billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

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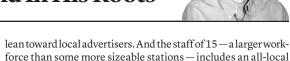
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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Former Westwood One Exec John Paul Takes Ownership In Radio — And In His Roots



It is not, it would appear, a great time to be investing in the radio business.

Streaming listenership has bypassed over-the-air broad-

casts among younger customers, local staffs have been trimmed to the nubs, and most homes no longer even have a traditional radio in a place of prominence.

And yet, radio vet John Paul is excited about the purchase of Washington Interstate Broadcasting, a three-station cluster in Longview-Kelso, Wash., that includes country KUKN.

"I'm not bullish on radio as an industry," he admits. "From what I hear when I listen to the radio in other places, whether it's sevenminute commercial breaks or horribly executed syndication, I'm just not a fan. I think radio has shot itself

in the foot at times with way too many cooks in the kitchen, way overmanaged. I'm not bullish on radio as an industry. I'm bullish on how we do it."

Serving Cowlitz County—population estimated at 111,524 in July 2021, according to the U.S. Census Bureau - KUKN consistently leads the market, usually as the only station with a doubledigit share in the Eastlan Ratings. The playlist generally avoids ballads, sliding a few '80s and '90s titles into its current-driven mix. Commercial breaks are limited to three minutes, and they

force than some more sizeable stations - includes an all-local on-air crew. It's a professional-sounding station, but it still feels

> personal: In a recent morning show, the squeak of host **Pork Chop**'s chair could be heard as he shifted in his seat during a bit.

> "There's no reason why, though we're in a small town, we need to sound like a small-town radio station," Paul says.

> That Paul and his co-owner, wife Nicki Paul, are back in Longview is a story that mirrors a country song. He grew up in the area and started at classic hits KLOG when he was 13. During his senior year in high school, he did a full-time afternoon show at the station, but he had larger aspirations and moved on in his early 20s to bigger markets, first as a PD in Port-

land, Ore., and eventually at Westwood One in Colorado, where he was vp of programming and PD of two 24/7 country formats. After two decades out in the world, he was drawn back to his hometown, a surprise full-circle development.

"I would come back to the station and visit and see friends," he remembers, "but I had no intention of coming back. Cumulus had bought Westwood One, and we were in the middle of restructuring, and I was laying off people. And it wasn't what I got into radio to do."





Paul had to cut a group of employees in Denver, then flew to Dallas the next day to let go of more. He anticipated he would have to continue chopping staffs until the day came that his boss would release him, too. When he returned to the hotel, he got a gin and tonic at the bar, then called Nicki to tell her he was done. On her advice, he called KUKN owner **Joel Hanson**, who offered a chance to return to Longview with an understanding that Paul would have the option to purchase the company a few years later.

He checked with a few trusted allies, including Kansas-based Iola Broadcasting owner **Tom Norris**, who insisted he would thrive in ownership: "It's not glamorous, but it's great."

So the Pauls followed the life-as-a-country-song path and returned to Longview in 2014.

"I basically spent the last seven years learning the business side of it—you know, all the stuff that I didn't know or I had people [do] for me," Paul recalls. "I had to learn it all. I know my way around a transmitter now. I never did before."

Not all of it has been fun. He has burrowed in with his CPA on pro-rating the company's taxes post-sale, struggled to interpret a clunky state government website, revised the paperwork on the employees' health insurance and addressed company credit cards for some of the staff. Plus, the checks have to be signed.

"One thing that's surprising to me is how expensive it is to run a radio station," he admits. "I had no idea. None. Just the IT costs alone, that's been the biggest shock."

Nevertheless, the cluster is, he says, on track for its best financial year ever, in part because of an expansion he helped engineer. The broadcast outlets are accompanied by the Cowlitz Podcast Network and Cowlitz Digital, companies that generate additional revenue in a platform that didn't exist when he was emptying KLOG wastebaskets when he was 13.

It's a game plan that coincidentally matches a philosophy that Townsquare CEO **Bill Wilson** outlined during this year's Country Radio Seminar. While large-market radio is struggling with the growth of digital competition, Townsquare is focused strictly on stations outside the top 50 markets, where local newspapers are dying. The void creates an opportunity for broadcasters to pick up advertising from local and regional businesses while serving the local audience—both on-air and online—in a way that national platforms do not.

Paul thinks highly of his city's paper, *The Longview Daily News*, but the station gives it a run with aggressive promotion and persistent local coverage. It has a three-person news team — an atypical manpower investment in current radio circles — and captures audio from city council hearings and school board meetings.

It's all rather different from the large-market life Paul had originally anticipated, but he says there's a security in Longview that he lost in Denver.

"I control 100% of my destiny," he says.

His small-town life mirrors the sentiments of the country songs he plays, providing a sense of community and a connection to his roots. In essence, radio management is everything that Norris had told him it would be:

"It's an unbelievable life. It's not glamorous, but it's great." •



Vince Gill (left) was the subject of *CMT Giants*, which premiered Sept. 16. Among the performers paying homage were Luke Combs and Wendy Moten.



Keith Urban and opening act Tyler Hubbard visited with Universal Music Group executives during a Sept. 10 tour stop at the Kia Forum in Los Angeles. From left: Hubbard, UMG CFO/executive vp Boyd Muir, UMG Nashville chairman/CEO Mike Dungan and Urban.



Tyler Braden (center) visited with *Billboard* Nashville staff during a Sept. 15 introduction at the Warner Music Nashville office. He's accompanied by *Billboard* country chart manager Jim Asker (left) and *Billboard Country Update* editor Tom Roland.



Kelsea: Ballerini Ballerini SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ALBUM AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 23
FEATURING THE LATEST SINGLE
"HEARTFIRST"



BLACK RIVER

N KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES FOR CMT/VIA

ON THE CHARTS JIM ASKER jim.asker@billboard.com

Kane Brown Notches Two New Top Fives: Different Man On Top Country Albums And 'Thank God' On Hot Country Songs



Kane Brown earns his fifth top five entry, and sixth top 10, on *Billboard*'s Top Country Albums chart (dated Sept. 24) as *Different Man* (Zone 4/RCA Nashville/Sony Music Nashville) blasts in at No. 2. Released Sept. 9, the set earned 46,000 equivalent album units in its first week (ending Sept. 15), according to Luminate.

On the all-genre Billboard 200, the LP arrives at No. 5, awarding Brown his fourth top 10.

Brown co-produced *Different Man*, marking a first for the 28-year-old singer-songwriter from northwest Georgia. He also co-wrote 15 of the set's 17 tracks.

Different Man follows his seven-song Mixtape, Vol. 1, which entered at its No. 2 peak in August 2020. Before that, Experiment opened atop the list in November 2018 (with 126,000 units, his biggest week to date), and his self-titled first full-length debuted at the summit in December 2016.

Brown's first Top Country Albums entry, his EP *Closer*, began at No. 22 in June 2015 and reached No. 7 the following November, while his *Chapter 1* entered at its No. 3 high in April 2016.

He concurrently earns his highest debut on the streaming-, airplay- and sales-based Hot Country Songs chart as "Thank God," his first duet with his wife, **Katelyn**, bounds in at No. 5. The pair, who wed in October 2018, notch their 12th and first top 10, respectively, the latter in her first chart appearance.

Brown previously started at a No. 9 Hot Country Songs best when "Memory," with **blackbear**, began at its peak in July 2021.

