



Fact Sheet

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The Past and Present of Major League Baseball

Who we are:

- The oldest major professional sports league in the United States, founded in 1876 with the National League and in 1901 with the American League
- A professional baseball organization made up of 30 teams. This includes 29 in the United States and one in Canada (Toronto Blue Jays)
- Our Vision: "To be the global sport of choice for youth to play, fans of all backgrounds to enjoy and a desired destination for employment."
- MLB's values emphasize on excellence, integrity, inclusiveness and teamwork in every aspect of the game on and off the field.

History:

- In 1876 the National League of Professional Baseball was founded
- Major League Baseball appointed Kenesaw Mountain Landis as its first commissioner in 1920.
- The Brooklyn Dodgers welcomed Jackie Robinson to their team in 1947 when he became the first player to break baseball's racial color barrier.
- Bud Selig took over as acting commissioner in 1992
- Selig received his official appointment as commissioner in 1998.
- The World Series became the first to be canceled since 1904 when players went on strike in 1994.
- The commissioner of baseball gained authority to oversee a unified organization when the American and National Leagues merged in 2000.
- Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred took office as the 10th commissioner in 2015 and maintains his position to this day

Job Outlook:

- 25,000-plus jobs supported through MLB such as stadium and media operations
- 6,500-plus professional players across Major and Minor League combined
- As of 2023, 30% of all MLB office professional staff are women

Diversity and inclusion:

- In 1947, Jackie Robinson broke MLB's color barrier becoming the first African American to play in the Major Leagues
- The MLB together with its clubs has invested about \$2 billion into diverse-owned businesses through their Partners / Supplier Diversity Program since 1998.
- The Diversity Pipeline Program started in 2016 to create more than 100 full-time baseball operations positions for women and people of color.

- The Players Alliance received \$10 million yearly from MLB starting in 2023 and the organization matched this amount with an additional \$5 million to enhance Black representation in baseball.
- Launched the Take the Field Program to prepare women for careers in baseball, including on-field and front office positions

Corporate Responsibility:

- The MLB strives off four core values: Excellence, Accountability & integrity, Inclusiveness and Teamwork.
- People
 - Approximately 1,400 full time staff across all of Major League Baseball
 - MLB rosters contain 40.34% players of color, including 6.2% African American and 30.2% Latino players
- Product:
 - The MLB grants official licensing rights to all 30 teams for their uniforms and equipment and fan merchandise
 - The MLB Authentication Program verifies 500,000 to 600,000 game-used items through hologram stickers and digital tracking systems annually.
- Community:
 - The Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) program started its mission in 1989 to bring baseball and softball to boys and girls in underserved locations
 - Stand Up To Cancer has received more than \$50 million from MLB since 2008 to advance cancer research.
 - MLB works with Boys & Girls Clubs of America as its official charity since 1997 to offer mentorship programs such as educational support and sports activities for children
- Environment:
 - MLB Green started its operations in 2010 to support environmental sustainability through recycling and energy-efficient practices at all 30 ballparks.
 - Major League Baseball established a partnership with Waste Management (WM) as its official sustainability partner. The first-year collaboration between MLB and WM resulted in the recovery of more than 20 tons of recyclable materials.
 - MLB stadiums are moving towards LED lighting and solar panels for energy-efficient upgrades.

Awards:

- Sports Business Journal named Major League Baseball as the League of the Year (MLB.com)
- The Allan H. Selig Award for Philanthropic Excellence is an award that MLB gives to its clubs for their charitable work. (MLB.com)
- The Green Sports Alliance has recognized MLB as the first professional sports league to achieve full membership from all 30 of its clubs because of its leadership in sustainability. (MLB.com)

Mission Statement: “Major League Baseball strives to provide the premier form of athletic entertainment in a manner that is fun and socially responsible while strengthening and enhancing the communities in which we operate. We are dedicated to protecting the integrity of the game and providing impeccable service to the Major League Clubs.”