Table of contents

- i. Key Components ii. Benefits:
- iii. Project Links:
- 2. EDA
- i. General Queries
- ii. Driver Performanc... iii. Constructor Perfor...
- 3. Insights & Conclusion
- i. Recap
- ii. Who is the Greates..
- iii. Conclusion

# **F1 Data Analysis Project**

The Formula 1 Data Analysis project is a comprehensive exploration of the world of Formula 1 racing through the lens of data analytics. This project combines the power of SQL for data manipulation in addition to Deepnote and Tableau for data visualisation to provide insights into the thrilling world of Formula 1 racing from 1953-2020. This project aims to identify candidates for the greatest Formula 1 driver of all time.

## **Key Components:**

Data Collection and Preparation: The project begins by gathering extensive Formula 1 data, including race results, driver statistics, team information, and circuit details. This raw data is then cleaned and organised for analysis.

Database Design: A relational database is created using SQL to efficiently store and manage the Formula 1 data. This step includes defining tables, relationships, and constraints to ensure data integrity.

SQL Data Queries: SQL queries are crafted to extract meaningful insights from the database. This may involve calculating driver and team performance metrics, historical trend analysis, and identifying key patterns in the data.

Tableau Visualization: The SQL-derived insights are visualised using Tableau, a powerful data visualisation tool. Interactive dashboards and reports are designed to provide users with a user-friendly interface to explore the data.

Performance Analysis: Using SQL and Tableau, the project delves into various aspects of Formula 1 racing, such as driver performance across seasons, race track statistics, and the impact of rule changes.

Reporting and Presentation: The project concludes by creating comprehensive reports and presentations that summarise the findings, making it accessible to a wider audience.

#### **Benefits:**

Gain a deeper understanding of Formula 1 racing from a data-driven perspective.

Enhance the overall Formula 1 fan experience by making complex data accessible and engaging.

This project offers a unique opportunity to combine the technical skills of SQL with the data visualisation capabilities of Deepnote and Tableau to unlock insights about one of the dynamic sports in the world.

### **Project Links:**

Tableau Dashboard

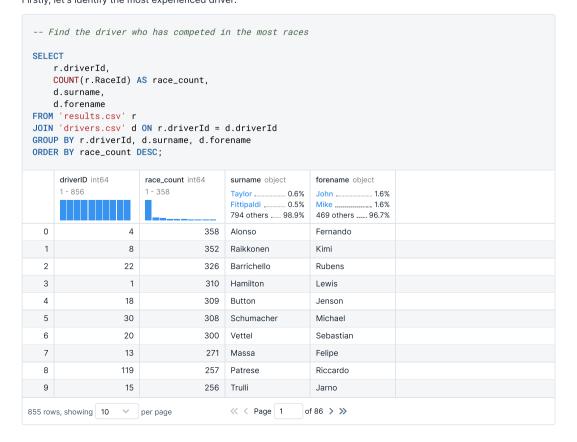
Github Repository

## **EDA**

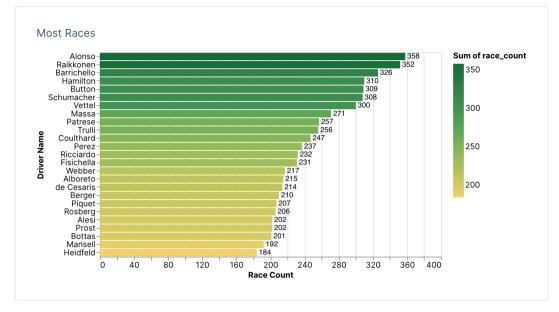
We will begin by performing exploratory data analysis to understand the data structure, identify errors, outliers and anomalies, plus uncover patterns and relationships.

## **General Queries**

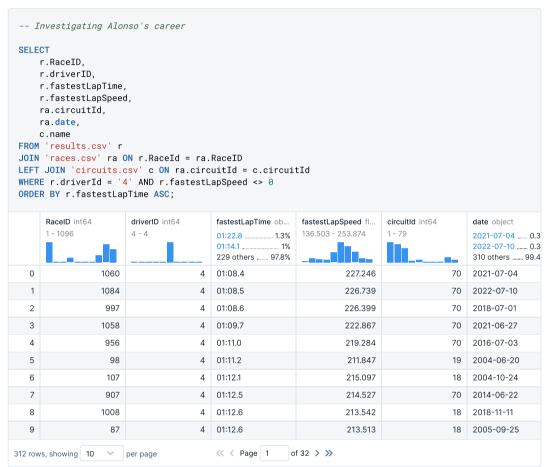
Firstly, let's identify the most experienced driver:



