

Growth of Radio Broadcasting Pre-Television 1922-1945

The following tables represent a record of broadcasting growth in the United States before the advent of television. All information is from the records of the Federal Communications Commission.

AM Authorizations Before Television

Date	Licensed	Under Construction	Total Authorized
Jan. 1, 1922			30
Mar. 1, 1923			556
Oct. 1, 1924			530
June 20, 1925			571
June 30, 1926			528
Feb. 23, 1927			733
July 1, 1928			677
July 1, 1931	603	9	612
Jan. 1, 1932	601	7	608
Jan. 1, 1933	599	11	610
Jan. 1, 1934	583	8	591
Jan. 1, 1935	585	20	605
Jan. 1, 1936	616	39	632
Jan. 1, 1937	646	39	685
Jan. 1, 1938	689	32	721
Jan. 1, 1939	722	42	764
Jan. 1, 1940	765	49	814
June 30, 1941			897
June 30, 1942			925
June 30, 1943			912
June 30, 1944			924
July 20, 1945	933	23	956

FM Authorizations Before Television

Date	Licensed	Under Construction	Total Authorized
June 30, 1940		50	
June 30, 1941		69	
June 30, 1942		74	
June 30, 1943		26	74
June 30, 1944		6	58
June 30, 1945		3	56

U.S. Radio Set Sales 1958-1995

Data was compiled by Electronic Industries Association. All figures are in thousands (add 000).

Year	Domestic Label		Other Imports		Total Table, Clock, Portable		Total Auto Radio		Total	
	Units	Dollars	Units	Dollars	Units	Dollars	Units	Dollars	Units	Dollars
1958	8,227	159,000	2,570	....	10,797	....	3,715	96,000	14,512	....
1959	9,947	192,000	5,825	....	15,772	....	5,501	130,000	21,273	....
1960	10,113	190,000	7,518	....	18,031	....	6,432	154,000	24,463	....
1961	11,590	190,000	12,064	....	23,654	....	5,568	134,000	29,222	....
1962	11,811	207,000	12,970	....	24,781	....	7,249	181,000	32,030	....
1963	10,439	179,000	13,163	....	23,602	....	7,946	206,000	31,548	....
1964	10,836	179,000	12,722	88,000	23,558	267,000	8,313	205,000	31,871	472,000
1965	13,812	212,000	17,877	116,000	31,689	328,000	10,037	248,000	41,726	576,000
1966	14,468	231,000	20,311	115,000	34,779	346,000	9,394	267,000	44,173	613,000
1967	12,568	201,000	19,116	132,000	31,684	333,000	9,527	259,000	41,211	592,000
1968	11,660	191,000	22,662	180,000	34,322	371,000	12,510	330,000	46,832	701,000
1969	10,400	166,000	29,014	256,000	39,414	422,000	11,939	316,000	51,353	738,000
1970	7,948	124,000	26,101	256,000	34,049	380,000	10,378	271,000	44,427	651,000
1971	8,224	131,000	25,811	356,000	34,105	487,000	13,505	315,000	47,610	802,000
1972	9,848	157,000	32,301	449,000	42,149	606,000	13,162	377,000	55,311	983,000
1973	....	....	....	....	37,652	572,000	12,546	391,000	50,198	963,000
1974	....	....	....	....	33,076	557,331	10,762	369,998	43,838	927,329
1975	....	....	....	....	25,544	372,970	9,239	355,001	34,783	727,971
1976	....	....	....	....	28,264	355,885	12,445	497,053	40,709	852,938
1977	....	....	....	....	41,463	522,422	12,890	534,033	54,353	1,056,456
1978	....	....	....	....	31,776	435,749	12,668	581,968	44,444	1,017,717
1979	....	....	....	....	27,380	435,896	12,381	623,012	39,761	1,058,908
1980	....	....	....	....	28,062	467,827	11,470	960,957	39,532	1,428,784
1981	....	....	....	....	29,415	501,213	12,883	1,082,945	42,298	1,584,158
1982	....	....	....	....	32,663	529,683	12,306	1,048,963	44,969	1,578,646
1983	....	....	....	....	39,496	565,352	12,081	1,147,937	51,577	1,713,291
1984	....	....	....	....	46,453	661,316	15,630	1,902,336	62,083	2,563,652
1985	....	....	....	....	21,574	379,285	15,497	1,566,456	37,071	1,945,741
1986	....	....	....	....	25,363	407,504	15,783	1,683,033	41,146	2,090,537
1987	....	....	....	....	28,110	409,338	....	....	....	....
1988	....	....	....	....	23,623	377,173	....	....	....	....
1989	....	....	....	....	25,253	378,689	....	....	....	....
1990	....	....	....	....	21,585	359,699	....	....	....	....
1991	....	....	....	....	18,530	310,324	....	....	....	....
1992	....	....	....	....	21,553	324,000	....	....	....	....
1993	....	....	....	19,696	307,000	....	....	....	....	....
1994	....	....	....	....	18,325	305,000	....	....	....	....
1995	....	....	....	....	17,051	284,000	....	....	....	....

