

**This is a list of the world's best-selling albums.** The criteria are that the figure must have been published by a reliable source and the album must have sold at least 20 million copies worldwide. Most albums have conflicting estimates of sales figures. In this list the highest sales figure reported for an album is added to the list. This list can contain any type of album, including studio, greatest hits, compilation, various artists, soundtrack and remix.

A number of issues make exact figures difficult to calculate, as historical data before the 1980s and from developing countries is incomplete. Additionally, fans, record companies and the media are prone to exaggerating sales figures to boost the image of the relevant act. The figures given do not take into account the resale of used albums. The list takes no account of any kind of copyright infringing activity such as home taping or the emergence of illegal downloading of digital music in the 2000s or of pirate sales of copied discs.

Michael Jackson's *Thriller* tops the list, estimated to have sold 110 million copies worldwide. Groupings are based on different sales benchmarks, the highest being for claims of at least 40 million copies, the lowest being for claims of 20–29 million copies. Albums are listed in order of number of copies sold.

## 40 million copies or more

Artist	Album	Released	Sales (millions)
Michael Jackson	<i>Thriller</i>	1982	110
Pink Floyd	<i>The Dark Side of the Moon</i>	1973	50
AC/DC	<i>Back in Black</i>	1980	49
Whitney Houston / Various artists	<i>The Bodyguard</i>	1992	44
Meat Loaf	<i>Bat Out of Hell</i>	1977	43
Eagles	<i>Their Greatest Hits (1971–1975)</i>	1976	42
Various artists	<i>Dirty Dancing</i>	1987	42
Bee Gees / Various artists	<i>Saturday Night Fever</i>	1977	40
Fleetwood Mac	<i>Rumours</i>	1977	40
Shania Twain	<i>Come On Over</i>	1997	40

## 30–39 million copies

Artist	Album	Released	Sales (millions)
Led Zeppelin	<i>Led Zeppelin IV</i>	1971	37
Alanis Morissette	<i>Jagged Little Pill</i>	1995	33
The Beatles	<i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i>	1967	32
Celine Dion	<i>Falling into You</i>	1996	32
Mariah Carey	<i>Music Box</i>	1993	32
Michael Jackson	<i>Dangerous</i>	1991	32
The Beatles	<i>1</i>	2000	31
Celine Dion	<i>Let's Talk About Love</i>	1997	31
Backstreet Boys	<i>Millennium</i>	1999	30
Bee Gees	<i>Spirits Having Flown</i>	1979	30
Bruce Springsteen	<i>Born in the U.S.A.</i>	1984	30
Dire Straits	<i>Brothers in Arms</i>	1985	30
James Horner	<i>Titanic</i>	1997	30
Madonna	<i>The Immaculate Collection</i>	1990	30
Michael Jackson	<i>Bad</i>	1987	30
Pink Floyd	<i>The Wall</i>	1979	30
Nirvana	<i>Nevermind</i>	1991	30

## 20–29 million copies

Artist	Album	Released	Sales (millions)
ABBA	<i>ABBA Gold: Greatest Hits</i>	1992	28
Backstreet Boys	<i>Backstreet's Back</i>	1997	28
Bon Jovi	<i>Slippery When Wet</i>	1986	28
Guns N' Roses	<i>Appetite for Destruction</i>	1987	28
Various artists	<i>Grease</i>	1978	28
Santana	<i>Supernatural</i>	1999	27
Britney Spears	<i>...Baby One More Time</i>	1999	26

<b>Artist</b>	<b>Album</b>	<b>Released</b>	<b>Sales (millions)</b>
Carole King	<i>Tapestry</i>	1971	25
Iron Butterfly	<i>In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida</i>	1968	25
Mariah Carey	<i>Daydream</i>	1995	25
Queen	<i>Greatest Hits</i>	1981	25
Simon & Garfunkel	<i>Bridge over Troubled Water</i>	1970	25
U2	<i>The Joshua Tree</i>	1987	25
Whitney Houston	<i>Whitney Houston</i>	1985	25
Backstreet Boys	<i>Black &amp; Blue</i>	2000	24
Linkin Park	<i>Hybrid Theory</i>	2000	24
Madonna	<i>True Blue</i>	1986	24
Ace of Base	<i>Happy Nation/The Sign</i>	1993	23
Spice Girls	<i>Spice</i>	1996	23
Metallica	<i>Metallica</i>	1991	22
Oasis	<i>(What's the Story) Morning Glory?</i>	1995	22
Bon Jovi	<i>Cross Road</i>	1994	21
Dido	<i>No Angel</i>	1999	21
Madonna	<i>Like a Virgin</i>	1984	21
Andrea Bocelli	<i>Romanza</i>	1997	20
Billy Ray Cyrus	<i>Some Gave All</i>	1992	20
Bob Marley & The Wailers	<i>Legend: The Best of Bob Marley &amp; The Wailers</i>	1984	20
Blondie	<i>Parallel Lines</i>	1978	20
Britney Spears	<i>Oops!... I Did It Again</i>	2000	20
Céline Dion	<i>The Colour of My Love</i>	1993	20
Def Leppard	<i>Hysteria</i>	1987	20
Janet Jackson	<i>janet.</i>	1993	20
Michael Jackson	<i>HIStory: Past, Present and Future, Book I</i>	1995	20
Michael Jackson	<i>Off the Wall</i>	1979	20
Norah Jones	<i>Come Away with Me</i>	2002	20
Prince & The Revolution	<i>Purple Rain</i>	1984	20
Tina Turner	<i>Private Dancer</i>	1984	20

<b>Artist</b>	<b>Album</b>	<b>Released</b>	<b>Sales (millions)</b>
Usher	<i>Confessions</i>	2004	20

**Article Source:** [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_best-selling\\_albums](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_best-selling_albums)