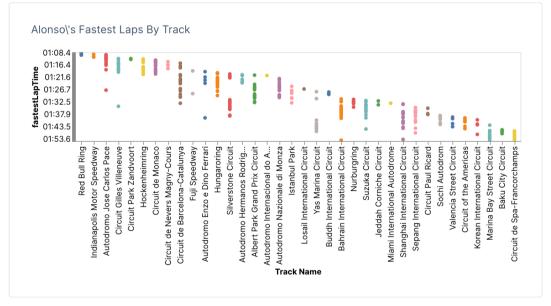
From this query, we can see that the driver who has participated in the most races is **Fernando Alonso (358)**, followed by **Kimi Raikonnen (352)**. Let's visualise the top 25 drivers with the most races:



Now let's take a closer look at the stellar career of Fernando Alonso.



Visualising Alonso's fastest laps at each circuit:



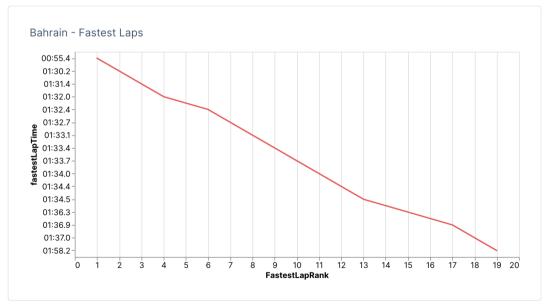
Now we're going to explore the statistics for all drivers, ordered by fastest ever lap times across all circuits.

```
-- See driver stats ordered by Fastest Lap Time
SELECT
    r.RaceID,
    r.driverID,
    d.forename,
    d.surname.
    r.fastestLapTime.
    r.fastestLapSpeed,
    ra.circuitId,
    ra.date,
    c.name
FROM 'results.csv' r
JOIN 'races.csv' ra ON r.RaceId = ra.RaceID
JOIN 'drivers.csv' d ON r.driverId = d.driverId
LEFT JOIN 'circuits.csv' c ON ra.circuitId = c.circuitId
WHERE r.fastestLapSpeed <> 0
ORDER BY r.fastestLapTime ASC;
      RaceID int64
                                                                                 fastestLapTime ob...
                        driverID int64
                                           forename object
                                                              surname object
                                                                                                   fastestLapSpeed fl
      1 - 1096
                         1 - 856
                                                                                                   89.54 - 257.32
                                                                                01:21.6 ...... 0.4%
                                                              Alonso ...... 4.2%
                                           Fernando ...
                                                      ..... 4.2%
                                                              Hamilton ....
                                                                         .... 4.1%
                                                                                 01:17.8 ..... 0.4%
                                           89 others ...... 90.8%
                                                              97 others ..... 91.7%
                                                                                 586 others ..... 99.1%
  0
                 1046
                                     847 George
                                                                                 00:55.4
                                                                                                             230.21
                                                              Russell
                  1046
                                     822 Valtteri
                                                                                 00:56.5
                                                                                                             225.49
                                                              Bottas
```

2	1046	815	Sergio	Perez	00:56.7	224.59
3	1046	841	Antonio	Giovinazzi	00:56.8	224.21
4	1046	20	Sebastian	Vettel	00:56.9	224.14
5	1046	817	Daniel	Ricciardo	00:56.9	223.8
6	1046	826	Daniil	Kvyat	00:57.0	223.76
7	1046	848	Alexander	Albon	00:57.0	223.54
8	1046	832	Carlos	Sainz	00:57.1	223.12
9	1046	846	Lando	Norris	00:57.2	222.71
7379 rows, showing 10						

