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Best Streaming Services of 2023

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By [Marlo Jappen](#) and [Rudi Greenberg](#)

Updated: Dec. 30, 2022

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Popular Streaming Services

Sling TV »

Start Free Trial

Hulu + Live TV »

Start Free Trial

fuboTV »

Start Free Trial

3.8 ★★★★★
U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES
\$35.00 and Up

AD-FREE
No

MULTIPLE STREAMS
Up to 4 Screens

TRIAL PERIOD
7 Days

[SEE REVIEW »](#)

Best All-in-One Service

4.1 ★★★★★
U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES
\$69.99 and Up

AD-FREE
Optional

MULTIPLE STREAMS
Up to Unlimited Screens

TRIAL PERIOD
None

[SEE REVIEW »](#)

Widest Sports Coverage

4.1 ★★★★★
U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES
\$69.99 and Up

AD-FREE
No

MULTIPLE STREAMS
Up to Unlimited Screens

TRIAL PERIOD
7 Days

[SEE REVIEW »](#)



(DIEGO_CERVO)

Our Best Streaming Services of 2023 rating covers our top-rated picks for both on-demand and live streaming services. We've rated industry-leading giants like Netflix and Hulu as well as platforms with a more niche focus, such as Crunchyroll, which specializes in anime content, and fuboTV, a sports-first streaming service.

In this guide, we'll explain which streaming services make our list and the factors to keep in mind when trying to find the one that's right for you.

Our Best On-Demand Streaming Services Rating

#1 [Netflix](#)

#2 [fuboTV](#)

- #3 [Disney+](#)
- #3 [Amazon Prime Video](#)
- #5 [Crunchyroll](#)
- #5 [Hulu](#)
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- #5 [Peacock](#)
- #9 [HBO Max](#)
- #9 [Paramount+](#)

Compare the Best Streaming Services

Add Channels and Teams

Search for your favorite TV channels and sports teams to customize your results.

Add Channels

★ Your Match

<div>Hulu Live TV</div> <div>Hulu Live TV</div>	<div>fuboTV</div> <div>fubo</div>	<div>Philo</div> <div>Philo</div>
<div>\$69.99 / mo.</div> <div>Sign Up</div> <div>Pricing Details ▾</div>	<div>\$69.99 / mo.</div> <div>7-Day Free Trial</div>	<div>\$25 / mo.</div> <div>7-Day Free Trial</div>
<div>Includes local channels in the most markets, many top cable channels, and access to The Disney Bundle at no extra charge.</div>	<div>Locals in most markets, most top cable channels, supported on all major devices, & can upgrade to 1,000 Hour DVR & five streams.</div>	<div>Good choice for anyone looking to save some money. It comes with 18 of the top 35 cable channels for only \$20.</div>
<div>+ 33 Top Cable Channels</div>	<div>+ 25 Top Cable Channels</div>	<div>+ 18 Top Cable Channels</div>
<div>\$69.99 / month</div>	<div>\$69.99 / month</div>	<div>\$25 / month</div>

Live TV Streaming Matchmaker provided by [The Streamable](#).

Compare the Best On-Demand Streaming Services of 2023

Best Streaming Services of 2023

Netflix »

4.3 ★★★★★
U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES **\$9.99 and Up**

MULTIPLE STREAMS **Up to 4 Screens**

AD-FREE **Yes**

[See Review »](#)

Amazon Prime Video »

4.0 ★★★★★
U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES **\$8.99 and Up**

MULTIPLE STREAMS **Up to 3 Screens**

AD-FREE **Yes**

[Start Free Trial »](#)

Disney+ »

3.6 ★★★★★
U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES **\$7.99 and Up**

MULTIPLE STREAMS **Up to 4 Screens**

AD-FREE **Optional**

[Start Free Trial »](#)

Bundle deal: Get Disney+, ESPN+ and Hulu for \$14 a month

Funimation »

MONTHLY FEES **\$5.99**

MULTIPLE STREAMS **Up to 5 Screens**

AD-FREE **Yes**

[Start Free Trial »](#)

Hulu »

3.8

★★★★☆

U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES

\$7.99 and Up

MULTIPLE STREAMS

Up to 2 Screens

AD-FREE

Yes

[Start Free Trial »](#)

Expand List

Best On-Demand Streaming Services in Detail

Netflix »

NETFLIX

Best Streaming Service of 2023

4.3

★★★★☆

U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES

\$9.99 and Up

AD-FREE

Yes

MULTIPLE STREAMS

Up to 4 Screens

TRIAL PERIOD

N/A

[SEE REVIEW »](#)

Netflix: Netflix takes the top spot in our [Best Streaming Services of 2023](#) list. It also comes in at No. 1 in our [Best Anime Streaming Services](#) category. A household name,

<https://www.usnews.com/360-reviews/technology/streaming-services>

5/32

Netflix is known for its impressive lineup of critically acclaimed original series like “Stranger Things,” “Bridgerton,” and “Squid Games,” just to name a few. With an extensive library, it includes other content, as well, including mainstream shows, movies, and kid-friendly programs. Parents will appreciate Netflix’s parental controls, which give them the option to block specific titles from their child’s profile and set maturity ratings to limit what they can view.

