

BIG BUCKS

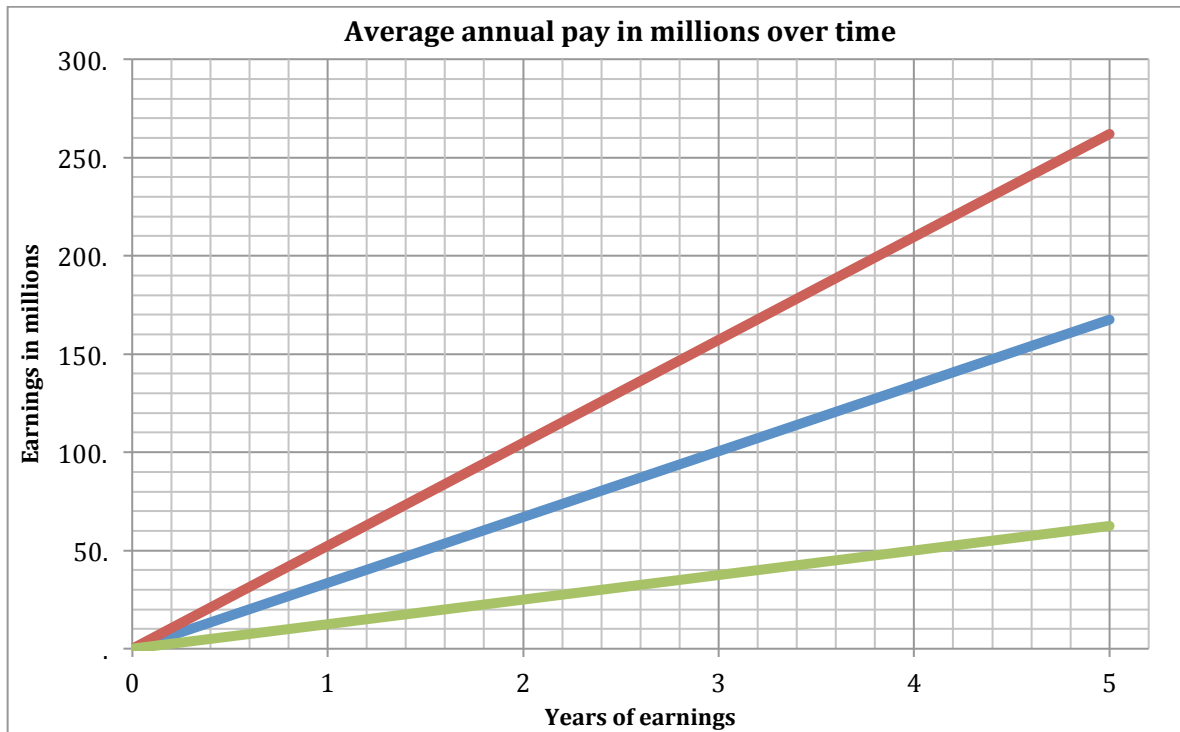
It's no secret that great sports athletes are some of the highest paid people in the world. The table below includes a collection of some of the largest current sport's contracts and average yearly salaries in sports. In fact the table includes the athlete with the highest average yearly salary and the greatest contract value in team sports history.

1. Take a look at the contracts in the table. What factors do you consider when thinking about how valuable a contract is?

Athlete	Team	Contract Value in dollars	Contract Length in years	Average Pay per Year
Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay Packers (NFL)	\$134,000,000	4	
Bryce Harper	Philadelphia Phillies (MLB)	\$330,000,000	13	
Connor McDavid	Edmonton Oilers (NHL)	\$100,000,000	8	
Gareth Bale	Real Madrid Association Football, (Soccer in US)	\$147,000,000	6	
James Harden	Houston Rockets (NBA)	\$169,300,000	4	
Khalil Mack	Chicago Bears (NFL)	\$141,000,000	6	
LeBron James	LA Lakers (NBA)	\$153,300,000	4	
Lionel Messi	FC Barcelona (Soccer)	\$121,264,000	3	
Manny Machado	San Diego Padres (MLB)	\$300,000,000	10	
Mike Trout	Los Angeles Angels (MLB)	\$430,000,000	12	
Neymar	PSG Association Football (Soccer in US)	\$262,000,000	5	
Sidney Crosby	Pittsburgh Penguins (NHL)	\$104,000,000	12	
Wayne Rooney	DC United (MLS Soccer)	\$13,000,000	2.5	

2. Find the average pay per year for each of the athletes in the table. Which of these athletes makes the most per year?
3. In general how do you find the average pay per year of an athlete's multi-year contract?
4. Can you compare some contracts and average yearly salaries without having to calculate the average yearly salary for each athlete? If so, how? Give an example or two.

5. The graph below shows the earnings over time (on average, assuming the contract pays the same amount each year) for three of the athletes listed in the table. Which three athletes are represented in the graphs? Label each graph with the correct athlete. How do you know which athlete matches up with a graph?



6. The average salaries across sports might be somewhat similar, but the number of games the athletes play in a regular season varies. Find the pay per game for each athlete in the table.

Player	Games per Season	Pay per Game
Aaron Rodgers (NFL)	16 games in a season	
LeBron James (NBA)	82 games in a season	
Mike Trout (MLB)	162 games in a season	
Sidney Crosby (NHL)	82 games in a season	
Neymar (European Football)	38 games in a season	

7. What do you notice from your work on problem six? In which sport do you think athletes are paid the most per game? Why?
8. If you wanted to make the pay between sports more equitable, so that great players were paid about the same per game in baseball, hockey, basketball and soccer as they are in football, how much should great players be paid in each sport?