The previous query shows some unusually fast lap times for RacelD 1046 (under 60 seconds), which was at Bahrain 2020. Let's investigate further by looking at the fastest laps for each race at Bahrain:

```
-- What are the fastest lap times for Bahrain?
WITH BahrainRaces AS (
     SELECT
         r.RaceID,
          r.fastestLapTime,
          ra.circuitId,
          ra.<mark>date</mark>,
         c.name,
          ROW_NUMBER() OVER (PARTITION BY r.RaceID ORDER BY r.fastestLapTime ASC) as LapRank
     FROM 'results.csv' r
     JOIN 'races.csv' ra ON r.RaceId = ra.RaceID
     LEFT JOIN 'circuits.csv' c ON ra.circuitId = c.circuitId
     WHERE r.fastestLapSpeed <> 0 AND c.name = 'Bahrain International Circuit'
FastestLaps AS (
     SELECT
          RaceID,
          fastestLapTime,
          circuitId,
         date,
         name
     FROM BahrainRaces
     WHERE LapRank = 1
     RaceID,
     fastestLapTime,
     circuitId,
     date,
     name,
     RANK() OVER (ORDER BY fastestLapTime ASC) as FastestLapRank
 FROM FastestLaps
ORDER BY FastestLapRank;
       RaceID int64
                          fastestLapTime ob... circuitld int64
                                                               date object
                                                                                                     FastestLapRank in.
                                                                                  name object
       4 - 1074
                         01:32.0 .....
                                    .... 10.5%
                                                               2020-12-06 ..... 5.3%
                          01:34.5 ....
                                     . 10.5%
                                                               2004-04-04 ..... 5.3%
                          14 others
                                                               17 others ...... 89.5%
                                                                                  Bahrain Inte... 100%
                   1046
                         00:55.4
                                                               2020-12-06
                     92
                         01:30.2
                                                              2004-04-04
                                                                                  Bahrain Internatio...
   2
                     73
                         01:31.4
                                                            3 2005-04-03
                                                                                  Bahrain Internatio..
   3
                   1045
                         01:32.0
                                                            3 2020-11-29
                                                                                  Bahrain Internatio...
   4
                   1052
                         01:32.0
                                                            3 2021-03-28
                                                                                  Bahrain Internatio..
   5
                     53
                         01:32.4
                                                              2006-03-12
                                                                                  Bahrain Internatio..
   6
                    971
                         01:32.7
                                                            3 2017-04-16
                                                                                  Bahrain Internatio...
                                                           3 2008-04-06
                     20 01:33.1
                                                                                  Bahrain Internatio...
   8
                   1011 01:33.4
                                                            3 2019-03-31
                                                                                  Bahrain Internatio..
   9
                    990 01:33.7
                                                           3 2018-04-08
                                                                                  Bahrain Internatio...
19 rows, showing 10 v per page
                                             << < Page 1</pre>
                                                             of 2 > >>
```



The results show that discounting RaceID 1046, the next fastest times are over 30 seconds slower, meaning we likely have an anomaly. Further investigation shows this race was a one time, reformatted race due to COVID. Therefore, it shall be discounted from this query to avoid skewing the results. Let's run the query without data from RaceID 1046:

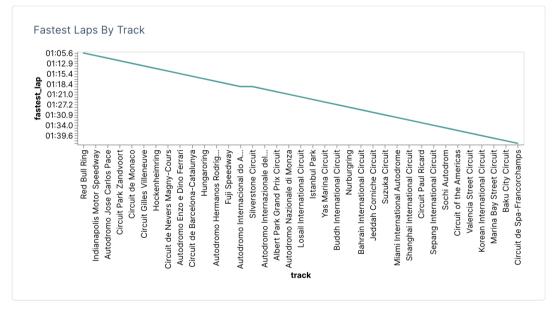
```
-- View driver stats ordered by Fastest Lap Time excluding RaceID 1046
SELECT
    r.RaceID,
    r.driverID,
    d.forename,
    d.surname,
    r.fastestLapTime,
    r.fastestLapSpeed,
    ra.circuitId,
    ra.date,
   c.name
FROM 'results.csv' r
JOIN 'races.csv' ra ON r.RaceId = ra.RaceID
JOIN 'drivers.csv' d ON r.driverId = d.driverId
LEFT JOIN 'circuits.csv' c ON ra.circuitId = c.circuitId
WHERE r.fastestLapSpeed <> 0 AND r.RaceID != '1046'
ORDER BY r.fastestLapTime ASC;
```