On Country Digital Song Sales, "Thank God" opens at No. 1 with 16,000 downloads sold, granting the Browns their 10th and first leader, respectively. It also blasts in atop the all-format Digital Song Sales list. It's the

second leader for Kane Brown, after "For My Daughter" roared in at the summit in November 2019.

"Thank God" also launches at No. 5 on Country Streaming Songs with 11.5 million official U.S. streams. As "God" gets promoted to radio, the single rises 49-35 on Country Airplay (2.7 million audience impressions, up 129%).

"One Mississippi" was released as the new set's first single and led Country

Airplay for one week in March, while follow-up "Like I Love Country Music" reigned for a week in August, becoming Brown's eighth leader. The songs peaked at Nos. 4 and 3, respectively, on Hot Country Songs.

'HALF' TIME Thomas Rhett achieves his 21st Country Airplay top 10 as "Half of Me," featuring Riley Green (Big Machine Label Group/Valory), climbs 12-10 (15.5 million, up 11%).

The song follows Rhett's "Slow Down Summer," which hit No. 2 on Country Airplay in May. He boasts 17 No. 1s on the survey.

Green adds his second Country Airplay top 10. "There Was This Girl," his first of five entries to date, reached No. 3 in March 2019.

'SHE' IS STILL No. 1 Cole Swindell's "She Had Me at Heads Carolina" (Warner Music Nashville/WMN) inhabits the Country Airplay penthouse for a second week, increasing by 3% to 29.7 million impressions.

Swindell's eighth No. 1 on the list marks his fourth multiweek leader. He has dominated the longest with "You Should Be Here," for three

weeks starting in April 2018.

Meanwhile, just under one-third of all the songs to ascend to their first weeks at No. 1 on Country Airplay in 2022 have reigned for multiple weeks, as "Carolina" is the eighth to achieve the feat among 25 new chart-toppers this year.





UPDATE

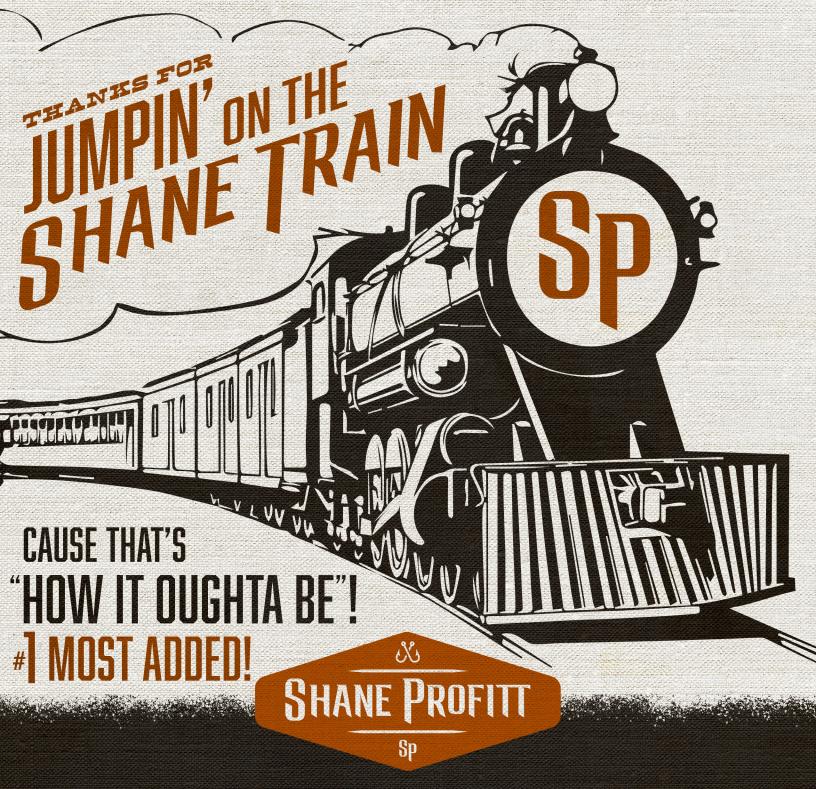
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EXCLUSIVE CHARTS including Hot Country Songs, Country Airplay, Top Country Albums, Country Streaming Songs, Country Songwriters, Country Producers and more!

Weekly content including Makin' Tracks, On the Charts, a roundup of executive moves and timely analysis of the latest country news and trends

Expert insight and commentary by Tom Roland and Jim Asker







38 STATIONS ON BY FIRST WEEK!

MUSIC CHOICE / KBEQ / KCCY / KCYE / KDRK / KEEY / KHEY / KHGE Kilt / KkBQ / Knix / Knuc / Krst / Kson / Ksop / Ktom / Kwnr Kxly / Kzsn / Wckn / Wgar / Wil / WJVC / Wkhx / Wkkt Wkmk / Wkro / Wmzq / Wolf / Wpor / Wdyk / Wrbt Wtor / Wusj / Wwka / Wwqm / Wxcy / Wycd

ALL ABOARD!

BMLG RECORDS

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

THIS	LAST	WKS ON		AUDIENCE (I			PLAYS	
WEEK 1	WEEK	CHART 15	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN ** No. 1 (2 Weeks) ** Cole Swindell	THIS WEEK 29.658	+/- +0.787	7729	+/- 152	RANK 1
2	3	14	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE River House/Columbia Nashville ** Most Increased Audience ** Luke Combs	29.510	+3.010	7708	643	2
3	4	14	YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	27.521	+2.473	7151	507	3
4	2	37	TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville Mitchell Tenpenny	23.238	-3.951	6245	-1301	4
6	7	18	5 FOOT 9 Hubbard House/EMI Nashville Tyler Hubbard	20.980	+1.301	5636	316	6
6	8	38	WISHFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	20.547	+1.157	5846	311	5
7	6	49	TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek Parmalee	20.067	-0.128	4757	66	9
8	5	47	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE Valory Justin Moore	18.542	-2.930	4812	-918	8
9	10	27	GHOST STORY Capitol Nashville Carrie Underwood	16.885	+0.124	5005	57	7
0	12	16	HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	15.483	+1.587	4266	364	11
0	11	29	DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine Jackson Dean	15.069	+1.136	4712	460	10
Œ	13	12	COUNTRY ON Capitol Nashville Luke Bryan	12.515	+0.654	3749	189	12
ß	15	14	FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Bailey Zimmerman	11.770	+1.525	3660	296	13
12	16	29	SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll	10.071	+1.150	3383	280	14
Œ	18	32	PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR Gabby Barrett	10.019	+1.902	3282	403	15
16	17	33	OUT INTHE MIDDLE Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR Zac Brown Band	8.950	+0.708	3070	242	16
Ð	21	32	PARTY MODE Broken Bow Dustin Lynch	8.364	+0.803	2997	155	18
B	22	27	DOWN HOME Stoney Creek ★★ Airpower ★★ Jimmie Allen	8.236	+0.964	2998	299	17
19	20	24	SHE LIKES IT Triple Tigers ** Airpower ** Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott	7.825	+0.235	2585	18	20
20	23	9	THAT'S WHATTEQUILA DOES Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	7.795	+0.916	2401	250	22
3	24	17	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	7.101	+0.701	2533	234	21
22	25	42	SOUL Curb Lee Brice	6.337	+0.242	2654	117	19
23	27	14	WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville Nate Smith	5.482	+0.532	2051	405	24
24	26	24	HEARTFIRST Black River Kelsea Ballerini	5.315	+0.093	2326	94	23
25	29	43	YOU DIDN'T BMLG Brett Young	4.157	+0.314	1928	135	25
26	28	31	MY BAR inDent/Mercury Nashville Priscilla Block	4.057	+0.067	1853	20	26
②	32	8	GOLD Capitol Nashville Dierks Bentley	3.846	+0.539	1300	165	31
28	30	13	WATER UNDERTHE BRIDGE MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	3.827	+0.250	1650	174	27
29	31	5	NO BODY Warner Music Nashville/WMN Blake Shelton	3.600	+0.191	1304	108	30
30	34	4	WAIT INTHETRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	3.576	+0.719	1097	259	35

COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay of 148 stations by Luminate, formerly MRC Data. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audio- copyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2022, Nielsen Audio). The list of all Country Airplay chart reporters can be viewed on Luminate, formerly MRC Data's platforms.

