

# World's Highest Paid Athletes

Our hemisphere produces some of the best (and best paid) athletes in the world. Unfortunately, many of our soccer (*fútbol*) players go on to play in Europe, where the contracts and endorsements are better. For the same reason, two of those who top the list of baseball player salaries are from Venezuela—Cabrera and Santana—playing in U.S. instead of their home country. What stands out is that, overall, individual soccer and basketball players earn more than their baseball colleagues, while Americas' soccer stars earn a total of \$157 million, Americas' basketball stars earning a total of \$338 million, and baseball stars earning \$236.9 million.

| PLAYER             | SALARY<br>(MILLIONS) | ENDORSEMENTS<br>(MILLIONS) | TOTAL EARNINGS<br>(MILLIONS) |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cristiano Ronaldo  | 52.0                 | 28.0                       | 80.0                         |
| LeBron James       | 19.3                 | 53.0                       | 72.3                         |
| Lionel Messi       | 41.7                 | 23.0                       | 64.7                         |
| Kobe Bryant        | 30.5                 | 31.0                       | 61.5                         |
| Zlatan Ibrahimović | 36.4                 | 4.0                        | 40.4                         |
| Derrick Rose       | 17.6                 | 19.0                       | 36.6                         |
| Gareth Bale        | 25.4                 | 11.0                       | 36.4                         |
| Radamel Falcao     | 32.4                 | 3.0                        | 35.4                         |

**\$80 million**  
Cristiano Ronaldo

**Cristiano Ronaldo**

**\$24.8 million**

**Joe Mauer**

**\$36.6 million**  
Derrick Rose

**Derrick  
Rose**

**\$24.6 million**  
Miguel Cabrera

**Miguel  
Cabrera**

**\$40.4 million**  
Zlatan Ibrahimović

**Zlatan Ibrahimović**

**\$64.7 million**  
Lionel Messi

Lionel  
Messi

**\$72.3**



|                   |      |      |      |
|-------------------|------|------|------|
| Neymar da Silva   | 17.6 | 16.0 | 33.6 |
| Kevin Durant      | 17.9 | 14.0 | 31.9 |
| Dwyane Wade       | 18.9 | 11.0 | 29.9 |
| Carmelo Anthony   | 21.4 | 8.0  | 29.4 |
| Amar'e Stoudemire | 21.7 | 5.0  | 26.7 |
| Dwight Howard     | 20.5 | 5.0  | 25.5 |
| Joe Mauer         | 23.0 | 1.8  | 24.8 |
| Miguel Cabrera    | 22.6 | 2.0  | 24.6 |
| Zack Greinke      | 24.4 | 0.05 | 24.5 |
| Derek Jeter       | 15.3 | 9.0  | 24.3 |
| CC Sabathia       | 23.0 | 1.2  | 24.2 |
| Chris Paul        | 18.7 | 5.5  | 24.2 |
| Prince Fielder    | 23.5 | 0.4  | 23.9 |
| Wayne Rooney      | 18.4 | 5.0  | 23.4 |
| Sergio Agüero     | 18.3 | 5.0  | 23.3 |
| Dirk Nowitzki     | 22.7 | 0.5  | 23.2 |
| Johan Santana     | 22.5 | 0.4  | 22.9 |
| Mark Teixeira     | 22.5 | 0.2  | 22.7 |
| Matt Kemp         | 21.8 | 0.8  | 22.6 |
| Ryan Howard       | 21.7 | 0.7  | 22.4 |
| Yaya Touré        | 19.2 | 2.5  | 21.7 |
| Fernando Torres   | 17.8 | 3.5  | 21.3 |

Note: All salaries and endorsements converted to U.S. dollars.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/athletes/list/#taboverall>



ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT

AP IMAGES: BRYANT: DON KELLY; CABRERA: NAM Y. HUI; GREINKE: KEVIN REECE; IBRAHIMOVIC: FRANÇOIS MORI; JAMES: WILFREDO LEE; MESSI: MARTIN RICKETT/PA WIRE; ROSE: DON RYAN;  
GETTY IMAGES: DA SILVA: MANUEL QUEIMADELOS ALONSO; MAUER: HANNAH FOSLEN; RONALDO: EAN CATUFFE