

**Notable U.S. No. 1s**

The Beatles' top hits based on their time atop the Billboard Hot 100.

**KEY:** Song title, album, date the song hit No. 1 and the number of weeks it lasted as No. 1.

**Hey Jude**  
Single  
SEPT. 28, 1968 **9** WEEKS

Originally "Hey Jules," and written by McCartney to console Lennon's son, Julian, during his parent's divorce.

**I Want to Hold Your Hand**  
Meet the Beatles  
FEB. 1, 1964 **7** WEEKS

The song that kicked off the "British invasion," it was their first U.S. No. 1.

**Can't Buy Me Love**  
A Hard Day's Night  
APRIL 4, 1964 **5** WEEKS

McCartney said, contrary to belief, the song is not about prostitution.

**Get Back**  
Single  
MAY 24, 1969 **5** WEEKS

In an interview in Playboy in 1980, Lennon claimed McCartney looked at Lennon's wife, Yoko Ono, every time he sang the lyric, "Get back to where you once belonged," during recording.

**Yesterday**  
Help!  
OCT. 9, 1965 **4** WEEKS

In 1999, BBC listeners voted it the best song of the 20th century, and in 2000, MTV and Rolling Stone voted it the best pop song of all time.

**Help!**  
Help!  
SEPT. 4, 1965 **3** WEEKS

Lennon told Playboy in 1980 the song was a symbolic cry for help after the band's meteoric rise, which he said was "just beyond comprehension."

**We Can Work It Out**  
Single  
JAN. 8, 1966 **3** WEEKS

The song is believed to be a reference to McCartney's relationship with English actress Jane Asher.

**Hello Goodbye**  
Single  
DEC. 30, 1967 **3** WEEKS

The single's B-side, "I Am the Walrus," was preferred by Lennon, who thought it would be the bigger hit.

**I Feel Fine**  
Beatles '65  
DEC. 28, 1964 **3** WEEKS

The song is believed to be the first to deliberately use audio feedback as a musical element in recording.

**She Loves You**  
Single  
MARCH 21, 1964 **2** WEEKS

The best-selling Beatles single of all time and the best-selling single by any artist in the U.K. in the 1960s.

**Best of the rest:** In total, the Beatles had 20 No. 1 hits on the Billboard Hot 100. Notable songs that never reached No. 1: "Yellow Submarine" (3); "Something" (3); "Strawberry Fields Forever" (8); "Eleanor Rigby" (11); "I Saw Her Standing There" (14); "I Am the Walrus" (56); "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" (71).

**1969 | AN AMERICAN TURNING POINT**

IT WAS 50 YEARS AGO TODAY that the Beatles gave their last live performance on the rooftop of Apple Studios in London. Their last album recorded together, "Abbey Road," would be released in September, and John Lennon would leave the band the same month. No country loved the Fab Four more — or took their breakup harder — than the United States, where their music had become the soundtrack to a decade of upheaval and change.

**WE SAID 'HELLO!'**

**They said 'Goodbye'**



Courtesy of Apple Corps via Tribune News Service | File 1969

For the Beatles, 1969 was a year of "lasts." Their last live performance was a rooftop recording session for their last released album (and film of the same name). The show, "Let It Be," was held Jan. 30 at their Apple Corps headquarters in London. On Aug. 20, all four bandmates met in the recording studio for the last time to put the final touches on "I Want You (She's So Heavy)" — a love song written by John Lennon to his wife, Yoko Ono. That song appeared on "Abbey Road," making the album the last the group would work on together. Two days later, on Aug. 22, was the group's final photo shoot at Lennon's Tittenhurst Park estate in England. Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr looked much the same as they did in the photo above: shaggy, weary and far removed from the clean-cut Fab Four the United States first fell in love with on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1964. The last time the band gathered in the same room came in September — for a business meeting. In the 1995 documentary series "The Beatles Anthology," McCartney said the four were discussing how the band might reinvent itself, perhaps by returning to their roots playing small clubs, when Lennon suddenly announced he was leaving. Tensions had been building for a while, but that was it. The band dissolved soon

after in 1970. Any hopes of a reunion ended with Lennon's murder outside his apartment building in New York City on Dec. 8, 1980. By then, Beatlemania had cooled. The teenagers caught up in the frenzied devotion for the band in the 1960s were now in their 30s or 40s. And Paul, George and Ringo had gone on to establish new careers of their own. But America's love for the group, and Lennon in particular, was still strong. Time magazine wrote that "the outpouring of grief, wonder and shared devastation that followed Lennon's death had the same breadth and intensity as the reaction to the killing of a world figure." According to The New York Times, on Dec. 14, millions of people across the country observed a moment of silence, and more than 225,000 gathered in Central Park to mourn. Every radio station in New York City went quiet for 10 minutes. At least three suicides were attributed to Lennon's death. And today? In 2018, the Beatles sold 321,000 vinyl records — the most of any artist. Their greatest hits album, "1" cracked the top 40 again, and their self-titled album, often referred to as the White Album, debuted at No. 6 after its 50th-anniversary reissue last November. Do we love them? Yeah, yeah, yeah. — Shawn Garrett

**The British invasion**  
Key moments from the Beatles' history in the United States.



Associated Press | File 1964

**Feb. 9, 1964:** An estimated 73 million people watch the Beatles' first appearance on American television on the Ed Sullivan Show. The performance turned the band into superstars overnight.

**April 4, 1964:** Beatles singles "Can't Buy Me Love," "Twist and Shout," "She Loves You," "I Want to Hold Your Hand" and "Please, Please Me" hold the top 5 spots on the U.S. singles chart, still a record.

**Aug. 11, 1964:** The Beatles' first film, "A Hard Day's Night" premieres in New York. A satirical look at a day in the life of the band, the movie earns mostly positive reviews and further cements the band's popularity.



Associated Press | File 1964

**Aug. 18, 1964:** The Beatles kick off their first coast-to-coast U.S. tour. "Beatlemania," an intense devotion to the band, takes the nation's young people by storm.

**Aug. 25, 1965:** "Help!," a James Bond spoof and the second Beatles movie, is released.

**July 31, 1966:** A London Evening Standard interview in which John Lennon said, "We're more popular than Jesus now," is published in the U.S. A national outcry follows, and people burn Beatles records and call for a boycott. Lennon would apologize in August.

**Aug. 26, 1966:** The Beatles play their final official concert in the United States, at Candlestick Park in San Francisco. Only 25,000 tickets out of 42,500 were sold, resulting in a loss for the promoter.

**Dec. 8, 1980:** John Lennon is murdered by Mark David Chapman outside his apartment building, The Dakota, in New York City.

**Also in January 1969 ...**  
**Jan. 9:** Quarterback Joe Namath "guarantees" his New York Jets will beat the heavily favored Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III. Three days later, they do, 16-7.

**Jan. 20:** Richard Milhous Nixon is sworn in as the 37th president of the United States. His administration would institute the Vietnam War draft lottery, and the Watergate scandal would culminate in his resignation.

SOURCES: Associated Press, Apple Corps.com, BeatlesBible.com, Billboard.com, TheGuardian.com, MentalFloss.com, NYTimes.com, Time.com