	<b>RaceID</b> int64 1 - 1096	driverID int64 1 - 856	forename object Nico	surname object  Alonso	fastestLapTime ob 01:21.6	fastestLapSpeed fl 89.54 - 257.32
0	1032	832	Carlos	Sainz	01:05.6	236.89
1	1032	830	Max	Verstappen	01:06.1	235.0
2	1060	830	Max	Verstappen	01:06.2	234.81
3	1032	1	Lewis	Hamilton	01:06.7	232.98
4	997	8	Kimi	Raikkonen	01:06.9	232.
5	1058	1	Lewis	Hamilton	01:07.0	231.8
6	997	20	Sebastian	Vettel	01:07.0	231.72
7	1032	815	Sergio	Perez	01:07.1	231.36
8	1032	846	Lando	Norris	01:07.1	231.34
9	1084	830	Max	Verstappen	01:07.2	231.06

The above query shows that the fastest ever racing lap was recorded by **Carlos Sainz at Red Bull Ring (2020-07-12)**, with a time of **01:05.6**. Next, we're going to look at the fastest laps ever recorded at each track:

```
-- Fastest Lap by Track
 SELECT
     c.name AS track,
     MIN(r.fastestLapTime) AS fastest_lap
 FROM 'results.csv' r
 JOIN 'races.csv' ra ON r.RaceId = ra.RaceID
 JOIN 'drivers.csv' d ON r.driverId = d.driverId
 LEFT JOIN 'circuits.csv' c ON ra.circuitId = c.circuitId
 WHERE r.fastestLapTime <> '0' AND c.name IS NOT NULL AND r.RaceID != '1046'
 GROUP BY c.name
 ORDER BY fastest_lap ASC;
      track object
                        fastest_lap object
      Red Bull Ring ... 2.7% 01:18.7 ...... 5.4%
       Indianapolis ... 2.7% 01:05.6 .....
      35 others ...... 94.6% 34 others ..... 91.9%
   0 Red Bull Ring
                        01:05.6
   1 Indianapolis Moto... 01:10.3
   2 Autodromo Jose ... 01:10.5
   3 Circuit Park Zand... 01:11.0
   4 Circuit de Monaco 01:12.9
   5 Circuit Gilles Ville... 01:13.0
   6 Hockenheimring
                        01:13.7
   7 Circuit de Nevers... 01:15.3
   8 Autodromo Enzo ... 01:15.4
   9 Circuit de Barcelo... 01:15.6
37 rows, showing 10 v per page
                                           << < Page 1</p>
                                                          of 4 > >>
```

Let's visualise these findings in a line chart, with lap times in ascending order:



As previously discovered, the fastest ever lap was recorded at Red Bull Ring. The track with the slowest time is the iconic Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium.

### **Driver Performance Analysis**

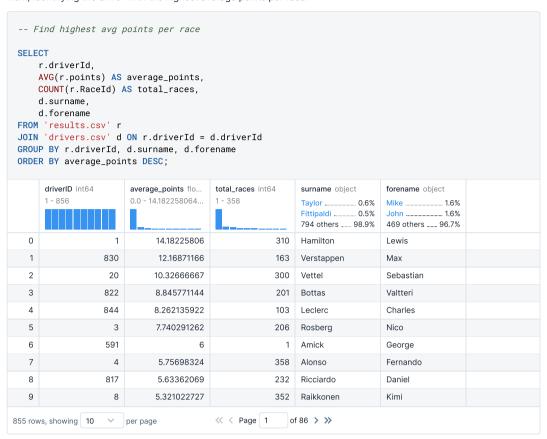
Now we're going to dig deeper into driver performance analysis. Let's begin by finding the driver with the most career points:

```
-- Find career points leader
    r.driverId,
    SUM(r.points) AS total_points,
    d.forename,
    d.surname
FROM 'results.csv' r
JOIN 'drivers.csv' d ON r.driverId = d.driverId
GROUP BY r.driverId, d.forename, d.surname
ORDER BY total_points DESC;
      driverID int64
                        total_points float64
                                           forename object
                                                              surname object
      1 - 856
                        0.0 - 4396.5
                                                             Taylor _..... 0.6% Fittipaldi ..... 0.5%
                                           John ..... 1.6%
                                           Mike ..... 1.6%
                                                              794 others ..... 98.9%
                                           469 others ..... 96.7%
                                   4396.5 Lewis
                                                              Hamilton
  0
                                    3098 Sebastian
                    20
                                                              Vettel
  2
                     4
                                    2061 Fernando
                                                              Alonso
  3
                   830
                                   1983.5 Max
                                                              Verstappen
                                                              Raikkonen
  4
                     8
                                     1873 Kimi
  5
                   822
                                    1778 Valtteri
                                                              Bottas
                                    1594.5 Nico
                                                              Rosberg
```

7 8	30 817	1566 1307	Michael Daniel	Schumacher Ricciardo	
9	18	1235	Jenson	Button	
855 row	vs, showing 10 V	per page	« < Page 1	of 86 > >>	

The driver with the most career points is **Lewis Hamilton**, with **4396**, followed by **Sebastian Vettel** with **3098**.