With Netflix’s base plan, which costs \$9.99 a month, you’ll get ad-free streaming. But, unlike other on-demand services in our rating, it doesn’t offer a free trial. The good news is that it’s contract free, meaning you can cancel at any time without strings attached.

Learn more in our [Netflix review](#).

fuboTV »



Start Free Trial

Widest Sports Coverage

4.1 ★★★★★
U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES

\$69.99 and Up

AD-FREE

No

MULTIPLE STREAMS

Up to Unlimited Screens

TRIAL PERIOD

7 Days

SEE REVIEW »

fuboTV: Next in line, fuboTV earns the No. 2 spot in our overall rating. Its extensive channel lineup sets it apart from competitors, as its standard plan includes 138 channels (more than any other platform in our evaluation).

This streaming service, which began as a live-streaming platform for die-hard soccer fans, ties at No. 1 in both our [Best Sports Streaming Services of 2023](#) and [Best Live TV Streaming Services of 2023](#) lists. Though it now covers entertainment, fuboTV still maintains its sports-centric roots, with its basic plan offering networks beloved by sports fans, including ESPN, Fox Sports, and beIN Sports, among others.

While fuboTV allows up to 13 simultaneous streams and six user profiles, which is great for larger households, it may not be the best bet for families with young children because it doesn't offer parental controls.

Read more in our [fuboTV review](#).

Disney+ »



Start Free Trial

Best Streaming Service for Families

3.6 ★★★★★
U.S. News Rating

Bundle deal: Get Disney+, ESPN+ and Hulu for \$14 a month

MONTHLY FEES

\$7.99 and Up

AD-FREE

Optional

MULTIPLE STREAMS

Up to 4 Screens

TRIAL PERIOD

7 Days[SEE REVIEW »](#)

Disney+: Disney+ ties at No. 3 in our Best Streaming Services of 2023 list. Geared toward families, it has programming for kids, teens, and grown-ups alike, offering titles from Disney, Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, and National Geographic. It has original content, too, including “Beyond Infinity: Buzz and the Journey to Lightyear,” “High School Musical: The Musical: The Series,” and “She-Hulk: Attorney At Law.”

With a base price of \$7.99 a month, it’s cheaper than many on-demand services in our rating, and it allows users to create up to seven profiles. For access to additional video-streaming services, you can opt for the Disney bundle, which starts at \$13.99 a month and includes Disney+, [ESPN+](#), and [Hulu](#).

Learn more in our [Disney+ review](#).

Amazon Prime Video »

[Start Free Trial](#)

Best Value Streaming Service

4.0 ★★★★★
U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES
\$8.99 and Up

AD-FREE
Yes

MULTIPLE STREAMS
Up to 3 Screens

TRIAL PERIOD
30 Days

[SEE REVIEW »](#)

Amazon Prime Video: Tying at No. 3 in our rating of the Best Streaming Services, Amazon Prime Video also comes in at No. 3 in our [Best Anime Streaming Services of 2023](#) list. This streaming service is included with Amazon Prime, a membership that costs \$14.99 per month (or \$139 per year) and gives customers fast, free shipping on their Amazon purchases, in addition to other benefits like exclusive shopping deals.

However, you don't need a Prime membership to watch Amazon Prime Video. The stand-alone service costs \$8.99 per month, or you can purchase content from the platform on a pay-per-title basis. In addition to classics and box-office hits, Amazon Prime Video is also home to original shows like "The Lord of The Rings: The Rings of Power" and "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel."

Read more in our [Amazon Prime Video review](#).

Crunchyroll »



3.8 ★★★★★
U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES
\$0.00 and Up

AD-FREE
Yes

MULTIPLE STREAMS
Up to 6 Screens

TRIAL PERIOD
14 Days

[SEE REVIEW »](#)

Crunchyroll: Crunchyroll ties at No. 5 in two of our ratings: Best Streaming Services of 2023 and Best Anime Streaming Services of 2023. It's a niche streaming service known for its extensive library of anime titles and its same-day simulcasts of new anime programs airing in Japan.

While Crunchyroll has three paid subscription tiers, it also has a free version with fewer features, allowing anime fans to access Crunchyroll content at no cost. To see what the subscription-based plans offer, viewers can sign up for a free 14-day trial.