BULLETS

 Awarded on Country Airplay to titles gaining audience or remaining flat from the previous week. A song will also receive a bullet if its percentage loss in audience does not exceed the percentage of monitored station downtime for the format. Titles that decline in audience but increase in detections will also receive a bullet if the total audience erosion for the week does not exceed 3%.

TIES

On Country Airplay, if two songs are tied in total audience, the song with the larger increase in audience is placed first.

RECURRENTS

On Country Airplay, descending titles below No. 10 in either audience or detections are moved to recurrent after 20

weeks, provided that they are not still gaining enough audience points to bullet or if they rank below No. 10 and post a third consecutive week of (non-bulleted) audience decline, regardless of total chart weeks.

HOT SHOT DEBUT

Awarded to the highest-ranking new entry on Country Airplay.

MOST ADDED

The total number of new adds officially reported to Billboard by each reporting station, or by an automatic-add threshold (seven plays for the first time in a chart tracking week, according to Luminate, formerly MRC Data) for stations that do not report adds.

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

Most Increased Audience on Country Airplay lists the songs with the greatest week-to-week increases in total audience.

AIRPOWER

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles ranking inside top 20 in plays and audience rankings for the first time, with increases in both plays and audience.

BREAKER

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles achieving airplay (at least one detection) at 60% of reporting stations for the first time

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billboard Country Airplay

LUMINATE

THIS	LAST	WKS ON		AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS)		PLAYS	
WEEK	WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
<u> </u>	33	24	JOY OF MY LIFE Mercury Nashville Chris Stapleton	3.372	+0.298	1524	96	29
32	35	18	HEART LIKE ATRUCK Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	3.343	+0.520	1576	76	28
3 3	37	28	HOLY WATER Warner Music Nashville/WEA Michael Ray	2.864	+0.488	1234	29	33
34	36	15	HUMAN CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cody Johnson	2.718	+0.136	1020	-2	37
35	49	2	THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville ★★ Breaker/ Most Added ★★ Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	2.704	+1.524	811	542	42
<u>36</u>	39	4	BEER WITH MY FRIENDS Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEAKenny Chesney & Old Dominion	2.547	+0.298	761	145	44
37	38	13	WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine Carly Pearce	2.546	+0.283	1275	58	32
38	44	7	WILD AS HER Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville Corey Kent	2.246	+0.481	798	149	43
39	42	6	HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville Parker McCollum	2.242	+0.208	864	100	41
40	40	10	BROWN EYES BABY Hit Red/Capitol Nashville Keith Urban	2.134	-0.005	990	57	38
41	41	25	GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Quartz Hill Joe Nichols	2.053	-0.056	1162	31	34
42	43	9	YOU Warner Music Nashville/WAR Dan + Shay	1.983	+0.122	902	88	40
43	45	8	Y'ALL LIFE Monument Walker Hayes	1.817	+0.260	965	40	39
44	46	25	NOTE TO SELF Magnolia Music Randy Houser	1.694	+0.270	1051	90	36
45	48	33	SON OF A Riser House Dillon Carmichael	1.221	+0.006	745	4	45
46	47	19	SONGS ABOUTYOU Warner Music Nashville/WMN Brett Eldredge	1.190	-0.052	524	-3	48
4	51	20	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud Hailey Whitters	1.066	+0.035	422	-6	52
48	52	9	DOING LIFE WITH ME EMI Nashville Eric Church	1.056	+0.025	535	16	47
49	50	11	SOMETHING INTHE ORANGE Belting Bronco/Warner Zach Bryan	1.052	+0.011	267	-8	60
50	56	22	HELLYEAH Capitol Nashville Little BigTown	0.975	+0.193	483	39	50
5	58	3	GIRL IN MINE Stoney Creek Parmalee	0.954	+0.222	498	51	49
52	53	13	MAN MADE RECORDS Nashville Matt Stell	0.906	+0.066	602	21	46
53	55	7	STRANGE Vanner/RCA Nashville Miranda Lambert	0.875	+0.082	383	19	54
54	54	6	NEVERTIL NOW Back Blocks/BMLG/Big Loud Ashley Cooke + Brett Young	0.827	+0.012	478	-2	51
55	59	16	SALT, LIME & TEQUILA Red Street Ryan Griffin	0.729	+0.078	394	33	53
56	60	3	WORTH A SHOT RCA/Columbia Nashville Elle King Featuring Dierks Bentley	0.687	+0.064	374	3	55
57	57	6	EASY TONIGHT RCA Nashville Niko Moon	0.576	-0.174	267	-42	-
58	RE-EI	NTRY	HOW IT OUGHTA BE BMLG Shane Profitt	0.562	+0.072	127	49	-
59	NE	w	LONGNECK WAY TO GO Big Machine ** Hot Shot Debut ** Midland Featuring Jon Pardi	0.537	+0.041	288	9	59
60	NE	€W	IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	0.536	+0.403	209	148	-



GOING FOR ADDS

9/26

JAKE OWEN Up There Down Here

JONATHAN INGRAM **Boys Don't Cry**

Four Hour Drive

MAREN MORRIS I Can't Love You Anymore Columbia Nashville

SWEET TEA TRIO All Hat, No Cattle

TOBY KEITH Oklahoma Breakdown

10/3

CARSON BEYER Outdated



Show Dog Nashville

billboard Country Airplay



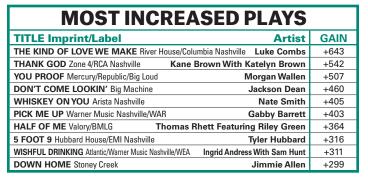
MOST ADDED®	
TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	ADDS
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	35
WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	13
WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville Nate Smith	11
EXCUSES Combustion/Wheelhouse Kolby Cooper	11
WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	10
IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	10
WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine Carly Pearce	9
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO Stoney Creek Drake Milligan	7
I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE Columbia Nashville Maren Morris	7
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	6

TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	ADDS			
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	35			
WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	13			
WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville Nate Smith	11			
EXCUSES Combustion/Wheelhouse Kolby Cooper	11			
WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	10			
IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	10			
WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine Carly Pearce	9			
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO Stoney Creek Drake Milligan	7			
I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE Columbia Nashville Maren Morris	7			
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	6			
MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE				

NEW ANI	D ACTI	VE		
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL Audience	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb	Dylan Scott	0.474	25	5
IF HE WANTED TO HE WOULD EMI Nashville	Kylie Morgan	0.437	18	5
I CAN'T DECIDE Stone Country	Easton Corbin	0.421	27	2
ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	0.398	6	2
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO Stoney Creek	Drake Milligan	0.297	9	7
LOUD AND HEAVY Late August	Cody Jinks	0.272	6	0
DEALID	DENITO			