Next, identifying the driver with the highest average points per race:

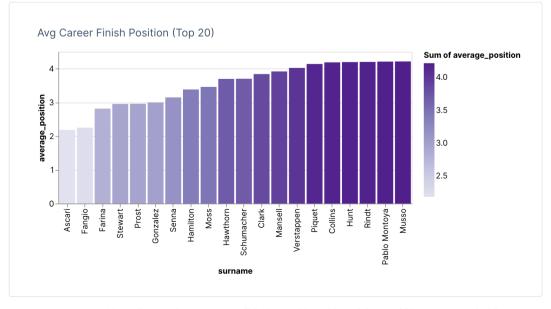


**Lewis Hamilton** has the highest average points per race with **14.18**, which comes as no surprise given his unprecedented success at the pinnacle of motor racing. He is followed by the Red Bull prodigy himself, **Max Verstappen**, with an average of **12.16**.

Which driver has the highest average career finish? We will set a minimum threshold of 20 races to discount any outliers:

```
-- Find the driver with the highest average career finish (min 20 races)
     r.driverId,
     AVG(NULLIF(CAST(r.position AS INT), 0)) AS average_position,
     COUNT(r.RaceId) AS total_races,
     d.surname,
     d.forename
 FROM 'results.csv' r
 JOIN 'drivers.csv' d ON r.driverId = d.driverId
GROUP BY r.driverId, d.surname, d.forename
HAVING COUNT(r.RaceId) > 20
ORDER BY average_position ASC;
       driverID int64
                         average_position fl...
                                           total_races int64
                                                                                 forename object
                                                              surname object
        - 855
                         2.181818181818181...
                                                              Schumacher ..... 1.2% Mike ...... 1.6%
                                                                          .... 1.2%
                                                                                 Pedro ..... 1.6%
                                                              239 others ..... 97.6%
                                                                                 198 others ..... 96.9%
   0
                    647
                               2.181818182
                                                          36
                                                              Ascari
                                                                                 Alberto
                   579
                                                          58
                                     2.25
                                                                                 Juan
                                                              Fangio
   2
                   642
                              2.814814815
                                                          37
                                                              Farina
                                                                                 Nino
   3
                    328
                              2.952380952
                                                         100
                                                              Stewart
                                                                                 Jackie
   4
                    117
                              2.958041958
                                                        202
                                                              Prost
                                                                                 Alain
   5
                   498
                                        3
                                                         29 Gonzalez
                                                                                 Jose Froilan
                    102
                               3.148148148
                                                         162
                                                              Senna
                                                                                 Ayrton
                              3.383802817
                                                         310
                                                             Hamilton
                                                                                 Lewis
                                                          73 Moss
   8
                    475
                              3.459459459
                                                                                 Stirling
   9
                    578
                              3.696969697
                                                         48 Hawthorn
                                                                                 Mike
255 rows, showing 10

≪ < Page 1
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                                                           of 26 > >>
                       per page
```



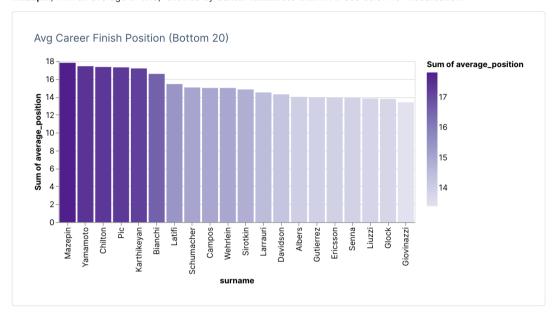
Here we see that the driver with the highest average finishing position with a minimum of 20 career races is **Alberto Ascari**, with an incredible average of **2.18**, followed by **Juan Fangio at 2.25**. Next, the drivers with the lowest average career finish:

```
-- Find the driver with the lowest average career finish (min 20 races)

SELECT
r.driverId,
```