Beyond its on-screen offerings, Crunchyroll engages with its audience by hosting events such as anime conventions and merchandise sales.

Read more in our [Crunchyroll review](#).

Hulu »



Start Free Trial

3.8 ★★★★★
U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES
\$7.99 and Up

AD-FREE
Yes

MULTIPLE STREAMS
Up to 2 Screens

TRIAL PERIOD
30 Days

SEE REVIEW »

Hulu: Hulu, which ties for the No. 5 spot in our overall rating, offers both on-demand and live TV streaming services. Its on-demand library includes mainstream favorites, as well as binge-worthy originals like “The Handmaid’s Tale,” “Only Murders in the Building,” and “The Bear.” It also has programming for children and the option for parents to create Kids Profiles, which allows them to set parameters on the kind of content their child can access.

Though Hulu’s most basic subscription (\$7.99 per month) is affordable, it requires viewers to sit through ads. There’s also an ad-supported option for students that only costs \$1.99 per month. As part of the Disney bundle, Hulu can be packaged with ESPN+ and Disney+ for a starting rate of \$13.99 a month.

Read more in our [Hulu review](#).

YouTube TV »



Best Live TV Streaming Service of 2023

4.1 ★★★★★
U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES
\$64.99 and Up

AD-FREE
No

MULTIPLE STREAMS
Up to 3 Screens

TRIAL PERIOD
Varies

SEE REVIEW »

YouTube TV: YouTube TV places in many of our lists: Best On-Demand Streaming Services, Best Sports Streaming Services, and Best Live TV Streaming Services. It only offers one subscription option, which costs \$64.99 per month, though it has add-on channels available for an extra cost. The live TV service, which has more than 85 channels included with its base plan, also comes with a limited library of on-demand content, which features classical movies (“Jumanji”) and box office hits (“Joker”). It also offers full seasons of shows like “Black-ish,” “Bob’s Burgers,” and “Law & Order,” among others.

YouTube TV’s lineup covers sports, news, entertainment, and family-friendly programming, with channels such as ESPN, CNN, Bravo, and Nickelodeon. Notably, the platform offers unlimited cloud DVR space, meaning you can keep as many recordings as you want for up to nine months.

Read more in our [YouTube TV review](#).

Peacock »



Start Free Trial

3.8 ★★★★★
U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES
\$0.00 and Up

AD-FREE
Optional

MULTIPLE STREAMS
Up to 3 Screens

TRIAL PERIOD
N/A

SEE REVIEW »

Peacock: Peacock ties for the No. 5 spot in both our Best On-Demand Streaming Services and Best Anime Streaming Services ratings. Launched by NBCUniversal in 2020, Peacock is a relatively new player in the streaming industry. Yet, it's home to many popular titles: "Yellowstone," "Downton Abbey," "Jurassic Park," "The Office," and "Love Island," among others.

One of the major draws of this streaming service is that it offers a free option. It also has two paid subscription plans, Premium (\$1.99 per month) and Plus (\$9.99 per month), which include more content and features. Of these three choices, only Plus is ad-free.

Read more in our [Peacock review](#).

HBO Max »



Start Free Trial

3.7 ★★★★★
U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES
\$9.99 and Up

AD-FREE
Optional

MULTIPLE STREAMS
Up to 3 Screens

TRIAL PERIOD
N/A

SEE REVIEW »

HBO Max: HBO Max ties for the No. 9 position in our rating. Its library includes titles from the HBO cable channel: "Game of Thrones," "Sex in the City," and "The Sopranos," just to

name a few. Additionally, HBO Max has original content, including the Emmy-Award-winning shows “Euphoria,” “Abbott Elementary,” “Succession,” and “The White Lotus.”

It also offers blockbuster hits like “Elvis,” as well as programming suitable for younger audiences. HBO Max costs \$9.99 per month for a base subscription. With this option, however, you’ll have to sit through ads. The monthly fee for its ad-free plan is \$14.99, which is pricier than most commercial-free base plans in our ratings.

Read more in our [HBO Max review](#).

Paramount+ »



Start Free Trial

3.6 ★★★★★
U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES
\$5.99 and Up

AD-FREE
Optional

MULTIPLE STREAMS
Up to 3 Screens

TRIAL PERIOD
7 Days

[SEE REVIEW »](#)

Paramount+: Paramount+, which shares the same parent company as CBS, ties for the No. 9 spot in our Best On-Demand Streaming Services of 2023 rating. It has a well-rounded selection of content, featuring titles from networks such as CBS, Nickelodeon, Comedy Central, BET, and MTV.

Even with an ad-supported base plan (\$4.99 per month), Paramount+ subscribers have access to live streams of NFL games from their local CBS station, a major perk for football fans. For \$9.99 a month, the streaming service also offers an ad-free Premium option, which allows users to download content for offline viewing.