MIOST INCREASED AUDIENC							
TITLE Imprint/Label Artis	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)						
	- ,						
THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE River House/Columbia Nashville Luke Comb	s +3.010						
YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Walle	n +2.473						
PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR Gabby Barre	tt +1.902						
HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Gree	n +1.587						
FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Bailey Zimmerma	n +1.525						
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville Kane Brown With Katelyn Brow	n +1.524						
5 FOOT 9 Hubbard House/EMI Nashville Tyler Hubbar	d +1.301						
WISHFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Ingrid Andress With Sam Hui	nt +1.157						
SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek Jelly Ro	II +1.150						
DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine Jackson Dea	n +1.136						
	- '						

	RECURRENTS						
THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)					
1	WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	17.320					
2	LAST NIGHT LONELY Capitol Nashville Jon Pardi	15.980					
3	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	15.163					
4	'TIL YOU CAN'T CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cody Johnson	14.800					
5	DAMN STRAIT Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery	13.645					
6	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow Dustin Lynch Featuring Lauren Alaina Or MacKenzie Porter	11.211					
7	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU Macon/Capitol Nashville/Broken Bow Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood	10.769					
8	AT THE END OF A BAR RCA Nashville Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny	7.381					
9	NEW TRUCK Curb Dylan Scott	7.304					
10	FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville Chris Young + Kane Brown	7.110					







TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

THIS WEEK		WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON Chart	TITLE (Label) ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
0	2	25	LOVESICK DRIFTING COWBOY (Independent) ** 1 Week at 1 ** James Robert Webb	1778	96	0	12	18	HARDER STUFF (Independent) Adam Hood	1166	22
2	3	15	HONKY TONK HIGHWAY (Independent) Case Hardin	1672	56	12	7	22	TELLING ON MY HEART (Independent) Casey Donahew	1155	-213
3	4	10	MILES DON'T MATTER (Independent) Curtis Grimes	1600	96	13	11	22	ALL I NEEDED (Independent) American Aquarium	1150	-66
4	6	17	LIKE CONWAY TWITTY (Independent) James Lann	1501	63	14	16	12	HURT YOU (Independent) Cody Jinks	1079	-2
5	8	10	FREE MAN (Independent) Bri Bagwell	1416	91	15	15	17	BLOOD (Independent) Jon Stork	1069	-22
6	13	9	EVERYTHING HAS YOUR MEMORY (Independent) Wade Bowen	1285	147	16	19	6	STUCK (Independent) Ariel Hutchins	1068	100
7	18	7	NOTHING BUT LOVE SONGS (Independent) Randy Rogers Band	1230	255	17	20	8	IF IT DON'T HAVE A HONKY TONK (Independent) Pat Green	1066	109
10	8	24	THAT WAY (Cielo Azul Ent) Sarah Hobbs	1228	-56	18	21	15	WILDFLOWER (Independent) Love & Chaos f/ Willy Braun	1047	102
9	1	21	STRANGER TONIGHT (Independent) Micky & The Motorcars	1196	-649	19	17	18	DAMN SANDWICH (Independent) Jordan Rainer	1046	29
10	5	24	WORKING MAN'S WOMAN (Independent) Jesse Raub Jr.	1167	-319	20	14	19	HUMAN (Independent) Cody Johnson	1016	-118

Texas Regional Radio Report Top 100 is compiled from weekly online playlist reports from 86 radio stations located in Texas and surrounding states, including reports from specialty shows, internet and satellite radio outlets. Songs are ranked by total plays. For tracking, complete chart methodology and more information, visit www.texasregionalradio.com, or contact Dave Smith at 972-252-8777. Copyright 2022, Texas Regional Radio Report

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DRAKE MILLIGAN SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO



30+ FIRST WEEK ADDS

MCCN / MUSIC CHOICE
KSCS / DALLAS
KILT / HOUSTON
KKBQ / HOUSTON
WJVC / NASSAU-SUFFOLK
KUPL / PORTLAND
KWJJ / PORTLAND
KSOP / SALT LAKE CITY
WWKA / ORLANDO
KWNR / LAS VEGAS
KBEQ / KANSAS CITY

WGH / NORFOLK
WKHK / RICHMOND
WQNU / LOUISVILLE
WKMK / MONMOUTH-OCEAN
WZZK / BIRMINGHAM
KHGE / FRESNO
WCYQ / KNOXVILLE
WTGE / BATON ROUGE
KATM / STOCKTON
WKRO / DAYTONA BEACH
KDRK / SPOKANE

KXLY / SPOKANE
KFDI / WICHITA
KJUG / VISALIA
WXBQ / JOHNSON CITY
WQHK / FT WAYNE
WUSJ / JACKSON
KPLM / PALM SPRINGS
KTTS / SPRINGFIELD
BREAKTHROUGH COUNTRY (AMAZON MUSIC)
NEW COUNTRY (PANDORA)

#1 SINGLE & #1 ALBUM ITUNES (ALL FORMATS)



DEBUT ALBUM

DALLAS/FORT WORTH

AVAILABLE NOW







NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



Lucinda Williams received the BMI Troubadour Award during a Sept. 12 dinner ceremony. She's flanked by BMI Nashville vp of creative Clay Bradley (left) and BMI CEO Mike O'Neill.

SCHMIDT INKS WITH ENDURANCE

Endurance Music Group has signed songwriter-producer **Jordan Schmidt** to an exclusive, global publishing agreement that includes the purchase of rights to some of his existing copyrights.

His catalog of hits includes **Kane Brown**'s "Like I Love Country Music" and "What Ifs" (featuring **Lauren Alaina**), as well as **Blake Shelton**'s "God's Country," which earned Academy of Country Music and Country Music Association single of the year honors and a Grammy nomination. Schmidt is also a writer on **Mitchell Tenpenny**'s "Drunk Me," the **Florida Georgia Line/Nelly** duet "Lil Bit" and **Jason Aldean**'s "You Make It Easy" and "Lights Come On."

A native of Duluth, Minn., Schmidt first became an in-demand rock/alternative producer in Minneapolis, working with bands All Time Low, Metro Station, Motion City Soundtrack and Quietdrive. He moved to Nashville in 2012, signing a publishing deal with Florida Georgia Line's Tree Vibez Music. Schmidt continues to produce — he's listed at No. 5 on the Country Producers chart (see page 12) for his work on current singles by Tenpenny, Ingrid Andress and Tyler Hubbard.

Schmidt currently resides in Nashville with his fiancée, singer-songwriter **Renee Blair**; both have co-writing credits on the recent **HARDY** release, "wait in the truck," featuring **Lainey Wilson**. It rests at No. 29 on *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart.

Go here for the full story.