COUNT(r.RaceId) AS total_races,     d.surname,     d.forename  FROM 'results.csv' r  JOIN 'drivers.csv' d ON r.driverId = d.driverId  GROUP BY r.driverId, d.surname, d.forename  HAVING COUNT(r.RaceId) > 20  ORDER BY average_position DESC;							
	driverID int64	average_position fl	total_races int64	surname object	forename object		
	1 - 855	2.181818181818181	21 - 358	Schumacher 1.2% Fittipaldi 1.2% 239 others 97.6%	Pedro 1.6% Mike 1.6% 198 others 96.9%		
0	853	17.8125	22	Mazepin	Nikita		
1	29	17.42857143	21	Yamamoto	Sakon		
2	820	17.34375	35	Chilton	Max		
3	819	17.3	39	Pic	Charles		
4	39	17.18181818	48	Karthikeyan	Narain		
5	824	16.57142857	34	Bianchi	Jules		
6	849	15.43137255	61	Latifi	Nicholas		
7	854	15.05263158	44	Schumacher	Mick		
8	167	15	21	Campos	Adrian		
9	836	15	39	Wehrlein	Pascal		
255 rov	vs, showing 10 ×	per page	« < Page 1 o	f 26 > »		r races is <b>Nikita</b>	

The data shows us that the driver with the lowest average finishing position with a minimum of 20 career races is **Nikita**Mazepin, with an average of 17.8, followed by Sakon Yamamoto with 17.4. See below for visualisation:



The next SQL query is designed to analyse Formula 1 drivers' performance based on their career points achieved, with a minimum threshold of 20 races. It categorises drivers into four performance quartiles, assigning an experience level based on the number of races they have competed in. Additionally, it calculates the average career points across all drivers to be used as a reference point.

**Subquery (QuartileData):** The inner query selects driver details, calculates total career points, and assigns an experience level based on the number of races participated in. It filters out drivers with less than 20 career points.

**Experience Level Assignment:** Based on the number of races a driver has participated in, they are categorised into one of four experience levels: '1-50 races', '51-100 races', '101-150 races', or '151+ races'.

**Performance Quartile Calculation:** Using the NTILE window function, drivers are divided into four performance quartiles based on their total career points, with the first quartile representing the top performers.

**Average Career Points Calculation:** The query calculates the average career points across all drivers using the AVG window function.

**Final Selection:** The outer query selects the driver's ID, surname, forename, total career points, experience level, performance quartile, and average career points across all drivers.

Ordering: Finally, the results are ordered in descending order based on total career points, showcasing the drivers with

```
the highest points at the top.
  -- Divide drivers into quartiles based on avg career points (min 20 races)
  SELECT
      driverId,
      surname,
      forename
      total_points,
      experience_level,
      NTILE(4) OVER (ORDER BY total_points DESC) AS performance_quartile,
      AVG(total_points) OVER () AS avg_career_points
  FROM (
      SELEC
           r.driverId,
           d.surname,
           d.forename,
           SUM(r.points) AS total_points,
               WHEN COUNT(r.RaceId) <= 50 THEN '1-50 races'
               WHEN COUNT(r.RaceId) <= 100 THEN '51-100 races'
               WHEN COUNT(r.RaceId) <= 150 THEN '101-150 races'
               ELSE '151+ races
           END as experience_level
      FROM 'results.csv' r
      JOIN 'drivers.csv' d ON r.driverId = d.driverId
      GROUP BY r.driverId, d.surname, d.forename
      HAVING SUM(r.points) > 20
  ) AS QuartileData
  ORDER BY total_points DESC;
        driverID int64
                                                              total_points float64
                                                                                experience_level o... performance_quar..
                          surname object
                                            forename object
        1 - 852
                                                              21.0 - 4396.5
                                                                                151+ races ..... 30.6%
                          Hill _____ 2.1% Carlos ____ 2.1%
                           Rosberg ..... 1.4%
                                                       ... 2.1%
                                                                                51-100 races .. 29.9%
                         136 others ...... 96.5%
                                            117 others ...... 95.8%
                                                                                2 others ..... 39.6%
                                                                        4396.5 151+ races
    0
                      1 Hamilton
                     20 Vettel
                                                                         3098
                                                                               151+ races
                                            Sebastian
    2
                      4 Alonso
                                            Fernando
                                                                          2061 151+ races
    3
                     830 Verstappen
                                            Max
                                                                         1983.5
                                                                                151+ races
```

