

Streaming is one source of revenue but typically isn't radio play or radio spins usually better royalties through ASCAP or BMI?

Radio play ("radio spins") typically generates better royalties per play for songwriters and publishers—through Performance Rights Organizations like ASCAP and BMI—than streaming services do. While streaming platforms pay only a fraction of a cent per stream, PROs collect higher fees from radio stations, yielding more substantial payments on a per-play basis[1][2].

Key points:

- ****Radio royalties (ASCAP/BMI):**** Paid to songwriters and publishers, not to performers unless they also wrote the song (in the US). Each time a song is played on radio, it's counted as a public performance, and royalties are collected and distributed by PROs. The licensing and royalty structure is based on fees collected from stations, so royalties can fluctuate by quarter and by song popularity[3][2].
- ****Streaming royalties:**** Much lower per-play (often a fraction of a cent, distributed to rights holders via detailed streaming data/usage)[1].
- ****US specifics:**** In America, only songwriters and publishers are paid for terrestrial radio play, while most other countries pay performers as well[3].

Overall, for a given number of plays, radio spins pay out more in royalties through ASCAP or BMI than streaming platforms do, making radio airplay more lucrative for the songwriter or publisher[1][2].

Sources

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