Learn more in our [Paramount+ review](#).

Best Live Streaming of 2023

Best Live TV Streaming Services of 2023

<div><div>YouTube TV »</div><div><div>4.1</div><div><div>★ ★ ★ ★ ☆</div><div>U.S. News Rating</div></div></div><div><div>MONTHLY FEES</div><div>\$64.99 and Up</div></div><div><div>AD-FREE</div><div>No</div></div><div><div>NUMBER OF CHANNELS</div><div>85+</div></div><div>See Review »</div></div>
<div><div>Hulu + Live TV »</div><div><div>4.1</div><div><div>★ ★ ★ ★ ☆</div><div>U.S. News Rating</div></div></div><div><div>MONTHLY FEES</div><div>\$69.99 and Up</div></div><div><div>AD-FREE</div><div>Optional</div></div><div><div>NUMBER OF CHANNELS</div><div>75+</div></div><div>Start Free Trial »</div></div>
<div><div>fuboTV »</div><div><div>4.1</div><div><div>★ ★ ★ ★ ☆</div><div>U.S. News Rating</div></div></div><div><div>MONTHLY FEES</div><div>\$69.99 and Up</div></div><div><div>AD-FREE</div><div>No</div></div><div><div>NUMBER OF CHANNELS</div><div>100+</div></div><div>Start Free Trial »</div></div>
<div><div>Sling TV »</div><div><div>3.8</div><div><div>★ ★ ★ ★ ☆</div><div>U.S. News Rating</div></div></div></div>

MONTHLY FEES \$35.00 and Up**AD-FREE No****NUMBER OF CHANNELS 30+**[Start Free Trial »](#)**Philo »****3.7**  **U.S. News Rating****MONTHLY FEES \$25.00****AD-FREE No****NUMBER OF CHANNELS 64**[Start Free Trial »](#)[Expand List](#)

[Live TV streaming services](#), like YouTube TV, [Philo](#), and [DirecTV Stream](#) offer a similar experience to cable TV. However, rather than using cable or satellite to access content, digital streaming relies on your home's internet connection and can cost much less than a cable subscription. Like cable, most live TV streaming services offer packages that include multiple national news, sports, movie, and local channels. In addition, you usually can add on specialty channels like international sports, language-specific channels, or premium content.

The live TV streaming services start at about \$25 a month and don't require long-term contracts or additional equipment beyond your internet router and internet-enabled devices like a smartphone, tablet, or computer. Unlike on-demand content, which can be accessed at any time, Live TV streaming involves content that is being broadcast live as you watch. This means you can't binge-watch multiple shows unless you save them with a digital video recorder (DVR). However, if you want more of a broadcast TV experience, seek to avoid spoilers, and want to watch live sports, then live TV streaming may be your best option. Our Best Live TV Streaming Services of 2023 guide can help you find the best streaming service for your budget and your needs.

Best Sports Streaming of 2023

Best Sports Streaming Services of 2023

YouTube TV »

4.1 U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES **\$64.99 and Up**

AD-FREE **No**

NUMBER OF CHANNELS **85+**

[See Review »](#)

Hulu + Live TV »

4.1 U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES **\$69.99 and Up**

AD-FREE **Optional**

NUMBER OF CHANNELS **75+**

[Start Free Trial »](#)

fuboTV »

4.1 U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES **\$69.99 and Up**

AD-FREE **No**

NUMBER OF CHANNELS **100+**

[Start Free Trial »](#)

Sling TV »

3.8 U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES **\$35.00 and Up**

AD-FREE **No**

NUMBER OF CHANNELS **30+**

[Start Free Trial »](#)

DirecTV Stream »

3.5 U.S. News Rating

MONTHLY FEES **\$69.99 and Up**

AD-FREE **No**

NUMBER OF CHANNELS **75+**

[Start Free Trial »](#)

Special offer: One free year of HBO Max included

Most on-demand streaming services don't show sports, although a few cover top sports events and interviews. That means if you're a local, national, or international live sports fan, a [sports streaming service](#) is the way to go. According to [Verizon Media](#) reports, sports fans will pay more to stream live sports if it means they can keep up with their favorite teams. Do you want to watch MLB live or the NBA playoffs? With the right sports streaming service, you can. Our rating of the Best Sports Streaming Services of 2023 compares the top choices for you. Our list includes popular services like YouTube TV, fuboTV, and Sling TV. Visit our guide to the Best Sports Streaming Services to learn more about the rankings. We also provide advice on choosing a sports streaming service that fits your budget and preferences.