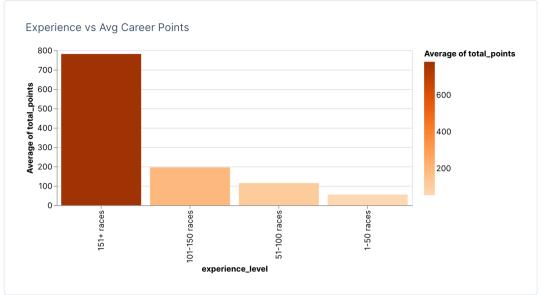
1873 151+ races

4

8 Raikkonen

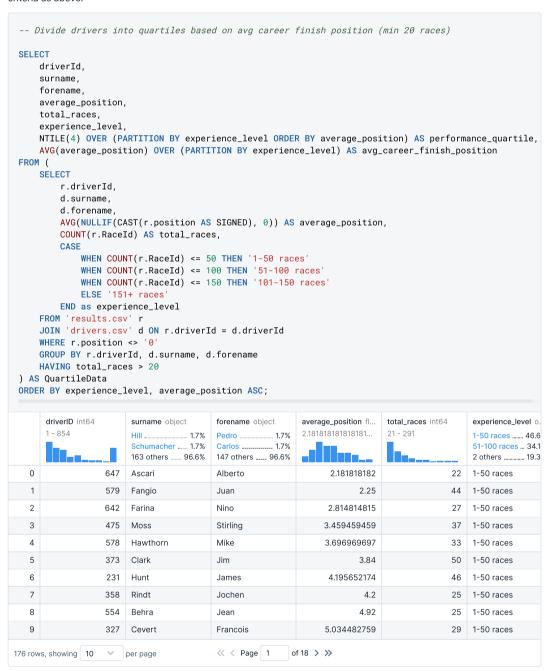
Kimi



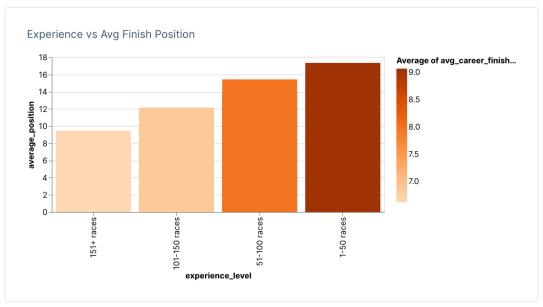


As expected, more races drastically increases the average of a driver's total career points. But what effect does experience level have on other performance metrics?

Next, we will examine Formula 1 drivers based on their average career finish positions, using the same format and criteria as above:



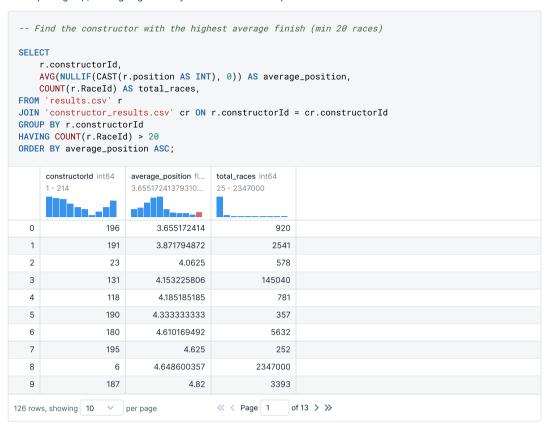
For our final driver performance chart, let's examine the effect of experience on average finish position:



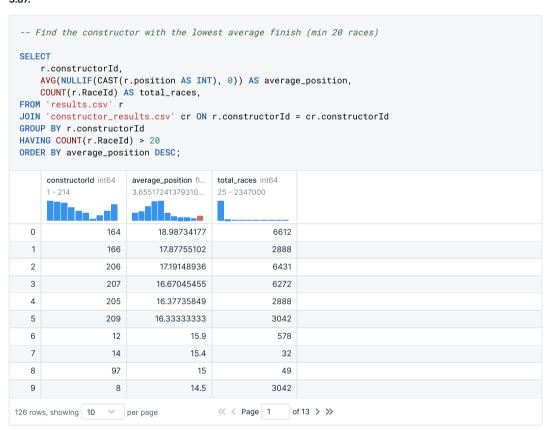
The data shows that drivers with more experience have a higher average career finishing position. This is logical as drivers performing poorly won't get the opportunity to keep their seat for long, thus not allowing them to participate in a high number of races. Formula 1 teams are notoriously ruthless with who they employ, and there is always a plethora of driving talent waiting for their opportunity.