—Jessica Nicholson

RADIO & RECORDS®

Mackenzie Cooper will join Triple Tigers on Sept. 26 as promotion coordinator, replacing Hope Garrison, who moves to marketing manager. Cooper spent the previous two years as a digital content director/producer for Westwood One's Nights With Elaina ... RECORDS Nashville hired senior director of national promotion David "Bubba" Berry, who worked most recently as Arista Nashville Northeast regional. With his arrival, RECORDS also promotes Jamice Jennings to senior director of national promotion and commercial strategy ... The Pretty Wild, consisting of sisters Jill and Julia Tirinnanzi, signed a recording contract with RECORDS Nashville/Columbia and a booking agreement with Creative Artists Agency. They are managed by D&D Endeavors owner David Nathan, and the duo's website currently features a video of "Xanax & Champagne," written by Brandy Clark, Shane McAnally and Old Dominion's Trevor Rosen ... Michael Biondo was promoted to iHeart Media president of business development and strategic partnerships from executive vp of strategic business operations... Garth Brooks' SiriusXM station, The Garth Channel, is expected to end a six-year run on Oct. 1, likely closing with "People Loving People" ... Two iHeartMedia market presidents, Dallas' **Kelly** Kibler and San Antonio/Austin president Matt Martin, are no longer with the company, RadioInk.com reported. Detroit region president Paul Corvino has added those territories to his responsibilities ... Civic Media purchased WDMO Baldwin, Wis., and two silent Wisconsin outlets, WCBN Hayward and

WXCE Amery, from Zoe Communications, according to RadioInsight.com. The price was \$700,000 ... Private services were held Sept. 17 for L. Lowry Mays, who founded the Clear Channel broadcast chain, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. Mays died Sept. 12, 50 years after he bought his first station, a San Antonio FM signal, in an era when FM was not yet dominant. He built that investment into Clear Channel, a chain with 1,200 stations and a concert division. The concert wing was spun off into Live Nation; Clear Channel was sold and later restructured as iHeartMedia.

'ROUND THE ROW

Spirit Music Nashville CEO Frank Rogers' role with the firm was expanded as he added chief creative officer duties for the entire company to his job description ... Homestead Music promoted Chelsey Block to managing partner from head of marketing. The move comes in conjunction with the company signing Wheelhouse artist Madeline Merlo to a recording deal. Merlo has an EP, Slide, set for release Sept. 23 ... Chris Stapleton renewed his publishing agreement with Warner Chappell Nashville ... Singer-songwriter Dalton Dover signed a joint-venture songwriting agreement with Sony Music Publishing Nashville and Jim Catino's Droptine Music ... Reservoir and joint-venture partner One Riot announced a publishing deal with singer-songwriter Brit Taylor ... Jimmie Allen, Mickey Guyton and Yola were added to the leadership council of the Recording Academy's Black Music Collective ... Progressive bluegrass artist Billy Strings was named artist of the year during the Americana Music Association's 21st annual Americana Honors & Awards on Sept. 14 at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. Allison Russell's Outside Child claimed album of the year, The War and Treaty snagged duo/group, and "Right On Time" earned song of the year honors for Brandi Carlile and co-writers Dave Cobb, Phil Hanseroth and Tim Hanseroth ... The Nashville Songwriters Association International's 23rd annual NSAI Song Contest, co-sponsored by The Bluebird Cafe and CMT, will launch Oct. 1 with a pool of potential rewards that includes cash prizes of \$5,000 and \$2,500, a single-song contract with Anthem Entertainment and a mentoring session with Blanco Brown or Nicolle Galyon. Go here for more info ... Tracy Lawrence holds his 17th annual Mission: Possible Turkey Fry for the Nashville Rescue Mission on Nov. 22 with an adjunct benefit concert the same night featuring Gary Allan and Travis Denning at the Wildhorse Saloon. The event has raised over \$600,000 for the Mission ... Services were held Sept. 17 for music veteran Terry Choate at Grandview Funeral Home in Sparta, N.C. Choate died Sept. 13, leaving a legacy that included work with Tree Publishing and a run in A&R at Capitol Nashville, where he was involved in the careers of Don Williams, Tanya Tucker and T. Graham Brown, among others ... Dick McVey will be honored with a celebration of life at 1 p.m. on Sept. 20 at Sumner Funeral & Cremation in Hendersonville, Tenn. A former member of Little Jimmy Dickens' band, he developed a musicians referral service and backed numerous artists on the Grand Ole Opry. McVey, 73, died Sept. 14. O



Jelly Roll's Sept. 13 performance at the Xfinity Center in Mansfield, Mass., drew a visit from WKLB Boston assistant PD Dawn Santolucito (left). They're joined by Stoney Creek director of Northeast promotion Lexi Willson.



NEW ALBUM AVAILABLE NOW

Mr. Sun

LITTLE BIG TOWN



billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

LUMINATE

THIS	LAST	TW0 WEEKS	WKS ON	TITLE	Artist	COUNTRY AIRPLAY	PEAK					
WEEK	WEEK	AGO	CHART	PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	RANK	POSITION					
0	1	1	18	OU PROOF ** No. 1 (5 Weeks)/Airplay Gainer ** Morgan Wallen Morgan Wallen (M.WALLEN, A.G.GORLEY, E.K.SMITH, CHARLIE HANDSOME) MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD								
2	2	2	13	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE CHIP MATTHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON,LCOMBS (L.COMBS,J.DAVIS,D.ISBELL,R.ISBELL)								
3	3	3	56	WASTED ON YOU J.MOI,J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH,J.THOMPSON,CHARLIE HANDSOME)								
4	4	4	20	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Z.CROWELL (A.G.GORLEY,C.SWINDELL,J.FRASURE,M.D. SANDERS,THOMAS RHETT,T.NICHOLS)	Cole Swindell Warner Music Nashville/WMN	1	3					
5	NE	W	1	THANK GOD D.HUFF (C.D.STALNECKER,K.FISHMAN,J.FREE,J.HOGE,J.MULLINS) ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE	35	5					
6	5	6	17	5 FOOT 9 T.HUBBARD,J.M.SCHMIDT (T.R.HUBBARD,J.JOHNSTON,C.MCGILL)	Tyler Hubbard HUBBARD HOUSE/EMI NASHVILLE	5	5					
7	7	8	21	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE R.HADLOCK (Z.L.BRYAN)								
8	6	5	30	LAST NIGHT LONELY J.PARDI,B.BUTLER,R.GORE (J.BELL,J.FOX,D.MARLOWE)	Jon Pardi CAPITOL NASHVILLE	RC	5					
9	9	9	24	SON OF A SINNER ERNEST K,I.TOSHINSKY (J.B.DEFORD,E.K.SMITH,D.R.STEVENS)	Jelly Roll BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/STONEY CREEK	14	9					
10	8	7	14	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE A.R.SHAWN (B.ZIMMERMAN,H.WARREN,J.HACKWORTH,J.HARVEY)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	-	2					
0	10	10	31	FALL IN LOVE A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN,B.ZIMMERMAN,G.J.LUCAS)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	13	6					
P	11	14	59	TRUTH ABOUT YOU J.M.SCHMIDT,M.TENPENNY (M.TENPENNY,M.ALDERMAN,T.ARCHER)	Mitchell Tenpenny RISER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	4	11					
13	14	11	51	VISHFUL DRINKING ANDRESS, J.M.SCHMIDT (I.ANDRESS, J.P.STARKER SAXE, J.PRICE, D.D.BROWN, R.WILLIAMSON) ATLANTIC/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA								
14	13	12	19	LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC D.HUFF (K.BROWN,M.J.MCGINN,T.PHILLIPS,J.M.SCHMIDT)	Kane Brown ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE	RC	3					
15	16	17	19	WHISKEY ON YOU LRIMES (N.SMITH,LRIMES,R.SUTTON)	Nate Smith ARISTA NASHVILLE	23	14					
16	22	25	16	DON'T COME LOOKIN' LDICK (J.DEAN,C.LDICK)	Jackson Dean BIG MACHINE	11	16					
T	20	21	16	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS,M.DRAGSTREM,R.J.HURD)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	21	17					
18	17	18	35	SHE LIKES IT J.KERR.J.SCOTT (R.DICKERSON,J.SCOTT,J.KERR)	Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott TRIPLE TIGERS	19	13					
19	21	20	8	HALF OF ME D.HUFF,J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,R.AKINS,W.BUNDY,J.THOMPSON)	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green VALORY/BMLG	10	19					
20	12	13	26	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE J.S.STOVER,S.BORCHETTA (J.MOORE,P.DIGIOVANNI,C.MCGILL,J.S.STOVER)	Justin Moore VALORY	8	12					
21	18	19	26	GHOST STORY D.GARCIA,C.UNDERWOOD (D.A.GARCIA, J.KEAR, H.LINDSEY, H.WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW)	Carrie Underwood CAPITOL NASHVILLE	9	12					
22	25	27	11	COUNTRY ON J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (D.FRASIER,S.HAURY,M.NESLER,MITCH OGLESBY)	Luke Bryan CAPITOL NASHVILLE	12	19					
23	19	15	4	WHERE IT ENDS A.R.SHAWN (B.ZIMMERMAN,G.AVERILL, J.SPARGUR)	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	-	7					
24	24	22	19	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW J.MOI (M.WALLEN,N.GALYON,M.LAMBERT)	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1					
25	29	23	3	WAIT IN THE TRUCK J.MOI,HARDY (M.W.HARDY,H.PHELPS,J.M.SCHMIDT,R.BLAIR)	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW/BIG LOUD	30	23					

COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

1	# 1 14 WKS	ZACH BRYAN
2	МО	RGAN WALLEN
3	ERI	NEST
4	СН	ARLIE HANDSOME
5	AS	HLEY GORLEY
6	ВА	ILEY ZIMMERMAN
7	СН	ASE MCGILL
8	JO	SH THOMPSON
9	TY	LER HUBBARD
10	LUI	KE COMBS



COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

1	# 1 83 WKS	JOEY MOI
2	AU	STIN SHAWN
3	DA	NN HUFF
4	ZA	CH CROWELL
5	JOI	RDAN SCHMIDT
6	RY	AN HADLOCK
7	СН	ARLIE HANDSOME
8	JA	COB DURRETT
9	PAI	JL DIGIOVANNI
10	EDI	DIE SPEAR

billboard Hot Country Songs

LUMINATE

Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER Corey Kent COMBUSTION MASTERS/RCA NASHVILLE Lee Brice CURB Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER Gabby Barrett	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK - 38 22	PEAK POSITION 26 15 23
BELTING BRONCO/WARNER Corey Kent COMBUSTION MASTERS/RCA NASHVILLE Lee Brice CURB Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	38	15
COMBUSTION MASTERS/RCA NÁSHVILLE Lee Brice CURB Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER		
CURB Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	22	23
BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	_	
Gabby Barrett		24
WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	15	15
BRELAND BAD REALM/ATLANTIC	-	31
es Gainer ★★ Hailey Whitters SONGS & DAUGHTERS/PIGASUS/BIG LOUD	47	32
ming Gainer ★★ Little Big Town CAPITOL NASHVILLE	50	33
Carly Pearce BIG MACHINE	37	29
Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	31	27
Jimmie Allen STONEY CREEK	18	32
Zac Brown Band HOME GROWN/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	16	32
Megan Moroney Megan Moroney	-	38
Kelsea Ballerini BLACK RIVER	24	25
Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	20	39
Tyler Childers HICKMAN HOLLER/RCA	-	41
Dustin Lynch BROKEN BOW	17	30
Walker Hayes MONUMENT	43	32
David Morris Dreamtown, usa/grey area	-	37
Koe Wetzel YELLABUSH/COLUMBIA	-	28
Parker McCollum MCA NASHVILLE	39	42
Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	-	46
Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW	32	48
Sam Hunt MCA NASHVILLE	28	49
Dylan Scott CURB	-	35
	BAD REALM/ATLANTIC PAS Gainer ★★ Hailey Whitters SONGS & DAUGHTERS/PIGASUS/BIG LOUD ning Gainer ★★ Little Big Town CAPITOL NASHVILLE Carly Pearce BIG MACHINE Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE Jimmie Allen STONEY CREEK Zac Brown Band HOME GROWN/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR Megan Moroney MEGAN MORONEY Kelsea Ballerini BLACK RIVER Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW Tyler Childers HICKMAN HOLLER/RCA Dustin Lynch BROKEN BOW Walker Hayes MONUMENT David Morris DREAMTOWN, USA/GREY AREA Koe Wetzel YELLABUSH/COLUMBIA Parker McCollum MCA NASHVILLE Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW Sam Hunt MCA NASHVILLE Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW	BAD REALM/ATLANTIC Hailey Whitters SONGS & DAUGHTERS/PIGASUS/RIG LOUD Carly Pearce BIG MACHINE 37 Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE 31 Jimmie Allen STONEY GREEK Zac Brown Band HOME GROWN/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR Megan Moroney MEGAN MORONEY Tyler Childers HICKMAN HOLLERRCA Dustin Lynch BROKEN BOW MONUMENT MORONEY MORO

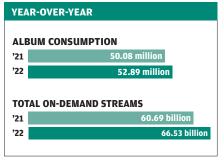
The week's most popular country songs, ranked by radio airplay audience impressions as measured by Luminate, formerly MRC Data, sales data as compiled by Luminate, formerly MRC Data and streaming activity data from online music sources tracked by Luminate, formerly MRC Data. Descending titles below No. 25 are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks.

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

WEEKLY UNIT COUNT								
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND					
This Week	1,482,000	1,741,871,000	130,554,000					
Last Week	1,464,000	1,739,586,000	129,449,000					
Change	1.2%	0.1%	0.9%					
This Week Last Year	1,368,000	1,519,325,000	131,060,000					
Change	8.3%	14.6%	-0.4%					

YEAR-TO-DA	TE		
	2021	2022	CHANGE
Album Consumption	50,075,000	52,890,000	5.6%
Album Sales	6,252,000	4,865,000	-22.2%
Audio On-Demand	55,674,165,000	61,818,495,000	11.0%
Video On-Demand	5,015,912,000	4,709,265,000	-6.1%



All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending September 15, 2022. All units counts are rounded to the nearest thousand. Album consumption units — also known as albums plus TEA plus SEA — consists of album sales; track-equivalent album (TEA) sales whereby 10 tracks equal one consumption unit; and stream equivalent albums (SEA) whereby 1,250 paid and/or 3,750 ad-supported audio on-demand streams (OAD) equal one consumption unit.



STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

billboard top country albums

THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
0	1	1	88	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 033180*/REPUBLIC DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM	2	1
2	NE	w	1	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 996216/SMN		2
3	2	2	17	ZACH BRYAN AMERICAN HEARTBREAK BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER		1
4	3	3	12	LUKE COMBS GROWIN' UP RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 997801/SMN		1
6	6	4	276	LUKE COMBS THIS ONE'S FOR YOU RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883"/SMN	3	1
6	7	5	224	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*	2	1
7	8	6	149	LUKE COMBS WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	2	1
8	RE-EI	NTRY	112	ELVIS PRESLEY THE ESSENTIAL ELVIS PRESLEY RCA/SONY STRATEGIC MARKETING GROUP 89048*/LEGACY (25.98)		8
9	9	7	44	TAYLOR SWIFT RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 034504*		1
10	10	8	385	CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	4	1
11	11	9	96	CHRIS STAPLETON STARTING OVER MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN		1
Œ	14	15	166	TYLER CHILDERS PURGATORY HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS		9
13	5	_	2	JON PARDI MR. SATURDAY NIGHT CAPITOL NASHVILLE 036110/UMGN		5
14	13	12	23	COLE SWINDELL STEREOTYPE WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 694948/WMN		6
Œ	NE	w	1	BRELAND CROSS COUNTRY BAD REALM/ATLANTIC 631719/AG		15
16	19	14	9	ZACH BRYAN SUMMERTIME BLUES BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER		7
17	17	16	75	TAYLOR SWIFT FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REPUBLIC 033578*		1
18	16	13	34	WALKER HAYES COUNTRY STUFF: THE ALBUM MONUMENT 98353*	•	2
19	18	19	95	LEE BRICE HEY WORLD CURB 79537*	•	7
20	NE	w	1	CHARLEY CROCKETT THE MAN FROM WACO SON OF DAVY 12*/THIRTY TIGERS		20
21	15	-	2	SHANIA TWAIN NOT JUST A GIRL: THE HIGHLIGHTS (SOUNDTRACK) MERCURY NASHVILLE 036431/UME		15
2	25	24	4	TYLER HUBBARD DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY (EP) HUBBARD HOUSE/EMI NASHVILLE DIGITAL EX/UMGN		12
23	20	17	362	ZAC BROWN BAND GREATEST HITS SO FAR HOME GROWN 546369*/BMG		3
24	22	23	328	TIM MCGRAW NUMBER ONE HITS CURB 79205 (13.98)		6
25	12	11	295	GEORGE STRAIT 50 NUMBER ONES MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	7	1

Top Country Albums ranks the most popular country albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate, formerly MRC Data, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 2022, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate, formerly MRC Data. All rights reserved.

billboard AMERICANA/ FOLK ALBUMS

REA!				
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CERT. PEAK POS.		TITLE	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	WEEKS ON CHT	2 WEEKS AGO	LAST WEEK	THIS
1	K	AMERICAN HEARTBREAK	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER	17	1	1	0
4 1	R	TRAVELLER	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	331	2	2	2
1	R	STARTING OVER	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	96	3	3	3
2	Y	PURGATORY	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	183	5	4	4
2	S	SUMMERTIME BLUES	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	9	4	5	5
3 1	R	HOZIER	HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	377	6	6	6
7	0	THE MAN FROM WACO	CHARLEY CROCKETT SON OF DAVY 12*/THIRTY TIGERS	1	NEW 1		Ø
1	A	CLEOPATRA	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	336	7	7	8
7	H	ELISABETH	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	41	12	9	9
6	V	DEANN	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 654022*/WARNER (VINYL)	41	11	11	10

Americana/Folk Albums ranks the most popular Americana/folk albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate, formerly MRC Data, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 2022, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate, formerly MRC Data. All rights reserved.

billboard billboard

COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

COUNTRY DIGITAL SONG SALES

<u> </u>	\ <u></u>	, ,,,,	11110 301103	ъ.	· · ·	/ \-	- 00110 0/ (EE0
THIS	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST	THIS	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
0	1	18	YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN	0	NI	w	THANK GOD KANE BROWN WITH KATELYN BROWN
2	3	21	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE ZACH BRYAN	2	2	18	YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN
3	2	13	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE LUKE COMBS	3	1	3	WAIT IN THE TRUCK HARDY FEAT. LAINEY WILSON
4	NE	w	THANK GOD KANE BROWN WITH KATELYN BROWN	4	5	21	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA COLE SWINDELL
6	5	87	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN	5	4	15	SON OF A SINNER JELLY ROLL
6	4	14	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN	6	NI	w	9 TO 5 Dolly Parton & Kelly Clarkson
Ø	7	12	5 FOOT 9 TYLER HUBBARD	7	6	13	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE LUKE COMBS
8	6	16	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA COLE SWINDELL	8	7	38	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN
9	9	21	FALL IN LOVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN	9	17	2	TENNESSEE ORANGE MEGAN MORONEY
1	10	283	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON	10	RE-E	NTRY	WHERE I FIND GOD Larry Fleet
0	11	182	WHISKEY GLASSES MORGAN WALLEN	0	RE-E	NTRY	SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO DRAKE MILLIGAN
12	8	7	LAST NIGHT LONELY JON PARDI	12	9	23	FALL IN LOVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
ß	13	65	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE CHRIS STAPLETON	13	3	5	DUTTON RANCH FREESTYLE DAVID MORRIS
Ø	16	14	LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC Kane Brown	14	8	14	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
15	12	4	WHERE IT ENDS BAILEY ZIMMERMAN	Œ	12	3	NEXT THING YOU KNOW JORDAN DAVIS
16	14	14	WHISKEY ON YOU NATE SMITH	16	14	20	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE ZACH BRYAN
Ø	18	19	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW MORGAN WALLEN	Ð	NI	w	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T HAILEY WHITTERS
B	NE	w	BURN, BURN, BURN Zach Bryan	18	NI	w	ANGEL BAND Tyler Childers
ø	22	218	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS	19	13	16	5 FOOT 9 TYLER HUBBARD
20	20	3	OKLAHOMA SMOKE SHOW ZACH BRYAN	20	11	15	SOUL LEE BRICE
4	17	58	BUY DIRT JORDAN DAVIS FEAT. LUKE BRYAN	4	RE-E	NTRY	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND JORDAN DAVIS
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The week's top-streamed and top-selling paid download country songs, respectively, from sales reports collected and provided by Luminate, formerly MRC Data. Charts update weekly on Tuesdays at www.Billboard.Biz/charts. Copyright 2022, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate, formerly MRC Data. All rights reserved.

billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

SALES DATA COMPILED BY LUMINATE

THIS	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHT	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABE	TITLE	CERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	43	ROBERT PLANT / ALISON KRAUSS ROUNDER 610127*/CONCORD	S RAISE THE ROOF		1
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6	5	8	20	OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW ATO 0602*	PAINT THIS TOWN		1
7	8	7	24	MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGHW NONESUCH 677309*/WARNER	VAY CROOKED TREE		2
8	10	9	29	VARIOUS ARTISTS CURB/BILLY BLUE 2334 CB EX	COUNTRY FAITH BLUEGRASS		7
9	RE-EI	NTRY	23	WATCHHOUSE TIPTOE TIGER 002*/THIRTY TIGERS	WATCHHOUSE		1
10	RE-EI	NTRY	2	NORA BROWN JALOPY 013* (VINYL)	LONG TIME TO BE GONE		2

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ON SALE
OCT 8

2022

billboard GRAMM CONTER

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Craig Morgan Offers A Personal Mantra With 'How You Make A Man'

Adversity, according to an old adage, builds character.

Craig Morgan has experienced enough of it to believe it's true. In the most dramatic incident, he lost a son in a drowning accident and carries that emotional burden with him even as he moves forward. But he has also escaped a bus fire, pulled other people out of blazes and once broke bones in two separate motorcycle races six weeks apart — but still finished both competitions. He knows a thing or two about overcoming challenges.

"We break bones and we get scars, but you can rest assured that that's going to be the toughest part of you," Morgan reasons. "It's hard to break a bone in the same place twice because it's so much stronger, having been broke there [before]. And the same goes with our hearts and our heads. We're stronger people when we go through these hardships and heartaches. And I still believe that is how you make a man, that's how you make a woman. That's how you make a good human being.'