Best Anime Streaming of 2023

<div>Netflix »</div> <div>MONTHLY FEES \$8.99 and Up</div> <div>AD-FREE Yes</div> <div>MULTIPLE STREAMS Up to 4 Screens</div> <div>See Review »</div>
<div>fuboTV »</div> <div>MONTHLY FEES \$59.99</div> <div>AD-FREE No</div> <div>MULTIPLE STREAMS Up to Unlimited Screens</div> <div>Start Free Trial »</div>
<div>Amazon Prime Video »</div> <div>MONTHLY FEES \$8.99 and Up</div> <div>AD-FREE Yes</div> <div>MULTIPLE STREAMS Up to 3 Screens</div> <div>Start Free Trial »</div>
<div>Crunchyroll »</div> <div>MONTHLY FEES \$0.00 and Up</div>

AD-FREE **Yes**MULTIPLE STREAMS **Up to 6 Screens**[See Review »](#)**Hulu »**

MONTHLY FEES

AD-FREE **Yes**MULTIPLE STREAMS **Up to 2 Screens**[Start Free Trial »](#)[Expand List](#)

Anime, which is a genre of animation that originated in Japan, has garnered a worldwide fanbase. “Subs” (original audio with subtitles) and “dubs” (translated audio replacing original audio) help make anime content accessible to English-language viewers. In our [Best Anime Streaming Services of 2023](#) guide, we pared down our Best Streaming Services of 2023 list, focusing on the ones that offer anime shows and movies.

Aside from mainstream streamers, like Netflix and Hulu, our rating includes niche platforms, such as [Crunchyroll](#), which boasts the world’s largest on-demand collection of anime titles, as well as same-day simulcasts of anime first released in Japan.

Both Crunchyroll and [Peacock](#) offer viewers a free subscription option. The priciest contender in this list, [fuboTV](#), costs \$69.99 per month. It’s a live-TV streaming service that features anime titles, including “My Hero Academia” and “Naruto: Shippuden.” If you’re an anime fan, check out our Best Anime Streaming Services of 2023 rating to learn more about platforms that may be right for you.

What Is On-Demand Streaming?

On-demand streaming services let viewers watch content whenever and wherever they want. Also called video-on-demand services, these typically feature extensive and evolving libraries of TV shows and movies that viewers can access as they please. For viewers who want to catch an entire series, prerecording shows is no longer required, which has led to the recent phenomenon of binge-watching numerous episodes of a single series.

On-demand services are also a good option if you enjoy watching your favorite shows on the go, even in areas with limited Wi-Fi. To watch during your commute or a flight, simply download shows onto your mobile device ahead of time.

Watching videos on demand requires the following:

- **Broadband internet:** A [broadband internet](#) connection has download speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (Mbps). If your internet isn't this fast, you'll experience buffering and poor video quality. Some services let you download shows that you can watch later when you're offline.
- **A streaming device:** You can watch on-demand videos using a smart TV (including an Android TV), smartphone, tablet, computer, Blu-ray player, set-top cable box, gaming console (such as an Xbox One), or a streaming media device. Roku, Apple TV, and Chromecast are examples of streaming media devices. Check the streaming service's website to make sure your device is compatible with its app.
- **Streaming service app:** For compatible devices, you usually need to download an app for the streaming service to access its library and watch videos. The exception is for computers, which can often connect directly to the service's website using a browser (such as Chrome or Firefox) instead of an app.

On-demand streaming services typically don't have live TV channels, a cloud DVR, or local channels. For these features, check out our rating of the [Best Live TV Streaming Services](#).

How To Stream

Luckily, video streaming is a simple affair with most devices. Follow these steps to watch content on a streaming service.

1. **Pick a streaming device.** We list common streaming devices below, one or more of which you may already own. Before you buy a new device, check our list to see if you have something that will work.
2. **Make sure your streaming device is compatible with the streaming service you want.** If you already have a device, such as a smart TV, you may want to pick a service that will work with it so you don't have to buy new equipment.

3. **Download the streaming service app.** Unless you're using a computer web browser to watch streaming service content, you'll need the streaming service app to access its library and watch videos. Usually, the quickest way to get the app is to go to your device's app store. Some streaming services also post information on their websites about how to get the app for your type of device.
4. **Test your broadband and Wi-Fi speeds.** Make sure your internet is fast enough to handle video streaming. One option to test your download speed is to use Netflix's Fast.com website. Download speeds of 25 Mbps are the minimum for broadband internet and should allow you to stream HD video from more than one TV, according to the [FCC's Broadband Speed Guide](#). For help getting faster download speeds, see our [internet service provider guide](#) and rating of the [Fastest Internet Plans of 2023](#).

Media Streaming Devices

You can use one or more of the streaming devices below to connect with your streaming service and watch your favorite TV shows and movies. Plenty of affordable options are available. For example, Roku has a variety of boxes and streaming sticks that can plug directly into your TV. These come with a remote, and prices start at around \$30. Another option is Google's Chromecast, which also starts at around \$30.

