

# 50 YEARS

## The rise, fall, and revival of music formats

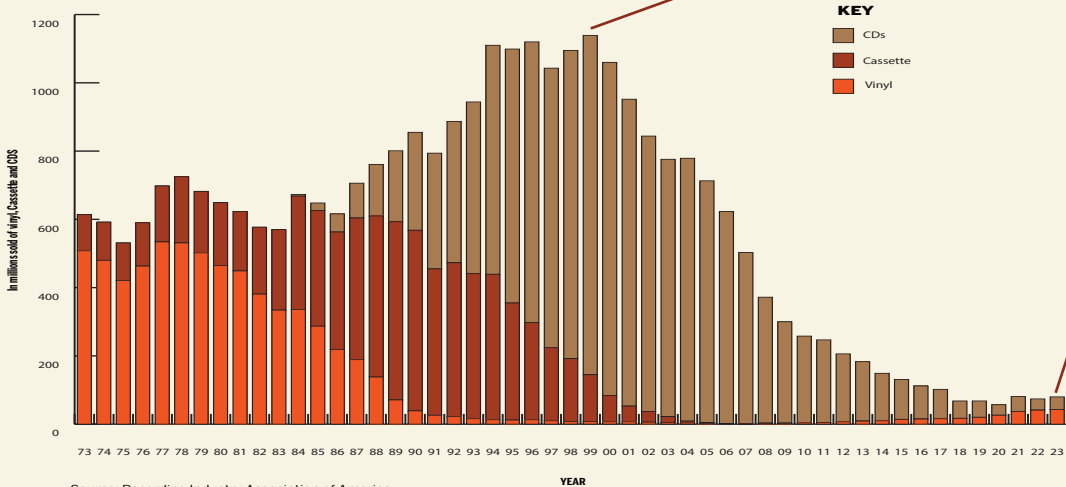
Over the last five decades, the U.S. music industry has seen significant shifts in physical music formats. This infographic highlights the rise and fall of cassette tapes, CDs, and vinyl records, reflecting consumer trends and technological advancements.

### Spinning Through the Years

The bar chart illustrates the annual sales of three primary physical media formats — vinyl records, cassette tapes, and CDs — from 1973 to 2023. The chart captures the peak of CD popularity in the 1990s, a dip in cassette use, and a recent resurgence in vinyl sales.

#### Annual Sales of Physical Music Formats (1973–2023)

This chart reveals the annual sales trends for vinyl, cassette, and CD formats, showcasing the shifts in consumer preferences over time.



Source: Recording Industry Association of America

dominating the market. CDs reached their peak in the 1990s.

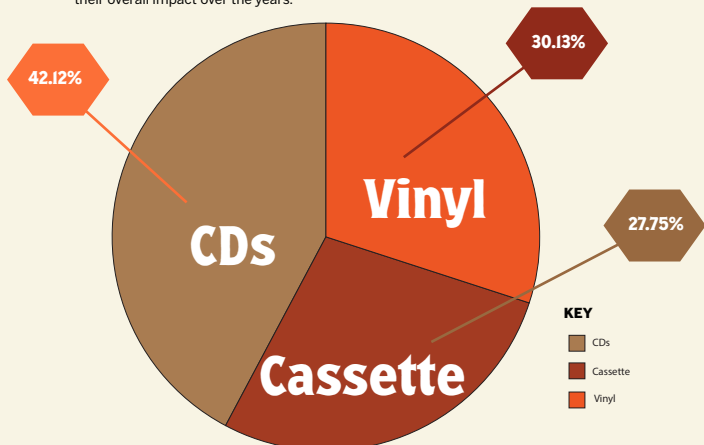
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being even with CDs. Vinyl hit a significant resurgence in 2023.

## FROM TOP HITS, TO COMEBACK KIDS.

#### Market Share of Music Formats Over Time

This pie chart displays the average market share for each physical music format—vinyl, cassettes, and CDs, reflecting their overall impact over the years.



Source: Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA)

The pie chart shows the average distribution of market share across physical media formats. CDs accounted for 42.12% of total sales, vinyl for 30.13%, and cassettes for 27.75%, highlighting the dominance of CDs during their peak era.

Vinyl accounted for 30.13%, making a strong comeback in recent years.

Cassettes held a substantial share in early years but declined significantly, ending at 27.75%.

CDs dominated physical music sales, capturing over 40% of the market share.