World Tour

These are the world's highest-grossing music tours in history.

* Despite the financial problems streaming poses for many artists, there are still ways for artists to earn a decent living.
* Concerts are considered one of the most reliable and lucrative ways of modern artists making a living from music.
* Based on figures from Billboard, we've put together a ranking of the highest-grossing tours so far.

The transformation of the music industry has changed the way artists make money.

Though streaming has replaced CDs, this new medium works out as being much less profitable for artists.

That said, there is one source of income that's still a sure-fire way for stars to make a living: concerts.

"Artists have always made the bulk of their money from live performances and touring," Zach Bellas, founder of SMB Records, told Business Insider in 2018.

Based on a report by the Wall Street Journal, despite pop and hip-hop dominating the "most-listened-to" genres, it is, by far and away, rock artists who earn the most money on stage.

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**10. Garth Brooks' World Tour with Trisha Yearwood made $364.3 million**

Country star Garth Brooks broke the record for the number of concerts in a single tour.

From September 2014 to December 2017, Brooks' concerts, accompanied on stage by his wife Trisha Yearwood, was seen by over 6 million people, only in the United States and Canada.

According to Pollstar, the tour made $364.3 million.

**9. U2's 'Vertigo' tour grossed $389 million**

The tour, which took place between 2005 and 2006, featured a series of three concerts before a crowd of 245,000, at Croke Park in Dublin where the group originates from.

**8. Madonna's 'Sticky & Sweet' tour generated $407.7 million**

Madonna is the only woman to feature in this top 10.

The eighth tour of her career, the "Sticky & Sweet" tour started in 2008 and ended in 2009.

**7. AC/DC's 'Black Ice' tour brought in $441.1 million**

Starting in 2008 and ending in 2010, this tour would be the last tour for two of the main band members, guitarist Malcolm Young and drummer Phil Rudd.

It was also the last tour to be completed in full by lead singer Brian Johnson.

The singer was replaced by Axl Rose part-way through the next tour, because of health problems.

**6. Roger Waters' 'The Wall Live' raked in $458.7 million**

Starting in 2010 and finishing in 2013, "The Wall" was the first time the iconic Pink Floyd album had been played in full since 1990, when it was performed to commemorate the fall of the Berlin Wall eight months earlier.

**5. Coldplay's 'A Head Full of Dreams' tour generated $523 million**

During this one-year tour, starting in 2016, the band performed for three nights at the Stade de France before 236,000 people, and played for four nights at Wembley Stadium in London.

**4. The Rolling Stones' 'A Bigger Bang' tour made $558.2 million**

Between 2005 and 2007, the Rolling Stones' tour stood out for its free concert on Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, in front of two million people.

**3. Guns N' Roses' 'Not in This Lifetime' tour grossed $563.3 million**

Bringing Axl Rose, Slash, and Duff McKagan together for the first time since 1993, this tour is currently still ongoing.

Bearing in mind that the tour isn't actually over yet, it's impressive that it's already the third most profitable tour in history.

Fifteen dates are still scheduled for next fall in the US.

*\*This figure only includes concerts that took place between 2016 and 2018; those scheduled dates scheduled for 2019, however, shouldn't affect the ranking.*

**2. U2's '360°' tour brought in $736.4 million**

Made particularly prolific by its 51-meter high stage at the centre of the stadium which allowed viewers to occupy all the stands, the tour was appropriately named 360°.

This tour ran from 2009 until 2011.

**1. Ed Sheeran's '÷' tour banked $750 million**

Starting in 2017 Ed Sheeran's tour was called "Divide" after his latest album and is still ongoing.

By the time it's over, Sheeran will have visited all the inhabited continents when the tour is over in late August.

By that point, it will have broken U2's record and become the most profitable tour in history, not taking inflation into account.

Interestingly, the prices of his tickets are significantly lower than those of other pop artists.

In 2018, the average price of a spot at a U2 concert was $136, while it was only $89 to go and see Ed Sheeran. This has allowed the English artist to attract a wider audience, according to the Wall Street Journal.