Chromecast takes a different approach: After you connect your [phone](#) or [laptop](#) to a streaming service, use Chromecast to share both the video and audio (called casting) directly with your [TV](#).

Note that as your streaming device ages, it may not be compatible with newer services.

The following is a list of common devices to choose from:

- **Streaming media players:** Examples include Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Nvidia Shield, and Google Chromecast.
- **Smartphones and tablets:** Apps are usually available for Android and iOS, and occasionally available for Windows devices.
- **PCs and laptops:** You can use a computer to watch videos by either downloading the streaming service's app or using your web browser to watch directly on the service's website.
- **Game consoles:** Examples include Xbox One, PlayStation 4, and Wii consoles.
- **Smart TVs:** These connect to the internet connection and use apps to stream video.

- **Blu-ray players:** Like smart TVs, many Blu-ray players can stream video using apps.
- **Set-top boxes:** Some set-top boxes from cable TV companies can connect with streaming services.

How To Compare Streaming Services

According to a [Pew Research Center](#) survey, the percentage of Americans who say they watch television via cable or satellite dropped from 76% in 2015 to 56% in 2021. Of those who aren't subscribed to either service, 71% explain that it's because they can access the content they want online. With more people ditching cable in favor of streaming sites, it's important to find the right option to fit your needs.

Picking a good series and movie streaming service goes beyond checking out its library of on-demand titles. Prices change significantly depending on if you want to watch commercials. It's also important to find a platform that makes it easy for you to quickly launch the next episode of a TV show, resume a title you already started, and discover new content to watch. If you have more than two people using the service or kids in the house, you may also want to find a service that offers multiple simultaneous streams, parental controls, and user profiles.

What Is the Cheapest Streaming Service?

Price Comparison of On-Demand Streaming Services

<div>Netflix »</div> <div>MONTHLY FEES \$9.99 and Up</div> <div>TRIAL PERIOD N/A</div>
<div>Amazon Prime Video »</div> <div>MONTHLY FEES \$8.99 and Up</div> <div>TRIAL PERIOD 30 Days</div>
<div>Disney+ »</div> <div>MONTHLY FEES \$7.99 and Up</div> <div>TRIAL PERIOD 7 Days</div>
<div>Funimation »</div> <div>MONTHLY FEES \$5.99</div>

TRIAL PERIOD 14 Days
Hulu »
MONTHLY FEES \$7.99 and Up
TRIAL PERIOD 30 Days

Expand List

The on-demand streaming services in our ratings vary in price, with most costing less than \$10 a month for a base plan. Both [Crunchyroll](#) and [Peacock](#) present viewers with a free option, though Peacock’s offer includes ads.

This isn’t uncommon, as a majority of platforms in our list come with ad-supported starting plans, including [Disney+](#), [Hulu](#), [YouTube TV](#), [HBO Max](#), and [Paramount+](#).


If you’d rather not be interrupted by commercials, [Netflix](#) has an ad-free base plan for \$9.99 per month. Alternatively, some streaming services offer higher-tier subscriptions without ads, which cost more than the service’s standard plan. On the plus side, these premium packages tend to include additional perks like extra streams or the ability to download content for offline viewing.

If you’re interested in multiple on-demand services, it may be worth it to consider a bundle deal. For instance, the Disney Bundle includes Disney+, [ESPN+](#), and the ad-supported version of Hulu for \$13.99 a month (or \$19.99 a month if you want Hulu without ads), which is cheaper than purchasing all three subscriptions separately.

If you’re on the fence about choosing a streaming service, a free trial – which allows you to use the service for a limited period without commitment – may help you with the decision-making process. The trial periods for the on-demand platforms in our evaluation range from seven to 30 days.

Watching Shows and Movies On Demand

Comparison of On-Demand Streaming Service Features

Netflix »
PARENTAL CONTROLS 
USER PROFILES Up to 5 Profiles
Amazon Prime Video »

PARENTAL CONTROLS ✓ USER PROFILES Up to 6 Profiles
Disney+ » PARENTAL CONTROLS ✓ USER PROFILES Up to 7 Profiles
Funimation » PARENTAL CONTROLS — USER PROFILES N/A
Hulu » PARENTAL CONTROLS ✓ USER PROFILES Up to 6 Profiles

Expand List

Not all parental controls built into a streaming service are the same. With Netflix and Hulu, for example, you can set up a kid's profile, adjust the content rating, and then set a PIN to keep tech-savvy kids from bypassing parental controls.

User profiles can be a blessing if you have a mix of people with different tastes in your household. Disney+ lets you create up to seven profiles – the most in our comparison – so each person can customize their own watchlist. Similarly, Paramount+ allows you to create up to six profiles, with separate recommendations displayed to cater to each profile's unique viewing history.

