# RIAA 2018 YEAR-END MUSIC INDUSTRY REVENUE REPORT

In 2018, revenues from recorded music in the United States grew 12% to \$9.8 billion at estimated retail value. For the third year in a row, double-digit growth was driven primarily by increased revenues from paid subscription services including Spotify, Apple Music, Tidal, Amazon and others, which reached more than 46 million¹ subscriptions in the United States for the first time. Revenues measured at wholesale value also grew 12% to \$6.6 billion. Revenue growth from streaming formats continued to be offset by decreases from unit-based sales, including both digital downloads and physical goods.

### U.S. MUSIC INDUSTRY YEAR-END REVENUES

Source: RIAA

2016 2017 2018 \$9.8

\$5.9

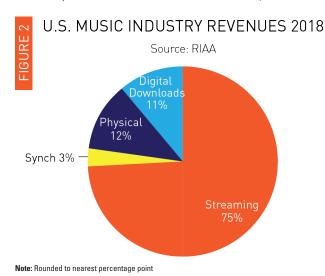
WHOLESALE

SOURCE: RIAA

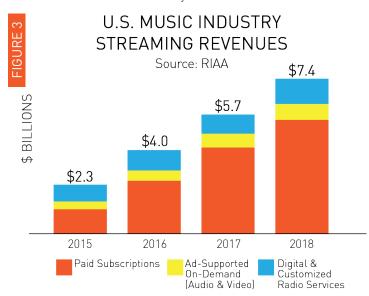
RETAIL

### **STREAMING**

Revenues from streaming music platforms grew 30% year-over-year to reach \$7.4 billion, contributing 75% of total revenues for 2018, and accounting for virtually all the revenue growth for the year. The streaming category includes a wide variety of formats including premium paid subscription services, ad-supported on-demand services (i.e. YouTube, Vevo, and ad-supported Spotify), and streaming radio services including those that distribute revenues through SoundExchange (including Pandora, SiriusXM, and other internet radio services).



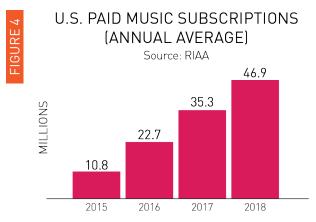
Subscriptions to on-demand streaming services remained the biggest driver of increasing revenues for the music business, and for the first time accounted for more than half of total revenues for the year.



Total 2018 subscription revenues increased 32% to \$5.4 billion. Included in that figure is \$747 million in revenues from "Limited Tier" paid subscriptions (services without full mobile access, catalog availability, on-demand functionality, or device restrictions). Services including

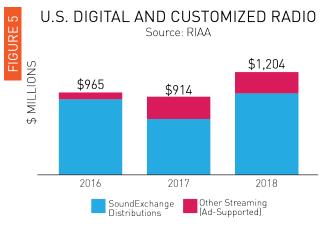
Amazon Prime, Pandora Plus, and others are included in this category.

Adoption of paid subscription services continued to grow quickly in 2018. The average number of paid subscriptions (excluding limited tier options) grew 33% compared with the prior year, reaching nearly 47¹ million. On average, nearly one million new subscriptions were added on a monthly basis.



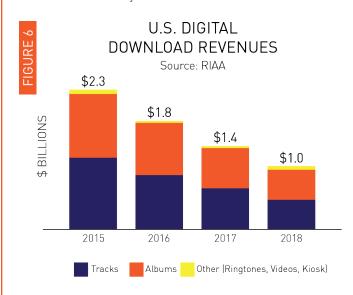
Revenues from on-demand streaming services supported by advertising (including YouTube, Vevo, and the free version of Spotify) grew 15% annually to \$760 million, a slower rate than other streaming formats. These types of services streamed more than 400 billion songs to listeners in the Unites States, more than one-third of an estimated total of 1.2 trillion streams, yet contributed only 8% to total revenues for the year.

Revenues from digital and customized radio services (the category that includes Pandora, SiriusXM satellite radio, iHeart Radio, and internet radio services) grew 32% year-over-year to \$1.2 billion – the first time the category exceeded one billion dollars annually. SoundExchange distributions rose 46% to a record \$953 million, driven by strong distributions in the fourth quarter. Other adsupported streaming revenues of \$251 million comprised 21% of revenues from this category for the year.



### **DIGITAL DOWNLOADS**

Revenues from downloaded tracks and albums declined for the sixth consecutive year to \$1.04 billion. Permanent downloads of albums fell 25% to \$500 million in 2018, and individual track sales were down 28% to \$490 million. Downloads accounted for 11% of revenues for 2018, down from 42% as recently as 2013.