Prior to 1971, data reflects factory sales by U.S. manufacturers plus those products imported directly by distributors or dealers for resale. All import statistics are based upon average value as published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, which is F.O.B. and therefore excludes U.S. import duties, freight charged from the foreign country to the United States, and insurance.

Record of Radio Station Growth Since Television Began

Date	AM Authorized	On Air	FM Authorized	On Air
Jan. 1, 1946*	1,004		456	55
June 30, 1946*				
Jan. 1, 1947*	1,517			
June 30, 1947			918	238
Jan. 1 1948*	1,962	1,621	926	458
Jan. 1, 1949	2,127	1,912	966	700
Jan. 1, 1950	2,234	2,086	788	733
Jan. 1, 1951	2,351	2,232	703	676
Jan. 1, 1952	2,408	2,331	650	637
Jan. 1, 1953*	2,524	2,391		
June 30, 1953*			601	580
Jan. 1, 1954	2,636	2,521	580	560
Jan. 1, 1955	2,774	2,669	559	552
Jan. 1, 1956	2,935	2,824	557	540
Jan. 1, 1957	3,125	3,008	554	530
Jan. 1, 1958	3,295	3,196	590	537
Jan. 1, 1959	3,440	3,326	695	578
Jan. 1, 1960	3,527	3,398	838	688
Jan. 1, 1961	3,667	3,539	1,018	815
Jan. 1, 1962	3,911	3,693	1,128	960
Jan. 1, 1963	3,924	3,810	1,128	1,081
Jan. 1, 1964	4,039	3,937	1,249	1,146
Jan. 1, 1965	4,077	4,009	1,468	1,270
Jan. 1, 1966	4,129	4,049	1,657	1,446
Jan. 1, 1967	4,190	4,121	1,865	1,643
Jan. 1, 1968	4,249	4,156	3,005	1,753
Jan. 1, 1969	4,300	4,237	2,114	1,938
Jan. 1, 1970	4,344	4,269	2,651	2,476
Jan. 1, 1971	4,383	4,323	2,795	2,636
Jan. 1, 1972	4,411	4,355	2,971	2,783
Jan. 1, 1973	4,431	4,382	3,162	2,965
Jan. 1, 1974	4,448	4,395	3,360	3,151
Jan. 1, 1975	4,477	4,432	3,617	3,353
Jan. 1, 1976	4,513	4,463	3,752	3,571
Jan. 1, 1977	4,536	4,497	3,969	3,743
Jan. 1, 1978	4,569	4,513	4,130	3,972
Jan. 1, 1979	4,599	4,549	4,310	4,089
Jan. 1, 1980	4,651	4,558	4,463	4,190
Jan. 1, 1981	4,700	4,589	4,588	4,374
Jan. 1, 1982	4,763	4,634	4,736	4,467
Jan. 1, 1983	4,828	4,685	4,970	4,505
Jan. 1, 1984	4,897	4,733	5,240	4,649
Jan. 1, 1985	4,924	4,754	5,479	4,888
Oct. 30, 1985	4,975	4,805	5,657	5,066
Oct. 31, 1986	5,026	4,856	5,781	5,190
Jan. 1, 1988	5,072	4,902	5,933	5,342
Jan. 1, 1989	5,199	4,932	6,434	5,529
Jan. 1, 1990	5,223	4,966	6,705	5,665
Jan. 1, 1991	5,226	4,984	7,037	5,810
Jan. 1, 1992	5,223	4,988	7,356	6,036
Jan. 1, 1993	5,147	4,963	7,538	6,312
Jan. 1, 1994		4,945		6,613
Jan. 1, 1995		4,923		6,778
Jan. 1, 1996		4,906		7,095
Jan. 1, 1997		4,863		7,271

*Comparable figures for all services not available this date.