What To Consider When Comparing Streaming Services

Here are a few points to consider as you compare the different ways to stream and the best streaming services:

- **Price:** If you're looking for the least expensive way to cut the cord, you should pick an on-demand streaming service. The average starting monthly cost of the on-demand services we evaluate is around \$6. In comparison, you'll pay an average of about \$50 month-to-month for a live TV service.
- **Packages:** Households that watch a wide variety of content should look for a base plan that gets you most of what you want, and then fill in any holes by adding a package.

Many streaming services offer premium channel add-ons. Starz, Showtime, and Cinemax are common options. Several [live TV services](#) also offer packages that group together sports channels, kids' networks, and Spanish-language networks.

- **Compatible streaming devices:** Don't assume that your streaming device will work with the streaming service of your choice. See our section on media streaming devices below for a list of different devices you can use to stream videos.
- **Simultaneous streams:** This lets more than one person watch videos at the same time and can be an important benefit for households with numerous occupants. Note that when you download content and watch it without an internet connection, it doesn't count as one of your simultaneous streams.
- **User profiles:** A user profile typically keeps track of your viewing progress for TV shows so you can quickly jump into the right episode, and lets you create a watchlist of your favorite movies and series. The ability to create different profiles is convenient for families that have a range of viewing preferences but may not be as important if everyone in your home usually watches the same types of content.
- **Parental controls:** With some services, parents can create kid-friendly profiles and keep youngsters from being exposed to inappropriate programming. If this is a must-have for your household, make sure the service requires a PIN to change parental controls or switch profiles, as this isn't always the case.

Streaming Services Coupons

- [Hulu Promo Codes](#)
- [Sling TV Coupons](#)
- [Philo Coupons](#)
- [Vudu Coupons Codes](#)
- [ESPN+ Promo Codes](#)
- [fuboTV Promo Codes](#)

Tips To Cut the Cord

Below are a few pointers to break away from cable TV and switch to a streaming service.

1. **Decide what you want to watch.** This is the most important step to make sure you will be satisfied with your new service. Before cord-cutting, decide what's on your must-watch list, which may include specific TV shows, channels, and original programming. Keep in mind, content libraries change frequently as licenses expire, original programming is pulled, or content moves to a different streaming service.
2. **Determine what equipment you have and what you'll need.** If you already have a streaming device – either a USB stick, a streaming box, or a smart TV – make sure the services you want to use are compatible.
3. **Cancel your current cable service.** You'll likely need to call or go online to cancel your current cable TV service. Don't forget to return any equipment, such as set-top boxes, that you're renting from the cable provider.

Streaming TV with a VPN

Experts recommend using a [virtual private network \(VPN\)](#) to protect your information whenever you go online. For streaming, using a VPN can also be helpful if your internet service provider throttles, or slows, your speeds to limit your data usage. However, using a VPN at home can sometimes result in problems for cord-cutters. Many streaming services try to block VPNs. This is mostly because movies and TV shows often come with licensing agreements that specify which countries can watch which videos, and a VPN can get around these agreements.

If you want to watch your streaming service and have a VPN at home, like on your router, you have a couple of options. First, pick a VPN that says it works with the streaming service of your choice. If you can't find this information in the VPN's help section, you can test it out for yourself. Almost all of the VPNs in our rating of the Best VPNs of 2023 have a money-back guarantee period, giving you time to make sure the service works for you.

Another option is to look for a VPN with split tunneling. This lets you select a specific site, such as [HBO Max](#), that stays outside of the VPN connection while keeping the rest of your online activities protected by the VPN.

For more help, check out our [VPN guide](#) and see our unbiased rating of the [Best VPNs of 2023](#).

How Much Data Does Streaming Video Use?

Netflix, along with some other streaming services, lets you adjust the video quality when streaming. Other streaming services automatically adjust the video quality based on your current internet speed. These adjustments can affect your data usage.

Netflix reports the following data usage based on the quality of your video stream. Values are an approximation:

- 0.3 GB used per hour watching at the lowest video quality
- 3 GB used per hour watching HD Video
- 7 GB used per hour watching Ultra HD video

Keep in mind, slow internet speeds can make your video look patchy, freeze your show, or cause audio delays. You may be able to remedy this by disconnecting other devices. For more information, see our [internet service provider guide](#) and our unbiased rating of the [Best Internet Service Providers of 2023](#).

Related Coupons and Deals

Best Buy Coupon Codes



Walmart Coupon Codes



Overstock Coupon Codes



Learn More

Visit our guides and company reviews to learn more about Streaming Services.