### **PHYSICAL PRODUCTS**

Revenues from shipments of physical products decreased to \$1.15 billion, down 23% from 2017. At estimated retail value, CDs fell 34% to \$698 million, the first time revenues from CDs were less than one billion dollars since 1986. Vinyl records continued to be the exception to the decline of unit-based formats. Revenues from vinyl albums in 2018 totaled \$419 million, an increase of 8% versus last year, and the highest level since 1988. By value, vinyl made up more than one-third of revenues from physical formats.

## PLEASE READ THE COMMENTARY OF MITCH GLAZIER, CHAIRMAN AND CEO, HERE: MEDIUM.COM/@RIAA

NOTE – Historical data for 2015-2017 has been updated, as well as revenue accounting standards starting in 2016. Formats with no retail value equivalent are included at wholesale value. RIAA presents the most up-to-date information available in its industry revenue reports and online statistics database: https://www.riaa.com/u-s-sales-database

<sup>1</sup>Figure revised after original publication due to additional data. Original report estimated 50.2 million paid subscriptions.

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### **RIAA 2018 YEAR-END MUSIC INDUSTRY REVENUE STATISTICS**

United States Estimated Retail Dollar Value (In Millions, net after returns)

United States Estimated Retail Dollar Value (In Million	ns, net after returns)		
DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION & STREAMING	2017	2018	% CHANGE 2017-2018
Paid Subscription <sup>1</sup>	(Units) 35.3 (Dollar Value) \$3,500.5	46.9 \$4,656.0	33.0% 33.0%
Limited Tier Paid Subscription <sup>2</sup>	\$591.6	\$747.1	26.3%
On-Demand Streaming (Ad-Supported) <sup>3</sup>	\$658.6	\$759.5	15.3%
SoundExchange Distributions <sup>4</sup>	\$652.0	\$952.8	46.1%
Other Ad-Supported Streaming <sup>5</sup>	\$261.8	\$251.4	-4.0%
Total Streaming Revenues	\$5,664.5	\$7,366.8	30.1%
DIGITAL PERMANENT DOWNLOAD			
Download Single	(Units) 553.5 (Dollar Value) \$678.5	399.8 \$490.4	-27.8% -27.7%
Download Album	66.4 \$668.5	49.7 \$499.7	-25.1% -25.3%
Ringtones & Ringbacks	14.3 \$35.5	10.0 \$24.9	-29.8% -29.8%
Other Digital <sup>6</sup>	2.7 \$21.9	2.2 \$24.1	-18.2% 9.7%
Total Digital Download Revenues	\$1,404.5	\$1,039.1	-26.0%
TOTAL DIGITAL VALUE	\$7,069.0	\$8,405.8	18.9%
Synchronization Royalties <sup>7</sup>	\$232.1	\$285.5	23.0%
PHYSICAL			
CD	(Units Shipped) 87.7 (Dollar Value) \$1,057.3	52.0 \$698.4	-40.7% -33.9%
LP/EP	15.6 \$388.5	16.7 \$419.2	7.2% 7.9%
Music Video	1.9 \$38.6	1.4 \$27.6	-25.7% -28.6%
Other Physical <sup>8</sup>	0.6 \$11.0	0.5 \$9.6	-21.8% -12.6%
Total Physical Units	105.7	70.5	-33.3%

### **TOTAL DIGITAL AND PHYSICAL**

Total Units <sup>o</sup>	742.6	532.3	-28.3%
Total Value	\$8,796.6	\$9,846.1	11.9%
% <b>of Shipments'<sup>o</sup></b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	
Physical	17%	12%	
Digital	83%	88%	

\$1,495.5

Retail Value is the value of shipments at recommended or estimated list price Formats with no retail value equivalent included at wholesale value

#### Note: Historical data updated for 2017

- <sup>1</sup> Streaming, tethered, and other paid subscription services not operating under statutory licenses Subscription volume is annual average number of subscriptions, excludes limited tier
- <sup>2</sup> Paid streaming services with interactivity limitations by availability, device restriction, catalog limitations, on demand access, or other factors
- 3 Ad-supported audio and music video services not operating under statutory licenses
  4 Estimated payments to performers and copyright holders for digital and customized radio services under
- <sup>5</sup> Revenues paid directly for statutory services that are not distributed by SoundExchange and not included in other streaming categories

  fincludes Kiosks, music video downloads, and other digital music licensing

\$1,<u>154.8</u>

- 7 Includes fees and royalties from synchronization of sound recordings with other media 8 Includes CD Singles, Cassettes, Vinyl Singles, DVD Audio, SACD DualDisc
- <sup>9</sup> Units total includes both albums and singles, and does not include subscriptions or royalties <sup>10</sup>Synchronization Royalties excluded from calculation

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