eighth studio album [*Britney Jean*](/wiki/Britney_Jean) (2013).

On November 22, 2013, T.I. announced that he had signed a deal with [Columbia Records](/wiki/Columbia_Records), to release his upcoming ninth studio album.[[122]](#cite_note-122) T.I. later clarified the deal is solely for his ninth album.[[123]](#cite_note-123) T.I. revealed he recruited Pharrell Williams, who was influential in his move to Columbia, to executive produce the LP, with plans to release the album in early 2014.[[124]](#cite_note-124) In December 2013, T.I. revealed although he had originally planned to release *Trouble Man II*, since getting into the studio with the album's executive producer, Pharrell Williams, he had a change of heart. He stated: "Since we started working on the project and the project started has taken a different shape, I think we're going to postpone that title. We're gonna rework that. I got a couple of things in mind." He still plans to release the sequel to *Trouble Man*, however, he said: "All I'ma say is, it's gonna be a motion picture, it's gonna be a theatrical-worthy title. Something that will definitely seem instant classic. I'm thinking something like 'Trap Champion', 'Paperwork,' but whatever it is the subtitle will be 'The Motion Picture'."[[125]](#cite_note-125) On December 16, 2013, it was reported that T.I. decided to name it [*Paperwork*](/wiki/Paperwork_(T.I._album)).[[126]](#cite_note-126) On May 9, 2014, T.I. released a music video for a song titled "Turn It", in promotion for *Paperwork*.[[127]](#cite_note-127) On June 3, 2014, T.I. released a song titled "[About the Money](/wiki/About_the_Money)", via digital distribution.[[128]](#cite_note-128) The song, which serves as the first single from *Paperwork*, features up-and-coming Atlanta-based rapper [Young Thug](/wiki/Young_Thug). The music video for "About the Money", directed by T.I. and Kennedy Rothchild, was released on June 2, 2014.[[129]](#cite_note-129) On June 17, 2014, T.I. release the second single from *Paperwork*, a song titled [No Mediocre](/wiki/No_Mediocre), which was produced by [West Coast hip hop](/wiki/West_Coast_hip_hop) producer [DJ Mustard](/wiki/DJ_Mustard) and features a guest verse from his protege [Iggy Azalea](/wiki/Iggy_Azalea).[[130]](#cite_note-130) Since its release "No Mediocre" reached number 33 on the Hot 100 chart and was certified platinum by the RIAA.

On August 20, 2014, one day after speaking out on America in his online [treatise](/wiki/Treatise) about [Ferguson, Missouri](/wiki/Ferguson,_Missouri), in the wake of the fatal police [shooting of Michael Brown](/wiki/Shooting_of_Michael_Brown), T.I. released a new song titled "[New National Anthem](/wiki/New_National_Anthem)." The song, which features vocals from American singer-songwriter [Skylar Grey](/wiki/Skylar_Grey), includes socially conscious lyrics centered on racism and injustice.[[131]](#cite_note-131)[[132]](#cite_note-132) On September 23, 2014, *Paperwork* was made available for pre-order with "New National Anthem" as the "instant gratification track". Also on September 23, the official audio for "New National Anthem" was released via T.I.'s official [VEVO](/wiki/VEVO) account.[[133]](#cite_note-133) T.I.'s ninth album *Paperwork*, was released on October 21, 2014,. Upon its release, the album debuted at number two on the US [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200), with first-week sales of 80,000 copies in the United States.[[134]](#cite_note-134) *Paperwork* received generally positive reviews from [music critics](/wiki/Music_criticism). At [Metacritic](/wiki/Metacritic), which assigns a [normalized](/wiki/Standard_score) rating out of 100 to reviews from critics, the album received an [average](/wiki/Weighted_mean) score of 69, which indicates "generally favorable reviews", based on 10 reviews.