- [Best Streaming Services of 2023](#)
- [Best Live TV Streaming Services of 2023](#)
- [Best Sports Streaming Services of 2023](#)
- [Best Anime Streaming Services of 2023](#)
- [DirecTV Stream vs. YouTube TV](#)
- [fuboTV vs. YouTube TV](#)
- [Hulu + Live TV vs. Sling TV](#)
- [Netflix vs. Hulu](#)
- [YouTube TV vs. Hulu + Live TV](#)
- [ESPN+ Overview](#)
- [Vudu Overview](#)

Other On-Demand Streaming Services To Consider

- [Netflix](#)
- [fuboTV](#)
- [Disney+](#)
- [Amazon Prime Video](#)
- [Crunchyroll](#)
- [Hulu](#)
- [YouTube TV](#)
- [Peacock](#)
- [HBO Max](#)
- [Paramount+](#)

Live TV Streaming Services

- [Hulu + Live TV](#)

- [fuboTV](#)
- [YouTube TV](#)
- [Philo](#)
- [Sling TV](#)
- [DirecTV Stream](#)

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Our 360 Methodology for Evaluating Streaming Services

The following describes our 360 approach to researching and analyzing streaming services to provide guidance to prospective customers.

1. We researched the brands and products people care most about.

U.S. News analyzed and compared publicly available internet search data to determine which streaming services consumers are most interested in. We looked at streaming services in two different subcategories: Live TV Streaming Services and On-Demand Streaming Services. We found 12 live TV streaming services and 27 on-demand streaming services that stood out in terms of volume of searches among consumers.

We then collected professional reviews from industry sources to narrow down our initial list of live-TV and on-demand streaming services to the services included in our final ratings.

2. We created objective 360 Overall Ratings based on our analysis of third-party reviews.

Our scoring methodology is based on a composite analysis of the ratings and reviews

published by credible third-party professional and consumer review sources. The ratings are not based on the personal opinions, tests, or experiences of U.S. News. To calculate the ratings:

(a) We compiled two types of third-party reviews and ratings:

Professional Ratings and Reviews. Many independent industry sources have published their assessments of streaming services online. We consider several of these third-party reviews to be reputable and well-researched. However, professional reviewers often make recommendations that contradict one another. Rather than relying on a single source, U.S. News believes consumers benefit most when these opinions and recommendations are all considered and analyzed with an objective, consensus-based methodology.

Consumer Ratings and Reviews. U.S. News also reviewed published consumer ratings and reviews of streaming services. Sources with a sufficient number of quality consumer reviews ratings were included in our scoring model.

***Please note that not all professional and consumer rating sources met our criteria for objectivity. Therefore, some sources were excluded from our model.

(b) We standardized the inputs to create a common scale.

The third-party review source data was collected in a variety of forms, including ratings, recommendations, and accolades. Before including each third-party data point into our scoring equation, we had to standardize it so that it could be compared on an apples-to-apples basis with data points from other review sources. We used the scoring methodology described below to convert these systems to a comparable scale.

The 360 scoring process first converted each third-party rating into a common 0 to 5 scale. To balance the distribution of scores within each source's scale, we used a standard deviation (or Z-Score) calculation to determine how each streaming service that a source rated was scored in comparison to the source's mean score. We then used the Z-Score to create a standardized U.S. News score using the method outlined below:

- **Calculating the Z-Score:** The Z-Score represents a data point's relation to the mean measurement of the data set. The Z-Score is negative when the data point is below the mean and positive when it's above the mean; a Z-Score of 0 means it's equal to the mean. To determine the Z-Score for each third-party rating of a streaming service, we calculated the mean of the ratings across all streaming services evaluated by that third-party source. We then subtracted the mean from the streaming service's rating and divided it by the standard deviation to produce the Z-Score.
- **Calculating the T-Score:** We used a T-Score calculation to convert the Z-Score to a 0-100 scale by multiplying the Z-Score by 10. To ensure that the mean was equal across all data points, we added our desired scoring mean (between 0 and 10) to the T-Score to create an adjusted T-Score.
- **Calculating the common-scale rating:** We divided the adjusted T-Score, which is on a 100-point scale, by 20 to convert the third-party rating to a common 0-5 point system.

(c) We calculated the 360 Overall Score based on a weighted-average model.

We assigned "source weights" to each source used in the consensus scoring model based on our assessment of how much the source is trusted and recognized by consumers and how much its published review process indicates that it is both comprehensive and editorially independent. The source weights are assigned on a 1-5 scale. Any source with an assigned weight less than 2 was excluded from the consensus scoring model.

Finally, we combined the converted third-party data points using a weighted average formula based on source weight. This formula calculated the consensus score for each product, which we call the 360 Overall Rating.

U.S. News 360 Reviews takes an unbiased approach to our recommendations. When you use our links to buy products, we may earn a commission but that in no way affects our editorial independence.

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