

Premier League footballers earned \$3.7bn last season

27th April, 2019



Football players in the UK's Premier League clubs were paid over \$3.7 billion last season. An annual report on football finances showed a 15 per cent increase in revenue for the League's 20 clubs. The report is from the

international accountancy company Deloitte. It reported that the wage bill for Premier League teams went above \$3.5 billion for the first time ever. The report said that almost 60 per cent of all the revenue earned by the League goes towards wages. This is up from 55 per cent in the 2016/17 season. The Premier League's top six clubs, which includes Manchester City, Manchester United, Chelsea, Liverpool and Arsenal, have the highest wage bills in the League.

The Premier League is the top level of English football leagues. It is the most-watched sports league in the world. People in 212 countries and territories, in 643 million homes worldwide watch it. This means it makes a lot of money from television rights and merchandising. However, the increase in the wage bill has reduced the profits earned by the clubs. Deloitte said: "With the emphasis now on clubs to generate revenue growth...it may be that we see the levels of pre-tax profit [go down] over the next few years." The teams in the lower half of the League are finding it more difficult to make a profit. The bottom three teams can lose up to \$130 million if they are relegated from the Premier League.

Sources: sky.com / ft.com / standard.co.uk /

Writing

It is wrong for football players to earn more than world leaders. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

football / report / finances / international / accountancy / wages / company / clubs / top level / sports / television / merchandising / emphasis / growth / profit / relegated

True / False

- a) Premier League club revenues increased by 15% from last season. T / F
- b) It is the second time the wage bill has gone above \$3.5 billion. T / F
- c) Wages make up around 60% of clubs' revenues. T / F
- d) Manchester United has the lowest wage bill. T / F
- e) People in 212 countries and territories watch the Premier League. T / F
- f) Premier League clubs make a lot of money from merchandising. T / F
- g) Teams in the lower half of the league find it easier to make a profit. T / F
- h) The bottom four clubs can lose up to \$500 million. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. clubs | a. demoted |
| 2. annual | b. income |
| 3. above | c. highest |
| 4. revenue | d. cash |
| 5. include | e. yearly |
| 6. top | f. cut |
| 7. money | g. teams |
| 8. reduced | h. comprise |
| 9. generate | i. cut |
| 10. relegated | j. over |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of football?
- c) Why is football so popular around the world?
- d) What do you think of the FIFA World Cup?
- e) Do football players deserve such high wages?
- f) What kind of salary would you be happy with?
- g) What is the most exciting game of football ever?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a Premier League player?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. An annual report on | a. level of English football |
| 2. The report is from the international | b. goes towards wages |
| 3. went above \$3.5 billion for | c. growth |
| 4. all the revenue earned by the League | d. half of the League |
| 5. have the highest wage | e. football finances |
| 6. The Premier League is the top | f. three teams |
| 7. makes a lot of money from | g. the first time ever |
| 8. generate revenue | h. bills in the League |
| 9. The teams in the lower | i. television rights |
| 10. The bottom | j. accountancy company |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the Premier League?
- Should there be a limit on a football player's salary?
- Is the Premier League the best football league in the world?
- Should a football player earn more than a country's president?
- What is your favourite sport, and why?
- What would it be like to be a top football player?
- Who is the best football player in the world?
- What is the best football team in the world?

Spelling

- paid over \$3.7 billion last nseaso
- An aannul report
- football nfenseiac
- a 15 per cent increase in ruveeen
- which deiclun Manchester City
- the ghhtsei wage bills
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- dgtelrae from the Premier League

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. h
6. c	7. d	8. i	9. f	10. a

Role Play

Role A – Football

You think football is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): tennis, F1 or darts.

Role B – Tennis

You think tennis is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): football, F1 or darts.

Role C – F1

You think F1 is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): tennis, football or darts.

Role D – Darts

You think darts is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): tennis, F1 or football.

Speaking – Sports

Rank these with your partner. Put the best sports at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| • cricket | • football (soccer) |
| • F1 | • American football |
| • athletics | • tennis |
| • darts | • basketball |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.