

May 20, 2025

Ratings Report Sunday, May 18, 2025

Final Live+Same Day Ratings

‘American Idol’ Season Eight Finishes on High Note With Best Total Viewer Audience in Two Years

Star-Studded Live Finale Is No. 1 Program of the Night With 6.51 Million Total Viewers and 0.72 Rating Among Adults 18-49



Disney/Christopher Willard*
Series photos are available [here](#).

- “American Idol” wrapped its momentous season eight on ABC Sunday night **with 6.51 million Total Viewers, rising over the previous week (+24%; vs. 5.27 million) to score the show’s most-watched telecast in two years – since 5/21/23.**
- In addition, “American Idol” **earned a 0.72 rating among Adults 18-49, rising over the previous week (+16%; vs. 0.62 rating) to deliver its best performance in the key Adult demo since the show’s post-Oscars® season premiere – since 3/2/25.**
- The “American Idol” season eight finale, in which 27-year-old Meridian, Mississippi gym teacher Jamal Roberts was crowned champion, stood as the **No. 1 program of the night in both Total Viewers and Adults 18-49.** In fact, the show was the **No. 1 program of the week during primetime in Total Viewers.**

- The “American Idol” season eight finale **improved on the show’s season seven finale** (5/19/24) **by double digits in both Total Viewers** (+16% - 6.51 million vs. 5.60 million) **and Adults 18-49** (+14% - 0.72 rating vs. 0.63 rating).
- The finale also **performed substantially above the season eight average in both Total Viewers** (+36% - 6.51 million vs. 4.79 million) **and Adults 18-49** (+38% - 0.72 rating vs. 0.52 rating).
- The show’s strong performance **pushed ABC to a win for the night in both Total Viewers** (5.90 million) **and Adults 18-49** (0.65 rating).
- Sunday’s “American Idol” finale set a **new voting record on ABC, with over 26 million votes cast for the finalists.**
- The show also **surged past its own social record from last season, garnering 2.54 million total social interactions during the epic finale, becoming the No. 1 most social reality series and No. 1 most social episode of any primetime broadcast series year to date.**

Source: Nielsen Live+Same Day Ratings for 5/18/25, or as dated. Talkwalker SCR.

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Contact

Leslie Schwartz

leslie.l.schwartz@disney.com