That's the message in Morgan's new single, "How You Make a Man," a song whose chorus recognizes life's unavoidable pain, as well as the strength required to rebound and the character it creates.

"You're going to get hurt, you're going to get beat up, you're going to fail," says Morgan. "All the things that we consider negative can and will happen to you. But that doesn't define you. You know, 'You hit your knees until you learn to stand'—like the song says,

get back up. Don't let it get you down. Those things are supposed to happen."

"How You Make a Man" was inspired by a Facebook post about the transition from restless boy to adult male. Songwriter Megan Conner thought the topic was worthy of a song, and she fashioned a series of lines under a different title, "Man Maker," which she introduced during a Feb. 28, 2018, writing appointment at Liv Write Play, a publishing company partially owned by indie recording artist Olivia Lane. The story appealed to her co-writers: Michael August, who co-authored Erin Kinsey's "Just Drive," and Skip Black, who is credited on **Edens Edge**'s "Amen."

"You've got to go through the dark to see the light," Conner suggests. "You've got to experience the bad to get to the good. That's what we were trying to capture in a non-cliche kind of way, saying that you have to [withstand] the pressure to get to the diamonds."

Black, in particular, was experiencing that reality in a personal way, enduring a rough patch in a marriage that eventually ended in divorce. He started playing an acoustic guitar figure that hung on one note, and he introduced the opening line after consulting Google.

"We were talking about the different ways you make a man, so I said because I'm not so good with my Bible verses at all — 'On what day did God create man?' " remembers Black. "And it was like, 'On the sixth day, God created Adam out of dust.' Boom, there's our first line."

The entire first verse focused on the ways that personal instructors would explain how a man is made: In addition to the preacher's creation story, a scientist would turn to the Big Bang theory, Mom might say that baby boys are a byproduct of love, and Dad would offer different advice: "Let me tell you, son ...'

"It was a good way to tee up that chorus," Black suggests.

That chorus, essentially a quote from Dad about building character, featured a melodic lift and took a more commanding posture in phrasing, a contrast with the pondering cadence of the verses. And its lyrics were built on similar contrasts: "good days, bad days" and "the wars you fight, the ones you walk away from." It's practically a Buddhist stanza, given that one of Buddhism's basic tenets — at least in the English translation — is that "Life is struggle."

"It's being able to take the really bad, you know, and find the really good in it," surmises Conner.

Verse two brought more challenge as the song's protagonist recalls how he purchased a ring at age 22, only to lose the woman he bought it for — whether she rejected the proposal, walked away at the altar or even died is unclear. In any event, "she left a boy broken," as the stanza's final line puts it.

> They also fashioned a short bridge, though no one remembers quite what it was, only that it didn't really meet the moment. That nagged at Black while he sang on the demo for "Make a Man," as they were calling it at the time.

> Publishing consultant Steve Bloch, who was asked to weigh in, thought the song wasn't fully summarized.

> "Steve Bloch is such a wise song guy," August says. "He's like, 'What's the big thing? Where's the girl in the song? Why is this important now? To who?' I told Skip and Megan that, and Skip literally just texted me and Megan a whole bridge, which is the bridge that's on there now."

That version recasts all the down cycles as life lessons, noting that the singer is now "a man worth lovin' you."

"It just totally hit home," adds August. "And the cool thing about it is you can interpret it as a woman, or you can interpret that as God."

At least two artists put it on hold — one of them for almost an entire year - but neither cut it. Indie song-

plugger Shane Barrett stayed on it and eventually sent "Make a Man" to producer Phil O'Donnell (Drew Parker, Aaron Watson) for Morgan.

"If there ever was a song custom made for him, that's definitely one," O'Donnell quips.

He forwarded it to Morgan, who paused the demo after the first chorus, long enough to put it on hold. Soon after he finished listening, Morgan told O'Donnell they needed to get a session scheduled so they could record it as soon as possible.

They cut it at The Castle in Franklin, Tenn., with a band that included guitarists Brandon Hood, Jeff King and Troy Lancaster; drummer Chris McHugh; bassist Jimmie Lee Sloas; pianist Gordon Mote; and steel guitarist Mike Johnson.

Two of the guitarists reworked the opening guitar to create a start-and-stop arpeggiated foundation, they nixed a Hammond B-3 part from the original demo, and they gave Johnson's steel prominence. They also used McHugh's power and Mote's thoughtful piano to heighten the drama in the bridge. Those were mostly minor changes from the guide that Black had produced.

"We just filed a couple of edges," says O'Donnell. "That bread was buttered. I feel like we just cut the crust off and ate it. They had a great map."

Morgan delivered the final vocal on the studio floor with the band, coordinating the interplay between singer and drums at the bridge in the process.

"I always sing when we're tracking because I want them to know where I'm at and what I'm doing dynamically," Morgan says. "If it works out that I'm in good vocal that day, that's what we use. And that's what happened on that record."

Morgan was adamant about elongating the title to "How You Make a Man," bringing more clarity to the song's subject matter. Broken Bow released it to country radio via PlayMPE on Aug. 4. Its message about overcoming adversity overlaps nicely with his other 2022 efforts, including his autobiography, God, Family, Country: A Memoir, co-written with Jim DeFelice (Sept. 27, Blackstone Publishing), and the recent CBS reality competition Beyond the Edge.

"That show was another one of those moments where we're suffering for other people," says Morgan. "It was a good thing, and that's what my book is $\overset{\text{u}}{\mathbb{Z}}$ about. That's what my music is, for the most part. I have always tried to deliver that message in some way." •

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TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org. (Songwriter) Chart Position

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Y'ALL LIFE Songs Of Smack, BMI/Spark In Your Pocket, BMI/Me Gusta Music, BMI/Smackworks Music, SESAC/Kobalt Music Publishing America, SESAC/Universal Music Corp., ASCAP/Universal Music - MGB Songs, ASCAP/D2 Pro Publishing, ASCAP/W.C.M. Music Corp., SESAC/King Pen Songs, SESAC (W.Hayes, P.Good, J.Jenkins, C.Haynes, Jr., J.Epperson) 43

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40 Years Ago

Michael Martin Murphey Notched His First Hot Country Songs No. 1

In 1982, "What's Forever For" became his first of two leaders and 12 top 10s on the list

On Sept. 25, 1982, **Michael Martin Murphey**'s "What's Forever For" topped *Billboard*'s Hot Country Songs chart. The song was his first of two No. 1s and 12 top 10s.

The ballad was authored by **Rafe Van Hoy** and produced by **Kyle Lehning**. Pop duo **England Dan & John Ford Coley** originally recorded it in 1979.

"Forever" was released from

Murphey's self-titled album. Follow-up single "Still Taking Chances" hit No. 3 on Hot Country Songs. Heled again with "A Long Line of Love" in August 1987.

The Oak Cliff, Texas, native broke through with the top 40 Billboard Hot 100 hit "Geronimo's Cadillac" in 1972 and sent "Wildfire" to a careerbest No. 3 on the all-genre chart in 1975. Well-versed in multiple styles, he was inducted into the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame in 2009. The same year, he notched his first of four top 10s on *Billboard*'s Bluegrass Albums tally, reaching a No. 2 best with 2013's *Red River Drifter*.

Now 77, Murphey is still touring. In June, he released the LP *Beyond the View*, a collaborative set with his son, **Ryan Murphey**.

