

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 1958-1998

Data was compiled by Electronic Industries Alliance. 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 | 10,513 | 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 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| 1996 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 17,581 | 291,000 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| 1997 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 17,663 | 302,000 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| 1998 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 18,733 | 334,000 | .... | .... | .... | .... |

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 | | FM | |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| | Authorized | On Air | 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 |
| Jan. 1, 1998 | | 4,762 | | 7,465 |
| Jan. 1, 1999 | | 4,793 | | 7,679 |
| Jan. 1, 2000 | | 4,783 | | 7,832 |

*Comparable figures for all services not available this date.