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Vinyl records outsell CDs for first time since 1987 – 16th March 2023

Level 0

Vinyl records are coming back. People thought they would disappear after CDs and MP3s came out. Many young people are becoming interested in the 12-inch discs. In 2022, record sales overtook CD sales for the first time since 1987. The year 2022 was the 16th year of sales growth in a row.

A record association said: "Vinyl is cementing its role in modern music." It added: "Music lovers can't get enough of the high-quality sound....Record labels have made beautifully crafted discs." The covid pandemic helped records to come back. Many people worked at home and bought record players. That is continuing today.

Level 1

Vinyl records are coming back. People thought they would disappear when CDs came out 30 years ago. Even MP3s didn't kill off records. Young people are becoming more interested in the seven-inch and 12-inch discs. In 2022, record sales were greater than CD sales for the first time since 1987. Over 41 million vinyl records were sold, compared to 33 million CDs. Records are increasing in popularity. The year 2022 was the 16th year of sales growth in a row.

A record association said there has been a "remarkable" rise in record sales. It said: "Vinyl is cementing its role in the modern music marketplace." It added: "Music lovers can't get enough of the high-quality sound and the connection to artists....Record labels have made beautifully crafted discs." The covid pandemic has helped records come back. Many people worked at home and bought record players. That is continuing today.

Level 2

Vinyl records are making a comeback. People thought they would disappear when music CDs came out 30 years ago. People then thought MP3s would kill off vinyl. However, many younger people are becoming interested in the seven-inch and 12-inch discs. In 2022, vinyl record sales were greater than CD sales for the first time since 1987. In 2022, over 41 million vinyl records were sold in the US, compared to 33 million CDs. Records are continuing to increase in popularity. The year 2022 was the 16th year of sales growth in a row. Records now make up 71% of non-digital music.

The Recording Industry Association of America said there has been a "remarkable" rise in record sales. It said: "Vinyl is cementing its role in the modern music marketplace." It added: "Music lovers can't get enough of the high-quality sound and real connection to artists that vinyl delivers....Record labels have met that demand with...beautifully crafted discs." Many people say the covid pandemic has helped records make a comeback. A record company said many people worked at home in the pandemic. It said: "They invested in turntables and hi-fi....I think that's continuing today."

Level 3

When music CDs came out over 30 years ago, everyone thought that would mean the end of vinyl records. After MP3s and streaming came along, people thought records would die. This was not the case. Vinyl records have been making a comeback. Many younger people are becoming very interested in the seven-inch and 12-inch discs. So much so that in 2022, vinyl record sales were greater than CD sales for the first time since 1987. In 2022, just over 41 million vinyl records were sold in the US. This compares to 33 million CDs. Records have been increasing in popularity for quite some time. The year 2022 was the 16th consecutive year of growth for record sales. Records now account for 71 per cent of non-digital music.

The CEO of the Recording Industry Association of America, Mitch Glazier, said there has been a "remarkable" rise in record sales. He said: "Vinyl is cementing its role as a fixture of the modern music marketplace." He added: "Music lovers can't get enough of the high-quality sound and real connection to artists that vinyl delivers....Record labels have met that demand with a steady stream of exclusives, special re-issues, and beautifully crafted packages and discs." Many people say the covid pandemic has helped records make a comeback. A record label boss said: "Lots of folks were stuck at home working in the pandemic...They invested in turntables and hi-fi....I think that's still carrying on today."