[[135]](#cite_note-135) On March 11, 2015, T.I. released a single titled "Project Steps".[[136]](#cite_note-136) On March 24, 2015, T.I. announced his tenth album would be titled *Trap's Open*.[[137]](#cite_note-137)[[138]](#cite_note-138) In a June 2015 interview, T.I. revealed his tenth studio album was completed and awaiting release.[[139]](#cite_note-139) He also announced he was working on a project as part of the [hip hop collective](/wiki/Hip_hop_collective) Bankroll Mafia, alongside [Shad da God](/wiki/Shad_da_God) and [Young Thug](/wiki/Young_Thug), among others.[[139]](#cite_note-139) On June 26, 2015, T.I. released the music video for the single "Project Steps" and announced his tenth album's new title would be *The Dime Trap*.[[140]](#cite_note-140)[[141]](#cite_note-141)[[142]](#cite_note-142) In July 2015, T.I. revealed *The Dime Trap* was being mixed and mastered; he also added that "It is a lot more urban, a lot more edgy, a lot more unapologetically ghetto than *Paperwork*".[[143]](#cite_note-143)[[144]](#cite_note-144) In promotion for the album, T.I. unexpectedly released an [extended play](/wiki/Extended_play) (EP) titled [*Da' Nic*](/wiki/Da'_Nic), on September 11, 2015. The EP contains five songs, including the singles "Project Steps" and "Check, Run It".[[145]](#cite_note-145)[[146]](#cite_note-146) The five-track project, which includes features from Young Thug and Young Dro, as well as production from Jazz Feezy, Sho Nuff, [League of Starz](/wiki/League_of_Starz), [London on da Track](/wiki/London_on_da_Track) and [Mars](/wiki/1500_or_Nothin'), was launched independently. It was released through San Francisco's [Empire Distribution](/wiki/Empire_Distribution) and T.I.'s King Inc. imprint,[[147]](#cite_note-147) marking T.I.'s first ever [independent release](/wiki/Independent_album).[[148]](#cite_note-148)[[149]](#cite_note-149) During this period, T.I. reverted to his previous [pseudonym](/wiki/Pseudonym), Tip.[[150]](#cite_note-150) On September 18, 2015, T.I. announced his departure from Columbia Records. In an interview with HitsDailyDouble.com, he addressed his situation: "Having just exited my deal at Columbia, I was a rogue artist, busting creativity, just waiting to put music in the marketplace, so while I'm sorting out my next situation, I'm blessed enough to be able to control my destiny and put music out as quickly as I want to, and was able to release a Tip album, which I had wanted to do for a long time."[[151]](#cite_note-151)[[152]](#cite_note-152)[[153]](#cite_note-153) In October 2015, in an interview with [MTV News](/wiki/MTV_News), T.I. said: "This is a perfect time to be able to call myself what I've always been known as. Being called T.I. is very weird. It's kinda awkward to be famous for a name that you've never been called before in your life. If you want me to know that you don't know me, call me T.I. It's the weirdest most awkward thing."[[154]](#cite_note-154) During the interview he also spoke on the benefit of not having to deal with a major label and how he couldn't have released *Da' Nic* if he wasn't independent.[[155]](#cite_note-155) On February 22, 2016, before his "pop-up performance" at Greenbriar Mall in his hometown of Atlanta, T.I. announced he signed a distribution deal with Jay Z's [Roc Nation](/wiki/Roc_Nation) for *The Dime Trap*. T.I. also revealed he is one of the new co-owners of online streaming service, [Tidal](/wiki/Tidal_(service)).[[156]](#cite_note-156)[[157]](#cite_note-157) T.I., in collaboration with a number of southern rappers, whom are collectively known as [Bankroll Mafia](/wiki/Bankroll_Mafia), released an eponymous album on April 22, 2016.[[158]](#cite_note-158) On May 16, 2016, T.I. released a single titled "Dope" which was produced by [West Coast hip hop](/wiki/West_Coast_hip_hop) record producer [Dr. Dre](/wiki/Dr._Dre).[[159]](#cite_note-159)