# **Constructor Performance Analysis**

To wrap things up, we're going to briefly examine constructor performance.



The data shows that Constructor ID #196 has highest average career finish at 3.65, followed by Constructor ID #191 at 3.87



Constructor ID #164 has lowest average career finish at 18.98, followed by Constructor ID #166 at 3.87.

# **Insights & Conclusion**

## Recap

Let's recap our findings of the F1 analysis from 1953-2020:

- Most races: Fernando Alonso (358)
- Most career points: Lewis Hamilton (4396)
- Fastest ever lap: Carlos Sainz (Red Bull Ring, 07-12-2020)
- Highest average driver finish position (min 20 races): Alberto Ascari (1.33)
- Lowest average driver finish position (min 20 races): Nikita Mazepin (15.8)
- Highest average constructor finish position (min 20 races): Constructor #106
- Lowest average constructor finish position (min 20 races): Constructor #206

#### Who is the Greatest Driver of All Time?

Determining an answer to this question in an objective manner is, realistically, a near impossible task. As fans of the sport will naturally understand, there are simply too many variables at play to be able to accurately conclude a definitive list through statistics alone.

The Formula 1 points system has undergone numerous changes over the years, evolving to adapt to the sport's shifting dynamics and competitive landscape. These alterations in the distribution of points have significant implications when attempting to compare drivers across different eras.

In earlier years, only a handful of top finishers were awarded points, whereas in more recent formats, points are distributed more broadly down the grid. This means that drivers in the modern era have the potential to accumulate points more consistently, even if they are not consistently finishing in the top positions.

Additionally, advancements in technology have dramatically transformed Formula 1 cars, making them faster, safer, and more reliable. These technological improvements, coupled with changes in regulations and car design, have resulted in substantial disparities in car performance across different periods.

As a result, comparing drivers solely based on their points tally or race finishes can be misleading, as it does not account for the varying levels of competition, car performance, and points distribution systems in place at different times. Therefore, while statistics provide valuable insights, they may not fully capture a driver's skill, impact, or the context of their achievements, making it challenging to definitively conclude who the better drivers are across different Formula 1 eras.

It's also equally critical to consider which constructors the drivers are representing. The disparity in Formula 1 team budgets plays a pivotal role in influencing driver performance, creating a significant divide between the teams at the top and those further down the grid. Teams with larger budgets, often backed by major automotive manufacturers or wealthy entities, have the financial resources to invest in cutting-edge technology, top-tier engineering talent, and extensive research and development.

This investment translates into faster, more reliable cars, providing their drivers with a competitive advantage on the track. In contrast, teams with smaller budgets face limitations in their ability to develop and maintain high-performance vehicles, often resulting in less competitive machinery. This budgetary constraint can hinder a driver's ability to consistently compete at the front of the grid, regardless of their individual skill and talent.

Additionally, well-funded teams can offer more comprehensive support, including advanced simulation tools, extensive data analysis, and superior pit strategy, all of which contribute to optimising a driver's performance. Consequently, while driver skill is undeniably a crucial factor in Formula 1 success, the financial capabilities of their team play a substantial role in determining the extent to which a driver can realize their potential and achieve top results.

#### Conclusion

This Formula 1 Data Analysis project has helped us breakdown the intricate dynamics of Formula 1 racing, providing valuable insights into driver performance and statistics. The robust capabilities of SQL allowed us to delve deep into data manipulation, uncovering patterns, trends, and performance metrics that shed light on the iconic drivers, teams, and circuits that have defined the sport for decades.

The integration of data visualisations via Deepnote and Tableau brought our findings to life, transforming complex datasets into interactive and engaging charts. This makes the data more accessible, allowing enthusiasts and analysts alike to interact with the data in a meaningful way.

We have also established that while statistics provide valuable insights, they may not fully capture a driver's skill, impact, or the context of their achievements, making it challenging to definitively conclude who the better drivers are across different Formula 1 eras. Through this performance analysis and comprehensive reporting, we have provided a data-driven lens through which the world of Formula 1 can be understood and appreciated with a unique and insightful perspective.

Thank you for reading! Who gets your vote for greatest driver of all time?

BestDriverEver		
Lewis Hamilton	~	